

replaced the more traditional exports of rubber, textiles and other miscellaneous manufactured goods. More detailed information regarding Canadian imports from Singapore over the last decade can be found in Table VII below.

There are two principal reasons why such a small country accounts for such a significant portion of Canada's ASEAN trade. First, Singapore continues to fulfil its historical role as an entrepôt, or transshipment point. Its air and sea ports are among the world's busiest and most efficient, and the country is rapidly becoming the business, financial and transshipment centre for much of the ASEAN region. Although difficult to quantify, more than a third of our exports to Singapore are probably destined for re-export. The second reason is that Singapore is the most industrially advanced

country in the region, and exports to Canada a significant quantity of electronic products.

Priority Sectors:

Canada's trade strategy has targeted Singapore as a market opportunity in the following sectors:

1. Information technology and electronic products:

With a local work force that is high-cost by Asian standards and is highly skilled, both government and industry are concentrating their efforts on exploiting the opportunities for information technology as both a growth industry and as a necessary pre-requisite to establishing Singapore as a regional services centre.

2. Agriculture and food products: Although bulk food products (grains and oil seeds) account for a majority of total Canadian exports to Singapore,

TABLE VII MAJOR CANADIAN IMPORTS FROM SINGAPORE
(\$ CDN millions)

PRODUCT CATEGORY	1980	%	1985	%	1990	%	1991	%
Boilers, mchy & mech appliance; parts	3.2	(2.1)	7.3	(3.5)	279.5	(50.7)	302.5	(51.4)
Electrical mchy equip parts thereof; sound recorder etc.	43.6	(29.1)	88.7	(42.2)	146.5	(26.5)	160.2	(27.2)
Articles of apparel & clothing accessories	8.0	(5.3)	16.8	(8.0)	33.0	(6.0)	26.7	(4.6)
Organic chemicals	—		15.8	(7.5)	17.0	(3.1)	17.2	(2.9)
Rubber & articles thereof	51.8	(34.6)	44.9	(21.3)	12.8	(2.3)	12.4	(2.1)
Ships, boats & floating structures	N/A		N/A		1.0	(0.2)	7.6	(1.3)
Fish & crustacean	0.6	(0.4)	1.1	(0.5)	7.4	(1.4)	6.5	(1.1)
Articles of iron or steel	3.9 ^a	(2.6)	9.1 ^a	(4.3)	0.9	(0.2)	6.2	(1.1)
Printed books, newspapers, pictures & other product etc.	^^		^^		3.9	(0.7)	5.9	(1.0)
Furniture; bedding, mattress	12.0 [†]	(8.0)	4.6 [†]	(2.2)	4.6	(0.8)	3.2	(0.6)
Optical, photo	N/A		N/A		4.3	(0.8)	3.1	(0.5)
Special Transaction - Trade	N/A		N/A		1.2	(0.2)	3.0	(0.5)
Man-made staple fibres	N/A		N/A		6.2	(1.1)	3.0	(0.5)
Vehicles o/t railw/tramw roll-stock, pts.	N/A		N/A		5.8	(1.1)	2.9	(0.5)
Wood & articles of wood	3.7 ^a	(2.4)	4.2 ^a	(2.0)	3.6	(0.7)	2.8	(0.5)
Toys, games & sports requisites	#		#		4.4	(0.8)	2.7	(0.5)
SUBTOTAL OF ABOVE	126.8		192.5		532.1		565.9	
Total	149.6		210.4		551.8		588.9	

[†] Includes toys, games & misc. manufactured goods
[#] Included in Furniture
^a Includes all base metals
^{^^} Included in Wood
[^] Includes printed books, newspapers

Source: STATISTICS CANADA