

Asia-Pacific Subregional Trade Briefs: South and South-West Asia

- In 2013, South and South-West Asia's performance measured by key trade and investment indicators was weak. Merchandise exports contracted by 0.2% while services exports grew marginally by 0.6%. The subregion's disappointing performance is in contrast with the Asia-Pacific's total merchandise export growth of 2.1% and services export growth of 4.9%. As for the subregion's imports, merchandise imports and services imports contracted by 1.5% and 7.5%, respectively [Figure 1].
- Around 71% of exports from South and South-West Asia went to destinations outside the Asia-Pacific in 2013. Of Asia-Pacific's total exports, 53% went to other regional destinations, with a value of \$3.7 trillion. Similarly, the subregion imported around 64% of its merchandise from extra-regional sources, whereas the Asia-Pacific as a whole imported 51% of its merchandise from outside the region. [Figure 2].
- The subregion performed well in attracting FDI inflows. It bounced back from a 25% fall in inflows in 2012 to register a 6% increase in 2013, although this figure was slightly lower than the 6.6% growth of the Asia-Pacific region in total. Among the regional economies, Pakistan had the highest percentage increase in FDI inflows with the total up by 52% increase to a value of \$1.3 billion. India remained the single largest recipient of FDI with around \$28 billion in 2013 [Figures 1 and 3].
- Intraregional greenfield FDI from Asian-Pacific economies to South and South-West Asia decreased by 56% in 2013 to \$7.9 billion, compared to \$18 billion in the previous year. In 2013, the main recipient of greenfield FDI was India with \$4.6 billion of inflows but this represents a 45% decrease compared to 2012. Greenfield FDI flows to Bhutan increased by 426%, up to \$182 million from \$34.8 in 2012 [Figure 4].
- Over the period 2010-2012, an average of 33.6% of total exports from South and South-West Asian countries went to PTA partners. This is a decrease from the previous period, 2007-2009, when the share was 40.2%. Looking at the whole Asia-Pacific region, over the 2010-2012 period, PTA partners accounted for on average 38% of their total exports and 39% of imports [Figure 5].

