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# OIC OUTLOOK

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## AN OVERVIEW OF THE TRADE AMONG OIC COUNTRIES

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# OIC OUTLOOK

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### INTRODUCTION

Since the early 1970s, member states of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) have been pursuing the goal of enhancing economic and commercial cooperation to improve the economic linkages and coordination among themselves and to jointly act against the global challenges facing them. Trade has been paid special importance in this regard and, accordingly, considerable efforts have been so far spent at various OIC levels to develop ways and means of joint cooperative action to expand the trade among the OIC countries (intra-OIC trade).

The Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among the Member States of the OIC (TPS-OIC), adopted by the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the OIC (COMCEC) held in Istanbul, Turkey, in October 1990, is the most notable initiative in this context. The Agreement, which set up the general principles towards establishing a preferential trade system, aims at promoting trade among the member states through the exchange of trade preferences on the basis of equal and non-discriminatory treatment among all participating Member States. However, it was not until 2002 that the Agreement became effective upon ratification by 10 member states. Then, related to that agreement, followed two agreements in November 2005 and September 2007: (i) Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for TPS-OIC (PRETAS) that mainly deals with reducing the tariffs of the products covered under the Scheme as well as para-tariff and non-tariff barriers, and (ii) TPS-OIC Rules of Origin that, after entering into force, will be applied for determining the origin of the products eligible for preferential concessions under the TPS-OIC and PRETAS. The protocol entered into force in 5 February 2010 after ratification by 10 participating member states while the agreement on rules of origin is still waiting for additional four ratifications<sup>1</sup>.



Lately, enhancing intra-OIC trade was also among the priorities of the Ten-Year Programme of Action<sup>2</sup>, which set a target of 20% level for intra-OIC trade to be achieved during the period covered by the Programme (by 2015). The Programme also called upon the member states to sign and ratify all existing OIC trade and economic agreements and mandated the COMCEC “to promote measures to expand the scope of intra-OIC trade, and to consider the possibility of establishing a Free Trade Area between the Member States in order to achieve greater economic integration” to achieve the 20% target.

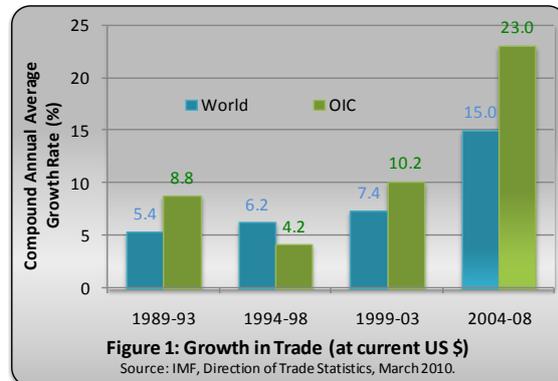
It is with this inspiration that this study presents an analytical overview of the evolution and the current structure of the merchandise trade among OIC countries. It should be noted that all trade values in this study are expressed in current prices of US dollars and cover only the “visible trade” –the exports and imports of physical goods– leaving out the “invisible trade” that comprises expenditures on services, property income payments, and transfer payments. On the other hand, exports are valued at f.o.b. prices while imports are valued at c.i.f. prices.

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix I for a list of the member states having signed/ratified the three TPS-OIC agreements.

<sup>2</sup> “Ten-Year Programme of Action to Meet the Challenges Facing the Muslim Ummah in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”, Third Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference, Makkah al Mukarramah - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 7-8 December 2005.

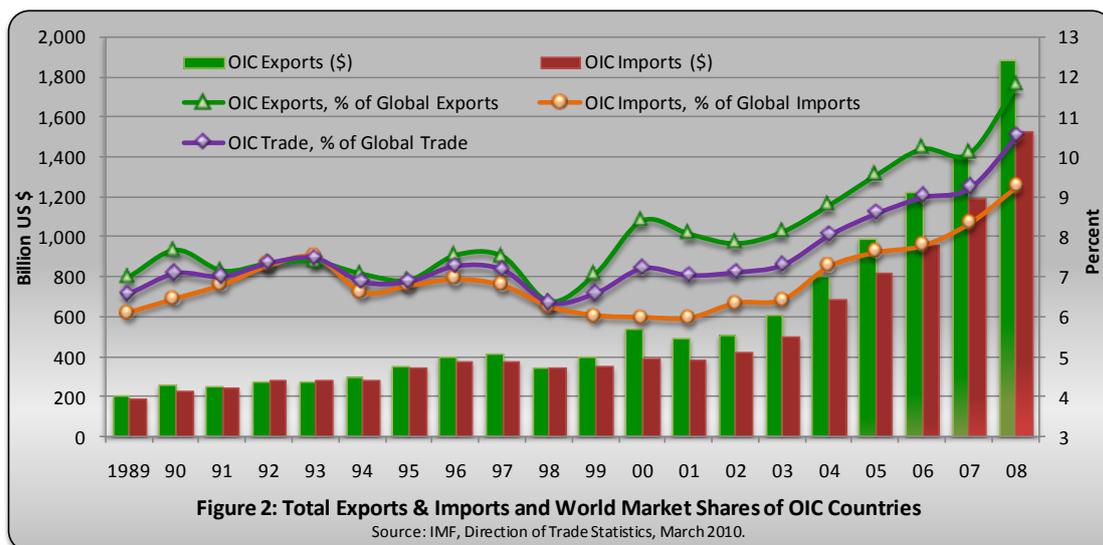
## RECENT TRENDS IN GLOBAL TRADE AND THE PERFORMANCE OF OIC COUNTRIES

International trade has been rapidly increasing in recent two decades along with the broadest and deepest wave of globalization the world has ever seen. Estimates show that world merchandise trade –exports plus imports of goods– amounted to \$32.6 trillion in 2008, compared to \$6.1 trillion in 1989. In those recent two decades, global exports increased from \$3.0 trillion to \$16.0 trillion while imports increased from \$3.1 trillion to \$16.6 trillion. Actually, most of this more than five-fold increase took place in the second half of the last decade, when world trade value grew at an annual average of 15% (Figure 1). In the preceding five-year period of 1999-03, the average growth rate for world trade was only 7.4%, though it was still higher than the averages in both 1994-98 (6.2%) and 1989-93 (5.4%).



On the other hand, the average growth for total trade of OIC countries was always higher than the world averages in all the five-year periods under consideration except in 1994-98 (Figure 1). The difference was highest in the last period of 2004-08, when the growth for OIC countries averaged at 23.0%, outperforming the world average by 8.0 percentage points. Accordingly, total trade of OIC countries reached \$3.4 trillion in 2008, 4.5-times the level a decade ago and 8.5-times the level two decades ago.

