Economic Impact of the Canadian Co-operative and Mutual Sector

2022

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Executive Summary

The analysis detailed in this report was conducted in 2022 using the 2019 data (the most current and complete data available) and was supported by the funding for the impact of COVID-19 on Canadian co-operatives and mutuals study. It presents analysis for the co-operative and mutual sector, which includes non-financial co-operatives, credit unions, caisses and mutuals in Canada. Going forward, this will be called the co-operative and mutual sector unless otherwise stated. The data available presents information based on the headquarters of co-operatives and mutuals. For the most part co-operatives and mutuals are small and medium enterprises with only one location; however, there are large co-operatives and mutuals that have a number of locations. The purpose of this report is to provide a comprehensive picture of incorporated co-operatives and mutuals in Canada in 2019.

The Canadian co-operative and mutual sector had a presence in every province and territory and was diversified in terms of industries with large contributions to basic needs like housing and health as well as security regarding financial or insurance services. This reflects the presence of the for-profit and non-profit status of co-operatives. While the whole sector was a strong employer in Canada and contributor to Canada's economy, Quebec's co-operative sector leads regarding total number of co-operatives and new start-ups, financial co-operatives had the bulk of the assets, and non-financial co-operatives employ the most people. It should be noted that more than half of the non-financial co-operatives have no employees and of those that do, 99 percent are small and medium enterprises.

There were 6,367 co-operatives and mutuals in Canada in 2019. Co-operatives were found in every province and territory with Quebec having the most at 45%. Over 174,000 people were employed (full-time equivalent; FTEs) in co-operatives and the salary dollars totaled over $6.8 billion. In terms of assets, there was a total of $536.9 billion and regarding revenues, over $85.6 billion. When analysed separately, the non-financial and financial co-operatives present very different pictures. There are many more non-financial co-operatives and, when considered as a group, they have many more employees, and their revenues are four times as much as credit unions, caisses and mutuals. Whereas credit unions and caisses understandably have much higher assets and taxes paid compared to either non-financial co-operatives or mutuals. While credit unions and caisses have approximately 1/3 of the employees of the total co-operative and mutual sector in Canada, they have the salary dollars of almost 2/3 of the total co-operative sector.

Executive Summary

There were no new credit unions, mutuals, or caisses developed in 2019, but there have been a few mergers among them. However, over a ten-year period, there were over 2,500 new non-financial co-operatives started with 47% of those being in Quebec. There are five different membership types in Canada. In 2019, consumer co-operatives were the highest at 70% followed by 15% producer, 8% multistakeholder, 6% worker and 1% federations. When sliced based on status, the Canadian co-operative sector landed with 59% non-profit and 41% for profit. Of the non-profit co-operatives, 52% were housing co-operatives.

The industries are defined by the North American Industry Classification Sytems (NAICS). By far the most at 43% of Canada's were co-operatives in the real estate and rental services industry (housing co-operatives), followed by co-operatives in healthcare and social assistance, co-operatives in other services and public administration and then, co-operatives and mutuals in the finance and insurance industry. Whereas, when revenue based on industry are brought together, the wholesale and retail co-operatives topped the list at 46%, with finance and insurance second with 38%. This is not surprising given the high cash flow in these industries. Next was construction and manufacturing at 11%. The proportion of revenue generated by co-operatives in other sectors is similar, at 1 % or less.

Employee counts by industry was similar with finance and insurance securing the premier position at 40% of the total FTEs employed in the Canadian co-operative sector, followed by whole and retail trade (35%), construction and manufacturing (10%) and health care and social assistance with 6%. Co-operatives as a group in Canada employed more people than the machinery manufacturing subsector as well as postal service, couriers and messenger subsectors.

Through the input/output analysis the ripple effect of the co-operative and mutual sector on the Canadian economy can be understood. Contributions to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) landed at $49.2 billion in 2019, translating to 2.5% of the Canada's GDP. In terms of full-time equivalent jobs, the co-operative sector accounted for over 592,000 people directly or indirectly and provided $28.3 billion in household income, with the non-financial co-operatives and credit unions/caisses doing the bulk of this. The estimate for taxes paid to all orders of government totaled $10.4 billion.

Executive Summary

This study uses two types of analysis – headcount analysis and the input-output model. The headcount analysis develops descriptive statistics to help present the co-operative landscape. The input-output model calculates the economic impact of the co-operative sector on the national economy. This method was used because the input-output model is the most commonly used methodology in economic assessments. It was also used because it is suitable to the diverse nature of co-operatives in Canada. This model measures the ripples that are created in the economy by the integration of the operations of businesses. The size of these ripples is contingent upon the type of industry that is being measured.

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Introduction

The analysis detailed in this report was conducted in 2022 using the 2019 data (the most current and complete data available). It presents analysis for the co-operative sector, which includes non-financial co-operatives, credit unions, caisses populaires and mutuals in Canada. Going forward, this will be called the co-operative and mutual sector unless otherwise stated. This paper will analyze the Canadian co-operative and mutual sector using the headcount method. It will also employ the input/output model to understand the multiplied economic impact. The purpose of this research is to provide a comprehensive picture of co-operative and mutuals in Canada in 2019.

Methodology

This study covers co-operative and mutual activity in Canada. A co-operative is defined as “a legally incorporated corporation that is owned by an association of persons seeking to satisfy common needs such as access to products or services, sale of their products or services, or employment”.[1] In Canada, to be called a co-operative it must incorporate pursuant to a specific statute law at the provincial, territorial or federal level. These Acts govern all types of non-financial co-operatives, and co-operatives in all industries. Co-operatives that are incorporated as credit unions and caisses are also co-operative enterprises, however, these are incorporated under separate Acts usually within departments of Finance. This study also includes the mutual insurance sector as these entities are closely associated with the co-operative sector. We recognize that there are important mutual aid groups and other entities that are co-operative by virtue of their function and purpose; however as they are not formally incorporated as such, data is not readily available and they are not included in this study.

The data to conduct this study was acquired from a number of sources and is the most recent and comprehensive dataset as of the publishing of this report. The dataset for non-financial and insurance co-operatives in Canada was obtained from Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. This data is compiled by Statistics Canada using Canadian Revenue Agency data. It represents 100% of active non-financial co-operatives in Canada. The 2019 data for financial co-operatives was obtained from Canadian Credit Union Association (CCUA) and Statistics Canada and represents 100% of the credit unions and caisses in Canada. The data for the mutual sector was obtained from the Canadian Association of Mutual Insurance Companies (CAMIC) and represents over 85% of the mutual industry with the other 15% being very small entities.

