

Agriculture and Fisheries

In 1982, agricultural output was 5 per cent higher than in 1981 which is not surprising since in 1981 the crop had failed. As poor harvests are not an unusual occurrence in Finland, seasonal opportunities arise for Canadian suppliers.

Finland is not a major fishing nation; nevertheless, imports of various varieties are limited by a quota system. Canada has been a supplier of whitefish and herring although sales of the latter have declined through lack of supply from Canada.

Foreign Trade

Exports — In 1982 Finland's total exports were FIM 75.5 billion. This, however, represents a volume decrease of some 3.5 per cent as demand from western countries fell and Finland's competitive position deteriorated. To partially offset the impact of the massive Swedish devaluation, Finland devalued its currency by some 10 per cent in October 1982.

Exports to the Soviet Union are governed by a bilateral trade protocol which specifies that exports and imports should balance over 5 years. However, since 1981 a considerable clearing-account surplus has built up in Finland's favour. This, coupled with a decline in the price of Soviet oil, a major import item to Finland, and drop in local energy consumption has contributed to a continuing trade surplus with the U.S.S.R.

Imports — Total imports in 1982 were some FIM 74 billion, a growth of 1 per cent over 1981. Major items included raw materials (including food), crude oil and investment and consumer goods. Given the general rise in import prices resulting from devaluation and the relative slackness of domestic demand, the import volume is likely to fall slightly in 1983.

Canada-Finland Trade — Trade relations between Canada and Finland are governed by an exchange of notes effective November 17, 1948 and by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) effective May 25, 1950. Canada and Finland accord each other most-favoured-nation (MFN) tariff treatment.