



# The future of productivity

Clear choices for a competitive Canada

Industry Canada

November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012

# Deloitte believes that unless immediate collective action is taken productivity will be the most significant threat to Canada's standard of living

$$\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{Employment rate} \\ \hline \text{\% of total population} \\ \text{that is employed} \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{Work effort} \\ \hline \frac{\text{Hours}}{\text{Worker}} \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{Productivity} \\ \hline \frac{\text{Output}}{\text{Hour}} \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \text{Standard of living} \\ \hline \frac{\text{GDP}}{\text{Population}} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Is this a problem for Canada?

**No**

Canada's unemployment rate is comparable to the U.S. over the last few decades

**No**

Canadians work a similar number of hours as the U.S. and European OECD countries

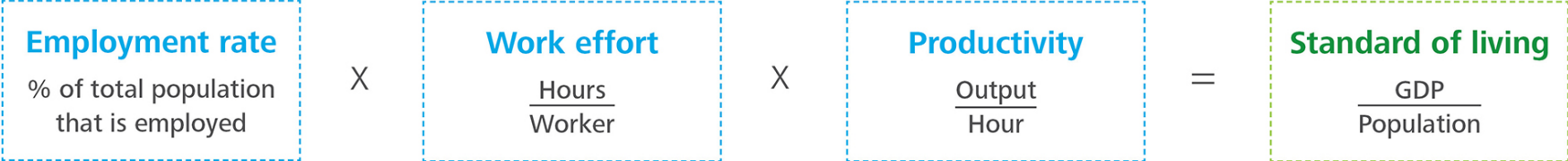
**Yes**

Canada's productivity growth has been declining in recent years on both an absolute basis and relative to its peers

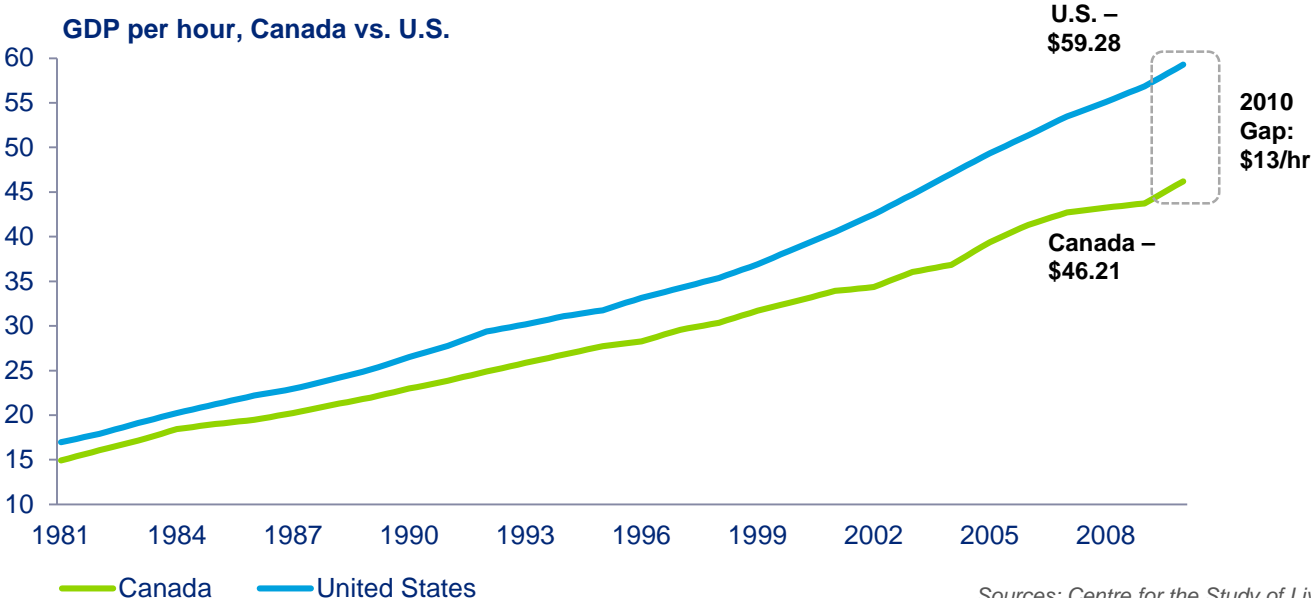
**Yes**

GDP per capita is increasing at a slower rate than many of our peers

# Over the past three decades a major productivity gap has emerged between Canada and the United States



Over the past 30 years, productivity growth has taken different paths in Canada and the United States



Sources: Centre for the Study of Living Standards, OECD

# Our research on Canadian productivity dispels long standing myths and highlights growth as a key driver of productivity

## Common myths about productivity



### Size distribution

- **The size of our firms does not matter**, as small, medium, and large Canadian firms all trail the U.S. in productivity
- Productivity needs to **improve at all firm sizes**



### Sector composition

- **Sector composition does not matter**. Research shows we lag the U.S. in most sectors
- **Lagging sectors need a productivity boost**

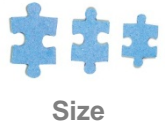
## Key driver of productivity



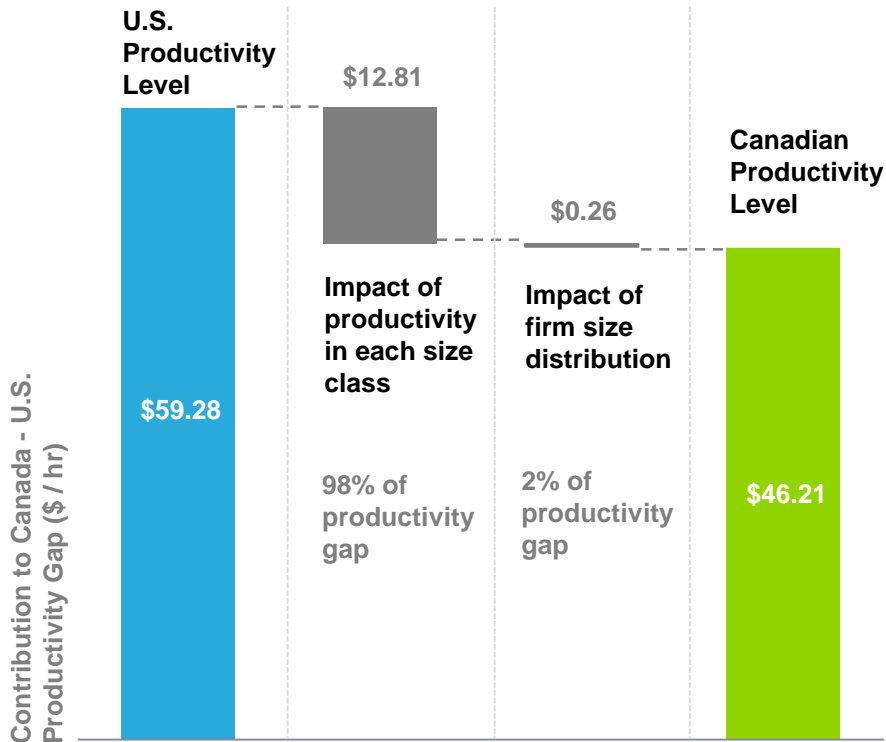
### Growth

- **Growth, is the simple solution to productivity**. High growth firms exhibit higher productivity levels
- To improve productivity, we need to **stimulate high firm-level growth**

