Asia – Pacific Trade Briefs:
Kazakhstan

- Due to rising demand for fuel and natural resources, Kazakhstan's exports grew by around 40% annually in 2010 and 2011. In 2012 export growth was more subdued at just 5% though still above the regional average of 2%. The trade balance worsened slightly from a surplus of 27% of GDP in 2011 to 24% of GDP in 2012 [Figures 1 and 2].
- More than 70% of exports are fuel related, which is a common feature of exports from countries in North and Central Asia. Manufactured goods account for 17% of total merchandise exports, which is lower than the average of Asia-Pacific countries [Figure 6].
- Kazakhstan has performed well in attracting FDI. The country has received inflows of around $13 billion annually between 2009 and 2012. The share of inward FDI stock to GDP is far above the regional average. Companies from Kazakhstan have been investing less overseas with FDI outflows declining since 2010 [Figures 1 and 3].
- Kazakhstan has signed 10 preferential trade agreements (PTAs), however less than 20% of exports go to its PTA partners [Figure 1].
- The country performs poorly on measures of trade facilitation: the completion of trade procedures takes 75 days compared with 28 days for the region on average. The costs of trading with countries in South-East Asia are higher than the regional average [Figures 1 and 5].

Figure 1. Trade and Investment Performance Indicators (2012)