This study conducts two types of analysis – headcount analysis and the input-output model. The headcount analysis develops descriptive statistics to help present the co-operative landscape. The input-output model calculates the economic impact of the co-operative sector on the national economy. This method was used because the input-output model is the most commonly used methodology in economic assessments. It was also used because it is suitable to the diverse nature of co-operatives in Canada. This model measures the ripples that are created in the economy by the integration of the operations of businesses.

[1] Industry Canada (2022) What is a co-operative? https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/cooperatives-canada/en/information-guide-co-operatives, accessed January 12, 2022.

Methodology

The size of these ripples is contingent upon the type of industry that is being measured. For example, an industry that depends heavily on local labour creates a larger ripple in the economy than a similar sized industry that imports goods for sale relying on overseas labour. Interestingly, co-operatives tend to buy a lot of their inputs from local sources in their communities.

In order to gauge the ripples, data from 2019 was analysed using the input-output economic model to understand the following:

- Direct impacts: revenue and jobs as well as taxes paid by the co-operative and mutual sector.
- Spinoff impacts include:
  - Indirect impacts: revenue and jobs generated as well as taxes paid by enterprises that supply the co-operative and mutual sector.
  - Induced impacts: revenue, jobs, and taxes generated from spending by direct and indirect employment; spending by employees of co-operatives, employees of suppliers to the co-operatives, and their families.

To analyse data from co-operatives and mutuals, each one is coded according to the industry they operate in, using standard North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes. These codes are standardized across Canada, Mexico and the United States and are used to classify businesses. The coded data is aggregated per sector code. This aggregated data is then analysed using provincial multiplier tables created by Statistics Canada (Statistics Canada, Table 15F0046XDB). These multiplier tables are based on the NAICS codes and therefore utilize individual multipliers are applied to the size of the economic ripple created by each industry.

The economic multipliers are applied to 'economic output' figures, which are very close to revenue. The revenue figures were adjusted for a number of sectors though, prior to entering them in the input-output model. ‘Economic output’ is a lower figure for some type of businesses: it is the gross margins for retail and wholesale co-ops; it is the revenue less interest paid to Bank of Canada for the credit unions and caisses, and it is the premium billed less premiums paid for insurance co-operatives and mutuals.

The economic impacts are quantified in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), full time equivalent jobs, household income and total taxes paid.

Methodology

Limitations

The limitations of this study are also present in other economic impact studies of the co-operative sector or other sectors. The analyses are only a good as the data that is available. Everything has been done to ensure rigorous data collection and compilation, but there could always be unknown factors affecting the quality of the data. Counterfactually, the input-output model is not able to tell us what economies would look like in the absence of co-operatives which prevent market failures. The economic impact figures provided in this paper should be considered minimum estimates of the actual impact that co-operatives have on the Canadian economy.

Analysis

Headcount

Figure 1 shows the breakdown of the co-operative and mutual sector headquarters, by province and the three territories.[1] The data available presents information based on the headquarters of co-operatives and mutuals. For the most part co-operatives and mutuals are small and medium enterprises with only one location; however, there are large co-operatives and mutuals that have a number of locations.

Figure 1: Province Breakdown of Co-operatives and Mutuals in Canada (2019) N= 6,367

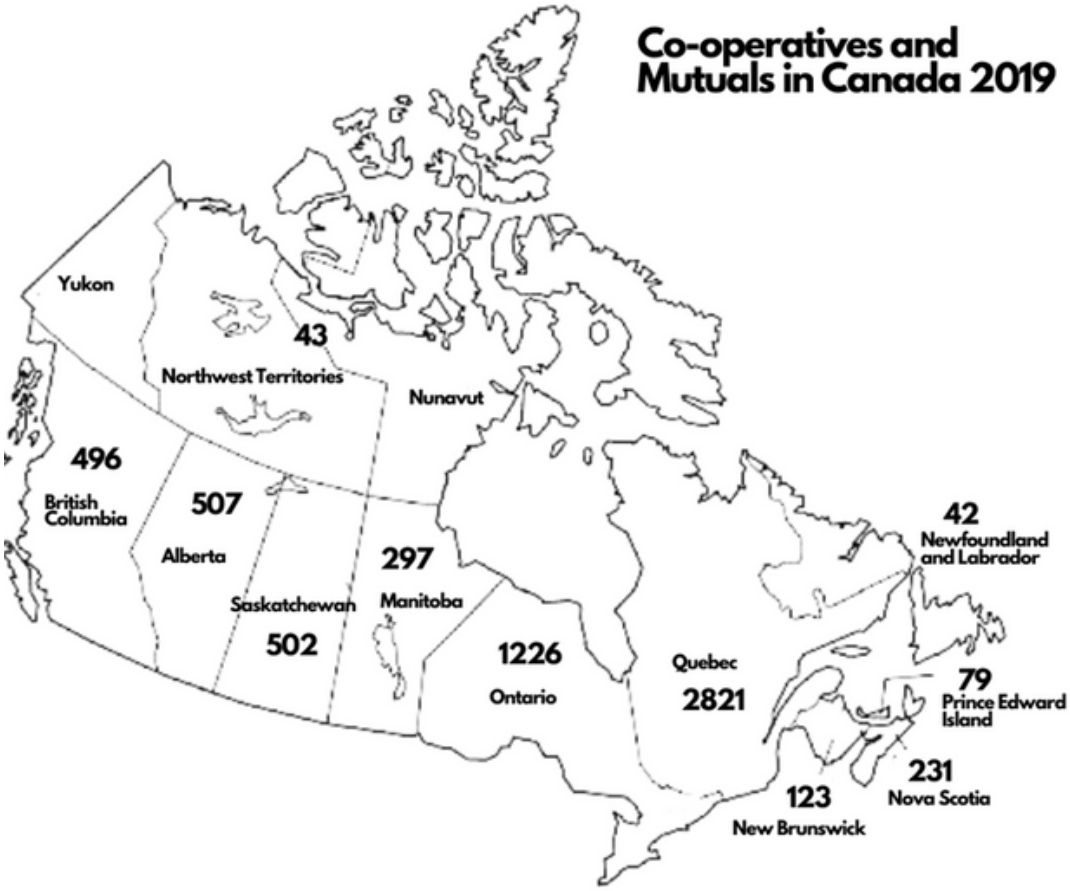


Figure 1 is a map of Canada showing the total numbers of co-operatives and mutuals in each province and for the three territories. Co-operatives and mutuals are found in every province and territory across Canada with a concentration in Quebec and Ontario.

[1] The available data are aggregated for the three Canadian territories and therefore does not allow us to present the distribution of co-operatives and mutuals in each territory.

