

ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORTATION, AND HOUSING

Environment, Transportation and Housing is the fourth volume of Michalos' exhaustive study. Considered therein are such indicators as energy consumption, firm concentration ratios, rates of pollution, and the value of wildlife pelts taken. Also discussed are statistics for gasoline consumption, overseas travel, crowded housing and losses from building fires. On the whole, his assessment finds that the United States is better off as far as these areas are concerned.

There is, however, one exception. "With respect to the general area of natural resources and the environment", Michalos writes, "the quality of life in Canada is higher than that of the United States" (p. 77). This is so, he says, because Canada fares better on such indicators as energy consumption per capita, energy production, and selected metals production. She is also found to outperform the United States when such measures as lumber production and forest area burned are compared.

But whereas Canada outperforms the United States with respect to the environment, the opposite is true for transportation and communications. Americans are said by the author to outperform Canadians on a number of indicators, including households with cars, and motor vehicle accident deaths. They are also found to outperform Canadians when such measures as newspaper circulation and the use of first-class mail are compared.

Americans, finally, are also said to be outperforming Canadians in terms of housing. The statistics and trends examined by Michalos put the United States ahead on a number of

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indicators, including the level of crowded housing and adequate plumbing. The United States is also found to compare favourably on such indicators as home ownership and new, single-family dwellings.

Extracts of Michalos' findings are attached.

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