# Examining Export Performance in CARICOM from 1992-2006: An Application of the Revealed Comparative Advantage Measure

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#### **Abstract**

The objective of this paper is to compute and analyse changes in export performance based on revealed comparative advantage for CARICOM countries over 1992-2006 using data at the 1-digit SITC level. Several countries possess comparative advantages with the world in *Food and Live Animals, Beverages and Tobacco, Crude Materials, Fuels and Lubricants,* and *Chemicals and Related Product,* indicating their competitiveness in these products.

Keywords: CARICOM; revealed comparative advantage; competitiveness

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### 1. Introduction

Since the mid-1980s CARICOM countries have been moving in the direction of outward-orientation, with the implementation of liberal economic policies consistent with those advocated by the Washington consensus. In addition, efforts are underway to intensify regional integration through the formation of a CARICOM single market and economy (CSME). Moreover, at the end of 2007, CARICOM countries along with the Dominican Republic concluded negotiations of an economic partnership agreement (EPA) with the European Union, which was ratified by all of the countries in October 2008. As part of that agreement, CARICOM countries will be allowed duty and quota free entry of goods and services into the European Union (EU).

The global economy has witnessed expansions in world trade and foreign investment at much greater growth rates than those recorded for world output. Hence, as local businesses increase their levels of competitiveness subject to international trade and foreign direct investment, that can only redound to meaningful leverage for economic growth and subsequently economic development. This phenomenon is particularly critical for small, open economies like those of CARICOM. Competitiveness can allow local businesses to overcome the limitations of their small home markets and thereby fulfil their maximum potential.

To penetrate foreign markets, regional businesses must produce and effectively market goods and services that are of high quality and low in price in comparison to similar products produced in other countries. To achieve this important objective, goods and services must be internationally competitive. Blunck (2006) suggests that for a business competitiveness is the ability to provide products and services as or more effectively and efficiently than the relevant competitors. Competitiveness matters because on the one hand in the increasingly globalised environment within which local businesses have to function, it is much easier for more and more goods and services from abroad to enter the domestic economy since import duties must be lowered as part of the country's commitments under the World Trade Organisation (WTO). On the other hand, regional businesses must be able to fully exploit all opportunities that present themselves to sell their goods and services in overseas markets. To benefit from these opportunities, these businesses must be able to produce goods and services that are cheaper than other similar products and equally or higher in quality on a sustained basis. None of this is possible unless these businesses are internationally competitive.

A reasonable starting point in assisting local businesses to boost their international competitive position in the rapidly changing globalised environment is the identification of export commodities to which we can assign comparative advantages. That assignment can be accomplished by

computing and analysing changes in export performance based on revealed comparative advantage (RCA), an indicator of international trade specialisation and competitiveness. It is towards the achievement of this objective that our paper is dedicated.

Indeed, changes in RCA can help identify export commodities with comparative advantages, thereby suggesting in which direction resources should be expended to exploit available opportunities for free trade. Changes in RCA can also help identify specific commodities that individual countries can produce in a relatively efficient manner.

The rest of the paper is structured as follows. Section two describes the methodology and data used to assess changes in the comparative advantages of CARICOM countries versus the world from 1992-2006. Section three presents the empirical findings and evaluates the changes in comparative advantage over the period of analysis. The paper ends with some concluding remarks.

## 2. Methodology and Data

RCA Index

The RCA index is a ratio of ratios—specifically it is *relative* relative trade shares. The two modifiers "relative" both belong in the sentence because the index is attempting to evaluate comparative advantage, which is itself a

relative relative concept—the relative competitiveness of one country's industry to its other industries relative to global norms.

Classic trade theory typically measures an economy's comparative advantage in trade using the RCA index advanced by Balassa (1965, 1977, 1979, 1989). The RCA index used in this paper is defined as follows:

$$RCA_{ij} = \frac{Z_{ij} / Z_{ij}}{Z_{ij} / Z_{ij}}$$

(1)

where  $Z_{ij}$  is country i's export value of commodity j;  $\sum_{j}^{i} Z_{ij}$  is the total export

value of country i;  $Z_{ij}$  is the world's total export value of commodity j;

 $Z_{ij}$  is the world's total export value of all commodities; and  $RCA_{ij}$  is the RCA of country i in commodity j.

