

# Central European Countries - trade by product group

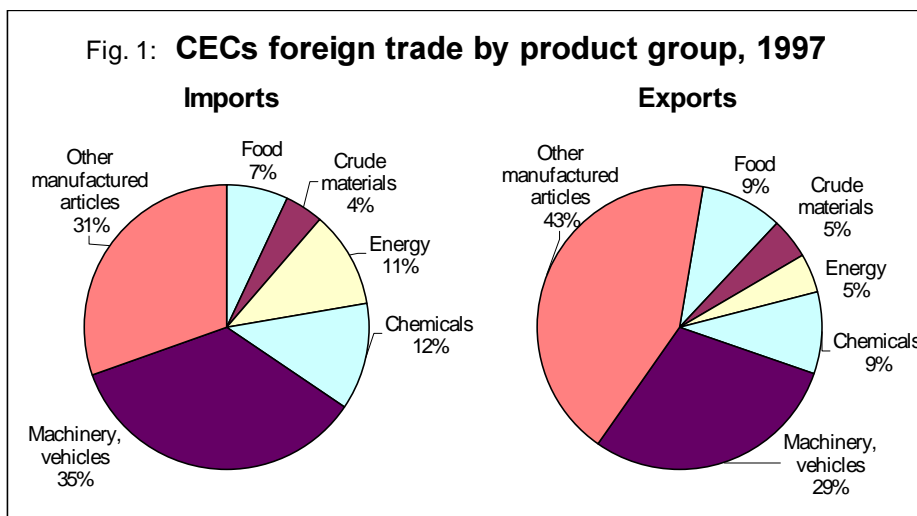
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Since 1993 Central European Countries (CECs) trade with the rest of the world has more than doubled. In 1997 it accounted for about 2.9% of world trade.

CECs trade mainly involves two product groups: machinery and vehicles and other manufactured articles. The import and export patterns are fairly similar. Between 1994 and 1997 manufactured goods increased their percentage share of total CECs trade from 73% to 78%. This increase was primarily because of road vehicles; which were the main goods traded in 1997, and which in recent years have also shown the sharpest increases. Overall, this reveals a bias in CECs trade towards manufactured goods with high added value.

Trade between the European Union and the CECs has increased significantly since 1993 (at an average annual rate of about +20%). In 1998 some 11% of the Union's total extra-EU trade was with the CECs; by comparison, the EFTA countries also accounted for 11%.

As far as products are concerned, the structure and pattern of CECs trade with the European Union are fairly similar to the structure and pattern of their trade with the rest of the world.



## 1. Central European Countries external trade

With imports totalling ECU 122.1 billion and exports ECU 93.8 billion, the CECs recorded a trade deficit of ECU 28.3 billion in 1997. The bulk of their trade involved manufactured goods, with figures of 77% for imports and 80% for exports. For EU trade with the rest of the world, the figures were 74% for imports and 89% for exports.

The Central European countries (CECs) referred to in this report comprise the following ten countries: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

The data include intra-CECs trade.

Statistics  
in focus

EXTERNAL TRADE

THEME 6 – 3/2000

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Tab. 1: Trade by product group, 1997

(Bn ECU)

Product groups (SITC Rev. 3)	Imports			Exports			Balance	
	Value 1997	Annual variation (%)		Value 1997	Annual variation (%)		1994*	1997
		97/96	97/94*		97/96	97/94*		
<b>Total</b>	<b>122.10</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>93.80</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>-9.82</b>	<b>-28.30</b>
<b>0-4 Primary products</b>	26.83	7.4	11.9	17.45	16.6	9.5	-5.84	-9.37
0+1 Food	8.64	11.0	14.2	8.57	17.1	11.3	0.41	-0.06
2+4 Crude materials	5.37	11.7	13.4	4.35	21.5	9.1	-0.33	-1.01
3 Energy	12.82	3.4	9.9	4.53	11.4	6.7	-5.92	-8.29
<b>5-8 Manufactured goods</b>	93.80	26.8	24.6	75.40	27.1	19.3	-4.14	-18.40
5 Chemicals	15.01	20.2	19.8	8.43	13.5	13.8	-3.01	-6.58
6+8 Other manufactured articles	36.00	21.7	22.6	39.36	18.9	14.5	6.68	3.36
7 Machinery, vehicles	42.79	34.2	28.4	27.61	46.7	30.5	-7.81	-15.18
<b>9 Articles not classified</b>	1.48	-14.9	13.7	0.95	-41.7	-6.7	0.16	-0.53

