**LOCAL IDEAs 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, Local IDEAs (Indicator 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. Gregory Spencer is the manager of Local IDEAs which is housed in the Innovation Policy Lab at 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 (years = 2001; 2006; 2011)

- Global corporate ownership structure information from Hoovers (geo-coded and industry-coded establishments with employment figures)

- Comprehensive profiles of local industrial clusters from the ISRN Research Project
    - Standardized data on 19 industrial cluster types 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 public R&D funding for all CMAs and CAs
    - (original source: Canadian Association of University Business Officers)

- Comparable datasets from the US, European and other international sources

**Local IDEAs Database - Summary of Contents**

| 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, 2011 |
| Statistics Canada – CMA/CA | Imports/Exports | 1996-2010 |
| Statistics Canada (Canadian Business Patterns) | Number of businesses by industry and size. | 2000-2009 |
| Dun & Bradstreet | Business Name, Industry, Location, Number of Employees, Contact Information. | 2001, 2006, 2011 |
| PATDAT (Kogler) | Inventor & Location, Assignee & Location, Patent Class. | 1976-2007 |
| CAUBO | University Research Funding by Source. | 1999-2008 |
| Thomson-Reuters | Venture Capital investment by year | 1996-2011 |
| 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). | 2002-2009 |
| 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 |
| D. Cooper (University Spin-offs) | Business Name, University Affiliated, Industry Field, City, Contact. | 1965-2011 |
| Conference Board of Canada – CMA Level | GDP, Help Wanted Index, Housing Starts and Completions, Retail Sales. | 1987-2010 |
| Statistics Canada (Household Spending Survey) | Type of dwelling, built year, rooms, appliances and electronic equipment (select CMAs) | 2000-2009 |
| US Census Bureau (County Business Patterns) | Business Counts by NAICS / Number of Employees at the MSA level | 2000-2009 |
| American Community Survey - MSA | Socio-demographics cross-tabulated by NAICS (equivalent to Canadian cluster database) | 2005-2010 |
| EuroStat – NUTS 2 & 3 | Demographics, employment, growth... | 2000-2009 |
| OECD – global cities | Population, GDP, patents, growth... | 2000-2010 |

**Local IDEAs Policy Report Bibliography**

Spencer, G.M. (2014) Cluster Atlas of Canada: A data profile of resource, manufacturing, and service clusters in Canadian provinces using data from the 2011 Census and National Household Survey. *Industry Canada.*

Spencer, G.M. (2013) Regional Innovation Ecosystems: key success factors in Canadian cities. *Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation*.

Spigel, B. (2013) Sociocultural Dynamics of Creativity and Innovation. *Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation*.

Morales, J., Spencer, G.M. and Wolfe, D.A. (2013) The Spatial Scale of Innovation: a look at the geography of knowledge in Ontario. *Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation*.

Spencer, G.M. (2013) The economic impact of anchor firms and industrial clusters: an analysis of Canadian and American manufacturing firms and clusters. Industry Canada. *Industry Canada.*

Spencer, G.M. (2013) Economic Impact Assessment: Arts, Culture, and Heritage. *Town of Huntsville, Muskoka*.

Spencer, G.M. (2012) Innovation and R&D Report for Toronto. *Consider Canada*. (A set of 11 reports for the largest Canadian city regions: Toronto; Montreal; Vancouver; Calgary, Edmonton; Ottawa-Gatineau; Halifax; Winnipeg; Saskatoon; Kitchener-Waterloo; Quebec City)

Soohoo, M. and Spencer, G.M. (2012) International Benchmarking Report for Canada's Largest City-regions. *Consider Canada*.

Soohoo, M. and Spencer, G.M. (2012) Firm Dynamics: sources of employment growth and decline. *Consider Canada*.

Soohoo, M. and Spencer, G.M. (2012) Firm Dynamics: sources of employment growth and decline. *Consider Canada*.

Soohoo, M. and Spencer, G.M. (2012) US Benchmarking Report for Toronto. *Consider Canada*. (A set of 11 reports for the largest Canadian city regions: Toronto; Montreal; Vancouver; Calgary, Edmonton; Ottawa-Gatineau; Halifax; Winnipeg; Saskatoon; Kitchener-Waterloo; Quebec City)

Spencer, G.M., Morales, J. and Wolfe, D. (2012) Locating high growth firms within Canadian industrial clusters. *Industry Canada*.

Shyllit, R. and Spencer, G.M. (2011) Water, rocks, and trees, building on our natural resources: The creative economy in Muskoka. *Creative Muskoka*.

*Spencer, G.M. 2008. Profiles of Industrial Clusters in Ontario. *Ministry of Economic Development and Innovation. – a proposal to update this report with 2011 data is currently with Industry Canada*