

COUNTRY TRADE PROFILES

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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia



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Motivation

- A complement to the existing tools developed by and other outputs of ESCWA
- Address a particular need to summarize trade performance in a concise manner for individual Arab countries
- Such profiles should facilitate the communication of key trade statistics to policymakers
- The construction of key indicators by ESCWA rather than relying on already-published trade indicators offer opportunities for a targeted and flexible approached tailored to Arab countries
- Could be updated easily on a regular basis
- Included indicators to allow a quick assessment of regional trade initiatives and agreements

Structure of country profiles...

Trade Performance

- Broad overview
 - Merchandise trade (stacked with agriculture mining and manufacturing)
 - Services (stacked, different services sub-sectors)
 - FDI flows
- Exports and imports by partner and products
 - Top 5 Arab partners and 5 products by volume for each partner
 - Top 5 non-Arab partners and 5 products by volume for each partner

Structure of country profiles...(cont.)

Trade Performance

- Trade structure and competitiveness-related indicators
 - decomposition of merchandise trade along intensive and extensive margins
 - Export concentration index
 - Intra-industry trade index
 - trade specialization correlation
 - trade complementarity index
 - export concentration index
 - export sophistication index

Structure of country profiles...(cont.)

Trade policy

- Average applied tariff rates
- Services trade restrictiveness index
- Type of trade barriers
- RTAs that the country in question is a party to

Pros and cons of the proposed profiles

- Fairly broad coverage of trade flows, not limited to merchandise trade
- Also a stocktaking exercise for the availability of pertinent data for individual Arab countries
- Underlying data, with differing levels of granularity, are compiled from various sources to construct indicators featured
- Highly disaggregated merchandise trade data are used (adds computational and data manipulation burden)
- Possible to specify different country groups as most relevant partners for Arab countries
- Emerging issues could easily be incorporated

THANK YOU

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