

## ANALYTIC STUDY OF ALGERIAN FOREIGN TRADE DURING 2000-2018

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**ABSTRACT:** At the beginning the research highlighted the path of the Algerian economic relations with the Arab, Maghreb and European countries. Then the research studied and analyzed the Algerian exports and imports of merchandises during the period 2000-2018. The study conducted has concluded that the first and essential territorial trend of the Algerian foreign trade is the European countries then the American countries in the second place, then the non-Arab Asian countries in the third place. The Arab region comes at the end of the rankings, with only 4% of exports or imports during the period covered by the research. The research also pointed out the weakness of the Algerian-Arab trade exchange despite the fact that Algeria has joined the great Arab Free Trade Area. This weakness is mainly due to the export of nearly a single product (hydrocarbons) by Algeria, which is not in fact demanded by the most Arab countries. Moreover, the lack of nearly all the important industrial goods imported by Algeria in the Arab economies is also within the major reason of this weakness.

**Keywords:** Foreign trade, Algeria, Exports, Imports.

**JEL Classification :** F14, F19, F59.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Countries pursue a wide variety of trade policies with the outside world, ranging from severe restriction to wide openness, with the aim of achieving economic, financial and sometimes political ends. In view of the disadvantages of restricting trade between countries on the one hand and the advantages of liberalization on the other hand, especially for developed countries, these latter have worked to liberalize international trade which has led to the establishment of the World Trade Organization Nowadays.

In this context, economic theory states three approaches to the liberalization of international trade: the unilateral trade liberalization approach, the regional liberalization approach, and the global liberalization approach.

However, "much of the trade liberalization that we have seen in the past 20 years is preferential rather than unilateral or multilateral" (Leonardo, 2019: 76). Except for those

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conducted under the supervision of the World Trade Organization. "According to the International Monetary Fund, one historical process resulting of human innovation and technological progress is called economic globalization". (Joan and Tejedor, 2017: 226).

### **The problem of research**

Based on the above and within the framework of Algeria's trade policy since the beginning of this century, the following problem can be raised: What are the regional trends in Algerian foreign trade? We will try to handle this problem by referring to the reality of this trade span era from 2000 until 2018.

### **Research importance**

The importance of studying the subject of regional trends in Algerian foreign trade stems from the growing regional and global interest in liberalizing foreign trade on the one hand and knowing the Algerian situation on the other hand, especially after the establishment of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area and Algeria's enrolment to it since the end of 2008.

Also, the issues of both trade's creation and diversion have received significant concern when establishing Regional Trade Agreements. The "empirical analyzes indicate that trade creation, not trade diversion, is the norm. the Evidence proves that the governments choose well when forming Regional Trade Agreements and they adjust other trade policies to moderate the distortions from discrimination". (Caroline and Emanuel, 2010: 160).

### **Research aims**

This research looks forward to:

- Knowing the developments in the Algerian foreign trade since the beginning of this century.
- Highlighting the most important geographical regions where Algerian merchandise exports are heading.
- Highlighting the most important geographical regions from which Algerian merchandise imports come from.
- To show the reality of Algerian foreign trade with the Arab countries within the framework of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area.

## **1. FOREIGN AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

Classical theories' approaches the topic of interstate trade under the label of foreign trade which includes the movement of tangible physical goods only. Whereas modern theories dealt with the same subject under the title of international trade, because this latter includes the movement of both material and non-material goods (services). Accordingly, it can be said that the difference between foreign trade and international trade is due to the intangible goods that international trade theories contain in contemporary times and foreign trade theories have not included them before. The concept of international trade is more comprehensive for the various forms of international trade exchange, which has come to include:

- Trade in tangible and tangible goods defined by visible foreign trade.
- Trade in intangible goods, that is, services, and the term foreign trade, which is not visible.

The popularization and spread of the term "international trade" has acquired an official dimension in the context of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, where the term "international trade liberalization" has replaced "foreign trade liberalization". The latter

was supervised by GAAT (1994-1947) then the World Trade Organization (WTO) took over the supervision of international trade liberalization.

Due to the importance of the relative weight of Algerian foreign trade and the weakness relative weight of services within Algerian international trade, we are going to focus on the Algerian foreign trade.

## **2. THE PATH OF ALGERIA'S ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD**

In general, the impact of trade on production possibilities such as economies of scale, international investment and the transmission of new technologies and skills, etc. (Tri-Dung, 2015: 608).