Analysis

Breakdown by province

Figure 2 is the breakdown of the co-operative and mutual sector headquarters, in Canada by province and the territories, by percentage.

Figure 2: Percentage breakdown of co-operatives and mutuals in Canada by province (2019) N=6,367

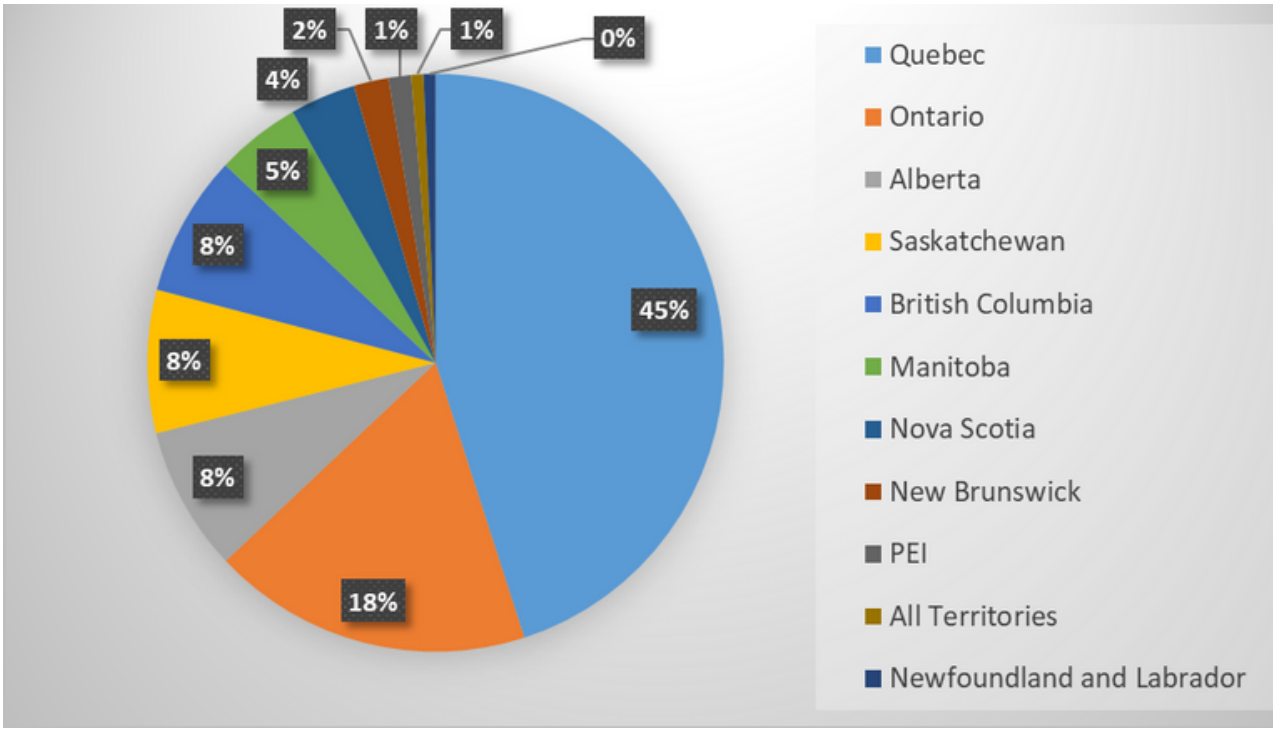


Figure 2 illuminates the level of concentration of co-operatives and mutuals in Quebec at 45% of the total Canadian sector. This is followed by Ontario at 18%. Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan all have similar weights of the co-operative and mutual sector in Canada.

Analysis

Profile of the Co-op and Mutual Sector in Canada

The following table (Table 1) provides the total headcount of the non-financial co-operatives, credit unions, caisses and reporting mutuals[1] in Canada in 2019.[2]

Table 1: Profile of the co-operative and mutual sector in Canada (2019)

2019 Canada	Co-ops (#)	Revenues ($B)	Assets ($B)	Taxes paid ($M)	Salaries ($B)	Employees (#)
Total	6,367	85.6	536.9	770	6.8	174,364

Sources : ISED/Stats Can Non-Financial Co-operatives 2019, CCUA National System results reports, CAMIC national survey, Statistics Canada.

Table 1 presents the headcount numbers for 2019 for Canada. There are 6,367 co-operatives, credit unions, caisses and mutuals in Canada with over 174,000 employees and more than $6.8 billion in salaries. In terms of assets, there is a total of $536.9 billion and regarding revenues over $85.6 billion.

[1] The mutual sector is represented by those mutuals that have reported to the Canadian Association of Mutual Insurance Companies (CAMIC) survey. For more information, see the methodology section of this report.
[2] Some numbers have been rounded for clarity.

Analysis

Non-financial Co-op, Credit Unions, Caisses and Mutuals in Canada

Table 2 breaks down the Canada co-operative and mutual sector into non-financial co-operatives[1], credit unions/caisses and mutuals.

Table 2: Non-financial co-operatives, credit unions, caisses and mutuals in Canada (2019)

2019 Canada	Coop (#)	Revenus ($B)	Assets ($B)	Taxes paid ($M)	Salaries ($B)	Employees (#)
Non-financial Co-operative*	5,812	53.0	45.6	175	2.5	104,969
Credit Unions/ Caisses	489	17.9	444.9	475	4.0	52,160
Total	**6,301**	**70.9**	**490.5**	**650**	**6.5**	**157,129**
Mutuals (reporting)	66	14.7	46.4	120	0.3	17,235
Total	**6,367**	**85.6**	**536.9**	**770**	**6.8**	**174,364**

Sources: ISED/Stats Can Non-Financial Co-operatives 2019, CCUA National System results reports, CAMIC national survey, Statistics Canada. Table 33-10-0006-01 Financial and taxation statistics for enterprises, by industry type, https://doi.org/10.25318/3310000601-eng.
*This also includes insurance co-operatives.

What Table 2 shows is the very different activity levels of non-financial co-operatives compared to credit unions/caisses and mutuals. There are many more non-financial co-operatives, when considered as a group they have many more employees, and the revenues are four times as much as credit unions and mutuals. Whereas credit unions/caisses understandably have much higher assets and taxes paid compared to either non-financial co-operatives or mutuals. While credit unions and caisses have approximately 1/3 of the employees of the total co-operative and mutual sector in Canada, they have the salary dollars of almost 2/3 of the total co-operative sector.

