



Trade Policy Review Body

**REPORT TO THE TPRB FROM THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON
TRADE-RELATED DEVELOPMENTS**

(Mid-October 2017 to mid-May 2018)

Table of contents

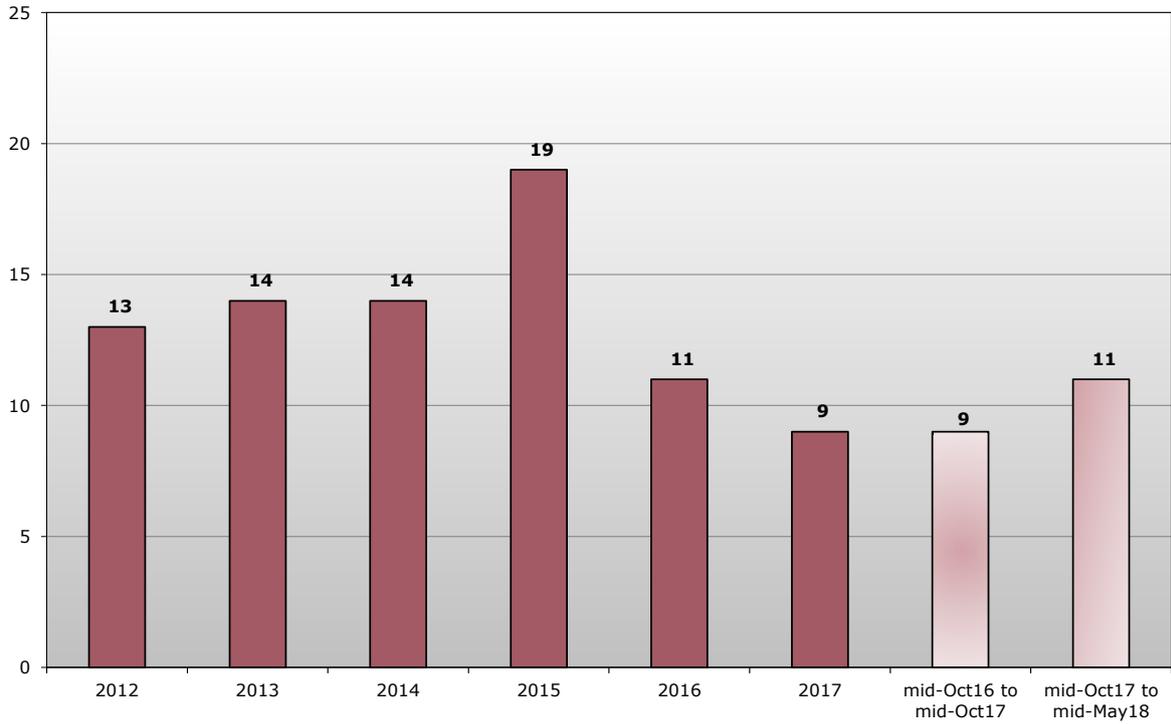
KEY FINDINGS	2
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	6
1 INTRODUCTION	8
2 RECENT ECONOMIC AND TRADE DEVELOPMENTS	10
2.1 Overview	10
2.2 Economic Developments	11
2.3 Merchandise Trade	13
2.4 Trade in Commercial Services	16
2.5 Trade Forecast and Economic Outlook	16
3 TRADE AND TRADE-RELATED POLICY DEVELOPMENTS	22
3.1 Overview of Trends Identified during the Period under Review	22
3.1.1 Measures Facilitating Trade	22
3.1.2 Trade Remedy Actions	23
3.1.3 Other Trade and Trade-Related Measures	24
3.2 Trade-Remedies	28
3.3 Sanitary and phytosanitary measures	39
3.4 Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)	46
3.5 Trade Concerns Raised in Other WTO Bodies	54
3.6 Policy Developments in Agriculture	61
3.7 General Economic Support	70
3.8 Other Selected Trade Policy Developments	71
4 POLICY DEVELOPMENT IN TRADE IN SERVICES	82
5 POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN TRADE IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY	87
ANNEX 1 - MEASURES FACILITATING TRADE	91
ANNEX 2 - TRADE REMEDIES	104
ANNEX 3 - OTHER TRADE-RELATED MEASURES	118
ANNEX 4 - MEASURES AFFECTING TRADE IN SERVICES	128

KEY FINDINGS

- This Report covers new trade and trade-related measures implemented by WTO Members between 16 October 2017 and 15 May 2018. It reveals a number of important trends in global trade policy making. While WTO Members continue to implement trade-facilitating measures, the more worrying trend during this period is the increase in trade-restrictive measures which has come at a time of increasing trade tensions and associated rhetoric. This should be of real concern to the international community.
- WTO Members applied 75 new trade-restrictive measures during the review period, including tariff increases, quantitative restrictions, imposition of import taxes and stricter customs regulations. This equates to an average of almost 11 new measures per month, which is higher compared to the average of 9 measures recorded in the previous Report.
- During the review period, WTO Members also implemented 89 measures aimed at facilitating trade, including reduced or eliminated tariffs, simplified customs procedures, reduction of import taxes and elimination of import bans. At almost 13 trade-facilitating measures per month, this is an increase compared to the average of 11 measures recorded in the previous Report.
- The trade coverage of the import-facilitating measures (US\$107.3 billion) is larger than that of the import-restrictive measures (US\$84.5 billion). Although this is an encouraging development for global trade at this juncture, it is of concern that the ratio of the trade coverage of import-facilitating over import-restrictive measures has fallen significantly for the current review period. This ratio was two-to-one in favour of trade-liberalizing measures, as recorded in the previous Report.
- The review period recorded a stable pace in initiations of trade remedy investigations by WTO Members and an increase in terminations of trade remedy actions, compared to the previous period. Initiations of trade remedy investigations represent almost 40% of all trade measures recorded during the review period. The trade coverage of trade remedy initiations recorded in this Report is estimated at US\$52.7 billion, almost double the trade coverage recorded for these measures during the same period in 2016-2017. The trade coverage of trade remedy terminations recorded in the review period is estimated at US\$6.8 billion.
- At a point where the global economy is finally beginning to generate sustained economic momentum following the global financial crisis, the uncertainty created by a proliferation of trade-restrictive actions could place economic recovery in jeopardy. The multilateral trading system was built to resolve such problems and it has the tools to do so again. However, further escalation could carry potentially large risks for the system itself. Its resilience and functionality in the face of these challenges will depend on each and every one of its Members. WTO Members must use all means at their disposal to de-escalate the situation and promote further trade recovery.

Trade-restrictive measures

(average per month)

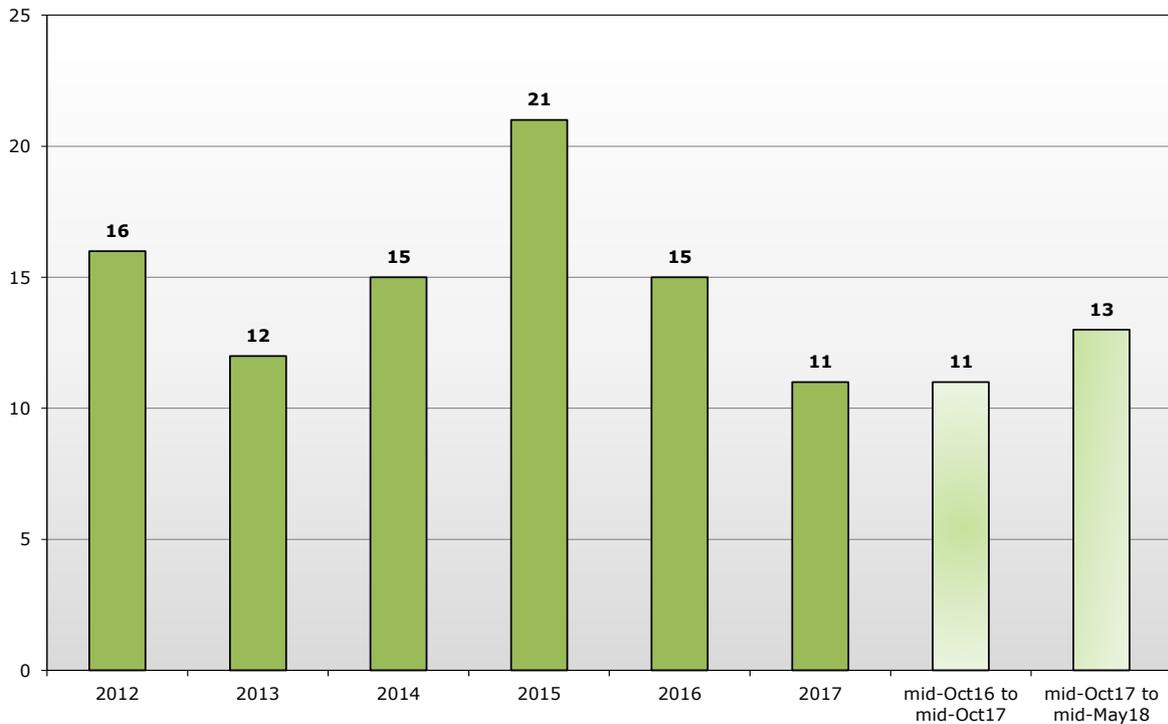


Note: Values are rounded. Changes to averages of previous years reflect continuing updates of the TMDB.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Trade-facilitating measures

(average per month)

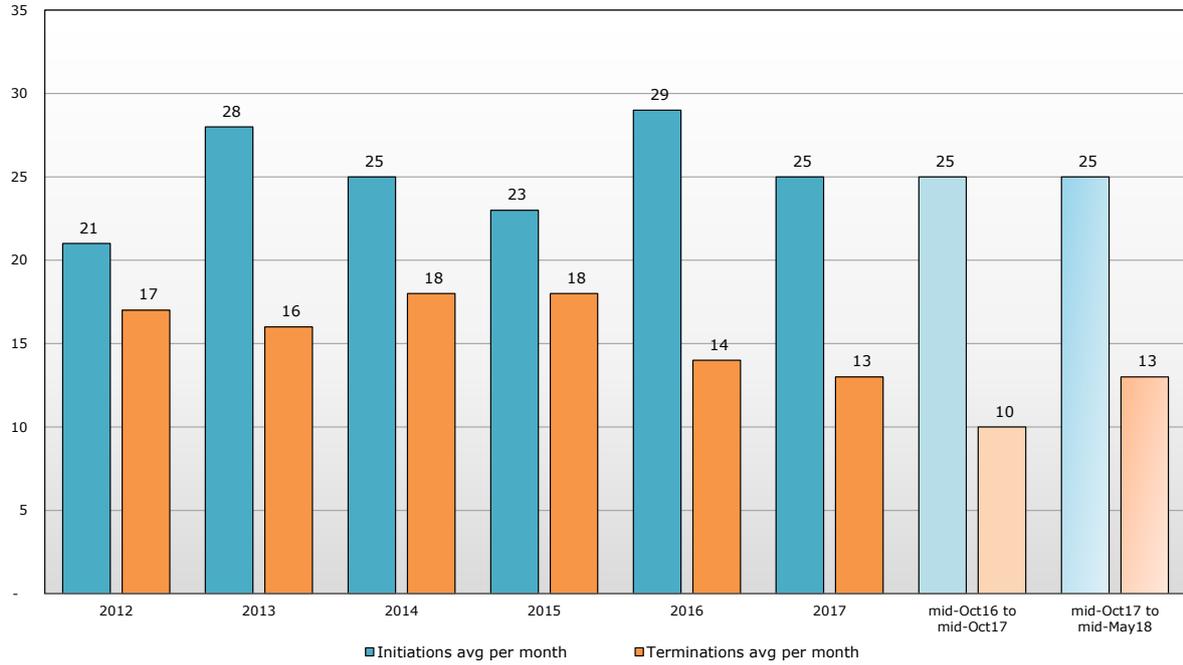


Note: Values are rounded. Changes to averages of previous years reflect continuing updates of the TMDB.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

WTO trade remedies initiations and terminations

(average per month)

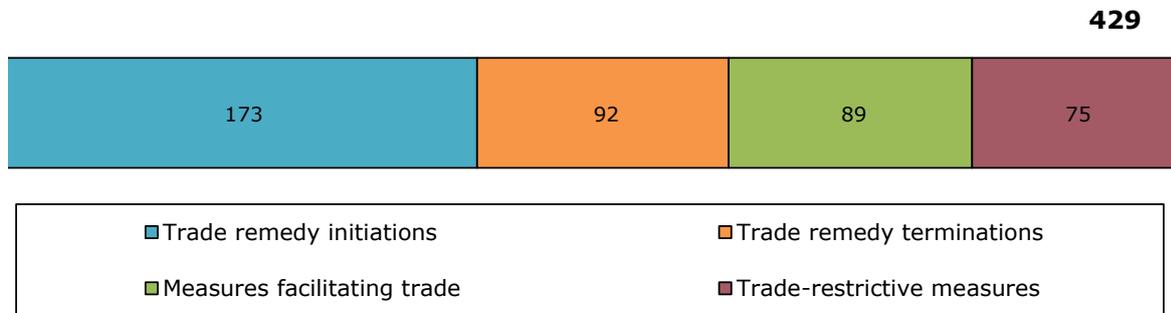


Note: Values are rounded.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Trade measures, mid-October 2017 to mid-May 2018

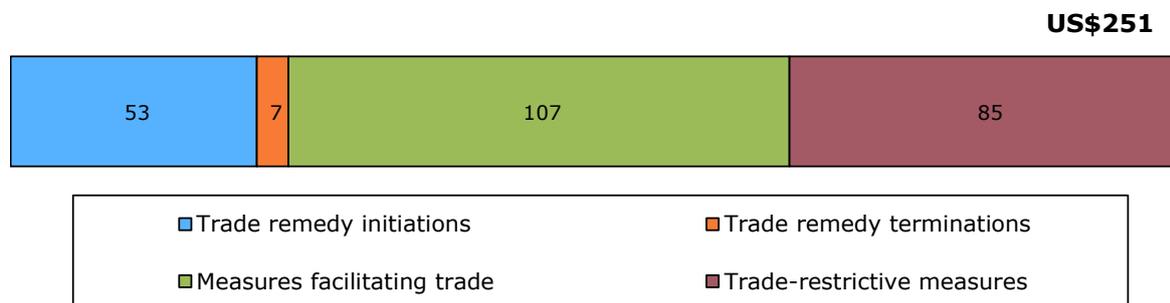
(by number)



Source: WTO Secretariat.

Trade coverage of import measures, mid-October 2017 to mid-May 2018

(US\$ billion)



Note: 2016 figures. ITA expansion measures are not included.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Box 1 About the WTO trade monitoring report

The Trade Monitoring Report is first and foremost a transparency exercise. It is intended to be purely factual and has no legal effect on the rights and obligations of WTO Members. It is without prejudice to Members' negotiating positions and has no legal implication with respect to the conformity of any measure noted in the Report with any WTO Agreement or any provision thereof.

The Report aims to shed light on the latest trends in the implementation of a broad range of policy measures that facilitate as well as restrict the flow of trade and provide an update on the state of global trade. The Report neither seeks to pronounce itself on whether a trade measure is protectionist, nor does it question the right of Members to take certain trade measures. The Reports continue to evolve in terms of the coverage and analysis of trade-related issues and take into account discussions among WTO Members in the Trade Policy Review Body (TPRB).

Regarding trade remedy actions, it has been highlighted in discussions among WTO Members that several of these measures are taken to address what is perceived by some as a market distortion resulting from trade practices of entities in another trading partner. The WTO Antidumping and Subsidies Agreements permit WTO Members to impose antidumping (AD) or countervailing (CVD) duties to offset what is perceived to be injurious dumping or subsidization of products exported from one Member to another. The Reports are not in a position to establish if, where or when such perceived distortive practices have taken place. The Reports have never categorized the use of trade remedies as protectionist, or WTO-inconsistent, or criticized governments for utilizing them. The main objective of monitoring these measures is to provide additional transparency and to identify emerging trends in the application of trade policy measures.

With respect to sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) and technical barriers to trade (TBT) measures covered in the Report, it is important to emphasize that they are neither classified nor counted as trade-restrictive or trade-facilitating, and the increasing trend with respect to the number of notifications of such measures is carefully linked to the transparency provisions of the Agreements only. The Reports have consistently underlined the basic premise that an increased number of SPS and TBT notifications does not automatically imply greater use of protectionist or unnecessarily trade-restrictive measures, but rather enhanced transparency regarding these measures. Finally, the Reports clearly emphasize that the SPS and TBT Agreements specifically allow Members to take measures in the pursuit of a number of legitimate policy objectives.

The WTO Secretariat strives to ensure that the Trade Monitoring Reports are factual and objective. Since 2009, the Reports have sought to provide a nuanced perspective to developments in the area of international trade. For example, the Reports have consistently emphasized that although the number of specific and often long-term restrictive trade measures remains a source of serious concern, other key factors may influence trade developments. During discussions of the Trade Monitoring Reports at the TPRB, Members have also drawn attention to this point and to the fact that, with respect to both, vigilance remains imperative.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This WTO Trade Monitoring Report covers new trade and trade-related measures implemented by WTO Members between 16 October 2017 and 15 May 2018.¹

World trade grew in 2017 at the fastest pace since the financial crisis, in both value and volume terms. The volume of world merchandise trade recorded growth of 4.7% last year, up from 1.8% in 2016. Trade growth was faster in the second half of 2017 than in the first. The dollar value of merchandise exports was up 11% to US\$17.7 trillion in 2017 while commercial services exports grew by 7% to US\$5.3 trillion. The pace of world GDP growth also picked up to 3% in 2017 from 2.3% in 2016. Stronger than expected trade and output growth in 2017 was largely due to cyclical factors, including increased investment spending, which has a high import content. Trade growth is expected to remain strong in 2018 and 2019 but continued expansion depends on governments pursuing appropriate monetary, fiscal and especially trade policies.

Recently, some forward-looking trade-related indicators have turned down. This is at a juncture where the global economy is finally beginning to generate sustained economic momentum following the global financial crisis, and where any uncertainty created by a proliferation of trade-restrictive actions, including some recent trade actions not captured in this Report, could place economic recovery in jeopardy. The multilateral trading system was built to resolve such problems and it has the tools to do so again. However, further escalation could carry potentially large risks for the system itself. Its resilience and functionality in the face of these challenges will depend on each and every one of its Members. WTO Members must use all means at their disposal to de-escalate the situation and promote further trade recovery.

This Report shows that during the review period, WTO Members applied 75 new trade-restrictive measures, including tariff increases, quantitative restrictions, imposition of import taxes and stricter customs regulations, amounting to a monthly average of almost 11 new measures per month. This represents an increase compared to the average of nine measures recorded in the previous Report.

WTO Members also implemented 89 measures aimed at facilitating trade during the review period, including eliminated or reduced tariffs, simplified customs procedures, reduction of import taxes and elimination of import bans. At almost 13 trade-facilitating measures per month, this is an increase compared to the average of 11 measures recorded for the previous review period.

In line with the findings of previous Reports, the trade coverage of the import-facilitating measures (US\$107.3 billion) is larger than that of the import-restrictive measures (US\$84.5 billion). Although this is an encouraging development for global trade at this point, the ratio between the estimated trade coverage for import-facilitating measures and that of import-restrictive ones was two-to-one in favour of the former in the November 2017 Report. In the current review period this ratio has fallen significantly. This is a source of considerable concern and an area where continued monitoring is required.

On trade remedy measures, the review period recorded a stable pace in initiations of investigations by WTO Members and an increase in trade remedy terminations, compared to the previous Report. Initiations of trade remedy investigations represented 40% of all trade measures taken during the review period, with initiations of anti-dumping investigations accounting for almost 80% of these. The main sectors affected by trade remedy initiations during the review period were iron and steel, plastics and articles thereof, vehicles, parts and accessories thereof, articles of iron and steel and electrical machinery and parts thereof. The trade covered by trade remedy initiations recorded in this Report is estimated at US\$52.7 billion, almost double the trade coverage recorded for these measures during the same period in 2016-2017. The trade coverage of trade remedy terminations recorded in the review period is estimated at US\$6.8 billion.

A range of other subjects are also covered by this Report. WTO Members' notifications of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures and of Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) measures have increased during the review period, with the majority of new notifications being submitted by developing Members. The SPS and TBT notification obligations are meant to promote enhanced predictability and transparency regarding measures taken to address legitimate policy objectives.

¹ Unless otherwise indicated in the relevant Section.

As in previous Reports, the majority of regular SPS notifications related to food safety, whereas the bulk of emergency SPS measures related to animal health. The majority of TBT measures indicated the protection of human health or safety as their main objective. In both the SPS and TBT Committees, WTO Members have dedicated considerable time to discussing Specific Trade Concerns (STCs), suggesting the increasing use of the Committees by WTO Members as fora in which trade concerns may be effectively resolved non-litigiously.

During the review period, a greater number of other trade concerns such as quantitative restrictions, customs fees and safeguard measures were raised in various WTO bodies compared to the previous Report. Several trade concerns were also raised in more than one WTO body, seemingly confirming that these concerns involve increasingly complex and cross-cutting issues. WTO Members appear to be seeking multiple platforms within the WTO committee structure to address various aspects of such trade concerns. From a systemic point of view, this is significant because of the increased transparency which it brings and because it demonstrates that WTO committees provide constructive platforms where trading partners can engage on potential areas of trade friction.

In the area of agriculture, WTO Members continued to make use of the Committee on Agriculture (CoA) as a forum to discuss agricultural policies and issues related to the implementation of commitments. WTO Members continued asking questions on individual notifications and under Article 18.6 of the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA). One third of new issues raised during the review period related to Members' domestic support policies and one third sought clarifications on policies that potentially subsidized exports.

Work on the implementation of the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement continues to advance. Many Members concluded their domestic ratification processes, raising the total number of acceptances to about 83% of the entire WTO membership.

Several new measures affecting trade in services, some horizontal in nature and some affecting a variety of service sectors, were introduced by WTO Members during the review period. In line with the findings of previous Reports, the majority of the measures provided for additional liberalization or aimed at strengthening or clarifying regulatory frameworks. However, several new policies implemented during the review period appear to be trade-restrictive.

The Report also draws attention to developments in the area of Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). WTO Members continued to develop their own national strategies to streamline intellectual property (IP) into the economy and to modernize and fine-tune their IP-legislation, thereby strengthening the relationship between IP and trade.

Following MC11, work continued throughout the first half of 2018 to advance negotiations on fisheries subsidies, building on the decision taken by WTO Members in Buenos Aires, as well as on a number of other issues. Groups of Members also continued to pursue their discussions on issues including electronic commerce, investment facilitation, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and women's economic empowerment.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. This Monitoring Report¹ reviews trade and trade-related developments during the period 16 October 2017 to 15 May 2018.² It is a mid-year preparatory contribution to the annual report by the Director-General provided for in paragraph (g) of the Trade Policies Review Mechanism (TPRM) mandate which aims to assist the TPRB in undertaking an annual overview of developments in the international trading environment that are having an impact on the multilateral trading system. This Report is intended to be purely factual and is issued under the sole responsibility of the Director-General. It has no legal effect on the rights and obligations of Members, nor does it have any legal implication with respect to the conformity of any measure noted in the Report with any WTO Agreement or any provision thereof (see Box 1).

1.2. Section 2 of the Report provides an overview of recent economic and trade trends. Section 3 presents an account of selected trade and trade-related policy developments during the review period. Policy developments in trade in services and trade in intellectual property are included in Sections 4 and 5, respectively. Annexes to the Report list specific trade policy measures of individual Members implemented during the period under review in four categories: trade-facilitating measures (Annex 1); trade remedy actions (Annex 2); other trade and trade-related measures (Annex 3); and services measures (Annex 4). Once again, it has not been possible to establish a separate annex on general economic support measures implemented by WTO Members. The country-specific measures listed in the four annexes are new measures implemented by Members and Observers during the period under review.³ Measures implemented outside this period are not included in these annexes. The compilation of all measures recorded by the trade-monitoring reports since October 2008 is available in the Trade Monitoring Database.⁴

1.3. Specific developments related to Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) are covered separately under Section 3.

1.4. Information on the measures included in this Report has been collected from inputs submitted by Members and Observers, as well as from other official and public sources. Replies to the Director-General's request for information on measures taken during the period under review were received from 71 Members⁵, which represents 43% of the membership and covers 91.9% of world imports.⁶ Two Observers also replied to the request for information. The WTO Secretariat has drawn on these replies, as well as on a variety of other sources, to prepare this Report. Country-specific information was sent for verification to 74 delegations. Participation in the verification process was uneven, and in a number of cases the Secretariat received only partial responses and often after the indicated deadline.⁷ Where it has not been possible to confirm the information, this is noted in the Annexes.

1.5. The OECD has contributed three topical boxes to this Report. The first shows the effects of non-tariff measures on prices and volumes of trade, the second deals with agricultural transfers and the third focuses on the increasingly tighter regulatory conditions on global services trade markets. The International Trade Centre (ITC) has provided a box on digital technologies as a tool for gender-inclusive trade. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has contributed a box on a multidimensional approach to trade policy indicators.

¹ The previous WTO Trade Monitoring Report presented to the TPRB (WT/TPR/OV/20, 16 November 2017) covered measures taken over the period from mid-October 2016 to mid-October 2017. The WTO trade monitoring reports have been prepared by the WTO Secretariat since 2009. On 4 July 2018, the WTO Secretariat, together with the Secretariats of the OECD and UNCTAD, issued a report on trade and investment measures implemented by G20 economies during the period mid-October 2017 to mid-May 2018 (available on the WTO website).

² Unless otherwise indicated in the relevant section.

³ The inclusion of any measure in this Report or in its annexes implies no judgement by the WTO Secretariat on whether or not such measure, or its intent, is protectionist in nature. Moreover, nothing in this Report implies any judgement, either direct or indirect, as to the consistency of any measure referred to in the Report with the provisions of any WTO Agreement.

⁴ <http://tmdb.wto.org/>. Measures listed in Annexes 1, 2 and 3 to this Report will feature in the TMDb after the TPRB meeting on 25 July 2018.

⁵ The European Union and its member States counted separately.

⁶ This figure includes intra-EU trade.

⁷ The information contained in the annexes reflects the overall participation in the exercise and responses to the verification request and should therefore not be considered exhaustive.

Participation in the preparation of this Report

Argentina	Japan	Philippines
Australia	Jordan	Qatar
Brazil	Kazakhstan	Russian Federation
Canada	Korea, Republic of	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of
Chile	Macao, China	Serbia*
China	Malaysia	Seychelles
Colombia	Mauritius	Singapore
Costa Rica	Mexico	South Africa
Dominican Republic	Moldova, Republic of	Switzerland
El Salvador	Morocco	Chinese Taipei
European Union (28)	New Zealand	Thailand
Hong Kong, China	Norway	Turkey
India	Pakistan	Ukraine
Indonesia	Panama	United States of America
Iraq, Rep. of*	Peru	Uruguay

* Observer.

2 RECENT ECONOMIC AND TRADE DEVELOPMENTS

2.1 Overview

2.1. World trade growth accelerated in the second half of 2017 as economic activity picked up globally. Year-on-year growth in the seasonally-adjusted volume of world merchandise trade increased to 5.2% in the second half of the year, up from 4.2% in the first half as measured by the average of exports and imports. The faster pace of expansion in the second half brought trade growth for the whole of 2017 to 4.7%, marking the strongest annual increase in merchandise trade since 2011.

2.2. Trade growth in 2017 was even stronger in value terms, as merchandise exports rose 10.6% to US\$17.73 trillion and commercial services exports grew 7.4% to US\$5.25 trillion. The faster rate of increase in merchandise trade compared to commercial services trade partly reflects higher primary commodity prices. Energy prices increased by nearly 24% in 2017 while prices of non-energy commodities rose 5.5% according to World Bank statistics.

2.3. Trade growth in 2017 was significantly stronger than in 2016, when the volume of world merchandise trade recorded weak expansion of just 1.8%. Merchandise exports fell 3.0% in value terms in 2016 to US\$15.54 trillion while the value of commercial services exports registered a modest increase of 0.7%, rising to US\$4.89 trillion. The stronger-than-expected recovery of trade in 2017 is mainly attributable to cyclical factors, as estimates of gross domestic product (GDP) from forecasting agencies were revised steadily upwards over the course of the year. World real GDP at market exchange rates recorded growth of 3.0% in 2017, up from 2.3% in 2016. Economic activity was in turn driven by stronger investment spending, particularly in the United States, and rising consumption, notably in Japan. Meanwhile, China and the European Union maintained a steadier pace of output growth, providing a solid base for global demand.

2.4. Asia made the biggest contribution of any region to world trade volume growth in 2017, accounting for 51% of the increase in merchandise exports and 60% of growth in merchandise imports. South and Central America and the Caribbean also made a positive contribution to global import demand for the first time since 2013, reducing the region's drag on world trade. Overall, trade growth in 2017 was more regionally balanced than at any time since the onset of the financial crisis.

2.5. Merchandise exports of developed economies grew 3.5% in volume terms in 2017 after recording an increase of just 1.1% in 2016. Exports of developing and emerging economies also picked up last year, with growth accelerating to 5.7% from 2.3% in the previous year. Developed economies recorded import volume growth of 3.1% in 2017, which was stronger than the 2.0% increase recorded for 2016. Imports of developing and emerging economies were up strongly in 2017, with growth rising to 7.2% from 1.9% in 2016.

2.6. World merchandise trade growth is expected to remain strong in 2018 and 2019. The economic outlook remains positive, but continued expansion depends on governments pursuing appropriate monetary, fiscal and especially trade policies. In its latest statistical press release of 12 April 2018, the WTO forecasted trade volume growth of 4.4% for 2018, roughly in line with the 4.7% increase recorded for 2017. In recognition of the high degree of economic and policy uncertainty at the moment, the forecast for the current year is placed within a range of from 3.1% to 5.5%. World merchandise trade growth is predicted to slow slightly to 4.0% in 2019, below the 4.8% average since 1990, but firmly above the post-crisis average of 3.0%.

2.7. In light of recent trade policy developments, risks to the forecast are tilted to the downside. Increased use, as well as increasing threats, of restrictive trade policy measures contribute to uncertainty and could produce cycles of retaliation that would weigh on global trade and output. Other risks to the forecast include the anticipated tightening of monetary policy by central banks and heightened geopolitical tensions, which could potentially have important negative consequences for trade. On the other hand, there is some upside potential if structural reforms and expansionary fiscal policy cause economic growth and trade to accelerate in the short run.

2.8. There are signs that escalating trade tensions may already be affecting business confidence and investment decisions and this could compromise the current outlook. Recent trade-related

economic indicators are mixed. These indicators are summarized in the WTO World Trade Outlook Indicator, which dipped to 101.8 in May from 102.3 in February (see Box 2.1 below). This suggests continued solid trade growth in Q2 but at a slower pace than in Q1.

2.2 Economic Developments

2.9. Historically, world merchandise trade volumes have grown about 1.5 times faster than world real GDP at market exchange rates since 1950. The ratio of trade growth to GDP growth, referred to as the "elasticity of trade with respect to income", was greater than 2.0 in the 1990s, but fell back to around 1.0 in the years following the global financial crisis (2011-2016). This measure of elasticity finally fell to 0.8 in 2016 before rebounding to 1.5 in 2017, close to the historical average. Stronger trade growth relative to GDP growth is expected to continue at least into 2018, barring any significant economic shock.

2.10. Global economic growth strengthened in the second half of 2017, but available data for the first quarter of 2018 suggest that economic activity has eased. In the United States, GDP growth picked up from an annualized rate of 3.1% in Q2 to 3.2% in Q3 and before moderating to 2.9% in Q4. Although output growth slowed to 2.3% in the first quarter of 2018, it remained well above the 1.2% rate recorded for the first quarter of 2017. Investment made the largest contribution to US output growth in Q1 of 2018, followed by consumption. Unemployment continued to fall in the first quarter, dropping to 3.9% in April from 4.1% in March, raising the probability of faster monetary policy tightening by the Federal Reserve.

2.11. Economic activity also slowed in the European Union (EU) in the first quarter of 2018, as growth fell to 1.6% from a sustained rate of around 2.7% throughout 2017 (all rates annualized). Growth in the narrower euro area was nearly identical to the wider EU, 1.6% in Q1 and 2.8% on average in 2017. Meanwhile, growth continued to slow in the United Kingdom, as output grew at an annualized rate of just 0.4% in Q1, down from 1.6% in Q4 of 2017 and 1.9% in Q3. EU-wide unemployment continued to trend gradually downward, dropping to 7.1% in March from an average rate of 7.6% in 2017. Unemployment rates differ widely across EU countries, with a low rate of 3.4% prevailing in Germany and a higher rate of 8.8% in France.

2.12. Japan's rate of GDP growth slowed from an annualized rate of 2.0% in Q3 of 2017 to 0.6% in Q4 and further to -0.6% in the first quarter of 2018. The decline in Q1 was driven by a dip in investment, including inventory investment, while consumption, government spending and external balances each contributed very little to growth. Japan's unemployment rate remained steady at 2.5% in March, which is lower than the 2.8% average rate for 2017.

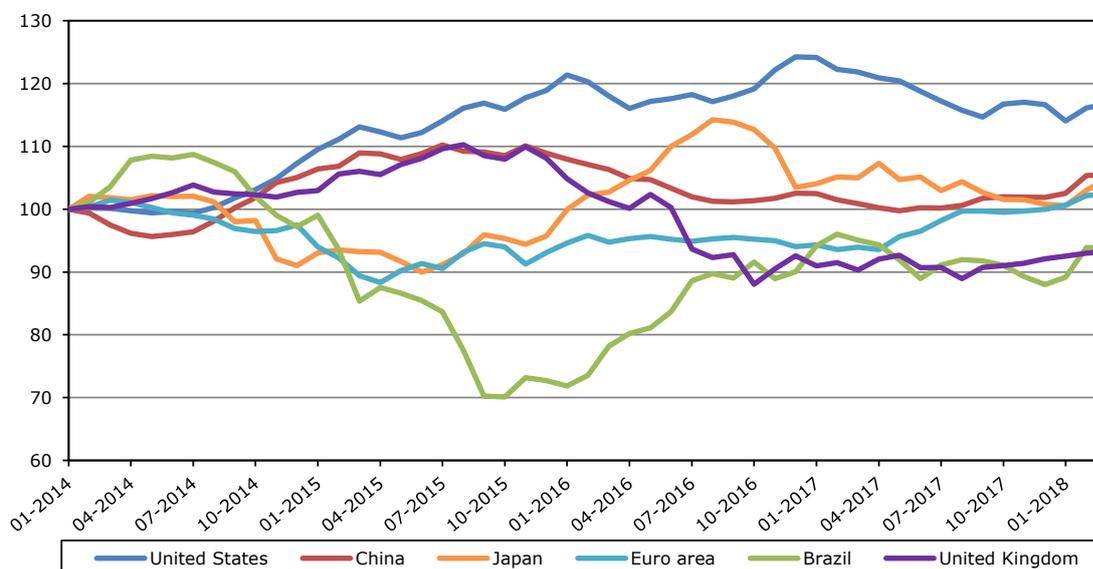
2.13. GDP growth in China remains strong, but has moderated since the first half of 2017. China's economy expanded at an annualized rate of around 7.5% in Q3 of 2017, 6.5% in Q4, and roughly 6% in the first quarter of 2018. No harmonized unemployment rate is available for China, but the country's economic rebalancing away from manufacturing and toward services continues.

2.14. Economic growth in South and Central America has been mixed recently. Brazil's rate of GDP growth slowed to 0.2% annualized in the first quarter of 2018 from 1.0% in Q4 of 2017. Meanwhile, growth in Argentina accelerated to 3.9% in Q4 from 3.1% in Q3. Rising commodity prices should boost export revenues and support stronger regional growth going forward.

2.15. Fluctuations in prices and exchange rates can strongly influence nominal trade statistics, which are usually expressed in current US dollar terms. Recent developments are illustrated by Chart 2.1, which shows indices of nominal effective exchange rates for selected economies through March 2018. Currencies, including the dollar, have been relatively stable during the review period, with the dollar rising 0.9% on average against currencies of trading partners since last October. The dollar is down nearly 6% in nominal effective terms since January 2017, but currently trades at roughly the same rate as in October of 2015. China's currency appreciated by around 5% between October 2017 and March 2018 while the euro rose nearly 3% in nominal effective terms (i.e. on average against a broad basket of currencies) over the same period.

Chart 2.1 Nominal effective exchange rate indices for selected economies, January 2014-March 2018^a

(index, January 2014 = 100)

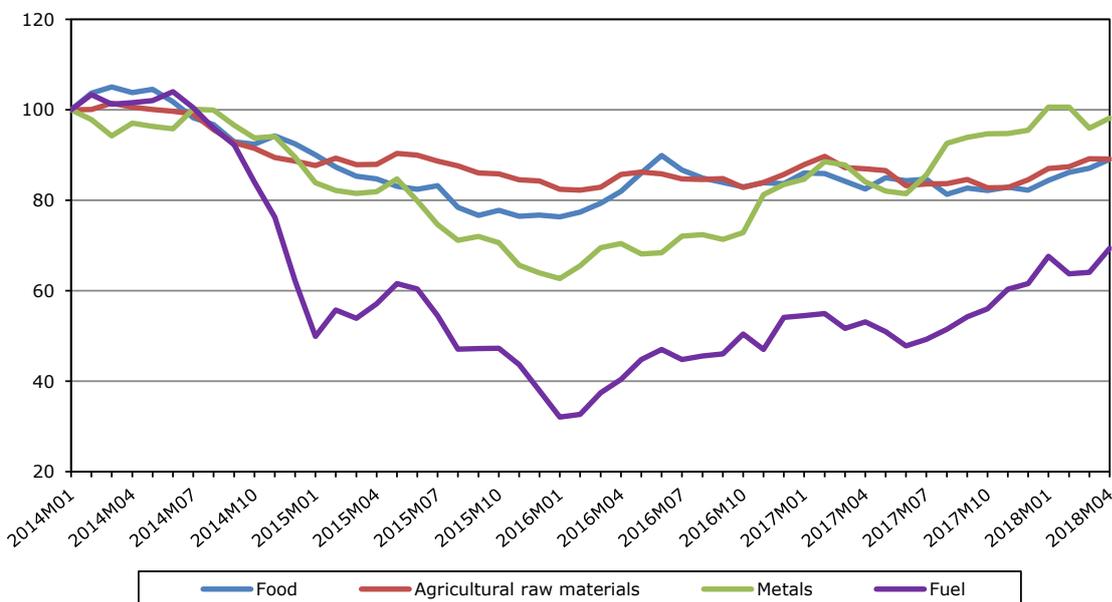


a Nominal effective exchange rate indices against a broad basket of currencies.

Source: Bank for International Settlements.

Chart 2.2 Prices of primary commodities, January 2014 – April 2018

(index, January 2014 = 100)



Source: World Bank Commodity Prices.

2.16. Chart 2.2 shows the latest developments in primary commodity prices, which have increased strongly in recent months. Since October of 2017, prices for food, fuels and metals have climbed 9.5%, 35% and 6%, respectively. Considering the relative stability of the dollar during this period, these increases represent a real strengthening of commodity prices compared to other goods rather than a change in the value of the denomination currency.

2.17. Robust US crude oil production has kept oil prices from returning to the elevated levels that prevailed until the middle of 2014, but the recent upward trend is stronger than most forecasts from last year. Higher oil prices will squeeze household budgets in importing countries but could stimulate investment in the energy sector, making their overall economic impact ambiguous.

2.3 Merchandise Trade

2.18. Chart 2.3 shows year-on-year growth in the dollar value of world merchandise trade (red line), as well as contributions to nominal trade growth from developed and developing economies (stacked bars). World exports were up 11.4% in the fourth quarter of 2017. Developing economies contributed slightly less than half of that growth (5.3 percentage points, or 46%), while developed economies were responsible for the rest (6.1 percentage points, or 54%). Developments on the import side were similar, with developed economies contributing more to the total increase (7.1 percentage points, or 59%) and with developing economies accounting for the remainder (5 percentage points, or 41%).

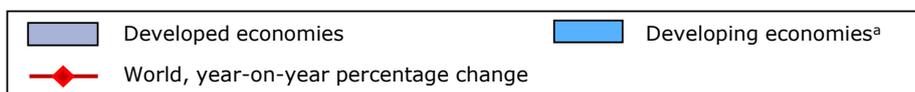
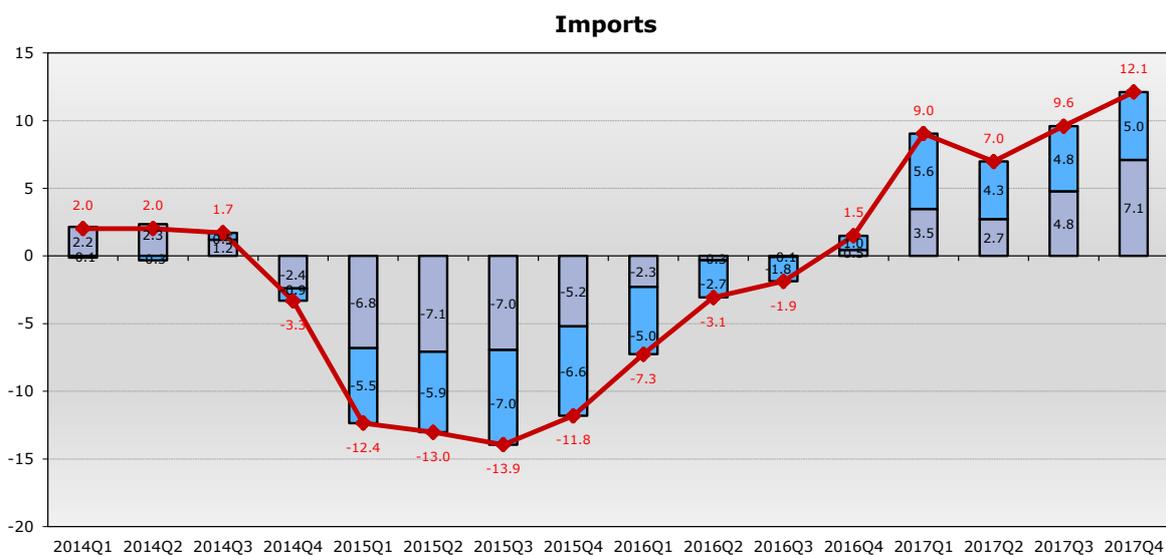
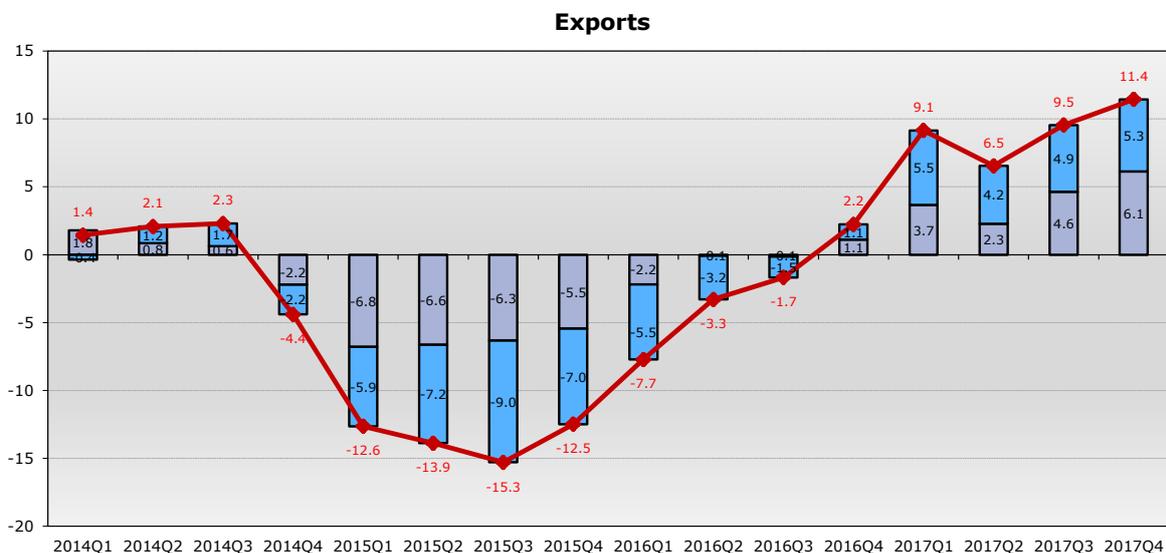
2.19. Merchandise trade volume growth trended gradually upwards in most major economies in the second half of 2017 (Chart 2.4). One notable exception was Brazil, where export and import volumes recorded larger percentage increases from a lower base recorded in the second half of 2016. Seasonally-adjusted exports and imports were up 3.7% and 4.3%, respectively, in the United States in the second half of 2017 compared to the same period in 2016. Extra-EU exports were up 5.4% year-on-year in the second half, up from 4.0% in the first half. Meanwhile, extra-EU imports were up 2.8% in the second half after registering a slight decline in the first half (-0.3%). Intra-EU trade growth also picked up in the second half of 2017, as shipments between EU countries rose 4.4% year-on-year, compared to 2.2% in the first half.

2.20. Japan's exports and imports were up 6.8% and 3.8% year-on-year, respectively, in the second half of 2017, with little change compared to the first half of the year. Developing Asia (including China) recorded a 7.1% year-on-year increase in the volume of its exports in the second half of 2017, compared to 7.4% in the first half. Meanwhile, the region's imports were up by 7.5%, down from 10.4% in the first half. Brazil's exports jumped 13.4% in the second half of 2017 while imports rose by 9.6%.

2.21. Monthly merchandise trade statistics in nominal terms are more timely than quarterly statistics in volume terms. These are shown in Chart 2.5 through March 2018. Dollar values of exports and imports continue to rise in most countries, reflecting increases in both price and volume. Trade statistics in current US dollar terms should be interpreted with caution since they are strongly affected by fluctuations in prices and exchange rates.

Chart 2.3 Contributions to year-on-year growth in world merchandise exports and imports, 2014Q1 - 2017Q4

(% change in US\$ values)



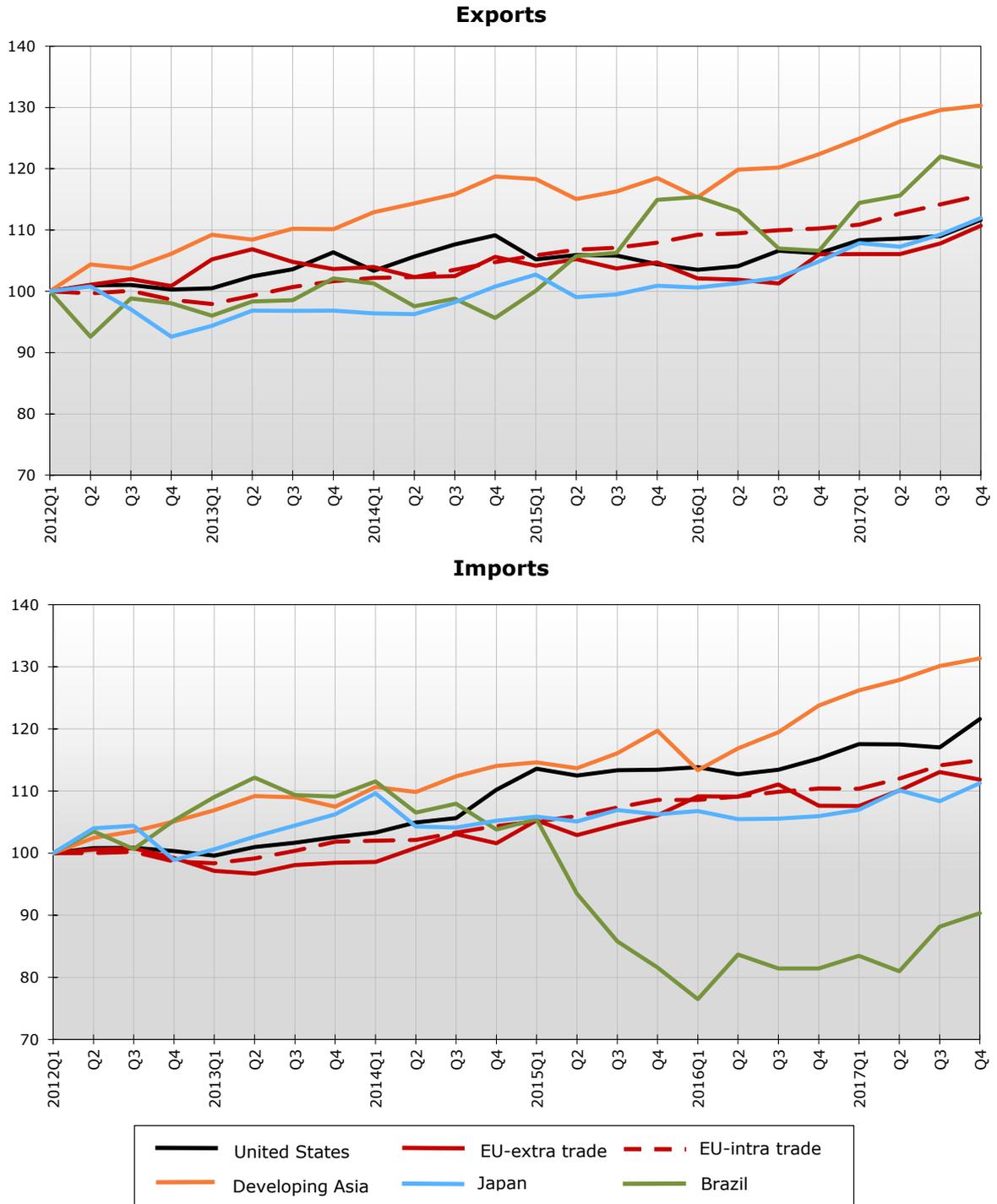
a Includes significant re-exports. Also includes the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Note: Due to scarce data availability, Africa and Middle East are under-represented in world totals.

Source: WTO Secretariat estimates, based on data compiled from IMF International Financial Statistics; Eurostat Comext Database; Global Trade Atlas; and national statistics.

Chart 2.4 Volume of exports and imports of selected economies, 2012Q1 - 2017Q4

(seasonally-adjusted volume indices, 2012Q1 = 100)



Note: Data for the United States, Japan and the EU were obtained from national statistical sources while figures for Brazil and Developing Asia are seasonally-adjusted Secretariat estimates.

Source: WTO Secretariat and UNCTAD.

2.4 Trade in Commercial Services

2.22. Year-on-year growth of commercial services exports in dollar value picked up in most major economies in the fourth quarter of 2017, except for India where export growth merely moderated. These developments are illustrated in Chart 2.6, which shows growth in quarterly services trade for selected economies. Exports were up 6.0% year-on-year for the United States, 14.8% for the European Union, 9.1% for Japan, 11.9% for China, 8.1% for India and 2.6% for Brazil.¹

2.23. On the import side, a sharp increase in the European Union was balanced by a slowdown in China in the fourth quarter. Imports rose 8.2% in the United States, 9.2% in the European Union, 1.3% in Japan, 9.9% in India and 8.3% in Brazil in Q4. However, commercial services imports of China fell 7.2% year-on-year in the latest period.

2.24. According to preliminary Secretariat estimates, global exports of commercial services were up 7.4% in 2017 to US\$5.25 trillion. The fastest growing services sector in 2017 was transport, which recorded year-on-year growth in U.S. dollar value of 8.3%, followed by other commercial services (7.4%, including financial services), travel (7.2%) and goods related services (5.2%).

2.5 Trade Forecast and Economic Outlook

2.25. Some leading and coincident indicators of merchandise trade have continued to point in a generally positive direction in the first quarter of 2018 while others have taken a more negative turn. An index of container port throughput from the Institute for Shipping Economics and Logistics (ISL) was up 4.2% year-on-year in March but has turned down recently, dropping 2.3% since January. Similarly, a measure of global export orders derived from HIS-Markit's global purchasing managers' index fell to 50.9 in April from 54.1 in January. A value above 50 still indicates expansion, but the recent weakening may be attributed to the uncertainty characterizing the international trading environment at this point.

2.26. An index based on the frequency of phrases in press accounts of economic policy uncertainty jumped to 154.9 in April from 110.2, compared to a baseline of 100 equal to the average value of the index for the period 1997-2015 (www.PolicyUncertainty.com). This index encompasses all types of policy uncertainty, including monetary, fiscal and trade policy. For example, planned investments could be postponed or curtailed due to rising economic uncertainty. This is important because investment is strongly correlated with world trade due to its high import content.

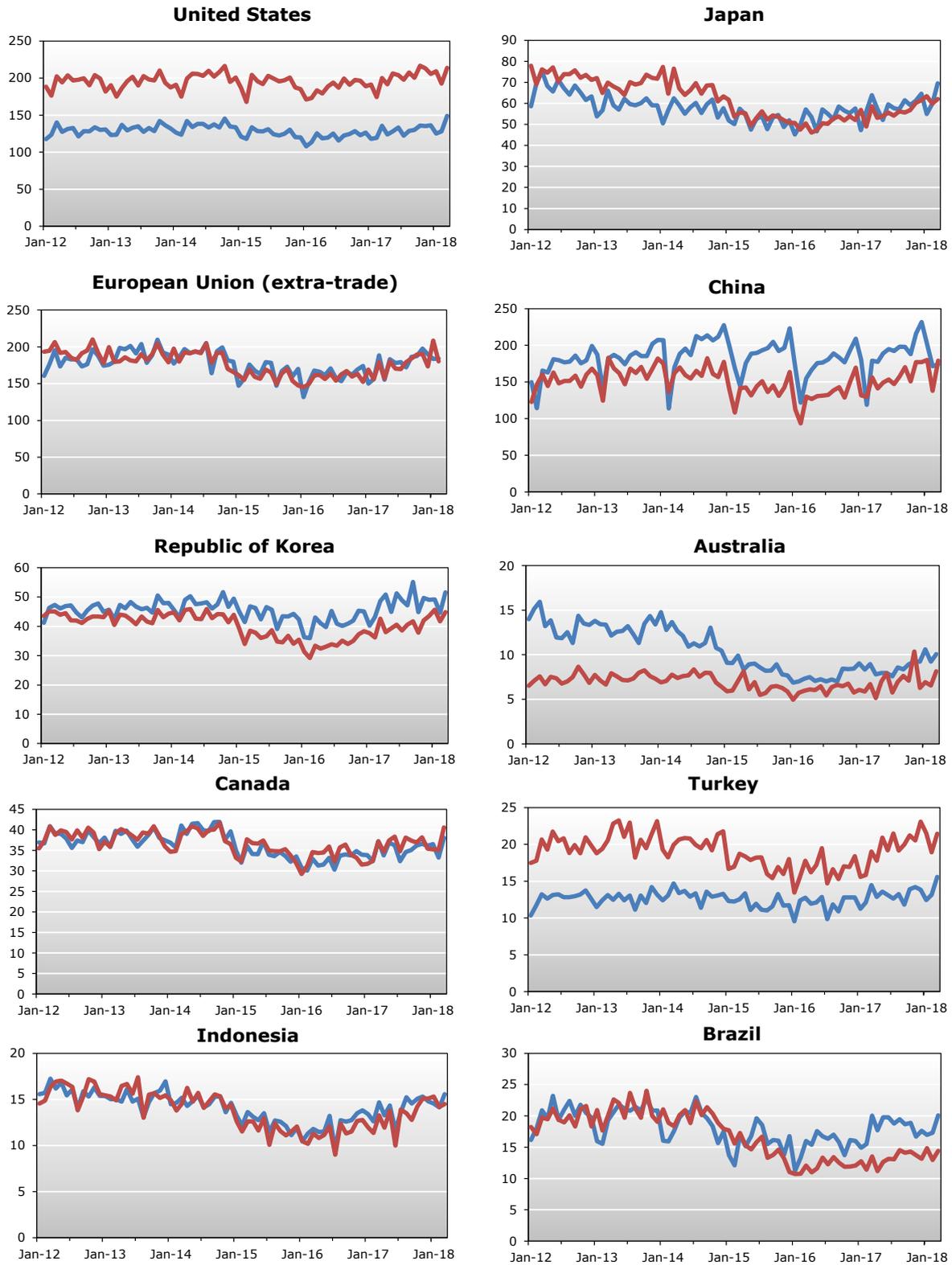
2.27. Table 2.1 summarizes the WTO's latest trade forecast of 12 April 2018. If current forecasts for GDP growth are realized, the WTO anticipates world merchandise trade volume growth of 4.4% in 2018, with stronger growth in developing economies on both the export side (5.4%) and the import side (4.8%). Developed countries should also experience reasonably strong growth in both exports (3.8%) and imports (4.1%). In recognition of the current high level of economic and policy uncertainty, the WTO's trade forecast for 2018 has been placed within a range from 3.1% to 5.5%.

