

Canada's Top 20 Research Communities List 2006 Analysis

Saluting the Top Research Communities

For the first time RESEARCH Infosource Inc. is shining the spotlight on Canada's 20 Top Research Communities. These are the most research-intensive communities (census metropolitan areas) in the country – home both to high levels of corporate and university research.

To determine the rankings we examined a total of 11 different indicators in each community; 7 concerned with corporate R&D and 4 related to research in the higher education sector. On the corporate side we examined the: Number of companies performing research in each community; Number of R&D companies per capita; Business spending on R&D; Business spending per capita; Number of scientists and engineers employed; Number of scientists and engineers employed per capita; and, Percent of the labour force employed in Natural and Applied Sciences and related occupations. (We used the latest available comparable data for our analysis.)

On the university side we tabulated: Total research income at universities in the community; Research income per full-time faculty (research intensity); Number of scientific publications; and, Number of scientific publications per faculty (publication intensity). (Detailed rankings for all the categories can be found at www.researchinfosource.com.)

The Leaders

Heading both the overall and the large CMA ranking was Montreal, which scored 61.3 of a possible 64 points on the economic indicators and 33.7 of an available 36 points on the higher education indicators. Montreal particularly excels due to the high number of companies performing R&D (3,066 in 2002), and the fact that its 5 universities combined attracted a high level of research income (nearly \$783 million in 2002). Toronto occupies second place in the ranking because it scored well on many of the business and the higher education indicators (3rd place overall in each).

Research Community of the Year 2006*	Population Category
Montreal	More than 900,000
Quebec City	300,000-900,000
Sherbrooke	Less than 300,000

*Based on 2002 data

Ottawa-Gatineau, which placed third overall and among large cities, was very strong on Corporate R&D indicators, particularly: R&D spending per capita and Percent of the labour force in Natural and Applied sciences and related occupations.

Top 5 Communities by Corporate R&D Spending per Capita			
Rank		Community	R&D Spending per Capita* \$000
R&D Spending per Capita	Overall		
1	3	Ottawa-Gatineau	\$2.030
2	1	Montreal	\$0.894
3	2	Toronto	\$0.633
4	7	Kitchener-Waterloo	\$0.466
5	6	Calgary	\$0.394

*Based on 2002 data

Among medium-size centres (30,000-900,000 population) Quebec City is the standout. Although it has a smaller population than a number of larger centres, Quebec ranked fifth overall among all cities and first in its category. Quebec is home to a large number of companies that perform research. It also ranks high on the percent of the labour force in Natural and applied sciences and related occupations, and university research income per-capita.

Top 5 Communities by Percent of Labour Force in Natural & Applied Sciences and Related Occupations			
Rank		Community	% of Labour Force in N&A Sciences and Related Occupations*
% of Labour Force in N&A Sciences and Related Occupations	Overall		
1	3	Ottawa-Gatineau	12.9
2	6	Calgary	10.4
3	5	Quebec City	8.6
4	2	Toronto	8.2
5	1	Montreal	7.5

*Based on 2001 census data

Top 5 Communities by University Research Income			
Rank		Community	Research Income* \$000
University Research Income	Overall		
1	1	Montreal	\$782,868
2	2	Toronto	\$506,859
3	8	Edmonton	\$287,957
4	5	Quebec City	\$251,049
5	4	Vancouver	\$250,738

*Based on 2002 data

Heading the small community ranking (under 300,000 population) is Sherbrooke, Quebec. This vibrant research community ranked 11th overall on the Top 20 list. Sherbrooke also ranked high on the number of R&D companies per capita, Corporate R&D spending per capita, and number of Scientists and engineers per capita.

Recognition of the important role that municipalities play in fostering the development and growth of technology-based companies is growing. Increasingly, municipalities are helping to make important linkages between companies and other innovation resources in their community.

RE\$EARCH Infosource salutes all our leading research communities.

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