The RCA measure indicates the commodities in which a country has a comparative advantage. The index gives each country's share in world exports of commodity i, relative to the country's share of total world exports. When  $RCA_{ij}$  is greater than 1, it indicates that country i has a comparative advantage in commodity j in the world market; while an  $RCA_{ij}$ 

less than 1 indicates the country does not possess such an advantage, that is, it has a comparative disadvantage in commodity j.

Export-based RCA measures are not sensitive to growth and business cycle differences across trading partners, which tend to affect both the numerator and denominator equally (Richardson and Zhang, 1999). For the same reason, they are not sensitive to the height of trade barriers, as long as they are across the board, non-discriminatory protection against all exports.

The coefficient of variation (CV) is also calculated for each commodity over the period under analysis. This will give insight into the variability of each country's competitiveness for particular goods.

#### Data

The export data used to calculate all indices is taken from the UN COMTRADE database. Specifically, the paper utilises data at the 1-digit SITC level as this was information was consistently available for all 15 CARICOM countries over the period 1992-2006. Despite this, the RCA indices can only be reported for a subset of years for several countries due to the unavailability of data in some years. The high level of aggregation also means that the RCA indices that are calculated are for broad categories of commodities.

## 3. Empirical Findings and Analysis

It is important to point out from the outset that competitiveness is a dynamic process; that is, it can change over time. Thus, a country can be competitive in a particular commodity or group of commodities in one year, but not the next, and vice versa. Even if a country remains competitive in a particular good or group of goods over time, the level of competitiveness changes from year to year. Large values for the coefficient of variation also show when this is the case. Another important point is that competiveness is not global; competiveness in a commodity or group of commodities can be as a result of price, quality or both.

The RCA indices for each CARICOM country presented in Tables 1-15 bear out the point that competitiveness changes over time. For all countries, with the exception of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, there is at least one group of commodities for which the country was very competitive in one or more years, but not in others.

## Antigua and Barbuda 1997-2003

While there is a year or two for which Antigua and Barbuda was competitive in one or two groups of commodities, it does not appear that the country has a comparative advantage in the commodities analysed.

The Bahamas 1997-2001

The Bahamas appears to have held a comparative advantage over the world in the export of *Food and Live Animals, Beverages and Tobacco, Crude Materials*, and *Chemicals and Related Products*. Its strongest comparative advantage was for the group Crude Materials. The Bahamas also became competitive in *Fuels, Lubricants etc*. from the late 1999 to 2001.

### Barbados 1992-2006

RCA indices for Barbados indicate that it maintained a comparative advantage with the rest of the world from 1992-2006 in 4 commodity groups: Food and Live Animals, Beverage and Tobacco, Fuels, Lubricants etc., and Chemicals and Related Products. The country is particularly competitive in its exports of Beverages and Tobacco, likely a result of its exports of rum and beer. The small CVs indicate stable patterns of comparative advantage. Since 2000, it has also become competitive in Animal, Vegetable Oils, Fats and Wax.

#### Belize 1992-2006

Belize is very competitive in the export of *Food and Live Animals*, maintaining this for the entire period under study. This finding is unsurprising, given that agriculture continues to form the foundation of the productive sector and the rural economy of Belize; since 1980, agriculture has varied between 18% and 9% of Belize's GDP. However, while Belize

was completive in *Beverages and Tobacco* in the 1990s, since 2000, it has not managed to maintain this performance.

### Dominica 1993-1997 and 1999-2006

Not surprisingly, Dominica's comparative advantage is in the production of Food and Live Animals, and Chemicals and Related Products. The country has a very strong agricultural sector. Bananas and other agriculture dominate the economy, and nearly one-third of the labour force works in agriculture. In response to decreasing European Union (EU) banana trade preferences, the government has diversified the agricultural sector, with the export of small quantities of citrus fruits and vegetables and the introduction of coffee, patchouli, aloe vera, cut flowers, and exotic fruits such as mangoes, guavas, and papayas. Dominica's comparative advantage in Chemicals and Related Products is likely result of its success in increasing its exports of soap.

#### Grenada 1993-1997 and 1999-2005

Grenada possesses a very strong comparative advantage in its exports of *Food and Live Animals*. This is likely due to production of nutmeg and other spices, cocoa and to a lesser extent, bananas. It has also exhibited a fairly consistent level of competitiveness in *Beverages and Tobacco*.

Guyana's comparative advantages lie in *Food and Live Animals*, and *Crude Materials*, and since 2001, *Beverages and Tobacco*. It is particularly competitive in *Food and Live Animals*. This is likely due to its production and export of rice, sugar and other non-traditional commodities.

