

Abstracts

BROX, J.A. and C.A. FADER: "Public Infrastructure, Regional Efficiency, and Factor Substitutability in Atlantic Canada Manufacturing".

In this paper, we seek to add to the understanding of the cost characteristics of Atlantic Canadian manufacturing. We examine the effects of public infrastructure on provincial manufacturing costs. The modelling technique employed is that of the CES-TL variable cost system.

Atlantic manufacturing costs from 1961-1992 are characterized by economies of scale. As well, factor input demands are generally price inelastic, and factors are pairwise substitutes. Our findings relating to public infrastructure are very strong. We find statistically significant infrastructure cost elasticities that indicate productivity effects for public capital in each province. We also find that infrastructure has an impact on manufacturing cost characteristics. The services of public capital are substitutes to the services of private capital in P.E.I. and New Brunswick, and have a neutral impact on the services of private capital in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia.

BEAUDIN, M.: «Countering the Marginalization of the Littoral Zones: The Gulf of Saint-Laurent Fishing Communities» [Contre la marginalisation des zones littorales: Les communautés de pêche du golfe du Saint-Laurent].

Fisheries, whether in Canada or elsewhere, have undergone major changes in the last few years. Everyone agrees that this industry, in its current structure, will have an increasingly difficult time supporting the economy of many communities. A diminishing fish stock, combined with the effects of over-exploitation and changes in the environment (pollution, climate changes), the adoption of new processing technologies and the demand's of global competition, will result in a decreasing need for workers and fishermen. Furthermore, communities that rely on fisheries are largely dependent on income transfers, which makes them vulnerable to the current social programming reform. This paper first tries to demystify the gulf fishing industry in the Atlantic context. We will then elaborate on both the strengths and weaknesses of this industry and on the adaptation of the communities which depend on it.

DE BENEDETTI, G.J. and M. BEAUDIN: "Linguistic Minority Communities' Contribution to Economic Well-Being: Two Case Studies".

Linguistic minority communities exist in several regions of Canada. This paper examines two such communities: the Francophones of Prince County in Prince Edward Island and the Anglophones of the Gaspé Peninsula. Special micro data sets from Statistics Canada based on the 1991 Census are used to show that these linguistic minorities are economically disadvantaged relative to the majority populations in their regions. The authors conducted interviews on a cross section of people from each minority community to learn how they perceive their economic situation and how they participate in local economic development efforts. The micro data and interviews revealed interesting differences between the Evangeline area of PEI, which is a Francophone enclave, and those regions where the linguistic minority are more dispersed. Francophone residents of Evangeline are better off economically and are more active and coordinated in terms of local development than either Francophones in other parts of Prince County or Anglophones living in the Gaspé. Despite their disadvantaged status, linguistic minorities in Both PEI and the Gaspé are found to make important contributions to their local economies.

ALVERGNE, C.: «Past Experiences and Present Spatial-Economic Organisation»[La mémoire, vecteur de l'organisation spatio-économique (Le cas français)].

This study demonstrates that the logic underlying the territorial organisation of a region cannot be fully understood without considering the weight of a region's past experiences. Regional science is centred on the analysis of regional transformations thereby minimising the existence and the importance of inertial effects. However, recognizing the importance of past experiences is not enough, one must try to understand how the past impinges on the present. This paper propose to shed some light on this subject through an empirical study of the evolution of the spatial-economic organisations in France over the last twenty-five years.

GIANNIAS, D.A.: "Quality of Life in Southern Ontario".

This paper applies a hedonic general equilibrium model to provide a quality of life based ranking of cities in Southern Ontario, Canada. The empirical results show that the quality of life variations and the relevant rankings are affected by differences in the distribution of housing characteristics across cities and that the variation in the values of the quality of life indices diminishes when the housing characteristics are hold constant across cities.

EZEALA-HARRISON, F.: "New Brunswick Gasoline Industry: An Oligo-poly Tacit Collusion Under Consistent Conjectures?".

This paper examines why the inherently noncooperative rival strategies among gasoline companies in New Brunswick do not result in more "competitive" pricing in the industry. While

the results of the theory suggest that the degree of competition as opposed to cooperative (quasi-monopolistic) outcomes in the industry depends on the accuracy of rival conjectures about each other's moves, the empirical evidence indicates that the gasoline price differentials that exists between New Brunswick and neighbouring provinces may be largely due to tacit collusion among gasoline firms in the province.

FABRICE, R.: «Technological Emergence in the Atlantic Provinces: The Case of Industrial Biotechnologies» [Emergence technologique dans les provinces de l'Atlantique: le cas des biotechnologies industrielles].

The Atlantic provinces are presently experiencing important development in industrial biotechnologies. This paper first defines the role of biotechnologies in the productive system and then measures their weight in the world in general and in Canada in particular. Concerned with the questions raised regarding the regional economic impact of biotechnologies, the author attempts to illustrate the principal dynamics involved. It is obvious from this study that the future development of Atlantic Canada is at stake and that numerous efforts must be made to ensure that its technological development is pursued with vigour.

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