To What Extent Is East Africa Globalised?

Author(s)

Beatrice Kalinda Mkenda

It is argued in the literature that Africa is marginalised in global trade. An indicator used to back this argument is based on data on African trade as a percentage of world trade. The indicator is calculated for several years back and it is compared to more recent years. Using this index, it has been found that the proportion of Africa's exports and imports in world trade is marginal, and the proportion has been declining over time. For example, Ng and Yeats (2000, p.10) note,

In the early 1950s, sub-Saharan Africa accounted for about 3.1 percent of world exports (2.9 for imports), but by the early 1990s this share fell to 1.0 percent (1.1 percent for imports). To put these numbers in proper perspective, if sub-Saharan Africa maintained its 1950s glo bal trade share the region's total exports would now be $65 billion higher than current levels.