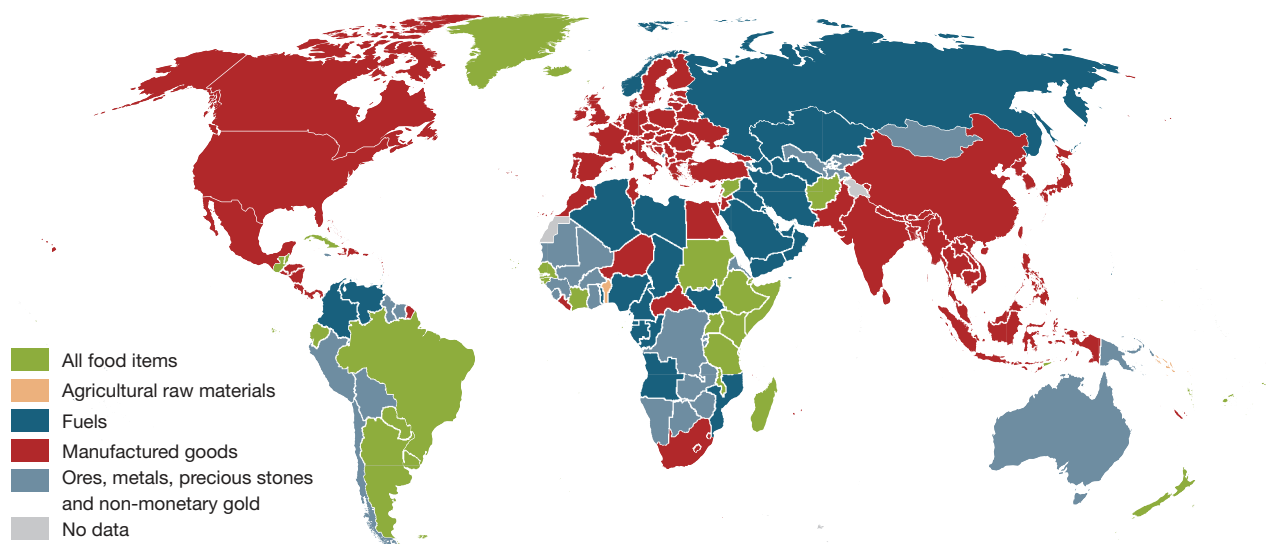




Fact sheet #3: Trade structure by product

Map 1 | Main export products, 2019



Concepts and definitions

The breakdown of merchandise trade by product group is based on the entries in the customs declarations that are coded in accordance with a globally harmonized classification system, called the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS). The values of the individual customs declarations have been summed up to the level of product group, error-checked and submitted to the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) for integration in the UN Comtrade database (United Nations, 2020a).

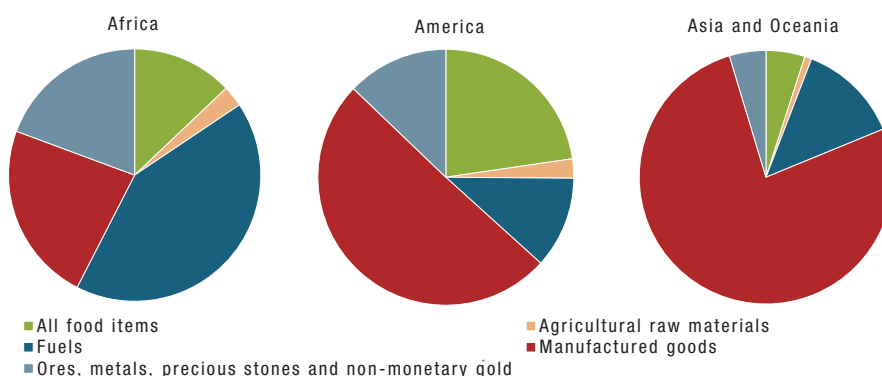
The UN Comtrade database contains product breakdowns based on the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC). These have been obtained by conversion of the raw data coded in HS and constitute the main source of the figures presented in this section. For correspondence between SITC codes and the five broad product groups presented in this section, see UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics 2020, annex 6.2.

Regional specialization patterns

The supply of goods to the world market has a regional pattern. According to 2019 figures, economies in Northern and Central America, Europe and Southern, Eastern and South-Eastern Asia export mainly manufactured goods. The main fuel exporters are located along the northern coast of South America, in Middle and Northern Africa and Western and Central Asia. Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal as well as several countries in Eastern Africa and eastern South America specialize in food.

In Africa, primary goods accounted for 77 per cent of merchandise exports in 2019; of which fuels made up 42 per cent. Developing Asia and Oceania relied much less on primary goods in their exports (23 per cent). Developing America recorded the largest proportion of food exports (23 per cent) among the three developing regions.