### Haiti 1992-1997

RCA indices for Haiti indicate that it was very competitive in *Food and Live Animals* and *Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles* in the mid 1990s. Unfortunately, more recent data is not available.

## Jamaica 1992-2006

Jamaica is very competitive in *Food and Live Animals, Beverages and Tobacco*, and *Crude Materials*, maintaining its comparative advantages in these goods for the entire period under study. Even though Jamaica is primarily a service economy, its competitiveness in the export of the commodity groups identified above likely stems from its favourable exchange rate with the rest of the world, and its close proximity to the United States.

#### Montserrat 1999-2006

Montserrat has displayed some degree of competitiveness in *Miscellaneous Manufacture Articles* since 1999 and *Fuels and Lubricants* since 2001.

## St. Kitts and Nevis 1993-1997, 1999-2000 and 2002-2006

Table 11 indicates that St. Kitts and Nevis were very competitive in *Food* and Live Animals, Beverages and Tobacco, and more recently Machines, and Transport Equipment.

### St. Lucia 1992-2005

Table 12 indicates that St. St. Lucia was very competitive in *Food and Live Animals* and *Beverages and Tobacco*.

#### St. Vincent and the Grenadines 1993-2006

Similar to St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines was very competitive in *Food and Live Animals* and *Beverages and Tobacco*.

#### Suriname 1994-2001

Suriname's comparative advantages are in *Food and Live Animals* and *Crude Materials*. In particular, the RCA indices indicate it is very competitive in *Crude Materials*.

## Trinidad and Tobago 1992-2006

Beverages and Tobacco, Fuels, Lubricants etc., and Chemicals and Related Products, are the commodity groups in which Trinidad and Tobago has comparative advantages.

Tables 1-15 reveal that CARICOM countries hold comparative advantages in broadly similar commodities. Twelve countries hold comparative advantages in Food and Live Animals; nine in Beverages and Tobacco; five in Crude Materials; four in Chemicals and Related Products; and three in Fuels, Lubricants etc. With few exceptions, CARICOM countries do not posses comparative advantages over the rest of the world in Manufactured Goods, Machines, Transport Equipment and Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles. It is noticeable that the latter commodities are all manufactured items.

In several cases, there were countries that held comparative advantages for *Goods Not Classed by Kind*, such as Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Guyana and Montserrat. The overly broad nature of this group though offers no real insight into the competitiveness of these countries.

Three OECS countries, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines are very competitive in *Food and Live Animals*, and *Beverages and Tobacco*. The RCA values for these commodities are very similar for each. This result is not surprising as these countries have relatively similar economies, based on agriculture..

The comparative advantages of CARICOM countries in the products mentioned above were also very stable over time, as indicated by their low CVs. In contrast, it was found that for commodity groups in which CARICOM countries held comparative disadvantages, that there was relatively less stability in comparison to the patterns of stability for those goods in which comparative advantages were observed.

# 4. Concluding Remarks

The objective of this paper was to compute and analyse changes in export performance based on revealed comparative advantage for CARICOM countries over 1992-2006 using data at the 1-digit SITC level. What we have discovered is that several countries possess comparative advantages

with the world in *Food and Live Animals, Beverages and Tobacco, Crude Materials, Fuels and Lubricants,* and *Chemicals and Related Product,* indicating their competitiveness in these products. These levels of competitiveness were also very stable over time. However, the research raises more questions than it answers.

First, even though it appears that several CARICOM countries do not have comparative advantages in many commodity groups, it is important to point out that they may still possess comparative advantages in particular items in that group. Since the RCAs in this study are based on the highest level of aggregation, this could not be revealed. To determine this focus would have to be go the lowest level of aggregation, which is currently the 8-digit SITC level. As was pointed out earlier, the export data at lower levels of aggregation suffers from missing observations for several countries.

Second, to determine the factors driving competitiveness, once again, more disaggregated information is required. Usually, in macroeconomic studies such as this one, the exchange rate is analysed. However, with some exceptions, CARICOM countries have fixed exchange rates. At the macro level, the real exchange rate is one path that can perhaps be explored.

Third, this study looked at comparative advantages with the world as a whole. From a country-specific perspective, it would be more informative if

attention was focussed on the markets or individual countries to which each country exports its goods, for example, NAFTA (United States, Canada and Mexico), EU, Central America and South America. Issues such as whether comparative advantages are as a result of low tariffs, low transportation costs or special trading arrangements can be analysed. This approach has current resonance given the recent signing by CARIFORUM countries for an EPA with the EU.