[1] Also see Co-operatives in Canada, 2019 (statcan.gc.ca)

Analysis

New Co-ops and Mutuals per Province

Table 3: Number of new incorporations of non-financial co-operatives in Canada (2009-2019)

Province/ Territory	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
British Columbia	18	23	24	37	29	31	17	27	24	31	25	286
Alberta	9	15	7	8	7	14	10	11	14	9	12	116
Saskatchewan	2	2	10	11	7	2	15	7	6	10	16	88
Manitoba	13	17	9	10	8	10	11	7	5	10*	2	102
Ontario	27	22	43	63	53	25	25	23	21	22	23	347
Quebec	135	116	131	143	125	107	91	87	96	88	102	1,221
New Brunswick	3	10	10	7	3	9	7	13	22	10	7	101
Nova Scotia	21	22	33	13	11	19	13	15	15	9	8	179
Prince Edward Island	6	7	1	3	7	2	1	2	5	4*	4**	42
Newfoundland and Labrador	2	1	2	0	4	1	4	3	0	0	1	18
Nunavut	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Northwest Territories	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	6
Yukon	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	5
Federal	5	6	6	7	6	6	2	7	0	3	16	64
Total	**241**	**242**	**276**	**304**	**261**	**230**	**196**	**203**	**211**	**196**	**216**	**2,576**

Analysis

New Co-ops and Mutuals per Province

Source for table 3 : ISED Co-operatives in Canada, https://ised-isde.canada.ca/site/cooperatives-canada/en/research-data-and-reports-about-co-ops-canada/new-incorporations-non-financial-co-operatives-2009-2019, Accessed January 12, 2022
* 2018 data is unavailable for Manitoba and Prince Edward Island. The 2018 number is based on an average of the number of new co-operatives in these provinces between 2009 and 2017.
** 2019 data is unavailable for Prince Edward Island. The 2019 number is based on an average of the number of new co-operatives in the province between 2009 and 2017.

Table 3 presents the new incorporations of non-financial co-operatives by province and territory, as well as the new incorporations of non-financial co-operatives under federal law, over a ten-year period.

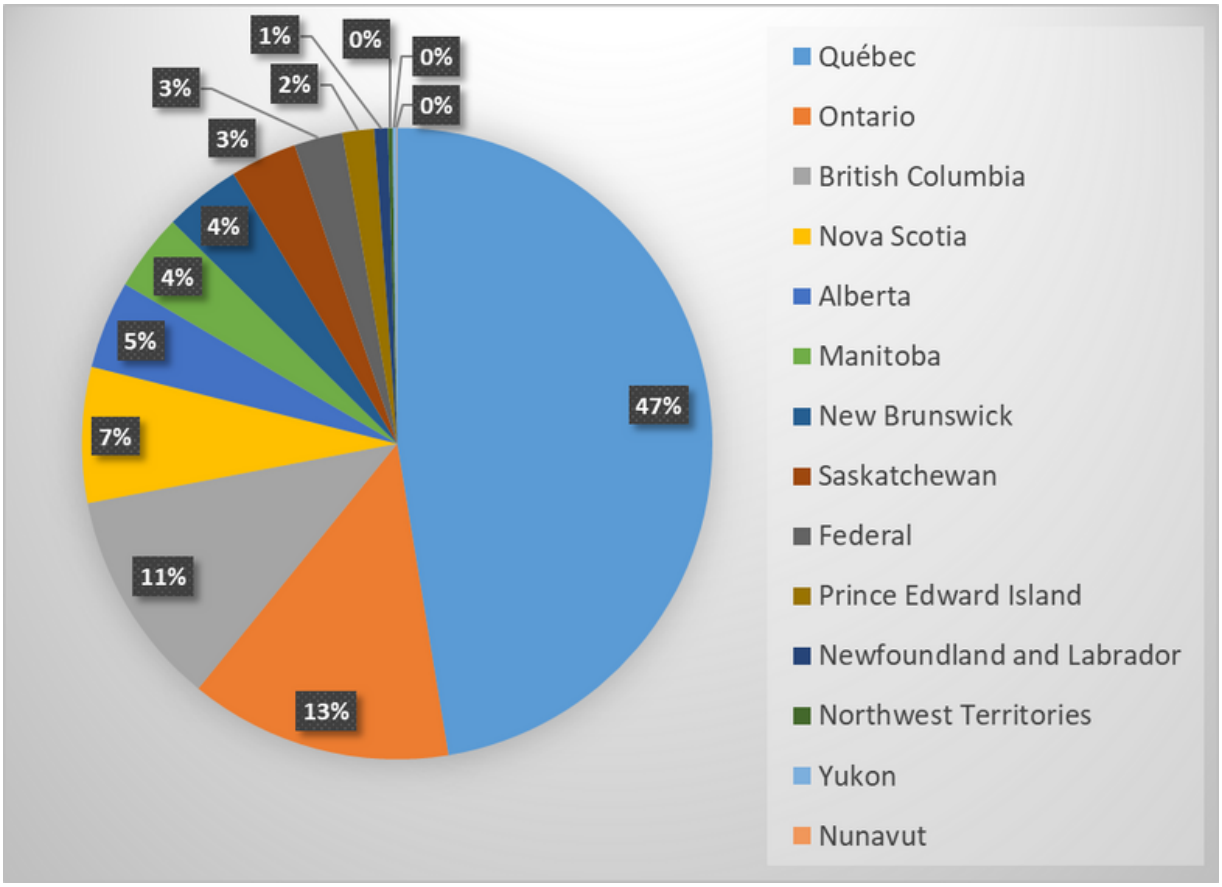
Table 3 represents the start-ups in the co-operative sector over the years. While there have been extensive mergers and amalgamations in the credit union and caisse sector, there have been no brand-new start-ups between 2009 and 2019. There also has been no new insurance mutuals started during this period. Clearly Quebec is leading the way year-over-year with the number of new co-operatives.

Analysis

Distribution of New Non-Financial Co-op per Province

Figure 3 shows the percentage distribution of all non-financial co-operatives incorporated between 2009 and 2019, by province and territory, as well as those incorporated under federal law.

Figure 3: Percentage distribution of new non-financial co-operatives incorporated, by province, territory and under federal law (2009-2019)



When looking at the total number of new co-operative incorporations over the ten-year period between 2009 and 2019, Quebec surpasses almost all the other provinces combined with 47% of the co-operative start-ups. Ontario and BC are next and following is Nova Scotia, Alberta, Manitoba and New Brunswick. Although the number of inhabitants per province can be a factor in the start-up of new co-operatives, the support measures in place for co-operative development in Quebec also seem to be a factor to consider.

