

CANADA'S EXPORT PERFORMANCE

Nineteen eighty-three was an improved year for world trade. Its value increased by 2% as the global economy started to climb out of the recession, which had caused an actual decline in the value of trade in 1982. This country's export performance outpaced the world average in 1983, as Canadian exports increased by 7.6% on a customs basis. While still below the growth rates achieved in the late 1970s and early 1980s, this was a substantial improvement over the 0.9% increase recorded in 1982. As a result, Canada's exports increased to 3.9% of total world trade, continuing the recovery from the low point of 3.2% reached in 1980.

It will be difficult to maintain such a large surplus in the years ahead, and any reduction would place further pressure on the exchange rate. This could lead to higher interest rates which would impact adversely on our export competitiveness in the future.

Canada's Merchandise Exports

	Total Exports (\$ billions)	% Change	Canadian Exports as % of World Trade
1979	65.6	23.4	3.4
1980	76.2	16.0	3.2
1981	83.8	10.0	3.6
1982	84.5	0.9	3.7
1983	91.0	7.6	3.9
6 mo. 1983	44.3	2.7	
6 mo. 1984	55.8	25.9	

On a geographic basis, between 1982 and 1983 Canadian exports increased substantially to the United States, increased marginally to Japan, and decreased to the European Economic Community and other areas.