

OECD average, Australia and New Zealand. One implication of this low labour-intensity is that in 1992 the Canadian export manufacturing industries topped all the OECD countries in the high-wage job category—higher even than the U.S.. As a consequence, the concentration of low-wage industries in manufacturing exports was lower in Canada than the U.S. and significantly lower than the OECD average, Australia and New Zealand. Canada was about even with the U.S. with regard to medium-wage job industries which manufacture products for export abroad.

The overall picture for the Canadian economy that emerges from the analysis in this paper is fairly promising. The relative decline in importance of primary exports has been accompanied by expansion in export-oriented manufacturing and service industries that support high-wage and knowledge-intensive jobs in Canada. The transformation of the Canadian export and import sector from a resource-based one to an exporter or importer of advanced and knowledge-based goods and services means that Canadian exports and imports increasingly support high real wages and quality jobs in Canada.