



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

Advancing Free Trade  
for Asia-Pacific Prosperity

**APEC at**

# 30

**APEC**  
in Charts 2019

**Policy Support Unit**



**Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)** was established in 1989. The 21 Member Economies are Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; the Philippines; Russia; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; the United States; and Viet Nam.

**The APEC Policy Support Unit (PSU)** was established in 2008 as the policy research and analysis arm for APEC. It supports APEC members and fora in improving the quality of their deliberations and decisions and promoting policies that support the achievement of APEC's goals by providing objective and high quality research, analytical capacity and policy support capability.

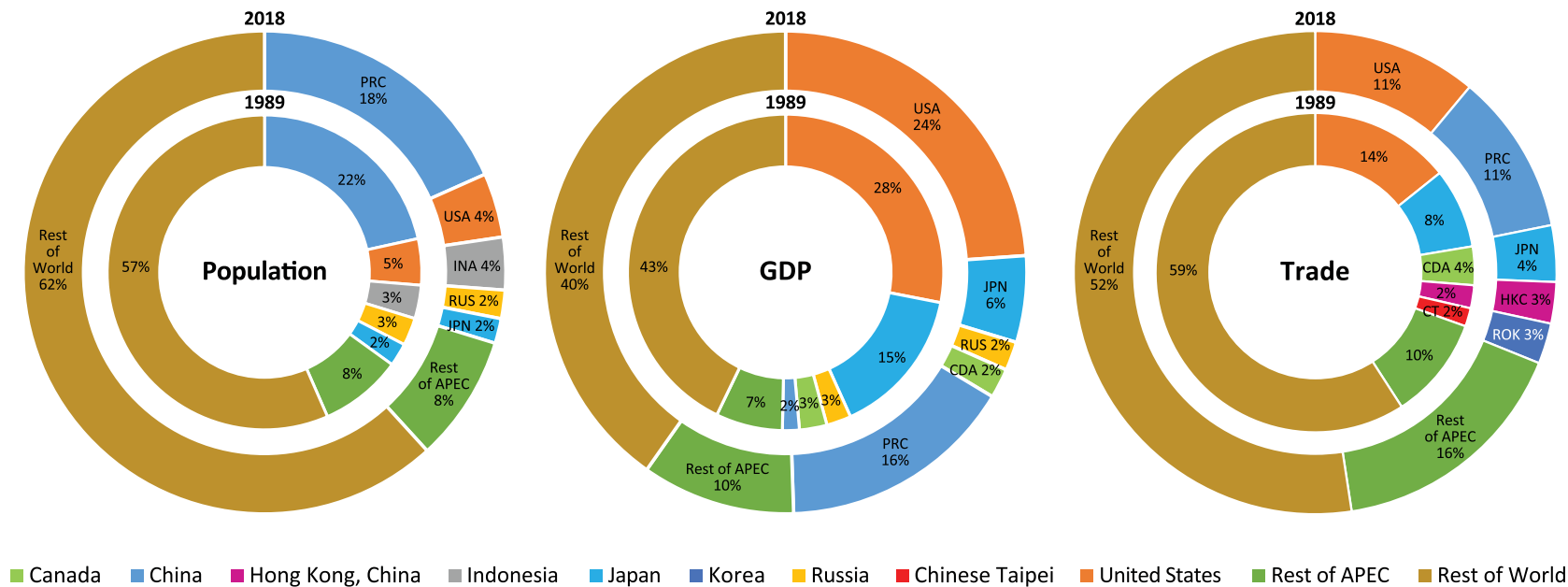
APEC in Charts was launched by the PSU in 2013 to provide a graphical overview of the APEC region's economic, trade, investment and policy-related performance. If you have any feedback, please write to us at email: [psugroup@apec.org](mailto:psugroup@apec.org).

StatsAPEC is a statistics portal with data dating back to APEC's inception in 1989. It is available at [statistics.apec.org](http://statistics.apec.org).

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# APEC in the Global Economy, 2018



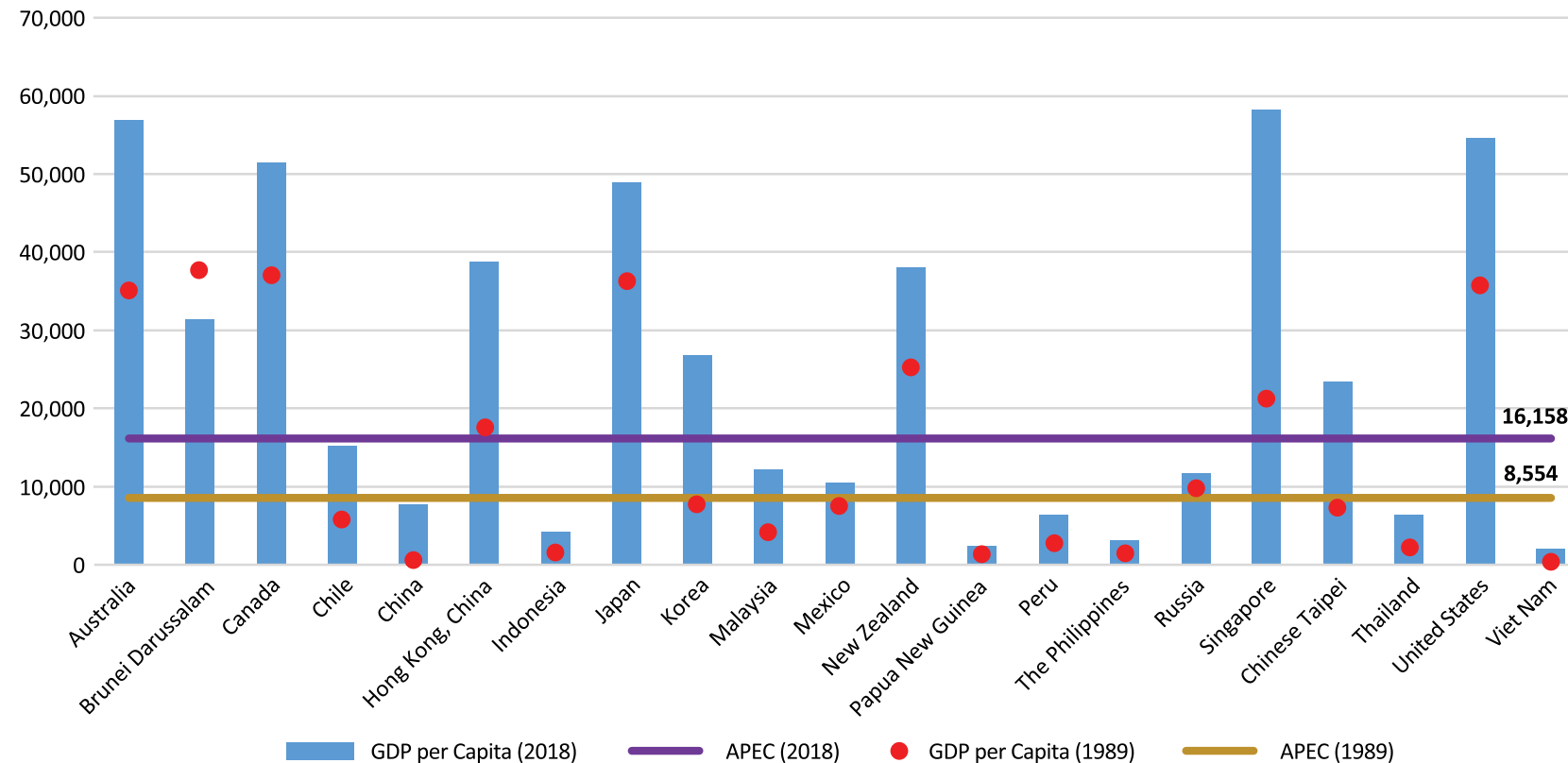
The population of the APEC region increased by about 600 million people over the past three decades, from 2.3 billion in 1989 to 2.9 billion in 2018. However, the region's share of the global population dropped during this period, from 43% in 1989 to 38% in 2018. The five most populous economies in APEC in 1989 — China; Indonesia; Japan; Russia; and the United States — are still the five most populous economies now.

The APEC region accounted for 60% of the world GDP in 2018, up from 57% in 1989. The United States continues to have the largest share of GDP, while China increased its share eight-fold since 1989.

Between 1989 and 2018, APEC's share of the world's trade increased from 41% to 48%. Three of the five largest APEC traders in 1989 — Hong Kong, China; Japan; and the United States — are still among the top five in 2018 but are now joined by China and Korea.

# APEC Macroeconomic Indicators

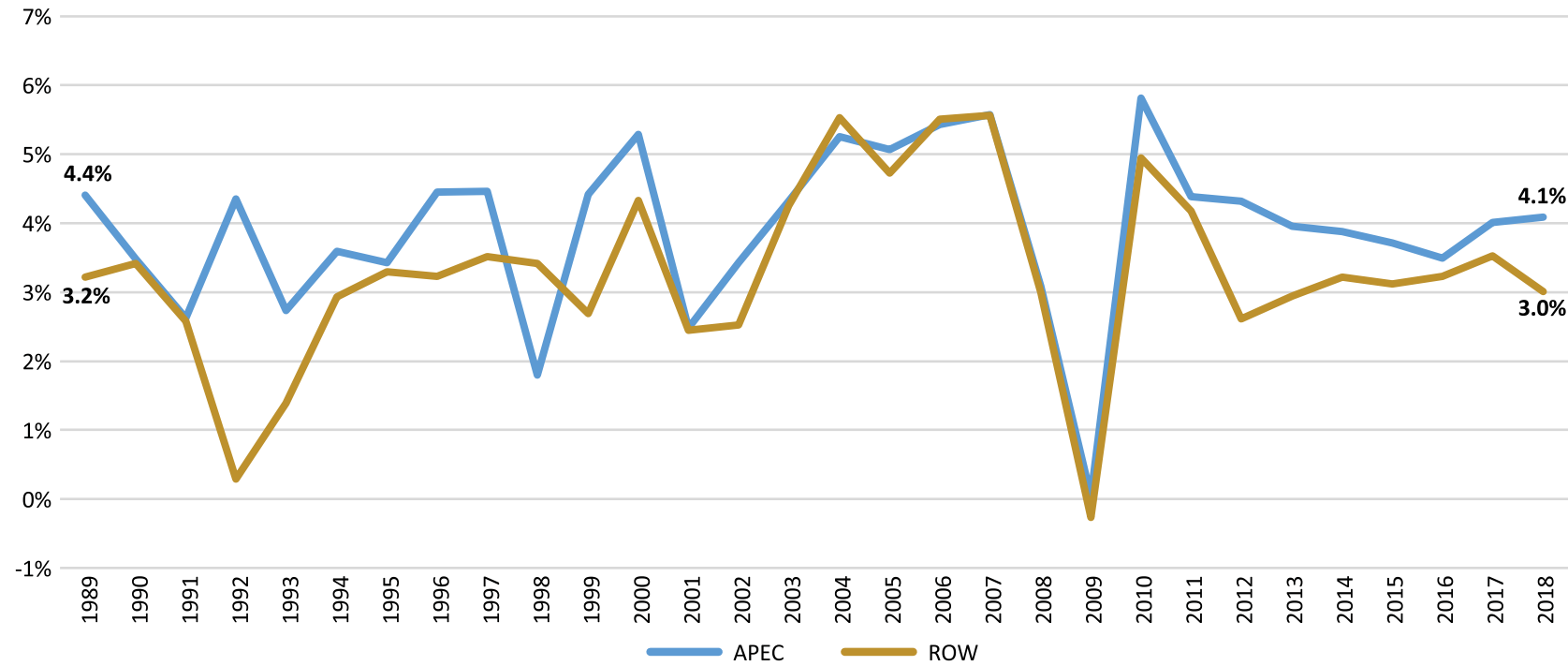
1.1 GDP Per Capita (constant 2010 USD), 1989 and 2018



The APEC region had an average real per capita GDP of USD 16,158 in 2018, ranging between USD 1,964 and USD 58,248. This average was almost double the 1989 regional average of USD 8,554. As in 1989, there continue to be wide variations in GDP per capita across the economies. In almost all economies, real per capita GDP increased from 1989 to 2018. The only exception was Brunei Darussalam where a high dependence on oil exports and a steep drop in oil prices led to lower real per capita GDP.

