

Backgrounder

LAUNCH OF FREE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

Canada-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement Negotiations

An FTA with the Dominican Republic will stimulate the growth of our commercial relationship and help level the playing field for Canadian business vis-à-vis their competitors who are currently benefiting from preferential market access terms. It will also help advance Canada's foreign policy objectives in the region.

- Two-way merchandise trade between Canada and the Dominican Republic is increasing and totalled nearly \$277 million in 2006.
- Canadian direct investment in the Dominican Republic was valued at \$1.8 billion in 2006.
- Canada's commercial services exports to the Dominican Republic totalled approximately \$24 million in 2004 (the latest year for which official data is available).
- The successful conclusion of an agreement would expand opportunities for Canadian exporters and investors in a broad range of sectors, including agriculture, mining, communications, financial services and tourism.

For more information on the Dominican Republic FTA negotiations, please visit <http://www.international.gc.ca/tna-nac/dr-en.asp>.