

Table 18.24 summarizes total international trade for selected years 1956-73. In 1956 Canada's imports exceeded exports by \$713 million. The deficit persisted until 1960. Since then, a favourable balance of trade has been maintained although with some fluctuation from year to year. The excess of exports over imports reached a high of \$2,868 million in 1970, and declined to a low of \$1,471 million in 1972, subsequently reaching \$1,998 million in 1973.

18.2.1 Geographic regions

Table 18.25 shows the importance to the Canadian economy of trade with the US. Exports to that country in 1961 made up 54% of the total, to the UK 15.8%, to other Commonwealth and preferential countries 5.7%, and to all other countries 24.5%. By 1973 exports to the US had increased by 13.2 percentage points, while those to the UK decreased by 9.4 percentage points and to other Commonwealth and all other countries by 2.2 and 1.6 points, respectively. The proportion of Canadian imports from the US increased from 67% to 70.8% over the 12-year period and from 17.2% to 20.7% for "other countries" while easing to 4.3% and 4.2% for the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth countries.

Values of total exports and imports, by geographic region and country for 1971-73, are shown in Table 18.26. Over this period the United States, United Kingdom, Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany were Canada's main trading partners. In 1973 exports to Italy rose to fifth place from eighth, while those to the USSR and the People's Republic of China dropped to sixth and seventh from fifth and sixth places. Imports from Venezuela continued in fifth place and those from France sixth; with only slight changes in order, Australia, Italy and Sweden maintained seventh, eighth and ninth places over the period.

Ranking export growth from 1970 to 1973 by geographic region, Eastern Europe is first (32.2% a year), followed by Other Asia (23.9%), the Americas (14.6%), Middle East (10.2%), Western Europe (5.1%), Oceania (1.8%) and Other Africa (1.7%) in that order. A similar ranking of import growth for the four-year period places the Middle East (41.1%) in first place, followed by Other Africa (23.7%), Eastern Europe (21.7%), Other Asia (20.6%), Oceania (19.4%), the Americas (17.0%) and Western Europe (15.1%).

18.2.2 Commodities

Detailed information on the composition of Canada's domestic exports for 1972 and 1973 is given in Table 18.27. In the case of trade with the United States animals and edible products, metal ores, crude petroleum, softwood lumber and pulp, which in 1973 accounted for 29.5% of exports to that country, were responsible for 42% of the export expansion over 1972. By contrast, motor vehicles and parts made up about 31% of exports to the US in 1973 but only 20.5% of the export growth there. In export trade with countries other than the United States animals and edible products other than wheat, metal ores, other crude materials, and softwood lumber represented 44% of 1973 exports and over 57% of the export gain.

Table 18.28 gives details of Canada's imports for 1972-73. In transactions with the United States, animals and edible products accounted for 6% of imports in 1973 and over 9% of the import increase from that country. Motor vehicles and parts maintained their share of trade, nearly 33.5%, of the import expansion. On the other hand, crude and fabricated industrial materials represented a slightly smaller proportion of the increase than their 20% share of imports. In trade with countries other than the United States, animals and edible products, crude petroleum and other crude materials made up 32.5% of all imports in 1973 and nearly 57% of the import rise to overseas countries in 1973. Oil imports alone represented over 13.5% of all purchases from overseas countries and nearly 25.5% of the rising import bill. Automotive imports from overseas countries recorded a decline in 1973.

18.2.3 Section and stage of fabrication

Tables 18.29 and 18.30 present historical series of Canada's external trade for selected years 1956-73 by section and stage of fabrication. Estimates for years prior to 1958 are subject to some limitations because of the introduction of the revised commodity trade classifications in the early 1960s. To allocate exports and imports into the statistical framework based on stage of fabrication, i.e. crude materials, fabricated materials, and end products, requires a secondary classification of the commodities in certain sections of the standard commodity classification (SCC). Live animals (Section 1), being a natural product, are considered crude materials. Food, feed, beverages and tobacco (Section 2) are distributed as follows: crude materials include natural products not processed beyond cleaning or preparation for shipment,