## APEC Macroeconomic Indicators

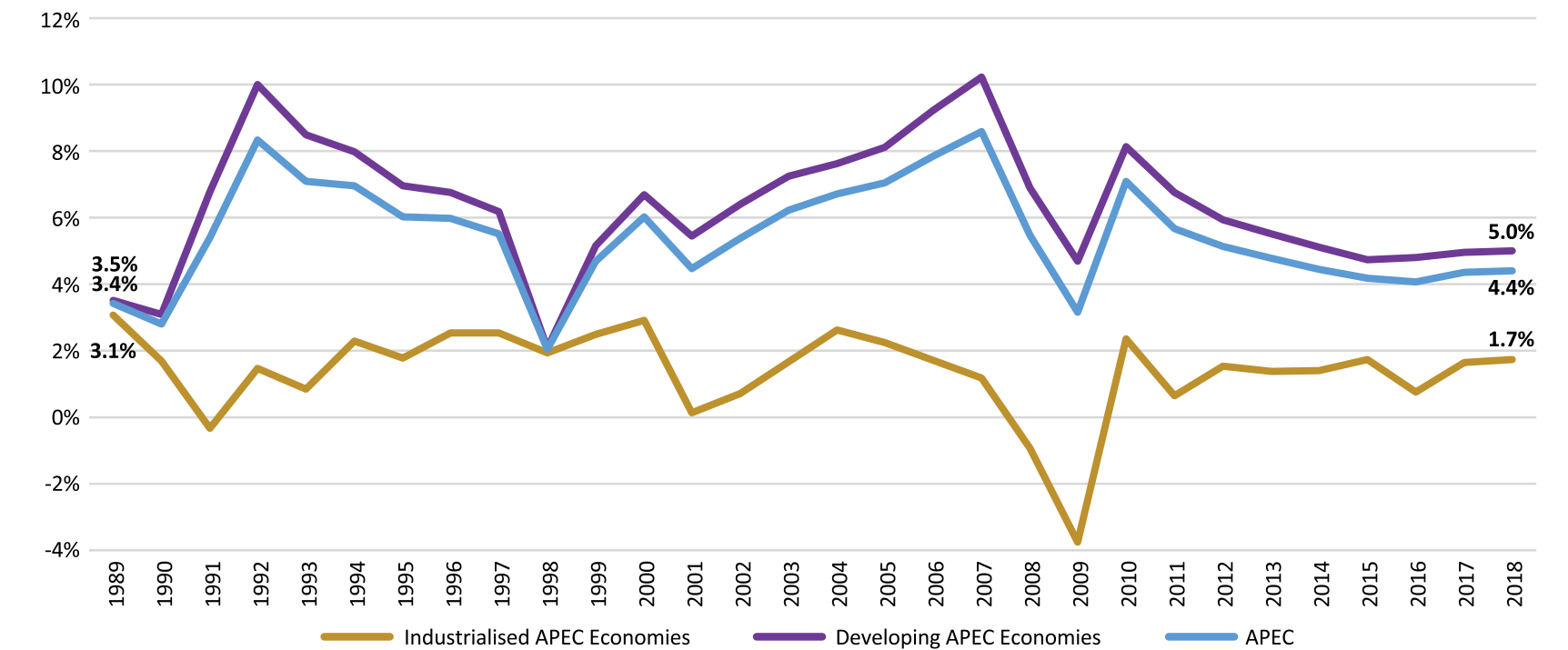
1.2 Real GDP Growth (annual percent), 1989 – 2018



APEC real GDP growth rates have generally been higher than the rest of the world (ROW) for most of the past three decades. Exceptions where ROW grew faster than APEC were in 1998 during the Asian Financial Crisis and in 2004 in the midst of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak and geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

## APEC Macroeconomic Indicators

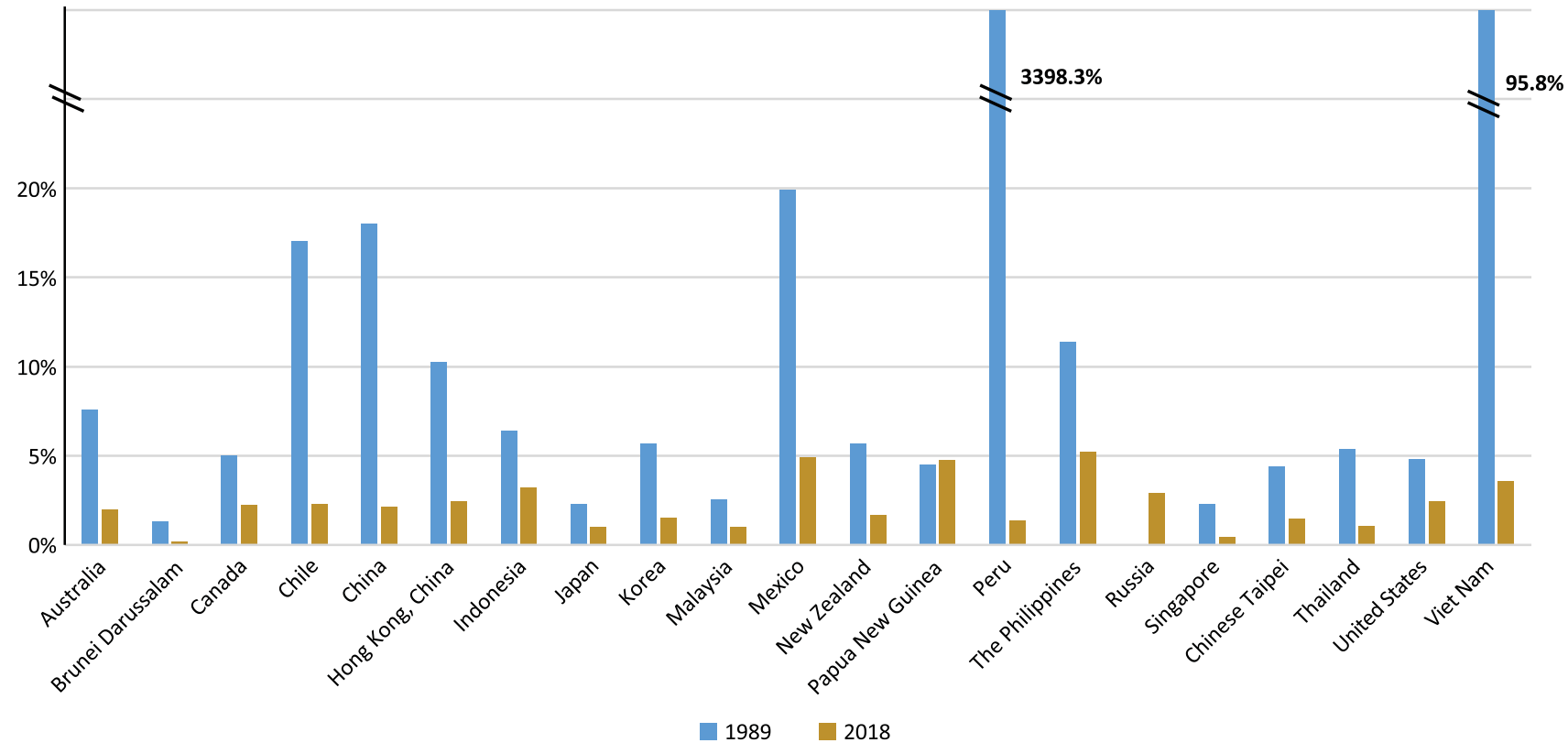
1.3 Real GDP Per Capita Growth Rates (annual percent), 1989 – 2018



Since 1990, real GDP per capita growth rates of developing APEC economies have been significantly higher than that of industrialised APEC economies, except in 1998 when there was a mere 0.1-point difference between the two groups owing to the Asian Financial Crisis. The long-term trend appears to be increasing for developing APEC economies while a downward trend has been noted among the industrialised economies whose average growth rate fell from 3.1% in 1989 to 1.7% in 2018.

## APEC Macroeconomic Indicators

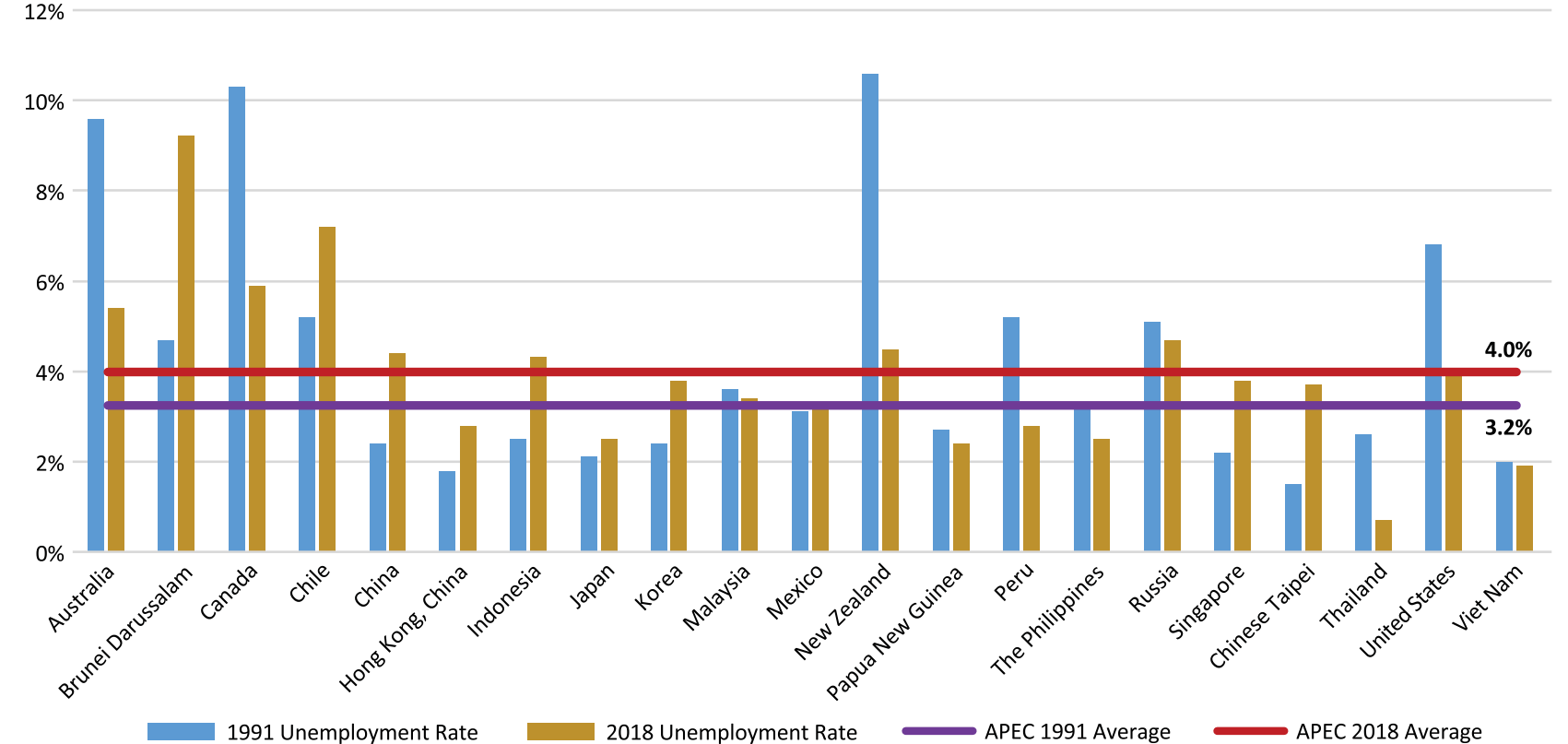
1.4 Consumer Price Inflation (percent), 1989 and 2018



Inflation rates in almost all APEC economies were lower in 2018 than in 1989. In 1989, two economies — Peru and Viet Nam — were experiencing high inflation rates, but since then prices in both economies have stabilised. In 2018, inflation in the APEC region ranged from 0.1% in Brunei Darussalam to 5.2% in the Philippines.

## APEC Macroeconomic Indicators

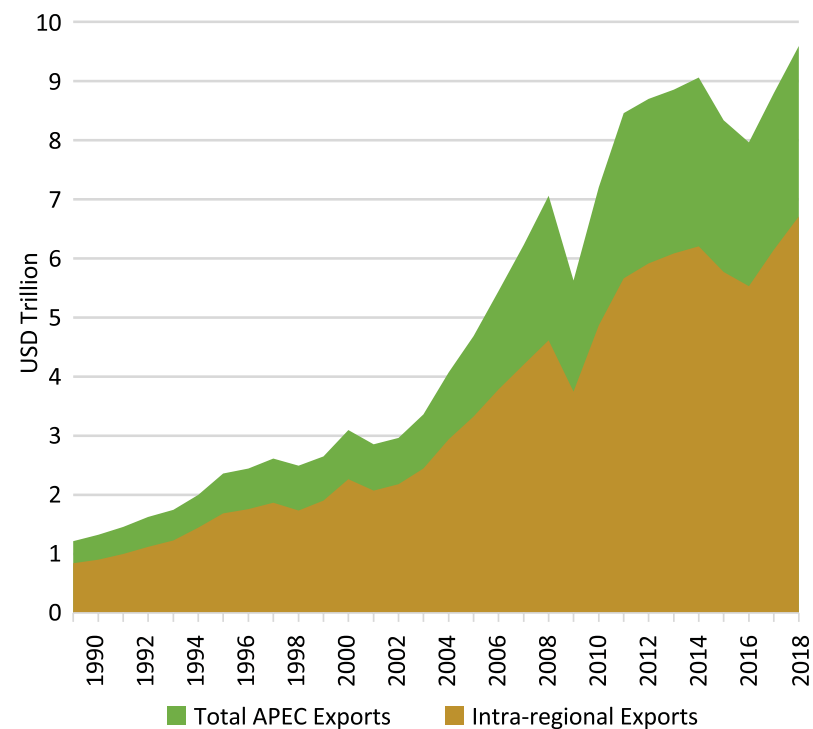
1.5 Unemployment Rate (percent), 1991 and 2018



The unemployment rate in the APEC region in 2018 was 4.0%, which is 0.8 percentage point higher than the rate in 1991. Wide variations were observed in unemployment rates across APEC economies: in 2018, Brunei Darussalam had the highest unemployment rate at 9.2% while Thailand had the lowest rate at 0.7%. Eleven economies had a lower unemployment rate in 2018 compared to 1991.

