

Investing in the United States has many advantages. With more than 300 million people and the largest economy in the world, the United States is the most important market for any company. The American workforce ranks as one of the best educated, most productive, and most innovative in the world. As a place to do business, the United States offers a predictable and transparent legal system, outstanding infrastructure, and access to the world's most lucrative consumer market.

- **Economy:** The United States has the largest and most technologically advanced economy in the world, with a per capita GDP of approximately \$45,000.¹ The systems of regulation and taxation in the United States give foreign investors ample operational freedom. Furthermore, the United States consistently ranks at or near the top of most major indicators of an attractive business and investment climate. The United States is the most consistently competitive, innovative, and open economy in the world.
- **Consumer Market:** Global companies invest in the United States to be closer to their suppliers and customers in a dynamic market. The United States accounts for 42 percent of the global consumer goods market, with a per capita disposable income of approximately \$32,000.² In addition, the United States maintains free trade agreements with 14 partner countries, giving foreign investors in the United States access to diverse markets around the world.
- **Research and Development:** The United States is a center for global innovation. In 2006, the United States was responsible for 45 percent of total OECD research and development expenditures.³ Since 2000, the United States has been home to more Nobel Laureates in the sciences than all other countries combined.⁴
- **Intellectual Property Protections:** The world comes to the United States to invest in research and development and to commercialize the results of their creativity. The United States provides a strong regime of intellectual property rights protection and enforcement. Of the 173,000 patents granted by the U.S. Patent Office in 2006, almost 50 percent of the applications originated from a foreign country.⁵
- **Education:** Six of the top ten universities in the world are in the United States, according to the *Times Higher Education Supplement*.⁶ There are more than 4,000 universities and colleges in the United States. Over 56 million Americans have obtained a Bachelor's degree or higher.⁷
- **Productive Workforce:** Investors in the United States gain access to a highly productive and adaptable workforce. Since 2000, U.S. business productivity has risen at an average annual rate of approximately 3.2 percent.⁸ On average between 1992-2006, American labor productivity in manufacturing has grown faster than any other country in the G-7.⁹
- **Transportation/Infrastructure:** Of the top ten world economies, the United States has the largest roadway system, railway network, and number of airports.¹⁰ Five of the top ten airports by air cargo volume are in the United States, including the busiest cargo airport in the world.¹¹ The United States is also home to some of the world's busiest international bulk cargo and container handling ports.
- **Hospitable Society:** The United States is a friendly and hospitable country, where many foreigners live and invest. As a nation of immigrants, the United States boasts some of the largest cultural diasporas in the world. The United States is committed to affording all foreign investors fair and equitable treatment.

¹ Source: BEA; ² Source: BEA Data and Credit Suisse survey; ³ Source: OECD, Main Science and Technology Indicators, May 2007; ⁴ Source: The Nobel Foundation; ⁵ Source: U.S. Patent Office; ⁶ Source: The Times Higher Education Supplement 2007 (U.K.); ⁷ Source: U.S. Census Bureau; ⁸ Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics; ⁹ Source: Ibid; ¹⁰ Source: CIA World Fact Book; ¹¹ Source: Pocket World in Figures 2007 Edition, The Economist.