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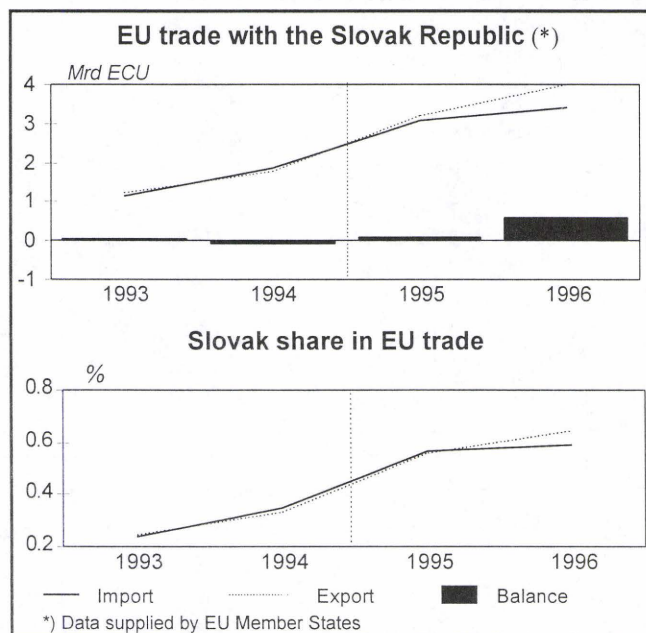
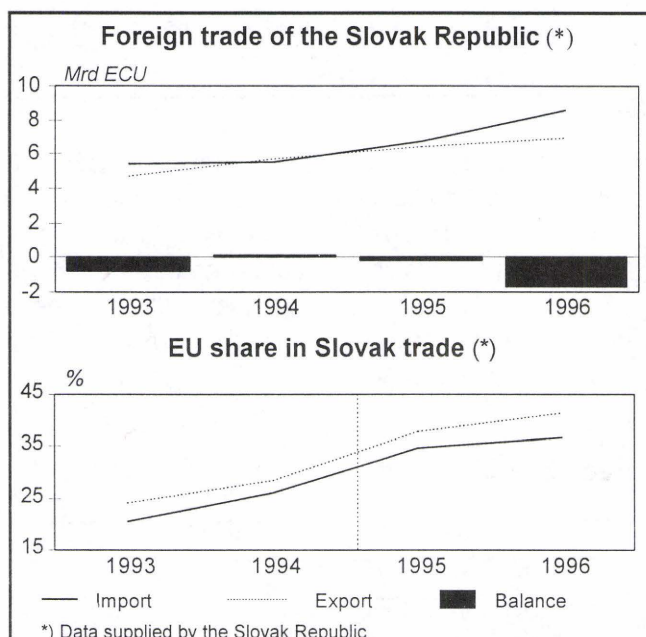
External trade

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SLOVAKIA'S FOREIGN TRADE



Part 1: Summary

1.1. Since 1993 Slovakia's economic development has been shaped by an opening-up towards the West, underpinned by the Europe Agreement with the European Union, and by the dissolution of the former Czechoslovakia.

Between 1993 and 1996, Slovak foreign trade, like that of other Central European Countries, underwent vigorous expansion, with imports showing 17% and exports 14% annual growth. This increased Slovakia's foreign-trade deficit from ECU 0.75 Mrd in 1993 (almost 8% of GDP) to ECU 1.66 Mrd in 1996 (11% of GDP). The Czech Republic's share in Slovakia's trade fell from 39% in 1993 to 27% in 1996.

1.2. The opening-up of Slovakia's economy has been mainly in the direction of the EU, which became the country's main partner in 1996, with a share of 39% compared with 22% in 1993. 6.5 percentage points of the rise were attributable to the enlargement of the EU to include Austria, Finland and Sweden.

In 1996, wood, stones and metal products (30%) together with leather, textiles and miscellaneous manufactured goods (21%) accounted for half of the EU's imports from Slovakia. However, machinery and mechanical appliances (16%) and road vehicles (15%) are the areas in which EU purchases increased most sharply after 1993. The main exports from the EU to Slovakia in 1996 were machinery and mechanical appliances (37%), road vehicles (15%) and chemicals (15%). As in machinery and road vehicles, intra-branch trade and processing are a major focus of transactions between these two partners in the textiles sector.

Germany (with 50% of total EU transactions), Austria (15%) and Italy (13%) are Slovakia's chief European partners, followed by France (6%) and the United Kingdom (3%).