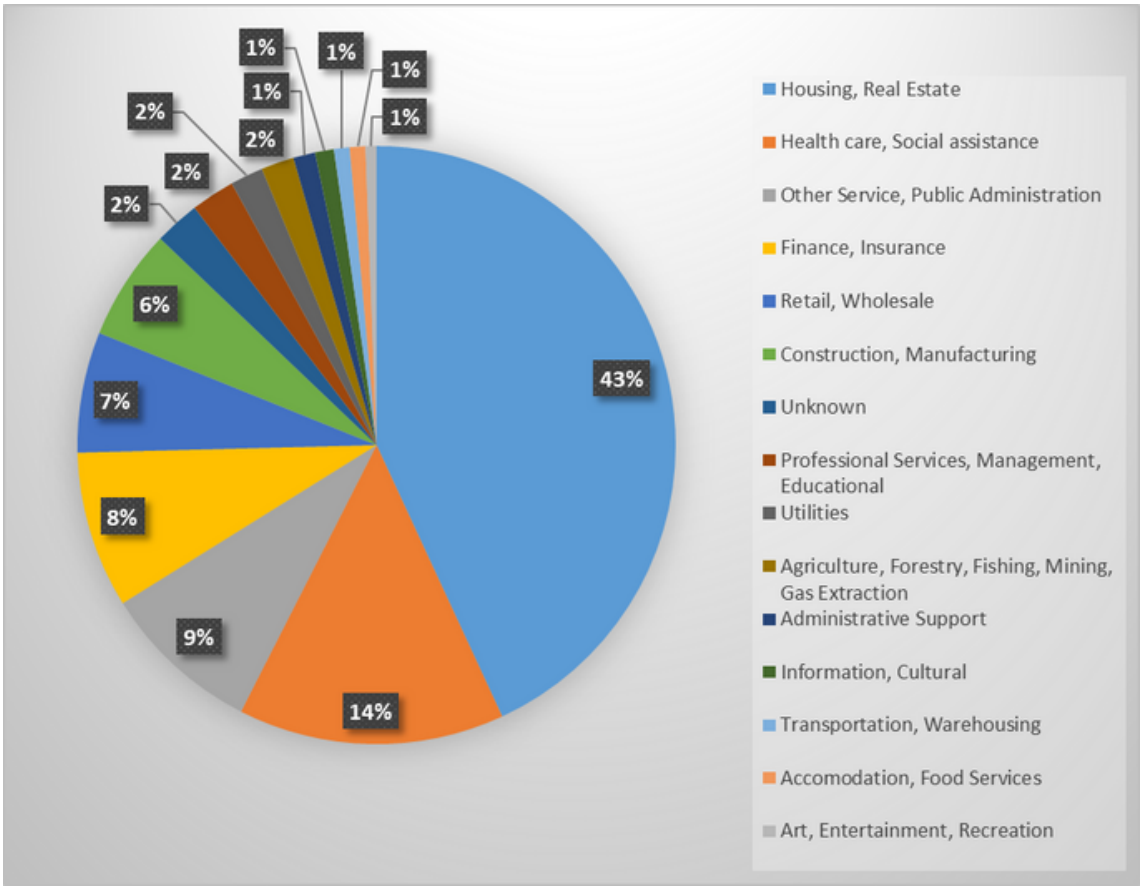
At this point the numbers of closed or inactive co-operatives is not available; however, it is hoped that they will be for the next economic impact study of the co-operative sector. The 2020 economic impact study will also reflect the effect of COVID-19 on the co-operative and mutual sector.

Analysis

Breakdown of Industry in the Co-op and Mutual Sector

Figure 4, below, presents the main industries for the co-operative and mutual sector in Canada, according to two-digit North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes.[1]

Figure 4: Breakdown of Industry in Canada's Co-operative and Mutual Sector (2019) N=6,367



As can be seen from Figure 4, Canada co-operative and mutual sector is fairly diversified with some key industries at the top. 43% of the Canadian co-operative sector is housing co-operatives. This is followed by health care and social assistance co-operatives, service and public administration co-operatives and then financial and insurance co-operatives and mutuals.

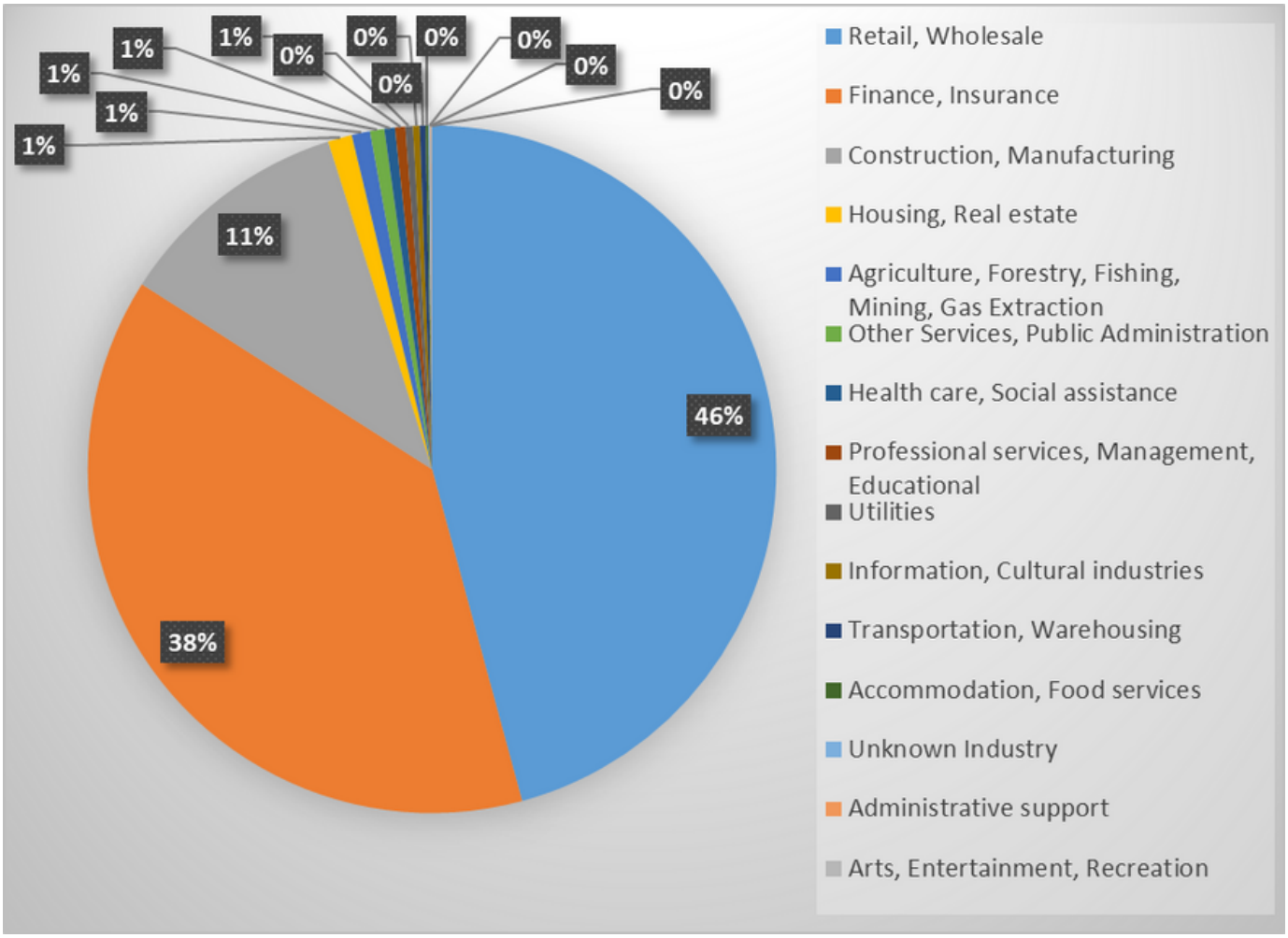
[1] The industry is determined by NAICS because the non-financial co-operatives are broken down in this manner. Some of the two-digit codes were combined by Statistics Canada, which is why some industry categories consist of more than one NAICS code. The credit unions/caisses and mutuals have their own NAICS. See North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Canada 2017 Version 3.0 (statcan.gc.ca)