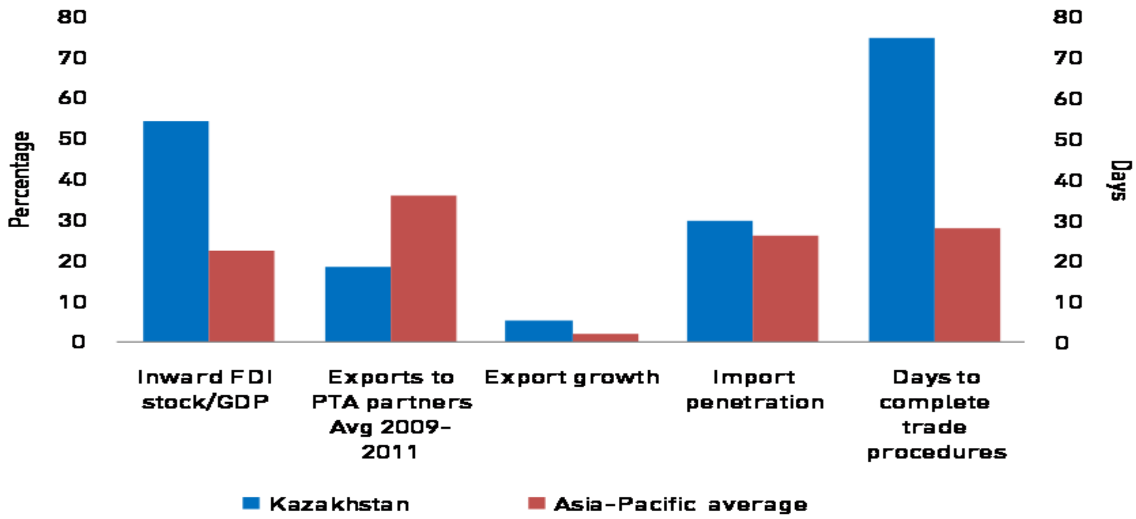


Figure 2. Merchandise Trade

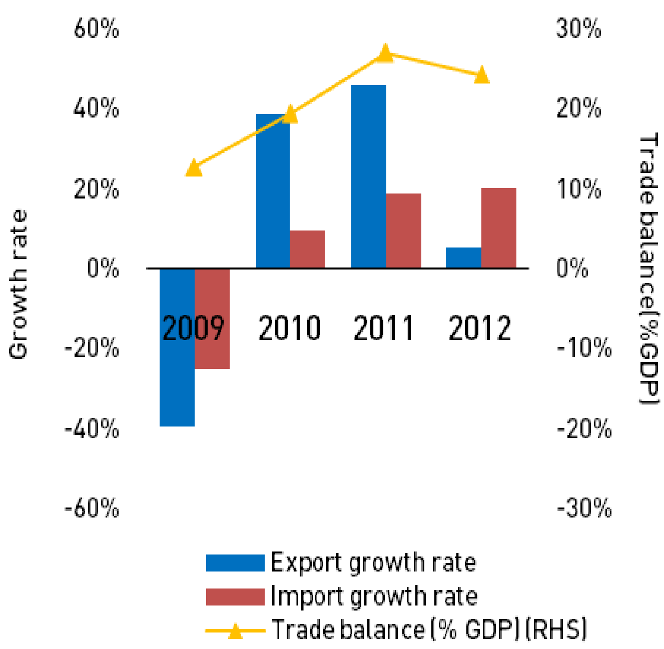


Figure 3. FDI Flows

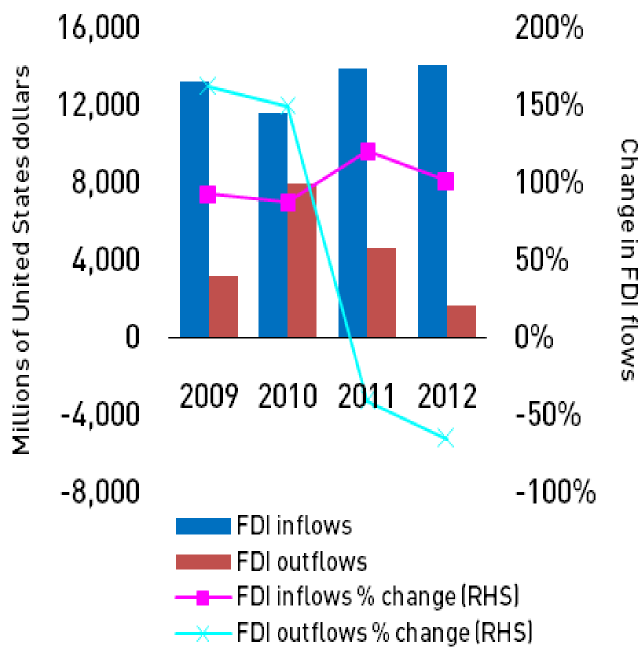


Figure 4. Trade Barriers

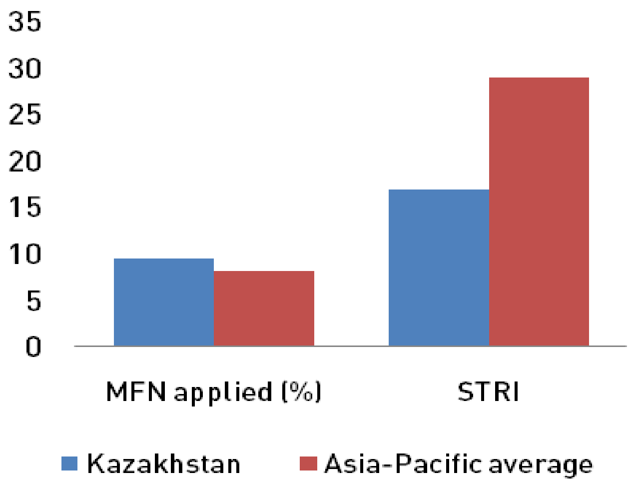


Figure 5. Trade Costs (excl. tariffs) with Asia-Pacific Subregions

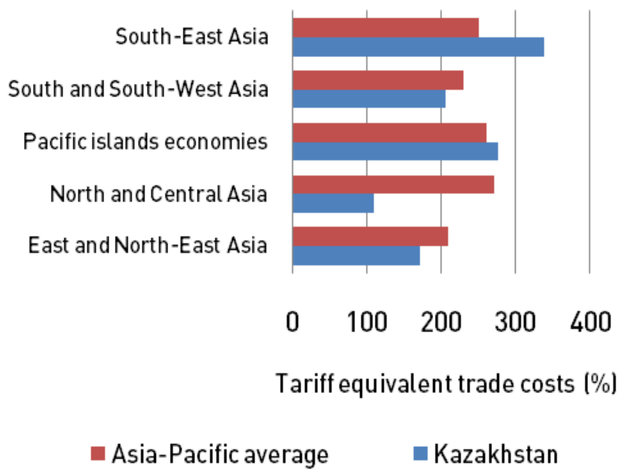
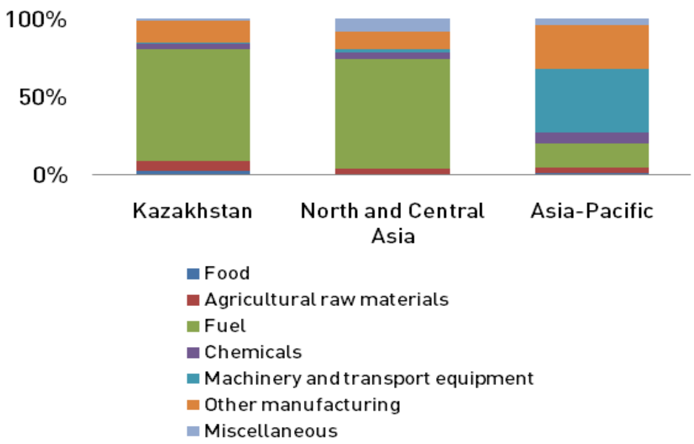


Figure 6. Export Composition by Category (2010-2012)



Notes

FDI: foreign direct investment
PTA: preferential trade agreement
MFN: most-favoured-nation
STRI: Services Trade Restrictiveness Index http://iresearch.worldbank.org/servicestrade/
Definitions:
Import penetration: share of imports in domestic demand
PTA coverage: share of exports to PTA partners in total exports. Average over 2009-11
Trade costs: all costs involved in trading goods internationally relative to those involved in trading goods domestically. Average over 2006-11
MFN applied: tariffs applied on imports among WTO members.
MFN Bound: maximum MFN tariff levels agreed to as part of WTO obligations.

Source: Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report (APTIR) 2013 unless otherwise specified.
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