Therefore, the countries seek to expand their international economic relations in general and their commercial dealings with the outside world in particular. The Algerian economic relationships with the outside world were directed in two venues: the first is Arab regional, and the second is European regional.

### **2.1. The path of Algerian-Arab and Maghreb economic cooperation and partnership**

#### **2.1.1. The path of joint Arab economic action**

The League of Arab States is considered the "parent institution for joint Arab action in 1945. Its charter has defined the areas of this work through close cooperation in economic and financial affairs, and includes trade, customs, currency, and matters of agriculture and industry ..." (Mohamad Mahmoud El-Imam and others, 1998: 31). And for that established the permanent Economic and Financial Committee that turned into an Arab Economic Council in 1953 and then the latter turned into the Arab Economic and Social Council in 1977. By 1957 the Council of Arab Economic Unity and the Arab Economic Unity Agreement were established, in addition to the decision to establish the market Joint Arab in 1964.

In implementation of the decision of the Arab Summit in 1996, the Arab Economic and Social Council of the League of Arab States announced the establishment of an Arab free trade area, which was effective from 1998 (Hamad El-Nil, 2003: 79). The same council also approved the executive program and timetable for establishing a major Arab free trade zone, to be implemented from the beginning of 1998 until the end of 2007. In 2001, the same decision for the aforementioned establishment of the above stated trade zone until the beginning of 2005.

Accession to the Greater Arab Free Trade Area requires the following two conditions to be met:

- Ratification of the Agreement on Facilitating and Developing Trade Between Arab Countries, which was issued in Tunis in 1981. Algeria was late in ratifying it until 2004 (General Secretariat of The Algerian Government, 2004: 5).
- Concerning the approval of the executive program of the Greater Arab Free Trade Agreement.

Algeria joined the Greater Arab Free Trade Area at the end of 2008, and began implementing "the total exemption for customs rights and fees of equivalent effect, starting from the January 1st 2009" (General Directorate of Algerian Customs, 2008: 3). Likewise,

the member states in the region have implemented customs exemptions for imports of Algerian-origin goods (Arab Monetary Fund and others, 2010: 179). This is at a time when industrial and agricultural commodities of Arab origin exchanged between member states in the aforementioned region were not subject to customs duties, fees and taxes of similar effect with the beginning of 2005.

### **2.1.2. The path of joint Maghreb economic action**

The first kernel of unitary or joint action within its Maghreb framework dates back to the Tangier meeting where "prominent political figures in the central national Maghreb movement (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia)" and for the first time in Tangier in 1956 - before the independence of Algeria - laid out the outlines of the political and economic union project that would be launched On him later (the spirit of Tangier) (Mohamad Mahmoud El-Imam and others, 1998: 331).

After the independence of the three Maghreb countries (Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia), the permanent consultative committee was established in 1964 "which was formed to discuss the technical aspects of economic integration - by establishing a free trade area and establishing the administrative structures necessary to coordinate the activities of many working groups responsible for submitting proposals to support integration in the areas of trade Transportation, industry and finance" (Mohamad Mahmoud El-Imam and others, 1998: 331). The commission was also charged with studying how to coordinate their negotiations with the European Economic Community. Nevertheless, the reality of these negotiations was vain, as each Maghreb country was in apartheid negotiating with the European Community.

Due to increase of the oil prices in the beginning of the seventies of the last century, Algeria enhanced a comfortable financial position that raised the possibility of promoting its economy separately without the need for its neighbours (Tunisia and Morocco), in addition to the emergence of the problem of Western Sahara, which led to a stagnation in political and economic relationship between Algeria And Morocco.

The decade of the 1980s, when oil prices reversed, started in 1984 where Algeria and Libya began facing financial difficulties that helped create a new atmosphere and conviction among the leaders of the countries of the Maghreb of the necessity of establishing a common Maghreb market, as this crisis revealed the disadvantages of the dependence of the Maghreb countries on European markets, and that The pretexts for protection invoked were in fact applied only to the intra-regional trade of these countries. Both for Algeria and Libya, which followed the policy of replacing imports with local production, or for Morocco and Tunisia, which worked to develop the export policy.

