

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.

18.3 Federal trade services

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 industry, trade and commerce department 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.

18.3.1 Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce

The department has a number of units involved in international trade. An explanation of their role follows.

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 the activities of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the trade aspects of domestic industrial and agricultural policies. It is also responsible for commodity trade policy questions generally and in particular the preparation and conduct of the negotiation of intergovernmental commodity arrangements and agreements.

The office of special import policy implements government policies relating to low-cost imports. It proposes action to be taken by government in the light of recommendations of the Textile and Clothing Board (with respect to imports of textiles and clothing) and of the Anti-dumping Tribunal (with respect to other low-cost products), as well as in other instances where low-cost imports have caused or threaten serious injury to domestic production. It conducts restraint negotiations with other governments and implements special measures of protection by means of import controls when required. It is also responsible for the conduct of international textile negotiations within GATT and participates in the work of the textiles surveillance body established under an arrangement regarding international trade and textiles. The office administers controls under the Export and Import Permits Act.

The export and import permits division is responsible for all matters relating directly or indirectly to commodity control measures under the authority of the Export and Import Permits Act and the United Nations Rhodesia Regulations. The purpose of the act is to ensure, by means of export controls, that there is an adequate supply and distribution in Canada of goods necessary for defence or other purposes; that no specified goods having a strategic nature will be made available to any destination wherein their use might be detrimental to the security of Canada; that an intergovernmental arrangement or commitment is implemented; that any action taken to promote the further processing in