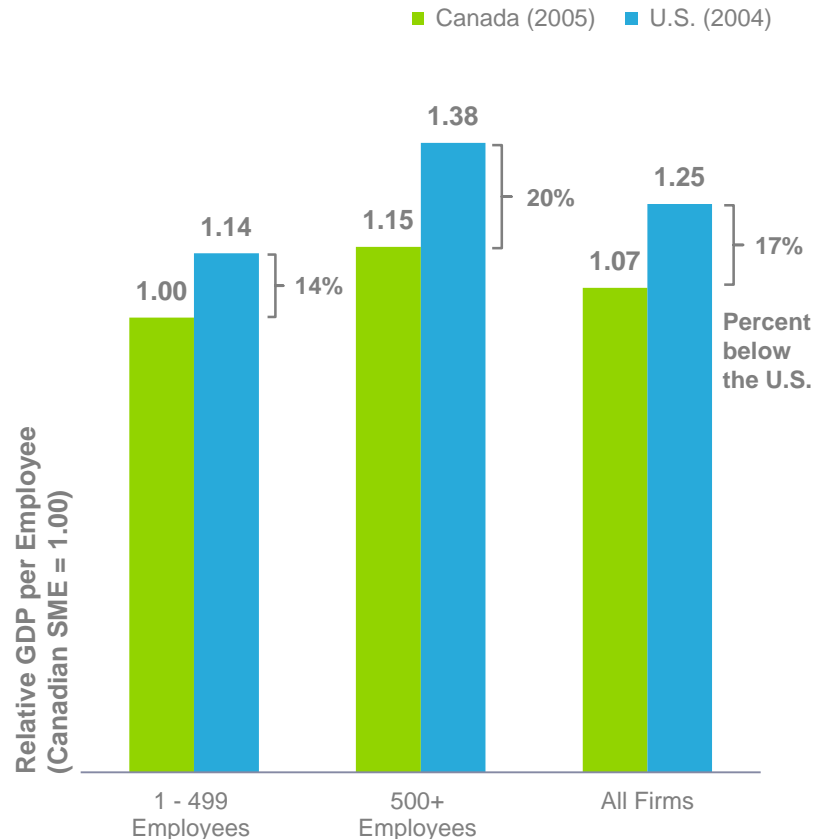
# Our analysis shows that differences in size distribution account for only 2% of the Canada – U.S. productivity gap



## Contribution to Canada – U.S. productivity gap, 2009



## Relative productivity by firm size in Canada and U.S.



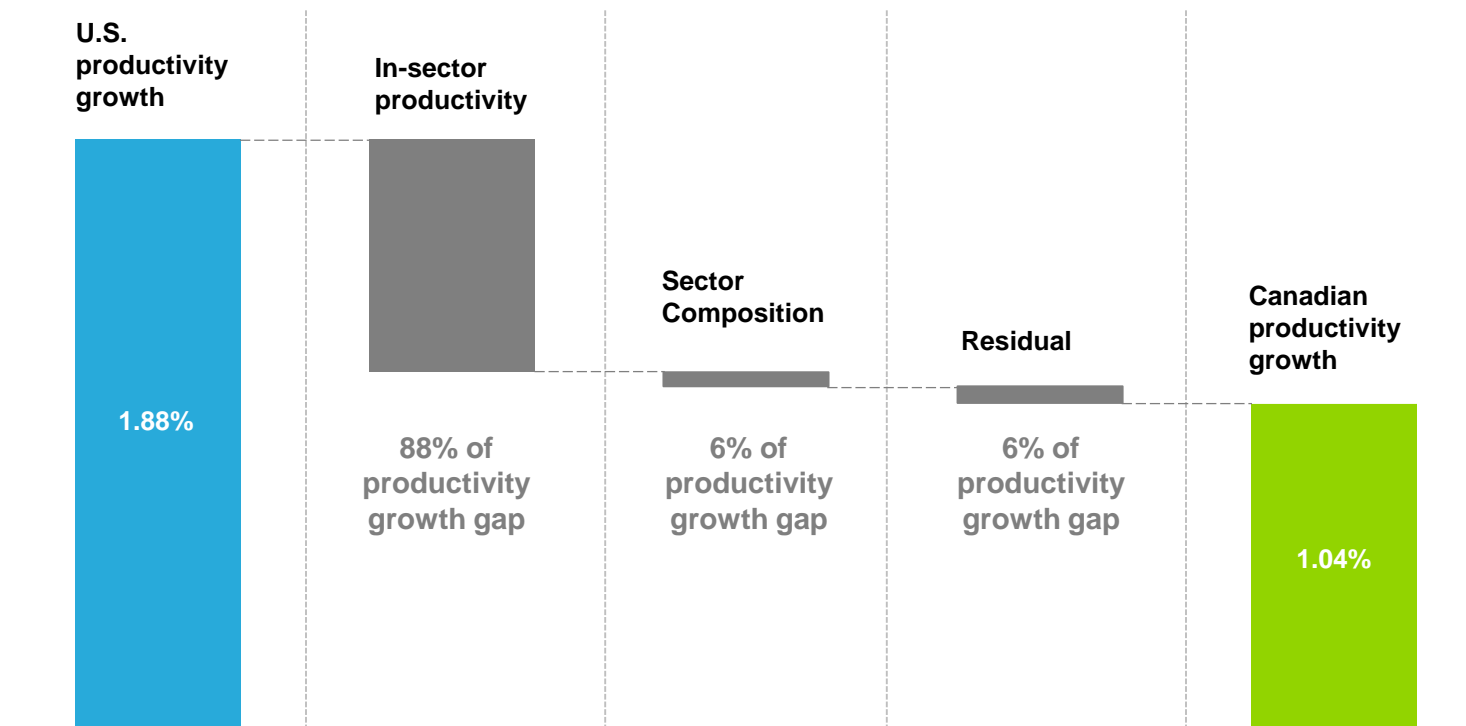
**Note:** Productivity gap refers to the Business sector, excluding Public Administration, but including Public Education and Healthcare. Productivity is defined as annual GDP per employee.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Industry Canada, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Deloitte Analysis

# Similarly, weaker productivity growth within a range of sectors, not sector composition drives the productivity gap between Canada and the U.S.



Contribution to Canada – U.S. productivity growth gap, 1987-2008



Source: Centre for the Study of Living Standards, Statistics Canada, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

# Interestingly, evidence indicates that growth is a strong driver of improvements in firm level productivity for all but the smallest firms ...



## U.S. productivity by firm size and growth rate



### Observations

- From 2002-2006, high-growth firms exhibited a 94% productivity advantage over low-growth peers in the 20-499 employee segment, and a 40% productivity advantage over low-growth peers in the 500+ employee segment

**Note:** High Growth U.S. Firms are defined as firms with 100% revenue growth over a 4-year period and an Employment Growth Quantifier of >2 for the same period. The EGQ is the product of the absolute job change and the percent job change.

