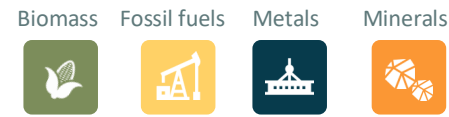


# INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN RESOURCES

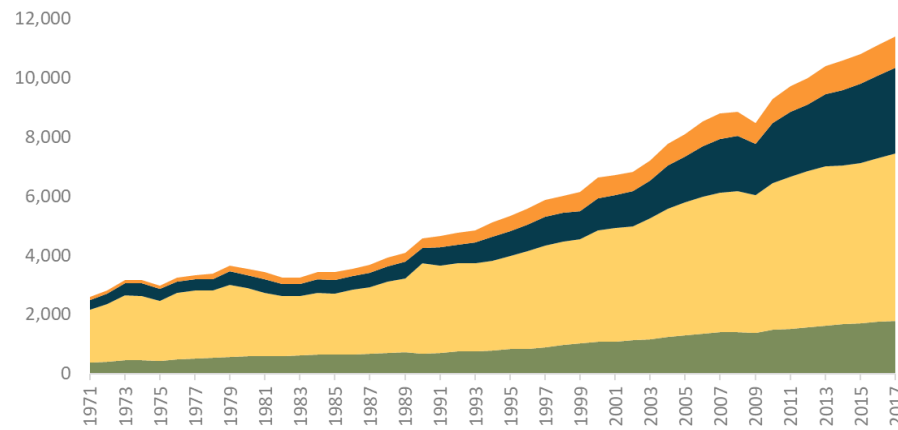


Trade in material resources - biomass, fossil fuels, metals and minerals - has grown strongly over the past half century.

The volume of trade has increased at a faster pace than the volume of extracted resources, signifying a growing dependency of the global economy on material resource trade.

## GLOBAL PHYSICAL TRADE

Million tonnes

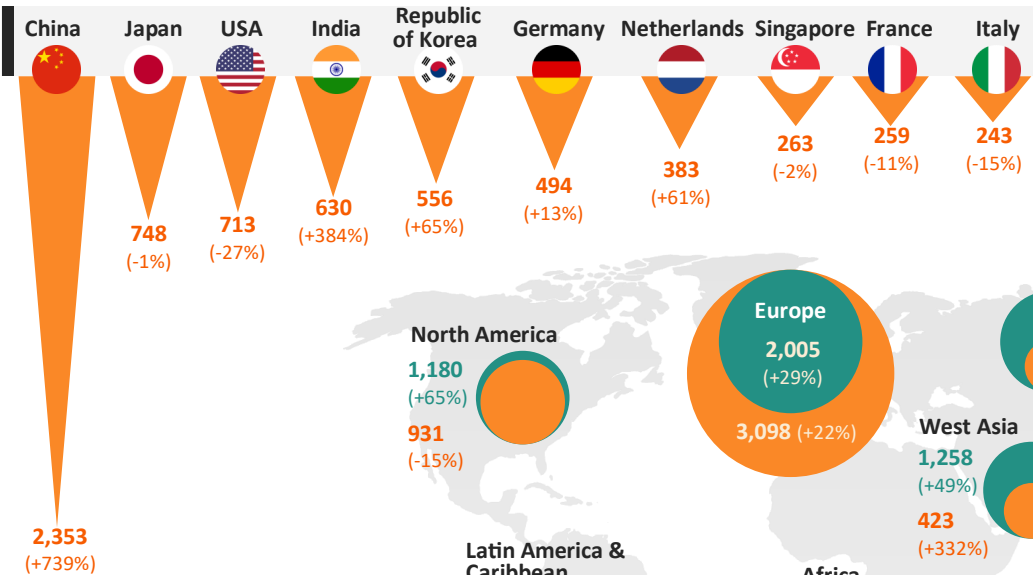
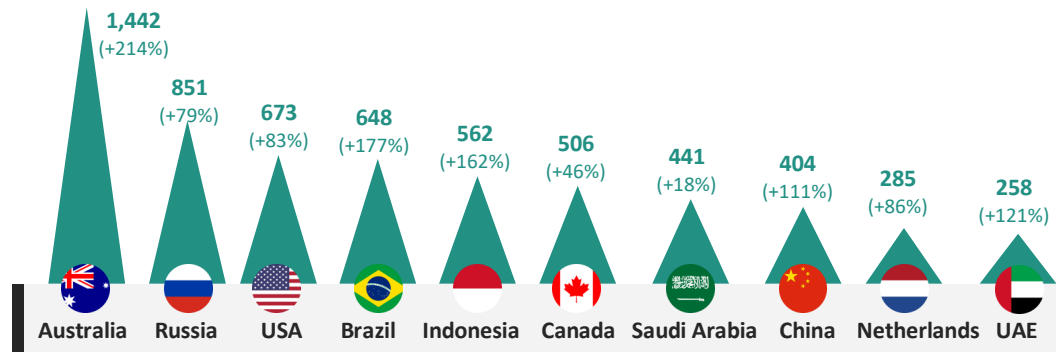


