

CONSUMER BENEFITS

Canadian consumers will benefit significantly from the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. The elements of the Agreement benefitting consumers are:

- the removal of tariffs and other barriers to the importation of U.S. products will result in lower prices and greater choice for Canadian consumers;
- Canadian-made products will also be lower in price because of reduced manufacturing costs for Canadian industry, increased competition and larger scales of production, made possible by unimpeded access to the U.S. market;
- preservation of technical standards ensuring bilingual labelling, prohibition of hazardous products, etc; and
- elimination of certain quantitative restrictions, e.g. U.S. used automobiles.

For Canadian consumers:

- the cost of living of low-income families will decline by about three percent or \$255 to \$395 a year (averaging about \$325 a year);
- the cost of living of middle- and high-income households will decline by about two percent or \$612 to \$949 a year (averaging about \$800 a year);
- the average family of four will save between \$85 and \$130 annually on food expenditures; and
- the typical middle-income family will pay \$5,000 to \$8,000 less to establish and furnish a home.

WOMEN

Canadian women will benefit significantly from the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. As workers, entrepreneurs and consumers, women are major contributors to the Canadian economy and can expect a substantial share of the opportunities and benefits generated by free trade.

The Free Trade Agreement will eliminate tariffs, reduce other trade barriers, and provide a more stable and predictable environment for trade and investment in North America. The Agreement will therefore expand opportunities and options for women throughout the economy:

- for women, free trade will mean increased employment opportunities. In the service sector, where 84 percent of employed women work, women can anticipate new opportunities to advance their careers. In the manufacturing sector, more efficient and competitive industries will mean more and better jobs for women. Growth in the primary industries will expand opportunities for women in non-traditional occupations;