Overall, though, the study is an important first step in revealing the commodities for which CARICOM countries can be competitive.

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Table 1: Antigua and Barbuda RCA 1997-1998 and 2003

	1997	1998	2003	$\overline{cv}$
Total Avalation Assistant	0.01	0.16	0.04	0
Food And Live Animals	0.31	0.16	0.04	.79 0
Beverages and Tobacco	1.21	1.42	0.34	.58
Crude Materials, Inedible, Except Fuels	0.49	0.36	0.02	.84 .81
Fuels, Lubricants, etc.	0.05	0.22	3.71	.56
Animal, Veg. Oils, Fats, Wax	0.00	0.20	0.00	.73 0
Chemicals, Related Products	0.61	0.32	0.05	.87
Manufactured Goods	0.66	0.37	0.17	.61 0
Machines, Transport Equipment	0.49	0.75	0.25	.50
Misc. Manufactured Articles	0.67	0.36	0.13	.70 0
Goods Not Classed By Kind	16.51	17.80	14.63	.10

Table 2: The Bahamas RCA 1997-2001

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	CV
Food And Live Animals	5.35	3.82	4.16	2.99	3.69	.22 0
Beverages and Tobacco Crude Materials, Inedible, Except	<b>2.64</b>	3.89	7.69	6.45	11.32	.53
Fuels	5.11	2.80	2.30	1.67	2.39	.46
Fuels, Lubricants, etc.	0.00	0.00	1.23	1.49	1.95	.95
Animal, Veg. Oils, Fats, Wax	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	NA
Chemicals, Related Products	1.99	2.26	2.39	2.27	2.59	.10
Manufactured Goods	0.20	0.55	0.12	0.35	0.17	.63 0
Machines, Transport Equipment	0.42	0.62	0.55	0.62	0.29	.29
Misc. Manufactured Articles	0.22	0.34	0.15	0.47	0.12	.56 1
Goods Not Classed By Kind	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	.32

Notes: CV means coefficient of variation. NA indicates that a value cannot be computed since the mean RCA for that group of commodities is equal to 0. Values of RCA greater than one are highlighted.

Table 3: Barbados RCA 1992-2006

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	CV
Food And Live Animals	3.32	2.98	3.41	3.20	4.41	4.12	3.64	3.83	3.98	3.68	4.00	2.96	4.24	2.46	2.05	.19
Beverages and Tobacco	5.69	5.36	3.61	5.15	4.72	5.58	6.09	6.19	6.52	8.96	11.15	9.80	15.72	12.44	9.04	.44
Crude Materials, Inedible, Except Fuels	0.20	0.20	0.21	0.60	0.24	0.25	0.14	0.21	0.11	0.10	0.22	0.21	0.38	0.24	0.41	.52
Fuels, Lubricants, etc.	2.49	2.37	2.36	2.56	1.79	2.43	2.78	1.90	2.20	2.12	1.39	2.78	0.78	2.53	2.46	.25
Animal, Veg. Oils, Fats, Wax	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.26	0.33	0.46	0.33	0.68	1.26	0.82	1.04	1.26	3.35	1.96	2.20	1 .02
Chemicals, Related Products	1.51	1.60	1.54	1.43	1.32	1.39	1.39	1.53	1.46	1.37	1.37	1.18	1.23	1.09	0.96	.13
Manufactured Goods	0.56	0.92	0.91	0.86	0.89	0.86	0.99	0.99	0.89	0.87	1.08	1.00	1.15	0.78	0.74	.16 0
Machines, Transport Equipment	0.43	0.46	0.47	0.50	0.35	0.34	0.31	0.38	0.34	0.33	0.31	0.29	0.36	0.29	0.33	.19
Misc. Manufactured Articles	0.60	0.51	0.54	0.52	0.65	0.60	0.84	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.68	0.57	0.64	0.84	1.40	0 .31 0
Goods Not Classed By Kind	0.55			-	-	-	0.10	-	-	0.37	0.66	0.33	0.30	0.24	0.15	.65

