

CANADA - COSTA RICA TRADE

Canada-Costa Rica trade relations have developed steadily over the course of forty years that date from the signing of the Commercial Agreement on November 17, 1950.

In the 1970s and 1980s two-way trade grew significantly. By 1992, Costa Rican exports reached \$131.8 million, while Canadian exports climbed to \$30.7 million in 1987 before falling to \$21.1 million in 1991. Canadian exports did increase to \$24.1 million in 1992 with two way trade also increasing to \$155.9 million from \$109 million in 1991.

Costa Rican exports to Canada are dominated by two agricultural products: bananas and coffee. Costa Rica's total exports to Canada in 1992 amounted to \$131.8 million. Canada's main exports to Costa Rica continue to be fertilizers, newsprint and paper, machinery, plastic resins and sheets, textile fabrics, food products and pharmaceuticals for a total of \$24.1 million.

The mainstays of Costa Rica's economy are now being challenged by tourism which is now the country's principal foreign currency earner. New tourist facilities are being rapidly developed to handle an ever increasing volume. Canadian tour operators have established charters from Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver all of which are operating at capacity loads.

Costa Rica represents an attractive market to Canadian exports in the agriculture, livestock industries, building products, telecommunications and gold mining sectors. Resource development and infrastructure projects also offer important opportunities.

The development and expansion of the Costa Rican economy has opened many trade opportunities for both partners in the Canada-Costa Rica trading relationship. Built on over forty years of steady growth, it is expected that this partnership will continue to expand in the 1990's.