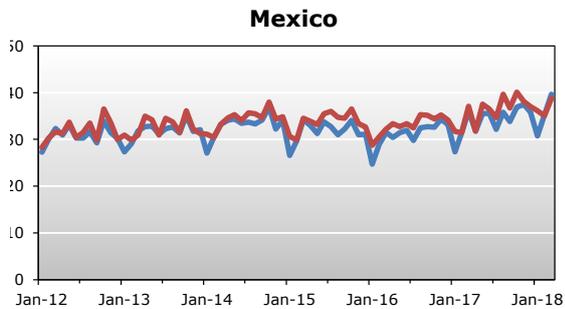
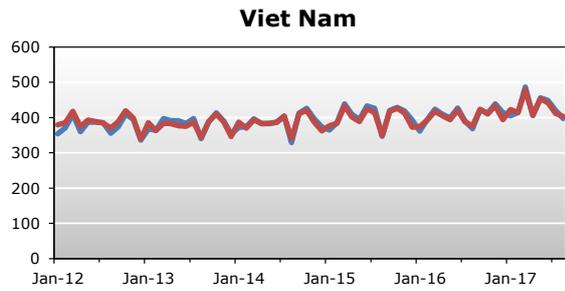
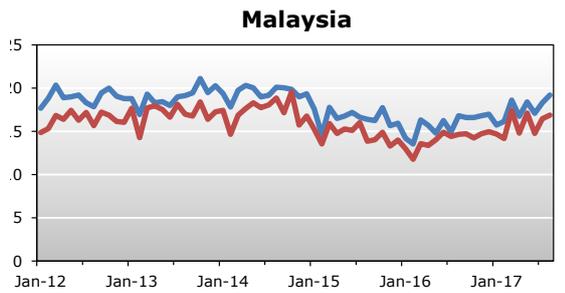
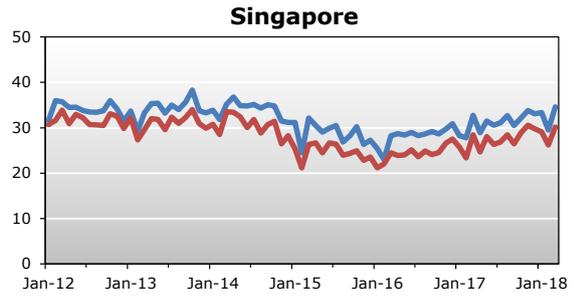
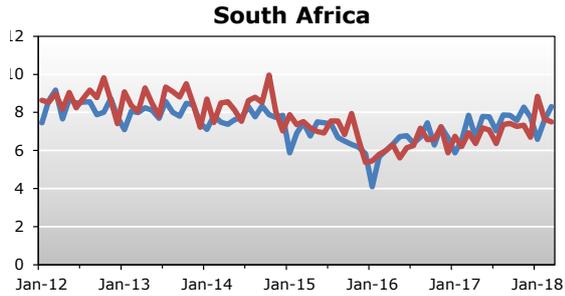
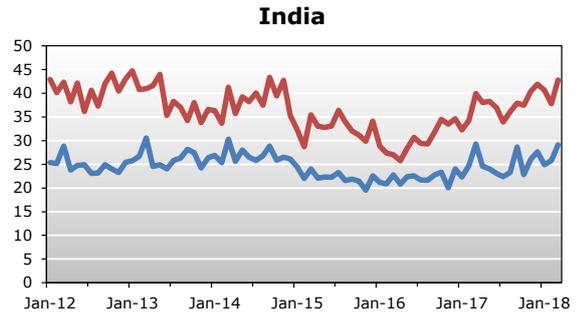
2.28. In 2019, global trade growth is expected to moderate to 4.0%, with developing economies still outpacing developed countries in both exports (5.1% compared to 3.1%) and imports (4.4% compared to 3.3%). However, economic activity and trade could be hit by escalating trade restrictions, which might result in more negative scenarios playing out. Other risks to the forecast include rising inflation, which could cause premature monetary policy tightening in developed countries, and geopolitical tensions, which could potentially have important negative consequences for trade. Economic forecasters generally expect monetary authorities to manage monetary policy challenges successfully, but low unemployment and shrinking output gaps leave policymakers less room for manoeuvre. As a result, financial volatility could come to the fore if economic conditions change.

¹ No comparable figures were available for the Russian Federation in 2017Q4.

Chart 2.5 Merchandise exports and imports of selected economies, January 2012 – March 2018

(US\$ billion)

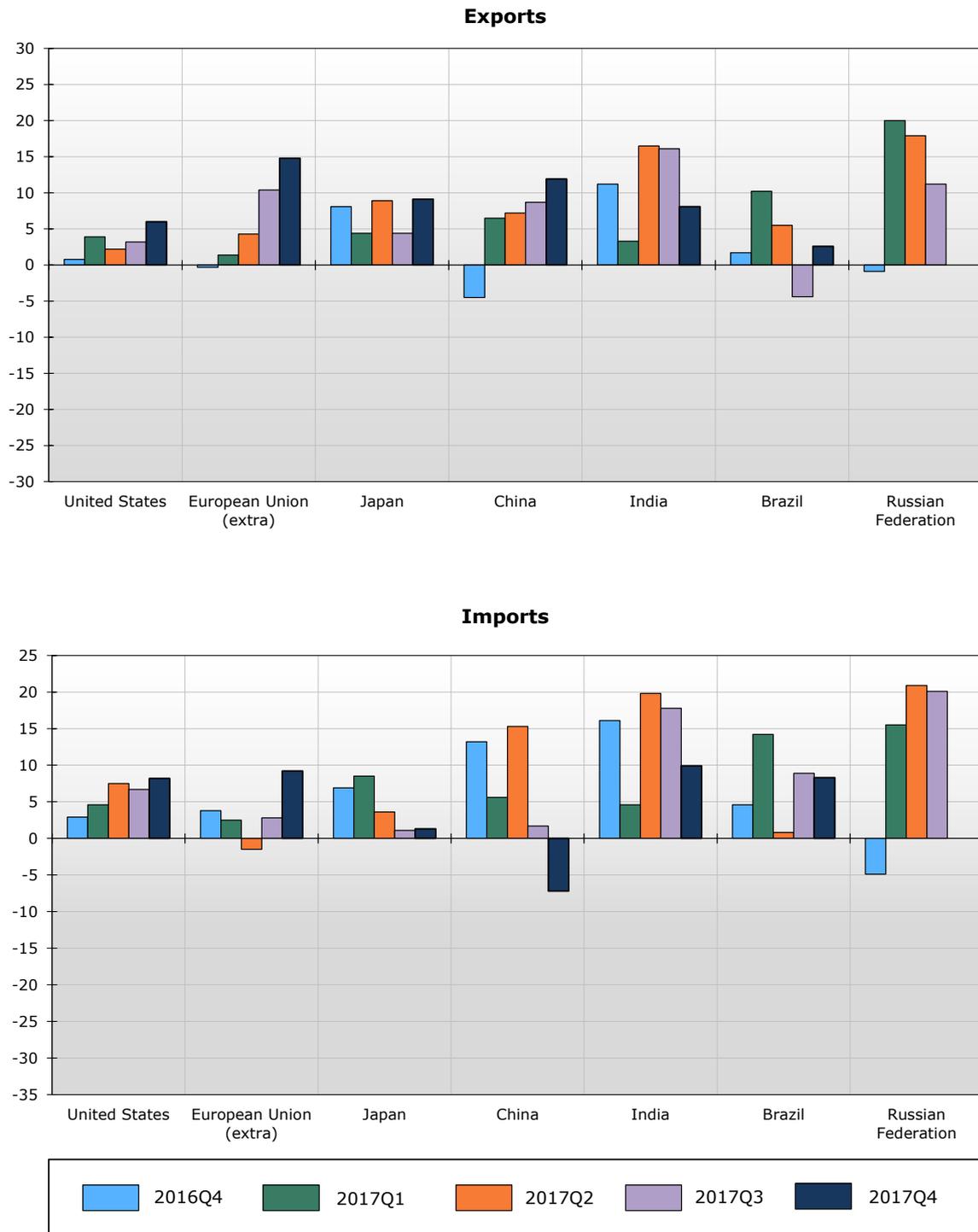




Source: IMF International Financial Statistics, Global Trade Information Services, Global Trade Atlas database and national statistics.

Chart 2.6 Commercial services exports and imports of selected economies, 2016Q4 - 2017Q4

(year-on-year percentage change in current US\$ values)



Source: WTO and UNCTAD Secretariats.

Table 2.1 Merchandise trade volume and real GDP growth, 2014-2019

(annual percentage change)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 ^a	2019 ^a
Volume of world merchandise trade^b	2.7	2.5	1.8	4.7	4.4	4.0
Exports						
Developed economies	2.1	2.3	1.1	3.5	3.8	3.1
Developing economies ^c	2.7	2.4	2.3	5.7	5.4	5.1
North America	4.6	0.8	0.6	4.2	4.5	4.5
South and Central America and the Caribbean	-2.1	1.8	1.9	2.9	2.8	2.6
Europe	1.6	2.9	1.1	3.5	3.6	2.9
Asia	4.5	1.5	2.3	6.7	5.7	5.0
Other regions ^d	-1.0	5.5	2.6	2.3	4.7	4.4
Imports						
Developed economies	3.4	4.3	2.0	3.1	4.1	3.3
Developing economies ^c	2.4	0.6	1.9	7.2	4.8	4.4
North America	4.3	5.4	0.1	4.0	5.7	5.0
South and Central America and the Caribbean	-2.7	-6.4	-6.8	4.0	3.9	5.7
Europe	3.0	3.7	3.1	2.5	3.5	2.8
Asia	3.7	4.0	3.5	9.6	5.9	4.7
Other regions ^d	0.5	-5.6	0.2	0.9	0.4	1.8
Real GDP at market exchange rates	2.7	2.7	2.3	3.0	3.2	3.1
Developed economies	2.0	2.3	1.6	2.3	2.4	2.2
Developing economies ^c	4.3	3.7	3.6	4.3	4.6	4.6
North America	2.6	2.7	1.5	2.4	2.8	2.7
South and Central America and the Caribbean	0.9	-0.9	-2.1	1.0	2.3	2.8
Europe	2.0	2.3	1.9	2.6	2.4	2.1
Asia	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.5	4.5	4.4
Other regions ^d	2.5	1.1	2.2	2.0	2.8	2.9

a Figures for 2018 and 2019 are projections.

b Average of exports and imports.

c Includes the CIS, including associate and former member States.

d Other regions comprise Africa, Middle East and the CIS.

Source: WTO Secretariat for trade, consensus estimates for GDP.

Box 2.1 The WTO World Trade Outlook Indicator

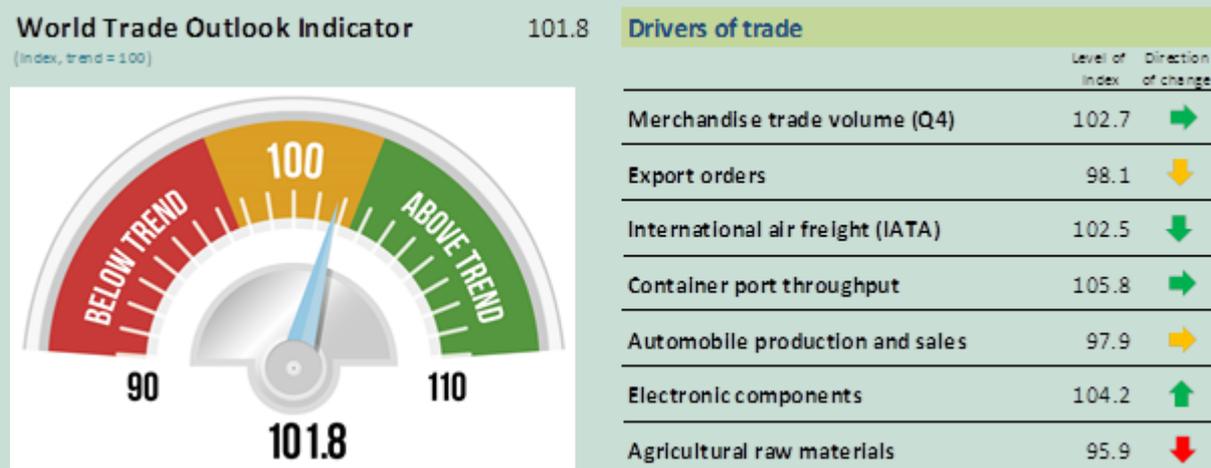
The World Trade Outlook Indicator (WTOI) is a composite leading indicator for world trade launched by the WTO in 2016. Designed to provide "real time" information on the trajectory of world trade relative to recent trends, the WTOI is not intended as a short-term forecast, although it does provide an indication of trade growth in the near future. Its main contribution is to identify turning points and gauge momentum in global trade growth. As such, it complements trade statistics and forecasts from the WTO and other organizations.

The WTOI combines six component indices of trade related data into an overall index that signals trade conditions 3-4 months ahead of quarterly trade volume data. Readings of 100 indicate growth in line with medium-term trends; readings greater than 100 suggest above-trend growth, while those below 100 indicate the reverse. The direction of change reflects momentum compared with the previous month. The WTOI's component indices include the following:

- global export orders reported by manufacturers in national purchasing managers indices;
- international air freight in freight tonne kilometres (FTKs) from the International Air Transport Association (IATA);
- container throughput of major ports, in twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU);
- automobile sales and/or production in selected economies;
- customs data on electronic components trade in physical units; and
- customs data on agricultural raw materials trade in physical units.

The latest WTOI of 17 May 2018 remained above trend with a value of 101.8, but displayed a loss of momentum compared to the previous release of 12 February, which came in at 102.3. These values suggest continued solid trade growth in the second quarter of 2018 but probably at a somewhat slower pace than in the first quarter.

The recent dip in the WTOI reflects declines in export orders in particular but also for air freight, which may be linked to rising economic uncertainty due to increased trade tensions. The forward-looking export orders index dropped sharply, falling below-trend to 98.1 in the latest month. Although the air freight index remains above trend at 102.5, it has declined in recent months. While container throughput remains above trend (105.8), automobile sales (97.9) and agricultural raw materials (95.9) are currently weighing down the overall index. In contrast to the other indices, the electronic components index (104.2) has turned up, rising above trend.



The latest results are broadly in line with the WTO's most recent trade forecast issued on 12 April 2018, which predicted a moderation of merchandise trade volume growth from 4.7% in 2017 to 4.4% in 2018. The WTOI should be monitored closely going forward as it would likely provide an early signal of the uncertainty and impact created by the proliferation of trade-restrictive measures.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3 TRADE AND TRADE-RELATED POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

3.1 Overview of Trends Identified during the Period under Review

3.1. The following provides analysis of a number of selected trade and trade-related policy developments during the period from 16 October 2017 to 15 May 2018.

3.2. The WTO trade monitoring exercise is, first and foremost, a transparency exercise. It is not a legal exercise. It is intended to be factual and without prejudice to the rights and obligations of WTO Members. The regular Monitoring Reports seek to capture recent trends in the implementation of trade measures and contextualize them with the global economic environment and other developments in the international trading system. The contribution of Members in the trade monitoring effort and in maintaining a platform for a regular and collective peer review of trade policies is fundamental for enhancing transparency and predictability in trade policy-making (Box 1).

3.3. The trade measures compiled for this Report are presented in three categories: (i) measures that clearly facilitate trade (Annex 1); (ii) trade-remedy measures (Annex 2); and (iii) other trade and trade-related measures (Annex 3).

3.4. The total number of such measures over the review period was 429. This figure includes 89 trade-facilitating measures, 265 trade-remedy measures, and 75 other trade and trade-related measures (Chart 3.1).¹

3.1.1 Measures Facilitating Trade

3.5. Annex 1 to this Report lists measures which are clearly trade-facilitating.

3.6. During the review period, 89 new measures aimed at facilitating trade were recorded for WTO Members (Table 3.1), some of a temporary nature (24). This represents 21% of the total number of measures recorded. The monthly average of just below 13 trade-facilitating measures recorded for the period is higher than the average of almost 11 measures recorded for the previous period.

3.7. Table 3.1 shows that, among trade-facilitating measures, the reduction or elimination of import tariffs continues to make up the bulk, followed by simplified customs procedures for imports, various reductions of import taxes² and the elimination of import bans.³ On the export side, the elimination and simplification of customs procedures, as well as the eliminations of an export duty and an export ban, were recorded.

3.8. The trade coverage of the import-facilitating measures recorded during the review period was US\$107.3 billion, i.e. 0.68% of the value of world merchandise imports.⁴ The HS Chapters within which the majority of trade-facilitating measures were taken include machinery and mechanical appliances (HS84) 18.2%, pharmaceutical products (HS30) 16.6%, electrical machinery and parts thereof (HS85) 12.1% and mineral fuels and oils (HS27) 5.2%.⁵

¹ See Annexes 1-3. These Annexes do not include SPS and TBT measures which are covered in Sections 3.3 and 3.4. Services measures are analysed in Section 4 and are listed in Annex 4.

² E.g. taxes on: used vehicles, donkey skins, products of animal origins and fats and oils.

³ E.g. QRs applied on: second hand goods, flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, miscellaneous edible preparations and eggs.

⁴ 2016 figures. The trade coverage of a measure is calculated to be the value of annual imports of the specific product concerned from countries affected by the measure. The share of this value is calculated over the total world merchandise imports. Highly-traded goods may significantly influence the estimation of the trade coverage. The trade coverage calculation includes: one measure by China (reduction of interim tariffs) accounting for 27.5% of the total, two measures by Brazil (reduction of import tariffs on capital goods) accounting for 18.2% of the total, and one measure by Colombia (temporary elimination of import tariffs on raw materials and capital goods) accounting for 17.6% of the total.

⁵ These figures do not include import-facilitating measures implemented in the context of the ITA Expansion Agreement.

Table 3.1 Measures facilitating trade (Annex 1)

Type of measure	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Mid-Oct 16 to mid-Oct 17 (WT/TPR/OV/20)	Mid-Oct 17 to mid-May 18 (7 months)
Import	171	137	172	202	148	113	110	74
- Tariff	149	107	143	160	113	92	94	51
- Customs procedures	12	25	17	31	28	19	14	17
- Tax	2	4	2	6	4	2	2	3
- QRs	7	1	10	5	1	0	0	3
- Other	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Export	17	8	9	40	33	24	18	15
- Duties	7	3	3	18	5	1	2	1
- QRs	8	4	3	3	2	2	1	1
- Other	2	1	3	19	26	21	15	13
Other	6	1	1	4	3	0	0	0
Total	194	146	182	246	184	137	128	89
<i>Average per month</i>	<i>16.2</i>	<i>12.2</i>	<i>15.2</i>	<i>20.5</i>	<i>15.3</i>	<i>11.4</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>12.7</i>

Note: Revisions of the data reflect changes undertaken in the TMDb to fine-tune and update the available information. Facilitating measures now mainly cover Annex 1 measures and those Annex 3 measures which have been reported as terminated by Members.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.9. Contrary to the two previous Reports which reported on the very significant trade coverage of measures resulting from the implementation of the ITA Expansion Agreement (Section 3.8), the present review period includes only one such measure, i.e. by Guatemala.

3.1.2 Trade Remedy Actions⁶

3.10. During the review period, 265 trade remedy actions were recorded (Table 3.2), i.e. 62% of the total of all trade measures recorded in this Report.⁷ A comprehensive overview of these trade remedy measures can be found in Annex 2. Members continue to initiate a significantly higher number of new trade remedy investigations compared to the number of trade remedy actions they terminate.⁸ Initiations of trade remedy investigations during the review period outpaced terminations of trade remedy actions by a ratio of almost two-to-one. Overall, initiations of trade remedy investigations alone represented 40% of the total number of trade measures recorded in this Report. The monthly average of initiations of trade remedy actions between mid-October 2017 and mid-May 2018 is broadly similar to the year 2017. The monthly average of terminations is higher compared to the previous period overview.

3.11. The trade remedy actions taken during the review period covered a wide range of products. In the case of initiations of investigations, the main sectors were iron and steel (HS72) 40.2%, plastics and articles thereof (HS39) 11.2%, vehicles, parts and accessories thereof (HS87) 10.2%, articles of iron and steel (HS73) 9% and electrical machinery and parts thereof (HS85) 6%.

⁶ The coverage of trade remedy actions in this Report does not prejudice the right of WTO Members to take trade remedy actions.

⁷ A single methodology for the counting of AD and CVD investigations is being applied across the Report, i.e. on the basis of the number of exporting countries or customs territories affected by an investigation or by a termination. Thus, one AD or CVD investigation involving imports from n countries/customs territories is counted as n investigations. Similarly, the termination of an AD or CVD action is counted as n terminations.

⁸ Termination means either the termination of the investigation (without imposition of a measure) or elimination of the imposed measure.

3.12. The trade coverage of trade-remedy initiations introduced during the review period by WTO Members was US\$52.7 billion (0.33% of world merchandise imports). For terminations, the trade coverage⁹ was valued at US\$6.8 billion (0.04% of world merchandise imports).

Table 3.2 Trade remedy actions (Annex 2)

Type of measure	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Mid-Oct 16 to mid-Oct 17 (WT/TPR/OV/20)	Mid-Oct 17 to mid-May 18 (7 months)
Initiations	255	338	304	277	343	297	301	173
- AD	208	287	236	229	298	248	251	137
- CVD	23	33	45	31	34	41	42	28
- SG	24	18	23	17	11	8	8	8
<i>Average per month</i>	<i>21.3</i>	<i>28.2</i>	<i>25.3</i>	<i>23.1</i>	<i>28.6</i>	<i>24.8</i>	<i>25.1</i>	<i>24.7</i>
Terminations	208	186	221	212	173	153	125	92
- AD	177	160	186	167	143	123	108	74
- CVD	21	17	23	25	15	13	12	14
- SG	10	9	12	20	15	17	5	4
<i>Average per month</i>	<i>17.3</i>	<i>15.5</i>	<i>18.4</i>	<i>17.7</i>	<i>14.4</i>	<i>12.8</i>	<i>10.3</i>	<i>13.1</i>

Note: The information on trade remedy actions for 2012-17 is based on the semi-annual notifications by WTO Members. For January 2018 to mid-May 2018, the information is based on the responses and the verification received directly from WTO Members. Anti-circumvention measures are not included in the above numbers.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.1.3 Other Trade and Trade-Related Measures

3.13. Annex 3 to this Report lists measures which may be considered to have a trade-restrictive effect. During the review period, 75 new trade-restrictive measures were recorded, representing 17% of the total number reported in Annexes 1 to 3 (Table 3.3). The monthly average of almost 11 trade-restrictive measures is higher compared to the average of nine measures recorded for the previous Report.

3.14. Out of the total number of the measures recorded in Annex 3, almost 90% were applied to imports. Tariff increases account for more than two-thirds of all import restrictive measures, followed by a range of quantitative restrictions (QRs)¹⁰, imposition of import taxes¹¹, and stricter customs procedures. With respect to export, the majority of measures taken were QRs¹², followed by duties.¹³

3.15. The other trade and trade-related measures recorded in Annex 3, and which may be considered trade-restrictive, cover a wide range of products. The main sectors were mineral fuels and oils (HS27) 26.5%, electrical equipment and parts thereof (HS85) 19.9%, iron and steel (HS72) 10%, vehicles, parts and accessories thereof (HS87) 9.4%, and aluminium and articles thereof (HS76) 9%. The trade coverage of the import-restrictive measures¹⁴ introduced during the review period was US\$84.5 billion, i.e. 0.53% of the value of world merchandise imports.

⁹ 2016 figures.

¹⁰ E.g. QRs applied on seal skins, fruits and vegetables, medication, animal feed, food products, electrical appliances, machinery, and second hand garments.

¹¹ E.g. social welfare surcharge, synthetic greenhouse gas levies, and taxes on perfumes, motorcycles, machinery and mechanical appliances, and miscellaneous edible preparations.

¹² E.g. QRs on iron and steel ferrous waste and scrap, palm oil, vegetable products, and prepared foodstuffs.

¹³ E.g. duties on tungsten and cermet waste and scrap.

¹⁴ 2016 figures. The trade coverage calculation includes: one measure by Mexico (mandatory prior import authorization for oil products) accounting for 26.5% of the total, and one measure by India (increase of import tariffs on several products) accounting for 14.4%.

Table 3.3 Other trade and trade-related measures (Annex 3)

Type of measure	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Mid-Oct 16 to mid-Oct 17	Mid-Oct 17 to mid-May 18 (7 months)
Import	124	131	125	169	99	78	78	65
- Tariff	70	82	77	105	64	48	46	44
- Customs procedures	32	26	18	30	16	19	21	5
- Tax	6	5	8	16	6	3	3	8
- QRs	14	16	7	12	12	7	7	8
- Other	2	2	15	6	1	1	1	0
Export	22	31	25	44	20	19	17	7
- Duties	3	5	11	13	6	5	5	2
- QRs	12	10	8	7	10	8	7	4
- Other	7	16	6	24	4	6	5	1
Other	13	7	12	15	13	13	13	3
- Other ^a	8	1	1		4	1	1	2
- Local content	5	6	11	15	9	12	12	1
Total	159	169	162	228	132	110	108	75
<i>Average per month</i>	<i>13.3</i>	<i>14.1</i>	<i>13.5</i>	<i>19.0</i>	<i>11.0</i>	<i>9.2</i>	<i>9.0</i>	<i>10.7</i>

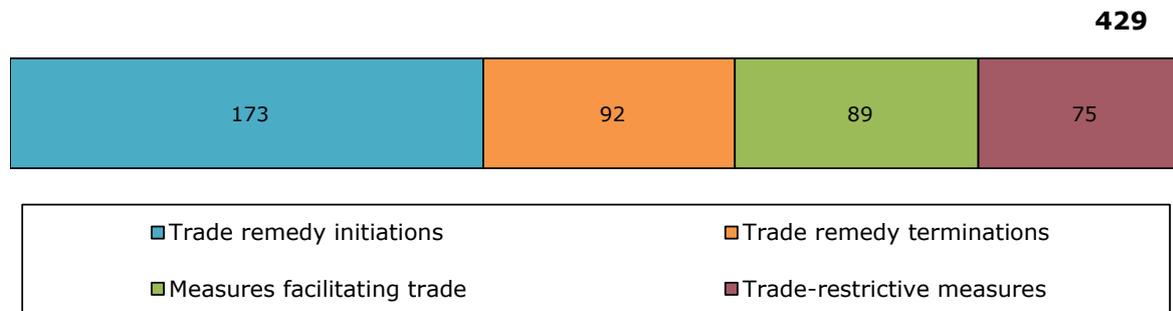
a Other than local content measures.

Note: Revisions of the data reflect changes undertaken in the TMDB to fine-tune and update the available information.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Chart 3.1 Overview of trade measures, mid-October 2017 to mid-May 2018

(by number)



Source: WTO Secretariat.

Chart 3.2 Trade coverage of import measures, mid-October 2017 to mid-May 2018

(US\$ billion)



Note: 2016 figures. ITA expansion measures are not included.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.16. The above Sections have provided detailed information on the latest trends among WTO Members in trade policy-making and has confirmed a number of findings of previous reports. For example, the numerical importance of trade remedy measures, AD measures in particular, in the overall number of trade and trade-related measures is fully consistent with previous reports.

3.17. This Report has recorded a moderate increase in the monthly average of import-facilitating measures. Although this is an encouraging development for global trade at this point, it is of concern that the monthly average of trade-restrictive measures recorded has also increased compared to the previous Report. While the estimated trade coverage for import-restrictive measures is lower than that of import-facilitating measures, it should be noted that in the November 2017 Report this relationship was two-to-one in favour of trade-liberalizing measures. The fact that this ratio has fallen significantly for the current review period is a source of considerable concern and an area where continued monitoring is required.

3.18. Two trade measures by the United States on steel and aluminium products, following an investigation under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, were implemented within the review period and received considerable attention. A number of measures were taken or announced in response to the above tariffs. The majority of these measures did not enter into force before 15 May 2018 and as a result do not feature in the Annexes to this Report. The WTO Secretariat will continue to monitor this situation and seek further information on these measures.

3.19. On a more general note, although this Report has confirmed a number of important trends in global trade policy-making, including the fact that WTO Members continue to implement trade-facilitating measures, there are strong reasons for concern. At a juncture where the global economy is finally looking to generate sustained economic momentum, the uncertainty created by the proliferation of trade-restrictive actions and the reaction to them could place an economic recovery in jeopardy. These developments will be closely monitored in the Overview of Developments in the International Trading Environment at the end of 2018.

3.20. The box below on the effects of non-tariff measures on prices and volumes of trade has been contributed by the OECD.

Box 3.1 Effects of non-tariff measures on prices and volumes of trade

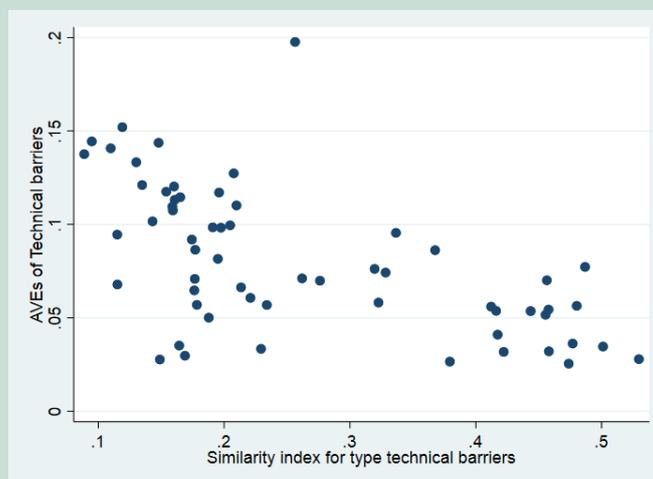
The term "non-tariff measures" (NTMs) covers a diverse set of measures in terms of purpose, legal form and economic effect. This diversity makes their quantitative analysis difficult, and they have been the object of substantial academic and policy attention. NTMs comprise all policy measures other than tariffs and tariff-rate quotas that have a more or less direct incidence on international trade as they affect the price of traded products, the quantity traded, or both. Most importantly, domestic regulations may prescribe specific requirements for products to be sold on a given market. Generally, such measures aim to overcome or reduce the impacts of market imperfections, such as those related to negative externalities, risks for human, animal or plant health, or information asymmetries. However, they also tend to increase production and trade costs and may affect, positively or negatively, the development of new technologies or production methods. These costs tend to be particularly burdensome for SMEs.

New OECD estimates disentangle the distinct effects that NTMs can have on trade volumes versus prices. The econometric estimates distinguish five different types of NTMs, following the UNCTAD MAST classification: technical regulations in the areas of SPS, TBT and pre-shipment inspection as well as quantitative import restrictions such as quotas and non-automatic licensing. The price-based estimations yield a large set of *ad valorem* tariff-equivalents (AVEs) that are specific for bilateral trade between more than 80 countries and roughly 5,000 products. The average AVEs across countries are found to range from 29% (processed food) to 6% (machinery and electrical equipment).

The volume-based estimates, also proxied by AVEs, yield information that show how the trade cost associated with NTMs typically reduces trade volumes, but not always. In a number of cases, in particular in the SPS area, trade is found to expand, even though trade costs rise. This trade enhancing effect can come from regulatory features that reduce information asymmetries and strengthen consumer confidence in imported products.

A growing body of evidence suggests that reducing regulatory heterogeneity reduces trade costs. Indeed, the OECD study confirms the negative relationship between greater regulatory similarity (measured as the regulatory distance between pairs of countries' MAST classifications for particular product NTMs) and the size of the AVEs. Complying with regulations is hardly ever costless, but this finding re-iterates the fact that costs that stem solely from regulatory differences between countries add to costs and thus their reduction, through various regulatory co-operation mechanisms, could expand trade, particularly for SMEs.

Price effect versus regulatory distance with partners



Note: Regulatory similarity is measured by scoring the degree to which a country pair has the same measure on a given HS6 product (index =1) or not (index = 0) and subsequently aggregating a normalizing to a number between zero and one.

Further reading:

OECD (2017), *International Regulatory Co-operation and Trade: Understanding the Trade Costs of Regulatory Divergence and the Remedies*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264275942-en>.

OECD (2018), *Combining price-based and quantity-based approaches*, TAD/TC/WP (2017)12/FINAL

Cadott, O., J. Gourdon, F. van Tongeren (2018), *Estimating Ad Valorem Equivalents of Non-Tariff Measures: Combining price-based and quantity-based approaches*, OECD Trade Policy papers, no 215, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/18166873>

Source: OECD (2018)

3.2 Trade-Remedies¹⁵

3.21. This section provides an assessment of trends in trade-remedy actions in the periods from January - December 2015, January - December 2016 and January - December 2017.¹⁶ Concerning anti-dumping, in 2017 data indicate a decrease in the number of new investigations initiated. The number of countervailing investigations initiated increased significantly between 2015 and 2017, while the number of safeguard investigations initiated fell. The total number of initiations for the latter two types of trade-remedy investigations remained considerably lower than for anti-dumping.

Anti-Dumping Measures¹⁷

3.22. Globally, anti-dumping initiations significantly increased between 2015 and 2016, from 229 to 298, before decreasing to 248 in 2017 (Table 3.4). The table also provides more information on which Members initiated anti-dumping investigations.

Table 3.4 Initiations of anti-dumping investigations

Reporting Member	2015	2016	2017
Argentina	6	23	8
Australia	10	17	16
Brazil	23	11	7
Canada	3	14	14
Chile	2	1	1
China	11	5	24
Colombia	7	1	8
Costa Rica	1	1	0
Dominican Republic	0	1	0
Egypt	4	14	0
El Salvador	0	1	1
European Union	11	14	9
India	30	69	49
Indonesia	6	7	1
Israel	1	1	3
Japan	2	1	2
Korea, Republic of	4	4	7
Malaysia	14	0	4
Mexico	9	6	8
Morocco	2	4	1
New Zealand	0	0	2
Pakistan	12	24	3
Paraguay	0	1	0
Peru	1	0	3
Philippines	0	1	0
Russian Federation ^a	1	1	1
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; Bahrain, Kingdom of; Kuwait; Oman, State of; Qatar; United Arab Emirates ^b	1	0	4
Chinese Taipei	0	8	0
Thailand	7	10	3

¹⁵ This section is without prejudice to the right of Members to take trade remedy actions under the WTO.

¹⁶ These periods coincide with the Member's semi-annual reporting periods.

¹⁷ Anti-dumping and countervailing investigations are counted on the basis of the number of exporting countries or customs territories affected by an investigation. Thus, one anti-dumping or countervailing investigation involving imports from n countries/customs territories is counted as n investigations.

Reporting Member	2015	2016	2017
Turkey	16	17	8
Ukraine	2	1	7
United States	42	37	54
Uruguay	1	0	0
Viet Nam	0	3	0
Total	229	298	248

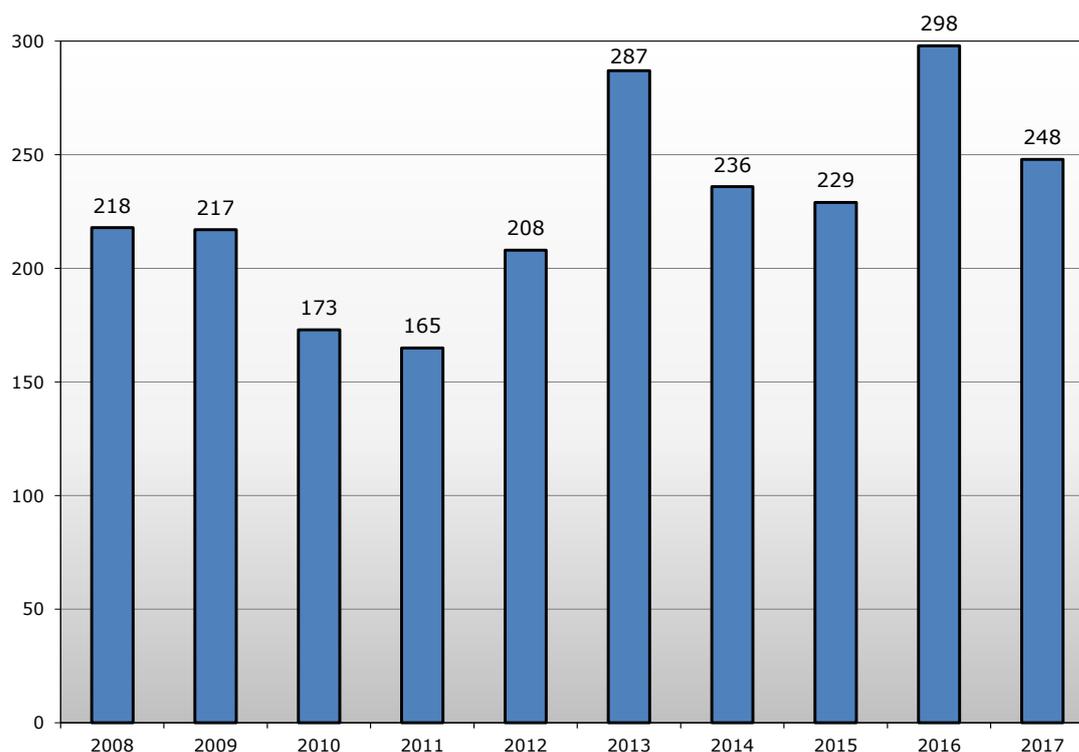
a Notified by the Russian Federation; investigations are initiated by the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) on behalf of all of its members collectively.

b Investigations are initiated at the level of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.23. Chart 3.3 shows that the number of anti-dumping investigations initiated increased from 165 in 2011 to 287 in 2013, decreased to 236 and 229 initiations in 2014 and 2015, respectively, then climbed in 2016 to 298 investigations. This is the highest number of initiations since the 311 of 2002, but still off the all-time high of 372 in 2001. In 2017 the number of initiations decreased by 17% to 248.

Chart 3.3 Total anti-dumping investigation initiations



Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.24. While anti-dumping investigations do not necessarily lead to the imposition of measures, the significant rise in the number of investigations initiated is an important indicator of a likely rise in the number of measures imposed. Between 2015 and 2017, a total of 546 anti-dumping measures were imposed (as shown in Table 3.5). However, as it can take up to 18 months for an anti-dumping investigation to be concluded, these measures may not necessarily be the result of initiations in the same period.

Table 3.5 Number of anti-dumping measures imposed

Reporting Member	2015	2016	2017
Argentina	11	1	2
Australia	10	5	14
Brazil	31	13	10
Canada	13	3	10
Chile	0	1	2
China	5	11	5
Colombia	2	1	1
Costa Rica	0	0	1
Dominican Republic	0	0	1
Egypt	1	4	6
European Union	10	5	11
India	38	37	47
Indonesia	6	0	3
Israel	0	1	0
Japan	1	2	1
Korea, Republic of	3	3	4
Malaysia	5	5	0
Mexico	9	12	2
Morocco	1	0	3
Pakistan	1	2	12
Peru	1	1	0
Philippines	1	0	1
Russian Federation ^a	5	4	1
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; Bahrain, Kingdom of; Kuwait, State of; Oman; Qatar; United Arab Emirates ^b	0	0	1
South Africa ^c	5	0	0
Chinese Taipei	0	8	0
Thailand	0	5	7
Trinidad and Tobago	0	1	0
Turkey	7	9	10
Ukraine	1	2	3
United States	14	35	33
Viet Nam	0	0	3
Total	181	171	194

a Notified by the Russian Federation; measures are imposed at the level of the EAEU.

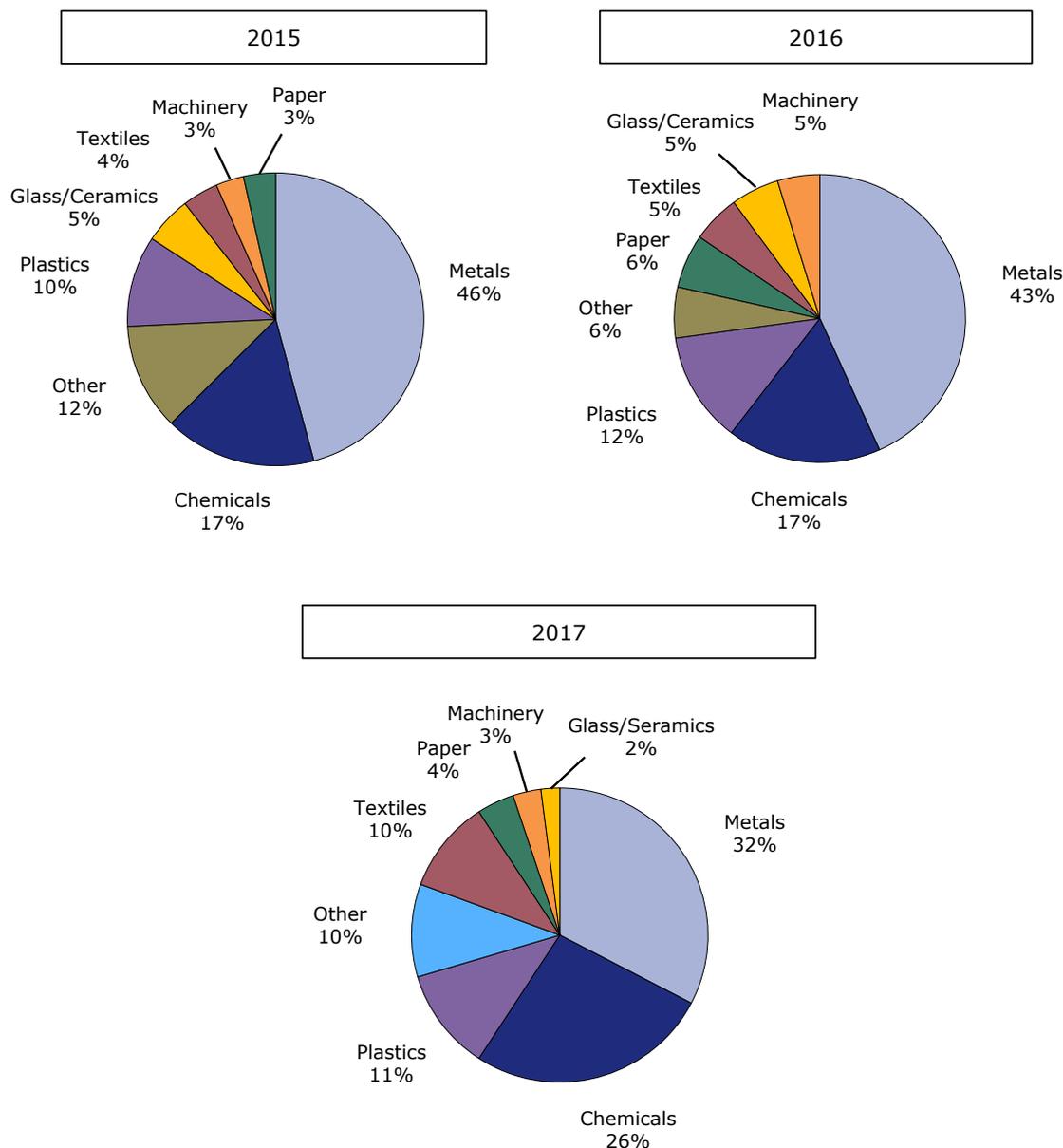
b Measures are imposed at the level of the GCC.

c Notified by South Africa; measures are imposed at the level of the SACU.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.25. Chart 3.4 shows that there was little change in terms of the products affected by anti-dumping investigations initiated over the last three years, with the majority of initiations focused on products in the metals, chemicals, and plastics and rubber sectors.

3.26. Metal products were subject to the most initiations in each period, accounting for 46% of all initiations in 2015, 43% in 2016 and 32% in 2017. In each period, at least 80 initiations targeted metals, of which 93% focused on steel products (goods classified under chapters 72 and 73 of the HS classification). Overall, between 2015 and 2017, the United States (79), Australia (33), the European Union (22), Thailand (19), Malaysia (18), Canada (17), and Mexico (17) accounted for two-thirds of 314 initiations on metals. An increase in the number of initiations against metal products was seen in 2017, with 28 investigations initiated by the United States and 15 by Australia. Initiations against metals across the three periods affected mostly products from China (91, of which 82 involved steel products), the Republic of Korea (29, of which 28 involved steel), India (17, of which 16 involved steel) and Viet Nam (16, of which 14 involved steel). In many instances, investigations were launched on the same product from several exporting countries. For instance, five steel products were the focus of 77 investigations.

Chart 3.4 Anti-dumping initiations by product

Note: Values are rounded.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.27. Chemical products accounted for the second-largest share of initiations over the three reporting periods, with a 17% share of initiations in 2015 and 2016 and a 26% share in 2017. India accounted for 60 of the 153 new investigations on products in this sector over the three periods, followed by China (18) and the United States (13). The initiations involved mostly chemical products from China (29) and the Republic of Korea (19). As with the metals sector, investigations into chemicals frequently involved the same product from different countries – 12 products accounted for 69 of the investigations in this area.

3.28. Plastics and rubber ranked third over the three periods examined, accounting for 10% of all initiations in 2015, 12% in 2016 and 11% in 2017. Almost one quarter of the 88 plastics and rubber investigations were initiated by the United States (19), followed by Brazil (13) and India (10). China was once again the main subject of investigations in this sector (19), followed by the Republic of Korea (11), India (6) and Thailand (6).

3.29. In terms of countries affected by new anti-dumping investigations, 42 exporting Members were affected in 2015, while 43 were affected in 2016 and 49 in 2017. China remained, by far, the most frequently targeted in anti-dumping initiations during the three reporting periods – investigations into Chinese products accounted for 28% of all investigations during these periods. The second most affected Member between 2015 and 2017 – the Republic of Korea – accounted for 9% of the total initiations during these periods, followed by India at 5%.

Countervailing Measures

3.30. As shown in Table 3.6, global initiations of countervailing duty investigations increased significantly to 41 in 2017 compared to 34 in 2016. Between 2015 and 2017, 92% of countervailing investigations were conducted concurrently with an anti-dumping investigation.

3.31. Among the twelve Members initiating countervailing measures between 2015 and 2017, the United States initiated the most new investigations (63), accounting for 59% of initiations. Canada, the second largest user, accounted for 15%, and Australia for 9%. The remaining investigations were conducted by nine different countries.

Table 3.6 Initiations of countervailing duty investigations

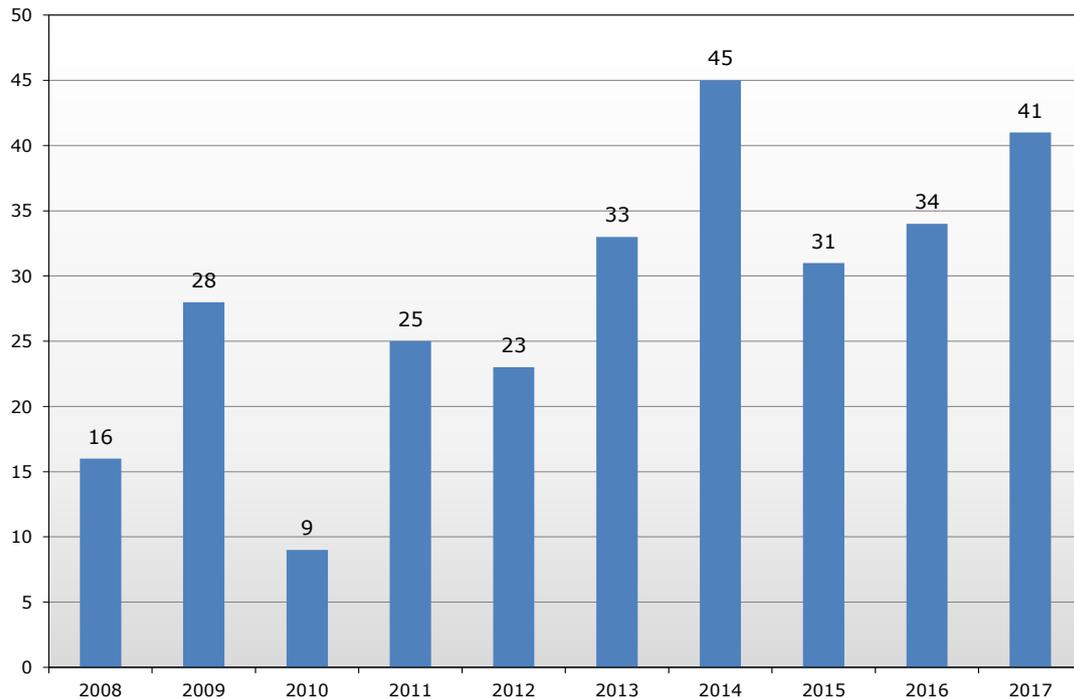
Reporting Member	2015	2016	2017
Australia	2	8	0
Brazil	0	1	1
Canada	3	2	11
China	0	1	1
Egypt	0	2	0
European Union	2	1	2
India	0	1	0
New Zealand	0	1	1
Pakistan	0	1	0
Peru	0	0	1
Turkey	1	0	0
United States	23	16	24
Total	31	34	41

Note: Counted on the basis of exporting countries or customs territories affected.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.32. Chart 3.5, reflecting annual figures, shows an upward trend in countervailing initiations from 2010 to 2014, notwithstanding some fluctuation in 2012. The number of initiations recorded in 2014 (45) exceeded the previous peak of 41 initiations observed in 1999.¹⁸ The number of countervailing initiations has steadily increased for the last three years.

¹⁸ Report to the TPRB from the Director-General on the Financial and Economic Crisis and Trade Related Developments, 26 March 2009, p. 18.

Chart 3.5 Countervailing investigation initiations

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.33. As with anti-dumping, countervailing duty investigations do not necessarily lead to the imposition of measures. However, a rise in the number of investigations initiated may be an early indicator of a likely rise in the number of measures imposed. Between 2015 and 2017, a total of 57 countervailing measures were imposed (Table 3.7). However, as it can take up to 18 months for an investigation to be concluded, these measures may not necessarily be the result of initiations in the same period.

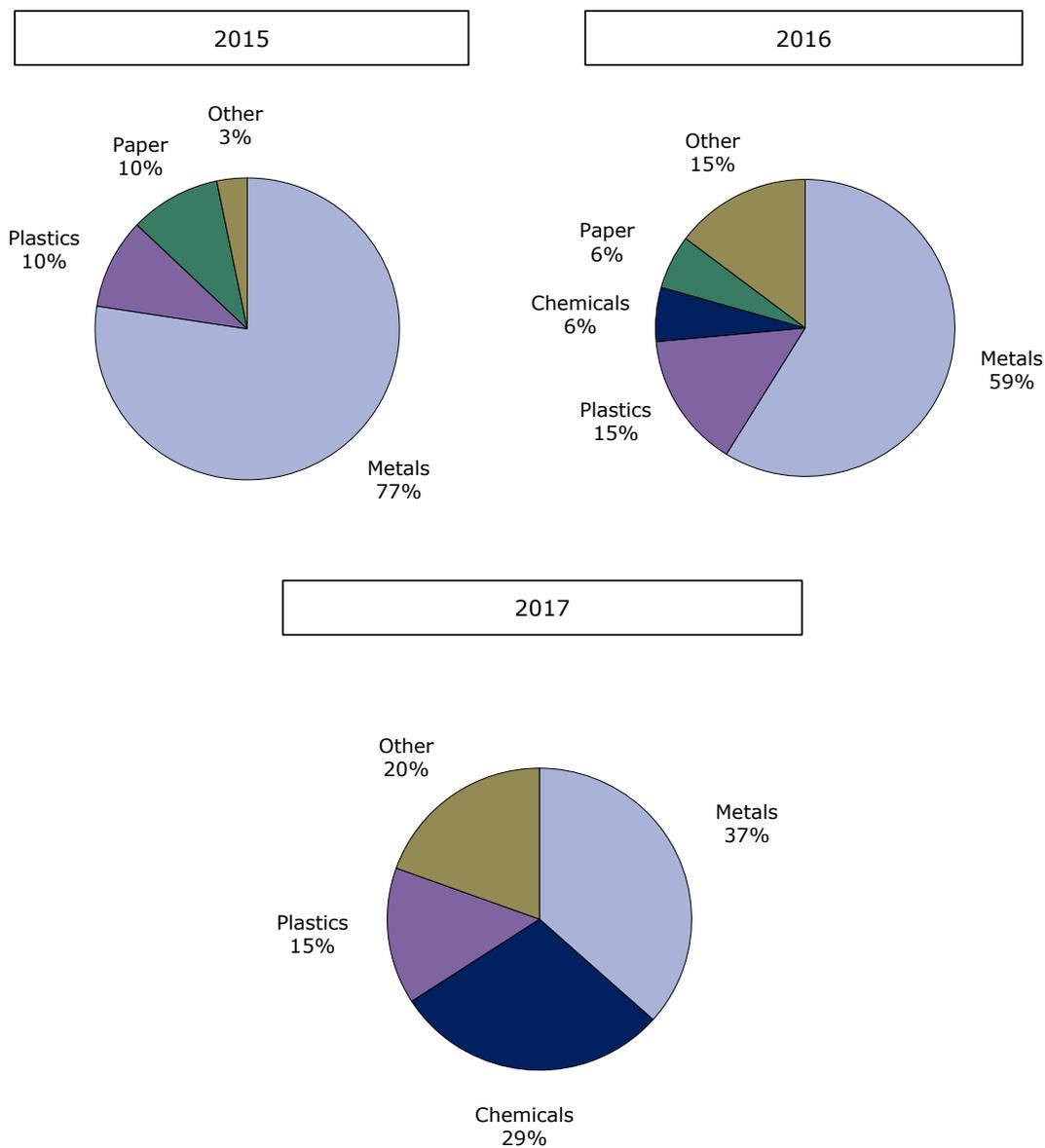
Table 3.7 Number of countervailing measures imposed

Reporting Member	2015	2016	2017
Australia	2	1	3
Brazil	0	1	0
Canada	2	2	1
China	0	0	1
European Union	1	1	1
India	0	1	1
Peru	0	1	0
Ukraine	0	1	0
United States	10	16	11
Total	15	24	18

Source: WTO Secretariat

3.34. Concerning the products affected by countervailing investigations, Chart 3.6 shows that metals accounted for most of the initiations reported between 2015 and 2017, accounting for 77%, 59% and 37% of all initiations, respectively. For the three periods combined, 58 of the 106 total initiations recorded covered metals and 48 of these targeted steel products. The United States initiated 28 of the 48 investigations on steel products. Five of the 11 steel-related initiations in 2017 involve products from China.

3.35. Plastics and chemicals were the second-most investigated sectors between 2015 and 2017, with 14 initiations for each, followed by paper products with 6 initiations.

Chart 3.6 Countervailing duty initiations by product

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.36. In terms of countries or customs territories affected by new countervailing investigations, 12 exporting Members were affected in 2015, 11 in 2016 and 19 in 2017. China was the most frequent target of investigations, accounting for 37% of all investigations between 2015 and 2017. India, the second most frequent target, accounted for 16% of all initiations, followed by Turkey, which accounted for 7%.

