Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) was established in 1989. The 21 member economies are Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; the Philippines; Russia; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; the United States; and Viet Nam.

APEC Policy Support Unit (PSU) was set up in 2008 as the policy research and analysis arm for APEC. It supports APEC members and fora in improving the quality of their deliberations and decisions and promoting policies that support the achievement of APEC’s goals by providing objective and high quality research, analytical capacity and policy support capability. APEC in Charts was launched by the PSU in 2013 to provide a graphical overview of the APEC region’s economic, trade, investment and policy-related performance. If you have any feedback, please write to us at email: psugroup@apec.org.

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An estimated 2.9 billion people, accounting for 38% of the global population, inhabited the APEC region in 2020. The five most populous APEC economies remained the same as in 2019. China continued to top the region with a global population share of 18%, followed by the United States and Indonesia at 4% each.

The real GDP per capita of APEC economies ranged widely between USD 2,123 and USD 56,349 in 2020, with the average APEC value at USD 16,090. Australia; Singapore; and the United States had a GDP per capita of more than USD 50,000 while Indonesia; Papua New Guinea; the Philippines; and Viet Nam had a GDP per capita of less than USD 5,000. All economies are expected to recover from the negative economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic with a projected increase in their GDP per capita in 2021. The average real GDP per capita for the APEC region is projected to increase by 6.0% to USD 17,055 in 2021.

The APEC region generated a nominal GDP of USD 52 trillion in 2020, accounting for 62% of the global nominal GDP. The top four economies in the region remained the same as 2019, while Korea took the fifth spot that was previously occupied by Russia. The combined GDP of China and the United States amounted to 68% of the region’s GDP and 42% of the world’s GDP.

The APEC region accounted for 48% of global trade in goods and commercial services in 2020. China overtook the United States to become the largest trader among APEC economies, accounting for 12% of global trade. Together, China, Japan, and the United States accounted for slightly more than one quarter of global trade and 55% of APEC’s trade.
Real GDP per capita growth declined drastically across industrialised and developing APEC economies in 2020 but is expected to recover in 2021 as the region adapts to the post-pandemic new normal. Positive growth rates are expected for both economy groupings, with the increase being sharper for developing APEC economies at 6.5% compared to 5.1% for industrialised APEC economies. Real GDP per capita growth for the region is expected to average at 6.2% in 2021.

The APEC region recorded a real GDP growth of -1.9% in 2020. The economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in negative real GDP growth rates in 17 APEC economies in 2020. The largest annual decline was recorded by Peru at -11.1%. Only Brunei Darussalam; China; Chinese Taipei; and Viet Nam registered positive real GDP growth rates during the period.

The APEC Macroeconomic Indicators

1.2 Real GDP Growth (annual percent), 2019 – 2020

1.3 Real GDP per Capita Growth Rates (annual percent), 2000 – 2021
The average unemployment rate in the APEC region in 2020 was 5.0%, an increase from the 3.8% average unemployment rate in 2019, due to the economic slowdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. All APEC economies, except Brunei Darussalam, registered an increase in their unemployment rates in 2020. Thailand registered the lowest unemployment rate in 2020 among APEC economies at 2.0%. Meanwhile, Peru's unemployment rate increased by 7 percentage points to reach 13.6%, the highest in the region.

Inflation rates in 14 APEC economies decreased between 2019 and 2020, but increased in the remaining seven economies. Japan; Malaysia; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; and Thailand experienced a price deflation in 2020.
In 2020, total APEC exports reached USD 8.9 trillion while total imports were at USD 9.0 trillion. On average, the region exported USD 738 billion and imported USD 750 billion per month. Trade in the APEC region has since recovered from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the first three months of 2021, APEC recorded USD 2.5 trillion in exports (19.4% higher than in January-March 2020) and USD 2.5 trillion in imports (15.5% higher than in January-March 2020). The 2021 merchandise trade has recovered to 2019 levels: exports and imports in January to March 2021 were both 11.2% higher than in 2019.

For most of 2020, growth for both merchandise exports and imports fell due to the impact of COVID-19. Merchandise exports and imports showed sustained recovery beginning November 2020, with positive growth rates recorded. In the first three months of 2021, APEC recorded a 19.4% growth in merchandise exports and a 15.5% growth in merchandise imports relative to the same period last year.
Export and import of commercial services saw an upward trend between 2010 and 2019, rising from about USD 1.5 trillion to USD 2.3 trillion. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, exports and imports plummeted in 2020, to USD 1.8 trillion and USD 1.7 trillion, respectively. These figures are equivalent to a fall of 21.4% for exports and 23.9% for imports.

APEC exports and imports volume growth rates have been on a decline since 2017 due to ongoing trade and technology tensions. Due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the volume of APEC exports and imports further went down by 1.9% and 2.6%, respectively, in 2020. Exports volume saw a contraction in industrialised APEC economies (-8.5%), whereas developing APEC economies recovered to positive growth (1.4%). Meanwhile, import volume contracted more in industrialised (-4.5%) than in developing APEC economies (-1.2%) in 2020.
2.5 Share of APEC Intra-regional Trade (percent), 2020

China and the United States accounted for more than 40% of APEC intra-regional trade in 2020. The two economies accounted for 40.9% of APEC intra-regional exports and 44.7% of APEC intra-regional imports.

