

Abstracts

D. DOLOREUX, L. HOMMEN and C. EDQUIST: "Nordic Regional Innovation Systems: An Analysis of the Region of East Gothia, Sweden". This paper sets out to examine and describe the innovation system of East Gothia, one of Sweden's major centres for technological growth. The analysis focuses on the innovation activities of manufacturing firms, together with the processes and practices that have shaped the nature and dynamic of the region. Drawing on a variety of both primary and secondary sources, an analysis is made of the relations among firm strategy and performance, trajectories of innovation, the use of technological resources and of the patterns of relationships among actors.

D. TRÉPANNIER and W.J. COFFEY : "The Intrametropolitan Distribution of Employment in Higher Order Services in the Four Largest Canadian Metropolii, 1981 to 1996"[La redistribution intramétropolitaine de l'emploi des services supérieurs dans les quatre plus grandes métropoles canadiennes, 1981 - 1996 .] This article is a comparative study of the intrametropolitan relocation of the high-order services employment within the four largest Canadian census metropolitan areas (CMAs) between 1981 and 1996: Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver and Ottawa-Hull. While our previous research has analyzed intrametropolitan employment trends in these CMAs by major sectoral groups, the present study examines the individual behaviour of 12 specific elements of high-order service activities (financial services and business services). We examine changes in the CBDs of the four metropolitan areas, in terms of their role as the principal suppliers of high-order services within their respective CMAs, and in the recent spatial redistribution of these activities at the metropolitan scale. This study advances our knowledge of intrametropolitan employment decentralisation in Canada, in large measure thanks to a new set of data.

Our results show that even if the CBDs of the four CMAs experienced an absolute growth of employment in most of the specific high-order services, on a relative basis we observe a reduction of their role as the main supplier of these services. This relative decline is caused by a more rapid growth of high-order services in employment centres other than the CBD and/or in the rest of the metropolitan area (zones located neither in the CBD nor in an employment centre). There is no single spatial model of intrametropolitan decentralisation

operative in the four CMAs; each CMA seems to be characterized by a different stage of decentralisation. In general, however, Montreal and Vancouver have tended to experience their most rapid high-order service growth in secondary employment centres outside of the CDB, while growth in Toronto and Ottawa-Hull has occurred primarily in a more dispersed manner in areas outside of identifiable employment centres. Interestingly, the CBDs of the four metropolitan areas have tended to retain a specialization in the same set of high-order service functions: legal services, insurance firms (as opposed to agents), and financial institutions. Finally, the relative degree of decentralization appears to be closely related to the growth rate of employment in high-order services. Those metropolitan areas that experienced the most rapid growth in high-order services (Vancouver and Toronto) also tend to be those in which intrametropolitan decentralization from the CBD is the most advanced.

S. QUAYES and D.R. PESCATRICE: "North American Border Trade in a Heightened Security Regime". This study focuses on the impact of more stringent border security measures implemented in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the U.S. border trade with Canada and Mexico. Utilizing trade model based on a simple gravity equation, the impact of this heightened border security regime on merchandise trade is quantitatively analyzed. The results confirm the initial hypotheses: trade with Canada was more negatively impacted than trade with Mexico; imports experienced a sharper decline than exports; trade via trucks was more severely affected than rail traffic; and inherently dangerous commodities and goods conducive to housing destructive devices experienced greater downturns in trade volume.

G. RODRIGUEZ: "Identifying Canadian Regional Business Cycles Using the Plucking Model". Following the econometric specification suggested by Kim and Nelson (1999b), the Plucking model (Friedmann 1964, 1993) is tested using output data from the Canadian regions. The empirical results give strong support to the theoretical predictions that negative transitory shocks hit the economy putting down the real regional output. After that, the regional economies enter into a recovery phase and after this they are operating again near the trend ceiling level. The only exception is the Atlantic region where the linear symmetric model of Clark (1987) cannot be rejected. Using the estimated filtered probabilities, a chronology of the regional business cycles is presented. It shows that there are clear and particular episodes corresponding to the regional dynamics which are not necessarily present at the aggregate level.

