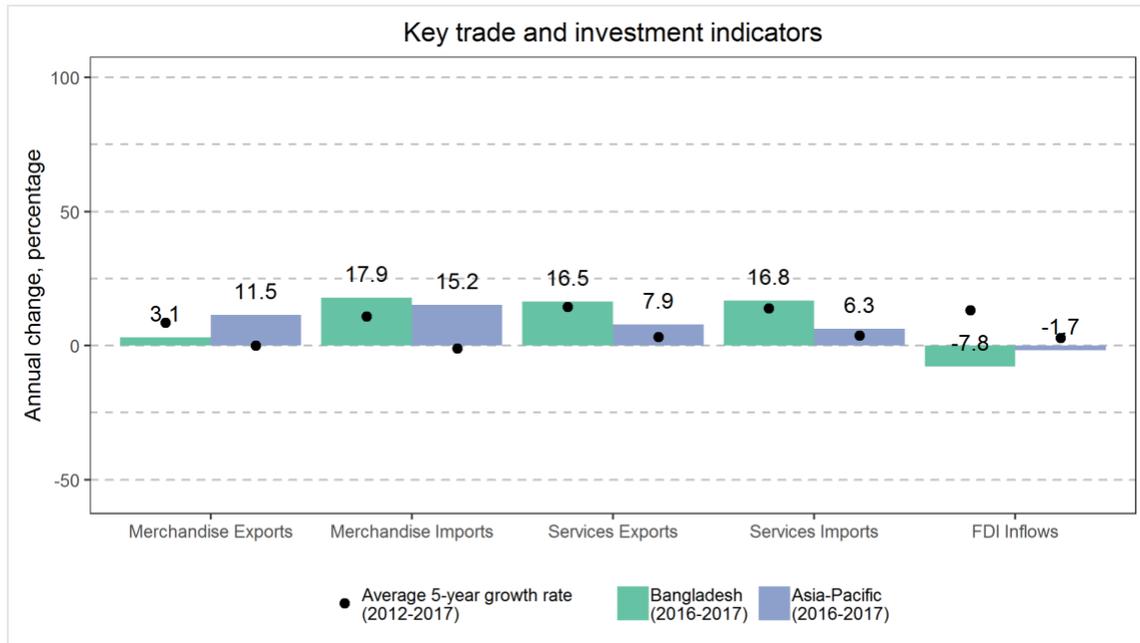




## Asia-Pacific Trade Briefs: Bangladesh



### Merchandise Trade

Bangladesh has a trade-to-GDP ratio of 40.04%. Merchandise trade accounted for 88.8% of Bangladesh's total trade in 2017. Bangladesh's merchandise exports grew by 8.6% on average during 2012-2017, higher than the Asia-Pacific average of 0% during the same time period. In 2017, Bangladesh's merchandise exports grew by 3.1%, while in the Asia-Pacific region they increased by 11.5% in the same year. Meanwhile, Bangladesh's merchandise imports increased by 10.9% on average during 2012-2017, and recorded an increase of 17.9% between 2016 and 2017.

### Services Trade

In 2017, Bangladesh's commercial services' shares of total exports and imports were 6.1% and 14.4%, respectively. Commercial services exports grew by 14.5% on average during 2012-2017, higher than the Asia-Pacific average of 3.2% during the same time period. In 2017, Bangladesh' commercial services exports grew by 16.5%, while in Asia-Pacific region they increased by 7.9%. Meanwhile, Bangladesh's commercial services imports increased by 13.9% on average during the 2012-2017 period, recording a growth rate of 16.8% from 2016 to 2017.

### Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

Bangladesh recorded an average annual FDI inflows growth of 13.3% from 2012 to 2017, larger than the Asia and the Pacific's 2.9% average annual FDI inflow growth. At the same time, Bangladesh experienced a decline in FDI inflows by 7.8% in 2017. In terms of FDI outflows, Bangladesh had an average annual FDI outflows



growth of 58.3% in the last five years, larger than the Asia and the Pacific's 3.5% average annual FDI outflow growth. In 2017, Bangladesh experienced an increase in FDI outflows by 319%.

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## Top Trade Partners

In 2017, the largest trade partner of Bangladesh was China, representing 2.7% of its exports and 23.6% of its imports. 2.2% of Bangladesh's exports and 16.5% of Bangladesh's imports by value were traded with India, its second largest trade partner. Other significant trade partners were United States, Germany, United Kingdom, Singapore, Japan, Italy, Spain, and France.

