

CHAPTER 4 Global Opportunities

SOFTWARE ACTIVITY

Spreadsheet Application

OBJECTIVE: Calculate population growth in selected foreign markets.

Practice Situation

You are the owner of a manufacturing plant that produces digital telephones. You feel that the domestic market has become almost saturated and there is little opportunity for large increases in sales. As a result, you are examining foreign markets for export opportunities. You would like to begin exporting digital telephones to at least one foreign country by the beginning of next year. You need to act fast!

Based on market and economic factors, you have narrowed your choices to the countries listed below. One factor that will have a dramatic impact on your decision will be the growth rate in population. You have collected data on current population totals, as well as population counts from five years ago.

The printout below shows data that you have collected. Calculate the growth rate for each country by dividing the difference in population totals by the population from five years ago.

| Country | Population (5 years ago) | Current Population | Growth Rate |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Argentina | 34,291,594 | 34,672,997 | |
| Aruba | 67,590 | 67,794 | |
| Canada | 28,301,898 | 28,820,671 | |
| Cayman Islands | 32,948 | 34,646 | |
| Dominica | 82,594 | 82,926 | |
| Grenada | 94,486 | 94,961 | |
| Guatemala | 10,612,237 | 11,277,614 | |
| Jamacia | 2,574,512 | 2,595,275 | |
| Trinidad & Tobago | 1,272,905 | 1,272,385 | |

Spreadsheet Directions

1. Start your spreadsheet software program.
2. Recreate the table from the previous page using your spreadsheet program.
3. Enter a formula to calculate growth rate for each of the countries listed.
4. After completing your calculations, save your work.
6. Print out a copy of your work if your teacher has instructed you to do so.
7. Answer the following questions.

Interpreting Results

1. Which country has the largest growth rate?

2. Which country has the smallest growth rate?

Drawing Conclusions

3. Should you begin your export program to the country with the largest growth rate?

4. Based on the data presented, which of these countries would be least desirable for your export program? Explain.
