Myanmar

OVERVIEW

WTO Member: since 1995
LDC graduation: met criteria in 2018 and 2021

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

Myanmar met the criteria for graduation in the UN triennial reviews of 2018 and 2021. The decision on a recommendation for graduation was deferred until the 2024 triennial review (E/2021/33).

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.

EVOLUTION OF EXPORTS

Merchandise exports of Myanmar increased from USD 9.2 billion in 2011 to USD 18.0 billion in 2019. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a decline of its merchandise exports to USD 16.7 billion in 2020.

Commercial services exports of Myanmar increased more than sixfold from USD 727 million to USD 6.5 billion between 2011 and 2019 but decreased to USD 4.3 billion in 2020, mainly due to a collapse of travel services induced by the pandemic.

Over the past decade, Myanmar recorded surpluses in commercial services trade. These have been offset by deficits in merchandise trade, with a notable exception in 2019. The trade deficit averaged USD 1.8 billion over the period 2011-2019 and stood at USD 0.3 billion in 2020.

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

- **The biggest market** was China, accounting for roughly a third of its goods exports.
- **Textiles and clothing** represented more than 30% of its goods exports, followed by fuels.

### Top-5 export product groups, 2020

#### Share of global imports from Myanmar

- **Textiles and clothing**: 72% of exports to top-5 markets
- **China**: 31% of exports to top-5 markets
- **European Union**: 15% of exports to top-5 markets

#### Top-5 export product groups, 2020

- **Textiles and clothing**: 31.6%
- **Fuels**: 17.4%
- **Vegetable products**: 10.1%
- **Metals**: 3.7%
- **Mineral products**: 0.6%

### TRADE POLICY

- **Regional trade agreements in force**: 8
- **Average preference underutilization rate (2016-2019)**: 12.8%

#### Tariffs applied to exports of Myanmar (weighted average, 2019)

- **Incl. preferential tariffs**: 3.1%
- **MFN**: 10.8%
- **Clothing**: 12.6%
- **Agriculture**: 10.5%
- **Textile**: 4.5%
- **Other sectors**: 4.4%

#### Bound tariffs

- **Agriculture**: 104%
- **Non-agricultural goods**: 21%

#### Binding coverage

- **Total**: 18.6%

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/R/W/204).