



The Conference Board
of Canada

The Politics of Innovation

Canada in Comparative Perspective

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Puzzle 1

If we're so good at innovation in Canada,
why do we think we're so bad?

Puzzle 1

If we're so good at innovation in Canada,
why do we think we're so bad?

And who is right?



Report Card on Innovation.



Overall Rankings.

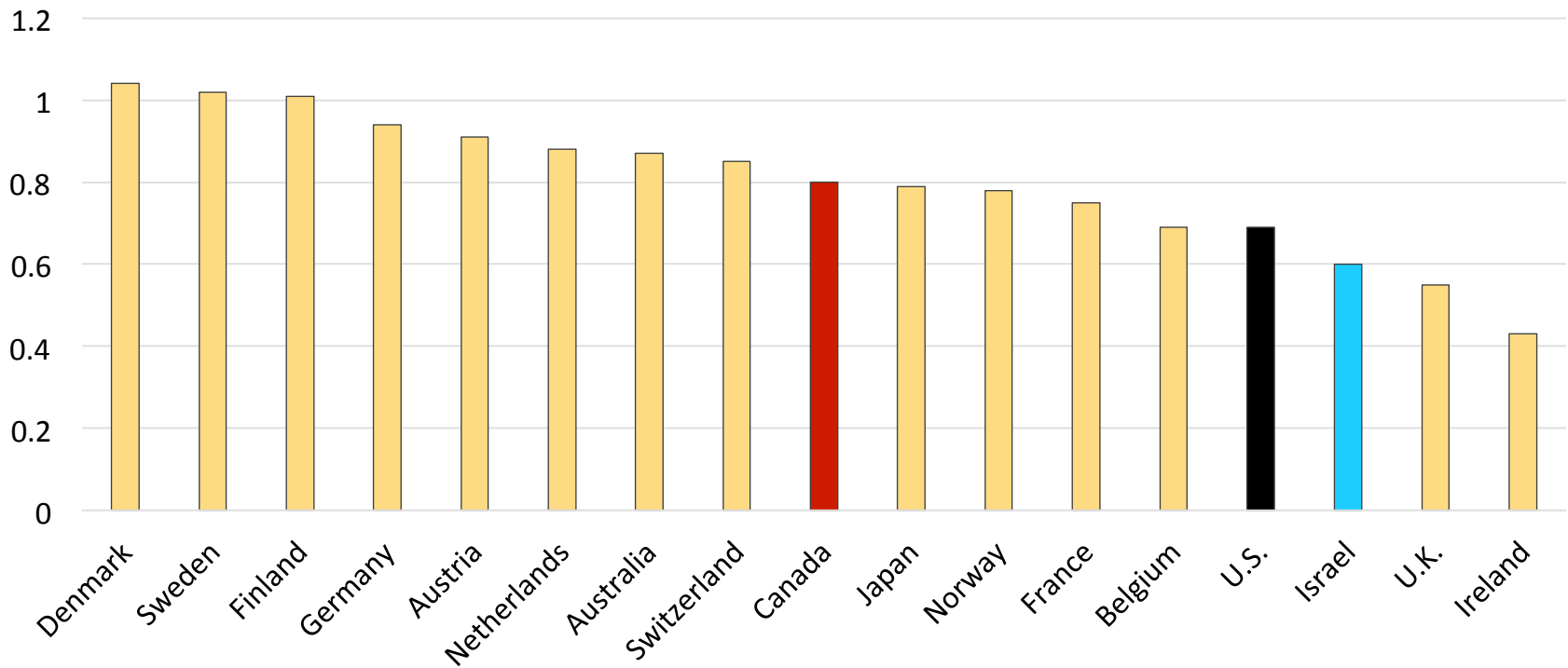
REPORT CARD			
Innovation			
1	Sweden	A	
2	Denmark	A	
3	Finland	A	
4	U.S.	B	
5	Ont.	B	
6	Switzerland	B	
7	Netherlands	B	
8	Que.	B	
9	Austria	B	
10	B.C.	B	
11	Norway	B	
12	Canada	C	
13	Germany	C	
14	Japan	C	
15	Alta.	C	
16	Australia	C	
17	Belgium	C	
18	U.K.	C	
19	France	C	
20	N.S.	D	
21	Sask.	D	
22	N.L.	D	
23	Man.	D	
24	Ireland	D	
25	P.E.I.	D-	
26	N.B.	D-	

Source: The Conference Board of Canada.

Innovation Capacity.

Public R&D (Higher Ed + Government R&D).

As a percentage of GDP, 2014 or MRYA.

