are with China ($31.3 billion), Mexico ($19.1 billion), Germany ($8.8 billion) and Algeria ($5.2 billion).

There was little movement among the top 10 trading destinations for Canada. On the export side, the top five recipient countries remained the same. Germany dropped two ranks from sixth to eighth position as Korea and the Netherlands moved into the sixth and seventh positions, respectively. Brazil and Norway slipped out of the top 10 in 2011 after joining it in 2010, with France and Hong Kong replacing them in the ninth and tenth positions, respectively (see Figure 5-1). There was even more stability with regard to imports, with all of the top eight suppliers holding their positions. Algeria produced the only change, vaulting from 13th to 9th spot, pushing Italy and Taiwan down one rank each to the 10th and 11th positions, respectively (see Figure 5-2).

With regard to specific products influencing Canada's trade performance in 2011, an increasingly large role was played by crude oil which generated the largest surplus (over $40 billion) and the largest overall change in trade balance last year (a gain of over $12 billion). The list of other significant trade surpluses is headed by passenger cars, but is otherwise all resources - petroleum gases, coal, gold, potash, aluminum, wheat and wood pulp. It is worth noting that the role of petroleum gases, paper and non-crude oil in Canada's trade surplus fell dramatically since pre-recession times. These three commodities combined generated just over $17 billion in trade surplus compared to a combined trade surplus of nearly $46 billion in 2008. On the other hand, manufactured products—including trucks, automotive parts, computers, telecom equipment and medicaments—were responsible for most of the trade deficits. Trade surplus commodities generally improved the overall balance last year while trade deficit commodities worsened it, save for the already mentioned exception of petroleum gases and non-crude oil, and that of electric generating sets.

Price and volume changes were more complex than in 2010 when resource values were recovering strongly across the board. While wheat, gold, coal and canola prices increased significantly, prices for petroleum gases and wood products actually fell. The oil price picture was more nuanced. Non-crude oil prices increased uniformly, but the average price of Canada's heavier crude oil exports priced at and below the WTI variety rates grew at only half the speed of Canada's crude oil import prices, which were priced at the Brent variety rates (see box on the divergence between WTI and Brent in 2011). This limited Canada's potential gains in the crude oil trade.

Traded volumes increased sizeably for potash, canola oil, nickel, and copper ores. Export volumes dropped for petroleum gases, but import volumes soared. Quantities of imported gold and silver also increased significantly. Crude oil exports gained in volume, while volumes of non-crude oil exports went down; the situation was reversed for import volumes.

The recovery of the automotive sector seems to have reached a plateau, with exports of passenger cars and motor vehicle