Research Research Analysis Journals

RA Journal of Applied Research

ISSN (e): 2394-6709

||Volume||4||Issue||02||Pages-1438-1446||February-2018|| Index Copernicus ICV: 74.25, DOI: 10.18535/rajar/v4i2.05

Empirical Analysis of Modern Trends in Trade between Georgia and India

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Abstract: The article reviews the empirical statistical aspects of trade relations between Georgia and India during 1995-2016, for which the relevant time periods are used. Ranking of Georgian trade partner countries was carried out according to whole trade turnover, as well as export volume and import volume of goods and established India's ordinary position. The nature and direction of the overall trading turnover as well as the trends of export and import tendencies have been identified. In the process of the analysis, both absolute and relative indicators were calculated. The export and import volumes in 1995-2016 are also considered according to commodity groups and the first five of the largest commodity groups are drawn in both directions. Finally, the increase of India's role as an important trading partner for Georgia is shown.

Keywords: trade turnover, export, import, relative indicators, growth rate

Introduction

In 1921-1991 Georgia was a member country of the Soviet Union and had no direct trade relations with other countries, including India. Since 1992, Georgia has already started to establish bilateral trade relations with different countries around the world, but until 1995 the official statistics on foreign trade are incomplete, which is why it is not advisable to use scientific analysis and objective quantitative evaluations. Therefore, we have taken a period from 1995-2016 and used official statistical data of this period.

In 1995, Georgia had trade relations with 67 countries; in 2000 this number was 102 and in 2016 - 135. Thus, the geography of foreign trade

significantly expanded, which has played a major role in Georgia becoming one of the most liberal and competitive trade regimes in the world.² The volume of trade turnover, calculated for a country is an interesting indicator too. The years 1995-2016 this figure has increased by 7,3 times (in 1995 was 9,612 thousand and in 2016 - 69,682 thousand US dollars).³

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¹ Gelashvili, S. (2016). Georgia-EU Trade Relations at the End 20th Century and at the beginning of the 21th Century: Empirical Statistical Analysis. In: INNOVATIVE ECONOMY AND PROBLEMS OF ITS FORMATION IN POST-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. Collected articles of Paata Gugushvili Institute of Economics, Tbilisi, p. 53.

² Gelashvili, N. (2016). Geographical Distribution of foreign Trade of Georgia. In: INNOVATIVE ECONOMY AND PROBLEMS OF ITS FORMATION IN POST-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. Collected articles of Paata Gugushvili Institute of Economics, Tbilisi, p. 505. Medzmariashvili, T. (2014). Foreign Trade of Georgia during Years of Independence: Statistical Analysis. Proceedings of International Scientific Conference "Globalization and Statistics".

Published by "Universali", Tbilisi, pp. 315.

³ Gelashvili, S. (2016), p. 56.

Research

RA Journal of Applied Research

ISSN (e): 2394-6709

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Table 1. General indicators of foreign trade of Georgia^{a)}\

Georgia					
Years	Georgia's	The total	Trade		
	trade partner	trade	turnover on		
	countries	turnover of	average 1		
		Georgia,	country,		
		million \$	thousand \$)		
1	2	3	4		
1995	67	0,644	9, 612		
1996	84	0,954	11, 357		
1997	95	1,240	13,053		
1998	101	1,074	10,634		
1999	105	0,928	8,838		
2000	102	1,034	10,137		
2001	110	1,069	9,718		
2002	113	1,142	10,106		
2003	115	1,603	13,939		
2004	123	2,493	20,268		
2005	126	3,355	26,627		
2006	129	4,613	35,760		
2007	127	6,444	50,740		
2008	129	7,797	60,442		
2009	128	5,609	43,820		
2010	133	6,913	51,977		
2011	140	9,259	66,136		
2012	137	10,433	76,153		
2013	136	10,933	80,390		
2014	141	11,463	81,298		
2015	137	9,505	69,380		
2016	135	9,407	69,682		
2010	155	9,407	09,082		

a) This table is drawn up by us, based on the official data of the National Statistics Office of Georgia and the National Bank of Georgia, and the 4th column indicators are calculated by us.