Under these circumstances, the five Maghreb countries (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, and Mauritania) announced in the beginning of 1989 the establishment of the Arab Maghreb Union, which contained specialized committees, including the Economic Subcommittee. The seriousness of the Moroccan leaders at that time was prominent in ruling over committee meetings twice a year, along with "three joint subcommittees at a ministerial level to discuss issues related to security, the movement of individuals, economic integration and foreign affairs" (Mohamad Mahmoud El-Imam and others, 1998: 341). This is in addition to the formation of specialized working groups to follow up on complex technical files, the creation of a Maghreb chamber composed of the five countries' parliaments to consider legislative affairs, and a joint mechanism for payments between central banks.

In 1990, a Maghreb development strategy was adopted, establishing economic integration among member countries as a major target to hit through three consecutive preliminary stages (Maherzi, 2005: 17):

- ✓ **The first stage 1995-1992:** The establishment of a free trade area through exemption from customs rights and the gradual abolition of non-tariff barriers.
- ✓ **Second stage 1999-1996:** Establishing a customs union with the aim of setting a common external tariff that allows protection of local products from competition with their counterparts coming from outside the Union countries.
- ✓ **The third stage:** Starting in the year 2000: the creation of a Maghreb economic union, which represents the final stage in the path of economic integration. This is embodied in the unification and harmonization of economic policies and development programs of member countries.

In 1991, the necessary equipment was set up to create a "free trade zone covering a large number of goods and products. A system was adopted to remove customs barriers between the countries of Morocco, better than that established by each country in the context of economic liberalization. At the same time, a special agreement on freedom of movement was also adopted. Merchandise, eliminating double taxation, and reconciling tax rates (Mohamad Mahmoud El-Imam and others, 1998: 342).

Within the framework of the customs union of the Maghreb countries, it was approved that the union gradually works to achieve freedom of movement of people, goods, services and capital, and work to achieve industrial, agricultural and commercial development and put all the requirements for achieving this endeavour in the hope of building a tough and developed Maghreb economy similar to what is happening in the world from Economic blocs (Shami, 2006-2007: 269). However, the deterioration of political relations between Algeria and Morocco amounted to the closing of the land borders between them, and the freezing of Morocco's membership in the Arab Maghreb Union in 1995, impeded the movement to build this union and froze its economic path.

## **2.2. The path of Algerian-European economic cooperation and partnership**

Algeria signed an agreement with the European Economic Community in 1972, and in 1976 a commercial agreement was signed between the two parties mentioned for two main purposes (El Aid, 2001-2002: 36):

- Development of trade exchange between the two parties.
- Working to achieve a balance in trade between the two parties, and this will be done through reductions in customs duties for a group of products in order to encourage Algerian exports.

During the 1970s, meetings were held under the so-called "comprehensive Mediterranean policy between the years (1972-1989), the Arab-European dialogue (1974-1992), as well as the call for a new Mediterranean policy (1989-1995), as well as the initiative for security and cooperation in the Mediterranean (1991-1992), the 5 + 5 Dialogue, and then starting a new phase and a deep vision for the creation of a Euro-Mediterranean Partnership that set out its goals and foundations at the Barcelona Conference 1995 (Chreit, 2003-2004: 79).

Algeria entered into negotiations with the European Union to conclude a partnership agreement within the framework of the Barcelona Process, and the agreement was signed in

2001, to enter into force in September 2005. "This agreement between Algeria and the European Union" came to activate local competition between sectors as well as competition with the outside world ... It sought to establish industrial and agricultural cooperation, rehabilitate institutions and restructure them according to the requirements of modern management techniques and globalization (Shami, 2006-2007: 252).

### **3. THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALGERIA'S FOREIGN TRADE DURING THE PERIOD 2000-2018**

Table 01 highlights the significant fluctuation in Algerian commodity exports during the studied period (2000-2000), which ranged between 18,825 billion dollars and 79,298 billion dollars, and did not reach 25 billion dollars before 2004 and reached its peak in 2008 by 79,298 billion dollars, as it exceeded \$ 45 billion during a ten-year period between 2005 and 2014, but it declined a sensitive slump in 2009 by 43% compared to the year 2008, and the same decline occurred again in 2015 by 45% compared to the year 2014, and this decrease continued in 2016 to \$ 30,026 billion as it became Below 2004 level.

This volatility is more obvious in the annual rate of change of these exports, which ranged between -45% and +43%. This fluctuation was reflected in the average annual growth rate for various periods, as this rate before Algeria joined the Greater Arab Free Trade Area, that is, during the period 2000-2000 the percentage of 15,29% (see Table 2) and then decreased to 4,02% between two years. 2009 and 2013 - five years after Algeria joined the aforementioned region - and became negative during the period 2009-2019 with a percentage of 0,93%, while the same average for the entire period studied (2000-2000) amounted to 3,35%. This fluctuation can be attributed to the alterations in fuel prices in the global market, as fuels account for more than 93% of Algerian commodity exports.

