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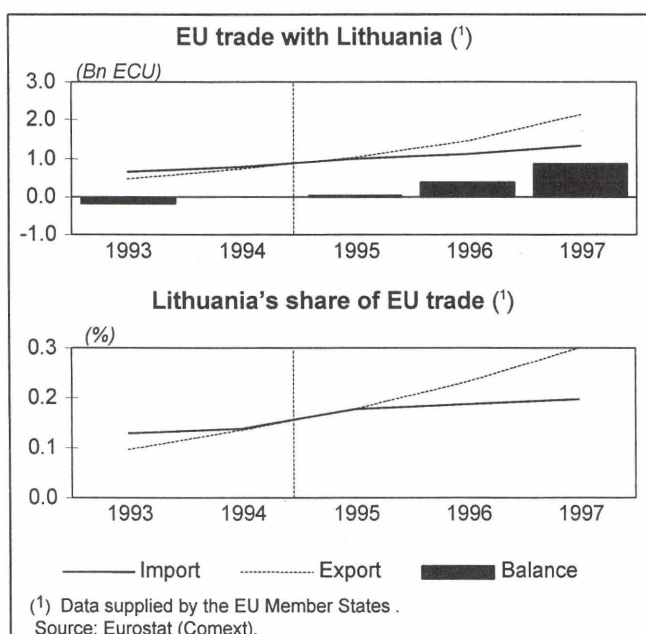
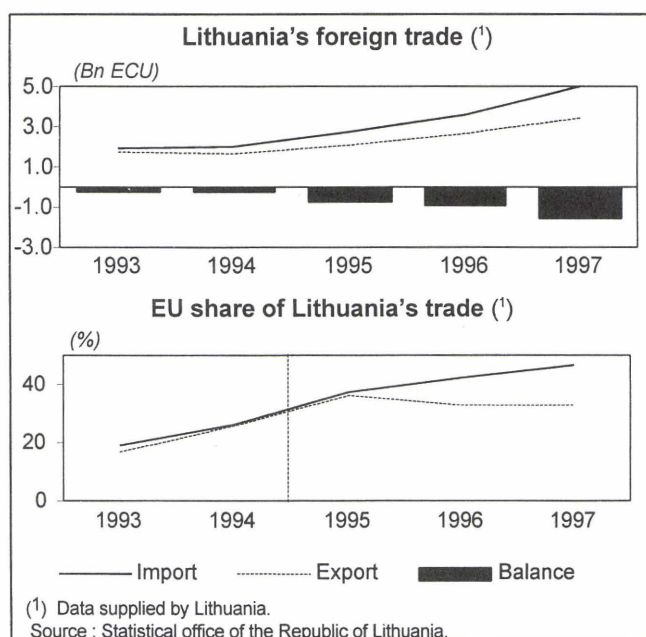
External trade

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LITHUANIA'S FOREIGN TRADE



Summary

Since gaining independence, Lithuania has gradually adapted its institutional framework so as to facilitate integration into world trade. The volume of its transactions, which according to IMF statistics is the highest of the three Baltic States, is comparable with that of Bulgaria, and accounted for around 0.10% of world trade in 1997. From 1993 to 1997, Lithuanian imports and exports grew at an annual rate of 26.7% and 18.8% respectively. This explains the deterioration in its balance of trade deficit, which rose over the period from ECU 210 million to ECU 1.6 billion. In contrast to most Central European countries (CECs), Lithuania has seen its degree of economic openness decrease in recent years, with the trade/GDP ratio falling from 83.7% in 1993 to 59.2% in 1997 for imports, and from 74.4% to 40.5% for exports.

The shift in Lithuanian trade patterns towards the European Union has taken place more slowly than in most CECs. Indeed, it was only in 1997 that the EU became Lithuania's main trading partner, accounting for 40.8% of transactions. The country's share of European Union trade stood at 0.25% in 1997, compared with 0.28% for Estonia and 0.20% for Latvia. The EU's trade balance with Lithuania was in surplus to the tune of ECU 841.6 million in 1997, matching the level of the surplus vis-à-vis Estonia (ECU 883.2 million). The Union imports highly labour-intensive products from Lithuania: leather and textile products (32.6% of EU imports from Lithuania in 1997), as well as wood, stone and metal products (24.1%). EU exports span a wider range of products, including machinery and equipment (24.7%). Germany is Lithuania's main EU trading partner, accounting for 34.2% of Community imports and 39.2% of exports, and also runs the highest trade surplus (ECU 395.3 million in 1997).