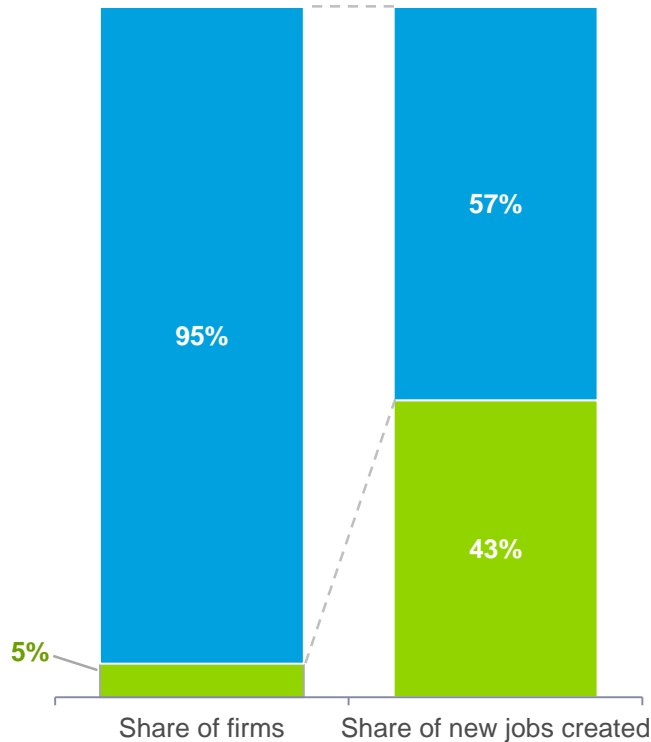
Source: U.S. Small Business Administration

# ... and a small percentage of these high growth firms contribute a disproportionate amount of Canada's job and revenue growth

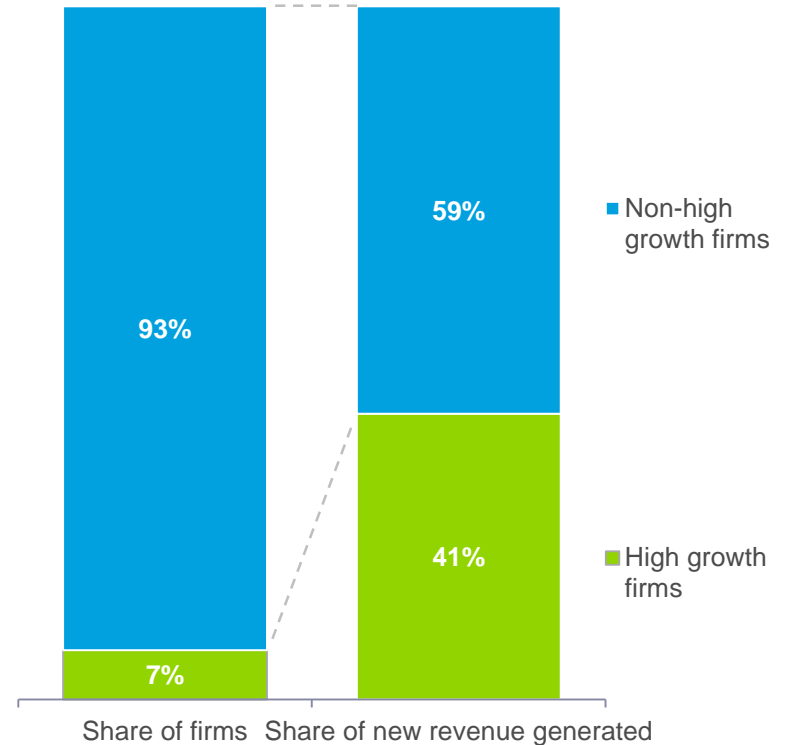


## Economic impact of high growth firms, 2001-2006

Firms by employment growth



Firms by revenue growth



**Note:** High Growth Firms are defined as firms averaging 20%+ annualized growth in employment or revenue over a 5 year period.

Scope is limited to private sector firms with 10-250 employees and \$30K-\$50M revenues in 2001.

Source: Industry Canada, U.S. Small Business Administration



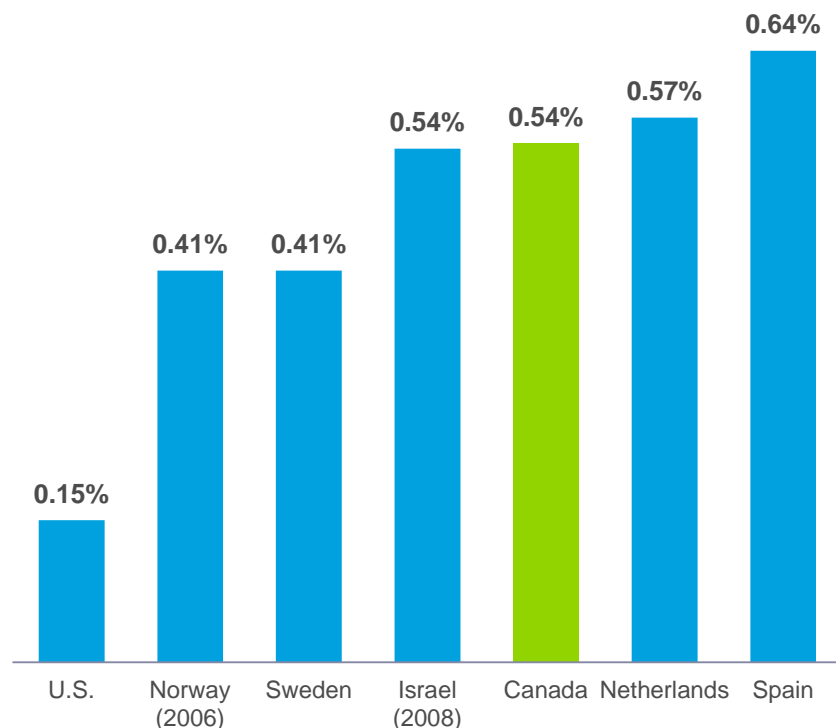
# Although Canada has a high level of entrepreneurial activity, over time our firms are unable to sustain high growth compared to other OECD nations



## Growth in services firms, 2005 - 2007

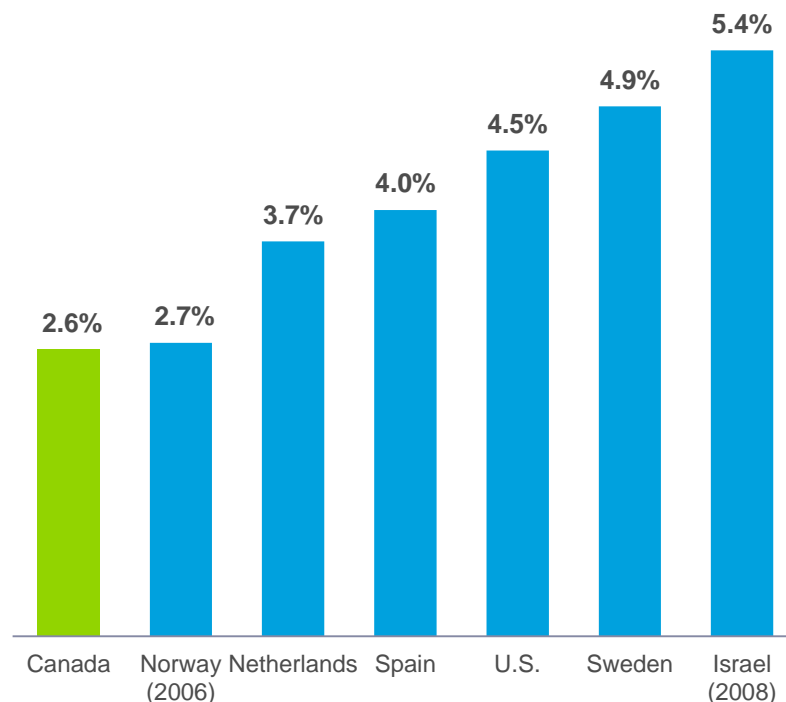
### Young Firms (< 5 years old)

Percentage of high growth firms by country



### Mature Firms (> 5 years old)

Percentage of high growth firms by country



**Note:** High growth firms are defined as firms with 20%+ annualized employment growth over a 3 year period. Scope of firms is limited to those with 10-250 employees with \$30K-\$50M revenues in the first year of the period. Similar trend is observed in manufacturing firms.

