

International trade in goods for the European Neighbourhood Policy-South countries 2018 edition



Background information

The EU acts as a single entity on trade issues, including issues related to the [World Trade Organisation \(WTO\)](#). In these cases, the [European Commission](#) negotiates trade agreements and represents the interests of the EU Member States. The EU seeks to promote the development of free-trade as an instrument for stimulating economic growth and enhancing competitiveness.

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) was initiated in 2004. On 18 November 2015, the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the European Commission jointly presented a [review of the European Neighbourhood Policy](#) (SWD(2015) 500 final) which underlined a new approach for the EU in relation to its eastern and southern neighbours, based on stabilising the region in political, economic, and security-related terms. Through the European Neighbourhood Policy, the EU supports political and economic reforms in Europe's neighbouring countries.

Table 1: Exports of goods to the world
(million EUR)

	2006	2011	2014	2015	2016
EU-28 ⁽¹⁾	1 152 429	1 554 511	1 703 242	1 789 873	1 744 557
Algeria	43 618	52 580	45 807	31 740	27 049
Egypt	10 956	22 531	23 105	19 887	20 082
Israel	37 267	48 733	51 977	57 716	54 743
Jordan	4 240	5 751	5 953	5 561	5 328
Lebanon	1 818	:	:	:	:
Libya	22 031	:	13 368	9 726	8 826
Morocco ⁽²⁾	10 141	15 555	18 003	20 135	20 641
Palestine	292	536	710	863	837
Tunisia	9 314	12 815	12 608	12 681	12 277

Note: Syria, no data available.

⁽¹⁾ Extra-EU-28 trade (trade with non-member countries).

⁽²⁾ 2014: break in series.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ext_lt_intratrd](#))

Table 2: Imports of goods from the world
(million EUR)

	2006	2011	2014	2015	2016
EU-28 ⁽¹⁾	1 368 462	1 729 980	1 692 890	1 730 321	1 712 501
Algeria	17 085	33 681	44 151	46 602	42 539
Egypt	16 460	44 433	56 326	67 319	60 131
Israel	38 097	52 857	54 515	55 920	59 470
Jordan	9 214	13 600	16 280	14 400	13 610
Lebanon	7 483	:	:	:	:
Libya	4 811	:	13 609	11 643	9 440
Morocco ⁽²⁾	19 065	31 798	35 080	34 372	37 690
Palestine	2 197	3 144	3 214	4 706	4 844
Tunisia	11 944	17 209	18 660	18 215	17 616

Note: Syria, no data available.

⁽¹⁾ Extra-EU-28 trade (trade with non-member countries).

⁽²⁾ 2014: break in series.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ext_lt_intratrd](#))

There are currently 16 countries within the ENP, of which 10 to the south of the EU: they are Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine (¹), Syria and Tunisia; note that cooperation with Syria is currently suspended (no data from Syria are shown in this leaflet) and very difficult with Libya.

The European Commission supports the development of statistics in the ENP South countries through a technical assistance programme called Medstat, a Euro-Mediterranean statistical cooperation programme. The overall objective of Medstat IV, which runs from 2016 to 2019, is to promote evidence-based decision-making and to foster democratic development by improving the availability, visibility and accessibility of robust, reliable and timely statistical data in the ENP-South countries. Indeed, the ENP countries and Eurostat exchange a wide range of harmonised indicators on a voluntary, annual basis. For more information: <http://eeas.europa.eu/enp>.

Main statistical findings

There was a marked expansion in the value of international trade in the EU-28 and all of the ENP-South countries (see Tables 1 and 2) when comparing developments for exports and imports of goods over the period 2006-2016, although it should be remembered that the data are presented in current price terms and so are affected by changes in price levels (inflation). Note also that the data for the EU-28 only concern extra-EU-28 trade flows, in other words, only trade with non-member countries.

