

Merchandise Trade

Pakistan has a trade-to-GDP ratio of 30.31%. Merchandise trade accounted for 85.8% of Pakistan's total trade in 2017. Pakistan's merchandise exports declined by 2.4% on average during 2012-2017, lower than the Asia-Pacific average of 0% during the same time period. In 2017, Pakistan's merchandise exports grew by 5.9%, while in the Asia-Pacific region they increased by 11.5% in the same year. Meanwhile, Pakistan's merchandise imports increased by 6.2% on average during 2012-2017, and recorded an increase of 23.3% between 2016 and 2017.

Services Trade

In 2017, Pakistan's commercial services' shares of total exports and imports were 15.3% and 13.8%, respectively. Commercial services exports grew by 4.3% on average during 2012-2017, higher than the Asia-Pacific average of 3.2% during the same time period. In 2017, Pakistan' commercial services exports grew by 4.3%, while in Asia-Pacific region they increased by 7.9%. Meanwhile, Pakistan's commercial services imports increased by 4.2% on average during the 2012-2017 period, recording a growth rate of 10.5% from 2016 to 2017.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

Pakistan recorded an average annual FDI inflows growth of 45.3% from 2012 to 2017, larger than the Asia and the Pacific's 2.9% average annual FDI inflow growth. At the same time, Pakistan experienced an increase in FDI inflows by 13.2% in 2017. In terms of FDI outflows, Pakistan had an average annual FDI outflows decline of 3.7% in the last five years, smaller than the Asia and the Pacific's 3.5% average annual FDI outflow growth. In 2017, Pakistan experienced an increase in FDI outflows by 28.8%.



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Top Trade Partners

In 2017, the largest trade partner of Pakistan was China, representing 6.1% of its exports and 27.9% of its imports. 4.5% of Pakistan's exports and 14% of Pakistan's imports by value were traded with United Arab Emirates, its second largest trade partner. Other significant trade partners were United States, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, United Kingdom, Japan, Germany, India, and Qatar.

Top Traded Products

The largest product category exported by Pakistan in 2017 was "Bed linen, table linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen" (6302), with an export share of 14.3% of total exports, followed by the second most exported product category, "Suits, ensembles, jackets, blazers, trousers, bib and brace overalls, breeches and shorts (other than swimwear); men's or boys' (not knitted or crocheted)" (6203), which accounted for 9.1% of Pakistan's total exports. In terms of imports, "Petroleum oils and oils from bituminous minerals, not crude; preparations n.e.c, containing by weight 70% or more of petroleum oils or oils from bituminous minerals; these being the basic constituents of the preparations; waste oils" (2710) represented 12.9% of total imports, standing out the top imported product category. Meanwhile, "Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals; crude" (2709) had a share of 9.1%, the second largest imported product category in Pakistan in 2017.

Tariffs

In 2017, average MFN applied and effectively applied tariffs in Pakistan were 12.13% and 13.05%, respectively - higher than the averages for the Asia-Pacific economies of 7.46% and 6.91%, respectively. Average MFN bound tariff rate of 60.85% was higher than the Asia-Pacific average of 26.35%. Pakistan is a founding member of the WTO. Currently, 98.71% of Pakistan's tariff lines are bound.

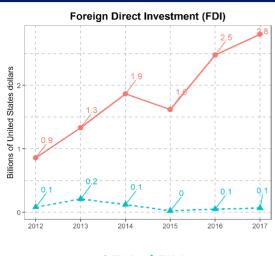
Trade Costs

Pakistan's average trade costs with major trading economies in the region, are presented in the graph below. Trade costs in Pakistan remained higher compared with the most efficient traders in Asia and the Pacific.

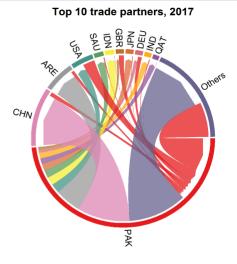


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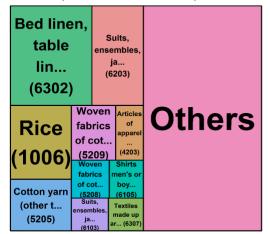




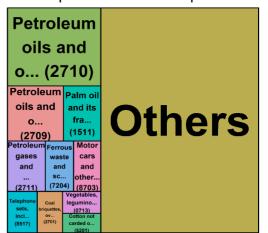
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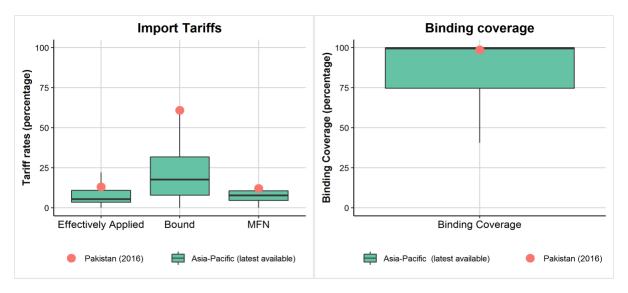


Top merchandise exports



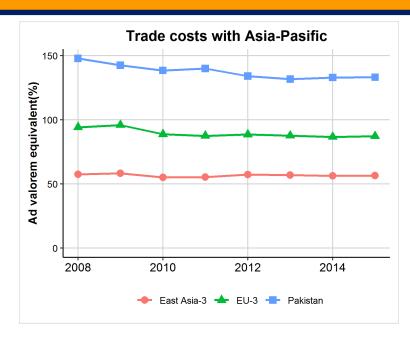
Top merchandise imports











Trade Agreements

Pakistan has 11 trade agreements in force, 0 signed agreements pending ratification, and 10 trade agreements under negotiation. Of the economy's total exports, 28.9% are directed to its trade agreement partners, while 47.7% of its total imports come from trade agreement partners.

Title	Status	Year in force	Share of total exports (%)	Share of total imports (%)
Protocol on Trade Negotiations (PTN)	in force	1973	8.84	4.10
Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP)	in force	1989	15.26	19.29
Pakistan-Sri Lanka	in force	2005	1.14	0.26
Pakistan-Iran	in force	2006	0.14	0.41
South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) and SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services (SATIS)	in force	2006	10.44	3.88
China-Pakistan	in force	2007	6.04	27.39

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