RESEARCH INCOME GROWTH SLOWS

Sponsored research income at Canada's Top 50 Research Universities grew more slowly in Fiscal 2002 than in recent years. These institutions reported that the money they received from third parties increased by 12.1% in Fiscal 2002, well below the torrid increases of 22.7% in Fiscal 2001 and 24.0% in Fiscal 2000. Overall research intensity – sponsored research income per full-time faculty position – also moderated, growing by 9.0%, compared with 20.7% in Fiscal 2001 and 23.4% in Fiscal 2000.

Research income declined by –2.9% at the perennial leader, University of Toronto. The U of T figure in part reflects a loss in the university's research investment portfolio. Université de Montréal posted a strong second-place showing, growing its research income by 9.7%, narrowing the gap with U of T. McGill University overtook Université de Montréal in research intensity, by attracting $233,000 of income per full-time faculty position, compared with $219,700 at U de M; both institutions were well above the all-university average of $113,400 per faculty.

Although the income that universities received from government sources increased by a healthy 19.2% in Fiscal 2002, research income from non-government sources declined slightly, by –0.6%. Corporate support for university research was flat (0.3% increase), while non-corporate support (individuals, foundations, etc.) grew by only 6.1%. Income from investments and endowments dropped sharply by –23.9%. The disappointing non-government result clouded what would otherwise have been a positive 2002 showing.

THE $100 MILLION CLUB

Fourteen universities – the same number as last year – are included in RE$EARCH Infosource's $100 Million Club, attracting $100 million or more of research funding. Apart from the University of Guelph, all the club members have medical schools and affiliated teaching hospitals, whose success in attracting research dollars boosts their university's results. These leading universities dominated the research income scene by attracting fully 80% of all university research income in Fiscal 2002. However, this represents a noticeable decline from their 82% share of income in Fiscal 2001, meaning that smaller institutions gained ground.

The $100 Million Club		
2002 Rank	**University**	**Research Income $000**
1	University of Toronto*	$456,267
2	Université de Montréal*	$383,400
3	McGill University*	$316,607
4	University of Alberta*	$287,466
5	University of British Columbia*	$216,319
6	Université Laval*	$215,857
7	McMaster University*	$197,330
8	University of Calgary*	$177,906
9	University of Ottawa*	$152,242
10	Queen's University*	$150,711
11	University of Western Ontario*	$149,303
12	University of Saskatchewan*	$121,272
13	University of Guelph	$113,684
14	University of Manitoba*	$102,161

* has a medical school

PROVINCIAL RESULTS UNCHANGED

Universities in Ontario, Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia attracted 88% of all research income in Fiscal 2002, down slightly from their 89% share in Fiscal 2001. Universities in Saskatchewan (22.4% increase) and New Brunswick (19.0% increase) experienced the largest growth of income, well ahead of the national average of 12.1%. Research was essentially flat in 3 provinces, Newfoundland (1.9% increase), Manitoba (0.9% increase), and Prince Edward Island (0.3% increase).

Leading Provinces	
Province	**% of Total**
Ontario	39
Quebec	29
Alberta	12
British Columbia	8

GAINERS AND LOSERS

Five smaller Undergraduate universities led the pack in research income growth. Acadia University stood out with a 72.3% increase, while Trent, Brock, Lakehead and Lethbridge all managed to grow their research income by more than 50%. Queen's University led the Medical/Doctoral category in income growth, while York University led the Comprehensive grouping.

Top 10 Universities Ranked by Growth			
2002 Rank		University	% Change '01-'02
Overall	Income Growth		
49	1	Acadia University	72.3
32	2	Trent University	69.3
36	3	Brock University	68.0
34	4	Lakehead University	67.6
35	5	University of Lethbridge	65.2
21	6	York University	51.5
10	7	Queen's University*	48.7
27	8	University of Regina	46.1
18	9	Université du Québec à Montréal	37.9
23	10	Simon Fraser University	34.9

* has a medical school

Bottom 10 Universities Ranked by Growth			
2002 Rank		University	% Change '01-'02
Overall	Income Growth		
48	1	Télé-université du Québec (Téluq)+	-15.5
46	2	University College of Cape Breton	-8.8
37	3	Ryerson University	-6.9
1	4	University of Toronto*	-2.9
44	5	University of Prince Edward Island	0.3
14	6	University of Manitoba*	0.6
9	7	University of Ottawa*	0.9
40	8	Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue	1.3
22	9	Memorial University of Newfoundland*	1.9
8	10	University of Calgary*	3.4

\+ not a full service university
* has a medical school

RESEARCH INTENSITY HOLDS STRONG

The sea change in Canadian university research funding that began in the late 1990s is best reflected in research intensity – research income per full-time faculty position. All-university research intensity reached $113,400 per full-time faculty in Fiscal 2002, compared with only $69,600 in Fiscal 1999, an increase of 62.9% in only 4 years. This largely reflects increased government spending.

The 10 leaders in research intensity are the same as last year, however a number of positions have changed. McGill University moves into the top spot, while University of

Toronto drops 2 positions. Queen's University jumped 3 places and is now in 5th position overall.

Top 10 Universities Ranked by Research Intensity			
2002 Rank		University	Research Intensity** ($ per full-time faculty) $000
Overall	Research Intensity		
3	1	McGill University*	$233.0
2	2	Université de Montréal*	$219.7
7	3	McMaster University*	$201.4
4	4	University of Alberta*	$199.1
10	5	Queen's University*	$198.0
1	6	University of Toronto*	$171.6
13	7	University of Guelph	$166.7
9	8	University of Ottawa*	$159.1
6	9	Université Laval*	$154.5
8	10	University of Calgary*	$122.4

* has a medical school
** includes full service institutions only

MEDICAL/DOCTORAL UNIVERSITIES SLIP

Although 16 larger universities with a strong mix of medical and Ph.D. programs still dominate the research income scene, 34 institutions without a medical school showed strong growth in Fiscal 2002. The smaller institutions grew their research income by 23.2% in the year, well above the 9.8% increase at the larger universities. As a result, universities without a medical school increased their share of total research income to 19%, from 17% in Fiscal 2001. This result suggests that smaller institutions are successfully increasing their emphasis on research.

THIS YEAR AND NEXT

Fiscal 2002 saw a strongly mixed performance at Canada's Top 50 Research Universities. The pace of research income growth slowed to 9.9% at the larger institutions, however, income continued to increase strongly at Comprehensive universities (up 19.4%) and at Undergraduate schools (up 32.2%). This provides ammunition for those who argue that smaller institutions can play an important part in implementing the federal government's innovation strategy.

Income from governments made up 68% of the total in Fiscal 2002, up from 64% in Fiscal 2001. Government spending on research at universities grew by a healthy 19.2%, but the overall income figures were depressed by a –23.9% drop in income from investments and endowments, a –22.7% drop in income from individuals, a decline of –

14.1% in income from foundations, and flat 0.3% income growth from the corporate sector. The non-government declines clearly mirror a slowdown in the economy.

Next year's results are hard to predict. Signs are that government spending on university research will remain high, but rise less sharply than in the past. Non-government income will do well to hold its own as the economy struggles to get back on a growth path. Signals are that a new Liberal government may put greater emphasis on research commercialization to boost the returns from public sector investment.