

# I. World trade developments

World merchandise exports grew by 2 per cent in value terms in 2013 while exports of commercial services increased by 6 per cent.

## Key developments in 2013: a snapshot

12

## Trade data

20

List of tables	20
1. Overview	21
2. Trade by region	22
3. Leading traders	26
4. Bilateral trade of leading traders	30
5. Regional trade agreements	38
6. Least-developed countries	42
7. Foreign affiliates statistics	46

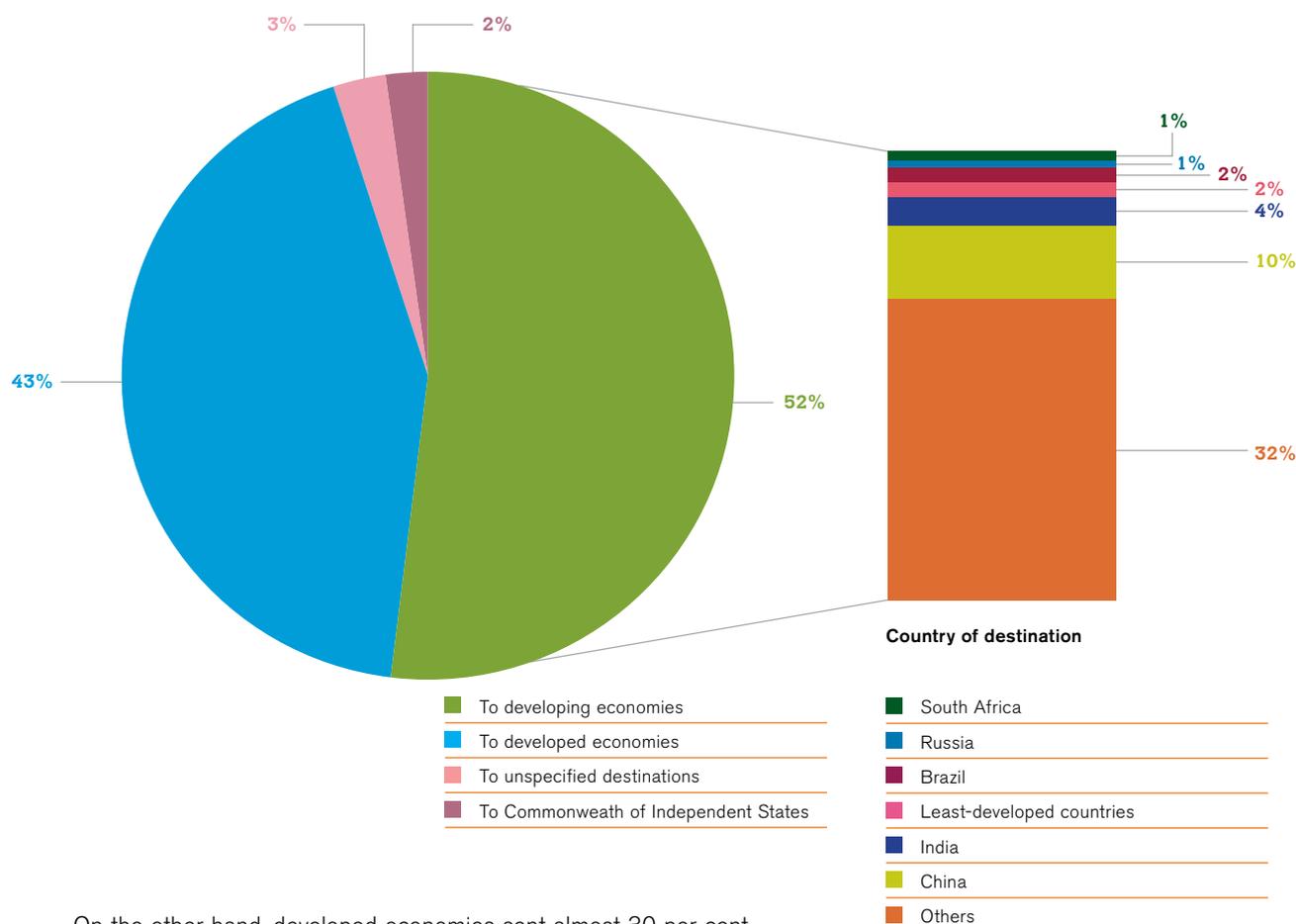


### Where to find more online:

you can access and download the Excel files for the tables via [www.wto.org/statistics](http://www.wto.org/statistics)

