



Asia-Pacific Trade Briefs Kyrgyzstan

Merchandise Trade: Merchandise trade accounted for 76.3% of Kyrgyzstan's total trade in 2015. Merchandise exports fell sharply by 11.0% in 2015, while during 2010-2015 exports contracted by only 1.2%, on average. The main exports base of Kyrgyzstan was concentrated in mining commodities such as gold – which alone accounts for 54.1% of total goods exports – copper waste, dried legume and precious metal ores. Lower world commodity prices, and weak demand from major Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) economies, especially the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan, largely explain for the contraction in exports growth in both value and volume terms. In 2015, merchandise imports contracted sharply by 29.0%, compared to an average imports growth of 6.0% during 2010-2015. The main imports were petroleum oils, textile, clothing and footwear. A number of factors adversely affected imports in 2015, including currency depreciation, weak domestic demand, and joining the EEU. Entering the EEU has raised the costs of imports from non-EEU economies, especially from China which was Kyrgyzstan's largest import partner (63%).

Services trade: Services exports accounted for 33.3% of total exports in 2015. While services exports grew robustly by 7.4%, on average, during 2010-2015, a contraction of 5.8% was recorded in 2015. Similarly, services imports grew modestly by 3.7%, on average, during 2010-2015, but there was a sharp contraction of 22.1% in 2015. Slowing services trade growth in Kyrgyzstan was largely driven by a fall in imports of travel services, and declining exports of construction and other business services.

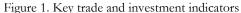
Intraregional trade: In 2015, 39.1% of goods exports were to ESCAP economies. Switzerland was the largest export destination (50.5%), while Kazakhstan was the largest intraregional export destination (15.6%). Meanwhile, 92.8% of imports in goods were from ESCAP economies, with China (63.0%) and the Russian Federation (19.0%) as the largest intraregional import sources.

Foreign direct investment (FDI): FDI inflows to Kyrgyzstan have been relatively small and volatile. During 2010-2015, growth of FDI inflows varied greatly, with average growth at 1.6% per year. The sectors which received the most from inflows growth were the exploration, processing, energy, construction, wholesale trade and financial sectors, with the Russian Federation and China as the two largest foreign investors in Kyrgyzstan.

Tariffs: In 2014, average MFN applied and effectively applied tariffs at 4.5% and 4.0%, respectively, were lower than the Asia-Pacific average of 6.9% and 5.9%. Average MFN bound duty at 7.3% was considerably below the Asia-Pacific average of 20.0%. The binding coverage is at 100.0% of tariff lines.

Trade costs: Trade costs in Kyrgyzstan were considerably higher compared with the most efficient major traders in Asia and the Pacific, and steadily increased during the period from 2009 to 2013. Trade costs incurred by Kyrgyzstan in reaching major trading economies in Asia and the Pacific (China, India, Indonesia and the Russian Federation) were four and two times higher than those for the East Asia-3 and the European Union-3, respectively, in reaching the same markets.

Trade agreement: Kyrgyzstan has 10 preferential trade agreements in force, which is higher than the Asia-Pacific average of 7.6 agreements. Of total exports, 41.7% were to PTA partners, compared to 33.3% for the Asia-Pacific region, while 33.6% of total imports are from PTA partners, compared to 44.0% for the Asia-Pacific region.



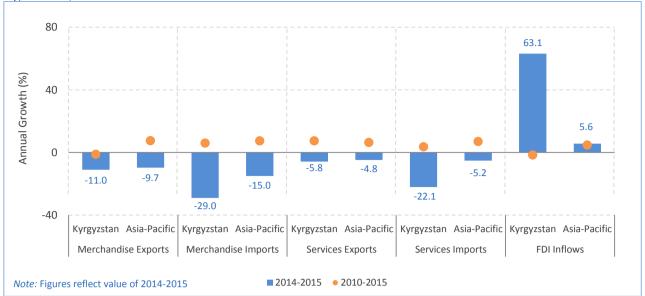




Figure 3. Top merchandise products

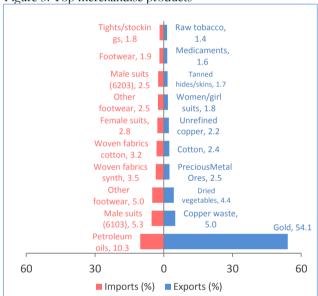


Figure 4. Trade within region and rest of the world

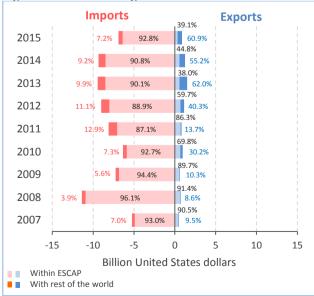


Figure 5. Foreign direct investment

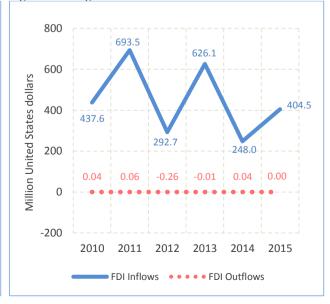
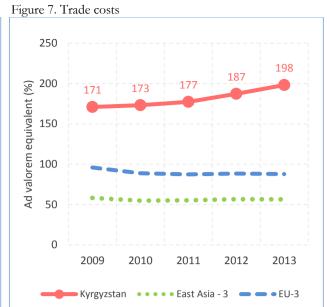


Figure 6. Tariffs (as of 2014) 100.0 100 80 60 Rate (%) 40 20 7.3 4.0 MFN MFN Effectively Binding Bound Applied Applied Coverage Asia-Pacific (2014) ■ Kyrgyzstan



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