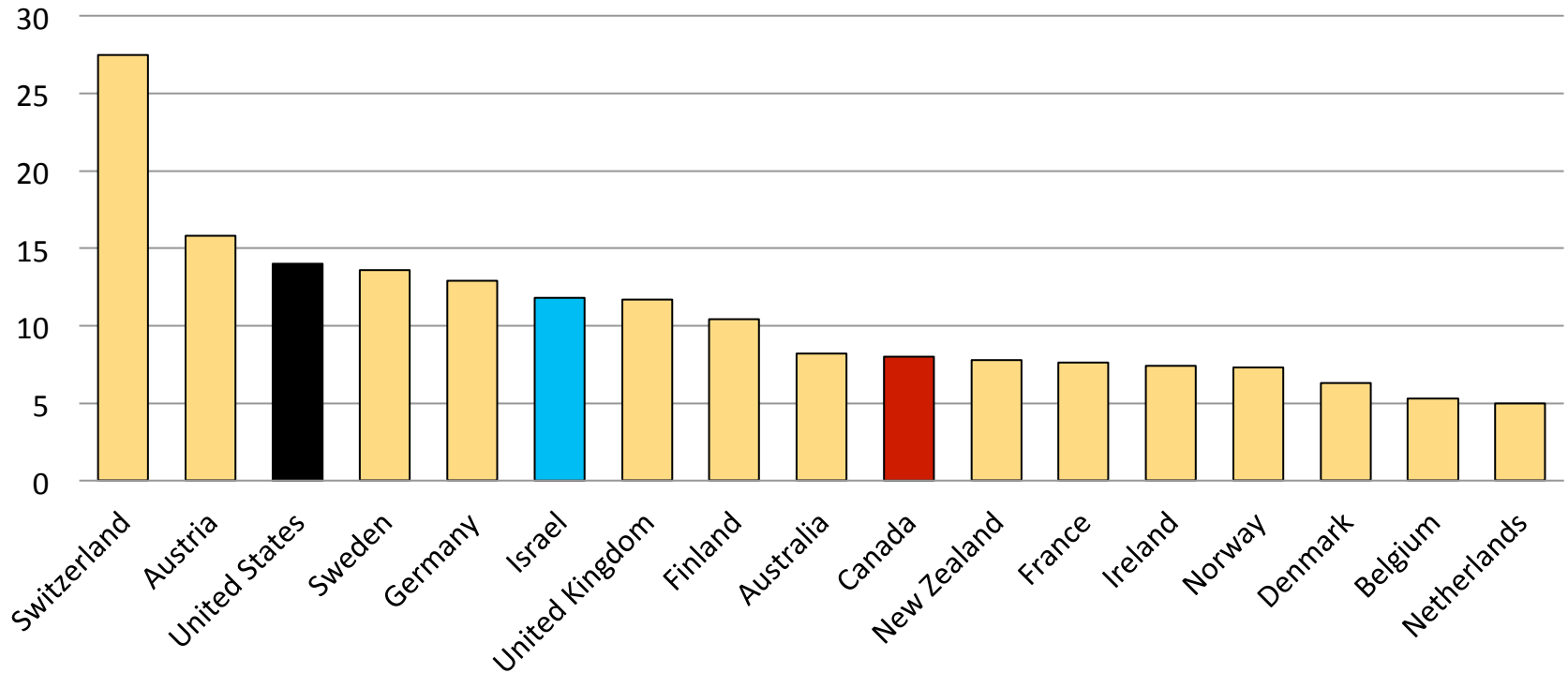


Sources: OECD; Statistics Canada; The Conference Board of Canada.

Innovation Capacity.

PhDs.

PhDs per 1,000 population aged 25-64, 2013 or MRYA.

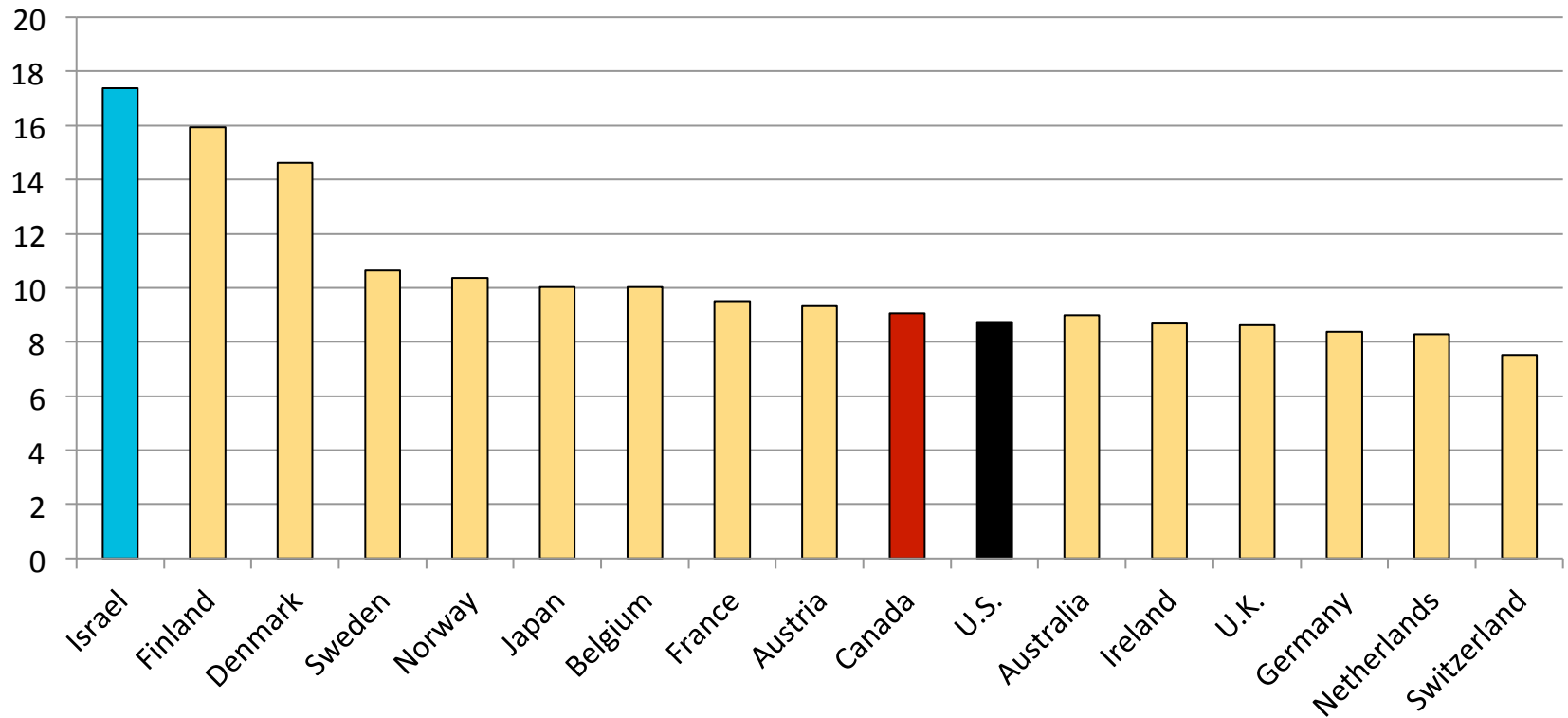


Sources: OECD; Statistics Canada; The Conference Board of Canada.

Innovation Capacity.

Researchers.

Researchers engaged in R&D per 1,000 employed, 2014 or MRYA.