In 1995 the total volume of foreign trade in Georgia amounted to 644 million USD, and in 2016 -15 times more, 9,5 billion.44 In the same period, the foreign trade turnover of India increased by more than \$ 428 thousand 234 times to almost 100 million dollars. However, it should be noted, that India's share in the total foreign trade of Georgia is not great yet, but it is

characterized by significant growth trend (in 2016 the share was 1,06% instead of 0,25 - in 2000 and 0,65 - in 2010).

There is a certain interest of India's ordinary position in the ranking of Georgia's trading partners, as with the whole trade turnover, so with export and import. For illustration see the Table 2.

Table 2. India's ordinary position in the foreign trades of Georgia^{b)}

Years	In the total	In Export	In Import
	trade turnover	of Georgia	of Georgia
	of Georgia		
1	2	3	4
1995	37	24	45
1996	20	30	17
1997	49	27	58
1998	51	29	54
1999	44	40	40
2000	37	20	43
2001	22	13	34
2002	23	20	29
2003	20	14	28
2004	26	18	33
2005	30	32	32
2006	30	17	36
2007	29	23	30
2008	30	20	33
2009	28	28	28
2010	27	22	29
2011	23	20	26
2012	22	24	24
2013	30	37	29
2014	29	28	29
2015	28	28	28
2016	21	24	20

b) This table is drawn up by us, based on the official data of the National Statistics Office of Georgia and the National Bank of Georgia.

In 1995between Georgia's 67 trade partner countries, in total trade turnover India was in 37th place, while in exports- in 24th place. In 2016 India had the 21st place out of 135 countries in total trade turnover and 24th place in export

⁴ Gelashvili, S. (2016), p. 55.

Research Research Analysis Journals Journals

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volume. It should be noted that in 1995-2016, India was 8 times in the list of first platoon of major trading partners, indicating that India is an important trading partner for Georgia. The importance of it is also due to the fact that India is one of the largest countries, where around 18 percent of the world's population lives. Table 3 below shows clearly the development of trade relations between Georgia and India at the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the current century.

Table 3. Indicators of Georgia-India Trade Balance (thousand US dollars)^{c)}

Years	Total trade	Export	Import	Balance
	turnover			
1	2	3	4	5
1995	0,428	0,317	0,111	0,206
1996	8,516	0,189	8,327	-8,138
1997	0,655	0,305	0,350	-0,045
1998	1,116	0,360	0,756	-0,396
1999	1,822	0,292	1,530	-1,238
2000	2,561	1,320	1,241	0,079
2001	6,524	4,443	2,081	2,362
2002	6,315	2,125	4,190	-2,065
2003	12,374	6,352	6,022	0,330
2004	11,801	6,028	5,773	0,255
2005	10,594	2,259	8,335	-6,076
2006	20,522	8,685	11,837	-3,152
2007	40,275	8,141	32,134	-23,993
2008	39,941	9,089	30,852	-21,763
2009	33,912	5,816	28,096	-22,280
2010	44,818	12,355	32,463	-20,108
2011	74,670	19,290	55,380	-36,090
2012	89,059	14,941	74,118	-59,177
2013	62,005	6,362	55,643	-49,281
2014	61,227	10,757	50,470	-39,713
2015	64,977	14,327	50,650	-36,323
2016	99,710	22,201	77,509	-55,308

^{c)}This table is drawn up by us, based on the official data of the National Statistics Office of

Georgia and the National Bank of Georgia, and the 5th column indicators are calculated by us.

As shown in Table 3, in the analytical period, i.e. for the whole 22 years, Georgia had positive trade balance with India only 5 times (1995, 2000-2001 and 2003-2004). For the remaining 17 years, Georgia's balance of trade with India was unfortunately negative. This unwanted situation has been established in 2005-2016 as a strongly marked regressive trend. During this period the maximum negative trade balance was between 2012 and 2016 when the volume of imports from India to Georgia was 5,0 and 3,5 times higher than the volume of Exports in the same years from Georgia to India. Generally, anomalously large negative trade balance is one of the major economic problems in Georgia.