While commodity imports witnessed a continuous increase between the years 2000 and 2013 as they moved from 9,173 billion dollars to 64,974 billion dollars between the two mentioned years. Then its trend has shifted towards the successive decline since 20014 and amounted to \$ 46,197 billion in 2018, which is almost the same level as imports in 2011. This case was shown in the annual rate of change of these imports, which ranged between (- 12%) and (+ 43%) during the period 2018 -2000, which reflected on the average annual growth rate of 17,61% between 2000 and 2008 - before Algeria joined the Greater Arab Free Trade Area - and then decreased to 10,58% between 2009 and 2013, that is, five years after Algeria joined the region Mentioned - this average continued to decline and only reached 1,63% for the period 2009-2018. While for the entire period studied (2000-2018) it reached 8,88%.

Throughout what has been previously presented about the development of exports, commodity imports, the annual rates of change, and the average annual rate of growth, it is clear that imports have experienced a continuous increase between 2000 and 2013 and then began to decline at a lower rate compared to their counterpart to exports, and exceeded \$ 40 billion since 2010. Moreover, exports have achieved Consecutive increases between the years 2000 and 2008 then became fluctuating between rise and fall, and did not reach 42 billion dollars since 2015. This situation was reflected in the average annual growth rate for the entire period studied, as imports reached 88.8%, which is much greater than that of exports, which reached 3%, Only 35.

### **4. REGIONAL TRENDS IN COMMODITY EXPORTS DURING THE PERIOD 2000-2018**

By having a Look at the content of Table No. 03, we conclude that between 51% and 66% of Algerian commodity exports during the studied period, with the exception of only one year, went to European countries, and between 19% and 47% went to American countries, and between 2% and 8% in most of the years studied went to the rest of the world, while the share of Arab countries ranged between 1,4% and 6%.

Taking the total Algerian commodity exports during the studied period, which amounted to 863,327 billion dollars, we find that 476,509 billion dollars, which represents 55%, was towards European countries, and 292,247 billion dollars, representing 34% towards American countries. That is, 89% of the exports mentioned are directed to European and American countries. While these exports only 33,576 billion dollars went to Arab countries, which represents 4% over nineteen years from 2000 to 2018, and Figure 01 shows the picture more.

It was noticed that the relative share of exports to Arab countries increased and stabilized within the limits of 6% since 2013 with the exception of 2016, which is the highest rate achieved since the year 2000. Otherwise, the relative share of exports to Arab countries decreased from the level of 30% since 2013 with the exception of 2016, and this after this percentage was not less than 34% between 2003 and 2012.

## **5. REGIONAL SOURCES OF COMMODITY IMPORTS DURING THE PERIOD 2000-2018**

The geographical distribution of imports is similar to that of commodity exports during the period concerned with this study, where the percentage of Algeria's imports from European countries ranged between 48% and 66%, and from American countries between 19% and 26%, while the proportion of these imports from Arab countries represents what Between 4% and 5% in most of the years concerned with the study, and it did not exceed 4% until after the year 2010 and it reached its maximum in 2016 at only 6% as highlighted in Table No. 4.

The total Algerian commodity imports during the studied period (2000-2000) reached 663,878 billion dollars, of which 364,127 billion dollars, which represents 55%3 from European countries, 143,874 billion dollars, or 22% of American countries, and 126,196 billion dollars, equivalent to 19% of The rest of the world excluding the Arab countries, and thus 96% of Algerian commodity imports come from non-Arab countries, whose share (Arab countries) was 29,681 billion dollars from 663,878 billion dollars during nineteen years (2000 to 2018), or only 4%, and figure No. 2 highlights this case more.

By examining Table 04, we found out that the relative share of Algerian commodity imports from Arab countries has known stability within 5% since 2011 except for 2016. While during the last five years (2018-2014) the relative share of the same imports from the rest of the world witnessed a slight increase exceeding the ratio 20%, while the relative share of imports from European countries fell to less than 53% since 2014, which highlights a slight shift in the sources of Algerian commodity imports by increasing commodity imports from outside European and American countries to 30% of Algeria's total imports for the last five years (2018- 2014) after it was 23% (19% + 04%) for the entire period studied.

