

Table 14

**CANADIAN TRADE WITH SOUTH AMERICA**  
(thousands of dollars)

	EXPORTS			IMPORTS		
	Percentage change from 1987	1987	1988	Percentage change from 1987	1987	1988
Argentina	-40.0	96 587	57 905	8.5	113 658	123 361
Bolivia	-23.8	4 487	5 556	551.4	3 481	22 667
Brazil	-31.9	636 824	433 051	37.4	858 082	1 179 528
Chile	37.4	98 596	135 538	7.8	152 680	164 727
Colombia	-20.9	224 330	177 312	1.9	135 491	138 138
Ecuador	5.5	41 345	43 641	-10.4	95 180	85 233
French Guiana	-68.9	139	43	76.2	81	143
Guyana	6.6	5 162	5 506	55.6	34 482	15 267
Paraguay	-49.3	4 008	2 031	-47.1	867	458
Peru	-46.5	120 522	64 470	15.1	76 634	85 969
Suriname	-58.6	1 004	1 593	-97.5	3 552	86
Uruguay	-56.5	25 934	11 270	-91.8	137 381	11 141
Venezuela	10.6	336 683	372 491	-17.1	559 042	463 261
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-17.8</b>	<b>1 595 624</b>	<b>1 310 412</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>2 168 597</b>	<b>2 289 993</b>

a major force of democratic expression in Latin America, with influence on Latin American positions and policies on such key issues as the external debt, the Multilateral Trade Negotiations, drugs, and Central America.

Since the Group's inception, Canada has concretely demonstrated support for its efforts to strengthen democracy, increase regional co-operation and promote respect for human rights, as well as to encourage social and economic development, all of which underlie Canadian foreign policy interests in Latin America.

Total Canadian exports to the region amounted to \$2.87 billion in 1988; Canada's exports to Brazil, Peru and Cuba showed a slight decrease. Imports by Canada from the region, on the other hand, increased by 10 per cent to \$4.53 billion. Major increases were recorded for imports from Brazil and Mexico.

Canada continued to assist the economic and social development of the region through programs administered by CIDA, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and Petro-Canada International, as well as through involvement in multilateral regional organizations such as the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), and the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture (IICA).

Large numbers of Canadians followed the events in Central America closely and many voiced their concern over the social impact the conflict has had on large segments of the populations of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In 1988, the Canadian government not only conveyed these preoccupations to the countries concerned and urged that human rights be given adequate protection, but also contributed to alleviating the burden of the refugee population on neighbouring countries by funding the activities of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in the region. Also in 1988, 3 484

Central American refugees were permanently resettled in Canada.

In the Caribbean, Canada took a leading role in trying to alleviate the enormous economic and financial burden created by severe indebtedness, particularly in Guyana and in Jamaica, which was also struck by a devastating hurricane in September.

#### **Brazil**

In recognition of Canada's developing relationship with Brazil, the Governor General, accompanied by Mr. Harvie Andre, Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister of State for Science and Technology, visited Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and Brasilia in February 1989. Mme Sauvé was the first foreign Head of State to tour Brazil since it adopted its new constitution. Her visit opened communication at the highest levels and promoted stronger trade links. It helped to demonstrate Canada's continuing resolve to broaden and strengthen relations at all levels with Latin American governments.

While world concern turned to focus on the destruction of Brazil's rain forest, Brazil increased its efforts on environmental issues, initiating a review of environmental policy and establishing the Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources. Brazil formally requested Canadian co-operation and assistance on environmental issues; accordingly, CIDA's development assistance program in Brazil will give increased attention to environmental concerns. In addition, the Canadian Embassy in Brazil supports a number of local environmental projects and an Arrangement on Environmental Co-operation was signed by Mr. Andre (on behalf of Environment Canada) and the State of Sao Paulo.

#### **The Southern Cone**

In Argentina, President Alfonsín's government faced serious economic and political difficulties, including a brief