Brown & Baldwin 2003
Brown & Baldwin 2003

- Canadian manufacturing restructures and relocates over time
- Looked at the 1976-1997 era
- Dominant trend: Industry moves out of old inner city areas towards rural, small-town, and suburban locations
The changing geography of the Canadian manufacturing sector in metropolitan and rural regions, 1976–1997

Source: Statistics Canada (2000)
The changing geography of the Canadian manufacturing sector in metropolitan and rural regions, 1976–1997
The changing geography of the Canadian manufacturing sector in metropolitan and rural regions, 1976–1997
Brown & Baldwin 2003

• Pre 1920: Pre-Fordism
• Manufacturing needs pools of skilled workers
• Manufacturing needs access to subcontractors, suppliers, markets
• Tends to favour centralization in a large urban centre
Brown & Baldwin 2003

• Post 1920: Era of Fordism
• Manufacturing reconfigured around assembly-line mass production
• Semi-skilled workers, who can be trained
• Companies vertically-integrated, include their own suppliers
• Favours decentralization to large, cheap sites with good transport accessibility
Brown & Baldwin 2003

• Pre-1920 manufacturing was rail-oriented and close to a large urban core
• Post-1920 (Fordist) manufacturing can shift:
  • Diffusion: Industry relocates from inner city to suburbs
  • Dispersal: Industry leaves cities for rural, small town
• Quebec: Montreal loses more manufacturing than does Toronto
The changing geography of the Canadian manufacturing sector in metropolitan and rural regions, 1976–1997
The changing geography of the Canadian manufacturing sector in metropolitan and rural regions, 1976–1997
Brown & Baldwin 2003

• Didn’t say much about Post-Fordism
• Automation has drastically reduced labour needs
• IT allows production to move overseas to chase cheap labour yet still serve metropolitan markets
• Manufacturing employment declines, separates into highly-paid core workers, poorly-paid contract workers
• But some parts of Post-Fordist economy still cling to the Pre-Fordist formula of ties to labour, subcontractors