Analysis

Breakdown of Industry in the Co-op and Mutual Sector

Figure 5 presents revenue according to industry for the Canadian co-operative and mutual sector in 2019[JC1].

Figure 5: Canadian Co-operatives and Mutuals by Revenue and Industry (2019) N=6,367



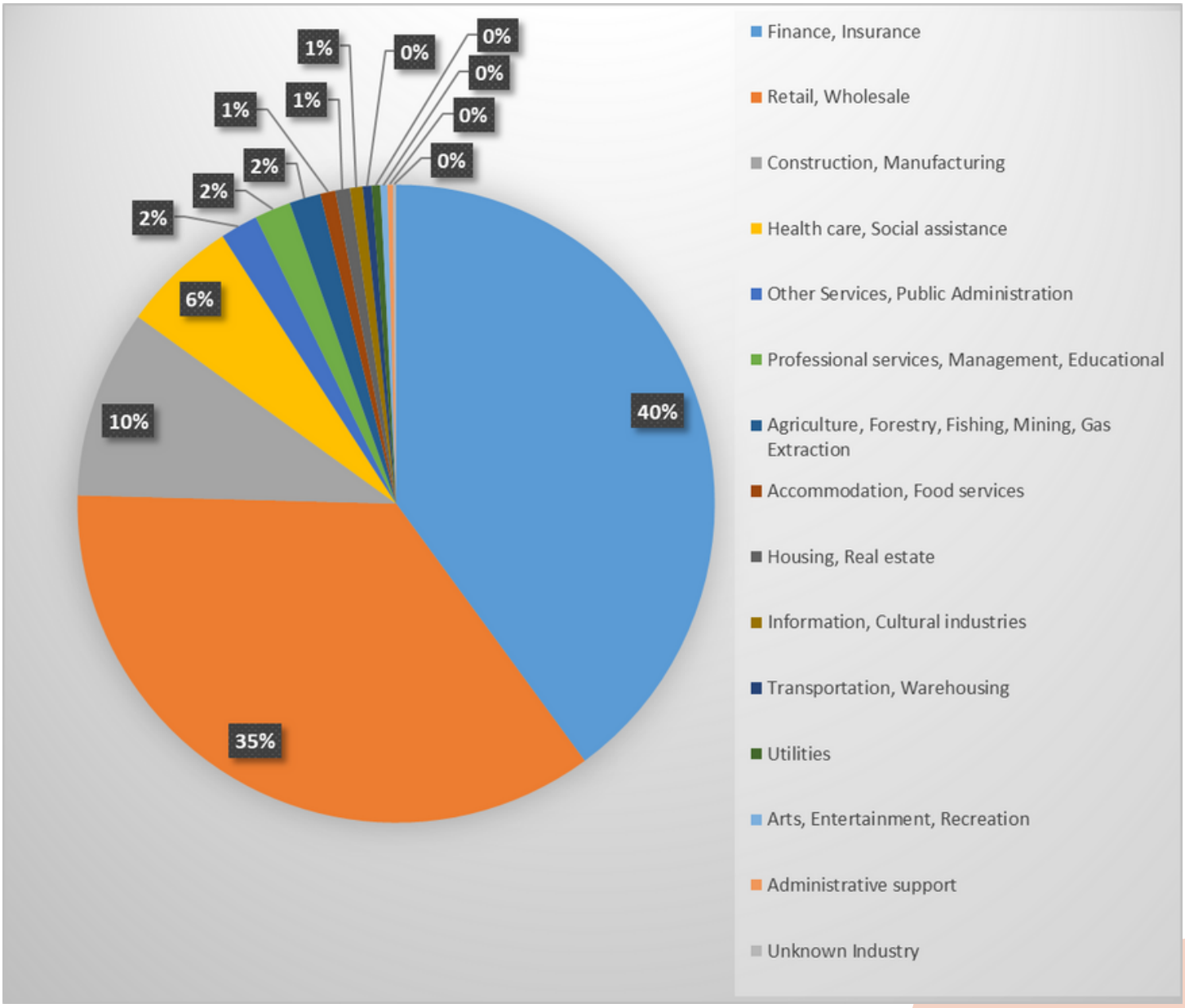
From Figure 5 it is clear that Wholesale and Retail Trade (46%), Finance and Insurance (38%), and Construction and Manufacturing (11%) are the Canadian leaders in terms of revenues (95%). With the other industries playing very small roles on the national scene in terms of revenues.

Analysis

The Number of Employees per Industry in the Sector

Figure 6 displays the number of employees per industry in the Canadian co-operative and mutual sector in 2019.

Figure 6: Canadian Co-operatives and Mutuals by Employee by Industry (2019) N=6,367



The above figure (Figure 6) shows that Finance and Insurance employ 40% (69,600) of the employees in the Canadian co-operative and mutual sector. Followed by the Wholesale and Retail Trade at 35% (61,907) of the employees, and then the Construction and Manufacturing at 10% (16,644) of the employees. These five industries dominate the Canadian co-operative and mutual sector with 85% of the employees.

Analysis

Comparison of Jobs in the Sector to Other Industries

Table 4 provides some other industries as a comparison to the number of jobs in the co-operative and mutual sector.