**Table 4: Belize RCA 1992-2006** 

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	<u>CV</u>
Food And Live Animals	9.15	9.36	9.22	10.70	10.24	11.37	11.60	0.73	15.13	5.94	6.76	14.76	15.75	16.26	14.56	.39
Beverages and Tobacco	1.93	1.93	2.28	2.55	2.32	2.99	1.31	2.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.06	0.57	.94
Crude Materials, Inedible, Except Fuels	0.70	0.63	0.76	0.36	0.30	0.44	0.58	0.56	0.00	0.29	0.31	0.37	0.27	0.24	0.09	.55 .2
Fuels, Lubricants, etc.	0.43	0.29	0.40	0.57	0.25	0.32	0.20	9.20	2.06	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.02	0.03	1.29	.32
Animal, Veg. Oils, Fats, Wax	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3 .47
Chemicals, Related Products	0.12	0.09	0.14	0.12	0.08	0.05	0.06	0.27	3.34	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.10	0.25	0.10	.64
Manufactured Goods	0.08	0.08	0.10	0.06	0.04	0.04	0.04	1.57	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.04	0.10	0.10	0.08	.49 .0
Machines, Transport Equipment	0.08	0.09	0.15	0.08	0.06	0.06	0.09	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.12	0.05	0.02	0.02	.80
Misc. Manufactured Articles	1.20	1.27	1.01	0.83	0.86	0.86	0.95	0.06	7.20	0.00	0.01	0.63	0.75	0.75	0.05	.59 .1
Goods Not Classed By Kind	0.09	0.24	0.65	0.00	2.05	0.15	0.61	0.08		22.96	19.58	0.11	0.09	0.09	2.11	.87

Table 5: Dominica RCA 1993-1997 and 1999-2006

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	CV
Food And Live Animals	8.82	7.79	6.92	6.66	7.13		6.82	6.86	6.05	6.53	5.70	6.38	5.99	6.59	.12
Beverages and Tobacco	0.03	0.51	0.57	0.58	0.76		0.53	0.78	0.91	1.14	2.83	2.68	2.72	2.36	.79
Crude Materials, Inedible, Except Fuels	0.10	0.22	0.38	0.60	0.52		0.92	1.31	1.61	1.18	1.41	1.70	2.04	1.97	.62
Fuels, Lubricants, etc.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	.61
Animal, Veg. Oils, Fats, Wax	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3 .61
Chemicals, Related Products	3.02	3.80	4.39	4.92	4.79		5.13	5.55	5.38	4.84	5.38	4.99	4.99	5.32	.15
Manufactured Goods	0.18	0.10	0.02	0.01	0.03		0.06	0.10	0.13	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.03	.90
Machines, Transport Equipment	0.05	0.03	0.07	0.03	0.02		0.05	0.08	0.04	0.11	0.03	0.04	0.11	0.03	0 .58
Misc. Manufactured Articles	0.13	0.22	0.18	0.15	0.12		0.11	0.11	0.11	0.09	0.05	0.08	0.09	0.05	0 .44
Goods Not Classed By Kind	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	.61

Notes: CV means coefficient of variation. --- means that the data necessary for calculation is unavailable. Values of RCA greater than one are highlighted.

Table 6: Grenada RCA 1993-1997 and 1999-2005

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	CV
Food And Live Animals	8.43	9.42	10.37	10.55	9.98		12.15	6.07	7.70	11.10	9.31	11.50	11.72	.18
Beverages and Tobacco	1.98	1.69	4.48	4.34	3.60		1.84	0.41	0.50	0.86	0.57	1.23	3.52	.73
Crude Materials, Inedible, Except Fuels	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.03	0.02		0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.07	0.05	.64
Fuels, Lubricants, etc.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	.55
Animal, Veg. Oils, Fats, Wax	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	NA 0
Chemicals, Related Products	0.38	0.40	0.27	0.24	0.54		0.36	0.15	0.24	0.76	0.23	0.43	0.40	.45
Manufactured Goods	0.79	0.57	0.63	0.64	0.55		0.60	0.30	0.33	0.54	0.65	0.68	0.85	.27 1
Machines, Transport Equipment	0.16	0.10	0.10	0.08	0.14		0.08	1.40	1.10	0.35	0.73	0.34	0.39	.06
Misc. Manufactured Articles	0.94	0.89	0.28	0.32	0.64		0.59	0.22	0.20	0.39	0.41	0.70	0.39	.50
Goods Not Classed By Kind	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	NA

Notes: CV means coefficient of variation. --- means that the data necessary for calculation is unavailable. NA indicates that a value cannot be computed since the mean RCA for that group of commodities is equal to 0. Values of RCA greater than one are highlighted.