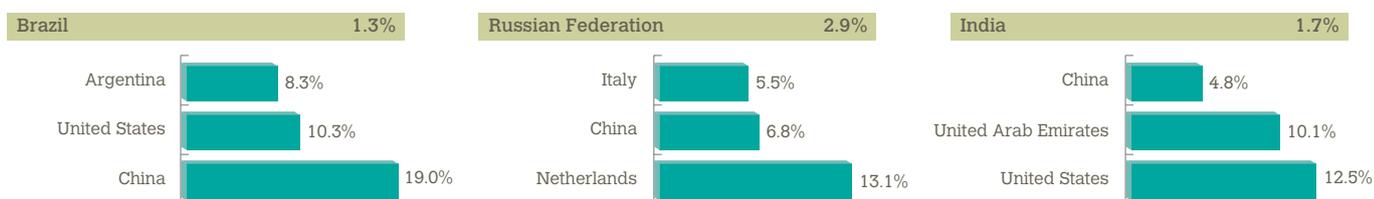
# Over half of merchandise exports from developing economies are sent to other developing economies

Merchandise exports from developing countries, 2013



On the other hand, developed economies sent almost 30 per cent of their total exports to developing economies.

## Merchandise trade by the BRICS (percentage share in world trade and main export partners, 2013)

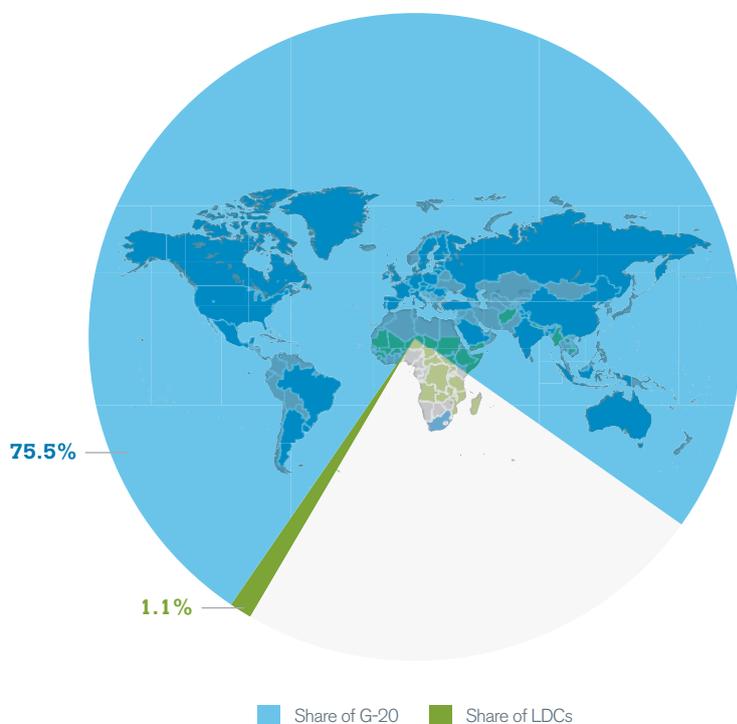


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Table I.2



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## Share in world merchandise exports, 2013



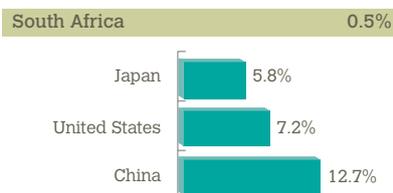
LDC exports amounted to US\$ 215 billion in 2013. Some 44 per cent of this was exported to Asia (23 per cent to China), 24 per cent to Europe (20 per cent to the European Union) and 12 per cent to North America (10 per cent to the United States).

- Developing economies' sent a little more than half of their total merchandise exports to other developing economies in 2013. In particular, 35 per cent were exported to developing Asia, 6 per cent to South and Central America and the Caribbean, 6 per cent to the Middle East and 4 per cent to Africa.
- Developing economies' exports to least-developed countries (LDCs) in 2013 grew by 8 per cent, compared with 10 per cent in 2012. In contrast, developed economies' exports to LDCs grew by 3 per cent in 2013 following stagnation the previous year.
- Developing economies' exports to the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) totalled US\$ 1,382 billion in 2013, representing 17 per cent of their total exports or 8 per cent of global merchandise exports.