Table 4: Comparison of jobs in the co-operative and mutual sector to other industries (2019)

Industry subsectors	Jobs (FTE person-years equivalent)
All Industries in Canada	19,443,525
Machinery manufacturing	147,465
Postal service, couriers and messengers	132,935
Automotive repair and maintenance	137,345
Telecommunications	125,365
Utilities	122,185
Air transportation	75,990
Mining and quarrying (except oil and gas)	74,245
Total Co-operative and Mutual Sector	**174,364**

Source: Statistics Canada. Table 36-10-0489-01 Labour statistics consistent with the System of National Accounts (SNA), by job category and industry DOI: https://doi.org/10.25318/3610048901-eng Accessed January 12, 2022.

Table 4 draws on information about a select group of industries from Statistics Canada. These industries generally do not include a large number of co-operatives or mutuals. Co-operatives as a group in Canada employs more people than the machinery manufacturing as well as postal service, couriers, or messenger industry. Co-operatives employ more than automotive repair and maintenance; telecommunications; utilities; and mining and quarrying industries for full-time equivalent jobs.

Analysis

Sector based on Type of Co-op and Mutual

Figure 7 displays the Canada co-operative and mutual sector by membership type [1].

Figure 7: Canada Co-operative and Mutual Sector Based on Type of Co-operative and Mutual (2019) N=6,357

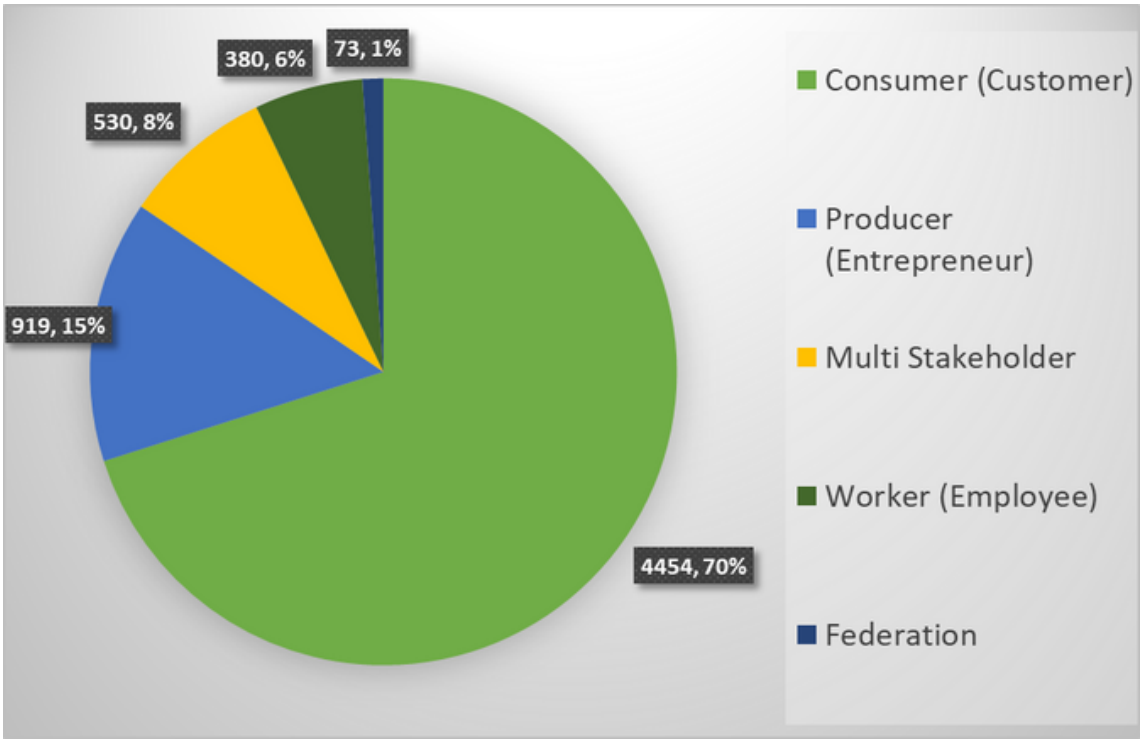


Figure 7 shows that in Canada, consumer co-operatives (70%) top are by far the most common type of co-operatives. This is due in part to the large presence of housing co-operatives. Additionally, retail and wholesale co-operatives, as well as financial insurance co-operatives, credit unions and caisses all land here in the consumer co-operative type. Even if they are not co-operatives, mutuals have been included in this last category as their members are consumers. The producer co-operatives follow with 15%, reflecting the large number of co-operatives in the agricultural sector in Canada. Following producer co-operatives are the multi-stakeholder co-operatives. This is due to the large number of co-operatives in Quebec where the multi-stakeholder (or solidarity co-operatives) are mostly located. Finally, 6% of Canadian co-operatives are worker co-operatives and 1% are federations.

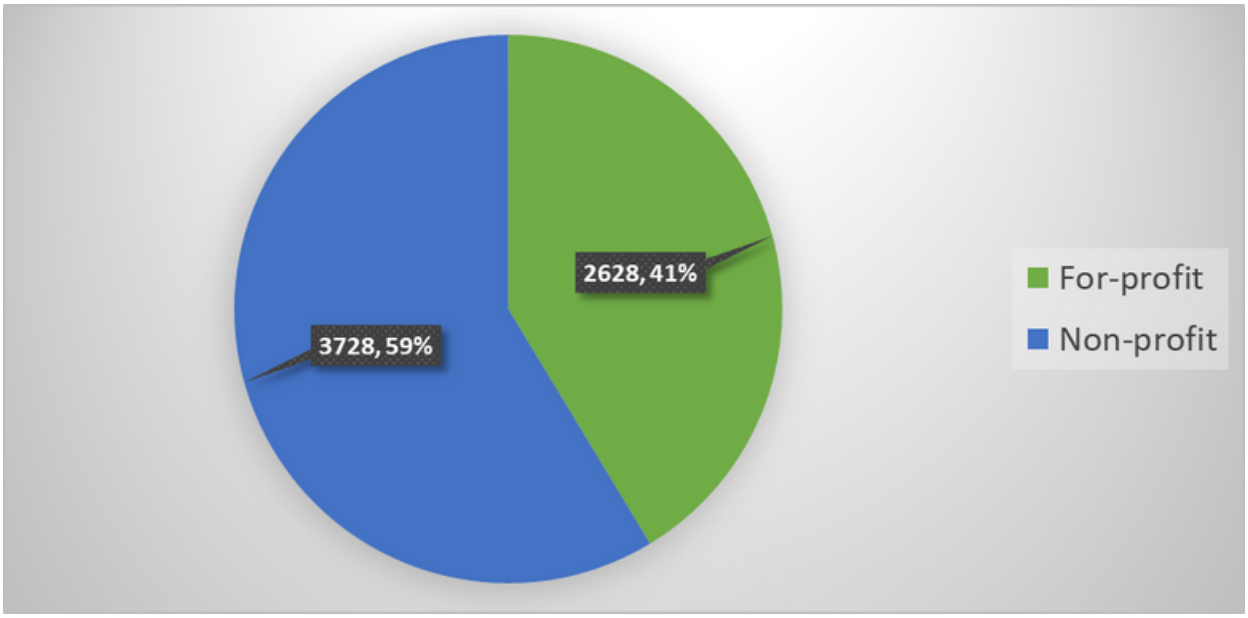
[1] The shareholder worker co-operatives are found within the worker co-ops and New Generation co-ops are found within the producer co-ops.

