

Imports increased with respect to all major commodities last year, except for machinery and equipment and energy products which fell by \$6.6 billion and \$1.3 billion, respectively. Leading the advances were increased imports of automotive products (up \$8.9 billion), consumer goods (up \$3.5 billion), and agricultural and fishing products (up \$1.4 billion). Smaller increases were recorded for industrial goods and materials (up \$371 million) and forestry products (up \$248 million).

Automotive products

Automotive products regained their position as the largest major category of exports in 2002 at 23.6 per cent of total exports, lowering machinery and equipment to second place. It was the fourth time in the past five years that the two categories have switched rankings for top spot. Automotive exports rebounded in 2002, up 4.5 per cent following a 5.4 per cent decline in 2001. The overall advance was \$4.2 billion for the sector. Gains were registered in all three sub-components of the category, led by *motor vehicle parts* (up \$2.3 billion), *passenger cars* (up \$1.3 billion) and *trucks* (up \$632 million).

Automotive imports also increased in 2002, with all three sub-components contributing to the increase. For the year as a whole, automotive imports were up \$8.9 billion in 2002, the largest increase in imports of the seven major commodity groupings. A little under half of the increase was in *passenger vehicles*, where imports increased by \$4.0 billion over 2001 levels. *Motor vehicle parts* accounted for a further 30 per cent of the increase, as they advanced \$2.7 billion over the year, while *trucks* accounted for about one-quarter of the increase, or \$2.1 billion.

Machinery and equipment

As noted above, machinery and equipment exports were the next largest class of commodity exports, accounting for some 23.1 per cent of Canadian merchandise exports last year, down from 24.1 per cent a year earlier. Exports fell in two of the top three sub-components — *other machinery and equipment* and *aircraft and other transportation equipment*. Only *industrial and agricultural equipment* managed to expand their exports last year.

Exports of *television, telecommunications and related equipment* fell for the second straight year which resulted in exports of *other machinery and equipment* falling \$2.6 billion after having fallen \$9.7 billion in 2001. At \$12.4 billion, exports of *television, telecommunications and related equipment* are now roughly half the value of their 2000 level — \$24.7 billion. *Office machines and equipment* exports also declined in 2002, down a fifth in value from the previous year, or \$1.8 billion. Exports of *other equipment and tools* were unchanged over the year while exports of *other end products* increased \$880 million to help staunch the losses to *other machinery and equipment*.

Exports of *aircraft and other transportation equipment* also fell in 2002 as exports of *aircraft, aircraft engines and parts* decreased \$1.4 billion over the year while exports of *other transportation equipment* were off \$348 million for the year.

On the import side, all four sub-components experienced a decline in their levels in 2002. *Office machines and equipment* imports fell \$2.1 billion last year while *other machinery and equipment* fell further, by \$2.3 billion, led by a \$2.8 billion decline in *other communications and related equipment* imports. Imports of *aircraft and other transportation equipment* fell \$1.5 billion, as imports of both *aircraft, aircraft engines and parts* and *other transportation equipment* fell by about three-quarters of a billion dollars each. Finally, imports of *industrial and agricultural equipment* were off by \$659 million as imports of most industrial machinery components were down while imports of agricultural machinery registered a modest \$46 million increase.

Industrial goods and materials

Industrial goods and materials is a broad class of commodities ranging from various metals in ores to plastics and from crude animal products to textile fabricated materials. On the export side, these goods and materials are broken down into four major sub-component groupings: *metal ores; chemicals, plastics and fertilizers; metals and alloys; and other industrial goods and materials*. In 2002, exports of industrial goods and materials increased \$2.6 billion over 2001 levels. Gains were widespread as all four export sub-components registered gains for the year. Most of the