Bourse & Bazaar بورس و بازار

The Ins and Outs of Iranian Industrial Resiliency Under Sanctions

Marburg – December 14, 2019

Research Question

- 1. Between 2008 and 2016 Iran faced only three years of economic contraction
- 2. Non-oil exports managed to grow in this period, contributing to economic resiliency
- 3. This paper examines the relationship between the availability of intermediate inputs to Iran's total industrial output.



Literature Review

Drawing on data from 2006 to 2011, Haidar (2017) observes how a process of "export deflection" saw "(a proportion of) exporters are able to redirect (part of) their exports" away from sanctioning countries and "towards politically friendly destinations."

"Two-thirds of the value of Iranian exports thought to be destroyed by export sanctions have actually been deflected to nonsanctioning countries."

I posit a corollary to "export deflection" that can be called "import reflection."



Methodology

Period of 2001 to 2018 to capture Iran's industrialization and sanctions era.

UNCTAD annual export data for two primary (EU28 and China) and two secondary (UAE and Turkey) trade partners—total exports and SITC 7.

Industrial output reflected in Total Productivity Index (TPI) published by the Central Bank of Iran.

Relationships are tested by conducting Pearson correlation analyses for the total exports from each of the four trading partners and TPI.



Share of Industrial Exports to Iran

Proportion of major trade partner exports to total of four partners - SITC Section 7 in USD

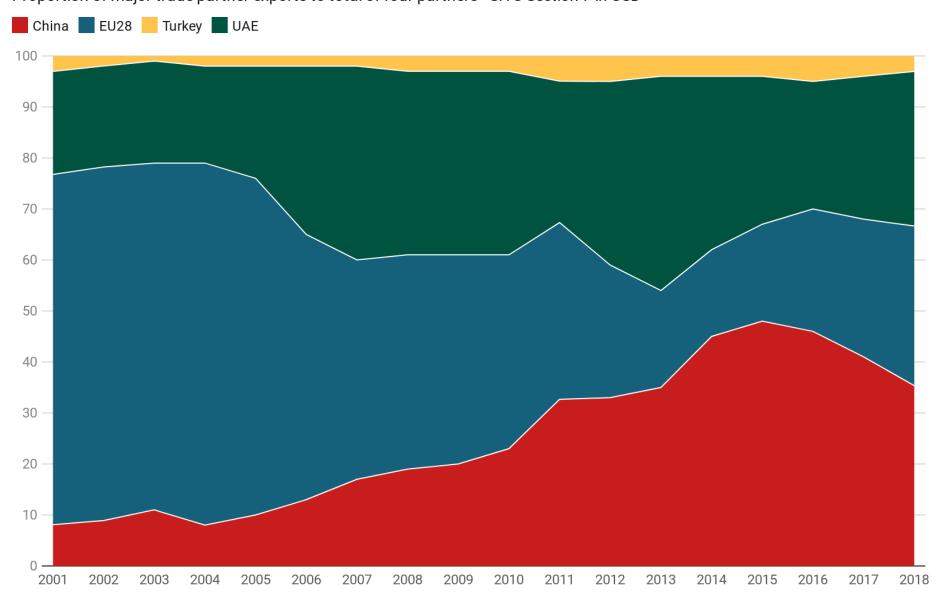
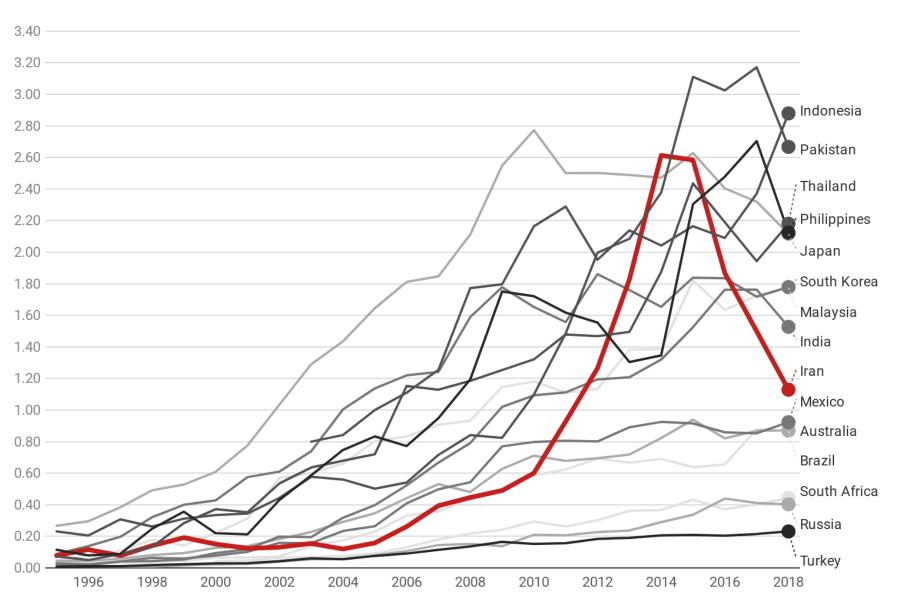