## **6. REALITY OF ALGERIAN-ARAB FOREIGN TRADE DURING THE PERIOD 2000-2018**

We are trying to identify the changes in Algeria's foreign trade with Arab countries between 2000 and 2018.

### **6.1. Algerian commodity exports to Arab countries during the period 2000-2018**

Figure 3 reveals that commodity exports to Arab countries fluctuate throughout the study period, but they have a general trend of increase, especially between 2000 and 2014. It should be noted that, after Algeria joined the Greater Arab Free Trade Area, its exports decreased significantly by 41% in 2009 compared to 2008. Then these exports returned to growth for five consecutive years from 2010 to 2014, returning to the decline in 2015 and 2016 and rising from New in 2017 and 2018, however, it did not reach the year 2018 as achieved in 2008, when Algeria joined the aforementioned trade zone.

It is noticeable that the level of the aforementioned exports has decreased since 2015 from that achieved in 2008, which explains, if only partially, the drop in fuel export prices by about 47% between 2014 and 2015, given that the latter (fuel) is the main component of Algerian commodity exports.

Goods exports to Arab countries are highly concentrated in a limited number of countries. Table 05 shows that 87.2% of the total exports of the last seven years (2012-2018) went to only three Arab countries, Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt, at 41%. 6, 28.2% and 17.4%, respectively, and the rest (12.7%) distributed among the rest of the Arab countries.

### **6.2. Algerian commodity imports from Arab countries during the period 2000-2018**

Figures 3 and Table 4 show that commodity imports from Arab countries had a general trend of increase between 2000 and 2013 with the exception of the years 2005 and 2012, moving from 0,196 billion dollars in 2000 to \$ 694 billion in 2004, exceeding the threshold of one billion dollars starting in 2008 and then They ranged between 2.1 and 3.4 billion dollars between 2011 and 2018. Algeria removed all customs duties on Arab goods originating from January 2009, that is, after joining the Greater Arab Free Trade Area, which contributed to increasing Algerian imports from Arab countries from \$ 1.1 billion in 2008 to \$ 1,567 billion in 2009, and reached Its peak in 2013 was \$ 3,436 billion, falling in 2014 to \$ 2,700 billion and then to \$ 2.45 billion in 2018.

Table 6 also shows the extreme concentration of Algerian commodity imports, where 70,3% - more than two-thirds - of the total imports of the last seven years (2012-2018) came from only four Arab countries, namely the United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, with 18,2%. 17,5%, 17,3% and 17,3%, respectively, and the rest (29,7%) are distributed among the rest of the Arab countries.

### **6.3. A collection of the Algerian Arab foreign trade during the period 2000-2018**

By browsing the statistics of the Algerian Arab foreign trade for the period 2000-2000, we noticed that the Algerian exports to the Arab countries are greater than the Algerian imports from these countries within thirteen years. While the opposite situation (exports are less than imports), Algeria did not know it with the Arab countries except in just six years from 2000 to 2018, as highlighted by Figure No. 03, where the curve represented by Algerian exports to Arab countries is higher than its representative counterpart to Algerian imports from the countries mentioned in the period Prior to Algeria joining the Greater Arab Free Trade Zone, that is, between 2000 and 2008. Whereas after Algeria joined the aforementioned region, there was a fluctuation in the Algerian trade balance with the Arab countries, as this



balance achieved a deficit in 2009, then a surplus in 2010, then a deficit in 2011, then a surplus during three consecutive years: 2012, 2013 and 2014, then a deficit starting in 2015.

The statistical data represented graphically in Figure 03 clearly shows Algeria's benefit from establishing the Greater Arab Free Trade Area before joining it (Algeria), but after Algeria joined the end of 2008 to this region, the increase in commodity imports to Algeria from the Greater Arab Free Trade Area became More than the increase in Algeria's exports to the said region, where exports decreased from 2,423 billion dollars in 2008 to 1,421 billion dollars in 2009, while imports increased from 1,1 billion dollars in 2008 to 1,567 billion dollars in 2009. This is the situation that prompted the Algerian government to Take minimal actions. They reported that it is not encouraging - that were not discouraging - trade relations with the Arab countries in the framework of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area; where Algeria has several times to expand the list of goods exempted from customs exemption in the framework of the above-mentioned trade area.

From the researchers' point of view, this reality can be explained by two main points:

**First:** At least 93% of Algerian commodity exports are hydrocarbon exports, and most Arab countries export these products and do not import them, meaning that 93% of commodity exports to Algeria are not required by most Arab countries.