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1. Lithuania's trade with the rest of the world



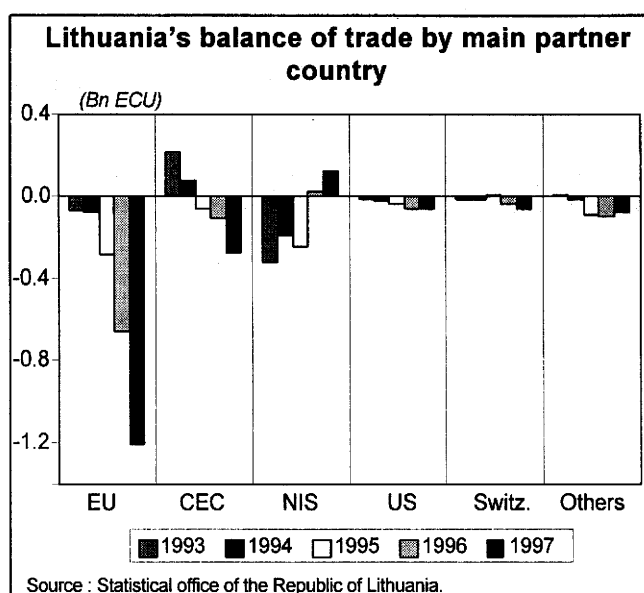
1.1. Trade by main partner country

Of the three Baltic States, Lithuania is the one with the highest share of world trade. In 1997, it accounted for 0.10% of international trade - slightly more than Bulgaria. Given the size of its economy, however, Lithuania represented only 3.3% of the CECs' turnover.

From 1993 to 1997, the rate of growth for Lithuania's GDP (38.6% per year) was higher than that for its trade flows (30.4% per year). As a result, the degree of openness (trade/GDP ratio) of the Lithuanian economy was in continuous decline, from 83.7% to 59.2% for imports and from 74.4% to 40.5% for exports. In this respect, Lithuania followed an opposite trend to Estonia, for example.

With Lithuanian imports growing faster than its exports (26.8% per annum against 18.8%), the country's balance of trade deficit increased from ECU 214.5 million in 1993 to ECU 1.57 billion in 1997. The Lithuanian trade deficit with the European Union for 1997 stood at ECU 1.21 billion, with Germany alone accounting for ECU 543.6 million. While Lithuanian trade with the Newly Independent States (NISs) as a whole was in surplus, the country ran a deficit of around ECU 370 million vis-à-vis Russia in 1997. In spite of a surplus of ECU 126.1 million in its transactions with Latvia, Lithuania had a deficit of ECU 279.2 million in trade with the CECs as a whole.

The realignment of Lithuanian trade towards the European Union occurred at a slower pace than in most



CECs. Indeed, the NISs remained the country's chief trading partners until 1995. The EU drew level in 1996, accounting for approximately 38% of Lithuanian trade, and became the main trading partner in 1997, when its share of the country's transactions stood at 40.8%, against 36.3% taken by the NISs (24.3% by Russia alone). The proportion of Lithuanian trade accounted for by the CECs changed little over the reference period - from 12.3% in 1993 to 15.2% in 1997.

Lithuania's trade by main partner country

(Bn ECU)

Partners	Imports					Exports					Balance			
	1993	1996	1997		97/96 Var. (%)	1993	1996	1997		97/96 Var. (%)	1993	1996	1997	97/96 Var.
			Value	Share (%)				Value	Share (%)					
World	1.93	3.59	4.98	100	38.6	1.71	2.64	3.41	100	28.8	-0.21	-0.95	-1.57	-0.62
EU	0.36	1.52	2.32	46.5	51.9	0.29	0.87	1.11	32.5	27.5	-0.07	-0.66	-1.21	-0.55
Germany	0.05	0.57	0.93	18.7	64.0	0.03	0.34	0.39	11.4	14.1	-0.02	-0.23	-0.54	-0.32
Denmark	0.19	0.14	0.21	4.3	56.9	0.12	0.07	0.12	3.4	68.2	-0.07	-0.07	-0.10	-0.03
CEC	0.12	0.53	0.77	15.6	44.9	0.33	0.43	0.50	14.6	15.9	0.21	-0.11	-0.28	-0.17
Latvia	0.02	0.12	0.17	3.4	42.9	0.04	0.24	0.29	8.6	20.4	0.03	0.13	0.13	0.00
Poland	0.04	0.18	0.29	5.8	57.6	0.12	0.08	0.08	2.3	-5.7	0.08	-0.10	-0.21	-0.11
NIS	1.30	1.18	1.46	29.3	23.6	0.98	1.20	1.58	46.4	31.5	-0.32	0.02	0.12	0.10
Russia	0.06	0.93	1.21	24.3	29.9	0.13	0.64	0.83	24.5	31.2	0.06	-0.29	-0.37	-0.08
Belarus	1.03	0.09	0.12	2.4	40.7	0.57	0.27	0.35	10.3	30.0	-0.47	0.18	0.23	0.05
US	0.02	0.08	0.12	2.4	40.3	0.00	0.02	0.05	1.6	148.0	-0.02	-0.06	-0.06	0.00
Switzerland	0.02	0.07	0.08	1.7	27.6	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.7	-22.6	-0.02	-0.04	-0.06	-0.02
Others	0.10	0.20	0.22	4.5	12.5	0.11	0.09	0.15	4.3	55.4	0.01	-0.11	-0.08	0.03
For comparison														
Share in GDP	83.7	57.9	59.2	-	2.3	74.4	42.6	40.5	-	-4.9	-9.3	-15.3	-18.7	-
Trade ⁽¹⁾														
of CEC's	1.76	3.12	3.81	-	22.0	1.89	3.20	2.81	-	-12.3	-	-	-	-
of world	0.05	0.11	0.13	-	22.9	0.04	0.08	0.08	-	-9.7	-	-	-	-

⁽¹⁾ IMF data were used for these calculations.

