

Country Profile:

The Kingdom of Morocco



Estimated Population 32,599,000 (as of year 2012)¹

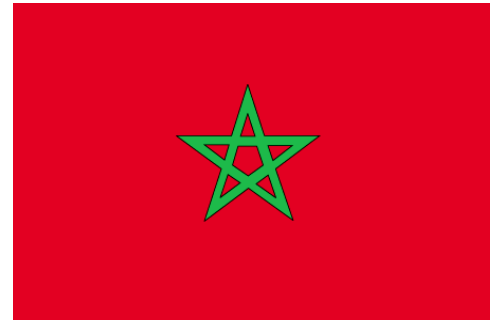
Estimated Growth Rate 1.4 (as of year 2012)²

Rank in the world based on population 39th (as of year 2013)³

Capital Rabat

Language Arabic

Ethnic groups



Location Morocco is in Northern Africa, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, between Algeria and Western Sahara. Morocco covers 446,550 sq km of land and is slightly smaller than Spain.⁴ Principal cities include Rabat (the capital), Casablanca, Marrakech, and Fes. The Atlas Mts., rising to 13,671 ft (4,167 m) in Jebel Toubkal in the southwest, dominate most of the country. In the south lie the sandy wastes of the Sahara desert, but in the north is a fertile coastal plain, home of most of the population. Agriculture and mining are economic mainstays.⁵ The climate in Morocco is reliably dry, although small amounts of rain do fall between November and March. Temperature varies considerably by season and locale. While the southern and southeastern desert regions can reach extremely high temperatures during the hot summer months, the higher altitudes of the mountains are cool in summer evenings and freezing in winter.



¹ <http://unctadstat.unctad.org/TableViewer/tableView.aspx>

² <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.GROW>

³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_population

⁴ <http://goafrica.about.com/od/morocco/a/moroccofacts.htm>

⁵ <http://www.hejleh.com/countries/morocco.html>

History ⁶

Morocco's history began with the Berbers, the aboriginal people who have inhabited the country since the end of the 2nd millennium BC. Rome extended its rule over the area after defeating Carthage in 146 BC, and testimony to its presence still exists in the fine Roman ruins at Volubilis. As Rome fell into decline, Morocco was invaded first by the Vandals and then, in the 7th century, by the Arabs. Although external Arab rule lasted little more than a century, the arrival of Islam proved to be a permanent addition to Moroccan culture. In the ensuing centuries a series of ruling dynasties came to power, including the Idrissids, the Almoravids, and the Almohads, but none seemed capable of long maintaining the critical support of the Berber leaders.

By the 15th century Spain and Portugal began to intrude into Morocco, after having expelled the Moors from their own lands. Although Morocco successfully repulsed these invasions, the tide of European imperialism eventually proved too great. By the middle of the 19th century Morocco's strategic importance had become evident to all of the European powers, and they engaged in a protracted struggle for possession of the country. Finally, in 1911, France was formally acknowledged as protector of the greater part of the country, with Spain receiving a number of isolated locales. French rule came to an end in 1953, although its cultural influence on Morocco remains strongly in evidence. Today the country is ruled by King Mohammed VI. He appears to be leading Morocco toward both long-term stability and a greater degree of economic prosperity.

Political system ⁷

Morocco is a constitutional, democratic, parliamentary and social monarchy. The constitutional system of the kingdom is based on the separation, balance and collaboration of powers, as well as citizenship and participatory democracy and the principles of good governance and the correlation between responsibility and accountability.

Important Political Figures:

His Majesty the King Mohammed VI ⁸

The Royal family came to settle in Sijilmasa, in the Moroccan South, in the middle of the 13th century. His Majesty King Mohammed VI is the 23rd king of the Alaouite Dynasty, the reign of which started in the middle of the 17th century. His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Son of the late King H.M. Hassan II, was born on August 21st, 1963, in Rabat. At the age of 4, his august Father enrolled Him at the Koranic School of the Royal Palace. On June 28th 1973, His Royal Highness, the Crown Prince successfully completed the certificate of His primary studies, and finished his secondary studies at the Royal College where He received the Baccalaureate in 1981. He graduated from Mohammed V University in Rabat.

In 1985, HRH completed the Bachelor Degree in Law from the University of Judicial, economic and social studies in Rabat. The subject of His thesis was "The Arab-African Union and the Kingdom's Strategy in International Relations".

In 1987, he concluded the First Certificate of higher studies in political sciences. In July 1988, His Royal Highness, successfully completed the exams in the Second Certificate of high studies in public law.

