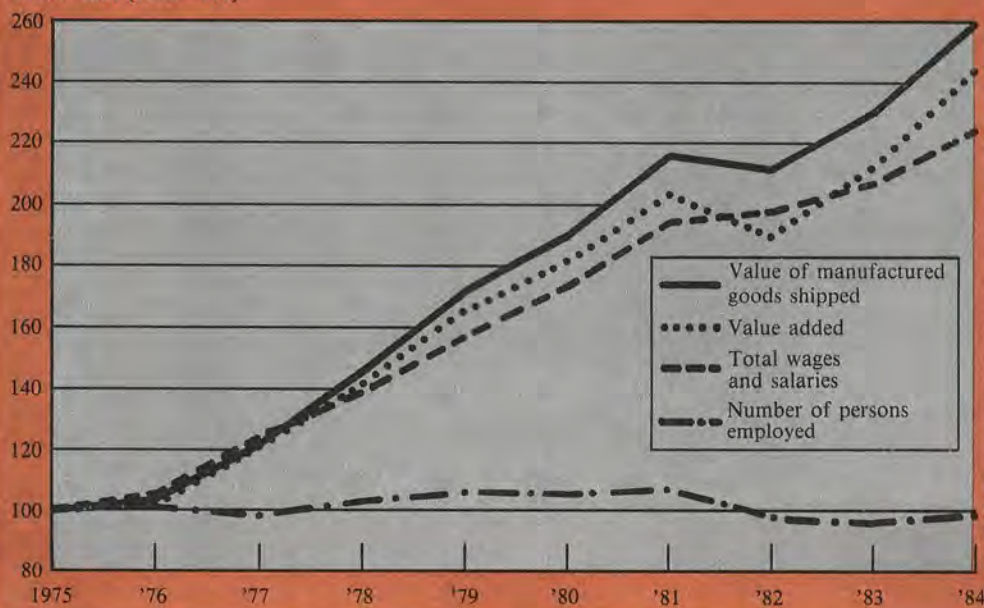


Chart 16.1

**Manufacturing trends, 1975-84**

Index value (1975 = 100)



throughout Canada. These services contribute to increased sales in the domestic market, the expansion of Canadian exports, enhanced productivity and improved international competitiveness.

The department disseminates economic and commercial information through sectoral and regional analyses, facilitates the transfer of new technologies throughout Canadian industry, identifies and matches Canadian sources of supply to domestic and international market opportunities and promotes new production and investment in Canada.

Trade development activities are pursued in close co-operation with the Department of External Affairs.

The department has regional offices and sub-offices in each province and territory.

### 16.2.1 Industrial and regional development

The Industrial and Regional Development Program (IRDP) provides direct financial assistance, in the form of contributions and repayable contributions, to manufacturers and processors across Canada for the development of new products or processes that will increase productivity and international competitiveness; for the

establishment of new production facilities in regions with relatively high economic disparity; for modernization and expansion, including first-time installation of micro-electronic devices; for marketing research and strategy studies; and for investments made to adjust to changing competitive conditions or to produce new, more viable or more competitive products or services.

The amount of assistance that firms may be eligible for varies according to the economic development needs of the region.

DRIE administers the program through its regional offices, paying particular attention to the needs of small and medium-sized businesses.

### 16.2.2 Small businesses loans program

The Small Businesses Loans Act (SBLA) is designed to help new and existing small business enterprises obtain intermediate term loans directly from chartered banks, Alberta Treasury branches and other designated lenders to help finance specified fixed asset needs. A small business enterprise is one with an estimated gross business not exceeding \$2 million during the fiscal year in which the Business Improvement Loan (BIL) application is made. A BIL can be