

## Asia-Pacific Subregional Trade Briefs: East and North-East Asia

- In 2013, East and North-East Asia's performance measured by the key trade and investment indicators was positive though growth rates were slower than in some recent years. Exports of merchandise increased by 3.4%. Similarly, exports of services increased by 5.6%. Trade growth in the subregion was higher than overall growth for the Asia-Pacific region which had merchandise export growth of 2.1% and services export growth of 4.9%. As for the subregion's imports, merchandise imports and services imports grew by 3.8% and 6.3%, respectively [Figure 1].
- Around 55% of the subregion's exports went to destinations in the Asia-Pacific. Similarly, East and North-East Asia imported around 48% of its merchandise from the Asia-Pacific. For the Asia-Pacific as a whole, 53% of merchandise exports went to other intraregional destinations with a total value of \$3.7 trillion [Figure 2].
- In 2013, FDI inflows increased by 2.1% though this was below the Asia-Pacific average of 6.6% growth. FDI outflows increased by 8.5% in 2013, continuing the trend of growth notable since 2010 [Figure 1 and 3].
- However, intraregional greenfield FDI into East and North-East Asia from Asia-Pacific economies has decreased by 18% since 2012 to a value of around \$30.1 billion. In 2013, the main recipient of greenfield FDI was China with \$25 billion, followed by much smaller figures for Japan (\$1.9 billion) and Hong Kong, China (\$1.5 billion). The overall level of greenfield FDI in the Asia-Pacific region contracted by 20.4%, to \$84 billion [Figure 4].
- Over the period 2010-2012, an average of 35% of total exports from East and North-East Asian countries went to PTA partners. This is an increase from the previous period, 2007-2009, when the share was only 25%. Looking at the whole Asia-Pacific region, over the 2010-2012 period, PTA partners accounted for on average 38% of total exports and 39% of imports. [Figure 5].