The trend of trade relations between Georgia and India in the long term is not statistically stable and has a variable character. Uneven speed of change is clearly confirmed by the pace of the annual increase in the amount of trade turnover calculated by us. The analysis revealed that the increase in the volume of Georgia's foreign trade is higher with India than with the rest of the world. For example, in 2006-2016, the average annual trade growth of Georgia-India was 52,51%, while in whole country it was 22,22%, or much less (2,4 times). These indicators indicate that India is becoming an increasingly important trade partner country for Georgia.

Georgia-India trade relations research includes an analysis of its structure and export-import quantitative ratio. The following table shows the weight of the export and import in trade turnover (%).

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⁵ Gelashvili, S. (2015). Statistics of foreign countries. Published by,,Meridiani", Tbilisi, p. 30.

⁶ Gelashvili, S. (2002). Georgia's economic development Priorities in beginning of XXI century. Collected articles of Russian State Humanitarian University, Moscow, 2002, p. 198



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Table 4. The weight of export and import of Georgia-India trade turnover (%) ^{d)}

Years	Export Share	Import Share
1	2	3
1995	74,07	25,93
1996	2,22	97,78
1997	46,57	53,43
1998	32,26	67,74
1999	16,03	83,97
2000	51,54	48,46
2001	68,10	31,90
2002	33,65	66,35
2003	51,33	48,67
2004	51,08	48,92
2005	21,32	78,68
2006	42,32	57,68
2007	20,21	79,79
2008	22,76	77,24
2009	17,15	82,85
2010	27,57	72,43
2011	25,83	74,17
2012	16,78	83,22
2013	10,26	89,74
2014	17,57	82,43
2015	22,05	77,95
2016	22,27	77,73

d) The 2nd and 3rd columns indicators of this table are calculated by us, based on the official data of the National Statistics Office of Georgia and National Bank of Georgia.

As shown in Table 4, long-term tendencies of export and import dependence between Georgia and India have mutual differences. In 1995 the share of export was 74.07%, 51.54% in 2000, 21.32% in 2005 and 22,27% in 2016. Therefore, there is a clearly marked regressive tendency, but it can be reversed, as it is potentially exportable to India in the future. The long-term opposite tendency has been changed in the change of import share: the share of import was 25,93% in 1995, 48.46% in 2000, 78.68% in 2005 and 77,6% in 2016. Therefore, the trend of growth increases easily. Of course, such a ratio of export and

import is undesirable for Georgia, and on the contrary, India is desirable.

To evaluate the effectiveness of foreign trade, it is advisable to use such criteria as export-imports relative coefficient. The value of the importexport ratio is equal to zero, then there is no place to import goods from other countries in the given country and export is carried out; If this coefficient is close to zero, it means that the volume of exports is much higher than the import; Both cases are highly desirable for any country. Of course, if this coefficient is equal to one, then the volume of export and import is equal to the balance of foreign trade.⁸ If the ratio is more than one then the volume of imports is higher, which is undesirable for any country. The minimum value of import-export ratio coefficients in Table 3 was above 1995 and 2001 (0,35and 0,47), the equilibrium coefficient, i.e. in 2003 and 2004 (0,95 and 0,96) While the maximum in 1996 and 2013 (44,06 and 8,75).

In research of Georgia-India trade relations it is important to analyze the commodity structure according to the registered export and import separately. We have introduced the rankings of commodity groups and the largest share of 5 largest export and import products. It turned out that in 1995 there was only 1 commodity group from Georgia to India, and it was "parts of flying machines", with a total value of 317,0 thousand USD. Since 2000, the exporting commodity

structure has expanded, and made 6 groups, in the following years: 8 in 2005, 28 in 2010, 17 in 2015 and in 2016- 25 commodity groups. The following table shows the 5 largest export commodity groups according to the named years.