**The second:** Most of the Arab commodity imports, especially capital goods, including equipment and heavy equipment and means of land, sea and air transportation are not produced by the Arab economies, and therefore it is logical that the Algerian-Arab trade is weak.

Also, the Algerian agricultural production is weak and does not cover the domestic demand however, the "agricultural trade policy is one of the most salient issues in today's world economy" (Arnaud and Jonathan, 2015: 58).

## **7. CONCLUSION**

At the beginning of this research, we presented the most important works related to Algerian's economic relationships with Arab and European countries. As the economic relationship of Algeria with the Arab countries were determined throughout the decisions they make, and the institutions established by the League of Arab States. Among the most important of these economic decisions were the establishment of the Arab Common Market in 1964, and the Greater Arab Free Trade Area in 1998. The Arab Maghreb Union countries also attempted to create an economic grouping that began with a free exchange area in 1992 and reached the Maghreb Economic Union in 2000. However, this was not achieved.

Economic relationships have been established with European countries via the signature of economic cooperation and partnership agreements, including the agreement in 1972 and the trade agreement for the year 1976, then the partnership agreement with the European Union countries that came into force for Algeria in 2005. These agreements included economic aspects in addition to other aspects.

The research also reviewed the volume of Algerian foreign trade during the period 2000-2018, trends and regional sources for both exports and imports, with individual Arab region in some detail in this regard.

### **Research results**

The previous analysis of the Algerian foreign trade data for the period 2000-2018 allowed concluding to the following:

- ❖ European countries are considered as the first region "Rank" to which Algerian commodity exports go, and the first source is also the same type of imports where 55% of the total commodity exports and imports to Algeria during the period 2000-2018 were conducted with European countries.
- ❖ The second most important commercial region of Algeria are the American countries export and import by 34% and 22% respectively for the whole period (2000-2000), while the rest of the world forms the third region with a relative share of 7% for exports and 19% for imports for the same period.
- ❖ The Arab-Algerian foreign trade for the period studied represented a very small percentage, amounting to only 4%, with regard to Algerian exports towards Arab countries or Algerian imports from the same countries.
- ❖ Algeria achieved a surplus in its trade balance with the Arab countries during the period prior to Algeria's accession to the Greater Arab Free Trade Area between 2000 and 2008, then the balance of this balance fluctuated between surplus and deficit after Algeria joined the said region at the end of 2008.

### **Search suggestions**

According to the results presented above, and in order to foster the Algerian Arab foreign trade and raise its absolute and relative share, we suggest the following:

- ❖ The need to diversify Algerian commodity exports, as Algeria's reliance on the export of a single product (hydrocarbons) exported by most of the Arab countries does not contribute to the growth and permanence of Algerian-Arab foreign trade.
- ❖ The Setting up of an integrated Arab industrial strategy aimed at producing imported goods from outside the Greater Arab Free Trade Region on the one hand and encouraging industries producing goods imported from within the said region.
- ❖ To Establish legislation that prevents all Arab countries from placing restrictions on imports from within the same countries or retracting the benefits granted by a country for the benefit of imports and exports to and from the Greater Arab Free Trade Area.
- ❖ To raise an Arabic fund to compensate Arab countries for financial damages, some of which may be caused as a result of their adherence to the third proposal above.
- ❖ To liaise the customs tariffs for Arab countries as a unified economic bloc towards the outside world regarding imports of member states into the Greater Arab Free Trade Area.

## APPENDICES:

**Table No. 1: The development of Algerian exports and imports during the period 2000-2018**

Years	Exports			Imports		
	Billions of dollars	of	Annual change rate	Billions of dollars	of	Annual change rate
2000	22,031		-	9,173		-
2001	19,132		-13%	9,940		08%
2002	18,825		-02%	12,009		21%
2003	24,612		31%	13,534		13%
2004	32,083		30%	18,308		35%
2005	46,001		43%	20,357		11%
2006	54,613		19%	21,456		05%
2007	60,163		10%	27,631		29%
2008	79,298		32%	39,479		43%
2009	45,194		-43%	39,294		00%
2010	57,053		26%	40,473		03%
2011	73,489		29%	47,247		17%
2012	71,866		-02%	50,376		07%
2013	55,028		-23%	64,974		29%
2014	62,886		14%	58,580		-10%
2015	34,668		-45%	51,702		-12%
2016	30,026		-13%	47,089		-09%
2017	35,191		17%	46,059		-02%
2018	41,168		17%	46,197		0,3%