Source: OECD

# Factors affecting growth

## This inability to sustain growth is due to factors such as a lack of competitive intensity, low risk tolerance, poor trade activity and weak investment

### Lack of competitive intensity



- High competitive intensity drives higher levels of growth, innovation and investment
- Canada's focus on preserving the status quo has caused businesses to shy away from competition

### Low risk tolerance



- Canadian business leaders are substantially more risk averse than U.S. leaders
- As Canadian companies mature, they become less likely to engage in activities that contribute to rapid growth

### Poor trade activity



- Openness to trade has a tangible positive effect on GDP and income growth
- Canadian firms have very poor export intensity compared to counterparts in advanced economies

### Weak investment

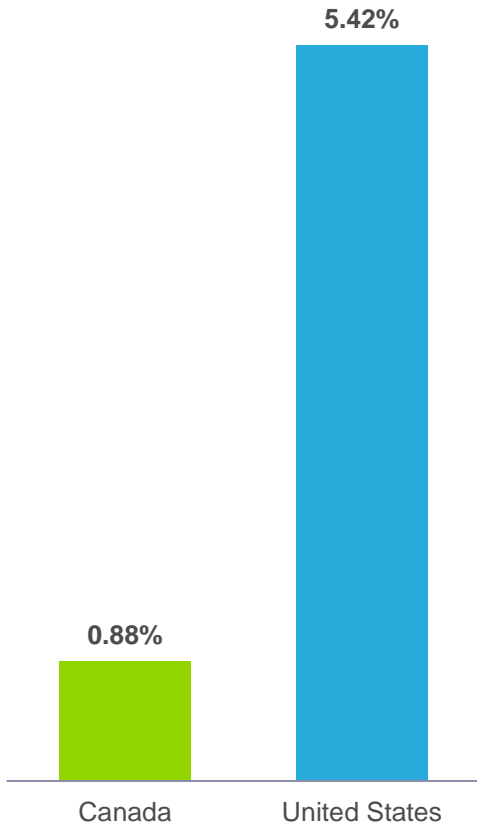


- Investment in R&D and ICT improves productivity growth
- Canadian investment in R&D and ICT lags other OECD countries

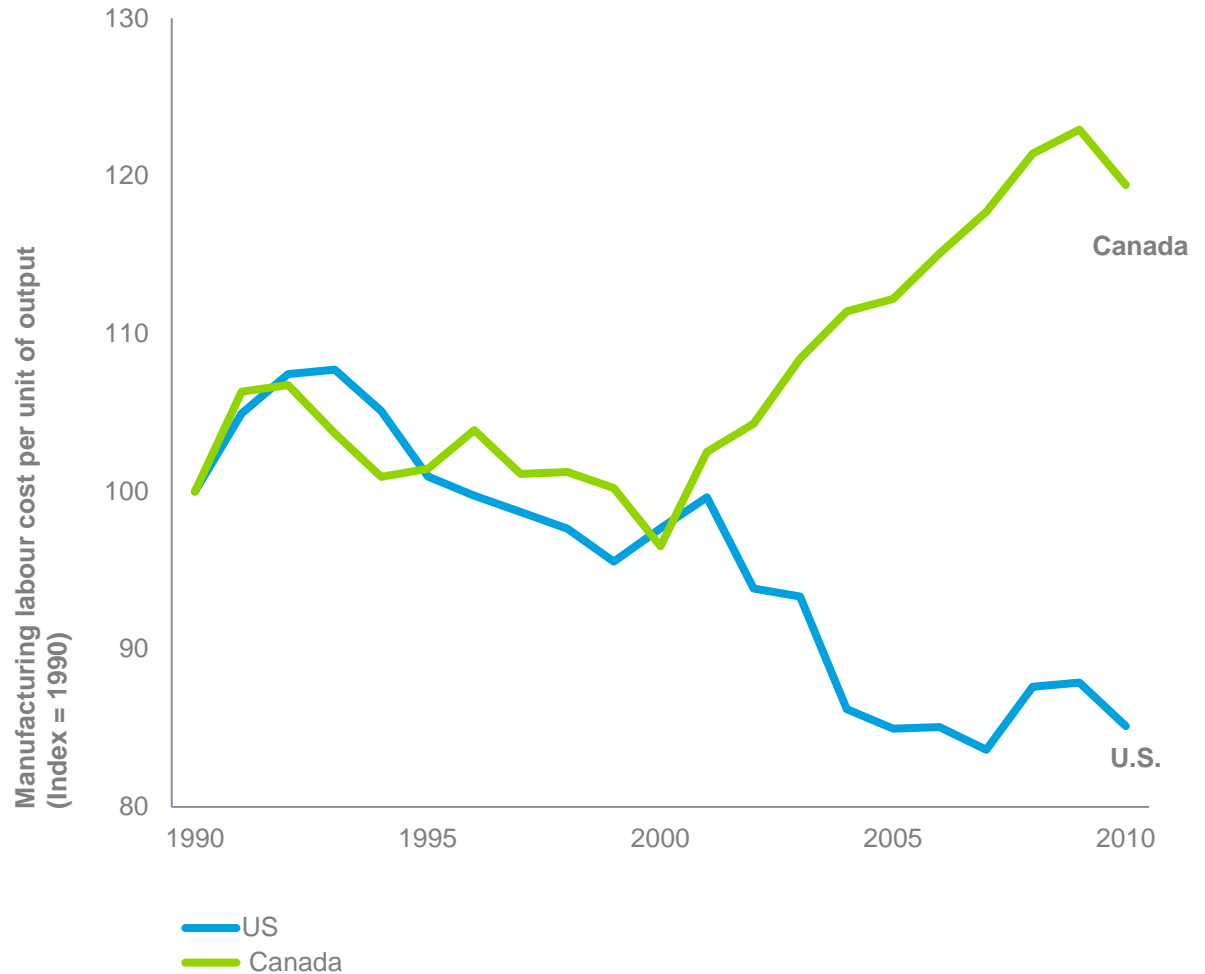
# Lack of competitive intensity in manufacturing, partly due to a weak Canadian dollar, led to an enormous gap in productivity growth



