

Immigration

Western Europe remained the second largest source of new immigrants to Canada, and 27 454 visas were issued to potential immigrants from the region. In addition, 57 232 visitor visas, including 4 756 student visas and 13 776 temporary work permits, were issued. With the support of Investment Canada, emphasis was placed on encouraging the immigration of business people. These efforts attracted 495 immigrant entrepreneurs, who invested some \$775 million in Canada. This was 158 per cent more than in the previous year and resulted in the creation of 2 335 jobs.

In co-operation with airline companies and airport officials in Western Europe, Canadian missions tackled the serious problem created by the large number of persons seeking to enter Canada using false visas or forged travel documents. In addition, a number of missions, including Athens, Bonn and Rome, continued to process applications from Eastern Europe, Africa and the Middle East under Canada's program for refugees. In all, 4 861 refugee files were processed by missions in Western Europe during the year. Immigration services were added to the missions in Madrid and Ankara, while those in Milan were closed, since its territory is now served by the embassy in Rome.

Cultural relations

Cultural and public affairs programs helped to promote Canada's foreign policy objectives and to strengthen bilateral relations with the European countries. A consider-

able number of artistic events, including a major tour by the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, allowed Canadian cultural enterprises to establish themselves in these markets, which are essential to their further development. Meetings of joint cultural commissions with Italy and Belgium and formal consultations concerning culture with the Netherlands and the United Kingdom underlined the importance of Canadian cultural exchanges with those countries. Canada also signed a memorandum of understanding on cultural relations with Greece.

The European Community

Canada's relationship with the EC during the year under review was characterized by increasingly intense political-level involvement in its management, beginning with a call on her EC counterpart by the Minister for International Trade in May 1987, and culminating in a visit to the President of the Commission of the European Communities by the Prime Minister in March 1988. These visits were useful in putting bilateral irritants into perspective within the general context of an expanding trade relationship and successful industrial and scientific-technological co-operation programs. The tone of the relationship with the EC, as represented by the Commission (its executive arm), continued nevertheless to be marked by differences over specific issues, several of which were the subject of consultations or dispute settlement proceedings under the GATT. This is an inevitable concomitant of its sovereignty over trade, agriculture and fisheries, areas which traditionally

Table 6
CANADIAN IMPORTS FROM WESTERN EUROPE BY COUNTRY
(thousands of dollars)

	1985	1986	1987	Per cent change 87/86
Belgium and Luxembourg	530 130	618 229	620 964	0.4
France	1 372 610	1 585 291	1 489 423	-6.0
West Germany	2 715 609	3 453 228	3 535 023	2.4
Italy	1 331 098	1 671 356	1 693 286	1.3
The Netherlands	622 854	694 138	754 063	8.6
United Kingdom	3 280 844	3 721 154	4 341 860	16.7
Ireland	217 879	244 818	199 701	-18.4
Denmark	228 918	233 493	249 491	6.8
Greece	47 880	70 250	63 441	-9.7
Portugal	87 274	78 294	89 025	13.7
Spain	366 482	441 423	484 535	9.8
Gibraltar	385	118	—	—
Malta	5 814	3 390	1 273	-62.4
Austria	182 181	212 962	247 782	16.4
Finland	200 124	253 960	287 690	13.3
Iceland	3 498	11 883	8 319	-30.1
Norway	187 912	167 561	256 863	53.3
Sweden	682 834	788 209	884 005	12.2
Switzerland	488 955	591 283	606 647	2.6
Turkey	35 888	56 753	78 400	38.1
TOTAL	12 588 791	14 897 891	15 891 789	6.7