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Part II: Slovak trade with the rest of the world



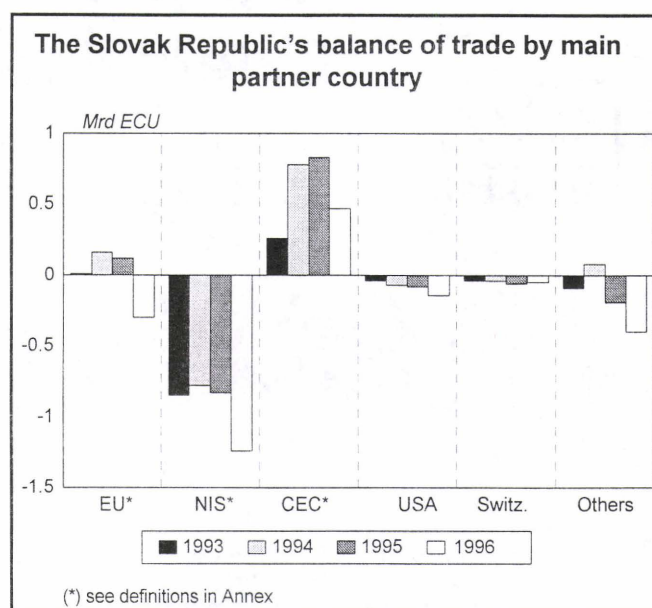
2.1. Slovak trade by main partner country

The Slovak Republic's international transactions account for around 0.25% of world trade, or 8.2% of total trade by the CECs (Central European Countries).

Like that of the Czech Republic, the Slovak economy is strongly geared to foreign trade, with imports and exports accounting for 56.5% and 48.7% respectively of GDP in 1993 and remaining stable in 1996.

Slovakia's exports and imports have not kept abreast of each other, with sales rocketing in 1994 (+22.3%), only to level off somewhat in 1995 (+13.9%) and 1996 (+7.2%). Purchases, on the other hand, were slow off the mark in 1994 (+2.8%), but rose substantially in 1995 (+20.7%) and 1996 (+28.5%). As a result, the country's balance of trade, which showed a surplus in 1994 (ECU 140 Mrd) fell steadily to reach a deficit of ECU 210 million in 1995 and ECU 1.66 Mrd in 1996.

In 1996, 38.8% of the country's trade was with the EU, which has become its main partner - ahead of the CECs (36.6%), which were nevertheless still the leading importers of Slovak products in 1996. The Czech Republic's share in Slovakia's trade fell substantially from 39% in 1993 to 27% in 1996.



In spite of a relatively low level of trade, Slovakia's highest trade deficit in 1996 was vis-à-vis the NIS (Newly Independent States) (ECU -1.24 Mrd), almost exclusively because of its imports of energy from Russia. In the same year Slovakia achieved its highest trade surplus vis-à-vis the CECs (ECU 470 million).

The Slovak Republic's trade by main partner country

(Mrd ECU)

Trading partners	Import					Export					Balance			
	1993	1995	1996		96/95 Change (%)	1993	1995	1996		96/95 Change (%)	1993	1995	1996	96/95 Value
			Value	Share (%)				Value	Share (%)					
World	5.41	6.71	8.61	100	28.5	4.66	6.49	6.96	100	7.2	-0.75	-0.21	-1.66	-1.44
EU (1)	1.11	2.33	3.17	36.9	36.2	1.12	2.45	2.87	41.3	17.0	0.01	0.12	-0.30	-0.43
Germany	0.62	0.96	1.25	14.5	31.0	0.71	1.23	1.47	21.2	19.6	0.09	0.28	0.22	-0.06
Italy	0.16	0.31	0.51	5.9	65.2	0.13	0.32	0.34	4.9	7.4	-0.03	0.01	-0.17	-0.18
NIS (1)	1.22	1.27	1.71	19.9	34.4	0.38	0.44	0.47	6.8	6.7	-0.85	-0.83	-1.24	-0.41
Russia	1.06	1.11	1.52	17.7	36.8	0.22	0.25	0.24	3.5	-4.1	-0.84	-0.86	-1.28	-0.42
CEC (1)	2.18	2.30	2.61	30.3	13.8	2.44	3.13	3.09	44.4	-1.3	0.26	0.83	0.47	-0.36
Czech Rep.	1.94	1.86	2.11	24.5	13.5	1.97	2.31	2.16	31.0	-6.7	0.03	0.45	0.04	-0.41
Hungary	0.07	0.15	0.17	2.0	15.7	0.21	0.30	0.32	4.6	6.3	0.14	0.15	0.15	0.00
Poland	0.11	0.19	0.21	2.5	14.1	0.14	0.29	0.34	4.8	16.4	0.03	0.10	0.12	0.02
USA	0.07	0.11	0.13	1.5	13.8	0.03	0.05	0.07	1.1	45.6	-0.04	-0.06	-0.05	0.01
Switzerland	0.10	0.16	0.23	2.7	40.5	0.05	0.08	0.09	1.3	13.8	-0.04	-0.08	-0.14	-0.06
Others	0.73	0.53	0.76	8.8	43.3	0.64	0.34	0.36	5.2	6.9	-0.09	-0.19	-0.40	-0.21
For comparison														
Share (%) in:														
GDP	56.5	50.3	57.7	-	14.7	48.7	48.7	46.6	-	-	-7.8	-1.6	-11.1	-
trade														
of CECs	8.3	7.2	7.9(*)	-	9.6	8.6	8.5	8.7(*)	-	1.4	-	-	-	-
of world	0.2	0.2	0.3	-	17.0	0.2	0.2	0.2(*)	-	-1.3	-	-	-	-