⁷Gelashvili, S. and others (2013). Statistics for Economics and Business. II Book. Published by TSU, Tbilisi, p. 277 https://www.tsu.ge/data/file_db/economist_faculty/stat2.pdf ⁸ Gelashvili, S. (2017). Statistical Forecasting in Economic

and Business. Published by,, Meridiani", Tbilisi, p. 159



ISSN (e): 2394-6709

||Volume||4||Issue||02||Pages-1438-1446||February-2018|| Index Copernicus ICV: 74.25, DOI: 10.18535/rajar/v4i2.05

Table 5. The 5 largest commodity group exported from Georgia to India (thousand US dollars)^{e)}

2000 year					
1	Aluminum waste and scrap	861,6			
2	Copper waste and scrap	330,2			
3	Parts of flying machines	86,9			
4	Ferrous metals waste and scrap	24,8			
5	Wooden material, along with a thickness, thickness of more than 6 mm	8,6			
200	95 year				
1	Ferrous metals waste and scrap	1 139,6			
2	Copper waste and scrap	589,6			
3	Aluminum waste and scrap	466,1			
4	Machines and apparatus for electric welding	32,1			
5	Zinc waste and scrap	22,1			
201	10 year				
1	Aluminum waste and scrap	3 686,6			
2	Ferrous metals waste and scrap	2 791,2			
3	Raw bullet	2 226,3			
4	Copper waste and scrap	1 944,8			
5	Carbon steel in the first forms	648,6			
201	15 year				
1	Mineral or chemical fertilizers, nitrogenous	8 095,1			
2	Aluminum waste and scrap	4 568,3			
3	Copper waste and scrap	497,2			
4	Ferrous metals waste and scrap	483,0			
5	Zinc waste and scrap	287,1			
201	2016 year				
1	Mineral or chemical fertilizers, nitrogenous	17 611,0			
2	Aluminum waste and scrap	3 021,4			
3	Zinc waste and scrap	337,6			
4	Ferrous metals waste and scrap	308,3			
5	Special vehicles	229,1			

^{e)}It is drawn up by us, based on the Database of National Statistics Office of Georgia.

In 2000,in Georgia's total exports volume to India, specific weight of the first five largest export commodity groups amounted to 99,36%, while in 2016 - 96,88%. This indicates that export commodity nomenclature has expanded, which is a positive trend for Georgia. In 2000-2015, however, in the top five of the largest export commodity groups are always the following three groups (aluminum wastes and scrap metal, copper wastes and scrap metal wastes and scrap) this

indicate that it is necessary to expand the diversification of export goods.⁹

Empirical analysis of structure of imported goods from India to Georgia is also interesting. According to official statistical data, in 1995 there were 8 nomenclature commodities group from India. Since 2000, the commodity structure of export has already expanded, and in the following years the number has increased greatly and

⁹Gelashvili, S. (2016), p. 57; Gaganidze, G., Ramishvili, B. and others (2017). Main directions of improvement of foreign Trade Balance of Georgia. Published by TSU, Tbilisi, p. 43.

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ISSN (e): 2394-6709

||Volume||4||Issue||02||Pages-1438-1446||February-2018|| Index Copernicus ICV: 74.25, DOI: 10.18535/rajar/v4i2.05

reached: in 2005 - 137, in 2010 - 341, in 2015 - 362 and 2016 - 403 commodities. The following

table shows the 5 largest import commodity groups ranked by the named years.

