

trade for 1973 was about 8.5 billion dollars. Main imports continue to be wheat, chemicals, fertilizers, iron and steel and other base metals; there have also been substantial purchases of complete factories with their machinery, vehicles, and aeronautical products.

Exchanges with Communist-bloc countries rose to \$1.9 billion in 1973, but China continues to conduct the major part of its exchanges with non-Communist countries (approximately \$6.6 billion in 1973). Her largest trading partners in recent years have been Japan, Hong Kong and Canada (with bilateral trade figures for 1973 of approximately \$2 billion, \$1.2 billion and \$340 million respectively). Her largest suppliers to date have been Japan and Canada; however, bilateral China-USA trade has risen rapidly in the last year (\$92 million in 1972, and a total for 1973 that reached \$750 million), and the United States has perhaps taken over second place among China's suppliers. Bilateral trade between Canada and China in 1973 (\$340 million) was up approximately \$35 million from 1972, with a heavy imbalance in favour of Canada. Major Canadian exports to China are wheat, nickel, aluminium, iron and steel scrap, sulphur, tobacco and potash. Clothing and textile items and foodstuffs comprise the major portion of Canadian imports from the PRC.