In order to complete His training, and to practice the principles and rules of law at the college, the Late King Hassan II decided to send Him, in November 1988, to Brussels to Mr. Jacques Delors, President of the Commission of the European Economic Communities, for few months.

Even at a young age, Crown Prince was always asked by His august Father to carry out various missions at different levels: national, Arab, Islamic, African and international towards head of states and friends. His Highness took part, thus, in many international and regional conferences.



Ruins of Roman Empire



**His Majesty the King
Mohammed VI**

⁶ <http://www.geographia.com/morocco/>

⁷ <http://www.maroc.ma/en/content/monarchy#>

⁸ <http://www.embassyofmorocco.us/king.htm>

On November 26, 1985, His Highness Crown Prince, Sidi Mohammed was nominated, by his father, as a Coordinator of Services at the General Headquarters of the Armed Forces. An assignment well carried out by the Crown Prince, who knew how to accomplish many different missions.

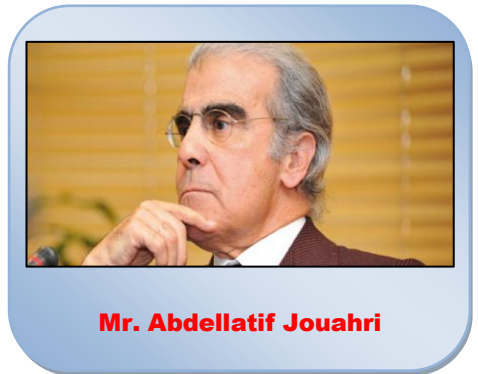
On October 29, 1993, His Highness Crown Prince received, at the University of Nice-Antipolis in France, the title of a Doctor in Law with distinction. The thesis title was: "Cooperation between the European Economic Community and the Arab Maghreb Union".

On 23, July 1999, H.M. King Mohamed Ibn Al Hassan Ben Mohamed received the pledge of allegiance, in the Throne Room of the Royal palace in Rabat.

His enthronement was celebrated on July 30, 1999. On the 22nd of June 2000, His Majesty the King Mohammed VI was awarded a Honoris Causa Doctorate by the University of George Washington.

Governor of Morocco's Central Bank ⁹

Mr. Abdellatif Jouahri serves as a Governor at Bank Al-Maghrib. He also serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors at Ubac Curaçao N.V. Mr. Jouahri serves as Chairman of the Supervisory Committee at Caisse de Dépôt et de Gestion - CDG - Morocco. He serves as Vice-Chairman of the Board at Maroc Lear - Morocco. He serves as a Director at Fonds Hassan II - Morocco, U.B.A.F. (France), British Arab Commercial Bank - BACB - London and Banca UBAE - Rome. Mr. Jouahri serves as a Director at Union de Banques Arabes et Francaises-UBAF. Mr. Jouahri served as a Director of British Arab Commercial Bank Ltd. since April 23, 2003 until April 30, 2010. He serves as Member of the Steering Committee at Institut Royal des Études Stratégiques - IRES. Mr. Jouahri serves as Chancellor at Université Al-Akhawayn - Morocco.



International Chamber of Commerce- Morocco ¹⁰

Mr. Abdelhak Bennani is the Chairman at ICC Morocco, Owner at manzilna and CEO at Wafabank.

⁹ <http://investing.businessweek.com/research/stocks/private/person.asp?personId=20631235&privcapId=874624>