Figure 1. Key Trade and Investment Indicators

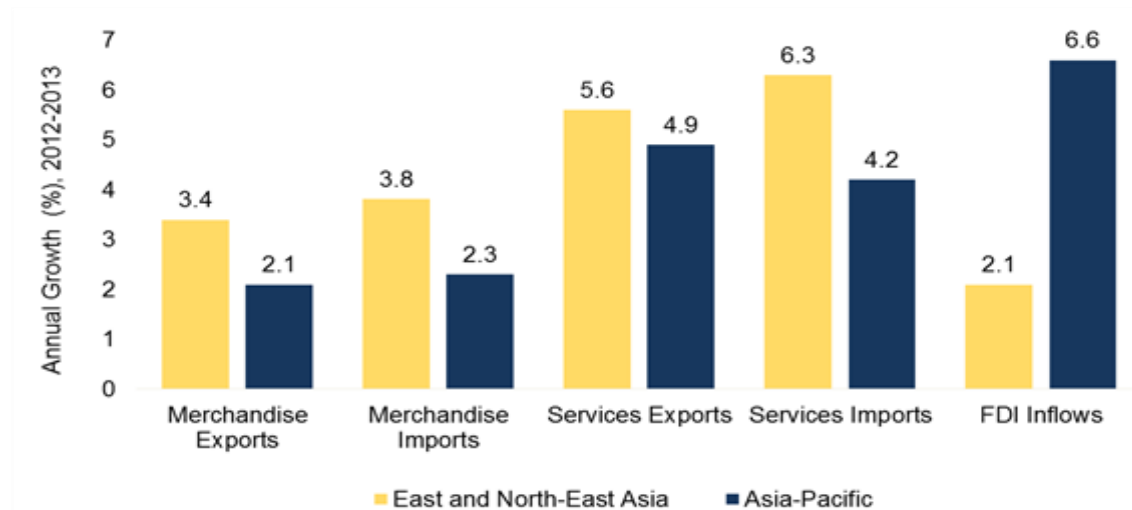


Figure 2. Intraregional Trade As a Share of Total Trade

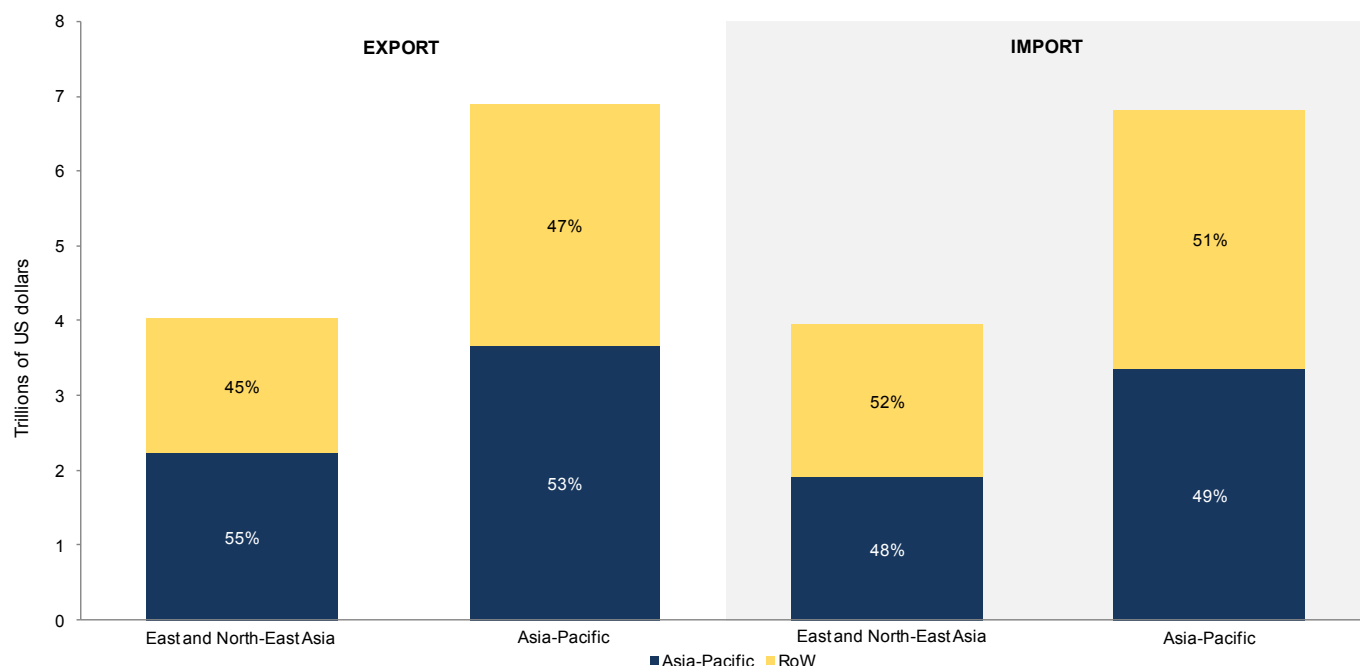


Figure 3. FDI Flows

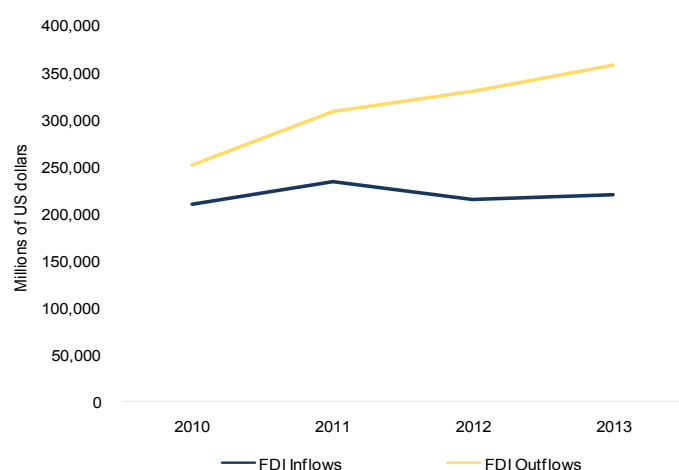
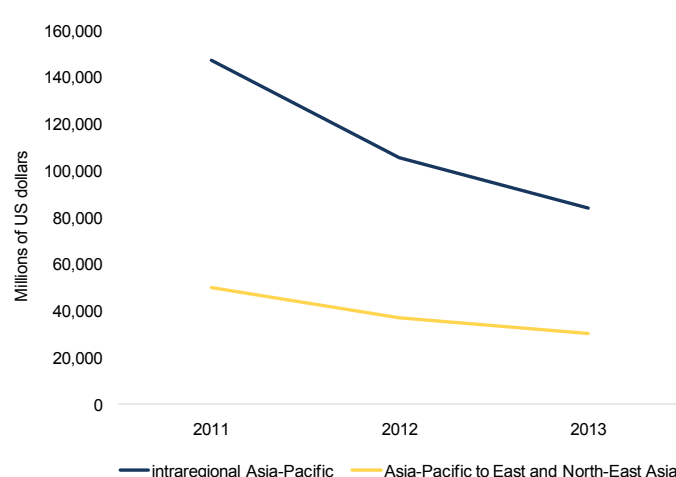


Figure 4. Intraregional Greenfield FDI



Source: fDi Intelligence, 2014.

Figure 5. Trade Coverage Under Preferential Trade Agreements in %, Average

	2007-2009		2010-2012	
	Export	Import	Export	Import
Asia-Pacific	37.66	45.72	38.10	38.64
East and North-East Asia	25.01	30.56	35.33	31.47
China	31.01	25.64	32.96	27.04
Hong Kong, China	28.85	46.15	59.85	47.61
Japan	15.34	16.59	19.14	18.21
Macao, China	13.90	34.77	2.97	31.53
Republic of Korea	35.94	29.66	67.52	50.71

Notes

FDI: foreign direct investment  
RoW: rest of the world  
RTA: regional trade agreement

Definitions  
Greenfield FDI: investment in a productive capacity, or establishment of a new foreign affiliate without merging with or buying existing local firms (UNCTAD)

The East and North-East Asia subregion includes: China, DPR Korea, Hong Kong, Japan, Macao, Mongolia, Republic of Korea

Source: Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report (APTIR) 2014 unless otherwise specified.  
For more information contact [escap-tid@un.org](mailto:escap-tid@un.org).



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