

"think metric".

One way to do this is by associating specific measurements with a visual experience or activity. For example, a metre is the length of a long stride. A kilometre is about ten average city blocks. Traveling 100 km will take an hour of freeway driving at the speed limit. For those who can't or won't "think metric", conversion tables are available.

Motorists can also apply a simple rule when estimating the imperial equivalent of the metric figures. To find the familiar speed limit, one multiplies the metric limit by six and eliminates the last digit. To convert distances, the driver drops the last digit of the metric number and multiplies by six.

Preliminary statement of Canadian trade — December 1977

Both exports and imports, seasonally adjusted on a balance-of-payments basis, moved up smartly in December, each to record high levels, following declines in November. Exports advanced 23 per cent to \$4,216 million, and imports rose 17 per cent to \$3,796 million. The merchandise trade surplus more than doubled to \$420 million from \$180 million (revised) in November. The December surplus was the third highest in 1977 after March and October.

At \$11,760 million, Canadian exports for the months of October-December stood 5.5 percent above the total for the September quarter. Seasonally-adjusted imports increased 1 per cent to \$10,616 million in the December quarter. The resultant fourth-quarter surplus of \$1,144 million exceeded that for the entire year 1976. The surplus of \$2,911 million for the year 1977 was the largest since 1970.

The underlying course of Canada's merchandise trade balance is more discernible in the semi-annual changes in the surplus for the past couple of years. The surplus of \$113 million in the first half of 1976 jumped to \$976 million in the second half. An increase of nearly 15 per cent raised the first half 1977 surplus to \$1,120 million, which was followed by a further expansion of 60 per cent to \$1,791 million in the second half of the year.

Exports to the U.S.

Rising steadily during the year, exports to the U.S. reached \$30,890 million in

1977, up 19.7 percent over the 1976 total of \$25,796 million. A slightly smaller gain of 18.8 per cent was recorded in 1976. The proportion of exports going to the U.S. expanded from 65.3 per cent in 1975 to 70.0 per cent in 1977. Automotive goods accounted for 36 per cent of the latest increase, with shipments of passenger cars escalating 15.5 per cent to \$3,948 million, of trucks 47.5 per cent to \$2,001 million and of automotive components 23 per cent to \$3,447 million.

Lumber exports jumped about \$675 million, or 55.5 per cent, to almost \$1,900 million. Increases exceeding \$400 million each were recorded by three product groups: natural gas; metallic ores and non-ferrous metals; pulp, newsprint and other paper. Fabricated materials including fertilizers, chemicals, petroleum products and steel increased nearly \$660 million. Exports of machinery and other equipment rose more moderately. Crude oil deliveries fell by \$535 million (23.5 per cent) to some \$1,750 million.

Exports overseas

Although fluctuating considerably during the year, Canadian exports to overseas countries increased \$883 million (7.1 per cent) to \$13,233 million in 1977. Gains of roughly \$150 million each were recorded in exports of fish; oilseeds; metallic ores and non-ferrous metals; and automotive goods. Shipments of wheat, coal, asbestos, lumber, newsprint, chemicals and machinery advanced more moderately. Exports of other cereals, primarily barley, dropped by nearly \$270 million from the 1976 figure. The lack of barley shipments to the U.S.S.R. accounted for approximately \$100 million of the fall; and exports were also lower to West Germany, Poland, Israel and Japan. Shipments of pulp, petroleum products, steel and non-automotive equipment declined more modestly.

Imports from the U.S.

Imports from the U.S. rose 14.7 per cent to \$29,543 million in 1977, following an increase of nearly 9 per cent in 1976. The share of imports coming from the U.S. grew from 68.7 per cent to 70.2 per cent in 1977. About half of the growth, or some \$1,900 million, was accounted for by automotive products, which totalled \$10,450 million in 1977. Imports of fabricated materials rose over \$500 million, of which some \$240 million was

ascribable to chemicals. Machinery imports expanded \$211 million to \$3,940 million. Imports of other equipment advanced \$573 million (15 per cent) to \$4,351 million. Included in the over-all import rise was some \$265-million worth of crude oil brought in under a swap arrangement with the U.S. There were also smaller but still substantial increases in imports of food, coal and consumer goods, but imports of meat, forestry products and apparel declined moderately.

Imports from overseas

Rising steadily during 1977, Canadian imports from overseas countries increased 6.6 per cent to \$12,510 million from \$11,732 million in 1976. The rise was 5.9 per cent in 1976. Imports from the European Economic Community, Japan, the other OECD countries and Central and South America expanded between 2 per cent and 20 per cent in 1977, but imports from the remaining countries fell by 10.5 per cent. There were widespread increases including arrivals of fruits and vegetables, coffee, tea and cocoa, chemicals, steel, machinery, motor vehicles and other transportation equipment and consumer goods. Crude oil landings fell \$315 million (10 per cent) to some \$2,950 million. Fairly substantial declines in imports of crude oil from many of the traditional sources in Africa and the Middle East were partly offset by increases from Saudi Arabia, the U.S.S.R., Venezuela, Ecuador and Caribbean islands. Imports of meat, sugar, non-ferrous metals, hardware, apparel and some equipment and tools were also lower than they were in 1976.

China is beginning to see Canada as much more than just a supplier of wheat, according to External Affairs minister Don Jamieson. The minister learned during his recent trip to China that the Chinese were slowly becoming receptive to the idea that Canada could help them in the drive towards modernization.

Chinese officials showed considerable interest in a number of key areas in which Canada has experience as well as products for sale. These include telecommunications, oil development and pipeline construction, pulp and paper, non-ferrous metals and hydro-electric exploitation.