



The Daily

Statistics Canada

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Commercialization of intellectual property in the higher education sector

2004

Canadian universities have made important strides in commercializing their research and inventions.

Revised data from the Survey of Intellectual Property Commercialization in the Higher Education Sector show that the number of patents is on the rise. In addition, universities and hospitals are creating more spin-off companies to commercialize their technologies.

Between 2003 and 2004, the number of inventions reported or disclosed by researchers to universities and hospitals increased from 1,133 to 1,432.

The number of patents issued to these institutions also increased, from 347 to 397, while the total number of patents held rose from 3,047 to 3,827.

In 2003 and 2004, Canadian universities and hospitals created 50 spin-off companies to commercialize their technologies. This brought the total created to date to 968.

The spin-offs cover a wide range of industries, including research and development, computer systems design, engineering and medical devices manufacturing.

At the end of 2004, 13 institutions held \$49.9 million in equity in publicly traded spin-off companies. In 2004, 9 institutions also helped their spin-offs to raise \$56.4 million in venture capital and other forms of investment.

Regionally, there were wide variations in commercialization of intellectual property.

Universities and hospitals in British Columbia received 10% of total research funding. However, they accounted for a higher proportion of five major indicators of intellectual property commercialization: 17% of inventions disclosed, 20% of inventions protected, 17% of new licenses and options, 17% of total licenses and options and 23% of spin-off companies created to date.

Institutions on the Prairies obtained 18% of sponsored research funding. They accounted for 21% of inventions disclosed, 26% of patents issued and 24% of total active licenses and options.

Ontario institutions received 37% of total research funding and accounted for an equal or higher proportion for three of the eight indicators of intellectual property commercialization: 40% of inventions disclosed, 37% of inventions protected and 49% of new licenses and options.

Quebec institutions obtained 31% of sponsored research funding and accounted for 31% of patent applications filed.

In recent years, Atlantic institutions have become more active in intellectual property commercialization. Atlantic institutions received 4% of sponsored research funding and accounted for 5% of inventions disclosed, 4% of inventions protected and 7% of spin-off companies created to date.

In the farthest regions of the country, there may be more of a tendency to create spin-off companies than to license technologies to established companies. This may explain some of the regional differences in intellectual property commercialization outcomes.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 4222.

The report "Survey of Intellectual Property Commercialization in the Higher Education Sector" (88F0006XIE2006011, free) is now available online. From the *Publications* module, choose *Free Internet publications*, then *Science and technology*, and finally *Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division working papers*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Cathy Read (613-951-3838; fax: 613-951-9920; cathy.read@statcan.ca), Science, Innovation and Electronic Information Division. ■

New products

Service Bulletin - Surface and Marine Transport,
Vol. 22, no. 1
Catalogue number 50-002-XIE
(free).

Canadian Foreign Post Indexes, October 2006
Catalogue number 62-013-XIE
(free).

**Science, Innovation and Electronic Information
Division Working Papers : "Survey of Intellectual
Property Commercialization in the Higher Education
Sector",** 2004, no. 11
Catalogue number 88F0006XIE2006011
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Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
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MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** 2
Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about six trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses and virtually work stops in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- Map-wanted index: May 1997 3
- Short-term Expectations Survey 8
- Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997 12
- Egg production: Apr 19 1997 13

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