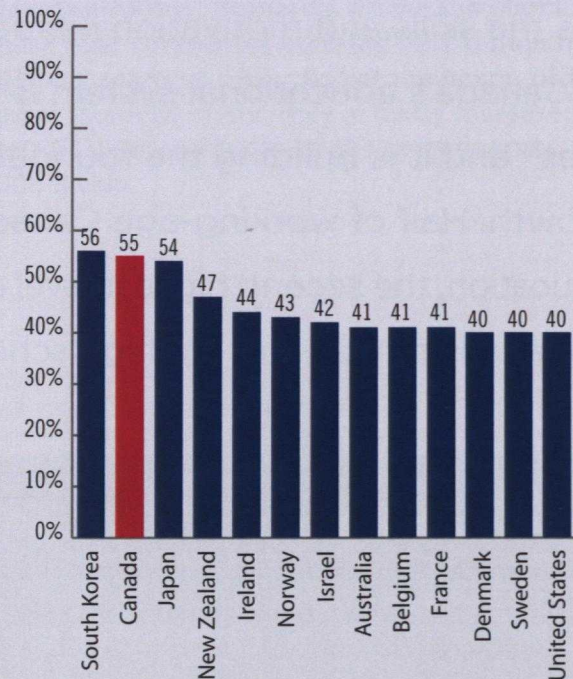


- No. 1 in the G-7 in quality of primary education (No. 9 in the world); and
- No. 1 in the G-7 in quality of math and science education (No. 10 in the world).

In addition to the very high level of education, a distinctive feature of Canadian society is its diverse population. Canada's multicultural and multilingual workforce offers unique advantages to companies seeking to serve global markets. According to the most recent Canadian Census, over 20 percent of Canada's population has a mother tongue other than English or French,¹⁸ and these language skills are a definite asset when providing quality business and professional services to global customers.

The high quality of life that Canada offers also plays a key role in the availability of highly-skilled workers. In its well-regarded 2010 *Quality of Living Survey*, Mercer LLC ranked Vancouver No. 1, Ottawa No. 2, Toronto No. 3, Montréal No. 4 and Calgary No. 5 in North America when it comes to their quality of life. Canadian cities are safe and the Canadian way of life is inclusive and respectful of diversity and creativity—the ingredients knowledge workers are looking for in a global marketplace. Not only is Canada beautiful and safe, Canada is ranked first in the G-7 for offering equal opportunities to individuals, according to the IMD *World Competitiveness Yearbook 2010*. Canada is clearly a place where the most sought-after workers in the world want to live and work.

FIGURE 6: PERCENTAGE OF INDIVIDUALS 25 - 64 YEARS OF AGE ATTAINING POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION IN OECD COUNTRIES



Source: OECD, *Education at a Glance 2010*, p. 36.

¹⁸ Statistics Canada. <<http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/demol1a-eng.htm>>