

The EarthTrends Information Guide for International Trade



EarthTrends Environmental Information

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International trade refers to the exchange of goods or services across national borders. It allows economies to export goods which they produce in abundance and import those that they lack, increasing welfare. Trade also permits economies to concentrate on the production of goods or services for which they have a competitive advantage, which raises global output by increasing the amount of goods and services that can be produced with the same amount of resources.

Despite the potential for international trade to serve as an engine for development, it is often limited by current trade structures and practices. For example, international trade can lead to the loss of traditional lifestyles and an increased risk of unemployment as an economy repositions its activities into areas of comparative advantage. In addition, global market prices for products do not necessarily reflect the environmental or social costs incurred in their production. Finally, developed countries often impose significant barriers to agricultural imports from developing countries even though they experience relatively few barriers to their manufactured exports.

Find the following **International Trade Information** and much more on **EarthTrends**.

SEARCHABLE DATABASE

[http://earthtrends.wri.org/searchable_db/index.php?theme=5]

Trade in Goods and Services: Current account balance

Exports of goods and services; as a percent of GDP

Imports of goods and services; as a percent of GDP

Net trade in goods and services (balance of trade)

Trade in Goods: Agricultural raw materials exports/imports as a percent of merchandise exports/imports

Food exports/imports as a percent of merchandise exports/imports

Fuel exports/imports as a percent of merchandise exports/imports

Manufactures exports/imports as a percent of merchandise exports/imports

Merchandise exports; Merchandise imports

Trade in Fish and Fisheries Products: Exports, value; Imports, value

Trade in Forest Products: Exports, value; Imports, value

Transnational Corporations: Foreign direct investment, net inflows

Number of foreign affiliates

Number of parent enterprises

MAPS

[http://earthtrends.wri.org/maps_spatial/index.php?theme=5]

Foreign Direct Investment: Net Inflows

FEATURES

[<http://earthtrends.wri.org/datatables/index.php?theme=5>]

Financing Carbon: Export Credit Agencies and Climate Change

Globalization, Governance, and Poverty

Toxic Trade: The Real Cost of Electronics Waste Exports from the United States

DATA TABLES

[<http://earthtrends.wri.org/datatables/index.php?theme=5>]

Financial Flows

LINKS

International Finance Corporation [<http://www.ifc.org/>]

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) [<http://www.oecd.org/>]

World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) [<http://www.wbcsd.org/>]