

billion, notably from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, due to Syria's role in the anti-Iraq coalition are currently used for large investments in industrial infrastructure. There are billions of dollars in current project tenders in areas as diverse as water and sewage facilities, turnkey steel, fertiliser and textile plants, an enormous telecommunications expansion and several electrical generation plants. Primarily an agrarian economy, the country of 15 million is becoming more heavily industrialized. An easing of restrictions on the long-stagnant private sector enactment of new investment laws, unleashed vigorous pent-up demand for western goods and services. There are, as a result, numerous smaller projects in virtually every sector as investors, both Syrian and foreign, scramble to capitalize on opportunities. The oil sector, where Canadian companies have been particularly successful, continues to boom with investments of over Cdn \$1.5 billion in the past four years, offering enormous potential for goods and services exporters. Sectoral priorities for goods and services include agro-industry, mining, transport, industrial machinery, oil and gas and rural telecommunications.

Lebanon has just emerged from 15 years of civil strife and is now experiencing its longest period of peace in almost two decades. While the stability is still fragile, expectations are high that Lebanon, formerly one of Canada's major trading partners in the region, is poised for a rebound. Economic indicators are slowly turning positive led by significant growth in construction activity contributing to estimated real expansion of 15% in 1991. Anticipated western and Arab aid is now beginning to materialize, with agreements worth over Cdn \$300 million, the majority of it untied, being signed in the past 10 months. The devastating effects of the war are in view everywhere in bullet-riddled and bomb-cratered Beirut. Should the stability endure, a rebuilding effort of massive proportions can be expected, costing billions of dollars, presenting a multitude of opportunities for exporters of goods and services. Sectoral priorities include agro-industry, telecommunications, grains transport, energy, health products and services, construction and advanced technology.