

Chapter 7 Opening Doors to Asia

China and Intellectual Property

China has taken steps to improve its legal framework on intellectual property since its accession to the World Trade Organization in 2001. However, enforcement and protection of intellectual property rights continues to be a concern affecting China's domestic and export markets. This has prompted Canada to join, as a third party, the U.S.-led WTO panel examining China's intellectual property rights regime. Canada also recently announced its participation in preliminary discussions toward a potential anti-counterfeiting trade agreement with like-minded parties including the U.S., Japan, the European Union, Switzerland and Mexico.

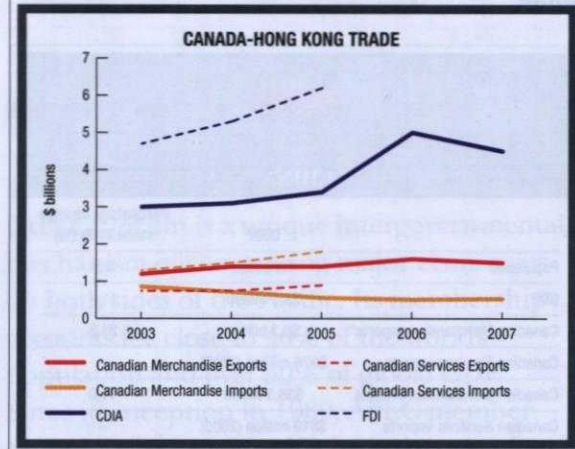
A number of issues continue to impede access to the Chinese market for Canadian businesses, notably import requirements on agricultural and food products. Although progress has been made, some portions of the economy do not operate under market conditions. Furthermore, policies to encourage the development of prominent state-owned and state-controlled enterprises are affecting market access in a number of Chinese domestic sectors and raising worries regarding competition in export markets. For example, a number of Canadian industries have voiced concerns regarding Chinese government subsidies and support for certain Chinese manufacturing sectors (e.g. steel production). Canada, along with other WTO members such as the United States and the European Union, has raised these issues and sought clarification regarding Chinese programs at the WTO and, in the case of steel, at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Hong Kong



HONG KONG

	2007	Percentage change since 2006 (%)
Population	6.98 million	0.9
GDP	\$222.2 billion	6.3
Canadian Merchandise exports	\$1.5 billion	-3.3
Canadian Services exports	\$897 million (2005)	-
Canadian Merchandise imports	\$532.2 million	3.8
Canadian Services imports	\$1.8 billion (2005)	-
CDIA	\$4.5 billion	9.4
FDI	\$6.2 billion (2005)	-



With its free and transparent market economy, Hong Kong has relatively minimal barriers to entry or doing business, though there remain certain market access issues in the agriculture and services sectors. Hong Kong holds many opportunities for Canadian businesses, not only as a dynamic and wealthy market but also as a gateway to China.