

I. CREATING OPPORTUNITIES IN CANADA AND ABROAD

We live in a fast-paced, technology-driven world economy characterized by widespread economic diversity, sweeping environmental and demographic challenges, increasing globalization of production and consumption, opportunity for the well-positioned, and risk for the marginalized. The Government of Canada has set out a far-reaching social and economic program to help Canadians meet these challenges domestically and internationally.

One component of this is trade and investment policy, because trade is vital to the prosperity of Canadians, and prosperity is key to realizing our economic and social aspirations. At \$396 billion last year, Canadian merchandise exports were equivalent to some 40 percent of our gross domestic product and rising; one job in four is supported by trade; trade stimulates productivity and competitiveness; and exporting and importing alike generate significant government revenues, both directly and indirectly. The trade and economic analysis page of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Web site offers data and insights on the role of trade in the Canadian economy (see www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/eet/menu-e.asp).

Trade policy can create opportunities within Canada and—allied with other policies and measures—can promote prosperity, democracy, justice and social stability worldwide. In other words, the coherent management of trade policy with and through a range of domestic and international policies helps us to achieve Canada's global political and social objectives.