

**Inspection of energy-use instruments.** The Electricity Inspection Act and the Gas Inspection Act control the approval before sale and the use of instruments used for measuring electricity and gas whether by meter or other type of device; they also provide for continual in-use inspection.

**Appliance labelling, energy consumption.** Refrigerators and freezers sold in Canada must now show an Energuide label. This label indicates the kilowatt hours a month of energy consumption of each model. This energy labelling requirement is regulated under the Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act. Washers, dishwashers, clothes dryers and ranges were scheduled for Energuide labelling during 1980.

**Corporations branch** of the consumer and corporate affairs department administers the Canada Business Corporations Act, the Canada Corporations Act, the Canada Co-operatives Association Act and the Boards of Trade Act. The branch has a statutory duty to issue formal documents in connection with corporations created under other federal acts such as the Loan Companies Act, Trust Companies Act, the Canadian and British Insurance Companies Act, and the Railway Act.

All federal corporations other than those carrying on business as financial intermediaries must be incorporated under the Canada Business Corporations Act, proclaimed in December 1975. However, because that act would not repeal the old Canada Corporations Act until December 15, 1980, the branch was required to administer corporations subject to either act until that date. This policy of gradual implementation of the Canada Business Corporations Act was adopted to enable corporations to effect transition from the old to the new act with a minimum of pressure and inconvenience following a relatively simple continuance procedure. One part of the Canada Corporations Act continues to apply to all federal charitable and membership corporations.

Ancillary to its formal activities, the branch furnishes to the public copies of corporate documents. By July 1979 all corporate name search services had been automated and were being provided through private search houses with access to more than one million incorporated and unincorporated entities that exist in Canada (15,000 of which are federally incorporated) and close to 150,000 registered trade marks.

## International trade

19.3

### Summary

19.3.1

In 1978 there was strong growth in the value of Canada's external trade. Exports increased nearly 19%, marking the third consecutive year of substantial growth following the world recession of 1975. Imports grew at a slightly slower pace, with the result that Canada's merchandise trade balance recorded an increased surplus of \$2.9 billion in 1978. The trade balances in Table 19.26 are given on the customs basis, based on data tabulated from customs documents according to concepts and procedures explained in section 19.3.4. Trade balances are also available on a balance-of-payments basis, reflecting a number of adjustments applied to customs data to make them consistent with the concepts and definitions used in the System of National Accounts. (See Chapter 23 for balance of payments data.)

Price increases accounted for a substantial portion of the increased trade values, particularly for imports. After no change in 1976, the import price index rose 12% in 1977 and 13% in 1978. In spite of large increases in the value of imports, the physical volume increases amounted to only 0.5% in 1977 and 3.1% in 1978.

For domestic exports, price increases were less than for imports and growth in physical volume more substantial. Volume growth of 9% in 1977 and 10% in 1978 was concentrated in fabricated materials and end products, though the volume of food, feed, beverages and tobacco exports also increased substantially in 1977. Volume of crude materials exports has declined steadily since 1973.

Of 1978 import value, 62.2% was accounted for by end products (Table 19.27). Fabricated materials accounted for 17.6%, crude materials for 11.8%, and food, feed, beverages and tobacco for 7.4%. Largest commodity import groups were motor vehicles