**Table 7: Guyana RCA 1997-2006** 

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	$\overline{cv}$
Food And Live Animals	6.56	6.89	8.01	7.88	7.29	7.68	8.44	8.13	11.64	9.35	.18 0
Beverages and Tobacco Crude Materials, Inedible,	0.05	0.07	0.12	0.80	1.55	3.21	2.13	2.80	3.26	5.44	.91
Except Fuels	4.82	5.51	5.54	<b>5.79</b>	6.82	3.76	2.76	3.34	4.94	4.96	.25
Fuels, Lubricants, etc.	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	.54 .0
Animal, Veg. Oils, Fats, Wax	0.13	0.15	0.20	0.61	0.19	0.29	0.19	0.25	0.45	0.77	.66
Chemicals, Related Products	0.08	0.08	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.10	0.14	0.08	0.09	0.06	.23 0
Manufactured Goods	0.41	0.36	0.35	0.44	0.55	0.67	0.84	1.45	1.00	0.82	.51
Machines, Transport Equipment	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.04	0.04	0.06	0.09	0.01	0.07	0.06	.68 0
Misc. Manufactured Articles	0.25	0.30	0.31	0.27	0.30	0.37	0.37	0.21	0.25	0.21	.20
Goods Not Classed By Kind	8.58	9.04	8.58	9.05	7.59	7.80	5.78	5.40	0.00	4.32	.43

**Table 8: Haiti RCA 1992-1997** 

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	CV
Food And Live Animals	2.14	1.84	3.28	5.13	3.04	2.14	0 .42
Beverages and Tobacco	0.15	0.06	0.29	0.62	0.53	0.75	.68
Crude Materials, Inedible, Except Fuels	0.09	0.04	0.07	0.08	0.21	0.08	.62
Fuels, Lubricants, etc.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	NA
Animal, Veg. Oils, Fats, Wax	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	NA 0
Chemicals, Related Products	0.53	0.19	0.26	0.73	0.54	0.59	.44
Manufactured Goods	0.99	0.90	1.14	0.63	0.82	0.93	.19
Machines, Transport Equipment	0.15	0.10	0.06	0.04	0.10	0.08	.47 .0
Misc. Manufactured Articles	4.13	4.74	3.93	3.41	4.34	4.69	.12
Goods Not Classed By Kind	0.18	0.50	0.10	0.00	0.07	0.08	.16

Notes: CV means coefficient of variation. NA indicates that a value cannot be computed since the mean RCA for that group of commodities is equal to 0. Values of RCA greater than one are highlighted.

**Table 9: Jamaica RCA 1992-2006** 

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	CV
Food And Live Animals	2.58	2.83	2.37	2.59	2.81	2.87	2.74	3.09	3.23	3.16	3.03	3.18	3.25	2.35	2.41	.11
Beverages and Tobacco	2.59	3.07	2.67	2.64	2.89	3.38	5.05	4.30	5.04	4.12	5.22	4.62	5.03	5.98	5.88	.29
Crude Materials, Inedible, Except Fuels	13.52	13.10	13.10	12.23	13.32	14.41	15.58	17.98	18.19	19.90	21.44	21.42	20.54	21.35	18.44	.21
Fuels, Lubricants, etc.	0.14	0.09	0.08	0.10	0.06	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.13	0.30	0.26	0.24	0.59	1.07	.31
Animal, Veg. Oils, Fats, Wax	0.01	0.33	0.25	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	.83
Chemicals, Related Products	0.27	0.26	0.22	0.27	0.36	0.35	0.39	0.40	0.57	0.56	0.51	0.45	0.50	0.34	0.35	.29
Manufactured Goods	0.12	0.10	0.11	0.08	0.09	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.05	0.06	.35
Machines, Transport Equipment	0.05	0.03	0.06	0.08	0.06	0.04	0.08	0.05	0.05	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.03	.35
Misc. Manufactured Articles	1.16	1.44	1.63	1.65	1.51	1.32	1.23	1.04	1.00	0.63	0.22	0.15	0.13	0.12	0.09	.68
Goods Not Classed By Kind	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	.65

