

Canada's Top 50 Research Universities List 2014 Analysis

Research Income Continues Slow Pace of Growth

Fiscal 2013 research income at Canada's Top 50 Research Universities increased by only 1.1%, the same as in Fiscal 2012. Total research income in Fiscal 2013 reached \$6.78 billion from \$6.70 billion in Fiscal 2012. Research intensity (research income per full-time faculty increased slightly, by 1.3% in Fiscal 2013. Twenty-nine universities in Fiscal 2013 reported increases in their research income, while 21 reported declines.

Overall funding from federal granting agencies (NSERC, CIHR, SSHRC, CFI) increased by 3.7% between Fiscal 2012-2013. CFI funding increased by 10.7% in Fiscal 2013, followed by SSHRC (6.8%) and NSERC (4.5%). CIHR declined by -1.0%. Funding from Corporate sources also declined marginally (-0.7%), as did Not-for-profit/foundation funding (-2.4%). Provincial government funding rose only slightly in Fiscal 2013, by 1.3%.

The \$100 Million Club

RESEARCH Infosource welcomes Simon Fraser University to the prestigious \$100 Million Club – an elite group of universities that posted \$100 million or more of research income in Fiscal 2013. SFU is one of only 4 Club members - along with University of Waterloo, University of Guelph and University of Victoria - that do not have a medical school to boost its results. In total, Club members accounted for \$6.0 billion of research income in Fiscal 2013, 89% of the Top 50 total. Within the leading group of 20 universities, research income rose by 2.8%, compared with a -11.0% drop among the 30 non-Club institutions, which indicates a growing concentration of research resources among larger institutions.

The \$100 Million Club		
FY2013 Rank	University	Research Income \$000
1	University of Toronto*	\$1,110,663
2	University of British Columbia*	\$566,789
3	Université de Montréal*	\$527,971
4	McGill University*	\$465,209
5	University of Alberta*	\$417,757
6	University of Calgary*	\$328,736
7	McMaster University*	\$322,502
8	Université Laval*	\$306,831
9	University of Ottawa*	\$297,813
10	Western University*	\$254,457
11	Queen's University*	\$189,990
12	University of Waterloo	\$166,920
13	University of Guelph	\$158,255
14	University of Saskatchewan*	\$157,976
15	Dalhousie University*	\$148,879
16	University of Manitoba*	\$137,281
17	Memorial University of Newfoundland*	\$127,816
18	University of Victoria	\$124,779
19	Université de Sherbrooke*	\$120,969
20	Simon Fraser University	\$102,643

*Has a medical school

Provincial Performance

In Fiscal 2013, research income growth in Newfoundland (19.4%), Prince Edward Island (9.4%), Nova Scotia (6.0%), Ontario (5.4%), Alberta (1.2%) and British Columbia (1.1%) offset declines in Manitoba (-13.1%), Saskatchewan (-5.9%), Quebec (-4.6%) and New Brunswick (-4.3%).

Ontario's 18 universities accounted for the lion's share (41%) of total research income in Fiscal 2013, up from 40% in Fiscal 2012 and 38% in Fiscal 2011. Quebec's 13 universities captured 25% of the country's Top 50 research income total, down from 27% last year and the year before. British Columbia's 4 universities and Alberta's 3 universities accounted for 12% and 11% respectively of the total research income in Fiscal 2013.

Top 50 –Leading Provinces	
Province	% of Total
Ontario (18)	41
Quebec (13)	25
British Columbia (4)	12
Alberta (3)	11

Research Income Growth

In Fiscal 2013, 29 universities posted research income growth versus 21 where income dropped. This is an improvement over Fiscal 2012, when 22 universities recorded income growth, versus 28 where research income declined. University of Waterloo headed the growth category with a 21.8% jump in research income in Fiscal 2013, slightly ahead of University of Victoria (21.1%). Research income also expanded strongly at Memorial University of Newfoundland (19.4%), École de technologie supérieure (19.1%) and University of Calgary (16.3%).

Top 10 Universities by Growth			
FY2013 Rank		University	% Change 2012-2013
Income Growth	Overall		
1	12	University of Waterloo	21.8
2	18	University of Victoria	21.1
3	17	Memorial University of Newfoundland*	19.4
4	31	École de technologie supérieure ⁺	19.1
5	6	University of Calgary*	16.3
6	30	Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières	14.2
7	38	Laurentian University*	13.3
8	11	Queen's University*	13.1
9	41	Brock University	13.0
10	27	Ryerson University	12.9

*Has a medical school

⁺Not a full-service institution

Research Intensity

Research intensity – research income per full-time faculty position - increased by 1.3% for the Top 50 research universities as a result of a small decline in faculty combined with a small increase in research income. In Fiscal 2013, on average, the Top 50 had research intensity of \$175,900 per full-time faculty, up slightly from \$173,600 the year before. In total, 14 universities bested the average: University of Toronto (\$467,300 per full-time faculty), Institut national de la recherche scientifique (\$357,600) and McGill University (\$281,400) topped the ranking.

Top 10 Research Intensive Universities			
FY2013 Rank		University	Research Intensity (\$ per full-time faculty) \$000
Research Intensity	Overall		
1	1	University of Toronto*	\$467.3
2	23	Institut national de la recherche scientifique ⁺	\$357.6
3	4	McGill University*	\$281.4
4	3	Université de Montréal* ⁺⁺	\$281.0
5	5	University of Alberta*	\$248.2
6	11	Queen's University*	\$240.5
7	2	University of British Columbia*	\$235.9
8	7	McMaster University*	\$234.5
9	9	University of Ottawa*	\$231.9
10	8	Université Laval*	\$227.3

*Has a medical school

⁺Not a full-service institution

⁺⁺Based on 2011-2012 faculty counts; 2012-2013 were not available

Tier Groups

Sixteen Medical/Doctoral universities accounted for research income of nearly \$5.5 billion in Fiscal 2013, 81% of the total Top 50 research income. In total, 12 Comprehensive institutions grew their research income in Fiscal 2013 by 5.8% and accounted for 14% of the Top 50 total, up from 13% last year. Twenty-two Undergraduate institutions posted a 2.4% increase in research income and accounted for 5% of the total.

Research Universities of the Year

RESEARCH Infosource is pleased to highlight the achievements of 3 *Research Universities of the Year* – the leading institutions that excelled on a balanced scorecard of research input and output/impact indicators. This year's winners are: University of Toronto in the Medical/Doctoral category, University of Waterloo in the Comprehensive category and Ryerson University in the Undergraduate category.

This Year and Next

The last couple of years have seen comparatively slim pickings for university research. Research income gains have hovered around 1%, which means that in real terms - after inflation - income has slipped. Delving into the sources of research income growth we see a more complex explanation. Federal Government funding was steady last year; it increased by 2.8%, above the 1.1% total increase. Provincial Government funding was more restrained, growing by only 1.3%. These 2 sources accounted for fully 67% of all university research income, so as government funding goes, so goes the total. Foreign Government funding declined by -2.0%, although it only accounted for 2% of the total. Corporate funding declined slightly by -0.7% and accounted once again for 12% of total research income; still respectable compared other countries.

Many institutions are hopeful that signs of improving finances at the federal level will result in increased funding next year. At the provincial level there is more uncertainty. But overall next year looks to be one of restrained funding growth. This calls for more efficiency in research performance to get the most out of the available dollars.