

Canada-China Trade and Investment

- China is the fastest growing major economy in the world today. Since 1961 when Canada made its first wheat sale to China, and particularly after 1978 when China launched its reform program, two-way trade has expanded rapidly. Trade with China, which more than doubled between 1991 and 1997, involves a broad cross-section of Canada's economy and ranges from resources and agriculture to software and biotechnology. Over 400 Canadian companies now have a permanent presence in China, more than double the number in 1995.
- The Canada-China Business Council is an integral part of efforts to expand Canada-China trade and investment ties. The council is a private sector, non-profit membership organization that was incorporated in 1978.
- The 2001 and 1994 Team Canada trade missions to China, led by Prime Minister Chrétien and involving hundreds of Canadian companies, stimulated trade and fostered partnerships that continue to flourish.
- Export Development Canada maintains an office in Beijing to support Canadian exporters. It is a key partner for Canadian businesses in the highly competitive Chinese market.
- Canadian trade policy and export promotion activities are conducted through four regional missions in China. These include the Canadian embassy in Beijing, consulates general in Guangzhou and Shanghai, and a consulate in Chongqing. The consulate general located in the Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong is closely aligned with Canadian trade promotion activities in China. Through a Canadian government partnership with the Canada-China Business Council, export-ready Canadian companies can receive export assistance in the regional centres of Qingdao, Chengdu, Shenzhen, and Shenyang.
- As a new member of the WTO, China is bound to international rules governing trade relations. The result is improved access to Chinese markets in nearly every sector, particularly financial services and agriculture. Within the WTO framework, Canada is co-operating with China to continue expanding the rate at which it dismantles barriers to trade.
- China (not including Hong Kong) is Canada's third largest national trading partner — after the United States and Japan. It is Canada's fourth largest export market — after the United States, Japan and the United Kingdom. China became Canada's second largest import market in 2002, displacing Japan, which has long held the position.