

compares several social and economic indicators in 10 member countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. Because of Canada's relatively small population and huge size, we have the lowest population density by far of these 10 countries; even the U.S.A., the most similar basis for comparison, has 113 more people per square mile.

Although Canada's population ranks seventh among the 10 countries being compared, our gross domestic product in 1978 was sixth, ahead of Italy, and the per capita income of Canadians ranked sixth as well.

Life expectancy is higher than average in Canada and our infant mortality rate is considerably lower than that of West Germany, Ireland, Italy, the United Kingdom and the U.S.A. As well, we enjoy higher than average health and education services.

A more specific comparison of Canada with our closest neighbour (Table B-8) indicates that Canada fares well in the North American context also. Although we have only one-tenth the GNP of the U.S.A. and one-ninth the population, the average Canadian enjoys a comparable standard of living. The per capita GNP in Canada is slightly less (\$379) than that in the U.S.A.; however, the hours of work in Canada and real hourly compensation have improved more, vis-à-vis our situation in 1967, than in the United States.

Unemployment, however, is higher. The spread of unemployment rates is greater in Canada (a difference of 11.5 percentage points between Alberta and Newfoundland but only 7.5 between Alaska and New Hampshire). However, the spread in per capita income is far greater in the U.S.A. between regions (a difference of \$5085 in the U.S.A. compared to \$3457 in Canada).

Table B-8 – Canada/USA Comparisons

Point of Comparison	Canada	USA
GNP (1978)		
Total in current dollars	217,700,000	2,117,700,000
Total in constant (1977) dollars	202,600,000	1,971,500,000
Consumer Price Index for Selected Items (1979)*		
Total	221.0	217.4
Food	261.8	234.5
Clothing	174.9	166.6
Housing	224.6	227.6
Transportation	206.7	212.0
Selected Indexes of Manufacturing Activity (1979)*		
Output per hour	156.3	129.2
Compensation per hour (national currency)	312.8	250.8
Real hourly compensation	141.5	115.3
Unit labour costs	200.2	194.1
Employment	108.5	108.1
Hours	105.5	107.0

*1967=100

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