Table 6. The 5 largest commodity group imported from India to Georgia (thousand US dollars)^{f)}

	The 5 largest commodity group imported from India to Georgia (thousand	d US dolla
19	95 year	
1	Human blood; Animal blood for medical purposes; Immune serums	50,2
2	Composite leather on the basis of natural leather or leather fiber	20,0
3	Packaged medicines	19,3
4	Mixed goods	11,5
5	Unpacked Medicines	7,7
20	00 year	
1	Packaged drugs	835,3
2	Meat of bovine animals, frozen	201,1
3	Tools and equipment to be used in medicine or veterinary medicine	69,3
4	Human blood; Animal blood for medical purposes; Immune serums	35,2
5	unpacked medicines	28,9
20	05 year	
1	Packaged drugs	2 287,6
2	Meat of bovine animals, frozen	2 145,8
3	Derrick cranes of the vessel; Cranes of different types	468,7
4	Polyacetels, polyethylene simple and other resins in the primary forms of	436,1
	epoxy	
5	Processed stones	411,0
20	10 year	
1	Meat of bovine animals, frozen	11 151,1
2	Packaged drugs	4 378,9
3	unpacked drugs	2 951,3
4	Telephone devices, cellular phones or other wireless networks	1 266,6
5	Paper and paperboard for non-transparent use, printing or other graphic	701,6
	purposes	
20	15 year	
1	Packaged drugs	8 041,0
2	Hydro turbines, water wheels and their regulators	5 891,6
3	unpacked drugs	3 319,1
4	Parts for electric engines, generators and rotary electric converters	2 655,9
5	Pumps with fluid expenditure or without Tractor fluid	2 634,0
20	16 years	
1	Packaged drugs	15 580,1
2	Metal constructions from ferrous metals and parts thereof	9 700,6
3	Stained wires, surnames, zones and similar products from aluminum	7 653,7
4	Hydro turbines, water wheels and their regulators	5 325,5
5	Transformers for electric, static electric transformers	4 539,4
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ISSN (e): 2394-6709

||Volume||4||Issue||02||Pages-1438-1446||February-2018|| Index Copernicus ICV: 74.25, DOI: 10.18535/rajar/v4i2.05

f)It is drawn up by us, based on the Database of National Statistics Office of Georgia.

The empirical study of imported commodity structures from India to Georgia shows the fact that during the whole period (1995-2016 years) in the first five groups of the largest importing groups, 2 commodity commodity (packaged medicines and unpacked medicines) are continuously presented. But it should be noted that commodity nomenclature of imports coming from India to Georgia is much more varied and diverse, compared to the reverse flow - exports, what is clearly confirmed by the following data: In 2016 from India from Georgia came 403 kinds of commodity group, and in the same year from Georgia to India was exported a total of 25 commodity groups, 16 times less.

To evaluate the effectiveness of foreign trade, it is also recommended to use criteria such as the total trade turnover per capita. The next 7th table shows that by calculating one per capita, foreign trade index of Georgia is quite high with India, especially in 2011-2016.

Table 7. Relative Indicators of Foreign Trade of Georgia with India (per capita, thousand \$)^{g)}

Years	Total trade turnover	Export	Import
1	2	3	4
1995	90	67	23
1996	1 794	41	1 753
1997	144	67	77
1998	249	80	169
1999	409	66	343
2000	579	299	280
2001	1 497	1 015	482
2002	1 450	488	962
2003	2 858	1 468	1 390
2004	2 730	1 395	1 335
2005	2 429	517	1 912
2006	4 666	1 975	2 691
2007	9 178	1 853	7 325
2008	9 109	2 074	7 035

2009	7 688	1 320	6 368
2010	10 065	2 775	7 290
2011	16 656	4 301	12 355
2012	19 831	3 328	16 503
2013	13 819	1 418	12 401
2014	14 926	2 622	12 304
2015	17 481	3 855	13 626
2016	26 810	5 968	20 842

g)It is drawn up by us, based on the Database of National Statistics Office of Georgia.

