

Overview



Close to the U.S. but multi-cultural with a global mind-set

Most of Canada's population of 35 million people live within 200 kilometres of the United States. In fact, the inhabitants of the country's three biggest cities — Toronto, Montréal and Vancouver — can drive to the U.S. border in two hours or less.

While being close to the U.S., the inhabitants of Canada's large cities including Ottawa, Calgary, Edmonton, Québec City, Winnipeg, the Waterloo Region, Halifax, and Saskatoon are more culturally diverse and multi-lingual. One in every five Canadians has a mother tongue other than English or French, and both Asian and European languages are spoken extensively.

This diversity extends to geographic trading links. Recent multi-billion-dollar investments in port, rail, road and air transportation infrastructure have attracted major third-party distribution and

logistics companies establishing operations in Canada's large cities. This, combined with the national initiative to eliminate tariffs on all manufacturing inputs, means that international companies wanting to undertake value-added manufacturing can enjoy zero tariffs and excellent supply chain efficiencies from their Canadian operations.

For companies in the services sector, value chains are increasingly global in nature, and Canada's large cities share time zones with North and Latin America. Canadian operations of foreign companies are highly integrated with those located throughout the western hemisphere.

Canada's large cities also offer excellent human resource capabilities and infrastructure advantages over other North American destinations for activities such as customer support and back office financial and information technology operations.

Consider Canada's large cities for global trade and investment opportunities

Most trade and investment flows through the world's cities. That's why 11 economic development agencies from Canada's large cities work together as the Consider Canada City Alliance to promote Canada as an ideal destination for global trade and investment.

As a united front, Canada's large cities help international companies determine the best strategies for business expansion and continually improve Canada's ability to attract new investment and trade opportunities. These large cities accounted for 72% of GDP growth and 90% of job growth in Canada between 2007 and 2012.

Canada is an aggressive trading nation. A growing list of trade agreements represent the most ambitious trade expansion plan in Canadian history. Global inflows of foreign direct investment (FDI) rose by 17% to \$1,509 billion in 2011, up from \$1,290 billion in 2010. Consider Canada's stellar socio-economic fundamentals:

- Rated as having the world's soundest banking system five years in a row by the World Economic Forum
- Fastest economic growth among G7 countries expected for 2013 according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- Lowest net debt-to-GDP ratio in the G7 according to the IMF

- Lowest overall tax rate on new business investment in the G7
- Highest proportion of college and university graduates among OECD countries — 51% of the adult population has a post-secondary degree
- One of the most generous R&D tax incentives in the industrialized world
- Lowest costs in G7 for R&D intensive sectors, with up to a 10.7% advantage over the U.S.
- High quality of life featuring public healthcare
- A commitment to the rule of law and a strong justice system

Which Canadian city is right for your business? Instead of evaluating each large Canadian city in isolation, economic development professionals from Toronto, Montréal, Vancouver, Ottawa, Calgary, Edmonton, Québec City, Winnipeg, the Waterloo Region, Halifax, and Saskatoon work together every day to rapidly guide companies to Canada's best trade and investment opportunities.

Consider Canada's large cities today!



Canada's current trade expansion plan is the most ambitious in the country's history

Canada offers the world's soundest banking system to support new investment and has a growing list of trade agreements that represent the most ambitious trade expansion plan in Canadian history.

The country's strong focus on innovation and creativity encourages entrepreneurs and makes new entrants welcome. Canada's educated talent base and strategically leveraged natural resources sector add irresistible appeal for expanding international companies.

On average, it takes only one government procedure to register a company in Canada, and the entire process, often done online, takes about five days.

At a time when many countries are raising corporate income taxes, Canada's corporate taxes are decreasing.

At a time when many countries are raising corporate income taxes, Canada's corporate taxes are decreasing. Employers in Canada's large cities enjoy the lowest payroll taxes among their counterparts in G7 countries, and in 2013 Canada's combined federal-provincial statutory general corporate income tax rate averages 26% — 13% less than the average U.S. rate.

National free trade zone and international free trade

As part of the campaign to reduce tax burden on businesses, Canada is the first G20 member to have made itself a tariff-free zone for manufacturers by eliminating tariffs on manufacturing inputs, machinery and equipment.

Canada's large cities are also situated within a national Free Trade Zone that stretches from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans. The

North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) offers businesses in Canada access to 460 million consumers and a combined GDP of \$17 trillion across Canada, Mexico and the U.S.

Canada is currently advancing the Canada-EU Trade Agreement (CETA), has joined the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), and also joined the Canada-India Trade Agreement (CITA).

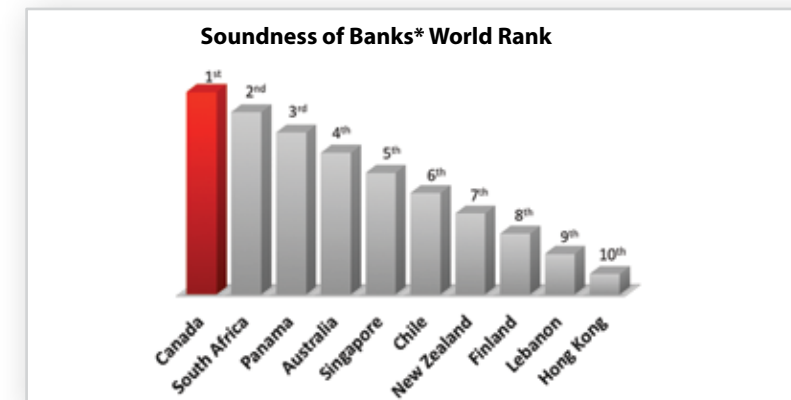
Canada's large cities recognize the significance of China. China's attractive, dynamic economy continues to grow by 8% annually and as of 2013, China became Canada's second-largest trading partner country, second only to the U.S.