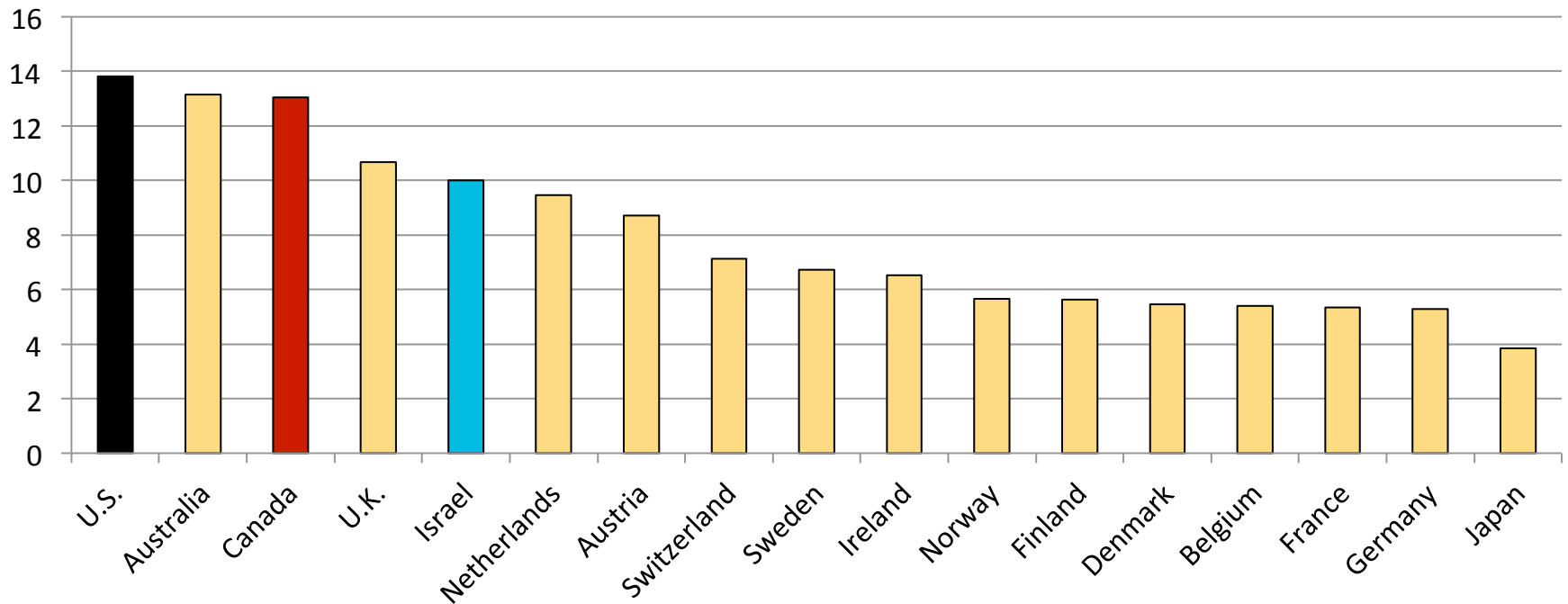


Sources: OECD; Statistics Canada; The Conference Board of Canada.

Innovation Activity.

Entrepreneurial Ambition.

Percentage of population (18-64) reporting early-stage entrepreneurial activity, 2014 or latest year.

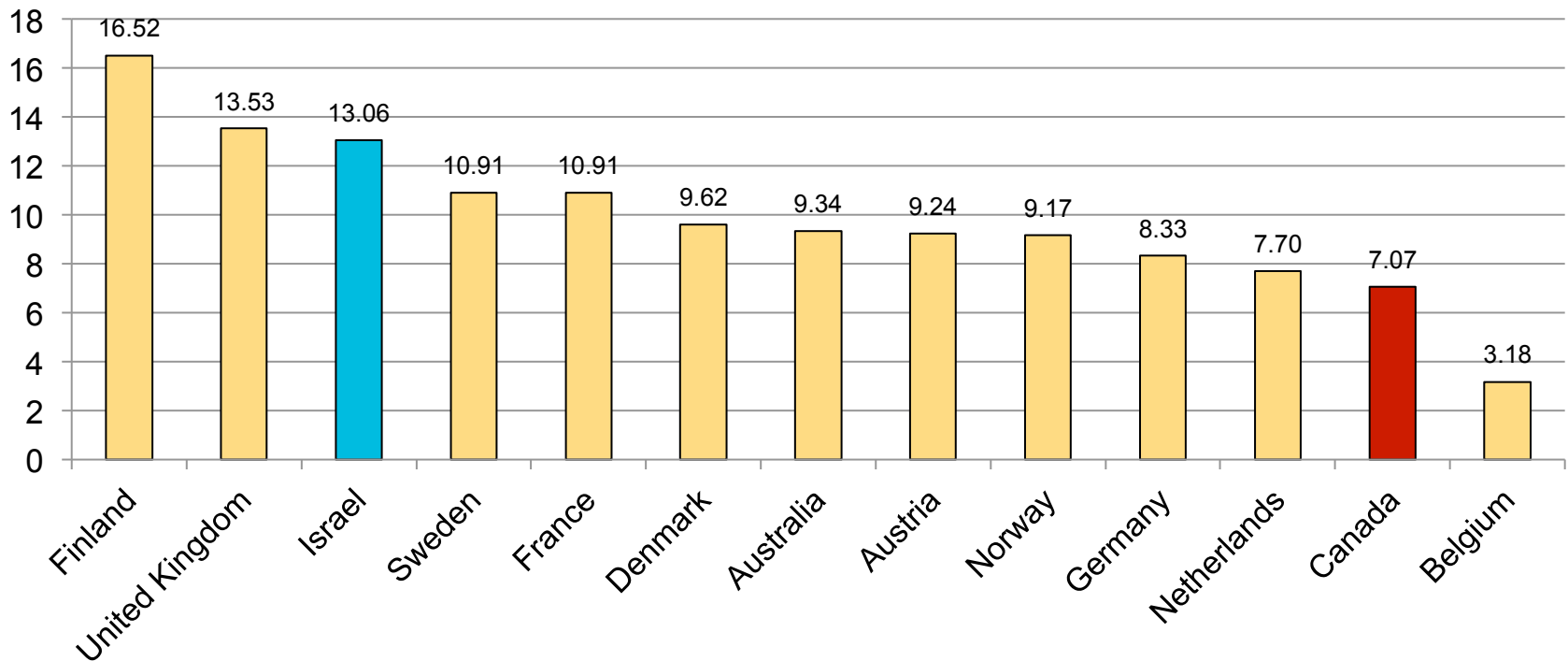


Source: Global Entrepreneurship Monitor.

Innovation Activity.

Does business creation match entrepreneurial ambition?

New firms as percentage of active firms, 2013 or MRYA.

