

RESEARCH PROJECT

North America and Global Economy CPL2-561-781
McGill School of Continuing Studies

Country Trade Report

The research project involves the preparation of trade report on a country to be assigned in class. The report should be done on MS Word using arial size 12 font. The objective of this project is to get you to do research, collect information, assemble the information in a meaningful and concise manner, find out the various sources of information on international trade and economics and apply the definitions, concepts and tools learned in class. Your report should be organized under the same headings listed here. Below is a list of items that should be contained in your report:

Demography and Geography:

- Total population; rate of growth of population; ethnic and religious composition, future growth projections of population
- Size of the labour force, employment, unemployment rate and participation rate
- Literacy rate, life expectancy and child mortality rate
- Map of the country, area, borders, population density, capital city; major cities

Government and Politics:

- Type of government (republican vs monarchy, democratically elected or authoritarian, federal or unitary); Name of Prime Minister or President, International Trade Minister and central bank Governor

Economy:

- Country GDP and latest growth rate; Income per person (per capita GDP); inflation rate; unemployment rate, investment rate, saving rate and rate of productivity growth, short-term and long-term interest rates.
- Structure of economy (breakdown of GDP between agriculture, manufacturing, services) and main industries
- Currency used (name and symbol); exchange rate against USD; exchange rate regime (flexible, fixed (pegged) or other arrangement (currency board or dollarization); restrictions (if any) to international movements of capital
- Size and composition of foreign exchange reserves

Banking:

- Name of central bank, total assets of central bank
- Total deposits and loans of banking system, and ratio of bank loans to GDP

- Money supply and list of five biggest banks and asset size

Public Finances:

- Government revenue and expenditure in dollars and as percent of GDP
- Government budget balance (surplus or deficit) as percent of GDP
- Public (government) debt in dollars and as percent of GDP
- External (foreign) debt in dollars and as percent of GDP
- Credit Rating by Moody's or Standard & Poor's (S&P)

International Trade and Balance of Payments:

- Produce a **table** showing the country's most recent balance of payments (current and financial accounts)
- List the five (5) main exports and imports along with figures
- List the three (3) main export destinations and sources of imports
- Foreign direct investment flows in and out of the country, latest year and totals outstanding if available
- Foreign assets and liabilities (net international investment position), NIIP as percent of GDP
- List of top 5 largest industrial companies and 5 top internationally known trade marks
- Top 3 maritime ports (hubs) and container traffic

International Affiliations:

- Membership in international organizations (IMF, IBRD, WTO, OECD, UN, G8, G20)
- Membership in preferential trading arrangement (free trade area, customs union, economic union, currency union)

Global Rankings:

- Global competitiveness index
- Human development index
- Corruption index
- Economic freedom index
- R&D Expenditures
- Patent Filings

Bilateral Relations with Canada:

- Bilateral exports and imports with Canada in value terms and as a per cent of total Canadian exports and imports
- Bilateral direct investment flows and stocks with Canada
- Trade and investment agreements with Canada

- Assessment of Canada's dependence/importance/priorities with country/region reviewed and future prospects

Bibliography of Sources Used

Indicate all the sources used to obtain your information

Some Further Instructions:

The data should be presented in a concise and meaningful manner that is easily understood by the reader and should include tables and charts. Although you should include the most recent data available, recent trends (going back 5 – 10 years) may be included if they provide additional insight. In your report, you may use appendices to provide more detailed information that is not necessary in the main body of your report or power point presentation.

Both teammates are expected to contribute equally to the preparation of this report/presentation. Each teammate will grade confidentially the other one. Once completed you should send me a pdf copy of the report, a ppt copy of the presentation as well as hard copies of both.

To find the sources you need to collect the information go to my website: www.canbekeconomics.com and click on **Economic & Finance Links**. If you can't find what you are looking for there remember www.google.com is always there to provide you with the information you are searching. Start by clicking on the country you are doing research on, type in key words, ask me for help. Some of the best sources include the Economist; CIA World Factbook; WTO, IMF, BIS and World Bank, the IMF WEO Data Base and OECD Statistics.

Prof. Ken Matziorinis
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