Manufacturing productivity, CAGR 2000 - 2008



Manufacturing labour cost per unit of output, 1990 - 2010



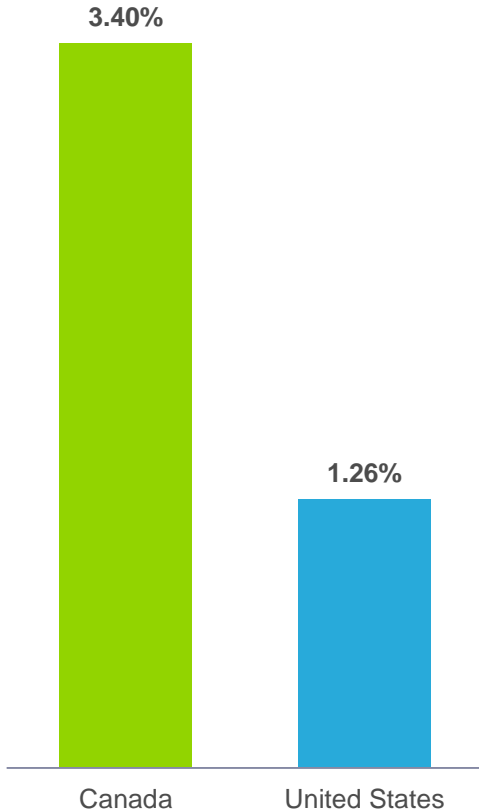
Source: Centre for the Study of Living Standards, OECD

# In contrast, Canada's retail sector outperformed the U.S. as foreign entrants increased competitive intensity and stimulated adoption of best practices

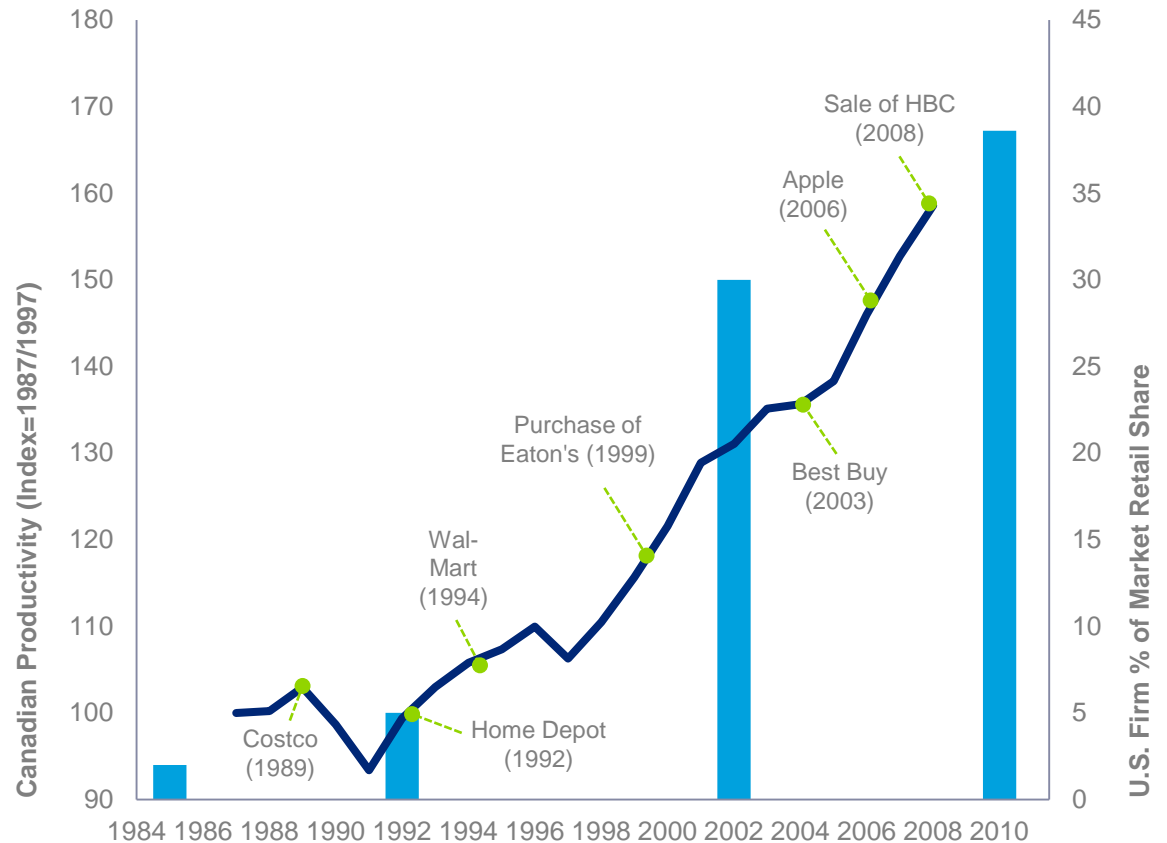


Competitive intensity

Retail productivity growth, CAGR 2000-2008



Canadian retail productivity and U.S. share of sales, 1984-2010



Source: Centre for the Study of Living Standards

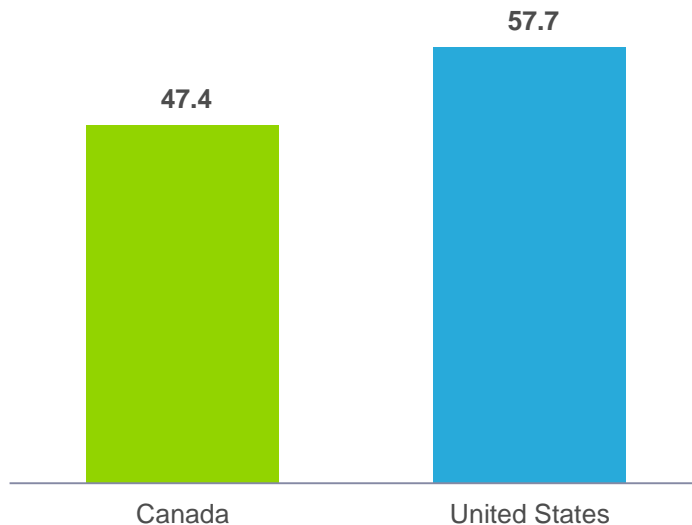
■ US Share of Retail Sales    — Labour Productivity    -●- New market entrants

# Our research shows that many Canadian small business owners choose not to be growth oriented which may be attributable to higher risk aversion

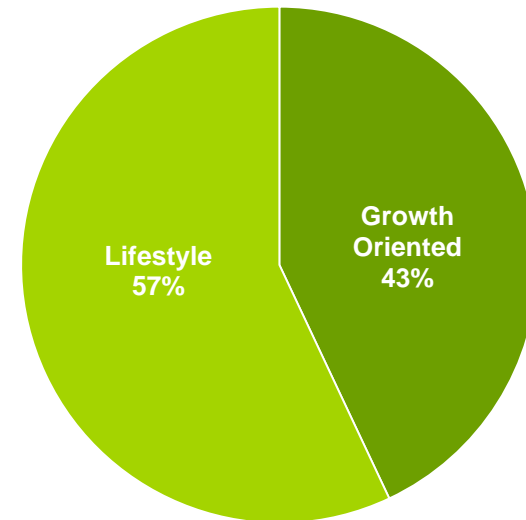


Risk  
tolerance

## The Deloitte executive risk behaviour index



## Growth attitudes of Canadian small business owners, 2005



### Observations

- The Deloitte risk behaviour index was constructed based on a wide array of factors including a firm's risk practices, R&D involvement, and reliance on government support
- Canadian firms exhibited a greater need for government incentives to induce productivity-boosting behaviours