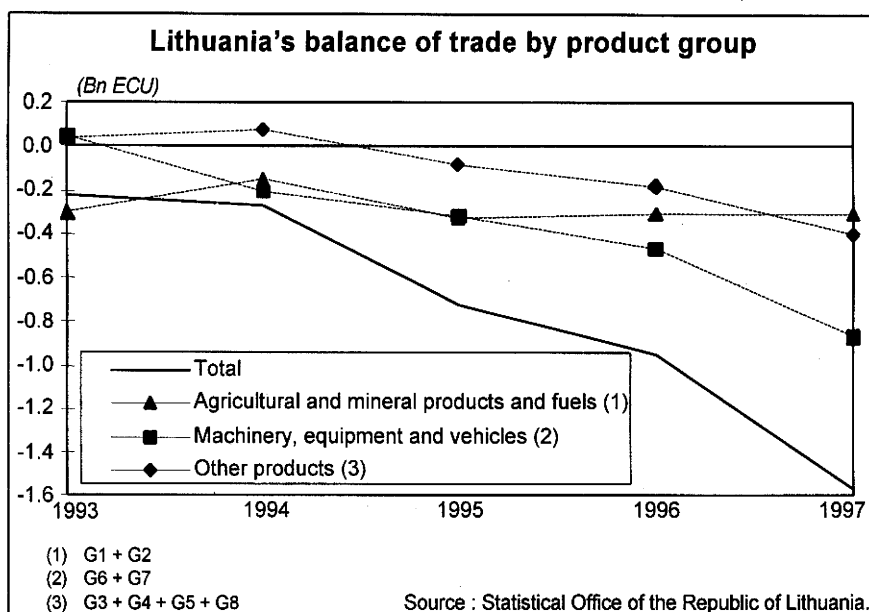
Sources : Statistical office of the Republic of Lithuania ; IMF.

The country aggregates: EU: 93-94: EU 12; 95-96: EU 15; NIS (Newly Independent States): Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan. CECs (Central European Countries): Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, FYROM, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Czech Republic, Serbia Montenegro, Slovakia and Slovenia.

1.2. Lithuania's trade by product

For the purposes of the analyses on pages 3 to 5, the data available at two-digit level of the Harmonised System (HS) have been grouped into eight headings, labelled G1 to G8 (see definitions on page 8).

In response to the restructuring needs of its economy, Lithuania stepped up its imports of machinery and equipment by 42.6% a year between 1993 and 1997. This heading accounted for just over one billion ecus in 1997, or 20.7% of total imports, and was thus the underlying cause of the largest deficit in Lithuania's balance of trade (ECU 572.9 million) at this level of detail.



Lithuania's trade by product group

(million ECU)

Product groups	Imports				Exports				Balance	
	1993		1997		1993		1997		1993	1997
	Value	Share (%)	Value	Share (%)	Value	Share (%)	Value	Share (%)	Value	
Total	1926.2	100.0	4976.5	100.0	1711.7	100.0	3406.1	100.0	-214.5	-1570.5
Agricultural products (G1)	158.4	8.2	551.4	11.1	242.7	14.2	545.0	16.0	84.3	-6.4
Mineral products and fuels (G2)	828.0	43.0	905.0	18.2	442.9	25.9	606.5	17.8	-385.0	-298.5
Chemicals and plastics (G3)	192.8	10.0	728.7	14.6	123.2	7.2	408.8	12.0	-69.6	-319.9
Leather and textiles (G4)	127.1	6.6	454.7	9.1	218.6	12.8	623.4	18.3	91.6	168.7
Wood, stone and metal products (G5)	198.4	10.3	589.3	11.8	175.3	10.2	419.4	12.3	-23.0	-169.9
Machinery and equipment (G6)	249.0	12.9	1028.2	20.7	361.8	21.1	455.3	13.4	112.9	-572.9
Vehicles (G7)	137.3	7.1	566.8	11.4	72.8	4.3	272.6	8.0	-64.5	-294.2
Other products (G8)	35.3	1.8	152.4	3.1	74.2	4.3	75.1	2.2	38.9	-77.3

Source : Statistical Office of the Republic of Lithuania.

Other purchases in 1997 were mainly of mineral products and fuels, as well as chemicals and plastics, whose shares of total imports stood at 18.2% and 14.6% respectively. Lithuania's main imports in 1997 were leather and textiles (18.3% of total exports), mineral products and fuels (17.8%) and agricultural products (16%). At this level of aggregation, Lithuania ran a deficit under all headings but one in 1997: leather and textiles were in surplus to the tune of ECU 168.7 million.