## MATERIAL RESOURCE EXPORTS & IMPORTS

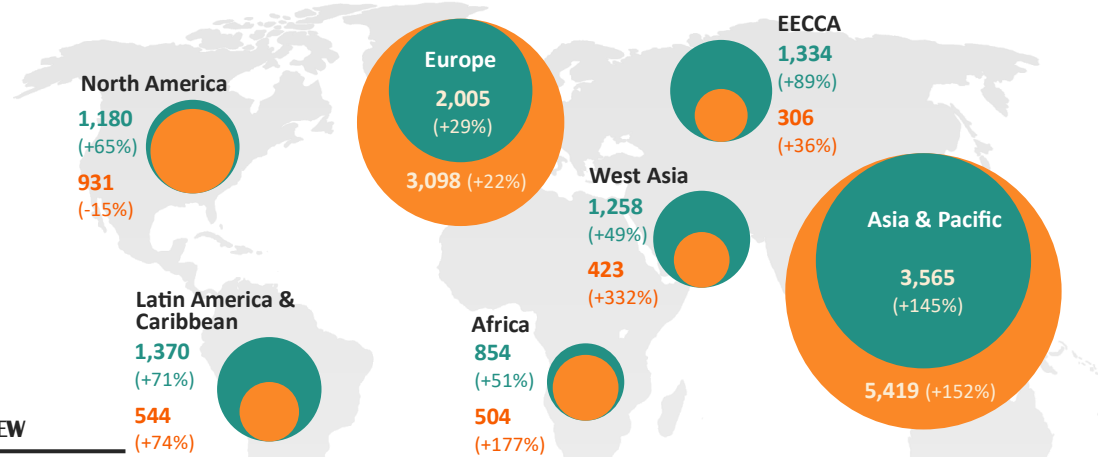
Million tonnes, 2017 (% change from 2000)

In recent decades, numerous countries shifted towards becoming net importers of resources (including emerging economies like China and India), whereas very few switched to becoming net exporters. This signals a growing vulnerability of the global trading system, as rising demand is being met by ever fewer exporters.