The most rapid growth (in percentage terms) in exports of goods was recorded in Palestine, where the value of exports was nearly three times as high in 2016 as in 2006, while in Morocco the value of exports doubled over this period. Nevertheless, Palestine still had the lowest level of exports (EUR 837 million) among the ENP-South countries for which data are available. Jordan (EUR 5.3 billion or EUR 5.3 thousand million), Libya (EUR 8.8 billion) and Tunisia (EUR 12.3 billion) had the next largest levels

(¹) This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

Table 3: Trade balance for goods with the world
(million EUR)

	2006	2011	2014	2015	2016
EU-28 (¹)	-216 033	-175 469	10 353	59 553	32 057
Algeria	26 533	18 899	1 656	-14 862	-15 490
Egypt	-5 504	-21 902	-33 221	-47 433	-40 049
Israel	-830	-4 123	-2 538	1 796	-4 727
Jordan	-4 974	-7 849	-10 327	-8 838	-8 283
Lebanon	-5 666	:	:	:	:
Libya	17 220	:	-241	-1 917	-614
Morocco (²)	-8 925	-16 244	-17 076	-14 237	-17 049
Palestine	-1 905	-2 608	-2 504	-3 843	-4 008
Tunisia	-2 630	-4 394	-6 052	-5 534	-5 339

Note: Syria, no data available.

(¹) Extra-EU-28 trade (trade with non-member countries).

(²) 2014: break in series.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ext_lt_intratrd](#))

of exports; note that Libya's exports decreased between 2006 and 2016. The increase in Morocco to EUR 20.6 billion in 2016 meant that by 2016 Morocco's exports were somewhat larger than those from Egypt (EUR 20.1 billion) but still behind those of Algeria (EUR 27.0 billion), despite the latter also recording a fall in exports between 2006 and 2016. Among the ENP-South countries, Israel had by far the highest level of exports in 2016 (EUR 54.7 billion), double the value in any other country.

There was quite a different pattern to developments for imports of goods (see Table 2), with all ENP-South countries reporting increases between 2006 and 2016. The fastest growth rates were recorded for Egypt, where imports more than trebled during this period, while they more than doubled in Algeria and Palestine, and nearly doubled in Morocco and Libya.

All of the ENP-South countries reported a trade deficit for goods in 2016, ranging from EUR 614 million in Libya to deficits in excess of EUR 15

Table 4: Exports to the world, by broad group of goods, 2016
(% of total exports)

	Food, drinks and tobacco	Raw materials	Mineral fuels, lubricants and related goods	Chemicals	Machinery and vehicles	Other manufactured goods	Other
EU-28 (¹)	6.6	2.4	4.3	18.0	42.7	22.7	3.3
Algeria	1.1	0.3	95.3	3.0	0.2	0.2	0.0
Egypt	19.3	4.9	13.3	14.9	8.2	27.6	11.9
Israel	2.8	1.4	3.3	21.7	27.5	43.1	0.2
Jordan	16.3	7.4	0.1	27.6	14.7	32.9	1.0
Morocco	19.9	7.5	0.8	15.9	33.3	22.1	0.5
Palestine	22.3	10.7	0.2	5.8	3.4	57.6	0.0
Tunisia	6.8	5.1	5.6	8.1	37.9	36.4	0.0

Note: Lebanon, Libya and Syria, no data available.

(¹) Extra-EU-28 trade (trade with non-member countries).

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ext_lt_intratrd](#))

Table 5: Imports from the world, by broad group of goods, 2016
(% of total imports)

	Food, drinks and tobacco	Raw materials	Mineral fuels, lubricants and related goods	Chemicals	Machinery and vehicles	Other manufactured goods	Other
EU-28 (¹)	6.4	4.0	15.5	10.8	32.4	26.3	4.7
Algeria	17.2	3.5	3.3	13.0	36.5	26.5	0.0
Egypt	18.1	7.4	10.6	13.7	26.8	23.2	0.1
Israel	7.7	2.0	8.8	11.3	37.5	32.4	0.4
Jordan	19.8	2.8	14.1	11.0	24.8	23.5	4.0
Morocco	10.9	4.4	13.3	10.2	34.3	26.9	0.0
Palestine	27.3	2.4	20.0	9.4	14.8	26.0	0.0
Tunisia	8.7	5.4	11.0	11.8	34.2	28.9	0.1

Note: Lebanon, Libya and Syria, no data available.

(¹) Extra-EU-28 trade (trade with non-member countries).

Source: Eurostat (online data code: [ext_lt_intratrd](#))

billion in Morocco, Algeria and most notably Egypt, where a deficit of EUR 40.0 billion was recorded (see Table 3). Between 2006 and 2016, Algeria and Libya both moved from a trade surplus to a trade deficit. In the remaining ENP-South countries for which data are available for 2006 and 2016, the trade deficits for goods increased.