\* Estonian trade by products has been estimated.

Sources : United Nations and National Statistical Institutes.

A look at product groups (table 1) shows that in 1997 the CECs mainly imported machinery and vehicles (34.9% of the total), followed by other manufactured articles (29.3%). Apart from Bulgaria (16.3%), machinery and vehicles accounted for more than a quarter of imports for all the CECs, ranging from 26.5% for Romania and 27.5% for Latvia to 38% for the Czech Republic and 41.4% for Hungary. In the case of each country, the share of other manufactured articles as a percentage of all imports was similar to the figure for the aggregate: from 23.9% for Slovakia to 33.5% for Slovenia.

The CECs' main exports are other manufactured articles (42% in 1997). This group of products is the leading export item for most of the countries, with figures ranging from 29.7% in Lithuania and 32.7% in Estonia to 48% in Slovenia and 60.1% in Romania. Only Hungary exports more machinery and vehicles (44.9%) than other manufactured articles (26.1%).

The CECs recorded a trade deficit in 1997, with the biggest deficits occurring in the case of machinery and vehicles (ECU 15.2 billion) and energy (ECU 8.3 billion). The only product group with a surplus was other manufactured articles (ECU 3.4 billion). The biggest surpluses came from products that were not very capital-intensive, such as

Tab 2: Balance of trade by products

SITC- Rev. 3	Products	1994*	1996	1997
(Bn ECU)				
<b>Largest surpluses</b>				
84	Clothing and clothing accessories	3.42	3.93	4.59
82	Furniture, bedding	1.48	2.19	2.53
24	Cork and wood	1.10	1.18	1.53
67	Iron and steel	2.37	0.84	1.52
01	Meat and meat preparation	0.49	0.83	1.03
<b>Largest deficits</b>				
33	Petroleum und petroleum products	-4.48	-5.93	-5.78
74	General industry machinery	-2.02	-3.03	-3.53
34	Gas natural and manufactured	-2.32	-2.99	-3.30
65	Textile yarn, fabrics and related products	-1.56	-2.67	-3.26
72	Machinery specialised for particular ind.	-1.97	-2.62	-2.86

\* Estonian trade by products has been estimated.

Sources : United Nations and National Statistical Institutes.

clothing (ECU 4.6 billion) and furniture (ECU 2.5 billion) (see table 2).

The breakdown of trade at the SITC two-digit level (table 3) shows the importance of road vehicles. In 1997 they ranked first for both imports (7.6% of the total) and exports (7.5% of the total).

Of the ten leading import items, six belonged to the group of machinery and vehicles and together accounted for more than a third of all imports. These are the products that have shown the biggest year-on-year changes since 1994: +34% for electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, +32.5% for road vehicles and +32% for tele-communications equipment. In 1997 imports of tele-

communications equipment and office machines soared by +47% and +49% respectively.

Apart from capital goods, other leading products imported by the CECs were petroleum products (SITC 33 - 6.6% of total imports), textile yarn and fabrics (5.1%), miscellaneous manufactured articles (3.7%) and iron and steel (3.2%).