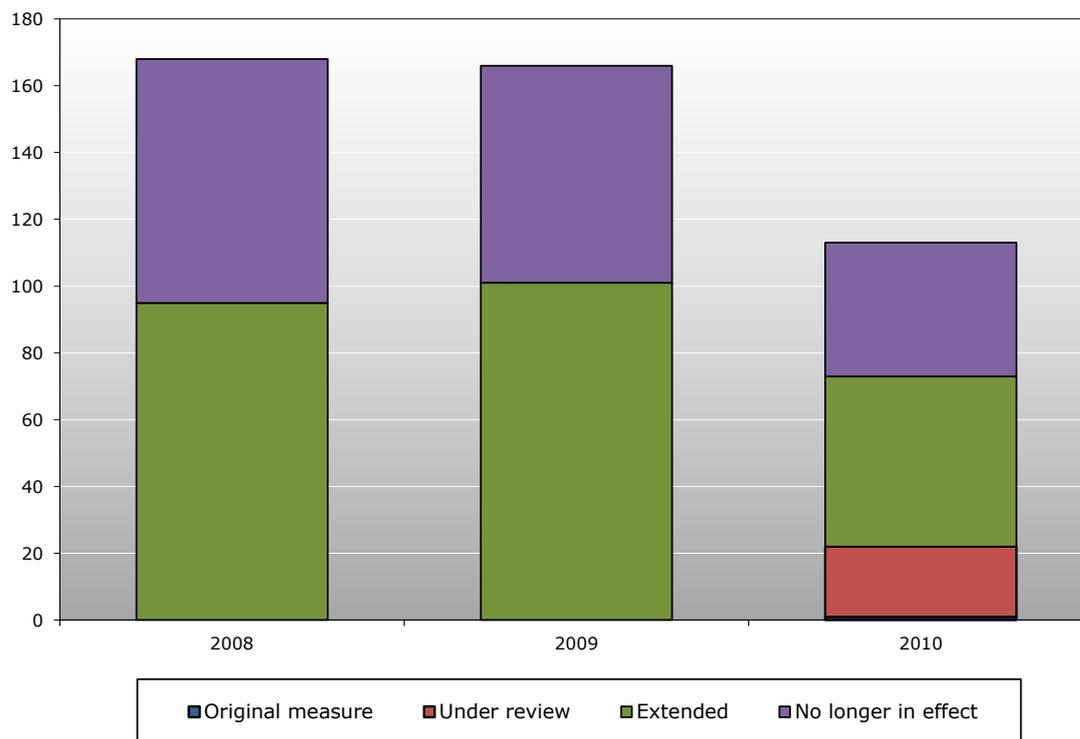
Sunset Reviews

3.37. This Section examines the effect the global financial crisis may have had on anti-dumping (AD) and countervailing actions (CVD), by analysing the extent to which measures imposed following the financial crisis have been extended or have expired (or have otherwise been terminated) - suggesting that the financial crisis could have been a factor that contributed to the imposition of the measure. This Section, therefore, examines measures imposed as a result of investigations initiated in 2008, before the financial crisis, as well as 2009 and 2010, when the full effects of the financial crisis were being felt.¹⁹

3.38. The relevant WTO Agreements stipulate that AD and CVD measures can remain in force only for as long as necessary to counteract injury caused by dumped or subsidized imports. In addition, they must expire no later than five years after their imposition unless it is determined, through a review, that removal of a measure would likely lead to a continuation or recurrence of dumping or subsidization and injury. In such a case, the measure can be extended for up to a further five years. This review process is often referred to as a sunset review. Investigating authorities generally invite applications for a sunset review before a measure expires, and in the absence of a review, they allow the measure to lapse.

3.39. As at 31 December 2017, measures imposed as a result of investigations initiated in 2008-2010 were in various stages of their lifecycle, with some under review²⁰, some being extended and some having expired. Chart 3.7 shows the status as at 31 December 2017 of AD and CVD measures resulting from investigations initiated in 2008, 2009 and 2010 by WTO Members.

Chart 3.7 Status of measures resulting from AD and CVD investigations initiated in 2008, 2009 and 2010



Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.40. All of the 168 measures resulting from investigations initiated by WTO Members in 2008 have now been subject to expiry action (either a sunset review or termination), along with all of

¹⁹ Given the application requirements for AD and CVD investigations, it is assumed that investigations in response to the financial crisis would not have been initiated before January 2009.

²⁰ A sunset review must be initiated prior to the expiration date of the measure, but the measure may remain in force after this date pending the outcome of the review.

the 166 measures for 2009. Only one of the 113 measures resulting from investigations initiated in 2010 has not yet been subject to any expiry action.

Table 3.8 Proportion of expiring measures that were subject to a sunset review for all WTO Members (based on the year the investigation was initiated)

Expiring measures	Investigation initiated in		
	2008	2009	2010 ^a
Not reviewed	36%	28%	22%
Reviewed	64%	72%	78%

a Only 81 measures resulting from investigations initiated in 2010 have so far expired or been subject to review.

Note: Based on the year the investigation was initiated.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.41. Table 3.8 shows the proportion of measures that were due to expire for which a sunset review has been conducted. Measures not reviewed will automatically expire. For measures resulting from investigations initiated in 2009 ("the 2009 measures"), 72% were reviewed, higher than the 64% found for 2008 ("the 2008 measures"); however, there is insufficient information to determine whether this difference is significant.

3.42. As at 31 December 2017, 107 sunset reviews had been completed for measures resulting from investigations initiated in 2008, 120 for 2009 and 64 for 2010 (Table 3.9). Available information suggests that the expiry of the measure would lead to a continuation or recurrence of dumping/subsidization and injury and, as a result, governments 89% of the 2008 measures and 84% of the 2009 measures were extended, i.e. no significant change after the financial crisis began. Preliminary data for 2010 remain broadly along the same lines. In other words, based on the data currently available, there is no discernible change in extension versus expiry of measures coinciding with the financial crisis.

Table 3.9 Results from completed reviews (based on the year the investigation was initiated)

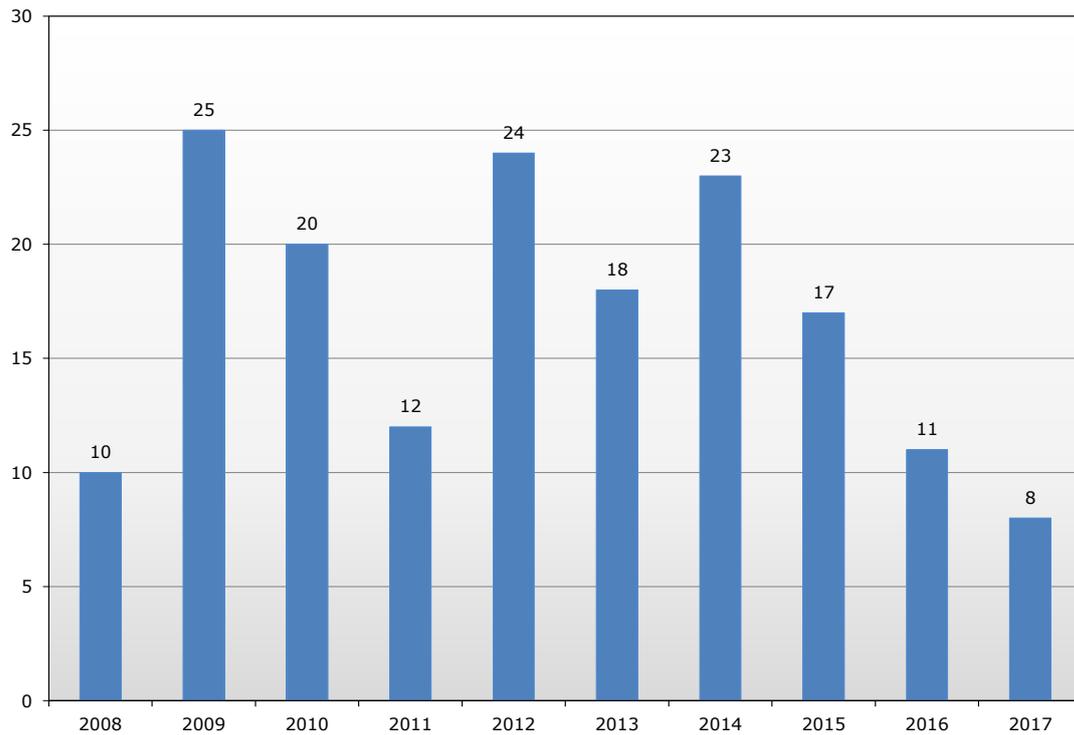
	Investigation initiated in		
	2008	2009	2010
Number of completed reviews	107	120	64
Measure extended	89%	84%	63%
Expiry of measure	11%	16%	16%

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Safeguard measures

3.43. Unlike AD and CVD measures, safeguard measures are temporary measures imposed in response to increased imports of goods that are causing serious injury and are imposed on products from all exporting countries. Thus, safeguards are subject to different rules and timelines than AD and CVD measures, and are not directly comparable to these other types of trade remedies.

3.44. Chart 3.8 shows the recent trend of initiations of safeguard investigations. Setting aside the exceptionally large figure (34) recorded in 2002, the year 2009 saw the largest number of safeguard initiations (25) since 1995 (in 2000 25 initiations were also recorded), and the years 2012 and 2014 saw the second and third-largest. From that high level, initiations of safeguard investigations have declined for three consecutive years and its major users have remained relatively inactive. For example, Indonesia, which had been imposing on average three safeguard measures per year between 2011 and 2015, did not impose any measure in 2016 or 2017. Conversely, new users have appeared; for example, the GCC countries initiated three safeguard investigations in 2016 and 2017. Table 3.10 shows the breakdown of the Members that initiated these investigations. The United States, whose last safeguard investigation was in 2001, initiated two safeguard investigations in 2017; i.e. one on solar cells and one on washing machines.

Chart 3.8 Safeguard investigation initiations (2008-2017)

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Table 3.10 Initiations of safeguard measures

(number of new investigations)

Reporting Member	2015	2016	2017
Chile	4	0	0
China	0	1	0
Egypt	2	0	0
India	2	1	1
Indonesia	1	0	0
Jordan	0	1	0
Malaysia	1	2	0
Morocco	1	0	0
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of ^a	0	2	1
South Africa ^b	0	2	0
Thailand	0	1	0
Tunisia	1	0	0
Turkey	1	0	2
Ukraine	1	0	1
United States	0	0	2
Viet Nam	2	1	1
Zambia	1	0	0
Total	17	11	8

a Investigations are initiated at the level of the GCC.

b Notified by South Africa; investigations are initiated by SACU on behalf of all of its members collectively.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.45. The decline in the number of initiations is mainly driven by the fact that Members that previously often resorted to safeguard actions now do so less often. India, having initiated the most investigations in the years 2014 and 2015, initiated only one in 2016 and one in 2017.

3.46. On the other hand, imposition figures paint a different picture. There were 10 impositions in 2017, which takes the level almost back to the same as the recent highs of 11 impositions recorded in 2011, 2014 and 2015.

Table 3.11 Imposition of safeguard measures by calendar year

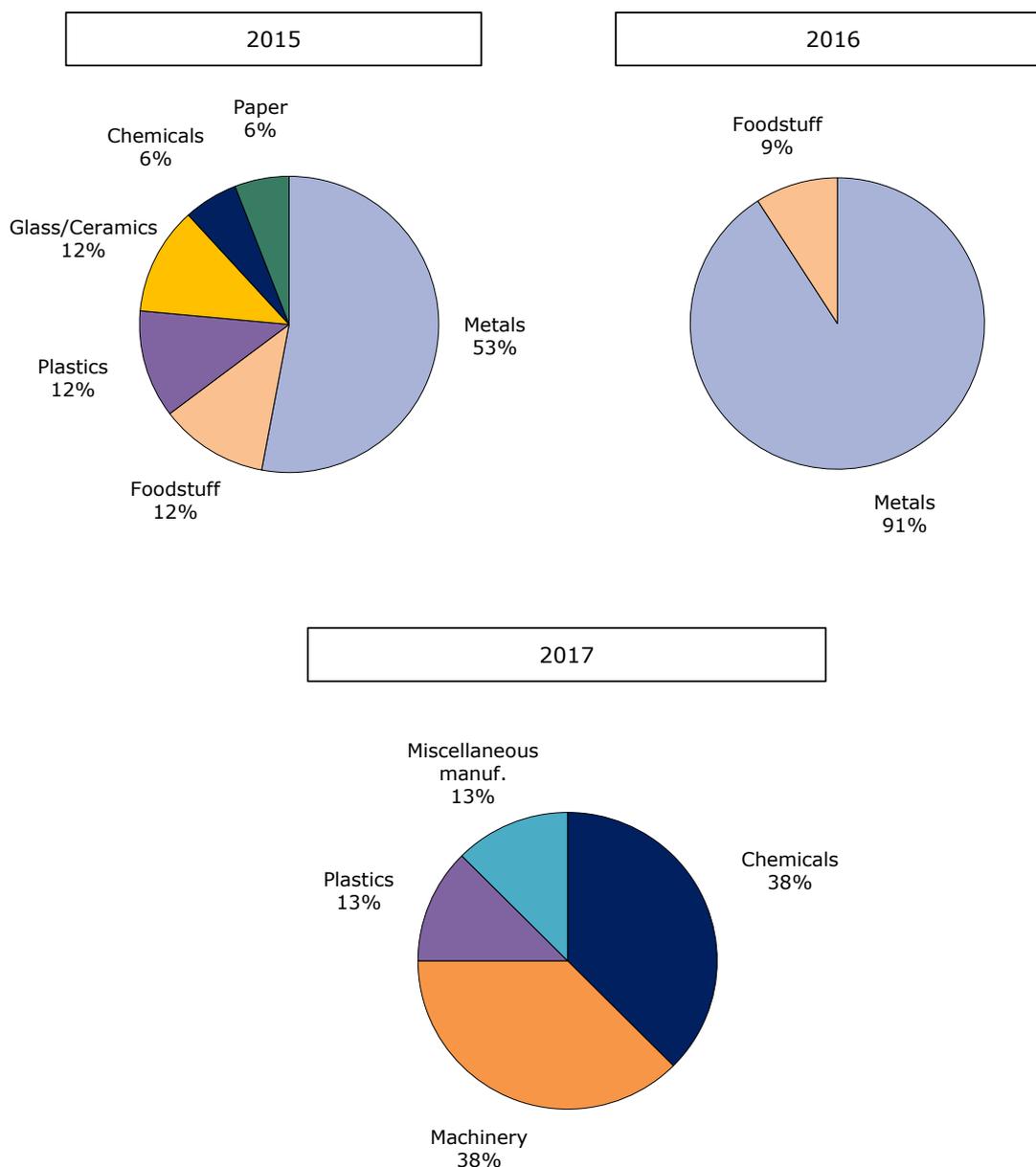
Year	Number	Year	Number	Year	Number
2000	7	2006	7	2012	6
2001	9	2007	5	2013	8
2002	14	2008	6	2014	11
2003	15	2009	10	2015	11
2004	6	2010	4	2016	6
2005	6	2011	11	2017	10

Note: Some notifications are ambiguous about the timing when the measure takes effect. For those notifications, Members sometimes subsequently file an additional notification clarifying, *ex post*, the timing of the taking effect. For this reason, the number of impositions indicated in past Reports can differ from the figures indicated in the most recent Report.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.47. Chart 3.9 shows the products covered by these investigations. The number of investigations initiated in the metals sector (the vast majority of which involve steel products) dropped to zero in 2017. Its share had been rapidly rising from 35% (in 2014), to 53% (in 2015), and then to 91% in 2016. While this drop does not mean that safeguard measures in the metal sector have saturated, it marks a notable break from the trend.

3.48. Further to the initiation of the two safeguard investigations in 2017, the United States imposed these two measures in February 2018 (these are not included in the statistics above). The last time the United States imposed a safeguard measure was in March 2002 (on steel products). Also not included in the statistics above is the European Union's safeguard investigation on steel products in March 2018. The last time the European Union initiated a safeguard investigation was in 2002 (on steel products).

Chart 3.9 Safeguard initiations by product

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.3 Sanitary and phytosanitary measures²¹

3.49. Under the SPS Agreement, WTO Members are obliged to provide advance notice of intention to introduce new or modified SPS measures²², or to notify immediately when emergency measures

²¹ Information presented in this Section has been retrieved from the SPS Information Management System (SPS IMS: <http://spsims.wto.org>). This Section is based on notifications to the WTO for the period 1 October 2017 to 31 March 2018. Specific trade concerns (STCs) are only raised at SPS Committee meetings. The information in this Section summarizes the STCs raised at the 2-3 November 2017 and 1-2 March 2018 SPS Committee meetings.

²² Transparency obligations are contained in Article 7 and Annex B of the SPS Agreement. Annex B of the Agreement requires that Members notify measures whose content is not substantially the same as that of an international standard, guideline or recommendation, and when the measure may have a significant effect on trade. However, the Recommended Procedures for Implementing the Transparency Provisions of the SPS Agreement, adopted by the SPS Committee in 2008 (G/SPS/7/Rev.3), recommend that Members also notify

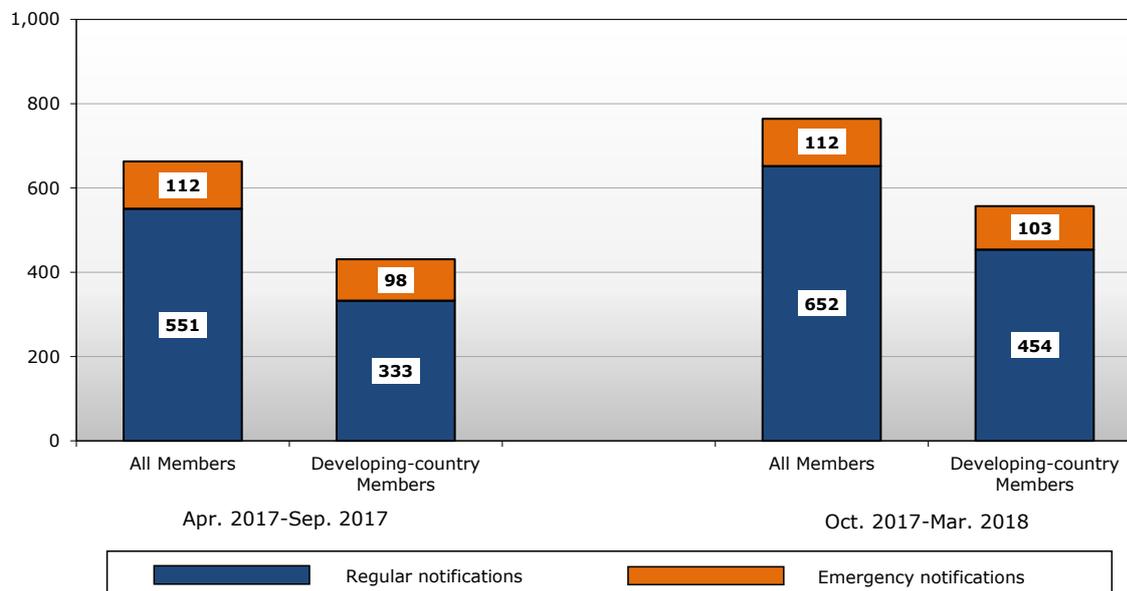
are imposed. The main objective of complying with the SPS notification obligations is to inform other Members about new or changed regulations that may significantly affect trade. Therefore, an increased number of notifications does not automatically imply greater use of protectionist measures, but rather enhanced transparency regarding these measures.

3.50. From October 2017 to March 2018²³, 764 SPS notifications (regular and emergency, including addenda) were submitted to the WTO. Notifications from developing-country Members accounted for 73% of the total number. In the previous six-month period, from April through September 2017, a total of 663 notifications were submitted, of which 65% were by developing-country Members. Consequently, in the period under review, there has been a 12% increase in the share of notifications made by developing-country Members as compared to the previous six-month period.

3.51. With respect to regular notifications (including addenda) during the period under review, WTO Members submitted 652 notifications, 70% of which were submitted by developing-country Members. In the previous six-month period, from April through September 2017, a total of 551 regular notifications were submitted, of which 60% were by developing-country Members. Overall, during the period under review, there was an 18% increase in the total number of regular notifications.

3.52. The total number of notifications of emergency measures as well as the share of emergency notifications submitted by developing-country Members remained stable as compared with the previous period (Chart 3.10). In the review period, 92% of the 112 notifications of emergency measures were submitted by developing-country Members, a similar share to that recorded between April and September 2017. This high proportion of emergency measures notified by developing-country Members might stem from the fact that they do not have as extensive SPS regulatory systems as developed-country Members. Consequently, when facing emergency challenges, they are relatively more likely to have to introduce new regulations or change existing ones.

Chart 3.10 Number of SPS notifications, including regular, emergency and addenda



Source: WTO Secretariat.

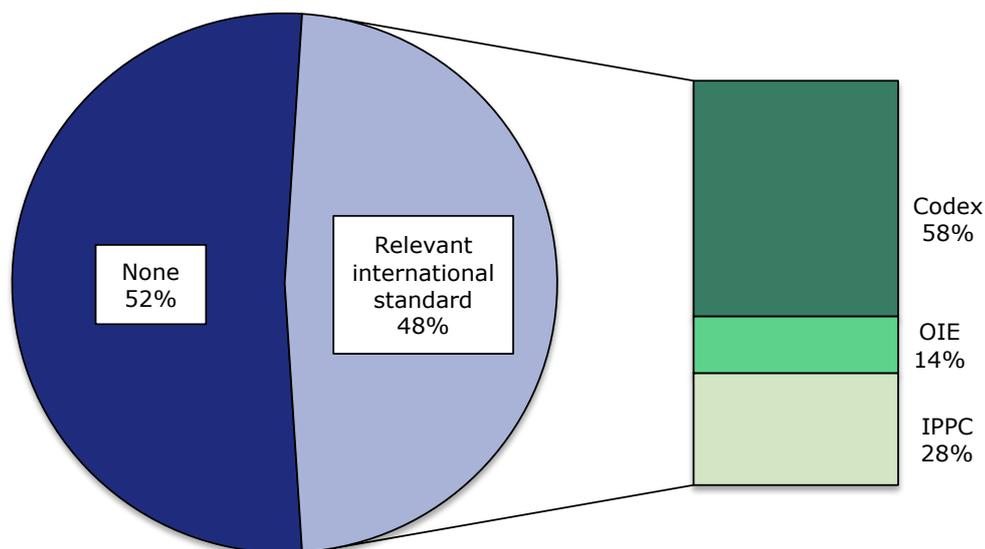
3.53. Many Members are following the recommendation to notify SPS measures even when these are based on a relevant international standard, as this increases transparency. Of the 546 regular notifications (excluding addenda) submitted from October 2017 to March 2018, 252 (48% of the

measures which are based on the relevant international standards, and provide a broad interpretation of effects on trade.

²³ For the SPS section, the review period covers 1 October 2017 to 31 March 2018.

total) indicated that an international standard, guideline or recommendation was applicable to the notified measure. Of these, 58% referred to Codex, 28% to IPPC and 14% to OIE (Chart 3.11). Furthermore, the notification formats include an entry enquiring whether the proposed regulation conforms to the relevant international standard. Of the notifications that have identified a relevant international standard, 88% indicated that the measure was in conformity with, or substantially the same as, the existing international standard, guideline or recommendation.

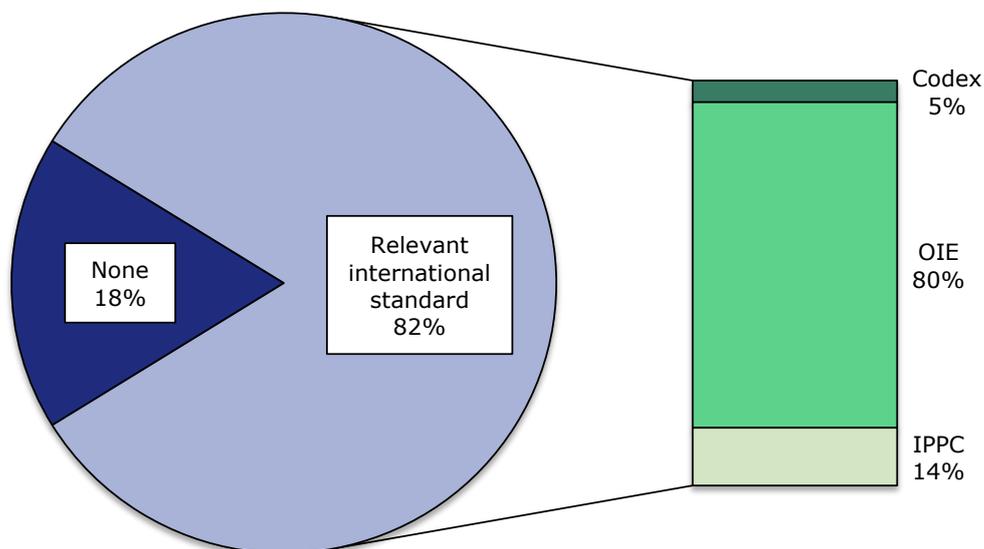
Chart 3.11 Regular SPS notifications and international standards



Note: Codex, OIE and IPPC.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Chart 3.12 Emergency SPS notifications and international standards



Note: Codex Alimentarius (Codex), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.54. International standards often provide useful guidance regarding measures to address disease outbreaks and other emergency situations. For example, 82% of the 67 emergency

notifications (excluding addenda) submitted in the review period indicated that an international standard, guideline or recommendation was applicable to the notified measure (Chart 3.12). All of these indicated that the measure was in conformity with the existing international standard.

3.55. Of the 546 regular notifications (excluding addenda) submitted during the review period, the majority were related to food safety.²⁴ The remaining notifications related to plant protection, animal health, the protection of humans from animal diseases or plant pests and the protection of the Member's territory from other damage from pests. Several of the regular notifications identified more than one objective per measure.

3.56. Of the 67 emergency measures (excluding addenda), the majority related to animal health, followed by food safety, the protection of humans from animal diseases or plant pests, plant protection and the protection of the Member's territory from other damage from pests. Similarly, most of the emergency measures notified identified more than one objective per measure.

3.57. While no formal provision for "counter notification" exists, concerns regarding the failure to notify an SPS measure, or on a notified SPS measure, can be raised as an STC at any of the three regular meetings of the SPS Committee each year. In the two Committee meetings of 2-3 November 2017 and 1-2 March 2018, 12 new STCs were raised. Four of these STCs related to food safety, three to animal health, three to plant health, and two to other types of concerns (Table 3.12).

Table 3.12 New SPS STCs raised between November 2017 and March 2018

STC	Document title	Members maintaining the measure	Members raising the concern	Members supporting the concern	Date raised	Primary objective
428	EU maximum residue levels for acrinathrin, metalaxyl and thiabendazole	European Union	Peru	Bolivia, Plurinational State of; Brazil; Colombia; Costa Rica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Guatemala; Nigeria; United States	02/11/2017	Food safety
429	United Arab Emirates measures on plant protection products	United Arab Emirates	Turkey		02/11/2017	Plant health
430	EU maximum level of cadmium in foodstuffs	European Union	Peru	Colombia; Costa Rica; Côte d'Ivoire; Dominican Republic; Ghana; Guatemala; Madagascar; Nigeria	02/11/2017	Food safety
431	South Africa's import restrictions on poultry due to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza	South Africa	European Union		02/11/2017	Animal health
432	EU restrictions on poultry meat due to Salmonella detection	European Union	Brazil		02/11/2017	Food safety
433	Turkey's restrictions on rough rice imports	Turkey	United States		02/11/2017	Plant health
434	India's fumigation requirements for teak tree wood	India	Colombia	Belize; Costa Rica; Liberia	02/11/2017	Plant health

²⁴ The objective of an SPS measure falls under one or more of the following categories: (i) food safety, (ii) animal health, (iii) plant protection, (iv) protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, and (v) protect territory from other damages from pests. Members are required to identify the purpose of the measure in their notifications. It is not uncommon for more than one objective to be identified for a measure.

STC	Document title	Members maintaining the measure	Members raising the concern	Members supporting the concern	Date raised	Primary objective
435	Viet Nam's draft amendment to circular 24 on MRLs for veterinary drugs - concerns of the United States	Viet Nam	United States	Canada; New Zealand	01/03/2018	Food safety
436	Mexico's market access requirement for casein products	Mexico	India		01/03/2018	Animal health
437	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's temporary ban on the importation of fish, crustaceans and other aquatic animal products	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	Viet Nam		01/03/2018	Animal health
438	Viet Nam's market access requirements for "white" offal	Viet Nam	United States	New Zealand	01/03/2018	Other concerns
439	US import restrictions on apples and pears	United States	European Union		01/03/2018	Other concerns

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.58. Twenty-two previously-raised STCs were discussed at the November 2017 or March 2018 SPS Committee meetings.²⁵ Of these, five addressed persistent problems that have been discussed seven times or more, including two STCs which have been discussed 10 and 32 times respectively (Table 3.13). In addition, four STCs raised for the first time in November 2017 were discussed again in March 2018.²⁶

Table 3.13 Previously-raised SPS STCs discussed in November 2017 and/or March 2018

STC	Document title	Members maintaining the measure	Members raising the concern	Members supporting the concern	First date raised	Times subsequently raised
184	Lack of transparency for certain SPS measures	China	Israel; United States	Australia; Canada; Chile; Costa Rica; European Union; Guatemala; Japan; Mexico; Norway; Singapore; Switzerland; Thailand	01/03/2004	5
193	General import restrictions due to BSE		European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; Uruguay	01/06/2004	32
271	Restrictions on imports of swine meat	Mexico	Brazil		24/06/2008	3

²⁵ Fourteen of the previously raised STCs were discussed in both meetings.

²⁶ These were STC 428, STC 430, STC 431 and STC 432.

STC	Document title	Members maintaining the measure	Members raising the concern	Members supporting the concern	First date raised	Times subsequently raised
382	European Union revised proposal for categorization of compounds as endocrine disruptors	European Union	Argentina; China; United States	Australia; Benin; Brazil; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Canada; Central African Republic; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Egypt; The Gambia; Guatemala; Guinea; India; Indonesia; Jamaica; Kenya; Madagascar; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Nigeria; Pakistan; Paraguay; Peru; Philippines; Senegal; Sierra Leone; South Africa; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; Togo; Uruguay; Viet Nam; Zambia	25/03/2014	10
390	The Russian Federation's import restrictions on processed fishery products from Estonia and Latvia	Russian Federation	European Union		15/07/2015	8
392	China's import restrictions due to African swine fever	China	European Union		15/07/2015	8
393	Republic of Korea's import restrictions due to African swine fever	Korea, Republic of	European Union		15/07/2015	8
395	China's proposed amendments to the implementation regulations on safety assessment of agricultural GMOs	China	Paraguay; United States		15/07/2015	6
406	China's import restrictions due to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza	China	European Union; United States		16/03/2016	5
411	Russian Federation import restrictions on certain animal products from Germany	Russian Federation	European Union		30/06/2016	5

STC	Document title	Members maintaining the measure	Members raising the concern	Members supporting the concern	First date raised	Times subsequently raised
415	US seafood import monitoring programme	United States	China	Chile; Russian Federation	27/10/2016	4
416	China's import ban on fresh mangosteen	China	Indonesia		27/10/2016	2
418	Viet Nam's suspension of groundnut seed imports	Viet Nam	Senegal		22/03/2017	2
421	Thailand's import restriction on papaya seeds	Thailand	Chinese Taipei		22/03/2017	3
422	France's dimethoate-related restrictions on imports	European Union	United States	Argentina; Canada	13/07/2017	2
423	Brazil's measures on bananas	Brazil	Ecuador		13/07/2017	1
426	The Russian Federation's import restrictions on wine	Russian Federation	Montenegro	Moldova, Republic of	13/07/2017	1
427	India's fumigation requirements for cashew nuts	India	Senegal	Burkina Faso; Colombia; Kenya; Madagascar; Mozambique; Nigeria; Russian Federation; Togo; Ukraine; United States	13/07/2017	1
428	EU maximum residue levels for acrinathrin, metalaxyl and thiabendazole	European Union	Peru	Bolivia, Plurinational State of; Brazil; Colombia; Costa Rica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Guatemala; Nigeria; United States	02/11/2017	1
430	EU maximum level of cadmium in foodstuffs	European Union	Peru	Colombia; Costa Rica; Côte d'Ivoire; Dominican Republic; Ghana; Guatemala; Madagascar; Nigeria	02/11/2017	1
431	South Africa's import restrictions on poultry due to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza	South Africa	European Union		02/11/2017	1
432	EU restrictions on poultry meat due to Salmonella detection	European Union	Brazil		02/11/2017	1

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.59. In September 2017, the Secretariat contacted all Members who had raised STCs that had not been discussed in the previous year, to request an update on their status. Twelve Members responded and indicated that 17 STCs had been resolved, and seven STCs had been partially resolved. An STC was reported as partially resolved when (i) it was only reported as resolved by some of the Members that had raised the STC; (ii) trade had resumed for some, but not all, of the products covered by the STC; or (iii) trade had resumed with one of the Members maintaining the measure subject to the STC.²⁷

Box 3.2 Enhancing monitoring and transparency in SPS and TBT

Accessing relevant information on SPS or TBT product requirements in export markets can be an important challenge, especially for SMEs. The WTO helps address this potential trade barrier through a combination of transparency requirements included in the SPS and TBT Agreements and online tools that make information easily accessible: the SPS and TBT Information Management Systems (SPS/TBT IMSs) and ePing.

WTO Members are required to notify proposed SPS and TBT measures if they may significantly affect international trade. Each year, the WTO receives more than 3,500 such notifications.

Publicly available online tools help stakeholders find notifications of relevance to their trade:

- SPS IMS www.spsims.wto.org,
- TBT IMS www.tbtime.wto.org, and
- ePing www.epingalert.org.

The SPS/TBT IMSs are search-platforms that help find, among others, SPS or TBT notifications by using parameters such as products, notifying Member and objective. The ePing is an online alert system allowing users (governments, economic operators, civil society) to receive daily or weekly email alerts about SPS and TBT notifications covering products and markets of interest to them.

Timely access to notifications is crucial given the 60-day period that normally should be provided for submitting comments on regulations, usually still in draft-form. The ePing platform also facilitates dialogue among the public and private sectors to discuss and share information on notifications of concern, allowing stakeholders to address potential trade problems at an early stage of the regulatory lifecycle.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.4 Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)²⁸

3.60. Under the TBT Agreement, WTO Members are required to notify their intention to introduce new or modified TBT measures, or to notify adopted emergency measures immediately. The principal objective of complying with the TBT notification obligations is to inform other Members about new or changed regulations that may significantly affect trade.²⁹ Therefore, an increased number of notifications does not necessarily imply greater use of trade-restrictive measures. Rather, TBT notification obligations are meant to promote enhanced transparency regarding measures taken to address legitimate policy objectives, e.g. the protection of human, animal or plant life or health, or the environment.³⁰

3.61. From 1 October 2017 to 30 April 2018, WTO Members submitted 1,148 new regular notifications of TBT measures³¹, which represents an 18% increase compared to the preceding seven-month period.³² The vast majority of regular TBT notifications (around 85%) continue to come from developing countries.

²⁷ This information was circulated in document RD/SPS/28/Rev.1 of 19 February 2018.

²⁸ For the TBT Section, the review period covers 1 October 2017 to 30 April 2018.

²⁹ Under the TBT Agreement, WTO Members are not *required* to notify *all* proposed TBT measures (technical regulations or conformity assessment procedures). Rather, as a minimum, they are *only* required to notify those measures that may have a *significant effect on trade* of other Members and are *not in accordance with* a relevant international standard (in the case of technical regulations), or relevant guides or recommendations issued by international standardizing bodies (in the case of conformity assessment procedures). However, the TBT Committee, in its Sixth Triennial Review, encouraged Members, "for the purpose of enhancing predictability and transparency in situations where it is difficult to establish or foresee whether a draft technical regulation or conformity assessment procedure may have a 'significant effect on trade of other Members', to notify such measures."

³⁰ TBT Agreement obligations are also subject to 25 separate Special and Differential Treatment (S&D) provisions, conferring developing country Members, and LDC Members in particular, with certain flexibilities. The TBT Agreement contains more S&D provisions than any other WTO agreement apart from the GATT 1994.

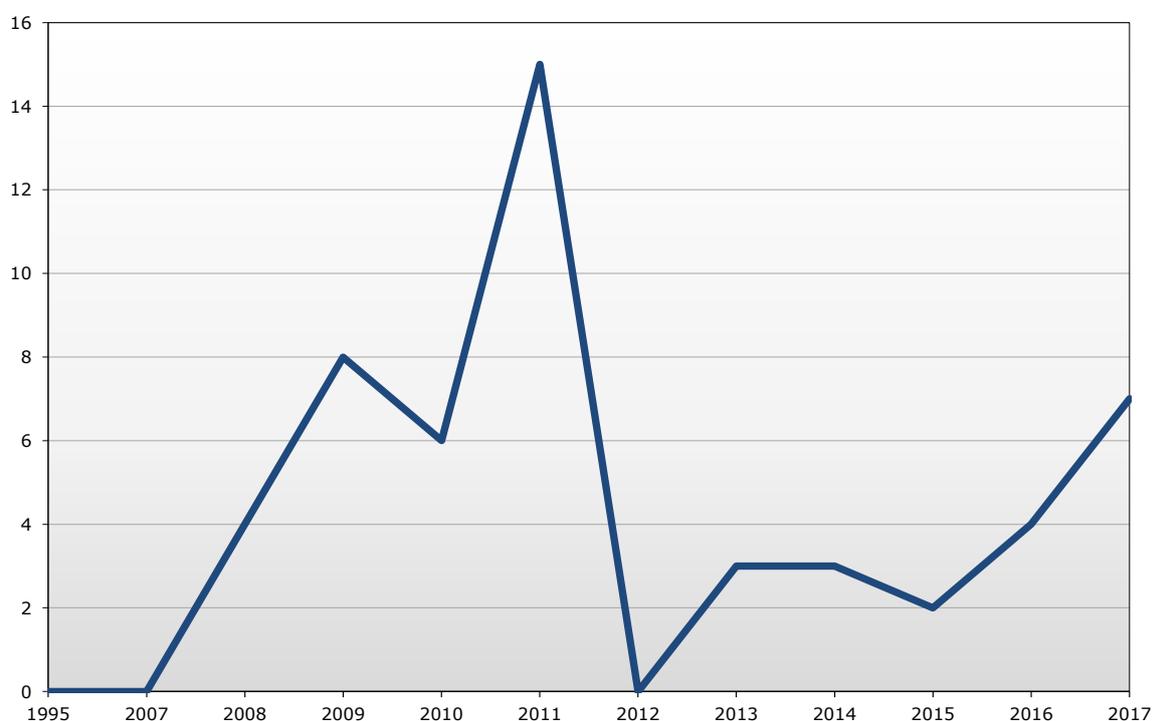
³¹ Viewed at: <http://tbtime.wto.org>.

³² From 1 March to 30 September 2017, the overall number of new regular notifications was 973.

3.62. The Members which notified the most measures during the review period - covering more than 70% of all new regular notifications - were the United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, State of Kuwait and Yemen (214 collectively as Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Standardization Organization (GSO) members)³³, Uganda (83), Kenya (77), the European Union (70)³⁴, Rwanda (64), Brazil (63), United States (54), China (51), Tanzania (49), Israel (39), the Republic of Korea (33), and Mexico (31).

3.63. Of the 1,148 new regular notifications received during the review period, the majority indicated as the main objective the protection of human health or safety.³⁵ The remaining notifications related to quality requirements, the protection of the environment and the prevention of deceptive practices and consumer protection. Although national security does not feature among the most indicated objectives, since 2007, there has been a marked spike in notified TBT measures mentioning this as an objective (Chart 3.13).

Chart 3.13 Regular notifications indicating national security as their objective, 1995-2017



Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.64. In terms of "follow-up notifications"³⁶, a total of 495 were submitted during the review period, similar to the 466 notified during the preceding seven-month period. The continuing and

³³ The GSO-GCC has *ad hoc* observer status to the TBT Committee. Consistently with the trend already noted in previous reports, during the current review period the increase in regionally-harmonized GCC draft technical regulations notified by GCC-GSO members in joint notifications on behalf of all its seven members (providing a common deadline for comments and facilitating the handling of comments received) has continued.

³⁴ Fifty-one EU-wide regular notifications plus 19 notifications from certain individual EU member States: Estonia (1); France (7); Italy (2); Lithuania (1); Slovenia (2); Spain (2); Sweden (1); and the United Kingdom (3).

³⁵ A TBT measure may pursue a variety of legitimate objectives, although historically the majority fall under one of the following categories: the protection of human, animal or plant life or health, or the environment. Members are required to identify the purpose of the measure in their notifications. It is not uncommon that more than one objective is identified for a measure.

³⁶ Follow-up notifications are called "addenda", "corrigenda", or "supplements". They can also be in the form of "revisions" when the original measure has been substantially re-drafted prior to adoption or entry into force. A revision replaces the original notification. They are linked to the original notification of a measure, and

frequent use by Members of this type of notifications is a positive development as they help increase transparency and predictability across the measures' regulatory lifecycle.

3.65. WTO Members use the TBT Committee as a forum for discussing trade issues related to specific measures (technical regulations, standards or conformity assessment procedures) maintained by other Members. These STCs normally relate to proposed draft measures notified to the TBT Committee, or to the implementation of existing measures. Issues raised in such STCs can range from simple requests for additional information and clarification, to questions on the consistency of measures with TBT Agreement disciplines.

3.66. During the review period, a total of 121 (13 new and 108 previously-raised) STCs were discussed during the two Committee meetings that fell within this period: 62 (7 new and 55 previously-raised) at the November 2017 meeting, and 59 (6 new and 53 previously-raised) at the March 2018 meeting.

3.67. With respect to the 13 new STCs raised during the review period, as depicted in Table 3.14, measures by the European Union (4), China (3) and Viet Nam (2) attracted the majority of these concerns, followed by Ecuador, India, Israel and Thailand (1 each). These new STCs covered a wide range of products/issues, including: cybersecurity, solid wastes, toys, processed food and food products, refrigerating appliances, automobiles, tobacco products, cosmetic and medicinal products, biofuels and spirits.

Table 3.14 New STCs raised in the TBT Committee meetings of November 2017 and March 2018

New STCs with respect to measures maintained by Members
Viet Nam: Concerning draft Cybersecurity Law (ID 544) (raised by <i>Japan, United States and New Zealand</i>)
China: Concerning Catalogue of Solid Wastes Forbidden to Import into China (ID 545) (raised by <i>Japan, United States, European Union, Australia and Canada</i>);
India: Concerning amended regulation on toy imports (ID 546) (raised by <i>European Union, China, United States, Mexico and Canada</i>);
China: Concerning certification requirements for processed foods (ID 547) (raised by <i>European Union, United States, Guatemala, Singapore and Chinese Taipei</i>);
Ecuador: Concerning household refrigerating appliances (ID 548) (raised by <i>Colombia</i>);
Viet Nam: Concerning the Decree on the regulation on conditions for automobiles manufacturing, assembling importing and automotive warranty and maintenance services (ID 549) (raised by <i>Japan, United States and Thailand</i>);
European Union: Concerning the establishment and operation of a traceability system for tobacco products (ID 550) (raised by <i>Cuba</i>);
China: Concerning Chinese environmental protection control standards for imported solid waste as raw materials (ID 551) (raised by <i>European Union, United States, Australia, Japan and Canada</i>);
Israel: Concerning addendum to the Pharmacist Regulations (Cosmetics 5778-2018) (ID 552) (raised by <i>European Union and United States</i>);
European Union: Concerning amendments to the Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC) (ID 553) (raised by <i>Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Nigeria</i>);
European Union: Concerning laws, regulations, procedures and guidelines on marketing authorization for medicinal products (ID 554) (raised by <i>India</i>);
European Union: Concerning application of Regulation No. 1169/2011 and Regulation (EC) No. 1924/2006 regarding the labelling of food products, in not prohibiting or examining the use of "palm oil free" labels (ID 555) (raised by <i>Colombia, Indonesia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Thailand and Malaysia</i>);
Thailand: Concerning new certification requirements under the Thai Ministry of Finance's Ministerial Notification on Importation of Spirits into the Kingdom of Thailand (B.E 2560) (ID 556) (raised by <i>Australia, United States, Japan and European Union</i>).

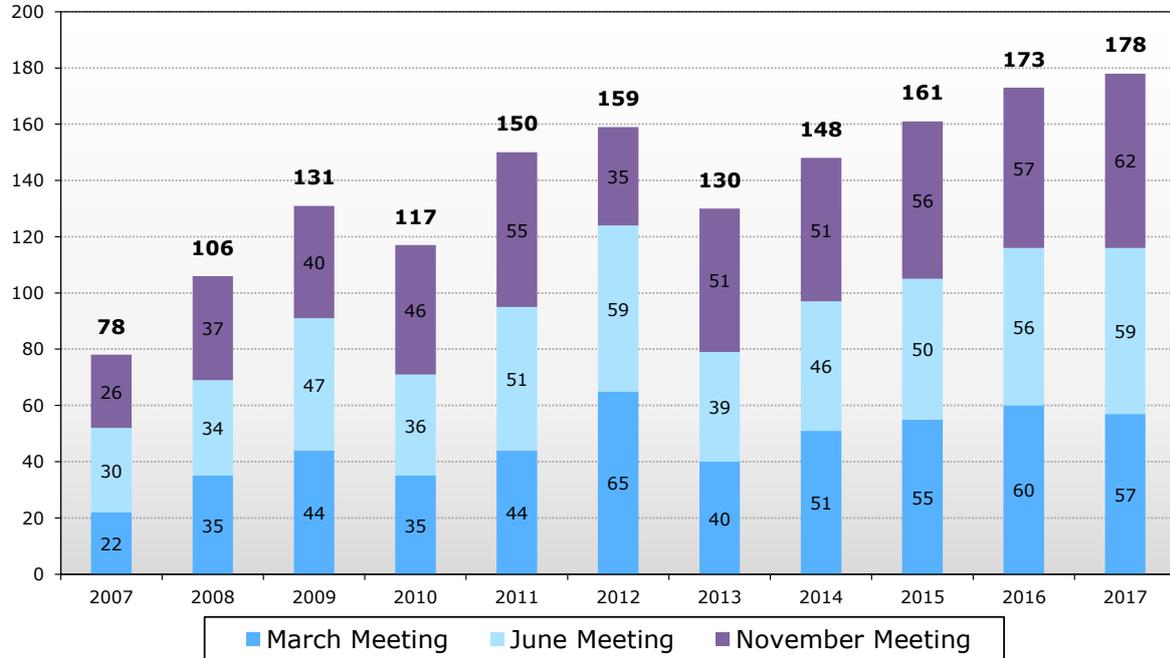
Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.68. As indicated in Chart 3.14, STCs are frequently discussed in the regular meetings of the TBT Committee, with almost 60 STCs discussed per meeting in recent years. Depending on the extent of the trade-restrictiveness and importance of the issue to the Members raising the STC, the same measure may come up at one or more meetings of the TBT Committee. For example, an STC may be discussed at only one meeting as a *new* STC, and subsequently a resolution to the

include additional pertinent information, such as the extension of a notification comment period (addenda), the withdrawal or revocation of a measure (addenda), or when a measure is substantially redrafted prior to adoption or entry into force (revision), or when the adopted final text of a measure becomes available (addenda). See G/TBT/35 for further information on different types of TBT notifications.

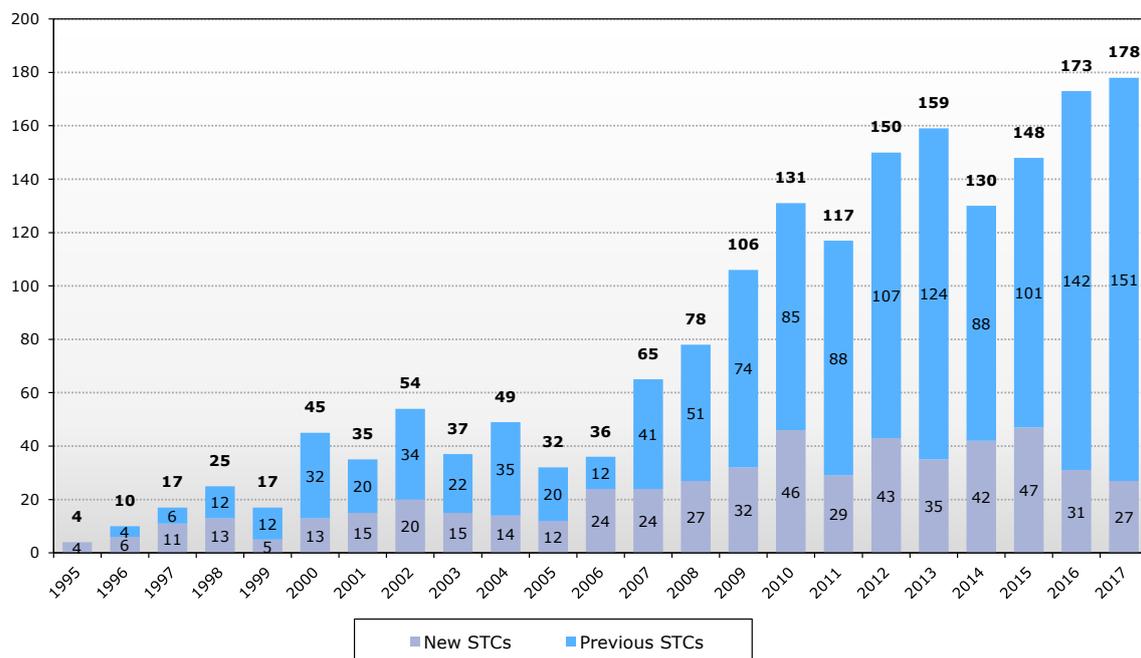
trade concern may be found. Alternatively, an STC may be discussed at subsequent meetings, as a *previously-raised STC*. Previously-raised STCs are usually reserved for long-standing and more serious concerns. Since 1995, Members have raised 554 *new* STCs.

Chart 3.14 STCs raised per committee meeting, January 2007 to December 2017



Note: With a view to providing a more accurate image of the number of concerns discussed in the TBT Committee in a given year, the methodology of counting *previously-raised STCs* has been revised. Previously, an STC raised in the TBT Committee in a given year, was counted once, either as a new or as a previously-raised STC. This method resulted in underreporting the number of previously-raised STCs. The new methodology counts an STC each time it is raised: if raised for the first time, it is counted as a new STC, and if it is raised again, it is counted as a previously-raised STC.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Chart 3.15 STCs raised, January 1995 to December 2017

Note: See note for Chart 3.14 above.

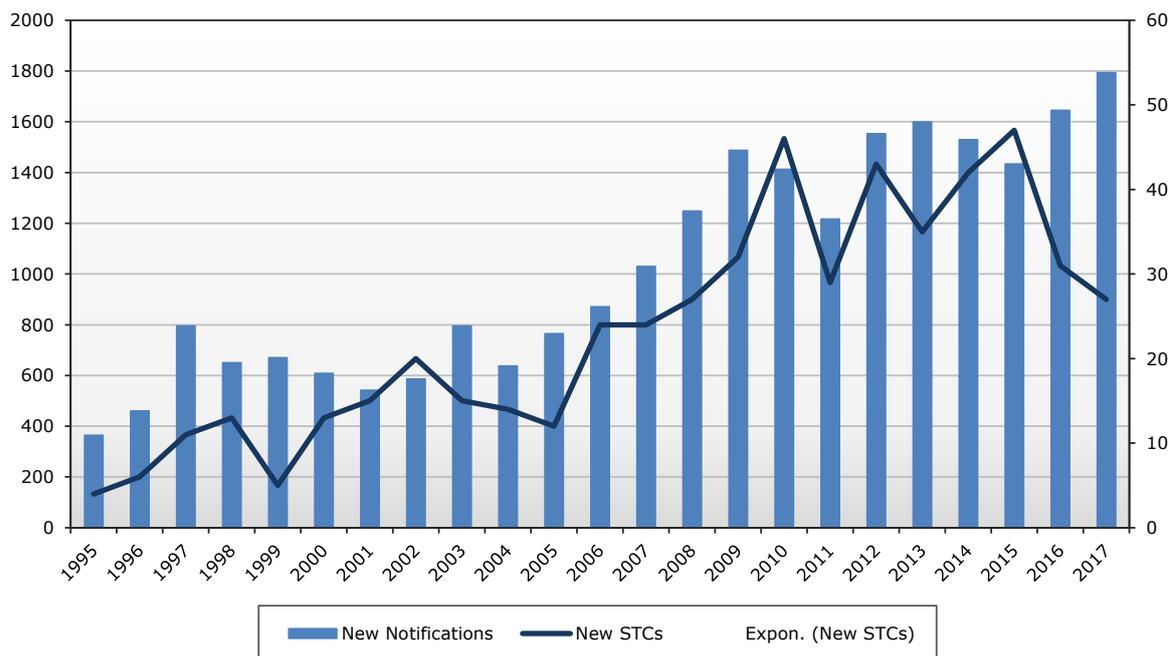
Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.69. Overall, the number of new and previously-raised STCs has been increasing every year, despite Members raising fewer *new* STCs and more *previous* STCs recently. Since 2008, Members have raised more than 100 STCs (new and previous) every year (Chart 3.15).³⁷ During the three Committee meetings held in 2017 more than 178 STCs were discussed, which represents a 174% increase compared to 2007, when 65 STCs were raised. Additionally, as indicated above, the total number of STCs discussed in the first Committee meeting of 2018 was 59 and similar to the trend identified in 2017.

3.70. As illustrated in Chart 3.16, there is a marked correlation between the number of new notifications and new STCs raised each year, although in 2011, 2013, and as of 2016 the number of new notifications has grown while the number of new STCs has fallen, marking a break in the trend.³⁸ In any event, the overall trend suggests an increasing use of the TBT Committee as a forum for Members to raise and resolve trade concerns non-litigiously, rather than allowing them to escalate into formal disputes.

³⁷ In 2017, Members reviewed a total of 178 STCs, a record number. The number of new concerns, however, dropped to 27, 4 less than in 2016. This continues the declining trend in the number of new concerns raised in the Committee since 2014 (47), a decrease of 43%. Source: *Twenty-Third Annual Review of the Implementation and Operation of the TBT Agreement*, G/TBT/40 (12 March 2018), para. 3.23.

³⁸ See *Twenty-Third Annual Review of the Implementation and Operation of the TBT Agreement*, G/TBT/40 (12 March 2018), para. 3.35.

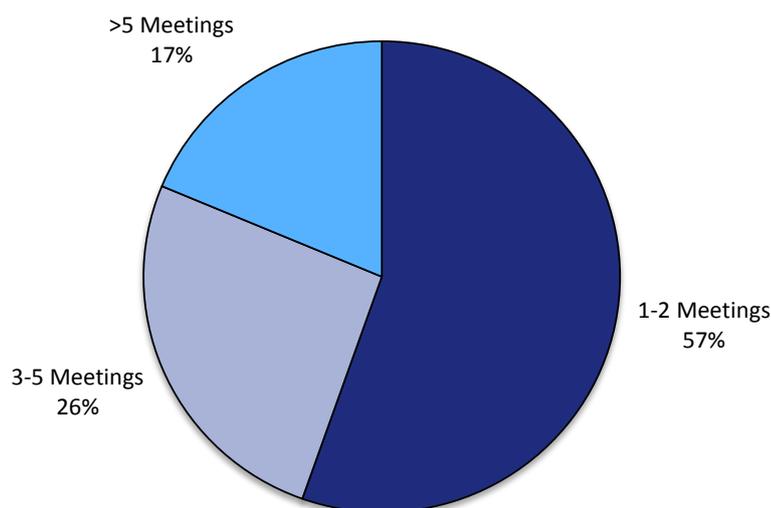
Chart 3.16 Number of TBT notifications and new STCs, January 1995 to December 2017

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.71. As mentioned, STCs may be discussed at subsequent meetings, as previously-raised STCs, and usually represent long-standing and more serious concerns. The majority of STCs (57%) have been raised at one or two Committee meetings, whereas 26% were raised three to five times and 17% were raised more than five times (Chart 3.17). The share of "persistent" STCs, i.e. those raised more than five times, decreased in 2017 in comparison with 2016.

