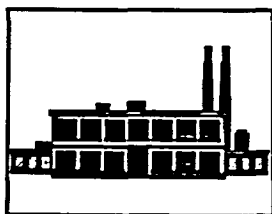


***In December, 1994, the Singapore dollar was almost at par with the Canadian dollar. The Singapore dollar has been appreciating steadily during the past year and can be expected to continue rising. Your bank can give you the most current quote.***

## **TENDERING ON PROJECTS**

***Almost all government purchasing is done by tender. Invitations to bid on tenders may be restricted to contractors registered with the department initiating the request, or they may be open to special registration. Special registration allows foreign firms to demonstrate their expertise in a pre-qualification exercise. Invitations to tender are published in the Singapore *Government Gazette*, as well as the Friday edition of local daily newspapers such as *The Straits Times*. Singapore is not eligible for World Bank project financing, but it can borrow from the Asian Development Bank on a project-specific basis.***

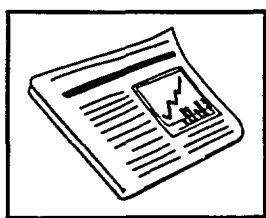


## **LABOUR**

Singapore's total labour force exceeds 1.6 million, of which 20 percent are non-residents. Of this number, 64.4 percent are employed in services, 34.8 percent in industry, and 0.8 percent in agriculture. Unemployment is under 2 percent. Only 14 percent of the country's workers are unionized, and, apart from one work stoppage in 1986, there have been no strikes since the late 1970s. Worker training is viewed as one of the keys to increased labour productivity, capital investment, and technological innovations.

Employers and employees contribute an amount equivalent to 40 percent of the employee's salary to the employee's Central Provident Fund. The government-managed and employee-directed CPF provides social security for the employee, commensurate with salary level and years of work.

Expatriate personnel in Singapore require work permits from the Controller of Immigration, which are issued for periods not exceeding five years. Professional visit passes are issued to persons such as consultants and others intending to work on a short-term basis.



## **ADVERTISING AND RESEARCH**

Newspapers in Singapore are published in the four major languages of English, Chinese, Indian, and Malay. The leading English-language newspapers are *The Straits Times* and the