Tab 3: CEC trade by main products

SITC-Rev. 3	Description	Value 1997	Annual variation		Share in the total flow	
		(Bn ECU)	97/96	97/94*	(%)	(cumul %)
<b>Imports</b>						
78	Road vehicles	9.30	29.7	32.5	7.6	7.6
77	Electrical machinery, apparatus, appliances	8.61	36.9	34.1	7.0	14.6
33	Petroleum and petroleum products	8.07	1.1	8.5	6.6	21.2
74	General industrial machinery and equipment	6.50	19.6	21.7	5.3	26.5
65	Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles	6.29	20.1	20.2	5.1	31.6
72	Machinery specialized for particular ind.	5.04	14.2	15.7	4.1	35.7
89	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	4.50	25.5	23.2	3.7	39.4
76	Telecommunication, sound, TV, video	4.35	47.3	32.1	3.5	42.9
75	Office machines and computers	4.02	48.6	22.5	3.3	46.2
67	Iron and steel	3.89	21.2	21.6	3.2	49.4
<b>Exports</b>						
78	Road vehicles	7.08	45.9	29.3	7.5	7.5
84	Clothing and accessories	6.75	16.2	13.4	7.2	14.7
77	Electrical machinery, apparatus, appliances	6.53	38.4	32.1	7.0	21.7
67	Iron and steel	5.41	33.5	6.1	5.8	27.4
69	Manufactures of metals	3.69	15.2	21.1	3.9	31.3
82	Furniture, bedding, mattresses	3.51	18.6	20.2	3.7	35.1
65	Textile yarn, fabric and related products	3.02	17.7	13.9	3.2	38.3
74	General industry machinery and equipment	2.97	23.1	23.4	3.2	41.5
68	Non-ferrous metals	2.96	26.8	14.1	3.1	44.6
89	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	2.92	22.0	21.1	3.1	47.7

\* Estonian trade by products has been estimated.

Sources : United Nations and National Statistical Institutes.

Of the ten main export items in 1997, seven belonged to the group of other manufactured articles, especially clothing (7.2% of total sales) and iron and steel (5.8%). While sales of iron and steel have increased at an annual rate of only

+6% since 1994, in 1997 they shot up by +34%.

The products that have recorded the best export performance, however, are capital goods: road vehicles (+46% in 1997 and +29% annually over the reference period) and

electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances (+39% in 1997 and 32% annually).

About ten SITC two-digit headings account for nearly 50% of CECs trade, for both imports and exports.

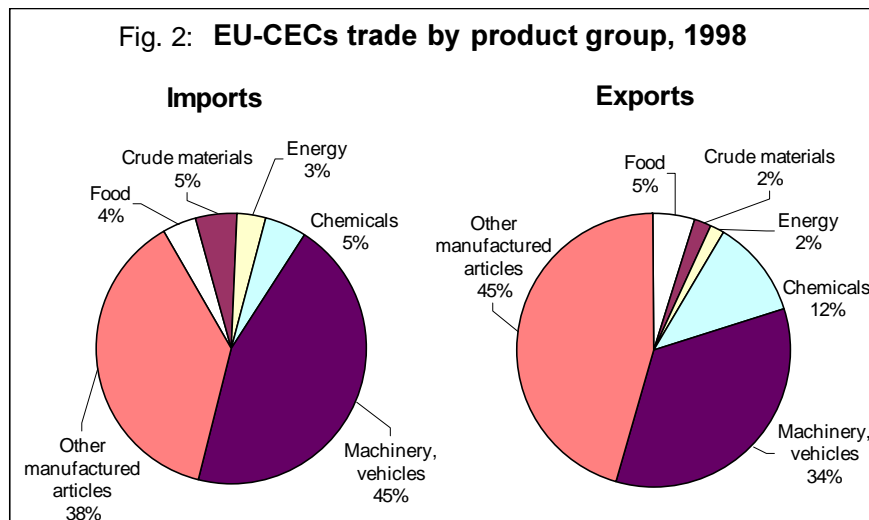
## 2. European Union trade with the Central European Countries

The analysis of bilateral trade between the European Union and the CECs is shown here from the EU side, since it is based on figures reported by the EU Member States.