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## Top Traded Products

The largest product category exported by Bangladesh in 2017 was "Suits, ensembles, jackets, blazers, trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts (other than swimwear); men's or boys' (not knitted or crocheted)" (6203), with an export share of 15.6% of total exports, followed by the second most exported product category, "T-shirts, singlets and other vests; knitted or crocheted" (6109), which accounted for 14.9% of Bangladesh's total exports. In terms of imports, "Petroleum oils and oils from bituminous minerals, not crude; preparations n.e.c. containing by weight 70% or more of petroleum oils or oils from bituminous minerals; these being the basic constituents of the preparations; waste oils" (2710) represented 5.8% of total imports, standing out the top imported product category. Meanwhile, "Cotton; not carded or combed" (5201) had a share of 14.9%, the second largest imported product category in Bangladesh in 2017. (Note: mirror trade data was used to get top traded products for this year for Bangladesh).

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## Tariffs

In 2017, average MFN applied and effectively applied tariffs in Bangladesh were 13.9% and 12.86%, respectively - higher than the averages for the Asia-Pacific economies of 7.46% and 6.91%, respectively. Average MFN bound tariff rate of 155.68% was higher than the Asia-Pacific average of 26.35%. Bangladesh is a founding member of the WTO. Currently, 16.58% of Bangladesh's tariff lines are bound.

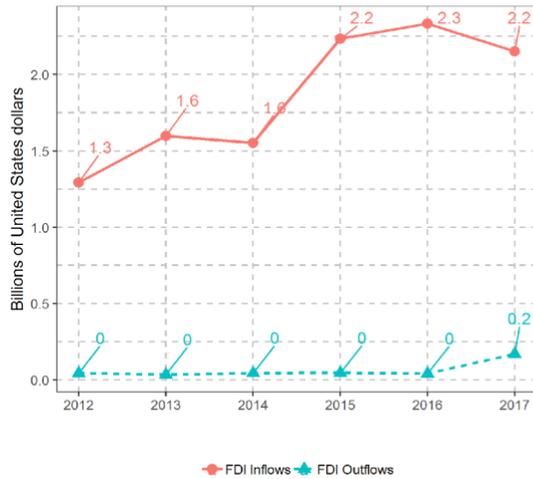
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## Trade Costs

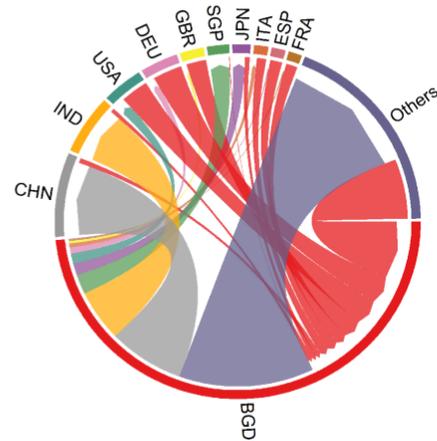
Bangladesh's average trade costs with major trading economies in the region, are presented in the graph below. Trade costs in Bangladesh remained higher compared with the most efficient traders in Asia and the Pacific.



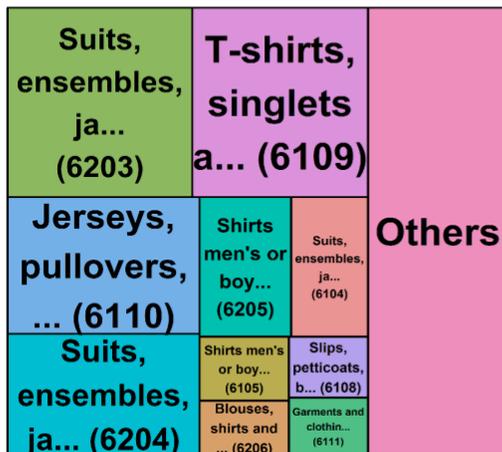
Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)



