

Hamburg Institute of International Economics (HWWA) (Ed.)

Article — Digitized Version

West German foreign trade with EFTA-countries in the 1st half of 1968

Intereconomics

Suggested Citation: Hamburg Institute of International Economics (HWWA) (Ed.) (1968) : West German foreign trade with EFTA-countries in the 1st half of 1968, Intereconomics, ISSN 0020-5346, Verlag Weltarchiv, Hamburg, Vol. 03, Iss. 9, pp. 281-, <https://doi.org/10.1007/BF02930037>

This Version is available at:

<https://hdl.handle.net/10419/138033>

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cent as compared with the preceding year's corresponding period. The present development of incoming orders from abroad does not give any hints of a slowing down of the growth of exports — adjusted for seasonal variation. However, at least the changed conditions in the USA—i.e. the fiscal restrictions and the avoiding of a steel strike—should have repercussions on German exports.

On the other hand, the Federal Republic's imports adjusted for seasonal variation will grow somewhat more again after the cessation of the above mentioned special influences. Although the extensive replenishment of stocks is stopping one of the hitherto effective impulses, this could be made up for by a growing marginal propensity to invest caused by an increasing utilisation of domestic productive forces. Under these assumptions the growth rate of goods imports should amount to 11.5 per cent for the second half year, the growth rate of exports to 7.5 per cent. This would result in a surplus in the trade balance of DM 7,200 mn (first half year DM 7,800 mn). For the whole of 1968 the export surplus with DM 15,000 mn would be smaller by about DM 1,800 mn than in 1967.

German Development Assistants Aiding the "Third World"

At present 1,045 German development assistants are working in 23 countries of the "third world". Forty per cent of them are staying in Africa, 35 per cent in six Latin American countries and 25 per cent in four Asian developing countries. Further 137 youths are presently being trained at Wächtersbach and Berlin in order to prepare them for a two-years stay abroad.

The planners of the German Development Service created points of emphasis: 40 per cent of the total of German developing assistants are working in four countries. Brazil is heading the list with 125 assistants, followed by Afghanistan (112), India (105) and Tunisia (101). Forty per cent of the total number of volunteers are working in the health and social services. Another 40 per cent are occupied in technical training or in educational services.

The rest is working in agriculture, trade, industry and administration. The activities of German development assistants comprise for instance consultations of mothers, well-sinking, poultry-farming, etc.

Development Credits Concentrating on 25 Countries

According to figures published by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, more than half (55 per cent) of all German credit promises, that have been given up to the end of 1967, fall to the share of Asia. Further 18 per cent have been earmarked for Africa. Regarding European developing countries—above all Turkey—14 per cent of the credit volume are provided for while only

8 per cent will go to Latin America. The rest will be allocated supra-regionally.

The Federal Government is adhering to a point-of-main-effect programme, i.e. more than 80 per cent of all credits promised are concentrating on only 25 out of more than 90 developing countries.

In the field of technical aid (non-repayable subsidies for experts, technical equipments, etc.) Africa with 43 per cent is uppermost, followed by Asia with 36 per cent and Latin America with 14 per cent.

Agricultural Exports May be Increased to DM 5,000 mn

In the course of time German agricultural exports may be increased to DM 4,000 mn or even DM 5,000 mn annually through further intensive efforts. As has been pointed out by experts, the Federal Republic's exports of farm produce will grow conspicuously in 1968 and probably reach a value of DM 2,500 mn after DM 2,300 mn in 1967.

However, what is needed is cooperation of German exporters of agrarian products on the markets at home and abroad as well as coordinated advertising, which has already proved its value with different products. This will enable the success of intensified sales efforts also in a period of continuous surpluses.

In this connection the French "Sopexa" should be pointed out, an organisation for the sales promotion of French farm produce on markets at home and abroad. This organisation is being supported by government funds and might serve as an example for German agriculture.

West German Foreign Trade with EFTA-countries in the 1st Half of 1968

According to the latest available data in the first half of 1968 the Federal Republic of Germany has reached a total turnover in its trade with the EFTA-countries of DM 16,482 mn as compared with DM 15,464 mn in the previous year's corresponding period. Thus the increase amounted to 1,018 mn or 6.6 per cent.

In the first six months of 1968 DM 6,091 mn fell to the share of imports and DM 10,390 mn to that of exports. Vis-à-vis the preceding year's corresponding period imports increased considerably by DM 845 mn or 16.1 per cent, exports, however, but slightly by DM 173 mn or 1.7 per cent.

As compared with the Federal Republic's total imports, which could be raised by 13.3 per cent, the share of supplies from EFTA-countries rose slightly only, from 15.5 per cent in the first half of 1967 to 15.9 per cent in the corresponding period of 1968.

As measured against the Federal Republic's total exports, the share of German deliveries to this area declined from 23.9 per cent in the first half of 1967 to 22.5 per cent in the first six months of 1968.