### 2.1. Trade by product group and SITC products

In 1998 trade with the CECs represented 11% of all extra-EU trade in that year, with manufactured goods accounting for 88% of the figure and primary products 10%.

Fig. 2: EU-CECs trade by product group, 1998



Tab. 4: **EU-CECs trade by product group, 1998**

(Bn ECU)

Product group (SITC Rev. 3)	Imports			Exports			Balance	
	Value	Annual variation (%)		Value	Annual variation (%)		1993	1998
		98/97	98/93		98/97	98/93		
<b>Total</b>	67.98	19.4	19.3	90.24	14.7	20.6	7.23	22.26
<b>0-4 Primary products</b>	8.48	-0.8	5.4	7.69	-0.8	9.0	-1.50	-0.79
0+1 Food	2.81	2.3	4.6	4.36	5.6	6.8	0.90	1.55
2+4 Crude materials	3.38	2.4	10.9	1.89	4.6	15.4	-1.09	-1.49
3 Energy	2.29	-8.4	0.2	1.44	-20.8	8.9	-1.32	-0.85
<b>5-8 Manufactured goods</b>	58.65	23.2	22.6	80.38	16.4	22.2	8.35	21.73
5 Chemicals	3.28	0.6	13.6	10.40	10.8	20.6	2.34	7.12
6+8 Other manufactured articles	29.86	14.2	16.4	29.66	13.4	20.1	-2.07	-0.20
7 Machinery, vehicles	25.52	40.3	36.2	40.33	20.4	24.4	8.08	14.81
<b>9 Articles not classified</b>	0.57	5.8	4.2	0.65	87.4	-3.4	0.30	0.08

Source: Eurostat.

Table 4 shows that trade by product groups focused mainly on other manufactured articles (44.8% of total imports and 33.6% of exports) and machinery and vehicles (37.5% of imports and 44.7% of exports).

EU-CECs trade in primary products was more or less in balance, but in the case of manufactured goods the EU had a surplus of ECU 21.7 billion. This surplus was derived mainly from trade in machinery and vehicles (ECU 14.8 billion - see table 4).

This is borne out by the figures at SITC two-digit level (table 5): general industrial machinery, machinery for particular industries, road vehicles and electrical machinery recorded the biggest surpluses, with an overall figure for 1998 of more than ECU 12.6 billion.

Table 6 shows that the main import and export items in EU-CEC trade are capital goods and manufactured products.

The CECs supplied 21% of the EU's total vehicle imports in 1998. With 11.3% of the total, vehicles head the list of EU imports from this group of countries. Clothing (10.7%) and electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances (8.5%) came second and third. The biggest increases among the ten leading import items between 1993 and 1998 were recorded by telecommunications equipment (+57% annually), power generating machines (+49%) and

Tab. 5: **Balance of trade by main products**

Product group (SITC-Rev. 3)		1993	1997	1998
		(Bn ECU)		
<b>Largest surpluses</b>				
74	General industrial machinery, equipment	1.91	3.63	4.06
65	Yarn, fabrics and related products	1.99	3.57	3.91
72	Machinery for particular industries	1.75	3.02	3.32
78	Road vehicles	2.05	3.92	3.07
77	Electrical machinery, apparatus, appliances	0.76	1.95	2.17
<b>Largest deficits</b>				
84	Clothing and accessories	-3.19	-4.65	-5.35
82	Furniture, bedding	-0.92	-1.72	-2.10
24	Cork and wood	-0.61	-1.49	-1.57
32	Coal, coke and briquettes	-0.97	-1.12	-1.10
63	Cork and wood manufacture	-0.48	-0.87	-0.98

Source: Eurostat.

road vehicles (+38%). There was a sharp rise in vehicle purchases between 1997 and 1998 (+58%).

In the case of exports to the CECs, capital goods led the way in 1998, with road vehicles accounting for 12% of the total, electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances 8.8%, general industrial machinery 7%, machinery for particular industries 5.2% and telecommunications equipment 4.2%. This last group of products increased at an annual rate of +34% between 1993 and 1998. There was dramatic growth in office machines and computers in 1998 (+49%).

