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Canadian Trade and Investment Activity: Canada–Tunisia

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Ce document est également publié en français.

The Library of Parliament ***Trade and Investment*** series provides information on Canada's trade and investment relationship with selected countries. Particular attention is paid to bilateral merchandise trade, trade in services, and foreign investment. These publications are prepared by the Parliamentary Information and Research Service, which carries out research for and provides information and analysis to parliamentarians and Senate and House of Commons committees and parliamentary associations.

Merchandise Trade

In 2009, Canada's bilateral merchandise trade with Tunisia totalled \$159.4 million, consisting of \$113.7 million in Canadian exports to, and \$45.7 million in imports from, Tunisia. Imports from Tunisia increased consistently over the 1992 to 2006 period, before declining in 2007. Although variable from year to year, exports to Tunisia in 2009 were considerably higher than in 2000, when exports were valued at only \$14.8 million.

Tunisia is neither a significant export destination nor a major source of imports for Canada. Tunisia was Canada's eighth largest export destination in Africa in 2009, and its 68th largest export destination worldwide. It was Canada's 12th largest source of imports from Africa in that year, and Canada's 91st largest source of imports worldwide.

At the provincial level, Saskatchewan was the source of more than half of all exports. It, along with Alberta, accounted for almost 78% of Canada's total exports to Tunisia in 2009. In that year, Saskatchewan exported \$61.0 million in goods to Tunisia and Alberta exported \$27.5 million.

Saskatchewan and Alberta also experienced fast growth in exports to Tunisia in recent years. From 2004 to 2009, exports from Saskatchewan grew at a rate of 53% annually, while the annual growth rate in exports from Alberta was 52%.

Figure 1

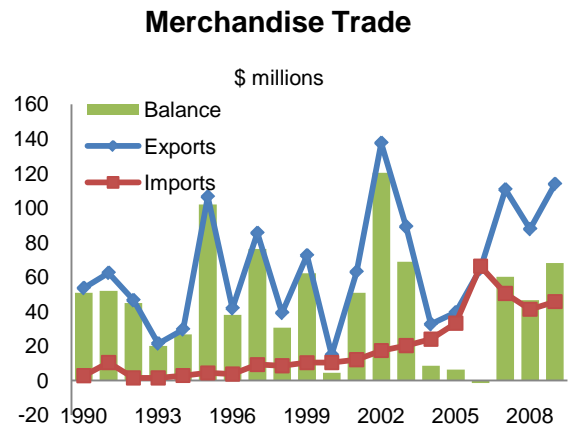


Figure 2

Importance to Canada

Average yearly growth (%):
2004–2009

Share of total trade (%):

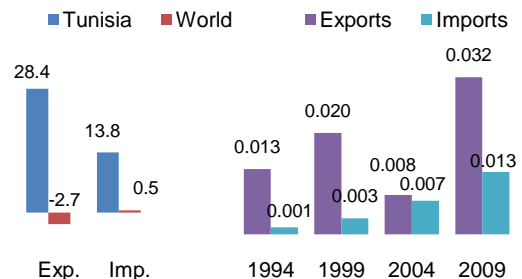
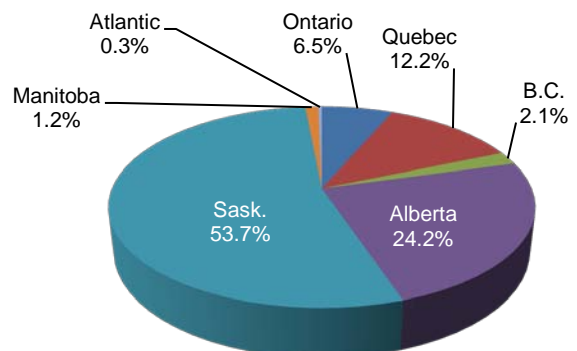


Figure 3

Exports by Province/Territory – 2009



All figures were prepared by the author using Statistics Canada annual figures as of spring 2010.

