

and definitions describing a framework within which it has been possible to reconcile differences in trade statistics published by the two countries.

Indexes of price and volume. With the publication of indexes for April 1975, the weighting system used for the trade price and volume indexes was changed to correspond with the system used to estimate gross national product (GNP) at constant prices. The reference period for the indexes was also changed from 1968 = 100 to 1971 = 100. The purpose of these changes was to reduce discrepancies between the trade and GNP indexes caused by differences in weighting systems and to align the time references of the various index numbers published by Statistics Canada.

The 1971 trade indexes are based on an expanded set of price indicators selected to represent 1971 trading patterns. Individual price indicators are either commodity unit values calculated directly from the trade statistics or, particularly in the case of end products, price indexes obtained from other Canadian or foreign statistics.

An explanation of the methodology used to construct the new indexes and an analysis of the impact of the changes were published in the December 1976 supplement to the *Summary of external trade*, Catalogue No. 65-001. The title of the supplement is *The 1971 — based price and volume indexes of Canada's external trade*.

Principal trading areas. Effective January 1976 the "principal trading areas" shown in some tables include new groupings which are defined as follows: other EEC — Belgium, Denmark, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands (the UK is also a member of the EEC but is shown separately because of the importance of its trade with Canada); other OECD — Austria, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Australia and New Zealand (the EEC countries, United States, Japan and Canada are also members of OECD); other America — this group includes all countries and territories of North and South America (other than the US and Canada) including Greenland, Bermuda and Puerto Rico.

Federal trade services

18.3

Canada's economy continues to be vitally dependent on international trade. Competition among industrial nations is intense and increased exports are not easy to achieve. A successful export trade can only be assured by combining good products, efficient production and aggressive, intelligent marketing with government support.

Federal government support is provided through the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce and the Export Development Corporation. The department assists Canadian industry throughout the complete cycle — from research, design and development through production to marketing of the finished product. The Export Development Corporation, a Crown agency which reports to Parliament through the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, provides insurance, guarantees, loans and other financial facilities to help Canadian exporters.

Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce

18.3.1

Departmental units involved in international trade are: Office of General Relations, Office of Special Import Policy, Export and Import Permits Division, the International Bureaux, Trade Commissioner Service, Office of International Projects, International Financing Branch, Grains Marketing Office, Office of Transportation Policy Adviser, and Office of Export Programs and Services.

The Office of General Relations includes a General Trade Policy Branch and a Commodity Trade Policy Branch, responsible, within the department, for formulating and implementing Canadian trade policy with particular reference to