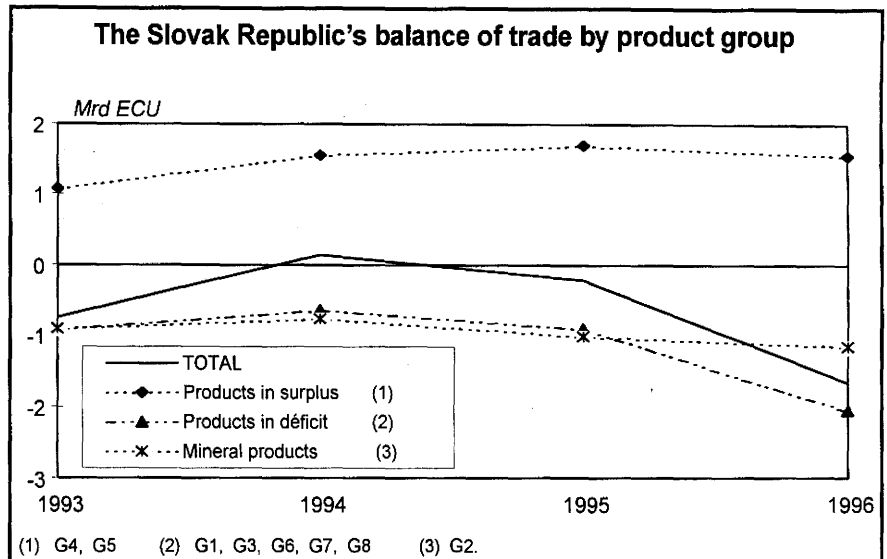
(1) See definitions in Annex; (*) Estimate

2.2. Slovak trade by product



For the purpose of analysis, the data available at the 2-digit level of the Harmonised System (HS) were arranged in eight groups (G1 to G8) in the first table on this page (Cf. p. 8 for definitions).

Slovakia's balance of trade showed a major deficit in 1996 (ECU -1.66 Mrd, or 11% of GDP), following a slight surplus in 1994. The main culprits were mineral products (ECU -1.15 Mrd) and machinery and mechanical appliances (ECU -1.17 Mrd).



The Slovak Republic's trade by product group

Product groups	(Mrd ECU)									
	Imports				Exports				Balance	
	1993		1996		1993		1996		1993	1996
	value	share (%)	value	share (%)	value	share (%)	value	share (%)	value	
Total	5.41	100	8.61	100	4.66	100	6.96	100	-0.75	-1.66
Agricultural products (G1)	0.52	9.6	0.67	7.8	0.32	6.8	0.35	5.0	-0.20	-0.32
Mineral products, including fuels (G2)	1.29	23.8	1.62	18.8	0.38	8.2	0.47	6.7	-0.90	-1.15
Chemicals and plastics (G3)	0.72	13.4	1.26	14.6	0.73	15.7	1.13	16.2	0.01	-0.13
Leather, textiles and manufactured goods (G4)	0.41	7.6	0.51	5.9	0.65	14.0	0.82	11.8	0.24	0.31
Wood, stones and metal products (G5)	0.72	13.3	1.20	14.0	1.55	33.2	2.44	35.1	0.83	1.24
Machinery and appliances (G6)	1.36	25.2	2.18	25.3	0.65	14.0	1.01	14.5	-0.71	-1.17
Vehicles (G7)	0.38	7.1	1.08	12.6	0.37	7.9	0.74	10.7	-0.02	-0.34
Others (G8)	0.00	0.1	0.09	1.0	0.01	0.2	0.01	0.1	0.00	-0.08

Between 1993 and 1996 the Slovak Republic continued to show substantial surpluses in wood, stones and metal products (ECU 1.24 Mrd in 1996) and in leather, textiles and miscellaneous manufactured goods as a whole (ECU 310 million in 1996).

