

Asia-Pacific Sub-regional Trade Briefs: North and Central Asia

- In 2013, North and Central Asia's performance measured by the key trade and investment indicators was mixed. Merchandise exports contracted by 1.1%, although this was partially offset by the growth in services exports which saw an increase of 10.1%. In comparison, the Asia-Pacific region as a whole experienced 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 3.1% and 15%, respectively [Figure 1].
- The subregion trades more with the rest of the world than with the Asia-Pacific. In 2013, around 75% of its exports were to the rest of the world while one quarter were to Asia-Pacific destinations. Similarly, 64% of the subregion's imports originated in the rest of the world. Of the Asia-Pacific's total exports, 53% went to other regional destinations, with a value of \$3.7 trillion [Figure 2].
- The subregion performed well in attracting FDI inflows. It bounced back from a negative 7% growth in 2012 with a 36% increase in 2013. This was much higher than the 6.6% total growth of the Asia-Pacific region. In terms of total flows, the Russian Federation had the highest FDI inflows which totaled \$79.2 billion. Meanwhile, Kyrgyzstan was the country with the largest total change: inflows rose 159% to a value of \$759 million [Figure 1 and 3].
- Intraregional greenfield FDI in North and Central Asia decreased by 34% in 2013 to reach \$5.5 billion. In 2013, the main recipient of greenfield FDI was Russian Federation with \$3 billion, followed by Georgia with \$1 billion. Greenfield FDI flows to Kazakhstan increased by 593%, up to \$600 million from \$86.6 million in 2012. The overall level of greenfield FDI flows in the Asia-Pacific region contracted by 20.4% to \$84 billion [Figure 4].
- Over the period 2010-2012, for the North and Central Asian countries, an average of 14% of total exports and 21% of imports were with PTA partners. This is a decrease from the previous period, 2007-2009, when the share was 45% for exports and 47% for imports. Looking at the whole Asia-Pacific region over the 2010-2012 period, in PTA partners accounted for, on average 38%, of their total exports and 39% of total imports. [Figure 5].

Figure 1. Key Trade and Investment Indicators

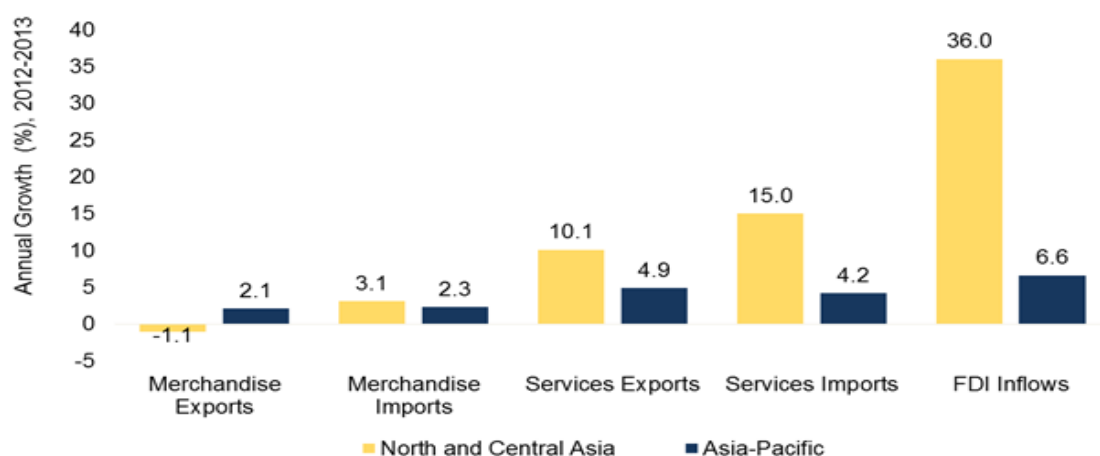


Figure 2. Intraregional Trade As a Share of Total Trade

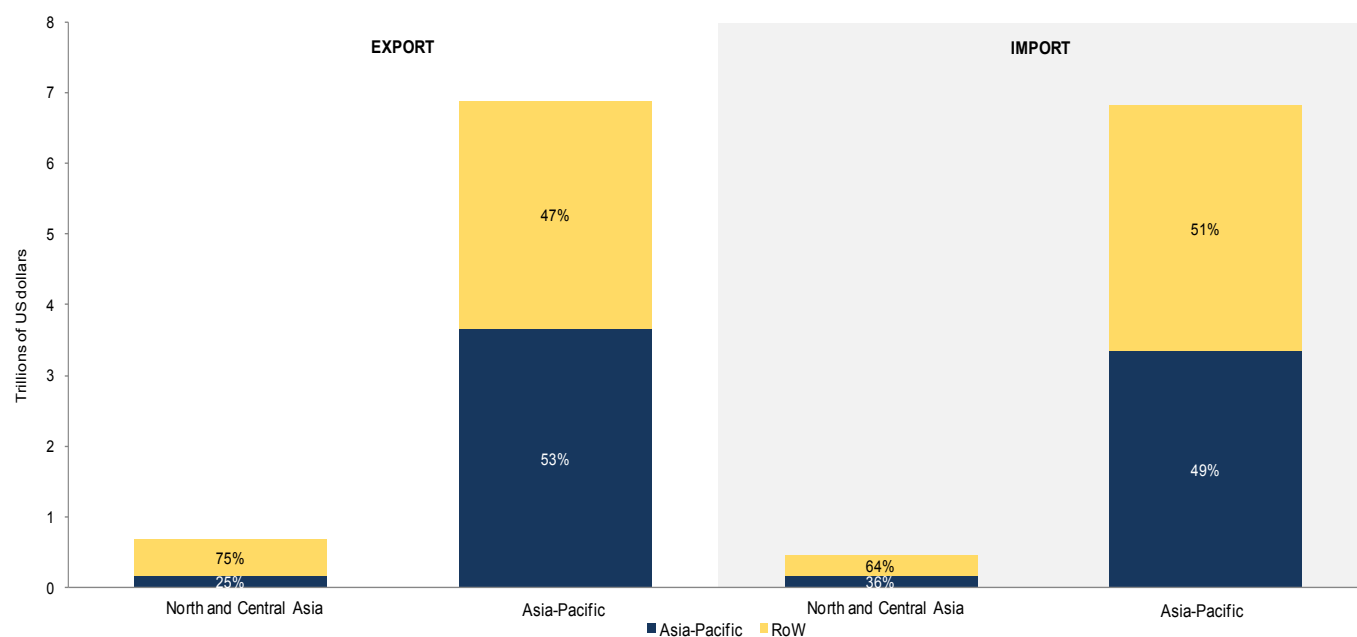


Figure 3. FDI Flows

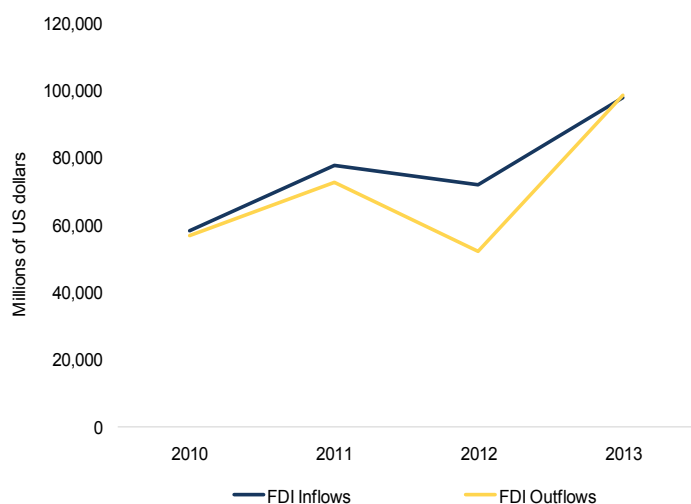
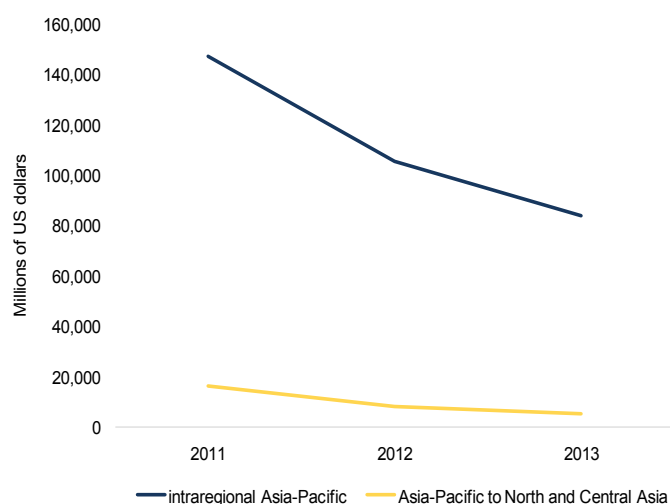


Figure 4. Intraregional Greenfield FDI



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
North and Central Asia	45.39	46.50	13.78	21.16
Armenia	78.90	63.05	25.19	31.51
Azerbaijan	20.46	46.18	13.34	43.54
Georgia	51.39	46.82	45.89	44.67
Kazakhstan	22.50	47.03	17.84	49.12
Kyrgyzstan	55.71	59.99	42.71	54.40
Russian Federation	15.00	13.81	12.21	14.14
Tajikistan	40.03	46.54	51.54	40.92
Turkmenistan	59.31	46.73	15.46	52.61
Uzbekistan	65.20	48.39	65.61	42.72

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)

North and Central Asia subregion includes: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

Source: Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report (APTIR) 2014 unless otherwise specified.

For more information contact escap-tid@un.org.



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