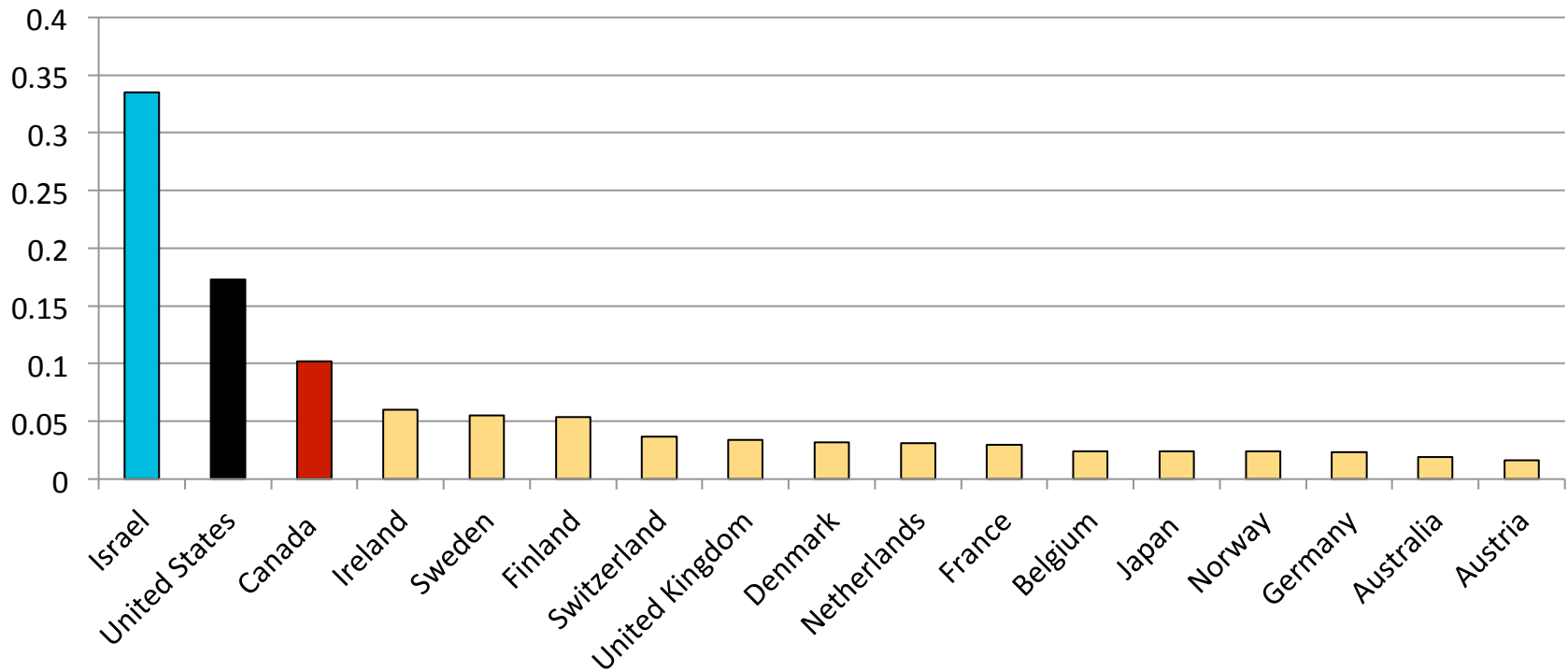


Source: OECD.

Innovation Activity.

Venture Capital Investment.

As a percentage of GDP (2012-13 average).

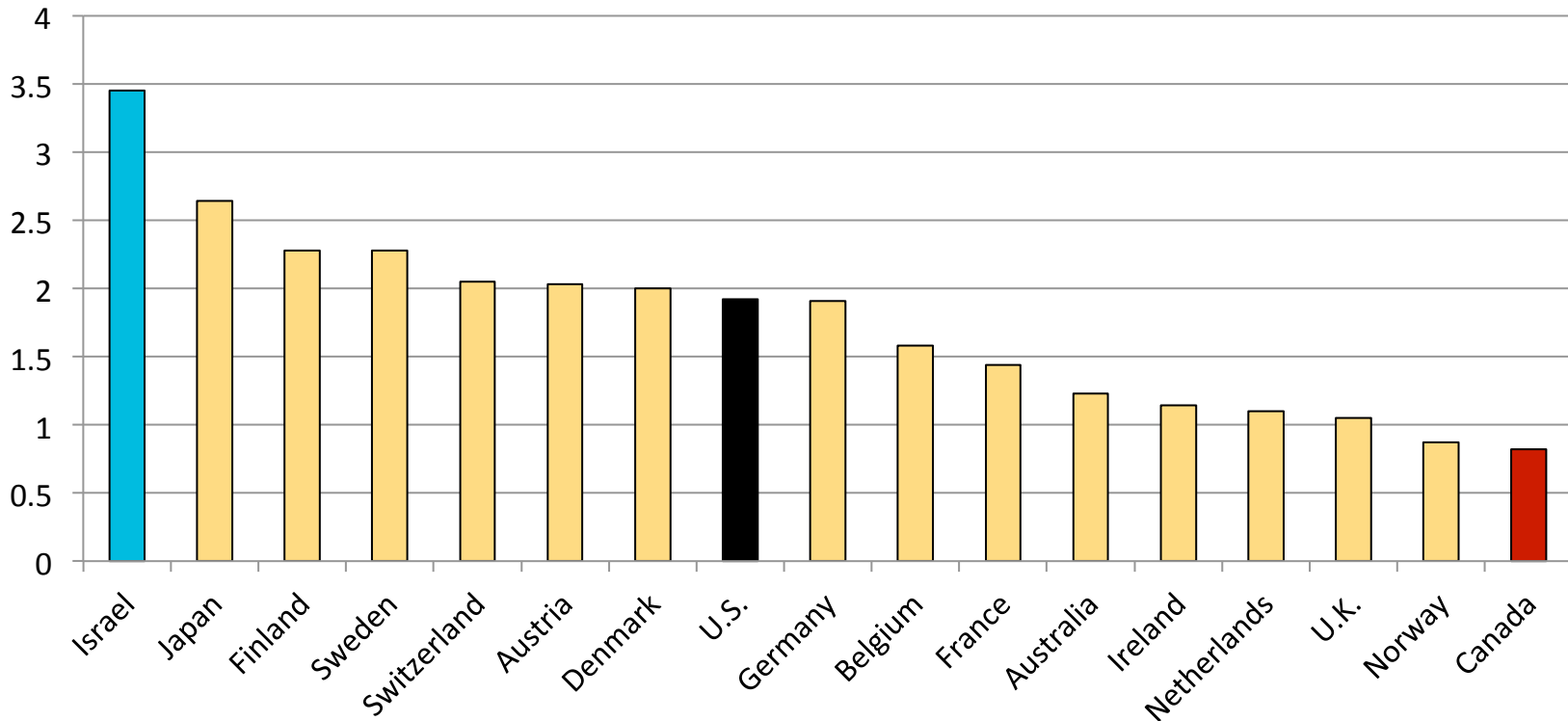


Source: OECD.