¹⁰ http://ma.viadin.za.com/socials/abdelhak_bennani

Indicator	Indicator Value		
	Year 2013	Year 2012	Year 2011
GDP Growth (Constant Prices, National Currency)	4.524 %	2.992 %	4.986 %
GDP (Current Prices, National Currency)	MAD 898.904 Billion	MAD 840.225 Billion.	MAD 802.607 Billion.
GDP (Current Prices, US Dollars)	US\$ 107.111 Billion	US\$ 97.53 Billion	US\$ 99.211 Billion
GDP Deflator	125.242 (Index, Base Year as per country's accounts = 100)	122.362 (Index, Base Year as per country's accounts = 100)	120.381 (Index, Base Year as per country's accounts = 100)
GDP Per Capita (Constant Prices, National Currency)	MAD 21,846.87	MAD 21,114.08	MAD 20,714.11
GDP Per Capita (Current Prices, National Currency)	MAD 27,361.38	MAD 25,835.60	MAD 24,935.75
GDP Per Capita (Current Prices, US Dollars)	US\$ 3,260.31	US\$ 2,998.89	US\$ 3,082.34
GDP (PPP), US Dollars	US\$ 181.924 Billion	US\$ 171.234 Billion	US\$ 163.338 Billion
GDP Per Capita (PPP), US Dollars	US\$ 5,537.51	US\$ 5,265.18	US\$ 5,074.65
GDP Share of World Total (PPP)	0.209 %	0.206 %	0.206 %
Implied PPP Conversion Rate	4.941	4.907	4.914
Investment (% of GDP)	36.447 %	35.872 %	35.953 %
Gross National Savings (% of GDP)	29.463 %	26.272 %	27.837 %
Inflation, Average Consumer Prices (Indexed to Year 2000)	113.221 (Index, Base Year 2000 = 100)	110.495 (Index, Base Year 2000 = 100)	109.081 (Index, Base Year 2000 = 100)
Inflation (Average Consumer Price Change %)	2.467 %	1.296 %	0.907 %
Inflation, End of Year (Indexed to Year 2000)	115.29 (Index, Base Year 2000 = 100)	112.446 (Index, Base Year 2000 = 100)	109.6 (Index, Base Year 2000 = 100)
Inflation (End of Year Change %)	2.53 %	2.596 %	0.921 %
Import Volume of All Items Including Goods and Services (Percent Change)	7.171 %	-0.185 %	7.641 %
Import Volumes of Goods Only (Percent Change)	5.88 %	1.236 %	9.665 %
Export Volume of All Items Including Goods and Services (Percent Change)	10.372 %	-1.891 %	4.044 %
Export Volumes of Goods Only (Percent Change)	10.467 %	13.444 %	3.68 %
Value of Oil Imports	US\$ 12.405 Billions	US\$ 12.111 Billions	US\$ 11.168 Billions
Value of Oil Exports	US\$ 0.934 Billions	US\$ 0.738 Billions	US\$ 0.563 Billions
Unemployment Rate (% of Labor Force)	8.712 %	8.812 %	8.912 %
Population	32.853 Million	32.522 Million	32.187 Million
General government revenue (National Currency)	MAD 253.804 Billions.	MAD 232.783 Billions.	MAD 223.009 Billions.
General government revenue (% of GDP)	28.235 %	27.705 %	27.786 %
General government total expenditure (National Currency)	MAD 303.084 Billions.	MAD 296.122 Billions.	MAD 277.554 Billions.
General government total expenditure (% of GDP)	33.717 %	35.243 %	34.582 %
Total Government Net Lending/ Borrowing (National Currency)	MAD -49.28 Billions.	MAD -63.339 Billions.	MAD -54.545 Billions.
Total Government Net Lending/ Borrowing (% of GDP)	-5.482 %	-7.538 %	-6.796 %
General Government Structural Balance (National Currency)	MAD -40.477 Billion.	MAD -49.451 Billion.	MAD -52.436 Billion.
General Government Balance (National Currency)	MAD -26.881 Billion.	MAD -43.327 Billion.	MAD -36.311 Billion.
General Government Balance (% of GDP)	-2.99 %	-5.157 %	-4.524 %
Total Government Net Debt (National Currency)	MAD 545.181 Billion.	MAD 496.212 Billion.	MAD 433.139 Billion.
Total Government Net Debt (% of GDP)	60.65 %	59.057 %	53.967 %
Total Government Gross Debt (National Currency)	MAD 549.943 Billion.	MAD 500.663 Billion.	MAD 436.5 Billion.
Total Government Gross Debt (% of GDP)	61.179 %	59.587 %	54.385 %
Fiscal Year Gross Domestic Product, Current Prices	MAD 898.904 Billions.	MAD 840.225 Billions.	MAD 802.607 Billions.
Current Account Balance (US Dollars)	US\$ -7.48 Billion	US\$ -9.363 Billion	US\$ -8.052 Billion
Current Account Balance (% GDP)	-6.984 %	-9.6 %	-8.116 %

Analyzing Morocco's Foreign Trade ¹²

Morocco has the second-largest non-oil GDP in the Arab world. In the past, Morocco relied on phosphate exports, which has declined over the recent years. The country has now emerged as an exporter of manufactured and agricultural products and its popularity as a tourism destination is growing.

