has added an advanced economy with a strong capital base and has become the home of advanced technologies. One of the world's most extensive and sophisticated transportation systems links Canada with world markets. The cost of labour, land and buildings in Canada is attractive for investors who seek to minimize costs. Canadian cities provide an attractive living environment. In addition, the nation has acquired a well-deserved reputation for tolerance, welcoming and accommodating various nationalities, religions and ethnic groups.

That solid business base and the climate for financial gain are enhanced by a powerful and highly developed economy. Since 1984, the real growth of the economy has placed Canada, along with Japan, in the lead among nations in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Employment growth has recently led that of OECD nations, and unit labour costs have shown a consistent decrease, the best performance among major OECD nations. Corporate profits have been strong, and real business investment rose 9 per cent in 1987. An even greater rate of growth is predicted for 1988.

It may surprise some, but U.S. merchandise trade with Canada exceeds that with Japan. Canada-U.S. merchandise trade amounted to C$170 billion in 1987, and the trend has been upward. Service exports to the U.S. recorded a 58 per cent gain over the past five years. Business services increased by 62 per cent, travel by 83 per cent, and freight and shipping by 20 per cent.

While most of Canada's trade is with the United States, there are significant transactions with Japan, the European Community, and other countries.

Canadian industry has shown outstanding growth in a number of fields, including communications, industrial goods, machinery, equipment, consumer goods, aircraft and other transportation equipment, and biotechnology.