

In a ten-country comparison, Canada ranked first in manufacturing costs. We have low interest and inflation rates. Our labour costs in manufacturing (wage and non-wage) are the lowest in the G-7, including direct pay and the cost of other labour taxes, employer expenditures for legally required insurance programs and contractual and private benefit plans.

We have one of the highest ratios of computers per capita in the world and rank second only to the United States in terms of overall connectedness. We also have the second lowest Internet access charges in the world, are tied with the United States in Internet use per capita, and lead the world in the use of electronic banking. In addition, Canada ranks first among the G-7 countries in terms of the cost of wireless communications.

Canada's economy is growing rapidly. Real annual GDP growth between 1997 and 1999 averaged 3.8%. We led the G-7 in output growth in 1999, and we've continued the trend, expanding above the OECD average in 2000 (Figure 2).

Canada's workforce has an impressive skill level. Canada has a large stock of skilled workers and a strong technological environment. In fact, the overall skill level of our work force ranks first among competing countries (Figure 3). In addition, we have the highest percentage of students enrolling in post-secondary education among 59 countries, leading the United States, the United Kingdom, France and Germany.

Canada's international collaboration is on the rise. Out of the nearly 26,000 scientific papers published by Canadians in 1997, fully 35% were done in partnership with scientists in other countries. Twenty years ago, only about 15% of all our scientific papers were written with international partners. In addition, with about 0.5% of the world's population, we generate more than 4% of the world's scientific knowledge, measured in the number of scientific publications (Figure 4).

Canada's percentage of patents with foreign co-inventors is up. Canada leads the OECD countries with the percentage of patents developed in collaboration with foreign inventors, with 24% from 1993 to 1995, up from 19% between 1985 and 1987.

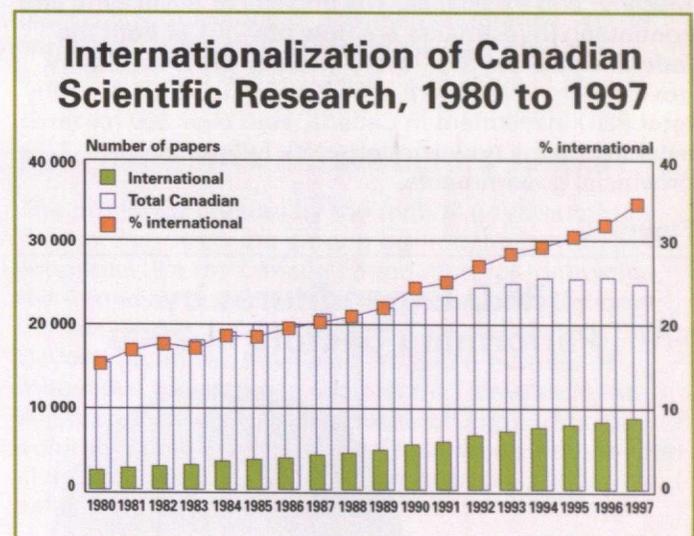
Figure 3



*Tertiary education enrollment among 59 countries considered in the Global Competitiveness Report 2000

Source: Global Competitiveness Report 2000

Figure 4



Source: Observatoire des Sciences et des Technologies, Montréal, Québec