

*Table 8: Intra-Asia Trade and Imports from Selected Trading Partners, 1989-1997*

	1989	1997
Share of Asia's imports from major trading partners (%)		
Intra-Asia	48.7	55.8
ROW	51.3	44.2
Percentage breakdown of Asia's imports from ROW		
Total	100.0	100.0
Canada	2.3	1.3
U.S.	18.5	15.5
Australia	3.3	2.5
France	2.6	2.5
Germany	5.4	4.9
U.K.	3.6	3.5

Source: International Monetary Fund, *The Direction of Trade Statistics*, various issues.

As can be seen, Canada's share in total Asian imports fell to 1.3 percent in 1997 from 2.3 percent in 1989. A number of other major industrial countries experienced similar declines in market share in the 1990s, with the notable exception of the U.K. and France, which managed to largely preserve their market positions. At the same time, the share of intra-Asia imports increased from 48.7 percent in 1989 to 55.8 percent. This suggests that the erosion of market share in Asia that Canada and other industrialized countries experienced was due in large measure to intensified intra-Asian trade. At the same time, the relatively strong performance of some industrialized countries outside the region points to the influence of other factors.

