Djibouti

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

OVERVIEW

WTO Member: **since 1995**

LDC graduation: **met criteria for the first time in 2021**

● Djibouti　● All 46 LDCs

1,057.4
1.0
Population (million)*

67
65
Life expectancy at birth (years)*

110
18
Exports to GDP ratio (%)**

56
51
Female labor force participation*

59
25
Share of internet users***

● Djibouti
● Other graduating WTO members
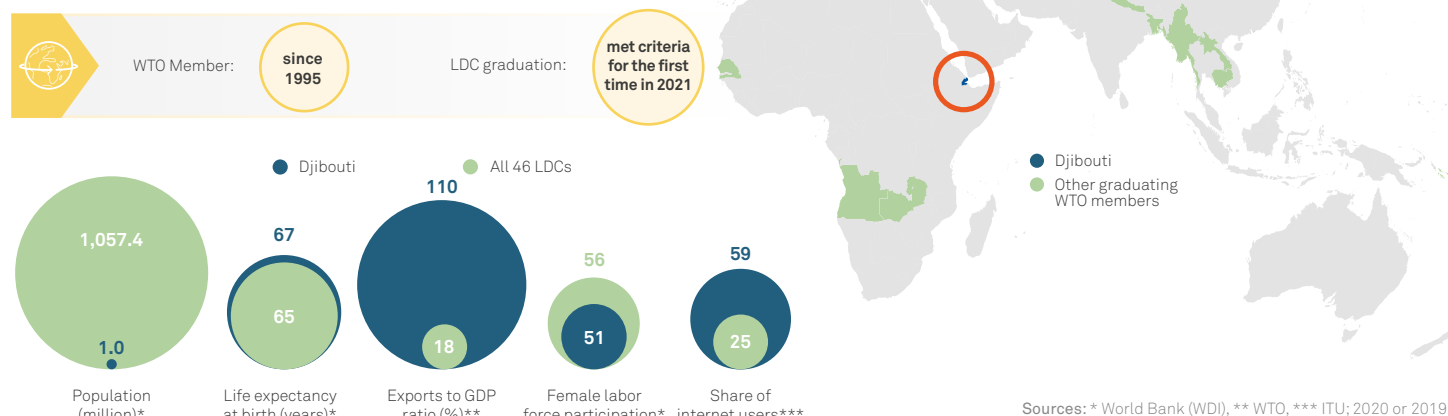
Sources: * World Bank (WDI), ** WTO, *** ITU; 2020 or 2019.

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)

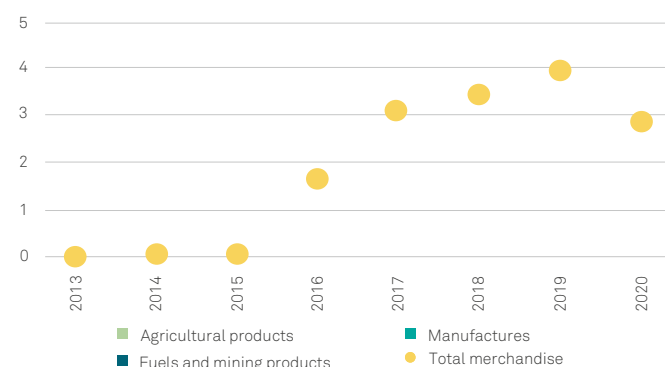Triennial Reviews of the UN Committee for Development Policy: ✓　✓
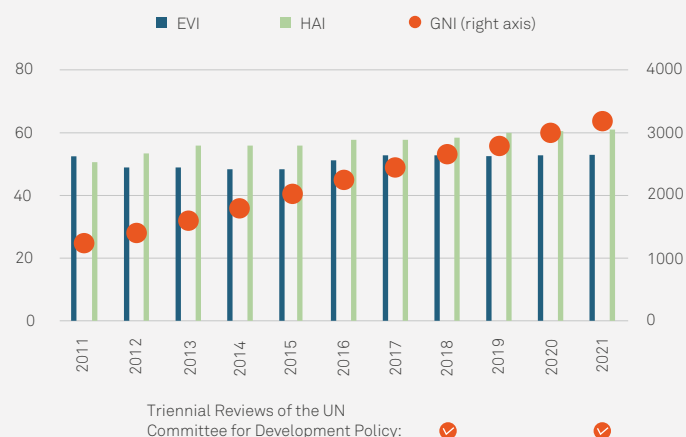
An LDC is eligible for graduation, if: i) it meets two of the three graduation criteria, or ii) its income per capita doubles the income graduation threshold. The graduation criteria should be met at two consecutive triennial reviews of the UN Committee for Development Policy for a country to be recommended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

Source: United Nations (DESA).

