change in unit labor costs, has improved dramatically compared to most of Western Europe. Whereas unit labor costs fell by 0.8% in the U.S. in 1983, it rose by some 0.7% in the U.K. by 6.6% in France, and by 15.9% in Italy. The evolution of this trend is illustrated in a table, showing unit labor costs in manufacturing on a national currency basis for some 12 countries within a 13 year period.

Table 3: Unit Labor Costs in Manufacturing: National Currency Basis 1/ 12 Countries, 1960-83

Average Annual Rates of Change 2/

COUNTRY	1960-83	1960-73	1973-83	1973-80	1981	1982	1983
U.S.	4.4	1.9	7.2	7.6	6.1	6.6	-0.8
Canada	5.5	1.8	9.8	9.5	13.7	13.5	.3
Japan	4.6	3.5	1.2	3.0	1.8	-2.8	-2.0
Belgium	4.9	3.4	4.9	6.1	5.1	.8	2.5
France	6.6	2.6	10.4	10.2	12.9	11.7	6.6
FRG	4.6	3.7	4.5	4.7	5.2	4.1	-1.0
Italy	10.5	5.1	15.4	15.9	18.9	16.5	15.9
Netherlands	5.2	4.8	3.8	4.8	1.8	4.4	-.4
U.K.	9.7	4.1	14.7	17.8	7.6	4.6	.7

1/ Computed in terms of each country's own currency.

2/ Rates of change computed from the least squares trend of the logarithms of the index numbers.

NOTE: Data relate to all employed persons in the United States and Canada; all employees in the other countries.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Dr. Bloomfield stated that the U.S. productivity increases could have been even better, had the U.S. generated fewer jobs within the time period in question. He did admit, however, that this would not constitute an appropriate economic goal.