**Source:** Prepared by researchers based on:

- General Directorate of Algerian Customs, National Center for Data Processing and Statistics, Foreign Trade Statistics of Algeria, Reports from 2001 to 2019, downloaded from the site: [www.douanes.dz](http://www.douanes.dz), various dates.
- The percentages are calculated by researchers

**Table No. 2: Average annual growth rate of exports and imports**

Period	Exports	Imports
2000-2008	15,29%	17,61%
2009-2013	4,02%	10,58%
2009-2018	-0,93%	1,63%
2000-2018	3,35%	8,88%

**Source:** Prepared by researchers based on data in table No. 1.

**Table No. 3: Regional trends in merchandise exports during the period 2000-2018**

Years	European countries		American countries		Arabic countries		Rest of world	
	Billions of dollars	Per cent	Billions of dollars	Per cent	Billions of dollars	Per cent	Billions of dollars	Per cent
2000	13,973	63%	7,497	34%	0,309	1,4%	0,252	1,1%
2001	12,431	65%	5,609	29%	0,590	3,1%	0,502	2,6%

2002	12,230	65%	5,591	30%	0,498	2,6%	0,506	2,7%
2003	14,626	59%	8,851	36%	0,615	2,5%	0,520	2,1%
2004	17,487	55%	12,956	40%	0,928	2,9%	0,712	2,2%
2005	25,608	56%	18,087	39%	1,039	2,3%	1,267	2,8%
2006	28,757	53%	22,944	42%	1,792	3,3%	1,120	2,1%
2007	26,840	45%	28,038	47%	1,239	2,1%	4,046	6,7%
2008	41,256	52%	31,489	40%	2,423	3,1%	4,130	5,2%
2009	23,193	51%	17,167	38%	1,421	3,1%	3,413	7,6%
2010	28,019	49%	22,898	40%	1,975	3,5%	4,161	7,3%
2011	37,409	51%	28,370	39%	2,396	3,3%	5,314	7,2%
2012	39,833	55%	24,257	34%	3,031	4,2%	4,745	6,6%
2013	29,937	54%	10,431	19%	3,443	6,3%	11,217	20,4%
2014	40,476	64%	13,527	22%	3,713	5,9%	5,170	8,2%
2015	23,013	66%	7,042	20%	2,122	6,1%	2,491	7,2%
2016	17,301	58%	8,888	30%	1,589	5,3%	2,248	7,5%
2017	20,426	58%	8,995	26%	2,072	5,9%	3,698	10,5%
2018	23,694	58%	9,610	23%	2,381	5,8%	5,483	13,3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>476,509</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>292,247</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>33,576</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>60,995</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Total of all period 863,327 Billions of dollars</b>								

Source: Prepared by researchers based on same sources of table No. 1.

- The percentages are calculated by researchers.

**Table No. 4: Regional trends in merchandise imports during the period 2000-2018**

Years	European countries		American countries		Arabic countries		Rest of world	
	Billions of dollars	Per cent	Billions of dollars	Per cent	Billions of dollars	Per cent	Billions of dollars	Per cent
2000	5,859	64%	2,400	26%	0,196	2,1%	0,718	7,8%
2001	6,539	66%	2,486	25%	0,251	2,5%	0,664	6,7%
2002	7,489	62%	2,997	25%	0,493	4,1%	1,030	8,6%
2003	8,809	65%	2,856	21%	0,538	4,0%	1,331	9,8%
2004	11,194	61%	4,293	23%	0,694	3,8%	2,127	11,6%
2005	12,307	60%	4,754	23%	0,644	3,2%	2,652	13,0%
2006	12,506	58%	5,019	23%	0,728	3,4%	3,203	14,9%
2007	15,142	55%	7,035	25%	0,905	3,3%	4,549	16,5%
2008	21,644	55%	9,424	24%	1,100	2,8%	7,311	18,5%
2009	21,500	55%	8,303	21%	1,567	4,0%	7,924	20,2%
2010	21,092	52%	8,899	22%	1,806	4,5%	8,676	21,4%
2011	25,195	53%	10,150	21%	2,451	5,2%	9,451	20,0%
2012	27,985	56%	9,750	19%	2,362	4,7%	10,279	20,4%
2013	41,329	64%	15,421	24%	3,436	5,3%	4,788	7,4%
2014	30,570	52%	12,251	21%	2,700	4,6%	13,059	22,3%
2015	26,710	52%	10,185	20%	2,598	5,0%	12,209	23,6%
2016	23,408	50%	9,106	19%	2,628	5,6%	11,947	25,4%
2017	22,208	48%	9,162	20%	2,134	4,6%	12,555	27,3%
2018	22,641	49%	9,383	20%	2,450	5,3%	11,723	25,4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>364,127</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>143,874</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>29,681</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>126,196</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>Total of all period 663,878 Billions of dollars</b>								