Analysis of the data corresponding to the divisions of the Harmonised System shows that mineral fuels (HS 27) were both the chief imports (17% of total purchases) and the main exports (17.2% of total sales) of the Lithuanian economy in 1997. Machinery and mechanical appliances (HS 84) and road vehicles, tractors and bicycles (HS 87) each repre-

Lithuania's trade by main products, 1997

HS	Description of products	Value	Share	Cumul
		(Mio ECU)	(%)	
Imports				
27	Mineral fuels	846.4	17.0	17.0
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	527.3	10.6	27.6
87	Road vehicles, tractors and bicycles	523.5	10.5	38.1
85	Electrical machinery and equipment	386.8	7.8	45.9
39	Plastics and plastic products	202.3	4.1	50.0
Exports				
27	Mineral fuels	586.9	17.2	17.2
85	Electrical machinery and equipment	245.7	7.2	24.4
87	Road vehicles, tractors and bicycles	235.5	6.9	31.4
62	Clothing and accessories	219.3	6.4	37.8
04	Milk and dairy products, eggs, honey, etc.	177.2	5.2	43.0

Source : Statistical Office of the Republic of Lithuania.

sented approximately 10.5% of total imports. On the export side, electrical machinery and equipment (HS 85) and road vehicles, tractors and bicycles accounted respectively for 7.2% and 6.9% of total sales by

Lithuania. At this level of detail, Lithuania recorded its largest deficit in machinery and mechanical appliances (ECU 357.6 million).

2. EU trade with Lithuania

2.1. EU balance of trade with Lithuania



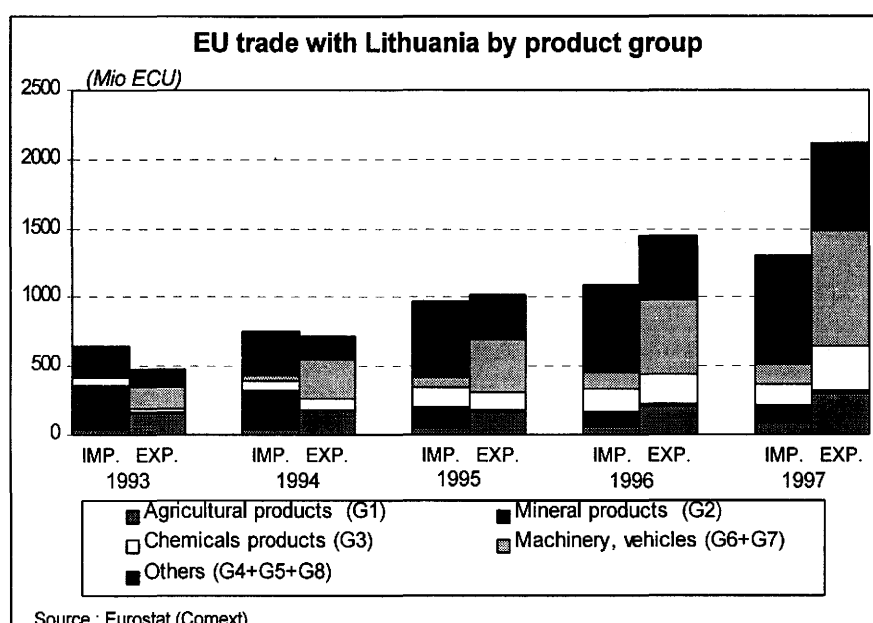
The analysis of bilateral trade between the European Union and Lithuania presented in this part is seen from the point of view of the EU, since it is based on data supplied by the EU Member States.

In 1997, the EU became Lithuania's main trading partner, accounting for 40.9% of its transactions. However, while the European Union's share of the country's imports stood at 46.5%, it took only 32.5% of Lithuanian exports, compared with the 46.4% that went to the NISs. In terms of turnover, Lithuania accounted for 0.25% of EU trade, placing that country ahead of Latvia (0.20%) but behind Estonia (0.28%).

From a deficit of ECU 163.1 million in 1993, the European Union's balance of trade with Lithuania improved continually to reach a surplus of ECU 50.1 million in 1995. In 1997, the surplus amounted to ECU 841.6 million - a level comparable with the EU trade surplus vis-à-vis Estonia (ECU 883.2 million).

The European Union's largest surplus in 1997 was in machinery and equipment (ECU 413.3 million), while its largest deficits were in mineral products and fuels (ECU 114.5 million) and leather and textiles (ECU 110.2 million).

The outturns cited above are confirmed at a more detailed level of breakdown, the corresponding headings with the largest surpluses being road vehicles, tractors and bicycles (HS 87; surplus of ECU 285.1 million), machinery and mechanical appliances (HS 84; ECU 236.2 million) and electrical machinery and equipment (HS 85; ECU 125.1 million). The largest deficits recorded by the European Union were in highly labour-intensive products: clothing and accessories (HS 62; 209.9 million), wood (HS 44; ECU 158.3 million), fertilisers (HS 31; ECU 121.7 million) and mineral fuels (HS 27; ECU 97.2 million).



EU balance of trade with Lithuania by product group

Product group	1993	1996	1997	1993	1996	1997
	(Mio ECU)			CR ⁽¹⁾ = (Exp/Imp)*100		
Total	-163.1	372.9	841.6	74.5	134.3	164.3
Agricultural products (G1)	118.2	149.1	218.2	395.5	326.7	354.4
Mineral products and fuels (G2)	-311.7	-90.5	-114.5	1.6	10.9	12.5
Chemicals and plastics (G3)	-24.6	42.9	170.7	57.5	125.0	206.7
Leather, textiles (G4)	-14.0	-85.2	-110.2	79.1	72.8	74.1
Wood, stone, metal products (G5)	-105.6	-120.3	-74.0	18.7	56.7	76.5
Machinery and equipment (G6)	71.9	281.9	413.3	1145.0	400.0	451.2
Vehicles (G7)	67.8	146.2	281.1	857.6	820.8	1213.3
Other products (G8)	33.0	35.3	27.9	349.3	186.5	166.2
For comparison						
EU trade balance	-1 796.7	43614.7	49917.5	99.6	107.5	107.4
EU trade balance with CEC's	6505.6	20773.4	26826.3	124.3	141.5	144.4

(1) CR = coverage rate in %.