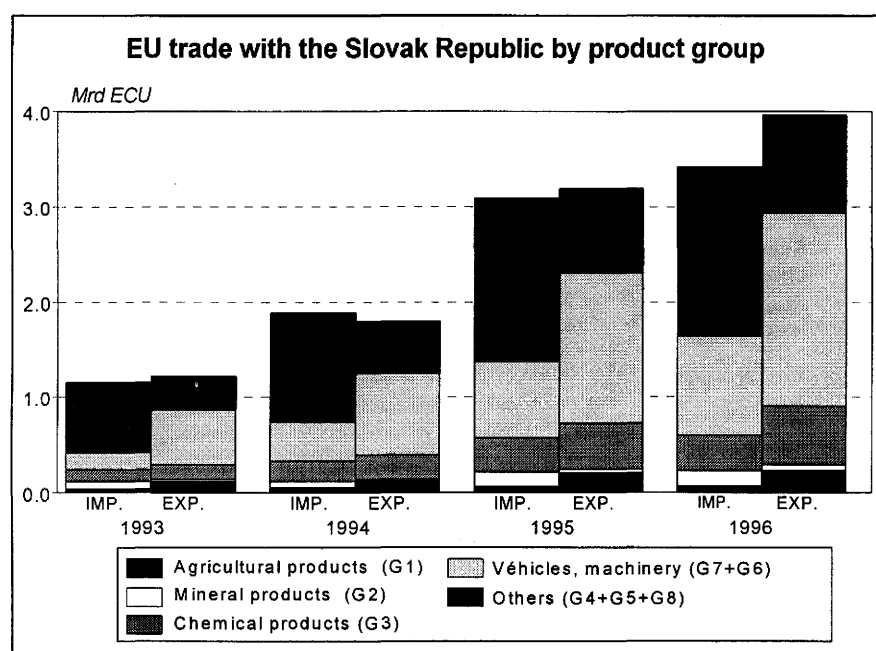
On a more detailed level, it can be seen that Slovakia imports mainly mineral fuels (HS 27) and exports mainly iron and steel (HS 72). Its chief transactions include considerable intra-branch trade in other product groups, i.e. machinery and mechanical appliances (HS 84), road vehicles (HS 87) and electrical machinery and equipment (HS 85). These three groups alone account for 32.6% of Slovakia's total imports and 21.6% of its total exports.

The Slovak Republic's imports by main product, 1996

(Mrd ECU)				
HS	Description of products	Value	Share (%)	Cumulative share
Imports				
27	Mineral fuels and derived products	1.45	16.9	16.9
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	1.33	15.4	32.3
87	Road vehicles	0.87	10.1	42.4
85	Electrical machinery and equipment	0.62	7.1	49.5
39	Plastics and plastic products	0.27	3.1	52.6
Exports				
72	Pig iron, iron and steel	0.96	13.8	13.8
87	Road vehicles	0.58	8.3	22.1
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	0.57	8.2	30.3
85	Electrical machinery and equipment	0.35	5.1	35.4
27	Mineral fuels and derived products	0.34	4.9	40.4

Part III: EU trade with the Slovak Republic

3.1. EU balance of trade with the Slovak Republic



The analysis of bilateral trade between the European Union and the Slovak Republic presented in this part is seen from the point of the view of the EU, as it is based on data supplied by EU Member States.

In 1996, the Slovak Republic held 36th place in the league table of the European Union's trading partners, accounting for 0.62% of EU turnover. It accounted for 6.1% of total transactions between the CECs and the EU.

After the dissolution of Czechoslovakia in 1993, trade between the EU and the Slovak Republic grew steadily, partly because of the implementation of the Europe Agreement. Because the EU's exports grew more rapidly than its imports, the EU's surplus vis-à-vis the Slovak Republic increased constantly - from ECU 60 million in 1993 to ECU 577 million in 1996.

Machinery and mechanical appliances accounted for most of the EU's trade surplus in 1996 (ECU 920 million). In the same year, the principal deficit (ECU 520 million) was in the wood, stones and metal products group.

At a more detailed level (HS two-digit), the EU has substantial trade surpluses in the three main product groups where there is intra-branch trade, machinery and mechanical appliances (HS84), electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances (HS85) and, to a lesser extent, road vehicles (HS87). These three groups alone accounted for ECU 900 million of the EU's surplus vis-à-vis Slovakia. The EU has a total deficit of ECU 480 million on iron and steel (ECU 270 million) and textiles (ECU 210 million).

EU balance of trade with the Slovak Republic by product group

Product groups	1993	1995	1996	1993	1995	1996
	(Mrd ECU)			CR ^(a) =(Exp/Imp)*100		
Total	0.06	0.10	0.58	105.2	103.0	116.0
Agricultural products (G1)	0.07	0.15	0.16	289.8	340.2	351.6
Mineral products, including fuels (G2)	-0.05	-0.12	-0.09	35.8	20.7	42.3
Chemicals and plastics (G3)	0.03	0.13	0.24	122.4	137.7	165.7
Leather, textiles, manufactured goods (G4)	-0.11	-0.23	-0.21	66.4	64.8	71.1
Wood, stones and metal products (G5)	-0.29	-0.62	-0.54	29.0	39.4	47.0
Machinery and appliances (G6)	0.36	0.73	0.92	421.7	284.7	274.2
Vehicles (G7)	0.02	0.03	0.07	132.6	108.4	113.7
Others (G8)	0.02	0.02	0.00	226.9	146.0	89.3
For comparison						
EU trade balance	-46.1	24.2	43.6	90	104.4	107.5
EU trade balance with CEC's	-0.92	11.5	20.6	93	124.4	141.2

(a) CR = Coverage rate in %.