### World merchandise exports in 2013

**44%**  
originated from  
developing economies

**52%**  
originated from  
developed economies



## Merchandise exports increase by 2.5 per cent in volume terms

- World merchandise exports grew by 2.5 per cent and gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 2.0 percent in 2013.
- Asia achieved the highest growth in merchandise exports (4.5 per cent) followed by North America (3.0 per cent). The highest growth in imports was recorded by the Middle East (6.0 per cent) and Asia (4.5 per cent).
- Africa's merchandise exports declined by 2.5 per cent in 2013 following growth of 6.5 per cent in 2012. Slower growth was also recorded in the Middle East (2.0 per cent in 2013 compared with 5.0 per cent in 2012) and in North America (3.0 per cent in 2013 following 4.5 per cent in 2012).

# 4.0%

Merchandise exports from developing economies grew by 4% in volume terms in 2013

# 5.0%

Merchandise imports into developing economies grew by 5% in volume terms in 2013

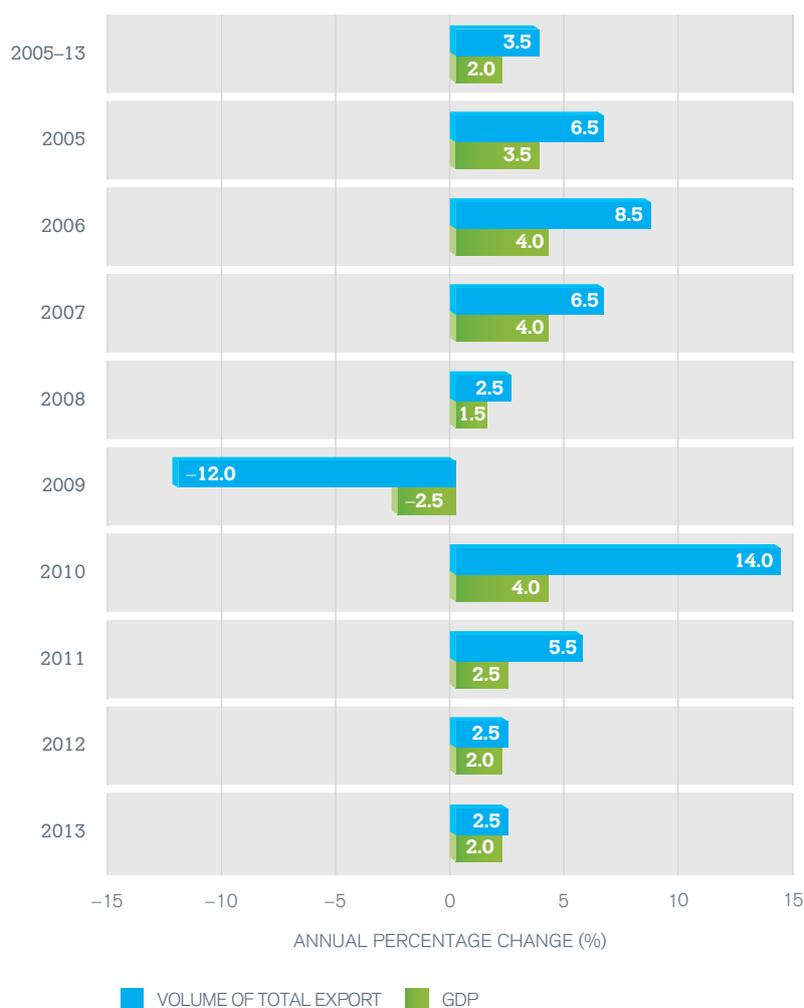