A.M. SEGUIN and P. APPARICIO: "Evolution of the Spatial Distribution of the Old-Age Population in the Montreal Metropolitan Region between 1981 and 2001: State of the Situation and Challenges for Municipalities". [Évolution de la distribution spatiale de la population âgée dans la région métropolitaine montréalaise entre 1981 et 2001 : constat et enjeux pour les municipalités]. The distribution within the Montreal metropolitan space of the old-age population has

undergone some important changes over the period 1981 to 2001. In 1981, a concentration of old-aged persons can be observed in the central areas of the City of Montreal and in the most central suburbs. This pattern has been subsequently modified: the concentrations of old-aged persons has moved towards a first ring formed by the older suburbs on Montreal Island. Simultaneously, an increase in the old-aged population can be observed in the more peripheral suburbs even though this is only in the early stages. These modifications in the pattern of old aged people raises some issues for urban planning and urban social policy. Are the more distant low density suburbs that are typical of the periphery of Montreal capable of offering a living environment adequately adapted to older people, when we know that older people start to lose some of their autonomy? Given that there is substantial inertia in the built environment, it is important to pose questions concerning the changes that will be needed so that the urban framework of the suburbs can offer an interesting and adequate living environment for old aged people who live there. This question is all the more important given that demographic ageing is anticipated for Quebec and the Montreal metropolitan region over the next three decades. In the movement towards decentralization and in the context of changes in the family, it may well be that municipalities will be increasingly called upon by ageing populations who want to live in environments adapted to their needs. Yet, local resources are unequally distributed, which means that some environments will be more hospitable for older people, while others will be less so. These disparities will therefore be added to the inequalities in terms of income and health that already exist.

H. SCHWARTZ: "The Relevance of Toronto's New Governmental Structure for the 21st Century". The Ontario Conservative government of 1995 to 2003 made a number of major changes in the way that municipalities were governed and financed. Some municipalities were forced to amalgamate despite the opposition of their residents. The government also redistributed the responsibilities of the province and the municipalities through the Local Service Realignment Program (LSR). This program is referred to as downloading. The previous P.Q. government of Quebec merged the adjacent municipalities of Montreal, Quebec City and Longueuil into three large cities on January 1, 2002, despite the objections of the residents in local referenda. In June 2004, referenda were held in many of the amalgamated cities, and several voted to demerge.

This paper is concerned with two questions. The first is whether megacities are less costly to operate than many small municipalities in a large urban area. The recent amalgamations of Toronto and of the cities in Quebec are used to examine this question. The second question is concerned with the impact of downloading on the municipalities. Because downloading did not take place in Quebec, the experience of the City of Toronto is used to examine this question.

Combining amalgamation and downloading has produced an untenable financial situation for the new city of Toronto. The city is not financially self-sufficient. The province currently restricts the city to the property tax and to user fees for additional revenue. Other revenue sources are needed to help the city meet its

financial requirements. The lack of funds, other than borrowing, to maintain and add to its infrastructure, means that the city's infrastructure is deteriorating and that borrowing costs will place an additional future burden on the city's operating costs. The inability to maintain and add to the city's and the Greater Toronto Area's (GTA) infrastructure will increase urban sprawl and place additional costs on the city and on the GTA's businesses and residents.

R. TREMBLAY: "Review of the Main Rankings of American Technopoles". [Revue des principaux « rankings » des technopoles américaines]. This article introduces 5 rankings of American technopoles. For each of them, we highlight the adopted methodologies and data used. What arises from our analysis is that none of the rankings offer a North-American perspective. Another finding is that these rankings vary greatly from one another in terms of methodologies and the SIC/NAICS statistical classes chosen to define the concept of high technology. This can be explained by the fact that there is no standardized definition of this concept.