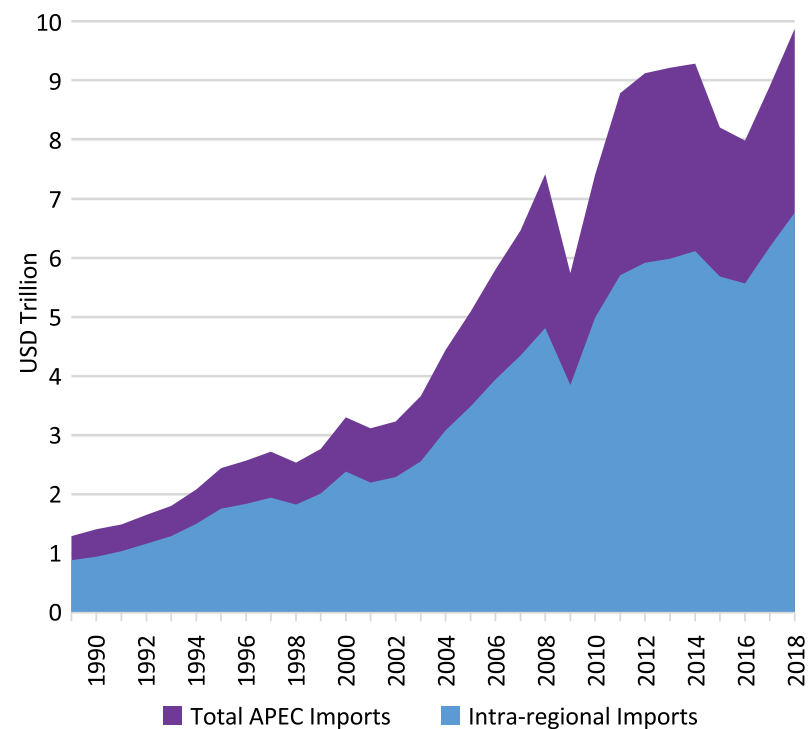
## APEC Trade Indicators

### 2.1 Value of APEC Merchandise Trade (USD trillion), 1989 – 2018



#### Merchandise Exports

The total value of APEC exports increased from USD 1.2 trillion in 1989 to USD 9.6 trillion in 2018. A similar increasing trend was noted in intra-APEC exports which increased almost eight-fold during the period. The share of intra-regional exports remained almost the same, slightly rising from 69% in 1989 to 70% in 2018.

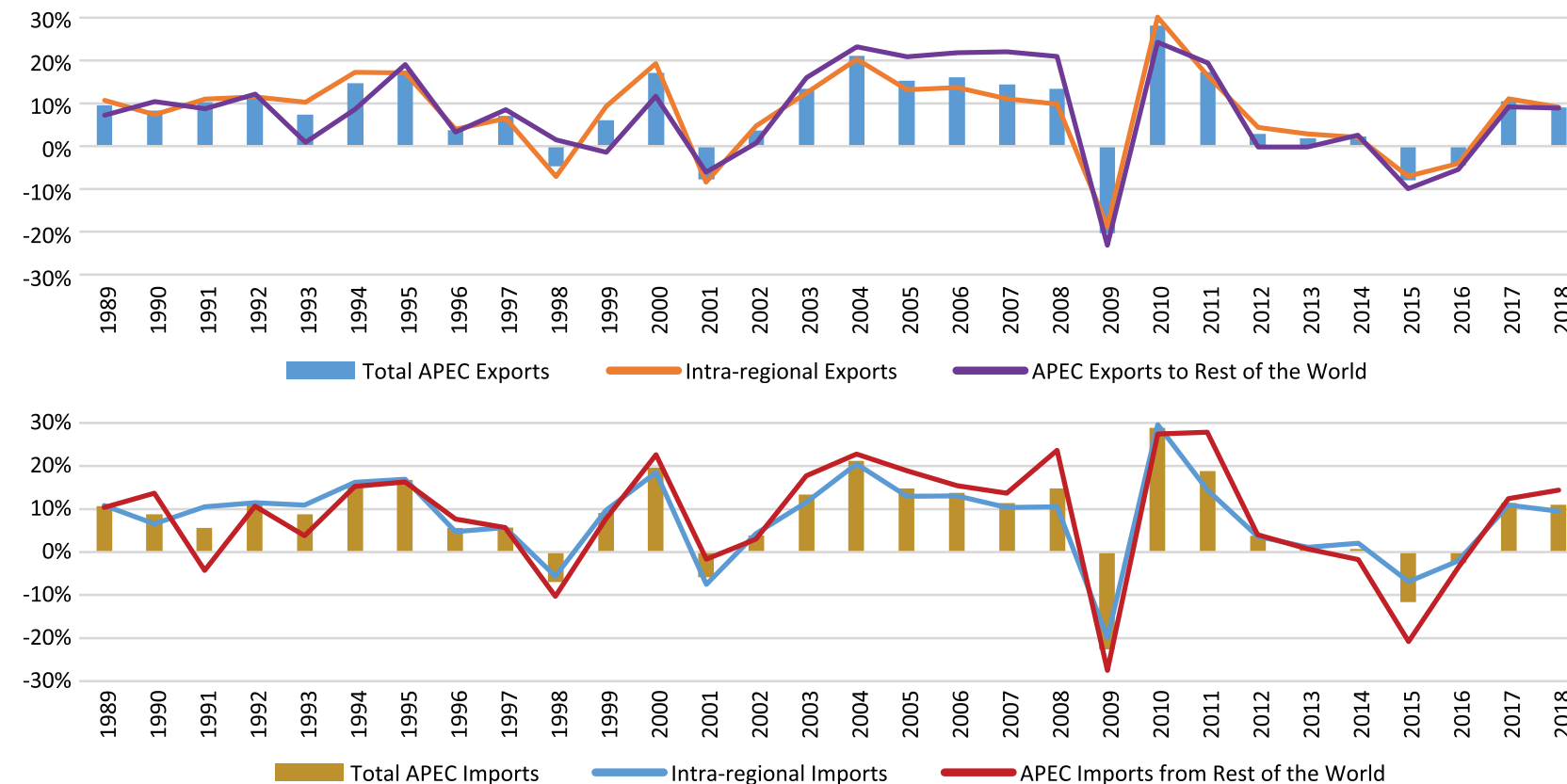


#### Merchandise Imports

Between 1989 and 2018, the value of total APEC imports increased by more than seven times, from USD 1.3 trillion to USD 9.9 trillion. The region's intra-regional imports peaked at USD 6.8 trillion in 2018 from a value of USD 0.9 trillion in 1989.

## APEC Trade Indicators

### 2.2 Nominal Merchandise Trade Growth in APEC (annual percent change), 1989 – 2018



#### Merchandise Exports

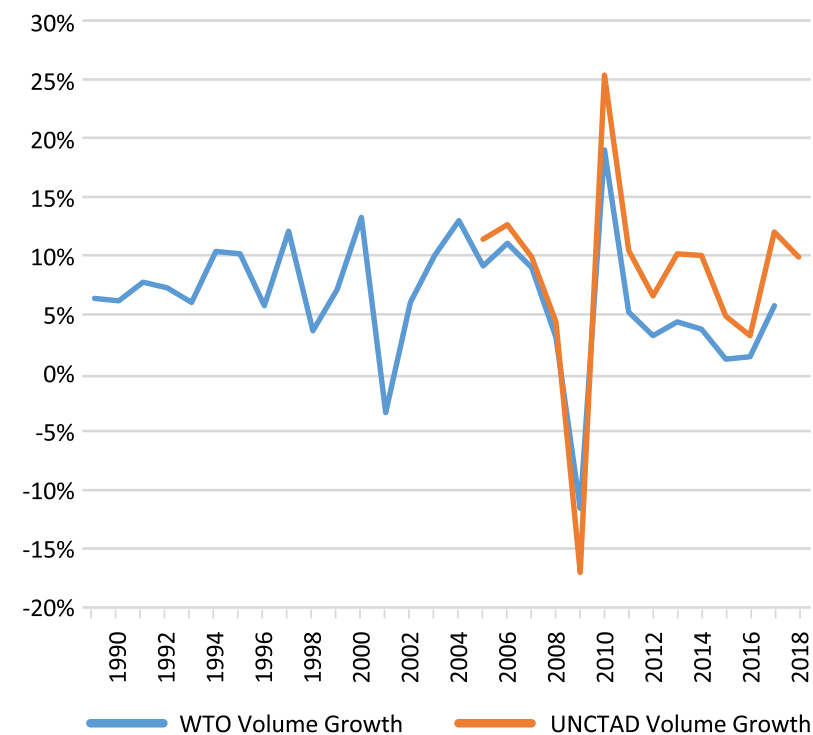
Between 1989 and 2018, average annual growth rates for the value of APEC total exports and intra-regional exports were 7.1% and 7.2%, respectively. During this period, the region's total exports contracted five times, with the largest contraction recorded during the Global Financial Crisis in 2009.

#### Merchandise Imports

Between 1989 and 2018, import growth has largely been positive with APEC total imports and intra-regional imports registering an annual growth rate of 7.0% each. Similar to export trends, the region's imports noted the largest contraction in 2009 with total imports falling by 22.6%.

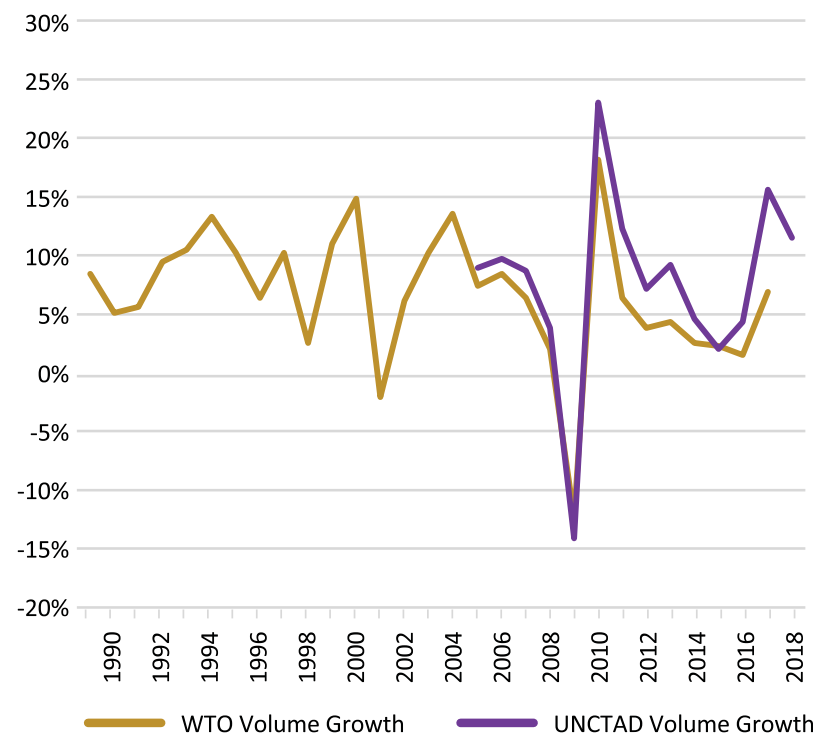
## APEC Trade Indicators

### 2.3 Trade Volume Growth in APEC (annual percent change), 1989 – 2018



#### Merchandise Exports

APEC's export trade volume growth has generally been positive over the past 30 years, only recording exports volume contractions in 2001 and 2009 during the dot-com bust and the Global Financial Crisis, respectively. In 2018, APEC exports volume grew 10.1%, down from 12.3% in the previous year.

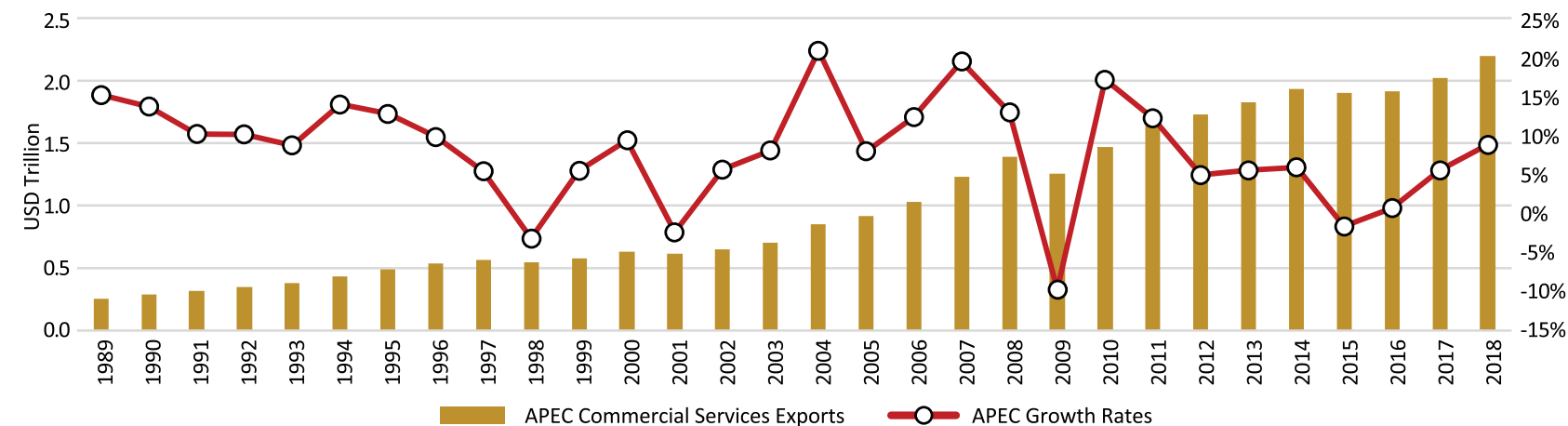


#### Merchandise Imports

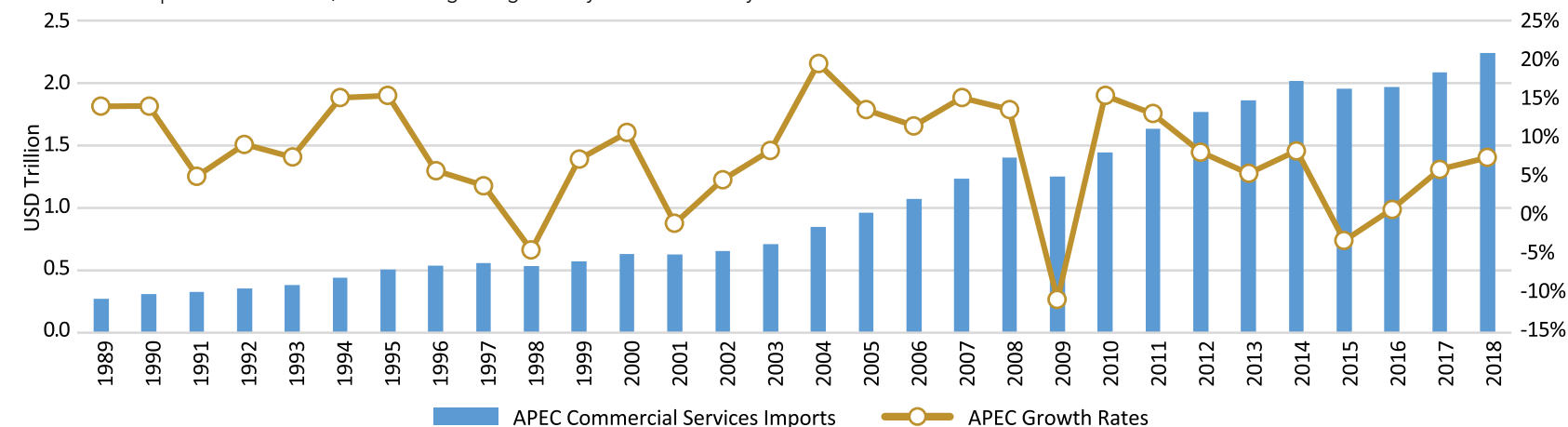
Likewise, APEC's import volume growth rate has generally stayed positive over the past 30 years, only contracting in 2001 and 2009. Between 2017 and 2018, imports volume growth decreased from 15.5% to 11.4%.

