

TABLE 1.1
Top Ten World Traders, 1993
 (share of world merchandise trade*)

Rank	IMPORTS		EXPORTS	
	Country	Percentage share	Country	Percentage share
1	United States	12.6	United States	15.9
2	Germany	9.8	Germany	8.6
3	Japan	9.8	Japan	6.3
4	France	5.7	Britain	5.5
5	Britain	5.0	France	5.3
6	Italy	4.6	Italy	3.9
7	Canada	3.9	Hong Kong	3.8
8	Hong Kong	3.7	Canada	3.7
9	Netherlands	3.6	Netherlands	3.3
10	Belgium**	3.1	Belgium**	3.1

* valued in US dollars

** includes Luxembourg

Source: GATT, 1994

Canadian merchandise exports reached a record high of \$219 billion¹ in 1994, up an impressive 21 percent from the previous year and 51 percent more than in 1990. Merchandise imports totalled \$202 billion, an 18 percent rise over 1993 and 48 percent higher than in 1990.

Trading Partners

In 1994, Canada's exports to the U.S. set a new record of almost \$180 billion, equivalent to 82 percent of the total. The European Union (EU) and Japan accounted for 5.2 and 4.3 percent, respectively. Thus, over 90 percent of exports go to the most advanced industrial economies.

A similar pattern emerges for imports. The U.S. supplied about 75 percent of all imports in 1994, followed by the EU at 8 percent, and Japan with 4 percent. China, a handful of other Asian countries, and Mexico have become increasingly significant sources for imports.

The Trade Structure

While the pattern of Canadian trade has remained fairly consistent, the composition has shifted considerably over the years. Manufactured goods and knowledge-intensive products have become much more prominent in Canada's export profile. Automotive products and machinery and equipment are now the two leading merchandise export categories. Together with consumer goods, they represent approximately half of Canada's exports. (See Figure 1.1.)

Turning to imports, automotive products and machinery and equipment again rank as the two biggest categories, together accounting for about 56 percent of merchandise imports in 1994. Canada also imports a large quantity of consumer goods such as apparel, footwear, sporting goods and toys. (See Figure 1.2.)

¹ Unless otherwise indicated, dollar figures refer to Canadian currency.