Chart 3.17 STCs raised in the TBT Committee, 1995-2017

(number of times)



Source: WTO Secretariat. Twenty-Third Annual Review of the Implementation and Operation of the TBT Agreement, G/TBT/40 (12 March 2018), Chart 27.

3.72. During the review period, six persistent STCs that were raised more than 16 times in TBT Committee meetings, were discussed (Table 3.15).

Table 3.15 Persistent STCs raised between 1 October 2017 and 30 April 2018

Persistent STCs
India: Pneumatic tyres and tubes for automotive vehicles (ID 133) - <i>raised 34 times since 2006</i>
India: New Telecommunications-related Rules (Department of Telecommunications, No. 842-725/2005-VAS/Vol. III (3 December 2009); No. 10-15/2009-AS-III/193 (18 March 2010); and No. 10-15/2009-AS.III/Vol. II/(Pt.)/(25-29) (28 July 2010); Department of Telecommunications, No. 10-15/2009-AS.III/Vol. II/(Pt.)/(30) (28 July 2010) and accompanying template, "Security and Business Continuity Agreement") (ID 274) - <i>raised 22 times since 2010</i>
China: Provisions for the Administration of Cosmetics Application Acceptance (ID 296) - <i>raised 22 times since 2011</i>
China: Requirements for information security products, including, <i>inter alia</i> , the Office of State Commercial Cryptography Administration (OSCCA) 1999 Regulation on commercial encryption products and its on-going revision and the Multi-Level Protection Scheme (MLPS) (ID 294) - <i>raised 21 times since 2011</i>
Korea, Republic of: Regulation on Registration and Evaluation of Chemical Material (ID 305) - <i>raised 18 times since 2011</i>
Indonesia: Technical Guidelines for the Implementation of the Adoption and Supervision of Indonesian National Standards for Obligatory Toy Safety (ID 328) - <i>raised 18 times since 2011</i>

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.73. Some of the new and previously-raised STCs discussed during the review period involved regulations in the area of renewable energy. Box 3.3 takes a closer look these types of measures as notified to, and discussed in, the TBT Committee over the years.

Box 3.3 Regulations on renewable energy sources and the TBT Agreement

In 2015, renewables accounted for almost 23% of global electricity generation. According to forecasts, the share of renewable energy in global power generation will rise to over 30% by 2020.^a

Since 1995, 162 regular notifications submitted to the TBT Committee have related to renewable energy sources ("renewables notifications").^b The number of renewables notifications has fluctuated from year to year, with the highest number (22) submitted in 2010, a significant increase since 1995, when only one renewables notification was submitted.^c The vast majority of these notifications (96%)^d concern technical regulations.

A significant share of the renewables notifications (around 80%) have been submitted by both developing and developed members, with LDC members submitting the remaining 20%. Most of such notifications have been made by African Members (51) and Members in North America (30) and Europe (29). Individually, the top notifying Members are Uganda (25), the United States (24) and Kenya (20). More than half of the notified renewables regulations^e addressed the protection of the environment. Other objectives covered include the protection of human health and safety (21%) followed by the prevention of deceptive practices and consumer protection (13%) and quality requirements (12%).

Since 2009, Members have been raising STCs in the TBT Committee specifically on measures regulating renewable energy sources ("renewables STCs"). A total of six renewables STCs have been raised, five of which concerned biofuels-related measures. All six targeted measures addressing environmental protection objectives (some of these measures also indicated quality requirements and/or the protection of human health and safety as their objectives).

Members were mainly concerned about "transparency" and the "measure's rationale" when raising renewables related trade measures in the TBT Committee.^f Other reasons of concern dealt with: (i) "further information and clarification", "international standards" and "unnecessary barriers to trade" (indicated in five STCs); and (ii) "discrimination" (indicated in three STCs). In terms of substance, the specific issues discussed under these STCs included: the calculation methods for determining sustainability criteria; minimum volume of biodiesel to be used in the national transportation fuel supply; certification procedure for biodiesel; establishing compulsory percentages of blends of ethanol; market access for thin-film solar panels; and discriminatory treatment against biofuels and bioliquids produced from palm oil and other types of vegetable oils.

These six renewables STCs concerned measures by both developed (4) and developing (2) Members. EU measures have been subject to half of these STCs. Other WTO Members subject to them were the United States, Colombia and the Republic of Korea. In the aggregate, 11 Members have raised these six STCs,^g with developing Members accounting for the vast majority (9 out of 11). Individually, Argentina, Indonesia and Malaysia have been the most active Members in raising renewables STCs. They have been involved in three STCs each. The European Union and the United States are next with two STCs each.

^a Source: International Energy Agency, *Renewables* 2017.

^b As defined by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), renewable energy "includes all forms of energy produced from renewable sources in a sustainable manner, including bioenergy, geothermal energy, hydropower, ocean energy, solar energy and wind energy." Commonly-used renewable energy sources include biomass (i.e. wood and wood waste, municipal solid waste, landfill gas and biogas, ethanol and biodiesel) hydropower, geothermal, wind and solar.

^c Notifications submitted from January 1995 to May 2018.

^d The remaining portion of renewables notifications mostly concern conformity assessment.

^e Around 52% of 162 renewables notifications, or 84 notifications.

^f The fact that only 2 of the 6 measures targeted in these renewables STCs have been notified to the TBT Committee seems to correlate with the fact that "transparency" was one of the most frequent issues of concern.

^g STCs can be raised, maintained or supported by more than one Member.

Note: This Box considers only notifications and STCs concerning TBT regulations and measures addressing renewable energy sources specifically. Apart from such measures, renewable energy sources can, and commonly are, also subject to other regulations covering a variety of products and/or situations, for instance: general inspection of voltage of electrical installations; testing the safety standards of vehicles run by biofuels and biodiesel; grid connections enabling physical connections, transmission and distribution; or energy conservation programmes including energy conservation standards for uninterruptible power supplies. Renewable energy sources can also be affected by measures regulating general fuel quality, controls of emissions in the energy sector or land use and noise regulations. The scope of measures affecting renewable energy sources is broader than that included in this Box.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.5 Trade Concerns Raised in Other WTO Bodies³⁹

3.74. During the review period, a number of trade concerns were raised by Members in formal meetings of various WTO bodies. This Section provides a factual overview of such concerns raised between mid-October 2017 and mid-May 2018.⁴⁰ The trade concerns covered in this Section have neither the status nor the procedural framework of the STCs raised in the SPS and TBT Committees. Nevertheless, they provide an interesting and up-to-date insight into which trade issues are being discussed by Members across the WTO and, as such, add important transparency. This Section does not reproduce the full substantive description of the trade concerns outlined by WTO Members, but provides a reference to the formal meeting(s) where a particular issue featured. A full account and context of the concerns is provided in the formal meeting records of the respective WTO bodies. The list of concerns and issues mentioned in this Section is not exhaustive.

3.75. At the 30 November 2017 meeting of the *General Council (GC)*⁴¹, concerns were raised on Kazakhstan's border (raised by the Kyrgyz Republic under "Other Business"). At the 7 March 2018 GC meeting⁴², concerns were raised on possible trade-restrictive measures by a Member (raised by China under "Other Business" – 18 delegations intervened). At the 8 May 2018 GC meeting⁴³, concerns were raised on (i) the United States' Section 232 investigations and measures on steel and aluminium products (raised by China – 17 other delegations intervened) and; (ii) the United States' investigations and measures under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 (raised by China – 10 other delegations intervened).

3.76. At the meeting of the *Council for Trade in Goods (CTG)* on 10 November 2017⁴⁴, new concerns were raised on (i) India's QRs on imports of mungo beans (raised by Australia); (ii) Kazakhstan's border restrictions (raised by Kyrgyz Republic); (iii) Mexico's AD duties on Russian Federation on the basis of a non-market methodology (raised by Russian Federation); and (iv) China's customs duties on certain semiconductors (raised by European Union, Chinese Taipei, and United States). At that meeting, concerns were again raised about (i) India's customs duties on ICT products – previously considered under a broader title (raised by Canada, European Union, Norway, Japan, Chinese Taipei, and United States); (ii) the United States Section 232 investigations on steel and aluminium products (raised by Russian Federation); (iii) the United States Seafood Import Monitoring Programme (SIMP) (raised by China); (iv) Nigeria's import restricting measures (raised by Norway); (v) Indonesia's import and export restricting policies and practices (raised by European Union, Japan and United States); (vi) the Russian Federation's trade restricting practices (raised by European Union); (vii) Egypt's manufacturer registration system (raised by European Union); and (viii) Brazil's restrictions on banana imports (raised by Ecuador).

3.77. At the CTG meeting on 23-26 March 2018⁴⁵, new concerns were raised under the regular agenda on: (i) the United States Section 232 investigations and measures on imports of steel and aluminium (raised by China and Russian Federation);⁴⁶ (ii) Mexico's customs processing fee (raised by Ecuador); (iii) Viet Nam's decree on the regulation on conditions for automobile manufacturing, assembling, importing and maintenance services (raised by Japan and United States); (iv) China's new export control law (raised by Japan); (v) Mongolia's QRs on certain agricultural products (raised by Russian Federation); (vi) China's measures restricting imports of scrap materials (raised by United States); (vii) the European Union Directive 2009/28/EC on renewable energy (raised by Malaysia); (viii) the United States safeguard measures against imported crystalline silicon photovoltaic cells and residential washers (raised by China) and, under Other Business; (ix) the United States Section 301 (raised by China) and (x) the United States' certification on aviation security equipment (raised by China).

³⁹ This Section does not include SPS and TBT Committees (covered separately) or issues brought to the Dispute Settlement Body. Some of the trade concerns raised may subsequently have become the subject of a dispute.

⁴⁰ Members and Observers are encouraged to communicate to the WTO's Trade Policy Review Division the non-tariff measures which they have raised in WTO bodies and which they believe are relevant to the monitoring exercise.

⁴¹ Document WT/GC/M/170.

⁴² Document WT/GC/M/171.

⁴³ Document WT/GC/M/172 (to be issued).

⁴⁴ Document G/C/M/130.

⁴⁵ Document G/C/M/131 (forthcoming).

⁴⁶ This issue was previously raised at the CTG when the measures had not yet entered into force.

3.78. At the same meeting, the CTG again considered trade concerns that had already been brought to its attention at previous meetings on: (i) Indonesia's import and export policies (raised by European Union, Japan and United States); (ii) India's QRs on imports of mungo beans (raised by Australia); (iii) India's customs duties on ICT products (raised by Canada, China, European Union, Japan, Norway, Chinese Taipei and United States); (iv) the United States' measures related to imports of fish and seafood products (raised by China); (v) the Russian Federation's trade restricting practices (raised by European Union and United States); (vi) Egypt's manufacturer registration system (raised by European Union and United States); (vii) China's customs duties on certain integrated circuits (raised by European Union, Japan, Chinese Taipei and United States); and (viii) import levy by WTO Members of the African Union (raised by European Union and United States).

3.79. At the 26 April 2018 meeting of the *Committee on Market Access*⁴⁷ new and persistent trade concerns were raised on: (i) Angola's consumption tax (raised by European Union)⁴⁸ which had been previously raised in 2017; (ii) China's customs duties on certain integrated circuits (raised by European Union, Japan, Chinese Taipei, and United States);⁴⁹ (iii) Haiti's modification of Schedule XXVI (raised by Dominican Republic and supported by United States) ; (iv) India's customs duties on telecommunication and other products (raised by Canada, China, European Union, Japan, Norway, Chinese Taipei, and United States and supported by Australia; Korea, Republic of; Norway; Singapore; Switzerland; and Thailand);⁵⁰ (v) Oman's MFN customs duties on cigarettes (raised by European Union and Switzerland); (vi) the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's excise tax on energy drinks and carbonated soft drink products (raised by European Union and Switzerland); (vii) the United States' prohibited electronic equipment (raised by China); (viii) India's restrictions on the importation of mungo beans and yellow peas (raised by Australia) and; (ix) the European Union's (Croatia) regulation on the importation and sale of certain oil and biodiesel products (raised by Russian Federation).⁵¹

3.80. At the meeting of the *Committee of Participants on the Expansion of Trade in Information Technology Products* on 6 November 2017⁵², trade concerns continued to be raised regarding India's Customs Notifications No. 11/2014 and No. 56/2017 on the 10% import duty increase on certain telecommunication equipment (bound at duty-free) (raised by Canada; European Union; Japan; Korea, Republic of; Norway; Chinese Taipei and United States and echoed by Australia; Thailand; Switzerland and Viet Nam). In addition, concerns were reiterated with respect to China's application of tariffs on certain semiconductor devices, i.e. "multi-component integrated circuits" (MCOs) (raised by European Union; Japan; Chinese Taipei and United States and echoed by Korea, Republic of; and Thailand).

3.81. At the meetings of the *Committee on Import Licensing* on 3 October 2017⁵³ new and persistent trade concerns were raised as per Table 3.16.

Table 3.16 Concerns raised on import licensing measures

Measure implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
Argentina	
Non-automatic licensing procedures on certain products ⁵⁴	European Union
Brazil	
Import restrictions of nitrocellulose for industrial use ⁵⁵	European Union
China	
Import licensing measures on importation of solid waste and recoverable materials ⁵⁶	European Union, United State, shared by Japan, Republic of Korea, Australia, Canada
India	
Import licensing requirements on boric acid	United States

⁴⁷ Includes issues raised under "other business". Document G/MA/M/67 (forthcoming).

⁴⁸ The issue had been previously raised in 2017.

⁴⁹ The issue had been repeatedly raised in previous meetings as well as the ITA Committee.

⁵⁰ The issue has been repeatedly raised in previous meetings of the Committee and other WTO bodies.

⁵¹ This issue had been previously raised in October 2016.

⁵² Documents G/IT/M/67.

⁵³ Document G/LIC/M/47 (forthcoming).

⁵⁴ Document G/LIC/Q/ARG/16.

⁵⁵ Document G/LIC/Q/BRA/22.

⁵⁶ Document G/LIC/Q/CHN/27.

Measure implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
Import requirements for beans of the species <i>vigna mungo</i> hepper or <i>vigna radiata</i> wilczek and pigeon peas (<i>cajanus cajan</i>)	Australia, shared by European Union, United States, Ukraine, Canada and Japan
Indonesia	
Import licensing regime for cellphones, handheld computers and tablets	United States, shared by Chile
Import requirements related to milk supply and circulation	United States, shared by European Union, Switzerland, Chile, New Zealand
Russian Federation	
Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) certificate procedures on the importation of specified medicines and pharmaceutical products ⁵⁷	European Union

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.82. At the meetings of the *Committee on Customs Valuation* on 6 November 2017 and 23 April 2018⁵⁸, concerns were repeated on: (i) Pakistan's determination of customs value of paper (raised by Thailand); (ii) Armenia's alleged use of reference prices (raised by United States); (iii) Indonesia's status of PSI notifications (raised by United States); (iv) Egypt's status of PSI notifications (raised by United States). New concerns were raised on: (i) Colombia's use of reference pricing for apparel (raised by Canada at the November 2017 meeting); and (ii) Oman's customs valuation of cigarettes and introduction of the selective tax (raised by Switzerland at the April 2018 meeting).

3.83. In the *Committee on Agriculture (CoA)* on 17-18 October 2017 and 20 February 2018⁵⁹, a number of questions and concerns were raised with respect to Members' individual notifications and on implementation-related issues under Article 18.6. During the period concerned, a total of 215 questions were discussed, on individual notifications (141 questions), Article 18.6 issues (64 questions on 26 implementation-related issues) and on overdue notifications (10 questions). Additional details regarding these questions and concerns can be found in Section 3.6 of this Report.

3.84. At the meetings of the *Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices*⁶⁰ on 27 October 2016 and 27 April 2017, concerns were raised as per Table 3.17.

Table 3.17 Concerns raised on AD practices

Measure implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
Brazil	
Investigation on hot-rolled steel	Russian Federation
Sunset review on PET films	Turkey
Investigation on PET films	Peru
Canada	
Investigation on silicon metal	Lao PDR, Kazakhstan
China	
Investigation on styrene monomers	Korea, Republic of
Investigation on broiler products	Brazil
Investigation on acrylonitrile-butadiene rubber	Japan
Colombia	
Investigation on frozen fries	European Union
Dominican Republic	
Measure on steel reinforcing bar	Turkey
Egypt	
Investigation on steel rebar	Ukraine, Turkey
European Union	
Interim review on solar panels	China
Investigation on tubes and pipe fittings of stainless steel	China

⁵⁷ Document G/LIC/Q/RUS/4.

⁵⁸ Documents G/VAL/M/65 and G/VAL/M/66 (forthcoming).

⁵⁹ Questions and responses to the issues raised under the review process in the CoA meetings on 17-18 October 2017 and 20 February 2018 are available in documents G/AG/W/170 issued on 12 December 2017 and G/AG/W/173 issued on 6 April 2018.

⁶⁰ Minutes documents G/ADP/M/53 and G/ADP/M/54 (forthcoming), respectively.

Measure implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
India	
Investigation on sodium dichromate	Turkey
Investigation on resorcinol	Japan
Investigation on ammonium nitrate	Russian Federation
Measure on linear alkyl benzene	Qatar
Investigation on caustic soda	Qatar
Indonesia	
Sunset review on hot-rolled coil	Kazakhstan
Sunset review on hot-rolled plates	Ukraine
Israel	
Investigation on low voltage copper cables	Turkey
Investigation on Portland cement	Turkey
Measure on float glass	Turkey
Korea, Republic of	
Measure on stainless steel bar	Japan
Measure on ferrosilicon manganese	Ukraine
Mexico	
Measure on cold-rolled sheet	Kazakhstan
Morocco	
Measure on refrigerators	Turkey
Pakistan	
Investigation on certain uncoated writing and printing paper	Brazil
Russian Federation, Armenia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyz Republic	
Investigation on herbicides	European Union
Turkey	
Investigation on unbleached kraftliner paper	Brazil
Measure on copper wire rod	Ukraine
Ukraine	
Interim review on ammonium nitrate	Russian Federation
Investigation on armature and wire rod	Russian Federation
Investigation on carbamide-formaldehyde products	Russian Federation
Investigation on syringes	Turkey
United States	
Investigation on wire rod	Russian Federation
Investigations on colour-coated, hot-rolled, cold-rolled steel sheets and steel plates	Korea, Republic of
Administrative review on oil country tubular goods	Korea, Republic of
Investigation on biodiesel	Indonesia
Investigation on carbon and alloy steel wire rod	Ukraine

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.85. Other additional issues and concerns were raised on: (i) the recent rapid increase in AD measures, especially in the steel sector (raised by Japan); (ii) the European Union's and United States' "surrogate country methodology" in investigations (raised by China); (iii) India's methodology to calculate the amount of AD duties on investigations (raised by Japan); (iv) the length of the United States' AD measures (raised by Japan); (v) the United States' practice of applying adverse facts available ("AFA") in investigations (raised by Korea, Republic of); (vi) the United States' methodology of regarding SOEs as one whole entity (raised by China); and (vi) the European Union's draft amendments to the Basic AD Regulation (raised by the Russian Federation).

3.86. At the meetings of the *Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures*⁶¹ on 24 October 2017 and 24 April 2018, concerns were raised on CVD actions as per Table 3.18.

⁶¹ Minutes G/SCM/M/103 and G/SCM/M/105 (forthcoming), respectively.

Table 3.18 Concerns raised on CVD actions

Measure implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
European Union	
Investigation on hot-rolled steel	China
United States	
Investigation on ripe olives	European Union
Measures on iron and steel products	Turkey
Investigation on silicon metal	Australia and Kazakhstan
Various investigations	India

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.87. At the same meetings concerns were raised on subsidies as per Table 3.19.

Table 3.19 Concerns raised on subsidies

Measure implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
China	
Non-notification of alleged subsidies in the steel sector	United States
Non-notification of alleged subsidies in the fisheries sector	United States
Non-notification of alleged subsidies under the Internationally Well-known Brand Programme	United States
Requests for information on certain alleged subsidy programmes in the steel sector	European Union and United States
India	
Export subsidies in the textile and apparel sector	United States
Export Subsidies (India's Graduation from Annex VII(b) of the Agreement)	United States
United States	
Request for information on certain alleged subsidy programmes	China

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.88. Additional concerns were raised on: (i) the elimination of export subsidies by the Members that received extensions under Article 27.4 of the SCM Agreement; (ii) the low and declining level of compliance with the notification and transparency obligations in the SCM Agreement; (iii) requests for information pursuant to Articles 25.8 and 25.9 (proposal from the United States); (iv) enhancing fisheries subsidies transparency (raised by United States); (v) subsidies and overcapacity (raised by Canada, European Union, Japan, Mexico, and United States); (vi) Implementation of Paragraph 2 of the Ministerial Decision on Fisheries Subsidies (raised by Australia, Canada, European Union, Iceland, New Zealand, Norway and United States).

3.89. At the meeting of the *Trade-Related Investment Measures* (TRIMs) Committee on 6 November 2017⁶², the following new or continuing issues (Table 3.20) were raised:

⁶² Minutes G/TRIMS/M/43.

Table 3.20 Concerns raised at the TRIMs Committee

Measure implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
Argentina	
Act 27,263 on the development and strengthening of auto-parts ^a	Mexico
China	
Provisions on insurance system informatization ^b	United States
Indonesia	
Requirements for 4G LTE mobile devices ^c	European Union; Japan; United States
Provisions in the energy sector (mining, oil and gas) ^d	Canada; European Union; Japan; United States
Industry Law and Trade Law ^e	European Union; Japan
Minimum local product requirement for modern retail sector ^f	European Union; Japan
Measures relating to investment in the telecommunications sector ^g	Japan
Requirements for dairy importation and distribution	United States
Nigeria	
Guidelines on information communications technology (ICT) ^h	United States
Russian Federation	
Measures implementing the Russian Federation's import substitution policy ⁱ	European Union; United States
Turkey	
Localization policy in the pharmaceutical sector	European Union; United States

a See documents G/TRIMS/Q/ARG/1; G/TRIMS/Q/ARG/2; G/TRIMS/Q/ARG/3; and G/TRIMS/Q/ARG/4.

b See document G/TRIMS/Q/CHN/1.

c See documents G/TRIMS/W/148 and G/TRIMS/W/162.

d See documents G/TRIMS/W/70; G/TRIMS/W/74; G/TRIMS/W/79; G/TRIMS/W/88; G/TRIMS/W/100; G/TRIMS/W/108; G/TRIMS/W/123; G/TRIMS/W/128; G/TRIMS/W/137; and G/TRIMS/W/137/Corr.1.

e See documents G/TRIMS/W/138; G/TRIMS/W/140; G/TRIMS/W/157; and G/TRIMS/W/158.

f See documents G/TRIMS/W/139; G/TRIMS/W/141; G/TRIMS/W/159; and G/TRIMS/W/161.

g See documents G/TRIMS/W/61; G/TRIMS/W/63; G/TRIMS/W/71; G/TRIMS/W/75; G/TRIMS/W/78; G/TRIMS/W/80; G/TRIMS/W/86; G/TRIMS/W/96; G/TRIMS/W/104; G/TRIMS/W/131; G/TRIMS/W/154; G/TRIMS/W/160; and G/TRIMS/Q/IDN/1.

h See document G/TRIMS/Q/NGA/1.

i See documents G/TRIMS/Q/RUS/4; G/TRIMS/Q/RUS/5; G/TRIMS/Q/RUS/6; G/TRIMS/Q/RUS/7; and G/TRIMS/Q/RUS/8.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.90. At the meetings of the *Committee on Safeguards*⁶³, on 23 October 2017 and 23 April 2018, concerns were raised on specific safeguard actions as per Table 3.21.

Table 3.21 Concerns raised at the Committee on Safeguards

Measure implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
Chile	
Investigation on Powdered Milk and Gouda Cheese	United States, European Union, Argentina, Australia, New Zealand
China	
Investigation on Sugar	Brazil, Australia, European Union
Costa Rica	
Investigation on Bars and Rods of Steel for Concrete Reinforcement	Turkey
European Union	
Investigation on Certain Steel Products	Korea Republic of; Turkey; Argentina; China; Egypt; Viet Nam; Chile; India
Bahrain, Kingdom of; Kuwait, State of; Oman; Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; United Arab Emirates^a	
Investigation on Flat-Rolled Products of Iron or Non-Alloy Steel	European Union
India	
Investigation on Solar Cells	European Union, Japan
Indonesia	
Investigation on Flat-Rolled Product of Iron or Non-Alloy Steel	European Union

⁶³ Documents G/SG/M/50 and G/SG/M/51.

Measure implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
Investigation on Ceramic Flags and Paving, Hearth or Wall Tiles; Ceramic Mosaic Cubes and the Like	European Union, Japan
Jordan	
Investigation on Aluminium Bars, Rods and Profiles	United States
Malaysia	
Investigation on Steel Concrete Reinforcing Bars	European Union
Investigation on Steel Wire Rod and Deformed Bar-In-Coil	European Union
South Africa	
Investigation on Certain Flat Hot-Rolled Steel Products	United States, Japan, European Union
Thailand	
Investigation on Non-Alloy Hot Rolled Steel Flat Products in Coils and Not in Coils	Turkey
Turkey	
Investigation on Pneumatic Tires	Ecuador, European Union, Japan
Investigation on Polyethylene Terephthalate	European Union
Investigation on Toothbrushes	Ecuador
Investigation on Wallpaper and Similar Wallcoverings	European Union
Ukraine	
Investigation on Flexible Porous Plates, Blocks and Sheets of Polyurethane Foams	European Union
United States	
Investigation on Large Residential Washers	Korea, Republic of; Viet Nam; China and Mexico
Investigation on Crystalline Silicon Photovoltaic Cells	European Union; Korea, Republic of; Australia; Japan; the Philippines; China; Singapore; Switzerland; Norway; Malaysia
Measures Taken Following Section 232 Investigations	China; Russian Federation; Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of; Turkey; Norway; Switzerland; India and Singapore
Viet Nam	
Investigation on Diammonium Phosphate and Monoammonium Phosphate Fertilizer	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; United States
Zambia	
Investigation on Flat-Rolled Products of Iron, Non-Alloy Steel, Trailers and Semi-Trailers	United States

a Investigations are initiated at the level of the GCC.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.91. At the meetings of the *Working Party on State Trading Enterprises* on 9 November 2017⁶⁴, trade concerns were raised on India's Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation Limited (raised by European Union).

3.92. Additional concerns were raised on: (i) the non-notification by the Russian Federation of its state trading enterprises (questions from the European Union and the United States); (ii) the non-notification by the United Arab Emirates of its state trading enterprises (questions by the United States); and (iii) the overall poor level of compliance among Members with the notification obligations of Article XVII of GATT 1994 regarding state trading enterprises.

3.93. At the meeting of the *Council for Trade in Services* (CTS) held on 2 March 2018, concerns were repeated about certain measures related to Ukraine's reforms of its Unified Gas Transportation System (raised by Russian Federation).⁶⁵ These concerns were first mentioned in November 2014, and have been restated at all subsequent regular meetings of the CTS.⁶⁶ At that same meeting, concerns were reiterated about cybersecurity measures by China and Viet Nam (raised by Japan and United States⁶⁷ and supported by European Union, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Chinese Taipei). Concerns were also raised about measures by China on the use of virtual private networks and leased lines (raised by United States⁶⁸ and supported by Japan).⁶⁹

⁶⁴ Minutes G/STR/M/32.

⁶⁵ Document S/C/M/134.

⁶⁶ Documents S/C/M/122 to 124, S/C/M/126 to 130, and S/C/M/132 to 133.

⁶⁷ Communication by the United States, entitled "Measures adopted and under development by China relating to its Cybersecurity Law" (document S/C/W/376).

⁶⁸ Communication by the United States, entitled "Measures adopted and under development by China relating to its Cybersecurity Law" (document S/C/W/376).

3.94. At the meetings of the *Committee on Trade and Development* (CTD) on 15 November 2017 and 24 April 2018, developing Members reiterated concerns, in the context of the 1998 work programme on e-commerce, with respect to capacity and infrastructure constraints which prevent them from fully benefitting from the opportunities presented by e-commerce.⁷⁰ At the same meetings, LDCs raised concerns with regard to duty-free quota-free (DFQF) market access and, in particular, in the context of the implementation of the DFQF and related decisions.

3.95. The above Section shows that a greater number of trade concerns were raised in the various WTO bodies where meetings took place between mid-October 2017 and mid-May 2018 compared to the same period in 2016-2017. A larger number of trade concerns on measures implemented by WTO Members were raised in nearly all Committees and Councils. Several trade concerns were raised in successive meetings of the same WTO body, suggesting more profound or persistent problems. Continuing a trend observed previously, several trade concerns were raised in more than one WTO body during this period, suggesting that these concerns involve increasingly complex and cross-cutting issues. It may also provide an indication that WTO Members are seeking multiple platforms within the WTO committee structure to address various aspects of such trade concerns. From a systemic point of view, this is significant because of the increased transparency which it brings, but also because it demonstrates that Members are actively using the WTO committees to constructively engage trading partners on potential areas of trade friction. Finally, the period under review also saw a number of trade concerns raised in successive GC meetings, suggesting a political rather than technical focus.

3.6 Policy Developments in Agriculture

3.96. The Committee on Agriculture (CoA) provides a forum for WTO Members to discuss matters related to agriculture trade, and to consult on matters relating to the Members' implementation of commitments under the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA), including rules-based commitments. The review work by the CoA is based on notifications Members make on their commitments. There is also a provision in Article 18.6 that allows Members to raise any matter relevant to the implementation of the commitments under the AoA.

3.97. In the framework of the CoA meetings on 17-18 October 2017 and 20 February 2018, Members posed a total of 205 questions, including questions on both individual notifications and those under Article 18.6, with a large number of these questions directed at issues related to domestic support notifications or implementation of domestic support commitments.

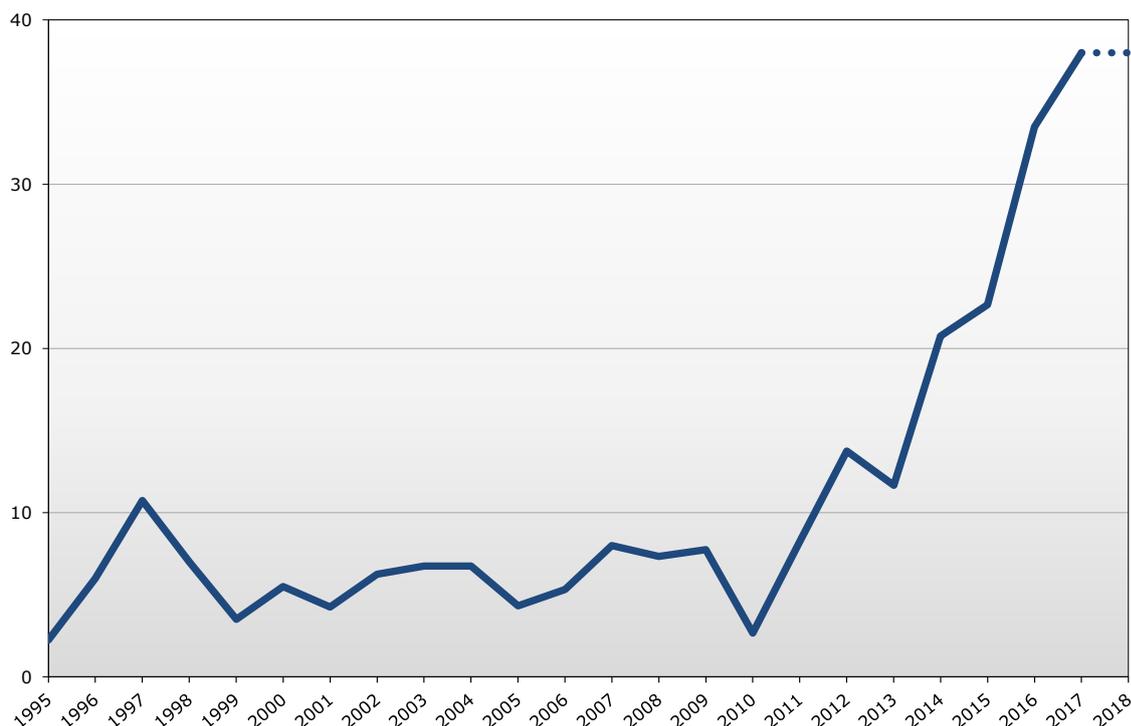
3.98. In total, nine Members raised 64 questions on 26 implementation-related issues (Article 18.6) in the October 2017 and February 2018 CoA meetings. As can be seen in Chart 3.18, the average number of questions raised under Article 18.6 per meeting has been increasing since 2011, reaching an all-time high in 2017 with an average of 38 questions per meeting. The latter 38 was also the number of questions raised in the first CoA meeting of 2018.⁷¹ These numbers include questions that were repeated from one meeting to the next because responses were not provided within the relevant time-frames.

⁶⁹ Document S/C/M/134.

⁷⁰ Documents WT/COMTD/M/104 and WT/COMTD/M/105 (forthcoming).

⁷¹ The 86th CoA meeting held on 20 February 2018.

Chart 3.18 Average number of questions raised under Article 18.6 per meeting (1995-2018^a)



a 2018 data covers the February 2018 CoA meeting.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.99. Out of the 26 implementation-related issues raised in the CoA during the review period, 15 were discussed for the first time, whereas the remaining issues had been discussed one or more times in previous Committee meetings under matters raised under Article 18.6. Table 3.22 indicates the specific issues relating to implementation commitments that were discussed for the first time in the CoA during the two meetings.⁷²

3.100. One third of the new issues raised at the two meetings related to domestic support policies benefiting producers of cereal, cotton and dairy products, such as Canada's new dairy sector programme, EU's intervention stocks of milk powder, Egypt's domestic support for wheat, India's minimum support prices and US support to the cotton sector. One third of the questions sought clarification on policies that potentially subsidized exports of cereals, dairy products, sugar and pork meat, such as the questions raised on Argentina's export subsidies to pork meat and its Reintegros programme, Pakistan's sugar policies, Russia's railway subsidies and US dairy policies. Members also raised four new issues in relation to measures that restricted, or had the potential to restrict, trade of agricultural products, such as India's QRs, Indonesia's imports of soybean, Mongolia's quota regime for importation and Suriname's tariffs on poultry. Another issue was raised on Indonesia's new regulation on milk which concerned local content requirements.

⁷² The complete questions and answers can be accessed through the Agriculture Information Management System (AG IMS) by using the ID numbers provided in the tables. In the AG IMS (<http://agims.wto.org/>), select the function "Search Q&A Submitted Since 1995" and input the ID number of the question concerned.

Table 3.22 Article 18.6 new issues

Question Summary	Question raised by	Products	Number of questions	CoA meetings	ID number
Russian Federation's railway subsidy for exports	Australia, Canada, European Union, Ukraine, United States	Cereals, wheat, corn, rice, malt, coarse grains	5	85, 86	86010, 86068, 86067, 86038, 86047, 85036
India's minimum support prices	Australia, Canada, European Union	Cereals, wheat, corn, rice, malt, coarse grains	3	86	86005, 86074, 86066
India's QRs	Australia, United States	Fresh vegetables	3	85, 86	86006, 86037, 85060
Pakistan's sugar policies	Australia, Brazil	Sugar, cane or beet sugar, other	3	85, 86	86007, 86009, 85069
EU intervention on stocks of skim milk powder	Australia, Canada, New Zealand	Milk powders	2	85, 86	86003, 86032, 85059
U.S. dairy policies	Canada	Dairy, milk, milk powders, butter, cheese, other	2	85, 86	86084, 85079
Argentina's export subsidies to pork meat	European Union	Swine	1	86	86064
Egypt's domestic support for wheat	Canada	Wheat	1	86	86060
Indonesia's soybean imports	United States	Soybean	1	86	86048
Mongolia's quota regime for importation	Russia	Milk, cereal	1	86	86001
Suriname's poultry tariffs	United States	Poultry	1	86	86049
US support to the cotton sector	European Union	Cotton	1	86	86069
Argentina's Reintegros programme	European Union		1	85	85034
Canada's new programmes on dairy sector	New Zealand	Dairy, milk, milk powders, butter, cheese, other	1	85	85010
Indonesia's new regulation on milk	United States	Dairy, milk, milk powders, butter, cheese, other	1	85	85013

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.101. Other measures that were discussed related to follow-up questions on persistent areas of concern which have been raised in the CoA multiple times (Table 3.23). One case - i.e. Brazil's domestic support programmes - has been raised in 20 CoA meetings, while Canada's new milk ingredient class, its wine sale policy and its TRQ for cheese received a total of 39, 18 and 9 questions, respectively, with a number of these questions being co-sponsored by two or three WTO Members. India's pulse policies have been discussed in three CoA meetings, generating in total nine questions, six of which were raised at the CoA meeting in February 2018. Other recurrent issues included policies affecting market access of wheat and rice (i.e. Thailand's import permit for wheat, Philippine's rice waiver and the Republic of Korea's rice import).

Table 3.23 Questions previously raised under Article 18.6

Question Summary	Question raised by	Answer by	Products	Number of questions	Number of CoA meetings in which the issue was discussed	CoA meetings	ID number
Canada's New Milk Ingredient Class	Australia, India, New Zealand, United States	Canada	Dairy, milk, milk powders, butter, cheese, other	39	8	79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86	86002, 86030, 86033, 85002, 85003, 85004, 85005, 85006, 85008, 85011, 85051, 85052, 85053, 85054, 85055, 85056, 84012, 84018, 84020, 84021, 84022, 84023, 84025, 84027, 84029, 84030, 84035, 84111, 84107, 84031, 83054, 83039, 82012, 82059, 82013, 82001, 81001, 81009, 81049, 81054, 81055, 81056, 80003, 80005, 80006, 80025, 79035
Brazil's domestic support programmes	United States, Ukraine	Brazil	Wheat, corn, rice, malt, coarse grains, cotton	20	20	65, 66, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 83, 84, 85, 86	86031, 85049, 84073, 83038, 81008, 80024, 79001, 78002, 77066, 76039, 75023, 74021, 73026, 72051, 71028, 70007, 69027, 68007, 66002, 65011
Canada's wine sale policy	Australia, European Union, New Zealand, United States	Canada	Alcoholic	18	8	79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86	86034, 85012, 85057, 84017, 84106, 84033, 84112, 84105, 83007, 83041, 83104, 83135, 82057, 82002, 81003, 81011, 81024, 81046, 81047, 81097, 80008, 80009, 80094, 80095, 79003
Canada's tariff-rate quota for cheese, and domestic support	New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, United States	Canada	Cheese	9	8	75, 76, 77, 80, 81, 83, 84, 85	85009, 84110, 84108, 83003, 83004, 83005, 81004, 81051, 81052, 80001, 80002, 80007, 77037, 77001, 76023, 75026

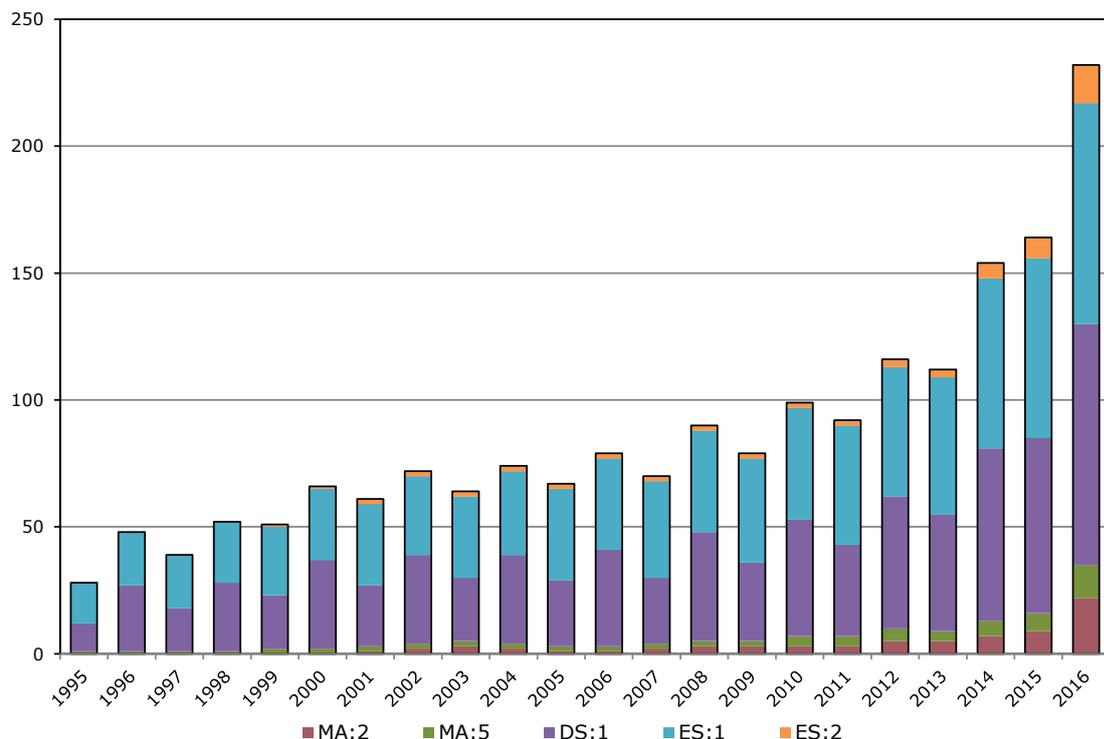
Question Summary	Question raised by	Answer by	Products	Number of questions	Number of CoA meetings in which the issue was discussed	CoA meetings	ID number
India's pulses policies	Australia, Canada, Russian Federation, Ukraine	India	Processed vegetables	9	3	84, 85, 86	86004, 86061, 86062, 86063, 86065, 86039, 86035, 85064, 84044
Thailand's import permits for feed wheat	Australia, European Union, United States	Thailand	Animal feed, wheat, corn	7	4	83, 84, 85, 86	86106, 85039, 84074, 84059, 83107, 83045, 83013
Philippines' rice waiver	Australia, Thailand, United States	Philippines	Rice	5	3	84, 85, 86	86008, 85071, 84057, 84015, 84079
Korea's, Rep. of rice imports	Australia, Thailand, United States	Korea, Republic of	Rice	4	3	23, 78, 86	86036, 23006, 78020, 78024
Indonesia's dairy import system	United States	Indonesia	Dairy, milk, milk powders, butter, cheese, other	2	2	84, 86	86046, 84075
Turkey's IPR programme	Russian Federation	Turkey	Wheat	2	2	84, 86	86029, 84113
Brazil's tax credit programmes (Reintegros programme)	European Union	Brazil		1	2	75, 85	85035, 75002

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.102. The CoA continued its review of the implementation of Members' commitments under the Agreement. Timely and complete notifications are fundamental for effective monitoring of the implementation of commitments. Twelve distinct notification requirements are applicable in agriculture, covering the following areas: market access, domestic support, export subsidies, export prohibitions or restrictions and the follow-up to the Marrakesh Net Food-Importing Developing Countries (NFIDC) Decision. The applicability of a notification requirement to a Member is largely dependent on its specific commitments under the AoA. Out of the 12 notification requirements, the following 5 are "regular" or "annual" notification requirements: (i) imports under tariff and other quotas (MA:2); (ii) special safeguards (MA:5); (iii) domestic support (DS:1); (iv) export subsidies (ES:1); and (v) total exports (ES:2). Annual notifications are required to be submitted no later than a certain number of days following the end of the year in question, in accordance with the deadlines set out in document G/AG/2.

3.103. For the period 1995-2016, there are a total of 1,909 outstanding regular notifications.⁷³ Out of the five annual notification requirements, Domestic Support (DS:1) and Export Subsidy (ES:1) notifications have the highest number of outstanding notifications, as seen in Chart 3.19 and frequently constitute the majority of pending notifications in every year since 1995. The number of Members' outstanding notifications of imports under tariff and other quotas (MA:2), special safeguards (MA:5) and notification of total exports (ES:2) is much lower. It should be noted, however, that domestic support and export subsidy notifications must be submitted by the whole Membership, whereas, in the other areas, the obligation to notify will depend upon each Members' commitments.

⁷³ "Ad hoc" notification obligations applicable only upon maintenance of a specific measure (e.g. ER:1 required upon the application of export restrictions) as well as the annual notifications where it was not possible to determine *a priori* whether the concerned notification requirement would be applicable (e.g. NF:1 applicable to donor Members only) are excluded.

Chart 3.19 Total outstanding notifications per type of notification requirement per year (1995-2016)

Note: MA:2 - Imports under tariff and other quotas, MA:5 - Special safeguards, DS:1 - Domestic support, ES:1 - Export subsidies, ES:2 - Total exports.

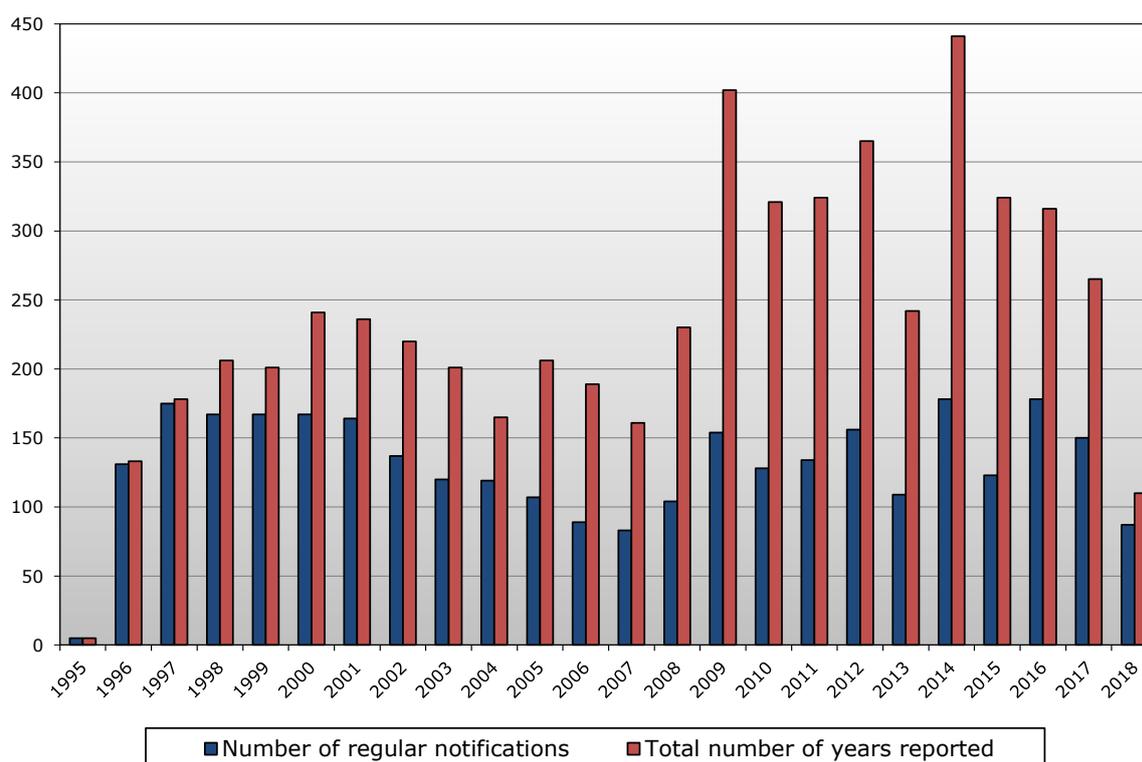
Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.104. While a large number of outstanding notifications remain, there has been a concerted effort by Members to bring their notifications up-to-date. As can be seen in Chart 3.20, notifications which report more than one year (which might include the required year and/or any pending previous years) have been submitted by Members. Since 2009, the average number of years reported per notification has fluctuated between two and three.

3.105. On average, Members have submitted 61% of expected notifications for the period 1995-2016, although compliance varies according to region. As noted in Table 3.23, the region with the highest level of compliance is North America (Canada, Mexico and the United States) with 94% compliance, followed by Europe with 78% compliance.

3.106. Only 48 Members, about 29% of the membership, display an average compliance with their notification obligations of between 90% and 100%. It should be noted that the number of annual notification obligations varies per Member. While all Members are required to submit domestic support and export subsidy notifications (DS:1 and ES:1), only some Members are required to submit MA:2, MA:5 and/or ES:2 notifications.

3.107. More than 5,000 questions have been raised regarding individual notifications under the CoA's review process from 1995-2018 (up until the February 2018 CoA meeting). Throughout the years, the vast majority of questions have focused on domestic support notifications (DS:1 and DS:2) followed by questions concerning market access, in particular TRQs (MA:1 and MA:2) (Chart 3.21).

Chart 3.20 Number of regular agriculture notifications and years reported (1995-2018^a)

a Until 1 May 2018.

Note: The total number of years reported might include the required year and/or any pending previous year(s). For example, a Member may submit one MA:2 notification reporting in-quota imports for eight years (2000-2007). For the purpose of this table, this means that the Member therefore reported eight implementation years.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

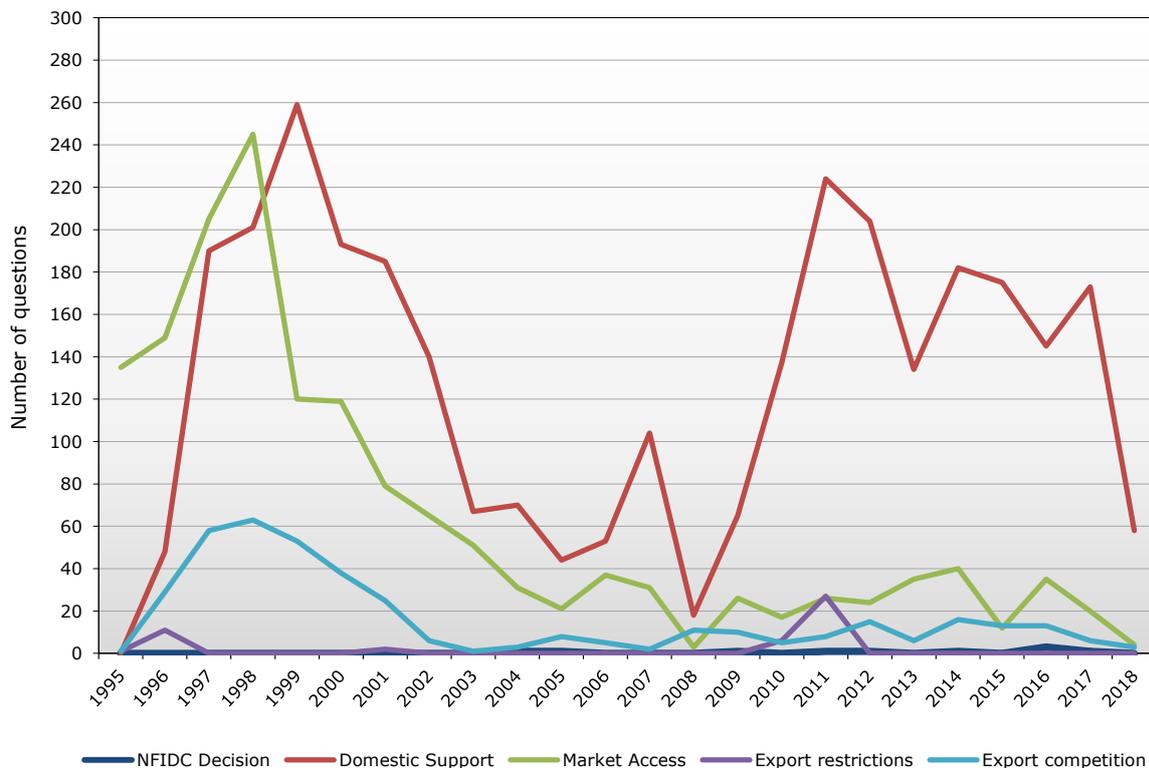
Table 3.24 Average compliance with notifications by region (1995-2016)

Region	Average Compliance (%)
Africa	49
Asia	63
CIS, including associate and former member States	64
Europe	78
Middle East	63
North America	94
South and Central America and the Caribbean	66
Average	61

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.108. From 15 October 2017 to 30 April 2018, Members submitted 133 notifications (including addenda and corrigenda). A total of 141 questions were posed during the two CoA meetings (October 2017 and February 2018). As seen in Chart 3.222, during the review period the majority of questions raised related to domestic support notifications (86%). In particular, domestic support notifications by United States, European Union and Russian Federation attracted a considerable number of questions. In addition, 19 questions were raised concerning the lack of notifications from Egypt, European Union, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Thailand and Turkey.

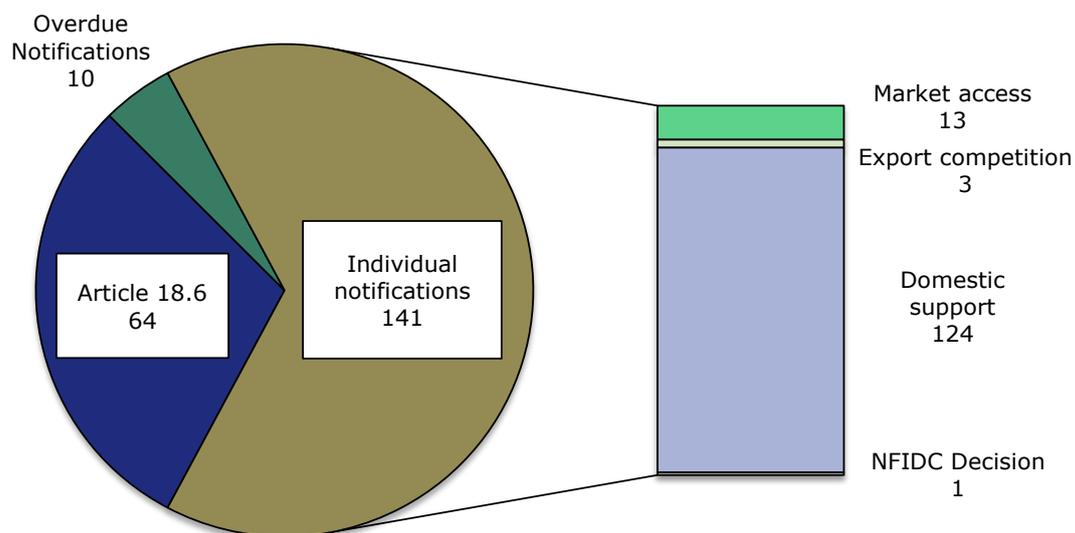
Chart 3.21 Questions raised on individual notifications per section per year (1995-2018^a)



a 2018 data covers the February 2018 CoA meeting.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Chart 3.22 Number of questions raised per section (mid-October 2017 – mid May 2018^a)



a Questions raised in the CoA meetings in October 2017 and February 2018.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.109. The following box on agricultural transfers has been provided by the OECD.

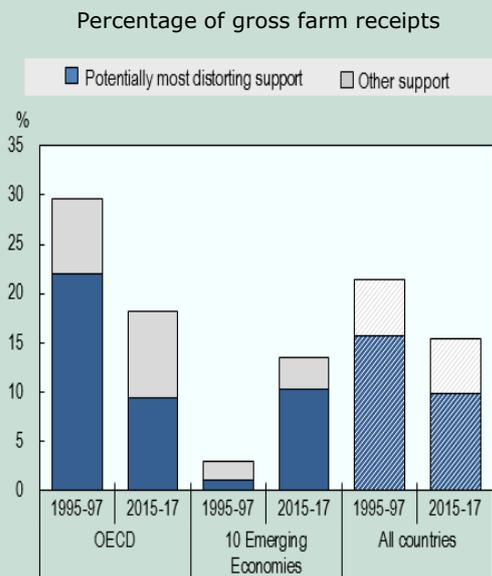
Box 3.4 Almost two-thirds of the US\$0.5 trillion transferred annually to farmers comes in distorting, inefficient forms

In 2015-17, agricultural policies in 51 OECD and key emerging economies transferred US\$484 billion a year on average directly to farmers. Put differently: more than 15 cents in every dollar received by farmers ("gross farm receipts") originates in some form of public support. Of these transfers, on average, 64% was provided via highly trade- and production-distorting measures – namely, market price support, and payments based on output or on unconstrained variable input use. An additional US\$86 billion a year was spent on general support to the sector. The OECD's *Agricultural Policy Monitoring and Evaluation 2018* report looks at how this support is provided, assesses its possible effects and suggests ways forward.

