

ABSTRACTS

BOISVERT, M.: "Le regroupement intermunicipal en MRC: une conception opérationnelle avec application à la Mauricie": A new spatial setting, regional municipalities or MRCs, recently appeared in Quebec, each unit being composed of a group of local municipal areas. This paper first suggests a statistical procedure, including a list of regionalization criteria, which is able to bring about intermunicipal groupings that approximate those that have been established in the Mauricie region. The concept of "région d'aménagement" (planning region) is then introduced, bringing in an operational perspective. External operationality refers to spill-over effects as they are related to hydrographic basins, while internal operationality emphasizes the need for complementarity in terms of experience and equipment within each intermunicipal grouping.

GRANT, E. K. and J. VANDERKAMP: "Repeat Migration and Disappointment": The main purpose of this paper is to test the disappointment hypothesis with regard to the decision to repeat migrate within a few years after the initial move. The disappointment variable represents the ratio of actual versus "expected" wage income in the year after the initial move, and its effect on both "return" and "onward" migration probabilities is negative and almost always highly significant. Other more standard migration variables are also included in the empirical work, and the results are on the whole in line with prior expectations; one may observe the strongly positive effect of distance on onward repeat moves, and the important impact of an individual's prior migration experience.

DREWES, T.: "Regional Unemployment Disparity and Market Adjustment Failure": The paper attempts to explain the failure of two market adjustment mechanisms to clear the labour market in a high unemployment, low income region linked to other regions through migration flows: wage adjustment and outmigration. Wage rigidity in the face of labour market slack is explained, using a turnover cost model. It is shown that, if replacing quits is costly to firms in the high unemployment region, they may go some way towards matching wages

available elsewhere, although not required to do so in order to attract job applicants. Outmigration of the unemployed to regions offering better employment prospects and higher wages may fail to clear the labour market if such migration is costly. The theoretical need for mobility of the employed in the explanation of wage rigidity is reconciled with the need for immobility of the unemployed in accounting for the lack of migration adjustment by assuming that migration costs vary across individuals, although they need not differ, on average, between the employed and the unemployed. The resulting model explains wage rigidity as the outcome of profit maximizing behaviour on the demand side of the labour market. This is argued to be superior to conventional approaches that essentially explain involuntary unemployment by assuming that workers price themselves out of work.

LAMARCHE, R.: "High Technology, Telecommunications and Regional Development: A Survey of the Literature": This paper reviews a number of studies published recently in North America and Europe on the regional impact of high technology and telecommunications. Some studies focus on theory and model building, while others are empirical analyses of the implantations of high tech firms in peripheral regions. Because high tech and telecommunication innovation go hand-in-hand, the paper reviews articles that link regional development to information activities. Some authors report a converging effect whereby economic control is eliminated from the regions, while other authors foresee that telecommunications and the new telematic services that will follow will favour the smaller regional metropolitan centres.

MATTART, F.: "L'impact du commerce international sur la production et la main-d'oeuvre de la région atlantique": Input-output tables for the Atlantic Region (1979) have been used to calculate the impact of various international flow hypotheses on production and labour. The results clearly show the regional weaknesses of labour intensive industrial sectors (mainly, the manufacturing sectors). On the other hand, the region has a comparative advantage in all sectors related to natural resources. It is thus possible to evaluate the losses and gains in production and jobs for the various industrial sectors.

ATKINS, F. J.: "Free Trade, Economic Regions and the Foreign Exchange Rate": As we enter into negotiations for a free trade agreement with the United States, there has been little discussion of the exchange rate regime that will prevail between the two countries. A flexible exchange rate regime may suit the current conservative mood, in both political and economic terms. However, a flexible exchange rate regime combined with free trade may require factor mobility in

order to be successful. This factor mobility may be in conflict with regional expansion policies, which tend to discourage factor mobility. A fixed exchange rate regime is capable of distributing free trade gains across regions without direct government intervention in the form of regional expansion policies.