LOCAL INDICATORS FOR ECONOMIC ANALYSIS (IDEAs) DATABASE: A SUMMARY OVERVIEW

The accelerating pace of technological innovation and the ability of companies to commercialize those advances are key forces driving change in the global economy. These changes are rapidly altering the distribution of economic production and consumption around the world. As more countries become integrated into world markets, there is evidence to indicate that economic activity is becoming more, not less, concentrated in city-regions, which are widely recognized as the key source of economic vitality and innovative capacity for nation-states. A city-region is defined as the presence of a core city linked by functional ties to a surrounding hinterland based on travel to work, the housing market, marketing or retail catchment areas. As cities become more important for the economic performance of the country, however, a serious blind-spot is forming in our ability, as researchers and policy makers, to analyze the social and economic factors that provide the foundation of prosperity for city-regions. As the economic significance of city-regions increases, the lack of detailed statistics at this level has come to represent a significant barrier, to economic analysis at the sub-provincial or city-region level. The database addresses this void by assembling key indicators at the city-region level, informed by the latest research on local competitiveness and economic well-being. It is more than just a collection of data sets, but rather an analytical research tool that adds value through the construction of credible indicators of regional prosperity situated within a framework informed by current research and thinking.

Pursuant to this, the Local Indicators Database for Economic Analysis is constructed as a central resource for a national network of researchers to support a wide range of statistical analysis. The database includes an extensive set of social and economic indicators that comprise the factors that contribute to the economic vitality of Canadian city-regions (CMAs and CAs) and to benchmark their performance against those in other countries, particularly the U.S. The indicators included in the database are being assembled through special tabulations of economic and social data at a finer level of disaggregation than is publicly available, the purchase of complementary private sets of data, such as the Dun and Bradstreet database of private firms in Canada and the U.S., the contributions of proprietary data from a number of collaborators, including the Conference Board of Canada, and the purchase and integration of comparable data sets from the United States to enable international comparisons. The database is organized on the basis of geography, industry and occupation to facilitate international comparisons. However, the key to its research capabilities is the development of a highly customized query tool that allows researchers to organize and analyze the extensive set of indicators in the database to address key questions about the economic performance of city-regions. The database manager is Gregory Spencer, Ph.D. and it is housed in the Program on Globalization and Regional Innovation Systems (PROGRIS) in the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto.

Key data within Local IDEAs

- Full complement of Census data standardized over multiple periods (some as far back as 1971) and geographies (CT-CMA)
    - Immigration and domestic migration
    - Demographics

- Detailed labour market information from the Census and Labour Force survey
    - Occupation levels;
    - Educational Attainment levels
    - Academic Fields of Study
    - Unemployment

- Annual Canadian business patterns data (industry and size) by city-regions (CMA/CA) and municipalities (CSD)

- 1.4 million current business records for Canada from Dun & Bradstreet including 8-digit SIC/4-digit NAICS; employees; revenues; full contact details

- Global corporate ownership structure information from Hoovers

- Comprehensive profiles of local industrial clusters from the ISRN Research Project
    - Standardized data on 19 industrial clusters for all CMAs and CAs in Canada

- City region GDP estimates from the Conference Board of Canada

- Detailed geo-referenced data on all Canadian patent filers (USPTO) from 1975 forward

    - Linked to the ISRN cluster and city-region databases

- Local private R&D expenditure data from the Impact Group coded by CMA and CA

- Detailed geo-referenced public R&D funding for all CMAs and CAs
    - (original source: Canadian Association of University Business Officers)

- Will be adding comparable datasets from the US, European and other international sources in 2012

Local IDEAs Database

7 MS Access Files
6.26 GB of Data
108 Tables
28,366,628 Rows

Source	Variables	Years
Statistics Canada (Census) – CMA and CA Level	Demographics (Age, Family Status, Mother Tongue, Visible Minorities); Industry (Industry, Income, Occupation, Employment, Class of Worker, Labour Activity, etc.); Education (Field of Study, Level of Education, Location of Study); Immigration (Immigrant Status, Period of Immigration, Place of Birth); Mobility & Migration (Mobility Status, Commuting Distance); Value of Dwelling; etc.	2001, 2006
Statistics Canada (Canadian Business Patterns)	Number of businesses by industry and size.	2000-2008
Dun & Bradstreet	Business Name, Industry, Location, Number of Employees, Contact Information.	2001, 2006, 2011
(U.S. PTO)	Inventor & Location, Assignee & Location, Patent Class.	1976-2007
CAUBO	University Research Funding by Source.	1999-2008
Innovation Atlas	Corporate R&D (Revenue, Research Intensity, Expenditure on R&D) University R&D (Publications, Research Income).	C: 2005, 2006 U: 2003-2007
Canada Revenue Agency	Income, Income Distribution (by Locality).	2002-2008
Statistics Canada (E-STAT) – CMA and CA Level	Investment in Non-residential construction, Building Permits, Absence Rates of employees, Internet Use*.	2001-2010 *2005, 2007, 2009
(University Spin-offs)	Business Name, University Affiliated, Industry Field, City, Contact.	1965-2011