Compared with the mid-1990s, the level of producer support has fallen in most countries covered by the report (Figure 1). Just as importantly, the nature of this producer support is changing, with reductions in the share provided via highly trade- and production-distorting measures. In some large emerging economies, however, both the level of producer support and the share of most distorting support have increased. Overall, there are wide differences across countries: some countries – both OECD and emerging economies – have very low levels of support, while support levels in four OECD countries remain above 50% of gross farm receipts.

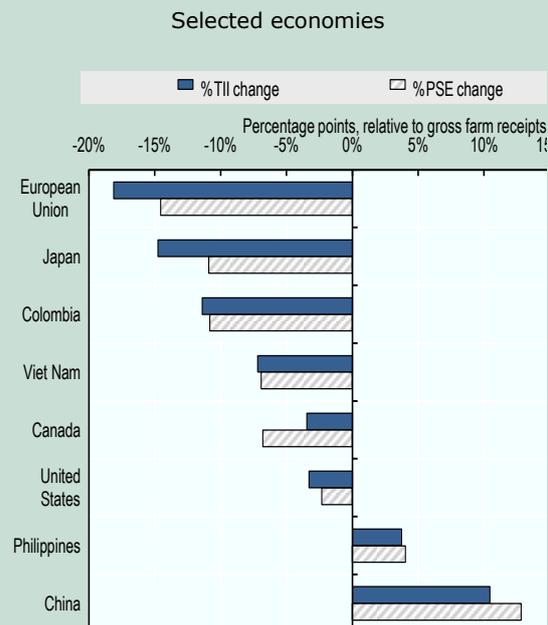
It is not just the level of support but how it is provided that matters. Many countries have reduced the trade impacts of their policies by more than the decline in their overall levels of support by shifting the type of support provided to less trade-distorting forms (Figure 2). In contrast, other countries have increased the share of their support given in the most distorting forms, so the trade impacts have increased by more than the increase in support would suggest.

Moreover, most agricultural policies in place today are not well-aligned with countries' goals for the sector: increasing productivity growth, enhancing the sector's environmental performance, improving resilience, and enabling farm households to improve their standard of living. As a priority, eliminating production- and trade-distorting support would allow farmers to benefit fully from market opportunities and discourage overuse of farm inputs. Importantly, it would also make scarce public funds available for more efficient and effective investments, including targeted support for improved environmental outcomes and other public goods. Agricultural support could also be better focused on key services for the sector where there is a net benefit to society, including investments in agricultural innovation systems, sectoral infrastructure, and biosecurity controls. Using freed-up resources for ensuring social protection for low-income households would address food insecurity more efficiently than farm support.

Figure 1. Level and composition of the Producer Support Estimate by country, 2015-17

Source: OECD (2018), "Producer and Consumer Support Estimates", OECD Agriculture statistics (database), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/agr-pcse-data-en>.

Note: the Producer Support Estimate measures support provided to agricultural producers, both in the form of direct payments and as a result of domestic policies affecting prices and through protection. It is expressed as a percentage of gross farm revenues.

Figure 2. Percentage point changes in %PSE and Trade Impact Index, 1995-97 to 2015-17

Source: OECD calculations based on PEM model results and OECD (2018), "Producer and Consumer Support Estimates", OECD Agriculture statistics (database), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/agr-pcse-data-en>.

Notes: EU: EU15 for 1995-97, EU28 for 2015-17
Viet Nam and Philippines: 1995-97 replaced by 2000-02

Source: OECD. For more information: OECD (2018), *Agricultural Policy Monitoring and Evaluation 2018*, OECD Publishing, Paris. <https://doi.org/10.1787/22217371>.

3.7 General Economic Support

3.110. The number of WTO Members that provided information on general economic support measures for this Report was similar to the most recent reports. More than 30 Members were requested to verify various general support measures or subsidy programmes. The response rate to this request was disappointingly low and many insisted that these measures not be included in the Report. Inevitably, this reinforced the conclusion of previous reports that Members appear reluctant to enhance transparency in this area and also that the universe of general economic support measures is much greater than what the monitoring exercise has managed to capture. At the same time, it is imperative to recognize that despite the often significant financial cost of such programmes, not all general economic support measures have trade-related effects and determining their impact on trade flows can be a complex exercise.

3.111. This Report identified and requested verification of over 60 general economic support measures or subsidy programmes covering a multitude of economic sectors, including transport, mining, energy and electricity, agriculture and aid schemes to assist SMEs. Many of these were multi-year programmes with financial disbursements staggered over the lifetime of the project. Other measures were one-off grants or aid schemes. In monetary terms, programmes ranged from several hundred thousand U.S. dollars to in excess of US\$19 billion.

3.112. Almost 40% of these programmes were taken within the framework of one WTO Member which generally publishes detailed information of such measures and programmes. However, taking into account the low participation and response rate, there was little basis to create an annex for these types of policies. Such an annex would likely not have presented a balanced and credible account of recent developments in the area of subsidies and general economic support measures among the WTO membership. In the November 2016 Trade Monitoring Report, the Secretariat provided a brief historical overview of trends in the area of these measures recorded

since 2008. This concluded that although the large economy-wide subsidies and high-profile bail-outs of the early years of the financial crisis are no longer prevalent, there was no evidence that governments had turned their back on subsidization as a policy tool, particularly in certain strategic industries or sectors.

3.113. WTO Members may wish to reflect and provide further guidance on how this issue might be best addressed in future Reports, including whether an alternative approach for reporting general economic support measures should be considered.

3.8 Other Selected Trade Policy Developments

3.114. The following Section provides a brief overview of other selected trade policy issues where important developments took place during the review period, including follow-up to a number of issues which saw outcomes at MC11 in Buenos Aires.

Trade Facilitation

3.115. Members have continued to notify instruments of acceptance of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), since its entry into force on 22 February 2017. Between mid-October 2017 and mid-May 2018, 15 additional instruments were deposited. This brought the overall number to 136 ratifications, covering close to 83% of WTO membership.

3.116. Advances were made in the area of notifications, where Members submitted information regarding commitments that will be implemented immediately, those that require additional time and those that also require capacity building support.⁷⁴ By mid-May 2018, a total of 112 Members had presented notifications to the Committee concerning category A, 62 Members on category B and 52 on category C.

3.117. By mid-May 2018, 50 Members had also presented a series of transparency notifications as mandated under Section I of the TFA.⁷⁵ In addition, 13 donor Members provided information on their technical assistance activities.

ITA Expansion

3.118. Under the ITA Expansion Agreement, import tariffs on most of the 201 IT products covered by the Agreement have been progressively reduced since 1 July 2016 and will be eliminated after three years (by 1 July 2019), whereas other duties and charges are to be removed upon entry into force. For a limited number of sensitive products, tariffs will be phased out over five or seven years for the most exceptional cases. On 3 November 2017, Georgia joined the ITA Expansion Agreement, bringing the total number of Participants to 26, representing 55 WTO Members.

3.119. As of May 2018, 22 Participants were on track with the implementation of the tariff cuts, while the others were awaiting the completion of domestic procedural requirements.⁷⁶ As required by Paragraph 6 of the Declaration, 25 Participants have also initiated the 1980 Procedures for Modification and Rectification of Schedules in order to include the new ITA Expansion concessions into their WTO Schedules and extend them to all WTO Members on an MFN basis. To date, the ITA Expansion schedules of 22 Participants have been certified by the WTO Director General, and their concessions properly reflected in their WTO Schedules. Remaining Participants' ITA Expansion schedules were waiting for the completion of domestic procedures before they could be certified.

3.120. The ITA Expansion Declaration also provides for further work on non-tariff barriers in the IT sector, and for keeping the list of products covered under review to determine whether further expansion may be needed to reflect future technological developments.

⁷⁴ Referred to as "category A, B and C notifications".

⁷⁵ Articles 1:4, 10:4:3, 10:6:2 and 12:2:2.

⁷⁶ Members implementing the ITA Expansion Agreement are reflected in Annex 1.

Government Procurement

3.121. The WTO Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA) continues to gain importance as an instrument for promoting trade, good governance and sustainable development in government procurement markets. The updated and modernized version of the Agreement that was adopted by the Parties in 2012 is now in force for all but one of the Agreement's Parties.⁷⁷ The Agreement covers the procurement of goods, services and construction services, subject to relevant thresholds and other exclusions, and contains important disciplines on transparency, the prevention of corruption and market access.

3.122. The total number of WTO Members covered by the Agreement reached 47. The number of WTO Members participating in the GPA Committee as observers is now 31. Increasingly, WTO Members are joining the GPA for reasons relating to the promotion of good governance and economic reform, in addition to market access benefits for their national suppliers. Further additions to the Agreement's membership are expected in the short to medium term. The negotiation on Australia's accession is expected to be officially concluded in 2018. Discussions on the Kyrgyz Republic's and Tajikistan's accessions are approaching their final stage, with a limited number of issues remaining to be addressed. The Russian Federation circulated its initial market access in June 2017 and its replies to the Checklist of Issues Concerning GPA Accession in January 2018. The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia circulated its first market access offer in late February 2018, which was discussed at the Committee's meetings. China announced recently that it would expedite the process of accession to the GPA. The accessions of four other WTO Members — Albania, Georgia, Jordan and Oman — are pending. Another five WTO Members have provisions regarding accession to the Agreement in their respective Protocols of Accession to the WTO: Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Seychelles.

3.123. With regard to the Committee's ongoing work, the GPA Parties have initiated discussions on a number of specific work programmes. These address, *inter alia*: (i) promoting access to government procurement markets by SMEs; (ii) ensuring sustainability in public procurement activities; and (iii) improving the statistics that Parties submit pursuant to relevant provisions of the GPA. Work has already been conducted on a separate work programme on identifying and (potentially) reducing the number of exceptions and exclusions to coverage that are included in the Parties' market access schedules. The purpose of these work programmes is to enhance transparency and, where relevant, contribute to the future evolution of the Agreement. The Secretariat, at the Committee's request, has also worked to strengthen the new "e-GPA system", an interactive, automated web portal to enhance the accessibility and usability of the market access and other information provided by Parties pursuant to the Agreement.

⁷⁷ Switzerland is in the process of modifying its domestic legislation in order to implement the revised GPA and will become a Party to it when relevant domestic procedures are completed.

3.124. Box 3.5 takes a closer look at effects of technology and trade on labour markets.

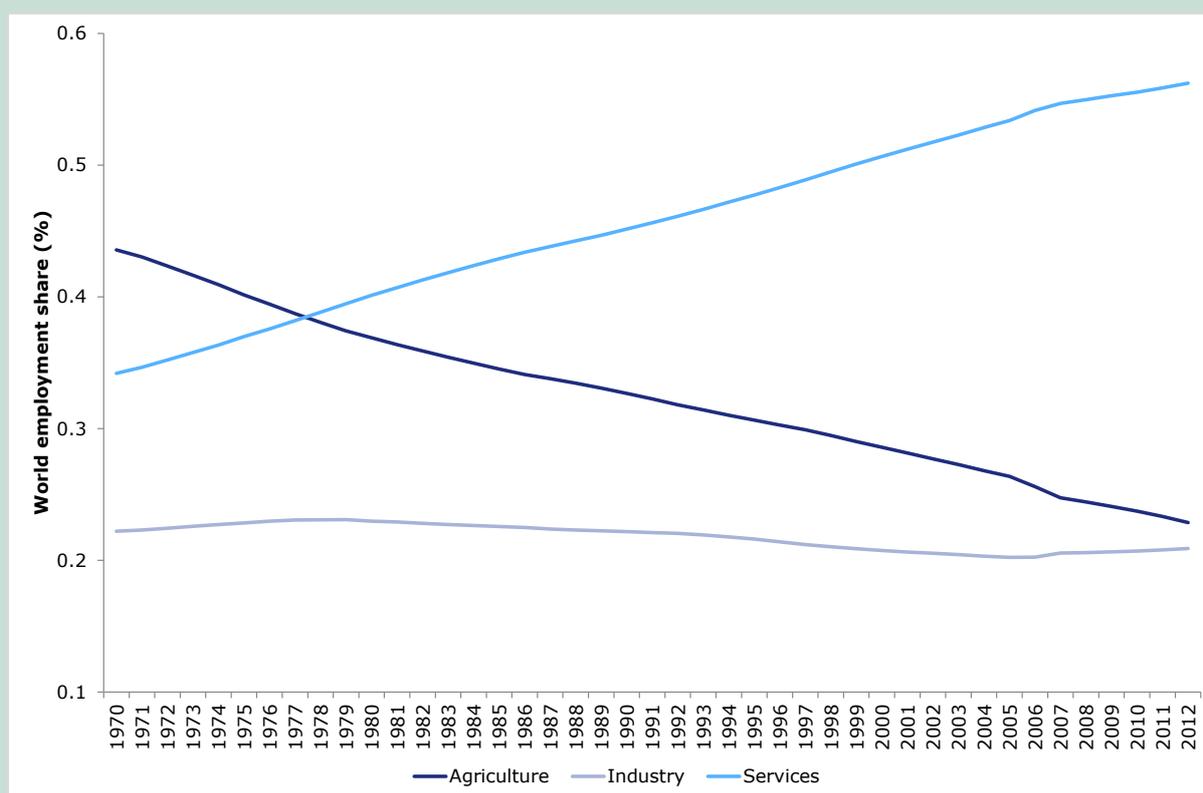
Box 3.5 Trade, technology and jobs

What are the effects of technology and trade on labour markets? Are all countries benefitting equally or are some being left behind by globalization and advances in technology? What are governments already doing and what else could they do to ensure that trade and technology are as inclusive as possible?

Technology and trade – two of the most powerful drivers of global economic progress – can also raise economic adjustment challenges. Available evidence suggests that technological advances and trade have yielded important benefits for economies overall and do not have significant effects on aggregate labour market outcomes, but that they may sometimes adversely affect certain types of workers and/or regions. Helping workers adjust to changes in the labour market and ensuring that benefits are spread more widely can increase the positive impact of open trade and technological progress.

While both forces can have similar effects on workers, empirical evidence attributes most of the disruptions of the labour market to technological change, including automation. In many countries, technological progress combined with an income elasticity of demand that is higher for services than for manufacturing products, and to a lesser extent trade, have contributed, and continue to contribute, to a decline in the share of manufacturing jobs as employment shifts toward the services sector (see Figure). All over the world, both forces contribute to an increase in the demand for skilled workers. Recent research also shows that the effects of trade on employment may vary significantly by region depending on exposure to import competition. These changes raise important adjustment challenges, as workers who lose their jobs in declining sectors and/or in exposed regions are not always well equipped and well placed to access newly created jobs.

Evolution of employment share by sector (1970 to 2012)



Source: Timmer, M. P., de Vries, G. J., & de Vries, K. (2015).

Note: This figure covers 40 countries: 10 developed and 30 developing. The agriculture sector includes activities in agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing. The industry sector includes mining and quarrying, manufacturing, construction and public utilities (electricity, gas and water).

Technological change does not only lead to the reallocation of workers between sectors, it also affects the relative earnings of workers with different skills, and the skill composition of employment. For the United States, it has recently been estimated that computerization is the central force driving changes in wage differentials between workers with different levels of education, accounting for 60% of the rise in the skill premium. With few exceptions, empirical literature confirms the idea that technological change is a major driver of the decline in routine occupations, and of the consequent employment polarization, in developed economies, while in the case of developing countries, the evidence that technological change is biased against routine employment is mixed.

Like technological change, trade leads to a reallocation of economic activity and therefore induces changes in countries' employment structures at the level of tasks, occupations, firms or sectors. In advanced economies, trade increases the relative demand for highly-skilled workers, especially in non-routine occupations. Trade also raised the demand for skilled workers in some developing countries. The increased demand for skills often translates not only into an increased share of skilled workers in employment but also into a higher skill premium, that is, an increase in nominal wages of highly-skilled workers relative to low-skilled workers.

Some experts argue that history will repeat itself, and that the next wave of technological advances will replace many existing jobs, creating new ones. Other experts disagree, arguing that the new wave of technologies is different (in terms of speed, scale and force) and will replace human jobs on a massive scale, leading to a "jobless future". Several studies and reports have attempted to estimate the share of jobs that are at high risk of automation. Different methodologies and underlying assumptions lead to substantially different estimated shares of jobs vulnerable to automation, where the largest estimates are up to four times larger than the smallest. Yet, independently of the methodology used, the estimated probability of automation is not equivalent to future unemployment and should therefore be interpreted with caution.

In any case, people will need more creative and effective help to adjust to economic change, irrespective of its specific causes. Many Member countries are currently stepping up their efforts to ensure that no one is left behind by globalization and technological progress. Obstacles to the mobility of workers between jobs considerably raise the cost of adjustment. These obstacles can take various forms, such as the mismatch between the new skills demanded by an increasingly information-driven global economy and the older skill set of many workers.

In that context, domestic policies and institutions play a key role in helping economies to make the most of economic change, by facilitating labour adjustment and sharing benefits more widely. Experience suggests that success in facilitating adjustment involves finding an appropriate balance between labour market flexibility, on the one hand, and employment security, on the other. Active labour market policies which help workers retrain and find new job openings, and assist them with relocation, can support people and encourage their transition into new opportunities.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

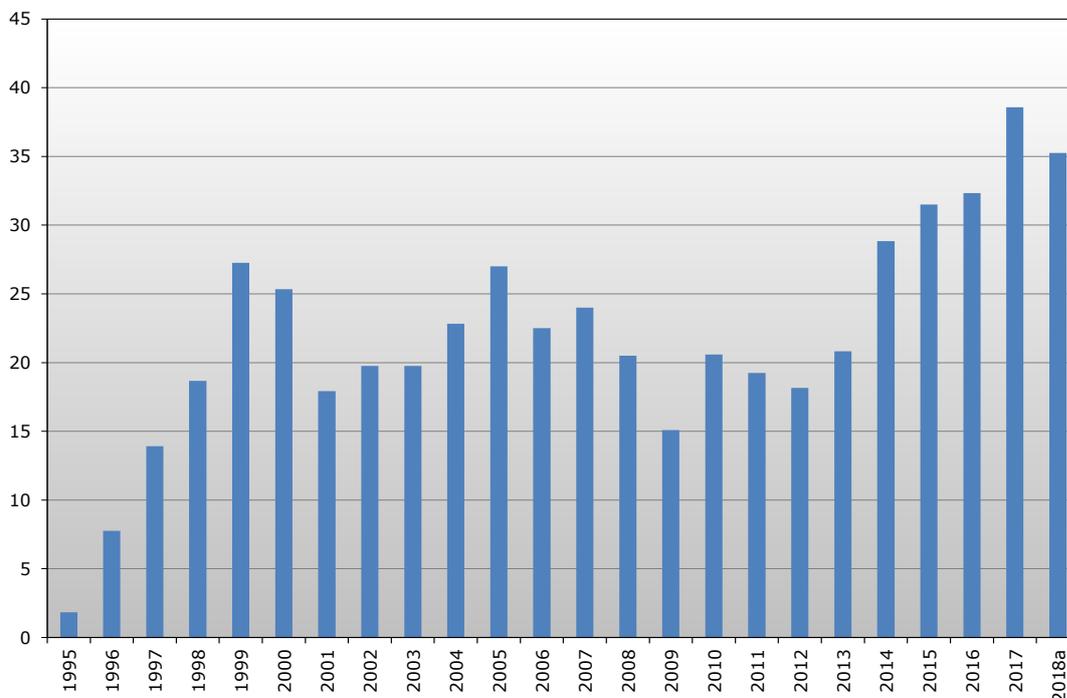
Dispute Settlement

3.125. During the review period, 36 panel-, appellate- and arbitration proceedings were handled, on average, each month. Twelve dispute settlement reports, awards and decisions were circulated during this period (Chart 3.23). Six of the circulated reports were issued by panels, and three reports were issued by compliance panels established under Article 21.5 of the DSU. The Appellate Body circulated two reports. In addition, Article 21.3(c) of the DSU arbitrators issued one decision regarding the reasonable period of time for implementation of DSB recommendations and rulings. By mid-May 2018, an additional 13 panel reports and eight appeals were pending, and four panel reports issued to parties were being translated for circulation to Members. Four Members have requested authorization to suspend concessions or other obligations in disputes where the responding parties have failed to make their measures consistent with their WTO obligations.

3.126. Although the dispute settlement system is under pressure at the moment, including as a result of the ongoing impasse over the filling of Appellate Body vacancies, Members continue to use it as a means of resolving their trade disputes. During the review period, WTO Members filed 13 requests for consultations concerning new disputes and two requests seeking compliance proceedings. Four new panels and three Article 21.5 panels were established. In addition, three new panels were composed during the review period. As of mid-May 2018, seven established panels were in composition. While there are no longer any delays in a panel beginning its work due to unavailability of Secretariat staff, delays are being experienced at the appeal stage due to the high number of recently circulated panel reports which has resulted in an increased workload for the Appellate Body. By mid-May 2018, there were eight ongoing appeal proceedings, including in the compliance proceedings in the *EC and Certain Member States – Large Civil Aircraft (Article 21.5 – US)* and *US – Large Civil Aircraft (second complaint) (Article 21.5 – EU)* disputes.

3.127. The subject matter of disputes brought to the WTO continues to span a wide range of agreements, including the GATT 1994, the AD Agreement, the SCM Agreement, the Safeguards Agreement, the SPS Agreement, the TBT Agreement, the GATS, the TRIPS Agreement and the AoA. The first request for consultations citing the TFA has also been made. Both developed and developing country Members continue to be active in the dispute settlement mechanism, both as complainants and as respondents.

Chart 3.23 Total number of active disputes per year (as at April 2018)



a 2018 data are based on the average of the number of active disputes in January, February, March and April.

Note: Several disputes are counted as one if they deal with the same subject matter.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Trade Finance

3.128. The global trade finance gap, as measured by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in 2017, has remained high since 2013, at around US\$1.5 trillion, or some 10% to 15% of the total value of trade finance markets. WTO Members are concerned by the fact that the gaps disproportionately affect developing countries and SMEs who, on average, see 60% of their requests for trade finance rejected. According to the Global Enabling Trade Report by the World Economic Forum, lack of trade finance is among the top three obstacles to exporting for half of the countries in the world.

3.129. In the past year or so, progress on trade finance has been recorded in several areas, thanks to the joint action of partner institutions such as multilateral development banks (MDBs) and the International Chamber of Commerce. In 2017, total financing and guarantees provided by MDBs under trade finance facilitation programmes in developing countries reached approximately US\$30 billion, up from about US\$22 billion in 2016. With the recovery of global trade flows forecasted in 2018, demand for MDB credit and guarantee facilities are likely to increase. However, representatives of MDBs have indicated that an important long-term solution to the trade finance challenge remains bringing the private sector back into the most challenging markets. One way was to develop co-financing and co-risk sharing among MDBs where geographical coverage overlapped, and between MDBs and commercial banks. For example, the International Financial Corporation (IFC) and the Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding to conduct joint trade finance operations in Western Africa. The

WTO will continue its advocacy and technical work in 2018 with the heads of multilateral agencies, the Financial Stability Board and other stakeholders.

Fishery Subsidies

3.130. At MC11, Ministers adopted a Decision on the fisheries subsidies negotiations, with sustainable development considerations at its core. In particular, the Decision incorporates the main elements of SDG Target 14.6, including its deadline. It instructs Members to engage constructively in the fisheries subsidies negotiations, with a view to adopting, by the WTO's Ministerial Conference in 2019, comprehensive and effective disciplines that prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, and eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing country Members and LDC Members should be an integral part of these negotiations.

3.131. On the basis of this Decision, the Negotiating Group on Rules is engaged in an active programme of work structured around the main issue areas previously identified in the fisheries subsidies negotiations. The WTO is thus in a position to deliver, at its next Ministerial Conference, on the sustainable trade and development promise of the fisheries subsidies negotiations.

Electronic Commerce

3.132. Discussions on electronic commerce in the WTO gained momentum in 2016 and engagement remained very high in 2017 and 2018. In the many submissions received from Members, numerous ideas have been put forward on how the WTO should address e-commerce given the changing nature of trade. The increased momentum and interest was reflected in the run-up to and at MC11 where ministers adopted a decision on the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce. In that Decision, ministers agreed to continue and reinvigorate work under the Work Programme and extended the moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions until MC12. In addition, on the margins of MC11, a diverse group of more than 70 Members endorsed a Joint Statement on Electronic Commerce⁷⁸, with the objective of exploring work towards future WTO negotiations on trade-related aspects of electronic commerce. Since MC11, work is ongoing under the auspices of the GC and the relevant bodies as well as under the Joint Statement initiative where participation is open to all WTO Members.

3.133. The Work Programme on E-commerce is based on a broad definition of "electronic commerce" that covers the production, distribution, marketing, sale or delivery of goods and services by electronic means. The definition therefore includes the use of networks, such as the Internet, to search, purchase, advertise and sell goods and services online, as well as to supply services electronically across borders. For retail shopping, where statistics are more readily available, an estimated 1.66 billion people worldwide purchased merchandise online in 2017, with global e-retail sales at US\$2.3 trillion. This represented a 24.8% increase over 2016, and, by 2021, growth of up to US\$4.48 trillion is anticipated. In Asia Pacific, online retail sales accounted for 12.1% of retail sales in 2016, but accounted only for only 1.8% in the Middle East and Africa.⁷⁹ Data on wholesale sales, and business-to-business e-commerce and online services are much harder to come by, but are conservatively estimated at 10 times the volume of retail e-commerce. More recently, sales over mobile devices have become a key factor. This so-called M-commerce reportedly accounted for 58.9% of digital sales of merchandise in 2017, and is expected to represent 70% of the e-commerce traffic by the end of 2018.

3.134. As has been acknowledged in WTO discussions, connectivity is essential to participation in e-commerce, and developing countries lag behind. Moreover, although nearly 54% of the world's households had access to Internet as of 2017, the figure was 15% for LDCs. However, the bar continues to rise, as broadband Internet access, where the gap is greater, is now considered essential. Nevertheless, mobile broadband shows promise, growing more than 20% annually. As of 2017, mobile broadband penetration in developed countries was four times higher than in LDCs,

⁷⁸ WT/MIN(17)/60.

⁷⁹ Statista.com, "E-commerce Worldwide", <https://www.statista.com/topics/871/online-shopping/>, accessed April 2017.

but the annual growth rate of subscriptions in LDCs is over 50% and prices in these markets are continuing a downward trend.⁸⁰

3.135. At the same time, governments, both developed and developing, continue to take steps to enhance connectivity. Many are now including broadband Internet in universal service programmes, mandating minimum access speeds, and creating dedicated funds or incentive projects to promote broadband penetration. Some of the telecom/ICT measures listed in this Report illustrate this trend. For example, Chile is mandating minimum access speeds for both fixed and mobile Internet providers, and Togo is expanding the scope of its universal service programme to include Internet. To help reduce prices, the United Kingdom published regulation of wholesale, high-speed broadband services and Niger has abolished taxes on incoming telecommunications traffic. Another entry shows that Benin has joined a West African roaming arrangement that permits subscribers to roam at local rates. Improving the competitive and regulatory framework also contributes to connectivity. For example, also cited in this Report, Guyana is now setting up an independent telecommunications regulator. In addition, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has introduced a technology neutral licensing regime so that licensees can provide a broader array of services.

3.136. Meanwhile, as on-line commerce becomes more widespread, governments are struggling to adapt their regulations and taking varied paths to do so. Examples cited in Section 4 include the entry into force of the new European data privacy regulation, a U.S. FCC ruling to reduce controls over Internet providers, reversing their classification as a regulated "common carrier" service, South African measures to regulate online content, including videos, streaming and social media, Russian Federation rules on the registration of electronic messenger services and rules to prevent the use of virtual private networks (VPNs) to circumvent blocked content, Chinese measures enforcing mandatory licensing of VPNs, and an agreement, announced by the European Commission, on a new requirement covering, for example, video-on-demand and video sharing, such as levels of European content required and the extension of the rules to user-generated platforms.

Investment Facilitation

3.137. One important outcome from MC11 was the Joint Ministerial Statement on Investment Facilitation for Development⁸¹, co-sponsored by 70 WTO Members, which calls for launching "structured discussions with the aim of developing a multilateral framework on Investment Facilitation". A significant feature of the initiative is its focus on "facilitating", rather than "protecting", investment, the traditional concern of international investment regimes. In the same way that the WTO is helping to facilitate global trade, with the 2017 TFA, co-sponsoring Members argue that the WTO could also help to facilitate global investment. Another feature of the initiative is that developing countries were the initial proponents, although key developed economies have now joined as well. The co-sponsors' Joint Ministerial Statement accounts for over 74% of world trade, 66% of inward FDI, and 61% of global GDP, and include Members from all major regions and all levels of development. The third, and perhaps most, significant feature of the initiative is that it is being driven by a group of like-minded Members, not by the full WTO membership, but their explicit goal remains reaching a non-discriminatory, multilateral outcome.

Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)

3.138. At MC11, 88 WTO Members - the Friends of MSMEs- issued a Joint Ministerial Statement⁸² establishing an Informal Working Group to look into how challenges faced by MSMEs could be addressed in a cohesive way within the WTO context. The Friends of MSMEs, led by a nine-Member Coordinating Committee⁸³, have since then developed a Road Map of thematic sessions to be held over the course of 2018. The first event took place on 27 March 2018 and focused on Access to Information for MSMEs and on how to operationalize the Global Trade Helpdesk. Forthcoming sessions will cover: access to trade finance, reduction of trade costs, how technical assistance and capacity building initiatives could better take into account the trade needs and challenges of

⁸⁰ "ICT Facts and Figures 2017", ITU.

⁸¹ Document WT/MIN(17)/59.

⁸² Document WT/MIN17/58/Rev.1.

⁸³ Bahrain, Kingdom of; Côte d'Ivoire; El Salvador; Hong-Kong, China; Nigeria; Pakistan; the Philippines; Switzerland; and Uruguay (general coordinator).

MSMEs, and access to global markets - the Internet as a tool to address challenges for MSMEs in their efforts to reach global markets. These sessions, of an exploratory nature, aim at identifying a set of concrete, horizontal and non-discriminatory measures that Members could take in order to strengthen MSME participation in global trade.

Women's Economic Empowerment

3.139. Supporting the participation of women in international trade is a key component of the inclusive trade solutions that many governments are now adopting. The Buenos Aires Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment⁸⁴, signed by 122 WTO Members and Observers, seeks to ensure that the WTO works to make trade more inclusive and increases the participation of women in trade. To date, the Declaration's signatories represent 75% of world trade. Signatories have specifically agreed to explore and find ways to best tackle barriers to trade faced by women; to better understand the links between trade and women's empowerment through dedicated events, discussions and exchange of information, and to collect relevant economic data.

3.140. Many Members have developed national strategies and development programmes including gender equality goals and women's empowerment priorities. One major objective is to increase women's participation in the workforce. Particular attention is being paid to empowering women in areas such as finance, agriculture government procurement, tourism and construction. In particular, a diverse range of support programmes are being reported. These include training and technical assistance (finance literacy, vocational training, competing in international markets); accessing credit, loans and guarantees for small businesses (rural producers and innovative companies) and strengthening the development of MSMEs. In agriculture, some domestic support is targeted at women (mostly supporting training activities) with the objective of increasing productivity and production. Some Members have government procurement schemes giving preferences to companies with gender equality policies or to women-led SMEs.

3.141. The following box, on digital technologies as a tool for gender-inclusive trade, has been contributed by the ITC.

Box 3.6 Digital technologies as a tool for gender-inclusive trade

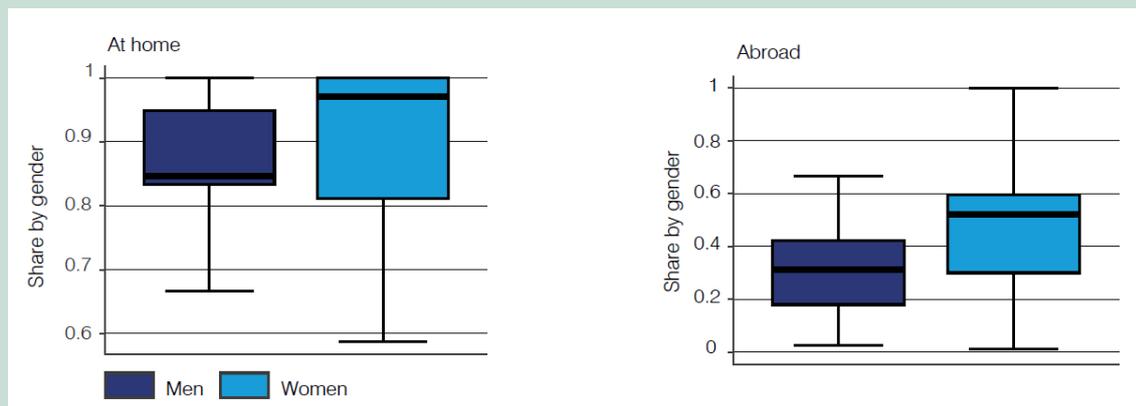
Women represent a great untapped resource in governments' economic and development arsenals. Women's labour force participation continues to lag behind that of men. Firms are much more likely to be owned or managed by men. Yet, income earned by women is more likely to be invested in children's education, health and nutrition.^a Enabling women to generate higher incomes would therefore contribute to communities' long-term well-being. It has been estimated that raising female labour force participation and entrepreneurship to male levels could raise GDP by 15 to 27%, depending on the region.^b

Women also continue to be under-represented in international trade with only one of every five exporting companies being led by a woman.^c Legal, cultural, financial and digital barriers continue to prevent women from fully contributing to their economies. Acknowledging this reality, the 2017 Buenos Aires Declaration on Women and Trade calls for more action towards identifying and removing barriers to women's economic empowerment and increasing their participation in international trade.

A series of recent data-gathering exercises by the ITC have shed light on barriers that continue to prevent women from reaching their full potential as equal economic actors.

ITC business surveys on non-tariff measures (NTMs) show that female-owned exporter companies report procedural obstacles to trade more frequently than their male-owned counterparts (Figure). In particular, female-owned micro firms report a higher share of procedural obstacles due to 'informal or high payments' and 'discriminatory behaviour' than male-owned micro firms. Since micro firms are often one-person enterprises, it is plausible that women owner-managers are also responsible for trade-related administrative processes, leaving them more exposed to potential discrimination by officials.^d The digitalization of export procedures could help overcome gender discrimination by reducing face-to-face interaction to obtain export-related documentation.

⁸⁴ Viewed at https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/mc11_e/genderdeclarationmc11_e.pdf.

Figure: Share of procedural obstacles at home and abroad, by gender

Note: The box plot shows the distribution of the share of burdensome procedural obstacles in terms of quartiles at home and by the partner country. A transaction is a firm–product–partner combination.

Source: SME Competitiveness Outlook 2016

However, women are 6% less likely to have Internet access^e, which hampers access to digital tools. It is also the case that female entrepreneurs are under-represented in the ICT sector, where they account for only 18% of businesses (compared to 30% in the clothing sector).^f There is nevertheless increased evidence that women successfully use digital tools when they are available. For example, ITC data shows that about 80% of women-led services companies surveyed in Sri Lanka, Kenya and Indonesia engage in social media advertising, while less than half use traditional advertising.^g

Digital solutions have contributed to bringing down barriers to female entrepreneurship in a number of areas. For instance, the use of mobile money solutions has in some countries represented a means for women to overcome their traditionally limited access to banking services.^h By becoming early adopters of more efficient new payment procedures, women keep records of all transactions, which makes it easier to obtain loans.

A recent ITC e-commerce survey found that female-owned firms are significantly more active in e-commerce than in traditional trade: among exporters conducting e-commerce alone, women entrepreneurs accounted for a share twice as high as for firms conducting only traditional off-line trade.ⁱ

Notwithstanding a gender gap, when it comes to access to ICT digital technologies hold the promise to unleash women's potential in business development and trade. Policy makers can contribute to making it happen by boosting digital solutions for business transactions - including through the implementation of the TFA - and promoting STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education for girls and women.

^a Morrison, A.; Raju, D.; Sinha, N. (2007). Gender Equality, Poverty and Economic Growth. Policy Research Working Paper; No. 4349. World Bank, Washington, DC.

^b McKinsey Global Institute (2015). The power of parity, Cuberes D. & Teigner M. (2012), Gender gaps in the labor market and aggregate productivity, Sheffield Economic Research Paper Series, SERP Number: 2012017

^c Davies, R. B., and Mazhikeyev, A. (2015). The glass border: gender and exporting in developing countries UCD Centre for Economic Research Working Paper Series, N.2015&25, University College Dublin, School of Economics; ITC business surveys on NTMs, 2010-2017, www.ntmsurvey.org.

^d ITC (2016) Meeting the standard for trade, SME Competitiveness Outlook.

^e International Telecommunication Union (2016), ICT facts and figures.

^f ITC business surveys on NTMs, 2010-2017, www.ntmsurvey.org.

^g ITC (2017) Promoting SME competitiveness in Kenya and ITC (2017) Promoting SME competitiveness in Indonesia, and ITC (2018) Promoting SME competitiveness in Sri Lanka.

^h ITC (2017) Closing the small-business and gender gap to make trade more inclusive in: OECD & WTO, Aid for Trade at a glance 2017, Promoting Trade, Inclusiveness and Connectivity for Sustainable Development

ⁱ ITC (2017). New Pathways to E-commerce: A Global MSME Competitiveness Survey. ITC. Geneva <http://www.intracen.org/publication/New-Pathways-to-E-commerce/>.

Source: ITC.

3.142. The following box on a multidimensional approach to trade policy indicators has been contributed by the IMF.

Box 3.7 A multidimensional approach to trade policy indicators

Recent events have underscored the importance of trade and trade policy to the global economy. A move towards inward looking policies can risk undermining the economic recovery underway. More broadly, addressing trade distortions can also raise productivity and growth, and a generalized move to more open trade that reduces foreign barriers can facilitate adjustment in countries facing greater import competition (see IMF-WTO-WB, 2017). Trade policy discussions stand to benefit from having a strong factual basis covering the multiple dimensions that are nowadays relevant to assess trade policy. To this end, this Box describes and discusses a set of indicators of trade regimes which can be a helpful tool to guide policy discussions (see Cerdeiro and Nam, 2018).

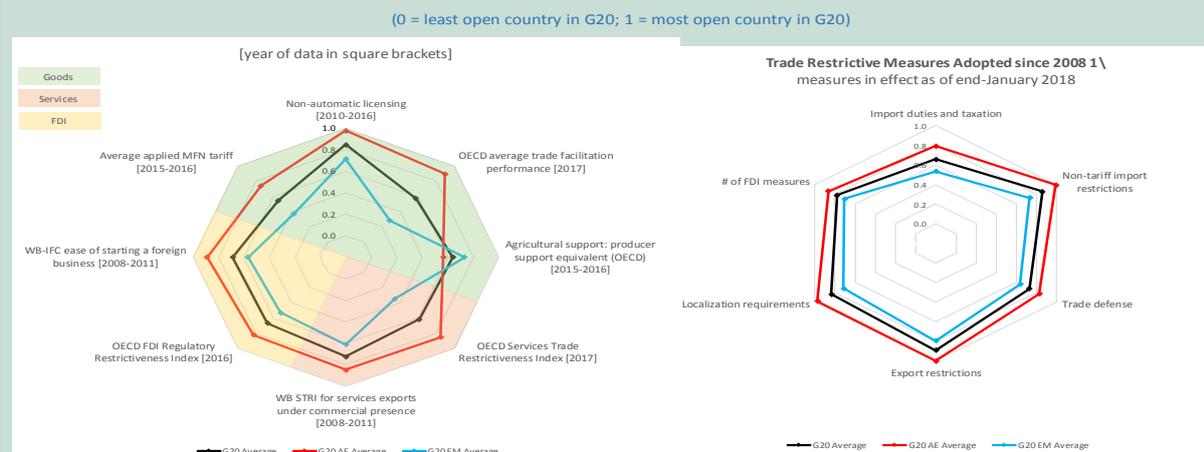
Barriers to trade can take many different forms, ranging from import tariffs, to regulatory barriers, to restrictions on services trade, to controls on foreign investment. Because of this diversity, no single indicator can provide a complete characterization of a country's trade regime. The indicators relate to three different areas of trade policy – trade in goods, trade in services, and FDI. It is worth stressing that none of the indicators described aims to benchmark countries' performance against commitments they may have, either under the WTO or *vis-à-vis* any other forum or agreement.

Figure 1 illustrates the results for the G20 as well as its advanced country and emerging market (EM) members. On the left-hand-side panel of the Figure, four of the indicators aim to measure barriers to goods trade: average tariffs, the fraction of imports covered by non-automatic licensing procedures, an index on trade facilitation, and the level of agricultural support. In addition, there are two indicators measuring restrictions to services trade, and two indicators that aim to capture barriers to FDI. All indicators are normalized such that being closer to the edge of the chart should be read as being more open.^a

There are at least two salient features in the chart. First, on average G20 advanced economies (AE) appear to have more open trade regimes than their emerging-market counterparts, with the exception of agricultural support, which remains relatively large in some AEs. We should not necessarily expect emerging market countries to be as open as AEs, which began to open to trade much earlier, and it is worth noting that EMs have liberalized faster over the last two decades, particularly from the mid-1990s to the mid-2000s, after which liberalization slowed across all countries. Second, the gap between advanced economies and emerging-market economies is particularly pronounced for one of the services trade measures and trade facilitation. This lends partial support to the view that liberalization efforts have been somewhat asymmetric not just across countries, but also across sectors.

In light of concerns that the period since the 2008 financial crisis has seen an increase in different forms of protectionism despite pledges to avoid this outcome, we also present indicators that reflect the evolution of a more granular set of trade policies since 2008. While there is considerable heterogeneity within groups of countries, overall, however, emerging-market G20 members appear to have adopted more trade-restricting measures since the 2008 financial crisis (Figure 1, right-hand-side panel).

^a Since the different indicators are not expressed in comparable units of measure, we normalize every indicator with respect to a reference set of countries (G20 members in this Box), where 0 corresponds to the country that is least open and 1 to the country that is most open for that indicator. It is important to bear in mind that the comparability across different policy dimensions that this normalization allows is only in a distance-to-frontier sense.

Figure 1. Selected Trade Policy Indicators—Example with G20 Member Countries

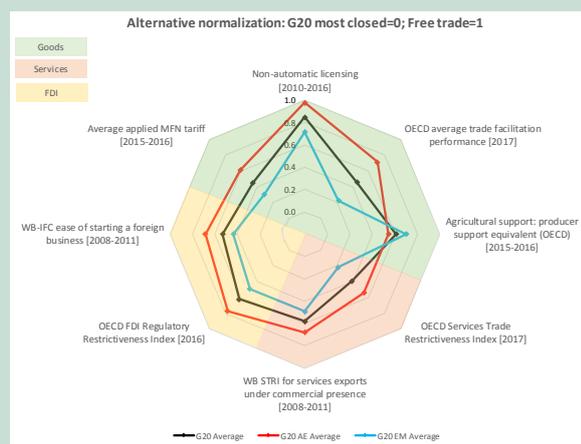
Notes: The indicators reflect no judgment as to WTO compliance of underlying measures, nor whether certain measures (such as trade defense) are an appropriate response to the actions of other countries. The "ease of starting a business" indicator is based on perceptions as part of an established IFC survey process.

Sources: Tariff data are from the WTO, *World Tariff Profiles*; the import licensing measure is based on UNCTAD TRAINS and COMTRADE data; the average trade facilitation performance, agricultural support measure, Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI), and FDI Restrictiveness Index are from the OECD; WB STRI is from the World Bank; the post-GFC indicators are from Global Trade Alert.

1) Import (export) coverage ratio, except for the case of FDI (number of measures).

All countries, however, including AEs, remain relatively far from free trade. Figure 2 shows the resulting indicators of countries' trade regimes if the edge of the chart represents free trade, rather than the most open country within the G20. The distance from free trade is largest for services restrictions, investment restrictions, trade facilitation, and, interestingly, in further MFN tariff reductions.

Because of the limitations inherent in any summary indicator, and given the lack of quantitative information for some important policy areas, these indicators are best used in conjunction with qualitative sources, including WTO Trade Policy Reviews. Information about countries' specific context is also essential for discussions about the scope, sequencing and pace of trade reforms (see e.g. IMF, 2010). It would also be useful to quantify the other aspects of countries' trade regimes – including in areas such as behind-the-border regulations that can hinder trade, state support (subsidies, SOEs), government procurement, and intellectual property. Better data, both across countries and in terms of policy areas that significantly affect trade, would encourage better-informed policy discussions.

Figure 2. Free-Trade Normalization

References

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Source: IMF.

4 POLICY DEVELOPMENT IN TRADE IN SERVICES

4.1. Several new measures affecting trade in services were introduced by WTO Members and Observers during the period covered by this Report. The large majority of these measures are either horizontal in nature and affect the supply of services through commercial presence (18 entries) or the movement of natural persons (14) across a broad range of sectors, or relate to financial services (14) and telecommunication, ICT and audiovisual services (18). Other sectors concerned are transport, distribution, education and professional services. An important number of measures appear to be trade restrictive, even though the majority are trade facilitating. Annex 4 provides additional information on all these measures, which concern 40 WTO Members and two Observers.

Measures affecting supply through commercial presence

4.2. Various governments introduced changes to their investment policy that affect the supply through commercial presence (mode 3) across various sectors. Most of these new measures eased ownership or other limits on foreign investment. For example, the Government of Zimbabwe removed the requirement that at least 51% of all businesses be owned by indigenous Zimbabweans. The requirement is only maintained for companies involved in the diamond and platinum extractive industries. Certain other sectors that were reserved for indigenous Zimbabweans are now reserved for Zimbabwean citizens.

4.3. India modified its FDI policy and allowed FDI in single brand retailing up to 100% under the automatic route. Previously, FDI above 49% required government approval. Further, foreign airlines are allowed to invest up to 49% in Air India under the approval route, subject to certain conditions. Lao PDR abolished the general requirement that foreign investors establishing a company invest a minimum of US\$120,000, while in the United Arab Emirates, amendments to the Commercial Companies Law give the Government the power to relax the requirement that at least 51% of shares in limited liability companies be held by nationals of the United Arab Emirates.

4.4. Myanmar allowed companies that have up to 35% of their shares held by foreign nationals to be considered domestic companies under the law, thereby permitting foreign investors to participate in business activities that were previously limited to wholly domestically-owned companies. In the Philippines, the President signed an Order directing the National Economic and Development Authority to take immediate steps to lift or ease existing restrictions on foreign participation in a series of sectors. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's General Investment Authority extended the duration of foreign investment licences to five years, up from one year.

4.5. China took measures to facilitate implementation of reforms in the country's free trade zones. Among the changes, wholly foreign-owned enterprises are allowed to operate entertainment venues, joint foreign-Chinese travel agencies may provide services for certain travel abroad, and foreign investors are permitted to establish wholly foreign-owned enterprises to undertake international shipping, international ship management and international maritime cargo handling businesses.

4.6. In addition, a number of governments took steps to streamline procedures or otherwise facilitate investment in services and other sectors. These include Angola, Argentina, Botswana, and Thailand. For example, Botswana established a new "One Stop Service Centre" aiming to facilitate investment by minimizing inconveniences and impediments, and improving the ease of doing business.

4.7. Other measures adopted during the period reviewed were more restrictive. For example, in Tanzania, a new measure affecting trade through both modes 1 and 3 imposes preferences for local services and suppliers. Among other things, the regulations require a non-indigenous Tanzanian company wishing to provide services in the mining industry to incorporate a joint venture company in which a local company holds equity participation of at least 20%. The regulations also require risks relating to mining activities to be insured through an indigenous brokerage company and, where applicable, an indigenous reinsurance broker. Companies engaged in mining activities can only retain the services of a Tanzanian legal practitioner or a legal firm whose principal office is located in Tanzania. In a similar fashion, the regulations require maintenance of a bank account with an indigenous Tanzanian bank and the conduct of financial

transactions with banks in the country.¹ In Italy, a new measure extends the Government's "golden powers", which allow blocking and imposing conditions on takeovers by non-EU companies in high technology sectors in cases of threats to national security and public order. Sectors concerned now include critical or sensitive infrastructure such as storage and management of data, as well as critical technology, including artificial intelligence.

Communication services

4.8. Several Members adopted new measures in relation to the communication sector. The Government of the Russian Federation introduced new rules for owners of electronic messenger services. Owners have to register with the national regulator and are required to maintain certain information on local servers. In China, the use of unlicensed virtual private networks (VPNs) is banned as of 1 April 2018, pursuant to the *Circular on Cleaning Up and Regulating the Internet Access Service Market*. The Circular requires all VPN providers to be licensed by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), and mandates pre-approval for cross-border business operations intending to set up their own or leasing private leased circuits (PLCs), including VPNs. If approved, PLCs can only be used to handle internal official business and not to connect onshore and offshore data centres or business platforms to carry out telecom business operations.

4.9. Benin entered the free mobile roaming zone established by countries in West Africa (Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Togo). Travellers in the region benefit from outgoing calls billed at local rates, plus free incoming calls (currently capped at 300 incoming minutes/month). In Chile, the parliament approved a bill establishing an obligation for providers of fixed and mobile Internet services to provide guaranteed minimum Internet access speed. The European Union's new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) entered into force on 25 May 2018, strengthening the rights of data subjects and imposing new requirements on organizations that process personal data. Guyana established the National Telecommunications Agency, a new independent regulatory body for telecoms, while Niger abolished its tax on incoming international traffic. Togo set new minimum levels of service under the universal service scheme. The decree updates the scope of universal service to, most notably, include Internet access and set minimum Internet bandwidth requirements. In the United States, the Federal Communications Commission repealed net neutrality rules previously put into place.

4.10. A number of policy changes during the period under review relate to audiovisual services. The Government of Italy adopted new measures regulating the audiovisual sector, including increased quotas for Italian and EU content. The overall quota for the broadcasting of EU works will increase from 50% to 53% in 2019, to 56% in 2020, and to 60% in 2021. For public broadcasters, at least half of that quota has to be used for Italian works, and at least one third in the case of private broadcasters. In the European Union, agreement was reached between the European Commission, Parliament and Council on the main elements of revised audiovisual rules that will apply to broadcasters, video-on-demand and video-sharing platforms. The revisions include requirements that on-demand catalogues contain at least a 30% share of European content.

4.11. In Turkey, a new measure requires media service suppliers to obtain a broadcasting licence and platform operators to receive an authorization from Turkey's Radio and Television Supreme Council in order to provide radio, television and on-demand broadcasting services on the Internet. Lack of a valid licence can result in the removal of the content or blocking of access. For its part, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia approved licensing regulations for cinemas, lifting the long-standing prohibition on this activity.

Financial services

4.12. Various policy changes took place during the review period in the financial services sector. For instance, China lifted some limits on the operation of foreign-owned non-banking payment institutions. Foreign suppliers wishing to provide electronic payment services for domestic transactions and cross-border transactions must obtain a payment service licence and establish foreign-invested enterprises within China's territory. The foreign-invested payment institution shall

¹ Indigenous companies are defined as those with at least 51% of equity owned by Tanzanian citizens, and at least 80% of executive and senior management positions and 100% of other positions held by Tanzanian citizens.

be capable of independently completing the payment business within the territory of China. The storage, processing and analysis of personal information and financial information collected and generated by foreign investment payment agencies in China must be conducted within the territory. In order for the information to be transferred overseas, the supplier must comply with the laws and regulations of the relevant regulatory authorities, fulfil corresponding information confidentiality obligations, and obtain the consent of the personal information subject.

4.13. China also removed a number of impediments to the operation of foreign-owned banks in its territory, for example allowing locally incorporated foreign-invested banks to establish or invest in regulated banking financial institutions, and removing approval requirements and replacing them with reporting requirements for certain services provided by foreign-invested banks.

4.14. In India, the Reserve Bank issued a Directive requiring all payment system operators to store data within the country. Operators are given a maximum of six months to comply with the requirement and to submit an audit report certifying compliance. In addition, the Reserve Bank announced that sub-targets for lending to small and marginal farmers and micro enterprises will be applied to foreign banks of 20 branches or above. For example, the sub-target of 8% of Adjusted Net Bank Credit or Credit Equivalent Amount of Off-Balance Sheet Exposure, whichever is higher, will apply for lending to small and marginal farmers.

4.15. Indonesia adopted a measure requiring domestic retail debit and credit transactions to be processed through switching institutions located in Indonesia and licensed by the Bank of Indonesia. The measure also imposed a 20% foreign equity cap on firms that wish to obtain switching licenses to participate in the National Payment Gateway (NPG). Foreign firms that wish to process transactions through the NPG must form partnership agreements with licensed NPG switch institutions and agree to transfer technology as part of these agreements. Indonesia also adopted a new measure requiring that insurance services for the maritime transport of exports of coal and crude palm oil, and imports of rice can only be supplied by national companies.

4.16. In South Africa, the new Insurance Act introduced regulations on activities of foreign-based insurers. It prohibits such insurers and reinsurers from soliciting business in South Africa on a cross-border basis, except where foreign reinsurers conduct business through a branch established in South Africa.

Other services sectors

4.17. A more limited number of policy changes over the review period touched on services sectors not mentioned above. As regards distribution services, Viet Nam eased regulations in relation to the activities of foreign-invested enterprises engaged in trade in goods and related activities, Myanmar allowed joint ventures between foreign and domestic companies for the retail and wholesale trade of agricultural machinery, and Iraq, an Observer, introduced a law limiting the importation of goods for resale to registered commercial agents, which can only be Iraqi nationals or companies wholly-owned by Iraqi nationals.

4.18. With respect to education services, the President of Indonesia instructed his Cabinet to allow 100% foreign ownership in universities, and to permit foreign institutions to open campuses in the country. Myanmar allowed full foreign capital participation in private education institutions.

4.19. Regarding transport services, Indonesia adopted a new measure requiring that Indonesian-flagged vessels be used for exports of coal and crude palm oil, and for imports of rice. Viet Nam issued new regulations for logistics services that eliminate the requirement that foreign investors establish through joint-ventures with local enterprises.

Services supplied through the movement of natural persons

4.20. Various Members adopted measures affecting the supply of services through the movement of natural persons. In Nigeria, a new executive order prohibits the Ministry of Interior from giving visas to foreign workers whose skills are readily available in the country. Oman banned the recruitment of foreign workers by private companies for a range of occupations across various sectors, such as information and technology, insurance, media, aviation, engineering, and medical

services. In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a prohibition on foreign workers was introduced in 12 additional sectors.

4.21. A number of the new policies adopted appear to facilitate the supply of services through the movement of natural persons. For example, Colombia's new Immigration Law replaces the previous 21 visa categories with three types of visas, namely visitor visas, migrant visas and resident visas. As part of the reorganization, the duration of stay for short-term technical visitors has been increased from 180 days to up to two years. Moreover, immigration authorities are now required to adjudicate a complete visa application within five business days of submission. In Brazil, the new Migration Law simplified procedures for the entry and residence of foreigners, and reorganized the visa system into the following categories: visitor visas, temporary visas, and official, diplomatic and courtesy visas.

4.22. Chile launched a pilot programme for a new streamlined visa application process, called Tech Visa, which allows certain companies to hire specialized professional and technical personnel not available in the country for a period of up to two years. In Chinese Taipei, the term of work permits for foreign special professionals was extended from three to five years, and a new visa category, called Employment Gold Card, enables foreign special professionals to obtain work permits, residence visas, residency permits and re-entry permits in a single card and with a single online application process. Thailand created a new SMART visa programme to attract qualified foreigners that are experts, senior executives, investors and start-up entrepreneurs. This new programme provides for the possibility of multiple entries and the option to work during the validity of the visa without needing to obtain a separate work permit.

