

# CDPR NEWSLETTER

## OCTOBER 2023

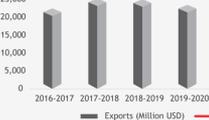
### TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1 **Macrodata**
  - 1.1 Trade
  - 1.2 Balance of Payments
  - 1.3 Prices
- 2 **Insights for Change**
  - 2.1 The Undocumented Wholesale-Retail Sector  
Dr. Umair Javed
- 3 **Policy Analysis**
  - 3.1 Pakistan's Air Pollution: Research, Policy & Practice
- 4 **Let's Talk Development**
  - 4.1 Productivity in Pakistan: Why Did We Fall Behind?
- 5 **Fellows' Articles**
  - 5.1 Nazish Afraz  
Investigating Under-invoicing with Trade Data: Red Herring or Red Flag?
  - 5.2 Umair Javed  
Regressive Overlaps
  - 5.3 Hadia Majid  
Women's Work and Growth

### Macrodata

- ▶ Trade
- ▶ Balance of Payments
- ▶ Prices

### TRADE



Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, External Trade Statistics

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, External Trade Statistics



Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, External Trade Statistics

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, External Trade Statistics



Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, External Trade Statistics

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, External Trade Statistics



Source: State Bank of Pakistan, Statistical Bulletin & Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

Source: State Bank of Pakistan, Statistical Bulletin & Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

### BALANCE OF PAYMENTS



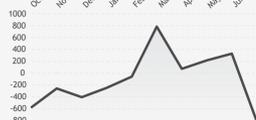
Source: State Bank of Pakistan, Foreign Exchange Reserves

Source: State Bank of Pakistan, Foreign Exchange Reserves



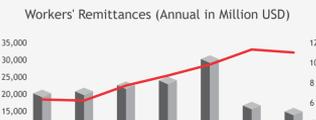
Source: State Bank of Pakistan, Annual Report

Source: State Bank of Pakistan, Annual Report



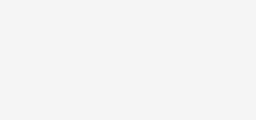
Source: State Bank of Pakistan, Annual Report

Source: State Bank of Pakistan, Annual Report



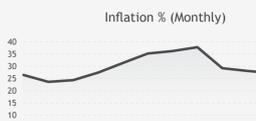
Source: State Bank of Pakistan, Key Statistics on Roshan Digital Account

### PRICES



Source: State Bank of Pakistan, Annual Report

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Monthly Review on Price Indices



Source: State Bank of Pakistan, Annual Report

Source: State Bank of Pakistan



Source: State Bank of Pakistan



Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Labor Force Survey



Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Monthly Review on Price Indices



Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Monthly Review on Price Indices



Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Monthly Review on Price Indices



### Insights for Change

CDPR's and IGC's 'Insights for Change' series attempts to take an analytical approach to devising action-oriented policy solutions. They are authored by economists and practitioners who are experts in their field.



#### The Undocumented Wholesale-Retail Sector

Informality in the Wholesale and Retail Trade contributes a significant fiscal implications for Pakistan, where the sector contributes a paltry 2.9% towards direct taxes, 15% less than its share in GDP. This month's Insights for Change article "The Undocumented Wholesale-Retail Sector" identifies some key aspects of informality in the wholesale and retail sectors which results in undocumented income accumulation, especially from the perspective of constrained resources available for development.

The author Dr. Umair Javed, is an Assistant Professor of Politics and Sociology at the Lahore University of Management Sciences. [READ MORE](#)

### Policy Analysis

#### Pakistan's Air Pollution: Research, Policy & Practice

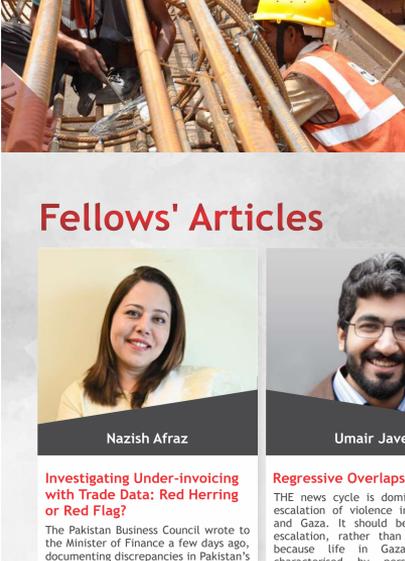
The Consortium for Development Policy Research (CDPR), International Growth Centre (IGC) and Mahbub-ul-Haq Research Centre (MHRC) hosted a workshop to assess the causes and impact of air pollution in Pakistan. This note is based on the discussion and ideas exchanged at the workshop.

