

Canada's Objectives in the Uruguay Round

The Canadian economy runs on trade. Consequently, Canada's top priority is to improve and to secure access to markets around the world. If the Uruguay Round is successful, trade barriers will be lowered and international trade rules will be clearer and more effective. This would mean increased economic activity and employment in Canada.

What follows is a detailed explanation of Canada's five objectives.



Halting Protectionism and Improving Market Access for goods and services

Canada seeks to resist protectionism and keep existing trade channels open. Canada also seeks to improve market access conditions on as broad a front as possible, as they relate to products and markets, and to tariff and non-tariff barriers.

Canada believes that tariffs should be completely eliminated or substantially reduced in order to restore confidence in the GATT's ability to halt erosion of the open trading system, to curb the resurgence of protectionism and to restore momentum to trade liberalization. Such an achievement would significantly advance the economic development and trade interests of both developing and developed countries.

Specifically, Canada wants to improve market access for:

- agricultural and food products;
- other natural resource products (non-ferrous metals and forest products and fisheries);
- energy-based (e.g. petrochemical) industries and related equipment and services;
- a range of advanced-technology and transportation equipment; and
- trade in services.

Important barriers or trade distorting measures impede our exports in these sectors. For example, in spite of tariff cuts in previous GATT rounds for certain processed products, Canada now faces increased tariffs on these products in some of its major markets. Moreover, our exports continue to be impeded by non-tariff barriers such as quotas and restrictive import licensing.