**Source:** Prepared by researchers based on same sources of table No. 1.  
- The percentages are calculated by researchers.

**Table No. 5: The most important Arab countries importing Algerian merchandise exports during the period 2012-2018**

Unit: Billions of dollars and per cent.

Years countries	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total	
								Billions of dollars	Per cent
Tunisia	0,9915	1,1863	1,6533	1,0372	0,6010	0,7082	1,0003	7,1778	41,6
Morocco	0,9687	1,0271	1,2387	0,9674	0,0386	0,1240	0,5127	4,8772	28,2
Egypt	0,8257	0,5038	0,1703	0,4168	0,2856	0,2910	0,5176	3,0108	17,4
Others Arabic countries	0,2022	0,2579	0,2754	0,4550	0,6490	0,2834	0,0773	2,2002	12,7
Total exports to Arabic countries	<b>2,9881</b>	<b>2,9751</b>	<b>3,3377</b>	<b>2,8764</b>	<b>1,5742</b>	<b>1,4066</b>	<b>2,1079</b>	<b>17,2660</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Prepared by researchers based on The Arab Monetary Fund, Annuals reports the 2013 to 2019, downloaded from <https://www.amf.org.ae>, at various dates.

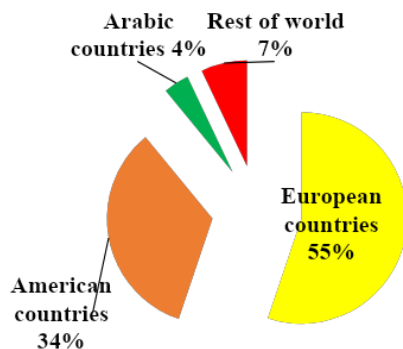
**Table No. 6: The most important Arab countries exporting Algerian merchandise imports during the period 2012-2018**

Unit: Billions of dollars and per cent.

Years countries	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total	
								Billions of dollars	Per cent
United Arab Emirates	0,2450	0,8056	0,9125	0,2953	0,3100	0,2908	0,2575	3,1167	18,2
Tunisia	0,3918	0,4636	0,4972	0,2912	0,4075	0,5780	0,3600	2,9893	17,5
Egypt	0,3618	0,4619	0,6188	0,5524	0,2856	0,3200	0,3574	2,9579	17,3
Saudi Arabia	0,4414	0,5770	0,6536	0,6876	0,0074	0,0059	0,5945	2,9674	17,3
Others Arabic countries	0,7304	0,9546	0,9810	0,6272	0,8281	0,4857	0,4824	5,0894	29,7
Total imports from Arabic countries	<b>2,1704</b>	<b>3,2627</b>	<b>3,6631</b>	<b>2,4537</b>	<b>1,8386</b>	<b>1,6804</b>	<b>2,0518</b>	<b>17,1207</b>	<b>100</b>

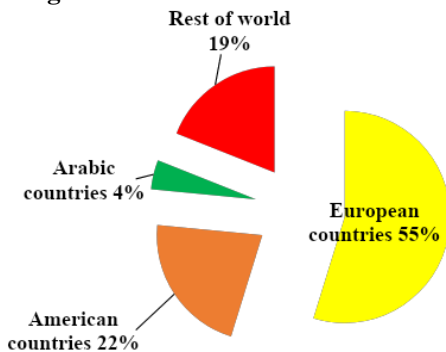
**Source:** Prepared by researchers using the same table No. 5 sources

**Figure No. 1: Regional trends in total merchandise exports over the period 2000-2018**



Source: Prepared by researchers based on data in table No. 3.

**Figure No. 2: Regional trends in total merchandise imports during 2000-2018**



Source: Prepared by researchers based on data in table No. 4.

**Figure No. 3: Graphic representation of imports and exports to and from Arab countries during 2000-2018**



Source: Prepared by researchers based on data in tables No. °3 and 4.

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