Figure 1 | Export structure of developing economies by product group, 2019 (Percentage)



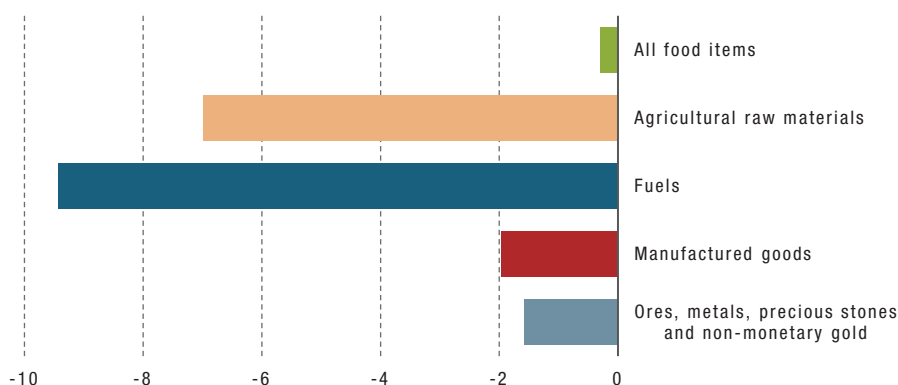
Note: Non-allocated products are not considered.



Decline in trade across a whole range of products

The contraction of world merchandise trade in 2019 (see UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics 2020, section 1.1) was strongly driven by fuels, the exports of which fell by 9 per cent. Exports of agricultural raw materials decreased by 7 per cent; exports of manufactured goods and of ores, metals, precious stones and non-monetary gold by less than 2 per cent. Trade in food remained almost unchanged.

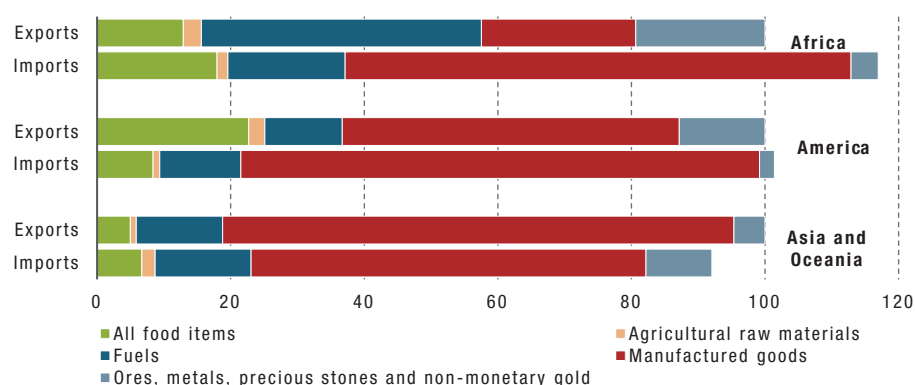
Figure 2 | Annual growth rate of exports by product group, 2019
(Percentage)



What do developing regions trade with others?

Developing regions show considerable differences in their respective trade with the rest of the world. In 2019, only developing economies in Asia and Oceania recorded a surplus in merchandise trade, amounting to 8 per cent of extra-regional exports. This was driven by high exports of manufactured goods and was partially offset by a deficit in other commodity groups. In Africa, the trade structure was entirely different, with imports of manufactured goods three times higher than exports. Although counterbalanced by surpluses in ores, metals, precious stones, monetary gold and in fuels, there remained an overall deficit of 17 per cent. Developing America had a much smaller trade deficit than Africa (1 per cent) and recorded relatively high net-exports of food.

Figure 3 | Developing economies' extra-trade structure, 2019
(Percentage of exports)



Note: Non-allocated products are not considered.

For references, see UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics 2020, annex 6.4.

Manufacturing exporters are mostly in



$\frac{3}{4}$ of Africa's merchandise exports are primary goods



World fuel trade dropped by 9% in 2019



Africa imported 3 times more manufactured goods than it exported in 2019





Table 1 Exports by product group, origin and destination, 2019
(Millions of United States dollars)

All food items

Origin	Destination						
	World	Total	Developing economies			Transition economies	Developed economies
			Africa	America	Asia and Oceania		
World	1 559 429 (100)	629 900 (40)	80 259 (5)	83 145 (5)	466 496 (30)	54 323 (3)	872 922 (56)
Developing economies	629 126 (100)	377 392 (60)	47 074 (7)	37 450 (6)	292 868 (47)	16 206 (3)	234 948 (37)
Developing economies: Africa	61 427 (100)	32 543 (53)	14 773 (24)	482 (1)	17 288 (28)	1 667 (3)	27 032 (44)
Developing economies: America	228 348 (100)	120 123 (53)	10 349 (5)	31 475 (14)	78 298 (34)	4 937 (2)	102 995 (45)
Developing economies: Asia and Oceania	339 351 (100)	224 726 (66)	21 951 (6)	5 493 (2)	197 282 (58)	9 602 (3)	104 921 (31)
Transition economies	63 485 (100)	28 716 (45)	6 141 (10)	303 (0)	22 271 (35)	20 097 (32)	14 598 (23)
Developed economies	866 817 (100)	223 792 (26)	27 045 (3)	45 391 (5)	151 356 (17)	18 020 (2)	623 376 (72)

Note: Percentage of exports to the whole world in parentheses.

