

## *Abstracts*

SCHOFIELD, J. A.: "Cost-Benefit Analysis and Regional Science: A Case of Comparative Neglect". Technical and philosophical reasons are examined for the relative neglect of cost-benefit analysis (CBA) by regional scientists. Reasons for evidence of greater recent acceptance are also suggested. The technical shortcomings of CBA include its alleged inability to incorporate intangible and non-economic considerations satisfactorily into an analysis. Philosophical concerns relate to monetization of non-monetary effects, the neoclassical origins of the method, its potential to preempt political decision making, and an influential opinion that CBA should not be used to analyze distributional effects. Progress in addressing perceived shortcomings and a broadening view of what constitutes CBA appear to account for greater recent acceptance.

ALLEY, A. G., D. G. FERGUSON, and K. G. STEWART: "Tariffs, Tax Distortions, and Trade Liberalization: Alcoholic Beverages in British Columbia". This paper is concerned with the effects of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement and the recent GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) rulings against provincial practices in the marketing of alcoholic beverages. It addresses in particular the implications of the internal demand and tax structure of the industry. An estimated model of the demand for alcoholic beverages and other goods is used to compute the welfare effects of trade policy on the alcoholic beverage industry in the province of British Columbia. Changes in welfare, government revenues, and quantities demanded are computed under alternative trade liberalization scenarios and alternative domestic policy responses.

FILION, P.: "Local Economic Development as a Response to Economic Transition". Local economic development can take many forms, covering a wide range of options. This article discusses what impacts the factors shaping local economies are expected to have on the form local economic development measures take in different types of communities. Based on the discussion, it appears that local economic development measures will adapt to national and international trends as well as to local comparative advantages and disadvantages. The

results of a survey of four middle-sized Ontario cities suggest a tailoring of local economic development measures to the national and international economic transition that marked the 1980s. The survey, however, departs from anticipated results by revealing a relative absence of adaptation to local economic circumstances. These results are explained in light of a chain of economic, institutional, and political factors that contribute to narrow local economic development options.

DAVIS, H. C., and T. A. HUTTON: "Producer Services Exports from the Vancouver Metropolitan Region". The authors report the findings of a 1990 survey of 251 producer services firms in metropolitan Vancouver. An analysis of the results in conjunction with the information produced by two earlier surveys points to a substantial expansion of producer services exports from Vancouver over the past two decades. Coincidental with this overall growth in services exports is an increased significance of national and international export markets for Vancouver firms, underlining a shift in the role of the metropolitan area from a provincial higher-order services centre to that of a Pacific Rim city.

JULIEN, P.-A.: «Les PME et les programmes de transfert de l'information technologique» ["Small Firms and Programmes for Technological Information Transfers"]. Small enterprises will continue to play an important role in the restructuring and modernizing of many regions as long as many of them have recourse to new technological processes. But for this to be possible, these enterprises need more information about these processes. In response, governments have set forth programmes to facilitate the transfer of such information. Such public programmes in 15 member countries of the OECD are analyzed here. It turns out that these programmes are not very efficient because few are adapted to the needs of small enterprises or because they do not reach their usual information networks.

LEMELIN, A.: «Le coefficient de localisation et le coefficient de corrélation spatiale : une comparaison» ["The Coefficient of Localization and the Coefficient of Spatial Correlation: A Comparison"]. This note compares the coefficient of localization and the coefficient of spatial correlation. Both are measures of the similarity or dissimilarity of the location pattern of one phenomenon relative to a reference pattern. In the first part of this note, the measures are defined and their properties described. Data from the Recensement des établissements et de l'emploi à Montréal (RÉEM) are then used to illustrate these

properties. In the second part, a technical comparison is made between the two, with an illustration of the results.

COFFEY, W. J., and M. POLÈSE: "Cultural Barriers to the Location of Producer Services: The Montreal-Toronto Rivalry and the Limits of Urban Polarization". The relatively few models of producer services location that exist in the literature focus almost exclusively on economic variables. This note explores the importance of cultural variables in the location of high-order office-based service establishments. Culture is an important locational factor because services, unlike goods, are "embodied"—that is, they cannot be traded independently of the person that produces them. This limits the degree to which economic integration, or reductions in the friction of space, can cause the spatial concentration of producer services activities. A conceptual framework is developed and is then used to explain the major shift of producer services activities from Montreal to Toronto over the past decades. This framework also has important implications in the context of recent steps toward the incorporation of the global economy such as North American free trade and the economic integration of Europe.