

most categories show that EU exports have declined in importance in relation to total exports in each category, as would be expected from the aggregate figures presented in table 2.1. There are a couple of notable exceptions here though, with machinery exports to the EU roughly remaining constant as a proportion of total machinery exports, and exports of aircraft, which show a dramatic increase to over one fifth of total exports by 1996. In table 2.7, though, imports suggest a very different picture. Here, many import categories have remained fairly constant over the 1980s and 1990s, but declines are notable in the other transportation and equipment category, personal and household items and special transactions, and notable increases occurred in inedible crude materials, machinery and aircraft. These figures once again suggest that an increasing amount of intra-industry trade is occurring in the machinery and aircraft sectors.