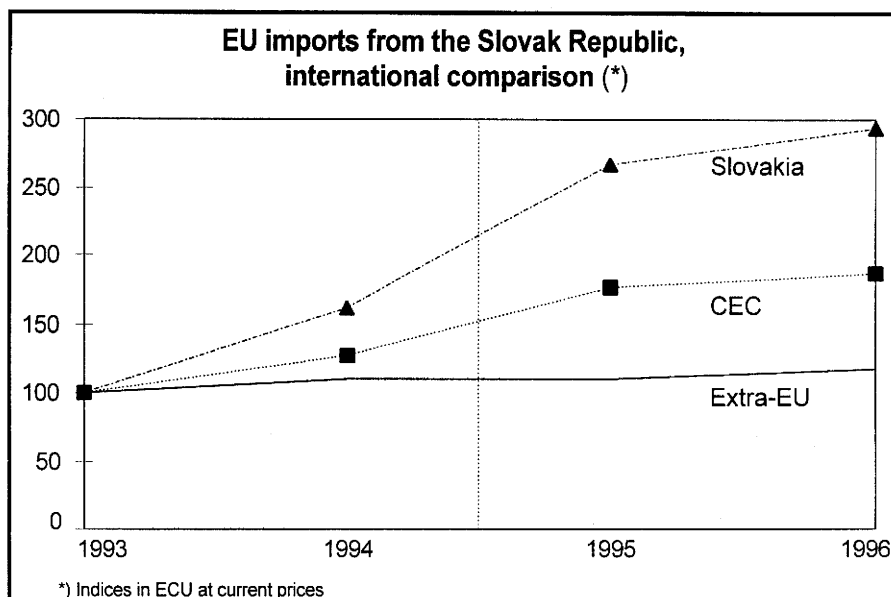
EU balance of trade with the Slovak Republic by product

HS	Description of products	(Mrd ECU)		
		1993	1995	1996
Largest surpluses				
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	0.24	0.44	0.54
85	Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances	0.08	0.20	0.27
90	Optical instruments etc.	0.05	0.09	0.10
87	Road vehicles	0.05	0.10	0.09
30	Pharmaceutical products	0.02	0.07	0.08
Largest deficits				
72	Pig iron, iron and steel	-0.14	-0.34	-0.27
62	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	-0.12	-0.20	-0.21
76	Aluminium and articles thereof	0.00	-0.03	-0.11
44	Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal	-0.03	-0.09	-0.09
64	Footwear	-0.01	-0.06	-0.07

3.2. EU imports from the Slovak Republic



Between 1993 and 1996, EU purchases from the Slovak Republic grew much more rapidly (+43.3% per year) than its purchases from the CECs as a whole (+23%), the greatest increase (+65%) being in 1995. Some of this (15 percentage points) was attributable to the enlargement of the EU to include Austria, Finland and Sweden. In the following year, EU imports from Slovakia levelled off (+10.6%). By way of comparison, imports from outside the Community in general grew by only 5.5% per year between 1993 and 1996.



In 1996, two groups of products alone accounted for 51% of the EU's imports from Slovakia - wood, stones and metal products (30%) together with leather, textiles and miscellaneous manufactured goods (21%). However, the combined share of these two groups had been higher in 1993 (62%). EU imports rose most substantially in 1996: machinery and mechanical appliances were up 33.8% and vehicles 25.3%.

An analysis at HS two-digit level shows that three of the main product groups purchased by the EU feature in a process of intra-branch trade. These are road vehicles (HS87) (mainly private cars (HS8703) and parts and accessories (HS8708)), electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances (HS85) (mainly wire and cable (HS8544)) and machinery and mechanical appliances (HS84). EU imports in these product groups showed vigorous growth in 1996, with 44.9%, 42.8% and 25% respectively. In the same year they together accounted for almost 29% of total EU imports from Slovakia.

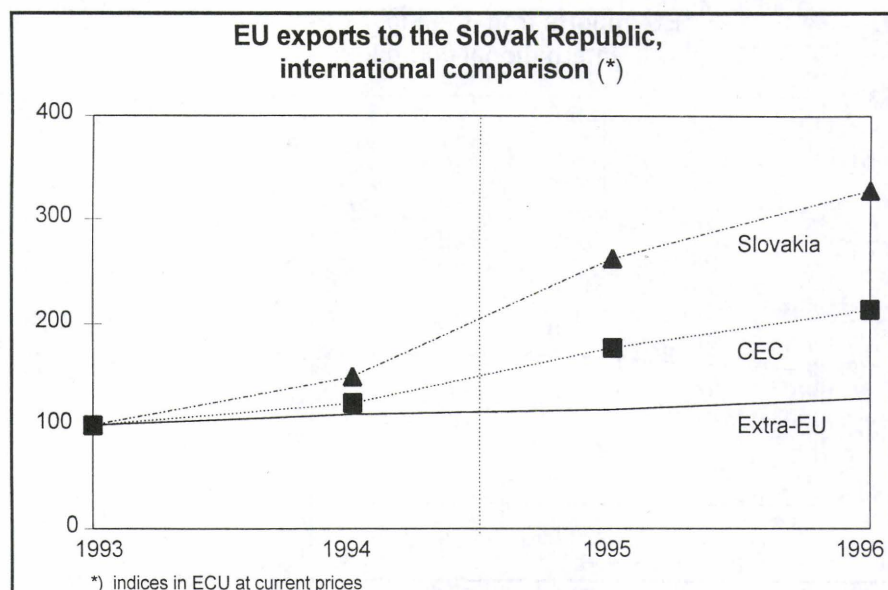
EU imports from the Slovak Republic by product group