Source : Eurostat (Comext).

EU balance of trade with Lithuania by products (million ECU)

HS	Description of products	1993	1996	1997
Largest surpluses				
87	Road vehicles, tractors and bicycles	65.7	150.3	285.1
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	51.9	183.7	236.2
85	Electrical machinery and equipment	11.1	58.1	125.1
39	Plastics and plastic products	8.4	73.3	101.3
43	Furskins and artificial fur	2.0	39.3	61.1
Largest deficits				
62	Clothing and accessories	-27.6	-146.5	-209.9
44	Wood and wood products	-15.3	-138.2	-158.3
31	Fertilisers	-35.5	-128.7	-121.7
27	Mineral fuels	-305.1	-76.0	-97.2
61	Knitwear	-3.7	-33.7	-44.1

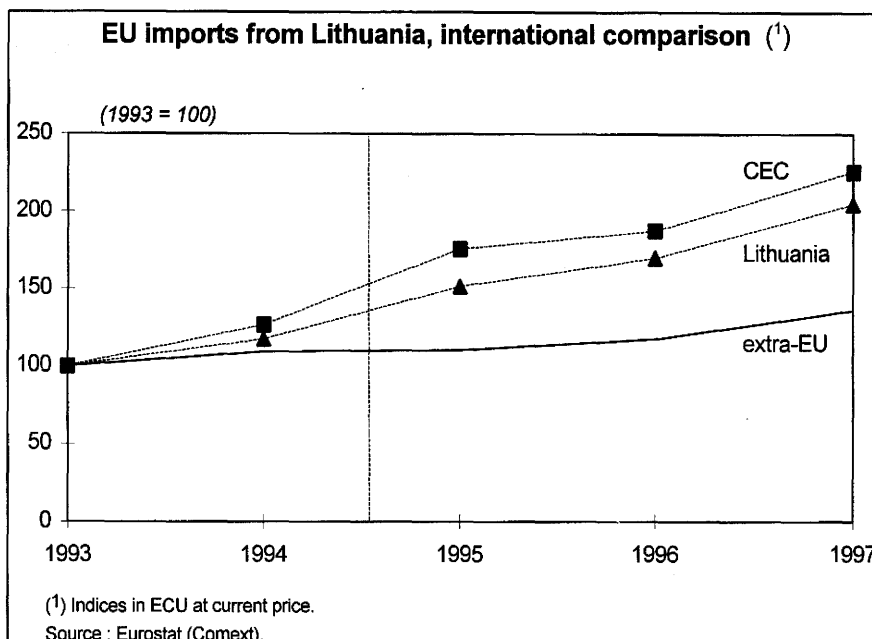
Source : Eurostat (Comext).

2.2. EU Imports from Lithuania

EU imports from Lithuania grew by 19.5% per annum between 1993 and 1997. This was slightly below the rate of growth for imports from the CECs as a whole (22.6%) but well above the figure for all extra-Community purchases (8%). The biggest rise in EU imports from Lithuania occurred in 1995 (+29.1%), but the enlargement of the Union was not a particularly significant factor, with Austria, Finland and Sweden together accounting for only 9.6% of total EU purchases from this partner country.

In 1997, 56.7% of all EU imports from Lithuania were of highly labour-intensive products: leather and textiles (32.6%) and wood, stone and metal products (24.1%). At this level of detail, the first-mentioned group of products recorded the highest rate of import growth in 1997 (+36%).

At a more detailed level of breakdown, articles of apparel, not knitted (HS 62) and wood and wood products (HS 44) were the top imports in 1997 (accounting respectively for 17.9% and 13.2% of total purchases). At least 61% of clothing and accessories imports were purchases after outward processing in Lithuania, with 65.5% of these products comprising suits, ensembles, jackets, dresses, etc. (HS 6204 and HS 6203). Purchases of wood and wood products comprised 68.2% sawn wood (HS 4407). Besides electrical machinery and equipment, EU exports to and imports from Lithuania spanned various HS divisions. Moreover, since the Grubel-Lloyd index, calculated at HS four-digit level, stood at 20.4 in 1997, trade between the two partners can be characterised as displaying a relatively high degree of inter-industry specialisation.



EU imports from Lithuania by product group

Product group	1993	1996	1997	Part 1997	97/96	97/93
	(Mio ECU)			(%)	(% annual change)	
Total	640.9	1087.4	1308.9	100.0	20.4	19.5
Agricultural products (G1)	40.0	65.8	85.8	6.6	30.4	21.0
Mineral products and fuels (G2)	316.7	101.6	130.8	10.0	28.7	-19.8
Chemicals and plastics (G3)	57.9	171.7	160.1	12.2	-6.8	28.9
Leather and textiles (G4)	67.0	313.4	426.2	32.6	36.0	58.8
Wood, stone and metal products (G5)	129.8	277.7	315.3	24.1	13.5	24.8
Machinery and equipment (G6)	6.9	94.0	117.7	9.0	25.3	103.4
Vehicles (G7)	9.0	20.3	25.2	1.9	24.5	29.6
Other products (G8)	13.2	40.8	42.1	3.2	3.0	33.5

Source : Eurostat (Comext).