Innovation Activity.

Business Enterprise R&D.

As a percentage of GDP, 2013.

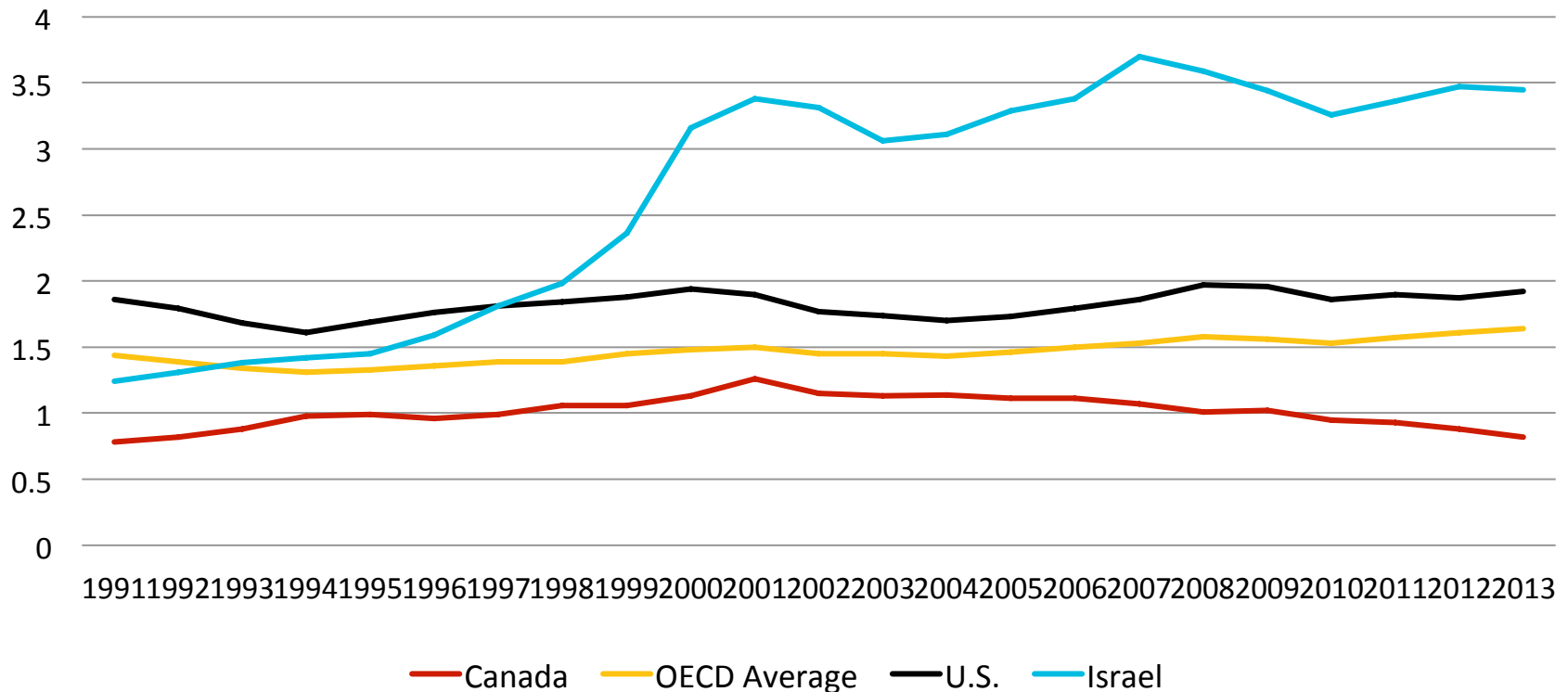


Sources: OECD; Statistics Canada; The Conference Board of Canada.

Innovation Activity.

BERD 1991-2013, Canada, U.S., Israel, and OECD.

As a percentage of GDP.

