

## CANADA - ECUADOR TRADE

Canadian exports to Ecuador showed a remarkable growth from \$4.4 million in 1988 to \$68 million in 1992. Ecuadorian exports to Canada also increased in this period from \$8.5 million in 1988 to \$108 million in 1992. Canadian firms have remained active in the market, particularly in projects related to petroleum exploration, mining, power transmission and telecommunications. Ecuadorian exports decreased by 28% in 1992 compared with 1991 while Canadian exports increased by 54%.

Ecuador's principal exports to Canada include bananas, shrimp, petroleum oils and cocoa beans. Canada's major exports to Ecuador include wheat, newsprint, paper, barley and malt, sodium triphosphate, rubber and aluminum and zinc products.

In spite of the economic difficulties, Ecuador is a market in which Canadian firms have identified significant export opportunities. Canada is confident that, with stable oil prices, and successful economic reforms, bilateral trade will continue to increase.

In the last few years, bilateral trade between Canada and Ecuador has steadily increased. The reason for this are twofold: first, a more stable political situation and economy in Ecuador favourable to trade and investment as exemplified by new investment, in addition to new mining, oil and gas laws; second, a diversification from sole reliance on oil and gas to mining and in shellfish farming.