

CANADA’S TOP 50 Research Universities

RESEARCH INCOME EDGES UP SLIGHTLY

The combined research income of *Canada’s Top 50 Research Universities* increased by only 0.6% to \$6.71 billion in Fiscal 2015 from \$6.67 billion in Fiscal 2014, compared with the -1.6% decline in Fiscal 2013. This continues the lacklustre research income growth of the past 5 years. Research intensity – research income per faculty member – increased by 1.0% to \$172,400 from \$170,700 the prior year due to a slight drop of -0.4% in faculty.

Another year of a continued decline in total Government funding (-2.9%) has impacted the recovery. In Fiscal 2015, Federal government funding was down -1.9%. Provincial government support retreated even more by -3.8%. Additionally, funding from Municipal governments posted another year of decreased funding (-7.7%); and Foreign funding also dropped significantly in Fiscal 2015 to -19.5%, from 7.5% in Fiscal 2014. Although funds provided by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council reversed course from Fiscal 2014 and increased by 2.0% in Fiscal 2015, funding by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research fell by -0.5%, funding by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council declined by -2.7% and funding by Canada Foundation for Innovation was down -19.0%, following on a decline last year as well. On a more encouraging note, Non-Government funding posted a healthy gain of 7.9% in Fiscal 2015. Corporate research funding increased by 10.4%, from -2.3% in Fiscal 2014; Not-for-Profit support rose by 9.3% and funding from Individuals – although a small portion of total research income – reversed itself in Fiscal 2015 with an increase of 6.4%, up from -20.0% in Fiscal 2014.

THE \$100 MILLION CLUB

Twenty institutions – up from 18 last year – reported \$100 million or more of research income in Fiscal 2015, qualifying them for inclusion in RESEARCH Infosource’s *\$100 Million Club*. Memorial University of Newfoundland and University of Victoria re-joined the Club in Fiscal 2015.

In Fiscal 2015, \$100 Million Club members posted a total of \$5.99 billion of research income, up from \$5.73 billion the prior year – an increase of 4.6%. With the movement of Memorial University of Newfoundland and University of Victoria back into the \$100 Million Club, the 30 non-Club universities saw their combined research income fall by -23.6% over the period. As a result, Club members increased their share of total university research income by 89% in Fiscal 2015 from 86% in Fiscal 2014.

PROVINCIAL PERFORMANCE

Eighteen universities in Ontario accounted for 40% of the Top 50 total research income in Fiscal 2015, the same as in Fiscal 2014. Quebec’s 13 institutions were responsible for 26% of total research income, down from 27% the prior

year. Alberta’s 3 institutions accounted for 13% of the total up from 12% the previous year. British Columbia’s 4 institutions also increased their share of the total to 12% in Fiscal 2015 from 11% in Fiscal 2014.

In Fiscal 2015, combined research income in Atlantic Canada increased by 7.9%, reversing the combined -18.4% drop in research income posted in Fiscal 2014 – based on the strength of research income growth in particular in Newfoundland (18.9%) and Nova Scotia (7.4%). Strong combined universities provincial growth was also posted in Manitoba (5.7%) and Alberta (5.2%). Universities in British Columbia posted a combined modest increase of 2.0% in Fiscal 2015, while Ontario’s research income increased only slightly by 0.2%. Provinces posting drops in Fiscal 2015 included Quebec (-1.5%), New Brunswick (-4.0%), Prince Edward Island (-11.9%) and Saskatchewan (-13.6%).

Top 50 – Leading Provinces	
Province	% of Total
Ontario (18)	40
Quebec (13)	26
Alberta (3)	13
British Columbia (4)	12

RESEARCH INCOME GROWTH

Although total Top 50 research income expanded by only 0.6% in Fiscal 2015, a number of universities significantly out-performed the national average. Overall, 21 universities expanded their research income versus 29 where research income declined. This is only the second time in the past 5 years that the number of universities with declines exceeded the ones with positive growth.

Heading the list of leading research income growth universities was Queen’s University, where year-over-year research income grew by 26.2% in Fiscal 2015. Memorial University of Newfoundland (18.9%), Laurentian University (15.6%), Simon Fraser University (13.8%) and Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue (12.7%) rounded off the top 5 universities in research income growth.

RESEARCH INTENSITY

Overall research intensity – research income per faculty position – expanded by 1.0% in Fiscal 2015 to \$172,400 from \$170,700 the prior year. This was the result of a -0.4% decline in faculty numbers combined with a 0.6% increase in research income. University of Toronto (\$383,000 per faculty), McMaster University (\$358,300) and Institut national de la recherche scientifique (\$358,100) were the top 3 for this leader group.

