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International trade in agro-food products in Slovenia: current state, trends, degree of processing and competitiveness

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Summary

While the share of international trade in agro-food products as part of Slovenia's total international trade in products is relatively small, the share in the total negative balance is relatively great. Slovenia has increasingly become a net importer of food over the past few years. The circumstances of trade have been highly variable, leading to relatively rapid and significant changes. Net imports are quite high, especially in certain groups of plant origin, which from the standpoint of healthy and balanced nutrition are extremely important (fruits, vegetables, cereals and products thereof). Total trade is mainly in processed food products, which is also a characteristic of developed countries. The share of processed products is higher in exports than in imports, but in exports it is falling, and in regard to achieving higher added value this trend is not welcome. After the elimination of one-way trade, where competition according to the methodology could not be analyzed, we found that slightly more than a third of the products in trade are competitive in quality. This type of competition is the most desirable, since it represents a net export at prices that exceed the prices of imports. Exporters in this case are successful despite the high prices, because the market recognises the quality. Another tenth of the products in the change are competitive in price, where penetration into foreign markets is successful due to low export prices. Only slightly lower is the proportion of low-quality products, which is the most problematic group. In this case, the producers cannot penetrate foreign markets, although the prices of their products are relatively low. Improvement in this group of producers is particularly vital, because otherwise they will be unable to successfully compete in a single internal, let alone very dynamic and increasingly keen global market.

The whole text is available in Slovenian language on <http://www.umar.si>

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