Agricultural raw materials

Origin	Destination						
	World	Total	Developing economies			Transition economies	Developed economies
			Africa	America	Asia and Oceania		
World	254 599 (100)	127 642 (50)	7 044 (3)	9 450 (4)	111 149 (44)	4 995 (2)	121 291 (48)
Developing economies	97 818 (100)	64 756 (66)	2 766 (3)	3 311 (3)	58 679 (60)	1 000 (1)	31 897 (33)
Developing economies: Africa	12 798 (100)	8 887 (69)	1 124 (9)	70 (1)	7 693 (60)	91 (1)	3 814 (30)
Developing economies: America	24 484 (100)	13 647 (56)	185 (1)	1 677 (7)	11 786 (48)	268 (1)	10 410 (43)
Developing economies: Asia and Oceania	60 537 (100)	42 222 (70)	1 457 (2)	1 565 (3)	39 201 (65)	641 (1)	17 672 (29)
Transition economies	13 319 (100)	7 254 (54)	215 (2)	160 (1)	6 879 (52)	1 488 (11)	4 574 (34)
Developed economies	143 462 (100)	55 631 (39)	4 062 (3)	5 978 (4)	45 591 (32)	2 507 (2)	84 820 (59)

Note: Percentage of exports to the whole world in parentheses.



Fuels

Origin	Destination						
	World	Total	Developing economies			Transition economies	Developed economies
			Africa	America	Asia and Oceania		
World	2 247 442 (100)	1 136 084 (51)	85 940 (4)	129 315 (6)	920 829 (41)	32 022 (1)	1 027 510 (46)
Developing economies	1 201 088 (100)	811 308 (68)	55 315 (5)	37 896 (3)	718 097 (60)	2 255 (0)	366 962 (31)
Developing economies: Africa	199 505 (100)	104 361 (52)	17 768 (9)	5 044 (3)	81 549 (41)	90 (0)	93 946 (47)
Developing economies: America	116 607 (100)	66 674 (57)	676 (1)	25 039 (21)	40 960 (35)	32 (0)	33 168 (28)
Developing economies: Asia and Oceania	884 976 (100)	640 273 (72)	36 871 (4)	7 814 (1)	595 588 (67)	2 133 (0)	239 848 (27)
Transition economies	299 460 (100)	98 373 (33)	2 843 (1)	1 633 (1)	93 897 (31)	21 354 (7)	179 650 (60)
Developed economies	746 895 (100)	226 403 (30)	27 782 (4)	89 786 (12)	108 835 (15)	8 413 (1)	480 898 (64)

Note: Percentage of exports to the whole world in parentheses.

Manufactured goods

Origin	Destination						
	World	Total	Developing economies			Transition economies	Developed economies
			Africa	America	Asia and Oceania		
World	13 022 291 (100)	5 079 746 (39)	373 965 (3)	744 779 (6)	3 961 003 (30)	370 702 (3)	7 540 532 (58)
Developing economies	5 847 070 (100)	3 191 911 (55)	221 430 (4)	313 529 (5)	2 656 952 (45)	133 321 (2)	2 518 999 (43)
Developing economies: Africa	109 907 (100)	52 818 (48)	31 916 (29)	3 991 (4)	16 911 (15)	732 (1)	55 524 (51)
Developing economies: America	507 694 (100)	102 734 (20)	2 276 (0)	80 833 (16)	19 625 (4)	734 (0)	403 300 (79)
Developing economies: Asia and Oceania	5 229 469 (100)	3 036 359 (58)	187 238 (4)	228 705 (4)	2 620 416 (50)	131 856 (3)	2 060 174 (39)
Transition economies	165 960 (100)	42 822 (26)	6 009 (4)	5 543 (3)	31 270 (19)	56 625 (34)	66 130 (40)
Developed economies	7 009 260 (100)	1 845 013 (26)	146 525 (2)	425 707 (6)	1 272 781 (18)	180 755 (3)	4 955 404 (71)

Note: Percentage of exports to the whole world in parentheses.

Ores, metals, precious stones and non-monetary gold

Origin	Destination						
	World	Total	Developing economies			Transition economies	Developed economies
			Africa	America	Asia and Oceania		
World	1 184 266 (100)	613 017 (52)	21 817 (2)	22 905 (2)	568 295 (48)	17 617 (1)	547 932 (46)
Developing economies	539 687 (100)	351 460 (65)	14 932 (3)	9 912 (2)	326 616 (61)	3 047 (1)	180 214 (33)
Developing economies: Africa	92 030 (100)	52 855 (57)	8 330 (9)	691 (1)	43 834 (48)	612 (1)	33 926 (37)
Developing economies: America	129 230 (100)	76 724 (59)	865 (1)	5 918 (5)	69 942 (54)	826 (1)	51 359 (40)
Developing economies: Asia and Oceania	318 428 (100)	221 880 (70)	5 737 (2)	3 304 (1)	212 840 (67)	1 609 (1)	94 929 (30)
Transition economies	61 964 (100)	17 674 (29)	597 (1)	221 (0)	16 855 (27)	7 868 (13)	36 422 (59)
Developed economies	582 614 (100)	243 884 (42)	6 288 (1)	12 772 (2)	224 824 (39)	6 702 (1)	331 296 (57)

Note: Percentage of exports to the whole world in parentheses.