

The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Releases

Study: Influence of urban clustering on the productivity of firms, 1989 to 1999

All manufacturing firms experience gains in labour productivity resulting from clustering together in cities, but the benefits differ between smaller and larger businesses.

The study focused on Canadian manufacturing establishments operating between 1989 and 1999. Labour productivity was measured as value added divided by the number of production workers.

Firms benefit from clustering in three ways — labour market pooling (local specialization in labour skills); density of upstream suppliers (the development of localized buyer-supplier networks); and knowledge spillovers, that is, knowledge that spills across firms working in the same industry in the same location.

The study found that virtually all plants reap productivity benefits from locating in places where there is a match between the skills they require and the skills of local workers.

However, these benefits are greater for smaller and younger businesses. These rely more on local labour markets to find workers with the skills that match their needs because their geographic foot print is more focused.

Larger and older firms still rely on local pools of labour. However, these firms have greater internal resources to find and attract workers from outside of the local area.

Younger, smaller firms also benefit more in terms of knowledge spillover. These firms, due to their age and size, have less well developed in-house capabilities to generate knowledge, or to draw less upon spatially extensive networks of affiliated firms and thus rely more on localized knowledge sources.

In contrast, older firms benefit most from access to a dense network of upstream suppliers. Regardless of size or complexity, older firms are better able to exploit the advantages of local supplier networks, because their production processes are more standardized. Therefore, portions of their production processes are more amenable to being outsourced to specialized suppliers.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2103.

The research paper "Urban Productivity: Who Benefits from Agglomeration Economies?", part of the *Economic Analysis Research Paper* series (11F0027M), is now available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

Similar studies from the Economic Analysis Division are available online (www.statcan.gc.ca/economicanalysis).

For more information, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; infostats@statcan.gc.ca).

To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Mark Brown (613-951-7292), Economic Analysis Division.

Farm product prices, December 2012

Prices received by farmers in December for grains, oilseeds, specialty crops, potatoes, cattle, hogs, poultry, eggs and dairy products are now available.

The December Quebec slaughter calves price was \$161.44 per hundredweight, up 2.2% from November and up 0.3% from December 2011 when the price was \$161.03.

The Manitoba canola price in December was \$585.74 per tonne, up 2.8% from November and up 14.9% from December 2011 when the price was \$509.93.

Note to readers

Farm commodity prices are now available on CANSIM. Prices for over 35 commodities are available by province, some series going back 30 years.

Available in CANSIM: table 002-0043.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3436.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; mediahotline@statcan.gc.ca).

Postcensal estimates of population for census divisions, census metropolitan areas and economic regions, July 1, 2012

Annual demographic estimates by age and sex for census divisions, census metropolitan areas and economic regions as of July 1, 2012 are now available. Revised estimates as of July 1, for the years 2007 to 2011, are also available.

Note to readers

Estimates released today are based on 2006 Census counts adjusted for census net undercoverage and incompletely enumerated Indian reserves.

These estimates are based on the 2006 Standard Geographical Classification.

Available in CANSIM: tables 051-0046 to 051-0054.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 3608.

The publication *Annual Demographic Estimates: Subprovincial Areas, 2007 to 2012 (91-214-X)*, is now available from the *Browse by key resource* module of our website under *Publications*.

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New products and studies

New products

Annual Demographic Estimates: Subprovincial Areas, 2007 to 2012
Catalogue number 91-214-X (HTML | PDF)

New studies

Economic Analysis (EA) Research Paper Series: "Urban Productivity: Who Benefits from Agglomeration Economies?", No. 84
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