الجزء الثاني

التجارة البينية للبلدان الأعضاء في الإسكوا

Part II

Intraregional trade of ESCWA member countries
Introduction

This chapter presents analysis and statistics for ESCWA member countries for which data on intraregional trade in non-oil goods were available for 2014. Available data show no common trend for intraregional exports but rather varying performance between the ESCWA countries ranging from slight increase, stable to decrease. The outcome for the region was a net decline of non-oil intraregional exports by US$ 1 billion compared to their level in 2013. Figures also highlight the increasing importance of the share of intraregional exports in the ESCWA region to total non-oil exports, which rose to 21.9 per cent in 2014 from 20.5 per cent in 2013.

Non-oil intraregional exports continued in 2014 to play a vital role in supporting the growth of trade in the ESCWA region through offsetting exports losses in foreign markets. Available data on the performance of ESCWA member countries in this chapter show that despite the decline of non-oil intraregional exports in 2014, a drop far smaller than the 7.8 per cent decline in the countries’ total exports. The highest increase of non-oil intraregional exports in the region was claimed by UAE which increased their exports to the region by US$ 4.2 billion at a 16 per cent rate of increase. In the second place, Qatar raised their intraregional exports by US$ 569.8 million at a 5.9 per cent, and followed by Jordan with a US$ 113 million and 2.9 per cent percentage change. On the contrary, Oman suffered a huge decrease of their intraregional exports in 2014 that reached US$ 4.7 billion and recording a negative 51 per cent percentage rate, followed by Bahrain which lost US$ 801 million with 11.3 per cent and Yemen whose non-oil intraregional exports retracted by US$ 346.6 million with a negative percentage change of 30 per cent in 2014.

On the side of the non-oil intraregional imports for the countries in the ESCWA region where data was available we notice that imports dropped by US$ 2 billion at rate of 2.5 per cent in 2014. Despite the fact that intraregional imports increased in most of the mentioned countries, the large decline of the intraregional imports of Oman by US$ 2.6 billion with a
percentage change of 18 per cent, and Yemen that suffered a decline of US$ 2.3 billion that accounts for a decline of 54 per cent of its regional imports all contributed to the overall decline of intraregional imports in the ESCWA region in 2014.

With respect to the intraregional trade integration, available data in 2014 show that the most integrated ESCWA countries in terms of their non-oil intraregional exports were the most diversified economies. Bahrain and Yemen claimed the first ranks with about 70 per cent of their exports found their destination to the other countries in the ESCWA region, followed by 51.2 per cent for Lebanon, 47.1 per cent for Jordan, 36 per cent Egypt and 29.7 per cent for UAE. As for the least integrated countries in the region for which data were made available in 2014 were Morocco where only 3.7 per cent of its exports are destined the ESCWA countries, followed by both Kuwait and Qatar with about 9 per cent of their non-oil exports were destined to the other ESCWA countries.

In addition, the absolute value of intraregional exports is a significant element for a comprehensive analysis and to highlight the importance of intraregional trade. Available statistics on the values of intraregional non-oil exports for 2014 show that UAE was by far the largest exporter of non-oil goods to the rest of the region with US$30.4 billion that was US$ 4.2 billion increase, followed by Qatar with US$ 10.2 billion, Egypt with US$ 8.6 billion, and Bahrain with US$ 6.3 billion. The modest values of intraregional non-oil exports in 2014 were recorded in Palestine, whose intraregional exports reached US$ 112 million, followed by Morocco with US$ 693.7 million, and Lebanon with US$ 1.7 billion.

Unfortunately, and due to the unavailability of data on foreign and regional trade in all the Arab countries to date, it is difficult to provide a complete view of intraregional trade in the ESCWA region.

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ونظرا لعدم امكانية الحصول على جميع البيانات الخاصة بالتجارة الكلية وتلك البينية لجميع البلدان العربية وبشكل محدث، فإنه من الصعوبة يمكن تقديم صورة شاملة ومتقنة أكثر للتجارة البينية لبلدان منطقة الاسكوا.