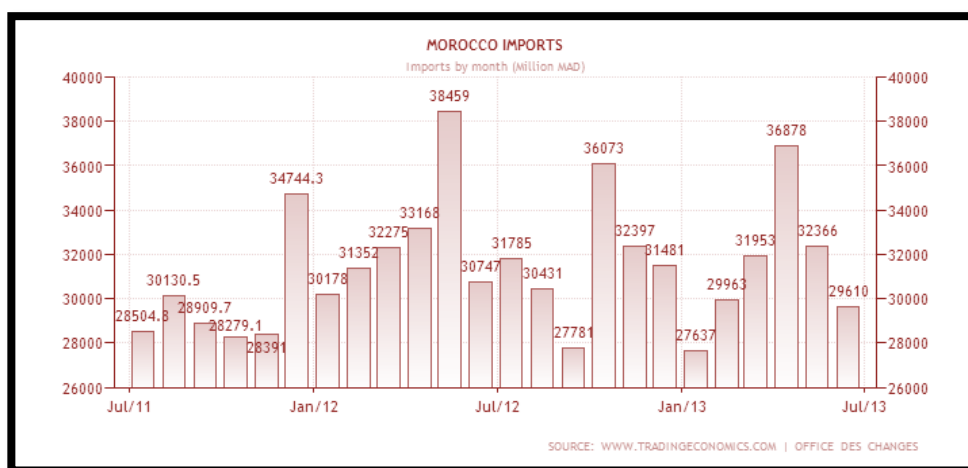
Morocco's trade is based on various free trade agreements that the country has signed with its principal economic partners.

Some of these are:

- The Euro-Mediterranean free trade area agreement with the European Union (EU). The objective of this agreement is to integrate the European Free Trade Association.
- The Agadir Agreement, which was signed with Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia, within the framework of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area.
- The US-Morocco Free Trade Agreement came into force on January 1, 2006.
- The agreement with Turkey for free exchange.

Import Profile ¹³

Imports in Morocco decreased to 29610 Million MAD in June of 2013 from 32366 Million MAD in May of 2013. Imports in Morocco is reported by the Office des Changes. Morocco Imports averaged 18087.56 Million MAD from 1998 until 2013, reaching an all time high of 38459 Million MAD in May of 2012 and a record low of 6424.40 Million MAD in January of 1999. Morocco imports crude petroleum, textile fabric, telecommunications equipment, wheat, gas and electricity, transistors, plastics. Its main imports partners are: France, Spain, China, Italy, Germany, United States and Saudi Arabia.



Main Imports & Main Import Partners (Year 2013)

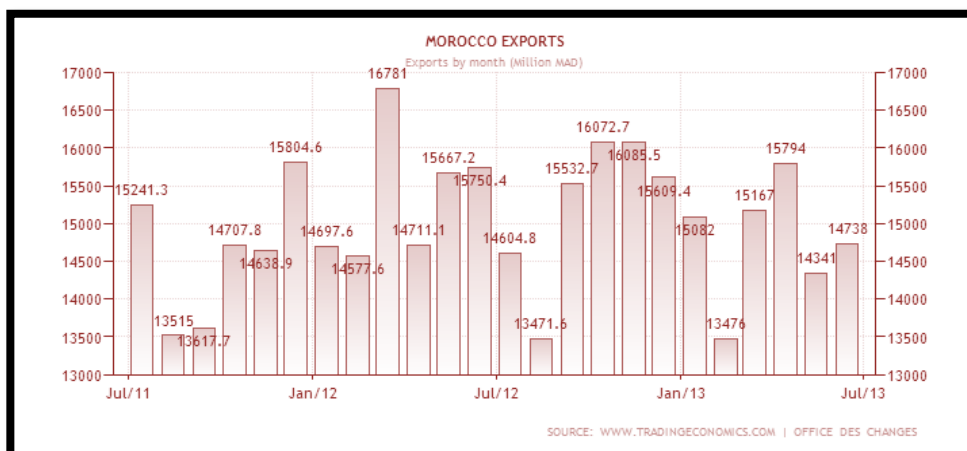
Major Import Products	Main Import Partners
Crude Petroleum	France
Textile	Spain
Fabric	China
Telecommunication Equipment	Italy
Wheat	Germany
Gas	United States
Electricity	Saudi Arabia
Transistors	
Plastics	

¹² http://www.economywatch.com/world_economy/morocco/export-import.html

¹³ <http://www.tradingeconomics.com/morocco/imports>

Export Profile ¹⁴

Exports in Morocco increased to 14738 Million MAD in June of 2013 from 14341 Million MAD in May of 2013. Exports in Morocco is reported by the Office des Changes. Morocco Exports averaged 3541.59 Million MAD from 1957 until 2013, reaching an all time high of 18600.80 Million MAD in May of 2008 and a record low of 69 Million MAD in October of 1957. Phosphates and textiles are central to Morocco's export industry. Other exports items include electric components, inorganic chemicals, transistors, citrus fruits, vegetables, and fish. Morocco main exports partners are European Union countries with Spain, France and Italy being the most important.

