

U.S.S.R. Fact Sheet

Size

World's largest country, covering an area of 22.4 million square kilometres, more than twice the size of Canada

Population

287.7 million (1989); over 100 nationalities (Russians, 51 per cent)

Parliamentary Structure

Congress of People's Deputies, meets yearly (2250 elected members). Supreme Soviet is the bicameral national parliament (542 deputies).

Presidency

The Chairman of the Supreme Soviet is the President of the Soviet Union.

GDP

C\$1759 billion (1988 est.)

GDP Per Capita

C\$6244

Political Party

Communist Party of the Soviet Union

Currency

1 rouble = 100 kopeks

1 rouble = \$1.88 Canadian (October 1989)

Main Exports

Oil and other energy: 50 percent of exports

Main Imports

Machines and equipment, foodstuffs

Foreign Debt

US\$38 billion

Overall Foreign Trade

65 percent with Socialist countries

20 percent with Western countries

Main Western Trading Partners

F.R.G., Finland, Italy, France

Soviet Exports to Canada

In 1988 they reached a record high of \$156 million (four times the 1987 mark and twice the previous high of \$78 million in 1981) because of the sale of platinum.

Soviet Imports from Canada

Grain accounts for over 80 percent of Soviet imports from Canada. In 1984, this trade was worth \$2.1 billion (value of trade has fallen with grain prices).