

Boston Seafood Show and the International Hardware Show are perhaps the best examples. While historical data regarding participants was not available, US Trade, Tourism and Investment Development Bureau officials believe that Canadian participation would demonstrate similar patterns as that shown by the European shows.

39. Chenier and Prince, p. 132. This is not intended as a critique of business practices. Companies are fully within their right to obtain full benefits from government programs and services; our concern, from a policy perspective, is are we stimulating new activity or subsidizing ongoing activity. Available studies and data suggest that this may indeed be the case for a number of regular users of government programs.

40. This has been changed recently from two percent on four years' sales. Original repayment provisions were one percent over seven years.

41. We have analyzed the amounts approved in relation to the amounts expended by region in order to see whether the analysis understates success rates (significant variations could indicate that successful companies have not bothered to file for support). It would appear, with the notable exception of export consortia and sales offices, no significant variations exists among regions. The following table shows actual expenditures as a percentage of amounts approved:

Region	A	B	C	D	E	F	Average
Africa	64.5%	66.8%	60.1%	50.9%	107.4%	58.7%	65.0%
North America	66.4%	70.9%	77.2%	55.0%	77.0%	52.3%	69.6%
Central America	57.4%	65.7%	75.4%	44.0%	52.0%	36.1%	59.0%
South America	54.4%	68.5%	65.1%	49.4%	210.9%	18.6%	55.9%
Asia Pacific	55.5%	72.8%	75.6%	61.2%	126.2%	61.0%	63.0%
Western Europe	63.4%	70.5%	70.1%	61.4%	63.3%	42.6%	63.6%
Eastern Europe	54.2%	68.9%	74.3%	49.2%	136.7%	103.0%	58.4%
Middle East	58.5%	63.4%	77.2%	36.5%	67.2%	37.2%	59.3%

42. Internal memorandum.

43. A summary check by each geographic region over the past two years revealed broadly comparable approval rates. Eastern Europe had the lowest approval rate (59.4 percent) followed by Africa (62.7 percent), North America (73.4 percent), Western Europe (72.4 percent), Asia Pacific (71.6 percent) and South America (71.5 percent). Central America (64.6 percent) and the Middle East (67.3 percent) complete the picture of a comparatively automatic approval process.