

INVESTMENT[™] WEEK

The Big Question: Are you reassessing exposure to Canada?



As US tensions rise, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney is reshaping alliances and taking steps to safeguard its economy.

His recent World Economic Forum speech, urging “middle powers” to act together — “because if we are not at the table, we are on the menu” — has sparked debate about whether Canada can step out of its neighbour’s shadow.

Could the country become a more compelling investment opportunity?

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Greg Eckel, portfolio manager, Canadian General Investments

As economies reshore and supply chains shorten, the natural lottery of geography and geology has never mattered more. Few nations have hit the jackpot quite like Canada.

The country is emerging as a credible diversification play, combining political stability under Mark Carney with strategic leverage in energy, gold and critical minerals. That is already being reflected in market performance, with the S&P/TSX comfortably ahead of the S&P 500 over the past year.

While no recent adjustments have been made to our portfolio, we continue to lean into Canadian businesses exposed to deglobalisation tailwinds, including uranium via Cameco and infrastructure through engineering firms such as WSP Global.

We also like technology stocks such as MDA Space, Shopify and Celestica, showing the investment case goes well beyond oil and banks.

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David Roberts, head of fixed income, Nedgroup Investments

The collision between politics and economics continues to be manna from heaven for active bond managers.

Canadian sovereign bonds are highly liquid and have long offered an alternative to US Treasuries. For active managers, the increased volatility in the relationship between the two bond markets has already provided great opportunity and we expect that to exacerbate.

In the past year, we have been both underweight and overweight Canada relative to US bonds, the combination of political and economic forces creating value divergence.

We recently took profit on a long position relative to the US. We are currently neutral versus index but expecting that to change soon.

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Malin Rosengren, investment grade portfolio manager, RBC BlueBay Asset Management

Mark Carney's ambition for Canada is not one that will reap rewards in the near term.

If anything, a reconfiguration of supply chains means a period of adjustment for Canada in which growth will be modest. And this is rather to rebuild productive capacity, not expand it.

What Canada really needs is a ramp up in capex, to enhance productive capacity and reestablish potential growth back up towards 2%.

Carney's fiscal policy is certainly a step in the right direction, with the budget targeting a shift higher in capital spending. However, we need to see this encourage additional private sector investment to put Canada on track for Carney's vision.

Until we see Canadian businesses lift their investment intentions, Canada likely will remain at the wayside for global investors.

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Abhi Chatterjee, chief investment strategist, Dynamic Planner

Canada is currently a study in structural recalibration rather than a straightforward buy.

Historically, a resource-heavy satellite of the US - with 90% of exports tied to the USMCA - the economy is now testing a more independent orbit. The Carney-era pivot is the catalyst.

By deploying aggressive productivity super-deductions and a 2% fiscal impulse, it is an attempt to break a decades-long productivity lethargy. This "nation-building" includes a pragmatic, if delicate, thaw with China to diversify trade beyond the continent.

Yet the US administration's protectionist headwinds are stiff. The 2026 USMCA review looms as a binary risk: either Canada secures its status as a favoured trading nation or faces a corrosive unravelling of integrated supply chains.

For investors, the opportunity is no longer a simple bet on oil or timber, but an evolving model of how long-standing allies rework their economies for the America First policies.

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Robert Crayford, portfolio manager, CQS Golden Prospect Precious Metals

As geopolitical tensions increase, Canada is yet to play its 'Trump' card.

When the US threatened China with tariffs, it ultimately backed down after China restricted rare earth exports which would have crushed American manufacturing.

Uranium is far more important to the US as it relies on Canadian imports for its nuclear reactors generating 20% of its power. Power is central to its AI data centre dominance policies, with other sources controlled by Russia and China.

Further government support for the world's best undeveloped project in NexGen, in the Athabasca basin, would only strengthen Canada's position.

Canada should champion its uranium mining sector and nuclear fuel supply chain, using its leverage for a more equitable trade agreement.