Canada and the United States form the largest trading partnership in the world, with two-way trade exceeding $268 billion in 1993. Canada ships almost three-quarters of its exports to the U.S., and receives about two-thirds of its imports from the U.S.

A sophisticated, cost-effective transportation and communications system supports these massive trade volumes.

Together, the two countries have 280 million consumers and a gross domestic product in excess of $7 trillion. GDP per capita exceeds $25,000 in both countries.

In addition to their close physical proximity, Canada and the U.S. share a common language, similar business practices, and the same time zones.

On an average day, more than half a million residents of Canada and the U.S. cross the border, with no need for a visa or passport.

The huge, affluent Canada–U.S. market just got bigger. Effective January 1, 1994, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) integrated the rapidly growing Mexican market into one free trade area. With the addition of Mexico, companies based in Canada have preferred access to a market of 360 million people, with a combined GDP of more than $8.5 trillion.

The efficient, well-maintained infrastructure, built to deliver goods and services throughout this vast North American market, enables companies based in Canada to serve global markets as well. Excellent marine and air transportation links, combined with a location between Europe and Asia, make Canada a good choice for companies doing business worldwide.

"Canada offers a solid basis for long-term high-tech investments. The country has a good infrastructure with a modern transport network, an excellent communications system and optimum energy supply."

William B. Waite
President and Chief Executive Officer
Siemens, Canada

"We ship throughout North America by rail, truck, and barge. To us, there is no border between Canada and the U.S."

Terry Lichtfield, Manager
Transportation & Distribution
Canadian Oxy Chemicals
Group Electronics Ltd.