Chart: Bourse & Bazaar • Source: UNCTAD • Created with Datawrapper

China vs. EU28 Machinery and Transport Equipment Exports

Ratio of total value of Chinese to EU28 SITC Code 7 exports in USD



Iranian Industrial Inputs and Outputs Under Sanctions

Index figures based to 2018 - Export data for SITC Section 7

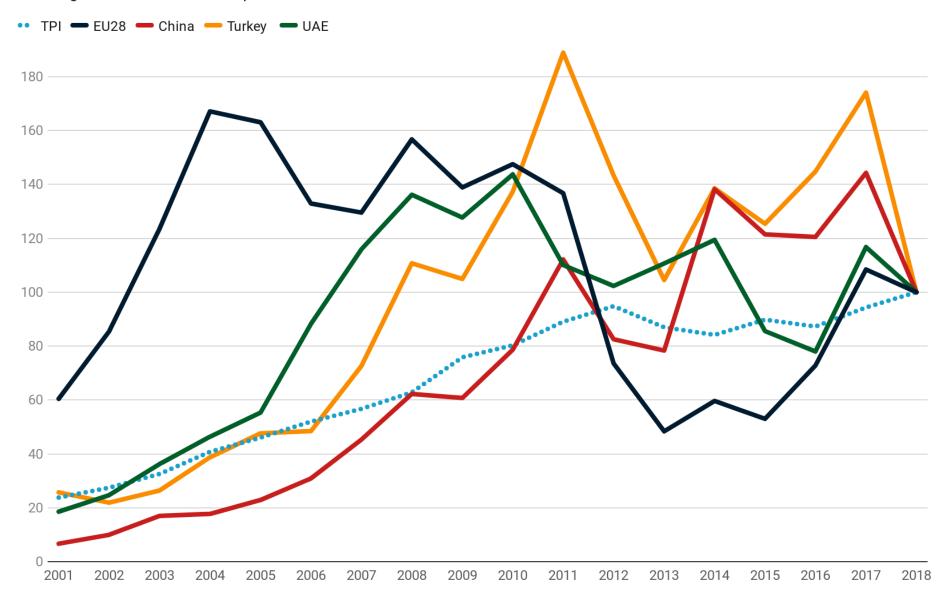


Chart: Bourse & Bazaar • Source: Central Bank of Iran, UNCTAS • Created with Datawrapper

Statistically significant and strongly positive correlations are observed between Chinese, Emirati, and Turkish TOTAL and SITC7 exports to Iran—but not European exports.

Table 1

Table 1				
Combination	$r_{ m p}$	Lower	Upper	p
EU-IRI-TOTAL and TPI	-0.08	-0.53	0.40	.742
EU-IRI-SITC7 and TPI	-0.28	-0.66	0.22	.263
PRC-IRI-TOTAL and TPI	0.87	0.68	0.95	< .001
PRC-IRI-SITC7 and TPI	0.90	0.76	0.96	< .001
UAE-IRI-TOTAL and TPI	0.72	0.38	0.89	< .001
UAE-IRI-SITC7 and TPI	0.74	0.42	0.90	< .001
TUR-IRI-TOTAL and TPI	0.74	0.41	0.90	< .001
TUR-IRI-SITC7 and TPI	0.90	0.74	0.96	< .001

The correlation between European SITC7 exports and TPI is positive and statistically significant when the analysis is restricted to the years 2001 to 2008.

Table 2

Combination	$r_{\rm p}$	Lower	Upper	p
(2001-2008) n = 8		•	•	
EU-IRI-TOTAL and TPI	0.87	0.43	0.98	.005
EU-IRI-SITC7 and TPI	0.71	0.01	0.94	.048
(2001-2012) n = 12		•	•	
EU-IRI-TOTAL and TPI	0.43	-0.20	0.80	.168
EU-IRI-SITC7-TPI	0.17	-0.44	0.68	.589
(2008-2018) n = 11			•	
EU-IRI-TOTAL and TPI	-0.58	-0.88	0.03	.062
EU-IRI-SITC7 and TPI	-0.54	-0.86	0.09	.088
(2012-2018) n = 7		•	•	
EU-IRI-TOTAL and TPI	0.62	-0.25	0.94	.140
EU-IRI-SITC7 and TPI	0.76	0.01	0.96	.050

Looking at shorter time periods before and after the imposition of sanctions, it is clear that Chinese exports to Iran are not impervious sanctions pressures.

