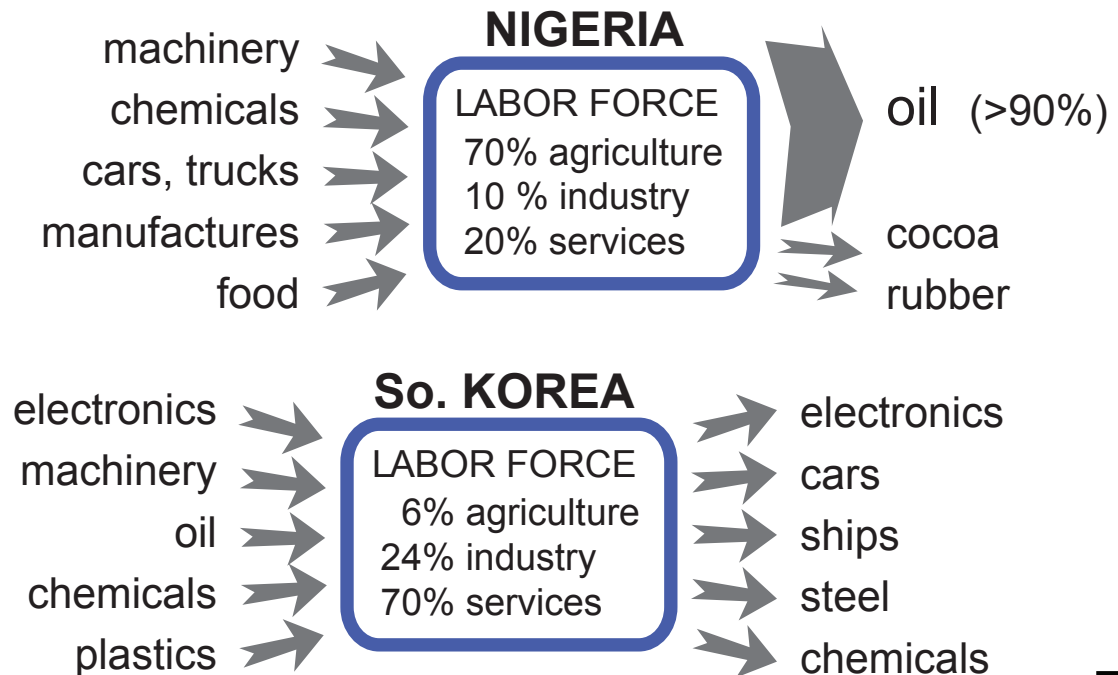


Comparing Economies: Jobs, Imports, and Exports



Source: CIA Factbook, 2013

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Imports and exports are important. They tell you what the BIGJobs are in a country.

A BIGJob is a Basic Income Generating Job - one that brings money into an area. Every place needs at least one BIGJob to bring in the money that people need to buy the things they cannot (or do not want to) grow or make for themselves.

Fortunately, you do NOT need to memorize the BIGJobs for every country or community. That kind of information is easy to find at websites like the CIA Factbook. Here's how:

Project: draw two country names from the box, or choose two countries to compare.

1. Go to the CIA Factbook website

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ni.html>

2. Click on the country name box, scroll down to the country you want, and click on its name.

3. Find the information noted on the example above - it's in the Economy section.

4. Make a diagram that shows jobs, imports, and exports.

5. Use that diagram to illustrate a short essay about the economy of the country.

Note what it sells to other countries and what it has to buy from them.

Explain what that means for jobs in the country.

You can consult other sources to aid in your analysis.

Later, your teacher may ask your class (or small groups) to classify countries according to their stage of development and their ability to make new investments or to survive economic shocks like a sudden increase in oil prices.