Algeria was highly specialised in exporting mineral fuels, lubricants and related goods (95.3 % of its total exports of goods in 2016) (see Table 4). Food, drinks and tobacco accounted for a relatively large share of exports for most of the ENP-South countries (the exceptions being Algeria, Israel and Tunisia); in Palestine, Morocco and Egypt these products accounted for approximately one fifth of all exported goods. By contrast, the share of machinery and vehicles was relatively low in most ENP-South countries, although the share exceeded one quarter in Israel and reached one third or more in Morocco and Tunisia. Equally the share of chemicals was generally low, but Jordan and Israel were notable exceptions. The miscellaneous category of other manufactured goods accounted for a large share of exports from most ENP-South countries (with the exception of Algeria), particularly in Palestine where this product group accounted for more than half of all exports.

A similar analysis, but for imports, is shown in Table 5. Among the ENP-South countries, Palestine recorded a relatively high share of its total imports of goods being made up of mineral fuels, lubricants and

Table 6: Exports of goods to the EU-28
(million EUR)

	2006	2011	2014	2015	2016
Algeria	22 911	26 692	29 415	21 029	15 513
Egypt	3 695	6 915	6 131	5 407	5 124
Israel	10 405	13 515	14 158	14 465	14 208
Jordan	135	245	245	159	309
Morocco (!)	7 455	9 147	11 402	12 831	13 377
Palestine	2	10	15	14	16
Tunisia	7 190	9 789	9 366	9 456	9 046

Note: as reported by ENP-South countries. Lebanon, Libya and Syria: no data available.

(!) 2014: break in series.

Source: Eurostat

Table 7: Imports of goods from the EU-28
(million EUR)

	2006	2011	2014	2015	2016
Algeria	9 288	17 548	22 393	22 971	20 303
Egypt	3 839	13 017	17 453	21 705	18 979
Israel	14 368	18 285	18 186	20 336	24 730
Jordan	2 163	2 776	3 206	3 120	3 249
Libya	2 458	:	:	:	:
Morocco (!)	10 133	15 145	18 032	18 361	20 940
Palestine	89	302	354	551	600
Tunisia	7 862	9 937	9 882	10 157	9 335

Note: as reported by ENP-South countries. Lebanon and Syria: no data available.

(!) 2014: break in series.

Source: Eurostat

related goods, with a share reaching one fifth and consequently above the corresponding share for the EU-28. Food, drinks and tobacco accounted for a relatively high share of goods imported into each of the ENP-South countries, as these products represented between 7.7 % and 19.8 % of total imports in 2016, with the share in Palestine clearly above this range at 27.3 %.

The EU-28 is a key trading partner for several of the ENP-South countries, particularly the northern African countries such as Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria. In value terms, Algeria, Israel and Morocco were the leading exporters of goods to the EU-28 in 2016 (see Table 6) and also the leading importers of goods from the EU-28 (see Table 7). Combining these figures for exports to and imports from the EU-28, Table 8 presents information pertaining to the trade balance for goods of the ENP-South countries with respect to the EU-28.

A cover ratio below 100 % indicates more imports than exports and therefore a trade deficit: as all ENP-South countries had a trade deficit for goods with the EU-28 in 2016 and so they all recorded cover ratios below

Table 8: Trade balance for goods with the EU-28
(million EUR)

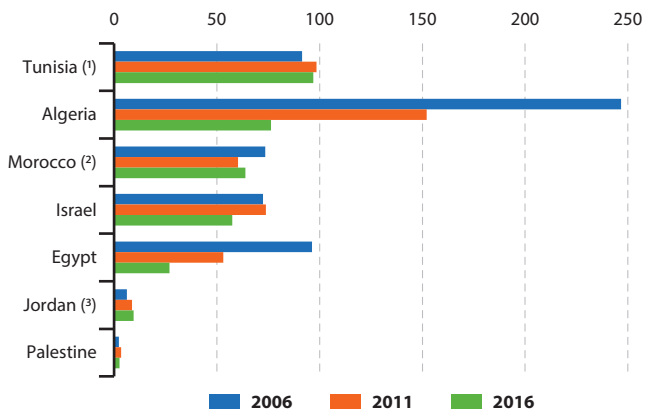
	2006	2011	2014	2015	2016
Algeria	13 623	9 144	7 021	-1 943	-4 790
Egypt	-144	-6 102	-11 322	-16 298	-13 855
Israel	-3 963	-4 771	-4 028	-5 871	-10 522
Jordan	-2 028	-2 532	-2 961	-2 961	-2 940
Morocco (1)	-2 677	-5 998	-6 630	-5 530	-7 563
Palestine	-87	-291	-339	-537	-584
Tunisia	-672	-148	-516	-700	-289

Note: as reported by ENP-South countries. Lebanon, Libya and Syria: no data available.

