

10. SOPHISTICATED AND EFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE

A 1993 report published by the World Economic Forum rates countries on several competitiveness criteria. Four of these criteria – roads, railroads, air transport and ports of access – deal with the adequacy and flexibility of transportation infrastructure relative to business requirements. Canada's average rating for these criteria was the highest among G-7 nations.

A comprehensive network of roads, ports, airports and rail lines provides fast and cost-effective freight and passenger services. Deregulation has led to enhanced competition among alternative modes of transport. Rail, truck and air services are fully integrated

with U.S. networks, providing efficient access to consumers and suppliers throughout North America.

The St. Lawrence Seaway system is a major inland water route into North America's heartland, serving ports over 2,200 km from the nearest coast. Canada's Atlantic and Pacific ports are major links to Europe and the Pacific Rim.

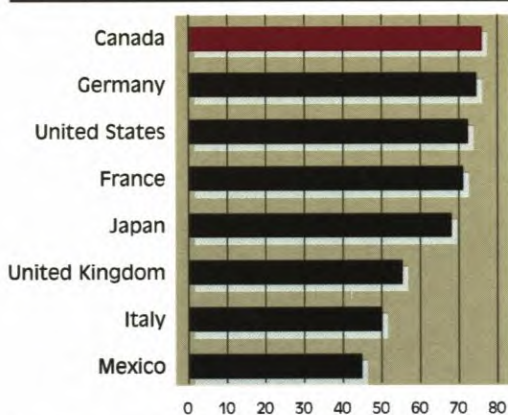
Convenient flights link business travellers with all major North American and global destinations, thanks to increased competition and the integration of North American air services.

A variety of freight cargoes can be accommodated and premium express services provide door-to-door delivery on the next business day for destinations in the U.S. and Mexico.

Canadian telecommunications suppliers have been investing heavily to provide the latest in fibre optic technology and high-speed data transmission services, and the opening of the long-distance market to increased competition will ensure that costs remain competitive. Calls to an overseas headquarters are often cheaper from Canada than from a comparable U.S. location.

For example, CANTAT-3, a high capacity transoceanic submarine fibre optic cable, scheduled to be in service by December 1, 1994, will connect North America, northern Europe and points beyond. It uses the most advanced optical fibre technologies available to

Best Transportation Infrastructure
(international comparison: average score for roads, railroads, air transport and port access - score* : 0 = low; 100 = high)



Source: The World Competitiveness Report, 1993.

* Scores measure the extent to which transportation infrastructure is developed to meet business requirements of a company competing internationally, and the adequacy of roads, railroads, air transport, and port access.