Table 10: Montserrat RCA 1999-2006

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	CV
Food And Live Animals	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	NA
Beverages and Tobacco	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	NA
Crude Materials, Inedible, Except Fuels	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.94	17.07	.39
Fuels, Lubricants, etc.	0.00	0.00	2.71	4.33	4.33	1.25	1.83	0.00	.02
Animal, Veg. Oils, Fats, Wax	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	NA
Chemicals, Related Products	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	NA
Manufactured Goods	0.62	0.36	0.38	0.13	0.40	0.37	0.13	0.09	.58
Machines, Transport Equipment	1.75	1.21	0.66	0.68	0.69	1.91	0.93	0.40	.53
Misc. Manufactured Articles	1.13	2.85	1.60	0.91	1.50	0.26	1.36	1.31	.54
Goods Not Classed By Kind	0.92	3.09	7.74	6.88	2.24	1.01	4.41	2.99	.69

Notes: CV means coefficient of variation. NA indicates that a value cannot be computed since the mean RCA for that group of commodities is equal to 0. Values of RCA greater than one are highlighted.

Table 11: St. Kitts and Nevis RCA 1993-2006

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1999	2000	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	CV
Food And Live Animals	7.06	7.76	6.97	8.30	8.21	4.10	3.92	0.46	2.87	5.43	0.17	0.47	.67
Beverages and Tobacco	3.11	2.59	3.66	2.40	1.57	1.96	3.77	1.30	1.23	2.42	3.94	7.24	.56
Crude Materials, Inedible, Excep Fuels	0.07	0.09	0.10	0.04	0.03	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.19	0.56	0.02	0.00	.62
Fuels, Lubricants, etc.	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	.37
Animal, Veg. Oils, Fats, Wax	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	NA 0
Chemicals, Related Products	0.03	0.05	0.08	0.06	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.04	0.02	0.01	0.00	.75
Manufactured Goods	0.33	0.18	0.12	0.09	80.0	0.11	0.17	0.19	0.10	0.04	0.10	0.15	.55 0
Machines, Transport Equipment	0.72	0.73	0.92	0.80	0.93	1.51	1.59	2.16	1.93	1.59	2.36	2.27	.43
Misc. Manufactured Articles	0.71	0.53	0.46	0.33	0.24	0.53	0.53	0.38	0.23	0.25	0.33	0.22	0 .40 3
Goods Not Classed By Kind	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	.46

Notes: CV means coefficient of variation. NA indicates that a value cannot be computed since the mean RCA for that group of commodities is equal to 0. Values of RCA greater than one are highlighted.

Table 12: St. Lucia RCA 1992-2005

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	<u>CV</u>
Food And Live Animals	7.81	6.74	7.10	7.41	9.52	8.61	9.76	9.84	9.87	8.66	6.59	5.03	4.26	5.14	.25 0
Beverages and Tobacco	3.34	3.53	4.23	4.47	3.93	6.26	8.11	13.82	20.99	20.85	14.52	18.58	14.57	23.48	.65
Crude Materials, Inedible, Except Fuels	0.08	0.12	0.14	0.11	0.04	0.10	0.14	0.15	0.13	0.17	0.15	0.25	0.46	0.41	.69 .2
Fuels, Lubricants, etc.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.85	1.04	3.40	1.24	.04
Animal, Veg. Oils, Fats, Wax	2.47	3.22	1.54	0.41	0.00	0.21	1.16	1.15	0.13	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.22	0.00	.34 .0
Chemicals, Related Products	0.11	0.14	0.08	0.09	0.10	0.14	0.13	0.10	0.14	0.23	0.13	0.14	0.20	0.22	.34
Manufactured Goods	0.26	0.58	0.51	0.57	0.59	0.81	0.68	0.40	0.25	0.34	0.68	0.62	0.45	0.55	0 .32
Machines, Transport Equipment	0.24	0.22	0.23	0.28	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.21	0.27	0.26	0.48	0.56	0.35	0.46	.45
Misc. Manufactured Articles	1.49	1.81	1.77	1.54	0.89	0.81	0.61	0.61	0.90	0.91	0.62	0.74	0.45	0.70	0 .47 1
Goods Not Classed By Kind	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.00	1.03	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.46	0.38	0.27	0.36	.63