The growth performance for the trade of OIC countries could also be observed from Figure 2, where both exports and imports of OIC countries are clearly seen to have gained a significantly increasing trend after the economic downturn experienced in the global economy in 2001. Total OIC exports reached \$1889 billion in 2008, almost quadrupled in six years while it had increased only 2.6 times between 1989 and 2000. In parallel, total OIC imports amounted to \$1530 billion in 2008, 4-times the level in 2001 and 8-times the level two decades ago.



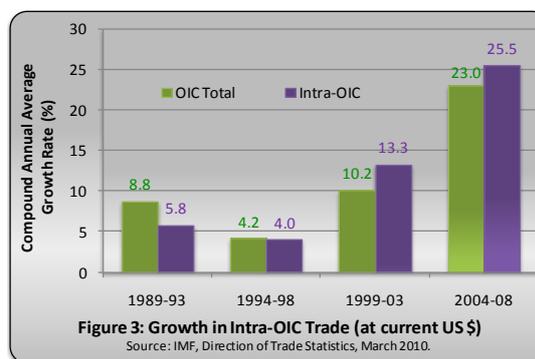
As one would expect, the growth performance of OIC countries in trade, which surpassed the world average in recent years in particular, translated into an increasing share in global trade. World market share of OIC countries in trade, which long fluctuated between 6.5% and 7.5% until 2003, increased up to 10.5% in 2008 (Figure 2). Behind that development in late 2000s was

the sharp increase in their market shares in both exports and imports, the former reaching up to 11.8% in 2008 from around 8% in early 2000s and the latter rising to 10.5% from around 7% in the same period.

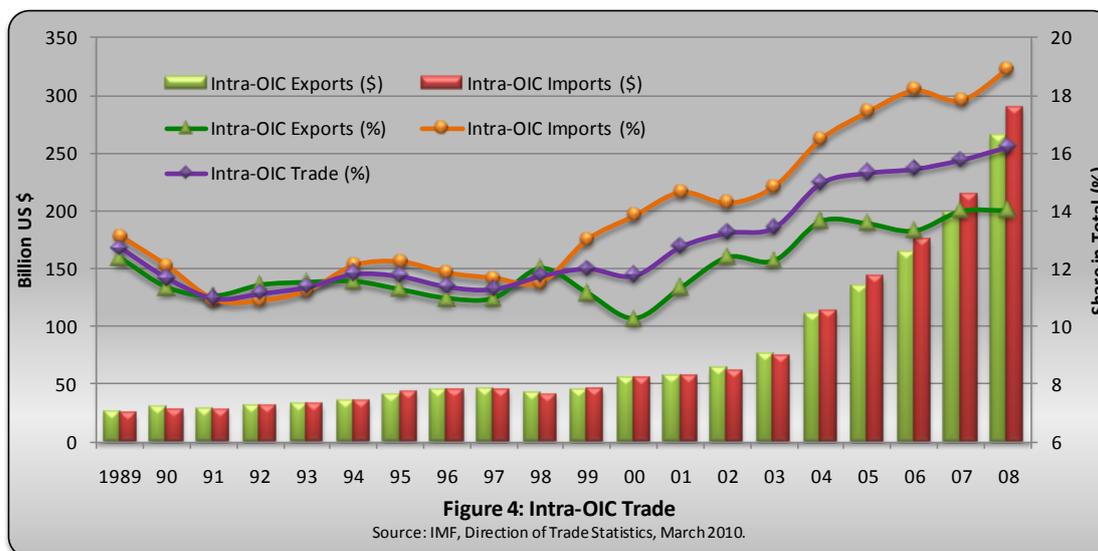
### RECENT TRENDS IN INTRA-OIC TRADE

Despite the long history of the OIC, trade among the member countries (intra-OIC trade) had not shown remarkable improvement until the beginning of the 2000s, representing around 11-12% of their total trade (Figure 4). Compared to late 1980s, this share had even deteriorated by the end of 1990s because, during that period, the growth in intra-OIC trade remained below that in total trade of OIC countries (Figure 3). This was more apparent in the first half of the period when the difference between those growth rates was 3 percentage points, which led to a decline in intra-OIC trade from 12.7% in 1989 to 11.4% in 1993. The gap almost closed in the following 5-year period with a negligible difference between the growth rates, such that the share of intra-OIC trade did not change notably and remained around 11.8%.

Things apparently changed after the year 2000. In 2001, intra-OIC trade was over 12% for the first time since 1989. In fact, that improvement could be contributed to the global economic downturn at that year with a shrink in global demand and consequently in exports of OIC countries to the world (see Figure 2) given that intra-OIC exports value did not change notably at that time (see Figure 4). However, the continuous increment in the share of intra-OIC trade in the following years, when both intra- and total-OIC exports increased significantly, disproves the argument that the share of intra-OIC trade is totally driven by trade with the rest of the world. As displayed in Figure 3, the growth in trade among OIC countries exceeded the growth in their total trade in the last decade. In the period 1999-03, intra-OIC trade increased by 13.3% while the increase in total trade remained at 10.2%. This structure was preserved in the last five-year period of 2004-08, for which those rates were 25.5% and 23.0%, respectively. Consequently, the higher increase in intra-OIC trade, as would be expected, reflected into an increase in the share of intra-OIC trade. Accordingly, by 2008, intra-OIC trade had increased to represent up to 16.2% of the total trade of OIC countries. Intra-OIC exports accounted for 14.0% of the total exports while intra-OIC imports comprised 18.9% of the total imports (Figure 4).



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Thus, in nominal terms, intra-OIC trade increased up to \$3.42 trillion by 2008, 3.9 times the level in 2001 and 8.5 times the level in 1989. Intra-OIC exports reached \$265 billion while this figure was only \$56 billion in 2001. As for intra-OIC imports, they totalled \$290 billion compared to 2001 level of \$56 billion.

Despite the recent improvement both in volume and in percentage of intra-OIC trade, there is concern over the possibility to meet the target of 20% by 2015. Indeed, under the current conditions and given the recent growth rates in particular, it seems unlikely to reach that ratio in time. During the period from the adoption of the Ten-Year Programme of Action in 2005 to 2008, total trade of OIC countries grew at an annual average of 23.7% while this rate for intra-OIC trade was 2.4 points higher, so that the share of intra-OIC trade increased from 15.3% to 16.2%. Quantitative reasoning shows that, in order for that share to reach 20% by 2015, the annual average growth in intra-OIC trade will need to exceed that in total OIC trade by at least 3.0-3.4 percentage points provided that the latter be 10% to 25% as in the last decade.