4.23. For its part, Switzerland has increased the yearly ceilings for work permits for highly qualified workers from non-EU/EFTA States by 500 in 2018, reaching a total of 8,000. 4,500 work permits are allocated for short stays (L permits), and 3,500 for long stays (B permits). Further, a new measure in Switzerland requires employers hiring foreign workers to undertake a labour market test for certain occupations where the rate of unemployment is above 8%. This threshold will be lowered to 5% on 1 January 2020. In Australia, the Temporary Work (Skilled) Visa (subclass 457) was replaced with the new Temporary Skill Shortage Visa on 18 March 2018.

4.24. The following box, on measures restricting services trade, has been contributed by the OECD.

Box 4.1 Increase in measures restricting services trade between 2014 and 2017

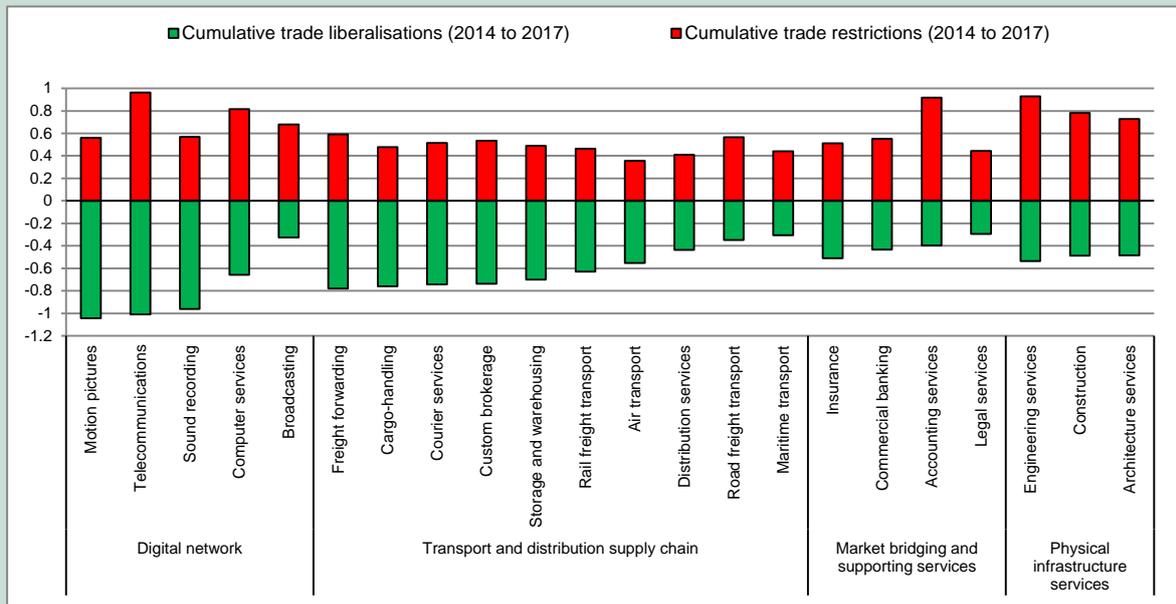
Services markets are subject to complex and ever-changing regulatory environments where new measures can lower trade barriers or bring about more stringent conditions for foreign suppliers. The OECD Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI) collects information annually on the nature and extent of regulatory barriers affecting services trade in 44 countries across 22 services sectors. The periodical review of trade-relevant laws and regulations provides new insights into key changes and emerging global trends on services trade regulations.

Results from the 2017 STRI update show an increasingly tighter global regulatory environment for services trade in some sectors (Figure 1). Overall, the net effect of services' trade-restricting measures on the STRI scores has been larger than that of the trade-liberalizing measures between 2014 and 2017. These results are largely due to restrictive economy-wide policy changes being implemented in a number of countries. This was particularly the case for measures affecting services supplied through the temporary movement of natural persons (Mode 4), due to more stringent entry conditions being applied to persons seeking to provide services on a temporary basis, such as intra-corporate transferees, or contractual or independent services suppliers. In addition, some countries have tightened the screening process for foreign investments and others have introduced economy-wide limitations on cross-border data flows.

Recent OECD analysis reveals that the costs of services trade restrictions are high, creating significant obstacles for businesses both in services and manufacturing industries. For instance, in certain transport and logistics segments, average trade restrictions can raise prices by 20% for business users of services inputs.

Figure 1. Impact of policy changes on the STRI results, 2014-2017

Cumulative changes in results across countries



Source: STRI database (<http://oe.cd/stri-db>)

Note: Regulatory changes have been recorded in the STRI database until October 2017.

For more information:

OECD (2018), *OECD Services Trade Restrictiveness Index: Policy Trends Up To 2018*, OECD Publishing, Paris. <http://www.oecd.org/trade/services-trade/STRI-Policy-trends-up-to-2018.pdf>.

Source: OECD.

5 POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN TRADE IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

5.1. During the period under review, Congo, Gabon, Madagascar and Côte d'Ivoire deposited instruments of acceptance of the Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement. The Protocol gave effect to the 2005 Decision¹ to amend the TRIPS Agreement in order to address public health needs of countries with limited or no domestic pharmaceutical production capacity by creating an additional legal pathway for production and export of generic medicines. The Amended TRIPS Agreement entered into force in January 2017 and applies to all Members which have accepted the Protocol.² A waiver, agreed in 2003,³ continues to apply to the 39 Members yet to accept the Protocol.

5.2. On the bilateral and regional fronts, Members continued to implement and negotiate a network of trade agreements that contain substantive intellectual property (IP) provisions. Currently, 219 RTAs in force notified to the WTO contain specific IP provisions. Over time, conclusion and implementation of RTAs has further developed the interconnection between IP and trade in goods and services, and the links of the IP system to other normative areas, such as investment, e-commerce, and competition. Notable provisions on IP standards and work programmes were contained in several agreements signed during the reporting period, including the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership⁴ and the African Continental Free Trade Area.⁵ Significant IP issues were reportedly under consideration during the re-negotiations of the NAFTA⁶ and the Association Agreement between Mexico and the European Union⁷, as well as in the continuing negotiations in the framework of the Pacific Alliance⁸ and between MERCOSUR and the European Union.⁹

5.3. At the national level, newly notified measures demonstrated the complex interaction between IP and other areas of trade and public policy generally, including on public health and procurement. The Republic of Moldova enacted legislation to implement its commitments under its Association Agreement with the European Union; Mauritius amended its Customs Act to include IP enforcement provisions; Panama issued the regulation to implement the amended Industrial Property Law; Turkey amended its Copyright Law to take account of digital developments, improve transparency of collecting societies and address problems related to licensing;¹⁰ and Malaysia announced the issuance of a compulsory license for a hepatitis C treatment in September 2017.¹¹ At the request of some Members during its Trade Policy Review in February 2018, Malaysia provided further details about the legal basis for this measure.¹²

5.4. The relation between IP and trade continued to develop and diversify, as Members developed their own national strategies to streamline IP into the economy (Box 5.1), and continued to modernize and fine-tune their IP legislation (Box 5.2).

¹ Document WT/L/641.

² Viewed at: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/trips_e/amendment_e.htm.

³ Document WT/L/540 and its Corr.1.

⁴ Viewed at <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/trade/free-trade-agreements/free-trade-agreements-concluded-but-not-in-force/cptpp/cptpp-overview/>.

⁵ Viewed at <https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20180321/au-member-countries-create-history-massively-signing-afcfta-agreement-kigali>; and Articles 6 to 8 as viewed at <https://www.tralac.org/documents/resources/african-union/1870-agreement-establishing-the-afcfta-kigali-draft-text-march-2018-1/file.html>.

⁶ Viewed at <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2017/november/ustr-releases-updated-nafta>.

⁷ Viewed at <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/eu-mexico-trade-agreement/>.

⁸ Viewed at <https://alianzapacifico.net/inicio-en-chile-la-tercera-ronda-de-negociaciones-con-los-candidatos-a-estado-asociado/>.

⁹ Viewed at http://www.sice.oas.org/TPD/MER_EU/MER_EU_s.asp.

¹⁰ Submissions by the Republic of Moldova, Mauritius, Panama and Turkey for the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.

¹¹ Viewed at <https://kpkesihatan.com/2017/09/20/press-statement-minister-of-health-20th-september-2017-implementation-of-the-rights-of-government-for-sofosbuvir-tablet-to-increase-access-for-hepatitis-c-treatment-in-malaysia/>.

¹² Document WT/TPR/M/366/Add.1.

Box 5.1 National IP strategies

Canada^a

In April 2018, Canada launched its IP Strategy to help entrepreneurs better understand and protect IP; and improve access to shared IP. Its objective is improving IP legislation, literacy and advice. It will also provide tools to support businesses to pursue their own IP strategies.

Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of^b

As part of the National Transformation Program 2020, the Saudi Intellectual Property Authority was established in 2017. Its objective is to develop a national IP strategy and to follow up its implementation.

Moldova, Republic of^c

In April 2018, the Republic of Moldova approved the Action Plan for the years 2018-2020 to implement the National IP Strategy. This would be the final stage of the implementation of the Strategy and, hence, the plan sets out concrete actions and applicable deadlines, delegates responsibility, provides cost estimates, identifies financing sources, and indicates expected results and the monitoring indicators.

^a Viewed at http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/108.nsf/eng/h_00000.html.

^b Submission by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.

^c Submission by the Republic of Moldova for the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Box 5.2 Domestic legislation

China^a

China's Anti-unfair Competition Law entered into force in January 2018. Supporting regulations related to IP rights will be formulated, *inter alia*, on market confusion, infringement of business secrets and Internet unfair competition. Special law enforcement actions and coordinated deployment and investigation will be undertaken to strengthen IP enforcement and fair competition.

Mexico^b

In March 2018, Mexico amended its Industrial Property Law by introducing a new specific regime for geographical indications, in addition to the one of denominations of origin; strengthening the right of inventors and designers to be named in patent/design applications; reducing the period of protection for industrial designs from 15 non-renewable years to 5 renewable years and for a maximum of 25 years; regulating the priority of inter-related patent applications; establishing a non-extendable period of one month for trademark opposition; and increasing penal sanctions for trademark counterfeiting.

Seychelles^c

In February 2018, the Cabinet of Ministers approved the establishment of the Seychelles centralized IP Office, which includes the assignment of all operational matters to the Office of Registration and of policy matters to the Ministry of Finance, Trade and Economic Planning.

Singapore^d

In October 2017, Singapore amended its Patent and Registered Designs Laws to fine-tune them and adapt them to technological advances, e.g. protection of designs of non-physical products such as virtual keyboards.

Thailand^e

Since November 2017, Thailand has implemented its Accession to the Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks.

Turkey^f

In November 2017, Turkey amended its Copyright Law to take account of digital developments, improve transparency of collecting societies, and address problems related to licensing.

^a Submission by China for the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.

^b Submission by Mexico for the WTO Trade Monitoring Report and document IP/N/1/MEX/16.

^c Submission by Seychelles for the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.

^d Submission by Singapore for the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.

^e Submission by Thailand for the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.

^f Submission by Turkey for the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

TRIPS Council

5.5. During the review period, the TRIPS Council met on two occasions, i.e. from 19 to 20 October 2017 and on 27 February 2018.

5.6. At the October 2017 meeting, India posed questions¹³ to the European Union regarding the Commission Notice on the Customs Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) concerning goods brought into the Customs Authority of the Union without being released for free circulation including goods in transit.¹⁴ The objective of the Commission Notice is to update the EC Guidelines concerning the enforcement by European Union customs authorities of IPRs with regard to goods, in particular medicines, in transit through the European Union by reflecting EC Regulation No .1383/2003 and the European Union Trademark Package. In response, the European Union indicated that the Regulations were compliant with the TRIPS Agreement, particularly its enforcement provisions. It also indicated its willingness to engage in bilateral talks with Members concerned.¹⁵

5.7. In October 2017, Members also adopted the annual report on the functioning of the special compulsory licensing system under the TRIPS Amendment, and agreed on a two-year extension of the period for acceptance of the Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement, until 31 December 2019. After several years of consideration, the TRIPS Council reached consensus on granting observer status to the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO) and the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI).

5.8. The discussion on non-violation and situation complaints under the TRIPS Agreement continued in the run-up to MC11. In December 2017, ministers agreed to extend the moratorium until MC12. At the February 2018 meeting, Members reflected on how to move forward on the examination of the scope and modalities for non-violation and situation complaints.

5.9. During the two meetings, Members continued to share their national experiences and engaged in constructive policy discussions on two *ad hoc* agenda items: (i) IP and innovation; and (ii) IP and the public interest. Exchanges revolved around inclusive innovation and trade of MSMES,¹⁶ the societal value of IP in the new economy,¹⁷ compulsory licences,¹⁸ and regulatory review exemption.¹⁹

5.10. Effective implementation of the TRIPS Agreement provisions on transparency remained a central responsibility of the TRIPS Council. During the review period, 10 Members²⁰ notified legislative measures under Article 63.2. Several Members gave accounts of the rationale for these measures, which provided insights into recent legislative changes in the areas, such as copyright and related rights, trademarks, geographical indications, industrial designs, patents, plant variety protection and enforcement. Finland and Mauritius also submitted their checklist of issues on enforcement, and Finland and Macao, China, submitted their contact points for technical cooperation under TRIPS.

5.11. In February 2018, Members also discussed the proposal presented by the LDCs' Consultative Group on how to improve transfer of technology.²¹

¹³ These questions were a follow-up to the presentation provided by the European Union, in June 2016, on the main features of its Trademark Package (Directive 2015/2436 and Regulation 2015/2424).

¹⁴ Document IP/C/W/636.

¹⁵ In 2009, the TRIPS Council had intensive discussions on the detention, on patent infringement grounds, of generic drugs originating in India, transiting through ports in EU member States to third country destinations, pursuant to EC Regulation No. 1383/2003. India and Brazil alleged that the measures at issue were, in several respects, inconsistent as such and as applied, with the obligations of the European Union under the TRIPS Agreement, in particular Articles 28, 31, 41 and 42. In May 2010, India and Brazil requested consultations with the European Union on this issue (DS408 and DS409, respectively), which are still pending.

¹⁶ Document IP/C/W/635 and IP/C/W/638.

¹⁷ Document IP/C/W/641.

¹⁸ Document IP/C/W/630.

¹⁹ Document IP/C/W/639.

²⁰ United States; Mexico; Australia; Norway; Ukraine; Kyrgyz Republic; Finland; Mauritius; Macao, China; and China.

²¹ Document IP/C/W/640.

TRIPS-related discussions in Trade Policy Reviews

5.12. During the review period, the Trade Policy Reviews of 15 Members²² took place. These Reviews included discussions on a wide range of IP issues with a bearing on trade policy, including: exhaustion regimes and parallel imports; copyright registration, exceptions and limitations; folklore protection; collective management organizations; trademark pre-registration; well-known marks; geographical indications; patent exceptions and certificates of supplementary protection; patentability criteria; protection of undisclosed information and test data; registration of industrial designs; enforcement; *ex officio* authority for border measures; application of border measures to goods in transit; acceptance of the Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement; absence of notifications to the TRIPS Council;²³ regional IP regimes;²⁴ accession to and ratification of WIPO treaties and the UPOV Convention; reduction of red-tape in the administration of IP rights; operation of an "IPR marketplace" and IP monetization roadmap;²⁵ and IP education and outreach programmes.

e-TRIPS

5.13. e-TRIPS is an online information submission and management system designed to facilitate the processing of and access to TRIPS-related information. As a substantial advancement in the development of e-TRIPS, the Secretariat is now using the e-TRIPS system to process notifications and other types of TRIPS documents, internally to test and fine-tune the system during this initial phase of Secretariat-use only, with the aim of making it publicly available in the near future.

²² Members of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo), the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Cambodia, The Gambia, Malaysia, Egypt, Philippines and Montenegro.

²³ Question posed by the European Union to Guinea-Bissau, document RD/TPR/850.

²⁴ Namely the Andean Community and the OAPI.

²⁵ Question posed by Hong Kong, China, to Malaysia, document RD/TPR/887/Rev.2.

ANNEX 1 - MEASURES FACILITATING TRADE¹

(MID-OCTOBER 2017 TO MID-MAY 2018)

Confirmed information²

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Argentina		
Trade facilitation measure for importers through the implementation of the "Authorized Economic Operator" scheme	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (28 May 2018) and Administración Federal de Ingresos Públicos - Resolución General No. 4150-E (26 October 2017)	Effective 28 October 2017
Trade facilitation measure for exporters through the implementation of the "Authorized Economic Operator" scheme	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (28 May 2018) and Administración Federal de Ingresos Públicos - Resolución General No. 4150-E (26 October 2017)	Effective 28 October 2017
Elimination of the requirement for exporters to settle their foreign currency originating from export operations (all sectors)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (28 May 2018) and Decreto No. 893/2017 - Entidades Financieras (1 November 2017)	Effective 2 November 2017
Elimination of the sworn declaration requirement (<i>Declaración Jurada de Ventas al Exterior "DJVE"</i>) for the export of certain products (with small export volume) (e.g. rye; oats; millet; worked oat grains; certain oil seeds (<i>cartamo</i>); linseed oils and its fractions; oil-cake and other solid residues, whether or not ground or in the form of pellets, resulting from the extraction of soyabean oil (<i>tortas de soja y expellers de soja</i>); certain oil-cake and other solid residues, resulting from the extraction of vegetable fats or oils (<i>lino, nabo y colza</i>) (NCM 1002; 1004; 1008; 1104; 1207; 1515; 2304; 2306)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (28 May 2018) and Resolución No. 364-E/2017 - Ministerio de Agroindustria (16 November 2017)	Effective 23 November 2017
Elimination of "reference values" for exports of all goods	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (28 May 2018) and Administración Federal de Ingresos Públicos - Resolución General No. 4161-E (23 November 2017)	Effective 28 November 2017
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain machinery, equipment and goods (NCM Chapters 39; 70; 72; 73; 74; 84; 85; 90) destined for the production of renewable energy (<i>Régimen de Fomento de las Energías Renovables</i>)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (28 May 2018) and Decreto No. 814/2017 (10 October 2017)	Effective 1 January 2018 for 60 months

¹ The inclusion of any measure in this Annex implies no judgement by the WTO Secretariat on whether or not such measure, or its intent, is protectionist in nature. Moreover, nothing in the Annex implies any judgement, either direct or indirect, on the consistency of any measure referred to with the provisions of any WTO agreement.

² This Section includes information which has either been provided by the Member concerned or has been confirmed at the request of the Secretariat.

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Elimination of the Register Export Operation (<i>Registro de Operaciones de Exportación - ROE-ROJO</i>) for the export of certain live bovine animals, bovine meat and edible offal, certain products of animal origin, certain prepared or preserved meats, extracts and juices of meat, soups and broths, gelatine of animal origin (NCM 0102; 0201; 0202; 0206; 0210; 0504; 1602; 1603; 2104; 3503) requiring the recording of export operations (established in 2006)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (28 May 2018) and Resolución Conjunta General No. 4170-E/2017 - Ministerio de Agroindustria y Administración Federal de Ingresos Públicos (14 December 2017)	Effective 20 December 2017
Temporary reduction of import tariffs (to 2%) on static converters and (to 10%) on electrical motor vehicles for the transport of 10 or more persons (NCM 8504.40.10; 8702.40.90). Further reduction of the Mercosur Common Tariff depends on multiple variables, including local content thresholds	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (28 May 2018) and Decreto No. 51/2018 (16 January 2018)	Effective 20 January 2018
Inclusion in the "Authorized Economic Operator" scheme of "in-factory customs regime" users (<i>Plan Piloto Operador Económico Autorizado para Usuario del Régimen de Aduana en Factoría (RAF)</i>)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (28 May 2018) and Resolución General AFIP No. 4197-E (29 January 2018)	Effective 31 January 2018
Australia		
Elimination of the "special duty" of \$A 12,000 on imports of used passenger vehicles (the previous duty was 5% plus \$A 12,000 and is now 5%)	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (25 May 2018)	Effective 1 January 2018
Brazil		
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain vaccines for human medicine, under an import quota of 11 million doses (NCM 3002.20.27; 3002.20.29) (effective 1 December 2017 to 30 November 2018); and on certain vaccines for human medicine (<i>hepatite A</i>), under an import quota of 2,250,000 doses (NCM 3002.20.29) (effective 2 April 2018 to 1 October 2018). Temporary reduction (to 2%) of import tariffs on certain polyesters, under an import quota of 850 tonnes (NCM 3907.99.99) (effective 18 October 2017 to 17 January 2018); and on jute (NCM 5303.10.10), under an import quota of 7,000 tonnes (effective 18 October 2017)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (25 May 2018), Camex Resolution Nos. 84/2017 (17 October 2017) and 89/2017 (30 November 2017) and Secex Portaria Nos. 40/2017 (19 October 2017), 42/2017 and 43/2017 (1 December 2017)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on 1,105 capital goods tariff lines (NCM Chapters 84; 85; 86; 87; 89; 90; 94), and 3 informatics and telecommunications goods tariff lines (NCM 8517.62.39; 8543.70.99; 9032.89.81), through the "ex-out" regime (mechanism designed to temporarily reduce import tariffs on capital goods and informatics and telecommunications equipment not locally produced)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (25 May 2018), Camex Resolution Nos. 80/2017, 81/2017 (17 October 2017) and 90/2017 (13 December 2017)	Effective until 30 June 2019

Measure	Source/Date	Status
<p>Decrease of import tariffs (from 14% to 2%) on sensitized photographic plates and film in the flat for x-ray; and on certain polyesters, certain organic surface-active agents, and certain acrylic polymers in primary forms; (from 16% to 2%) on plastics of poly(vinyl butyral), on electrical fixed capacitors (i.e. single layer ceramic dielectric, multilayer ceramic dielectric, dielectric of paper or plastics, variable or adjustable (pre-set)), on other variable resistors, including rheostats and potentiometers, and on other apparatus for protecting electrical circuits, fixed resistors for a power handling capacity not exceeding 20 W (effective 1 January 2018); and on tantalum, multilayer ceramic dielectric and certain apparatus for switching or protecting electrical circuits (NCM 8532.21.20; 8532.24.20; 8536.90.60) (effective 2 March 2018); and (from 4% to 2%) on certain supported catalysts (effective 1 January 2018). Elimination of import tariffs (from 6%) on transistors, other than photosensitive transistors, with a dissipation rate of less than 1 W (NCM 3701.10.10; 3907.99.93; 3907.99.94; 3907.99.95; 3920.91.00; 3921.90.13; 8532.23.10; 8532.24.10; 8532.25.10; 8532.29.10; 8532.30.10; 8533.40.12; 8536.30.10; 8541.21.20; 3404.90.22; 3815.90.93; 3906.90.48; 8533.21.20)</p>	<p>Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (25 May 2018), Camex Resolution Nos. 54/2017 (5 July 2017) and 95/2017 (19 December 2017) and 11/2018 (28 February 2018)</p>	<p>Effective: see individual dates in measure</p>

Measure	Source/Date	Status
<p>Temporary reduction (to 2%) of import tariffs on certain poly(ethylene terephthalate) (NCM 3907.61.00), under an import quota of 10,000 tonnes (effective 30 December 2017 to 29 December 2018); on certain printing ink (NCM 3215.19.00), under an import quota of 600 tonnes (effective 30 December 2017 to 29 December 2018); on non-alloyed nickel (<i>catodos</i>) (NCM 7502.10.10), under an import quota of 1,350 tonnes (effective 4 January 2018 to 3 April 2018); on dimethylamine (NCM 2921.11.21), under an import quota of 12,000 tonnes (effective 23 January 2018 to 22 January 2019); on black printing ink (NCM 3215.11.00), under an import quota of 350 tonnes (effective 23 January 2018 to 22 January 2019); on non-roasted malt (NCM 1107.10.10), under an import quota of 156,531 tonnes (effective 22 December 2017 to 21 December 2018); on polycarbonates (NCM 3907.40.90), under an import quota of 35,040 tonnes (effective 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018); on certain compounded rubber, unvulcanized in primary forms or in plates, sheets or strip (NCM 4005.99.90), under an import quota of 1,300 tonnes (effective 2 January 2018 to 1 July 2018); on certain synthetic filament yarn (other than sewing thread), not for retail sale (NCM 5402.47.10), under an import quota of 2,200 tonnes (effective 2 January 2018 to 1 January 2019); and on certain boards, panels, consoles, desks, cabinets and other bases, equipped with two or more apparatus under heading HS 8535 or 8536, for electrical control or the distribution of electricity, including those incorporating instruments or apparatus under HS Chapter 90, and numerical control apparatus, other than switching apparatus under heading HS 8517 (NCM 8537.20.90), under an import quota of 31 units (effective 2 January 2018 to 1 January 2019). Temporary elimination of import tariffs on sardines (NCM 0303.53.00), under an import quota of 50,000 tonnes (effective 22 December 2017 to 21 June 2018); on p-xylene (NCM 2902.43.00), under an import quota of 180,000 tonnes (effective 22 December 2017 to 21 December 2018); and on certain vaccines for humans (<i>dengue</i>) (NCM 3002.20.29)</p>	<p>Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (25 May 2018), Camex Resolution Nos. 97/2017 (20 December 2017), 98/2017 (21 December 2017) and 99/2017 (29 December 2017), and Secex Portaria Nos. 48/2017, 49/2017, 50/2017, 51/2017 (22 December 2017) and 1/2018 (2 January 2018)</p>	<p>Effective: see individual dates in measure</p>

Measure	Source/Date	Status
<p>Elimination of import tariffs (from 8%) on certain medicines consisting of mixed or unmixed products for therapeutic or prophylactic uses, put up in measured doses (including those in the form of transdermal administration systems) or in forms or packings for retail sale (<i>dicloridrato de daclatasvir and dasatinibe</i>) (NCM 3004.90.69; 3004.90.79) (effective 1 February 2018), and on certain medicaments (<i>idursulfase</i>) (NCM 3003.90.24; 3004.90.14) (effective 1 February 2018); (from 14%) on certain parts for teleferics (NCM 8431.39.00) (effective 6 February 2018), and teleferics, chair-lifts, ski-draglines, and traction mechanisms for funiculars (NCM 8428.60.00) (effective 7 March 2018); (from 20%) on certain fairground amusement parts (NCM 9508.90.90) (effective 6 February 2018); and on certain industrial robots (NCM 8479.50.00) (effective 28 February 2018); (from 6%) on diodes, other than photosensitive or light emitting diodes (NCM 8541.10.22; 8541.10.29) (effective 28 February 2018); and on unwrought aluminium, non-alloyed (NCM 7601.10.00), under an import quota of 353,000 tonnes (effective until 30 June 2018)</p>	<p>Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (25 May 2018), Camex Resolution Nos. 1/2018 (15 January 2018), 4/2018 (5 February 2018), 9/2018 (28 February 2018), 11/2018 (28 February 2018) and 16/2018 (7 March 2018)</p>	<p>Effective: see individual dates in measure</p>
<p>Temporary reduction (to 2%) of import tariffs on disodium sulphate, under an import quota of 910,000 tonnes (NCM 2833.11.10) (effective 31 January 2018 to 30 January 2019); on rectangular (including square) aluminium plates and sheets of aluminium alloys, under an import quota of 2,937 tonnes (NCM 7606.12.90) (effective 1 February 2018 to 31 January 2019); on aluminium foil, rolled but not further worked, under an import quota of 2,137 tonnes (NCM 7607.11.90) (effective 1 February 2018 to 31 January 2019); on viscose rayon staple fibres (NCM 5504.10.00), under an import quota of 40,000 tonnes (effective 28 March 2018 to 27 March 2019); on non alloyed nickel (catodos) (NCM 7502.10.10), under an import quota of 7,200 tonnes; on titanium oxides (NCM 2823.00.10), under an import quota of 8,000 tonnes; on palm kernel or babassu oil and fractions thereof (NCM 1513.29.10), under an import quota of 224,785 tonnes; and on certain electrical apparatus for switching or protecting electrical circuits (NCM 8535.90.00), under an import quota of 500 units (effective 25 April 2018). Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain pharmaceutical products (<i>cloridrato de duloxetina, clavulanato de potássio</i>) (NCM Chapters 3003.90.89), under an import quota of 48 tonnes (effective 3 May 2018, for 12 months)</p>	<p>Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (25 May 2018), Camex Resolution Nos. 3/2018 (30 January 2018), 17/2018 (27 March 2018), 27/2018 (24 April 2018) and 32/2018 (2 May 2018), and Secex Portaria Nos. 4/2018 (31 January 2018) and 15/2018 (28 March 2018)</p>	<p>Effective: see individual dates in measure</p>
<p>Temporary elimination of import tariffs on 1,115 capital goods tariff lines, and 97 informatics and telecommunications goods tariff lines (NCM Chapters 84; 85; 89; 90), through the "ex-out" regime</p>	<p>Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (25 May 2018), and Camex Resolution Nos. 14/2018 and 15/2018 (28 February 2018), 22/2018 and 23/2018 (27 March 2018), and 30/2018 and 31/2018 (2 May 2018)</p>	<p>Effective until 31 December 2019</p>

Measure	Source/Date	Status
New legislation streamlining the medical device importation process	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (25 May 2018) and Resolução da Diretoria Colegiada - RDC No. 208 - Ministério de Saúde-MS, Agência Nacional de Vigilância Sanitária - ANVISA (5 January 2018)	Effective 8 January 2018
Chile		
New law updating import customs procedures and establishing the "Authorized Economic Operator" (AEO) scheme (e.g. AEO certification requirements, activities liable to be taken into consideration for certification, and the requirements, conditions, rights and obligations of the AEO terms and procedures)	Permanent Delegation of Chile to the WTO (18 May 2018)	Effective 12 January 2018
New law updating export customs procedures and establishing the "Authorized Economic Operator" (AEO) scheme (e.g. AEO certification requirements, activities liable to be taken into consideration for certification, and the requirements, conditions, rights and obligations of the AEO terms and procedures)	Permanent Delegation of Chile to the WTO (18 May 2018)	Effective 12 January 2018
China		
Imposition of interim tariffs resulting in the temporary reduction of import tariffs on certain fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates (HS Chapter 03); on cheese and curd (HS Chapter 04); on certain edible fruit and nuts (HS Chapter 08); on sausages and similar products (HS 1601.00.10; 1601.00.20); on certain preparations of cereals, flour, starch or milk (HS 1901.10.90; 1902.19.00); on jams (HS 2007.10.00); on other food preparations (HS 2106.90.50; 2106.90.90); on certain beverages, spirits and vinegar (HS 2201.10.10; 2205.10.00; 2208.20.00; 2208.30.00); on medicaments (HS 3004); on certain essential oils and resinoids (HS Chapter 33); on certain articles of leather (HS Chapter 42); on certain articles of apparel and clothing accessories (HS Chapters 61 and 62); on blankets and travelling rugs (HS 6301.20.00); on certain footwear (HS Chapter 64); on certain nuclear reactors, boilers, and machinery (HS Chapter 84); on certain electrical machinery and equipment (HS Chapter 85); on baby carriages (HS 8715.00.00); on certain optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision medical or surgical instruments (HS 9004.90.10; 9021.29.00); on certain toys, games and sports requisites (HS 9506.11.00; 9506.12.00; 9506.19.00; 9506.70.10; 9506.70.20); and on certain miscellaneous manufactured articles (HS Chapter 96)	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (28 May 2018)	Effective December 2017
Reduction of import taxes (from 5% to 2%) on raw donkey skins (HS 4101.20.20)	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (28 May 2018)	Effective 1 January 2018

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Colombia		
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on raw materials and capital goods not produced locally (3,650 tariff lines) (HS Chapters 03; 25; 26; 27; 28; 29; 30; 31; 32; 34; 35; 36; 37; 38; 39; 40; 41; 42; 43; 44; 45; 47; 48; 50; 51; 52; 53; 54; 55; 56; 58; 59; 60; 63; 65; 66; 67; 68; 69; 70; 71; 72; 73; 74; 75; 76; 78; 79; 80; 81; 82; 83; 84; 85; 86; 87; 88; 89; 90; 91; 92; 94; 96)	Permanent Delegation of Colombia to the WTO (24 April 2018) and Decreto No. 272 Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo (13 February 2018)	Effective 13 February 2018
New law updating customs procedures, resulting in improvement of import procedures	Permanent Delegation of Colombia to the WTO (24 April 2018) and Decreto No. 349 Ministerio de Hacienda y Crédito Público (20 February 2018)	Effective 7 March 2018
New law updating customs procedures, resulting in improvement of export procedures	Permanent Delegation of Colombia to the WTO (24 April 2018) and Decreto No. 349 Ministerio de Hacienda y Crédito Público (20 February 2018)	Effective 7 March 2018
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain equipment and goods (245 HS tariff lines) for the construction of ships, boats and floating structures (<i>Programa de Fomento de la Industria de Astilleros</i>) (HS Chapters 27; 28; 32; 34; 35; 38; 39; 40; 44; 48; 56; 59; 63; 68; 69; 70; 72; 73; 74; 75; 76; 79; 80; 81; 82; 83; 84; 85; 87; 89; 90; 91; 94; 96)	Permanent Delegation of Colombia to the WTO (24 April 2018) and Decreto No. 590 Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo (2 April 2018)	Effective 2 April 2018
Costa Rica		
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on rice in the husk (paddy or rough) (HS 1006.10.90), under an import quota of 42.176 metric tonnes	Permanent Delegation of Costa Rica to the WTO (20 April 2018)	Effective January 2018 to June 2018
Dominican Republic		
Trade facilitation measures through the establishment of the National Trade Facilitation Committee and the interlink to the single-window system (<i>ventanilla única de comercio exterior "VUCE"</i>) of agencies associated with import operations	Permanent Delegation of the Dominican Republic to the WTO (1 May 2018)	Effective December 2017
Trade facilitation measures through the establishment of the National Trade Facilitation Committee and the interlink to the single-window system (<i>ventanilla única de comercio exterior "VUCE"</i>) of agencies associated with export operations	Permanent Delegation of the Dominican Republic to the WTO (1 May 2018)	Effective December 2017
Guatemala		
Further reduction of import tariffs under the Expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) (206 tariff lines at 8-digit level in HS Chapters 32; 35; 37; 39; 49; 68; 84; 85; 88; 90; 95)	WTO document G/MA/W/117/Add.8, 28 January 2016	Effective 1 January 2018, with all covered tariffs to be phased out by no later than 1 July 2024
India		
Elimination of export duties on electrodes of a kind used for furnaces (HS 8545.11.00)	Notification No. 23/2018-Customs - Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) (2 February 2018)	Effective 2 February 2018
Elimination of import tariffs on specified parts of cellular mobile phones and other electronic goods (e.g. inputs or parts for use in the manufacture of chargers or adapters for cellular mobile phones (HS 8504.90.90; 3926.90.99))	Notification No. 22/2018-Customs - Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) (2 February 2018)	Effective 2 February 2018

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Decrease of import tariffs on motor cycles (including mopeds) and cycles fitted with an auxiliary motor, with or without side cars, and side cars, new, which have not been registered anywhere prior to importation - (1) as a completely knocked down (CKD) kit containing all the necessary components, parts or sub-assemblies for assembling a complete vehicle with: (from 30% to 25%) (i) engine, gearbox or transmission mechanism in pre-assembled form, not mounted on a body assembly; and (from 60% to 50%) (ii) in a form other than included in (1) above (HS 8711)	Notification No. 26/2018- Customs - Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) (12 February 2018)	Effective 12 February 2018
Decrease of import tariffs (from 10% to 7.5%) on bricks, blocks, tiles and other ceramic goods of siliceous fossil metals (e.g. kieselguhr, tripolite or diatomite) or of similar siliceous earths (HS 6901). Elimination of import tariffs (from 5%) on solar tempered glass or solar tempered (anti-reflective coated) glass for the manufacture of solar cells/panels/modules (HS Chapter 70)	Notification No. 6/2018- Customs - Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) (2 February 2018) and Finance Bill 2018 (14 March 2018)	Effective 2 February 2018
Elimination of import tariffs on inputs or parts for the manufacture of printed circuit board assembly (PCBA) and moulded plastics of chargers or adapters of cellular mobile phones (HS 3926.90.99; 8504.90.90)	Notification No. 22/2018- Customs - Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) (2 February 2018) and Finance Bill 2018 (14 March 2018)	Effective 2 February 2018
Extension of the concessional rate (2.5% of the basic customs tariff) on certain products, i.e. ball screws (HS 8483.40.00), linear motion guides (HS 8466.93.90), and CNC systems (HS 8537.10.00) for the manufacture of all types of CNC machine tools falling under HS 8456 and 8463	Notification No. 6/2018- Customs - Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) (2 February 2018) and Finance Bill 2018 (14 March 2018)	Effective 2 February 2018
Elimination of the import ban on second hand goods imported for the purpose of repair/refurbishing/re-conditioning or re-engineering, subject to items being re-exported	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (9 May 2018) and Notification No. 58/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Directorate General of Foreign Trade (28 March 2018)	Effective 28 March 2018
Indonesia		
Elimination of VAT on imports of certain products, e.g. certain products of animal origin; maize; oil seeds; miscellaneous grains, fats and oils and their fractions, of fish or marine mammals; inactive yeasts; residues and waste from food industries, prepared animal fodder; and lecithins and other phosphoaminolipids (HS 0505; 0511; 1005; 1201; 1212; 1504; 2102; 2301; 2302; 2303; 2304; 2306; 2308; 2923)	Permanent Delegation of Indonesia to the WTO (28 May 2018) and Regulation 142/PMK.010/2017	Effective 23 November 2017
Reduction of import tariffs (under the APEC Environmental Goods Initiative) (to 8%) on auxiliary plants for use with boilers; condensers for steam or other vapour power units; non-electric instantaneous or storage water heaters; automatic service-vending machines; AC generators (alternators) of an output exceeding 750 kVA; and wind-powered generating sets (HS Chapters 44; 84; 85; 90)	Permanent Delegation of Indonesia to the WTO (25 April 2018) and Regulation 213/PMK.010/2017 (29 December 2017)	Effective 1 January 2018

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Elimination of import tariffs (from 10%) on non-industrial diamonds, unworked or simply sawn, cleaved or bruted	Permanent Delegation of Indonesia to the WTO (25 April 2018) and Regulation 17/PMK.010/2018 (1 March 2018)	Effective 1 March 2018
Iraq, Rep. of		
Reduction of the customs duty rates to four levels (0.5%, 10%, 15% and 30%), and adoption of the Harmonized System Nomenclature (21 Categories), resulting in the decrease of import tariffs for certain products	Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Iraq (24 April 2018)	Effective 1 January 2018
Japan		
On 31 March 2018, elimination of "tariff emergency measures" (applied tariff rate (38.5%) back to the bound tariff rate (50%)) on frozen beef (HS 0202) (implemented on 1 August 2017)	Permanent Delegation of Japan to the WTO (25 May 2018)	
Elimination of import tariffs on aluminium hydroxide (HS 2818.30), zirconium oxychloride (HS 2827.49), p-tertiary-butylphenol (HS 2907.19), 1-adamantyl trimethylammonium hydroxide "ADAH" and tetraethylammonium hydroxide "TEAH" (HS 2923.90), dysprosium iron alloys (HS 3824.99), single flax yarn (HS 5306.10), ramie yarn (HS 5308.90), and kote for kendo (HS 6216.00). Reduction of import tariffs on certain cosmetics (HS 3307.90) and on apparel and clothing accessories (HS Chapters 61; 62; 63)	Permanent Delegation of Japan to the WTO (25 May 2018)	Effective 1 April 2018
Kazakhstan		
Trade facilitation measure for importers through the establishment of the National Trade Facilitation Committee and the implementation of the Customs Code of the Eurasian Economic Union, resulting in quicker release of goods from one day to four hours	Permanent Delegation of Kazakhstan (2 May 2018)	Effective 25 January 2018
Trade facilitation measure for exporters through the establishment of the National Trade Facilitation Committee and the implementation of the Customs Code of the Eurasian Economic Union, resulting in quicker release of goods from one day to four hours	Permanent Delegation of Kazakhstan (2 May 2018)	Effective 25 January 2018
Korea, Rep. of		
Trade facilitation measure for importers through the extension of the electronic clearance examination to all goods imported by Authorized Economic Operator companies	Permanent Delegation of Korea to the WTO (4 June 2018)	Effective 23 October 2017
Malaysia		
Amendments introduced to the list of prohibited export products, resulting in the removal of certain items (e.g. certain miscellaneous edible preparations; pharmaceutical goods; certain articles of iron and steel; certain articles of copper; nickel bars, rods, profiles and wire; aluminium and articles thereof; certain articles of lead; certain articles of zinc; split air conditioning; certain freezers) (18 tariff lines) (HS 2103; 3006; 7310; 7419; 7505; 7612; 7806; 7611; 7907; 8418; 8415)	Permanent Delegation of Malaysia to the WTO (5 June 2018)	Effective 20 October 2017

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Amendments introduced to the list of prohibited import products, resulting in the removal of certain items (e.g. flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel; miscellaneous edible preparations; certain products of animal origin; coral; cereal pellets; oil-cake and other solid residues, resulting from the extraction of soyabean oil; organic or inorganic compounds of mercury; plastic articles for the conveyance or packing of goods; iron and steel reservoirs; certain articles of copper; certain articles of nickel; aluminium reservoirs; certain articles of lead; certain articles of zinc; drying machines; washing, bleaching or dyeing machines; and certain preparations of fish and crustaceans (29 tariff lines) (HS 7211; 2103; 0507; 0508; 0511; 1103; 2304; 2852; 3923; 7309; 7310; 7419; 7508; 7611; 7612; 7806; 7907; 8451; 1604; 1605)	Permanent Delegation of Malaysia to the WTO (5 June 2018)	Effective 23 February 2018
Mauritius		
Elimination of import tariffs on knock-down furniture under certain requirements such as the integration of 20% local value addition	Permanent Delegation of Mauritius to the WTO (24 April 2018)	Effective 11 November 2017
Trade facilitation measure for importers through the implementation of the "E-Customs Strategy", e.g. mobile application for bill of entry and online currency declaration platform	Permanent Delegation of Mauritius to the WTO (24 April 2018)	Implemented as from February 2018
Trade facilitation measure for exporters through the implementation of the "E-Customs Strategy", e.g. mobile application for bill of entry and online currency declaration platform	Permanent Delegation of Mauritius to the WTO (24 April 2018)	Implemented as from February 2018
Mexico		
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on onions and lemons (HS 0703.10.01; 0805.50.01; 0805.50.02; 0805.50.99), under certain import quotas	Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the WTO (30 May 2018) and Diario Oficial de la Federación (Official Journal), 26 December 2017	Effective 27 December 2017
Extension of the temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain toys and baby products (HS 3924.90.99; 8715.00.01; 9401.80.01; 9503.00.01; 9503.00.02; 9503.00.03; 9503.00.04; 9503.00.05; 9503.00.06; 9503.00.11; 9503.00.12; 9503.00.14; 9503.00.15; 9503.00.16; 9503.00.20; 9503.00.24; 9503.00.36; 9503.00.99; 9504.90.99; 9506.62.01), under certain import quotas (originally effective from March 2015 to 31 December 2017)	Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the WTO (30 May 2018) and Diario Oficial de la Federación (Official Journal), 26 December 2017	Effective until 31 December 2020
Elimination of import tariffs on microwave ovens (HS 8516.50.01)	Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the WTO (30 May 2018)	Effective December 2017
New Zealand		
Trade facilitation measure through: (i) cooperation in customs procedures; (ii) supply chain security and risk management; (iii) mutual administrative assistance; (iv) information exchanges; and (v) exchange of personnel with European Union counterparts (imports)	Permanent Delegation of New Zealand to the WTO (20 April 2018)	Effective 1 May 2018
Trade facilitation measure through: (i) cooperation in customs procedures; (ii) supply chain security and risk management; (iii) mutual administrative assistance; (iv) information exchanges; and (v) exchange of personnel with European Union counterparts (exports)	Permanent Delegation of New Zealand to the WTO (20 April 2018)	Effective 1 May 2018

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Panama		
Implementation of the Central American Import Tariff (for 2,200 tariffs lines), resulting in the decrease of tariffs for certain products	Permanent Delegation of Panama to the WTO (24 April 2018)	Effective 1 March 2018
Peru		
Trade facilitation measure for importers through the implementation of the Multi-sectoral Commission for Trade Facilitation on a permanent basis. The aims of the Commission are to strengthen the coordination between state entities linked to foreign trade, to reduce logistic costs, and to increase transparency and predictability in the operations of foreign trade	Permanent Delegation of Peru to the WTO (23 May 2018) and Decreto Supremo No. 122/2017/PCM (20 December 2017)	
Trade facilitation measure for exporters through the implementation of the Multi-sectoral Commission for Trade Facilitation on a permanent basis. The aims of the Commission are to strengthen the coordination between state entities linked to foreign trade, to reduce logistic costs, and to increase transparency and predictability in the operations of foreign trade	Permanent Delegation of Peru to the WTO (23 May 2018) and Decreto Supremo No. 122/2017/PCM (20 December 2017)	
Russian Federation		
Introduction of import tariff quotas on wood in the rough, whether or not stripped of bark or sapwood, or roughly squared (HS 4403). In-quota rate fixed at 6.5% but not less than €4/m ³ (out-of-quota rate for the year 2018 fixed at 25% but not less than €15/m ³)	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (30 May 2018)	Effective 1 January 2018
Eurasian Economic Union		
Temporary elimination of import tariffs (from 8%) on magnetrons with an operating frequency of at least 2.44 GHz but not more than 2.47 GHz and an output power of not less than 600 W but not more than 1 kW (effective 6 February 2018 to 31 December 2019); (from 5%) on turbo-jets of a kind used in civil aircraft of a thrust exceeding 110 kN but not exceeding 132 kN, and turbo-jets of a kind used in civil aircraft of a thrust exceeding 132 kN but not exceeding 145 kN (effective 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2020); (from 8%/7%/3%) on certain fish and crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic invertebrates (effective 29 December 2017 to 31 December 2019); (from 8%/5%) on certain preparations of fish or of crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates (effective 29 December 2017 to 31 December 2019); (from 6.5%) on polyethylene of a kind used for applying three-layer anti-corrosion coating on pipes (effective 1 January 2018 to 30 September 2018); and (from 5%) on compressors of a kind used in refrigerating equipment of a power not exceeding 0.4 kW (effective 3 March 2018 to 31 December 2019) (HS 8540.71.00; 8411.12.30; 8411.12.80; 0306.19.90; 0307.43.19; 0307.43.38; 0307.43.90; 0307.52.90; 1605.40.00; 1605.53.90; 3901.20.90; 8418.30.20)	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (30 May 2018)	Effective: see individual dates in measure

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Reduction of import tariffs (from 10% but not less than €0.25/ kg to 10% plus €0.08/kg) on linoleum; (from 15% but not less than €0.165/l to 15%) on household refrigerators; (from 15% but not less than €0.165/l to 15%) on household freezers of a capacity exceeding 400 l but not exceeding 800 l; (from 15% but not less than €0.16/l to 15%) on household freezers of a capacity exceeding 250 l but not exceeding 900 l; (from 5% but not less than €0.5/1 cm ³ of cylinder capacity to 5%) on dumpers designed for off-highway use with compression-ignition internal combustion piston engines (diesel or semi-diesel engines) and of a cylinder capacity exceeding 2,500 cm ³ or with spark-ignition internal combustion piston engines and of a cylinder capacity exceeding 2,800cm ³ with a number of axles not exceeding two; (from 15% but not less than €2,907 per1 p/st to 15%) on car bodies; (from 9% but not less than €13.8 per 1 t of total weight to 9%) on automobile semi-trailers, with a total weight more than 15 tonnes and with an overall length of less than 13.6 m; and (from 9% but not less than €9.7/m ³ of internal body space to 9%) on refrigerating equipment, with an internal body space of not less than 76 m ³	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (30 May 2018)	Effective 24 March 2018
Extension of the temporary elimination of import tariffs on cocoa paste and cocoa butter (HS 1803.10.00; 1804.00.00) (originally implemented on 26 March 2016 until 31 December 2017)	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (30 May 2018)	Effective 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2019
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of		
Trade facilitation measure for importers through the implementation of a National Single Window and the "Authorized Economic Operator" scheme	Permanent Delegation of Saudi Arabia to the WTO (30 May 2018)	Effective 31 December 2017
Trade facilitation measure for exporters through the implementation of a National Single Window and the "Authorized Economic Operator" scheme	Permanent Delegation of Saudi Arabia to the WTO (30 May 2018)	Effective 31 December 2017
Seychelles		
Elimination of import tariffs on dietary supplements; certain food preparations; asbestos-cement corrugated sheets; bicycles and other cycles (including delivery tricycles) with motors for propulsion (effective 1 January 2018); and protective clothing for industrial, agriculture or marine use (effective 1 April 2018) (HS 2106; 6811; 8711; 6211)	Permanent Delegation of Seychelles to the WTO (9 May 2018)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Switzerland		
Increase of the import quota (by 1,000 tonnes to 17,428 tonnes) on eggs for consumption (HS 0407.21.10; 0407.29.10; 0407.90.10)	Permanent Delegation of Switzerland to the WTO (14 May 2018)	Effective 1 January 2018
Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu		
Elimination of import tariffs (from 20%) on palm kernel shell (HS1404.90.99); (from 5%) on silicone adhesive (HS 3214.10.90); and on certain plastics and articles thereof (HS 3920.59.10); (from 8%) on glass (HS 7007.19.00); (from 10%) on raw silk products (HS 5002; 5003; 5004); (from 4%) on other machinery under heading HS 8479 (HS8479.89.99); and (from 4.5%) on other electrical machines and apparatus (HS 8543.70.99)	Permanent Delegation of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu to the WTO (30 May 2018)	Effective 24 November 2017

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Trade facilitation measure for importers to allow cargo to be examined and released next to the airplane through the implementation of joint examination by licensing agencies (quarantine and sanitation authorities)	Permanent Delegation of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu to the WTO (20 April 2018)	Effective 11 December 2017
Thailand		
Introduction of automatic import license for certain minerals	Permanent Delegation of Thailand to the WTO (5 June 2018)	Effective 31 January 2018
Introduction of automatic export license for certain minerals	Permanent Delegation of Thailand to the WTO (5 June 2018)	Effective 31 January 2018
Turkey		
Temporary elimination of import tariffs (from 19.3%) on certain dried leguminous vegetables (e.g. chickpeas (<i>garbanzos</i>), beans) (effective 2 December 2017 to 1 June 2018); and (from 35%) on barley (effective 31 December 2017 to 1 April 2018). Temporary reduction of import tariffs (from 34% to 5%) on paddy or rough rice; (from 45% to 10%) on brown rice; and (from 45% to 15%) on semi-milled or wholly milled rice, and broken rice (effective 31 December 2017 to 1 July 2018)	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (30 May 2018)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Elimination of import tariffs (from 4%) on bran of maize (corn); (from 5%) on bran of other cereals or leguminous plants; (from 2%) on flours of fish (effective 22 November 2017); (from 7.8%) on pure-bred breeding bovine animals; and (from 10%) on live bovine animals for stockbreeding (effective 31 December 2017). Reduction of import tariffs (from 30% to 10%) on cashew nuts; (from 43.2% to 15%) on almonds and walnuts; and (from 13.5% to 6.5%) on certain residues of cotton seeds, linseed, sunflower seed, rape or colza seed; and on residues of other seeds (effective 31 December 2017)	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (30 May 2018)	Effective: see individual dates in measure

Recorded, but non-confirmed information³

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Algeria		
Temporary special authorization (<i>exclusion du régime des restrictions à l'importation</i>) to import self-adhesive plates, sheets, film, foil, tape, strip and other flat shapes, of plastic, whether or not in rolls (HS 3919.90.11; 3919.90.12; 3923.21.30; 3923.21.90; 3923.29.30)	Press reports referring to Communiqué relatif aux Mécanismes d'Encadrement des Opérations d'Importation de Marchandises - Ministère du Commerce	Effective 1 January 2018

³ This Section includes information which has been obtained from public sources but has not yet been confirmed by the delegation concerned.

ANNEX 2 - TRADE REMEDIES¹

(MID-OCTOBER 2017 TO MID-MAY 2018)

Confirmed information²

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Argentina		
Initiation on 7 November 2017 of AD investigation on imports of vacuum cleaners (NCM 8508.11.00; 8508.19.00) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/ARG, 16 February 2018	
Termination on 1 December 2017 of AD duties on imports of woven fabrics of wool (NCM 5112.11.00; 5112.19.10; 5112.20.10; 5112.30.10; 5112.90.00; 5515.13.00) from Brazil, China and Peru (investigation initiated on 31 May 2016 and provisional duty imposed on 7 December 2016)	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/ARG, 16 February 2018	
Termination on 31 December 2017 of AD duties on imports of electrical connection terminals for cable diameters of up to 35 mm ² (NCM 8536.10; 8536.50; 8536.90) from Germany (imposed on 4 September 2009)	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/ARG, 16 February 2018	
Termination on 16 February 2018 (without measure) of AD investigation on imports of electrical transformers having a power handling capacity exceeding 10,000 kVA but not exceeding 600,000 kVA (NCM 8504.23.00) from India (initiated on 19 August 2016)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (28 May 2018) and Resolución No. 76/2018 Ministerio de Producción (15 February 2018)	
Initiation on 21 February 2018 of AD investigation on imports of denim (tejidos de mezclilla) (NCM 5208.43.00; 5209.42.10; 5209.42.90; 5209.49.00; 5210.49.10; 5211.42.10; 5211.42.90; 5211.49.00) from Brazil, China and Peru	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (28 May 2018) and Resolución No. 82/2018 Secretaría de Comercio, Ministerio de Producción (20 February 2018)	
Termination on 21 February 2018 of AD duties on imports of men's or boys' suits, blazers and jackets (NCM 6203.11.00; 6203.12.00; 6203.19.00; 6203.22.00; 6203.23.00; 6203.29.10; 6203.29.90; 6203.31.00; 6203.32.00; 6203.33.00; 6203.39.00) from China (investigation initiated on 16 February 2010 and definitive duty imposed on 3 January 2012)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (28 May 2018) and Resolución No. 88/2018 Ministerio de Producción (20 February 2018)	
Initiation on 28 February 2018 of AD investigation on imports of zinc oxide (blanco de cinc) (NCM 2817.00.10) from Brazil and Peru	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (28 May 2018) and Resolución No. 103/2018 Secretaría de Comercio, Ministerio de Producción (26 February 2018)	
Initiation on 5 March 2018 of AD investigation on imports of pliers (tenazas de mano) (NCM 8203.20.90) from China and India	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (28 May 2018) and Resolución No. 116/2018 Secretaría de Comercio, Ministerio de Producción (1 March 2018)	

¹ The inclusion of any measure in this Annex implies no judgement by the WTO Secretariat on whether or not such measure, or its intent, is protectionist in nature. Moreover, nothing in the Annex implies any judgement, either direct or indirect, on the consistency of any measure referred to with the provisions of any WTO agreement.

² This Section includes information which has either been provided by the Member concerned or has been confirmed at the request of the Secretariat.