Table 3

Combination	$r_{ m p}$	Lower	Upper	р
(2001-2008) n = 8			•	
PRC-IRI-TOTAL and TPI	0.95	0.73	0.99	< .001
PRC-IRI-SITC7 and TPI	0.94	0.69	0.99	< .001
(2001-2012) n = 12		•	·	
PRC-IRI-TOTAL and TPI	0.96	0.86	0.99	< .001
PRC-IRI-SITC7-TPI	0.95	0.84	0.99	< .001
(2008-2018) n = 11		•	•	
PRC-IRI-TOTAL and TPI	0.47	-0.18	0.83	.146
EU-IRI-SITC7 and TPI	0.55	-0.07	0.89	.077
(2012-2018) n = 7		•	•	
PRC-IRI-TOTAL and TPI	-0.58	-0.93	0.31	.177
PRC-IRI-SITC7 and TPI	-0.23	-0.84	0.63	.618

Exports of industrial parts and machinery from the European Union to the UAE and Turkey should are positively correlated to the exports of such goods from the UAE and Turkey to Iran.

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Combination	$r_{ m p}$	Lower	Upper	p
EU-UAE-SITC7 and UAE-IRI-SITC7	0.71	0.36	0.88	< .001
EU-TUR-SITC7 and TUR-IRI-SITC7	0.76	0.46	0.91	< .001

The relationship between TPI and TEI is positive for the period from 2001 to 2018 and there is a strong and statistically significant positive correlation between TPI and Iran's total non-oil exports to the world.

Table 6

Combination	$r_{ m p}$	Lower	Upper	p
(2001-2018) n = 18		•	•	
TPI and TEI	0.58	0.16	0.83	.011
TPI and IWI	0.77	0.48	0.91	< .001
(2008-2018) n = 10				
TPI and TEI	0.81	0.41	0.95	.002
TPI and IWI	0.71	0.20	0.92	.014
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The confidence intervals were computed using $\alpha = 0.05$

Table 7

Combination	$r_{ m p}$	Lower	Upper	p
TPI and IRI-WORLD-NONOIL	0.95	0.88	0.98	< .001

Discussion

These are rudimentary findings.

But the process of "import reflection" (and "export deflection") are an overlooked explanation for why Iran's economy was able to shrug-off multilateral sanctions between 2008 and 2016.

So long as Iran is able to sustain its imports of key intermediate inputs from trade partners such as Europe, China, the UAE, and Turkey, it can expect to grow its non-oil exports in lockstep, partially mitigating the devastating effects of sanctions on oil revenues.



Chinese and EU Exports of Machinery and Electrical Equipment to Iran

Total exports for HS Section XVI - US Dollars

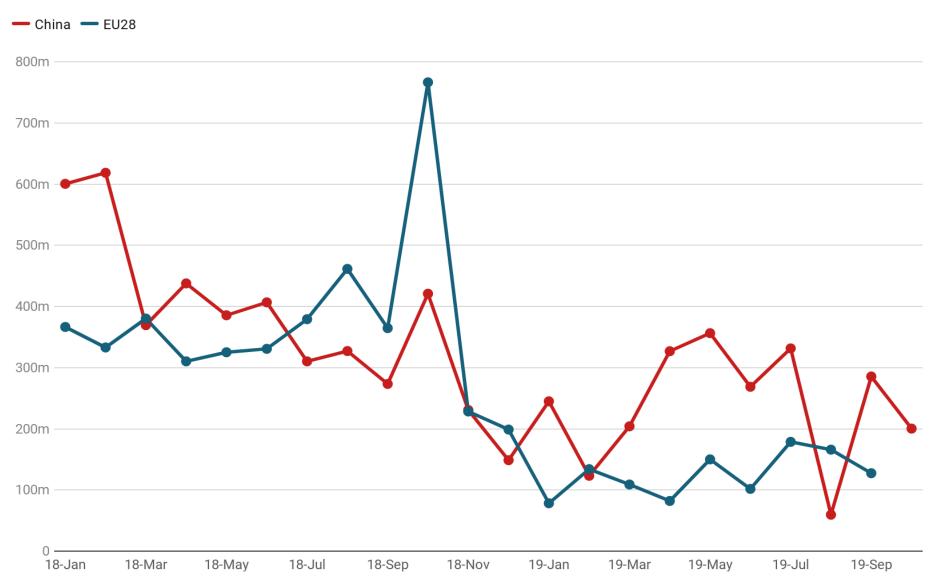


Chart: Bourse & Bazaar • Source: Eurostat, GACC • Created with Datawrapper

Iran Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI)