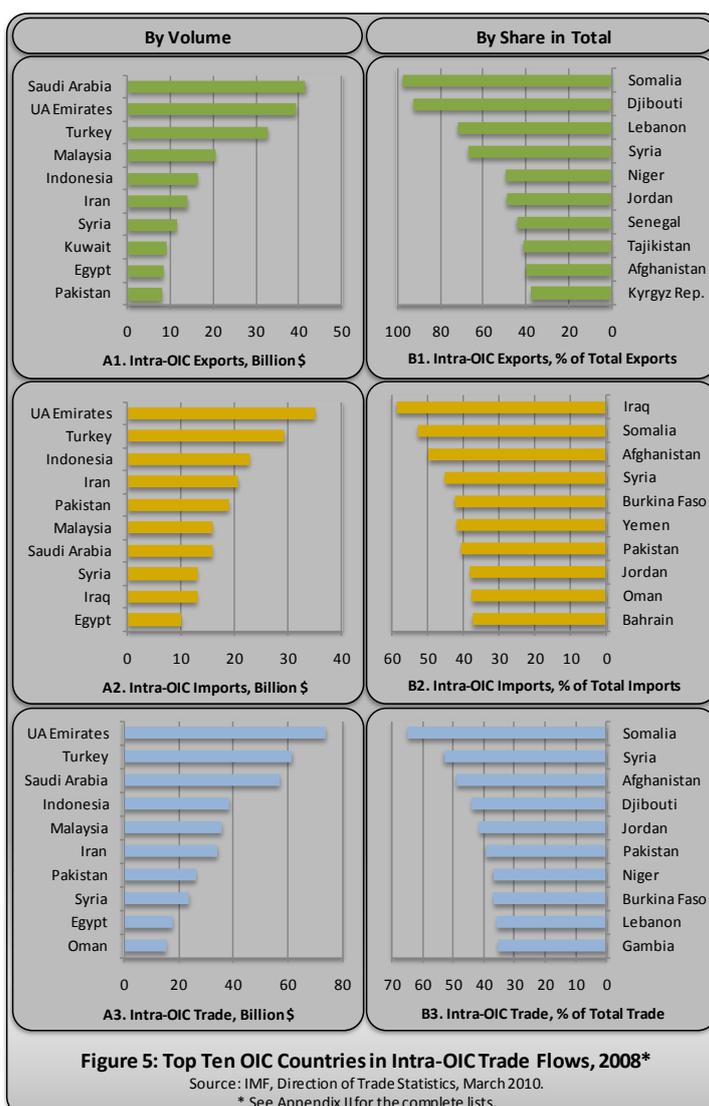
### TOP PERFORMERS IN INTRA-OIC TRADE

Although it is true that intra-OIC trade has increased in value significantly in recent years, it is observed that most of that increase actually originates from a limited number of countries. Data for the year 2008 show that 75% of the intra-OIC exports were undertaken by only ten OIC countries (Figure 5.A1). Saudi Arabia took the lead with \$41.5 billion or 15.6% of the total intra-OIC exports, followed by United Arab Emirates (\$39.2 billion), and Turkey (\$32.6 billion).

Malaysia, Indonesia, Iran, Syria, Kuwait, Egypt, and Pakistan were the other countries among the top 10 countries with highest volumes of intra-OIC exports. However, it is worth noting that, despite those high volumes, the average share of intra-OIC exports in their total exports was only 16.4%.

On the contrary, some OIC countries with relatively low volumes of intra-OIC exports reported higher shares of intra-OIC exports in their total exports. Accounting for only 8% of the total intra-OIC exports, 10 countries recorded shares that averaged 59.7%. Somalia took the lead with 97.1% of its exports going to OIC countries while Djibouti also recorded a share over 90%. Lebanon, Syria, Niger, Jordan, Senegal, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Kyrgyz Republic were also among the top ten countries with the highest share of intra-OIC exports (see Figure 5.B1).

Similar patterns were also observed in intra-OIC imports. Ten countries, the same countries as in the case of





the EU while those in Latin America & Caribbean and Sub-Saharan Africa mostly exported to North America (see Table 1). Consequently, it is evident that, on regional basis, all member countries, except those in East Asia & Pacific, mostly exported to other regions than they are in.

Considering the regional distribution of intra-OIC exports by origin, it is observed that, of the total \$265.4 billion of intra-OIC exports in 2008, 39.4% originated from the GCC countries. Member countries in Europe & Central Asia, East Asia & Pacific, and the Middle East, as groups, contributed that amount with 13-17% while the other regions each accounted for less than 10% of the total intra-OIC exports (Table 2, last column on the right).

On the other hand, regional distribution of intra-OIC exports by destination reveals that more than one fourth of the intra-OIC exports (26.4%) went to GCC countries while another 22% were destined to the other Middle Eastern member countries. Thus, it is obvious that almost half of the intra-OIC exports were directed to the Middle Eastern OIC countries.

**Table 2: Direction of Intra-OIC Exports, 2008 (%)**

		Partner OIC Countries								Grand Total		
		EAP	ECA	GCC	LAC	ME	NA	SA	SSA	(%)	Billion \$	% of Total
Exporter OIC Countries	<b>EAP</b>	<b>39.9</b>	4.7	23.2	0.04	10.0	6.0	11.2	4.9	<b>100.0</b>	38.8	14.6
	<b>ECA</b>	4.1	26.0	<b>28.7</b>	0.02	22.3	13.6	3.0	2.1	<b>100.0</b>	44.6	16.8
	<b>GCC</b>	12.4	4.7	<b>31.3</b>	0.00	26.0	6.6	15.3	3.7	<b>100.0</b>	104.4	<b>39.4</b>
	<b>LAC</b>	0.5	0.2	<b>77.6</b>	18.3	0.2	0.6	0.3	2.4	<b>100.0</b>	0.2	0.07
	<b>ME</b>	3.5	28.1	20.4	0.00	<b>36.0</b>	8.6	2.1	1.3	<b>100.0</b>	35.4	13.3
	<b>NA</b>	3.4	23.6	14.8	0.00	18.2	<b>30.0</b>	2.3	7.7	<b>100.0</b>	20.7	7.8
	<b>SA</b>	2.6	10.3	<b>46.1</b>	0.02	5.5	2.0	26.2	7.3	<b>100.0</b>	8.8	3.3
	<b>SSA</b>	10.2	5.7	7.9	0.00	2.4	3.9	1.5	<b>68.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	12.3	4.7
Grand	(%)	<b>12.7</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>26.4</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>		100.0
Total	Billion \$	33.7	34.8	70.0	0.06	58.3	25.3	25.4	17.8		265.4	
		EAP: East Asia & Pacific				LAC: Latin America & Caribbean				SA: South Asia		
		ECA: Europe & Central Asia				ME: Middle East exd. GCC				SSA: Sub-Saharan Africa		
		GCC: Gulf Cooperation Council				NA: North Africa						
Source: IMF, Direction of Trade Statistics, March 2010.												
* See Appendix II for regional distribution of the OIC countries.												

