



6.5 Regional trade blocs

Exports within bloc

\$ millions	1970	1980	1985	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998
High-income and low- and middle-income economies								
APEC	57,612	357,697	494,464	901,590	1,689,780	1,754,745	1,869,563	1,736,868
European Union	76,451	456,857	419,134	981,260	1,259,699	1,273,431	1,042,610	1,076,512
NAFTA	22,078	102,218	143,191	226,273	394,472	437,804	496,423	521,649
Latin America and the Caribbean								
Andean Group	97	1,161	768	1,312	4,751	4,806	5,102	5,075
CACM	287	1,174	544	671	1,499	1,676	1,835	2,059
CARICOM	52	577	415	449	305	909	978	1,015
LAIA	1,263	10,981	7,139	12,331	34,513	38,532	44,725	42,941
MERCOSUR	451	3,424	1,953	4,127	14,199	17,075	20,772	20,352
OECS	..	4	10	30	38	32	35	34
Africa								
CEMAC	22	75	84	139	120	164	161	179
CEPGL	3	2	9	7	8	9	6	8
COMESA	412	616	466	963	1,184	1,582	1,486	1,516
ECCAS	37	89	131	163	156	212	211	239
ECOWAS	86	692	1,026	1,533	2,015	2,338	2,358	2,461
MRU	1	7	4	0	2	5	7	8
SADC	76	96	294	930	3,744	4,137	4,163	4,540
UEMOA	52	460	397	614	548	649	680	719
Middle East and Asia								
ASEAN	1,360	12,238	13,423	27,196	77,910	82,543	83,735	67,756
Bangkok Agreement	132	1,464	1,953	4,476	12,070	13,128	13,639	13,243
ECO	31	392	2,447	1,243	4,746	4,773	4,943	4,836
GCC	117	4,632	3,101	6,906	6,529	6,370	5,915	4,248
SAARC	99	664	641	863	2,024	2,147	2,007	2,858
UMA	60	109	274	958	1,124	1,142	916	740



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Exports within bloc

% of total exports	1970	1980	1985	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998
High-income and low- and middle-income economies								
APEC	57.9	57.9	67.7	68.5	72.0	72.1	71.8	69.7
European Union	59.5	60.8	59.2	65.9	62.4	61.4	53.8	55.2
NAFTA	36.0	33.6	43.9	41.4	46.2	47.6	49.1	51.7
Latin America and the Caribbean								
Andean Group	1.8	3.8	3.2	4.1	12.1	10.7	10.3	11.9
CACM	26.0	24.4	14.4	15.4	17.0	18.9	15.5	14.5
CARICOM	4.2	5.3	6.4	8.1	4.7	13.3	13.5	17.1
LAIA	9.9	13.7	8.3	10.9	16.8	16.6	17.2	16.7
MERCOSUR	9.4	11.6	5.5	8.9	20.3	22.7	24.8	25.1
OECS	..	9.2	6.5	8.2	11.7	9.1	9.7	10.6
Africa								
CEMAC	4.8	1.6	1.9	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.6
CEPGL	0.4	0.1	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.6
COMESA	9.1	6.1	4.7	6.6	6.6	7.9	7.6	7.7
ECCAS	2.2	1.4	1.7	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.6	2.0
ECOWAS	2.9	10.1	5.2	7.8	9.3	8.8	9.0	10.8
MRU	0.2	0.8	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.4
SADC	1.4	0.3	1.4	2.8	10.1	10.3	10.0	10.2
UEMOA	6.5	9.6	8.7	12.9	9.8	9.6	11.5	11.1
Middle East and Asia								
ASEAN	22.3	17.2	18.6	18.9	24.3	24.2	23.7	20.4
Bangkok Agreement	2.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	5.1	5.3	5.2	5.1
ECO	2.2	6.3	9.9	3.2	8.0	7.1	7.6	8.3
GCC	4.6	3.0	4.9	8.0	6.6	5.6	4.6	4.5
SAARC	3.2	5.2	4.8	3.2	4.4	4.3	4.0	5.3
UMA	1.4	0.3	1.0	2.9	3.7	3.4	2.6	2.6