Based on Table 7 it is possible to see the following changes: In 1995 India's total trade turnover was just 90 thousand dollars calculating per capita, and in 2016 this figure amounted to 26, 8 million dollars. The increase is noticeable (almost 300 times), which is very important for any big or small country. It is also noteworthy that the larger growth was observed in the indicators of imports of goods: In 1995 the volume of imports from India was only 23 thousand dollars in calculating per capita, in 2016 this figure was 20,8 million dollars, or 906 times higher. Therefore, the relative index of imports exceeded the same amount of exports by 3 times that indicates a great deficit of foreign trade balance. Georgia's foreign trade balance is one of the priorities of the country's economic policy. 10

Conclusion

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, independent Georgia's foreign trade geography expanded significantly, which also significantly

¹⁰Gelashvili, S., Muchiashvili, M., Maisuradze, I. (2012). Macroeconomic Statistics. Published by TSU, Tbilisi, https://www.tsu.ge/data/file_db/economist_faculty/makroek onomikuri%20statistik.pdf;

¹¹Mikeladze, G., Gelashvili, S.(2016). Gradualistic strategy of transition to market economy. Theoretical and Applied Economics. Volume XXIII, No 4(609), Winter, p. 241; Papava, V. (2015). Georgian Economy: Reforms and Pseudo Reforms. Tbilisi, "Intellect", p. 97.



ISSN (e): 2394-6709

||Volume||4||Issue||02||Pages-1438-1446||February-2018|| Index Copernicus ICV: 74.25, DOI: 10.18535/rajar/v4i2.05

increased trade turnover. The clear proof is that if Georgia had trade relations with 67 countries in 1995, their number doubled in 2016 and became 135. This led to the overall volume of Georgia's foreign trade turnover (almost 15 times) significantly increased.

In 1995-2016, with the index of export volume, India was 8 times in the first platinum group of trading partner countries, it indicates that India is an important trading partner for Georgia.

In the analysis period, for the whole 22 years, Georgia had positive trade balance with India only 5 times (1995, 2000-2001 and 2003-2004). For the remaining 17 years, Georgia's balance of trade with India was unfortunately negative. This unwanted situation has been established in 2005-2016 as a strongly marked regressive trend.

The rate of increase of foreign trade in Georgia is higher with India, than with the rest of the world. For instance, in 2006-2016 the average annual trade turnover between Georgia and India amounted to 52,51 percent, while in whole countries it was much less, 22,21 percent.

Long-term tendencies of export and import difference between Georgia and India have contradictory trends. In 1995 the share of export was 74.07%, 51.54% in 2000, 21.32% in 2005 and 22,27% in 2016. Therefore, there is a clear cut in trend. The long-term opposite tendency was shown in the change of import share: in 1995 the import share was 25,93%, in 2000 - 48.46% in 2005, 78.68% in 2005 and 77,73% in 2016. Such a share of export and import is undesirable for Georgia, and for India, on the contrary, is desirable.

Analysis of Export Trading Structures from Georgia to India has been established that in 1995, only 1 trademark was exported from Georgia to India and it was "parts of flying machines" with

total value of 317, 0 thousand USD. Since 2000, the exporting commodity structure has expanded to 6 groups, in the following years: 8 in 2005, 28 in 2015 - 17 and in 2016, 25 commodity groups. However, the top five of the 25 largest export products are 97%. This indicates that it is necessary to expand the diversification of export products.

The different trends in research have been revealed from structure of imported goods from India to Georgia: In 1995, Georgia had imported 8 nomenclature commodity groups. Since 2000, the commodity structure of export has already expanded to 25 groups, and in the following years the number has increased greatly and reached: in 2005 - 137, in 2010 - 341, in 2015 - 362 and 2016 - 403 commodities. These numbers prove that Georgia is a preferred trade partner, regardless of the small market, especially when it has a free trade regime with the EU countries and it can also be used by India to export its products through Georgia to Europe.

In the analyzes period (1995-2016), Georgia's foreign trade ratings with India were significantly increased (calculated per capita), in particular: 300 times - with the volume of total trade turnover, and the relative value of the import volume - 906 times. This tendency indicates to anomalous deficit of the foreign trade balance.

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Research Research Analysis Journals

RA Journal of Applied Research

ISSN (e): 2394-6709

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