

Leading and Lagging Sites in Rural Canada

Bill Reimer
The New Rural Economy Project

00/06/20

<http://nre.concordia.ca>



Outline

- What is meant by leading and lagging?
- What processes contribute to their differences?
- What are the most promising directions for future research?



What is meant by leading and lagging?

- Economic approaches
- Social Issues
- Collective action (Governance)
- Subjective evaluations
- Environmental Issues



Economic Approaches

- Economic well-being
- Economic development
- Economic sustainability
- Income or poverty
- Employment
- Livelihoods
- Market competitiveness
- Industrial growth



Social Issues

- Social support and vulnerability
- Integration and exclusion
- Networks



3 Factors related to L/L

- Employment income-related
- Marriage and housing cost-related
- Low income, inequality, and home ownership-related



What are the underlying processes?

- Demographic
- Economic
- Political/legal
- Social
- Infrastructure
- Spatial/environmental



Economic Processes

- Skills and talents
- Structure of work
- Economic capital
- Material resources
- Economic markets



Social Processes

- Changes in social institutions
- Changes in social support
- Changes in networks
- Changes in norms, attitudes, culture



Income-Related Factor	
Leading	Lagging
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural employment • Husband-wife families • Common-law families • Owned dwellings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old age dependency • Low education • Immobility • Logging employment • Government services employment • Newfoundland

Empirical Analysis

- On the basis of these processes, 52 variables were selected from the 1991 census
- Discriminant analysis conducted to identify the variables that were correlated with the lagging and leading statuses previously considered.
 - Discriminant analysis identifies those variables that contribute most to the difference between two groups of cases
- Each of the indicators for leading and lagging status was considered independently

Income-Related Factor

- High level of differentiation
- Leading CSDs are likely to be high in agricultural employment, the proportion of husband-wife and common-law families, and dwellings owned.
- Lagging CSDs have a high level of old age dependency, low education, immobility, and employment in logging or government services. They are also more likely to be found in Newfoundland
- Note that the analysis reveals
 - important variables related to leading and lagging (which ones are in the lists?)
 - Which variables are related to each other (agricult. Employment is related to husband-wife or common-law families and owned dwellings).
 - Which variables form relatively independent 'packages'



Marital Status-Related Factor

- Leading CSDs are more likely to have high levels of husband-wife and common-law families with children, agricultural employment, old and young dependency ratios, and residential stability.
- Lagging CSDs are likely to be from Québec, New Brunswick, or Ontario.

Poverty-Related Factor	
Leading	Lagging
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Husband-wife families • Common-law families with children • Government employment • Ontario • Old dependency ratios 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low education • Newfoundland • New Brunswick • Nova Scotia • Agricultural employment • Residential stability

Poverty-Related Factor

- Leading CSDs have a high proportion of husband-wife and common-law families with children, government employment, and are likely to be found in Ontario.
- They also have relatively high old dependency ratios.
- Lagging CSDs have low levels of education, are likely to be located in Newfoundland, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, and have a high proportion of people employed in agriculture.
- They are also likely to have a high proportion of immobile residents.

Summary of Findings

- Regional, economic sector, demographic, and family-structure variables discriminate leading from lagging CSDs
- Different definitions of L/L are related to different patterns of variables



Implications for Research I

- Take a multidimensional approach
- Take a dynamic approach
- Take a multi-level approach
- Take a comparative approach



Implications for Research II

- Build on existing studies
- Move beyond demographic and economic variables
- Beware confusion in definitions and measures

