

CANADA - ECUADOR TRADE

Canada-Ecuador bilateral trade has been affected by conditions largely beyond the control of either country. The dramatic drop in world oil prices and the recovery from a severe earthquake in 1986 have exacerbated an already difficult local economic situation. These factors have impacted upon Ecuador's trade with Canada over the course of the last decade.

Ecuadorian exports to Canada showed a remarkable growth from \$47 million in 1981 to \$85 million in 1988. Canadian exports to Ecuador declined in this period from \$84 million in 1981 to \$43.6 million in 1988. This notwithstanding, Canadian firms have remained active in the market, particularly in projects related to petroleum exploration, mining, power transmission and satellite data receiving.

Ecuador's principal exports to Canada include bananas and plantains, coffee, shrimps and prawns, cocoa, and fruits and berries.

Canada's major exports to Ecuador include aircraft engines and parts, asbestos, newsprint, plastic and synthetic rubber, polyethylene resins, zinc and wood pulp.

In spite of the economic difficulties presented by the natural disaster and international factors, Ecuador is a market in which Canadian firms have identified significant export opportunities. Canada is confident that, with Ecuador's recovery from the effects of the earthquake, stable oil prices, and successful economic reforms, bilateral trade will resume its steady development.