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RESEARCH NOTE

Introduction

The Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) is a regional planning and facilitation organization established in 1991 to deal with transboundary policy and planning in the Pacific Northwest. The eight member jurisdictions are: the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska; the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia; the Yukon Territory.

This note is intended to provide a snapshot of the growth that has occurred within the PNWER region over the preceding 15 years. Four basic metrics are used to describe that growth: population, employment by industry sector, total value of intra-regional trade, and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the individual states and provinces.

Population

As shown in Table 1, the PNWER region experienced significant population growth during the 15-year span from 1990 to 2005. All jurisdictions except for Yukon Territory experienced growth at a rate higher than that of the combined Canadian and U.S. population, which grew 19.2 percent over that span of time. It is also revealing to examine the proportion of the combined binational population that resided within the PNWER region in each year. In 1990, 5.8 percent of the combined national populations resided within the PNWER jurisdictions, whereas that value grew to 6.2 percent by the year 2005.

Gross Domestic Product

Table 2 shows the Gross Domestic Product for each province and state in the years 1990 and 2004. All monetary values are shown in the parent country's currency, and no adjustments have been made to account for inflation. As a basis of comparison, the

Table 1. Population

Jurisdiction	1990	2005	% Change
Alaska	550,043	663,661	20.7%
Idaho	1,006,749	1,429,096	42.0%
Montana	799,065	935,670	17.1%
Oregon	2,842,321	3,641,056	28.1%
Washington	4,866,692	6,287,759	29.2%
Alberta	2,469,069	3,256,816	31.9%
British Columbia	3,290,814	4,254,522	29.3%
Yukon Territory	* 31,365	30,988	-1.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder. Retrieved January 4, 2006, from <http://factfinder.census.gov>
 Statistics Canada. Retrieved January 5, 2006, from <http://estat.statcan.ca>
 * 1992 value.

Table 2. Growth of Jurisdiction's GDP
(billions of US\$ and CN\$)

Jurisdiction	1990	2004	% Change
Alaska	25.0	34.0	36%
Idaho	17.8	43.6	145%
Montana	13.4	27.5	105%
Oregon	57.3	128.1	124%
Washington	115.7	261.5	126%
United States	5,803.1	11,734.3	102%
Alberta	72.4	187.2	159%
British Columbia	74.1	157.2	112%
Yukon Territory	1.2	1.4	22%
Canada	679.9	1,290.2	90%

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Retrieved January 9, 2006, www.bea.doc.gov/bea/regional
 Statistics Canada. Retrieved January 9, 2006, from <http://estat.statcan.ca>

growth in GDP of each parent country is also shown, and it is again evident that growth within the PNWER region exceeded the national growth rates.

Intra-Regional Trade

Table 3 shows the total value of international two-way trade between selected regions. The first row shows the value of two-way trade between Canada and the United States. This is calculated by combining the value of total exports from the U.S. to Canada with the value of exports from Canada to the U.S. The second row shows the portion of that total that is attributable to trade within the PNWER region. The third row shows that PNWER's share of the binational total has grown over the fourteen-year span.

Table 3. Value of Two-Way Trade
(billions of US\$, current)

	1990	2004
Total U.S. - Canada	170.9	428.0
PNWER intra-region	6.5	18.2
PNWER share	3.8%	4.3%

Source: Industry Canada, Trade Data Online. Retrieved January 18, 2006, from http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/sc_mrkti/tdst/engdoc/tr_homep.html

Shift in Employment

Table 4 contains data that show the extent to which there has been growth of the workforce within the PNWER region, as well as a shift in the workforce composition. The first column lists the ten "super-sectors" utilized for categorization of employment by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The next two columns show the number of workers employed in each sector, within the PNWER region as a whole, for the years 1990 and 2004. The next column shows the percentage change in number of jobs, by sector, over the fourteen year span. Note that although the overall number of jobs grew by 13 percent, there was significant variation in growth (or shrinkage) of given sectors. Finally, the right two columns show the relative proportion of the workforce employed in each sector for the years 1990 and 2004.

Table 4. Employment by Sector for PNWER Region as a Whole

Sector	Number of Jobs in Sector		Change from 1990 to 2004	Relative Proportion of Jobs in Sector	
	1990	2004		1990	2004
Natural Resources and Mining	380,958	297,345	-22%	6.0%	4.2%
Construction	415,936	522,354	26%	6.6%	7.3%
Manufacturing	894,269	858,767	-4%	14.2%	12.0%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	1,956,844	1,851,370	-5%	31.0%	25.9%
Information	60,064	219,709	266%	1.0%	3.1%
Financial Activities	375,480	402,020	7%	6.0%	5.6%
Professional & Business Services	653,449	805,796	23%	10.4%	11.3%
Education & Health Services	1,181,580	1,191,607	1%	18.7%	16.7%
Leisure & Hospitality	158,643	662,022	317%	2.5%	9.3%
Other Services	233,008	344,246	48%	3.7%	4.8%
Total	6,310,231	7,155,236	13%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder. Retrieved January 17, 2006, from <http://factfinder.census.gov>
U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages. Retrieved January 19, 2006, from http://data.bls.gov/location_quotient
Statistics Canada, Tables by Province or Territory. Retrieved January 18, 2006, from http://www40.statcan.ca/z01/cs0003_e.htm



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