## APEC Trade Indicators

### 2.4 Value and Growth of APEC Commercial Services Trade (value in USD trillion, growth in percent change), 1989 – 2018



The region's commercial services exports increased from USD 0.3 trillion in 1989 to USD 2.2 trillion in 2018. Although growth in services exports has been on a downward trend over the past three decades, it has been growing robustly in the last three years.

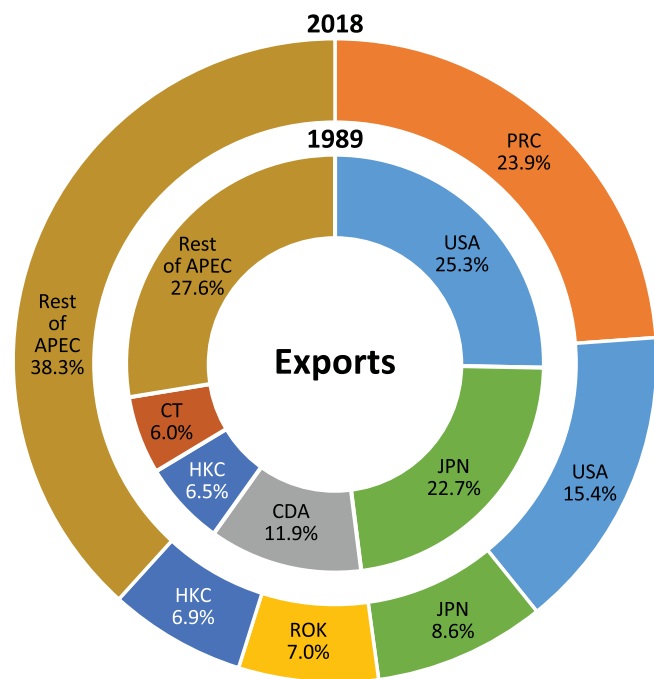


Similar to exports, the region's commercial services imports increased eight-fold over the past three decades, reaching USD 2.2 trillion in 2018. Likewise, growth in services imports has been on a downward trend over the past 30 years but has been recovering in the past three years.

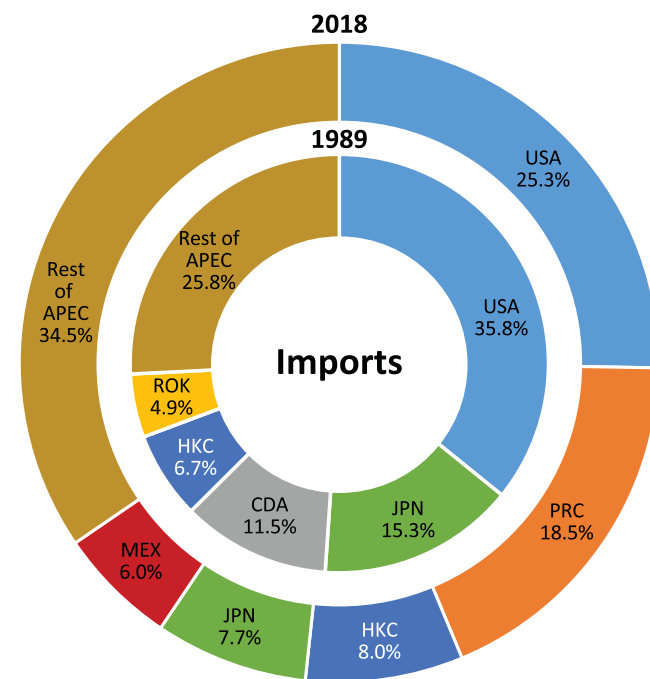


## APEC Trade Indicators

2.5 Share of APEC Intra-regional Trade (percent), 1989 and 2018



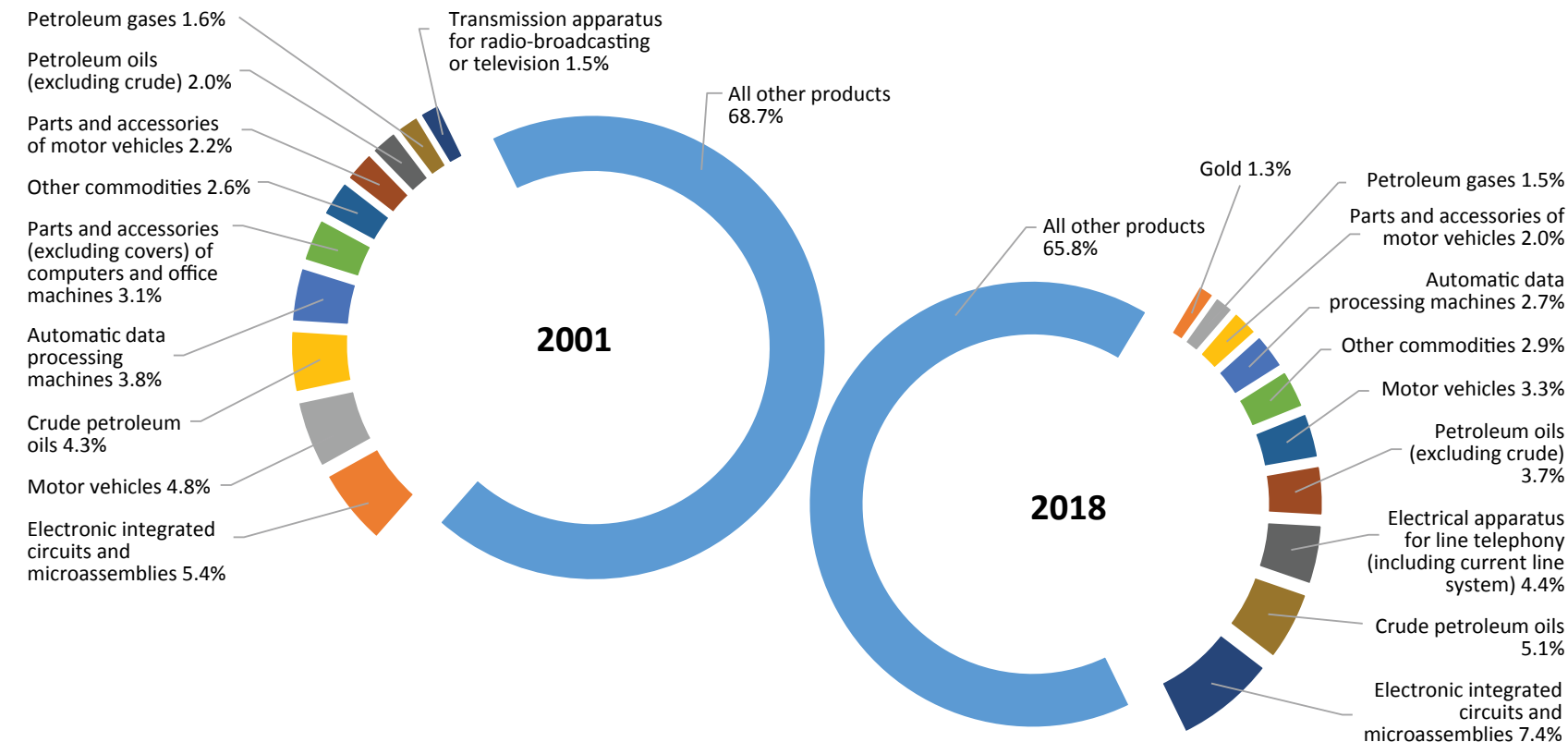
In 1989, the United States had the largest share of intra-APEC exports at 25.3%. In 2018, China accounted for the largest share of intra-regional exports with 23.9%. While the top two economies accounted for 48% of intra-APEC exports in 1989, it took three economies to account for the same in 2018.



In 1989, the top three intra-regional importers were Canada; Japan; and the United States, accounting for 62.6% of imports. In 2018, China and Hong Kong, China joined the United States in the top three, but together accounted for a lower share of intra-APEC imports (51.8%). Although the United States still accounts for the largest share of intra-regional imports, its share has fallen from 35.8% in 1989 to 25.3% in 2018.

## APEC Trade Indicators

2.6 Top 10 Most Traded Products between APEC and the World by Value (percent share), 2001 and 2018

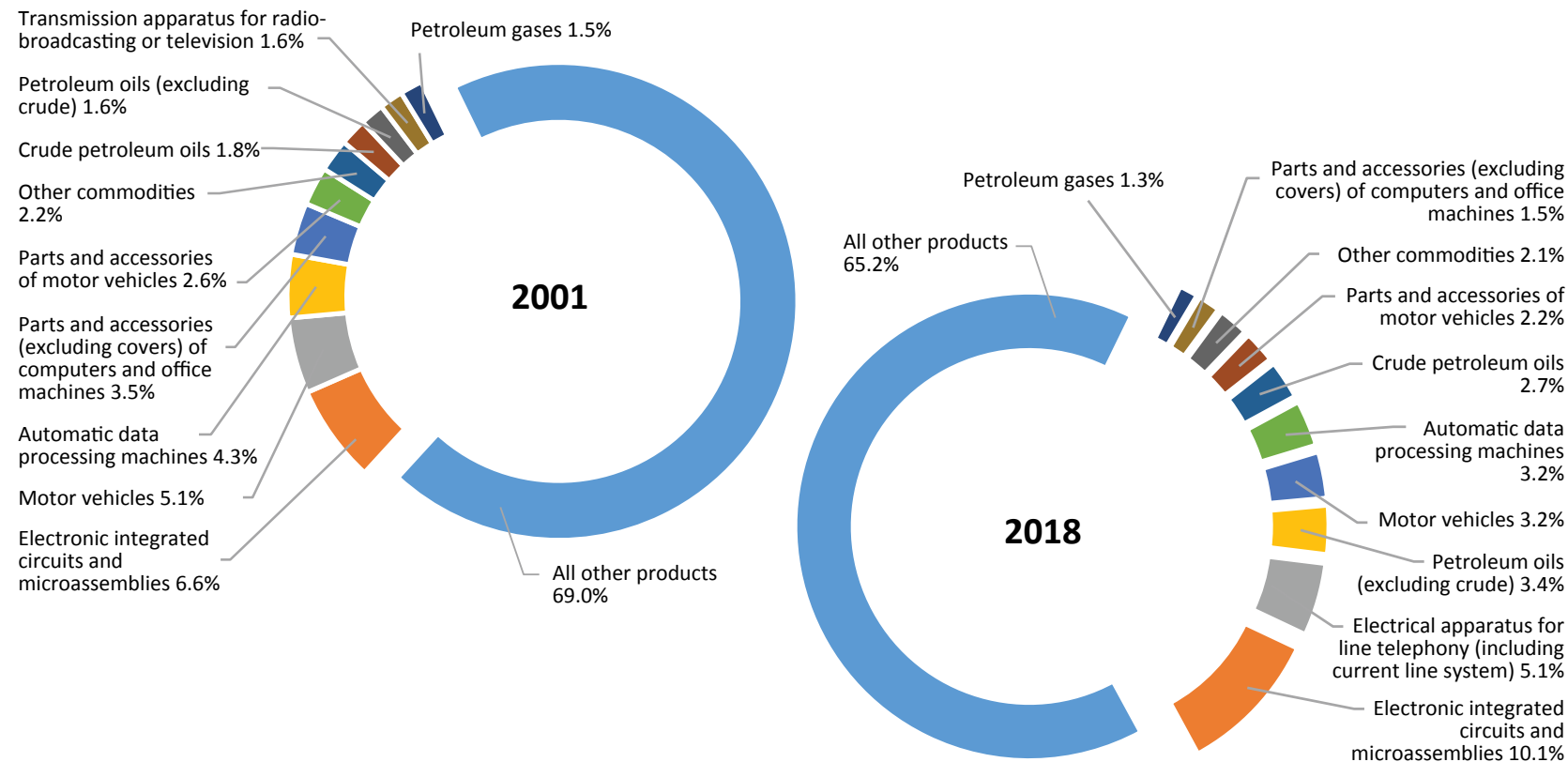


In 2018, the top 10 most traded products (based on the Harmonized System 4-digit headings) between APEC and the world accounted for 34.2% of all trade, an increase from 31.3% in 2001. Between 2001 and 2018, transmission apparatus for radio-broadcasting, and parts and accessories of computers and office machines had dropped out of the top 10 and were replaced by gold and electrical apparatus for line telephony. Electronic integrated circuits and microassemblies remained as the most traded product between APEC and the world with its trade share growing from 5.4% in 2001 to 7.4% in 2018.



