



ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

Opening Doors to the World: Canada's International Market Access Priorities, 1998 outlines the Government's priorities for improving access to foreign markets for Canadian traders and investors through a range of multilateral, regional and bilateral initiatives in 1998. It also presents significant market-opening results from 1997 that will benefit Canadian business. Subjects range from Canada's broad negotiating objectives at the World Trade Organization, to the details of specific bilateral trade irritants. It is not intended as an exhaustive catalogue of Government activities to improve access to foreign markets, nor as a comprehensive inventory of foreign barriers to trade or investment.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), and its Embassies and missions abroad, co-ordinated the preparation of this report, with the assistance of other federal government departments (especially Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Finance Canada and Industry Canada), as well as provincial governments, and, of course, Canadians doing business abroad. Its contents are current up to the end of February 1998.

Opening Doors to the World: Canada's International Market Access Priorities, 1998 updates and expands on topics presented in Canada's International Market Access Priorities 1997, which was released by the Minister for International Trade in March 1997. That report succeeded an annual publication, the Register of U.S. Barriers to Trade, that had been prepared by DFAIT since 1993. While recognizing the vital importance of the U.S. market, the current approach reflects Canada's broader interests and the importance of work in such fora as the WTO to strengthen the disciplines governing global trade and investment flows.