Trends in world trade: Looking back over the past ten years
Merchandise trade


World exports of agricultural products increased by an average of 5% per year.

World merchandise trade by major product grouping, 2006-2016 (US$ billion)

World exports of fuels and mining products have declined by 10% since 2006.

World merchandise trade by major product grouping, 2006-2016 (Index 2006 = 100)

World exports of agricultural products have increased by 70% since 2006.

Note: World trade is calculated as an average of exports and imports of merchandise trade.
World exports of commercial services totalled US$ 4.8 trillion in 2016, up from US$ 2.9 trillion in 2006.

World trade in commercial services by category, 2006-2016 (US$ billion)

Travel and other commercial services have increased the most, with both being 1.7 times higher than in 2006.

World trade in commercial services by category, 2006-2016 (Index, 2006 = 100)

Note: World trade is calculated as an average of exports and imports of commercial services.
Regional trade agreements

The European Union and the North American Free Trade Agreement continue to dominate trade among regional trade agreements.

Merchandise exports of regional trade agreements, 2006-2016 (US$ billion)

Trade within the EU represented 63% of all EU total exports in 2015. In NAFTA, ASEAN, SADC and MERCOSUR, intra-trade totalled 50%, 24%, 18% and 14% respectively.

Exports within regional trade agreements, 2006-2015* (Share, %)

* Latest period for which intra-trade data is available.
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WTO membership

WTO members account for 98.2% of world merchandise trade. Asia, Europe and North America account for 88% of this total.

Share in world merchandise trade of WTO members, 2006-2016 (Percentage, %)

Merchandise trade of WTO members has increased to US$ 15.4 trillion, up from US$ 11.7 trillion in 2006.

World merchandise trade of WTO members, 2006-2016 (US$ billion)

Note: World trade is calculated as an average of exports and imports of merchandise trade.
The top 10 traders in merchandise trade account for a little over half of the world’s total trade in 2016.

Developing economies had a 41% share in world merchandise trade in 2016.

Note: Includes significant re-exports or imports for re-export.

The top 10 traders in world commercial services represent more than half of the world’s total trade in commercial services in 2016.

Developing economies accounted for 34% of total trade in commercial services in 2016.

Exports of commercial services by WTO members totalled US$ 4.73 trillion in 2016.