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**ROMANIA'S COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE BEFORE ADMISSION TO THE
EUROPEAN UNION**

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Abstract. The purpose of this paper is to analyze the Romanian's competitiveness in the light of its external trade. There are a lot of quantitative measures that reveal different facets of the trade competitiveness, but we focused in this article on those regarding the geographical concentration of commercial flows, the intensity of intra-industry flows and the product specialization. All these measures were applied to the case of Romania, indentifying the most competitive traded goods of this country before its admission to the EU. We tried to demonstrate that the so called "low labor cost competitiveness" is a cliché and that this country hat much to offer as a new member of the European Union.

JEL Classification: C43, F14, F15

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