

2.1.2 Boston (New England)

The area has a population of about 9,600,000 people or four percent of the American population. Because of a tradition of high technology development (i.e. Route 128) and world class universities (eg. M.I.T., Harvard), New England spends about 2.5 - 3 percent of its GDP on R&D.

Two way trade between Canada and New England reached US\$11 billion in 1988. Major imports were computers, semi-conductors, and telecommunications equipment although Canada exported US\$630 million in advanced technology products to the region.

TECHNOLOGY TRENDS AND STRENGTHS

The December 1989 meeting of the New England Governor's Conference focused on the importance of biotechnology to the economic future of the region. Estimates are that by the year 2000, the value of the biotech industry in New England will be over US\$100 billion. Economists forecast the creation of 100,000 biotechnology jobs in the region during this decade. New England is one of the world's top centers for biotech and biomedical research. There is a great opportunity for technology transfer, joint R&D, and joint ventures between Canadian and New England companies.

Computer software has become a growth industry in the region. There are over 1,500 software companies in Massachusetts alone with industry leaders such as Lotus, Index Technology, and Bitstream. The American headquarters of Cognos is located just outside Boston. The industry employs about 300,000 people. Many small and medium sized companies have expressed an interest in joint projects with Canadian companies.

The mini-computer industry continues to be a dominant force in the regional economy despite the nationwide slump in computer sales. Recognized industry leaders such as Digital Equipment Corp., Prime, Apollo/HP, and Data General are based in Massachusetts.

On the academic side the region is home to over 150 colleges and universities. For virtually every discipline, at least one of the top centers of study in the world is located in New England. Among these the most important are: Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.), Harvard, Tufts University, Dartmouth College and Northeastern University.

Additionally, world class research institutes in oceanography (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute), biotechnology (the Whitehead Institute), medicine (the Harvard hospitals), communications (the M.I.T., Media Lab) and engineering (the Charles Draper Stark Laboratories) are located in New England.

KEY ORGANIZATIONS AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS

These include:

- Massachusetts Office of International Trade
- Massachusetts Computer Software Council
- Massachusetts Biotech Council
- The New England Governors' Conference
- M.I.T. Industrial Liaison Program
- Harvard University Technology Transfer Office

TECHNOLOGICAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CANADIANS

Opportunities exist in ocean industries, computers, software, biotechnology, defence industries and instrumentation.

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