

CANADA'S EXPORT ROOTS

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Canada has long been a trading nation. Our rich natural resources, proximity to the world's leading economic power and relatively small domestic markets mean that we must look beyond our borders to grow and prosper. Globalization has only intensified our motivation – and opportunities – to do so.

Trade is at the heart of Canada's economic success today. It is fueling our innovation and emergence as a world-leading knowledge economy. It continues to create high-paying and rewarding jobs in dynamic areas such as biotechnology, health and the environment. It has highlighted our strengths in natural resources management and continues to present exciting opportunities for the many niche companies that provide technical equipment and services in agriculture, energy, forestry, mining and geosciences.

Trade is also delivering unprecedented opportunities for us to share our unique “Canadian way” through our wide range of cultural products and services. Trade is at the heart of Canada's social success as well. It helps finance the social system Canadians cherish and which is a reflection of our values of fairness, inclusion and equality. All Canadians, in all reaches of the country, have a stake in our nation's continuing trade success.

The continued expansion of trade relative to GDP is indicative of Canada's increasing integration into the global economy. Achievements vis-à-vis North American free trade and a worldwide reduction of trade barriers have paved the way for this phenomenal trade performance. Robust demand from the U.S. has also contributed greatly to our trade gains.