### Observations

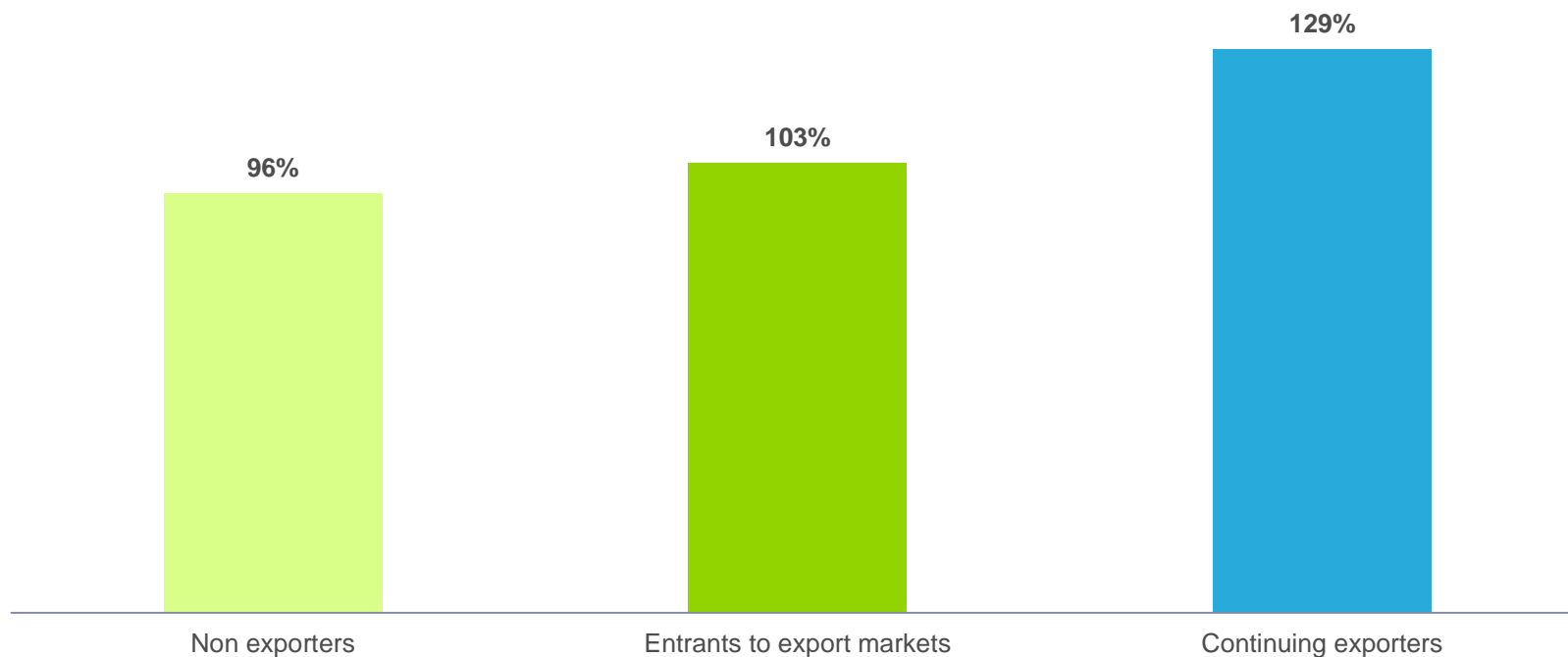
- 57% of small business owners consider their business a "lifestyle" choice – a source of income that importantly affords the owner work-life balance and flexibility
- 75% of American entrepreneurs surveyed find the desire to build wealth to be an important or very important motivation

Source: Source: Deloitte, CIBC, Small Business Outlook Poll, Kauffman Foundation

## Evidence shows that businesses who participate in the export market experience better productivity levels than non-exporters



### Manufacturing exporters productivity level, 2006



#### Observations

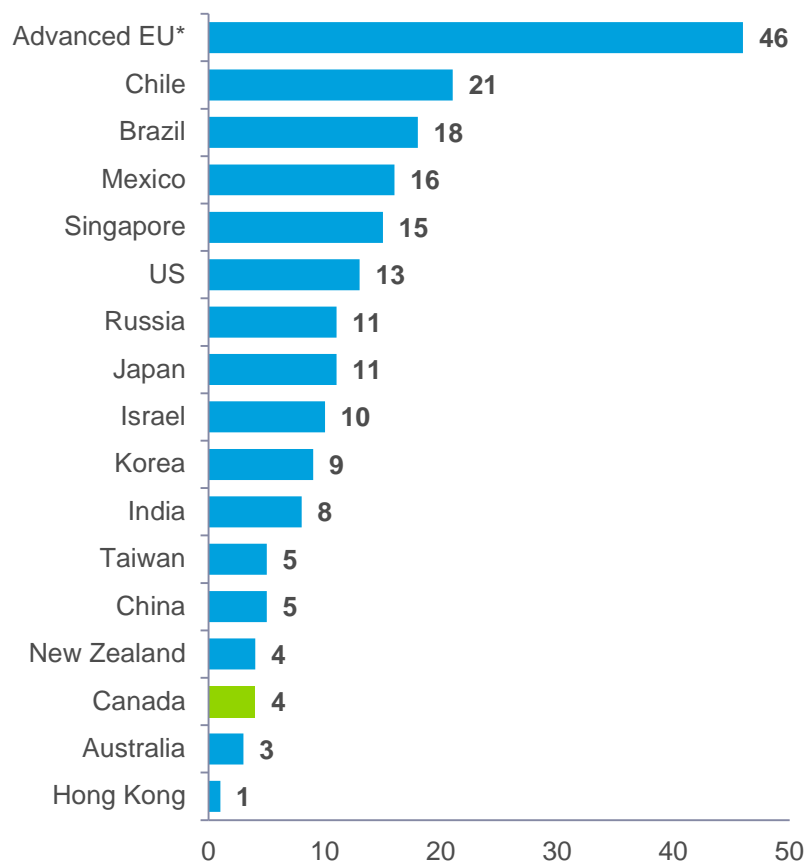
- Firms that enter international markets are more productive than firms that do not, as exporting leads increased competition and exposure to best practices
- Non-exporters that pursued new provincial domestic markets also saw productivity gains over those maintaining the status quo

Source: Statistics Canada

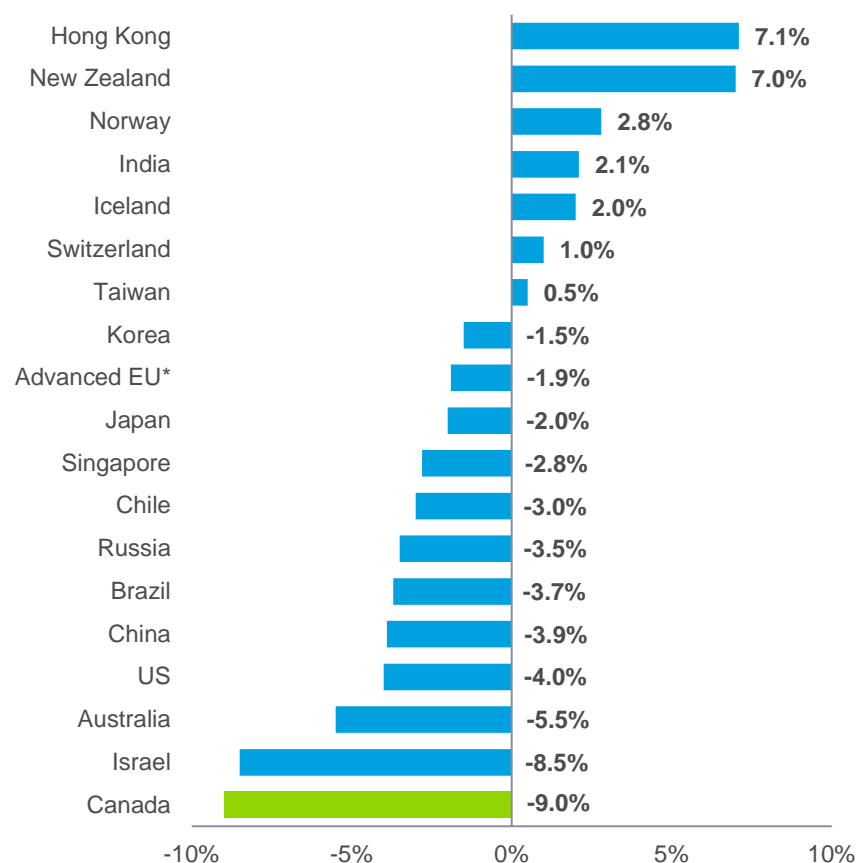
# However, Canada exhibits an over-reliance on U.S. markets, reducing exposure to global competition and best-practices



