

COUNTRY BRIEF: BELARUS



MR GERT VAN RENSBURG
DIRECTORATE: INTERNATIONAL TRADE
DAFF
15 AUGUST 2012

1. INTRODUCTION ¹

Belarus, together with Russia and Kazakhstan are members of a Customs Union. Countries in a Customs Union are required to maintain a common external tariff (CET) against third countries. The accession of Russia to the WTO has been confirmed; this will inevitably lead to a reduction of the customs duties of the other countries in the Customs Union. Therefore, this will lead to better market access for other countries to these markets. When Belarus and Kazakhstan become WTO members, market access may increase even more.

2. BASIC DATA ²

Land area: 207,600 sq km

Population: 9.48m (end-2010)

Main towns Population in '000 (end-2006):

Minsk (capital) 1,729, Gomel 480, Mogilev 369, Vitebsk 350, Grodno 321, Brest 320

Climate: Continental

Languages: Belarusian and Russian are the official national languages

Weights and measures: Metric system

Currency: Belarusian rubel (BRb), introduced in May 1992, redenominated at a rate of 1,000 old rubels = 1 new rubel on January 1st 2000. BRb1 = 100 kopeks

Time: Two hours ahead of GMT

Fiscal year: Calendar year

President: Alyaksandar Lukashenka,

Prime minister: Mikhail Myasnikovich

Agriculture & food Minister: Mikhail Rusy

3. ECONOMIC INDICATORS ³

Table 1 some economic indicators for Belarus.

Table 1: Economic indicators of Belarus

	2009 ^a	2010 ^a	2011 ^b
GDP at market prices (BRb bn)	136 790	162 964	274 300 ^a
GDP at market exchange rate (US\$ bn)	49.0	54.7	55.1
Real GDP growth (%)	0.2	7.6	5.3 ^a
Consumer price inflation (avg. %)	12.9	7.8	52.4
Population (mid-year; m)	9.5	9.5	9.5 ^a
Export of goods fob (US\$ m)	21 361	24 405	39 618
Imports of goods fob (US\$ m)	-28 318	-34 483	-42 181
Current-account balance (US\$ m)	-6 178	-8 317	-4 900
Exchange rate (official; av; BRb:US\$)	2 793.0	2 978.5	4 974.8

a) Actual ^{b)} Economist Intelligence Unit Estimates

Source: Economist Intelligence Unit

¹ Possible Effects of Russia's WTO Accession on Agricultural Trade and production. ICTSD Programme on Agricultural Trade and Sustainable Development. April 2012. P 39.

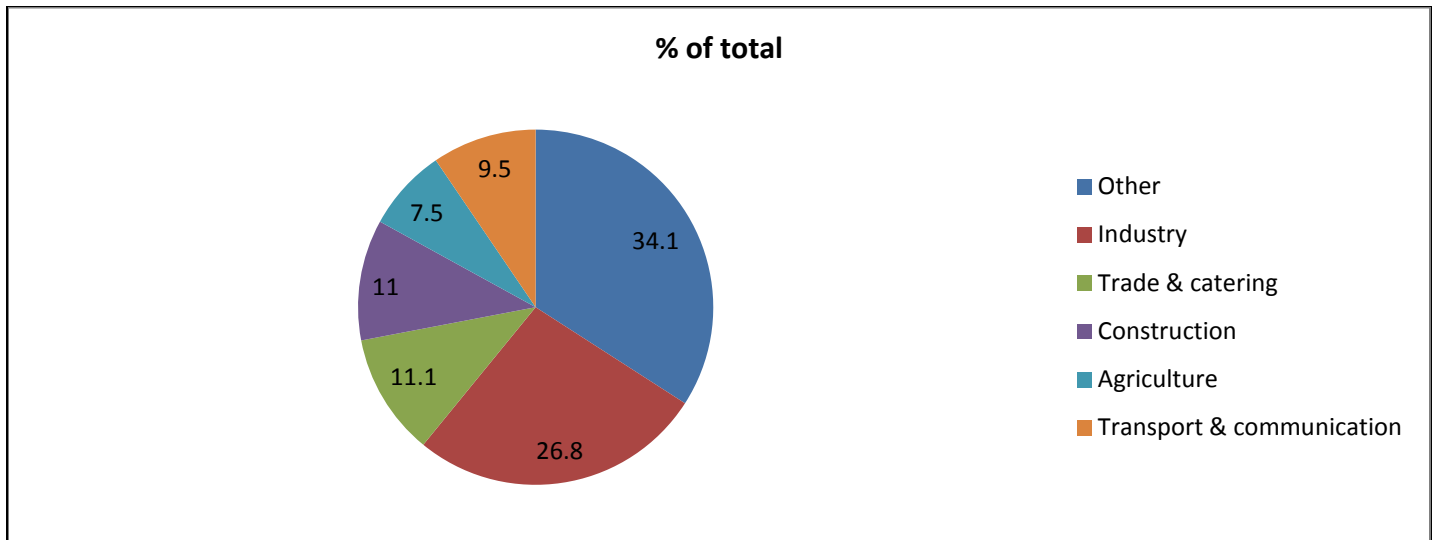
² Belarus Country Report - Feb 2012, Economist Intelligence Unit. P 4 & 5

