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Foreword

The secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is pleased to present the twenty-second issue of the External Trade Bulletin of the Arab Region.

The Bulletin includes data and statistical indicators on the international trade in goods of ESCWA member countries, based primarily on national sources, as well as on secondary sources where appropriate. This is the first issue in which trade statistics on Libya, Morocco and Tunisia are included in the Bulletin, as the three countries became members of ESCWA in July 2012.

Part I includes summary tables on the trends of overall trade in the region, its annual growth and its share of total world trade. It also includes a set of indicators on the share of external trade in the gross domestic product (GDP) of ESCWA member countries, and itemizes total imports, exports and the trade balance of these countries.

Part II presents the values of intraregional trade in ESCWA member countries in a series of tables. These tables underline the importance of intraregional trade as part of total world trade, identify the trade network within the region and provide a concise reflection of the structure of intraregional trade according to the main sections of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS). Trade in crude oil has
been excluded from these data in order to show the structure of intraregional trade in non-oil merchandise.

Part III provides data on the trends of foreign trade of ESCWA member countries, disaggregated by country and region, for the period 2008-2012. These data present the value of imports and exports of ESCWA member countries by major countries and economic groupings, as done by the United Nations Statistics Division and other international organizations.
Part I. Summary of the external trade statistics of ESCWA member countries

Tables 1.1 to 1.8 touch upon trade in crude oil and oil products.

Tables 1.1 and 1.2 show the share of ESCWA member countries in total world trade, and their annual trade growth rates, respectively. In both tables, ESCWA member countries are divided into two groups: major oil-exporting countries and other countries.

Total world trade is defined in this bulletin as the sum of exports of all the countries of the world, in line with the definitions of the relevant international sources. Identified in this manner, world exports would equal world imports after the deduction of shipping and insurance charges. Total ESCWA trade is obtained by adding the exports of member countries to their imports and deducting intraregional imports, as that represents the region’s net contribution to world trade.

Tables 1.3 and 1.4 include a set of indicators related to the value of imports and exports of ESCWA member countries, the share of their external trade in GDP and total trade per capita.

Annual trade growth rates for the periods 1991-2001 and 2001-2012 are calculated using exponential trend functions.

Tables 1.7 and 1.8 show the percentage share of import and export values for each ESCWA member country in the total value of world imports and exports, by HS section.

Part II. Intraregional trade of ESCWA member countries

All tables in part II exclude crude oil unless otherwise indicated in the footnotes.

General notes

Mلاحظات عامة

الجزء الأول: خلاصة إحصاءات التجارة الخارجية للبلدان الأعضاء في الإسکوا

تتناول الجداول من 1-1 إلى 1-8 تجارة النفط الخام والمشتقات النفطية بين الجدولان 1-1 و1-2 حصة البلدان الأعضاء في الإسکوا من مجموع التجارة العالمية، ومعدلات النمو السنوي للتجارة في هذا البلدان، بالترتيب. وفي هذين الجدولين تم تقسيم البلدان الأعضاء إلى مجموعتين: مجموعات البلدان المصدرة للنفط، ومجموعة البلدان الأخرى.

تستخدم تعريف إجمالي التجارة العالمية في هذه النشرة من المصادر الدولية ذات الصلة، ويقصد به مجموع صادرات بلدان العالم. يعني ذلك أن إجمالي الصادرات العالمية يعادل إجمالي الودائع بعد طرح قيمة رسوم الشحن والتأمين منها. أما إجمالي تجارة البلدان الأعضاء في الإسکوا فاكتسب بجمع صادرات البلدان الأعضاء ووارداتها، ثم طرح الودادات البينية من المجموع، وهذا يعادل صافي مشاركة البلدان الأعضاء في التجارة العالمية.

ويشمل الجدولان 1-3 و1-4 مجموعة من المؤشرات المتعلقة قيمة الودادات والصادرات في البلدان الأعضاء في الإسکوا، وحصة تجارتها الخارجية من الناتج المحلي الإجمالي، ونصيب الفرد من إجمالي التجارة.

والمقابل معدل نمو التجارة السنوي للفترتين 1991-2001 و2001-2012 باستعمال الدالة الأسلوبية، ويوضح الجدولان 1-5 و1-6 النسبة المئوية لودادات البلدان الأعضاء في الإسکوا وتصادراتها من إجمالي واردات وصادرات العالم، حسب أقسام النظام المنشق.

الجزء الثاني: التجارة الثنائية للبلدان الأعضاء في الإسکوا

هيئتنا النفط الخام من جميع الجداول في هذا الجزء، إلا عندما يشار إلى عكس ذلك في الحاشية.
Table 2.3 and 2.4 show the matrices of intraregional imports and exports of ESCWA member countries by value, and their share in the total value of intraregional imports and exports. Data on Libya, Morocco and Tunisia are only included for 2012.

The data presented in tables 2.7 should be interpreted with care, as available statistics may not reflect the true situation of trade balances. Indeed, certain member countries use the general trade system to record their international trade statistics, while others use their own special systems.

Part III. Trends of the foreign trade of ESCWA member countries

The partners of ESCWA member countries in foreign trade in goods are classified as "developed" and "developing" economies, distributed over the five continents (Africa, America, Asia, Europe and Oceania).

Crude oil data are presented as a separate item in the world aggregate, in order to reflect the share of oil in the imports and exports of ESCWA member countries. This is due to the fact that, very often, detailed data on this commodity are not available.

Some differences may be found between statistics on the value of overall imports and exports in tables I.5 and I.6, and statistics contained in tables I.7, I.8 and III.1 to III.13. These differences may be attributed to the non-distribution of crude oil import/export values or re-export values by HS section to different countries and economic blocs; to the non-distribution of import/export values of free zones and non-monetary gold; or simply to mathematical approximation.

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Abbreviations, acronyms and symbols

**Abbreviations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>c.i.f.</td>
<td>Cost, insurance and freight</td>
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<tr>
<td>f.o.b.</td>
<td>Free on board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASEAN</td>
<td>Association of Southeast Asian Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CACEU</td>
<td>Central African Customs and Economic Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECOWAS</td>
<td>Economic Community of West African States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EFTA</td>
<td>European Free Trade Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESCWA</td>
<td>Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS</td>
<td>Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAIA</td>
<td>Latin American Integration Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SITC</td>
<td>Standard International Trade Classification</td>
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**Symbols**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
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<tr>
<td>*</td>
<td>Preliminary estimates</td>
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<tr>
<td>..</td>
<td>Data not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—</td>
<td>Negligible or zero</td>
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* تقديرات أولية
.. بيانات غير متوفر
— ضئيلة أو صفر