

- Forty-two cities were studied — 27 in North America and 15 in Europe. Of 17 Canadian cities studied, 14 led the low-cost rankings. In addition, every Canadian city studied was less expensive than all U.S. cities studied.
- Low start-up costs, low telecommunications rates, low interest rates and the lowest overall tax burden of the seven countries under review gives Canada a 5.4 per cent cost advantage over the United States. Canada's cost advantage ranged from 1.8 per cent over second-place Sweden to 11.8 per cent over seventh-place Germany.
- There are other key findings regarding Canada.
 - Compared with the United States, business costs in Canada are about \$1 million a year lower for an average firm of about 100 employees with revenues of \$10 million. Canada's cost advantage over some other countries studied was even greater.
 - Canada's effective corporate income tax rate — including federal, regional and local taxes — is among the lowest of the seven countries studied.
- The study reinforces the many positive forecasts made by international organizations about Canada. The International Monetary Fund recently predicted that Canada would lead the industrial world in economic growth in 1997 and 1998.
- The study also complements overall federal initiatives to increase investment in Canada, such as spreading this positive message abroad, focusing on priority industry sectors, helping small and medium enterprises to grow through investment partnerships and venture capital, and forging new alliances among the three levels of government and the private sector.