³ Belarus Country Report - Feb 2012, Economist Intelligence Unit. P 6

4. ORIGIN OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT 2010 ⁴

Graph 1 indicates the origin of gross domestic product (GDP) of Belarus for 2010

Graph 1: Origin of GDP for 2010



Source: Economist Intelligence Unit

5. BELARUS TRADE WITH THE WORLD⁵

Table 2 indicates that food and agricultural raw materials were 8.2% of the total imports of Belarus in 2010.

Table 2: The principal exports and imports of Belarus for 2010

Principal exports 2010	% of total	Principal Imports 2010	% of total
Mineral products	28.2	Mineral products	35.4
Chemicals & rubber	19.8	Machinery, equipment & vehicles	24.2
Machinery, equipment & vehicles	19.0	Chemicals & rubber	13.3
Metals	7.6	Food & agricultural raw materials	8.2

Table 3 indicates that Belarus has a trade deficit for the trade in all products with the world over the period.

Table 3: Total trade of Belarus with the World (R 000 – Array based on 2011) ⁶

Description	Product label	2009	2010	2011
Belarus's exports to the world	All products	176 511 820	183 845 845	289 736 914
Belarus's imports from the world	All products	236 902 300	254 119 122	328 947 502
Trade deficit for Belarus	All products	- 60 390 480	- 70 273 277	- 39 210 588

Source: Trade Map

⁴ Belarus Country Report - Feb 2012, Economist Intelligence Unit. P 6

⁵ Belarus Country Report - Feb 2012, Economist Intelligence Unit. P 6

⁶ <http://www.trademap.org/> Trade Map

Table 4 indicates the 20 top imports of agricultural products by Belarus from the world.

Table 4: Top 20 Imports of Agricultural Products by Belarus from the World (R 000 – Array based on 2011) ⁷

HS Code	Product label	2009	2010	2011
Total	Agricultural products	17 114 082	19 229 850	21 688 722
'170111	Raw sugar, cane	635 658	1 616 134	2 445 887
'230400	Soya-bean oil-cake&oth solid residues,whether or not ground or pellet	1 015 824	975 541	1 238 245
'020329	Swine cuts, frozen nes	258 528	575 751	998 166
'210690	Food preparations nes	887 601	864 844	944 934
'230630	Sunflower sed oil-cake&oth solid residues,whether/not ground/pellet	511 822	898 675	878 522
'230990	Animal feed preparations nes	725 223	681 289	772 843
'151219	Sunflower-sed/safflower oil&their fractions refind but nt chem modifid	498 461	621 600	708 113
'020311	Swine carcasses and half carcasses, fresh or chilled	68 167	500 277	471 320
'240120	Tobacco, unmanufactured, partly or wholly stemmed or stripped	284 065	380 717	463 253
'220300	Beer made from malt	581 682	518 169	388 478
'080810	Apples, fresh	201 018	184 255	375 592
'520100	Cotton, not carded or combed	168 249	196 477	371 314
'240310	Smokg tobacco,whether o not cntg tobacco substitutes in any proportion	414 809	365 748	353 488
'180690	Chocolate and other food preparations containing cocoa nes	247 870	323 150	246 399
'210390	Sauces and preparations nes and mixed condiments and mixed seasonings	269 625	237 414	245 206
'020319	Swine cuts, fresh or chilled, nes	77 473	40 886	238 331
'210111	Coffee extracts, essences, concentrates	365 552	314 010	236 002
'220429	Grape wines nes,incl fort&grape must,unfermtd by add alc,in ctrn > 2l	275 613	250 598	227 459
'080520	Mandarins(tang&sats)clementines&wilkg& sim citrus hybrids,fresh/drid	252 050	226 591	226 668
'090230	Black tea (fermented)&partly fermentd tea in packages not exceedg 3 kg	275 414	259 562	226 014

Source: Trade Map

⁷ <http://www.trademap.org/> Trade Map

Table 5 indicates the 10 top imports of fisheries products by Belarus from the world.

