

- Preferential access to CARICOM and to European Community markets (based on the Lomé Convention)
- Proximity to the North American market.

Other considerations for potential investors include the following:

- Labour force. Unemployment rates are generally over 15%. Only an estimated 1/3 of the work force is organized. All areas lack skilled labour and middle management.
- Inadequate infrastructure.
- Energy. All the islands lack cheap energy sources other than solar energy. This source is so far not widely developed.
- Markets. The small islands economies are very vulnerable to variations in worldwide prices and demand.

Market Opportunities

Canadian exports to the Leeward and Windward Islands are increasing; from a level of Cdn. \$22.3 million in 1979, shipments reached Cdn. \$33.2 million in 1981. There are continuing opportunities for sales in foodstuffs (especially fish), wheat, lumber and related forest products, textile materials and building materials.

Major opportunities exist for Canadian suppliers of goods and services in the variety of projects funded by international financial institutions, mainly the Caribbean Development Bank which has its headquarters in Bridgetown, Barbados.