Regulation, Regulatory Reform, and the Economy

October 2024

Patrick A. McLaughlin, Ph.D. Mercatus Center at George Mason University and Hoover Institution at Stanford University



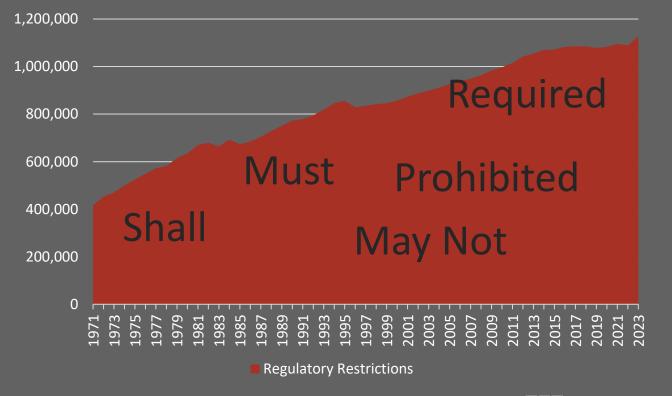


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5-5a6Q54BM

RegData introduced a system of measurement of regulation to advance the science of regulation...

Through measurement to knowledge.

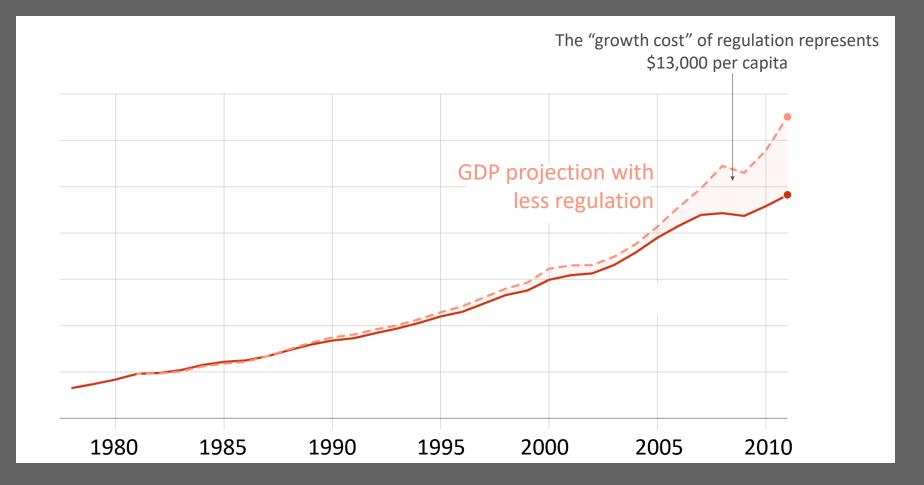
Federal Regulatory Accumulation in the United States





Now we have data. What about knowledge?

Regulatory Accumulation, Business Investment, and Growth





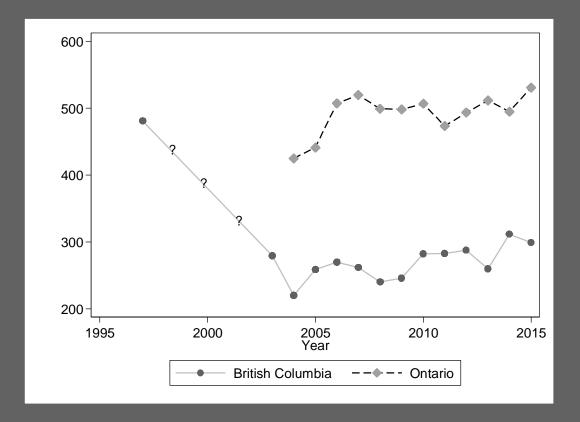
The Cost of	Regulations:
If the cost of regulatory accumulation (\$4 trillion) were a country, it would have the 4th largest GDP in the world.	
USA 16,155	
CHINA * 8,462	
JAPAN 🔴 5,957	
US REGULATIONS 4,000	
GERMANY 3,542	
FRANCE 2,683	
UK 2,624	
BRAZIL 🐟 2,412	
ITALY 2,076	
RUSSIA 2,016	CDD in nominal 2012 dollars
INDIA	GDP, in nominal 2012 dollars (billion USD)
	George Mason University
Figures represent data from 2012 Sources: Bentley Coffey, Patrick A. McLaughlin, and Pietro Peretto, "The Cumulative Cost of Regulations," April 2016. IMF World Economic Outlook (WEO), October 2015	



British Columbia had a bad decade, so it implemented the first successful "regulatory budget" in 2001.

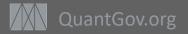
- Establish a baseline (measure)Set a target
- Update data to track progress

Mean industry regulation index in British Columbia and Ontario

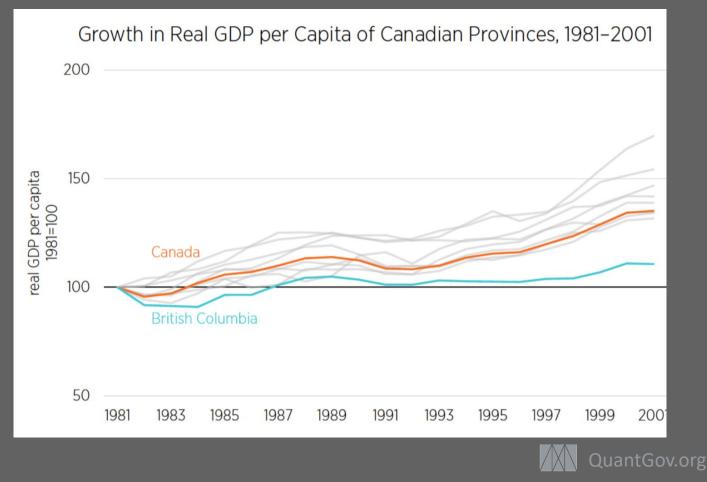


Results for BC's reform:

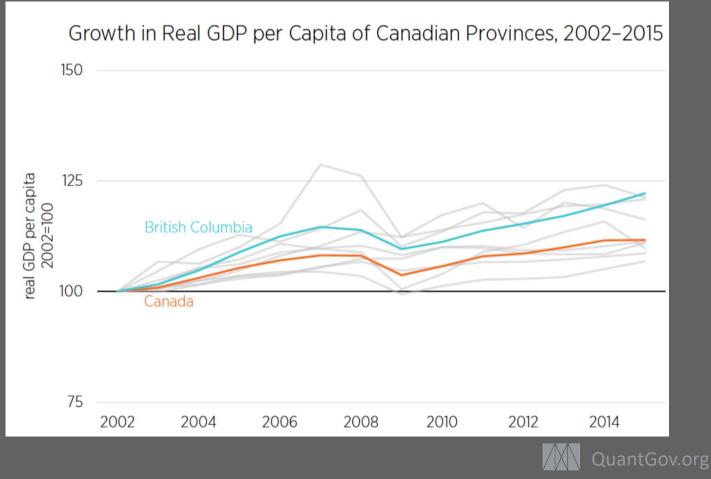
40% decrease in level of regulation \rightarrow 1.20 pp increase in growth rate



Slow growth in 1990's



Better growth after 2001



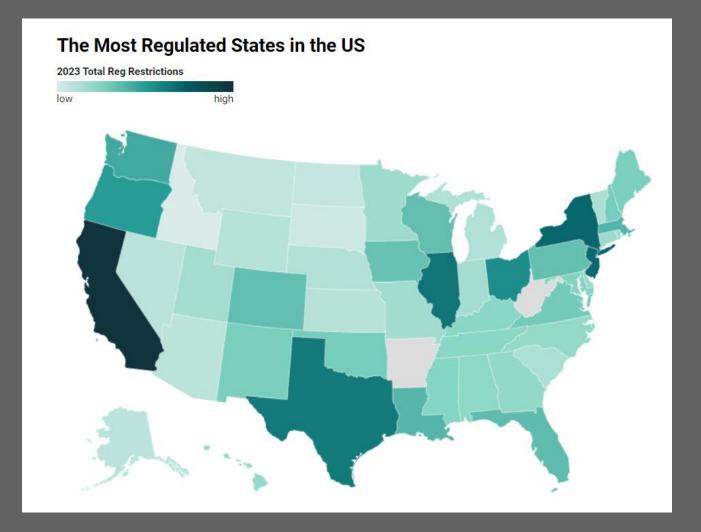
1. Quantify and categorize

Quantify and categorize Set a target (e.g., 25% cut or 1-in, 1-out)

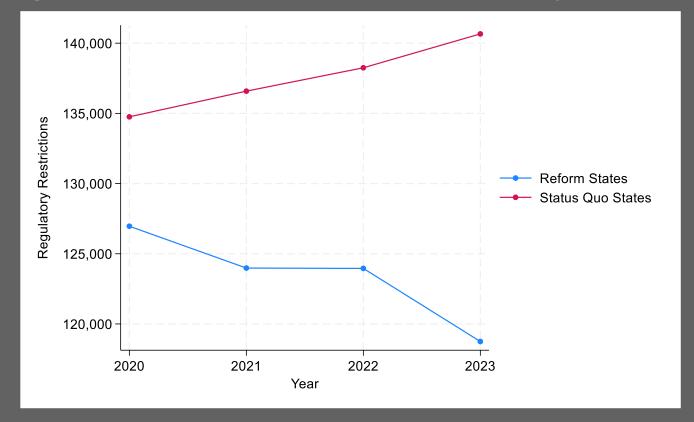
Quantify and categorize
Set a target (e.g., 25% cut or 1-in, 1-out)
Update data to track progress (using Al or humans)

Quantify and categorize
Set a target (e.g., 25% cut or 1-in, 1-out)
Update data to track progress (using Al or humans)

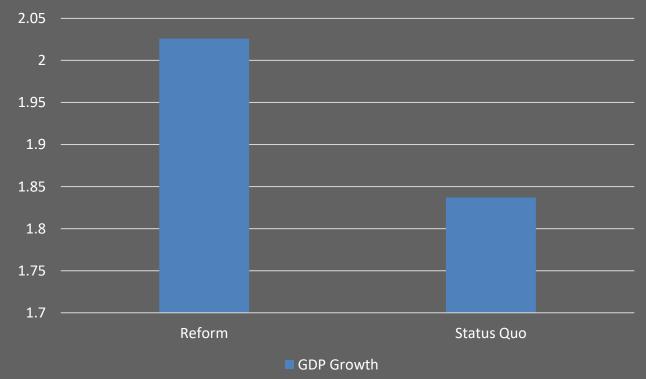
4. Create positions/offices for measuring and managing regulatory policy



Insights: Reform states vs. status quo states



Insights: Reform states vs. status quo states GDP Growth



Resources/Contact

Data/code: RegData.org Substack: thirdorder.substack.com

Contact Information – Patrick McLaughlin email: pmclaughlin@mercatus.gmu.edu Twitter: @EconPatrick