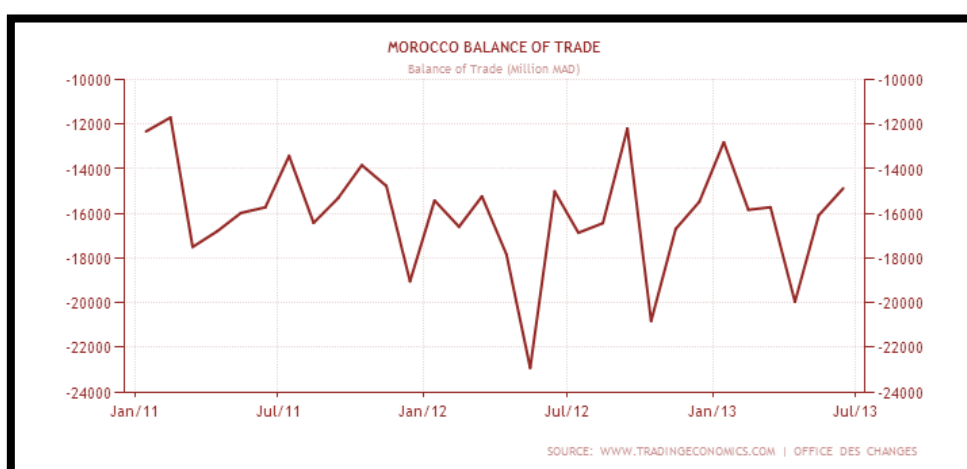


Main Exports & Main Export Partners (Year 2013)

Major Export Products	Main Export Partners
Phosphates	Spain
Textile	France
Vegetables	Italy
Electric Components	
Inorganic Chemicals	
Transistors	
Citrus Fruits	
Fish	

Trade Balance ¹⁵

Morocco recorded a trade deficit of 14872 Million MAD in June of 2013. Balance of Trade in Morocco is reported by the Office des Changes. Morocco Balance of Trade averaged -8555.40 Million MAD from 1998 until 2013, reaching an all time high of -1254.60 Million MAD in January of 1999 and a record low of -22921 Million MAD in May of 2012.



¹⁴ <http://www.tradingeconomics.com/morocco/exports>

¹⁵ <http://www.tradingeconomics.com/morocco/balance-of-trade>

Since the last trade policy review in 2003, Morocco has continued to strengthen its economic, social and institutional reforms at a steady and increasing pace. Thanks to the reforms undertaken, coupled with the enhanced status of the rule of law and the introduction of sound macroeconomic management, Morocco now has a competitive and open economy capable of integrating into the ever-changing world economy. The ultimate objective is to stimulate the country's growth and improve the well-being of its population. Convinced that trade policy is essential to its economic policy and to development as a whole, Morocco embarked some 20 years ago on an irreversible process of liberalization and opening up to the rest of the world by:

- Continuing to reduce tariff protection and eliminate non-tariff measures;
- streamlining foreign trade procedures;
- creating an environment conducive to the development of business and investment;
- broadening and diversifying its trade and economic relations by concluding free trade agreements with its main bilateral or regional trading partners;
- Contributing to the consolidation of the multilateral trading system.

This enabled Morocco to return to strong economic growth in a gloomy world context and to maintain its macroeconomic balances thanks to the launching of large-scale structuring projects and the introduction of new sectoral strategies aimed at reconfiguring and diversifying its exportable supply in keeping with its competitive capacity and new world market demands. These proactive strategies focus both on the development of the industrial, agricultural, crafts, tourism and business services sectors and on comprehensive strengthening of the country's small- and medium-sized enterprises.

As regards its fundamental indicators, Morocco's structural budget deficit has turned into a surplus. There has been a significant inflow of foreign direct investment. At the same time, tourism receipts and remittances from Moroccans living abroad have been on the increase. However, Morocco is still concerned at the persisting foreign trade deficit which is undermining its development efforts. It is introducing measures aimed at boosting the production and export potential of companies, in particular SMEs, and at encouraging foreign investment.