## APEC Trade Indicators

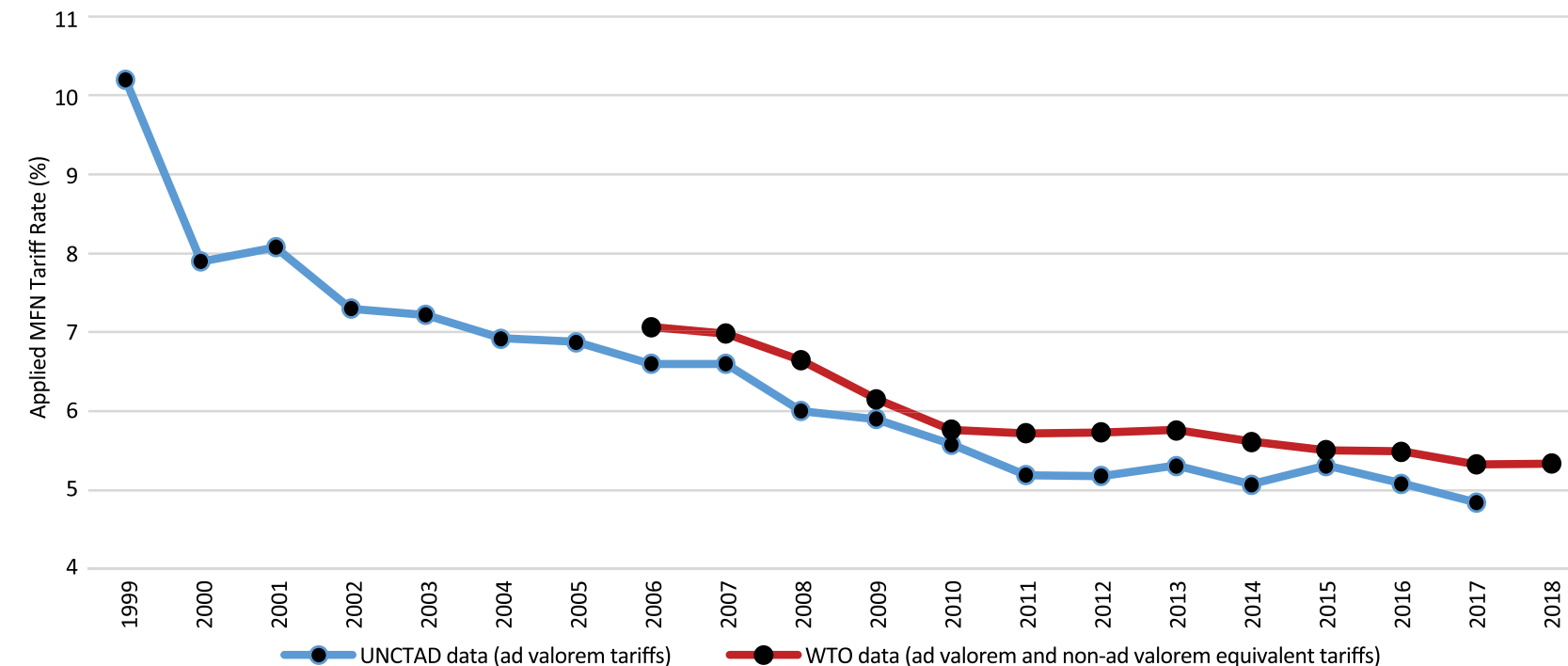
### 2.7 Top 10 Most Traded Products within APEC by Value (percent share), 2001 and 2018



In 2018, the top 10 most traded products (based on the Harmonized System 4-digit headings) within the APEC region accounted for 34.8% of all intra-regional trade, an increase from 31.0% in 2001. Between 2001 and 2018, transmission apparatus for radio-broadcasting dropped out of the top 10 and was replaced by electrical apparatus for line telephony. Electronic integrated circuits and microassemblies remained as the most traded product within the region with its trade share growing from 6.6% in 2001 to 10.1% in 2018.

## APEC Trade Liberalisation Indicators

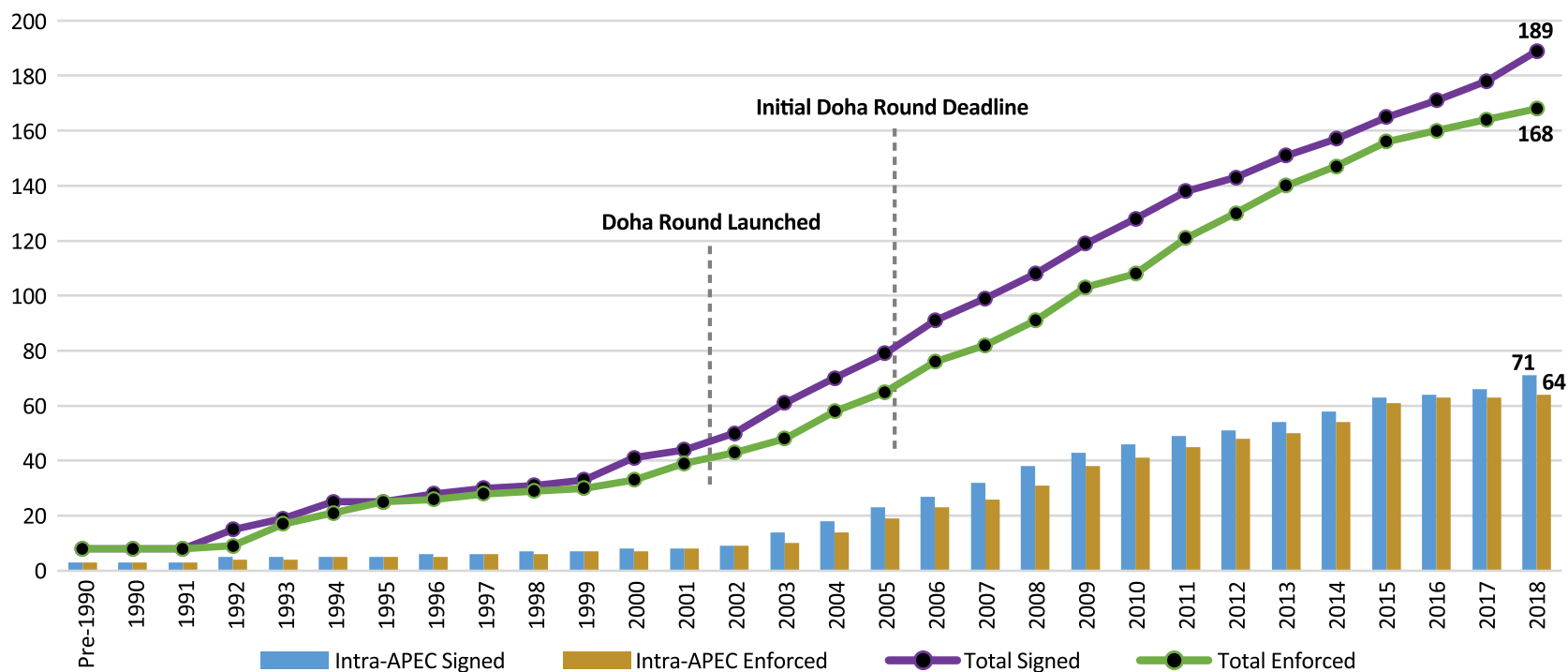
### 3.1 MFN Applied Tariff Rates for the APEC Region, 1999 – 2018



Data from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) show that average most-favoured nation (MFN) applied tariff rates have been on a downward trend over the past two decades. Based on UNCTAD data, average ad valorem tariff rates fell from 10.2% in 1999 to 4.8% in 2017. Based on WTO data, average ad valorem and non-ad valorem (i.e., mixed and specific) tariffs stood at 5.3% in 2018, down from 7.1% in 2006.

## APEC Trade Liberalisation Indicators

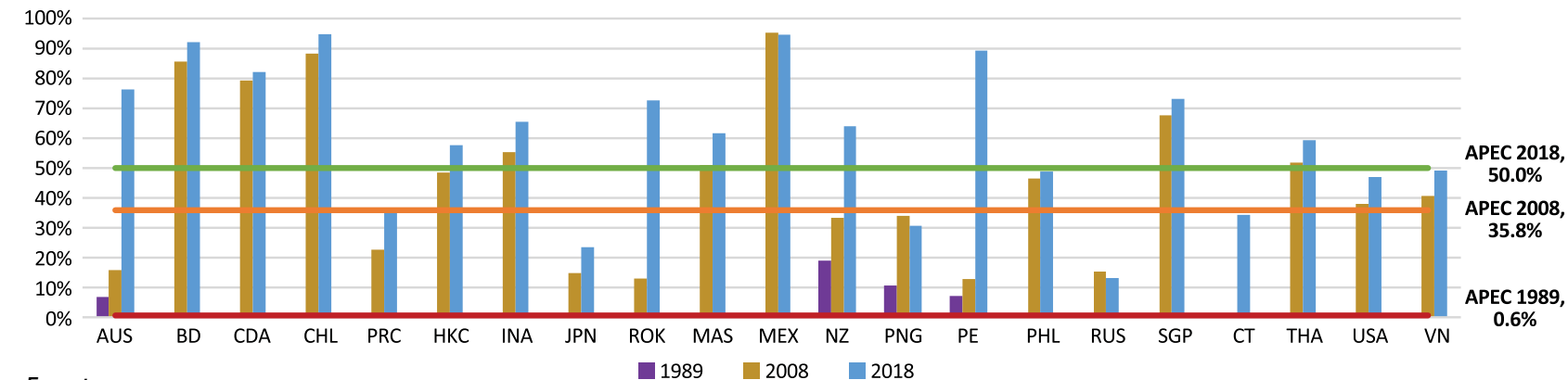
### 3.2 Free Trade Agreements in APEC (cumulative number), pre-1990 – 2018



Between pre-1990 and 2018, the number of free trade agreements signed by APEC economies rose from 8 to 189. Within the same period, the number of intra-APEC agreements signed increased by almost 24 times reaching 71 agreements in 2018.

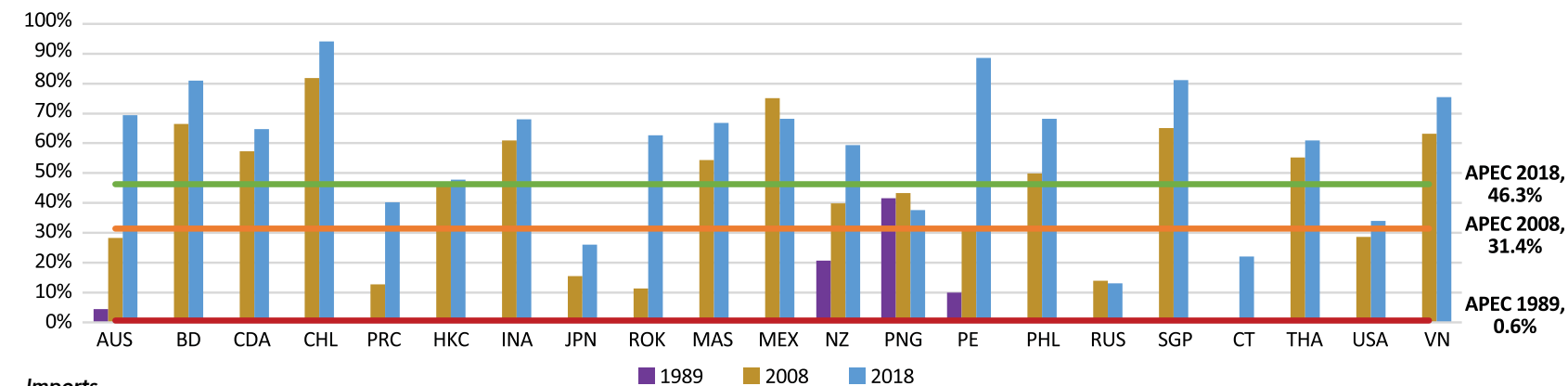
## APEC Trade Liberalisation Indicators

### 3.3 Share of Trade with RTA/FTA Partners (percent), 1989 – 2018



#### Exports

As a proportion of total export flows, the APEC region's exports with its RTA/FTA partners increased considerably from 0.6% in 1989 to 50.0% in 2018.