(1) 2014: break in series.

Source: Eurostat

Figure 1: Cover ratio for trade in goods with the EU-28
(%)



Note: as reported by ENP-South countries. Lebanon, Libya and Syria: not available.

(1) 2016: provisional.

(2) 2006 and 2011: EU-27 as partner.

(3) 2016: break in series.

Source: Eurostat

100 % (see Figure 1). During the previous 10 years the Algerian and Egyptian cover ratios for trade in goods with the EU-28 changed greatly, in the former reflecting a move from a surplus to a deficit and in the latter reflecting a widening of the deficit. In 2016, Tunisia had the highest cover ratio, 97 %, indicating that its exports of goods to the EU-28 were only slightly smaller than its imports of goods. By contrast, Palestine had the lowest cover ratio, 2.7 %, indicating that its imports of goods from the EU-28 were approximately 37 times as high as its exports of goods to the EU-28.

Table 9 shows the share of exports from the ENP-South countries that were destined for three international trade partners (the EU-28, the United States and China). The share of exports from the ENP-South countries to the EU-28 increased between 2011 and 2016 in half of the countries for which data are available and decreased in the other half; a similar situation was observed for trade in goods with the United States and with China. The relative importance of the EU-28 as the origin of imports increased between 2011 and 2016 in all ENP-South countries for which data are available except for Algeria and Tunisia, while China's share increased in all of the countries (see Table 10).

Table 9: Exports of goods to selected partners

(% share of total exports)

	EU-28		United States		China	
	2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016
Algeria	50.8	57.4	20.6	12.9	3.0	1.1
Egypt	30.7	25.9	5.8	4.5	2.0	2.2
Israel	27.7	26.0	28.7	29.1	4.0	5.5
Jordan	4.3	5.8	13.1	20.8	2.6	1.7
Lebanon	11.9	11.2	1.5	1.8	1.0	0.2
Morocco	58.8	64.9	4.5	3.5	0.9	1.0
Palestine	1.9	1.9	1.2	1.1	0.0	0.0
Tunisia	76.4	73.7	1.5	1.8	0.2	0.2

Note: as reported by ENP-South countries. Libya and Syria: no data available.

Source: Eurostat and United Nations (Comtrade)

Table 10: Imports of goods from selected partners

(% share of total imports)

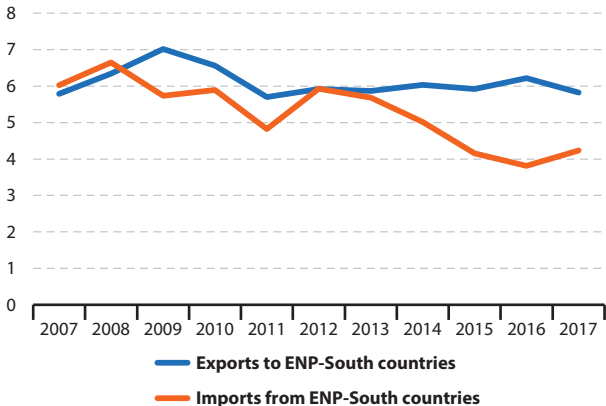
	EU-28		United States		China	
	2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016
Algeria	52.2	47.7	4.6	4.9	10.0	17.9
Egypt	29.3	32.4	10.4	5.3	9.2	13.0
Israel	34.6	41.6	11.8	12.3	7.4	9.0
Jordan	20.6	23.9	5.9	7.0	10.0	14.0
Lebanon	36.3	40.4	9.9	6.3	8.1	11.2
Morocco	47.6	55.6	8.1	6.4	6.5	9.1
Palestine	10.2	12.4	0.9	1.0	4.4	7.1
Tunisia	57.7	53.0	3.7	3.6	6.1	9.3

Note: as reported by ENP-South countries. Libya and Syria: no data available.

Source: Eurostat and United Nations (Comtrade)

The final seven figures are based on an alternative analysis, namely, from the perspective of the EU-28 as the reporting entity (in contrast to the first part of this compact guide which is based on information pertaining to the ENP-South countries as reporting entities). Figure 2 shows the relative importance of the ENP-South countries as a market for the EU-28's trade in goods. In 2017, the ENP-South countries together accounted for 5.8 % of the EU-28's total exports and for 4.2 % of the EU-28's total imports.

