

الجزء الثاني

التجارة البينية لبلدان اللجنة الاقتصادية والاجتماعية لغربي آسيا

Part II

Intraregional trade of ESCWA member countries

Introduction

Available statistics for 2011 in the current bulletin highlight the continued improvement that started in 2010 in the performance of non-oil intraregional trade in the ESCWA region for all the member countries where data were available. Table (2-1) shows that those countries, with 2011 data available, enjoyed higher intraregional imports by US\$ 10 billion with an increased rate of 23 per cent above the 2010 levels.

Similarly, the ratio of intraregional trade to total trade in the ESCWA region in 2011 increased largely compared to the situation in 2010 table (2-1). The intraregional imports of some countries like Lebanon, Jordan, Oman and Yemen had performed above the pre-2008 crises levels and therefore managed to alleviate the negative impact of the global financial crisis that led to an unprecedented shrink in both global and regional trade during 2009.

As for the non-oil intraregional exports in relation to total exports in the countries where data were available for 2011, growth in intraregional exports was less significant than that of total exports especially to the other regions. Intraregional exports grew 6.3 per cent and amounted to US\$ 42 billion compared to US\$ 39.5 billion in 2010 as shown in table (2-1).

The most integrated economy in the ECWA region in 2011 according to the available statistics was Bahrain whose intraregional exports share of total exports reached 60 per cent, followed by Jordan with a share of 43.2 per cent, and Yemen 33.3 per cent. On the other side and due to lack of data in 2011, it is noticed that, Kuwait and Palestine were the least integrated as their shares of intraregional exports to total exports was 7.3 per cent and 10.2 per cent respectively followed by Qatar with a 12 per cent in third place.

Year	Intraregional Imports (US\$ billion)	Intraregional Exports (US\$ billion)	Share of Total Exports (%)
2011	10	42	60
2010	8.2	39.5	33.3
2009	6.7	33.3	43.2
2008	5.5	23	12

In comparison with the performance of the non-oil intraregional trade in 2010, according to the statistics available by the issue time of this publication, the share of intraregional imports to total imports increased in most ESCWA member countries in 2011 except in the cases of the United Arab Emirates and Yemen where it remain constant. With respect to the value of intraregional imports, the United Arab Emirates continues the lead with US\$ 12.6 billion followed by Saudi Arabia with US\$ 12.2 billion and Oman with its intraregional imports reached US\$ 8.2 billion. The ESCWA member country with the least value of intraregional imports was Bahrain who traded only US\$ 1.5 billion in 2011 as indicated in table (2-1).

2010

2011

12.2

12.6

8.2

.(1-2)

1.5

2011

With respect to non-oil intraregional exports, the available statistics for 2011 point to different trends prevailed in the region. While the ratio of intraregional exports to total exports decreased in most ESCWA member countries, it remained constant in Bahrain and Egypt on the levels of 60 and 25 per cent. Moreover, the value of intraregional exports in absolute terms increased in most member countries with the exception of Lebanon who suffered a visible decrease in both its interregional exports and their share of the country's total exports. The United Arab Emirates and Yemen suffered a limited retraction in both values as well. Nevertheless, the claimed the highest value of intraregional exports in 2011 that was amounted to US\$ 15.2 billion followed by Qatar and Egypt trading US\$ 7.2 and 7 respectively.

25 60

15.2

7 7.2

2011

.(2-2)

1.5 0.8

The lowest intraregional exports in 2011 were observed in Yemen and Lebanon who traded US\$ 0.8 and 1.5 billion as presented in table (2-2). As for Qatar, Oman and Jordan, the drop in the share of intraregional exports to total exports was not due merely a loss in the value of such exports but rather to the larger increase in their total exports and with other regions. Data were not available for 2011 to describe the performance of Iraq, Kuwait, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

2011