

-Leading services exporters and importers

Whereas trade in manufacturing products is geographically diversified with many Asian countries in the top twelve largest traders, services trade continue to be dominated by developed countries, mainly by the G-7 countries. Between 1985 and 1996 (Table 3), the largest exporter remained the US, with France second. The US share of world services exports represented 16.2 per cent in 1996, an increase of 0.3 percent from 1995. France and Germany's market shares declined substantially in 1996 from 1995 due to the overall reduction in services trade by EU countries. As for importers, the US, Germany and Japan were the largest in 1996. France, and more recently Italy, were also in the top five importers. In 1996, the top six leading exporters and importers represented more than 50 per cent of the total value of world trade in services. Canada's position remained relatively constant throughout the period for both exports and imports ranking 15th and 9th respectively in 1996. Canada's share of both imports and exports decreased gradually between 1985 and 1990 and between 1990 and 1996.

TABLE 3

WORLD LEADING EXPORTERS AND IMPORTERS OF SERVICES 1985-1990-1996 (share in percentage)

Leading exporters			Leading importers		
1985	1990	1996	1985	1990	1996
1.US (16.7)	1.US (15.5)	1.US (16.2)	1.US (14.2)	1.JAP (11.2)	1.US (10.8)
2.FRA (9.1)	2.FRA (10.7)	2.FRA (7.0)	2.JAP (8.5)	2.US (11.1)	2.GER (10.5)
3.UK (7.7)	3.UK (7.2)	3.GER (6.4)	3.GER (8.2)	3.GER (10.4)	3.JAP (10.2)
4.GER (6.0)	4.GER (6.7)	4.UK (6.0)	4.FRA (6.2)	4.FRA (8.3)	4.FRA (5.6)
5.JAP (5.4)	5.JAP (5.4)	5.ITA (5.6)	5.UK (5.6)	5.UK (5.6)	5.ITA (5.3)
12.CAN (2.3)	12.CAN (2.0)	15.CAN (1.9)	8.CAN (3.1)	9.CAN (2.9)	9.CAN (2.5)

Source: WTO Annual Report 1996, 1997

Although the US and EU countries dominate the export and import in share and value terms, services exports in Latin America and Asia grew by an annual growth of over 8 percent in 1996. In comparison, the EU experienced a 3 percent growth in services trade compared to 6 percent for the US for the same year. The slowdown in the EU contributed significantly to the decline in world services trade for that same year. The appreciation of the US dollar played a role, especially for trade in goods, for the sharp decline of the EU and other regions' trade performance, which saw the impressive growth results of the two previous years fade in 1996.