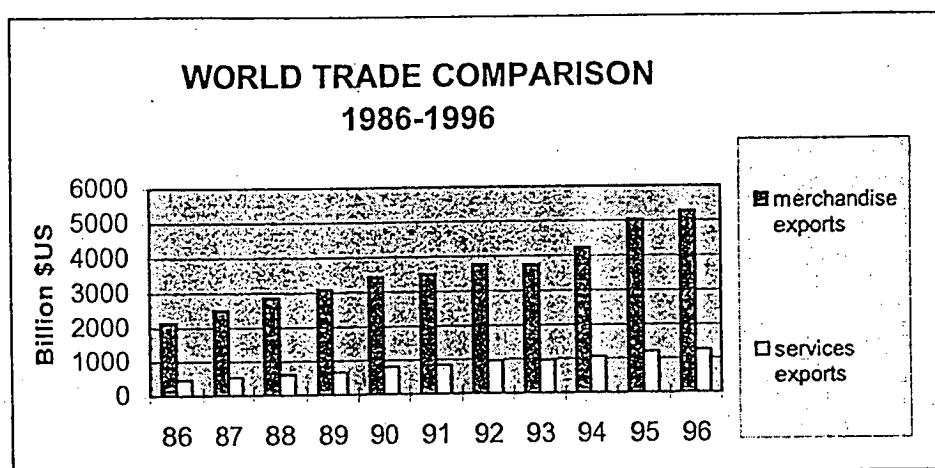


SECTION 4

TRADE PERFORMANCE OF SERVICES INDUSTRIES

This section provides a review of trends in international trade in services from 1986 to 1996. As Chart 4 illustrates, world trade in services⁸³ has risen substantially from 1986-1996, but is still small relative to trade in goods. In 1986, world exports and imports of services represented 381 and 402 billion in current US dollar value terms compared to 1.26 and 1.27 trillion respectively in 1996⁸⁴. For goods, exports and imports represented around 2.2 billion each in 1985, and were 5.3 and 5.4 trillion respectively in 1996.

CHART 4



Source: WTO Annual report 1997

From 1986 to 1996, the share of world trade in services (exports and imports) in total world trade increased from 17% in 1985 to 19% in 1996 (see Chart 5). It is important to recognize, however, that services cannot always be captured or registered in trade in services statistics.

⁸³ For the purpose of this sub-section on world trade, the term "services" will be used instead of "commercial services" used by the WTO. It includes "all services except government".

⁸⁴ WTO 1996 data are still provisional, i.e., all trade figures are not compiled yet. However, data for most developed countries have been collected and reflected here.