

Same size, same social characteristics, same performance ? Comparative study of Moncton and Trois-Rivières City-regions

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Social characteristics and economic performance - Snapshots

	Moncton		Trois-Rivières	
	2006	Variation 1996-2006 in %	2006	Variation 1996-2006 in %
Total population count	126 424	10,4	141 529	1,1
Ratio of age groups 0 to 14 to 65 years and over	1,2	- 20,0	1,4	- 35,7
Immigrants	3,4%	6,3%	2,2%	37,5%
Recent immigrants (arrived in last 5 years)	0,7%	133,3%	0,8%	166,7%
Knowledge of both official languages	46,9%	4,9%	25,9%	6,1%
Employment rate	64,1	7,9	55,9	7,5
Unemployment rate	6,2	- 37,4	7,3	- 39,2
Median household income	50 405 \$	5,9	40 617 \$	3,6

		Mgt	Biz-Fin	Sci	Health	Edu+Gov	Art+Cult	Sales+Serv	Trades+Transpo	Primary	Mfg
Canada	1996	9,0%	19,0%	5,0%	5,0%	6,8%	2,7%	26,0%	14,1%	4,8%	7,6%
	2006	9,7%	17,9%	6,6%	5,6%	8,4%	3,0%	23,9%	15,1%	3,8%	5,9%
Moncton	1996	8,8%	21,8%	3,9%	6,3%	7,3%	2,7%	28,8%	14,7%	1,5%	4,2%
	2006	9,6%	23,0%	5,8%	7,1%	7,8%	2,5%	26,5%	13,2%	1,4%	3,0%
Trois-Rivières	1996	8,2%	18,0%	5,3%	6,5%	8,7%	1,9%	25,2%	15,4%	1,7%	9,0%
	2006	7,8%	16,1%	5,3%	6,8%	10,6%	2,4%	26,0%	15,5%	2,1%	7,4%

Source – Moncton : <http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/92-596/P1-2.cfm?Lang=eng&T=CMA&PRCODE=13&GEOCODE=305&GEOLVL=CMA&TID=0> – Trois-Rivières : <http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/92-596/P1-2.cfm?Lang=eng&T=CMA&PRCODE=24&GEOCODE=442&GEOLVL=CMA&TID=0>

Social characteristics and economic performance - Snapshots

- Moncton (29/33) and Trois-Rivières (27/33) are among smallest CMAs
- Moncton among fastest growing CMAs (10th), Trois-Rivières 26th
- Percentage of high-growth small firms (1995-2000)* ...
 - Moncton: 1,7 and Trois-Rivières: 1,4
- Science and engineering employment shares of total employment - 2000 and 2001** Moncton: 4,0 and Trois-Rivières: 2,9
- Between 1996 and 2006, both Moncton and Trois-Rivières firmed their position as regional centres for health, education and government jobs
- While the share of managerial, business/finance and science-related occupations grew in Moncton, it declined/plateaued in Trois-Rivières
- Conversely, arts and culture, sales/service and trades/transpo occupations grew in Trois-Rivières, but shrunk in Moncton

*: Bordt, M., McVey, J. and A. Short, (2005), *Characteristics of firms that grow from small to medium size: Industrial and geographic distribution of small high-growth firms*, Ottawa, Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 88F0006XIE — No. 005

** : Beckstead, D. and W. Mark Brown (2006), *Innovation Capabilities: Comparing Science and Engineering Employment in Canadian and U.S. Cities*, Ottawa, Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 11-622-MIE

