

CANADA - NICARAGUA TRADE

Although Canada has remained committed to free and open trade with Nicaragua, our bilateral trading relationship has been greatly affected by the U.S. embargo.

Canada's exports to Nicaragua were \$22.5 million in 1984. Following the imposition of the U.S. trade embargo in May 1985, shipments via the U.S. had to be discontinued and new routes developed. Canadian exports for 1985, as a result dropped to \$18.4 million.

Nicaragua's exports to Canada were also seriously affected by the U.S. embargo, dropping to \$25.6 million in 1985. This has, however, improved in recent years and Nicaraguan exports have grown steadily to reach a total of \$64.5 million in 1988.

The main items of Nicaragua's shipments to Canada include gold alloy, beef (\$23 million in 1988), lobster, shrimp and prawns, and transhipped oil.

Canada's major exports to Nicaragua in 1988 were dried beans, powdered milk, fertilizer, and a wide variety of manufactured items and machinery.

The lifting of the U.S. embargo following the recent election in Nicaragua will undoubtedly favourably affect the country's bilateral trading relationships. The resiliency shown by Canada's two-way trade with Nicaragua during difficult times would suggest that trade between our two countries will continue to expand in the 1990's.