EU imports from Lithuania by main products, 1997

HS	Description of products	Value	Annual change	Share in total	Cumulative share
		(Mio ECU)	(%)		
62	Clothing and accessories	234.0	42.9	17.9	17.9
44	Wood and wood products	172.9	15.4	13.2	31.1
31	Fertilisers	123.9	-3.8	9.5	40.6
27	Mineral fuels	112.2	30.5	8.6	49.1
85	Electrical machinery and equipment	90.9	24.2	6.9	56.1

Source : Eurostat (Comext).

The Grubel-Lloyd intra-branch trade index shows whether the trade specialisation between partners relates to different industries (inter-industries trade) or to the same industry (intra-industry trade). A value in the region of 100 shows that trade is concentrated within a branch, while a value in the region of 0 shows that there is strong inter-industries specialisation.

The index is calculated as follows:
$$\frac{\sum (X_i + M_i) - \sum |X_i - M_i|}{\sum (X_i + M_i) + \sum |X_i - M_i|} \times 100$$
, where X_i is exports and M_i imports for industry i .

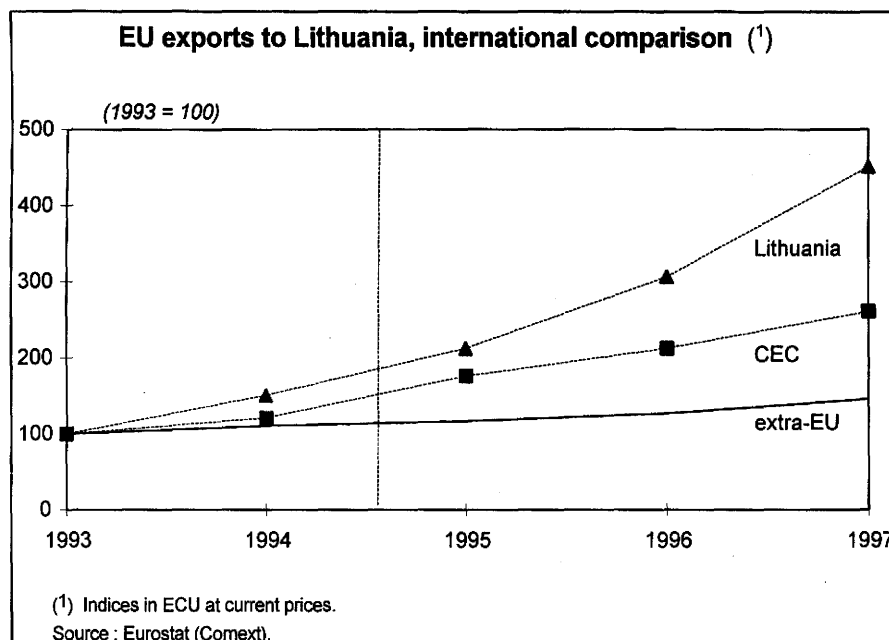
2.3. EU exports to Lithuania

EU exports to Lithuania grew by 45.6% per annum between 1993 and 1997, far outstripping the 19.5% annual growth in imports from that country. European Union sales to the CECs as a whole over the same period (+27.2% per annum) failed to match that growth rate.

EU exports to Lithuania, in common with those to most CECs, mainly comprise machinery and equipment (24.7% of total exports in 1997), followed by chemicals and plastics (15.4%), leather and textiles (14.7%), vehicles (14.2%) and agricultural products (14.1%). While sales of vehicles showed an exceptional rise of 84% in 1997, the strongest export growth over the period as a whole was recorded in wood, stone and metal products (77.7%) and in chemicals and plastics (77.5%).

In 1997, European Union exports of vehicles, tractors and bicycles (HS 87) to Lithuania amounted to ECU 300.1 million, representing 14% of total EU sales to that country. Of the Union's main exports at this level of detail, it was this product category which recorded the highest year-on-year increase (+85.3%). Passenger cars made up 37.1% of this heading. Vehicles, tractors and bicycles were followed, in order of importance, by machinery and mechanical appliances (HS 84) and electrical machinery and equipment (HS 85), which accounted respectively for 12% and 10% of total European Union sales. Plastics (HS 39), which made up 5.2% of EU exports, included 23.7% cellulose (HS 3912). Amounting to ECU 61.3 million, exports of furskins and artificial fur (HS 43) represented 2.9% of European Union sales; 86.2% of this heading comprised tanned or dressed furskins (HS 4302).

