



CANADA'S TRADE AGREEMENTS



Overview

Canada's participation in international trade agreements is driven by a fundamental reality: we must look outward for our prosperity, given that we have an abundance of production in natural resources, manufactured goods and services but a relatively small domestic market. This means that we must secure access to foreign markets and investment. It is in recognition of this reality that successive Canadian governments have pursued:

- the first modern trade agreement with the United States concluded in 1935;
- the first major multilateral trade agreement, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which entered into force in 1948;
- eight subsequent rounds of negotiations under the GATT to further liberalize trade, including the Uruguay Round, which established the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1995;
- the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which entered into force in 1989;