Robert Nichols: Temporary Foreign Workers and the Atlantic Canadian Labour Force

The employment of temporary foreign workers (TFWs) in Atlantic Canada is an issue of significant controversy and debate. Despite the public perception that TFWs are "taking jobs" from domestic workers, the hiring of TFWs can be an effective way to maintain growth in times of economic expansion. This potential benefit is particularly relevant in the Atlantic Region in the face of expected labour force shrinkage into the future. Additionally, the use of TFWs could allow time for adjustments in training programs in order to alleviate a skill mismatch in the region. As with any government regulated labour program, an appropriate implementation of the TFW program is essential to prevent adverse employment effects on the domestic labour force. Recent TFW policy changes appear to have negatively impacted the role of outmigration in resolving regional unemployment disparities, perpetuating higher unemployment rates in the Atlantic Region. This suggests that a review of the TFW program might be in order, although it does not speak to the net economic impact of TFWs in the area.

Ashley Zarzecki: Residential Energy Consumption in the United States

Energy consumption and the emissions it produces is an ever increasing concern in policymaking circles. Residential energy consumption is a large contribuant to national emissions, and in understanding what factors determine consumption, the demand for energy can better be understood. I analyze these factors in the US residential sector for individual households using data from the Residential Energy Consumption Survey. I attempt to observe certain effects that would cause the adoption of efficient technologies to be slow, cause consumption to remain constant even with efficient technologies, and what this implies for policymakers.

Hannah Main : Cost-Benefit Analysis of Building Bicycle Lanes in Truro, Nova Scotia

Abstract: The costs of building a bicycle lane network in Truro are compared with the benefits of said network. The benefits of building bicycle lanes are the benefits of switching from car travel to bicycle travel. Many of the costs from motor vehicle transport, such as the environmental costs, are eliminated, while health benefits of physical activity are added. These internal and external costs and benefits are quantified. To find these benefits, it is necessary to estimate how many people would be likely to switch from using a motor vehicle to using a bicycle if indeed a bicycle lane was in place, and how many additional kilometres would be traveled by bicycle if there was a bike lane. Once these estimates have been completed, it is shown that the greater the number of people who switch from car to bicycling, the greater the benefits of building a bicycle lane.

Kelsey Castro: Market Issues in Atlantic Canada

There are issues facing the Atlantic Provinces concerning their labour markets, the problems arise due to shrinking demographic changes, and the fluctuations of worker's skills. These changes are causing the workforce to try and guarantee complete operation by trying to be responsive to the demographic changes and try to release enough information to their workers about the current labour markets. Other issues that are concerning to the Atlantic Provinces are the current tendencies in the labour market, how there is a substantial difference in the labour markets in urban versus rural areas within the provinces, and how the results of an improved immigration policy can help contribute to the labour force by assigning immigrant workers to certain locations.

Dave Evans: Does Subsidized Childcare Reduce the Gender Wage Differential? A Natural Experiment from Quebec.

A great deal of research has examined the persistent gap between the wages of men and women working in the same field. While this gap has narrowed over time, many women still earn significantly less than their male counterparts in the same position with the same experience, education and credentials. In 1997, the provincial government of Quebec instituted a subsidized childcare program for children of four years of age. The age minimum was decreased every year until all pre-kindergarten children were covered by the year 2000. Such a program was unprecedented in Canada and has yet to be reproduced elsewhere in the country. This public policy initiative forms a natural experiment that shall be used to estimate the impact of the presence of subsidized childcare on the gender wage differential. The paper uses a standard linear estimation model controlling for various socioeconomic variables including education, experience, and government transfers, to name a few, and makes use of the longitudinal Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID) by Statistics Canada from 1997 to 2008. SLID covers the ten Canadian provinces, annually surveying 17,000 households.

Jeff Hicks: Natural vacancy rates in rental market housing, and their determinants, in Canadian cities.

This paper examines the existence of the Natural Vacancy Rate Hypothesis in thirty-three Canadian Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) rental housing markets, and the effects of the internet and mobility on those natural rates. Two models are used to estimate the natural vacancy rates and their determinants. The first is the standard "rent-change" model used extensively throughout previous research. The second is the recently introduced "rate-of-excess-demand" model, similar to the unemployment-vacancy model from labour economics which gave rise to the Beveridge curve.

Pooled-time series cross sectional data is used for thirty-three Canadian CMA's over the period 1997 to 2010 from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and Statistics Canada.

Nick Manuel: Do bowlers respond to recent achievements?

My research project is looking at the behaviour of 10-pins bowlers in professional bowling tournaments in the United States. More specifically, it is looking at whether ones performance in one tournament is independent of their placing and income from the last tournament that they competed in.

The model used to examine this issue includes variables related to the bowlers ranking (1st place, 2nd, place, bottom 10%) in their last tournament. It also includes variables related to the income earned at the previous tournament, such as whether or not they won a cash prize. These variables are compared to how much these bowler's scores in the present tournament differ from their average score across a series of tournaments.

Stephen Spence: The Effects of Political Tendency on Economic Performance

This paper seeks to disprove the null hypothesis that there is no relationship between political tendency and economic performance in the 50 United States. Variables are constructed to indicate political tendency using data on topical issues and political party representation in state legislatures. Previous research in this area has been scarce, likely due to the lack of readily available data on the subject. On economic performance, data was collected for GDP growth, unemployment and average family income. The cross-sectional analysis examines variables collected within the last 10 years from a variety of sources.

Thulasi Krishnan: Are Energy and Capital complements or substitutes in Canadian primary metals manufacturing industry?

The main objective of this paper is to investigate whether energy and capital are substitutes or complements to each other, in the Canadian primary metals manufacturing industry. This industry was chosen because it is highly energy intensive. According to ICE survey 2010, conducted by Natural resources Canada, the manufacturing sector utilizes approximately 68 percent of the total energy consumed by all sectors. Moreover, the energy employed by the primary metals manufacturing in Canada as an input was 21 percent of the total energy consumption of the Canadian manufacturing sector. The empirical energy demand function is used in order to obtain the cross price elasticity of energy with other inputs (capital and labor). The data set being used for this analysis is the annual KLEMS data , compiled by the Productivity Program Database for Statistics Canada for the period between 1961 and 2003 in the primary metal manufacturing industries, NAICS (3310). The KLEMS data set consists of data on chained-Fisher quantity indices and price indices for capital, labor, energy, material and service inputs.