Number of FTAs with developing countries, 2010



Merchandise trade covered by FTAs, 2000-2008



Source: World Bank, OECD, International Trade Centre

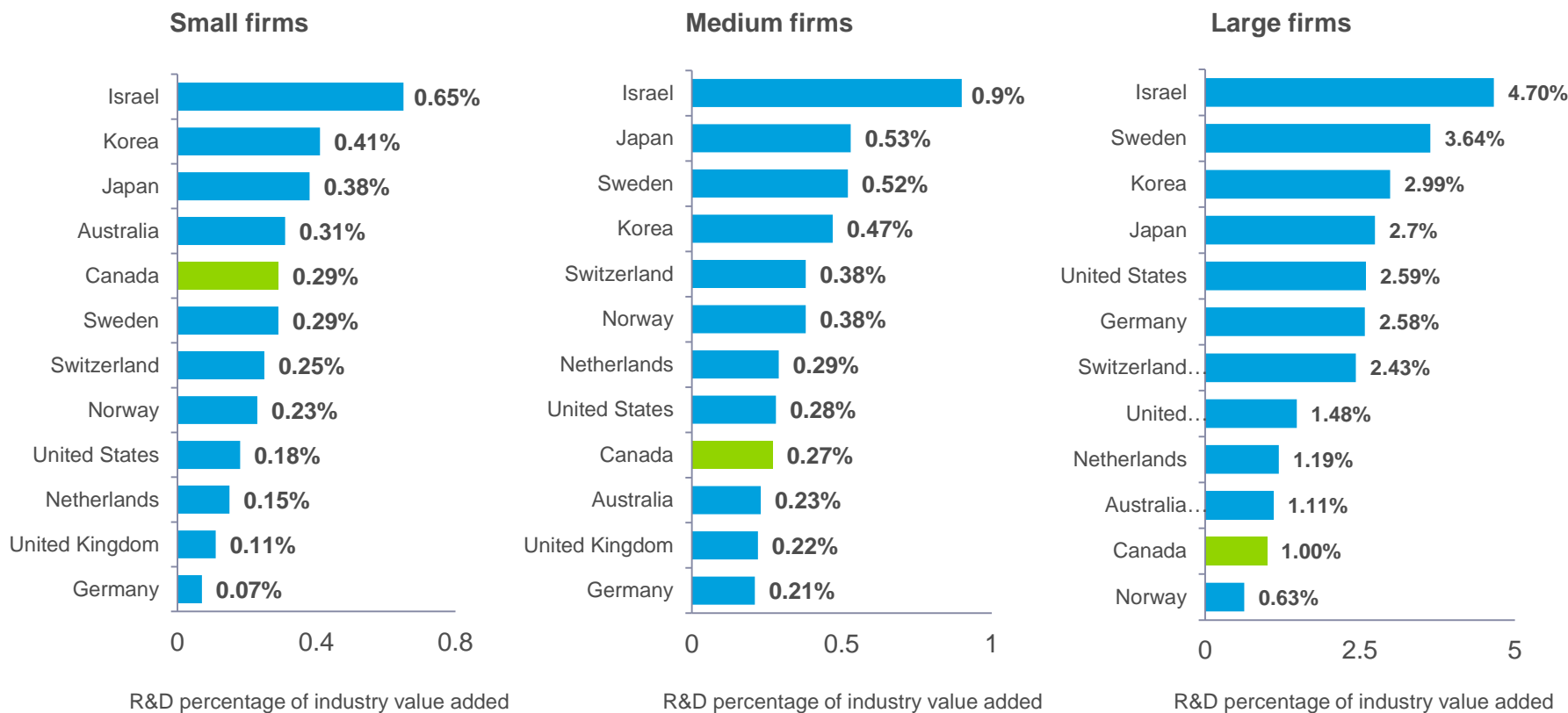
Percentage change in total merchandise trade covered by FTAs



# Canada's weak R&D investment as a percentage of GDP substantially lags other OECD countries across all firm sizes



## Business R&D intensity, 2007



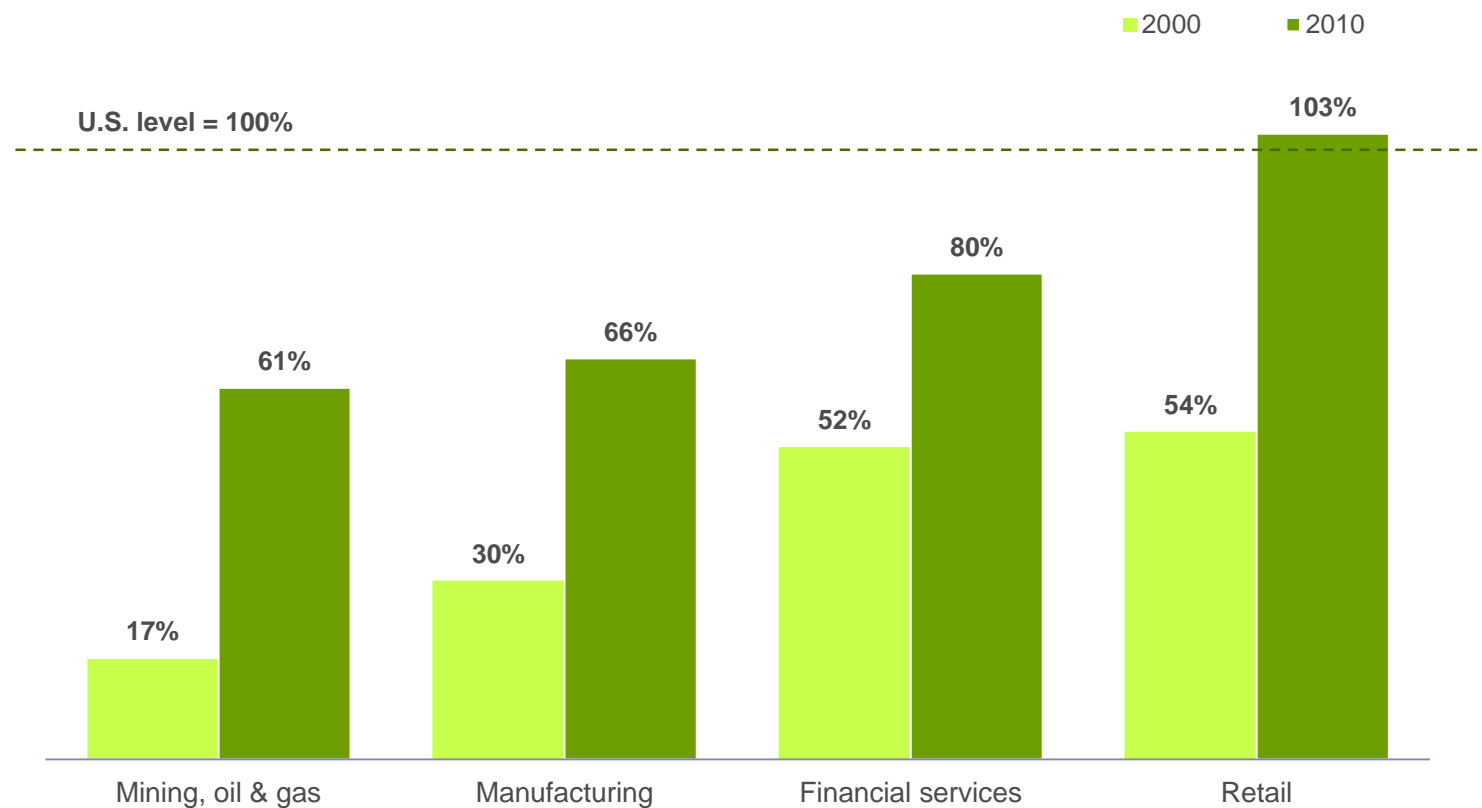
**Note:** Israel and Japan R&D intensity data was not available by firm size; the average OECD ratio of SME to large firm R&D intensity was applied to Israel and Japan to approximate a size breakdown. R&D Intensive Firms are defined as firms that spend over 20% of business investment budget on R&D. High Growth Firms are defined here as firms that achieved annual employment growth of 20% or more for the period of 2001-2004.