¹⁶ www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/q217_e.doc

Trade Policy Table 17

Basic indicators							
Population (thousands, 2011)		32 273	Rank in world trade, 2011	<u>Exports</u>	<u>Imports</u>		
GDP (million current US\$, 2011)		100 221	Merchandise	71	56		
GDP (million current PPP US\$, 2011)		163 659	excluding intra – EU trade	49	38		
Current account balance (million US\$, 2011)		-8 000	Commercial services	46	65		
Trade per capita (US\$, 2009-2011)		2 217	excluding intra-EU trade	29	46		
Trade to GDP ratio (2009-2011)		75.4					
			Annual percentage change				
			2011	2005-2011	2010	2011	
Real GDP (2005=100)		133	5	4	5		
Exports of goods and services (volume, 2005=100)		127	4	16	2		
Import of goods and services (volume, 2005=100)		145	6	3	7		
Trade policy							
WTO accession	1 January 1995		Contribution to WTO budget (%) (2012)				0.189
Trade policy review	24,26 June 2009		Import duties collected (%) (2008-2010)				
GPA accession	-		in total tax revenue				6.7
Tariff and duty free imports			to total imports				3.9
Tariff binding coverage (%)		100	Number of notifications to WTO and measures in force				
MFN tariffs	<u>Final bound</u>	<u>Applied 2011</u>	Outstanding notifications in WTO Central Registry				24
Simple average of import duties			Goods RTAs – services EIAs notified to WTO				6-1
All goods	41.3	14.3	Anti-dumping (30 June 2011)				0
Agricultural goods (AOA)	54.4	41.2	Countervailing duties (30 June 2011)				...
Non-agricultural goods	39.3	10.2	Safeguards (26 October 2011)				0
Non-ad-valorem duties (% total tariff lines)	0.0	0.0	Number of disputes (complainant-defendant)				
MFN duty free imports (% (2010)			Requests for consultation				0-0
in agricultural goods		0.0	Original panel / Appellate Body (AB) reports				0-0
in non-agricultural goods		1.1	Compliance panel / AB reports (Article 21.5 DSU)				0-0
Services sectors with GATS commitments		45	Arbitration awards (Article 22.6 DSU)				0-0
Merchandise Trade							
		Value		Annual percentage change			
		2011	2005-2011	2010	2011		
Merchandise exports, f.o.b. (million US\$)		21 519	12	26	21		
Merchandise imports, c.i.f. (million US\$)		44 295	13	8	25		
		<u>2011 a</u>			<u>2011 a</u>		
Share in world total exports		0.12	Share in world total imports		0.24		
Breakdown in economy's total exports			Breakdown in economy's total imports				
By main commodity groups (ITS)			My main commodity groups (ITS)				
Agricultural products		15.8	Agricultural products		14.3		
Fuels and mining products		18.9	Fuels and mining products		29.8		
Manufactures		61.7	Manufactures		54.3		
By main destination			By main origin				
1. European Union (27)		59.7	1. European Union (27)		49.2		
2. India		6.1	2. China		8.4		
3. Brazil		3.8	3. United States		7.1		
4. United States		3.8	4. Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of		6.0		
5. Singapore		1.9	5. Russian Federation		3.8		
Commercial Services Trade							
		Value		Annual percentage change			
		2011	2005-2011	2010	2011		
Commercial services exports (million US\$)		13 550	10	2	12		
Commercial services imports (million US\$)		6 713	14	8	17		
		<u>2011</u>			<u>2011</u>		
Share in world total exports		0.33	Share in world total imports		0.17		
Breakdown in economy's total exports			Breakdown in economy's total imports				
By principal services item			By principal services item				
Transportation		20.1	Transportation		49.4		
Travel		54.0	Travel		20.3		
Other commercial services		25.9	Other commercial services		30.3		
Industrial Property							
		Patents grants by patent office, 2010			Trademark registrations by office, 2010		
<u>Residents</u>	<u>Non-residents</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Direct residents</u>	<u>Direct non-residents</u>	<u>Madrid</u>	<u>Total</u>	
5	803	808	4 880	1 442	3 917	10 239	

a Breakdowns by destination/origin refer to 2010.

Tariffs and imports: Summary and duty ranges

Summary		Total	Ag	Non-Ag	WTO member since		2000
Simple average final bound		41.3	54.4	39.3	Binding coverage		Total 100
Simple average MFN applied	2011	14.3	41.2	10.2			Non-Ag 100
Trade weighted average	2010	13.1	29.9	10.8	Ag: Tariff quotas (in %)		8.5
Imports in billion US\$	2010	35.2	4.2	31.0	Ag: Special safeguards (in %)		16.2

Frequency distribution		Duty-free	0<=5	5<=10	10<=15	15<=20	25<=50	50<=100	>100	NAV in %
Tariff lines and import values (in %)										
Agricultural products										
Final bound		0	0	0.1	0	4.0	79.7	4.1	12.1	0
MFN applied	2011	0	17.9	8.9	0	16.5	47.9	1.6	7.2	0
Imports	2010	0	23.8	16.0	0	11.6	26.4	21.3	0.9	0
Non-agricultural products										
Final bound		0.0	0.1	0.4	0	1.8	97.6	0	0	0
MFN applied	2011	0.0	65.0	8.8	0.2	4.9	21.2	0	0	0
Imports	2010	1.1	72.3	0.1	0	6.8	19.7	0	0	0

