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## UNITED KINGDOM

With the world's fourth largest economy and a population of over 60 million, the United Kingdom (UK) is—by almost every measure—Canada's most important economic partner after the United States. Canada's exports of manufactured products to the UK far exceed those to any other off-shore market. The level of foreign investment by British companies in Canada is surpassed only by that of U.S. firms. Also, more than 500 Canadian companies have chosen the UK as an investment location, often as their gateway to the broader European Union market.

The Canada-UK business synergy is a natural one. As Prime Minister Blair pointed out in his recent speech to the Canadian Parliament, Canada is "that part of North America closest in values and traditions to Europe. UK is that part of Europe closest to North America."

The strength of the Canada-UK relationship lies not only in shared values and tradition but in the depth and dynamism of our bilateral business links. Over the past five years, the UK has been Canada's fastest growing export market after the United States. Canada has increased its exports to the UK more than to China and Mexico combined. Moreover, although the UK remains a major market for Canadian primary products, the recent growth in exports to Britain has been driven by value-added goods and services. The UK offers excellent market opportunities for key sectors such as: aerospace and defence; biotechnologies; construction and building products; environmental products and services; agri-food; healthcare; and information and communication technologies.

This special **CanadExport** supplement showcases some of these opportunities. Canadian companies interested in discovering how best to access this dynamic market can choose the many services offered by our Trade Commissioner Service in the UK.

Prepared by the European Business Development Section (RENB) and its trade officers in Europe.

THE CANADIAN  
TRADE COMMISSIONER  
SERVICE



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and International Trade

Ministère des Affaires étrangères  
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