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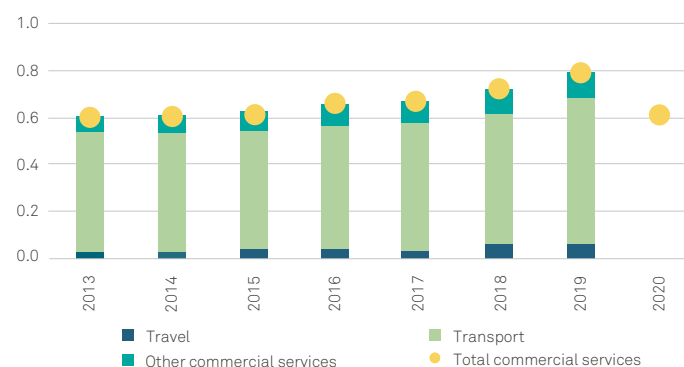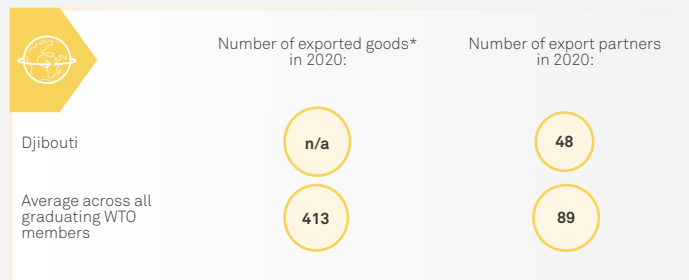
Commercial services exports of Djibouti increased to USD 791 million in 2019 but sharply declined to USD 614 million in 2020. Djibouti's commercial services were dominated by the transport sector.

▼ **Merchandise exports**
(USD billion)

■ Agricultural products　■ Manufactures
■ Fuels and mining products　● Total merchandise

Break in the data series in 2016. No sectoral breakdown available.

▼ **Commercial services exports**
(USD billion)

■ Travel　■ Transport
■ Other commercial services　● Total commercial services

Source: WTO.

— Djibouti

TRADE STRUCTURE

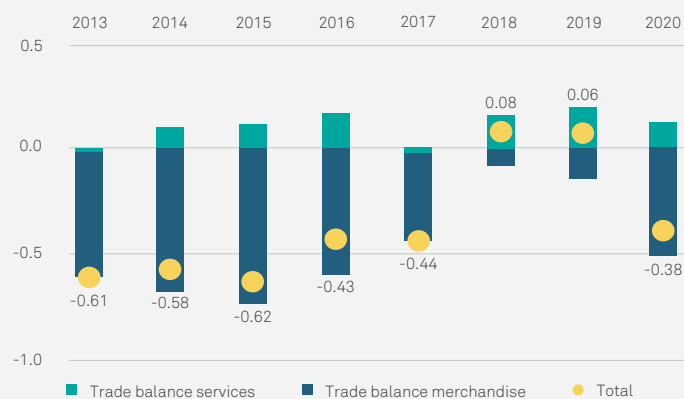|	Number of exported goods* in 2020:	Number of export partners in 2020:
Djibouti	n/a	48
Average across all graduating WTO members	413	89

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

Source: UN COMTRADE.

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 2011-2019.

▶ Trade balance
(USD billion)

2013: -0.61
2014: -0.58
2015: -0.62
2016: -0.43
2017: -0.44
2018: 0.08
2019: 0.06
2020: -0.38

■ Trade balance services   ■ Trade balance merchandise   ● Total
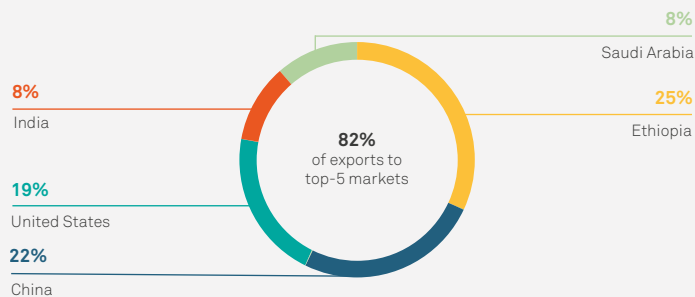
Break in the data series in 2016.

