

Labor Force Summary or the Monthly Labor Review (U.S. Department of Labor).

III. COMPARING U.S. AND CANADIAN MANUFACTURING SECTORS

In order to obtain a better understanding of the U.S. business environment for Canadian printers, several economic indicators for the two countries can be compared. Of particular interest are the rate of labor productivity growth, unit labor costs, and manufacturing productivity. The Monthly Labor Review, published by the U.S. Department of Labor, closely monitors these data for the United States, regularly releases these and other useful figures, and was the primary source of the following discussion.

During the period of 1991 to 1993, both Canada and the United States experienced labor productivity growth of approximately 4.3%. In addition, Canada and the United States have experienced little change in unit labor costs since 1991 with labor hourly compensation actually rising only 5% for each country. However, during that period, the Canadian dollar's exchange rate continuously declined by about 9% of its value relative to the U.S. dollar. Consequently, there has been a deterioration of the U.S. manufacturing competitiveness in terms of unit labor costs relative to Canada.

During 1992, unit labor costs in Canada decreased by 5.2% over U.S. costs. In fact, this relative decline in the unit labor costs for Canada has been ongoing and averaged 1.7% during the period of 1979 to 1992. With the recent further decline in the relative value of the Canadian dollar, there may well be a continuation of this trend, thus making Canadian manufacturing even more competitive to their U.S. counterparts.

IV. GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE PRINTING INDUSTRY

IN THE AREA OF INTEREST

For the purposes of this study, the classification of printing and publishing firms has been by the general SIC code of 27. The companies presented in Table 1 and Table 2 include newspapers and periodicals, book printing and publishing, commercial printing, business forms, bankbooks and bookbinding, and printing trade services. A more thorough subdivision by county is available in County Business Patterns (U.S. Department of Commerce). Data for the most populated counties in upstate New York and Pennsylvania are contained in Appendix B that include the types and numbers of the major types of printing firms within each county.