EC 203 Principles of Economics Fall 2025 Prof. Santetti

Maps & trade flows

Did you know that the U.S. imported over \$3 trillion in goods and services in 2023? And that out of these \$3 trillion, 15.19% (or around \$450 billion) came from China? And that out of these \$450 billion, 7.64% (or around \$34 billion) were computers?

As another example, did you know that **Germany** is the largest buyer of Cuban cigars and cigarettes? As of 2023, it imported over \$38 million of the latter from the island.

Getting to these numbers was a walk in the park, thanks to the Atlas of Economic Complexity provided by Harvard's Growth Lab. In addition to other cool stuff, this tool allows us to explore several international trade and economic growth dynamics for different countries and regions using data visualization and profiling features.

For this assignment, you are invited to **explore** this tool and give more meaning to what we have studied in our lectures on **international trade**. You are asked to pick **one developing country** (see the United Nations' list of developing countries here) and investigate the profile of its **exports**, as well as the **growth opportunities** suggested by the Atlas.

You will works in groups of 4 (max.) and have your presentations on 10/01, in class.

For your presentations, you **do not** need to prepare any additional material. You will simply conduct your presentations navigating through the Atlas and pointing out what your research has shown. You should not spend more than 15–20 minutes to do that.

On the next page, you may find additional resources to navigate this assignment.

1

Resources

Article:

• Atlas of Economic Complexity *About* page

Video:

- Digging into data: Atlas of economic complexity (Hinrich Foundation)
 - \rightarrow This is a comprehensive overview of the Atlas. If you would like to focus on the **visualization tools**, the section starting around minute 19 may be of higher interest.

Podcast:

• Introducing the Atlas of Economic Complexity's Country Profiles (Harvard Growth Lab)