

America, and finally the year of the European Community's integration. All these events are having vast economic repercussions in Spain's infrastructure and economic performance.

B. CANADA

Canada, the second largest country in the world with a surface four times larger than that of the European Community, has a population of 26 million people, 80 % of which is concentrated within 160 Km of the US border. Like Spain, Canada is a constitutional monarchy, it has a federal government and ten provincial governments. Canada is, by external reference, economically and socially one of the most successful and prosperous societies in the world. The country is the world's eighth largest economy by the size of its gross domestic product and a member of the G-7, the economic club of the seven most advanced industrial democracies. On January 1st, 1989, Canada signed the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the USA. Over a 10-year period, the FTA will remove all tariffs and virtually all import and export restrictions, and will liberalize rules in several areas including agriculture, services, energy, financial services, investment, and government procurement. This trade agreement is expected to be expanded with the incorporation of Mexico in the near future thus becoming the largest trading block in the world.

During the period 1983-1989 Canada's GDP growth was the highest in the industrialized world after Japan. Abundant natural resources, skilled labour force, engineering and scientific expertise, and high-tech industrialization characterize the Canadian economy. The mineral industry, forest products, and agriculture have been major factors in the country's economic development. The spectacular growth of Canadian manufacturing, particularly since the 1950s, has transformed the nation from a rural agricultural society into one that is primarily industrial and urban. Canada was in 1989 the seventh world's largest exporter.

1. INDUSTRY

Industry, including mining, manufacturing, construction, and power generation, is the leading segment of the nation's economy. It employs 25.4 % of the work force and provides 40 % of the GDP. Canada is the world's largest producer of zinc, potash, uranium, and nickel ; the second largest producer of silver, titanium, sulphur, gypsum, and asbestos, and a leading producer of molybdenum, aluminum, cobalt, gold, lead, copper, iron, and platinum. Canada ranks first in the world in mineral exports and third in mineral production after the USA and Russia. Canada is a major producer of hydroelectricity, oil (produces 500 million barrels/year), and natural gas.