Table 5: Top 10 Imports of Fisheries Products by Belarus from the World (R 000 – Array based on 2011)

HS Code	Product label	2009	2010	2011
Total	Fisheries products	1 631 029	1 288 706	1 408 316
'030380	Livers and roes, frozen	403 529	161 968	349 505
'030379	Fish nes, frozen, excluding heading No 03.04, livers and roes	313 002	313 347	286 206
'030374	Mackerel, frozen, excluding heading No 03.04, livers and roes	143 111	141 081	114 941
'030212	Salmon Pacific,Atlantic&Danube,fr or chd excl hd No 03.04,livers&roes	57 866	88 250	97 152
'030211	Trout, fresh or chilled excluding heading No 03.04, livers and roes	59 981	91 530	87 926
'160413	Sardines,sardinella&brislg o sprats prep o presvd,whole o pce ex mincd	64 725	28 999	79 693
'030371	Sardines,sardinella,brislg or sprats,frozen ex hd No 03.04,livers&roes	67 935	48 640	51 132
'030559	Fish nes, dried, whether or not salted but not smoked	86 853	82 238	50 780
'160420	Fish prepared or preserved, except whole or in pieces	80 708	54 150	38 635
'030378	Hake, frozen, excluding heading No 03.04, livers and roes	49 639	46 264	35 212

Source: Trade Map

Table 6 indicates the 10 top imports of forestry products by Belarus from the world.

Table 6: Top 10 Imports of Forestry Products by Belarus from the World (R 000 – Array based on 2011)

HS Code	Product label	2009	2010	2011
Total	Forestry products	2 757 435	2 851 718	3 174 522
'481420	Wallpaper,coatd/coverd on the face side w a decoratd layer of plastics	197 950	219 310	368 646
'481840	Sanitary articles of paper,incl sanit towels&napkin (diapers) f babies	409 061	352 557	351 813
'481920	Cartons,boxes and cases,folding,of non-corrugated paper or paperboard	229 317	188 314	229 178
'490199	Books, brochures, leaflets and similar printed matter, nes	176 452	181 471	224 288
'490290	Newspapers, journals and periodicals, nes	224 871	227 006	219 507
'481910	Cartons, boxes and cases, of corrugated paper or paperboard	116 330	127 234	157 322
'481490	Wallpaper and similar wall coverings, nes	7 929	19 248	150 923
'470790	Waste&scrap of paper or paperboard,nes (includg unsorted waste&scrap)	28 514	113 314	120 967
'481190	Paper,in rolls o sheets,ctd,impreg,cov,surf-col,surf-dec o printd,nes	89 881	96 252	104 723
'480240	Paper, wallpaper base, in rolls or sheets, uncoated	139 727	74 512	96 512

Source: Trade Map

6. Trade Balance between SA and Belarus ⁹

Table 7 indicates that for the period 2009 to 2011, SA had a trade deficit in the trade of Agriculture/Fisheries/Forestry products with Belarus. This means that the country is importing these products more than it is exporting from Belarus.

Table 7: Trade Balance between SA and Belarus (R Million)

Description	2009	2010	2011
SA's exports of Agriculture/Fisheries/Forestry products to Belarus	2.710	0.576	0.364
SA's imports of Agriculture/Fisheries/Forestry products from Belarus	9.553	3.328	12.388
Trade Surplus in favour of Belarus	-6.843	-2.752	-12.024

Source: World Trade Atlas

⁹ World Trade Atlas. Revised data

7. Trade between SA and Belarus ¹⁰

Table 8 indicates that casein was the major import by SA from Belarus between 2009 and 2011.

Table 8: SA's Imports of Agriculture/Fisheries/Forestry products from Belarus (R Million - Array based on 2011)

HS Code	Description	2009	2010	2011
Total	Agriculture/Fisheries/Forestry Products	9.553	3.328	12.388
350110	Casein	8.228	2.410	12.263
081190	Fruit, Nesoi, And Nuts, Uncooked Or Cooked By Stea	0.000	0.000	0.125
482010	Registers, Account Books, Notebooks, Order Books,	0.000	0.000	0.000
170490	Sugar Confectionary (Including White Chocolate), N	0.000	0.000	0.000
220860	Vodka	0.000	0.000	0.000

Source: World Trade Atlas

Table 9 indicates that export of Agriculture/Fisheries/Forestry products by SA to Belarus was less than R400 000 in 2011. During the period under discussion there were no fisheries exports by SA to Belarus and in 2010 the exports of forestry products were less than R11 000. In 2009 and 2011 there were no exports of forestry products to Belarus by SA. In 2011, buttermilk, fresh or chilled onions, fresh oranges, yoghurt and milk and cream were the most agricultural products exported to Belarus

Table 9: SA's Exports of Agriculture/Fisheries/Forestry products to Belarus (R Million - Array based on 2011)

HS Code	Description	2009	2010	2011
Total	Agriculture/Fisheries/Forest Products	2.710	0.576	0.364
040390	Buttermilk, And Curdled, Fermented Or Acidified Mi	0.000	0.000	0.158
070310	Onions And Shallots, Fresh Or Chilled	0.000	0.000	0.080
080510	Oranges, Fresh	1.814	0.500	0.072
040310	Yogurt, Whether Or Not Sweetened, Flavored Or Cont	0.000	0.000	0.042
040120	Milk And Cream, Not Concentrated Nor Sweetened, Of	0.000	0.000	0.008

Source: World Trade Atlas

¹⁰ World Trade Atlas. Revised data