Yarn, fabrics and related products exported to the CECs represented nearly a third of total extra-EU exports under this SITC heading.

Part of the trade in textiles between the two areas is for processing: 26.8% of Community exports of yarn, fabrics and related products and 23.8% of its imports of clothing and accessories were reported in 1998 as being for outward processing. Nearly 57% of exports in this group involved accessories. More than 36.7% of Community purchases of clothing were reported as imports after outward processing.

Tab. 6: EU-CECs trade by main product, 1998

Product group (SITC-Rev. 3)	Value	Annual variation		Share in the total extra-EU of the same chapter (%)	Share in the total EU trade with CEC	
	(Bn ECU)	98/97	98/93		(%)	(cumulated %)
<b>Imports</b>						
78 Road vehicles	7.72	57.5	38.4	21.0	11.3	11.3
84 Clothing and clothing accessories	7.31	14.6	12.4	17.9	10.7	22.1
77 Electrical machinery	5.76	23.1	32.1	10.6	8.5	30.6
71 Power generating machinery	3.36	44.1	48.8	14.4	4.9	35.5
82 Furniture, bedding, mattresses	3.13	18.2	18.9	43.5	4.6	40.1
67 Iron and steel	2.95	15.5	22.4	24.0	4.3	44.5
69 Manufactures of metals	2.89	17.2	19.7	20.6	4.2	48.7
76 Telecommunication, sound, TV, video	2.38	46.3	57.2	9.0	3.5	52.2
74 General industry machinery	2.28	28.8	31.2	11.0	3.3	55.6
65 Textile yarn, fabrics and related products	2.06	19.1	18.9	12.6	3.0	58.6
<b>Exports</b>						
78 Road vehicles	10.79	22.4	24.7	15.8	12.0	12.0
77 Electrical machinery	7.93	19.6	29.3	14.9	8.8	20.7
74 General industry machinery	6.34	17.4	20.5	13.4	7.0	27.8
65 Textile yarn, fabrics and related products	5.98	12.7	15.9	29.5	6.6	34.4
72 Machinery specialized for particular ind.	4.67	11.9	15.8	10.6	5.2	39.6
76 Telecommunication, sound, TV, video	3.77	12.7	33.5	13.5	4.2	43.7
89 Miscellaneous manufactured articles	3.54	10.8	17.3	11.8	3.9	47.7
69 Manufactures of metals	3.41	16.9	24.7	17.6	3.8	51.4
75 Offices machines and computers	2.74	49.3	24.2	12.8	3.0	54.5
64 Paper, paperboard and article thereof	2.49	11.2	23.0	18.5	2.8	57.2

Source: Eurostat .

## 2.2. Intra-branch trade between the EU and the CECs

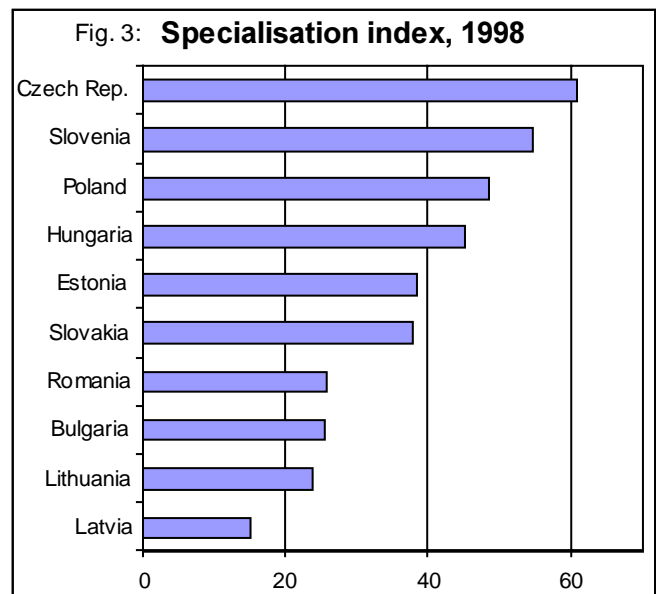
The analysis in this section of two-way trade in similar products is based on the specialisation indices calculated at the SITC four-digit level in relation to all trade in goods.