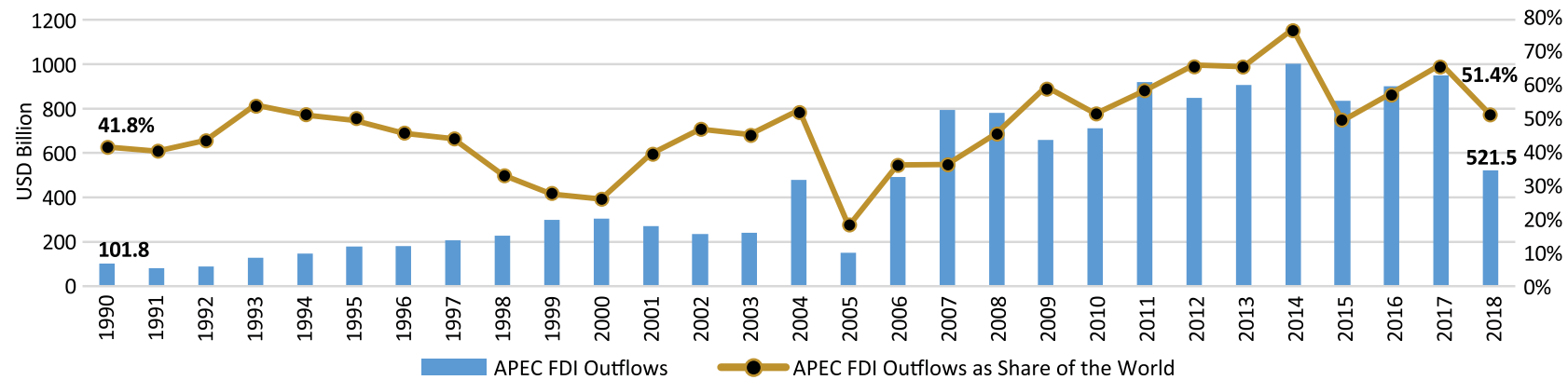
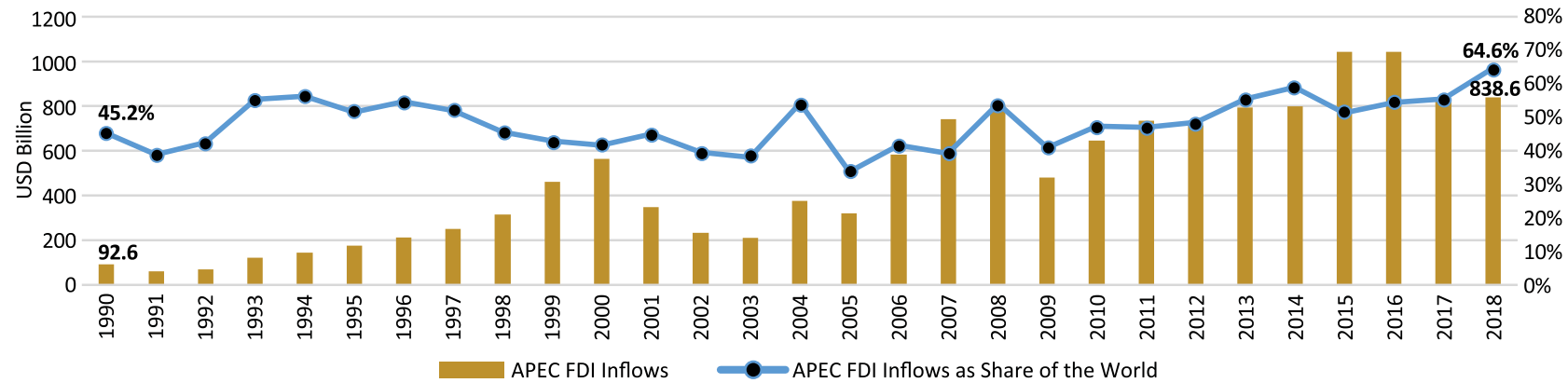


#### Imports

Similar to export flows, the region's import flows with its RTA/FTA partners rose from 0.6% in 1989 to 46.3% in 2018.

## APEC Investment Indicators

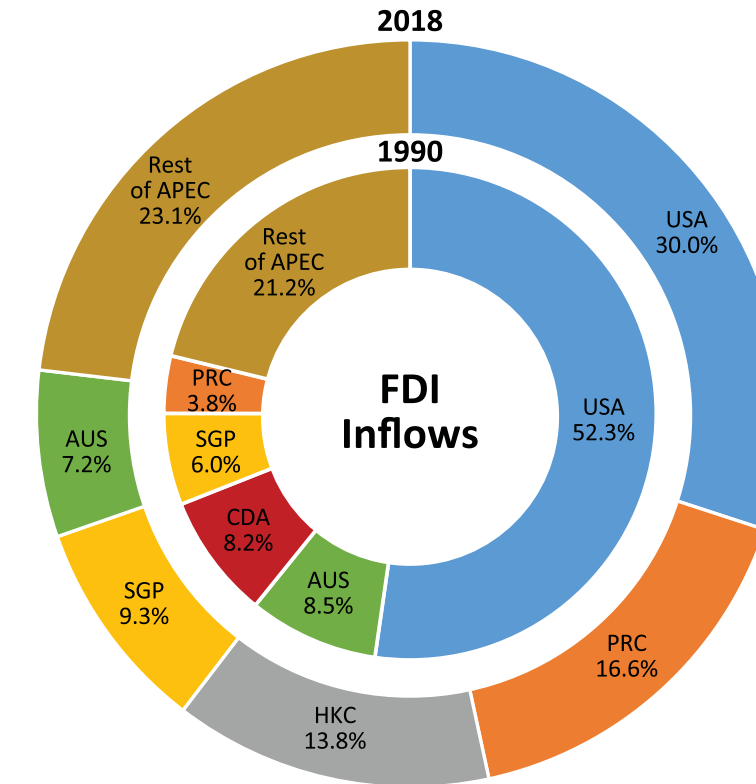
4.1 FDI Inflows and Outflows in APEC (value in USD billion, share in percent), 1990 – 2018



Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows to APEC economies increased from USD 92.6 billion in 1990 to USD 838.6 billion in 2018, with its share in global FDI inflows rising from 45.2% in 1990 to 64.6% in 2018. Similarly, APEC's FDI outflows increased from USD 101.8 billion in 1990 to USD 521.5 billion in 2018, with its share in global FDI outflows increasing from 41.8% to 51.4%.

## APEC Investment Indicators

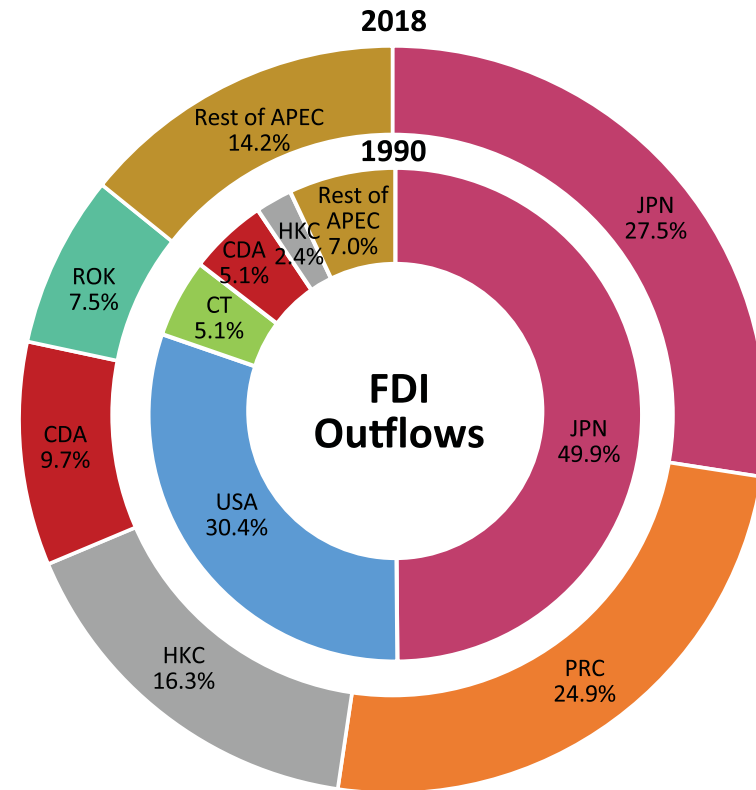
4.2 Top 5 APEC FDI Hosts (percent share), 1990 and 2018



In 2018, the five APEC economies with the largest FDI inflows accounted for 76.9% of total APEC inflows. The United States remained the largest FDI host in the region.

## APEC Investment Indicators

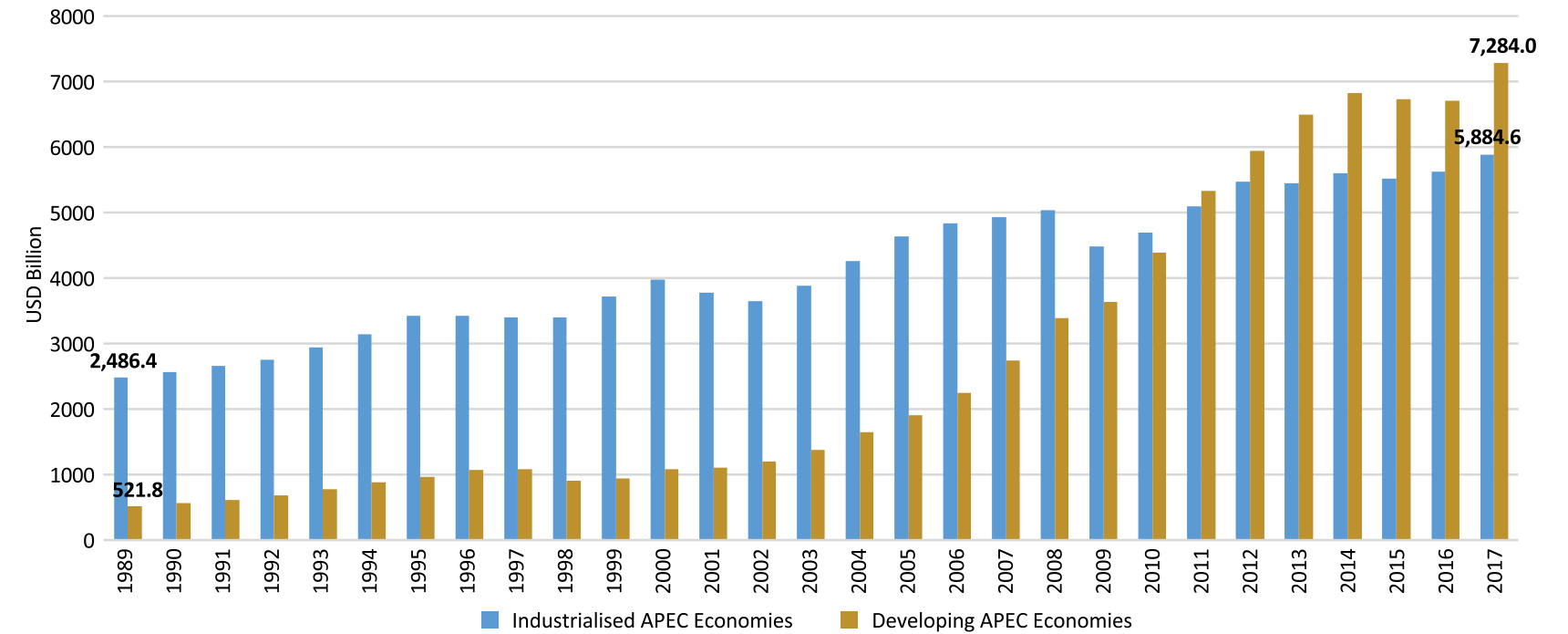
4.3 Top 5 APEC FDI Sources (percent share), 1990 and 2018



In 2018, the five APEC economies with the largest FDI outflows accounted for 85.8% of total APEC outflows, which is a decrease from 93.0% in 1990. Japan was the largest source of FDI, both in 1989 and 2018.

## APEC Investment Indicators

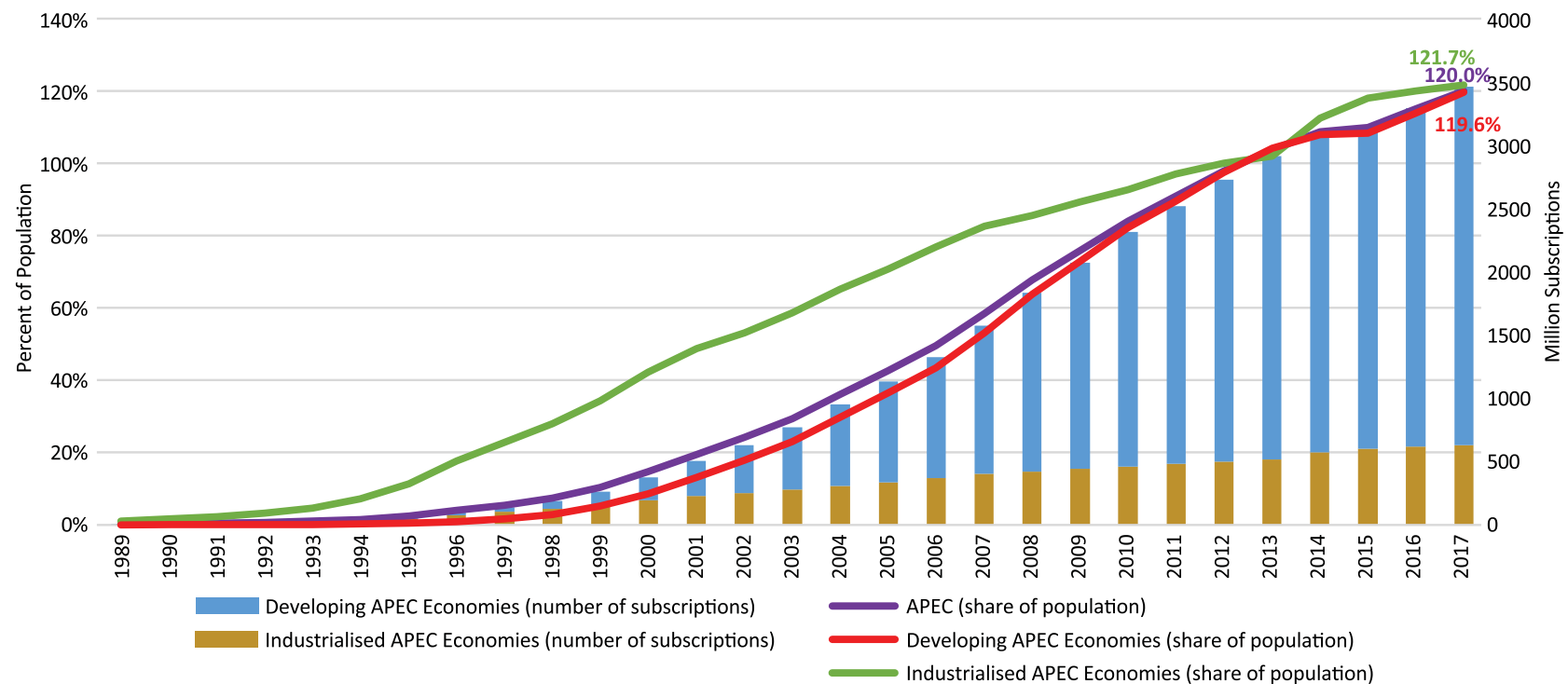
4.4 Gross Fixed Capital Formation in APEC (USD billion), 1989 – 2017



In 1989, developing economies accounted for 17.3% of Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) in the APEC region; by 2017, this figure rose to 55.3%. APEC economies continue to expand in terms of fixed capital investments, registering USD 13.2 trillion in GFCF investment in 2017, which is a four-fold increase from USD 3.0 trillion in 1989.

