



The direction of Canadian foreign trade in 1961 varied somewhat, with lesser shares of exports going to traditional markets. The United States was the destination of 54.4 p.c. of total exports as compared to 56.3 p.c. in 1960. Britain took 15.6 p.c. as against 17.1 p.c.; the remainder of the Commonwealth 5.5 p.c. versus 6.2 p.c.; and other countries absorbed 24.5 p.c. as compared to 20.4 p.c. in 1960. In the last group, the proportion destined to Western European countries remained constant but the Asian share increased considerably and Latin America's share increased moderately. Imports showed only minor fractional variations from the shares supplied in the preceding year. In 1961, the United States was the source of 67.0 p.c. (67.2 p.c. in 1960), Britain 10.7 p.c. (10.8 p.c.), the remainder of the Commonwealth 5.0 p.c. (5.1 p.c.) and other countries 17.3 p.c. (16.9 p.c.); the latter included a small increase in imports from Western Europe.

The importance of foreign trade to the Canadian economy is reflected in the fact that exports of goods and services have been close to 20 p.c. of gross national expenditure in recent years while imports of goods and services have been slightly more. Among the major trading nations of the world, Canada in 1961 ranked fifth in the total value of commodities exchanged preceded by the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany, Britain and France. In recent years, including 1959, Canada ranked fourth but increased economic activity in France in the past two years put the value of that country's total trade above Canada's. Also, for the first time since World War II, West Germany's total trade exceeded that of Britain. On a per capita basis, Canada's position has declined considerably, dropping from second place in 1957 and 1958 to third in 1959 and to eighth in 1960 and 1961. According to preliminary returns, Canada is preceded by Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Belgium and Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark and Norway, with the possibility that New Zealand may also be higher. Figures based on available statistics are recorded in Table 2, countries being ranked in order of their total trade in 1961.