### TOP 10 COUNTRIES

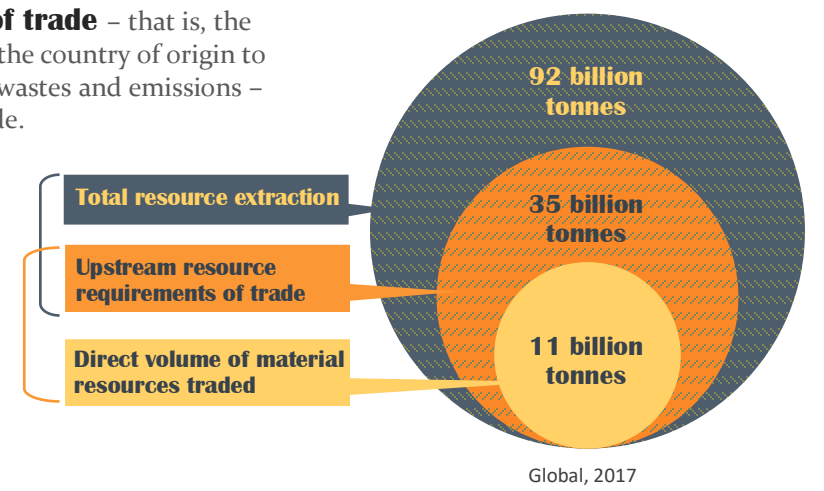


### REGIONAL OVERVIEW



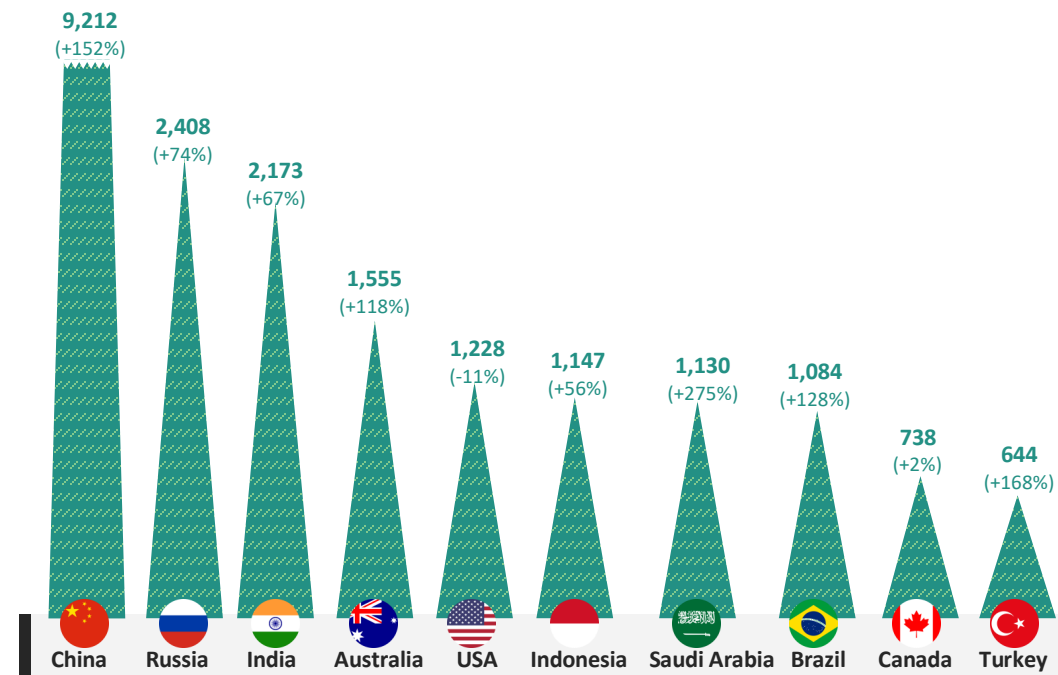
Assessing **upstream resource requirements of trade** – that is, the additional materials, energy, water and land used in the country of origin to extract and produce traded goods but left behind as wastes and emissions – can serve as proxies for the ecological impacts of trade.

- ▶ One-third of the total volume of materials resources extracted in the world economy are linked to the production of traded goods.
- ▶ The indirect or embodied materials in trade far exceed – by a factor of three – the direct volume of material resources traded across nations.



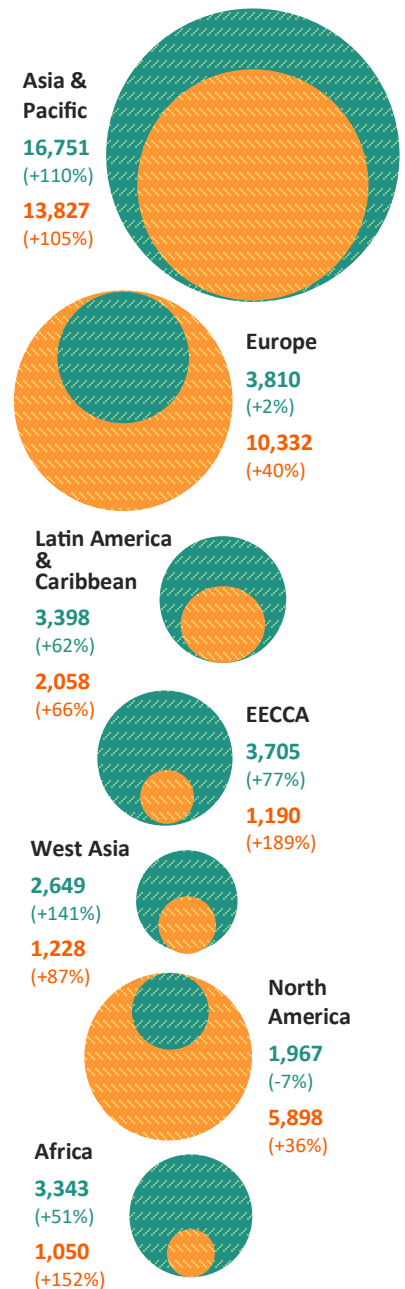
## RAW MATERIAL EQUIVALENTS OF EXPORTS & IMPORTS

Million tonnes, 2017 (% change from 2000)



### TOP 10 COUNTRIES

### REGIONAL OVERVIEW



Source: UNEP and IRP (2020). Sustainable Trade in Resources: Global Material Flows, Circularity and Trade. Available at <https://www.resourcepanel.org/reports>