

dependent on Canadian production and competitive capabilities. Production of musical instruments in Canada is carried out by relatively small production companies (by international standards) that mainly produce specialized and/or custom-made products of high quality. In contrast, production of musical instruments in Japan and certain other Asian countries is primarily devoted to high volume, non-customized product lines which benefit from large economies of scale and, in some cases, significantly lower wage rates than those in North America. U.S. imports from Asian countries have grown rapidly over the last several years and it is expected that even with the lower U.S. dollar, these imports will continue to grow but at a somewhat reduced rate.

U.S. importers interviewed indicated a preference for receiving initial product and company information through brochures or industry publications. In making their purchase decision, however, U.S. importers are likely to use information from a number of sources including trade fairs, manufacturers and recommendations from personal contacts.

I - STUDY OBJECTIVES

This report is one of a series covering approximately 80 manufacturing sectors commissioned by the U.S. Trade, Tourism and Investment Development Bureau of the Department of External Affairs and written by Peat Marwick. The series is designed to provide a preliminary indication of Canadian export opportunities in the United States that may now exist as a result of the rising cost of offshore imports. The information provided about the nature and size of the U.S. import market, as well as leads and marketing intelligence, should help Canadian companies to determine whether further investigation of opportunities is justified and, if so, to begin such followup. The reports are likely to be of particular interest to small and medium-sized Canadian companies that either are not exporting or would like to increase their exports to the United States.

Each sector report identifies the major products imported into the United States from developed countries, explores the effect that the devaluation of the U.S. dollar has had on the price of these imports and indicates which of these products might provide Canadian suppliers with increased export opportunities in the United States. The U.S. Department of Commerce's segmentation of statistics, upon which the review of U.S. imports is based, does not always correspond to the traditional definitions of product sectors in Canada. In a few reports, therefore, there are some differences between the products discussed in the report and those commonly included within that sector. Definitions of what products are covered in each report are, however, provided in all cases so that such differences can be identified and taken into account.

The report also identifies some initial export leads for Canadian manufacturers, lists trade fairs and industry publications favoured by U.S. importers, examines the U.S. importers' perceptions of the impact of the Free Trade Agreement between Canada and the United States on their purchases of Canadian products and provides the relevant tariff tables outlining the implementation stages of the Free Trade Agreement. Analysis of Canadian export industries or international competitiveness was outside the scope of these reports. For specific information on export marketing of their product, Canadian companies are invited to contact the U.S. Trade, Tourism, and Investment Development Bureau or the appropriate Canadian Trade Commissioner in the United States (addresses in final appendix).