# 2%

World merchandise imports grew by 2% in volume terms in 2013



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Table I.2

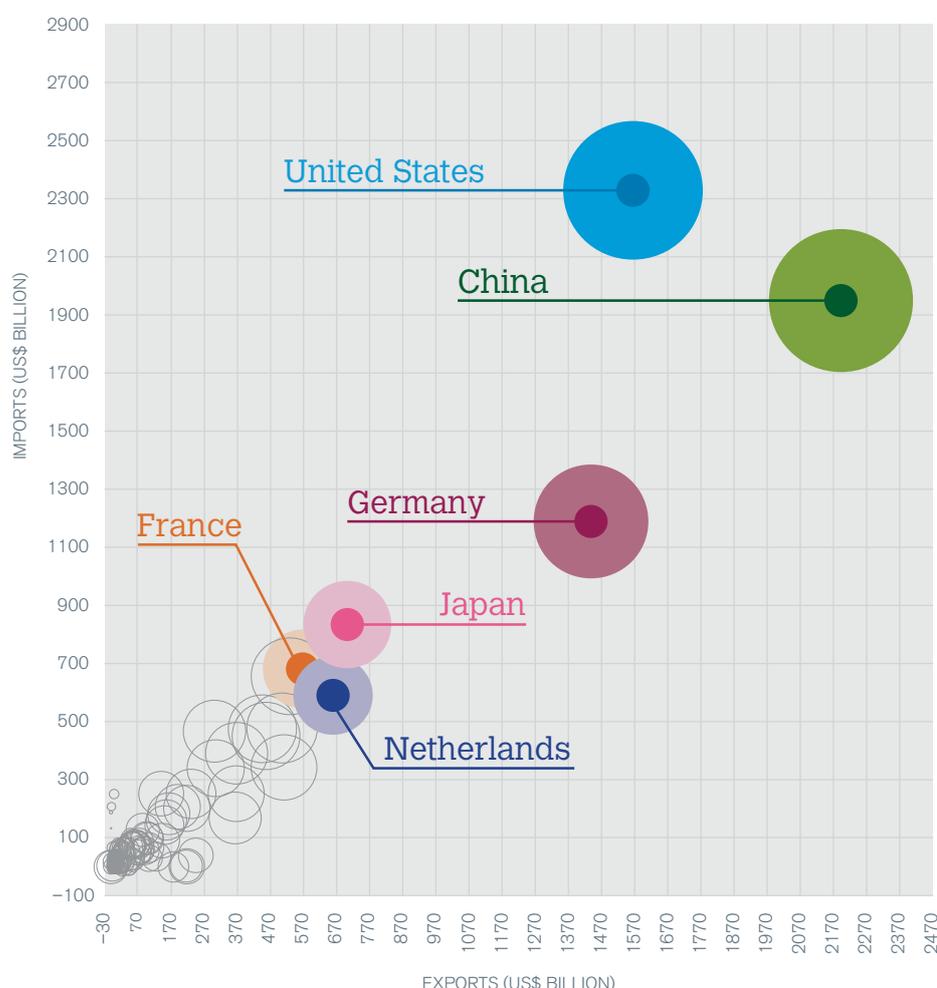
### Volume of world merchandise exports and gross domestic product, 2005–13



# China, United States and Germany are top three merchandise traders

- China became the world's biggest merchandise trader in 2013, with imports and exports totalling US\$ 4,159 billion. It recorded a trade surplus of US\$ 259 billion, 2.8 per cent of its GDP.
- The United States is the second-biggest merchandise trader, with imports and exports totalling US\$ 3,909 billion in 2013. The US trade deficit was US\$ 750 billion (4.5 per cent of its GDP). Germany is in third place, with a trade surplus of US\$ 264 billion in 2013, 7.3 per cent of its GDP.
- Japan ranks fourth, with merchandise trade totalling US\$ 1,548 billion in 2013. It recorded a trade deficit of US\$ 118 billion, 2.4 per cent of its GDP.

## Leading merchandise traders, 2013



# 13.6%

Yemen, the newest WTO member, saw its merchandise exports rise by 13.6% in 2013.