The specialisation index figure (45.8) calculated for trade between the EU and the CECs does not point to any clear domination in intra-branch or inter-branch trade.

Using this indicator, three groups can be devised. The first group consists only of the Czech Republic, with an index rating of 61. Intra-branch trade is apparently the feature of trade between this country and the European Union. At SITC two-digit level, for example, it can be seen that road vehicles and electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances are the main items of trade, for both imports and exports, between the EU and the Czech Republic.

The second group has average ratings and comprises Hungary (45.2), Poland (48.2) and Slovenia (54.7).

The third group is marked by fairly significant inter-branch trade. The countries in this group are Estonia (38.6), Slovakia (37.7), Romania (25.7), Bulgaria (25.3), Lithuania (23.8) and Latvia (17.8). The European Union



exports mainly high value-added products (capital goods) to these countries and imports products that have been subject to little processing (primary products).

## 2.3. Trade in goods between the EU and the CECs by end use

The Classification for Economic Analysis (CEA) is a grouping of products that makes it possible to analyse economic indicators relating to different fields (production, investment, consumption, employment, etc) according to the methods of macroeconomic analysis. It is better suited to this analysis than nomenclatures that are more geared to a detailed analysis of production.

EU imports from its neighbours in Central Europe have increased at an average rate of 20% since 1996 (see Table 7). Germany is the leading importer (more than ECU 32 billion in 1998), followed by Italy (nearly ECU 8 billion), Austria (ECU 5.9 billion) and France (ECU 4.5 billion).

Intermediate goods came first in the ranking of import items with 38% of the total. Other leading import categories were consumer goods (23%) and the car sector (14.6%).

This ranking is borne out by the four countries that have been mentioned. Austria is the country that imports the biggest proportion of intermediate goods (43%) and the lowest proportion of car products (7.7%).

Imports of car products went up on average by more than 50% a year between 1996 and 1998. This exceptional increase can be attributed mainly to Germany (+67% on an annual basis), Austria (+59%) and Italy (+46%). In the case of France, the figure was only 13%.

Agricultural and agrifood products account for a fairly small percentage of total imports (2.5% and 3.3% respectively). In the case of Sweden, however, the figure for agricultural imports was 12% in 1998, following an annual increase of 43% since 1996.

In 1998 the main sources of EU exports to the CECs were Germany (more than ECU 39 billion), followed by Italy (more than ECU 11 billion), Austria (more than ECU 7.6 billion) and France (more than ECU 7 billion) (see Table 8).

For these four countries, as for the EU as a whole, intermediate goods were the main export item, with figures ranging from 35% for Italy to 52% for Austria. There were significant annual increases, ranging from +19% for Germany to +26% for Austria.

