OVERVIEW

WTO Member: since 1995
LDC graduation: met criteria for the first time in 2021

Population (million)*
Life expectancy at birth (years)**
Exports to GDP ratio (%)***
Female labor force participation*
Share of internet users****

1,057.4
Djibouti
67
110
56
59
65
18
65

1.0
All 46 LDCs

GRADUATION PROGRESS

Criteria monitored by the United Nations for graduation from the LDC category:

- GNI: Gross National Income per capita, $
- EVI: Economic Vulnerability Index
- HAI: Human Assets Index

Djibouti met the income-only criterion threshold for the first time in the UN triennial review of 2021 (E/2021/33). It may be considered to be eligible for graduation at the 2024 triennial review.

Trade Impacts of LDC Graduation examines the implications of graduation in terms of LDCs’ participation in the multilateral trading system, market access opportunities and development assistance.

EVI | HAI | GNI (right axis)
---|---|---
80 | 60 | 4000
60 | 40 | 3000
40 | 20 | 1000
20 | 0 | 0

Triennial Reviews of the UN Committee for Development Policy:

An LDC is eligible for graduation, if: i) it meets two of the three graduation criteria, or ii) its income per capita doubles the income graduation threshold. The graduation criteria should be met at two consecutive triennial reviews of the UN Committee for Development Policy for a country to be recommended for graduation.


EVOLUTION OF EXPORTS

Merchandise exports of Djibouti increased to USD 4.0 billion in 2019. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has put a brake on the rise of its merchandise exports which dropped to USD 2.8 billion in 2020.

Commercial services exports of Djibouti increased to USD 791 million in 2019 but sharply declined to USD 614 million in 2020. Djibouti’s commercial services were dominated by the transport sector.

Merchandise exports (USD billion)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Agricultural products</th>
<th>Fuels and mining products</th>
<th>Manufactures</th>
<th>Total merchandise</th>
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<td>2013</td>
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</table>

Commercial services exports (USD billion)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Travel</th>
<th>Other commercial services</th>
<th>Transport</th>
<th>Total commercial services</th>
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Source: WTO.
Over the past decade, Djibouti recorded surpluses in commercial services trade. These have been offset by deficits in merchandise trade, with notable exceptions in 2018 and 2019. The trade deficit stood at 0.4 billion in 2020, equal to the average for the period 2011–2018.

Top-5 export destinations accounted for more than two thirds of all goods exports of Djibouti in 2020.

The biggest market was Ethiopia, accounting for a quarter of its goods exports.

Vegetable products represented more than a third of its goods exports.

**TRADE STRUCTURE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of exported goods* in 2020:</th>
<th>Number of export partners in 2020:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Djibouti</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average across all graduating WTO Members</td>
<td>413</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* HS 4-digit products based on export statistics in 2020.

Source: UN COMTRADE.

**TRADE POLICY**

Region: Djibouti

Preference underutilization refers to the share of imports from Djibouti facing MFN duties despite being eligible for trade preferences.

**Trade balance**

(USD billion)

![Trade balance chart](chart)

**Bound tariffs**

(simple average)

![Bound tariffs chart](chart)

**Binding coverage**

Total

Source: WTO and SDG Trade Monitor.

Notes: Information as of January 2022. Figures for the year 2020 include estimates. Number of traded goods at 4-digit product level of the harmonized system (HS) and number of trading partners in 2020 based on trade data exceeding USD 10,000 retrieved from UN COMTRADE. Regional trade agreements in force and notified to the GATT/WTO taken from the WTO RTA database. Preference underutilization rates based on data of the WTO Integrated Database (G/RO/W/204).