China was the world's biggest merchandise trader in 2013

Exports

US\$ 2,209 billion

Imports

US\$ 1,950 billion

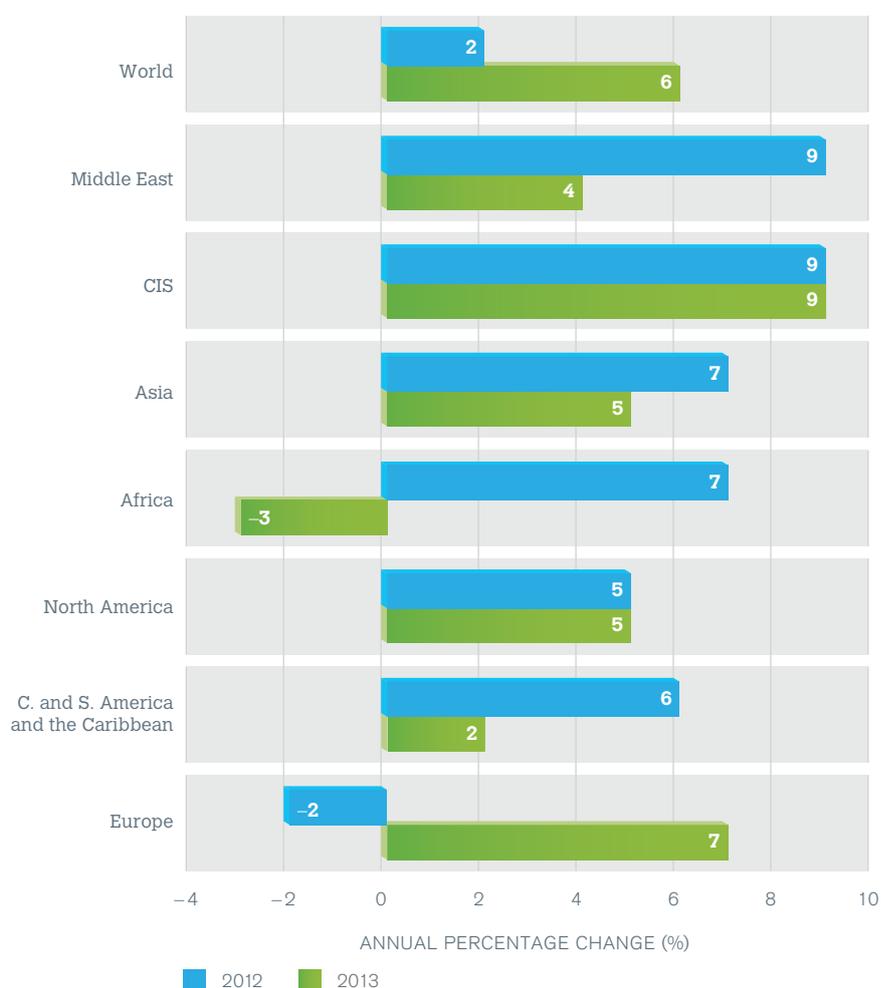
Where to find more:  
Tables 1.7, 1.8, A6 and A7

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## World exports of commercial services achieve strong recovery

- World exports of commercial services totalled US\$ 4,645 billion in 2013. Growth of nearly 6 per cent was largely the result of a recovery in European trade.
- Europe's exports of commercial services grew by 7 per cent in 2013. In North America, exports expanded by 5 per cent. Asia's exports grew by 5 per cent, a slightly lower rate than in 2012. In Central and South America, exports grew by only 2 per cent, hampered by Brazil's declining exports. In the Middle East, exports rose by 4 per cent, compared with almost 9 per cent the previous year.
- The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) recorded the highest growth in exports of commercial services in 2013 (9 per cent), repeating the growth achieved in 2012. In contrast, Africa's exports of commercial services contracted by 3 per cent, partly due to a decline in exports from Egypt, Nigeria and Tunisia.