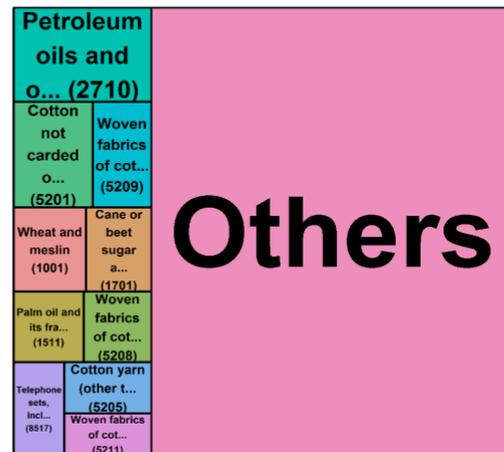
Top 10 trade partners, 2017



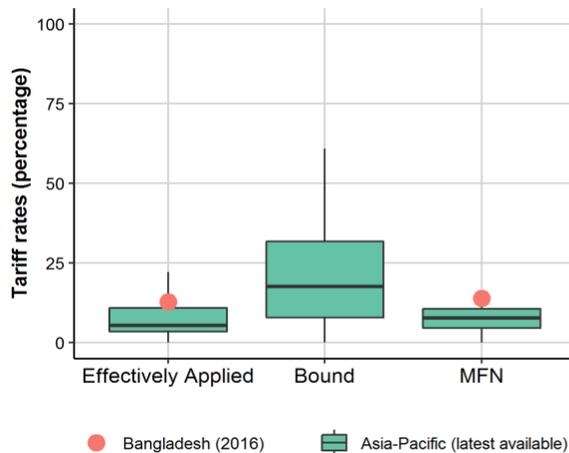
Top merchandise exports



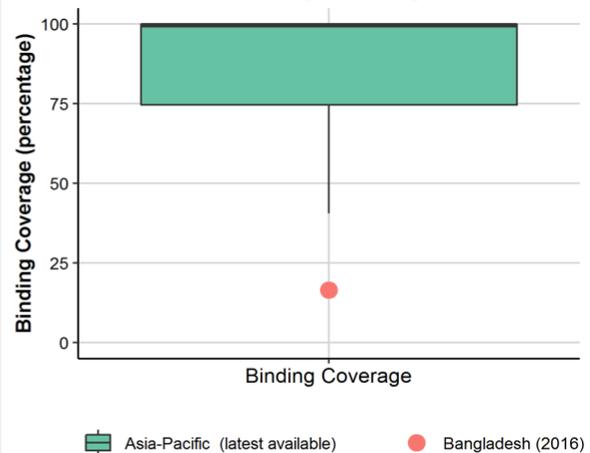
Top merchandise imports

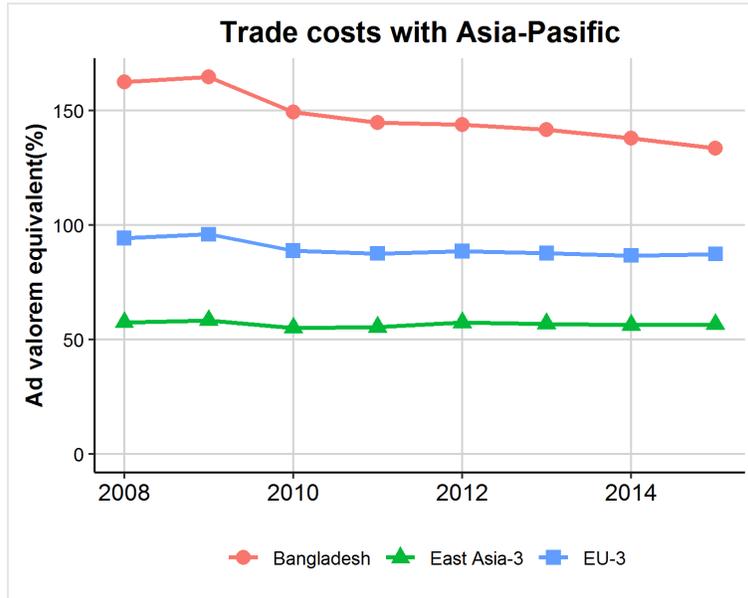


Import Tariffs



Binding coverage





## Trade Agreements

Bangladesh has 5 trade agreements in force, 0 signed agreements pending ratification, and 4 trade agreements under negotiation. Of the economy's total exports, 9.6% are directed to its trade agreement partners, while 61.7% of its total imports come from trade agreement partners.

Title	Status	Year in force	Share of total exports (%)	Share of total imports (%)
Protocol on Trade Negotiations (PTN)	in force	1973	3.51	7.80
Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA)	in force	1976	4.53	39.79
Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP)	in force	1989	5.59	38.91
South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) and SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services (SATIS)	in force	2006	2.20	16.45
Group of 8 Preferential Trade Agreement (D-8 PTA)	in force	2011	2.67	6.90
Bangladesh-Pakistan	under neg.	NA	0.19	0.95

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