

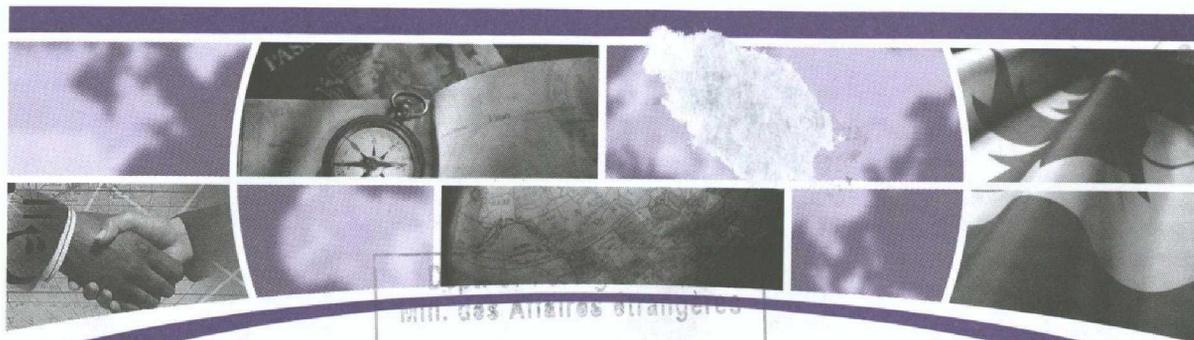
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Department of Foreign Affairs
and International Trade

Ministère des Affaires étrangères
et du Commerce international

Canada

CanadaExport



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Exporter confidence inches forward, restrained by rising dollar

Exporter confidence rose slightly during the last six months, but many remain cautious about sales growth this year, according to the latest survey by Export Development Canada (EDC).

"We've been forecasting that 2004 would be a year of synchronized growth for the global economy," says EDC Vice-President and Chief Economist Stephen Poloz. "Exporter sentiment is more bullish than six months ago because of positive economic news, but the survey also shows Canadians are concerned about the potential implications of a rising dollar on their sales volumes."

EDC's Trade Confidence Index (TCI) is based on a random sample of 1000 Canadian companies, representing a cross-section of industry, regions and size of business. The latest reading is 74.8 out of a possible 100 points, an increase of 1.5 points from the 73.3 registered in the spring of 2003. It is a composite score based on five questions asked twice a year.



While confidence in the domestic and global economies rose, this improvement has not so far translated into expectations of stronger export sales, which remain about the same as six months ago. Overwhelmingly, exporters cited concern over the rising Canadian dollar as one of the primary reasons for their caution.

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Saskatoon, Dubai IT companies team up

One of Dubai's most creative Web development firms has found the hosting solution they were looking for in a Saskatoon company. After almost two years of negotiations, FalconSearch.com has agreed to trust their hosting needs to **Amanah Tech Inc.** A formal signing ceremony was held on the sidelines of **GITEX 2003 Dubai**, the largest technology trade show in the Arabian Gulf.

According to Iqbal Butt, FalconSearch.com CEO, "We have chosen Amanah Tech Inc. as a result of an exhaustive search of suitable hosting firms, after having both technical support and customer service issues with our current provider. We are absolutely confident that Amanah will provide the service and support that our clients deserve. Our company finds having customer service and technical support in

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