### Exports of commercial services by selected region, 2012–13



6%

Growth in exports of commercial services in 2013

-3%

Decline in Africa's commercial services exports in 2013



Where to find more:  
Table I.3

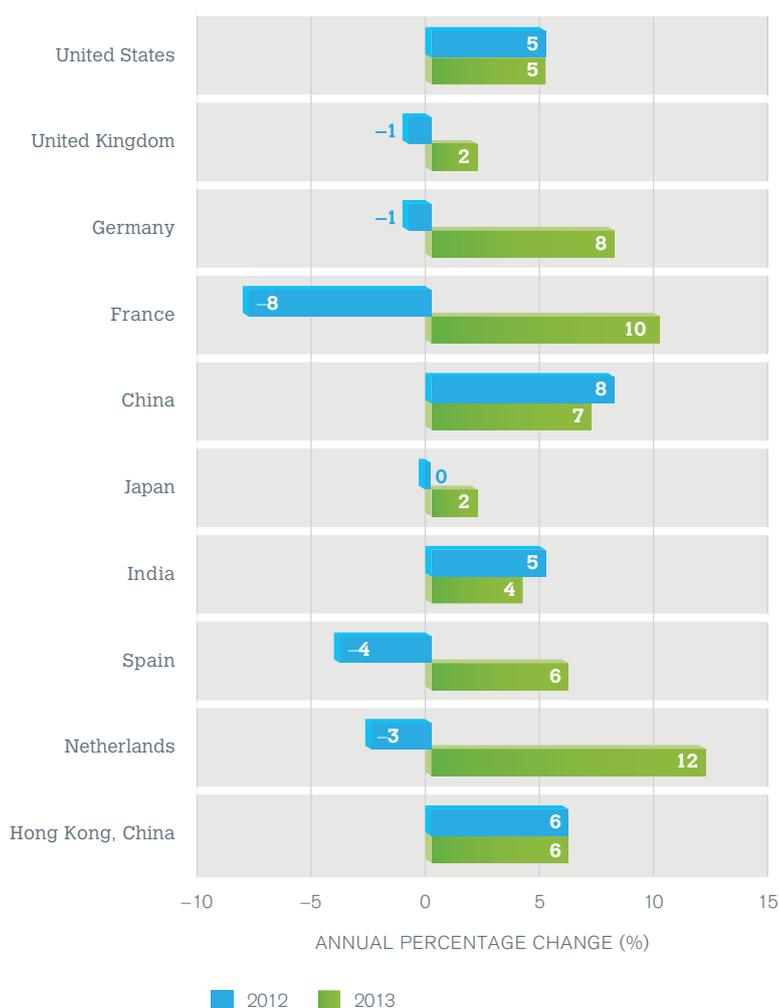


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# Europe sees recovery in commercial services while Asia slows down

- Exports of commercial services from leading European traders bounced back in 2013 after declining significantly in 2012. One of the highest growth rates was achieved by the Netherlands (12 per cent) followed by France (10 per cent) and Germany (8 per cent). The United Kingdom saw more modest growth of 2 per cent.
- Several Asian economies saw a slowdown in exports of commercial services in 2013. China's exports grew by 7 per cent, one percentage point less than in 2012. This was due to lower transport receipts. In India, exports were up by 4 per cent compared with 5 per cent the previous year. However, Japan's exports recovered after stagnating in 2012.
- In the United States, the largest exporter of commercial services, exports expanded by 5 per cent in 2013.

## Leading exporters of commercial services 2012–13



### Growth in exports of commercial services in 2013

10%

France

8%

Germany

2%

United Kingdom



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## LDC exports of commercial services expand rapidly

- Since 2000, exports of commercial services from least-developed countries (LDCs) have grown by 14 per cent per year on average, a much higher growth rate than in other economies (9 per cent on average).
- The high growth rate in commercial services has been fuelled by LDCs in Asia, with significant growth achieved by Cambodia as the leading LDC tourist destination, by Bangladesh as an emerging exporter of information and communication technology and, in recent years, by Afghanistan due to the increase in construction services for non-residents.
- In Africa, the commercial services sector has benefited in particular from Ethiopia's expansion of air transportation services and from the attraction of Tanzania and Uganda as tourist destinations. An expansion in exports has not been as swift, however, in LDC islands whose services sector is less diversified.
- Despite these positive developments, LDCs' participation in world exports of commercial services remained at only 0.7 per cent in 2013.

