



Nepal

ISCC Ranking: 119

Reducing the cost of international trade transactions has become a priority for Governments intent on facilitating the effective integration of firms in regional and global production networks. Along with improving availability and access to trade related infrastructure, cutting red tape and enhancing trade processes have become essential both to maintain competitiveness and enable smaller players to also benefit.

The latest data on international trade costs from the ESCAP-World Bank database suggest that Nepal has made limited progress on reducing trade costs with its South and South-West Asian neighbors, as well as with other sub-regional Asian partners. When tariff costs are excluded, trade costs between Nepal and the United States are lower than those between Nepal and some of the other South and South-West Asian countries, suggesting further room for intra-regional trade facilitation. Trade costs in the agricultural sector remain prohibitively high in most cases.

Nepal ranks 119th of 179 countries according to the ESCAP International Supply Chain Connectivity (ISCC) Index, a new index released on the occasion of the Asia-Pacific Trade & Investment Week (November 2013) which captures the extent of a country's facilitation of import and export processes as well as its access to efficient maritime services. Nepal's progress in enhancing supply chain connectivity since 2006 has been lower than the South Asian average, in part due to its landlockedness, and potential instability.

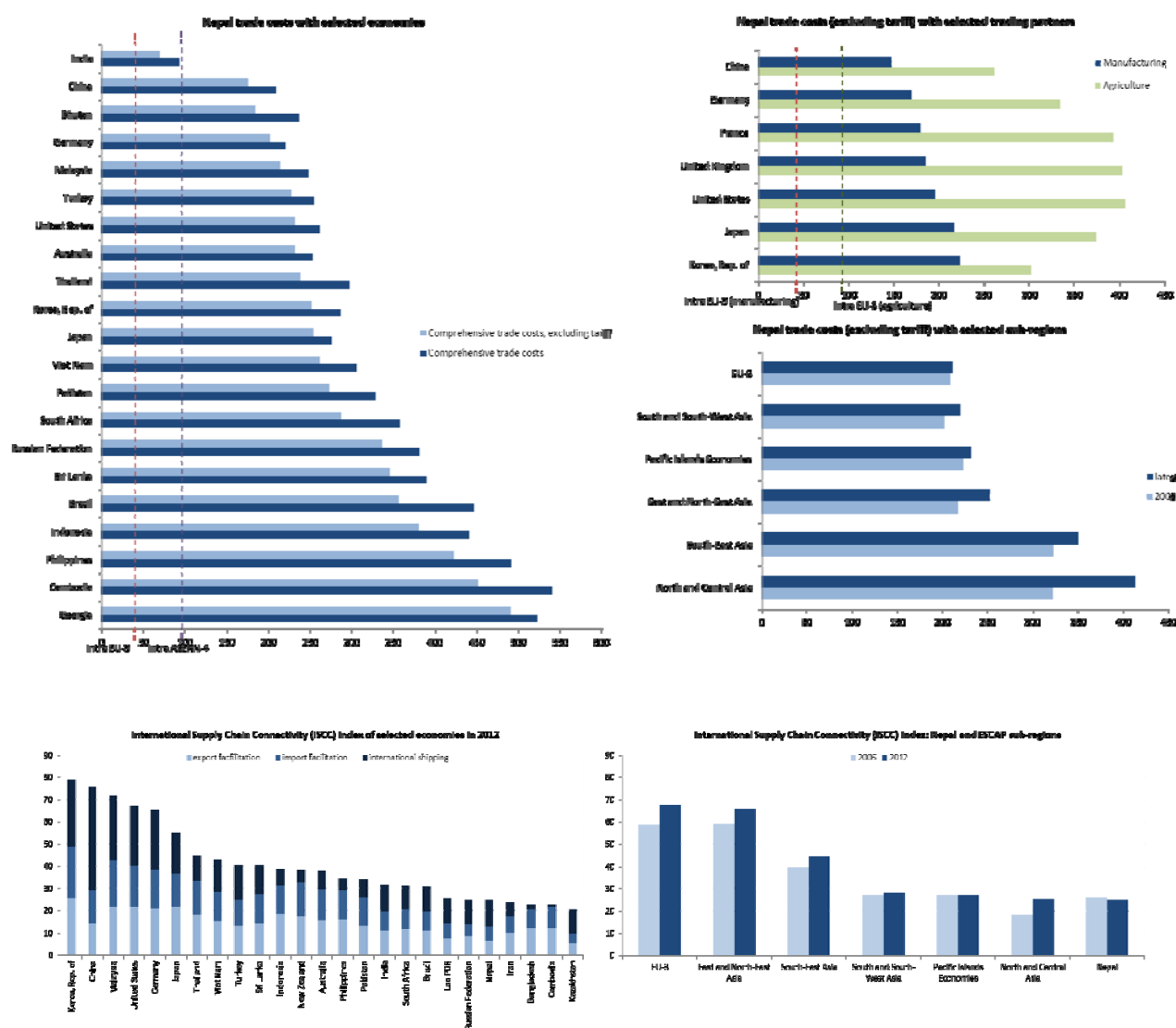


Table 1: Bilateral trade costs (excluding tariff): selected top traders with Nepal in goods sector