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Initiation on 23 April 2018 of AD investigation on imports of shock absorbers for motorcycles (NCM 8714.10.00; 8714.99.90) from China	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (28 May 2018) and Resolución No. 235/2018 Secretaría de Comercio, Ministerio de Producción (20 April 2018)	
Termination on 23 April 2018 (without measure) of AD investigation on imports of emergency lighting devices (NCM 9405.10.99) from China (initiated on 5 September 2017)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (28 May 2018) and Resolución No. 237/2018 Secretaría de Comercio, Ministerio de Producción (20 April 2018)	
Australia		
Initiation on 19 October 2017 of AD investigation on imports of certain aluminium extrusions (HS 7604.10.00; 7604.21.00; 7604.29.00; 7608.10.00; 7608.20.00; 7610.10.00; 7610.90.00) from China and Thailand	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/AUS, 13 March 2018	
Initiation on 13 November 2017 of AD investigation on imports of steel pallet racking (HS 7308.90.00) from China and Malaysia	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/AUS/Corr.1, 21 March 2018	
Termination on 20 December 2017 of AD duties on imports of hot rolled coil steel "HRC" (HS 7208.25.00; 7208.26.00; 7208.27.00; 7208.36.00; 7208.37.00; 7208.38.00; 7208.39.00; 7208.53.00; 7208.54.00; 7208.90.00; 7211.14.00; 7211.19.00) from Japan; Korea, Rep. of and Malaysia (investigation initiated on 15 June 2012. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 5 October and 20 December 2012)	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/AUS, 13 March 2018	
Termination on 6 February 2018 (without measure) of AD investigation on imports of certain wind towers (HS 7308.20.00; 7308.90.00; 8502.31.10) from Viet Nam (initiated on 8 June 2017)	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (25 May 2018) and Australia Customs Dumping Notice No. 2018/20 (5 February 2018)	
Initiation on 19 March 2018 of AD investigation on imports of A4 copy paper (HS 4802.56.10) from Austria; Finland; Korea, Rep. of; the Russian Federation and the Slovak Republic	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (25 May 2018) and Australia Customs Dumping Notice No. 2018/39 (19 March 2018)	
Termination on 23 March 2018 (without measure) of AD investigation on imports of steel rod in coils (HS 7213.91.00; 7227.90.90) from Indonesia; Korea, Rep. of and Viet Nam (investigation initiated on 7 June 2017)	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (25 May 2018) and Australia Customs Dumping Notice No. 2018/53 (26 March 2018)	
Initiation on 18 April 2018 of AD investigation on imports of railway wheels (HS 8607.19.00) from China and France	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (25 May 2018) and Australia Customs Dumping Notice No. 2018/59 (18 April 2018)	
Initiation on 18 April 2018 of CVD investigation on imports of railway wheels (HS 8607.19.00) from China	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (25 May 2018) and Australia Customs Dumping Notice No. 2018/59 (18 April 2018)	
Resumption on 2 May 2018 of AD investigation on imports of alloy round steel bars (HS 7228.20.10; 7228.20.90; 7228.30.10; 7228.30.90; 7228.60.10; 7228.60.90) from China (originally initiated on 10 January 2017 and terminated on 25 January 2018)	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (25 May 2018) and Australia Customs Dumping Notice Nos. 2018/17 (25 January 2018) and 2018/73 (2 May 2018)	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Brazil		
Initiation on 17 October 2017 of AD investigation on imports of plasterboards or plaster compositions, faced or reinforced with paper or paperboard only (NCM 6809.11.00) from Mexico	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/BRA, 11 April 2018; and Camex Resolution No. 19/2018 (27 March 2018)	Provisional duty imposed on 28 March 2018
Termination on 18 October 2017 of AD duties on imports of cold polymerized emulsion styrene-butadiene rubber (E-SBR) (NCM 4002.19.11; 4002.19.19) from the European Union (investigation initiated on 27 May 2014 and definitive duty imposed on 20 November 2015)	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/BRA, 11 April 2018	
Termination on 7 December 2017 of AD duties on imports of stainless steel cutlery of a high standard (NCM 8211.10.00; 8211.91.00; 8215.20.00; 8215.99.10) from China (investigation initiated on 13 June 2011 and definitive duty imposed on 6 December 2012)	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/BRA, 11 April 2018	
Initiation on 2 January 2018 of AD investigation on imports of poly(ethylene terephthalate) films (NCM 3920.62.19; 3920.62.91; 3920.62.99) from the Kingdom of Bahrain and Peru	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (25 May 2018) and Secex Circular No. 68 (29 December 2017)	
Temporary suspension on 18 January 2018 of AD duties on imports of hot-rolled steel (NCM 7208.10.00; 7208.25.00; 7208.26.10; 7208.26.90; 7208.27.10; 7208.27.90; 7208.36.10; 7208.36.90; 7208.37.00; 7208.38.10; 7208.38.90; 7208.39.10; 7208.39.90; 7208.40.00; 7208.53.00; 7208.54.00; 7208.90.00; 7225.30.00; 7225.40.90) from China and the Russian Federation (investigation initiated on 20 July 2016 and definitive duty imposed on 18 January 2018)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (25 May 2018)	
Initiation on 26 March 2018 of AD investigation on imports of rolls for rolling mills (NCM 8455.30.10; 8455.30.90) from China	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (25 May 2018) and Secex Circular No. 14/2018 (23 March 2018)	
Termination on 9 April 2018 of AD duties on imports of light-weight coated paper (NCM 4810.22.90) from Canada and the United States (investigation initiated on 10 December 2010. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 10 November 2011 and 23 April 2012)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (25 May 2018) and Camex Resolution No. 25/2018 (23 March 2018)	
Canada		
Initiation on 27 October 2017 of AD investigation on imports of certain copper pipe fittings (HS 7412.10.00; 7412.20.00) from Viet Nam	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/CAN, 14 March 2018	Provisional duty imposed on 25 January 2018
Initiation on 27 October 2017 of CVD investigation on imports of certain copper pipe fittings (HS 7412.10.00; 7412.20.00) from Viet Nam	WTO document G/SCM/N/328/CAN, 26 March 2018	Provisional duty imposed on 25 January 2018
Termination on 2 November 2017 of AD duties on imports of certain silicon metals (HS 2804.69.00) from Brazil, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia and Thailand (investigation initiated on 20 February 2017 and provisional duty imposed on 5 July 2017)	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/CAN, 14 March 2018	
Termination on 2 November 2017 of CVD duties on imports of certain silicon metals (HS 2804.69.00) from Brazil, Kazakhstan, Malaysia and Norway (investigation initiated on 20 February 2017 and provisional duty imposed on 5 July 2017)	WTO document G/SCM/N/328/CAN, 26 March 2018	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Initiation on 28 December 2017 of AD investigation on imports of certain dry wheat pasta (HS 1902.19.21; 1902.19.22; 1902.19.23; 1902.19.29; 1902.19.93; 1902.19.91; 1902.19.99; 1902.19.92) from Turkey	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/CAN, 14 March 2018; Permanent Delegation of Canada to the WTO (28 May 2018) and Canada Border Service Agency Notice DWP 2017 IN (28 March 2018)	Provisional duty imposed on 28 March 2018
Initiation on 28 December 2017 of CVD investigation on imports of certain dry wheat pasta (HS 1902.19.21; 1902.19.22; 1902.19.23; 1902.19.29; 1902.19.93; 1902.19.91; 1902.19.99; 1902.19.92) from Turkey	WTO document G/SCM/N/328/CAN, 26 March 2018; Permanent Delegation of Canada to the WTO (28 May 2018) and Canada Border Service Agency Notice DWP 2017 IN (28 March 2018)	Provisional duty imposed on 28 March 2018
Termination on 16 March 2018 of AD investigation on imports of certain polyethylene terephthalate (PET resin) (HS 3907.61.00; 3907.69.00) from China, India, Oman and Pakistan (investigation initiated on 18 August 2017 and provisional duty imposed on 16 November 2017)	Permanent Delegation of Canada to the WTO (28 May 2018) and Canadian International Trade Tribunal Inquiry No. NQ-2017-003 (16 March 2018)	
Termination on 16 March 2018 of CVD duties on imports of certain polyethylene terephthalate (PET resin) (HS 3907.61.00; 3907.69.00) from China, India, Oman and Pakistan (investigation initiated on 18 August 2017 and provisional duty imposed on 16 November 2017)	Permanent Delegation of Canada to the WTO (28 May 2018) and Canadian International Trade Tribunal Inquiry No. NQ-2017-003 (16 March 2018)	
Chile		
Termination on 17 November 2017 of AD duties on imports of steel bars (HS 7213.10.00; 7214.20.00; 7227.90.00; 7228.30.00) from Mexico (investigation initiated on 27 November 2015. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 19 May and 17 November 2016)	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/CHL, 22 March 2018	
Initiation on 8 March 2018 of SG investigation on imports of powdered milk and Gouda cheese (HS 0402; 0406)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/CHL/20, 9 March 2018	
Initiation on 8 March 2018 of AD investigation on imports of steel bars (HS 7213.10.00; 7214.20.00; 7227.90.00; 7228.30.00) from Mexico	Permanent Delegation of Chile to the WTO (18 May 2018)	
China		
Initiation on 16 October 2017 of AD investigation on imports of hydriodic acid (HS 2811.19.90) from Japan and the United States	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/CHN, 18 April 2018	
Initiation on 30 October 2017 of AD investigation on imports of ethanolamines (HS 2922.11.00; 2922.12.00; 2922.13.10) from Malaysia, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Thailand and the United States	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/CHN, 18 April 2018	
Initiation on 9 November 2017 of AD investigation on imports of acrylonitrile-butadiene rubber (NBR) (HS 4002.59.10; 4002.59.90) from Japan and Korea, Rep. of	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/CHN, 18 April 2018	
Initiation on 29 December 2017 of AD investigation on imports of butan-1-ol (n-butyl alcohol) (HS 2905.13.00) from Malaysia, Chinese Taipei and the United States	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/CHN, 18 April 2018	
Initiation on 23 January 2018 of AD investigation on imports of ortho dichlorobenzene (ODCB) (HS 2903.91.10) from India and Japan	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (28 May 2018) and MOFCOM Announcement No. 6/2018 (24 January 2018)	Provisional duty imposed on 20 April 2018

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Initiation on 4 February 2018 of AD investigation on imports of grain sorghum (HS 1007.90.00) from the United States	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (28 May 2018) and MOFCOM Announcement Nos. 12/2018 (4 February 2018) and 38/2018 (18 April 2018)	Provisional duty imposed on 18 April 2018
Initiation on 4 February 2018 of CVD investigation on imports of grain sorghum (HS 1007.90.00) from the United States	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (28 May 2018) and MOFCOM Announcement Nos. 13/2018 (4 February 2018) and 38/2018 (18 April 2018)	Provisional duty imposed on 18 April 2018
Termination on 27 February 2018 of AD duties on imports of broiler chicken products (HS 0207.11.00; 0207.12.00; 0207.13.11; 0207.13.19; 0207.13.21; 0207.13.29; 0207.14.11; 0207.14.19; 0207.14.21; 0207.14.22; 0207.14.29; 0504.00.21) from the United States (investigation initiated on 27 September 2009. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 5 February and 27 September 2010)	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (28 May 2018) and MOFCOM Announcement No. 5/2018 (27 February 2018)	
Termination on 27 February 2018 of CVD duties investigation on imports of broiler chicken products (HS 0207.11.00; 0207.12.00; 0207.13.11; 0207.13.19; 0207.13.21; 0207.13.29; 0207.14.11; 0207.14.19; 0207.14.21; 0207.14.22; 0207.14.29; 0504.00.21) from the United States (investigation initiated on 27 September 2009. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 28 April and 29 August 2010)	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (28 May 2018) and MOFCOM Announcement No. 5/2018 (27 February 2018)	
Termination on 13 March 2018 of AD duties on imports of toluene diisocyanate (TDI80/20) (HS 2929.10.10) from the European Union (investigation initiated on 23 March 2012. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 13 November 2012 and 12 March 2013)	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (28 May 2018) and MOFCOM Announcement No. 26/2018 (12 March 2018)	
Initiation on 26 March 2018 of AD investigation on imports of phenol (HS 2907.11.10) from the European Union; Japan; Korea, Rep. of; Thailand and the United States	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (28 May 2018) and MOFCOM Announcement No. 33/2018 (28 March 2018)	
Costa Rica		
Initiation on 29 March 2018 of SG investigation on imports of bars and rods of steel for concrete reinforcement (HS 7214.20.00; 7214.99.20; 7228.30.00; 7228.50.00; 7228.60.00)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/CRI/4, 26 March 2018	
Egypt		
Termination on 23 October 2017 (without measure) of AD investigation on imports of polyvinyl chloride (HS 3904.10.00) from the United States (initiated on 16 November 2016)	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/EGY, 31 January 2018	
El Salvador		
Initiation on 16 November 2017 of AD investigation on imports of liquid ultra-high-temperature (UHT) processed milk in long-life containers (HS 0401.10.00; 0401.20.00) from Costa Rica	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/SLV, 22 January 2018	
European Union		
Initiation on 20 October 2017 of AD investigation on imports of electric bicycles "e-bikes" (HS 8711.60.10; 8711.60.90) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/EU, 29 March 2018	
Initiation on 19 December 2017 of AD investigation on imports of silicon (HS 2804.69.00) from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Brazil	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/EU, 29 March 2018	
Initiation on 21 December 2017 of CVD investigation on imports of electric bicycles "e-bikes" (HS 8711.60.10; 8711.60.90) from China	WTO document G/SCM/N/328/EU, 28 March 2018	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Termination on 30 January 2018 (without measure) of AD investigation on imports of certain cast iron articles (HS 7325.10.00; 7325.99.10) from India (initiated on 10 December 2016)	Commission Implementing Regulation No. 2018/140 (29 January 2018)	
Initiation on 31 January 2018 of CVD investigation on imports of biodiesel (HS 1516.20.98; 1518.00.91; 1518.00.95; 1518.00.99; 2710.19.43; 2710.19.46; 2710.19.47; 2710.20.11; 2710.20.15; 2710.20.17; 3824.99.92; 3826.00.10; 3826.00.90) from Argentina	Commission Notice 2018/C 34/11 (31 December 2017)	
Initiation on 26 March 2018 of SG investigation on imports of certain steel products (HS Chapters 72 and 73)	Commission Notice 2018/C 111/10 (26 March 2018) and WTO document G/SG/N/6/EU/1, 27 March 2018	
India		
Initiation on 2 November 2017 of AD investigation on imports of uncoated copier paper (HS 4802) from Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/IND, 19 April 2018	
Termination on 28 November 2017 (without measure) of AD investigation on imports of n-butyl alcohol (HS 2905.13.00) from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (investigation initiated on 2 September 2016)	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/IND, 19 April 2018	
Termination on 9 November 2017 of AD duties on imports of metronidazole (HS 3004.90.22) from China (imposed on 17 April 2000)	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/IND, 19 April 2018	
Termination on 9 November 2017 of AD duties on imports of cellophane transparent film (HS 3920.71.11) from China (imposed on 30 March 2006)	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/IND, 19 April 2018	
Termination on 9 November 2017 of AD duties on imports of geogrid/geostrips/geostraps made of polyester or glass fiber in all its forms (including all widths and lengths) (HS 3902.10.00; 3914.00.90; 3920.10.19; 3926.90.99; 5503.40.00; 5603.13.30; 5603.94.00; 5604.90.00; 5903.10.90; 5911.10.00; 5911.31.50; 5911.31.90; 5911.90.90; 7019.40.00; 7019.59.00; 7019.90.10; 7019.90.90) from China (investigation initiated on 20 December 2010 and definitive duty imposed on 24 January 2012)	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/IND, 19 April 2018	
Termination on 9 November 2017 of AD duties on imports of phosphoric acid of all grades and all concentrations (excluding agriculture/fertilizer grade) (HS 2809.20.10) from Israel and Chinese Taipei (investigation initiated on 4 February 2011. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 13 January and 4 April 2012)	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/IND, 19 April 2018	
Termination on 23 November 2017 of AD duties on imports of phosphoric acid - technical grade and food grade (HS 2809.20.10) from China (imposed on 14 September 2007)	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/IND, 19 April 2018	
Termination on 25 November 2017 of AD duties on imports of caustic soda-I (HS 2815.11.10; 2815.11.20) from Iran, Islamic Rep. of (imposed on 26 December 2000)	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/IND, 19 April 2018	
Termination on 11 December 2017 (without measure) of AD investigation on imports of polybutadiene rubber (butadiene rubber "PBR") (HS 4002.20.00) from Iran, Islamic Rep. of; Korea, Rep. of; Russian Federation; Singapore and South Africa (investigation initiated on 16 September 2016)	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/IND, 19 April 2018	
Termination on 13 December 2017 of AD duties on imports of sodium hydrosulphite-I (HS 2831; 2832) from China (imposed on 28 March 2001)	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/IND, 19 April 2018	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Initiation on 19 December 2017 of AD investigation on imports of sodium nitrite (HS 2834.10) from the Russian Federation	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/IND, 19 April 2018	
Initiation on 19 December 2017 of SG investigation on imports of solar cells, whether or not assembled in modules or panels (HS 8541.40.11)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/IND/44, 3 January 2018	
Termination on 20 December 2017 of AD duties on imports of choline chloride, in all forms and concentrations, used for animal feed (HS 2309.90.10; 2923.10.00) from China (investigation initiated on 25 October 2011 and definitive duty imposed on 21 December 2012)	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/IND, 19 April 2018	
Termination on 30 December 2017 of AD duties on imports of saccharin (HS 2925.11.00) from China (imposed on 6 June 2006)	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/IND, 19 April 2018	
Termination on 31 December 2017 of SG duties on imports of sodium citrate (HS 2918.15.20) (investigation initiated on 4 March 2014 and definitive duty imposed on 31 December 2014)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (9 May 2018)	
Initiation on 2 January 2018 of AD investigation on imports of zeolite 4A (detergent grade) (HS 2839.90.90) from China	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (9 May 2018) and Notification F. No. 6/14/2017-DGAD - (Case No. OI-25/2017) Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (2 January 2018)	
Initiation on 2 January 2018 of AD investigation on imports of fluoroelastomers "FKM" (HS 3904) from China	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (9 May 2018) and Notification F. No. 6/25/2017-DGAD - (Case No. OI-30/2017) Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (2 January 2018)	
Initiation on 17 January 2018 of AD investigation on imports of sun- and/or dust-control film (HS 3920.69.29) from China; Hong Kong, China; Korea, Rep. of and Chinese Taipei	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (9 May 2018) and Notification No. 6/44/2017-DGAD - Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (17 January 2018)	
Initiation on 22 January 2018 of AD investigation on imports of dimethylformamide "DMF" (HS 2921.11.10) from China, Germany and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (9 May 2018) and Notification F. No. 6/37/2017-DGAD - Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (22 January 2018)	
Initiation on 23 January 2018 of AD investigation on imports of coated paper (HS 4810) from China, the European Union and the United States	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (9 May 2018) and Notification F. No. 6/42/2017-DGAD - (Case No. OI-45/2017) Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (23 January 2018)	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Initiation on 24 January 2018 of AD investigation on imports of meta-phenylene diamene-4-sulphonic acid "MPDSA" (HS 2922.29.26) from China	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (9 May 2018) and Notification F. No. 6/35/2017-DGAD - Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (24 January 2018)	
Initiation on 5 February 2018 of AD investigation on imports of textured tempered glass whether coated or uncoated (HS 7007.19.00; 7003.19.90; 7005.10.10; 7005.10.90; 7005.21.90; 7005.29.90; 7005.30.90) from Malaysia	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (9 May 2018) and Notification F. No. 6/45/2017-DGAD - Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (5 February 2018)	
Initiation on 7 February 2018 of AD investigation on imports of flax yarn (HS 5306.10.90; 5306.20.90) from China	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (9 May 2018) and Notification F. No. 6/3/2018-DGAD - (Case No. OI-3/2018) Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (7 February 2018)	
Termination on 13 March 2018 of SG duties on imports of hot-rolled flat products of non-alloy and other alloy steel in coils of a width of 600 mm or more (HS 7208; 7225.30.90) (initiated on 7 September 2015. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 14 September 2015 and 29 March 2016)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (9 May 2018)	
Initiation on 27 March 2018 of CVD investigation on imports of new pneumatic tyres for buses and lorries (HS 4011.20) from China	Notification F. No. 6/8/2018-DGAD - Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (27 March 2018)	
Initiation on 4 April 2018 of AD investigation on imports of certain epoxy resins (epoxide resins) (HS 3907.30.10; 3907.30.90) from China; the European Union; Korea, Rep. of; Chinese Taipei and Thailand	Notification F. No. 6/10/2018-DGAD - (Case No. OI-7/2018) Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (4 April 2018)	
Initiation on 4 April 2018 of AD investigation on imports of ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA) sheet for solar modules (HS 3901; 3902; 3921) from China; Korea, Rep. of; Malaysia; the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Thailand	Notification F. No. 6/9/2018-DGAD - (Case No. OI. 6/2018) Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (4 April 2018)	
Initiation on 10 April 2018 of AD investigation on imports of non-plasticized industrial grade nitrocellulose (excluding nitrocellulose damped in ethanol and waterwet) (HS 3912.20.19) from Brazil, Indonesia and Thailand	Notification F. No. 6/12/2018-DGAD - (Case No. OI-9/2018) Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (10 April 2018)	
Indonesia		
Initiation on 27 October 2017 of AD investigation on imports of spin drawn yarn "SDY" (HS 5402.47.00) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/IDN, 20 April 2018	
Initiation on 29 March 2018 of SG investigation on imports of ceramic flags and paving, hearth or wall tiles; and ceramic mosaic cubes and the like, whether or not on a backing (HS 6907)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/IDN/28, 3 April 2018	
Israel		
Termination on 25 October 2017 (without measure) of AD investigation on cocoa spread (HS 1806.90.99; 1806.90.20) from the European Union (initiated on 27 September 2016)	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/ISR, 14 February 2018	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Korea, Rep. of		
Termination on 29 December 2017 of AD duties on imports of PET film (HS 3920.62) from Japan (investigation initiated on 2 December 2013 and definitive duty imposed on 30 December 2014)	Permanent Delegation of Korea to the WTO (4 June 2018)	
Mexico		
Initiation on 14 November 2017 of AD investigation on imports of steel plate in sheets (HS 7208.51.01; 7208.51.02; 7208.51.03; 7208.52.01; 7225.40.99) from Italy and Japan	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/MEX, 12 March 2018	
Termination on 15 January 2018 of AD duties on imports of graphite electrodes for electric arc furnaces (HS 8545.11.01) from China (investigation initiated on 1 September 2010. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 31 May 2011 and 1 March 2012)	Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the WTO (30 May 2018) and Diario Oficial de la Federación (Official Journal), 15 January 2018	
Initiation on 6 February 2018 of AD investigation on imports of short-fibre polyester (HS 5503.20.01; 5503.20.99) from China	Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the WTO (30 May 2018) and Diario Oficial de la Federación (Official Journal), 6 February 2018	
Termination on 6 March 2018 of AD duties on imports of monobutyl ether of ethylene glycol (HS 2909.43.01) from the United States (investigation initiated on 11 March 2011. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 9 April and 12 September 2012)	Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the WTO (30 May 2018) and Diario Oficial de la Federación (Official Journal), 6 March 2018	
Morocco		
Termination on 9 November 2017 (without measure) of AD investigation on imports of ceramic tiles (HS 6908.90.00) from Spain (initiated on 18 May 2016)	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/MAR, 29 March 2018	
New Zealand		
Termination on 8 February 2018 of AD duties on imports of preserved peaches (HS 2008.70.09) from China (imposed on 21 August 2006)	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/NZL, 19 March 2018	
Termination on 3 March 2018 (without measure) of AD investigation on imports of reinforcing steel bar and coil (rebar) (HS 7213.10.90; 7213.91.90; 7213.99.90; 7214.20.90; 7214.99.90; 7227.90.00; 7228.30.00; 7228.50.00; 7228.60.00) from China and Malaysia (initiated on 15 August 2017)	Permanent Delegation of New Zealand to the WTO (20 April 2018)	
Termination on 3 March 2018 (without measure) of CVD investigation on imports of reinforcing steel bar and coil (rebar) (HS 7213.10.90; 7213.91.90; 7213.99.90; 7214.20.90; 7214.99.90; 7227.90.00; 7228.30.00; 7228.50.00; 7228.60.00) from China (initiated on 15 August 2017)	Permanent Delegation of New Zealand to the WTO (20 April 2018)	
Initiation on 9 April 2018 of AD investigation on imports of certain hollow steel sections (HS 7306.30.19; 7306.61.00) from China and Malaysia	Permanent Delegation of New Zealand to the WTO (20 April 2018)	
Initiation on 9 April 2018 of CVD investigation on imports of certain hollow steel sections (HS 7306.30.19; 7306.61.00) from China	Permanent Delegation of New Zealand to the WTO (20 April 2018)	
Pakistan		
Termination on 18 October 2017 of CVD duties on imports of fine cotton yarn (HS 5205.15.00; 5205.27.00; 5205.28.00; 5205.35.00; 5205.47.00; 5205.48.00) from India (investigation initiated on 20 April 2016 and provisional duty imposed on 18 January 2017)	WTO document G/SCM/N/328/PAK, 26 February 2018	
Initiation on 13 December 2017 of AD investigation on imports of lead pencils (HS 9609.10.00) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/PAK, 26 February 2018	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Termination on 16 December 2017 of AD duties on imports of phthalic anhydride (HS 2917.35.00) from the Russian Federation (investigation initiated on 13 February 2016 and provisional duty imposed on 31 May 2017)	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/PAK, 26 February 2018	
Peru		
Termination on 25 October 2017 of AD duties on imports of all types of footwear (other than sandals and flip-flops) with uppers of materials other than plastic, rubber and leather (except textile materials) (HS 64) from China (imposed on 31 January 2000)	Permanent Delegation of Peru to the WTO (23 May 2018)	
Initiation on 2 November 2017 of AD investigation on imports of certain steel bars (HS 7213; 7214; 7217; 7228) from China and Mexico	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/PER, 17 April 2018	
Philippines		
Termination in May 2018 of SG duties on imports of newsprint (HS 4801.00.10; 4801.00.90) (investigation initiated on 20 September 2013 and definitive duty imposed on 5 May 2015)	Permanent Delegation of the Philippines to the WTO (24 April 2018)	
SACU - Southern African Customs Union (Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa)		
Initiation on 20 April 2018 of SG investigation on imports of other screws fully threaded with hexagon heads made of steel (HS 7318.15.39)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/ZAF/6, 24 April 2018	
Termination on 4 May 2018 of AD duties on imports of fully threaded screws with hexagon heads, excluding those of stainless steel (HS 7318.15.39) from China (investigation initiated on 18 November 2011. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 4 May and 16 November 2012)	Permanent Delegation of South Africa to the WTO (28 May 2018) and International Trade Administration Commission Notice No. R. 470 - Government Gazette No. 41605 (4 May 2018)	
Thailand		
Initiation on 29 November 2017 of AD investigation on imports of flat hot-rolled steel, in coils and not in coils (HS 7208.10; 7208.36; 7208.37; 7208.38; 7208.39; 7208.40; 7208.51; 7208.52; 7208.53; 7208.54; 7208.90; 7211.13; 7211.14; 7211.19) from Australia and Egypt	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/THA, 2 February 2018	
Initiation on 29 November 2017 of AD investigation on imports of melamine tableware (HS 3924.10.10) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/THA, 2 February 2018	
Termination on 8 March 2018 (without measure) of AD investigation on imports of galvanized flat sheet and coil (HS 7212.30; 7225.92.90) from China; Korea, Rep. of and Chinese Taipei (investigation initiated on 14 September 2016)	Permanent Delegation of Thailand to the WTO (5 June 2018)	
Turkey		
Termination on 28 November 2017 (without measure) of AD investigation on imports of tubes and pipes of cast iron (HS 7303.00.10; 7303.00.90) from India and the United Arab Emirates (initiated on 31 July 2016)	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/TUR, 14 March 2018	
Initiation on 28 November 2017 of AD investigation on imports of polycarboxylate polymers (HS 3824.40; 3906.90.90) from Korea, Rep. of	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/TUR, 14 March 2018	
Initiation on 30 November 2017 of AD investigation on imports of lighters (gas, oven and cooker component) (HS 9613.80.00) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/TUR, 14 March 2018	
Termination on 29 December 2017 of AD duties on imports of copper wired rod (HS 7408.11) from the Russian Federation (imposed on 9 November 2005)	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/TUR, 14 March 2018	
Termination on 29 December 2017 of AD duties on imports of copper wired rod (HS 7408.11) from Ukraine (imposed on 8 June 2006)	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/TUR, 4 March 2018	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Termination on 5 January 2018 (without measure) of SG investigation on imports of pneumatic tyres (HS 4011.10; 4011.20; 4011.70; 4011.80; 4011.90; 8708.70) (initiated on 6 April 2017)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/TUR/22/Suppl.1, 17 January 2018	
Initiation on 23 February 2018 of SG investigation on imports of wallpaper and similar wallcoverings (HS 4814.20.00; 4814.90.10; 4814.90.70)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/TUR/20/Suppl.1, 9 March 2018	
Initiation on 6 March 2018 of AD investigation on imports of cored wire of base metal, for electric arc-welding (HS 8311.20.00) from Viet Nam	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (30 May 2018)	
Initiation on 20 March 2018 of CVD investigation on imports of acrylic or modacrylic (HS 5501.30.00) from China	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (30 May 2018)	
Initiation on 21 March 2018 of AD investigation on imports of acrylic or modacrylic (HS 5501.30.00) from China; Germany; Korea, Rep. of and Thailand	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (30 May 2018)	
Initiation on 27 April 2018 of SG investigation on imports of iron and steel products (HS 7208; 7209; 7210; 7211; 7212; 7225; 7226; 7213; 7214; 7215; 7216; 7217; 7227; 7228; 7302; 7303; 7304; 7305; 7306; 7219; 7220)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/TUR/24, 3 May 2018	
Ukraine		
Initiation on 2 November 2017 of AD investigation on imports of syringes (HS 9018.31.10) from China, India and Turkey	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/UKR, 19 March 2018	
Initiation on 3 November 2017 of AD investigation on imports of kitchen salt, extra class (HS 2501.00.91) from Belarus	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/UKR, 19 March 2018	
Initiation on 29 December 2017 of AD investigation on imports of electric incandescent lamps (HS 8539.22.90) from Belarus	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/UKR, 19 March 2018	
United States of America		
Termination on 16 October 2017 (without measure) of AD investigation on imports of titanium sponge (HS 8108.20.00) from Japan and Kazakhstan (initiated on 20 September 2017)	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/USA, 21 March 2018	
Termination on 16 October 2017 (without measure) of CVD investigation on imports of titanium sponge (HS 8108.20.00) from Kazakhstan (initiated on 20 September 2017)	WTO document G/SCM/N/328/USA, 22 February 2018	
Initiation on 23 October 2017 of AD investigation on imports of polyethylene terephthalate "PET" resin (HS 3907.61.00; 3907.69.00) from Brazil; Indonesia; Korea, Rep. of; Pakistan and Chinese Taipei	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/USA, 21 March 2018	
Initiation on 26 October 2017 of AD investigation on imports of polytetrafluoroethylene "PTFE" resin (HS 3904.61.00; 3904.69.50) from China and India	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/USA, 21 March 2018	
Initiation on 26 October 2017 of CVD investigation on imports of polytetrafluoroethylene "PTFE" resin (HS 3904.61.00; 3904.69.50) from India	WTO document G/SCM/N/328/USA, 22 February 2018	
Initiation on 1 November 2017 of AD investigation on imports of forged steel fittings (HS 7307.99.10; 7307.99.30; 7307.99.50; 7307.92.30; 7307.92.90; 7326.19.00) from China, Italy and Chinese Taipei	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/USA, 21 March 2018	
Initiation on 1 November 2017 of CVD investigation on imports of forged steel fittings (HS 7307.99.10; 7307.99.30; 7307.99.50; 7307.92.30; 7307.92.90; 7326.19.00) from China	WTO document G/SCM/N/328/USA, 22 February 2018	
Initiation on 28 November 2017 of AD investigation on imports of common alloy aluminium sheet (HS 7606.12.30; 7606.11.30; 7606.11.60; 7606.12.60; 7606.91.30; 7606.91.60; 7606.92.30; 7606.92.60; 7607.11.90) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/308/USA, 21 March 2018	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Initiation on 4 December 2017 of CVD investigation on imports of common alloy aluminium sheet (HS 7606.12.30; 7606.11.30; 7606.11.60; 7606.12.60; 7606.91.30; 7606.91.60; 7606.92.30; 7606.92.60; 7607.11.90) from China	WTO document G/SCM/N/328/USA, 22 February 2018	
Initiation on 20 December 2017 of AD investigation on imports of sodium gluconate, gluconic acid and derivative products (HS 2918.16.10; 2918.16.50; 2932.20.50; 2918.16.50; 3824.99.28; 3824.99.92) from China and France	Permanent Delegation of the United States to the WTO (4 June 2018) and Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration A-427-829 and A-570-071 Federal Register/Vol 83 FR No. 516 (4 January 2018)	Terminated on 22 January 2018 on imports from France
Initiation on 20 December 2017 of CVD investigation on imports of sodium gluconate, gluconic acid and derivative products (HS 2918.16.10; 2918.16.50; 2932.20.50; 2918.16.50; 3824.99.28; 3824.99.92) from China	Permanent Delegation of the United States to the WTO (4 June 2018) and Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration C-570-072 Federal Register/Vol 83 FR No. 499 (4 January 2018)	
Initiation on 16 January 2018 of AD investigation on imports of certain plastic decorative ribbon (HS 3920.20.00; 3926.40.00; 3920.10.00; 3920.30.00; 3920.43.50; 3920.49.00; 3920.62.00; 3920.69.00; 3921.90.11; 3921.90.15; 3921.90.19; 3921.90.40; 3926.90.99; 5404.90.00; 9505.90.40; 4601.99.90; 4602.90.00; 5609.00.30; 5609.00.40; 6307.90.98) from China	Permanent Delegation of the United States to the WTO (4 June 2018) and Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration A-570-075 Federal Register/Vol 83 FR No. 3126 (23 January 2018)	
Initiation on 16 January 2018 of CVD investigation on imports of certain plastic decorative ribbon (HS 3920.20.00; 3926.40.00; 3920.10.00; 3920.30.00; 3920.43.50; 3920.49.00; 3920.62.00; 3920.69.00; 3921.90.11; 3921.90.15; 3921.90.19; 3921.90.40; 3926.90.99; 5404.90.00; 9505.90.40; 4601.99.90; 4602.90.00; 5609.00.30; 5609.00.40; 6307.90.98) from China	Permanent Delegation of the United States to the WTO (4 June 2018) and Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration C-570-076 Federal Register/Vol 83 FR No. 3114 (23 January 2018)	
Termination on 2 February 2018 of AD duties on imports of 100- to 150-seat large civil aircraft (HS 8802.40.00) from Canada (investigation initiated on 26 May 2017 and provisional duty imposed on 13 October 2017)	Permanent Delegation of the United States to the WTO (4 June 2018)	
Termination on 2 February 2018 of CVD duties on imports of 100- to 150-seat large civil aircraft (HS 8802.40.00) from Canada (investigation initiated on 26 May 2017 and provisional duty imposed on 2 October 2017)	Permanent Delegation of the United States to the WTO (4 June 2018)	
Initiation on 9 February 2018 of AD investigation on imports of large diameter welded pipe (HS 7305.11.10; 7305.11.50; 7305.12.10; 7305.12.50; 7305.19.10; 7305.19.50; 7305.31.40; 7305.31.60; 7305.39.10; 7305.39.50) from Canada; China; Greece; India; Korea, Rep. of and Turkey	Permanent Delegation of the United States to the WTO (4 June 2018) and Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration A-122-863, TA-484-803, TA-533-881, A-570-077, A-580-897 and A-489-833 Federal Register/Vol 83 FR No. 7154 (20 February 2018)	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Initiation on 9 February 2018 of CVD investigation on imports of large diameter welded pipe (HS 7305.11.10; 7305.11.50; 7305.12.10; 7305.12.50; 7305.19.10; 7305.19.50; 7305.31.40; 7305.31.60; 7305.39.10; 7305.39.50) from China; India; Korea, Rep. of and Turkey	Permanent Delegation of the United States to the WTO (4 June 2018) and Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration C-533-882, C-570-078, C-580-898 and C-489-834 Federal Register/Vol 83 FR No. 7148 (20 February 2018)	
Initiation on 15 February 2018 of AD investigation on imports of cast iron soil pipes (HS 7303.00.00) from China	Permanent Delegation of the United States to the WTO (4 June 2018) and Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration A-570-079 Federal Register/Vol 83 FR No. 8053 (23 February 2018)	
Initiation on 15 February 2018 of CVD investigation on imports of cast iron soil pipes (HS 7303.00.00) from China	Permanent Delegation of the United States to the WTO (4 June 2018) and Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration C-570-080 Federal Register/Vol 83 FR No. 8047 (23 February 2018)	
Initiation on 20 February 2018 of AD investigation on imports of rubber bands (HS 4016.99.35; 4016.99.60) from China, Sri Lanka and Thailand	Permanent Delegation of the United States to the WTO (4 June 2018) and Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration A-570-069, A-542-802 and A-549-835 Federal Register/Vol 83 FR No. 8424 (27 February 2018)	Terminated on 22 March 2018 on imports from Sri Lanka
Initiation on 20 February 2018 of CVD investigation on imports of rubber bands (HS 4016.99.35; 4016.99.60) from China, Sri Lanka and Thailand	Permanent Delegation of the United States to the WTO (4 June 2018) and Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration C-549-836, C-570-070 and C-542-803 Federal Register/Vol 83 FR No. 8429 (27 February 2018)	Terminated on 22 March 2018 on imports from Sri Lanka
Initiation on 27 March 2018 of AD investigation on imports of laminated woven sacks (HS 6305.33.00; 3923.21.00; 3923.29.00; 3917.39.00; 3921.90.11; 3921.90.15; 5903.90.25; 4601.99.05; 4601.99.90; 4602.90.00) from Viet Nam	Permanent Delegation of the United States to the WTO (4 June 2018) and Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration A-552-823 Federal Register/Vol 83 FR No. 14257 (3 April 2018)	
Initiation on 27 March 2018 of CVD investigation on imports of laminated woven sacks (HS 6305.33.00; 3923.21.00; 3923.29.00; 3917.39.00; 3921.90.11; 3921.90.15; 5903.90.25; 4601.99.05; 4601.99.90; 4602.90.00) from Viet Nam	Permanent Delegation of the United States to the WTO (4 June 2018) and Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration C-552-824 Federal Register/Vol 83 FR No. 14253 (3 April 2018)	
Initiation on 16 April 2018 of AD investigation on imports of certain steel wheels (HS 8708.70.45; 8708.70.60; 8716.90.50; 4011.20.10; 4011.20.50; 8708.99.48) from China	Permanent Delegation of the United States to the WTO (4 June 2018) and Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration A-570-082 Federal Register/Vol 83 FR No. 17798 (24 April 2018)	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Initiation on 16 April 2018 of CVD investigation on imports of certain steel wheels (HS 8708.70.45; 8708.70.60; 8716.90.50; 4011.20.10; 4011.20.50; 8708.99.48) from China	Permanent Delegation of the United States to the WTO (4 June 2018) and Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration C-570-083 Federal Register/Vol 83 FR No. 17794 (24 April 2018)	
Initiation on 17 April 2018 of AD investigation on imports of glycine (HS 2922.49.43; 2922.49.80) from India, Japan and Thailand	Permanent Delegation of the United States to the WTO (4 June 2018) and Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration A-533-883, A-588-878 and A-549-837 Federal Register/Vol 83 FR No. 17995 (25 April 2018)	
Initiation on 17 April 2018 of CVD investigation on imports of glycine (HS 2922.49.43; 2922.49.80) from China, India and Thailand	Permanent Delegation of the United States to the WTO (4 June 2018) and Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration C-533-884, C-570-081 and C-549-838 Federal Register/Vol 83 FR No. 18002 (25 April 2018)	
Initiation on 7 May 2018 of AD investigation on imports of certain quartz surface products (HS 6810.99.00; 6810.11.00; 6810.19.12; 6810.19.14; 6810.19.50; 6810.91.00; 6815.99.40; 2506.10.00; 2506.20.00) from China	Permanent Delegation of the United States to the WTO (4 June 2018) and Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration A-570-084 Federal Register/Vol 83 FR No. 22613 (16 May 2018)	
Initiation on 7 May 2018 of CVD investigation on imports of certain quartz surface products (HS 6810.99.00; 6810.11.00; 6810.19.12; 6810.19.14; 6810.19.50; 6810.91.00; 6815.99.40; 2506.10.00; 2506.20.00) from China	Permanent Delegation of the United States to the WTO (4 June 2018) and Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration C-570-085 Federal Register/Vol 83 FR No. 22618 (16 May 2018)	

ANNEX 3 - OTHER TRADE-RELATED MEASURES¹

(MID-OCTOBER 2017 TO MID-MAY 2018)

Confirmed information²

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Argentina		
Updated list of "criterion values" (<i>valores criterio de carácter preventivo</i>) for imports of certain sugar confectionery (<i>caramelos blandos</i>) (NCM 1704.90.20), from specific origins	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (28 May 2018) and Administración Federal de Ingresos Públicos - Resolución General No. 4144-E (12 October 2017)	Effective 17 October 2017
Temporary export ban on iron and steel ferrous waste and scrap (NCM 7204; 7404; 7602)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (28 May 2018) and Decreto No. 848/2017 (23 October 2017)	Effective 27 October 2017, for 360 days
Amendments introduced to the list of products requiring non-automatic import licensing requirements	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (28 May 2018) and Resolución Secretaría de Comercio Nos. 898/2017 (24 November 2017), E-8/2018 (8 January 2018) and 170/2018 (27 March 2018)	Effective 1 December 2017
Updated list of "criterion values" (<i>valores criterio de carácter preventivo</i>) for imports of boilers (NCM 8403.10.10), from specific origins	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (28 May 2018) and Administración Federal de Ingresos Públicos - Resolución General No. 4230 (23 April 2018)	Effective 26 April 2018
Updated list of "criterion values" (<i>valores criterio de carácter preventivo</i>) for imports of yarn of polypropylene, single, untwisted or with a twist not exceeding 50 turns per m; woven fabrics obtained from strip or the like; flexible intermediate bulk containers of man-made textile materials; sacks (bags) of polyethylene or polypropylene strip or the like (NCM 5402.48.00; 5407.20.00; 6305.32.00; 6305.33.90), from specific origins	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (28 May 2018) and Administración Federal de Ingresos Públicos - Resolución General No. 4231 (23 April 2018)	Effective 26 April 2018
Brazil		
Elimination of the temporary reduction of import tariffs (to 2%) on certain isocyanates (NCM 2929.10.30), under an import quota of 1,000 tonnes (originally effective 23 January 2017 to 22 January 2018)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (25 May 2018) and Camex Resolution No. 94/2017 (13 December 2017)	Eliminated on 13 December 2017

¹ The inclusion of any measure in this Annex implies no judgement by the WTO Secretariat on whether or not such measure, or its intent, is protectionist in nature. Moreover, nothing in the Annex implies any judgement, either direct or indirect, on the consistency of any measure referred to with the provisions of any WTO agreement.

² This Section includes information which has either been provided by the Member concerned or has been confirmed at the request of the Secretariat.

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Increase of import tariffs (from 2% to 14%) on industrial fatty alcohols (<i>láurico</i>) (NCM 3823.70.20) and <i>ácido caprílico</i> (NCM 3823.19.10); (from zero to 14%) on sinkers, needles and other articles used in forming stitches (NCM 8448.51.10) (effective 1 January 2018); (from 2% to 12%) on certain acyclic monoamines and their derivatives (NCM 2921.19.94) (effective 2 March 2018); and (to 25%) on onions and shallots (NCM 0703.10.19) (effective 22 December 2017 to 31 December 2018)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (25 May 2018), and Camex Resolution Nos. 54/2017 (5 July 2017) 95/2017 (19 December 2017), 98/2017 (21 December 2017) and 11/2018 (28 February 2018)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
China		
The tariff reduction obligation for 128 items imported from the United States was suspended on 2 April 2018, and the tariff was hereafter imposed on the basis of the current tariff rate (15% on edible fruits and nuts; wine of fresh grapes; undenatured ethyl alcohol; ginseng roots; iron or steel seamless tubes, pipes and hollow profiles; and 25% on pork products; and aluminium waste and scrap)	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (28 May 2018)	Effective 2 April 2018
Decrease of VAT rebate rates (from 17% to 16% and from 11% to 10%) on exports of certain products	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (28 May 2018)	Effective 1 May 2018
Colombia		
Amendments introduced to import tariffs on articles of apparel and clothing accessories (HS 61; 62; 64). <i>Ad valorem</i> tariff (40%) on apparel and clothing accessories for FOB value declared of US\$10/kg or less. For waterproof footwear; certain footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastic; and footwear with outer soles of rubber, plastic, leather or composition leather and uppers of textile materials (HS 6401; 6402; 6404), <i>ad valorem</i> tariff (35%) for FOB value declared of US\$6/pair or less. For "other footwear" (HS 6405), <i>ad valorem</i> tariff (35%) for FOB value declared of US\$7/pair or less. For footwear with outer soles of rubber, plastic, leather or composition leather and uppers of leather (HS 6403), <i>ad valorem</i> tariff (35%) for FOB value declared of US\$10/pair or less	Permanent Delegation of Colombia to the WTO (24 April 2018) and Decreto No. 1786 Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo (2 November 2017)	Effective 2 November 2017
Introduction of specific import tariffs for certain textiles and textile products to avoid customs fraud and the use of arbitrary customs value (HS Chapter 52; 54; 55; 56; 58; 59; 60; 61; 62; 63; 64)	Permanent Delegation of Colombia to the WTO (24 April 2018) and Decreto No. 2218 Ministerio de Hacienda y Crédito Público (27 December 2017)	Effective 27 December 2017
India		
Increase of import tariffs (to 50%) on peas (<i>pisum sativum</i>) (HS 0713.10.00) (effective 8 November 2017) and (to 45%) on soya beans, whether or not broken (HS 1201.10.00; 1201.90.00) (effective 17 November 2017)	Notification Nos. 84/2017-Customs - Ministry of Finance (8 November 2017) and 88/2017-Customs - Ministry of Finance (17 November 2017)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Increase of import tariffs (from 30% to 40%) on chickpeas (<i>garbanzos</i>) (HS 0713.20.00) (effective 6 February 2018). On 1 March 2018, further increase of import tariffs (from 40% to 60%)	Notification Nos. 25/2018-Customs (6 February 2018) and 28/2018-Customs (1 March 2018)- Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
On 6 February 2018, further increase of import tariffs (from 50% to 100%) on raw sugar and refined or white sugar (raw sugar if imported by bulk consumer) (HS 1701). On 20 March 2018, import tariffs eliminated	Notification Nos. 24/2018-Customs (6 February 2018) and 30/2018 (20 March 2018) - Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue)	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Increase of import tariffs (from 10% to 15%) on motor cycles (including mopeds) and cycles fitted with an auxiliary motor, with or without side cars, and side cars, new, which have not been registered anywhere prior to importation - (1) as a completely knocked down (CKD) kit containing all the necessary components, parts or sub-assemblies for assembling a complete vehicle with: (a) engine, gearbox and transmission mechanism not in a pre-assembled condition (HS 8711)	Notification No. 26/2018-Customs - Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) (12 February 2018)	Effective 12 February 2018
Increase of import tariffs (from 10% to 15%) on certain parts, sub-parts or accessories of cellular mobile phones (e.g. heat dissipation sticker; battery cover; sticker-battery slot; protective film for main lens; Mylar for LDC FPC; film-front flash (HS 3919.90.90); battery cover; front cover; front cover (with zinc casting); middle cover; back cover; main lens; camera lens (HS 3920.99.99); PU case; sealing gasket (HS 3926.90.91), sealing gaskets/cases from PE, PP, EPS, PC and all other individual polymers or combination/composition of polymers; SIM sockets/other mechanical items (plastic); conductive cloth; LCD conductive foam; LCD foam; and BT foam (HS 3926.90.99)	Notification No. 22/2018-Customs - Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) (2 February 2018) and Finance Bill 2018 (14 March 2018)	Effective 2 February 2018
Increase of import tariffs (from 10% to 20%) on kites (HS 4823.90.90); (from 5% to 7.5%) on refractory bricks, blocks, tiles and similar refractory ceramic constructional goods (HS 6902); and on other refractory ceramic goods (e.g. retorts, crucibles, muffles, nozzles, plugs, supports, cupels, tubes, pipes, sheaths and rods) other than those of siliceous fossil metals or of similar siliceous earths (HS 6903); (from zero to 5%) on preform of silica for use in the manufacture of telecommunication grade optical fibres or optical fibre cables (HS Chapter 70); (from 7.5%-10% to 15%) on USB cables of cellular mobile phones (HS 8544) and on LCD/LED/OLED panels of television and certain parts (HS 8529); and (from 30% to 50%) on certain food preparations (excluding compound alcoholic preparations of a kind used for the manufacture of beverages, of an alcoholic strength exceeding 0.5% by volume, determined at a temperature of 20° centigrade) (HS 2106.90)	Notification No. 6/2018-Customs - Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) (2 February 2018) and Finance Bill 2018 (14 March 2018)	Effective 2 February 2018
Increase of import tariffs (from zero to 10%) on 11 specified parts used in the manufacture of liquid crystal display and light emitting diode TV panels of HS 8529 (e.g. open cell (15.6" and above), plate diffuser, film diffuser, reflector sheet, film-top, film-middle, film-bottom, bar led, bezel, back cover sheet, and black light unit modules (HS 8529); and on cushions/gaskets of liquid crystal display and light emitting diode TV panels (HS 4016)	Notification No. 6/2018-Customs - Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) (2 February 2018) and Finance Bill 2018 (14 March 2018)	Effective 2 February 2018

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Increase of import tariffs (from 10% to 20%) on footwear (HS 6401; 6402; 6403; 6404; 6405) and on certain toys, games and sport requisites (HS 9503; 9504; 9505.90.10; 9506; 9507; 9508); and (from 10% to 15%) on certain footwear with uppers of leather or composition leather, and with uppers of textiles materials (HS 6406); on key pads, and GSM antennas of any technology (HS 8517.70.90); on certain clocks and watches (HS 9101; 9102; 9103; 9105); on microphone rubber cases, sensor rubber cases, sealing gaskets, and silicone for use in the manufacture of cellular mobile phones (HS 4016.99.90); and on truck and bus radial tyres (HS 4011.20.10); and (from 15% to 20%) on cellular mobile phones (HS 8517.12.10; 8517.12.90)	Indian Budget 2018-19, Finance Bill 2018, Clause 101(a) (14 March 2018)	Effective February 2018
Increase of import tariffs (from 10% to 15%) on certain parts and accessories for cellular mobile phones: screws (HS 7318.15.00); SIM sockets/other mechanical items (metal) (HS 7326.90.99); chargers or adapters (HS 8504.40 except HS 8504.40.21); cells or batteries (HS 8506 except HS 8506.90.00); battery packs (other than lithium-ion batteries) (HS 8507 except 8507.90); microphones, wired headsets and receivers (HS 8518); and side key (HS 8538.90.00); and (from 10% to 20%) on lithium-ion batteries (8507.60.00) and wrist wearable devices "smart watches" (HS 8517.62.90)	Notification No. 22/2018-Customs - Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) (2 February 2018) and Finance Bill 2018 (14 March 2018)	Effective 2 February 2018
Increase of import tariffs (from 7.5% to 15%) on spark ignition engines and compression ignition engines (HS 8407; 8408) of motor vehicles falling under HS 8702; 8703; 8704; 8711; on parts suitable for use (HS 8409) principally with the engines of HS 8407; 8408, of a kind used in motor vehicles falling under HS 8702; 8704, motor cars falling under HS 8703, or motor cycles falling under HS 8711; on crank shafts (HS 8483.10.91; 8483.10.92) for engines falling under HS 8407 and 8408 and used in motor vehicles falling under HS 8702; 8703; 8704; 8711; and on electrical ignition or starting equipment and cut-outs (HS 8511) of motor vehicles falling under HS 8702; 8703; 8704; 8711	Notification No. 6/2018-Customs - Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) (2 February 2018) and Finance Bill 2018 (14 March 2018)	Effective 2 February 2018
Elimination of the exemption of customs duties on printed circuit board assembly (PCBA) and moulded plastics for the manufacture of chargers or adapters of cellular mobile phones. Basic customs tariff (BCD) set at 10%	Notification No. 22/2018-Customs - Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) (2 February 2018) and Finance Bill 2018 (14 March 2018)	Effective 2 February 2018
Imposition of "Social Welfare Surcharge" (10%) on imported goods	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (5 June 2018)	Effective 2 February 2018
Imposition of minimum import price "MIP" on peppers resulting in an import ban on imports if their c.i.f. MIP is below Rs 500/kg (imports with a c.i.f. MIP of Rs 500/kg or above are free) (HS 0904)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (9 May 2018) and Notification No. 53/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Directorate General of Foreign Trade (21 March 2018)	Effective 21 March 2018
Import ban on seal skins (HS Chapters 41; 42; 43)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (9 May 2018) and Notification No. 9/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Directorate General of Foreign Trade (28 March 2018)	Effective 28 March 2018

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Increase of tariff (from zero to 10%) on camera modules for use in the manufacture of cellular mobile phones; connectors for use in manufacture of cellular mobile phones; and populated, loaded or stuffed printed circuit boards (HS 8517; 8525; 8529)	Notification Nos. 36/2018 and 37/2018 - Customs (2 April 2018) - Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue)	Effective 2 April 2018
Increase of import tariffs (from 30% to 40%) on whey and modified whey, whether or not concentrated or containing added sugar or other sweetening matter (HS 0404) (whey, concentrated, evaporated or condensed, liquid or semi-solid exempted)	Notification Nos. 43/2018- Customs and 44/2018- Customs (10 April 2018)- Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue)	Effective 10 April 2018
Indonesia		
Imposition of import tariffs on certain digital goods	Permanent Delegation of Indonesia to the WTO (25 April 2018)	
Iraq, Rep. of		
Reduction of the customs duty rates to four levels (0.5%, 10%, 15% and 30%), and adoption of the Harmonized System Nomenclature (21 Categories), resulting in the increase of import tariffs for certain products	Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Iraq (24 April 2018)	Effective 1 January 2018
Extension of the temporary import ban on certain vegetables and fruits, e.g. potatoes, tomatoes, lettuces, carrots, and melons (to protect local production) (HS 0701; 0702; 0705; 0706; 0807)	Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Iraq (24 April 2018)	
Malaysia		
Amendments introduced to the list of prohibited export products, resulting in the addition of palm oil and its fractions, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified (3 tariff lines) (HS 1511.90.31; 1511.90.32; 1511.90.41)	Permanent Delegation of Malaysia to the WTO (5 June 2018)	Effective 20 October 2017
Amendments introduced to the list of prohibited import products, resulting in the addition of certain items (e.g. preparations of a kind used in animal feed; certain antibiotics; and certain medications) (7 tariff lines) (HS 2309; 2941; 3003; 3004; 2852; 2933)	Permanent Delegation of Malaysia to the WTO (5 June 2018)	Effective 23 February 2018
Mexico		
Further extension of the temporary increase of import tariffs (from zero to 15%) on 97 iron and steel tariff lines (HS Chapter 72) (originally implemented on 7 October 2015 for 180 days, extended on 4 April 2016 for an additional period of 180 days, and extended again on 6 April 2017 for 180 days)	Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the WTO (30 May 2018); Diario Oficial de la Federación (Official Journal), 17 October 2017; and WTO document WT/TPR/OV/20, 16 November 2017	On 17 October 2017, the measure was again extended for 180 days. On 16 April 2018, the measure was terminated
Establishment of a list of petroleum and oil products (HS 2709; 2710; 2711) subject to mandatory prior import authorization by the Ministry of Energy	Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the WTO (30 May 2018)	Effective 5 December 2017
Establishment of a list of petroleum and oil products (HS 2709; 2710; 2711) subject to mandatory prior export authorization by the Ministry of Energy	Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the WTO (30 May 2018)	Effective 5 December 2017
New Zealand		
Amendments introduced in the Climate Change (Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Levies) Regulation, resulting in the incorporation of additional goods and also the increase on certain levy rates (HS 3909; 8415; 8418; 8476; 8479; 8479; 8609; 8704; 8716; 8901; 8902)	New Zealand - Climate Change (Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Levies) Regulation 2013 (SR 2013/46)	Effective 1 January 2018
Panama		
Implementation of the Central American Import Tariff (for 2,200 tariffs lines), resulting in the increase of tariffs for certain products	Permanent Delegation of Panama to the WTO (24 April 2018)	Effective 1 March 2018

