



Volume 9. Two Germanies. 1961-1989
East German Foreign Trade (1956-85)

East Germany's external economic relations showed both its strong trade dependency on the Soviet Union, the dominant player in COMECON, and its politically willed isolation from international markets. From the 1970s onward, East Germany – like nearly all COMECON states – expanded its trade with the West to close gaps in its domestic market and to acquire the technology it lacked.

Regional Breakdown of GDR Foreign Trade
(Percentages)

Country or country category	Five-Year Average					
	1956-60	1961-65	1966-71	1971-75	1976-80	1981-85
Imports						
Socialist countries	72.7	75.9	72.2	64.9	65.9	66.9
Of these:						
COMECON countries	65.4	71.6	68.4	62.1	62.8	64.1
USSR	43.6	47.5	42.3	33.9	35.2	40.4
Remaining COMECON countries	21.8	24.1	26.1	28.2	27.7	23.7
Western industrial countries	23.3	20.1	23.9	30.9	29.0	28.9
Developing countries	4.0	3.9	3.9	4.0	5.1	4.2
Exports						
Socialist countries	75.9	76.9	74.6	72.7	72.6	64.9
Of these:						
COMECON countries	68.3	72.9	69.3	68.9	68.9	62.3
USSR	43.0	44.7	39.9	36.6	35.2	36.2
Remaining COMECON countries	25.3	28.2	29.5	32.3	33.7	26.1
Western industrial countries	20.3	18.9	20.8	23.2	21.9	29.3
Developing countries	3.8	4.1	4.6	4.1	5.5	5.8

Source: Federal Ministry for Inter-German Relations, ed., *Materialien zum Bericht zur Lage der Nation im geteilten Deutschland* [*Materials Accompanying the Report on the State of the Nation in a Divided Germany*]. Bonn, 1987, p. 607.