Tab. 7: Structure of imports from CECs by EU Member states, 1998

Product group CEA	EU-15	B/L	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
<b>Total</b>	(Mio ECU)														
Value	67 984	2 479	1 424	32 314	853	1 371	4 533	262	7 854	3 592	5 929	232	1 140	2 067	3 933
	(%)														
Share	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Var 98/96	20.0	25.9	18.0	20.5	10.5	21.5	17.5	35.7	18.6	17.9	18.6	32.9	21.2	24.8	20.6
<b>Agricultural products (A)</b>															
Share	2.5	1.0	2.2	1.4	5.1	1.6	1.4	0.4	4.3	1.7	4.5	4.9	5.2	12.1	1.3
Var 98/96	9.9	-12.8	7.4	3.5	9.3	41.3	7.1	-71.9	3.9	-0.8	8.4	42.3	19.9	43.3	47.2
<b>Food products (B)</b>															
Share	3.3	2.5	4.8	3.2	2.9	2.2	2.7	3.4	2.5	5.4	3.5	1.3	2.7	3.5	3.6
Var 98/96	5.2	0.4	-0.6	6.7	-0.2	-7.0	3.1	5.5	0.9	7.5	9.0	-30.1	10.3	1.8	5.7
<b>Consumer goods (C)</b>															
Share	23.1	20.6	29.4	22.9	17.5	14.6	28.6	11.1	25.9	25.7	18.0	20.2	20.2	24.1	22.5
Var 98/96	18.4	18.4	24.0	11.2	44.3	42.5	32.0	54.6	21.6	27.4	24.9	65.1	15.3	23.5	34.0
<b>Automobile (D)</b>															
Share	14.6	16.9	5.9	17.5	5.6	17.0	17.1	8.3	17.2	4.4	7.7	19.2	3.5	10.4	11.4
Var 98/96	50.6	48.4	19.2	67.2	-8.4	15.0	13.4	17.2	45.5	45.3	58.8	111.4	54.2	91.6	25.7
<b>Equipment goods (E)</b>															
Share	14.3	13.4	13.9	15.5	7.9	10.9	11.8	45.4	8.8	21.6	12.8	12.3	24.4	14.5	12.3
Var 98/96	27.8	50.2	28.0	24.1	-12.5	42.9	22.0	119.3	23.1	43.3	24.7	33.8	47.2	38.4	35.2
<b>Intermediary goods (F)</b>															
Share	37.6	43.5	29.7	35.6	52.3	51.4	36.2	22.0	40.2	28.8	42.9	41.7	32.3	32.0	46.7
Var 98/96	15.4	31.4	17.1	15.1	9.9	17.1	12.9	15.5	10.9	12.1	19.9	17.7	23.1	17.0	14.2
<b>Energy (G)</b>															
Share	3.3	1.8	3.0	2.3	8.5	2.3	1.9	8.5	0.5	10.9	9.9	0.2	11.3	2.8	1.0
Var 98/96	-3.5	-40.7	-39.7	13.9	35.6	25.0	-11.2	-3.8	10.1	-8.0	-5.7	-70.6	-5.5	-24.3	3.1
<b>Miscellaneous products (Z)</b>															
Share	0.9	0.3	9.2	1.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.9	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3
Var 98/96	6.3	0.2	124.8	2.4	-37.2	-20.1	16.6	-2.4	33.4	35.6	-18.5	-8.3	-28.4	-6.3	-56.6

Source: Eurostat.