Source: WTO.

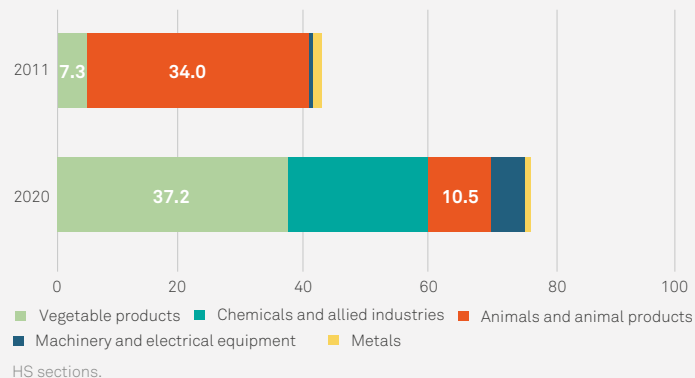**Top-5 export destinations** accounted for more than two thirds of all goods exports of Djibouti in 2020.

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

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

▶ Top-5 export markets in 2020
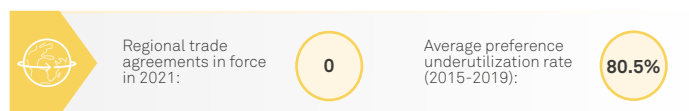### Share of global imports from Djibouti

82% of exports to top-5 markets

- Ethiopia 25%
- Saudi Arabia 8%
- India 8%
- United States 19%
- China 22%

▶ Top-5 export product groups, 2020
Share of global imports from Djibouti

2011: 7.3 | 34.0
2020: 37.2 | 10.5

■ Vegetable products   ■ Chemicals and allied industries   ■ Animals and animal products
■ Machinery and electrical equipment   ■ Metals

HS sections.

Source: UN COMTRADE, based on import statistics.

TRADE POLICY

|	Regional trade agreements in force in 2021:	Average preference underutilization rate (2015-2019):
	0	80.5%

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

▶ Tariffs applied to exports of Djibouti
(weighted average, 2019)

● Incl. preferential tariffs   ● MFN

- Agriculture: 0.1 / 1.3
- Other sectors: 0.2 / 1.7
- **All products**: 0.5 / 2.2
- Textile: 2.7 / 7.5
- Clothing: 8.1 / 13.8
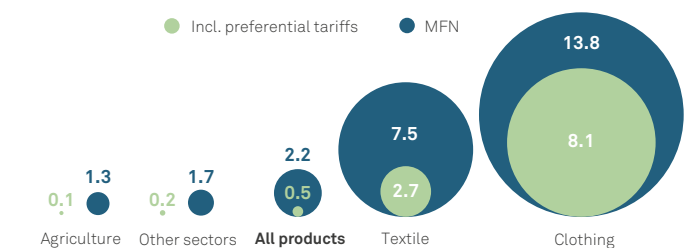
Other sectors summarize all product groups that do not belong to agriculture, textiles, clothing, or fuels.

▶ Bound tariffs
(simple average)

- Agriculture: 50%
- Non-agricultural goods: 40%
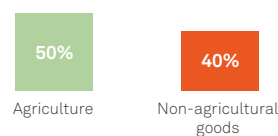
▶ Binding coverage
Total

100%

▶ Tariffs applied by Djibouti to its imports
(simple average)

■ Agricultural products   ■ Non-agricultural products   ■ Total
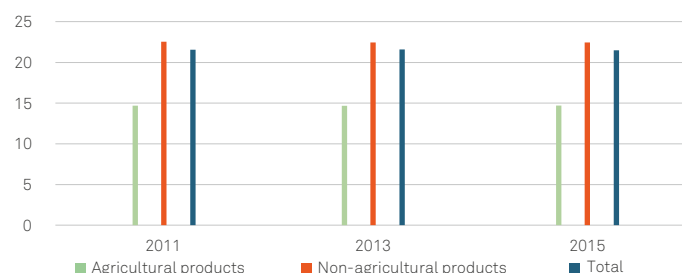
Including interpolated data. Latest tariff data available for 2014.

Sources: 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).