

CANADA - TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TRADE

The balance of trade between Canada-Trinidad and Tobago during the latter half of the 1980's has undergone a significant shift.

In 1984, Canada held a \$117 million advantage in export trade. Just four years later, Trinidad and Tobago exports exceeded Canada's by \$1.5 million.

During this period, the value of Trinidad and Tobago's exports multiplied by 2-1/2 times to register at \$56.4 million, while Canada's exports slipped from \$136 million to \$54.9 million.

While the balance of trade has shifted during the decade to a state of virtual equilibrium, the composition of the exports of both Canada and Trinidad and Tobago has remained largely unchanged. Principal exports from Trinidad and Tobago include fuels and oil, iron and steel, fertilizer, rum, fish and seafood. Canada ships primarily potatoes and vegetables, pulp and paper, fish and seafood, and electrical parts to Trinidad and Tobago.

Like most of the other island nations of the Caribbean, tourism plays a preeminent role in Trinidad and Tobago's relations with Canada. In 1988, it is estimated 23,200 Canadians visited the island.

Canada's long-standing relationship with Trinidad and Tobago represents a solid base of friendship and commercial exchange upon which both nations will endeavour to build.