

FISHING, HUNTING AND TRAPPING

This industry maintained a substantial competitive edge over the U.S. sector from 1971 to 1981. By the end of the period, however, total unit costs in Canada were 4 per cent above U.S. levels.

Unit material costs accounted for 57 per cent of total Canadian costs and 78 per cent of total U.S. costs in 1982. Throughout the 1970's, Canadian unit material costs were on average 47 per cent below U.S. expenditures. This cost-gap began to narrow after 1980, however, and by 1984 Canadian unit material costs were 28 per cent lower than in the U.S.

Canadian unit labour costs were significantly higher over the entire period, increasing to a level of 274 per cent above U.S. costs by 1984. The average annual rate of increase from 1971 to 1984 was 11.1 per cent in Canada, compared to 6.2 per cent in the U.S.

Unit interest costs plus depreciation increased by 83 per cent in Canada from 1980 to 1981 accounting for almost 9 per cent of total domestic expenditures. In 1982, Canadian costs in this area were 30 per cent higher than in the U.S.

On an exchange-rate-adjusted basis, domestic producers were more cost-competitive than U.S. producers over the entire period. In 1984, Canadian total unit costs were 24 per cent below U.S. levels.