

Market Access Results in 2004

- On December 29, 2004, Kuwait removed its restriction on avian influenza.

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy

Kuwait has imposed a temporary ban on the import of ruminant animals from Canada until further notice. Canada has kept all its trading partners, including Kuwait, fully informed of the results of its investigations and regulatory response, and it is requesting a resumption of trade on scientific grounds. Canada has renewed representations to Kuwaiti officials, and a proposed certificate for live cattle exports from Canada has been submitted to appropriate authorities in Kuwait for approval. (For further information, see the BSE overview in Chapter 2.)

Avian Influenza

On March 21, 2004, Kuwait imposed measures against imports of poultry from Canada due to avian influenza. On December 28, 2004, Kuwait removed its restrictions on avian influenza. (For further information, see the avian influenza overview in Chapter 2.)

Oman

Canada and Oman negotiated a double taxation agreement in 2003, which was ratified by both sides on June 30, 2004.

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- In August 2004, Canadian and Omani officials agreed upon a revised veterinary health certificate that allowed for the continued export of Canadian milk and milk products to Oman.

THE MAGHREB

The Maghreb region represents a good market for Canadian goods and services. Exports of merchandise, mainly agricultural commodities, were valued at \$649 million in 2003 and \$583 million in 2004. Exports of services to the region are very significant, exceeding \$354 million in 2002. Canada's success in

the Mahgreb services market is due in part to Canada's ability to offer modern North American technology in the French language, though Libya, where English is the main foreign language used, is also a significant market for services. The region as a whole has made important progress in trade and investment liberalization in recent years. Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia have all signed association agreements with the European Union. Morocco has a free trade agreement with the United States. Morocco and Tunisia are members of the WTO.

The discovery of BSE in Canada in 2003 negatively affected some agricultural exports, and both Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency have actively pursued contacts with veterinary authorities in the region in 2004.

Algeria

Overview

Algeria has initiated an ambitious campaign of privatization and modernization, as well as regulatory reforms that have opened up sectors such as mining and telecommunications to foreign investors. Algeria has a double taxation agreement with Canada and an association agreement with the European Union.

Algeria has applied to join the WTO, and accession negotiations continued in 2004. Canada's market access priorities for the coming year will include support for Algeria's accession to the WTO.

Algeria is Canada's largest market in Africa and consistently among the top markets in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Canadian merchandise exports were \$349 million in 2003 and \$285 million in 2004.

According to Algerian regulations, genetically modified agricultural products, such as seeds and plants, cannot be imported into Algeria. The Assemblée Nationale Populaire adopted the legislation on GMO seeds and plants on January 4, 2005.