

RESEARCH PROJECT

International Economic Relations 383-252-AB

John Abbott College

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
- Size of the labour force, employment, unemployment rate and participation 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

Economy:

- Country GDP and latest growth rate; Income per person (per capita GDP); inflation rate; short-term and long-term interest rates; unemployment rate
- 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

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)

Balance of Payments:

- Produce a **table** showing the country's 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)

International Affiliations:

- Membership in international organizations (IMF, IBRD, WTO, OECD, UN)
- 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

Bibliography of Sources Used:

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 do a search on **Google** and read the **Wikipedia** entry. Wikipedia provides notes and references at the bottom of the article for further search. 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; World Trade Organization, IMF among others.

Prof. Ken Matziorinis

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