Product group	1993	1995	1996	1996	96/95	96/93
	(Mrd ECU)			Share	(% annual change)	
Total	1.16	3.09	3.42	100	10.6	43.3
Agricultural products (G1)	0.04	0.06	0.06	1.9	5.2	18.6
Mineral products, including fuels (G2)	0.07	0.15	0.16	4.7	4.3	31.4
Chemicals and plastics (G3)	0.13	0.36	0.37	10.7	2.6	42.7
Leather, textiles and manufactured goods (G4)	0.31	0.66	0.72	21.0	8.4	31.7
Wood, stones and metal products (G5)	0.41	1.02	1.03	30.0	1.0	35.4
Machinery and appliances (G6)	0.11	0.40	0.53	15.5	33.8	67.8
Vehicles (G7)	0.07	0.40	0.51	14.8	25.3	91.9
Others (G8)	0.01	0.04	0.04	1.3	15.5	43.3

EU imports from the Slovak Republic by main products, 1996

HS	Description of products	Value	Annual change	Share in total	Cumulative share
		(Mrd ECU)	(%)		
87	Road vehicles	0.47	44.9	13.6	13.6
72	Pig iron, iron and steel	0.32	-16.9	9.3	22.9
85	Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances	0.29	42.8	8.4	31.3
62	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	0.24	7.1	7.0	38.3
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	0.23	25.0	6.7	45.0

3.3. EU exports to the Slovak Republic



EU exports to the Slovak Republic by product group

Product group	1993	1995	1996	1996	96/95	96/93
	<i>(Mrd ECU)</i>			<i>Share (%)</i>	<i>(% annual change)</i>	
Total	1.22	3.19	4.00	100	25.2	48.5
Agricultural products (G1)	0.11	0.21	0.22	5.7	8.7	26.6
Mineral products, including fuels (G2)	0.03	0.03	0.07	1.7	113.0	38.8
Chemicals and plastics (G3)	0.15	0.49	0.61	15.3	23.5	57.9
Leather, textiles and manufactured goods (G4)	0.21	0.43	0.51	12.9	19.0	34.8
Wood, stones and metal products (G5)	0.12	0.40	0.48	12.2	20.4	59.0
Machinery and appliances (G6)	0.47	1.13	1.46	36.7	28.9	45.4
Vehicles (G7)	0.10	0.44	0.58	14.5	31.4	82.3
Others (G8)	0.03	0.06	0.04	1.0	-29.4	5.0

EU exports to the Slovak Republic by main products, 1996

HS	Description of products	Value	Annual change	Share in total	Cumulative share
		<i>(Mrd ECU)</i>		<i>(%)</i>	
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	0.77	24.6	19.4	19.4
85	Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances	0.56	38.7	14.0	33.4
87	Road vehicles	0.56	31.2	13.9	47.3
39	Plastics and plastic products	0.17	32.7	4.3	51.6
90	Optical instruments etc.	0.12	15.5	3.0	54.6

Over the period under consideration, EU exports to the Slovak Republic grew at a higher rate (+48.5% annually) than imports (+43.3%). This rate of increase exceeded that of EU exports to the CECs as a whole (+28.4%). Like its imports, the EU's exports to the Slovak Republic grew most rapidly in 1995 (+78%), only to level off in the following year (+25.2%). Almost 29 percentage points of the rise in European sales to the Slovak Republic in 1995 were accounted for by the accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden. By way of comparison, exports to non-member countries in general grew by only 8.3% per year between 1993 and 1996.