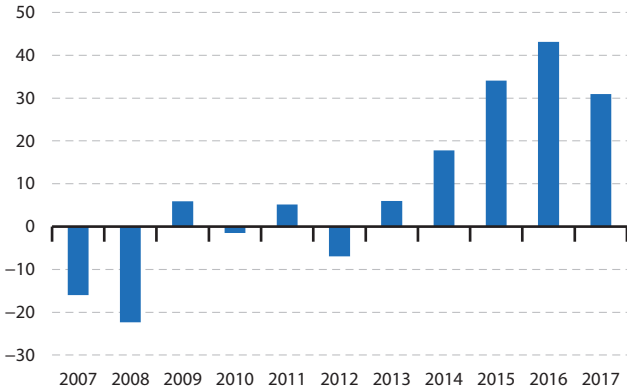
Figure 2: Share of the ENP-South countries in total trade of goods, EU-28
(% of all EU-28 exports and imports)



Note: as reported by EU Member States. The aggregate for ENP-South countries includes all 10 countries.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-018995)

Figure 3: Trade balance for goods with ENP-South countries, EU-28
(billion EUR)

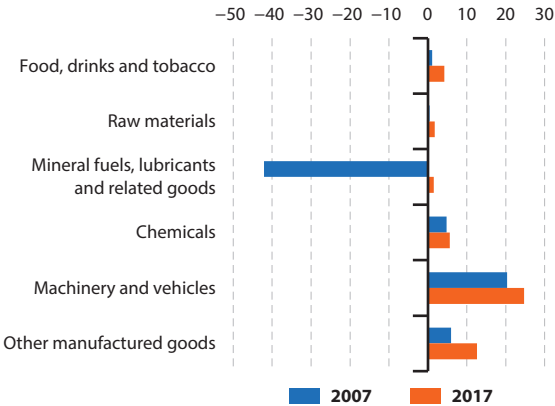


Note: as reported by EU Member States.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-018995)

The EU-28 ran a trade deficit for goods with the ENP-South countries (collectively) during the period 2007-2008, then alternated relatively small surpluses and deficits between 2009 and 2012, after which successively larger surpluses were recorded from 2013 to 2016 and then a somewhat smaller surplus in 2017 (see Figure 3). An analysis of the composition of the trade balance is presented in Figure 4 and this shows that the EU-28 recorded a surplus for all of the goods categories, most notably for machinery and vehicles (EUR 24.7 billion) and other manufactured goods (EUR 12.6 billion). As can be seen, the overall trade deficit for goods recorded in 2007 was the results of a large deficit for mineral fuels, lubricants and related goods; as this deficit narrowed and turned into a small surplus between 2007 and 2017 the overall position changed from a deficit to a surplus, supported by increases in the surpluses of all other goods categories.

Figure 4: Trade balance with ENP-South countries, by broad group of goods, EU-28
(million EUR)

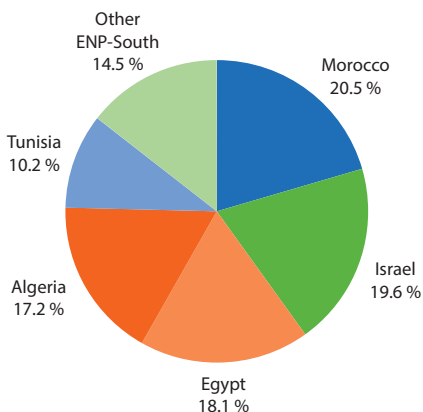


Note: as reported by EU Member States.
Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-018995)

Morocco, Israel, Egypt and Algeria each accounted for approximately one fifth of the goods that were exported from the EU-28 to the ENP-South countries in 2017, with Tunisia accounting for a one tenth share (see Figure 5). Concerning imports from ENP-South countries, Algeria had the largest share, with close to one quarter of the total, followed by Morocco and Israel, each with just under one fifth (see Figure 6).