2.6 Top 10 Most Traded Products between APEC and the World by Value (percent share), 2020

In 2020, APEC’s top 10 most traded goods (based on the Harmonized System 4-digit headings) accounted for 33.6% of the region’s trade with the world. The region’s most traded goods in terms of value were electronic integrated circuits and microassemblies, which totalled USD 1.6 trillion and accounted for 8.9% of APEC’s trade with the world. COVID-19 related products accounted for 4.7% of APEC’s total trade with the world.
The top 10 most traded products within APEC accounted for 34.6% of all intra-regional trade in 2020. Electronic integrated circuits and microassemblies remained as the most traded product within the region and accounted for 11.9% of intra-regional trade, a little over USD 1.5 trillion. COVID-19 related products accounted for 3.8% of total trade within APEC economies.

The proportion of tariff lines with MFN rates above 10% fell from 14.8% in 2010 to 12.0% in 2020. On the other hand, the proportion of duty-free tariff lines increased from 45.5% to 48.7% across the same period.
Between 1990 and 2020, the total number of trade agreements signed and enforced by APEC economies rose sharply, reaching 190 and 181, respectively. Similarly, the number of intra-APEC agreements signed and enforced has increased significantly since 1990. As of 2020, the number of intra-APEC agreements signed and enforced stood at 69 and 68, respectively.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows into APEC peaked in 2015 at USD 1,044.6 billion; however, there has been a downward trend since then, marking a low of USD 678.0 billion in 2020. Despite the decreasing trend, the APEC region’s total FDI inflows as a share of the world has steadily increased since 2016, from 50% to 68% of global FDI inflows in 2020.
FDI outflows from APEC decreased from USD 761.3 billion in 2019 to USD 634.5 billion in 2020; however, APEC’s FDI outflows as a share of the world increased from 62.4% to 85.8% during the same period. APEC’s share has more than doubled since 1990 when its total FDI outflows were slightly over 40% of the world’s.

In 2020, the five APEC economies with the largest FDI inflows hosted over 80.3% of APEC FDI inflows, while the five APEC economies with the largest FDI outflows provided 77.6% of the region’s outflows. The United States hosted the most APEC FDI inflows, while China was the largest contributor of FDI outflows among APEC economies.
As of 19 October 2021, the total number of COVID-19 confirmed cases in the APEC region amounted to 77 million. Total confirmed deaths reached 1.8 million as of the same date. About 2.3% of all confirmed COVID-19 cases were fatal.

Several APEC economies have made significant progress in their vaccination programmes, but the number of new COVID-19 cases and deaths reported daily in the APEC region remain high largely due to more contagious new variants. Since April 2020, the number of daily reported cases and deaths have continued to rise across the region.
As of 19 October 2021, approximately 64% of the population in the APEC region was vaccinated with at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine, and 57% was fully vaccinated.

Five economies, Canada; Chile; China; Malaysia; and Singapore, had more than 70% of their populations fully vaccinated.

Almost 20 months into the COVID-19 pandemic, the region continues to experience high levels of transmission. Daily reported COVID-19 cases peaked in 2021 in 18 APEC economies.
In 2020, a total of USD 850 billion and USD 479 billion worth of COVID-19 related goods were imported and exported between APEC and the world and within APEC economies, respectively. Four of the top five COVID-19 related products traded were the same in both cases. Immunological products, which made up 8.5% of all COVID-19 related products traded between APEC and the world, secured a spot in the top five but were replaced by electrical machines and apparatus in the trade within APEC economies.

## Data Notes

### Industrialised and Developing APEC Economies

#### APEC in the Global Economy, 2020
- Sources: World Bank, World Development Indicators; Directorate General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics (Chinese Taipei); International Monetary Fund, Direction of Trade Statistics; International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook April 2021; Trade Statistics Database (Chinese Taipei); and World Trade Organization, Time Series on International Trade.

#### APEC Macroeconomic Indicators
- Sources: International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook April 2021; World Bank, World Development Indicators; International Labour Organization; and Directorate General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics (Chinese Taipei).

#### APEC Trade Indicators
- Sources: International Monetary Fund, Direction of Trade Statistics; Trade Statistics Database (Chinese Taipei).
StatsAPEC is APEC’s statistics portal with data dating back to APEC’s inception in 1989. It consists of the Key Indicators Database and Bilateral Linkages Database. The Key Indicators Database includes over 120 GDP, trade, financial and socio-economic indicators, allowing for an analysis of trends across a number of topics. The Bilateral Linkages Database facilitates detailed analysis of bilateral trade flows between APEC economies and within APEC. APEC aggregates are available for most indicators in StatsAPEC, making it easy to examine the region as a whole.

StatsAPEC is available at statistics.apec.org.

Data Notes

5.3 Peak of Daily Cases, 1 Jan 2020 – 19 Oct 2021

5.4 COVID-19 Vaccination Status in the APEC Region (% of population), 19 Oct 2021
Note: Vaccination data are latest available as of 19 October 2021.

5.5 Top 5 Most Traded COVID-19 related Products (percent share), 2020
Note: COVID-19 related products, as defined by the International Trade Centre, comprise of (1) COVID-19 disinfectants, medical consumables, vaccines and related equipment; (2) COVID-19 medical supplies; and (3) COVID-19 vaccines, test kits, instruments, and apparatus for diagnostic test. A total of 63 different products are included in the set of COVID-19 related products under the harmonised system (HS) 6-digit classification.
Source: International Trade Centre, Trade Map.

COVID-19 vaccines, test kits, instruments, and apparatus for diagnostic test. A total of 63 different products are included in the set of COVID-19 related products under the harmonised system (HS) 6-digit classification.
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Source: Economy source; and World Trade Organization.

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