Figure 1. Key Trade and Investment Indicators

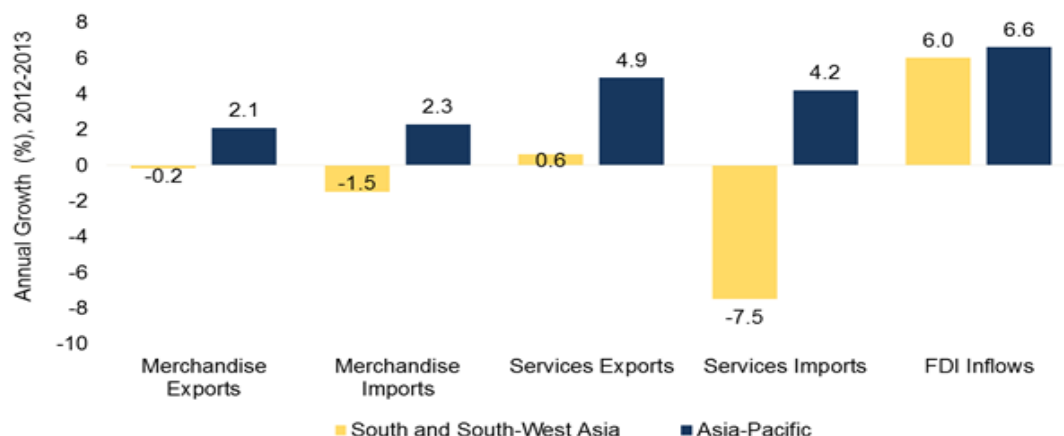


Figure 2. Intraregional Trade As a Share of Total Trade

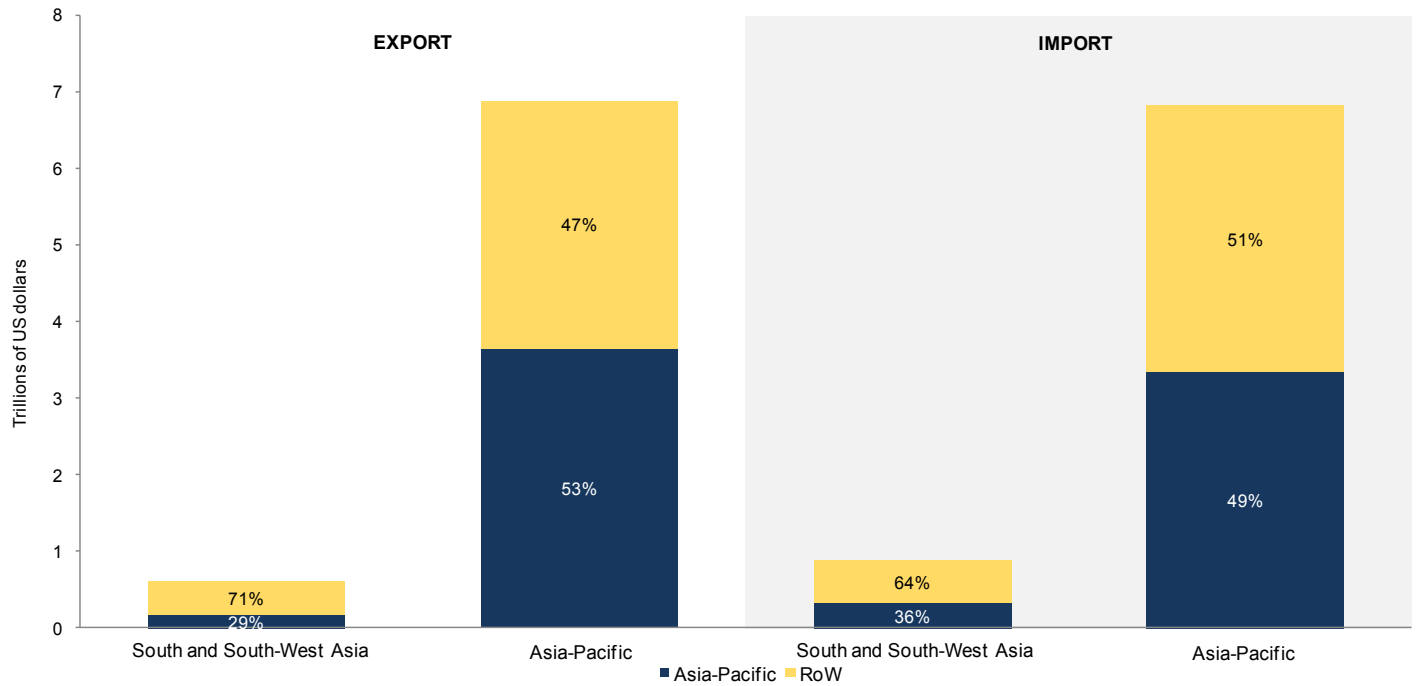


Figure 3. FDI Flows

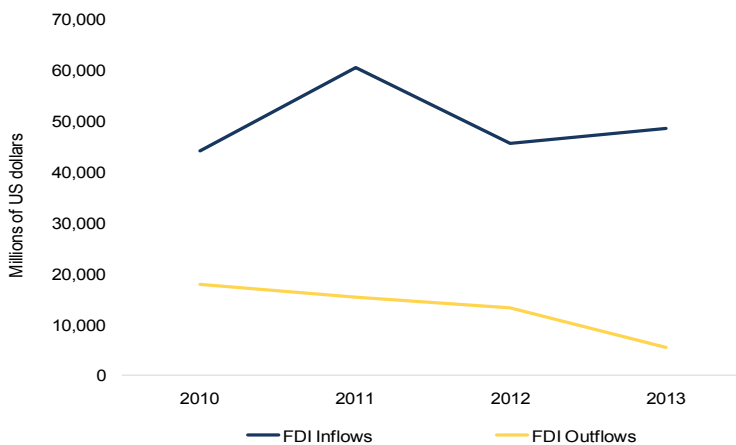
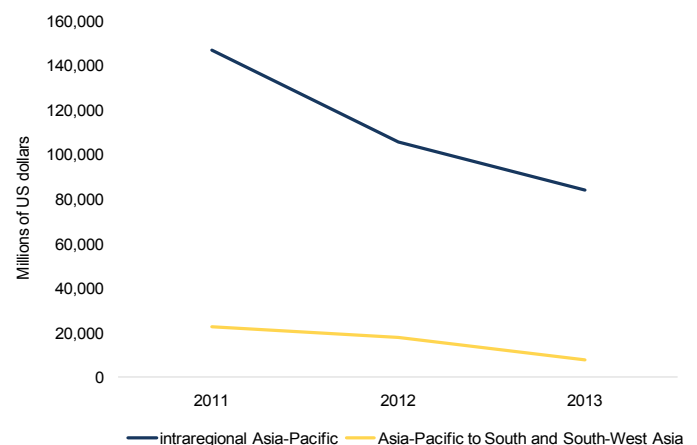


Figure 4. Intraregional Greenfield FDI



Source: fDi Intelligence 2014

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

	2007-2009		2010-2012	
	Export	Import	Export	Import
Asia-Pacific	37.66	45.72	38.10	38.64
South and South-West Asia	40.32	39.96	33.62	36.51
Afghanistan	82.33	49.40	62.60	42.82
Bangladesh	7.53	37.15	10.49	62.76
Bhutan	93.09	76.34	88.99	61.30
India	39.40	42.93	27.63	27.66
Iran (Islamic Rep. Of)	8.29	8.11	14.41	15.90
Maldives	13.92	17.75	13.50	16.45
Nepal	64.09	61.45	60.46	56.36
Pakistan	20.26	23.24	32.19	31.92
Sri Lanka	8.22	33.19	10.96	42.28
Turkey	66.08	50.02	65.02	55.49

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 South and South-West Asia subregion includes: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran (Islamic Rep. of), Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Turkey

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

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