

**Chapter VIII:
Foreign Trade**

This chapter provides data on international trade for ESCWA member countries in United States dollars. Data were primarily compiled from national sources.

Table VIII-1 includes the trade of ESCWA member countries as a share of total world trade, and of trade of developed and developing economies as a percentage for 1990, 1995, 2000, and 2004 – 2006. It can be noted that the share of exports from ESCWA member countries as a percentage of total exports of developed economies decreased noticeably from 11 per cent in 2005, to 10.4 per cent in 2006 and that the share of ESCWA in the exports of total developed countries reached 7 per cent in 2006.

VIII-1

Table VIII-2 illustrates the total value of imports, exports and balance of trade for the period 2002-2006. Data indicate that the total value of exports from ESCWA member countries rose by 15.8 per cent in 2006 in comparison with 2005. The balance of trade for ESCWA countries registered 213.5 billions US dollars in 2006.

VIII-2

Tables VIII-3 presents the geographical distribution of imports in ESCWA countries for the period 2002-2006. Table VIII-4 details exports for the same period.

VIII-3

VIII-4

Tables VIII-5 highlights the value of regional imports including oil, by Harmonized System (HS) for the period 2002-2006. Table VIII-6 presents the exports by HS for the same period.

VIII-5

VIII-6

Some differences may be found between data in tables VIII-5 and VIII-6 and those in tables VIII-2, VIII-3 and VIII-4. This may be attributed to the non-distribution of oil import/export values or re-export values by H.S sections to different countries and economic blocs, the non-distribution of import/export values of the free zones or non-monetary gold, or may be attributed to differences in approximation.

VIII-2

VIII-6

VIII-5

VIII-4

VIII-3