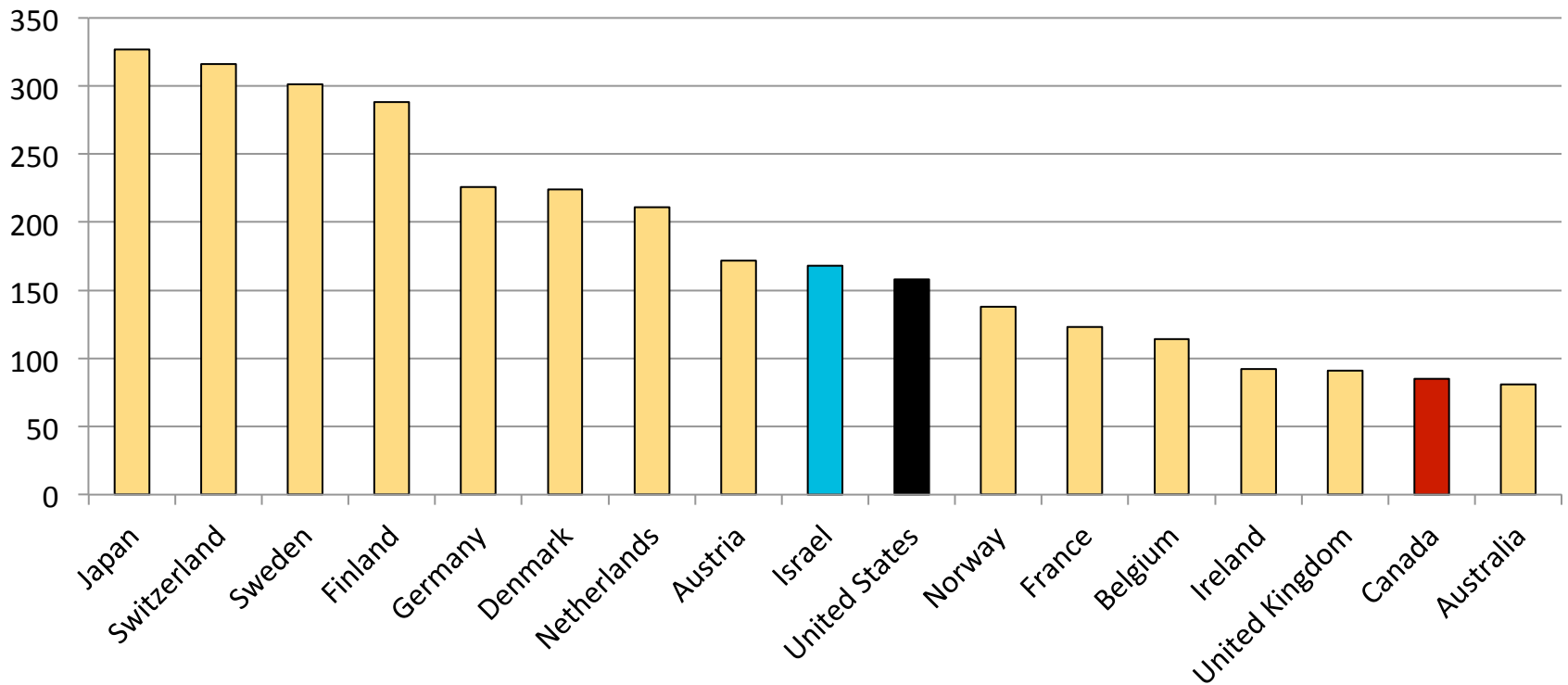


Sources: OECD; Statistics Canada; The Conference Board of Canada.

Innovation Results.

Patents.

PCT Patents per million population, 2011.

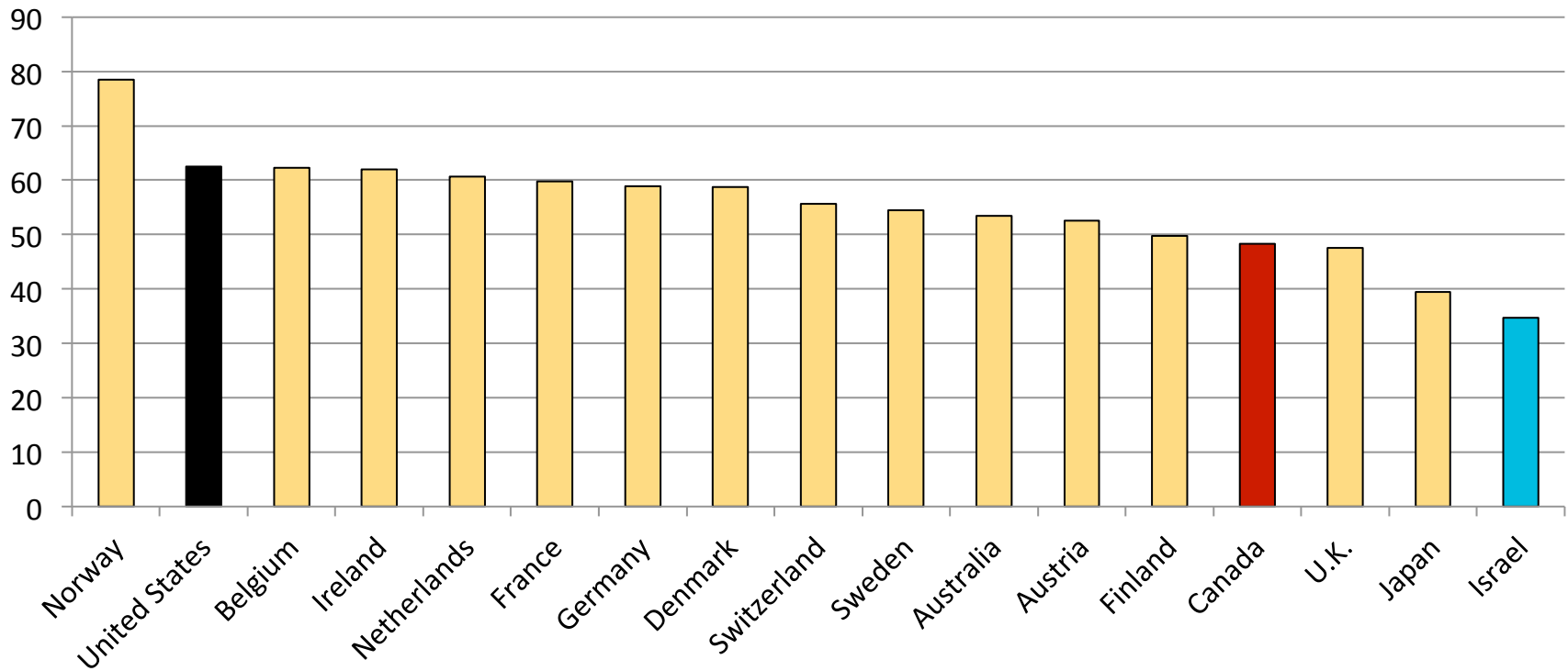


Sources: OECD; Statistics Canada; The Conference Board of Canada.

Innovation Results.

Labour Productivity.