As mentioned in the analysis of imports on the previous page, trade between the European Union and Lithuania is characterised by a relatively high degree of inter-



EU exports to Lithuania by product group

Product group	1993	1996	1997	Part 97	97/96	97/93
	(Mio ECU)			(%)	(% annual change)	
Total	477.8	1460.3	2150.5	100	47.3	45.7
Agricultural products (G1)	158.1	214.9	304.0	14.1	41.4	17.7
Mineral products and fuels (G2)	5.1	11.1	16.3	0.8	46.6	34.0
Chemicals and plastics (G3)	33.3	214.6	330.8	15.4	54.2	77.5
Leather and textiles (G4)	53.0	228.2	316.0	14.7	38.5	56.3
Wood, stone, metal products (G5)	24.2	157.4	241.3	11.2	53.3	77.6
Machinery and equipment (G6)	78.8	375.8	531.0	24.7	41.3	61.1
Vehicles (G7)	76.8	166.5	306.4	14.2	84.0	41.3
Other products (G8)	46.3	76.1	69.9	3.3	-8.1	10.9

Source : Eurostat (Comext).

EU exports to Lithuania by main products, 1997

(million ECU)					
HS	Description of products	Value	Annual variation	Share in total	Cumulative share
				(%)	
87	Road vehicles	300.1	85.3	14.0	14.0
34	Machinery and mechanical appliances	258.1	28.4	12.0	26.0
85	Electrical machinery and equipment	216.0	64.6	10.0	36.0
39	Plastics and plastic products	111.6	40.7	5.2	41.2
43	Furskins and artificial fur	61.3	48.8	2.9	44.0

Source : Eurostat (Comext).

industry specialisation. At this level of detail, the only main-product heading under which significant intra-industry trading took place in 1997 was electrical machinery and equipment.

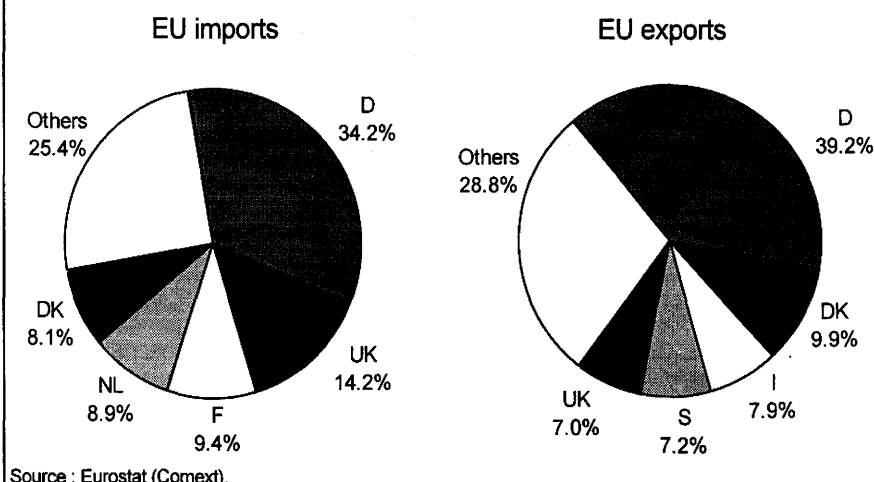
2.4. EU trade with Lithuania by Member State.



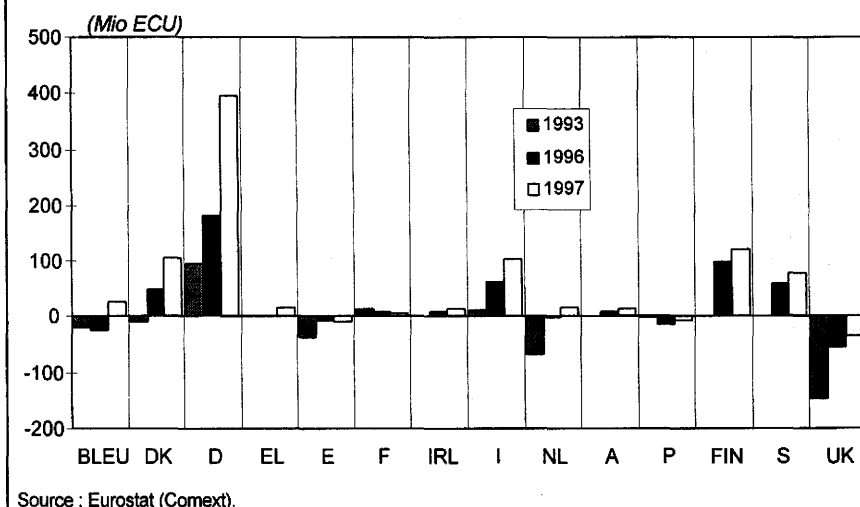
Germany is Lithuania's main EU trading partner, accounting for 34.2% of European Union imports and 39.2% of exports in 1997. In that same year, German sales to Lithuania showed a substantial increase, of 50.4%. Other major EU partners were the United Kingdom (accounting for 9.7% of European Union transactions with Lithuania), Denmark (9.2%), France (7.3%), the Netherlands (7.2%), Italy (6.9%) and Spain (6.8%). The highest rates of trade growth in 1997 were recorded by France (76.2%) and Denmark (45.2%). The only European Union countries to see their transactions decrease in that year (by 33.2% and 10.3% respectively) were Portugal and Ireland.

By virtue of the sharp rise in exports in 1997, Germany's trade surplus with Lithuania more than doubled to ECU 395.3 million. The other EU countries to generate a relatively large surplus were Finland (ECU 121.9 million), Denmark (ECU 106.5 million) and Italy (ECU 101.8 million). The following countries, by contrast, ran a trade deficit with Lithuania: the United Kingdom (ECU 35.1 million), Spain (ECU 10 million) and Portugal (ECU 5.5 million).

