

# FACT SHEET

**Geography:** The land area of China is 9.6 million square kilometres, which makes it the world's third largest country.

**Capital City:** Beijing (formerly known as Peking)

**Population:** 1.2 billion (1.4 percent growth rate)

**Gross National Product:** \$U.S. 367.13 billion (1993)

**Currency:** Yuan (Renminbi) = Cdn. \$0.23 (1994)

**Official Language:** Mandarin Chinese, also known as Putonghua, is the official language and taught in all schools. English is sometimes spoken by those having frequent contact with foreign businesspeople and other visitors. There are many other Chinese dialects and minority languages.

**System of Government:** The Chinese Government is headed by a president, by the National People's Congress, and by a state council (cabinet). Although elections are held, the Communist Party effectively controls them and all policy decisions. China is a unitary centralized state but is divided for administrative purposes into twenty-two provinces, five minority autonomous regions and three directly administered cities.

## Foreign Trade:

Total Merchandise Exports: U.S. \$91.76 billion (1993)

Total Merchandise Imports: U.S. \$103.95 billion (1993)

Imports from Canada: Cdn. \$1.52 billion (1993)

Exports to Canada: Cdn. \$3.09 billion (1993)

Major Imports from Canada: wheat, forest products, mechanical equipment, electrical equipment, plastics, and fertilizers.

Major Exports to Canada: clothing, toys and games, leather goods, footwear, mechanical equipment, oil seeds