

Exports. Canada's exports followed a steady upward trend over the 17-year period 1956-73. The acceleration in the growth of domestic exports in the period 1961-66 was followed by somewhat slower growth during the next five-year period. Exports of finished goods recorded much higher rates of increase than those of crude and fabricated materials. Exports increased more rapidly to the US than to all other countries. Domestic exports by section and stage of fabrication, 1956-73 are presented in Table 18.29; average annual rates for major categories are given in Table 18.31.

Imports. At 8.4%, imports rose less than exports over the same period, 1956-73, with interruptions in growth in the second half of the 1950s and in 1970. The sharp acceleration in the growth rate of imports in the years 1961-66 was followed by a moderating trend in the following period 1966-71. Values of imports are shown in Table 18.30 and percentage growth rates in Table 18.31.

Unlike export trade, the growth of import trade with the United States has kept pace with overseas countries. In 1973 total exports and imports reached new highs of \$25,300 million and \$23,300 million, respectively.

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 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.

18.3.1 Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce

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 Special Projects, Financing and Aid Branch, Grain Marketing Office, Transportation Services Branch, Fairs and Missions Branch, and the Program Office (Export Market Development), which handles the administration of the Program for Export Market Development.

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 external 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) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). It is also responsible for the preparation and conduct of negotiations of intergovernmental commodity agreements, such as those for wheat, coffee and sugar.

The Office of Special Import Policy 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 are threatening serious injury to domestic production. It conducts export restraint negotiations with other governments and is responsible for Canadian input into international activities relating to textiles, i.e. under the GATT and the Arrangement Regarding International Trade in Cotton Textiles.

The Export and Import Permits Division administers the federal Export and Import Permits Act. The intention 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; and to implement an intergovernmental arrangement or commitment. Also, by means of import controls, the Act is intended to ensure an adequate supply in Canada of goods that are scarce in world markets, or subject to governmental controls in the countries of origin or to allocation by intergovernmental arrange-