Growth in exports of commercial services in 2013

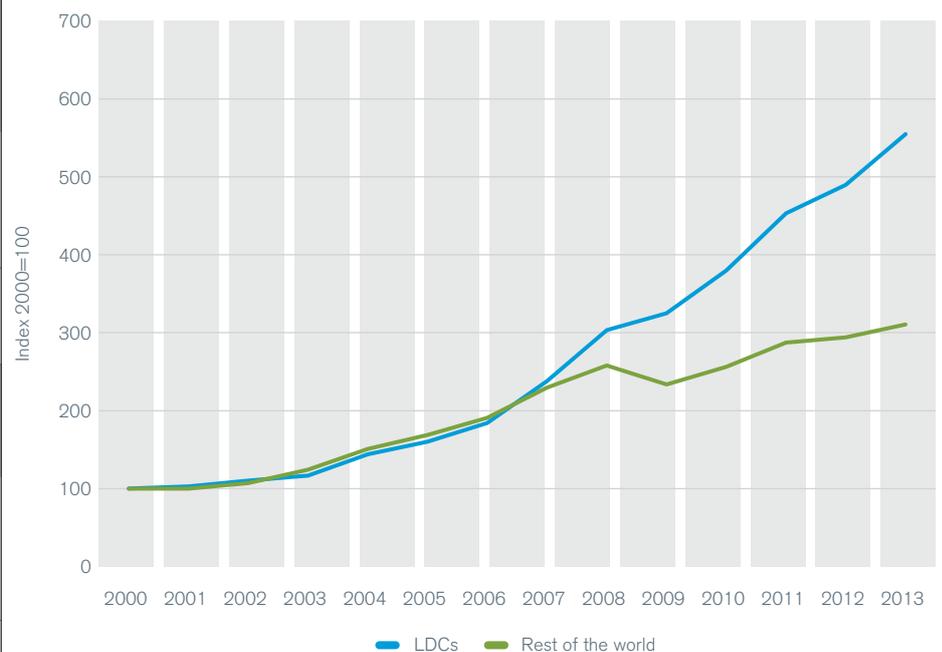
13%

Least-developed countries (LDCs)

6%

Rest of the world

### LDC exports of commercial services, 2000–13



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Table I.23



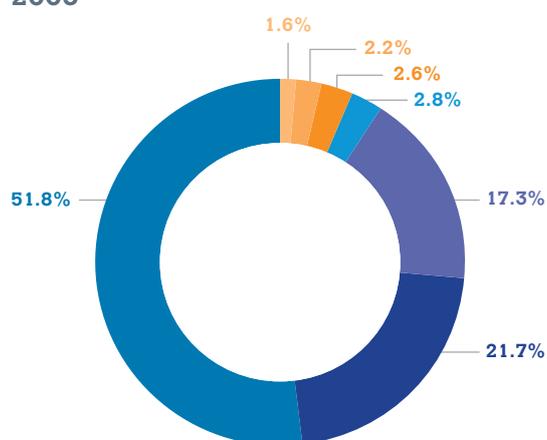
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# Asia gains increasing share in exports of commercial services

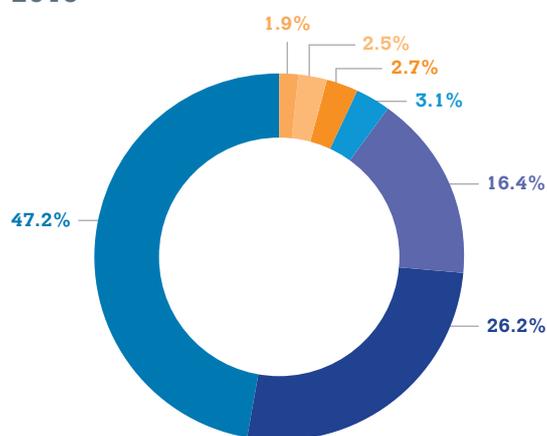
- The regional share in world exports of commercial services has changed in recent years. In 2013, Europe's exports of commercial services accounted for 47.2 per cent of world receipts, down from 51.8 per cent in 2005. European exporters saw their shares of travel exports decrease significantly. North America's world share of exports was 16.4 per cent in 2013, compared with 17.3 per cent in 2005.
- The lower European share in global exports of commercial services is due to rising exports by other regions, such as Asia, which accounted for 26.2 per cent of global services exports in 2013. This was driven by increasing travel receipts recorded by Macao, China and by Thailand as well as higher exports of other commercial services by India and China.
- The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) increased its global share of exports of commercial services from 1.6 per cent to 2.5 per cent in 2013. The CIS has recorded the fastest average annual growth rate since 2005 (14 per cent on average). This growth was mostly due to Russia's increase in transport exports, which represents the region's most important services sector. Central and South America also saw their share in global exports grow.
- The Middle East's contribution to exports of commercial services remained steady at around 2.6-2.7 per cent in 2013 while Africa's share declined to only 1.9 per cent.

## Exports of commercial services, 2005 and 2013

2005



2013



Asia's share in global exports of commercial services

21.7%

in 2005

26.2%

in 2013



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Table I.3



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