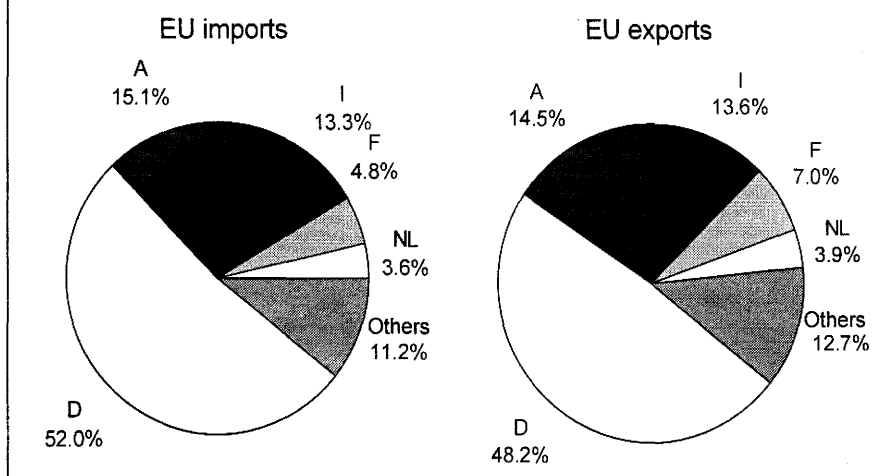
Machinery and mechanical appliances accounted for 36.7% of the EU's sales to Slovakia in 1996, showing a sharp increase in that year (+28.9%). At this level of detail, the major group which performed most vigorously was motor vehicles, with exports increasing by over 31% in 1996. The greatest increase of all was in exports of mineral products, with +113%. However, the volume of transactions involved was relatively small (around ECU 70 million in 1996).

An analysis at HS two-digit level shows that the three main product groups exported by the EU to Slovakia feature in a process of intra-branch trade. These are machinery and appliances (HS84 and HS85) and road vehicles (HS87), which together account for over 47% of EU sales to Slovakia. As with imports, the main export items were wire and cable (HS8544), parts and accessories (HS8708) and private cars (HS8703).

3.4. EU trade with the Slovak Republic by Member State



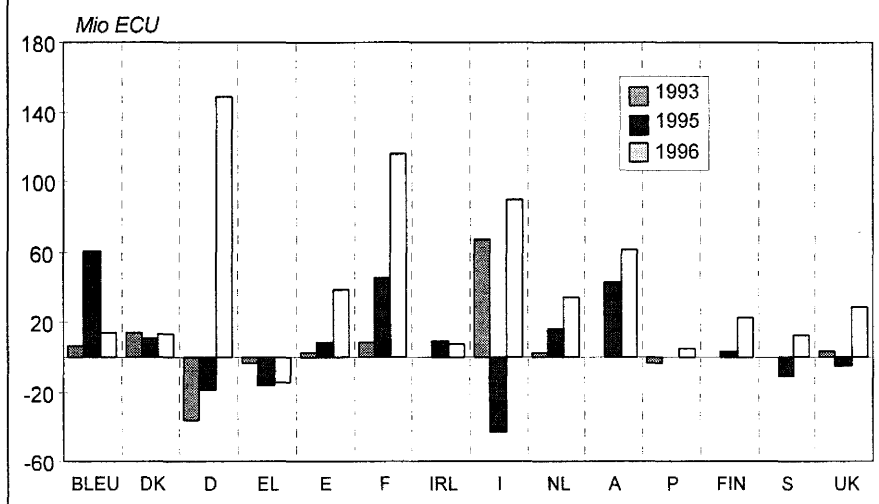
EU trade flows with the Slovak Republic by Member State, 1996



In 1996, Germany, Austria and Italy together accounted for 78.1% of the EU's trade with the Slovak Republic. However, basically as a result of the accession of the new Member States, Germany - Slovakia's leading European trade partner - saw its share fall from 62.4% in 1993 to 50% in 1996.

With a surplus of ECU 148.9 million in 1996, the development in Germany's trade balance was remarkable, having shown a deficit vis-à-vis Slovakia in the previous three years. In spite of a relatively small volume of trade with Slovakia, France achieved a surplus of ECU 116.1 million in 1996. Only Greece showed a deficit of ECU 14.2 million vis-à-vis this partner in that year.

EU balance of trade with the Slovak Republic



The EU countries with the smallest volume of transactions with Slovakia were the ones which recorded the biggest increases in 1996. Ireland's imports and Greece's exports, for example, increased by around 110% and 90% respectively.

EU trade with the Slovak Republic by Member State

(Mio ECU)

