

K. Activity: Comparing Economic Systems

The World Factbook, put together by the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), is an excellent source of information about every country. Examine the data in the table below and answer the questions that follow.

(Data in the *CIA World Factbook* is updated throughout the year. This was the data on April 27, 2007.)

	Canada	Romania	Jamaica
Total population	33 390 141	22 276 056	2 780 132
Gross domestic product per capita	\$35 200	\$8800	\$4600
Labour force	17 590 000	9 330 000	1 100 000
% of population working in agriculture	2%	31.6%	18.1%
% of population working in industry	14%	30.7%	17.3%
% of population working in services	75%	37.7%	64.6%
% of population living below the poverty line	15.9%	25%	14.8%
Exports—commodities	Motor vehicles and parts, industrial machinery, aircraft, telecommunications equipment, chemicals, plastics, fertilizers, wood pulp, timber, crude petroleum, natural gas, electricity, aluminum.	Textiles and footwear, metals and metal products, machinery and equipment, minerals and fuels, chemicals, agricultural products.	Alumina, bauxite, sugar, bananas, rum, coffee, yarns, beverages, chemicals, wearing apparel, mineral fuels.
Exports (in \$)	\$405 billion	\$33 billion	\$2.087 billion
Export partners by %	U.S.A. 84.2%, Japan 2.1%, U.K. 1.8%	Italy 19.4%, Germany 14%, Turkey 7.9%, France 7.4%, U.K. 5.5%, Hungary 4.1%, U.S.A. 4.1%	U.S.A. 25.8%, Canada 19.3%, U.K. 10.7%, Netherlands 8.6%, China 7%, Norway 6.4%, Germany 5.6%
Imports—commodities	Machinery and equipment, motor vehicles and parts, crude oil, chemicals, electricity, durable consumer goods.	Machinery and equipment, fuels and minerals, chemicals, textiles and products, basic metals, agricultural products.	Food and other consumer goods, industrial supplies, fuel, parts and accessories of capital goods, machinery and transport equipment, construction materials.
Imports (in \$)	\$353.2 billion	\$46.48 billion	\$4.682 billion
Import partners by %	U.S.A. 56.7%, China 7.8%, Mexico 3.8%	Italy 15.5%, Germany 14%, Russia 8.3%, France 6.8%, Turkey 4.9%, China 4.1%	U.S.A. 41.4%, Trinidad and Tobago 14%, Venezuela 5.5%, Japan 4.6%

1. What percentage of the population of each country is in the labour force?

2. What are the similarities and differences between the three countries in terms of the percentage of the population that works in each type of industry?

3. Why might the list of Canadian exports be so much longer than that of Romania?

4. Why might some commodities appear on both a country's import and export list? Provide an example to explain your answer.

5. Exports and imports total in the billions of dollars for each country. Explain what this tells you about our society.