TIER GROUPS

In Fiscal 2015, the combined 16 Medical/Doctoral universities attracted \$5.45 billion of research income, which was 81% of the Top 50 total and a 1.1% increase

over Fiscal 2014. Research income at 13 Comprehensive institutions totalled \$967.6 million, representing 14% of Top 50 research income total and a -0.3% decline from last year. The 21 Top 50 Undergraduate universities posted \$299.4 million of research income or 4% of the total and a -4.8% drop in combined research income.

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 Lakehead University in the Undergraduate category.

SPOTLIGHT – 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF CANADA’S TOP 50 RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

In association with its 15th Anniversary, RESEARCH Infosource shined the spotlight on the performance of universities over a 15-year period in terms of attracting research income and producing peer-reviewed academic publications. Top place winners were:

Total 15 Years University Research Income FY2001-FY2015: University of Toronto (\$12.10 billion), University of Guelph (\$2.07 billion), Ryerson University (\$318.3 million)

University Research Income Growth FY2001-FY2015: Université de Sherbrooke (205.7%), Simon Fraser University (362.0%), École de technologie supérieure (439.5%)

Total 15 Years University Research Publications 2000-2014: University of Toronto (120,299), University of Waterloo (26,233), Ryerson University (5,219)

University Research Publications Growth 2000-2014: University of Ottawa (157.8%), Concordia University (157.6%), Ryerson University (764.2%)

THIS YEAR AND NEXT

Fiscal 2015 was not a stellar year for university research. Total Top 50 research income expanded by only 0.6%. What growth there was, was concentrated among the 16 Medical/Doctoral universities. The majority of Comprehensive and Undergraduate universities suffered declines in their research income. Given that Government sources accounted for the lion’s share of research funding (65%), the -2.9% overall fall in Government funding was largely responsible for the negligible growth this year. In contrast combined Non-Government support (Corporate, Non-corporate, Endowments/investment, Other) rose by 7.9%, but was not sufficient to offset the Government decline. Corporate (10.4%) and Not-for-Profit support (9.3%) were bright spots in an otherwise disappointing year.

Last year we wrote “*With Canada’s economic prospects currently looking uncertain it is difficult to see any strong recovery in universities’ research prospects next year*”. This year’s prognosis is much the same. The federal government has initiated a comprehensive review of science policy, but the outcome of that review is not likely to be reflected in the Fiscal 2017/18 budget and much will depend on the state of federal (and provincial) finances in subsequent years. Provincial government funding prospects are also clouded. For the foreseeable future we are in a no-growth environment.

The \$100 Million Club

2015 Rank	University	Research Income \$000
1	University of Toronto*	\$998,519
2	University of British Columbia*	\$541,553
3	Université de Montréal*	\$530,858
4	McGill University*	\$473,107
5	University of Alberta*	\$470,690
6	University of Calgary*	\$358,298
7	Université Laval*	\$331,792
8	McMaster University*	\$324,624
9	University of Ottawa*	\$294,215
10	Western University*	\$229,821
11	Queen’s University*	\$187,338
12	University of Waterloo	\$180,929
13	University of Saskatchewan*	\$168,947
14	University of Manitoba*	\$162,948
15	University of Guelph	\$143,581
16	Dalhousie University*	\$141,927
17	Université de Sherbrooke*	\$126,828
18	Simon Fraser University	\$117,404
19	Memorial University of Newfoundland*	\$104,395
20	University of Victoria	\$102,845

*Has a medical school

Top 10 Research Intensive Universities

2015 Rank	Research Intensity Overall	University	Research Intensity (\$ per faculty) \$000
1	1	University of Toronto*	\$383.0
2	8	McMaster University*	\$358.3
3	24	Institut national de la recherche scientifique ⁺	\$358.1
4	3	Université de Montréal ^{***}	\$282.5
5	4	McGill University*	\$277.0
6	11	Queen’s University*	\$242.4
7	6	University of Calgary*	\$240.8
8	9	University of Ottawa*	\$235.4
9	5	University of Alberta*	\$231.8
10	2	University of British Columbia*	\$229.5

⁺Has a medical school ⁺Not a full-service university
^{***}Based on 2011-2012 faculty count; 2014-2015 data were not available

Top 10 Universities by Growth

2015 Rank	Income Growth	Overall	University	% Change 2014-2015
1	11		Queen’s University*	26.2
2	19		Memorial University of Newfoundland*	18.9
3	33		Laurentian University*	15.6
4	18		Simon Fraser University	13.8
5	36		Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue	12.7
6	16		Dalhousie University*	10.8
7	6		University of Calgary*	10.5
8	26		Ryerson University	9.9
9	20		University of Victoria	7.8
10	9		University of Ottawa*	6.9

*Has a medical school