Unlike in the case of total exports, intra-OIC exports usually have high intra-regional patterns. In East Asia & Pacific, North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Middle East as well as the GCC, the majority of intra-OIC exports are destined to other member countries in the region. Accordingly, intra-regional exports among OIC countries reach up to 68.4% in Sub-Saharan Africa, 39.9% in East Asia & Pacific, 36.0% in the Middle East, 31.3% in the GCC, and 30.0% in North Africa. Moreover, in Europe & Central Asia and South Asia, where exports to other regions are higher than intra-regional exports, that ratio is as high as 26%. Therefore, it could be claimed that geographical proximity is important for exports of those regions. Overall, for the regions listed in Table 2, intra-regional trade among OIC countries averaged at 33.7%, which implies that, on average, one-third of the intra-OIC exports of each country are destined to members in the same region of that country.

Inter-regional exports among OIC countries are mostly remarkable for exports to the GCC countries. For instance, 77.6% of the total intra-OIC exports of Latin American members went to GCC countries. That ratio reaches 46.1% for South Asian members and 28.7% for Europe & Central Asian members. Other than the GCC, Europe & Central Asia and the Middle East are also important destinations for inter-regional exports among OIC countries. To exemplify, over 20% of the total intra-OIC exports of the Middle Eastern and North African members went to members in Europe & Central Asia while the same holds for exports from Europe & Central Asia and the GCC to the Middle East (see Table 2).

## DIRECTION OF THE IMPORTS

In 2008, more than half of the imports of OIC countries came from countries in East Asia & Pacific (31.3%) and the EU members (26.7%). Countries in Europe & Central Asia were source

to 10.9% while the GCC countries and North American countries provided respectively 7.4% and 7.9% of the total imports. The shares of other regions varied from 1.5% to 4.6% (see Table 3).

OIC countries in East Asia & Pacific bought almost two-thirds of their imports from their own region. Members in South Asia as well as the GCC countries also bought the majority of their imports from countries in East Asia & Pacific. Their imports from the region accounted, respectively, for 34.1% and 31.0% of their total imports. The EU provided the majority of the imports of the members in North Africa (47.4%), Europe & Central Asia (33.2%), Sub-Saharan Africa (31.5%) and the Middle East (23.0%) while the members in Latin America & Caribbean imported mostly from their own region (see Table 3).

**Table 3: Direction of Imports of OIC Countries, 2008 (%)**

		Partner Countries (Including non-OIC Countries)											Grand Total	
		EAP	ECA	GCC	LAC	ME	NA	SA	SSA	EU	NAM	Other	(%)	Billion \$
Importer OIC Countries	EAP	62.8	2.3	5.0	1.8	0.5	0.3	2.2	1.1	10.2	9.6	4.2	100.0	288.8
	ECA	17.3	30.4	1.9	1.5	4.5	1.9	1.5	0.9	33.2	5.7	1.1	100.0	278.7
	GCC	31.0	6.3	8.5	2.0	2.1	0.8	9.1	1.0	27.3	10.6	1.3	100.0	402.7
	LAC	15.6	0.5	0.1	32.9	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.1	20.9	28.4	0.4	100.0	2.8
	ME	21.8	14.0	17.6	2.6	8.5	2.5	3.5	0.5	23.0	4.6	1.4	100.0	165.8
	NA	16.4	9.7	4.0	4.4	1.8	3.6	1.8	0.9	47.4	7.3	2.5	100.0	190.3
	SA	34.1	4.8	22.8	1.2	1.1	0.7	11.1	1.4	12.4	5.3	5.3	100.0	77.0
	SSA	24.6	3.2	3.9	3.2	1.1	1.4	4.1	11.2	31.5	6.7	9.2	100.0	123.3
Grand Total	(%)	31.3	10.9	7.4	2.4	2.8	1.5	4.6	1.8	26.7	7.9	2.8	100.0	
Total	Billion \$	478.6	166.3	113.2	36.2	42.3	22.8	69.8	27.2	408.9	120.8	43.4		1,529.5

EAP: East Asia & Pacific  
ECA: Europe & Central Asia  
GCC: Gulf Cooperation Council  
LAC: Latin America & Caribbean  
ME: Middle East exd. GCC  
NA: North Africa  
SA: South Asia  
SSA: Sub-Saharan Africa  
EU: European Union  
NAM: North America

Source: IMF, Direction of Trade Statistics, March 2010.  
\* See Appendix II for regional distribution of the OIC countries.

Confirming the distribution of intra-OIC exports, regional distribution of intra-OIC imports by destination reveals that more than one fourth of the intra-OIC imports (26.0%) were purchased by the GCC countries while another 21.5% were destined to the other Middle Eastern OIC countries. Consequently, it is clear that almost half of the intra-OIC imports were received by the Middle Eastern OIC countries. Like those in East Asia & Pacific, member countries in Europe & Central Asia were destination for around 13% of the total intra-OIC imports. Members in North Africa and South Asia, as groups, also received an equal amount of imports, 9.5% each (Table 4, last column on the right).

**Table 4: Direction of Intra-OIC Imports, 2008 (%)**

		Partner OIC Countries								Grand Total		
		EAP	ECA	GCC	LAC	ME	NA	SA	SSA	(%)	Billion \$	% of Total
Importer OIC Countries	EAP	49.3	3.8	36.6	0.00	3.6	2.3	0.7	3.6	100.0	39.1	13.5
	ECA	8.2	30.3	13.8	0.01	28.6	14.0	3.0	2.1	100.0	38.1	13.2
	GCC	13.1	18.7	45.6	0.20	11.2	4.5	5.4	1.4	100.0	75.3	26.0
	LAC	27.2	12.9	2.3	53.1	0.1	0.8	3.3	0.4	100.0	0.1	0.02
	ME	5.4	17.4	47.0	0.00	22.4	6.6	0.7	0.5	100.0	62.3	21.5
	NA	9.6	22.8	28.0	0.00	12.1	24.9	0.7	2.0	100.0	27.5	9.5
	SA	15.4	5.4	64.2	0.00	3.1	1.9	9.3	0.7	100.0	27.4	9.5
	SSA	12.4	5.5	24.4	0.02	4.5	8.8	2.7	41.7	100.0	19.8	6.8
Grand Total	(%)	15.5	16.2	39.1	0.1	13.7	7.9	3.2	4.3	100.0		100.0
Total	Billion \$	45.0	46.8	113.2	0.2	39.8	22.8	9.2	12.6		289.5	

EAP: East Asia & Pacific  
ECA: Europe & Central Asia  
GCC: Gulf Cooperation Council  
LAC: Latin America & Caribbean  
ME: Middle East exd. GCC  
NA: North Africa  
SA: South Asia  
SSA: Sub-Saharan Africa

Source: IMF, Direction of Trade Statistics, March 2010.  
\* See Appendix II for regional distribution of the OIC countries.