6.5 Regional trade blocs

Total exports by bloc

% of world exports	1970	1980	1985	1990	1995	1996	1997	1998
High-income and low- and middle-income economies								
APEC	35.3	33.7	38.9	38.9	46.3	46.1	46.2	45.3
European Union	45.6	41.0	37.8	44.1	39.8	39.3	34.4	35.5
NAFTA	21.7	16.6	17.4	16.2	16.8	17.4	18.0	18.4
Latin America and the Caribbean								
Andean Group	1.9	1.7	1.3	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.8
CACM	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3
CARICOM	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
LAIA	4.5	4.4	4.6	3.4	4.1	4.4	4.6	4.7
MERCOSUR	1.7	1.6	1.9	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5
OECS	..	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Africa								
CEMAC	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
CEPGL	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
COMESA	1.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4
ECCAS	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2
ECOWAS	1.1	0.4	1.0	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4
MRU	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SADC	1.9	1.5	1.1	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8
UEMOA	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Middle East and Asia								
ASEAN	2.2	3.9	3.9	4.3	6.3	6.5	6.3	6.1
Bangkok Agreement	1.8	2.2	2.8	3.5	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.8
ECO	0.5	0.3	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.1
GCC	0.9	8.5	3.4	2.6	2.0	2.2	2.3	1.7
SAARC	1.1	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0
UMA	1.5	2.3	1.5	1.0	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5



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About the data

Trade blocs are groups of countries that have established special preferential arrangements governing trade between members. Although in some cases the preferences—such as lower tariff duties or exemptions from quantitative restrictions—may be no greater than those available to other trading partners, the general purpose of such arrangements is to encourage exports by bloc members to one another—sometimes called intratrade. The table shows the value of merchandise intratrade for important regional trade blocs (service exports are excluded) as well as the size of intratrade relative to each bloc's total exports of goods and the share of the bloc's total exports in world exports.

The data on country exports are drawn from the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Direction of Trade database and should be broadly consistent with those from other sources, such as the United Nations Statistics Division's Commodity Trade (COMTRADE) database. However, trade flows between many developing countries, particularly in Africa, are not well recorded. Thus the value of intratrade for certain groups may be understated. Data on trade between developing and high-income countries are generally complete.

Membership in the trade blocs shown is based on the most recent information available from the International Trade Centre, a joint project of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Although bloc exports have been calculated back to 1970 on the basis of current membership, most of the blocs came into existence in later years and their membership may have changed over time. For this reason, and because systems of preferences also change over time, intratrade in earlier years may not have been affected by the same preferences as in recent years. Differences from previously published estimates may be due to changes in bloc membership or to revisions in the underlying data.

Definitions

- **Exports within bloc** are the sum of exports by members of a trade bloc to other members of the bloc. They are shown both in U.S. dollars and as a percentage of total exports by the bloc.
- **Total exports by bloc as a share of world exports** are the ratio of the bloc's total exports (within the bloc and to the rest of the world) to total exports by all economies in the world.
- **Regional bloc memberships:**
 - Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)**, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong (China), Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Taiwan (China), Thailand, the United States, and Vietnam;
 - European Union**, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom;
 - North American Free Trade Association (NAFTA)**, Canada, Mexico, and the United States;
 - Andean Group**, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and República Bolivariana de Venezuela;
 - Central American Common Market (CACM)**, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua;
 - Caribbean Community (CARICOM)**, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago;
 - Latin American Integration Association (LAIA)**, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and República Bolivariana de Venezuela;
 - Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)**, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay;
 - Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)**, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines;
 - Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC)**, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and São Tomé and Príncipe;
 - Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL)**, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Rwanda;
 - Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)**, Angola, Burundi, Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, the Arab Republic of Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe;
 - Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)**, Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, and São Tomé and Príncipe;
 - Economic**

- Community of West African States (ECOWAS)**, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo;
- Mano River Union (MRU)**, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone;
- Southern African Development Community (SADC)**, Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe;
- West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA)**, Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo;
- Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)**, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam;
- Bangkok Agreement (First Agreement on Trade Negotiation among Developing Member Countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific)**, Bangladesh, India, the Republic of Korea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand;
- Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)**, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan;
- Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)**, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates;
- South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)**, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka; and
- Arab Maghreb Union (UMA)**, Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia.

Data sources

Data on merchandise trade flows are published in the IMF's *Direction of Trade Statistics Yearbook* and *Direction of Trade Statistics Quarterly*; the data in the table were calculated using the IMF's Direction of Trade database. UNCTAD publishes data on intratrade in its *Handbook of International Trade and Development Statistics*. Information on trade bloc memberships comes from the International Trade Centre's website at www.intracen.org/infobase/tguide/welcome.htm.