Theme 1 - Knowledge Flows

Location of actors with whom firms interact for innovation	Moncton		Trois-Rivières		
	Level of interaction				
	Mature/trad sectors	“New” sectors	Mature/trad sectors	“New” sectors	
Regional	weak	weak	strong	weak	“when you have no one to talk to, you don’t interact much”
Non regional	strong	strong	strong	strong	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Financial services agglomerating, but many regional and back offices with limited spillovers (e.g. purchasing) o Communications also in need of HQs for local purchasing o Transpo. industry built on lower-wage trucking, while GSCM \$ directed towards maritime and ...rail o Lack of mfg means half-empty trucks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o SQL pushing advanced mfg to over-automate, with \$ for outside techno rather than local salaries o Some R&D collab with regional univ, but few local o IT successes based on global exports by one dominant firm and a handful of nimble firms using open source 	<p><i>Firms facing very difficult times</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Firm closures o Production stops o Job lost o Diminishing shipments o Diminishing exportations o Inability/ incapacity to implement new production technologies o Inability/ incapacity to get new products to the market 	<p><i>Firms facing difficulties and think about leaving</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Difficulty to get risk capital o Difficulty to get important governmental support o Difficulty to get technoscientific support o In sum, difficulty to grow! o Move to Montréal to be part of the “network” 	

Theme 1 - Knowledge Flows

- *“...our hypothesis is as follows: the economic performance of city-regions depends on the structure (density and diversity) of local networks – in particular, a mix of strong and weak ties, a mix of local and non-local ties, as well as the heterogeneity and diversity of economic actors belonging to these networks”*
- Considering the RIS' literature
 - Mature/traditional sectors in Trois-Rivières should be our “best performers” ...and they are not !
 - The five sectors studied in Moncton should be experiencing “some very serious problems” ...and they are not !
 - But with the same pattern of interactions than those five sectors, Trois-Rivières “new” high-tech sectors are !
- The comparative case of Moncton - Trois-Rivières challenges this hypothesis

Theme 2 - Social Foundations of Talent Attraction and Retention

- “The hypothesis for Theme 2 research examines whether the social foundations of talent attraction and retention depend on a set of characteristics that define quality of place, including cultural dynamism, social diversity, openness and tolerance, social inclusion, and cohesion”
- The comparative case of Moncton - Trois-Rivières challenges this hypothesis
 - the characteristics identified by respondents are different
 - talented workers come and stay for jobs in or related to their creative domain
 - all the others factors play a “smaller” role in their decision to *stay* and almost no role in their decision to *come*

Theme 3 - Collaboration and governance for regional development

	Moncton	Trois-Rivières
Forms of governance	<i>Concentric rings governance</i> (Wider structures in place, but core decisions made / vetted via elite)	<i>Governances</i>
Collaboration/coordination at the regional level	Weak (Dieppe as an edge city)	Weak
Regional governance	Weak	Weak
Local governance	Strong	Strong
Inclusivness	<i>Immigration</i> championed in economic discourse, but little done for <i>immigrants</i>	-

Theme 3 - Collaboration and governance for regional development

- “... to what extent does the economic performance of city-regions reflect their ability to generate effective new forms of associative governance and collaborative leadership ?”
- *The comparative case of Moncton - Trois-Rivières challenges this hypothesis*
 - *In terms of governance Moncton and Trois-Rivières have the same characteristics*
 - “In terms of economic development, regional governance simply doesn’t exist”
 - “Regional regress” in Moncton – amalgamation threat in 1990s leading Dieppe to opt out of regional mechanisms
 - *Yet their performances differ*

Conclusions

- Although Moncton and Trois-Rivières city-regions share a lot of “social characteristics”, their economic performance is significantly different
- In light of our results, it is fair to say that for small CMAs
 - regional institutions, interactions at the regional level, regional identity and also “quality of place” appear insignificant as the locus and key determinants of innovation and economic performance
 - when we consider what is actually taking place (actions instead of “discours”), we find a much messier dynamic : importance of extra regional interactions, multiple identities, shifting identities and orientations, struggles between “spatial levels”, struggles between actors, etc.
- Consequently, at least for small city-regions, we should be careful and have a closer look at those issues before making over-generalizations about the role and importance of a RIS and its “social characteristics” as key determinants of economic performance