

Canada-France Trade

Trade between Canada and France has more than doubled in the past ten years, reaching over 22 billion FF (\$4,5 billion) in 1991. The trade balance between the countries has consistently been negative for Canada since 1984.

Though 1991 was particularly favourable for Canadian exports to France (+ 13%), the trade deficit deteriorated from 2,4 billion FF to 2,9 billion FF (\$605 million). However, this deterioration is not significant as it is solely due to a twofold increase of Canadian purchases of Airbus airplanes, which offset both a decrease in other imported goods and the growth in exports. Thus, excluding aircraft trade, the 1991 trade deficit showed strong progress, bringing it to a balanced position (-12 million FF or \$2,5 million).

The changes by industry during the year reflect the major trends observed during the eighties: among industrial products which represent the majority of the trade between France and Canada (85%), industrial manufactured products were even stronger (58% of trade) at the expense of Semi-finished products.

Bilateral trade between France and Canada nevertheless remains small considering the magnitude and the openness of the two economies. Among Canada's trade customers, France has for the second consecutive year dropped by one position, ranking eighth with less than 1% of Canadian exports. However, France maintains its 5th position as supplier, with close to 2% of total Canadian imports. Canada's ranking in French bilateral trade is even more modest, though improved compared with 1990: ranking fourteenth among France's trade partners, Canada is France's 23rd supplier (0.7% of French imports) and its 11th most important customer (1.05% of exports).

A DECADE OF TRADE (1981 - 1991)

According to statistics from French Customs, trade between Canada and France progressed from 9 billion FF (\$2 billion) in 1981 to over 22 billion FF (\$4,5 billion) in 1991. As indicated in the table and chart on the next page, Canada has experienced a trade deficit with France each year since 1984.