## Indicators Related to APEC 2019 Priorities

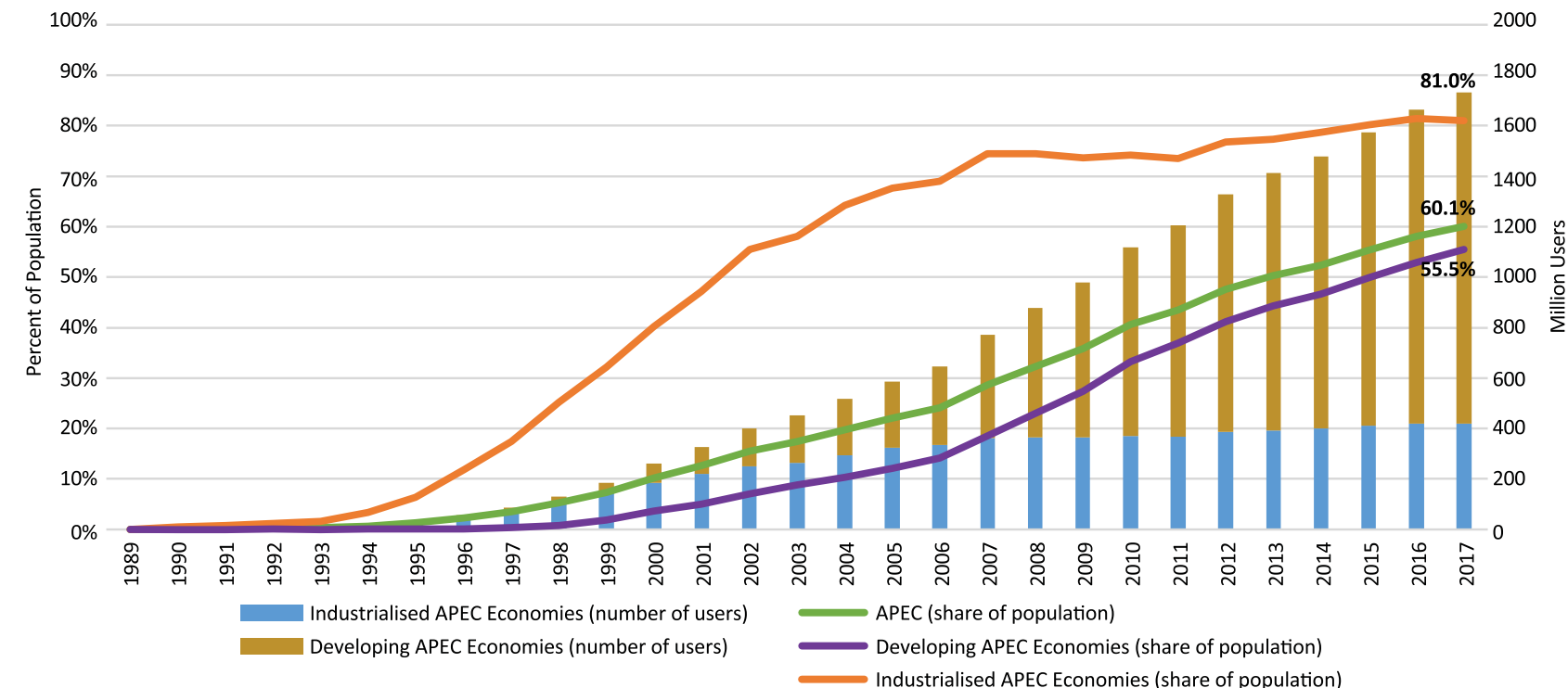
### 5.1 Digital Society: Mobile Cellular Subscriptions (million and percent of population), 1989 – 2017



There were about 3.5 billion mobile cellular subscriptions in APEC in 2017, up from 4.7 million subscriptions in 1989. Mobile cellular subscription rates as a share of the population were nearly 0% in 1989; by 2013, both industrialised and developing APEC economies had on average more than 100% subscription rates, reaching 120% in 2017. A large majority (82%) of mobile cellular subscriptions were registered in developing APEC economies in 2017.

## Indicators Related to APEC 2019 Priorities

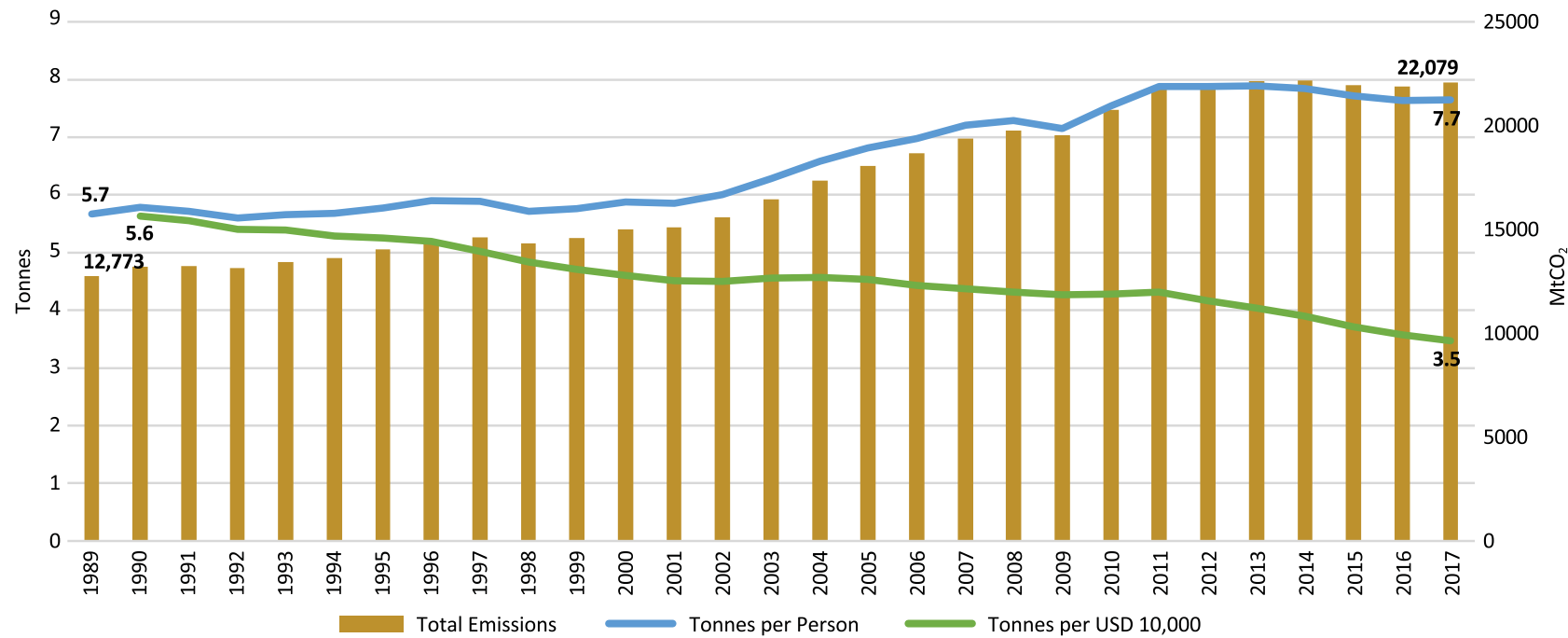
### 5.2 Digital Society: Internet Users (million and percent of population), 1989 – 2017



Since the launch of the worldwide web in 1989, the number of internet users in APEC has grown continuously. Industrialised APEC economies reached a milestone in 2002, when half of their population was connected to the internet; developing APEC economies reached the same milestone in 2015. As of 2017, six out of 10 people in APEC had internet access, with the increase being primarily driven by the growth of internet users in developing APEC economies, where 76% of all internet users in APEC reside.

## Indicators Related to APEC 2019 Priorities

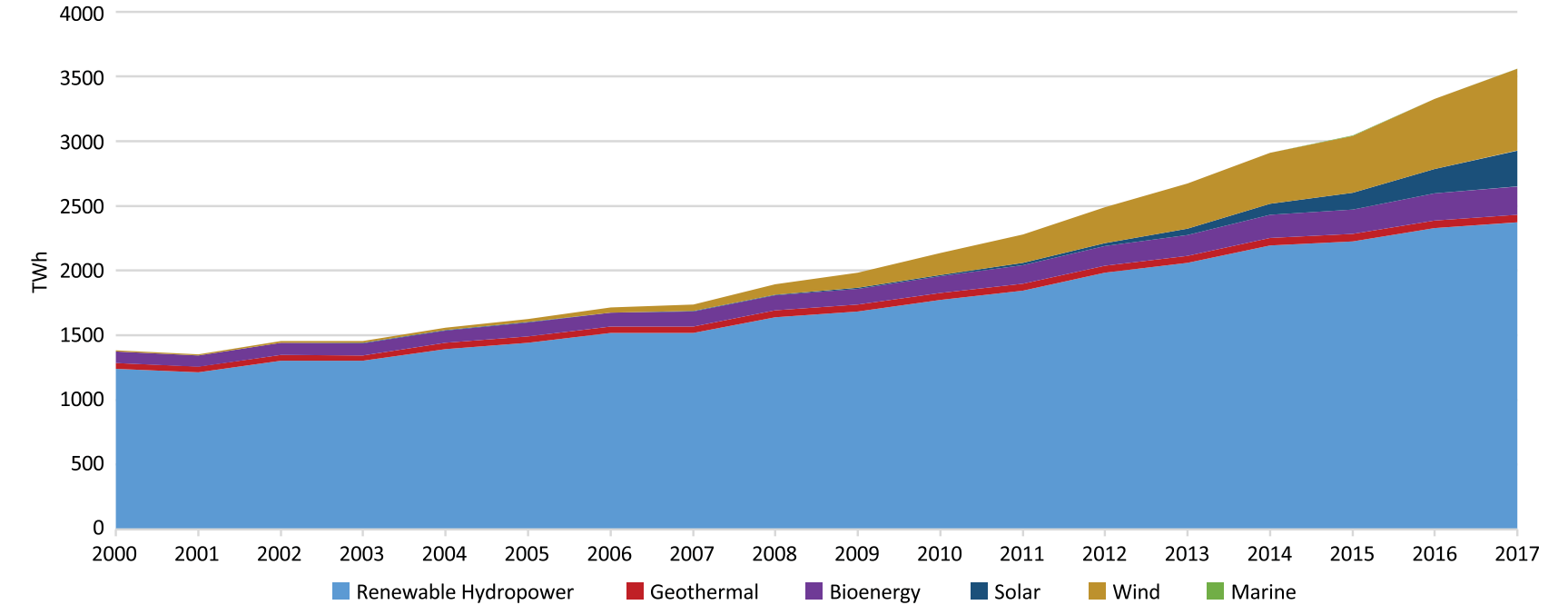
5.3 Sustainable Growth: Carbon Dioxide Emissions (in million tonnes, MtCO<sub>2</sub>), 1989 – 2017



Total carbon dioxide emissions in the region in 2017 were 22,079 metric tons of carbon dioxide (MtCO<sub>2</sub>). Despite the general increasing trend in emissions per person in the region, there has been a gradual decline since 2012. Moreover, territorial emissions per USD 10,000 have been declining over the past 28 years. These decreases point to the increasing application of environmentally friendly production methods and sustainable growth policies.

## Indicators Related to APEC 2019 Priorities

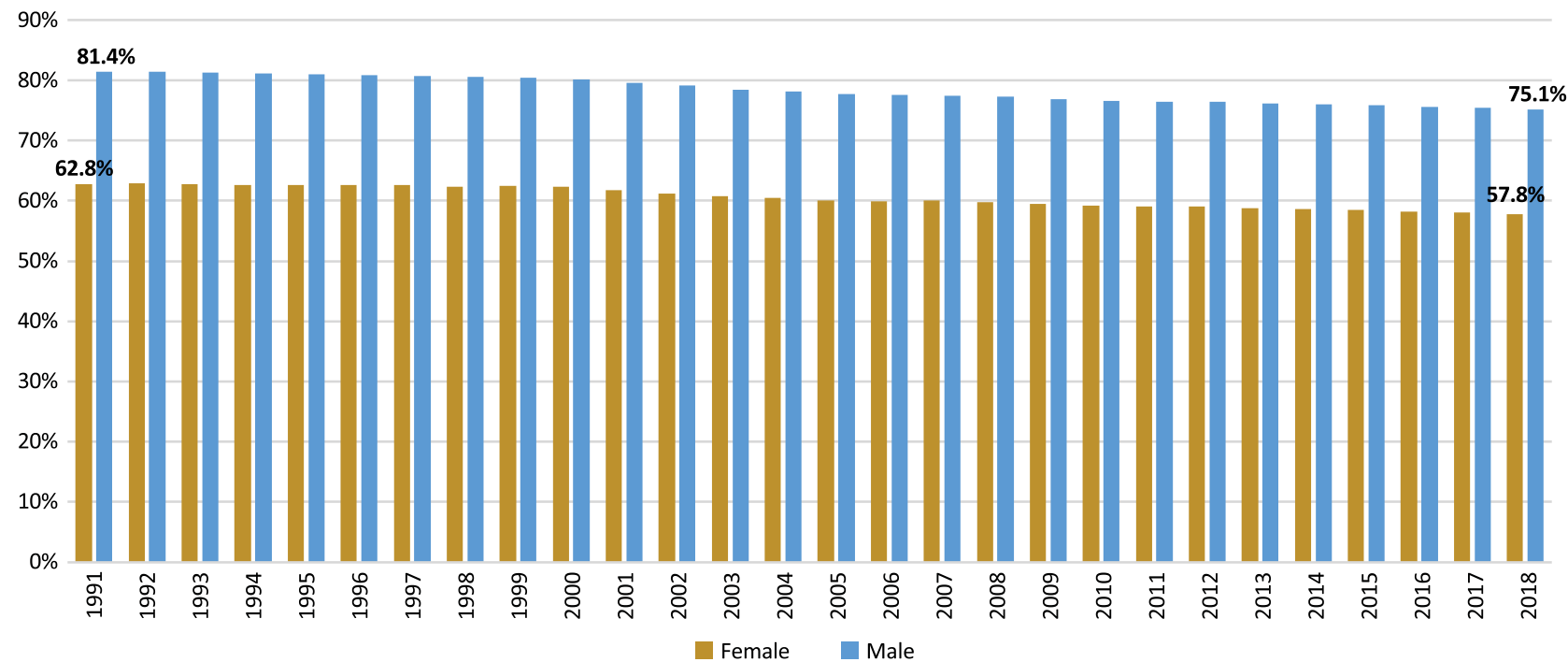
5.4 Sustainable Growth: Renewable Energy Generation by Source (TWh), 2000 – 2017



Renewable energy is defined as energy generated from renewable sources such as hydropower, geothermal, biomass, solar, marine and wind resources. In 2000, APEC generated 1,382 terawatt hours (TWh) of energy from renewable sources, 90% of which came from hydropower. Since then, APEC has made significant efforts to diversify renewable energy generation. In 2017, APEC's renewable energy generation doubled to 3,561 TWh, and hydropower accounted for a lower share of APEC's renewable energy generation (67%). Wind energy was the second most common source of renewable energy in 2017: its production increased 92 times in the past 17 years. During the same period, developing APEC economies quadrupled their renewable energy production while that of industrialised APEC economies doubled.

