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FOR WESTERN ASIA (ESCWA)**

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**EXTERNAL TRADE BULLETIN
OF THE ESCWA REGION**

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Introduction

The secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is pleased to present the twentieth issue of the *External Trade Bulletin of the ESCWA Region*.

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The Bulletin includes data and statistical indicators on the international trade in goods of ESCWA member countries, based primarily on national sources, as well as from secondary sources where appropriate.

The *External Trade Bulletin of the ESCWA Region* aims to provide complete, detailed international merchandise trade data on ESCWA member countries for the users of such statistics, including planners and researchers at the national, regional and international level, to assist them to meet their needs in this area of statistics.

The Bulletin is divided into three parts:

Part I includes summary tables on the overall trade trends and the share of the region in total world trade. It includes a set of indicators on the share of external trade in the gross domestic product (GDP) of ESCWA member countries and also itemizes the total imports, exports and trade balance of ESCWA member countries.

Part II presents the values of intraregional trade in the ESCWA region in a series of tables that show the importance of intraregional trade as part of total world trade, identifying the trade network within the region and providing a concise reflection of the structure of intraregional trade according to the Harmonized System (HS) sections. Trade in crude oil has been excluded from the data in this part in order to show the structure of intraregional non-oil merchandise.

Part III provides data on the direction of trade of ESCWA member countries with other countries and regions during the period 2007-2011. Iraq is not included in these country tables, due to the unavailability of detailed data. The data in this part also cover the value of imports and exports of ESCWA member countries by main countries and economic groupings as employed by the United Nations Statistics Division and other international organizations.

2010 –2006

General notes

Part I. Summary of the external trade statistics of ESCWA member countries

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Tables I.1 to I.8 include crude oil and oil products.

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8-1 1-1

Tables I.1 and I.2 show the share of the ESCWA region in total world trade and annual trade growth rates for ESCWA member countries respectively. In both tables, ESCWA member countries are divided into two groups: major oil exporting countries and other countries.

2-1 1-1

Following the definitions of the relevant international sources, total world trade is being defined in this bulletin as the sum of exports of all countries in the world. Identified in this manner, world exports would equal to world imports after deducting shipping and insurance charges. Total ESCWA trade is defined as exports of member countries added to their imports and deducting intra-regional imports as that represents the region's net contribution to world trade.

4-1 3-1

Tables I.3 and I.4 include a set of indicators on the share of external trade in the gross domestic product (GDP) of ESCWA member countries and total trade per capita.

Annual growth rates for the periods 1991-2001 and 2001-2011 are calculated using exponential trend functions.

2001-1991

2011-2001

Tables I.7 and I.8 show the percentage share of import and export values for each ESCWA member country by HS sections in the total imports and exports.

8-1 7-1

Part II. Intraregional trade of ESCWA member countries

:2

All tables in part II exclude crude oil unless otherwise indicated in the footnotes.

Table II.3 and II.4 show matrices of intraregional values of imports and exports of ESCWA member countries by reporting country and partners.

4-2 3-2

Tables II.7 should be interpreted with care when used to obtain trade balances between ESCWA member countries, as the statistics may not reflect the true situation, since certain member countries utilize the general trade system to record their international trade statistics, while others use the special trade system.

7-2

Part III. Direction of trade of ESCWA member countries

:3

Foreign trade partners of ESCWA member countries are classified as “developed” and “developing” economies, distributed over the five continents (Africa, America, Asia, Europe and Oceania).

Crude oil values are included as a separate item in the world aggregate in order to reflect the share of oil in ESCWA member country imports and exports; detailed data on this commodity are usually not available.

Some differences may be found between data given in tables I.5 and I.6 and those given in tables I.7 and I.8 and III.1 to III.13. This may be attributed to the non-distribution of crude oil import/export values or re-export values by HS sections to different countries and economic blocs, the non-distribution of import/export values of free zones and non-monetary gold, or may simply be attributable to differences in approximation.

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6-1 5-1

.13-3 1-3 8-1

Abbreviations and symbols

Abbreviations

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c.i.f	Including cost, insurance and freight
f.o.b.	Free on board
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CACEU	Central African Customs and Economic Union
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EU	European Union
HS	Harmonized System
LAIA	Latin American Integration Association
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification

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Symbols

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*	Preliminary estimates
..	Data not available
—	Negligible or zero

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