Tariffs and imports by product groups

Product groups	Final bound duties				MFN applied duties			Imports	
	AVG	Duty-free in %	Max	Binding in %	AVG	Duty-free in %	Max	Share in %	Duty-free in %
Animal products	94.5	0	289	100	105.3	0	304	0.4	0
Dairy products	76.7	0	87	100	62.5	0	102	0.7	0
Fruit, vegetables, plants	34.0	0	40	100	40.3	0	49	0.8	0
Coffee, tea	34.0	0	34	100	23.2	0	49	0.6	0
Cereals & preparations	59.4	0	195	100	41.8	0	172	4.4	0
Oilseeds, fats & oils	86.2	0	236	100	20.9	0	138	2.3	0
Sugars & confectionary	134.5	0	168	100	31.8	0	60	1.1	0
Beverages & tobacco	34.0	0	34	100	34.8	0	49	0.5	0
Cotton	22.0	0	34	100	2.5	0	3	0.2	0
Other agricultural products	33.6	0	40	100	15.4	0	49	1.0	0
Fish & fish products	39.6	0	40	100	16.1	0	50	0.3	0
Minerals & metals	39.4	0.2	45	100	10.3	0.1	30	17.3	5.8
Petroleum	40.0	0	40	100	16.9	0	30	15.8	0
Chemicals	39.0	0	45	100	6.4	0	30	10.0	0
Wood, paper, etc.	39.0	0	45	100	20.5	0	30	4.0	0
Textiles	41.8	0	45	100	9.8	0	30	6.4	0
Clothing	40.2	0	45	100	29.1	0	30	0.8	0
Leather, footwear, etc.	39.7	0	45	100	17.6	0	30	1.5	0
Non-electrical machinery	36.8	0	45	100	4.9	0	30	10.8	0
Electrical machinery	37.8	0	45	100	6.8	0	30	8.1	0
Transport equipment	38.7	0	45	100	11.5	0	30	8.7	0
Manufactures, n.e.s.	39.2	0	45	100	5.4	0	30	4.3	0

Exports to major trading partners and duties faced

Major markets	Bilateral imports		Diversification 95% trade in no. of		MFN AVG of traded TL		Pref. margin Weighted	Duty free imports		
		In million US\$	HS 2-digit	HS 6-digit	Simple	Weighted		TL in %	Value in %	
Agricultural products										
1. European Union	2010	1,517	16	57	12.1	12.7	8.1	46.1	45.6	
2. Russian Federation	2010	245	2	3	12.7	6.4	1.6	2.7	0.0	
3. United States	2010	137	8	15	3.2	2.3	1.4	95.9	77.1	
4. Canada	2010	90	6	6	3.3	0.1	0.0	64.8	99.0	
5. Switzerland	2010	28	9	21	21.0	0.6	1.7	38.4	81.8	
Non-agricultural products										
1. European Union	2010	8,354	53	309	5.2	7.2	7.2	100.0	100.0	
2. India	2010	841	4	5	10.9	4.8	0.0	11.2	3.8	
3. Brazil	2010	663	6	8	19.5	1.2	0.0	17.3	83.4	
4. United States	2010	523	18	81	6.6	2.9	2.7	57.8	87.8	
5. China	2010	449	14	44	13.7	6.9	0.0	13.3	74.4	

Bilateral and Multilateral Agreements:



Morocco – Turkey ¹⁹

The FTA with Turkey, which was signed on 7 April 2004 and entered into force on 1 January 2005, was concluded in connection with the strengthening of the Pan-Euro-Mediterranean process. Initially, it involves only trade in goods, and essentially industrial goods. However, an evolutionary clause provides for the progressive liberalization of agricultural trade as well as the liberalization of trade in services and the right of establishment. The agreement provides for the use of the Pan-Euro-Mediterranean system of cumulation of origin as a valuable tool for regional integration.



Morocco – United Arab Emirates ²⁰

This agreement, which was signed on 25 June 2001 and entered into force on 9 July 2003, provides for the total exemption from customs duty of all products traded between Morocco and the United Arab Emirates as from 1 January 2005.



Agadir Agreement ²¹

The Agadir Agreement is a free trade agreement between Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. Named after the Moroccan city of Agadir, where the process to set up the pact was launched in May 2001, it was signed in Rabat in February 2004 and came into force in March 2007.

