

Figure 6.2
Top Twenty Polish Imports and Exports, 1990
(in millions of *zlotys*)

Imports		Exports	
Crude oil	11,354,885	Hard coal	9,191,611
Petroleum products and synthetic liquid fuels	4,022,702	Hot-rolled steel products	5,363,476
Metalworking machinery	2,018,279	Copper	4,462,458
Pharmaceutical products	1,584,975	Meat and meat products	3,154,517
Televisions	1,515,265	Sulphur	2,548,996
Food processing machinery	1,510,684	Clothing	2,432,600
Natural gas	1,351,213	Railway freight cars	2,241,038
Cold-rolled steel products	1,182,749	Petroleum products and synthetic liquid fuels	2,037,193
Foundry and casting machinery and equipment	1,176,868	Auto parts	1,822,308
Computer systems and equipment	1,015,058	Furniture	1,789,764
Plastic products	1,011,046	Computer systems and equipment	1,746,942
Iron ore	918,997	Frozen and fresh fish	1,721,343
Auto parts	903,331	Wire and cables	1,618,355
Automobiles	891,429	Slaughter cattle	1,608,102
Pig iron	818,739	Pharmaceutical products	1,578,398
Industrial chemicals	877,609	Leather shoes	1,497,740
Knitted goods	739,900	Coked coal	1,494,001
Cotton	686,450	Sugar	1,111,058
Oil seeds	680,304	Chemical processing systems and equipment	1,090,495
Hot rolled steel products	637,030	Silver	1,023,395

Source: Rocznik Statystyczny, 1991.

As Figure 6.3 shows, the bulk of Poland's imports in 1989 and 1990 were for consumer needs. Commercial imports (spare parts and equipment required by business) and investment imports (materials needed as capital inputs for investment) were far less important.

These trends continued into 1991 which saw a doubling in the import of consumption goods. In the same year, investment-related imports grew by about 50%.

Figure 6.3
Structure of Polish Imports
(in percent, constant *zloty* prices)

	Total		Rouble Area		Hard Currency Area	
	1989	1990	1989	1990	1989	1990
Investment imports	12.6	13.2	14.8	12.8	10.5	13.6
Consumer imports	68.5	68.9	71.8	74.4	65.5	64.9
Commercial imports	17.5	16.3	12.7	12.0	22.0	19.3
Other	1.4	1.6	0.7	0.8	2.0	2.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: GUS, Handel Zagraniczny, Feb. 1991.