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Canada

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CANADA

Canada has a unique innovation landscape and its science and innovation profile displays notable strengths. It has strong human resources in science and technology (HRST) and HRST occupations are well represented in total employment. It counts 22.4% of science and engineering graduates in total university graduates, slightly above the OECD average. Canada has a high share of tertiary-level graduates in total employment, 58% of whom are women. Researcher numbers increased more slowly in 2007 to 8.3 per thousand total employment, but remained above average.

However, gross expenditure on R&D (GERD) has declined as a share of GDP since 2005. After reaching around 2.1% of GDP between 2001 and 2005, it fell to 1.8% in 2008. GERD per capita is also relatively low. GERD financed by industry fell from 50% in 2004 to 48% in 2008, while government financing increased from 31% to 32%. Business expenditure on R&D (BERD) fell to 1% of GDP in 2008, below the OECD average of 1.6%. Defined broadly, venture capital represented 0.08% of GDP in 2008.

In 2008, triadic patents were 19 per million population, about half the OECD average, and accounted for 1.4% of total triadic patent families. Scientific publication output was above average in 2008 with 1 356 scientific articles per million population, for 2.7% of the world's scientific publications, the sixth highest in the OECD. Canadian manufacturing firms performed well in terms of new-to-market

product innovations during 2002-04. Around 36% of BERD was performed in service industries in 2006.

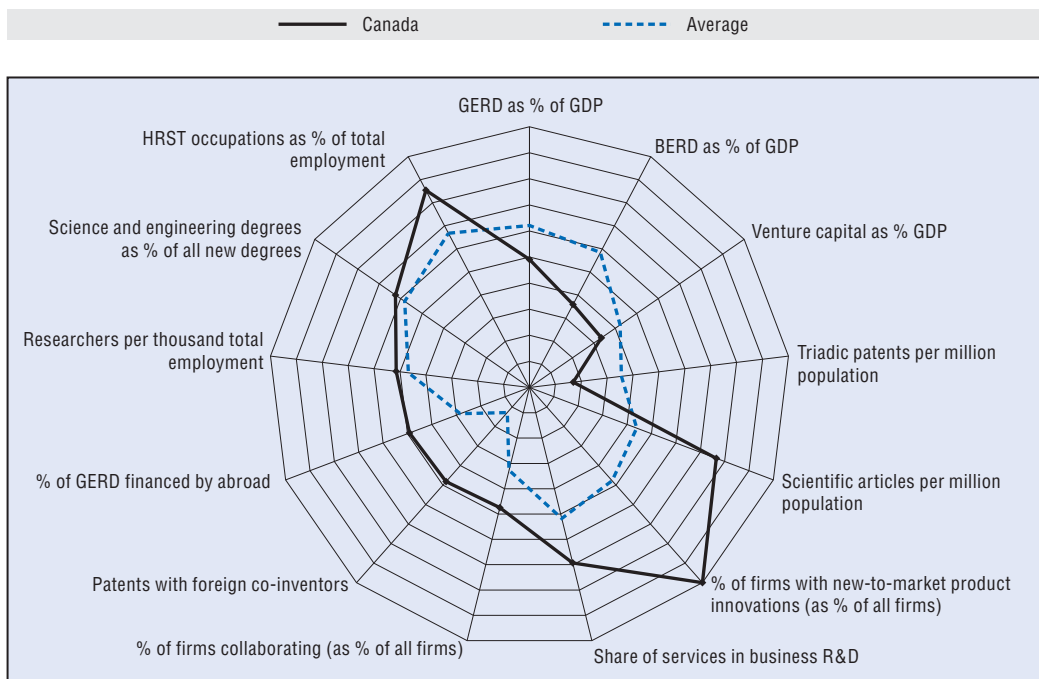
Canada displays sound linkages and collaboration. The percentage of manufacturing firms collaborating on innovation activities is above average, and in 2008 a relatively high 9% of GERD was financed from abroad. Almost 30% of patents were developed with foreign co-inventors in 2005-07.

Canada's average annual real GDP growth was around 2.4% between 2001 and 2008, but contracted by 2.6 % in 2009, while the unemployment rate increased to 8.5%. Relative to the United States, GDP per capita was 83% in 2008, and GDP per hour worked was 78%.

The 2007 Federal S&T Strategy, Mobilizing Science and Technology to Canada's Advantage, remains the main policy framework for Canada's innovation policies. It aims to foster competitiveness through investments in three key areas: entrepreneurial advantage, knowledge advantage and people advantage. It is founded on four core principles: promoting world-class excellence; focusing on priorities; fostering partnerships; and enhancing accountability.

In June 2009 the government released a progress report on the implementation of the strategy, expressing its commitment to bring forward investments to make Canada a world leader in science and technology.

Science and innovation profile of Canada

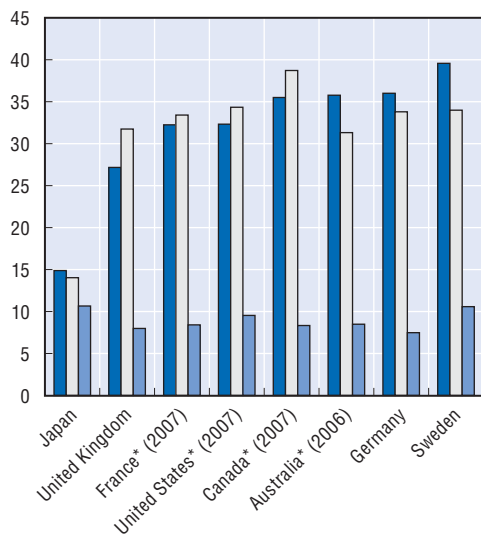


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Human resources in science and technology (HRST)

Selected indicators, 2007-08

- HRST occupations as % of total employment in 2008
- Science and engineering degrees as % of new degrees in 2007
- Researchers per thousand of total employment in 2008*

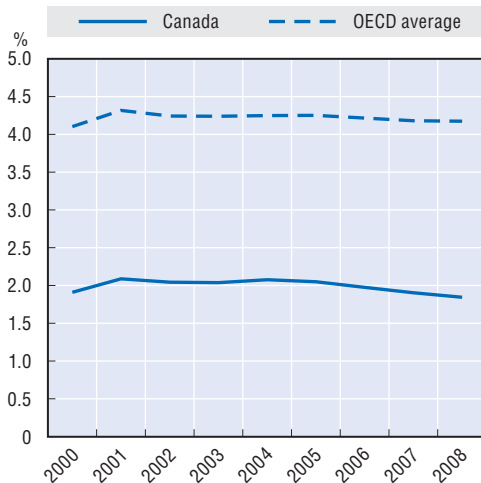


* Or nearest available year.

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Gross expenditure on R&D

As a percentage of GDP, 2000-08



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