

G-8 foreign ministers' meeting in Cologne, Germany. In addition, the industry minister visited Japan in September 1998. In October 1998, the international co-operation minister met with Japan's foreign and international trade ministers to promote joint co-operation between non-governmental organizations and the public and private sectors on official development assistance. The agriculture minister led Canada's participation in FOODEX Japan 1999 in March. The international trade minister travelled to Japan May 10-12, 1999, for meetings with his counterpart and other senior officials.

- Inter-parliamentary relations have thrived under the leadership of the Canada-Japan Parliamentary Group. The group has held annual meetings since 1989, most recently in Calgary in 1998.
- Canada is represented in Tokyo, Osaka, Fukuoka and Nagoya and has honorary commercial representatives in Hiroshima, Sendai and Sapporo. Japan is represented in Ottawa, Edmonton, Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver and has honorary consuls in Halifax, Regina, Winnipeg and St. John's.

Trade and Investment

- Japan is Canada's second-largest trading partner (after the United States), absorbing nearly half of all Canadian exports to Asia. The value of Canadian exports to Japan in 1998 exceeded the value of Canadian exports to the United Kingdom and Germany.
- Two-way trade in 1998 amounted to \$22.6 billion, with Canadian imports at \$14 billion, and Canadian exports at \$8.6 billion — 4.6 and 2.7 per cent of total Canadian imports and exports, respectively. In 1998, Canada was Japan's 14th-largest market and 11th-largest supplier.
- Canada's main exports to Japan include lumber and plywood, pulp and paper, coal, fish, animal products, seafood and oilseeds. Canada's main imports from Japan include machinery, electronic and photographic equipment, motor vehicles and parts, computers, and chemicals.
- Canadian exports to Japan were particularly hard hit in 1998, but world exports to Japan as a whole at this time fell nine per cent (yen value).
- In 1998, Canadian exports to Japan decreased by 25 per cent from 1997. Contributing to this decrease was a collapse in housing demand in Japan. This market for Canadian lumber was worth 18.5 per cent of total Canadian exports to Japan in 1998, down from 24.2 per cent in 1997. Also a lower demand by Japanese industry for coal and other minerals and lower world prices for these materials added to the decrease.