



Figure 2:  
China's External Trade

China's major exports, apart from clothing and photographic equipment, are dominated by commodity trade, agricultural products, oil and coal. Both its heavy and light industrial production has been oriented to supplying domestic requirements. However, modernization of industry, particularly light industry, is in rapid transition with a view to developing products to standards which will make them more saleable in international markets.

Canadian trade with China has been fairly steady over the past five years. China is Canada's fifth largest export market and we are China's fifth largest supplier. Total bilateral trade over the past five years is summarized on Figure 5, with more detailed data provided in Annex IV. Total Canadian exports have been on average 4.53 times larger than the total imports over the past five years. Annual ratios have ranged from a peak of 6.54 in 1983 to a low of 3.12 in 1985.

Canadian exports to China in the period 1981-1985 have ranged from a low of \$ 1,018 million in 1981 to a high of \$ 1,607 million in 1983, averaging \$ 1,277 million annually. Wheat sales, the largest single item, accounted for 53 per cent over five years and has been the major variable, ranging from \$917 million in 1983 to \$ 445.6 million in 1985. Mineral and metal exports (copper, aluminium, zinc, iron and steel) accounted for 17.9 per cent of total exports; wood products, pulp, lumber, paperboard and newsprint for 15 per cent; fertilizers for 4.5 per cent ; and equipment and machinery for 1.1 per cent.