The Agadir Agreement is open to further membership by all Arab countries that are members of the Arab League and the Greater Arab Free Trade Area, and linked to the EU through an Association Agreement or an FTA. Its purpose is to facilitate integration between Arab states and the EU under the broader EU-Mediterranean process, but it has other ramifications as well. One important feature of the Agadir Agreement is that it uses the EU's rules of origin. These are at odds with US rules of origin, which makes it difficult for countries in the Mediterranean and the Middle East to apply one and the other in their trade relations with the two competing power blocs. The EU allows its Mediterranean FTA partners to cumulate value-added. This means that it turns a blind eye to where value was added, for the purpose of preferential tariffs, as long as it was in an FTA partner country. The US, apart from special arrangements like those applying to export processing zones, only considers value added domestically in the country exporting to the US. These conflicting regimes give the EU an advantage in its competition with Washington to secure a Euro-Mediterranean FTA as a counter-force to the US-Middle East FTA.

Barely two weeks after it entered into force, conflicts between the Agadir Agreement and the US-Morocco FTA emerged. Under the US FTA, Morocco agreed to refrain from lowering tariffs on certain agricultural imports from third parties that are not net exporters of those products. This is bound to affect Arab countries who were expecting to sell farm products tariff-free to Morocco under the Agadir deal.

In November 2008, the members of the Agadir Agreement signed a protocol on trade in textiles. Overall, though, the impact of the deal as seen by business executives and politicians has been "below expectations".



The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) ²² is an international organization consisting of 57 member states. The organization states that it is "the collective voice of the Muslim world" and works to "safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony". The OIC has a permanent delegation to the United Nations, and is the largest international organization outside the United Nations. The official languages of the OIC

are Arabic, English and French.

¹⁹ www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/g217_e.doc

²⁰ www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/g217_e.doc

²¹ <http://www.bilaterals.org/spip.php?rubrique168>

²² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organisation_of_Islamic_Cooperation



EU-Mediterranean (EMFTA) ²³

The Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area (EMFTA) is a free trade zone under construction since the Barcelona Declaration, a framework plan, was adopted in 1995. It is being built through a series of bilateral FTAs (called Association Agreements) between Brussels and each state bordering the Mediterranean, as well as so-called horizontal FTAs between the non-EU Mediterranean countries themselves, such as the Agadir Agreement.

The countries in question are Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Territories, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. Many people view the EU's ambitions to build this special "partnership" with North African and Middle Eastern states — which involves not only trade and investment liberalization but deep political reform, what Brussels calls "approximation" of other countries' legal and political institutions with its own — as both imperialist and neocolonial. This is all the more significant taking into account the United States' plans to weave together a US-Middle East Free Trade Agreement (MEFTA). For the two are in direct competition.

EMFTA was supposed to be completed by 2010. However, a sustainability impact assessment of EMFTA commissioned by the EU already foresees important negative social and environmental consequences. Complicating things further, French President Sarkozy took the initiative to set up a Union for the Mediterranean, involving only the countries that border the sea, which was launched in July 2008. Further still, questions have been arising as to why the EU does not merge its Mediterranean FTA initiative with its GCC FTA initiative.

In September 2011, the EU announced the opening of "deep and comprehensive" trade negotiations with Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. In February 2012, the EU and Morocco signed an agricultural trade deal (which also covers fisheries). Critics have noted that the agreement will promote the exploitation of the disputed territory of Western Sahara, that the main benefactors will be transnational companies and the King of Morocco, and that small farmers will suffer under the deal.



GAFTA ²⁴

The Arab League has a long history of trying to foster trade and economic cooperation among its member states, with several initiatives taken in the 1950s and 1960s.

In 1981, an agreement to facilitate and promote inter-Arab trade was signed, but to little effect.

In February 1997, the League decided to create an Arab Free Trade Area, also known as the Greater Arab Free Trade Area or the Pan-Arab Free Trade Area, by 2008. This would be achieved through a 10% reduction in customs fees each year as well as the gradual elimination of trade barriers. Eighteen of the 22 Arab League states signed on to this agreement, which came into force on 1 January 1998.

In March 2001, it was decided to speed up the liberalization process, and on 1 January 2005 the elimination of most tariffs among the GAFTA members was enforced.

The 17 states that are members of GAFTA are: Jordan, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Others are in the process of joining.



Morocco – United States of America ²⁵

Signed on 15 June 2004, the free trade agreement with the United States entered into force on 1 January 2006. It is a comprehensive agreement which covers all areas closely or remotely relating to trade: liberalization of goods and services, intellectual property, rules of origin, investment and social and environmental issues.

²³ <http://www.bilaterals.org/spip.php?rubrique173>

²⁴ <http://www.bilaterals.org/spip.php?rubrique169>

²⁵ www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/g217_e.doc

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