Major R&D advantages

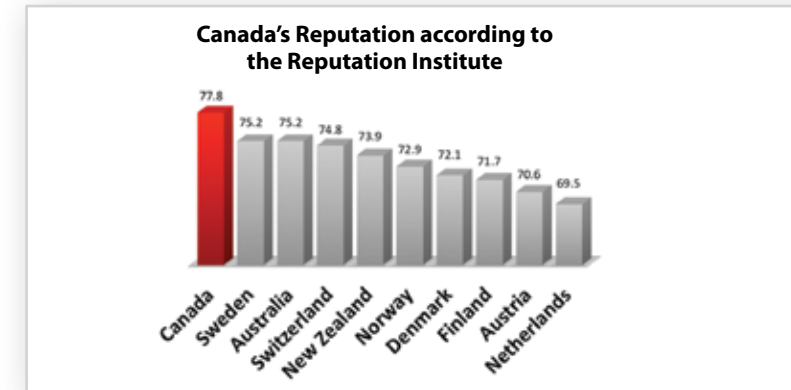
Canada offers one of the most generous R&D tax incentives in the industrialized world. For foreign investors, combined federal and provincial credits can return, on average, up to 30% of their R&D investment made in the country.

When measured as a share of GDP, Canada also has the G7's highest expenditures on R&D conducted in institutions of higher education. According to the Swiss-based International Institute for Management Development, Canada has the highest number of qualified engineers in the G7. These tens of thousands of scientists and engineers — along with their peers in Canada's hundreds of research institutions and world-class universities — do cutting-edge research across the country in sectors including:

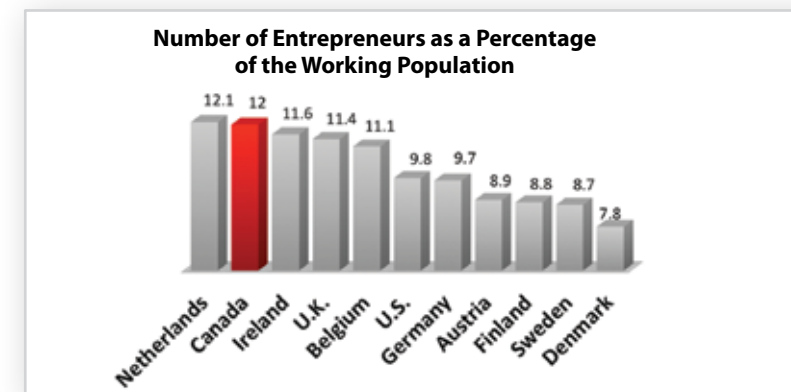
- **Advanced manufacturing** (automotive, aerospace and defence)
- **Machinery and equipment** (metalworking, mining oil and gas, agricultural)
- **Agri-food production and processing** (grain and oilseed, meat, nutraceuticals)
- **Chemicals and plastics** (petrochemicals, synthetic resins, agricultural chemicals)
- **Clean technologies** (renewable energy, environmental)
- **Information and Communications technology** (digital media, software, wireless communications)
- **Life sciences** (biopharmaceuticals, medical devices)
- **Oceans technology** (climate change, biodiversity, renewable energy)
- **Business services** (engineering, IT outsourcing, banking and asset management)



*Standing among 142 countries. Ranking based on the degree of soundness of financial institutions. Source: Global Competitiveness Report, 2011-2012
 ** Standing among 500 world banks based on total assets and long-term credit ratings. Source: Global Finance Magazine, October 2011



Source: The Reputation Institute, 2012



Source: Statistics Netherlands 2011

Fast facts

Why Canada

Canada offers the world's soundest banking system to support new investment and has a growing list of trade agreements that represent the most ambitious trade expansion plan in Canadian history.

Economic fundamentals

The compelling list of reasons to consider Canada's large cities starts with the country's stellar socio-economic fundamentals:

- Fastest economic growth among G7 countries expected for 2013
- Lowest net debt-to-GDP ratio in the G7 according to the IMF
- Lowest overall tax rate on new business investment in the G7
- Highest proportion of college and university graduates in the OECD
- One of the most generous R&D tax incentives in the industrialized world
- High quality of life featuring public healthcare
- A commitment to the rule of law and a strong justice system

About ConsiderCanada.com

Most trade and investment flows through the world's cities. That's why 11 economic development agencies from Canada's large cities work together as the Consider Canada City Alliance to promote Canada as an ideal destination for global trade and investment.

Which Canadian city is right for your business? Instead evaluating each large Canadian city in isolation, economic development professionals from Toronto, Montréal, Vancouver, Ottawa, Calgary, Edmonton, Québec City, Winnipeg, the Waterloo Region, Halifax, and Saskatoon work together every day to rapidly guide companies to Canada's best trade and investment opportunities.

more...