## Indicators Related to APEC 2019 Priorities

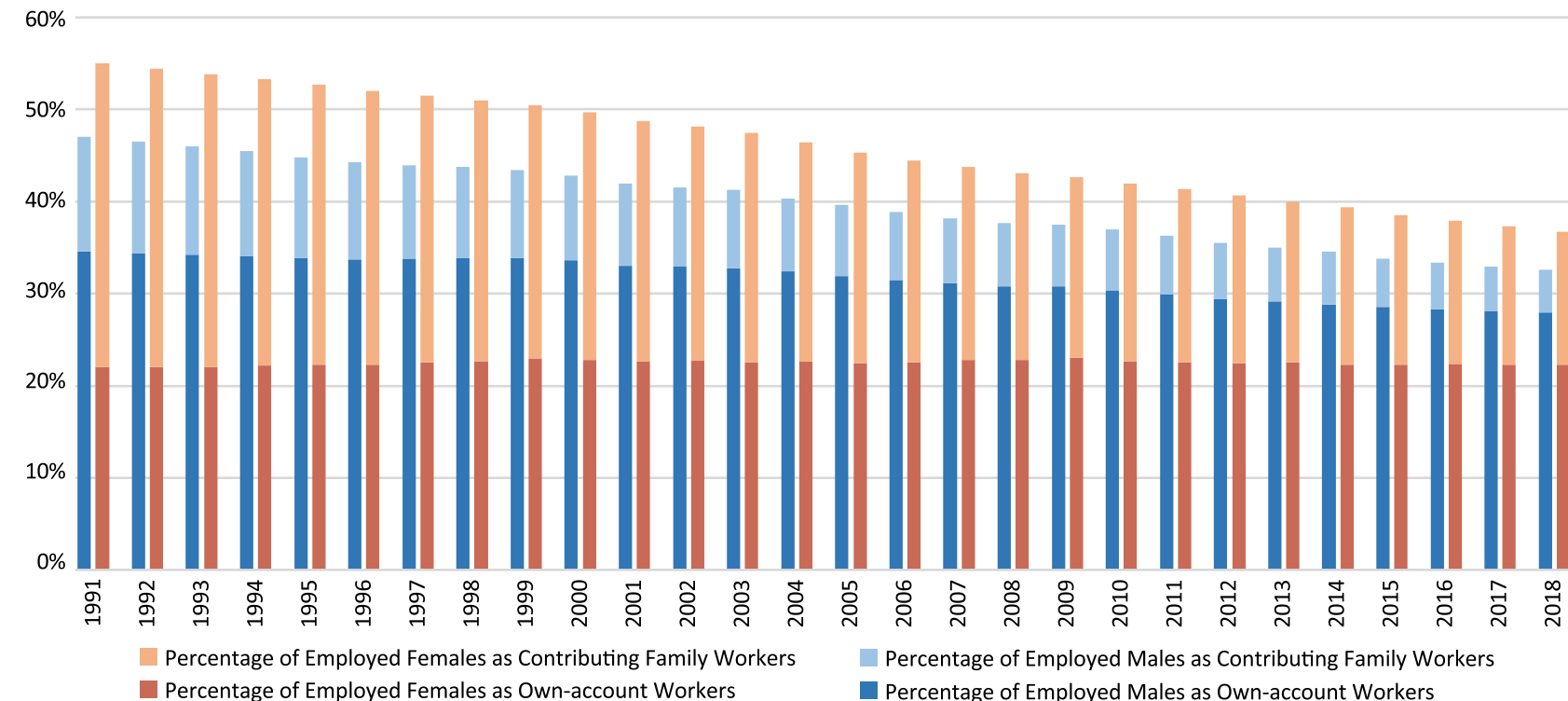
5.5 Women and Inclusive Growth: Labour Force Participation Rate by Gender (percent), 1991 – 2018



The labour force participation rate — a measure of the proportion of an economy's working-age population that engages actively in the labour market, either by working or looking for work — has been on a downward trend between 1991 and 2018. This trend can be attributed to demographic changes (e.g., ageing population) as well as increasing affluence around the region. The labour force participation rate among women remains almost 20 percentage points lower than that of men and has not significantly narrowed. This indicates that women's opportunities for economic participation have not significantly improved relative to men over the past three decades.

## Indicators Related to APEC 2019 Priorities

5.6 Women and Inclusive Growth: Vulnerable Employment by Gender (percent), 1991 – 2018



Vulnerable employment is employment without regular income, rights at work, or social protection benefits. Statistically, it is the proportion of employed workers who are own-account workers or contributing family workers. Vulnerable employment in APEC has been on a downward trend since 1991 for both men and women. However, women are still more likely than men to be in vulnerable employment. Additionally, women are three times more likely than men to be contributing family workers (i.e., likely to be paid in kind or not have a regular income).



## Industrialised and Developing APEC Economies

Industrialised APEC Economies: Australia; Canada; Japan; New Zealand; and the United States.

Developing APEC Economies: Brunei Darussalam; Chile; China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; Papua New Guinea; Peru; the Philippines; Russia; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; and Viet Nam.

## Abbreviations for APEC Member Economies

Australia (AUS); Brunei Darussalam (BD); Canada (CDA); Chile (CHL); China (PRC); Hong Kong, China (HKC); Indonesia (INA); Japan (JPN); Korea (ROK); Malaysia (MAS); Mexico (MEX); New Zealand (NZ); Papua New Guinea (PNG); Peru (PE); the Philippines (PHL); Russia (RUS); Singapore (SGP); Chinese Taipei (CT); Thailand (THA); the United States (USA); and Viet Nam (VN).

## APEC in the Global Economy, 2018

Note: Commercial services data for Brunei Darussalam; Russia; and Viet Nam were not available for 1989. Merchandise trade data was not available for Russia for 1989.

Sources: World Bank, World Development Indicators; Directorate General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics (Chinese Taipei); and World Trade Organization – Time Series on International Trade.

## APEC Macroeconomic Indicators

### 1.1 GDP Per Capita (constant 2010 USD), 1989 and 2018

Sources: World Bank, World Development Indicators; and Directorate General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics (Chinese Taipei).

### 1.2 Real GDP Growth (annual percent), 1989 – 2018

Note: Data for Russia between 1989 and 1992 was not available.

Source: International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook 2019.

### 1.3 Real GDP Per Capita Growth Rates (annual percent), 1989 – 2018

Note: Data for Russia between 1989 and 1991 was not available.

Sources: World Bank, World Development Indicators; International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook 2019; and Directorate General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics (Chinese Taipei).

### 1.4 Consumer Price Inflation (percent), 1989 and 2018

Note: Data for Russia for 1989 was not available.

Source: International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook 2019.

### 1.5 Unemployment Rate (percent), 1991 and 2018

Note: The unemployment rate is the proportion of the labour force that is not employed.

Source: International Labour Organization.

## APEC Trade Indicators

### 2.1 Value of APEC Merchandise Trade (USD trillion), 1989 – 2018

Note: Data for Russia was not available between 1989 and 1991.

Sources: International Monetary Fund, Direction of Trade Statistics; and Ministry of Finance, Trade Statistics Database (Chinese Taipei).

### 2.2 Nominal Merchandise Trade Growth in APEC (annual percent change), 1989 – 2018

Note: Data for Russia was not available between 1989 and 1991.

Sources: International Monetary Fund, Direction of Trade Statistics; and Ministry of Finance, Trade Statistics Database (Chinese Taipei).

### 2.3 Trade Volume Growth in APEC (annual percent change), 1989 – 2018

Note: WTO data was not available for 2018. Data for Brunei Darussalam; Papua New Guinea; Russia; and Viet Nam were not available between 1989 and 2000.

UNCTAD data was only available between 2005 and 2018. Data for Brunei Darussalam and Papua New Guinea were not available across the period.

Sources: World Trade Organization, Time Series on International Trade; and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, UNCTADstat.

### 2.4 Value and Growth of APEC Commercial Services Trade (value in USD trillion, growth in percent change), 1989 – 2018

Note: Data for Brunei Darussalam was not available between 1989 and 1995; data for the Philippines was not available between 1994 and 1998; data for Russia was not available between 1989 and 1993; and data for Viet Nam was not available for 1989.

Between 1989 and 2004, commercial services trade was calculated using the BPM5 methodology. Beyond 2004, it was calculated using BPM6 methodology.

Source: World Trade Organization, Time Series on International Trade.

### 2.5 Share of APEC Intra-regional Trade (percent), 1989 and 2018

Note: Data for Russia for 1989 was not available.

Sources: International Monetary Fund, Direction of Trade Statistics; and Ministry of Finance, Trade Statistics Database (Chinese Taipei).

### 2.6 Top 10 Most Traded Products between APEC and the World by Value (percent share), 2001 and 2018

Source: International Trade Centre, Trade Map.

### 2.7 Top 10 Most Traded Products within APEC by Value (percent share), 2001 and 2018

Source: International Trade Centre, Trade Map.

## APEC Trade Liberalisation Indicators

### 3.1 MFN Applied Tariff Rates for the APEC Region, 1999 – 2018

Note: APEC simple average was calculated by taking an average of MFN applied tariffs across the Harmonized System 6-digit codes for each year within each economy before averaging them across the economies. Data from WTO included ad-valorem equivalents of non-ad valorem duty rates. Ad valorem tariffs are tariffs imposed in percentage terms over the value of a good. Ad valorem equivalent tariffs are the ad valorem equivalents of non-ad valorem tariffs such as specific tariffs (tariffs imposed per unit of a good) or mixed tariffs (tariffs that combine ad valorem and specific tariffs).

WTO data was only available between 2006 and 2018.

Sources: World Bank, World Integrated Trade Solution, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development - Trade Analysis Information System; and World Trade Organization, Data Portal.

### 3.2 Free Trade Agreements in APEC (cumulative number), pre-1990 – 2018

Sources: Economy sources; and World Trade Organization.

### 3.3 Share of Trade with RTA/FTA Partners (percent), 1989 – 2018

Sources: International Monetary Fund, Direction of Trade Statistics; and Ministry of Finance, Trade Statistics Database (Chinese Taipei).

## APEC Investment Indicators

### 4.1 FDI Inflows and Outflows in APEC (value in USD billion, share in percent), 1990 – 2018

Source: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, World Investment Report 2019.

### 4.2 Top 5 APEC FDI Hosts (percent share), 1990 and 2018

Note: Data for Russia was not available for 1990.

Source: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, World Investment Report 2019.

### 4.3 Top 5 APEC FDI Sources (percent share), 1990 and 2018

Note: Data for Brunei Darussalam was not available for 1990 and 2018; and data for Russia and Viet Nam were not available for 1990.

Source: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, World Investment Report 2019.

### 4.4 Gross Fixed Capital Formation in APEC (USD billion), 1989 – 2017

Note: Data for Papua New Guinea was not available between 2005 and 2017; and data for Viet Nam was not available between 1990 and 1993.

Sources: World Bank, World Development Indicators; and Directorate General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics (Chinese Taipei).

## Indicators Related to APEC 2019 Priorities

### 5.1 Digital Society: Mobile Cellular Subscriptions (million and percent of population), 1989 – 2017

Note: Data for Brunei Darussalam for 1989 was unavailable; and data for Chinese Taipei for 1989 and 1991 was unavailable.

Sources: World Bank, World Development Indicators; International Telecommunication Union; and Directorate General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics (Chinese Taipei).

### 5.2 Digital Society: Internet Users (million and percent of population), 1989 – 2017

Sources: International Telecommunication Union; and World Bank, World Development Indicators.

### 5.3 Sustainable Growth: Carbon Dioxide Emissions (in million tonnes, MtCO<sub>2</sub>), 1989 – 2017

Sources: Global Carbon Atlas; World Bank, World Development Indicators; and Directorate General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics (Chinese Taipei).

### 5.4 Sustainable Growth: Renewable Energy Generation by Source (TWh), 2000 – 2017

Source: International Renewable Energy Agency.

### 5.5 Women and Inclusive Growth: Labour Force Participation Rate by Gender (percent), 1991 – 2018

Source: International Labour Organization.

### 5.6 Women and Inclusive Growth: Vulnerable Employment by Gender (percent), 1991 – 2018

Source: International Labour Organization.



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