

Meat Quotas

In mid-1999, as a pre-accession concession, Chinese Taipei implemented MFN quotas on imports of several meat products that had previously been banned. These quotas were in place until January 1, 2000, the date Chinese Taipei had hoped to be admitted to the WTO. In response to pressure from Canada and others, Chinese Taipei re-established the quotas for a further six-month period, until to June 30, 2000. The quotas were announced in January 2000 and distributed to importers in February 2000.

Seed Potatoes

Following a request from the seed potato industry in the Western provinces, Canada first approached Chinese Taipei to remove its ban on imports of seed potatoes from Canada in 1993. Chinese Taipei prohibits the importation of seed potatoes from Canada because of concerns about the presence of golden nematode and potato wart in Canada. While Canada has demonstrated that its strict quarantine measures prevent the spread of golden nematode and potato wart outside Newfoundland and Vancouver Island, Chinese Taipei insists on additional survey data demonstrating that the production areas from which potatoes are shipped are free from these pests. Chinese Taipei only imports seed potatoes from Alaska, to which Canada is an exporter of the same product. Chinese Taipei's current phytosanitary measures, however, allow the importation of table potatoes from Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Quebec, for which Canada has requested a TRQ.

Greenhouse Vegetables

In its efforts to develop export markets, the Canadian greenhouse vegetable industry has indicated that Chinese Taipei is a priority market. Chinese Taipei will not accept tomatoes if it cannot be certified that they originate from an area free from potato late blight type A-2, to which tomatoes are susceptible. Canada maintains that certification that the fruit is free from A-2 late blight is sufficient. Peppers from Canada are banned because they are deemed to be a host for tobacco blue mould, known to have occurred in Ontario. Canada will press for recognition of an area that is free from tobacco blue mould to allow exports from British Columbia.

Softwood Lumber

Chinese Taipei is a major export market for softwood lumber, but only for the lower grades used for packaging. The market is felt to be open to increased use of wood in construction, but the opportunity is held back by the concern of financial and insurance institutions that Chinese Taipei wooden-building code, at four pages in length, is insufficiently prescriptive to provide assurance of adequate quality. With the support of Canadian industry, Canada is to press for enhancement of the code toward that used successfully in Canada or Japan.

Medical Devices

The Chinese Taipei market holds promise for exporters, but growth has been hampered by Chinese Taipei's inequitable treatment of imports from different countries. Canada's U.S. competitors enjoy access based on Chinese Taipei's recognition of U.S. quality-control regimes, while additional guarantees are required from Canadian exporters. Canadian efforts are under way to obtain equivalent recognition.

INDIA

Overview

The Indian economy has changed dramatically since 1991, when India launched its program of economic reforms and trade and investment liberalization. India's economic growth rate was 6 percent to 7 percent per year from 1993 to 1998, with similar growth expected to be reported for 1999 when final statistics are compiled. Growth for 2000 is expected to remain around the 6 percent mark. The fundamentals of the Indian economy are sound and were not affected by the financial problems in East and Southeast Asia. Measures and sanctions against India imposed after its nuclear tests have had little effect on the Indian economy, except for the non-availability of some foreign lending for infrastructure projects. The election of a substantial majority government in the 1999 general elections, the resultant political stability and the strength in business confidence indices and the capital market underscore the resurgent prospects for the Indian economy in the short to medium term. The new Government has already passed an impressive list of economic bills to further liberalize