Corresponds to period from Mehr 1387 to Mehr 1398

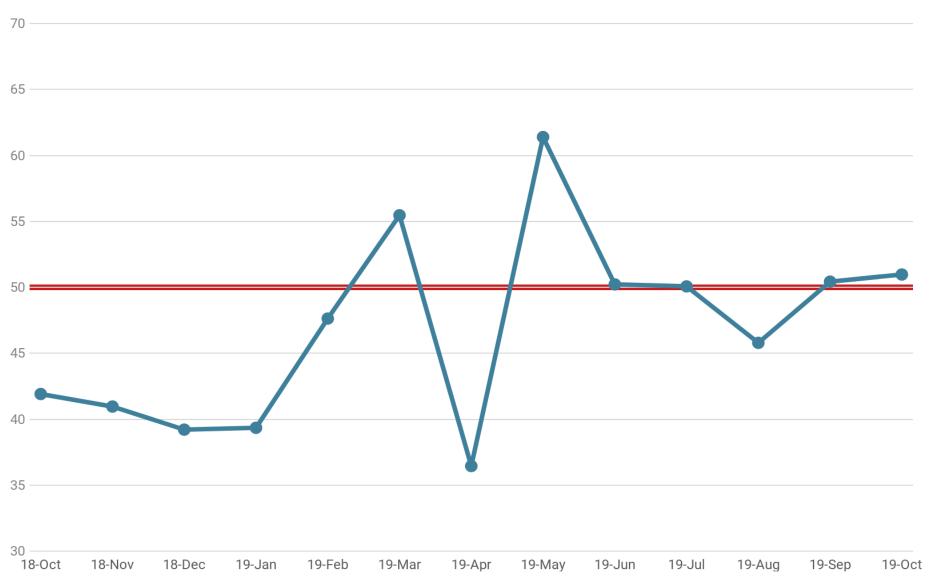
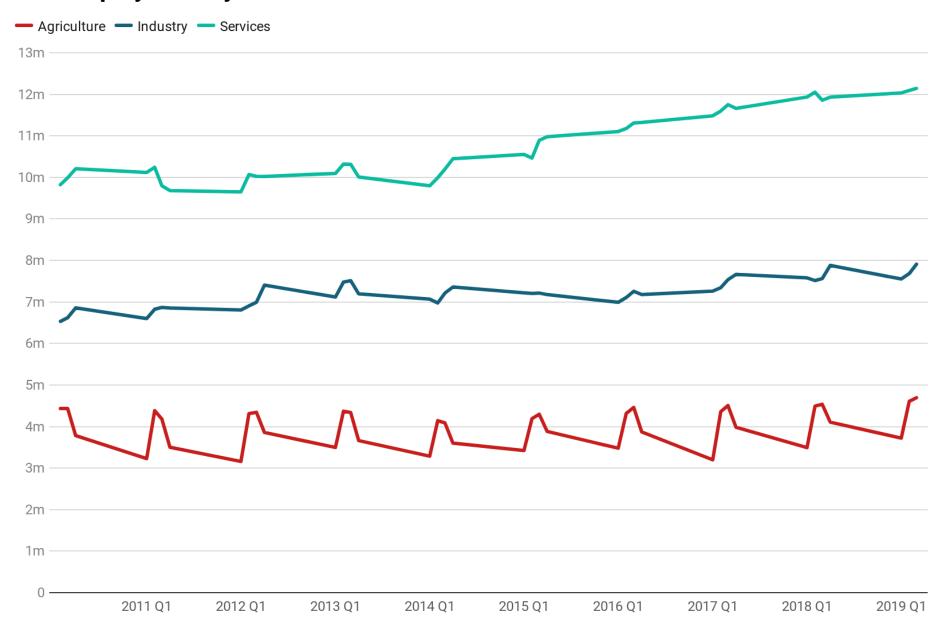


Chart: Bourse & Bazaar • Source: Iran Chamber of Commerce • Created with Datawrapper

Iran Employment by Sector



Change in Value and Quantity of EU Pharmaceutical Exports to Iran

Indexed EU28 Total Exports - SITC Division 54 - (2019 = Jan-Aug)



Chart: Bourse & Bazaar • Source: Eurostat • Created with Datawrapper

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