United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Regional Workshop on Promoting Cotton By-Products in Eastern and Southern Africa

28-30 May 2019, Johannesburg, South Africa

Hosted by Cotton SA

State of Commodity Dependence 2019

By

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The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD.
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Interactive Commodity Dependence Maps

A country is commodity-dependent if commodities account for more than 60% of its total merchandise exports (in value terms).
What’s NEW in the 2019 Report?

➢ More countries (developed and transition economies added)
  • 189 statistical country profiles

➢ Longer-term historical perspective
  • 1995–2017 period

➢ One analytical chapter
  • Presenting data-based views on the challenges faced and progress made
Country Statistical Profiles

- 189 country profiles, 30 indicators, 3 reference periods

- State of EXPORT dependence
  - Merchandise exports
  - Commodity exports
  - 3-leading commodity exports
  - Main trading partners

- State of IMPORT dependence
  - Food and fuel imports
  - Main trading partners

- Key socioeconomic indicators
  - GDP per capita
  - Human Development Index
  - Gini index

- Other structural indicators
  - Value added
  - Employment (female)
  - Institutional quality index
Key Messages

- Commodity dependence is almost exclusively a developing-country phenomenon
- Commodity dependence is persistent
- CDDCs are vulnerable to commodity price shocks
- Some CDDCs have diversified production and exports
Commodity dependence is almost exclusively a developing-country phenomenon.

Commodity dependence is **persistent**.

CDDCs are **vulnerable** to commodity price shocks.

Some CDDCs have **diversified** production and exports.
Commodity dependence is a developing-country phenomenon

Distribution of commodity-dependent and non-commodity-dependent countries within each geographic region, 2013–2017

(percentage)
Commodity dependence is a developing-country phenomenon

Distribution of commodity-dependent and non-commodity-dependent countries within each development group, 2013–2017

(percentage)
Commodity dependence is almost exclusively a developing-country phenomenon

➢ Commodity dependence is persistent

CDDCs are vulnerable to commodity price shocks

Some CDDCs have diversified production and exports
Commodity dependence is persistent

Evolution of the number of commodity-dependent countries by commodity group, five-year averages between 1998 and 2017

(number of countries)
Message III

Commodity dependence is almost exclusively a developing-country phenomenon

Commodity dependence is persistent

➢ CDDCs are vulnerable to commodity price shocks

Some CDDCs have diversified production and exports
Commodity dependence is persistent

Evolution of commodity price indices, five-year averages between 1998 and 2017
(base period 1998–2002=100)

![Graph showing the evolution of commodity price indices from 1998 to 2017. The graph compares the prices of minerals, energy, agricultural products, and the manufactures unit value index, with the base period 1998–2002=100.]
CDDCs are Vulnerable to Price Shocks

Average annual growth of GDP in selected countries, 2008–2012 and 2013–2017 (percentage points)

Equatorial Guinea
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Chad
Central Africa Republic
Timor Leste
Suriname
Brazil

2008–2012  2013–2017  Change between both periods
CDDCs are Vulnerable to Price Shocks

External debt-to-GDP ratio in selected countries, 2008 and 2017 (percentage)

Kazakhstan: 80–105
Djibouti: 85–112
Uganda: 16–43
Ghana: 19–47
Azerbaijan: 9–37
Gabon: 14–42
Niger: 13–46
Montenegro: 33–66
Senegal: 21–54
Mauritania: 50–84
Tajikistan: 48–82
Kyrgyzstan: 71–108
Zimbabwe: 17–63
Armenia: 31–90
Mozambique: 30–97
Papua New Guinea: 12–82
Mongolia: 39–245
Commodity dependence is almost exclusively a developing-country phenomenon

Commodity dependence is persistent

CDDCs are vulnerable to commodity price shocks

➢ Some CDDCs have diversified production and exports
Diversification into Downstream Energy Value-Added Products

Evolution of export shares in Oman and Trinidad and Tobago, five-year averages between 1998 and 2017
(percentage of total merchandise exports)
Production of petroleum products in Qatar, Saudi Arabia (right axis) and the United Arab Emirates, 1998–2017

(1,000 barrels per day)
Diversification into Agriculture

(billions of US dollars)

Rwanda

Cameroon
Diversification into Manufactures

(billions of US dollars)

Brazil

Colombia
USEFUL RESOURCES

Interactive PDF version of the report

Commodity Dependence: A Twenty-Year Perspective
(background paper of Chapter 1)