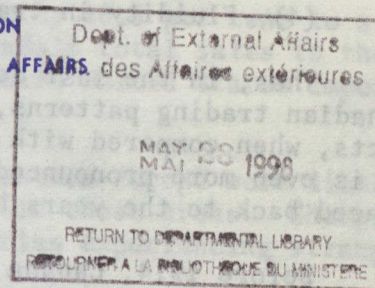


DOC
CA1
EA9
R30
ENG
April
1968

REFERENCE PAPERS

CANADA

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA



No. 30 (April 1968)

CANADIAN FOREIGN TRADE AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS

Two-way trade with the rest of the world has been a major factor in Canada's economic growth throughout its first 100 years of development as a nation and will become increasingly so in its second century.

Canada's export-import trade totalled nearly \$21,000 million⁽¹⁾ in 1967. This can be compared to about \$30,000 million for Britain and \$86,000 million for the United States. On a per capita basis, the comparison is considerably in favour of Canada (Canada \$1,050; Britain \$550; U.S.A. \$430), although, on this same basis, some smaller advanced countries, such as Belgium, the Netherlands and New Zealand, have even higher personal export ratios. Nevertheless, with little more than 0.6 per cent of the world's population, Canada's share of world trade is about 5 per cent.

Canada in the 1960s ranked somewhere between fifth and seventh among world traders. In both exports and imports, Canada, Japan and Russia have been continuously engaged in a seesaw battle for ascendancy.

Export-led expansion is a fundamental fact in Canadian economic history. Since Confederation in 1867, exports have grown one-third as fast again as the total rate of Canadian expansion -- and twice as fast as the trade of the rest of the world.

Trading Partners

When this skeletal outline of Canada's position in world trade today is put into historical perspective, it will be seen that there are certain clearly-defined directions in which Canadian trade patterns have developed:

- (1) A long-standing two-way trade association with the United States, which has expanded rapidly in recent years.
- (2) A relatively slow growth in trade with Britain since the Second World War.

(1) Values given in international units = \$U.S.

53593621