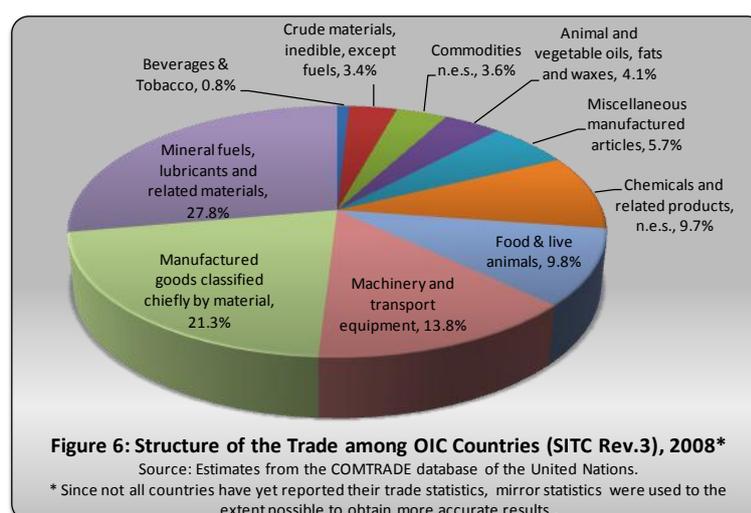
Considering the regional distribution of intra-OIC imports by origin, it is observed that, of the total \$289.5 billion of intra-OIC imports in 2008, \$113.2 billion or 39.1% originated from the GCC countries. Member countries in Europe & Central Asia, East Asia & Pacific, and the Middle East, as groups, supplied, respectively, 16.2%, 15.5%, and 13.7% of the total intra-OIC imports, while the other regions each accounted for less than 10% of the total intra-OIC imports (see Table 4, the last two rows).

It is also observed that intra-OIC imports have higher intra-regional patterns than the total OIC imports. Member countries in 5 of the 8 regions specified in Table 4 bought the majority of their intra-OIC imports from members of the same region they are in. Accordingly, intra-regional imports among OIC countries reach up to 53.1% in Latin America & Caribbean, 49.3% in East Asia & Pacific, 45.6% in the GCC, 41.7% in Sub-Saharan Africa, and 30.3% in Europe & Central Asia. Moreover, in the Middle East and North Africa, where imports from other regions are higher than intra-regional imports, that ratio is around 22-25%. Therefore, it could be claimed that geographical proximity is important for imports of those regions. Overall, for the regions listed in Table 4, intra-regional imports among OIC countries averaged at 33.4%, which implies that, on average, one-third of the intra-OIC imports of each country are provided by members in the same region of that country.

As in the case of exports, inter-regional imports among OIC countries are mostly remarkable for imports from the GCC countries. For instance, 64.2% of the total intra-OIC imports of Latin American members came from the GCC countries. Members in the Middle East and those in North Africa also received the majority of their intra-OIC imports (47.0% and 28.0%, respectively) from the GCC. Despite receiving the majority of their intra-OIC imports from other regions, East Asia & Pacific and Sub-Saharan Africa, too, obtained, respectively, 36.6% and 24.4% of their intra-OIC imports from the GCC. Other than the GCC, East Asia & Pacific, Europe & Central Asia and the Middle East are also important suppliers of inter-regional imports to OIC countries. To exemplify, 28.6% of the intra-OIC imports of the members in Europe & Central Asia came from the Middle Eastern members while 27.2% of the total intra-OIC imports of the Latin American members were supplied by the members in East Asia & Pacific (see Table 4).

#### COMMODITY COMPOSITION OF INTRA-OIC TRADE

It is estimated that, as of 2008, mineral fuels, lubricants, and related materials were the most traded commodity group among the OIC countries, accounting for 27.8% of the total intra-OIC trade. Manufactured goods, with a share of 21.3%, was the second most-traded commodity group, followed by machinery and transport equipment that represented 13.8% of the trade. The remaining 37.1% of the trade consisted of food and live animals (9.7%), chemicals and related products (9.7%), miscellaneous manufactured articles (5.7%), animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes (4.1%), inedible crude materials excluding fuels (3.4%), beverages and tobacco (0.8%), and other commodities (3.6%).



Closer look into details of the commodity composition of the trade among OIC countries reveals that petroleum, petroleum products and related materials (SITC Rev.3 code 33) are the top

traded commodities, representing 17% of the total intra-OIC trade. Next come iron and steel (code 67) with a share of 8% and road vehicles (code 78) with a share of 4% (see Table 5, bottom right corner).

Although it is well known that the GCC countries are major suppliers of petroleum to the world, petroleum products, by value, were the top commodities in intra-OIC exports of member countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and North Africa, as well, accounting for, respectively, 52%, 51%, and 26% of their exports to OIC countries. Moreover, those commodities were the most imported ones from OIC countries by members in all regions except the GCC and South Asia, where they were the second-most imported commodities. For instance, almost half of the total intra-OIC imports of the members in Latin America and one third of the total intra-OIC imports of those in East Asia & Pacific and Sub-Saharan Africa consisted of those commodities (Table 5). However, it is not surprising to see such a picture given the ever growing energy demand and the increase in oil prices. Note that oil prices in US dollars increased by 36% in 2008 over the previous year (IMF, 2009, p.204).

The second-most traded commodities, iron and steel, were mainly exported by members in East Asia & Pacific, where they represented around 26% of their intra-OIC exports, and mostly imported by the GCC countries and members in North Africa and in the Middle East, accounting for, respectively, 15%, 7%, and 6% of their total intra-OIC imports (Table 5).

The third-most traded commodity group, road vehicles, appears in the top-three exports commodity only for the GCC countries, accounting for 8% of their exports to OIC countries. In imports, they seem to be important for members in the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa, representing, respectively, 7% and 5% of their total intra-OIC imports.

