



translates into an annual income gap with the United States of US\$13,297 (on a purchasing power parity basis) and \$8.64 per hour, respectively.

While Canada compares itself to the U.S. as its largest trading partner, biggest competitor, its neighbour and also the best performing economy in the world, there are an increasing number of countries outperforming Canada in terms of productivity performance. In terms of GDP per hour, not only do Norway, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the UK, Sweden, Netherlands, France, Denmark, Belgium, and Austria surpass Canada, but also France, Luxembourg and Norway outperform the U.S. as well.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Groningen Growth and Development Centre Database, February 2006.