

CANADA - BAHAMAS TRADE

Canada-Bahamas bilateral trade has developed slowly during the last decade with recent upward growth indicating prospects for improved performance by both economies in the 1990's.

The balance of trade shifted dramatically in favour of Canada in the five years from 1984 to 1988. Bahamian exports to Canada in 1984 totalled \$127.5 million and progressively decreased to \$20.9 million by 1988. In the same period, Canada's exports to the Bahamas remained relatively constant, totalling \$35.6 million in 1988.

Bahamian exports include organic chemicals, rum, fuel oil, precious stones and coins, and fish and shrimps.

Representative of Canada's exports to the Bahamas are electrical parts, malt and mill products, and various iron and steel items.

Although two way trade between Canada and the Bahamas was relatively modest in 1988, amounting to approximately \$56 million, on-going activities are expected to significantly expand commercial exchanges in the short term. Canadian firms have recently secured orders for five new-generation turbo-prop aircraft, as well as the supply of equipment and engineering services for several multilaterally financed projects designed to develop health care facilities, shipping and ports infrastructure. Canadian companies have also recently been awarded large privately financed hotel development contracts. The Bahamas also represents an excellent market for Canadian suppliers of food products and beverages, construction products and engineering services.

Canada and the Bahamas have a long history of bilateral trade dating from the 19th century. Commercial prospects would appear to indicate that this tradition will continue to grow and prosper, to the mutual benefit of both countries.