



TRADE AND ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS, 2002

- ▶ **Exports** of goods and services fell for the second consecutive year, down \$2.7 billion, or 0.6 per cent, in 2002.
 - Goods exports were led lower by declines in machinery and equipment, energy products, and forestry products, while automotive products, industrial goods and materials, as well as consumer goods posted slightly offsetting gains.
 - The \$1.2 billion gain in services exports wiped out the \$0.5 billion decrease recorded in 2001.
- ▶ **Imports** of goods and services advanced \$6.6 billion, or 1.6 per cent, in 2002, as both goods and services registered increases over 2001 levels. Five of the seven major commodity groups posted gains, except for machinery and equipment and energy.
- ▶ Canada's **current account balance** narrowed as the trade surplus declined \$9.3 billion and the deficit on investment income increased \$2.8 billion.
- ▶ **Gross domestic product** at current prices reached \$1.14 trillion in 2002, or \$36,357 on a *per capita* basis.
- ▶ **Real GDP**, or gross domestic product adjusted for inflation, grew 3.4 per cent in 2002, following on the heels of a 1.5 per cent increase a year earlier.
- ▶ **Employment** for 2002 grew some 335 thousand jobs, more than double the 167.1 thousand jobs created in 2001; however, the unemployment rate increased to 7.7 per cent for the year as the labour force grew at a faster pace than employment.
- ▶ **Consumer price inflation** on an annual basis fell to 2.2 per cent in 2002 from 2.6 per cent in 2001. Core inflation, which excludes food and energy, rose to 2.3 percent last year from 2.1 per cent a year earlier.

Total trade

The year 2002 was a blue-ribbon one for Canada as economic activity expanded 3.4 per cent, marking the eleventh consecutive year of economic growth. The past year, however, was not an easy one on the global scene with most of Canada's major trading partners recording mediocre economic performances. The strong performance of Canada relative to the other countries was reflected in Canada's international trade statistics, as exports of goods and services declined while imports increased.

- Canada's exports of goods and services edged down 0.6 per cent to \$468.5 billion in 2002 as the decline in exports slowed from a 2.4 per cent drop the previous year. As overall economic activity increased while exports fell, exports of goods and services as a percentage of Canada's GDP slipped to 41.0 per cent in 2002 from 43.1 per cent in 2001.
- Imports of goods and services into Canada rose to \$422.3 billion last year, posting a 1.6 per cent gain after having fallen 2.9 per cent in 2001. Imports of goods and services as a share of GDP also edged down from 2001 share levels, falling to 37.0 per cent from 38.1 per cent the year earlier.