The merchandise trade data are customs-based; the services trade and foreign direct investment data are balance of payments-based.

Products

In 2009, Canadian exports to Tunisia were dominated by cereals. In that year, wheat was the single largest export product. Other significant Canadian exports to Tunisia in 2009 included machinery and equipment, motor vehicles and parts, and specialized instruments.

Imports from Tunisia in 2009 consisted mostly of clothing and related products. In that year, imports of woven clothing and apparel were valued at \$14.3 million. Meanwhile, footwear imports in 2009 were valued at \$4.8 million, and knitted clothing and apparel imports totalled \$4.3 million. Fats, oils and waxes was another significant import product category from Tunisia, with a value of \$8.0 million.

Because of Canada's wheat exports to Tunisia, Canada was a net exporter of agricultural products in 2009. In that year, Canada was also a net exporter of machinery and equipment, as well as of transportation equipment. Canada was a net importer of clothing, textiles and related products in 2009.

Figure 4

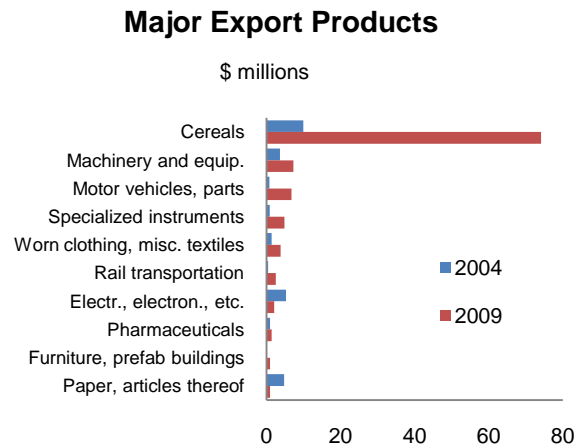


Figure 5

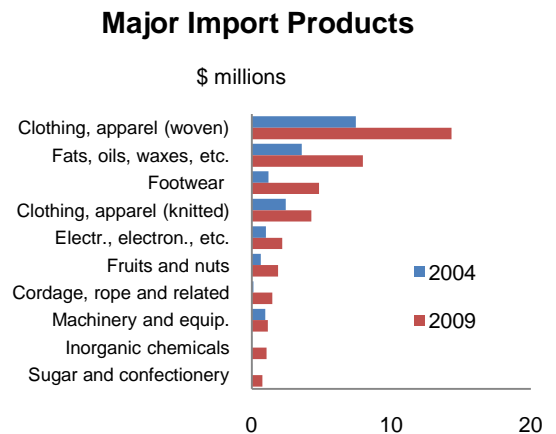
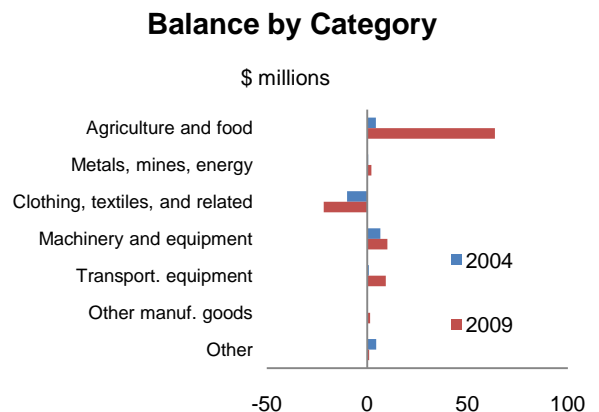


Figure 6



All figures were prepared by the author using Statistics Canada annual figures as of spring 2010.

The merchandise trade data are customs-based; the services trade and foreign direct investment data are balance of payments-based.

Services and Investment

Data on trade in services between Canada and Tunisia are not available.

For reasons of confidentiality, data on Canadian direct investment in Tunisia are available only for 1999 and 2000. In those two years, Tunisia was not a major destination for Canadian foreign direct investment, at \$54 million in 1999 and \$76 million in 2000. *Data on Tunisian investment in Canada are not available.*