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Russian Federation		
Government Resolution No. 1469 established restrictions and conditions of access of bare metal stents for coronary arteries, stents for coronary arteries, releasing drugs, balloon standard catheters for coronary angioplasty, and aspirating catheters for embolectomies, originating from foreign states, for the purpose of procurement for state and municipal needs	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (30 May 2018)	Effective 4 December 2017 to 1 July 2018
Introduction of temporary export duties (from zero to 7.5%) on waste and scrap of tungsten (wolfram) and waste and scrap of cermets (HS 8101.97.00; 8113.00.40)	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (30 May 2018)	Effective 30 December 2017 to 30 December 2018
Eurasian Economic Union		
Temporary increase of import tariffs (from zero to 5%) on injection-moulding machines with a clamping force of not more than 2,200 tonnes (22,000 kN) and an injection volume of not more than 28,200 kN (HS 8477.10.00)	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (30 May 2018)	Effective 15 December 2017 to 15 December 2019
Elimination of the temporary reduction of import tariffs (from 13% to 5%) on Brussels sprouts (HS 0704); and (from 5% to zero) on nuts, dates, and dried grapes (HS 0802; 0804; 0806) (originally implemented on 22 April 2016)	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (30 May 2018)	Effective 1 February 2018
SACU - Southern African Customs Union (Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa)		
Increase of import tariffs (from 5% to 15%) on certain aluminium bars, rods and profiles (HS 7604.21.15; 7604.29.15; 7604.29.65) (effective 17 November 2017); and (from zero to 20%) on pre-fabricated buildings of iron or steel (HS 9406.90.10; 9406.90.90) (effective 17 November 2017) and self adhesive tapes (HS 3919.10.41; 3919.10.43) (effective 29 December 2017). Imports from the European Union, EFTA and Southern African Development Community (SADC) members exempted	Permanent Delegation of South Africa to the WTO (28 May 2018), International Trade Administration Commission Notice Nos. R. 1282 and R. 1283 - Government Gazette No. 41257 (17 November 2017) and R. 150 - Government Gazette No. 41363 (29 December 2017)	Effective: see individual dates in measure

Measure	Source/Date	Status
<p>Increase of import excise duties (from 5% to 7%) on certain perfumes and toilet waters; beauty or make up preparations; and certain motorcycles; (from 7% to 9%) on machines for the reception, conversion and transmission of voice, image or other data; certain perfumes and toilet waters; fireworks; certain furskin articles; machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical machinery and equipment; water scooters; and arms, toys and games (HS 8517.62.20; 8517.69.10; 3303.00.90; 3304.10.90; 3304.20.90; 3304.30.90; 3304.91.90; 3304.99.90; 3604.10; 4303.10; 4304.00.10; 8415.10.10; 8415.10.20; 8415.81.10; 8415.82.10; 8415.83.10; 8415.90.05; 8517.11; 8517.12.10; 8518.21; 8518.22; 8518.29; 8518.40; 8518.50; 8519.81.90; 8519.89.90; 8521.90.90; 8525.80.90; 8527.13.10; 8527.19.10; 8527.21; 8527.29; 8527.91.10; 8527.92.10; 8527.99.10; 8528.49.10; 8528.49.90; 8528.52.20; 8528.52.90; 8528.59.15; 8528.59.90; 8528.69.90; 8528.71.10; 8528.71.90; 8528.72.20; 8528.72.50; 8528.72.90; 8528.73.20; 8528.73.50; 8528.73.90; 8711.20.90; 8711.30; 8711.40; 8711.50; 8711.90.20; 8711.90.30; 8903.99.10; 9302.00.10; 9302.00.25; 9302.00.29; 9302.00.39; 9303.10; 9303.20.11; 9303.20.12; 9303.20.13; 9303.20.20; 9303.30.10; 9303.30.20; 9303.30.90; 9304.00.20; 9504.30.10; 9504.50.10; 9506.32); and (from 25% to 30%) on motor vehicles (HS Chapter 87)</p>	<p>Permanent Delegation of South Africa to the WTO (28 May 2018) and International Trade Administration Commission Notice No. R. 347 - Government Gazette No. 41515 (23 March 2018)</p>	<p>Effective 23 March 2018</p>
Switzerland		
<p>Decrease of the import quota (by 1,000 tonnes to 16,307 tonnes) on eggs for further processing (HS 0407.21.10; 0407.29.10; 0407.90.10)</p>	<p>Permanent Delegation of Switzerland to the WTO (14 May 2018)</p>	<p>Effective 1 January 2018</p>
Turkey		
<p>Increase of import tariffs on certain products; (to 5%) on paracetamol; (from 2.3% to 20%) on hair clippers and other articles of base metal cutlery; (to 25%) on coated electrodes of base metals such as nickel and others for electric arc-welding; (to 14.9%) on other kind of centrifugal pumps; (from 6% to 7.6%) on works trucks fitted with mechanic lifting equipment; (to 20%) on pressure-reducing valves; valves for oleohydraulic or pneumatic transmission; and check "non return" valves composed of cast iron or steel; safety or relief valves; appliances for pipes, boiler shells, tanks, vats or the like (excluding pressure-reducing valves, valves for the control of pneumatic power transmission, check "non-return" valves and safety or relief valves) and parts of valves; (to 9.3%) on AC motors, single-phase, of an output > 7,5 kW; (to 11.3%) and other AC motors, multi-phase, of an output > 750 W but <= 75 kW; (to 16.8%) on certain single axle tractors' pedestrian controlled agricultural tractors and similar tractors for industry (excluding tractor units for articulated lorries); (to 13.3%) on hydraulic steering boxes; (to 20%) on syringes, with or without needles, used in medical, surgical, dental or veterinary sciences; (to 23.4%) on artists' brushes and writing brushes; (to 20%) on vacuum flasks and other vacuum vessels, and parts thereof (excluding glass inners) (HS Chapters 82; 83; 84; 85; 87; 90; 96)</p>	<p>Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (30 May 2018)</p>	<p>Effective 28 March 2018</p>

Measure	Source/Date	Status
United States of America		
<p>Imposition of an additional 25% <i>ad valorem</i> rate of duty on certain steel articles (HS Chapters 72 and 73) for national security reasons. See Presidential Proclamations for country specific exemptions</p>	<p>Permanent Delegation of the United States to the WTO (4 June 2018) and Presidential Proclamation on adjusting imports of steel into the United States (8, 22 March 2018, 30 April 2018, 31 May 2018). Viewed at: https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-proclamation-adjusting-imports-steel-united-states/ and https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-proclamation-adjusting-imports-steel-united-states-2/ and https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-proclamation-adjusting-imports-steel-united-states-3/ and https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-proclamation-adjusting-imports-steel-united-states-4/</p>	<p>Effective 23 March 2018. See Presidential Proclamations for country specific exemptions</p>
<p>Imposition of an additional 10% <i>ad valorem</i> rate of duty on certain aluminium articles (e.g. unwrought aluminium; aluminium bars, rods, and profiles; aluminium wire; aluminium plate, sheet, strip, and foil (flat-rolled products) (HS Chapter 76); aluminium tubes and pipe fittings; and aluminium castings and forgings) for national security reasons. See Presidential Proclamations for country specific exemptions</p>	<p>Permanent Delegation of the United States to the WTO (4 June 2018) and Presidential Proclamation on adjusting imports of aluminium into the United States (8 and 22 March 2018, 30 April 2018, 31 May 2018). Viewed at: https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-proclamation-adjusting-imports-aluminum-united-states/ and https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-proclamation-adjusting-imports-aluminum-united-states-2/ and https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-proclamation-adjusting-imports-aluminum-united-states-3/ and https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-proclamation-adjusting-imports-aluminum-united-states-4/</p>	<p>Effective 23 March 2018. See Presidential Proclamations for country specific exemptions</p>

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)		
Temporary export ban on vegetable products and prepared foodstuffs, until exporters settle their foreign currency originating from export operations with the financial system	Resolución - Vicepresidencia Sectorial de Economía, Jefatura del Comando para el Abastecimiento Soberano, Ministerios del Poder Popular para la Agricultura Productiva y Tierras, de Pesca y Acuicultura y para la Alimentación (17 January 2018)	Effective 19 January 2018 for six months

Recorded, but non-confirmed information³

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Algeria		
Extension of the list of imported products subject to the Internal Consumption Tax (30%) (<i>Taxe Intérieure de Consommation "TIC"</i>) (e.g. salmon, cashew nuts, almonds, grapes, prunes, peppers, sugar confectionery, certain miscellaneous edible preparations, modems and decoders, burglar or fire alarms and similar apparatus, automatic data processing machines, yachts and other vessels for pleasure or sport) (HS Chapters 03; 08; 09; 17; 21; 84; 85)	Press reports referring to Communiqué relatif aux Mécanismes d'Encadrement des Opérations d'Importation de Marchandises - Ministère du Commerce	Effective 1 January 2018
Increase of import tariffs on certain finished goods (129 HS tariff lines), e.g. sunflower seeds, whether broken or not; certain articles of plastic; industrial furnaces; filtering or purifying machinery and apparatus; overhead travelling cranes, transporter cranes, gantry cranes, bridge cranes, mobile lifting frames and straddle carriers; printing machinery; automatic data processing machines and units thereof; taps, cocks, valves and similar appliances for pipes, boiler shells, tanks, vats or the like, including pressure-reducing valves and thermostatically controlled valves; modems; telephone sets; certain apparatus for communication in a wired or wireless network; cards incorporating a magnetic strip; smart-cards; electrical apparatus for switching or protecting electrical circuits; insulated wire and cables (including co-axial cables); bodies for certain vehicles; trailers and semi-trailers, other vehicles, not mechanically propelled, and parts thereof; prepared or preserved ground-nuts; jams and marmalades; liquid dielectric transformers; water; primary cells and primary batteries; and beer made from malt (HS Chapters 12; 20; 21; 22; 39; 84; 85; 87)	Press reports referring to Communiqué relatif aux Mécanismes d'Encadrement des Opérations d'Importation de Marchandises - Ministère du Commerce	Effective 1 January 2018
Temporary import ban on 45 products, e.g. dairy produce, edible fruits and nuts (except bananas), vegetables, meats, corn derivatives, meat and fish preparations, glucose syrup, sugar and sugar confectionery, pasta, preparations of cereals, preserved vegetables, miscellaneous edible preparations, mineral waters, tanning or dyeing extracts, paper and paper board, plastics and articles thereof, carpets, marble, granite, ceramics, glass and glassware, certain vehicles, furniture, cement, electrical appliances and certain machinery	Press reports referring to Communiqué relatif aux Mécanismes d'Encadrement des Opérations d'Importation de Marchandises - Ministère du Commerce	Effective 1 January 2018

³ This Section includes information which has been obtained from public sources but has not yet been confirmed by the delegation concerned.

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Imposition of import quota on certain vehicles, e.g. tractors, motor vehicles for the transport of 10 or more persons, motor cars, motor vehicles for the transport of goods, and special purpose motor vehicles (semi-knocked-down "SKD" excepted) (HS 8701; 8702; 8703; 8704; 8705)	Press reports referring to Communiqué relatif aux Mécanismes d'Encadrement des Opérations d'Importation de Marchandises - Ministère du Commerce	Effective 1 January 2018
Angola		
Temporary export ban on scraps	Press reports referring to Ordinance 76/18, Ministry of Industry (March 2018)	
Russian Federation		
Imposition of certain counter-restrictive measures to maintain the volume of metallurgical production	World Service Wire (13 April 2018)	
Rwanda		
Temporary import ban on second hand garments	The Guardian (29 December 2017)	Effective January 2018
Suriname		
Increase of import tariffs (from 20% to 40%) on poultry products	Press reports	
Tunisia		
Increase of import tariffs (to 20%) on IT products	Agence Ecofin (21 September 2017)	Effective 1 January 2018
Turkey		
Increase of import tariffs on plywood, veneered panels and similar laminated wood (HS 4412)	Press reports referring to Official Gazette 2018/11481	Effective March 2018
Viet Nam		
Revised import requirements on used vehicles, establishing warranty period and issuing import business licences only to companies	Bangkok Post (28 April 2018) referring to Decree No. 116	Effective January 2018
Zimbabwe		
Temporary import ban on fruits and vegetables	Reuters (October 2017)	Effective October 2017

ANNEX 4 - MEASURES AFFECTING TRADE IN SERVICES¹

(MID-OCTOBER 2017 to MID-MAY 2018)

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
MEASURES AFFECTING VARIOUS SECTORS					
Angola					
Angola created a new single agency to facilitate private investment in the country and to promote exports. The Private Investment and Export Promotion Agency (AIPEX) replaces the Technical Unit for Private Investment (UTIP), the Investment Promotion Agency (Apiex) and the Technical Units to Support Private Investment (UTAIP).	Mode 3	All sectors	Presidential Decree no. 81/18 Viewed at: https://macauhub.com.mo/2018/03/14/pt-agencia-de-angola-para-o-investimento-privado-e-promocao-das-exportacoes-formalmente-criada/	3 March 2018	
Argentina					
The Government adopted a series of measures simplifying administrative procedures in order to encourage private investment. Among changes, the Decree eliminates the <i>Registro Industrial de la Nación</i> , which required the registration of all companies, a process lasting eight months.	Mode 3	All sectors	Decreto 27/2018 Viewed at: https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/#!DetalleNormaBusquedaAvanzada/177429/20180111	Published in the Official Gazette on 11 January 2018	YES
Botswana					
Botswana established a new "One Stop Service Centre" aiming to facilitate investment by minimizing inconveniences and impediments, and improving the ease of doing business.	Mode 3	All sectors	Viewed at: http://www.bitc.co.bw/botswana-launches-one-stop-service-centre	Effective 26 October 2017	

¹ The inclusion of any measure in this Annex implies no judgement by the WTO Secretariat on whether or not such measure, or its intent, is protectionist in nature. Moreover, nothing in the Annex implies any judgement, either direct or indirect, on the consistency of any measure referred to with the provisions of any WTO agreement.

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
China					
<p>The State Council published a new Circular to facilitate implementation of reforms within the country's free trade zones. Changes include, but are not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - foreign-invested enterprises are allowed to engage in printing activities; - foreign investors are allowed to establish wholly-foreign owned air transport sales agencies and wholly-owned enterprises to operate freight storage, ground services, in-flight meals and car parks; - wholly-foreign owned enterprises are allowed to operate entertainment venues; - joint Chinese-foreign travel agencies that meet required conditions are permitted to provide abroad travel services (except for travels in Chinese Taipei); - With respect to direct selling, the requirement that foreign investors have at least 3 years of prior experience is suspended; - foreign investors are permitted to establish wholly foreign-owned enterprises to conduct construction and operation of petrol stations; - foreign investors are permitted to establish wholly foreign-owned enterprises to undertake international shipping, international ship management, international marine cargo handling, and international maritime container freight station and container yard businesses; - foreign investors are allowed to establish equity joint ventures or cooperative joint ventures to undertake international shipping agency business, with the proportion of foreign shareholding relaxed to 51%. 	Mode 3	Various sectors	<p>Decision on Temporarily Adjusting Relevant Administrative Regulations, State Council Documents and Department Rules Approved by the State Council within FTZs (State Council Circular No. 57, 2017)</p> <p>Viewed at: http://www.china-briefing.com/news/2018/02/08/china-eases-foreign-investment-restrictions-free-trade-zones.html</p>	9 January 2018	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
India					
The Union Cabinet approved changes to India's FDI policy. Among the modifications, FDI in single brand retailing is permitted up to 100% under the automatic route. Previously, FDI above 49% required government approval. Under the new measure, a foreign single brand retailer can, for the first 5 years, satisfy the obligation to source 30% of its purchases from India through incremental sourcing of goods from India by its foreign operations. ² After 5 years, the retailer will be required to meet the 30% sourcing norms directly towards its Indian operation on an annual basis. Further, foreign airlines are allowed to invest up to 49% in Air India under the approval route, subject to certain conditions. Amendments also clarify that real estate broker services do not amount to real estate business and are therefore eligible for 100% FDI under the automatic route.	Mode 3	Various sectors	Amendments to the Consolidated FDI Policy Viewed at: http://dipp.nic.in/policies-rules-and-acts/press-notes-fdi-circular	Approved on 10 January 2018	
Indonesia					
The new regulation provides that only Indonesian-flagged vessels can be used for exports of coal and crude palm oil, and for imports of rice and goods of government procurement. Further, such transport can only be insured by national insurance companies. Foreign vessels and insurance services may be used if domestic supply is insufficient.	Modes 1-3	Maritime transport services and insurance services	Trade Ministry Regulation No. 82/2017 on the Terms of Use of National Shipping and Insurance Companies for the Export and Import of Certain Goods	Effective 31 October 2017	YES

² For this purpose, incremental sourcing has been defined to mean the increase in terms of value of such global sourcing from India for that single brand in a particular financial year from India over the preceding financial year, by the non-resident entities undertaking single brand retail trading, either directly or through their group companies.

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Italy					
The new measure extends the government's "golden powers", which allow to block and impose conditions on takeovers by non-EU companies, to high technology sectors in cases of threats to national security and public order, subject to prior adoption of administrative regulations. Sectors concerned can now include, if individuated by a regulation: critical or sensitive infrastructure such as storage and management of data; critical technology, including robotics and artificial intelligence; security of supply of critical inputs; access to sensitive information or ability to control sensitive information.	Mode 3	Various sectors	Legislative Decree no. 148/2017 Viewed at: http://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2017/12/05/17A08254/SG	Approved on 4 December 2017	YES
Lao People's Democratic Republic					
The government abolished the minimum registered capital requirements for foreign investors, contained in the Law on Investment Promotion of 2009. The previous requirement that foreign investors invest at least USD 120'000 was abolished for foreign investors seeking to register a company in the country, except where such minimum requirements are imposed through sector-specific regulations.	Mode 3	All sectors	Notification No. 2633/Cabinet/MOIC	7 November 2017	
Myanmar					
The new Companies Law adopted by the government will allow companies that have up to 35% of their shares held by foreign nationals to be considered a domestic company under the law. This will permit foreign investors to participate in business activities that were previously limited to companies 100% domestically owned.	Mode 3	All sectors	Companies Law 2017 Viewed at: https://www.dica.gov.mm/en/news/myanmar-companies-law-2017	Approved on 6 December 2017. Date of entry in effect to be determined.	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Nigeria					
<p>A new executive order prohibits the Ministry of Interior from giving visas to foreign workers whose skills are readily available in Nigeria.</p> <p>The new measure, which aims to promote science, technology and innovation in national economic development, also instructs all procuring authorities to give preference to Nigerian companies in the award of contracts. Further, Nigerian companies shall be leading in any consultancy services involving joint ventures relating such matters as law, engineering, ICT, and architecture.</p>	Multiple modes	All sectors	<p>Presidential Executive Order 5 for Planning and Execution of Projects, Promotion of Nigerian Content in Contracts and Science, Engineering and Technology.</p> <p>Viewed at: http://statehouse.gov.ng/news/press-release-president-buhari-signs-executive-order-to-improve-local-content-in-science-engineering-and-technology-procurement/</p>	Effective 5 February 2018	
The Philippines					
<p>Through Memorandum Order no 16, the President of the Philippines directed the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board to take immediate steps to lift or ease existing restrictions on foreign participation in the following areas: private recruitment; practice of professions where foreign participation would be of public benefit; contracts for the construction and repair of locally-funded public works; public services, except where recognized as public utilities, such as transmission and distribution of electricity, water distribution, and sewage services; culture, production, milling, processing, and trading (except retailing) of rice and corn; teaching at higher education levels; retail trade enterprises; domestic market enterprises. The Order also calls for new measures to clarify the definition of 'public utilities'.</p>	Mode 3	Various sectors	<p>Memorandum Order no. 16</p> <p>Viewed at: http://www.manilatimes.net/duterte-lift-limits-foreign-investment/364705/</p>	21 November 2017	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of					
The Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority (SAGIA) extended the duration of foreign investment licenses to 5 years, up from 1 year. The licensing period continues to be renewable.	Mode 3	All sectors	Viewed at: https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=fc92f8a2-23c0-4e6d-a115-58324ede1d2c	Effective 27 February 2018	YES
Tanzania					
<p>The government's new regulations for the mining sector impose preferences for local services and suppliers. For example, the regulations require a non-indigenous Tanzanian company wishing to provide goods or services in the mining industry to incorporate a joint venture company in which an indigenous company holds equity participation of at least 20%.</p> <p>The Regulations also require all insurable risks relating to mining activities to be insured through an indigenous brokerage company and, where applicable, and indigenous reinsurance broker. Companies engaged in mining activities can only retain the services of a Tanzanian legal practitioner or a legal firm whose principal office is located in Tanzania. In similar fashion, the regulations require maintenance of a bank account with an indigenous Tanzanian bank and to conduct of financial transactions with banks in the country.</p> <p>Indigenous companies are defined as those with at least 51% of equity owned by Tanzanian citizens, and at least 80% of executive and senior management positions and 100% of other positions held by Tanzanian citizens.</p>	Modes and 3	1 Various sectors	<p>Mining (Local Content) Regulations, G.N. No 3 of 2018</p> <p>Viewed at: http://www.tcme.or.tz/resources/view/the-mining-local-content-regulations-2018</p>	Published on 10 January 2018	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Thailand					
The new Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) Act sets out rules and procedures for promoting and easing investment in 10 targeted industries, including automotive, smart electronics, robotics, aviation and logistics. The EEC area covers Chonburi, Rayong, Chacheongsao and other provinces to be announced by royal decree. Among other incentives, foreign investors are allowed to own land in special economic promotion zones (SEPZ), and to lease land for 50 years, with renewal for an additional 49 years. The Act also allows waiving work permit requirements for certain skilled labour in SEPZ.	Modes 3 and 4	Various sectors	Eastern Economic Corridor Act B.E. 2561 Viewed at: https://www.aseanbriefing.com/news/2018/03/09/thailand-eastern-economic-corridor-eec.html	Adopted on 8 February 2018	YES
The Board of Investment of Thailand published a series of announcements adding new sectors, and withdrawing others, from the list of activities eligible for investment incentives.	Mode 3	Various sectors	Announcements of the Board of Investment No. Sor. 3/B.E. 2560 (2017), No. Sor.1/ B.E. 2561 (2018), No. Por. 4/ B.E. 2560 (2017).	October 2017 - February 2018	YES
United Arab Emirates					
Amendments to the Commercial Companies Law give the government the power to relax the requirement that at least 51% of shares in limited liability companies be held by nationals of the United Arab Emirates. The sectors concerned will be identified through subsequent regulations.	Mode 3	All sectors	Federal Law No. 18 of 2017 Viewed at: https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=6cd7f244-17de-4581-9a9d-59cad9275201	Effective 28 October 2017	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of					
The government adopted measures to modify its foreign investment regime. Among changes introduced, the minimum term required for foreign investment to remain in the country was reduced from 5 to 2 years. After such term, investors can send remittances abroad in relation to the capital originally invested. The law specifies that foreign investors may not participate directly or indirectly in the national political debate or contribute to the formation of an opinion on matters of public interest in social media.	Mode 3	All sectors	Constitutional Law on Productive Foreign Investment Viewed at: http://investmentpolicyhub.unctad.org/IPM/MeasureDetails?id=3178&rgn=&grp=&t=&s=&pq=1&c=121%2C122&dt=&df=&isSearch=true	Effective 29 December 2017	
Zimbabwe					
The government has removed the requirement that at least 51% of all businesses be owned by indigenous Zimbabweans. The requirement is only maintained for companies involved in the diamond and platinum extractive industries. In addition, only Zimbabwean citizens may own a business in 12 reserved sectors, including passenger transportation, retail and wholesale trade, packaging, and advertising agencies. Reserved sectors were previously limited to 'indigenous locals' instead of citizens.	Mode 3	All sectors	Amendments to the Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Act, Chapter 14:33 Viewed at: https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?q=264798c1-24b0-4b7f-b7f9-6a2403345085	Effective 14 March 2018	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ICT/AUDIOVISUAL SERVICES					
Benin					
Benin entered the free mobile roaming zone established by countries in West Africa (Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Togo). Travellers among the above countries benefit from outgoing calls billed at local rates, plus free incoming calls (currently capped at 300 incoming minutes/month).	Modes 1-2	Telecommunication services	ARCEP Decision No. 2018-11 Viewed at: https://arcep.bj/free-roaming-de-lafrique-de-louest/	Effective 1 March 2018	
Chile					
The parliament approved a bill modifying the General Telecommunications Law in order to establish an obligation for providers of fixed and mobile internet services to provide guaranteed minimum access speed of the Internet.	Mode 3	Telecommunication services	Law No. 21.046 "Establece La Obligación De Una Velocidad Mínima Garantizada De Acceso A Internet", modifying Law No. 18.168 "General De Telecomunicaciones" Viewed at: https://www.leychile.cl/Navegar?idNorma=1111298	25 November 2017	YES
China					
As of 1 April 2018, the use of unlicensed virtual private networks (VPNs) is banned. In January 2017, a Circular required all VPN providers to be licensed by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT). Providers were given up to 31 March to comply, after which unlicensed services would be blocked. The Circular requires pre-approval for cross-border business operations intending to set up their own or leasing private leased circuits (PLCs), including VPNs. If approved, PLCs can only be used to handle internal official business and not to connect onshore and offshore data centres or business platforms to carry out telecom business operations.	Modes 1-3	Telecommunication services	Circular on Cleaning Up and Regulating the Internet Access Service Market (Circular 32), issued on 17 January 2017. Viewed at: https://www.techradar.com/news/china-will-block-all-non-approved-vpns-from-next-month https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=9716093a-89af-46a3-b72b-84023241a8f7	Effective 1 April 2018	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
European Union					
The new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which entered into force on 25 May 2018, overhauls the EU data protection regime by strengthening data subject rights and imposing new requirements on organizations that process personal data.	Modes 1-3	Internet and other network enabled services	Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 Viewed at: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32016R0679	Effective 25 May 2018	YES
The European Commission announced that preliminary agreement was reached with the European Parliament and Council on the main elements of revised audiovisual rules that will apply to broadcasters, video-on-demand and video-sharing platforms. Revisions include: - a requirement that on-demand catalogues contain at least a 30% share of European content; - the possibility for Member States to impose financial contributions (direct investments in content or levies paid to a national fund) upon media service providers to contribute to the development of European productions; - alignment of the procedures for exceptions to the country-of-origin principle for on-demand service providers as for TV broadcasters; - increased protections of minors and rules against hate speech for TV and on-demand services; - extension of certain audiovisual commercial communications rules to video sharing platforms;	Modes 1-3	Audiovisual services	Viewed at: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-3567_en.htm	26 April 2018	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - extension of the scope to cover video-sharing platforms and obligation for them to put in place measures to protect the general public, including minors, from certain content; - new rules to ensure that audiovisual regulators are legally distinct from the government and functionally independent from the government and any other public or private body; - increased flexibility regarding the airing of TV advertising. 					
France					
French telecoms regulator Arcep adopted decisions aimed at ensuring greater competition in the fixed markets for the period 2017-2020, including by allowing alternative operators better access to Orange France's infrastructure.	Mode 3	Telecommunication services	Decision No. 2017-1347 Decision No. 2017-1348 Decision No. 2017-1349 Decision No. 2017-1488 Viewed at: https://www.arcep.fr/uploads/tx_gsavis/17-1347.pdf https://www.arcep.fr/uploads/tx_gsavis/17-1348.pdf https://www.arcep.fr/uploads/tx_gsavis/17-1349.pdf https://www.arcep.fr/uploads/tx_gsavis/17-1488.pdf	Effective 14 December 2017	YES
Guyana					
The Minister of Public Telecommunications signed a commencement order to establish the National Telecommunications Agency (NATA), a new independent regulatory body for telecoms. This represents the first phase in the implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 2016. The agency will be responsible for the finalization of licensing procedures in preparation for liberalization and issuance of new licenses to telecommunication entities.	Multiple modes	Telecommunication services	Viewed at: https://mopt.gov.gy/news/related-news/national-telecommunications-agency-in-effect/	Effective 19 January 2018	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Italy					
<p>The government adopted new measures regulating the audiovisual sector, including increased quotas for Italian and EU content. The overall quota for the broadcasting of EU works will increase from 50% to 53% in 2019, to 56% in 2020, and 60% in 2021. For public broadcasters, at least half of that quota has to be used for works of Italian original expression, and at least one third in the case of private broadcasters. The new rules also set out the minimum number of works of Italian original expression to be broadcast during prime time hours, and require additional investment by broadcasters in works of Italian original expression and European productions from independent producers.</p> <p>The rules further lay down specific quotas (30%) for European works and investment obligations for on-demand services.</p>	Modes 1-3	Audiovisual services	<p>Legislative Decrees no. 202 on Provisions on Employment in the Film and Audiovisual Sector; no. 203 on Reform of Legislation on the Protection of Minors in the Film and Audiovisual Sector, and no. 204 on Reform of Legislation on the Promotion of European and Italian Works by Providers of Film and Audiovisual Works.</p> <p>Viewed at: http://www.medialaws.eu/three-new-pieces-of-legislation-implementing-franceschini-act-on-cinema-and-audio-visual-media-services/</p>	Effective 1 December 2017	YES
Niger					
<p>The government of Niger voted to abolish the country's tax on incoming international traffic under the Finance Act 2018.</p>	Mode 1	Telecommunication services	<p>Finance Act 2018</p> <p>Viewed at: http://www.finances.gouv.ne/index.php/lois-de-finances/file/365-2016-josp-n-26-loi-de-finances-2018-1er</p>	Effective 1 March 2018	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Russian Federation					
<p>The government introduced new rules for owners of electronic messenger services. Owners have to register with the national regulator and are required to maintain certain information on local servers. Owners are also required to identify users through mobile phone numbers, and to store this information in the Russian Federation.</p> <p>Electronic messenger services are defined in the law as any technology or software designed or used to exchange electronic messages among users.</p>	Modes 1-3	Electronic messaging services	<p>Federal Law of 29 July 2017 No. 241-FZ On Amendments to Articles 10.1 and 15.4 of the Federal Law of 27 July 2006 No. 149-FZ On Information, Information Technologies and Data Protection (the 'Messengers Law')</p> <p>Viewed at: http://www.goroditsky.com/publications/articles/russia-further-regulates-instant-messaging-services-providers/ https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=6d53e547-d732-4314-9b65-c9508b093263</p>	Effective 1 January 2018	
A new measure requires operators of virtual private networks (VPNs) and similar technologies to prevent Russian users from accessing websites and other resources that have been blocked by Russian authorities.	Modes 1-3	Virtual private network services	<p>Law on Amendments to IT Law No.276-FZ, dated July 29, 2017 (the "Law on Amendments")</p> <p>Viewed at: https://themoscowtimes.com/news/russian-law-banning-anonymous-online-surfing-comes-into-effect-59434</p>	Effective 1 November 2017	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of					
The government introduced a new technology-neutral and service-neutral licensing regime. The "Facilities Based Unified License" allows a holder to provide a range of fixed, mobile, data and other services and networks, using any type of communications infrastructure and technology capable of delivering the desired service.	Mode 3	Telecommunication services	CITC Decisions 337/1438, 336/1438, 335/1438; Decision by Minister of Communications and Information Technology Viewed at: http://www.citc.gov.sa/en/RulesandSystems/RegulatoryDocuments/Licenses/LicensingRegulatoryFrameworks/Documents/PL-SP-020-E-Licensing.pdf http://www.citc.gov.sa/en/RulesandSystems/RegulatoryDocuments/Licenses/LicensingRegulatoryFrameworks/Documents/PL-SP-019-E-Licensing.pdf http://www.citc.gov.sa/ar/Decisionsoffer/Decisions/Pages/335-1438.aspx http://www.citc.gov.sa/ar/MediaCenter/PressReleases/Pages/2017092402.aspx	November 2017-January 2018	YES
The government approved licensing regulations for cinemas, lifting the long-standing prohibition on this activity.	Mode 3	Audiovisual services	Viewed at: http://www.qcam.gov.sa/ar/MediaCenter/News/Pages/default.aspx	Effective 11 December 2017	YES
South Africa					
A new measure adopted by Parliament gives the Film and Publications Board (FPB) the regulatory power to monitor and classify online content, including online videos, streaming services, and social media. The Bill has been transmitted to the National Council of Provinces for approval, before the President can sign it into law.	Modes 1-3	Online content	Films and Publications Amendment Bill Viewed at: https://altadvisory.africa/2018/03/07/south-africas-national-assembly-passes-the-films-and-publications-amendment-bill/	Adopted by the National Assembly on 6 March 2018	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Togo					
The Council of Ministers adopted a decree establishing new minimum levels of service required under the universal service scheme. The decree updates the scope of universal service, most notably, to include Internet access and set minimum Internet bandwidth requirements.	Mode 3	Telecommunication services	Viewed at: http://numerique.gouv.tg/article/adoptio-n-du-decret-sur-le-service-universel-pour-garantir-un-acces-minimum-aux	Adopted on 18 April 2018	
Turkey					
<p>The new measure requires media service suppliers to obtain a broadcasting licence and platform operators to obtain an authorization for transmission from Turkey's Radio and Television Supreme Council (RTÜK) in order to provide radio, television and on-demand broadcasting services on the Internet. Lack of a valid licence can result in removal of the content or blocking of access.</p> <p>The measure applies to the media service suppliers and platform operators who wish to broadcast only via Internet.</p> <p>If the content is provided from abroad or the service supplier is based abroad, the licence requirement applies in the following cases:</p> <p>a) service providers or platforms that broadcast in violation of international agreements and the Broadcasting Law; b) broadcasters of Internet content in Turkish and aimed at persons in Turkey; c) broadcasting organizations that do not broadcast in Turkish but include commercial communications aimed at persons in Turkey.</p>	Modes 1-3	Internet broadcasting services	<p>Addition of Article 29/A to Law No. 6112 on the Establishment of Radio and Television Enterprises and Media Services</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?q=9cdac9b6-6923-4bf3-9d47-3b9fbaa6f58f http://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/MevzuatMetin/1.5.6112.pdf</p>	Effective 2 March 2018	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
United Kingdom					
Ofcom published a Statement containing a set of measures aimed at increasing investment in full-fibre broadband networks and lowering the upfront building costs. The main measures cover competitors' access to BT's infrastructure, price deregulation of Openreach's wholesale superfast broadband products, price cuts for entry-level superfast broadband service, and stricter requirements on Openreach to fix faults and install new broadband lines.	Mode 3	Telecommunication services	Quality of service for WLR, MPF and GEA: Statement on quality of service remedies Viewed at: https://www.ofcom.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/112210/statement-qos-wlr-mpf-gea2.pdf	Effective 1 April 2018	
United States					
The FCC released a ruling on Restoring Internet Freedom, thereby repealing net neutrality rules previously put into place. As part of the means of doing so, the FCC ruling reversed the previous administrations classification of Internet as a common carrier service.	Mode 3	Telecommunication services	Declaratory Ruling, Report and Order, and Order (FCC 17-166) Viewed at: https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-17-166A1.pdf	4 January 2018	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
China					
The measure removes various approval requirements and replaces them by reporting requirements. The services and activities concerned include the following: a) custody services provided to the securities invested funds by locally incorporated foreign-invested banks; b) custody services provided to the overseas wealth management products issued by banks for and on behalf of customers by foreign-invested banks (including the locally incorporated foreign-invested banks and foreign banks' PRC branches); and c) overseas wealth management services issued for and on behalf of customers by foreign-invested banks. The measure also allows locally incorporated foreign-invested banks to establish or invest in CBRC regulated banking financial institutions. Finally, the measure unifies to a great extent the market access standards for foreign-invested banks and domestic-funded banks, by 1) consolidating the various approval procedures for the establishment and opening of sub-branches into one approval for business commencement; 2) optimizing the conditions raising and issuing debt and capital supplement instruments by locally incorporated foreign-invested banks; and 3) simplifying the qualification review procedures for the authorization of executives.	Mode 3	Banking services	Decision of the China Banking Regulatory Commission on Revising the China Banking Regulatory Commission Implementing Measures for the Administrative Licensing Items of Foreign-funded Banks (Order No. 3 [2018] of the China Banking Regulatory Commission)	Effective 13 February 2018	YES
Crude oil futures were listed for trade on the subsidiary of Shanghai Futures Exchange, Shanghai International Energy Exchange Co., Ltd., on March 26, 2018. Overseas traders and overseas brokerage agencies can participate in the crude oil futures trading legally.	Mode 1	Financial services	Interim Measures on Administration of Trading of Specific kind of Futures in China by Overseas Traders and Overseas Brokers (Order No. 116 of China Securities Regulatory Commission)	26 March 2018	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
The measures lifts market access restrictions on non-banking payment institutions. Foreign suppliers wishing to provide electronic payment services for domestic transactions and cross-border transactions must obtain a payment service licence and establish foreign-invested enterprises within the territory of the People's Republic of China. The foreign-invested payment institution shall be capable of independently completing the payment business within the territory of China. The storage, processing and analysis of personal information and financial information collected and generated by foreign investment payment agencies in China must be conducted within the territory. In order for the information to be transferred overseas, the supplier must comply with the laws and regulations of the relevant regulatory authorities, fulfil corresponding information confidentiality obligations, and obtain the consent of the personal information subject.	Modes 1-3	Banking and other financial services	The Announcement on Matters Concerning Foreign Investment and Payment Institutions. Announcement by People's Bank of China (2018 No. 7)	Effective 19 March 2018	
India					
The Reserve Bank announced that sub-targets for lending to small and marginal farmers and micro enterprises will be applied to foreign banks of 20 branches or above. The sub-target of 8 percent of Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) or Credit Equivalent Amount of Off-Balance Sheet Exposure (CEOBE), whichever is higher, will apply to lending to the small and marginal farmers from fiscal year 2018-19. The lending target for micro enterprises will be of 7.5% of ANBC or CEOBE, whichever is higher. The new measure also removes the credit caps on MSMEs (Services) under Priority Sector.	Mode 3	Banking services	Reserve Bank of India, Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies – February 2018 Viewed at: https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/PressRelease/PDFs/PR2147D452F23A943B4865A3C8C775F9D7EF8D.PDF	Effective from fiscal year 2018-9	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
The Reserve Bank of India issued a Directive on 6 April 2018 requiring all payment system operators to store data within the country. Operators are given a maximum of 6 months to comply with the requirement and to submit an audit report certifying compliance.	Modes 1-3	Banking and other financial services	Directive from the Reserve Bank of India issued under Section 10(2) read with Section 18 of Payment and Settlement Systems Act 2007, (Act 51 of 2007). Viewed at: https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11244&Mode=0	6 April 2018	YES
Indonesia					
The measure requires domestic retail debit and credit transactions to be processed through switching institutions located in Indonesia and licensed by the Bank of Indonesia. The measure also imposes a 20% foreign equity cap on firms that wish to obtain switching licenses to participate in the National Payment Gateway (NPG). Foreign firms that wish to process transactions through the NPG must form partnership agreements with licensed NPG switch institutions and agree to transfer technology as part of these agreements.	Modes 1 and 3	Banking and other financial services	Bank Indonesia Board of Governors Regulation 19/10/PADG/2017 concerning National Payment Gateway	Bank Indonesia has begun implementation of these measures, requiring Indonesian issuers to begin issuing ATM and/or debit cards with the NPG national logo by January 1, 2018.	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Jordan					
The government adopted a new law limiting the entities that are able to broker or mediate on behalf of third parties in foreign stock exchanges. Only banks and financial services companies licensed by the Jordan Securities Commission are allowed to carry out these activities. Since adoption of the law, 14 companies have so far been licensed for these activities.	Mode 3	Banking and other financial services	Law No. 1 of 2017, Regulating Dealings with Foreign Stock Exchanges Viewed at: https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?q=92fd4b56-3fba-4281-a8a8-aa9fd0f17b1b	October 2017	YES
Moldova, Republic of					
Moldova adopted a series of measures in relation to financial services, including new rules regarding access to the activity of credit institutions and the prudential supervision of credit institutions and investment firms.	Modes 1-3	Financial services	Law no. 242 of 23.11.2017 amending article 29 of the Law on Insurance (no. 407/2006); Law no. 33 amending the Capital Market Law; Law no. 225 of 15.12.2017 amending some legislative acts (Fiscal Code, Customs Code, Law on NCFM) in the context of the Capital Market Law (no. 171/2012); Law on non-banking credit organizations (no. 1 of 16.03.2018); Law amending certain legal acts (Law on NCFM, Law on Leasing) (no. 35 of 16.03.2018); NCFM Decision no. 13/10 of 13.03.2018	November 2017 – April 2018	
Myanmar					
The government recently permitted seven of the 13 foreign banks operating in Myanmar to provide export-financing services. This puts the foreign banks at par with local counterparts. Besides providing export financing services, the selected foreign banks will be allowed to extend credit to foreign businesses as well as local banks.	Mode 3	Banking and other financial services	ASEAN briefing, 21 March 2018 Viewed at: https://www.aseanbriefing.com/news/2018/03/21/banking-sector-reforms-myanmar.html	December 2017	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Philippines					
The Central Bank of the Philippines adopted a series of new measures affecting banking and other financial services. For example, the requirements on the issuance of bonds and commercial papers by banks and quasi-banks (QBs) were streamlined by removing the minimum bond features, such as the requirement on eligible collaterals, which could constrain banks and QBs from issuing debt securities.	Mode 3	Banking and other financial services	Circular No. 975-976, 978- 985, 988-999.	Implemented between October 2017 and April 2018	YES
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of					
Foreign investors have been allowed to invest directly in the Parallel Market (NOMU). Foreign investors in NOMU are no longer required to qualify as foreign institutional investors, but have to meet eligibility criteria. NOMU is an alternative equity market with lighter listing requirements than the main market, especially used by small and medium-sized companies.	Mode 3	Banking and other financial services	Resolution from the Capital Market Authority (CMA) Board Viewed at: https://cma.org.sa/en/Pages/default.aspx	Effective 1 January 2018	YES
The Capital Market Authority's Board of Commissioners adopted revised regulations on mergers and acquisitions, new regulations in relation to the establishment and licensing of special purpose entities in the financial service sector, and updated rules for Qualified Foreign Financial Institutions Investment in Listed Securities.	Mode 3	Financial services	Merger and Acquisition Regulations; Rules for Special Purposes Entities; Rules for Qualified Foreign Financial Institutions Investment in Listed Securities. Viewed at: https://cma.org.sa/en/	Effective 23 April 2018; 1 April 2018; 13 January 2018.	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
South Africa					
The new Insurance Act introduced regulations on activities of foreign-based insurers. It prohibits such insurers and reinsurers from soliciting business in South Africa on a cross-border basis, except where foreign reinsurers conduct business through a branch established in South Africa.	Modes 1-2	Insurance services	Insurance Act 2017 Viewed at: https://www.clydeco.com/insight/article/south-african-insurance-bill-signed-into-law?utm_source=Mondaq&utm_medium=syndication&utm_campaign=View-Original	Effective 18 January 2018	YES
Thailand					
A new measure by the Bank of Thailand modifies the quantifying criteria with respect to limits on foreign banks' physical branches and ATMs.	Mode 3	Banking and other financial services	The Notification of the Bank of Thailand No. FPG. 4/2561 (Number and quantifying criteria of service locations of foreign commercial bank's subsidiary and branch of a foreign commercial bank) Viewed at: https://www.bot.or.th/English/Pages/default.aspx	Effective 6 March 2018	YES
DISTRIBUTION SERVICES					
Irak (observer)					
The New Commercial Agency Law specifies that goods for resale can only be imported by a registered commercial agent. Only an Iraqi national or a company wholly-owned by Iraqi nationals can be a commercial agent. The new law also protects commercial agents from termination or non-renewal of contracts with foreign entities.	Mode 3	Distribution services	Law No. 79 of 2017 (the New Commercial Agency Law)	Effective 13 November 2017	
Myanmar					
The government allowed joint ventures between foreign and domestic companies for the retail and wholesale trade of agricultural machinery.	Mode 3	Retail and wholesale trade	Ministry of Commerce, Notification No. 55/2017 https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=69014aa8-a1ac-4ca7-872f-bff16be68b79	Effective 17 November 2017	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Viet Nam					
The government eased certain regulations in relation to the activities of foreign-invested enterprises engaged in trade in goods and related activities. The Decree clarifies that a Business Licence is required for such activities as retail distribution, trade intermediation services and e-commerce services. It also expands distribution rights for certain commodities to foreign-investment enterprises meeting specified conditions. For example, foreign supermarkets and convenience stores may receive retail distribution rights for rice, sugar, media recordings, books, newspapers and magazines.	Mode 3	Distribution services	Decree No. 9/2018/ND-CP	Effective 15 January 2018	
EDUCATION SERVICES					
Indonesia					
The President of Indonesia has instructed his Cabinet to allow 100% foreign ownership in universities, and to permit foreign institutions to open campuses in the country.	Mode 3	Education services	Viewed at: https://www.reuters.com/article/us-indonesia-investment-education/indonesia-plans-to-open-university-sector-to-100-percent-foreign-ownership-idUSKCN1HB0T4	Announcement on 4 April 2018	
Myanmar					
The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) allowed full foreign capital participation in private education institutions. The new measure applies to basic education schools, technical, vocational and training schools, higher education institutions, subject-based schools, and private schools designated by the Ministry of Education.	Mode 3	Educational services	MIC Notification 7/2018 Viewed at: https://www.mmtimes.com/news/myanmar-permits-full-foreign-capital-investments-education-sector.html	Notification issued on 20 April 2018	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES					
India					
The Supreme Court of India rendered a judgment in which it held that foreign law firms cannot set up offices in India or practice in Indian Courts. Foreign law firms or foreign lawyers are not prohibited from visiting India for a temporary period in order to provide legal advice regarding foreign law on diverse international legal issues on a 'fly in and fly out' basis if it does not amount to practice including appearances in Courts of India. The Supreme Court also held that foreign lawyers are not barred if the matter is governed by particular rules of an arbitral institution or if the matter otherwise falls under section 32 or 33 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act. Even in such cases, the Code of Conduct applicable to the legal profession in India has to be followed.	Modes 3-4	Legal Services	Supreme Court of India, judgment dated 13 March 2018, Civil Appeal Nos. 7875-7879 of 2015, titled Bar Council of India Vs A.K. Balaji and Ors. Viewed at: https://sci.gov.in/supremecourt/2012/13890/13890_2012_Judgement_13-Mar-2018.pdf	13 March 2018	YES
TRANSPORT SERVICES					
Viet Nam					
The government issued regulations for logistics services. It eliminated the requirement that foreign investors establish through joint-ventures with local enterprises. Logistics services are defined in the regulations as covering an array of services, including container handling, warehousing, freight transport agencies, delivery, customs brokerage, and maritime/rail/road/air freight transport services. Foreign ownership limits remain for some of these services. The regulations state that logistics services supplied partly or entirely over electronic networks have to comply with e-commerce regulations, which include a registration requirement.	Mode 3	Logistics and transport services	Decree No. 163/2017/ND-CP Viewed at: http://www.vietnam-briefing.com/news/vietnam-allows-foreign-investors-establish-logistics-firms.html/	Effective 20 February 2018	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
SERVICES SUPPLIED THROUGH THE MOVEMENT OF NATURAL PERSONS					
Australia					
<p>On 18 March 2018, the Australian Government replaced the Temporary Work (Skilled)(subclass 457) visa with the new Temporary Skill Shortage (TSS) visa.</p> <p>The TSS visa facilitates the targeted use of overseas workers to address temporary skill shortages, while ensuring that Australian workers get priority. TSS visa holders can work in Australia in their nominated occupation for their approved sponsor under one of three streams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Short-term stream, underpinned by the Short-term Skilled Occupations List (STSOL); - The Medium-term stream, underpinned by the Medium and Long-term Strategic Skills List (MLTSSL); - Labour agreement stream: labour agreements are developed between the Department and employers where there is a demonstrated need that sits outside the standard TSS visa program. <p>Employers in regional areas may nominate overseas workers in the Medium-term stream in occupations on the Regional Occupation List (ROL), in addition to occupations on the MLTSSL.</p> <p>The Short-term stream is eligible for stay periods of up to two years and can be renewed on one occasion onshore, unless an international trade obligation applies.</p> <p>The Medium-term stream is eligible for stay periods of up to four years, with no restrictions of onshore renewals.</p>	Mode 4	All sectors	<p>Viewed at: https://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Work/457-abolition-replacement https://www.jobs.gov.au/SkilledMigrationList</p>	18 March 2018	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<p>The STSOL, MLTSSL, and ROL are subject to regular review by the Department of Jobs and Small Business. The TSS visa is also supported by such measures as: enhanced labour market testing, mandatory police checks, and a 2-year work experience requirement.</p>					
Brazil					
<p>The new Migration Law simplifies procedures for the entry and residence of foreigners in Brazil. The Law reorganises Brazil's visa system into the following categories: visitor visas, temporary visas, and official, diplomatic and courtesy visas.</p> <p>Visitor visas are applicable to foreigners who do not intend to establish residence in Brazil but carry out tourist, business, transit, artistic or sporting activities. Remunerated activities cannot be performed under this visa category. Initial stays are granted for a maximum of 90 days, with the possibility of extending stays for a further 90 days except for foreigners conducting auditing and consulting, maritime, artistic or sports/athletic activities.</p> <p>Temporary visas are designed for employment, research, health treatment, study, vacation, summer jobs, family reunion and investment. They are valid for up to two years and can be renewed for an additional two-year period. Foreigners may apply for temporary visas without a formal job offer if they provide evidence of a higher degree diploma or equivalent.</p>	Mode 4	All sectors	<p>Migration Law 13.445</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.pwc.com/gx/en/services/people-organisation/publications/assets/pwc-brazil-new-migration-law-to-affect-visas-tax-residence-rules.pdf</p>	Effective 21 November 2017	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Chile					
A pilot programme for a new streamlined visa application process, called Tech Visa, has been launched in Chile. The Tech Visa allows companies in the technology service sectors and enterprises related to the Start-Up Chile programme to hire specialised professional and technical personnel not available in the country for a period of up to two years. Under the initiative, the work visa may be obtained within a maximum period of 15 working days.	Mode 4	Technology-related sectors	Viewed at: http://www.startupchile.org/visatech/	19 July 2017	YES
Colombia					
Colombia's new Immigration Law (Law 6045 of 2017) replaces the previous 21 visa categories with three types of visas, namely visitor visas, migrant visas and resident visas, each with corresponding sub-categories. As part of the reorganisation, the duration of stay for short-term technical visitors has been increased from 180 days to up to two years. Moreover, immigration authorities are now required to adjudicate a complete visa application within five business days of submission, or within 30 days of submission of any additional information or documentation that may have been required.	Mode 4	All sectors	Viewed at: https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/sites/default/files/Normograma/docs/resolucion_mirelaciones_6045_2017.htm	Effective 15 December 2017	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Oman					
The Ministry of Manpower banned the recruitment of foreign workers by private companies for a range of occupations across several sectors, such as information and technology sector, insurance, media, aviation, engineering and medical services.	Mode 4	Various sectors	Viewed at: http://gulfbusiness.com/oman-extend-foreign-worker-ban-new-sectors/	Effective 24 January 2018	
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of					
The Ministry of Labour and Social Development introduced a new prohibition on foreign workers in 12 additional sectors: automobile and mobile shops; shops selling home furniture and ready-made office materials; sale outlets of ready-made garments; children's clothes and men's suppliers; watch shops; optical stores; electrical and electronics shops; medical equipment stores; outlets selling car spare parts; building material shops; outlets selling all types of carpets; household utensils shops and pastry shops.	Mode 4	Various sectors	Ministerial decision Viewed at: https://www.financialexpress.com/world-news/big-setback-to-indians-saudi-arabia-bans-foreign-workers-in-12-sectors-check-full-list-of-expatriates-affected/1054178/ https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?q=8a369bc1-b793-42db-9902-93475690a6d4	Will be effective from 11 September 2018, 9 November 2018 and 7 January 2019, depending on the sector.	YES
Employment visas issued for foreign private sector workers in Saudi Arabia are now valid for one year, down from two years.	Mode 4	All sectors	Viewed at: http://www.arabianbusiness.com/politics-economics/381916-saudi-expat-work-visas-limited-to-one-year	Effective 1 November 2017	YES
Serbia (observer)					
A number of changes have been introduced in relation to the employment of foreign workers. Work permit for posted workers and work permit for inter-corporate transferees can now be issued for period of one year and renewed for two additional periods of maximum two years. Further extensions are subject to consent of authorities. The government also introduced a new work permit for special cases of employment, which concern training, apprenticeship, professional practice, and vocational training.	Mode 4	All sectors	Amendments to the Law on Employment of Foreigners Viewed at: https://zuniclaw.com/en/work-permit-serbia/	Effective 25 December 2017	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Slovak Republic					
Parliament adopted new measures making it easier to employ workers from non-EU countries. Simpler procedures will apply to certain professions with shortages of workers and in districts/regions where the unemployment rate is below 5%. Foreign workers in these professions/regions cannot constitute more than 30% of the total number of workers in any company. This temporary measure is taken in order to solve temporary shortage of workforce. A list of professions is expected to be set in due course.	Mode 4	Various sectors	Amendments to the Law on Employment Services Viewed at: https://spectator.sme.sk/c/20756618/slovakia-simplifies-rules-for-import-of-foreign-workers.html	Effective 1 May 2018	YES
Switzerland					
The yearly ceilings for work permits for highly qualified workers from non-EU/EFTA States have been increased by 500 in 2018 compared to 2017, reaching a total of 8,000. 4,500 work permits are allocated for short stays (L permits), and 3,500 for long stays (B permits).	Mode 4	All sectors	Viewed at: https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/fr/home/aktuell/news/2017/ref_2017-09-290.html https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/fr/home/aktuell/news/2017/ref_2017-11-222.html	Effective 1 January 2018	YES
Employers hiring foreign workers will be required to undertake a labour market test for certain occupations where the rate of unemployment is above 8%. This threshold will be lowered to 5% on 1 January 2020. Employers will need to advertise vacancies with Switzerland's Employment Service for at least 5 days.	Mode 4	All sectors	Viewed at: https://www.sem.admin.ch/sem/fr/home/aktuell/news/2017/ref_2017-12-081.html	Effective 1 July 2018	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Chinese Taipei					
The term of work permits for foreign special professionals was increased from 3 to 5 years. Furthermore, foreign special professionals may apply for a new visa category ("Employment Gold Card") that combines work permit, residence visa, residency permit and re-entry permit in a single card and with a single online application process. The Gold Card is valid for a duration of 1 to 3 years and can be obtained in the following fields: science and technology, economics, education, culture, arts, sports, finance, law and architectural design.	Mode 4	Various sectors	Viewed at: https://foreigntalentact.ndc.gov.tw/en/Content_List.aspx?n=24C15F2CEE245632	Effective 8 February 2018	YES
Thailand					
A new SMART visa programme has been created to attract qualified foreigners who are experts, senior executives, investors and start-up entrepreneurs. The improvements introduced by the new visa programme include the possibility of multiple entries and the option for foreign nationals to work during the validity of the visa without needing to obtain a separate work permit.	Mode 4	All sectors	Viewed at: http://www.boj.go.th/upload/content/BOI-brochure%202018-smart%20visa-EN-20180125_97687.pdf	Effective 1 February 2018	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<p>A new Decree has exempted 3 additional categories of foreign natural persons from the requirement to obtain a work permit. The three categories are:</p> <p>1) Foreigners entering Thailand irregularly for the arrangement or attendance of meetings, expression of views, lecture or presentation in a meeting, training, visit or seminar, or for participation in arts, culture, or sports competition;</p> <p>2) Foreigners entering Thailand to operate or invest in a business, or possessing knowledge, capacity and skills that will benefit the country's development;</p> <p>3) Representatives of foreign juridical persons with a licence to operate a business under the law.</p> <p>The decree also allows the submission of work permit applications electronically.</p>	Mode 4	All sectors	Amendment to the Emergency Decree on Managing the Work of Aliens B.E. 2560 (2017)	Effective 28 March 2018	YES