Déclarant country	EU imports					EU exports					EU balance			
	1993	1995	1996		96/95 Change (%)	1993	1995	1996		96/95 Change (%)	1993	1995	1996	96-95 Value
			Value	Share (%)				Value	Share (%)					
EU	1161.2	3091.2	3418.8	100	10.6	1221.3	3191.7	3995.7	100	25.2	60.1	100.6	577.0	476.4
BLEU	29.8	63.2	96.4	2.8	52.4	35.9	123.3	110.3	2.8	-10.5	6.2	60.0	13.9	-46.2
DK	9.8	23.7	28.0	0.8	18.1	24.3	34.6	41.7	1.0	20.5	14.4	10.9	13.6	2.8
D	761.5	1664.6	1778.1	52.0	6.8	725.4	1646.2	1927.0	48.2	17.1	-36.1	-18.4	148.9	167.3
EL	18.8	23.1	27.8	0.8	20.4	15.1	7.2	13.6	0.3	89.8	-3.7	-15.9	-14.2	1.7
E	17.4	46.6	47.9	1.4	2.7	19.6	54.5	86.1	2.2	58.1	2.2	7.9	38.2	30.4
F	67.9	147.7	164.3	4.8	11.2	76.1	192.9	280.4	7.0	45.3	8.2	45.2	116.1	70.9
IRL	0.1	4.3	9.0	0.3	110.8	0.1	13.6	16.1	0.4	18.4	-0.1	9.3	7.1	-2.2
I	170.7	425.2	453.2	13.3	6.6	237.7	382.2	542.7	13.6	42.0	67.1	-43.0	89.5	132.5
NL	69.9	113.8	122.7	3.6	7.9	72.4	129.2	157.2	3.9	21.6	2.5	15.5	34.4	19.0
A	-	391.9	517.5	15.1	32.1	-	434.5	578.9	14.5	33.2	-	42.7	61.5	18.8
P	4.9	7.5	8.1	0.2	7.9	1.2	7.3	12.7	0.3	72.8	-3.7	-0.2	4.6	4.8
FIN	-	34.0	30.0	0.9	-11.6	-	36.9	52.2	1.3	41.3	-	3.0	22.2	19.2
S	-	50.8	40.2	1.2	-20.9	-	39.3	52.7	1.3	33.9	-	-11.5	12.5	24.0
UK	10.4	94.8	95.7	2.8	0.9	13.4	89.9	124.4	3.1	38.3	3.0	-4.9	28.6	33.6

ANNEX

The Slovak Republic's trade agreements

1. Chronology of agreements

- 1947 : - Creation of the GATT, of which Czechoslovakia is a founder member.
- 1949: - Creation of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA), of which Czechoslovakia is a founder member.
- 1990: - Signing of a *trade and cooperation agreement* between the EC and Czechoslovakia.
- 1991: - Dissolution of the CMEA.
- Granting of the *System of Generalised Preferences* by the Community to Czechoslovakia¹.
- 1992: - Entry into force of the *Interim Agreement* as a precursor to the Europe Agreement with the EU.
- Creation of the CEFTA (*Central European Free Trade Agreement*) between the four Visegrad countries.
- 1993: - Dissolution of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic.
- Signing of the *Europe Agreement* between the Slovak Republic and the EU.
- Accession of the Slovak Republic to the GATT.
- 1994: - Creation of the WTO, of which the Slovak Republic is a founder member.
- 1995: - Entry into force of the *Europe Agreement*², with the aim of gradually establishing a free trade area between the signatories in less than ten years as from the entry into force of the Interim Agreement.

2. Contents of the commercial section of the Europe Agreement regarding industrial products³.

- a) Concessions granted by the EU to the Slovak Republic.
All *quantitative restrictions* and measures having equivalent effect were abolished as of 1 January 1995 (most were abolished as of 1 March 1992, the rest as of 1 January 1994).
Customs duties were abolished as of 1 March 1992. Customs duties on steel products were abolished as of 1 January 1996 and those on textile products as of 1 January 1998.
- b) Concessions granted by the Slovak Republic to the EU.
Quantitative restrictions on imports from the EU and measures having equivalent effect were abolished as of 1 January 1993 (those relating to products covered by Annex IX to the Europe Agreement were abolished as of 1 January 1997).
Customs duties will be gradually reduced/abolished. Abolition will be completed as of 1 January 2002.

¹ The Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) consists of a series of unilateral tariff reductions which the EU usually applies to imports from developing countries.

² The Europe Agreement with the Slovak Republic appears in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* L359 of 31 December 1994.

³ As regards agricultural products, customs duties are subject to special stipulations. Quantitative restrictions have been abolished by the two signatories to the agreement.

Methodological note on the data used

The country aggregates: **EU:** 1993-94: EUR12; 1995-96: EUR15; **NIS** (Newly Independent States): Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

CECss (Central European Countries): Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Serbia Montenegro, Slovenia, Slovak Republic, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Data sources: The data are from customs sources, the statistical office of the Slovak Republic for Slovak trade with the rest of the world, and Eurostat (Comext database) for bilateral trade between the European Union and the Slovak Republic. Discrepancies between the two sources on figures concerning Slovak trade with the EU countries are partly explained by the use of different methodologies and concepts. The Slovak data for 1996 are provisional data.

Statistical system of the Slovak Republic and the EU: special trade.

Classification: The groups of products are based on the sections of the Harmonised system, as follows:

G1: I-1V; G2: V; G3: VI-VII; G4: VIII, XI, XII, XX; G5: IX, X, XIII, XIV, XV; G6: XVI, XVIII; G7: XVII; G8: XIX, XXI.

Statistical values: Eurostat data - CIF values for imports and FOB values for exports; Slovak data: FOB/FOB.