

# Data Day Western: Student Perspective

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1. My experience

2. My project

- What I liked about the experience
  - 1 It's fun and challenging! You get to work on massive datasets that have not been extensively used
  - 2 While you're working on site at CDER you get to stay in Ottawa, Ottawa is not London
  - 3 Worth the time investment: data is rich enough to support several projects
- Why should others do it?
  - 1 Become familiar with some of the best data sets available in Canada
  - 2 Approach old problems with new, better data or tackle unanswered questions
  - 3 Learn a bunch of new skills that come from overcoming the challenges of dealing with data sets of this size

- What would I change?
  - 1 I would've gone sooner
  - 2 If you envision your project being part of your dissertation the earlier you get a start on it the better
- Common hurdles/issues to overcome
  - 1 The process to gain access can take a fair amount of time
  - 2 Can't work on the data and use the internet simultaneously; pros and cons
- Do this
  - 1 Helps early on to write a brief 1-2 page outline of your research project
  - 2 Speak to the analysts at CDER, they are very helpful! For example, what is the right data set for your research project

1. **There exists a large literature in trade that tries to understand and model the decisions of firms to export**
  - 1 More productive firms will export and less productive firms only sell domestically or exit the market entirely
  - 2 Still need to introduce a substantial amount of firm idiosyncratic heterogeneity to match the data on export participation (Eaton, Kortum, and Kramarz, 2011)
    - 1 Trouble explaining the vastly different performance of the same firm in different markets

## 2. **There's also work being done to understand the connection between migration patterns and trade flows**

- 1 Up until recently, relied on aggregate data to show that there exists a link between trade flows and migration patterns
- 2 Immigrants exert a significant influence on the balance of Canadian trade; a 10% increase in immigrants is associated with a 1% increase in exports to that source country and a 3% increase in imports (Head, and Ries, 1998)

## Accounting for Foreign-born Employees in a Firm's Decision to Export

- Document the relationship between firms that export and the composition of their workforce
  - Source country of employees can help explain the variation in export participation of a firm
  - A new source of firm heterogeneity that may be helpful in explaining the patterns of firm exports
- Study how firms are utilizing the changing demographics in their country to overcome information frictions
  - Why is there a link between aggregate trade flows and migration patterns
  - Study possible mechanisms, such as the importance of language barriers

- Data requirements
  - Firm level value of exports by country of destination
  - Information on worker composition at an exporting firm; country of birth for all employees at the firm
- CEEDD-TEC
  - Individual level data from the T1 tax files and longitudinal immigration database
  - Firm level data from the T2 tax files, Statistics Canada Business Register and Trade by Enterprise Characteristics
  - Allows for a merged merged employer/employee dataset
- The ability to work on a merged worker/firm dataset of this size is extremely rare and allows us to answer new and interesting questions!