Table 13: St. Vincent and the Grenadines RCA 1993-2006

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	CV
Food And Live Animals	10.98	9.89	11.07	10.91	11.43	12.43	12.72	13.27	12.81	13.89	12.02	13.94	13.59	14.60	.11
Beverages and Tobacco	1.80	1.82	1.38	1.52	2.30	2.49	2.51	3.32	3.46	3.42	4.62	5.22	4.47	5.76	.45
Crude Materials, Inedible, Except Fuels	0.10	0.11	0.06	0.09	0.07	0.07	0.08	0.08	0.12	0.06	0.05	0.14	0.10	0.15	0 .34 1
Fuels, Lubricants, etc.	0.01	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	.30
Animal, Veg. Oils, Fats, Wax	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.36	0.74	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	.45
Chemicals, Related Products	0.06	0.09	0.10	0.14	0.17	0.13	0.13	0.20	80.0	0.03	0.05	0.11	0.08	0.05	.48
Manufactured Goods	0.24	0.33	0.35	0.46	0.42	0.45	0.45	0.54	0.45	0.49	0.54	0.58	0.65	0.62	.24
Machines, Transport Equipment	0.13	0.31	0.10	0.14	0.18	0.09	0.20	0.33	0.29	0.11	0.34	0.16	0.24	0.24	0 .43 0
Misc. Manufactured Articles	0.46	0.48	0.64	0.48	0.28	0.24	0.17	0.17	0.23	0.32	0.40	0.29	0.49	0.35	.39
Goods Not Classed By Kind	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3 .74

**Table 14: Suriname RCA 1994-2001** 

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	CV
Food And Live Animals	2.42	2.55	3.13	2.32	1.84	2.44	2.43	3.02	.16
Beverages and Tobacco Crude Materials, Inedible,	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.05	0.03	1.15	0.09	.31 .0
Except Fuels	17.65	15.75	15.44	16.43	18.46	26.37	20.03	25.97	.22
Fuels, Lubricants, etc.	0.28	0.39	0.43	0.75	0.79	0.00	0.66	0.00	0 .75 2
Animal, Veg. Oils, Fats, Wax	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.76	0.00	.83
Chemicals, Related Products	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.10	0.05	1 .43 0
Manufactured Goods	0.60	0.68	0.64	1.12	1.31	0.04	0.04	0.04	.88
Machines, Transport Equipment	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.03	0 .46 0
Misc. Manufactured Articles	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.02	0.03	0.03	.31
Goods Not Classed By Kind	0.54	1.03	1.84	0.00	0.00	0.22	3.98	0.12	.42

Table 15: Trinidad and Tobago RCA 1992-2006

					-	•										
1	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	CV
													-			$\overline{0}$
Food And Live Animals 0	0.61	0.75	0.79	0.84	0.77	0.90	1.02	0.86	0.66	0.53	0.64	0.42	0.40	0.33	0.27	.34
																0
Beverages and Tobacco 1	1.05	1.54	1.63	1.86	2.02	2.60	3.56	2.62	2.19	2.02	2.69	2.05	1.45	1.62	1.26	.32
Crude Materials, Inedible,																0
Except Fuels 0	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.10	0.11	0.10	0.07	0.05	0.06	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.13	0.09	.29
																0
Fuels, Lubricants, etc. 9	9.20	8.30	8.06	8.52	6.76	6.98	7.93	7.70	6.48	5.52	6.84	7.08	6.01	5.62	6.04	.16
																0
Animal, Veg. Oils, Fats, Wax $0$	0.31	0.37	0.42	0.43	0.53	0.62	0.76	0.46	0.26	0.32	0.38	0.27	0.26	0.21	0.05	$_{\_}.46$
																0
Chemicals, Related Products 1	1.66	1.83	2.84	2.58	2.42	2.54	2.24	1.94	1.85	1.61	1.57	1.60	2.21	1.77	1.37	.22
								l								0
Manufactured Goods 0	0.69	0.80	0.81	0.88	0.82	0.92	1.09	0.86	0.65	0.65	0.89	0.63	0.62	0.35	0.33	.28
																1
Machines, Transport Equipment 0	0.03	0.07	0.04	0.06	0.10	0.09	0.07	0.09	0.03	0.39	0.06	0.03	0.05	0.04	0.03	.14
36. 36. 6 . 341	2.40	0.45	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.00	0.45	0.40	0.40	0.4.4	0.40	0.00	0.05	0.05	0
Misc. Manufactured Articles 0	0.13	0.15	0.13	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.20	0.17	0.12	0.12	0.14	0.10	0.09	0.07	0.05	.30
		0.05	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3
Goods Not Classed By Kind  Notes: CV means coefficient of var		*****	0.00	$\frac{0.00}{0.00}$	0.01		0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	.26