

CANADA-BRUNEI COMMERCIAL RELATIONS

Brunei's Global Trade

In 1990, Brunei's global merchandise trade totalled U.S. \$3.9 billion. Though Brunei's trade levels increased by 15 percent over levels of the previous year, they reflect an overall decrease (approximately 20 percent) from the value of its trade levels of a decade earlier.

Throughout the 1980's, Brunei consistently experienced an overall trade surplus, with its export levels outvaluing imports. During this time, however, the value of exports decreased significantly (by approximately 50 percent), and imports began to account for a much higher proportion of total trade levels. In 1990, imports accounted for approximately 44 percent of Brunei's total trade, whereas in 1980, imports had accounted for only 10 percent of Brunei's total trade.

Brunei's import requirements in 1990 were mainly met by Singapore (35 percent) and the United Kingdom (26 percent). Other significant suppliers included Switzerland (9 percent), the U.S.A. (9 percent) and Japan (5 percent). Total imports in 1990 amounted to U.S. \$1.7 billion. The major imports included machinery and transport equipment, manufactured goods, food and chemicals.

In 1989, Brunei's main exports were crude oil, LNG and refined products. Export levels in 1990 reached U.S. \$2.2 billion and accounted for 56 percent of the country's total trade. Japan was Brunei's primary export market in 1990, absorbing 53 percent of Brunei's exports. Other important export markets included the United Kingdom (12 percent), South Korea (9 percent), Thailand (7 percent) and Singapore (5 percent).

Principal Exports 1989

Crude Oil 46.9%
Liquified Natural Gas-LNG 44.5%
Refined Products 4.9%
Chemicals 7%

Principal Imports 1987

Manufactured goods 36%
Machinery & transport equip. 30%
Food 18%

(Source: The Economist Intelligence Unit)

Investment

The Brunei government is attempting to reduce its heavy dependence on imports by encouraging foreign investors to establish export-oriented industries. The Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources is responsible for attracting foreign investment.