Figure 5: Destination for goods exported to the ENP-South countries, EU-28, 2017

(% of total EU-28 exports to ENP-South countries)

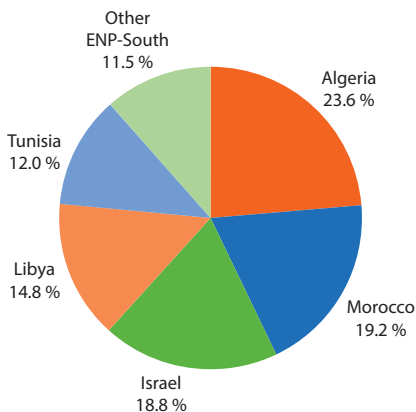


Note: as reported by EU Member States. Shares do not sum to 100 % due to rounding.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-018995)

Figure 6: Origin of goods imported from the ENP-South countries, EU-28, 2017

(% of total EU-28 imports from ENP-South countries)



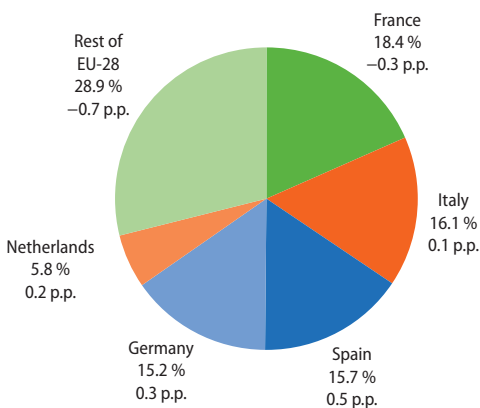
Note: as reported by EU Member States. Shares do not sum to 100 % due to rounding.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-018995)

Among the EU Member States, France was the principal exporter to the ENP-South countries, accounting for just under one fifth of all exports in 2017 (see Figure 7), while Italy, Spain and Germany accounted for shares of 15-16 %. Looking at imports from the ENP-South countries, three fifths of all the goods imported were destined for Spain (22 %), France (21 %) or Italy (19 %), while none of the other Member States recorded a double-digit share (see Figure 8).

Figure 7: Share of goods exported by the EU-28 to the ENP-South countries, 2017

(% of EU-28 exports to ENP-South countries and percentage point (p.p.) change 2016-2017)

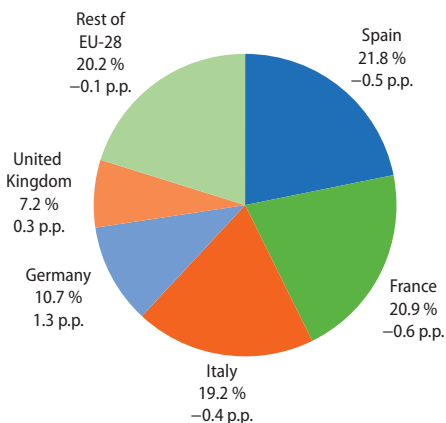


Note: as reported by EU Member States. Shares do not sum to 100 % due to rounding.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-018995)

Figure 8: Share of goods imported into the EU-28 from ENP-South countries, 2017

(% of EU-28 imports from ENP-South countries and percentage point (p.p.) change 2016-2017)



Note: as reported by EU Member States.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: DS-018995)

Further information

Eurostat's website

Eurostat's website (<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>) provides free access to its statistics; it is available in German, English and French. Eurostat online data codes, which are given in the source under each table or figure, provide users with a quick and efficient way to access the most up-to-date statistics. When entered in the 'search' facility on Eurostat's website, these codes provide users with the freshest data and longer time series.

Statistics Explained

Statistics Explained (<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php>) is Eurostat's wiki-based system that presents statistical topics in an easy to understand way.

Statistical articles on ENP countries:

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/European_Neighbourhood_Policy_countries_-_statistical_overview

Background information on the ENP:

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Statistical_cooperation_-_European_Neighbourhood_Policy

National statistical authorities of the ENP-East countries

Algeria	Office national des statistiques	www.ons.dz
Egypt	Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics	www.capmas.gov.eg
Israel	Central Bureau of Statistics	www.cbs.gov.il
Jordan	Department of Statistics	dosweb.dos.gov.jo
Lebanon	Central Administration of Statistics	www.cas.gov.lb
Libya	Bureau of Statistics and Census Libya	www.bsc.ly
Morocco	Direction de la Statistique, Haut-Commissariat au Plan	www.hcp.ma
Palestine	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics	www.pcbs.gov.ps
Tunisia	Institut National de la Statistique	www.ins.nat.tn

Data were extracted on 19 March 2018. In tables, data in *italics* are provisional or estimates while a colon (:) indicates that data are not available.

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