RegData Canada Technical Documentation

QuantGov

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1 Purpose

RegData Canada is part of the RegData project that looks to quantify the regulation in a given jurisdiction's regulatory code and other regulatory documents. RegData Canada focuses on the regulatory codes of the federal Canadian government and the provinces and territories within the country. The quantified regulatory codes will allow researchers to directly test the effect of regulation on economic outcomes in Canada.

2 Content

RegData Canada quantifies both regulations and statutes/acts for federal Canada and the eleven provinces and territories within Canada. In December 2021, the newest version of RegData Canada was released, RegData Canada 2.2. The 2.2 release adds an additional year of data - the 2021 data point. RegData Canada 2.2 now includes federal data that spans from 2006-2021 and province/territory data that span from 2018-2021.

RegData Canada 2.2 contains the metadata typically found in RegData projects. This includes restriction counts, word counts, and various complexity metrics. In addition, the industry classification algorithms produced a set of probabilities that a given document is relevant to any given 3-digit industry.

RegData Canada 2.2 includes small improvements to the accuracy of document collection at the province/territory level. These improvements were made due to hours of quality assurance checks that were implemented to assure that data can be compared over time and across jurisdictions.

3 Technical Notes

Federal and State:

- RegData Canada uses the newest 3.0 version of the industry classification algorithm. Therefore, these datasets should not be directly compared to any jurisdiction datasets that use previous estimator versions. (This will be clearly marked in any retrieved data.)

- Users can safely aggregate document restriction counts, but mathematically should not aggregate "industry relevant restrictions" across multiple industries as this will invoke either some form of double-counting or under-counting.

- The regulatory data for federal Canada includes Statutory Instruments (SI's), Statutory Orders and Regulations (SOR's), and older versions of regulations labeled as C.R.C.'s. The statute data at the federal level looks at the Consolidated Acts posted on the Justice Laws Website.

- A small portion Quebec's data is missing due to the government publishing some regulations only in French.

- There is an apparently large increase in the word and restriction count for Nunavut regulations between 2020 and 2021. However, this was not due to excessive regulatory accumulation, but because the Nunavut government simply published a bunch of already existing regulations that were not previously published on the website.

- Reference the below website links and the metadata files to verify that the data aligns with the files in interest. This project did its best to collect regulatory text for each province/territory, but every province/territory is different and has unique methods for publishing regulations and related materials. The data for this project is informative, but not necessarily all-encompassing or a complete picture of a jurisdiction's legally binding documents. Users should also keep in mind that all provinces/territories may not define "Acts", "Statutes", and "Regulations" in the same manner.

The following websites were used to obtain the text for RegData Canada:

Canada Federal, Canada Federal statutes, Alberta, Alberta statutes, British Columbia, British Columbia statutes, Manitoba, Manitoba statutes, New Brunswick, New Brunswick statutes, New Foundland & Labrador, New Foundland & Labrador statutes, Northwest Territories, Northwest Territories statutes, Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia statutes, Nunavut, Nunavut statutes, Ontario, Ontario statutes, Prince Edward Island, Prince Edward Island statutes, Quebec, Quebec statutes, Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan statutes, Yukon, Yukon statutes.

4   Citation

If you use this data, please cite:

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