

Imports of agricultural and agri food products also rose in 2010, but by less than for exports. For the year, imports of this major commodity group were up by \$134 million (0.5 percent) to \$29.9 billion. For the most part, changes by suppliers were fairly small. For example, the largest increases were a \$147 million rise in imports from Mexico followed by a \$54 million increase from Guatemala, while the largest declines were posted by the United States (down \$333 million) and New Zealand (down \$33 million). Likewise, gains and losses by product were fairly small. A \$178-million advance in ethyl alcohol led all imports of agricultural and agri food products, followed by coffee (up \$110 million) and sugar (up \$104 million), while a \$105-million reduction in soya bean oilcakes posted the largest decline.

With exports rising more than imports, Canada's trade surplus in agricultural and agri food products widened by \$249 million to \$9.2 billion in 2010.

*Minerals and Metals*¹¹

Rising prices for primary commodities proved a boon to trade in minerals and metals last year. Exports of minerals and metals jumped up by \$14.9 billion to \$63.4 billion in 2010. Gains were registered across all HS chapters that make up this category, with the exception of articles of stone, plaster, and cement (HS Chapter 68) and glass and glassware (HS Chapter 70), which posted declines of \$62 million and \$54 million, respectively. Advances were led by precious metals and stones, where exports were up by \$7.8 billion to account for slightly over half the overall gain. Iron and steel (up \$2.0 billion), aluminum (up \$1.7 billion), and nickel (up \$1.6 billion) also recorded strong gains. Three countries—the United States, the United Kingdom and Norway—accounted

for over 80 percent of the gains, with advances of \$7.2 billion, \$4.1 billion, and \$745 million, respectively.

At the product level, four commodities recorded increases in exports in excess of \$1.0 billion in 2010. Gold led the gains, with exports up nearly \$5.5 billion (65.4 percent) to \$13.8 billion. Gold prices were up 25.9 percent last year and averaged US\$1,224.55 per troy ounce for the year. The United Kingdom accounted for some 55 percent of the gains, followed by the United States, at 36 percent, with Switzerland and Hong Kong accounting for the remainder.

Nickel exports advanced \$1.3 billion (85.5 percent) to \$2.8 billion as prices were up 48.8 percent over the year. Norway (up \$0.6 billion) and the United Kingdom (up \$0.7 billion) accounted for the gains. Exports of unwrought aluminum rose by \$1.2 billion (23.9 percent) to \$6.0 billion, led by gains to the United States (up \$0.7 billion), the Netherlands (up \$0.2 billion), and Mexico (up \$0.1 billion). Finally, exports of silver more than doubled last year, up \$1.0 billion (137.8 percent) to \$1.8 billion. All of the gains came from the United States, which absorbed over 98 percent of total Canadian exports of silver.

On the import side, imports of metals and minerals were up \$9.5 billion in 2010, to \$49.0 billion. As was the case for exports, the gains were widespread, with only lead and related articles (HS Chapter 78) registering a decrease last year. Precious metals and stones (up \$3.5 billion), iron and steel (up \$2.2 billion), articles of iron and steel (up \$1.1 billion) and metal ores (up \$1.0 billion) led the gains. Geographically, gains were widespread. The United States accounted for 43.4 percent of the overall increase in

¹¹ HS Chapters 25, 26, and 68 through 83, except for Chapter 77. Chapter 77 is being held in reserve and presently does not exist in the HS system.