

AFRICA'S TRADE PARTNERS

The 2011 edition of the *African Economic Outlook* investigates the increasing intensity and changing patterns of Africa's trade. It analyses policy options for African policy-makers to make the best out of Africa's rapid integration into the global economy.

Definition

The data shown here refer to Africa's total merchandise trade, i.e. imports plus exports. These data are broken down by OECD and non-OECD partners and illustrate the biggest countries in each group. The definitions of merchandise imports and exports are explained under "International trade in goods".

Comparability

All the statistics provided are based on "ComTrade SITC Revision 3" data series provided by the United Nations. They have been compiled from trade volumes declared by Africa's trading partners to maximize the availability of the data. They can be considered of reasonable quality and the most comparable series available across countries and over time.

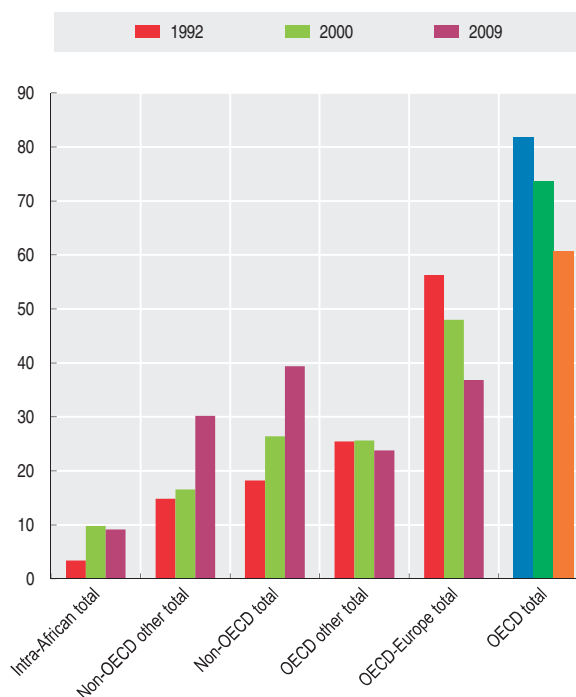
Overview

Trade between Africa and non-OECD countries has been growing rapidly during the past decade. China, India, and Brazil are leading the pack. The share of non-OECD countries in Africa's trade has risen from 26% in 2000 to 39% in 2009. Yet, OECD countries remain key trading partners for the continent and trade volume between them and Africa countries have kept growing. Trade between OECD countries and Africa has doubled in nominal value.

OECD partners still dominate African trade and continue growing, though less rapidly than other emerging partners. The United States was overtaken by China in 2009 as Africa's major trading partner, however both these countries remain far behind the level of trade volumes with the EU total. Some OECD members (for instance, those who were not members of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee a decade ago) such as Korea and Turkey, have seen their own trade with Africa surge rapidly over recent years.

Partner countries and regions of African merchandise trade

As a percentage of total African merchandise trade



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932504120>

Sources

- OECD Development Centre (calculations based on United Nations ComTrade data: SITC Rev. 3).

Further information

Analytical publications

- OECD (2011), *African Economic Outlook*, OECD Publishing.
- OECD (2010), *OECD Economic Surveys: South Africa*, OECD Publishing.
- OECD (2010), *The Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness in Africa 2009: Promise and Performance*, OECD Publishing.
- OECD (2009), *West African Studies*, OECD Publishing.
- OECD and United Nations (2011), *Economic Diversification in Africa: A Review of Selected Countries*, OECD Publishing.

Online databases

- United Nations Comtrade, <http://comtrade.un.org/db>.

Websites

- OECD Development Centre, www.oecd.org/dev.



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Partner countries and regions of African merchandise trade

