

Table B-8 – (cont'd)

Point of Comparison 1979	compared to national average			
	CANADA		USA	
Income per capita (current dollars)	average	\$8,623	average	\$9,002
	highest	+\$1,198	highest	+\$2,250
	lowest	-\$2,253	lowest	-\$2,835
Unemployment rate	average	7.5	average	5.8
	highest	+7.9	highest	+4.3
	lowest	-3.6	lowest	-3.6
Participation rate	average	63.6	average	63.3
	highest	+5.8	highest	+11.8
	lowest	-10.9	lowest	-5.1
	female	50.4	female	59.1
	male	85.4	male	85.4
	female as % of labour force	36.9	female as % of labor force	41.6

Source: *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1980 National Data Book and Guide to Sources*, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Census.

Tables B-9(a) and (b) compare per capita income in 10 western industrialized countries and among the 10 provinces in Canada. Between 1972 and 1978, the range or amount of difference in per capita income decreased with respect to the countries but increased slightly with respect to the provinces. However, per capita income within this country varies less than between the countries of the western world.

Quality of Life

As Tables B-7 and B-8 show, Canada compares well with other western industrialized countries in terms of economic strength and social services. Table B-10 demonstrates the ranges within Canada of certain measures of the quality of life — education, family structure and crime rates.*

Nationally, almost 19 per cent of the population has less than grade 9 education but almost 9 per cent have a university degree. Newfoundland shows the lowest levels of education — over 27 per cent with less than grade 9 and 7 per cent with a university degree. Ontario has the highest percentage of university-educated people (10 per cent) and only 17 per cent of the population have less than grade 9. In general, the populations of the Atlantic provinces and Quebec have lower levels of education than those in the western provinces and Ontario.

Family structure, marriage and divorce rates are often considered indicators of the quality of life in a community. As in many other western countries, the institution of marriage has undergone considerable pressure in Canada in

* The statistics for Yukon and N.W.T. are recorded but not analyzed because of their small populations and the resultant lower data reliability.