Tab. 8: Structure of exports to CECs by EU Member states, 1998

Product group CEA	EU-15	B/L	DK	D	EL	E	F	IRL	I	NL	A	P	FIN	S	UK
<b>Total</b>	(Mio ECU)														
Value	90 242	3 841	1 798	39 189	804	1 964	7 298	583	11 377	4 723	7 623	188	3 091	3 019	4 743
	(%)														
Share	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Var 98/96	18.9	23.7	15.2	20.6	20.0	19.8	21.8	22.8	11.5	23.4	17.1	20.1	20.4	20.7	13.9
<b>Agricultural products (A)</b>															
Share	1.5	0.8	2.1	0.6	17.3	11.6	1.0	0.1	1.5	7.1	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.5
Var 98/96	-2.7	5.5	-27.5	-17.9	12.9	21.8	-25.0	12.0	-1.6	15.8	-2.6	244.9	10.7	-28.7	-39.5
<b>Food products (B)</b>															
Share	4.4	5.7	13.5	3.7	12.5	5.0	4.1	10.3	2.5	10.5	4.3	2.4	3.2	3.3	3.8
Var 98/96	10.3	19.2	25.6	15.1	16.2	21.0	-5.4	-2.4	-3.6	11.7	8.3	13.5	-4.4	10.6	13.5
<b>Consumer goods (C)</b>															
Share	13.3	19.5	12.6	9.2	18.8	13.9	15.7	9.6	25.5	11.3	11.2	12.4	10.0	12.6	17.0
Var 98/96	17.2	50.0	15.4	12.6	18.7	23.3	26.0	40.1	13.9	24.0	11.7	26.9	15.6	25.7	14.0
<b>Automobile (D)</b>															
Share	13.6	10.5	3.7	17.8	1.6	31.4	18.9	0.1	9.2	8.7	7.1	14.3	3.6	10.6	7.3
Var 98/96	28.3	13.9	18.1	39.6	16.0	24.8	18.7	69.6	5.3	42.4	8.0	61.2	27.9	44.5	10.4
<b>Equipment goods (E)</b>															
Share	24.2	16.3	26.3	25.4	11.4	13.1	22.8	40.5	24.6	21.8	19.2	24.6	33.0	25.4	30.2
Var 98/96	19.6	36.9	16.9	20.0	36.7	2.0	26.1	37.0	12.2	29.8	11.2	42.0	20.5	20.1	22.9
<b>Intermediary goods (F)</b>															
Share	38.9	44.7	27.0	40.2	29.3	24.5	35.8	16.3	34.7	31.2	51.8	45.6	44.8	37.4	36.6
Var 98/96	20.2	24.7	17.9	18.8	16.0	28.2	25.2	7.9	12.7	18.3	25.6	8.4	34.9	18.4	22.4
<b>Energy (G)</b>															
Share	1.6	1.7	1.6	0.8	7.7	0.1	1.4	0.0	1.4	0.8	3.2	0.0	4.4	4.2	3.4
Var 98/96	1.9	10.9	-24.8	19.4	40.4	55.4	91.6	2.1	-5.7	14.9	2.2	-99.5	-8.7	15.7	-26.4
<b>Miscellaneous products (Z)</b>															
Share	0.8	0.8	0.4	1.1	1.4	0.4	0.2	22.5	0.0	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.7
Var 98/96	-20.5	121.3	-26.5	-24.6	:	-51.7	25.7	25.7	-1.9	48.3	-8.2	138.0	-65.3	27.7	-51.9

Source: Eurostat.

In second place came capital goods, with figures between 19% for Austria and 25% for Germany. For the EU as a whole, the third and fourth export items were car products (14%) and consumer goods (13%). France and Germany

export mainly car products (19% and 18% of their total exports), whereas in the case of Italy car products account for only 9% of total exports but consumer goods 26%.

## ➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

Country aggregates: EU: EU-15; CECs (Central European countries): Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Data sources: For bilateral EU-CECs statistics: Eurostat COMEXT data base; for CECs "world" data: National Statistical Institute data taken mainly from the UN Comtrade data base. Because of differences in methodology, the "mirror statistics" derived from these two sources show some discrepancies.

Statistical systems: Special trade (EU, Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia); general trade (Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, Romania).

Statistical values: CIF/FOB (Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovenia); FOB/FOB: (Czech Republic, Slovakia).

Classification: Third edition of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), produced by the United Nations for the purposes of

analysis.

Outward processing arrangements allow goods to be exported temporarily for processing and completed products to be imported with a full or partial exemption from duties and levies.

The specialisation index (Grubel-Lloyd intra-industry trade index): The intra industry trade index shows whether the trade between partners is specialised in different industries (inter-industry specialisation) or within the same industry (intra-industry trade). A value near 100 means that the trade between two partners is taking place within one industry. A value near 0 indicates a strong inter-industry specialisation.

The corrected Grubel Lloyd Intra-industry index is calculated as

$$\text{followed by: } \frac{\sum (X_i + M_i) - \sum |X_i - M_i|}{\sum (X_i + M_i) - |\sum X_i - \sum M_i|} * 100,$$

where  $X_i$  = Exports of industry  $i$  and  $M_i$  = Imports of industry  $i$ .

# Further information:

## ➤ Reference publications

Title External and intra-European Union trade – monthly statistics  
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## ➤ Data bases

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