Trade costs: overall Partner country	Value: tariff-equivalent			Percentage change
	2006	latest	Average 2006-latest	2006-latest
China	169.29	174.73	171.09	3.21
France	213.60	209.97	212.37	-1.70
Germany	196.77	200.70	199.94	1.99
Japan	246.24	253.33	247.50	2.88
Korea, Rep. of	236.59	251.15	253.15	6.16
United Kingdom	212.37	219.72	220.11	3.46
United States	200.67	230.49	217.08	14.86
Trade costs ESCAP sub-region	Value: tariff-equivalent			Percentage change
	2006	latest	Average 2006-latest	2006-latest
East and North-East Asia	216.14	251.15	227.49	16.20
North and Central Asia	321.21	412.29	363.09	28.36
Pacific Islands Economies	221.74	230.79	212.45	4.08
South and South-West Asia	201.43	219.21	209.73	8.83
South-East Asia	321.55	349.19	331.77	8.60
EU-3	207.58	210.21	210.66	1.27

Table 2: Bilateral trade costs (excluding tariff): selected economies/sub-regions with Nepal in agriculture and manufacturing sector

Trade costs: agriculture Partner country	Value: tariff-equivalent			Percentage change
	2006	latest	Average 2006-latest	2006-latest
China	250.70	261.15	247.46	4.17
France	402.22	393.00	397.61	-2.29
Germany	338.75	333.77	337.73	-1.47
Japan	378.53	373.62	370.30	-1.30
Korea, Rep. of	323.49	301.57	306.53	-6.78
United Kingdom	492.70	403.01	417.34	-18.20
United States	315.13	405.82	317.86	28.78
Trade costs: agriculture ESCAP sub-region	Value: tariff-equivalent			Percentage change
	2006	latest	Average 2006-latest	2006-latest
East and North-East Asia	317.57	281.36	303.15	-11.40
North and Central Asia	N/A	384.26	442.70	N/A
Pacific Islands Economies	287.47	393.65	285.98	36.94
South and South-West Asia	324.48	298.09	333.65	-8.13
South-East Asia	239.79	328.49	298.15	36.99
EU-3	411.22	368.39	382.28	-10.42

Trade costs: manufacturing Partner country	Value: tariff-equivalent			Percentage change
	2006	latest	Average 2006-latest	2006-latest
China	141.74	146.35	143.86	3.25
France	181.37	178.71	180.50	-1.46
Germany	167.25	168.87	170.27	0.97
Japan	212.27	216.34	213.60	1.92
Korea, Rep. of	209.75	223.18	225.68	6.40
United Kingdom	180.83	185.30	188.21	2.47
United States	171.68	195.17	186.88	13.68
Trade costs: manufacturing ESCAP sub-region	Value: tariff-equivalent			Percentage change
	2006	latest	Average 2006-latest	2006-latest
East and North-East Asia	187.49	223.18	200.31	19.03
North and Central Asia	272.94	360.70	312.20	32.15
Pacific Islands Economies	195.37	197.48	185.91	1.08
South and South-West Asia	196.94	179.68	199.71	-8.77
South-East Asia	272.49	285.14	279.41	4.64
EU-3	176.48	177.08	179.43	0.34

Table 3: International supply chain connectivity (ISCC) index and sub-indicators: top traders

Country	2006				2012				ISCC (average 2006-2012)	ISCC (percentage change 2006-2012)
	Export facilitation	Import facilitation	International shipping	ISCC	Export facilitation	Import facilitation	International shipping	ISCC		
Nepal	7.03	6.66	12.64	26.34	6.58	6.15	12.17	24.90	25.45	-5.48
Japan	21.71	14.97	19.02	55.70	21.59	14.91	18.59	55.10	55.91	-1.09
United Kingdom	19.12	17.11	24.03	60.25	20.83	19.64	24.76	65.23	62.37	8.26
Germany	22.13	18.35	23.77	64.25	21.24	17.37	26.71	65.32	65.24	1.67
United States of America	22.11	19.07	25.29	66.46	21.57	18.66	27.03	67.25	65.55	1.18
France	17.60	13.92	19.98	51.50	26.86	23.97	20.66	71.49	65.64	38.83
China	17.92	16.89	33.33	68.15	14.28	15.15	46.03	75.46	72.62	10.73
Korea, Rep. of	16.85	11.79	21.20	49.84	25.56	23.33	29.98	78.87	66.30	58.25

Table 4: International supply chain connectivity (ISCC): sub-regional average

Sub-region	2006	2012	Average 2006-2012	Percentage change 2006-2012
East and North-East Asia	58.91	66.03	62.93	12.09
North and Central Asia	18.13	25.37	20.95	39.94
Pacific Islands Economies	27.36	27.20	27.28	-0.61
South and South-West Asia	27.38	28.03	28.16	2.37
South-East Asia	39.65	44.66	42.24	12.64
EU-3	58.67	67.35	64.41	14.80

This note is based on ESCAP's trade costs and International Supply Chain Connectivity Databases. For full database access, please visit <http://www.unescap.org/tid/artnet/database.asp>

Definitions:

Comprehensive trade costs: all costs involved in trading goods internationally with another partner relative to those involved in trading goods domestically;
Comprehensive trade costs (excluding tariff): all additional costs other than tariff costs involved in trading goods bilaterally rather than domestically;
International Supply Chain Connectivity (ISCC): an index that measures overall trade facilitation performance of a country along the international supply chain, which is based on the trading across border (TAB) indicators from the World Bank Doing Business Report and the Liner Shipping Connectivity Index

(LSCI) of UNCTAD. ISCC Ranks from 1 to 179. **Intra EU-3**: average trade costs among 3 largest EU economies, namely, France, Germany and United Kingdom.
Intra ASEAN-4: average trade costs among Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand.

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