

Canada's Top 50 Research Universities List 2011 Analysis

Research Income Growth Steady

Canada's Top 50 Research Universities recorded a 3.6% gain in combined research income in Fiscal 2010, up from 3.0% in Fiscal 2009. Total research income reached \$6.46 billion from \$6.24 billion in Fiscal 2009. The 2010 result caps a decade in which university research income rose by 134.0%. For illustration, total research income in 2000 was \$2.76 billion, which indicates how strongly the sector has grown.

The \$100 Million Club

Sixteen universities – down from 17 last year - gained membership in RESEARCH Infosource's \$100 Million Club – an elite group that attracted \$100 million or more of research income. Club members attracted a total of \$5.37 billion of research income, up 1.8% from the previous year. As such, they accounted for 83% of total university research income, slightly down from 85% in Fiscal 2009. Eleven of the 16 Club members posted gains in research income in Fiscal 2010, and 5 saw research income declines.

The \$100 Million Club		
2010 Rank	University	Research Income \$000
1	University of Toronto*	\$878,725
2	University of British Columbia*	\$538,398
3	Université de Montréal*	\$524,133
4	University of Alberta*	\$513,473
5	McGill University*	\$469,729
6	McMaster University*	\$395,364
7	Université Laval*	\$307,928
8	University of Calgary*	\$282,752
9	University of Ottawa*	\$273,278
10	University of Western Ontario*	\$221,236
11	Queen's University*	\$197,016
12	University of Saskatchewan*	\$184,756
13	University of Manitoba*	\$164,695
14	University of Guelph	\$148,905
15	University of Waterloo	\$144,299
16	Dalhousie University*	\$125,147

*Has a medical school

Provincial Performance

From a provincial perspective in Fiscal 2010, university research income rose in 8 provinces and declined in 2. Saskatchewan, with 2 universities, recorded an overall gain of 9.9% in research income, compared with the all-university increase of 3.6%. Research income growth was also strong in Quebec, where 13 institutions reported a combined increase of 8.1%. In Prince Edward Island, research income increased by 7.4%, based on the performance of University of Prince Edward Island. Research income declined by -4.6% in Manitoba and -0.8% in Nova Scotia. Research income growth in Alberta (3.3%), New Brunswick (3.3%), Newfoundland (2.6%), Ontario (2.1%) and British Columbia (1.1%), all advanced more slowly than the national average of 3.6%

Top 50 –Leading Provinces	
Province	% of Total
Ontario (18)	40
Quebec (13)	26
Alberta (3)	13
British Columbia (4)	11

Gainers and Losers

In total, 24 of 50 institutions had research income growth in excess of the 3.6% national average, compared to 28 in 2009. The top 3 full-service universities gainers were Université du Québec en Outaouais (50.9%), Université du Québec à Rimouski (31.0%) and Brock University (21.3%),

Top 10 Universities by Growth**			
2010 Rank		University	% Change 2009-2010
Income Growth	Overall		
1	49	Université du Québec en Outaouais	50.9
2	29	Université du Québec à Rimouski	31.0
3	39	Brock University	21.3
4	28	University of Regina	17.6
5	9	University of Ottawa*	15.3
6	32	Royal Military College of Canada	12.9
7	21	Université du Québec à Montréal	11.3
8	11	Queen's University*	10.6
9	12	University of Saskatchewan*	9.0
10	7	Université Laval*	8.9

*Has a medical school

**Includes full-service institutions only

A number of institutions saw their research income decline in Fiscal 2010, but year-on-year changes are not uncommon. More important are long-term trends.

Bottom 10 Universities by Growth**			
2010 Rank		University	% Change 2009-2010
Income Growth	Overall		
1	43	Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue	-22.7
2	47	St. Francis Xavier University	-20.5
3	27	University of Windsor	-18.4
4	38	Université du Québec à Chicoutimi	-17.8
5	40	University of Northern British Columbia	-15.3
6	50	University of Winnipeg	-12.6
7	10	University of Western Ontario*	-8.5
8	15	University of Waterloo	-8.2
9	45	Université de Moncton	-7.4
10	17	University of Victoria	-6.0

*Has a medical school

**Includes full-service institutions only

Research Intensity Rises

A modest increase in research income (3.6%) combined with slow growth in faculty numbers (1.3%) led to a moderate 2.3% increase in research intensity – research income per full-time faculty position. In Fiscal 2010, on average, each of the Top 50 Research Universities attracted \$170,600, compared with \$166,600 in Fiscal 2009. A total of 11 full-service universities posted research intensity that was higher than the national average.

Top 10 Research Intensive Universities**			
2010 Rank		University	Research Intensity (\$ per full-time faculty) \$000
Research Intensity	Overall		
1	1	University of Toronto*	\$360.3
2	6	McMaster University*	\$310.1
3	4	University of Alberta*	\$304.6
4	5	McGill University*	\$291.0
5	3	Université de Montréal*	\$278.2
6	11	Queen's University*	\$237.9
7	2	University of British Columbia*	\$234.0
8	7	Université Laval*	\$232.2
9	9	University of Ottawa*	\$213.3
10	14	University of Guelph	\$187.3

*Has a medical school

**Includes full-service institutions only

Tier Shares Unchanged

Sixteen Medical/Doctoral universities accounted for 81% of total research income in Fiscal 2010, the same share as in Fiscal 2009. The share of total research income of the 12 Comprehensive institutions was 14%, and the 22 Undergraduate universities represented 5% of the total, remaining unchanged from the year prior. In Fiscal 2010, Medical/Doctoral institutions increased their overall research income by 4.3%, compared with the 3.6% national gain. The Comprehensive institutions posted a flat research income growth, whereas research income rose by 2.8% at the Undergraduate institutions.

Research Universities of the Year

RESEARCH Infosource highlights the achievements of 3 *Research Universities of the Year* – the leading institutions that excel on a balanced scorecard of research input and output/impact indicators (see www.researchinfosource.com for more details).

This year's winners were: University of Toronto in the Medical/Doctoral category, University of Waterloo in the Comprehensive category and Université du Québec à Rimouski in the Undergraduate category.

Spotlight – Research Publication Intensity Growth

This year, RESEARCH Infosource has highlighted the topic of *Research Publication Intensity Growth, (2004-2009)*. Scholarly publications are a key output of university research. Publication intensity – the average number of publications per full-time faculty - is a way of comparing the publishing performance of different institutions, recognizing this will naturally vary among universities of different sizes and types. This year's spotlight examined the 5-year growth, which is a measure of improvement.

What's Next

Total university research income expanded by a respectable 3.6% in Fiscal 2010. Government sources typically account for around two-thirds of the total, which indicates how closely university research income is tied to the fortunes of the public sector. The substantial growth of research funding between 2000 and 2010 of 134% leaves a strong legacy of research infrastructure and research activity that can buffer the system, at least for a short time.

However, across Canada government revenues are declining and this will inevitably put limits on the ability of governments to fund a range of desirable activities, university research included. In Ottawa, public servants are actively planning for possible budget cuts of 5 or 10 percent. Their provincial colleagues will not be far behind in their planning. So unless university research is singled out for special attention it is hard to see how the sector will escape some cutbacks.

Contributions from other sectors are unlikely to make up the difference, which means that some belt tightening is likely on the horizon. Last year we forecast that *“In a best case scenario the “new normal will be research income growth that keeps pace with inflation”*. Time will tell if that was an optimistic view of the future.

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