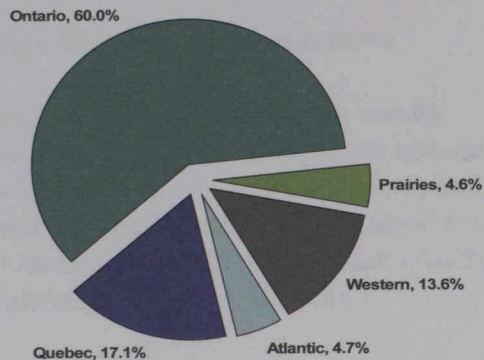


Figure 4-15
Share of Merchandise Imports by Canadian Region



Data: Statistics Canada

(13.6 per cent) experienced the fastest growth in imports for 2005. The products driving this growth were mechanical and electrical machinery, and toys and sports equipment for Prince Edward Island, mineral fuel and oil, vehicles, aircraft and spacecraft, and iron and steel for Alberta, mechanical and electrical machinery, vehicles, and iron and steel for Saskatchewan. For New Brunswick, the products behind the growth in imports were mineral fuel and oil, organic chemicals, machinery and vehicles while mineral fuel and oil and aircraft and spacecraft were the main import growth drivers for Quebec.

By region, Ontario accounted for a bigger share (60 per cent) of merchandise imports than it did for exports, followed by Quebec (17.1 per cent) and the western provinces (13.6 per cent).

World Merchandise Trade Performance

How does Canada fare with respect to world merchandise trade relative to its main partners and competitors? As shown in Table 4-4, the U.S. was the world's largest economy in 2005 accounting for about one third (28.1 per cent) of the world's GDP, followed by Japan (10.3 per cent), Germany (6.3 per cent), China (5.0 per cent) and the UK (5.0 per cent). Germany was the world's largest exporter accounting for 9.3 per cent of world exports, followed by the U.S. (8.7 per cent), and by China (7.3 per cent). As the smallest economy of the G-7 countries, Canada also had the smallest share in world merchandise exports. However, its share of exports was bigger than its share of world's GDP, in contrast with all other G-7 countries with the exception of Germany. Canada's average growth rate in merchandise exports was the highest of all G-7 countries over the period 1995-2005. Emerging markets recorded the highest growth rates in merchandise exports over the same period, led by China (17.7 per cent), and followed by India (11.4 per cent) and Mexico (10.4 per cent). The U.S. was the world's largest importer of goods followed by Germany and China. Once again, Canada's share in world merchandise imports was higher than its share in GDP. As for exports, China, India and Mexico witnessed the highest import growth over the period 1995-2005, which highlights the export opportunities that these emerging economies represent for Canada and other countries.

Table 4-4: Economic Size and Merchandise Trade for Selected Countries

Country	Share of World GDP in 2005	Share of World Merchandise Exports in 2005	Export average growth rate over 1995-2005	Share of World Merchandise Imports in 2005	Import Average Growth Rate Over 1995-2005
Australia	1.6	1.0	7.1	1.2	7.4
Brazil	1.8	1.1	9.8	0.7	3.7
Canada	2.5	3.5	6.5	3.0	6.6
China	5.0	7.3	17.7	6.1	17.5
France	4.7	4.4	4.3	4.6	5.5
Germany	6.3	9.3	6.4	7.2	5.3
India	1.7	0.9	11.4	1.2	14.3
Italy	4.0	3.5	4.6	3.5	6.3
Japan	10.3	5.7	3.0	4.8	4.4
Korea	1.8	2.7	8.6	2.4	6.8
Mexico	1.7	2.1	10.4	2.2	11.8
United Kingdom	5.0	3.6	4.7	4.7	6.5
United States	28.1	8.7	4.5	16.1	8.4

Source: WTO and IMF