

TABLE 2.1
Educational Attainment of Population Aged 15 and Over
 (in percent)

	1961	1977	1991	1995
University degree	2.5	7.5	12.0	13.0
Post-secondary diploma	3.5	10.0	23.0	25.0
Some post-secondary	4.5	8.5	9.0	9.0
High school	43.0	49.0	44.0	39.0
0-8 years of education	44.0	24.0	12.0	13.0

Sources: Statistics Canada, *Labour Force Survey* (February 1995); "1991 Census of Canada: Highlights", *The Daily* (May 11, 1993).

Canada has 53 universities as well as a large number of colleges and technical institutes. Thirty-two universities have undergraduate degree programs in engineering and applied sciences; 26 offer master's and doctoral degrees in these fields. Most also provide degree programs in business administration. The many post-secondary community colleges and technical schools throughout the country produce a steady stream of well-trained technicians and technologists as well as other skilled graduates.

Among Canadians who have graduated from universities, colleges and trade or technical schools, the two most popular broad areas of study are engineering, applied sciences, technologies and trades; and commerce, management and business administration.

Between 1986 and 1991, the number of Canadians with degrees in engineering and applied science grew by 30 percent, those holding degrees in mathematics and physical science increased by 26 percent, and the number of commerce and management degree-holders climbed by more than one third. Similarly, college, vocational, trade and other non-university post-secondary programs continue to turn out more graduates in fields as diverse as the social sciences, engineering, business, and health-related disciplines.

We hire more people from Waterloo, Ontario, than any other university. They are good people and the university has a great cooperative program.

Bill Gates, Chairman
 Microsoft Corporation

International Comparisons

Canada is among the world leaders in the share of GDP it devotes to public education. It surpasses almost all other countries in its commitment to post-secondary education. The result is a skilled and adaptable labour force that is well-equipped to meet the needs of increasingly sophisticated and fast-changing business technologies and operations.

The 1994 *World Competitiveness Report* found that Canada ranked high on a number of key measures of educational effort and commitment. Canada is second only to the U.S. in the percentage of 20 to 24 year-olds enrolled in some form of higher education (see Figure 2.1), and has the fourth highest secondary school enrollment rate. Canada's per capita public expenditure on education stood fifth among the 43 countries reviewed in the Report, significantly above the eleventh place ranking of the U.S.