EU trade flows with Lithuania by Member State, 1997



EU balance of trade with Lithuania



EU trade with Lithuania by Member State

(Mio ECU)

Decla- rant country	Imports					Exports					Balance			
	1993	1996	1997		97/96 Change (%)	1993	1996	1997		97/96 Change (%)	1993	1996	1997	97-96 Value
			Value	Share (%)				Value	Share (%)					
EU	640.9	1087.4	1308.9	100.0	20.4	477.8	1460.3	2150.5	100.0	47.3	-163.1	372.9	841.6	468.7
BLEU	41.9	83.5	68.5	5.2	-18.0	21.8	59.0	94.1	4.4	59.5	-20.1	-24.5	25.6	50.1
DK	35.7	85.2	105.7	8.1	24.0	27.3	133.6	212.1	9.9	58.7	-8.5	48.4	106.5	58.0
D	164.9	379.2	447.3	34.2	18.0	259.7	560.3	842.6	39.2	50.4	94.8	181.1	395.3	214.2
EL	1.4	2.4	1.9	0.1	-20.8	2.1	4.1	17.6	0.8	326.9	0.7	1.7	15.7	14.0
E	43.8	42.6	56.4	4.3	32.4	5.8	36.3	46.4	2.2	27.6	-38.0	-6.3	-10.0	-3.8
F	45.2	66.4	122.5	9.4	84.5	59.1	76.0	128.5	6.0	68.9	13.9	9.6	5.9	-3.7
IRL	0.4	5.5	2.2	0.2	-58.9	1.4	13.6	14.8	0.7	9.2	1.0	8.1	12.6	4.5
I	19.7	60.7	69.2	5.3	13.9	29.9	122.2	171.0	7.9	39.9	10.3	61.5	101.8	40.3
NL	121.3	93.2	116.2	8.9	24.7	53.1	91.7	132.1	6.1	44.1	-68.2	-1.5	15.9	17.4
A	:	17.6	21.2	1.6	20.6	:	25.6	34.3	1.6	33.7	:	8.1	13.1	5.0
P	2.4	18.5	10.3	0.8	-44.4	0.1	4.0	4.8	0.2	18.1	-2.3	-14.4	-5.5	8.9
FIN	:	26.6	24.5	1.9	-7.9	:	123.9	146.4	6.8	18.2	:	97.2	121.9	24.7
S	:	56.2	77.7	5.9	38.4	:	114.7	155.7	7.2	35.7	:	58.5	77.9	19.4
UK	164.3	149.9	185.4	14.2	23.6	17.7	95.2	150.3	7.0	57.8	-146.7	-54.7	-35.1	19.6

Lithuania's trade agreements

1. Chronology of agreements

- 1991: - The EU recognises Lithuania's independence.
- 1992: - Signature of the *Cooperation Agreement with the EC*.
- 1993: - Entry into force of the *Cooperation Agreement with the EC*.
- 1994: - Entry into force of the *Free-Trade Agreement with the Baltic States*.
- Signature of the *Free-Trade Agreement with the EU*.
- 1995: - Entry into force of the *Free-Trade Agreement with the EU*.
- Signature of the *Europe Agreement with the EU*.
- 1998: - Entry into force of the *Europe Agreement*¹⁾. The commercial section of the Europe Agreement corresponds to a free-trade agreement.

Accession to the *World Trade Organisation (WTO)* is currently being negotiated.

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

a) Concessions granted by the EU to Lithuania.

Quantitative restrictions, customs duties and measures with equivalent effect on imports were abolished upon entry into force of the Free-Trade Agreement. Those on textile products were abolished as of 1 January 1998 under a provisional protocol (Council Decision No. 98/137/EC), the formal adoption procedure for which is ongoing.

b) Concessions granted by Lithuania to the EU.

Quantitative restrictions and measures with equivalent effect on imports were abolished upon entry into force of the Free-Trade Agreement, except for those relating to the list of products annexed to the Europe Agreement. They will be abolished by the end of 2001 at the latest.

Customs duties and measures with equivalent effect were abolished upon entry into force of the Free-Trade Agreement, except for those relating to the list of products annexed to the Europe Agreement. They will be abolished by the end of 2000 at the latest.

1) The Europe Agreement with Lithuania was published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*, L 51 of 20 February 1998

Methodological note

Data sources: Customs records. Statistical Office of the Republic of Lithuania for the data on Lithuania's trade with the rest of the world. Eurostat for bilateral trade between the Union and Lithuania. Divergences between the two sources can be partly explained by the use of different methodologies and concepts.

Statistical system: Special trade for the EU and general trade for Lithuania.

Statistical values: CIF values for imports and FOB values for exports

Classification: The product groups have been defined according to the sections of the Harmonised System as follows: G1 : I-IV; G2 : V; G3 : VI-VII; G4 : VIII, XI, XII; G5 : IX, X, XIII, XIV, XV; G6 : XVI, XVIII; G7 : XVII; G8 : XIX, XX, XXI.

The data in value terms used in this report are expressed in current ecus.
In this report, 1 Bn = 1 000 million.

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