LJ Valencia

ECONOMIC ANALYST · DESJARDINS GROUP

Toronto, ON, Canada

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Education

University of Toronto
Toronto, ON, Canada

MASTER OF ARTS IN ECONOMICS
August 2024

- Research Project: *Assessing the Relative Performance of Autoregressive Machine Learning Models for Forecasting Canadian House Prices*
- Courses: *Economic Applications of Machine Learning, Time Series Analysis, Econometrics, Quantitative Macroeconomics*

University of Alberta
Edmonton, AB, Canada

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONORS) IN ECONOMICS, MINOR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
June 2020

- Courses: *Advanced Macroeconomic Theory, Econometric Methods, Advanced Microeconomic Theory*

Université de Montréal
Montréal, QC, Canada

EXPLORE PROGRAM (FRENCH IMMERSION)
June 2016

Professional Experience

Desjardins Group
Toronto, ON, Canada

ECONOMIC ANALYST
June 2024 - present

- As a part of Desjardins Economic Studies (DES), I develop new internal models such a nowcast model for Canadian real GDP.
- Improve internal workflows through process automation using APIs, VBA and R.
- Conduct research and present on key issues relevant to the Canadian economy and inform business decision making.
- Advocate Desjardins Economic Studies' views and research through the public via media interviews.

Department of Economics, University of Toronto
Toronto, ON, Canada

RESEARCH ASSISTANT
Jan. 2024 - June 2024

- As part of a project with the Ontario Energy Board (OEB), I collaborated with a team and produced a new cost function methodology for electricity distribution companies.
- Conduct literature reviews, industry reviews, and aid with drafting portions of the report.

Bank of Canada
Ottawa, ON, Canada

RESEARCH ASSISTANT (RA)
Aug. 2021 - Jul. 2023

- As a part of the Real Economic Activity Division (READ), I built custom charts for policy presentations, maintained Tableau dashboards, and updated forecast databases.
- Operated and enhanced several nowcasting models using Git, Python, MATLAB, MySQL, and Excel.
- Supported Economists in evaluating end-of-quarter revisions in Canadian GDP-by-Industry.
- Developed a MATLAB package to retrieve and organize vintages for real-time revision analysis.
- As part of the Digital Transformation project, I helped develop a Python-based forecast software for CPI Inflation.
- Established back-end processes and front-end features using Python and YAML.

Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD)
Edmonton, AB, Canada

JUNIOR ECONOMIST
Aug. 2020 - Aug. 2021

- Analyzed economic trends, supported policy formulation, and served as a subject-matter expert within the WD Research and Analytics Team.
- Designed Python and R scripts for analysis, and built infrastructure to manage large Canadian SME financial datasets.
- Conducted policy research using Microsoft Excel and Haver Analytics, while managing multiple projects and collaborating on policy proposals.

Skills

Programming	Python | R | MATLAB | SQL | C | Julia | VBA
Software	CSS | HTML | Hugo | YAML | Git Bash | Azure Databricks | LaTeX | Exceed TurboX
Analytics	Tableau | STATA | Haver Analytics (Haver DLX)
Languages	Native Fluency: English, Filipino | Beginner-Intermediate: Ilocano, French, & Spanish
Other	Media Training

Certificates

2018	**Bloomberg Market Concepts (BMC),** Bloomberg LP	*Edmonton, Canada*
2020	**Introduction to Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+),** Status of Women Canada	*Edmonton, Canada*