- Machinery and equipment suffered the second largest export decline last year, at $8.1 billion, or a decline of 8.3 per cent. At $89.2 billion, they accounted for 22.2 per cent of merchandise exports, down from 23.5 per cent in 2002.

- Industrial goods and materials experienced a $3.6 billion decline in exports in 2003, as their share in total merchandise exports slipped from 17.0 per cent in 2002 to 16.6 per cent last year. Canada exported $66.6 billion worth of these products in 2003.

- Energy products rose in importance as a share of Canadian exports, from 12.0 per cent of total exports in 2002 to 15.3 per cent last year. Exports of these products rose dramatically by $11.7 billion over the year, or 23.7 per cent, to $61.3 billion.

Imports

- Widespread losses in imports were also observed in 2003, most notably for machinery and equipment, where imports fell $7.7 billion, or 7.2 per cent. Machinery and equipment accounted for 28.8 per cent of merchandise imports, down from 29.7 per cent one year earlier.

- Imports of automotive products also fell substantially last year, down $5.1 billion to $76.4 billion, a 6.3 per cent decline. At this level, the share of these products in total imports edged down from 22.8 per cent to 22.4 per cent from 2002 to 2003.

- Industrial goods and materials imports posted a $3.8 billion decline from 2002, a 5.5 per cent decrease, to $65.1 billion. The share in total imports of this sector slipped from 19.3 per cent two year's ago to 19.1 per cent last year.

- Imports of energy products advanced 18.3 per cent, or slightly over $3.0 billion, to $19.6 billion last year.

Foreign direct investment

- FDI inflows into Canada fell dramatically (to $8.3 billion) in 2003, down nearly three-quarters from their levels only one year earlier. It was the third straight year of decline.

  - Inflows to Canada from all major trading partner areas were down in 2003.

- FDI outflows from Canada fell by a third to just over $30.0 billion this past year.

  - Outflows were down to most major trading partners, except for the E.U.

- As has been the case for the past few years, the outflow of Canadian direct investment abroad exceeded the inflow of foreign direct investment in Canada in 2003.