**Table 5: Top-three Commodities Traded among OIC Countries by Region, 2008\***

		Importer OIC Countries																	
		EAP		ECA		GCC		LAC		ME		NA		SA		SSA		All	
		Code	Share (%)	Code	Share (%)	Code	Share (%)	Code	Share (%)	Code	Share (%)	Code	Share (%)	Code	Share (%)	Code	Share (%)	Code	Share (%)
Exporter OIC Countries	EAP	33	28	65	20	89	13	42	27	42	37	42	40	42	53	42	44	42	20
		42	7	42	12	76	10	93	8	09	8	65	6	32	4	64	8	33	12
		68	6	23	9	42	8	82	8	64	7	63	5	65	4	55	6	89	4
	ECA	33	78	33	22	67	58	67	39	67	18	67	22	04	36	67	21	67	26
		04	7	04	10	33	9	04	10	33	18	78	9	33	28	04	14	33	17
		67	2	67	8	77	5	78	9	77	6	04	8	67	4	69	7	04	7
	GCC	34	38	57	27	33	16	58	39	78	14	33	19	33	31	78	22	33	15
		33	28	78	12	66	8	78	27	33	11	34	13	57	10	06	6	78	8
		57	10	97	11	93	6	04	17	65	6	78	11	79	8	57	6	57	6
	LAC	28	51	93	42	93	87	33	60	28	72	02	100	28	73	33	53	33	51
		00	12	00	20	66	9	42	7	05	24	-	-	00	17	04	42	93	18
		55	12	03	18	24	1	93	7	00	4	-	-	67	10	93	2	42	6
	ME	33	30	33	10	33	15	04	28	05	16	65	20	05	15	55	14	05	12
		56	23	65	10	05	12	84	26	77	6	84	10	65	10	65	11	33	9
		27	18	84	9	67	7	82	17	65	5	05	9	33	7	54	8	65	7
	NA	27	39	33	50	05	12	69	43	56	13	34	29	52	51	33	35	33	26
		52	16	34	32	77	10	03	39	34	11	33	17	56	28	69	6	34	21
		67	16	52	4	67	8	77	7	02	6	67	5	26	7	66	5	52	25
	SA	65	32	65	55	04	28	72	36	04	56	65	41	65	23	04	53	04	24
		04	18	84	24	33	18	65	24	65	16	72	40	33	20	65	19	65	22
		03	10	78	6	65	13	78	12	66	9	04	4	04	11	66	6	33	13
	SSA	33	67	07	38	33	31	29	40	33	69	07	31	26	56	33	57	33	52
		07	14	22	14	76	9	21	22	22	15	22	16	57	27	66	6	26	5
		26	10	24	7	97	9	77	20	24	3	26	14	28	4	26	3	66	5
All	33	33	33	26	67	15	33	48	33	10	33	12	42	16	33	33	33	17	
	34	6	34	11	33	12	42	9	78	7	34	12	33	16	42	6	67	8	
		42	5	65	6	77	5	93	6	67	6	67	7	65	7	78	5	78	4

EAP: East Asia & Pacific      LAC: Latin America & Caribbean      GCC: Gulf Cooperation Council      SA: South Asia  
 ECA: Europe & Central Asia      ME: Middle East exd. GCC      NA: North Africa      SSA: Sub-Saharan Africa

Source: United Nations, Commodity Trade Statistics Database (COMTRADE).

\* See Appendix II for regional distribution of the OIC countries. The commodity codes are SITC Rev.3 2-digit codes, explained in Appendix III. Take into account the footnote for Figure 6 as well.

On the other hand, the variety in the member countries in terms of the level of economic development and geographical dispersion is clearly reflected into diversity in top export/import commodities. For the 8 regions in Table 5, 43 out of the 67 2-digit commodity groups entered the top-three export/import commodities list. Moreover, it is noteworthy that trade flows for some regions as exporters or importers are usually concentrated to those few top commodities. For example, exports of the members in East Asia Pacific to members in South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and North Africa consists mostly of fixed vegetable fats and oils (code 42), accounting for 40-50% of the total exports to those regions, while the second most exported commodities have shares of only 4-8%. Both exporters and importers are very likely to be exposed to vulnerabilities due to such heavy reliance on some specific commodities. Therefore, any negative shock affecting such a trade flow may generate serious outcomes for those economies.

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### CONCLUDING REMARKS

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In parallel with the rapid expansion in the global trade, both exports and imports of OIC countries have been increasing rapidly, especially in recent years. The growth in total trade of the OIC countries has even been higher than the world average in the last decade, and this has been more apparent in recent years in particular, leading to a significant increase in the share of OIC countries in global trade.

The analysis of the trade among OIC countries shows that intra-OIC trade has also been rapidly increasing since the early 2000s in parallel with the growth in their total trade. Intra-OIC trade, by value, almost quadrupled in the last seven years by 2008, and its share in total trade of OIC countries, which was around 11-12% until 2000s, rose up to over 16% in 2008. The increase in the share of intra-OIC trade was the result of the growth in intra-OIC trade over that in total trade of OIC countries, which implies that some member countries have recently tended to direct more exports to or imports from some other members.

Given those improvements in intra-OIC trade, it can be stated that the long history of the efforts to enhance economic and commercial cooperation among OIC member states has started to bear its outcomes. A good example in this regards is the enforcement of the framework agreement on establishing a trade preferential system among the member states (TPS-OIC) and the Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for TPS-OIC (PRETAS), which is an important step towards the implementation of the agreement.

Nevertheless, despite the recent improvement both in volume and in the share of intra-OIC trade, there is still concern over the possibility to meet the target of 20% by 2015, set by the Ten-Year Programme of Action adopted in 2005. Indeed, under the current conditions and given the recent growth rates in particular, it seems unlikely to reach that ratio in time. During the period from the adoption of the Programme in 2005 to 2008, total trade of OIC countries grew at an annual average of 23.7% while this rate for intra-OIC trade was 2.4 points higher, so that the share of intra-OIC trade increased from 15.3% to 16.2%. Quantitative reasoning shows that, in order for that share to reach 20% by 2015, the annual average growth in intra-OIC trade will need to exceed that in total OIC trade by at least 3.0-3.4 percentage points provided that the growth in total OIC trade be 10% to 25% as has been in the last decade.

Moreover, although it is true that intra-OIC trade has increased in value significantly in recent years, it is observed that most of that increase actually originates from a limited number of countries. Data for the year 2008 show that 75% of the intra-OIC exports and 66.9% of the total intra-OIC imports were undertaken by only ten OIC countries. Taking both exports and imports together, it is observed that the ten OIC countries with the largest intra-OIC trade volumes, namely United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Iran, Pakistan, Syria, Egypt, and Oman, account for 70% of the total intra-OIC trade. However, the share of intra-OIC trade in their total trade is above 20% only in three of them, namely Syria, Pakistan, and Oman. In contrast, it is observed that some OIC countries with relatively lower volumes of intra-OIC trade reported higher shares of intra-OIC trade in their total trade. Representing around

only 14% of the total trade, ten countries, namely Somalia, Syria, Afghanistan, Djibouti, Jordan, Pakistan, Niger, Burkina Faso, Lebanon, and Gambia, had an average share of 43.5% of intra-OIC trade. Actually, in some of them, the share of intra-OIC exports reached over 90% while this share for imports exceeded 50%.