GDP per hour worked, USD constant dollars, 2010 PPPs

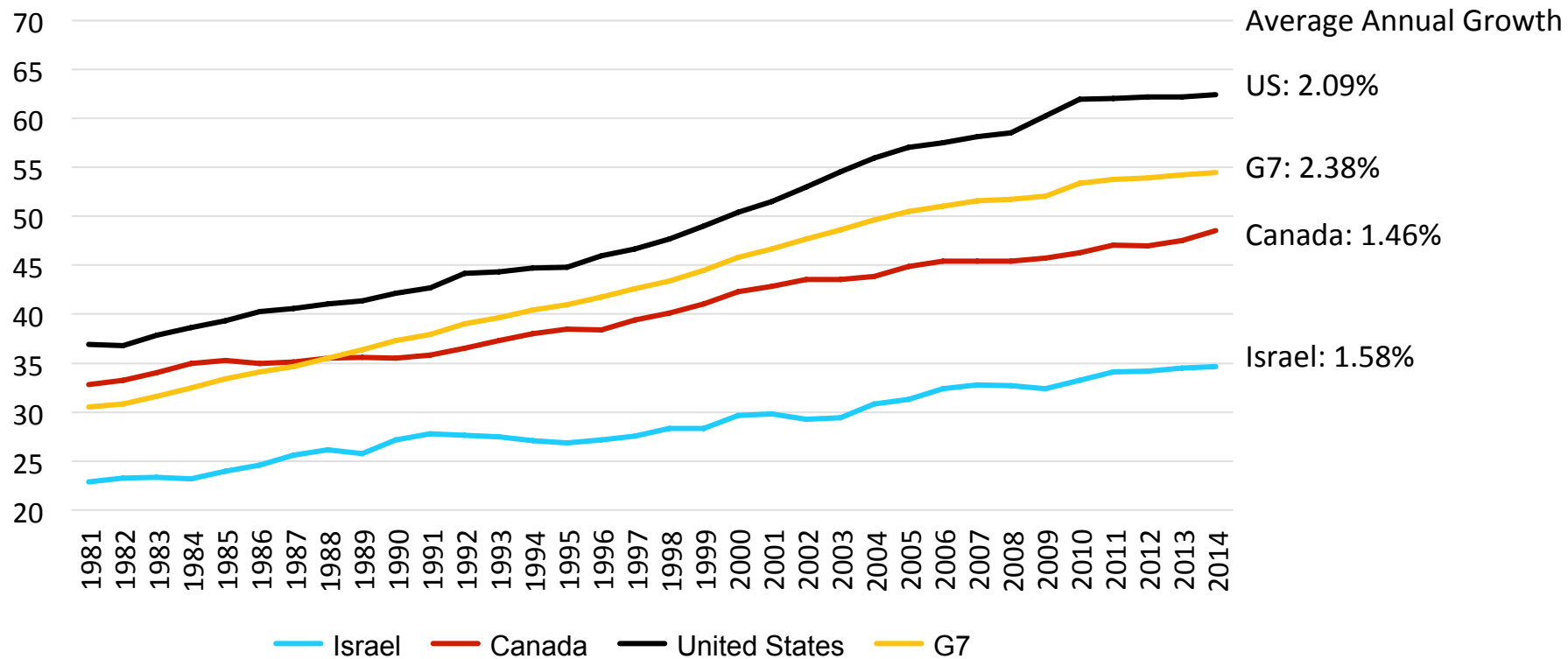


Source: OECD.

Innovation Results.

Labour Productivity.

GDP per hour worked, USD constant dollars, 2010 PPPs



Source: OECD.

Question 1

Should we think about Canada's innovation performance relative to the world, selected peers, or the United States?



Puzzle 2

If Canada is a leading innovation nation, is there a “creative insecurity” story for our success?





Benjamin West – The Death of General Wolfe.

Domestic Rivalries.

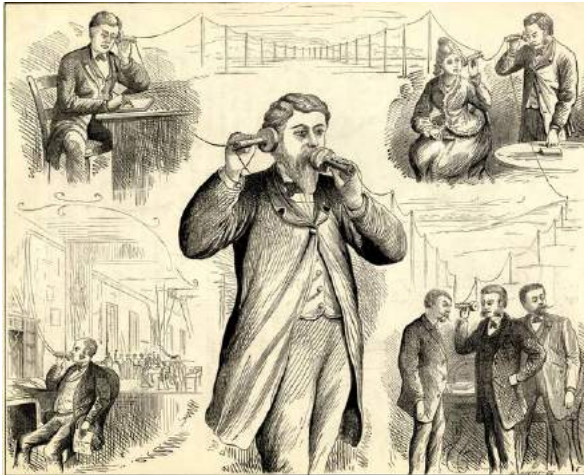
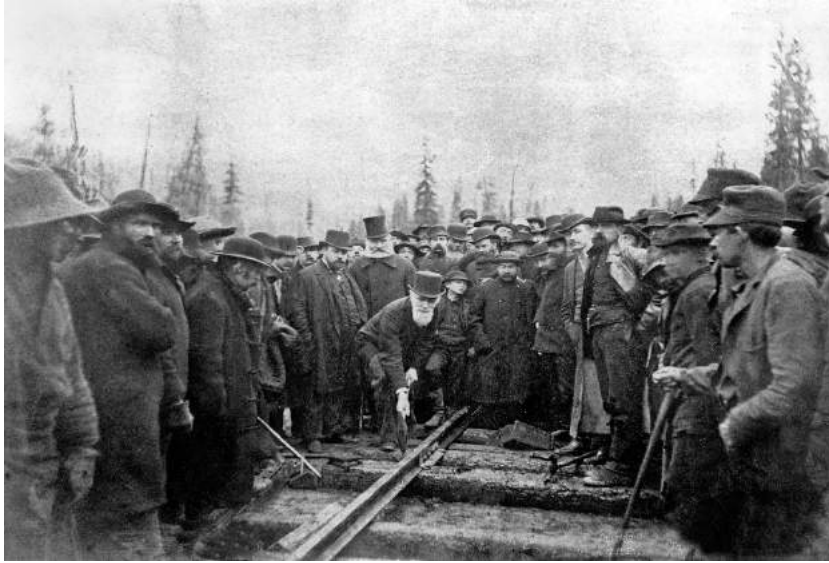


External Threats - Manifest Destiny!



John Gast – American Progress

Innovation to *Become* a Nation.



Puzzle 3

If Canada is an innovation laggard, why?

And what, if anything, can we do about it?



A Few Innovation Problems in Canada.

- 1. Problem growing firms to scale.*
- 2. Weak management capacity.*
- 3. Tendency to try to mimic other countries' models, rather than find our own niches in global value chains.*
- 4. Persistent tendency to conflate science policy and innovation policy.*

Question 3

Before we focus on the tools, can we identify our innovation motivation?