Analysis

Co-op and Mutual Sector by Non-Profit and For-Profit Status

Figure 8 breaks down the Canada co-operative and mutual sector by non-profit or for-profit status. One of the main differences between for-profit and non-profit co-operatives is the ability to allocate patronage dividends to their members. While non-profit co-operatives, like any other non-profit organization, must reinvest any surpluses generated in the fulfillment of their mission – and therefore cannot pay patronage dividends to their members - for-profit co-operatives may, under certain conditions, distribute a portion of the surpluses generated to their members in the form of patronage dividends.

Figure 8: Canada Co-operative and Mutual Sector Based on Profit or Non-Profit Status (2019) N=6,367



According to Figure 8, there are more non-profit than for-profit co-operatives and mutuals in Canada. Again, the large number of housing co-operatives (N=1,955), many of them non-profit, accounts for some of this distribution: 52% of the non-profit co-operatives are housing co-operatives.

Analysis

Economic Impact

The input-output model was employed to estimate the economic spinoff effects of the co-operative, credit unions, caisses and mutual sectors in Canada. By using the input-output model, the direct and spinoff impacts are estimated representing the impact the co-operative and mutual sector has in the economy in any given year, as is demonstrated with 2019 figures below (Table 5).

Table 5: Economic Impacts of Canadian Co-operative and Mutual Sector (2019)

Economic Value Add (GDP, $ Billions)	Direct	Spinoff	Total
Non-Financial Co-operatives	11.8	13.9	25.7
Credit Unions /Caisses	5.6	7.2	12.8
Insurance Co-operatives and Mutuals	4.3	6.4	10.7
Total			**49.2**
Jobs (FTEs, person-years)			
Non-Financial Co-operatives	193,731	145,015	338,746
Credit Unions / Caisses	76,819	77,900	154,719
Co-op and Mutual Insurance	17,507	81,395	98,902
Total			**592,367**
Household Income ($ Billions)			
Non-Financial Co-operatives	6.8	7.0	13.8
Credit Unions / Caisses	4.8	4.0	8.8
Co-op and Mutual Insurance	1.6	4.1	5.7
Total			**28.3**
Taxes ($ Billions)			
Production taxes[1]			4.0
Product taxes[2]			1.1
Household Income Taxes [3]			3.8
Household Sales Taxes[4]			1.2
Household Property Taxes [5]			0.3
Total			**10.4**

[1]Taxes on production paid by the co-operative and mutual sector and their suppliers (i.e., property taxes, permits and licences etc.) calculated using Statistics Canada Provincial Multiplier's – GDP Components table.
2]Taxes on product paid by the co-operative and mutual sector and their suppliers, for example value-added sales taxes and Duties calculated using product tax multipliers, Statistics Canada Provincial Multipliers – GDP Components table.
[3] Income tax paid by employees of co-operatives, their suppliers, and spinoff employment calculated by using average rate of 11.86% derived from Statistics Canada Table 36-10-0224-01; and Receiver General for Canada, Public Accounts of Canada 2019, table of Revenues, expenses, and accumulated deficit, accessed on August 20 2022.
[4] Using average sales tax rate of 4.72% derived from Statistics Canada Table 36-10-0224-01 and Revenue Canada GST/HST Statistics Tables, table of Value of net tax by jurisdiction, accessed on August 20, 2022.
[5]Property taxes paid by employees of co-operatives, their suppliers, and spinoff employment.Calculated by using average rate of 1.229% derived from Statistics Canada Table 36-10-0224-01.

Analysis

Economic Impact

Table 5 presents the contributions of the co-operative and mutual sector to the Canadian economy. The GDP is the value-add of the sector to the economy, thus closer to the earnings before interest and tax, and therefore much lower than the revenues. Revenues is the top line number. The household income represents the salaries and wages earned by the employees of the co-operative and mutual sector, as well as the salaries earned by the employees of their suppliers and of the businesses that sell goods and services consumed by the families of employees of the co-operative and mutual sector and by the families of employees of their suppliers.

The co-operative and mutual sector in Canada accounted for over $49.2 billion of the GDP. In terms of full-time equivalent jobs, the co-operative and mutual sector accounted for over 592,000 people and provided $28.3 billion in household income, with the non-financial co-operatives and credit unions/caisses doing the bulk of this. The estimate for taxes paid to all orders of government totaled $10 billion. According to Table 5, the non-financial co-operatives' numbers are higher than financial and insurance co-operatives and mutuals put together.

The following table (Table 6) illuminates the contributions of the co-operative and mutual sector to the overall Canadian economy.

Table 6: Comparison of Economic Impact of the Canadian Co-operative and Mutual Sector to the Total Canadian Economy (2019)

	Co-operative and Mutual Sector	Canada	% of National Economy
Economic Value Add GDP ($B)	49.2	1,986*	2.5%
Total Jobs	**592,367**	**19,384,510****	**3.0%**

*Source: Statistics Canada. Table 36-10-0434-03 Gross domestic product (GDP) at basic prices, by industry, annual average (x 1,000,000), https://doi.org/10.25318/3610043401-eng. Accessed February 12, 2022

**Source: Statistics Canada. Table 36-10-0489-01 Labour statistics consistent with the System of National Accounts (SNA), by job category and industry, https://doi.org/10.25318/3610048901-eng. Accessed February 12, 2022

Analysis

Economic Impact

The contribution of the co-operative and mutual sector to Canada's GDP in 2019 was estimated at 2.5% of the national figure of $1,986 billion. The contribution of the co-operative sector to Canada's total jobs was estimated to correspond to approximately 3.0% of the total 19,384,510 jobs in 2019 in Canada.

About The Authors

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