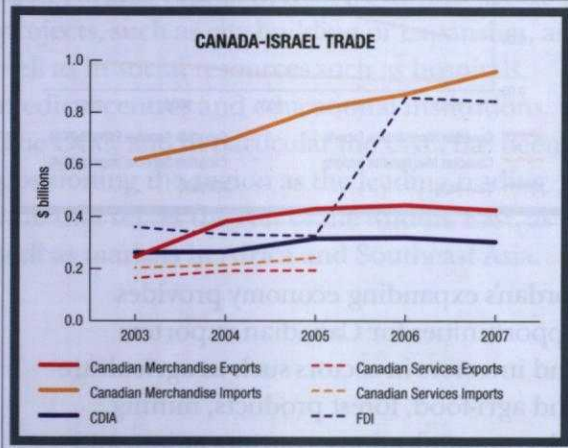


capital and infrastructure projects. The country's role as a regional hub for exports to Iraq is also growing. Direct air service between Amman and Montréal began at the end of May 2007, and a FIPA is expected to be signed this year. FTA negotiations have now been ratified. For more information, please see Chapter 4, "Regional and Bilateral Free Trade Agreements and Other Initiatives."

Israel

	2007	Percentage change since 2006 (%)
Population	7.2 million	2.2
GDP	\$174.0 billion	5.3
Canadian Merchandise exports	\$426.6 million	-4.3
Canadian Services exports	\$195 million (2005)	-
Canadian Merchandise imports	\$959.2 million	10.0
Canadian Services imports	\$244 million (2005)	-
CDIA	\$305 million	-5.0
FDI	\$844 million	-1.6



In 2007, Canada and Israel celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement (CIFTA), which has resulted in increased two-way trade and investment as well as research and technology cooperation. Our bilateral merchandise trade more than doubled from \$567 million in 1997 to a record level of almost \$1.4 billion in 2007 (\$426.6 million in Canadian exports to Israel; \$959.3 million in imports from Israel).

The Canada-Israel Industrial Research and Development Foundation (CIIRDF), a binational organization established in 1994, promotes industrial collaboration in innovative technologies that have the potential for commercialization. It provides partnership facilitation services as well as potential funding support for joint industrial R&D projects. In addition, it has developed close linkages between a large number of technology-based firms in Canada and Israel, encouraging the participation of the academic and government research communities.