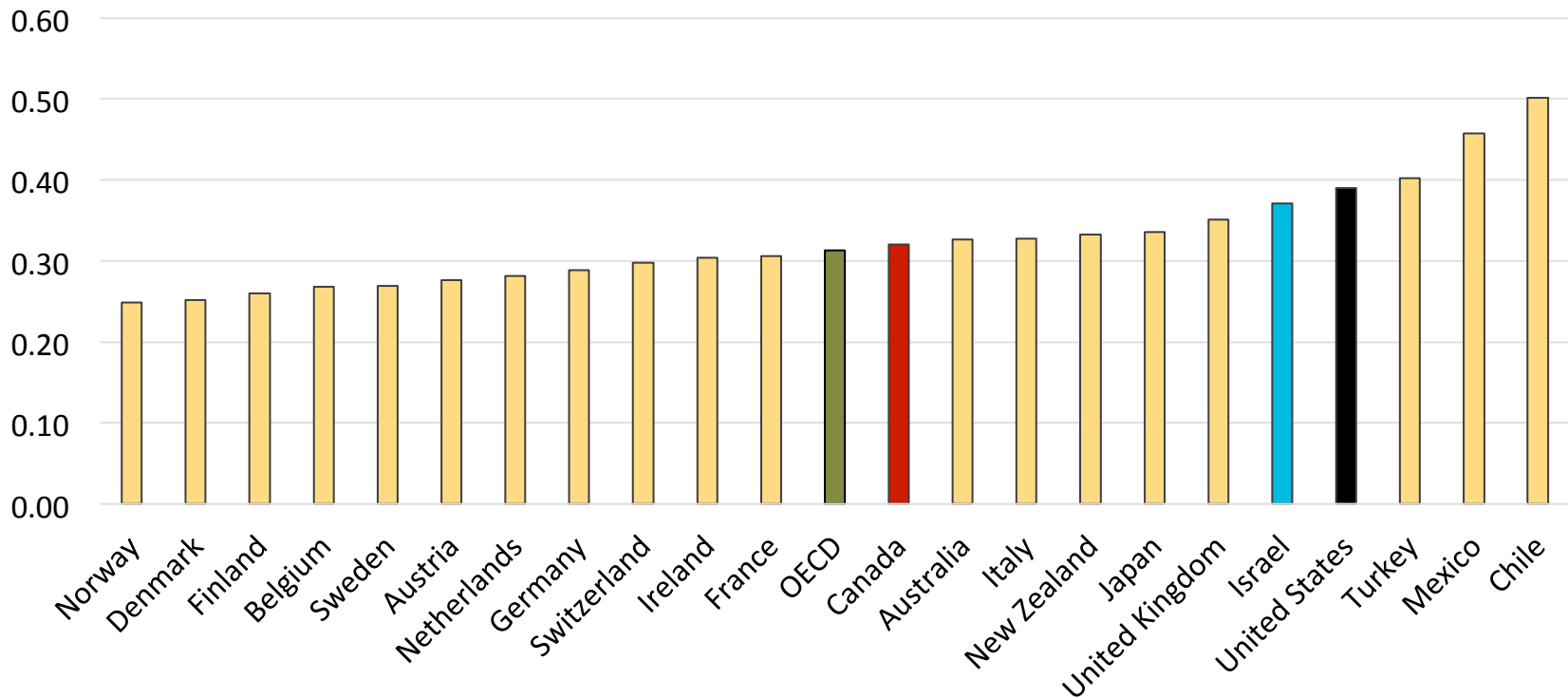
Why should (or would) Canada innovate?

A Final Point

Unequal Distribution of Innovation Benefits.

Income Inequality.

Gini coefficient, 2012 or MYRA.



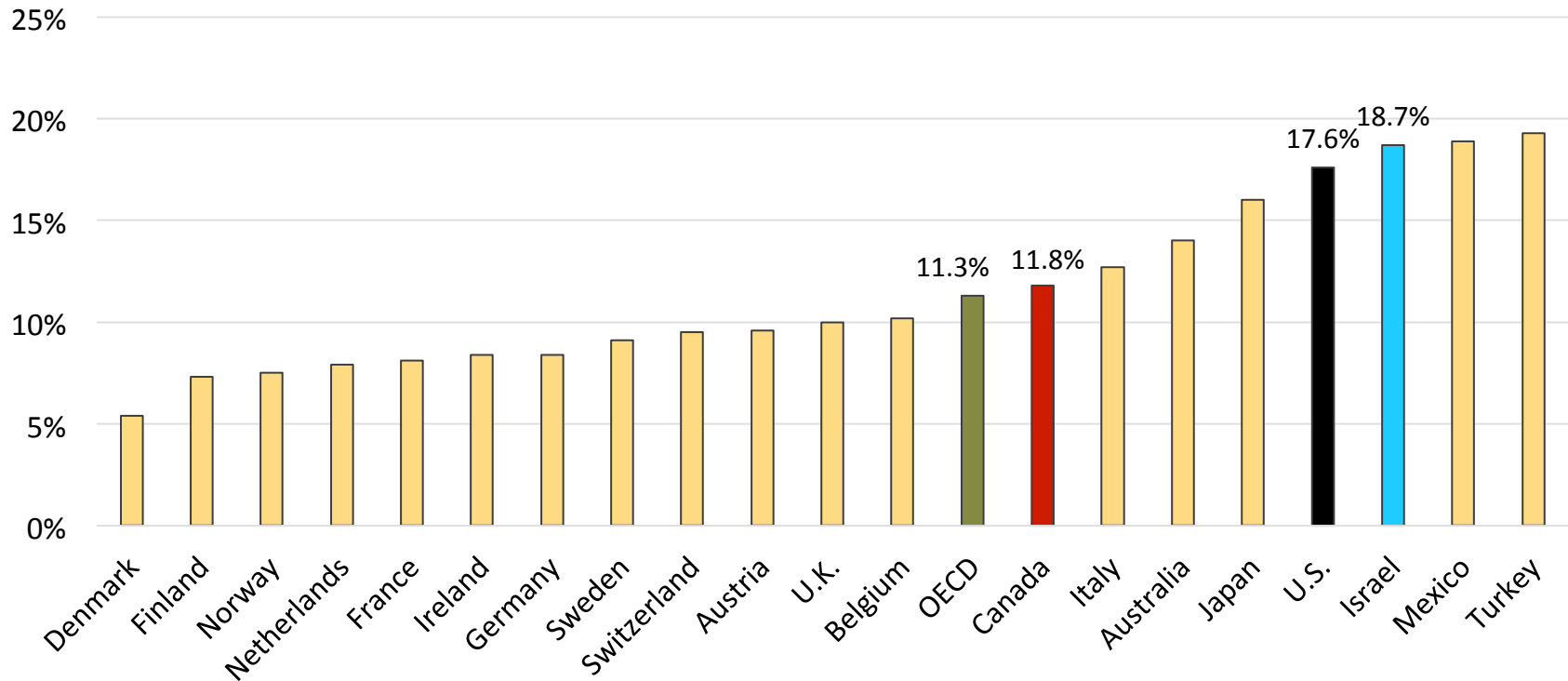
Source: OECD.



Unequal Distribution of Innovation Benefits.

Relative Poverty.

Per cent population living with less than 50 per cent of median income, 2013.



Source: OECD.

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