Pakistan is amongst the top 10 most vulnerable countries to climate change, with Karachi and Lahore consistently ranked amongst the world's most polluted cities. Lahore's air is above acceptable thresholds most year-round with the

PM2.5 concentration peaking during winter months. With exposure to an additional 10 µg/m<sup>3</sup> of PM2.5, the life expectancy decreases by roughly one year.

Given the urgency of this situation with increasing air quality and reduction in the life expectancy, the objective of this note was to identify immediate and actionable measures that can be implemented to tackle air pollution. It sheds light on the current climate policy landscape and the state of knowledge to identify the concrete policy initiatives and interventions for the mitigation/adaptation on the impact of climate change. Findings indicate that adopting incentive-based strategies in addition to regulatory measures can help tackle the multiple drivers of air pollution.

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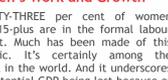
### Let's Talk Development

CDPR and IGC's latest podcast series called Let's Talk Development' is about understanding Pakistan's crucial economic and labor market problems. We engage experts in exploring critical development issues and trends in Pakistan. New episodes come out every two weeks.

#### Productivity in Pakistan: Why Did We Fall Behind?

The eighth episode of Let's Talk Development dropped on July 25, 2023.

Why did Pakistan fall so far behind in terms of growth from the 15-plus years in the formal labour market? To what extent was this due to low worker productivity? How do we measure worker productivity? How do exports and women working in the labor force help increase productivity? In this episode of Let's Talk Development, Dr. Ijaz Nabi and Dr. Gonzalo Varela answer these questions.



### Fellows' Articles



#### Investigating Under-invoicing with Trade Data: Red Herring or Red Flag?

The Pakistan Business Council wrote to the Minister of Finance a few days ago, documenting discrepancies in Pakistan's trade data as probable evidence for under-invoicing of imports. The data was used to put numbers on the scale of the problem and the loss to the exchequer from forgone customs duties and taxes.

Under-invoicing is authorized, a serious concern for revenue authorities, and for businesses that compete with under-invoiced products.

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#### Regressive Overlaps

THE New cycle is dominated by the escalation of violence in south Israel and Gaza. It should be labelled an escalation, rather than an eruption, because life in Gaza is already characterised by persisting Israeli violence and the inhumane treatment of two million Palestinians.

Hamas is the aggressor in this instance if one cordons off events of the preceding week. Its attacks on civilians have been rightly condemned far and wide. But this instance cannot be understood without looking at the brutal history of Israeli violence.....

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#### Women's Work and Growth

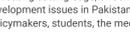
TWENTY-THREE per cent of women aged 15-plus are in the formal labour market. Much has been made of this statistic. It's certainly among the lowest in the world. And it underscores the potential GDP being lost because of our sub-optimal labour force participation rates.

Yet, it does not adequately capture the real state of the labour market for women in Pakistan. Women's work is hard to enumerate, particularly in a society that counts them as secondary workers. For instance, harvesting depends crucially on women workers.

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### CONTENTS OF LAST MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

- 1 **Macrodata**
  - 1.1 Trade
  - 1.2 Balance of Payments
  - 1.3 Prices
- 2 **Insights for Change**
  - 2.1 Towards Industrial Policy 2.0 (Part 2)  
Dr. Ishrat Husain
- 3 **Policy Analysis**
  - 3.1 White paper: Innovation, Growth, and the Environment
- 4 **Events**
  - 4.1 LSE Environment Week 2023
- 5 **Let's Talk Development**
  - 5.1 Leveraging Alliances to Resolve Pakistan's Conflicts
- 6 **Fellows' Articles**
  - 6.1 Faisal Bari  
Inflation and Desperation
  - 6.2 Riaz Riazuddin  
Economic Transformation
  - 6.3 Umair Javed  
Burning Bills



In Pakistan, policy decisions and public discourse are often unformed by available research. The Consortium for Development Policy Research (CDPR) bridges this gap by communicating cutting-edge, evidence-based research on development issues in Pakistan to an audience of policymakers, students, the media and the wider public. With support from the International Growth Centre (IGC), CDPR disseminates policy briefs, hosts events, engages with the media and produces digital content to make topics in development research such as economic growth, energy, education, health and governance intelligible to both decision makers & the public.

For regular updates regarding CDPR's policy and research work please follow us on:

