

AUSTRALIA

Overview

Australian imports from Canada were down 3.7 percent to \$915 million in 1999, while Canadian imports from Australia decreased by 6.5 percent to \$1.21 billion, for a two-way total of \$2.13 billion. Canadian sales successes in Australia continue to be oriented toward fully manufactured goods, a pattern closer to that of the United States than of any other Asia Pacific market.

There are natural affinities between Canada and Australia arising from similar legal and regulatory systems, comparable federal structures and a trading relationship reaching back over 100 years. Most trade between the two countries takes place at MFN rates, including substantial amounts at duty-free rates.

As of July 1, 1998, most MFN applied rates were at, or below, 5 percent. However, some tariff peaks reaching into the 25 percent to 30 percent range remain, such as passenger motor vehicles, textiles, clothing and footwear. Some important non-tariff measures have an impact on market access, especially the tough sanitary and phytosanitary requirements imposed by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service. Most fisheries, meat, livestock, fruit, vegetable and food product imports face restrictive measures, ranging from prior approval and lengthy time delays in quarantine (e.g. Canadian dairy and beef breeding stock and ostriches) to outright bans (such as previous bans on fresh, chilled and frozen salmon). Other measures affecting access for Canadian goods and services include product standards, government-procurement practices (which vary from sector to sector, and from Commonwealth to state levels) and trade-remedy laws (Australia is among the most active users of anti-dumping and countervailing duty statutes).

Canada and Australia have also announced a joint statement on global e-commerce that articulates a shared vision and a program of cooperation for the growth of global electronic commerce.



7. Opening Doors to Other Key Markets

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