

hand, in the United States and Britain, where there was moderate growth in trade in the past decade, imports rose slightly quicker than shipments to others. For Canada growth was also moderate but, if recent years are averaged, it was balanced between imports and exports. For Scandinavia and other EFTA countries, exports also kept pace with imports but in other Western European countries merchandise imports spurted ahead, reflecting primarily the impact of new tourist expenditures in Spain and Greece.

Although demand for crude materials showed a limited increase, Russia and Eastern Europe grew rapidly as a source, as the Iron Curtain slowly lowered. But tight restrictions on capital, service and other financial movements required a close balancing with bloc imports, with the exception of occasional gold sales. Notably, shipments to developing regions rose faster than imports while the reverse was true of advanced countries.