In this regards, in order to increase the overall share of intra-OIC trade, it is more important to settle incentives to direct more trade from those members with high volumes but low shares of intra-OIC trade to other member countries, as they have higher weight in total intra-OIC trade. As for members with already high shares of intra-OIC trade, the contribution may be in the form of increase in their volume of trade with other OIC countries.

Considering the regional distribution of intra-OIC trade, it is observed that the GCC countries are not only the major suppliers but also the biggest customers. Providing around 2-fifths of the intra-OIC exports, they are also destination for more than one fourth of the intra-OIC imports. It is also observed that intra-OIC trade –both exports and imports– has higher intra-regional patterns than the total OIC trade. In East Asia & Pacific, North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Middle East as well as the GCC, the majority of intra-OIC exports are destined to other member countries in the region. Similarly, in Latin America & Caribbean, East Asia & Pacific, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the GCC, member countries bought the majority of their intra-OIC imports from members of the same region they are in. Therefore, it could be claimed that geographical proximity is important for intra-OIC trade.

On the other hand, an analysis of the structure of the trade among countries revealed that mineral fuels, lubricants, and related materials were the most traded commodity group among the OIC countries. Manufactured goods were the second most-traded commodity group, followed by machinery and transport equipment. Those three groups accounted for almost two-thirds of the total intra-OIC trade. Petroleum and petroleum products alone represented 17% of the total trade among OIC countries. However, it is not surprising to see such a picture given the ever growing energy demand and the increase in oil prices. Yet, it is worth mentioning that trade flows for some regions as exporters or importers are usually concentrated to few commodities. In this regard, both exporters and importers are very likely to be exposed to vulnerabilities due to such heavy reliance on some specific commodities. Therefore, any negative shock affecting such a trade flow may generate serious outcomes for those economies.

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## REFERENCES

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### Appendix I: List of OIC Member States Who Signed/Ratified the Three TPS-OIC Agreements

As of March 2010	Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System (TPS- OIC)		Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme for TPS-OIC (PRETAS)		TPS-OIC Rules of Origin	
	Adopted as per Resolution No.1 of the 6 <sup>th</sup> COMCEC, 7- 10/10/1990		Adopted as per Resolution No.1 of the 21 <sup>st</sup> COMCEC, 22- 25/11/2005		Adopted as per Resolution No.1 of the 23 <sup>rd</sup> COMCEC, 14- 17/11/2007	
	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification	Signature	Ratification
Afghanistan	-	-	-	-	-	-
Albania	-	-	-	-	-	-
Algeria	-	-	-	-	-	-
Azerbaijan	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bahrain	✓	✓	-	✓	-	-
Bangladesh	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Benin	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	-	-	-
Burkina Faso	✓	-	✓	-	✓	-
Cameroon	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-
Chad	✓	-	-	-	-	-
Comoros	-	-	-	-	-	-
Côte d'Ivoire	✓	-	-	-	-	-
Djibouti	-	-	-	-	-	-
Egypt	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-
Gabon	-	✓	-	-	-	-
Gambia	✓	-	-	-	-	-
Guinea	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-
Guinea-Bissau	✓	-	✓	-	✓	-
Guyana	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indonesia	✓	-	-	-	-	-
Iran	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-
Iraq	✓	-	-	-	-	-
Jordan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kazakhstan	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kuwait	✓	-	-	-	-	-
Kyrgyz Republic	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lebanon	✓	✓	-	-	-	-
Libya	✓	✓	-	-	-	-
Malaysia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maldives	-	✓	-	-	-	-
Mali	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mauritania	-	-	-	-	-	-
Morocco	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-
Mozambique	-	-	-	-	-	-
Niger	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nigeria	✓	-	✓	-	✓	-
Oman	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pakistan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
Palestine	✓	-	-	-	-	-
Qatar	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Saudi Arabia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
Senegal	✓	✓	-	-	-	-
Sierra Leone	✓	-	✓	-	✓	-
Somalia	✓	-	✓	-	✓	-
Sudan	✓	-	-	-	-	-
Suriname	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syria	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
Tajikistan	-	-	-	-	-	-
Togo	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tunisia	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-
Turkey	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Turkmenistan	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uganda	✓	✓	-	-	-	-
United Arab Emirates	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Uzbekistan	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yemen	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6</b>

Source: OIC General Secretariat and COMCEC Coordination Office.

