



## **Economic impact analysis: Q & A**

### **Who commissioned the report?**

The office of Institutional Planning and Assessment.

### **How was RTI International chosen as the supplier?**

We looked at other universities and organizations that had done similar studies, and then we invited proposals through our purchasing process. RTI was deemed to be the most appropriate for our purposes.

### **Why did we commission the report?**

While we know the University of Saskatchewan is very important to the province in a number of ways, we didn't have a good sense of the direct economic contributions. This report provides evidence of that impact.

### **How much did it cost?**

Around \$100,000. The cost included multiple campus visits, interviews with key members of the community and some of the university's funders, and time spent on data collection, quantitative and qualitative analysis, and writing.

### **How long did the project take to complete?**

The bulk of the work for this project was completed in 7 months (March-September 2015), and the report was published in January 2016 after extensive consultation with key stakeholders regarding the findings.

### **Why did we need an external supplier to do this report?**

RTI is well known for their work in this area. We wanted an objective, expert, external assessment of our economic impact, and a robust methodological process that we could stand behind as an academic institution.

### **If the university plays such an important role for the province, why is the growth of their investment slowing down?**

The province is an important partner of the university, and we continue to work with them to ensure post-secondary education remains a priority.

### **How will we use this information?**

This information will inform conversations we have with key stakeholders, and will help us be more transparent with the larger community when we discuss the university's role in the province.

### **Why can't I directly compare the U of S study to publicly available economic reports from other universities?**

The results of economic impact studies are determined by the quality of the data and the methodology employed. RTI followed exemplary, although not necessarily common practices in creating this report.

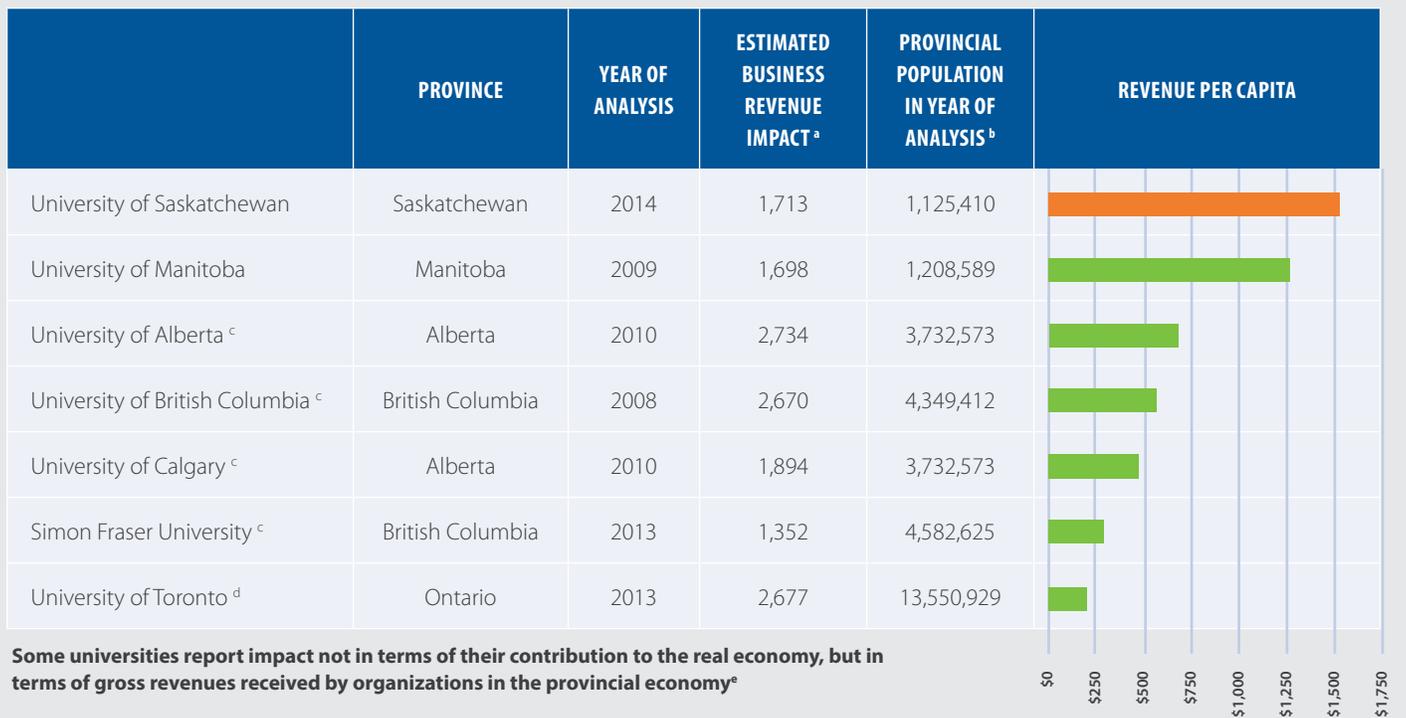




Studies that use different methodologies to arrive at their results can cause discrepancies when attempting to compare one university to another; for that reason, this report provides more direct comparisons to other reports and provides context around the findings (please see pages 12-13 in the report, or the attached table).



**Figure 4. Comparison of the Contributions Canadian Universities Make to their Provincial Economies (GDP or Gross Output)**



a Dollar values are in real 2014 terms. See Technical Appendix for conversion procedures.  
 b Population estimates are for the year of analysis to account for population growth. For example, the UBC study was conducted for 2007, when BC had a smaller population than it did in 2012, the year for which the Simon Fraser study was conducted.  
 c Provincial GDP for year of analysis, presented in 2014 dollars.  
 d This university assumed its impact was 1.5 times its estimated spending. See Technical Appendix.  
 e This approach often includes substantial double counting because it does not net out transfer of value between organizations within the provincial economy, such as one business procuring inputs from another in order to supply a university.