

Performance of Small, Medium, and Large-sized Firms in Canadian Exports During the Global Financial Crisis¹

Export Performances by Firm Size and the Crisis

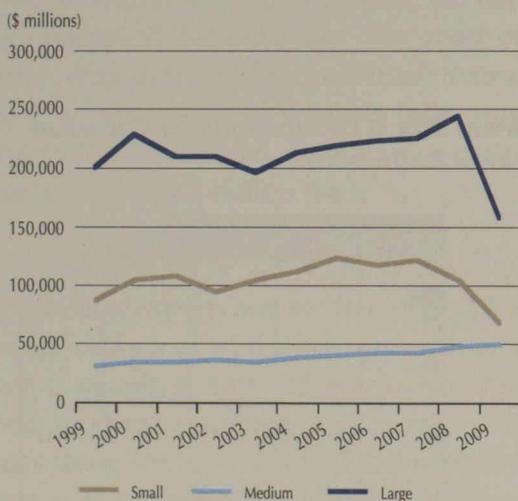
During the recent global financial crisis, medium-sized Canadian exporters (businesses with 100 to 499 employees) performed better than either small or large exporters, increasing the value of their exports by 7 percent between 2008 and 2009 to \$51 billion (Figure 1). This continued a decade-long trend during which the share of medium-sized enterprises in Canadian exports has steadily increased. In contrast, large firms (those with 500 or more employees) saw the value of their exports decrease by 36 percent to \$157 billion during the crisis. Small businesses (those with fewer than 100 employees) make up the remaining category. During

the crisis, small firms experienced a 34-percent drop in export (from \$103 billion in 2008 to \$68 billion in 2009). In 2009, small firms accounted for 86 percent of Canadian exporters.

The Crisis and Canada's Exports to the United States

The value of Canadian exports to the United States increased from \$279 billion in 1999 to \$322 billion in 2008, which represented 78 percent of the total value of Canadian exports. However, the advent of the global financial crisis caused the value of Canadian exports to the United States to fall by 31 percent to \$225 billion in 2009. At the same time, Canada's large firms experienced a similar sharp decline in exports to the United

Value of Exports, by Firm Size, 1999-2009



Source: Statistics Canada, Exporter Register.

Number of Exporters, by Firm Size, 1999-2009



Source: Statistics Canada, Exporter Register.

¹ Additional information on small business exporters is available in Industry Canada's Key Small Business Statistics, Special Edition: Canadian Small Business Exporters. This report investigates the importance of small business in international markets by examining the number of exporters of merchandise and the value of exports by industry, province, destination and firm size over the 1999-2009 period. The report also provides a financing profile of Canadian SMEs that exported in 2007 and explores the involvement of SMEs in global value chains. To receive the publication, please subscribe online at www.ic.gc.ca/SMEstatistics/subscription.