## Appendix II: Total and Intra-OIC Trade, 2008

	Intra-OIC Trade (Million \$)			Total Trade (Million \$)			Intra-OIC Trade, % of Total		
	Exports/1	Imports/2	Total/3 (1+2)	Exports/4	Imports/5	Total/6 (4+5)	Exports/7 (1/4)	Imports/8 (2/5)	Total/9 (3/6)
East Asia & Pacific	38,823	39,086	77,910	346,794	288,824	635,618	11.2	13.5	12.3
Brunei	2,297	580	2,877	10,262	2,618	12,880	22.4	22.1	22.3
Indonesia	16,197	22,674	38,871	137,022	129,274	266,296	11.8	17.5	14.6
Malaysia	20,329	15,833	36,162	199,510	156,932	356,442	10.2	10.1	10.1
Europe & C. Asia	44,648	38,125	82,774	253,446	278,695	532,141	17.6	13.7	15.6
Albania	39	398	436	1,151	4,642	5,793	3.4	8.6	7.5
Azerbaijan	3,107	1,343	4,450	47,756	7,166	54,922	6.5	18.7	8.1
Kazakhstan	4,362	2,347	6,709	52,235	43,161	95,397	8.3	5.4	7.0
Kyrgyz Republic	605	680	1,285	1,618	4,071	5,689	37.4	16.7	22.6
Tajikistan	595	1,034	1,629	1,444	3,245	4,689	41.2	31.9	34.7
Turkey	32,597	29,179	61,776	132,313	201,964	334,277	24.6	14.4	18.5
Turkmenistan	1,431	1,875	3,306	9,921	5,291	15,212	14.4	35.4	21.7
Uzbekistan	1,913	1,270	3,183	7,008	9,153	16,161	27.3	13.9	19.7
GCC Countries	104,436	75,297	179,733	690,007	402,748	1,092,755	15.1	18.7	16.4
Bahrain	3,419	4,501	7,920	28,463	11,961	40,424	12.0	37.6	19.6
Kuwait	8,918	5,857	14,775	74,903	25,489	100,392	11.9	23.0	14.7
Oman	7,337	8,645	15,982	35,100	22,923	58,023	20.9	37.7	27.5
Qatar	4,138	5,610	9,748	62,746	28,180	90,926	6.6	19.2	10.7
Saudi Arabia	41,467	15,815	57,282	301,267	114,009	415,276	13.8	13.9	13.8
U.A. Emirates	39,156	34,870	74,026	187,529	200,186	387,715	20.9	17.4	19.1
Latin Amr. & Car.	181	68	249	2,591	2,807	5,398	7.0	2.4	4.6
Guyana	15	41	55	1,011	1,369	2,380	1.4	3.0	2.3
Suriname	166	28	194	1,580	1,438	3,018	10.5	1.9	6.4
Middle East	35,766	63,208	98,974	209,977	168,293	378,270	17.0	37.6	26.2
Djibouti	368	890	1,258	400	2,459	2,858	92.0	36.2	44.0
Iran	14,012	20,569	34,580	116,818	70,126	186,944	12.0	29.3	18.5
Iraq	2,294	12,917	15,211	54,418	21,926	76,344	4.2	58.9	19.9
Jordan	3,888	6,491	10,379	7,960	16,987	24,948	48.8	38.2	41.6
Lebanon	2,759	4,832	7,591	3,867	17,281	21,147	71.4	28.0	35.9
Palestine	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syria	11,333	12,921	24,254	17,040	28,577	45,617	66.5	45.2	53.2
Yemen	1,113	4,588	5,701	9,475	10,937	20,412	11.7	41.9	27.9
North Africa	20,726	27,491	48,217	210,850	190,288	401,138	9.8	14.4	12.0
Algeria	5,734	3,289	9,023	79,280	39,335	118,615	7.2	8.4	7.6
Egypt	8,208	10,021	18,229	31,991	64,673	96,664	25.7	15.5	18.9
Libya	2,744	3,533	6,277	62,420	19,212	81,632	4.4	18.4	7.7
Morocco	1,556	6,755	8,311	19,409	42,076	61,484	8.0	16.1	13.5
Tunisia	2,484	3,893	6,377	17,751	24,992	42,743	14.0	15.6	14.9
South Asia	8,796	27,390	36,186	35,918	77,026	112,943	24.5	35.6	32.0
Afghanistan	190	2,815	3,005	478	5,644	6,123	39.7	49.9	49.1
Bangladesh	640	5,291	5,931	13,628	23,821	37,448	4.7	22.2	15.8
Maldives	5	447	452	188	1,417	1,605	2.4	31.6	28.1
Pakistan	7,961	18,837	26,798	21,623	46,144	67,767	36.8	40.8	39.5
Sub-Saharan Africa	11,976	18,876	30,851	139,222	120,832	260,053	8.6	15.6	11.9
Benin	203	955	1,158	603	7,008	7,611	33.7	13.6	15.2
Burkina Faso	102	732	833	540	1,716	2,256	18.8	42.6	36.9
Cameroon	498	1,079	1,577	5,605	4,385	9,990	8.9	24.6	15.8
Chad	11	236	247	3,601	889	4,490	0.3	26.6	5.5
Comoros	10	51	61	34	224	257	28.9	22.9	23.7
Côte d'Ivoire	2,700	2,691	5,391	9,663	7,611	17,274	27.9	35.4	31.2
Gabon	355	265	620	8,067	2,807	10,874	4.4	9.5	5.7
Gambia	3	329	333	46	892	938	7.2	36.9	35.4
Guinea	88	359	447	1,906	3,767	5,673	4.6	9.5	7.9
Guinea-Bissau	42	87	129	131	306	437	32.4	28.4	29.6
Mali	46	953	999	217	3,121	3,338	21.2	30.5	29.9
Mauritania	220	315	535	2,332	2,281	4,613	9.4	13.8	11.6
Mozambique	17	211	228	2,653	3,804	6,457	0.6	5.5	3.5
Niger	142	582	725	290	1,662	1,952	49.1	35.0	37.1
Nigeria	4,235	3,605	7,840	86,230	53,598	139,828	4.9	6.7	5.6
Senegal	828	819	1,647	1,879	6,404	8,283	44.1	12.8	19.9
Sierra Leone	8	163	171	239	844	1,083	3.4	19.3	15.8
Somalia	416	609	1,025	429	1,149	1,577	97.1	53.0	65.0
Sudan	1,281	3,316	4,597	11,938	10,044	21,982	10.7	33.0	20.9
Togo	382	498	879	1,096	3,796	4,892	34.8	13.1	18.0
Uganda	388	1,022	1,410	1,722	4,526	6,248	22.5	22.6	22.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>265,352</b>	<b>289,542</b>	<b>554,894</b>	<b>1,888,805</b>	<b>1,529,511</b>	<b>3,418,316</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>16.2</b>

Source: IMF, Direction of Trade Statistics, March 2010.

### Appendix III: Commodity Codes–Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Rev.3

00 - Live animals other than animals of division 03
02 - Dairy products and birds' eggs
03 - Fish (not marine mammals), crustaceans, molluscs and aquatic invertebrates, and preparations thereof
04 - Cereals and cereal preparations
05 - Vegetables and fruit
06 - Sugars, sugar preparations and honey
07 - Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices, and manufactures thereof
09 - Miscellaneous edible products and preparations
21 - Hides, skins and furskins, raw
22 - Oil-seeds and oleaginous fruits
23 - Crude rubber (including synthetic and reclaimed)
24 - Cork and wood
26 - Textile fibres (other than wool tops and other combed wool) and their wastes (not manufactured into yarn or fabric)
27 - Crude fertilizers, other than those of division 56, and crude minerals (excluding coal, petroleum and precious stones)
28 - Metalliferous ores and metal scrap
29 - Crude animal and vegetable materials, n.e.s.
32 - Coal, coke and briquettes
33 - Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials
34 - Gas, natural and manufactured
42 - Fixed vegetable fats and oils, crude, refined or fractionated
52 - Inorganic chemicals
54 - Medicinal and pharmaceutical products
55 - Essential oils and resinoids and perfume materials; toilet, polishing and cleansing preparations
56 - Fertilizers (other than those of group 272)
57 - Plastics in primary forms
58 - Plastics in non-primary forms
63 - Cork and wood manufactures (excluding furniture)
64 - Paper, paperboard and articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard
65 - Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, n.e.s., and related products
66 - Non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s.
67 - Iron and steel
68 - Non-ferrous metals
69 - Manufactures of metals, n.e.s.
72 - Machinery specialized for particular industries
76 - Telecommunications and sound-recording and reproducing apparatus and equipment
77 - Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, n.e.s., and electrical parts thereof (including non-electrical counterparts, n.e.s., of electrical household-type equipment)
78 - Road vehicles (including air-cushion vehicles)
79 - Other transport equipment
82 - Furniture, and parts thereof; bedding, mattresses, mattress supports, cushions and similar stuffed furnishings
84 - Articles of apparel and clothing accessories
89 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles, n.e.s.
93 - Special transactions and commodities not classified according to kind
97 - Gold, non-monetary (excluding gold ores and concentrates)

Source: United Nations Statistics Division, Classifications Registry, Standard International Trade Classification, Rev.3.



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