

the Canadian Manufacturers' Association and Boards of Trade (Montreal and Vancouver) have also led missions to Thailand recently.

There have been several major visits between the two countries, including that of the Crown Prince to Canada in 1986, Princess Chulabhorn in May 1989 and March 1990, and Governor General Sauvé's visit to Thailand in 1987. The Secretary of State for External Affairs attended the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference in Bangkok in July 1988. There was an impressive number of high-level contacts between the two countries during 1989, including visits by Canada's Associate Minister for National Defence, Solicitor General and Minister of State (Agriculture) and the Minister of International Trade to Thailand, and visits by Thailand's ministers responsible for science, technology and energy, commerce and investment to Canada. Frequent high-level contacts are expected to continue in 1990 and will include a visit to Canada by Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan.

Under the National Trade Strategy, market surveys have been conducted on specific sectors in Thailand to advise Canadian companies on opportunities available in these areas. Approximately \$125 000 is spent annually on initiatives dealing specifically with Thailand. Table 4 lists sectoral market studies conducted to date.

The Program for Export Market Development (PEMD) is designed to stimulate economic growth in Canada by assisting individual firms to participate in or undertake various types of export promotion activities. Many Canadian businesses have viewed Thailand's rapidly expanding economy as an opportunity to diversify their markets and have taken advantage of PEMD. Since 1980, over \$2.3 million has been spent on 297 approved projects. Sales generated as a result of PEMD grants have totalled close to \$23 million since the inception of the program in the early 1970s.

Table 2 Canada's Principal Exports to Thailand
(\$ millions)

PRODUCT CATEGORY	1980	(%)	1985	(%)	1989	(%)
Iron and steel	16.4	(11.6)	7.8	(6.1)	59.6	(17.5)
Boilers	—	—	—	—	37.9	(11.1)
Wood pulp	14.9	(10.5)	9.1	(7.2)	33.3	(9.8)
Aircraft and parts	0.5	(0.3)	1.2	(0.9)	31.2	(9.1)
Newsprint and paper	1.9	(1.3)	10.8	(8.3)	30.0	(8.8)
Asbestos	8.9	(6.3)	19.1	(15.0)	29.5	(8.7)
Plastics and articles	2.5	(1.7)	7.3	(5.7)	20.9	(6.1)
Organic chemicals	0.6	(0.4)	2.4	(1.9)	17.0	(5.0)
Wheat	—	—	—	—	14.0	(4.1)
Other machinery/mechanical appliances	11.8	(8.3)	3.7	(2.9)	9.6	(2.8)
Aluminum and articles	42.1	(29.7)	24.0	(18.9)	7.3	(2.1)
Measuring/control equipment	3.8	(2.7)	1.4	(1.1)	7.0	(2.0)
Electrical, machinery, equipment parts	5.5	(3.9)	6.2	(4.9)	6.2	(1.8)
Artificial fibres	5.6	(3.9)	3.7	(2.9)	5.4	(1.6)
Fertilizers	2.9	(2.0)	0.2	(0.1)	4.9	(1.4)
Sulphur	2.1	(1.5)	10.7	(8.4)	3.8	(1.1)
Dairy products/eggs/honey	4.6	(3.2)	1.2	(0.9)	1.1	(0.3)
Prepared foodstuffs/ beverages/spirits/tobacco	1.7	(1.2)	4.4	(3.4)	1.1	(0.3)
Zinc and alloys	4.6	(3.2)	3.3	(2.6)	—	—
Other	9.2	(6.5)	7.1	(5.6)	20.0	(5.9)
TOTAL	141.6	(100)	126.9	(100)	339.8	(100)

Source: Statistics Canada