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The assessment of labour costs considered factors such as salaries, statutory benefits, taxes and other benefits. All eight of Canada's cities proved to have lower labour costs than the American cities – on average almost one-third lower (31 percent).

The study shows that transportation and distribution costs vary by jurisdiction and industry in both countries, but that rates are generally lower in Canada than in the U.S.

Electricity represents about 5 percent of the costs of firms in the frozen food industry and here too, Canadian locations have a decisive advantage over U.S. cities.

With respect to taxation, rates vary among jurisdictions and there was no particular advantage from a corporate viewpoint to either Canada or the U.S.

Food Packaging in Canada

Shifting consumer preferences toward ready-to-cook meals, specialty foods, and convenience foods have placed new demands on the food packaging industry. Food processors look for longer shelf life, attractive packaging, and new materials for preparation methods such as microwaving.

At the same time, increasing emphasis is being placed on reducing the amount of packaging used, a response to the public's environmental concerns and government regulations that have targeted a 50 percent staged reduction in packaging waste by the year 2000.

These changes translate into a wide range of business opportunities for innovative approaches and solutions in the design and manufacture of packaging, processing and labeling equipment, and for new materials. This potential exists throughout the North American market. Canadian firms are well established in this market, and their exposure will grow as a result of the NAFTA.

For some Canadian companies, up to 80 percent of their sales are to the United States. Canada is one of the top five suppliers of packaging machinery to the U.S.

Canadian companies specializing in food packaging are located across the country, usually closest to the input source. They are also able to tap into the nation-wide Food Network, which assists in the development of strategic initiatives and facilitates research arrangements throughout Canada. ☛



For information about investment opportunities in Canada:

Here are your points of contact

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For information

Find out more about investing in Canada by contacting the Canadian embassy or the nearest consulate, or by contacting directly:

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