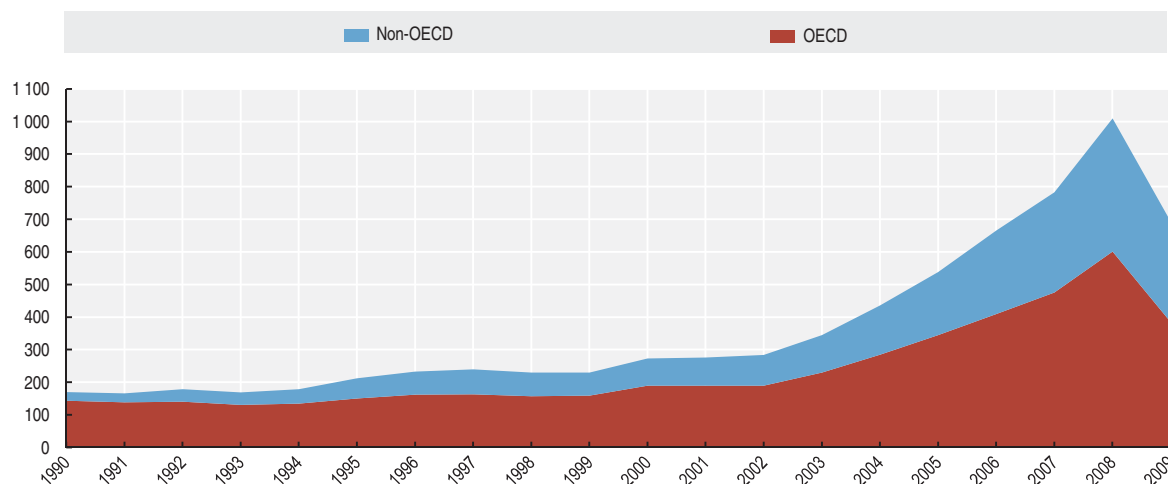
Percentage

	Imports				Exports				Merchandise trade			
	As a percentage of total African merchandise imports				As a percentage of total African merchandise imports				As a percentage of total African merchandise trade			
	1992	2000	2005	2009	1992	2000	2005	2009	1992	2000	2005	2009
OECD total	81.5	70.8	62.2	58.4	82.0	75.7	73.2	62.7	81.8	73.6	68.5	60.6
OECD-Europe total	55.1	49.9	43.9	38.5	57.3	46.6	41.4	35.3	56.3	48.0	42.5	36.8
Belgium	..	3.0	2.6	2.9	..	3.5	2.8	2.1	..	3.3	2.7	2.5
France	16.0	14.3	10.8	9.5	11.7	8.0	7.2	7.8	13.8	10.7	8.8	8.6
Germany	11.4	8.2	8.0	7.1	11.1	7.1	5.5	5.5	11.3	7.6	6.6	6.3
Italy	8.3	7.1	6.1	6.6	13.8	9.4	7.8	9.6	11.2	8.4	7.1	8.1
Netherlands	2.9	2.6	3.0	3.8	3.4	2.5	2.6	3.3	3.1	2.5	2.8	3.5
Portugal	1.4	0.8	0.8	1.4	1.8	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.6	1.0	1.1	1.3
United Kingdom	7.2	5.8	4.5	3.6	5.0	5.5	5.0	3.9	6.1	5.6	4.8	3.7
All others	7.8	8.0	8.1	3.6	10.5	9.5	9.1	2.0	9.2	8.9	8.7	2.8
OECD other total	26.3	21.0	18.3	19.9	24.7	29.1	31.8	27.5	25.5	25.6	26.0	23.8
Canada	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.9	1.9	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.4
Japan	7.4	4.2	3.5	2.8	3.7	3.2	3.2	2.6	5.4	3.6	3.3	2.7
Korea	3.0	2.8	3.5	3.8	1.1	2.0	1.1	1.3	2.0	2.4	2.1	2.5
Turkey	0.9	1.2	1.6	3.0	0.9	1.7	2.0	1.6	0.9	1.5	1.8	2.3
United States	11.2	9.0	6.5	6.9	16.0	18.6	21.1	18.2	13.7	14.5	14.8	12.7
All others	3.0	3.0	2.6	2.5	2.0	2.3	2.5	1.9	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.2
Non-OECD total	18.5	29.2	37.8	41.6	18.0	24.3	26.8	37.3	18.2	26.4	31.5	39.4
Intra-African total	4.2	11.4	10.1	9.9	2.7	8.6	9.1	8.4	3.4	9.8	9.5	9.2
South Africa	2.4	3.4	3.1	3.1	0.4	0.4	0.8	1.3	1.4	1.7	1.8	2.2
All others	1.8	8.0	7.0	6.8	2.3	8.3	8.3	7.1	2.1	8.1	7.7	7.0
Non-OECD other total	14.3	17.8	27.7	31.7	15.3	15.6	17.7	28.8	14.8	16.6	22.0	30.2
Brazil	1.3	1.1	2.6	2.6	0.6	1.9	2.2	2.4	1.0	1.6	2.3	2.5
China and Hong Kong	1.8	4.3	8.1	14.0	1.7	4.2	7.2	12.9	1.7	4.2	7.6	13.5
India	0.9	1.8	2.8	3.9	1.6	2.2	1.6	5.9	1.3	2.1	2.1	4.9
Russian Federation	..	0.9	1.1	1.6	..	0.2	0.3	0.5	..	0.5	0.7	1.0
All others	10.3	9.6	13.1	9.7	11.3	7.1	6.4	7.1	10.8	8.2	9.3	8.3
World	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

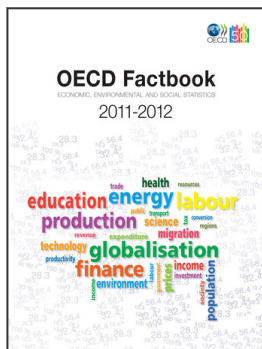
StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932504082>

Africa's merchandise trade flows with OECD and Non-OECD partners

Billion US dollars



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932504101>



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