Source: Centre for the Study of Living Standards

# Likewise, Canada's ICT investment, when compared to the U.S., is lagging in almost every sector contributing to low growth in productivity



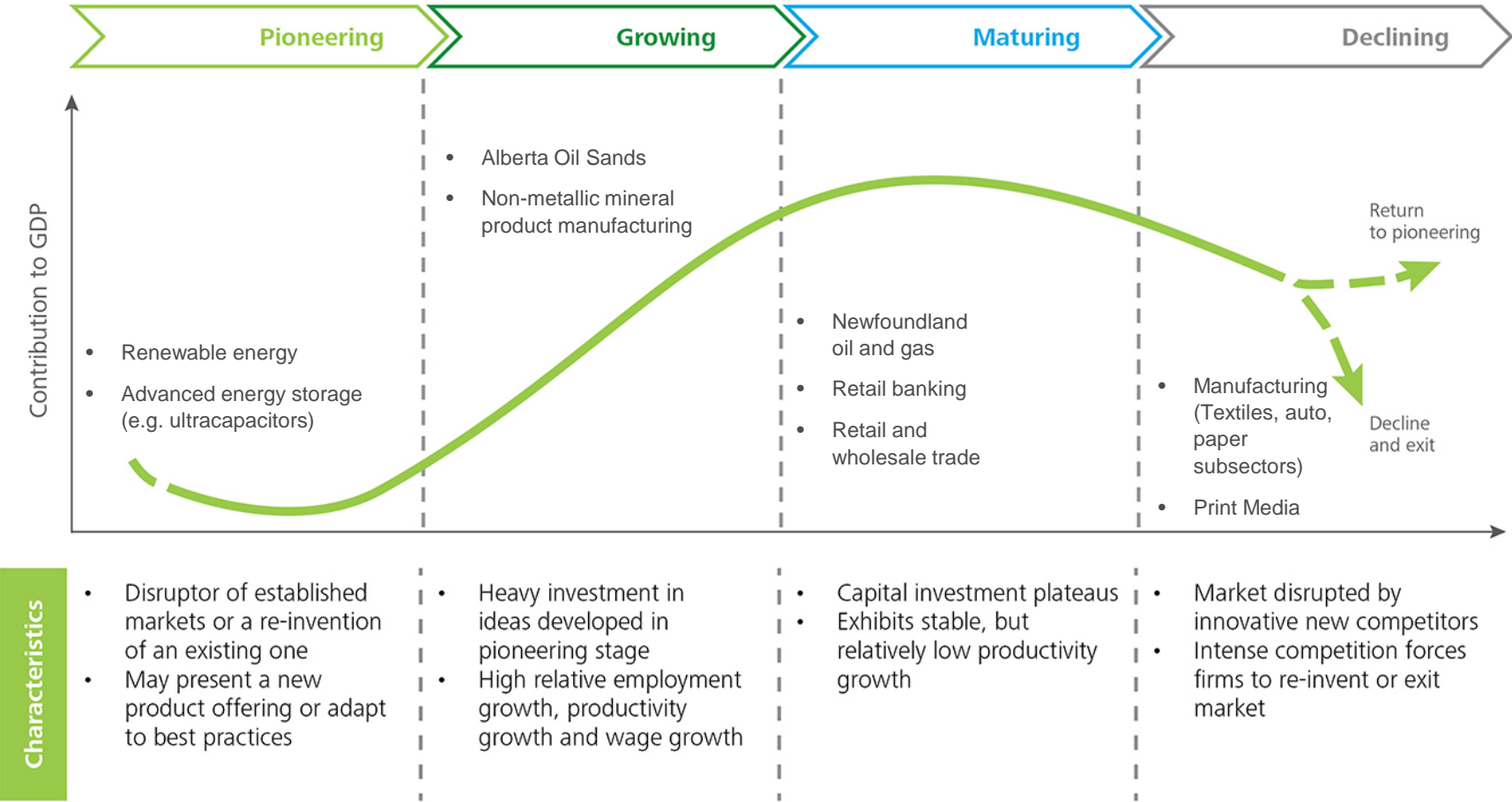
Canada's ICT investment per worker as a percent of the U.S.



Source: Centre for the Study of Living Standards

# Our recommendations need to be applied within the context of the lifecycle of growth followed by sectors and firms within those sectors

## Business Lifecycle



# “The future of productivity: clear choices for a competitive Canada” report presents specific, detailed recommendations to reset Canada’s productivity trajectory

## Businesses

- Trade** Build national and international business
- Talent** Invest in meeting talent needs
- Investment** Leverage new capital equipment
- Clusters** Create more clusters
- Reinvention** Invent and then reinvent

## Government

- Trade** Expand trade inflows and outflows
- Immigration** Continue to improve Canada’s immigration system
- Growth** Provide incentives for growing rather than for being small
- FDI** Encourage Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)
- Decision-making** Foster fact-based decision making

## Academia

- Commercialize** Focus on commercialization
- Curriculum** Create the curriculum to support productivity

# Business, academia and government must work collaboratively to enact a national strategy to accelerate Canadian productivity



**Lack of competitive intensity**

Canadian firms must be exposed to global competition

**Low risk tolerance**

Canadian firms must take the necessary risks to grow

**Poor trade activity**

Trade inflows and outflows must be encouraged both across Canada and globally

**Weak investment**

Canadian companies must refocus on growth, making the necessary investments for achievement

**A national strategy for global competitiveness is imperative to solve Canada's productivity challenge**

**Deloitte.**