Global Value Chains in the Post-Pandemic "New Normal"

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Presentation outline



Recent GVC developments

ASEAN+3 in post-pandemic GVCs



Technology and GVCs



Key Takeaways



With trade and GVCs slowing, COVID-19 shocks further fueled speculations of a reconfiguration

World and ASEAN+3: Annual Trade (Percent of GDP; Percent of final products) ASEAN+3: GVC Participation (Percent of total exports, 3-year moving average)





Sources: Mirodout and Nordström (2020); UNCTAD; World Bank; and AMRO staff calculations.

Note: Trade refers to the sum of exports and imports. Import intensity of production is defined as the ratio of GVC-related imports to the output of the final products.

Sources: Asian Development Bank; and AMRO staff calculations.

Rising protectionism and the call of reshoring are already shifting GVCs away from host economies

World Trade Organization: TBT and SPS Notifications and Effectively Applied Tariff Rates (Percent; Number of notifications)

Selected Economies: Wages (2005 = 100)



Sources: Autor, Mindell and Reynolds (2020). Note: TBT = technical barriers to trade; SPS = sanitary and phytosanitary.

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Sources: National authorities via Haver Analytics; and AMRO staff calculations.

Note: Data for China and India refer to the average nominal annual wage of all units; for Indonesia, average net wages of employees; for the Philippines, the legislated daily wage rate; for Singapore the average resident monthly earnings of Industry; for Thailand, the average monthly wages per person; for the United States, the minimum hourly wage rate; and for Vietnam, the average monthly earnings.

Reshoring poses a risk to FDI, which has helped increase ASEAN+3's domestic value-added activity

Sources of Value-added in Exports (Percent of total value-added exports)



United States: Sales of MNE affiliates vs. Direct Exports (Millions of US dollars)



Sources: Asian Development Bank; and AMRO staff calculations. Note: ROW = rest of the world.

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Shifting GVCs away from the ASEAN+3 will prove to be difficult



Sources: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (2019); and AMRO staff.

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Sources: AMRO staff.

Only a few consider a "China de-risking" strategy as key in building supply chain resilience

McKinsey & Company Corporate Survey: Planned Actions to Build Resilience (Percent of total respondents)



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Inward relocations remain strong, with foreign firms in China showing increasing interest in ASEAN

ASEAN+3: Relocation Announcements by Sector, 2020–21 (Number of projects) Investment Announcements from China to the rest of ASEAN+3, by Ownership (Number of projects)



Sources: Orbis Crossborder; and AMRO staff calculations.

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Notes: HQ = headquarters; R&D = research and development. Logistics and distribution include transportation.

Even with the likely reconfiguration, ASEAN+3 remains an attractive location compared to peers

Heatmap for GVC "Transferability"

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	Institutions	Infrastructure	Labor skills	Labor cost	Labor availability	Market size	ICT development	IPR protection	Trade agreements	Transferability index
Malaysia										
China										
Indonesia										
Thailand										
Brunei Darussalam										
Philippines										
Vietnam										
Lao PDR										
Cambodia										
India										
Sri Lanka										
Pakistan										
Poland										
Hungary										
Bulgaria										
Croatia										
Russia										
Turkey										
Georgia										
Mexico										
Costa Rica										
Argentina										
Brazil										
Mauritius										
South Africa										

Sources: Asia Regional Integration Center, ADB; International Labour Organization; World Economic Forum; World Bank; World Trade Organization; United Nations International Telecommunication Union; United Nations Population Division; national authorities via Haver Analytics; and AMRO staff calculations.

Notes: The overall Transferability index is a simple average of the nine indicators for each economy. The greener the color, the higher its relative z-score and the greater the GVC transferability to that economy or location; the redder, the lower the attractiveness for GVC relocation. See "Which GVC Sectors can be Easily Reconfigured?" in AREO 2021 for details.

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The pandemic accelerated the flight to digital, a behavior unlikely to be reversed

Selected ASEAN+3 Economies: Retail and Online Sales

(Percent year-over-year, 3-month moving average)

Number of Active ASEAN Users of Telemedicine Platforms, 2020 (January 2020 = 100)



Sources: National authorities via Haver Analytics; and AMRO staff calculations. Note: Retail sales exclude online sales.

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Sources: Google, Temasek, and Bain & Company (2020); and AMRO staff calculations.

GVCs will increasingly be driven by technology, from production to trade to finance

Technology in Trade and Supply Chain Finance



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But US–China tech tensions, and global standards competition, could lead to technology bifurcation

United States and China: Selected Tech Measures and Countermeasures

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Selected Economies: Shares in 5G Standard Essential Patents (Percent share to total)



The semiconductor sector is a significant area of strain



Source: Adapted from Kotasthane and Seth (2020).

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The impact of tech bifurcation will take time to be fully resolved



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Key takeaways

- No evidence so far of wholesale reshoring, nearshoring or transfers of manufacturing out of the ASEAN+3 region.
- The region remains an attractive location for GVCs in the case of a reconfiguration, given "sticky" GVC investments.
- The pandemic-induced "flight to digital" could see GVCs powered by new technology, in the areas of trade, logistics and finance.
- Tech tensions can result in technology bifurcation and stymie new innovations, but over time, technology itself can solve the problem of divergent standards.

Thank you.



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