

REPORT ON G20 TRADE MEASURES

(MID-MAY 2020 TO MID-OCTOBER 2020)

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Box 1 About the WTO Trade Monitoring Report on G20 Trade Measures

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 to 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 seek to take into account discussions among G20 economies.

Regarding trade remedy actions, it has been highlighted in discussions among G20 economies, as well as more broadly in the WTO, that some 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, WTO inconsistent or criticized governments for utilizing them. The main objective of monitoring these measures is to provide added 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) issues covered in the Reports, 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 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 do 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 aimed to provide a nuanced perspective on 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. Discussions among G20 economies have also drawn attention to this point and to the fact that, with respect to both, vigilance is required.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This twenty-fourth WTO Trade Monitoring Report on G20 trade measures, covering the period between mid-May and mid-October 2020, was prepared against the dramatic backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic and the human, social and economic problems left in its wake. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, G20 economies have implemented several trade and trade-related policies specifically to cope with the crisis. This Report seeks to shed light on these policy developments in addition to regular trade measures monitored for the review period.

2. **Overall, the findings of this Report present a very different narrative compared to the last report. While the previous report, issued in June 2020, captured only the very early effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, this Monitoring Report reflects more fully the impact the global health crisis has had on trade and trade policy.** Although world trade had already been slowing before the pandemic, merchandise exports in nominal USD terms was down 21% in Q2 compared to the previous year while commercial services exports was down 30%. The trade coverage of both regular facilitating and restrictive import measures dropped to USD 36.8 billion (down from USD 735.9 billion in the previous period) and USD 42.9 billion (down from USD 417.5 billion) respectively. This was likely as a result of the sharp decline in overall global trade flows, the diversion of governments' attention towards responding to the pandemic – through trade policy as well as other areas, and a general commitment to keep trade flowing.

3. At the same time, the trade coverage of COVID-19 related trade-facilitating measures on goods implemented since the beginning of the pandemic was estimated at USD 155 billion, some USD 44 billion more than that of the COVID-19 trade-restrictive measures. Of the 133 COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures recorded for G20 economies since the outbreak of the pandemic, 63% were of a trade-facilitating nature and 37% were trade restrictive. Almost three out of every ten COVID-19 restrictive measures on goods taken by G20 economies had been repealed by mid-October. In the services sectors heavily impacted by the pandemic, most of the 68 COVID-19 related measures adopted by G20 economies appeared to be trade facilitating. Over 400 support measures in direct response to the pandemic and collectively worth several trillion dollars were put in place by G20 economies up until mid-October. These emergency support measures are central to governments' strategies to address the pandemic-induced economic downturn, appear to be temporary in nature and are important to preparing the ground for a strong recovery in which trade can play an important role.

Specific Findings

4. **World trade was already slowing before the pandemic and declined sharply in the first half of 2020.** World trade declined precipitously in the first half of 2020 at a time when the human, social and economic toll from the COVID-19 pandemic rose. In volume terms, merchandise trade fell 14.3% quarter-on-quarter in Q2, the largest such decline on record. In nominal USD terms, merchandise exports was down 21% in Q2 compared to the previous year while commercial services exports was down 30%. The WTO's October forecast estimated that the volume of world merchandise trade would decline by 9.2% in 2020, then increase by 7.2% in 2021. Risks to the forecast are firmly on the downside as countries face renewed headwinds from the virus in the shape of new lockdowns.

5. **The slowdown in the number and trade coverage of regular trade-restrictive and trade-facilitating measures on goods** between mid-May and mid-October 2020 was significant. The trade coverage of the new import-facilitating measures implemented by G20 economies was estimated at USD 36.8 billion (down from USD 735.9 billion in the previous period). The main sectors affected included electrical machinery and parts thereof, machinery and mechanical appliances and pharmaceutical products. The trade coverage for the new import-restrictive measures implemented by G20 economies was estimated at USD 42.9 billion (down from USD 417.5 billion in the previous period). The main sectors affected included mineral fuels and oils, machinery and mechanical appliances and vehicles and parts thereof. WTO Secretariat estimates of the stockpile of import restrictions on goods implemented since 2009 and still in force, suggest that 10.4% of G20 imports, or USD 1.5 trillion out of a total USD 14.6 trillion of G20 imports are affected by import restrictions put in place by G20 economies over the last decade. As at mid-October 2020 this figure was estimated at USD 1.6 trillion, suggesting that the stockpile of G20 import restrictions in force continues grow in value terms and as a percentage of imports.

6. There may be several explanations for the dramatic drop in the trade coverage of the regular facilitating and restrictive measures covered by this Report. First, the precipitous fall in global trade since Q2 of 2020 means that there has simply been less commerce to either facilitate or restrict. Second, the on-going global health emergency almost inevitably has resulted in governments focusing less on designing and implementing regular trade policies and more on dealing with the immediate trade issues in the context of the pandemic. Third, despite the early wave of trade restrictions on various essential medical goods, countries have generally expressed and followed a commitment to ensure that trade could flow freely during the pandemic. Finally, sizable chunks of the trade coverage of both facilitating and restrictive measures over the past 3-4 years have been associated with bilateral measures taken between the United States and China. The current review period has not seen any major new developments in that specific context.

7. **Most of the COVID-19 related measures taken on goods since the outbreak of the pandemic were trade-facilitating.** The majority of the 133 COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures were adopted on a temporary basis. Although in the early stages of the pandemic most measures restricted the free flow of trade, as at mid-October 2020, 84 (63%) of all G20 measures taken in response to the pandemic were of a trade-facilitating nature. A total of 49 measures (37%) could be considered trade restrictive. The gradual phase-out of export restrictions targeting products such as surgical masks, gloves, medicine, and disinfectant continued during the review period together with the roll back of other trade and trade related measures taken in the early stages of the pandemic. Around 27% of the COVID-19 restrictive measures implemented by G20 economies had been repealed by mid-October. By then, G20 economies had also eliminated around 21% of COVID-19 trade facilitating measures. The trade coverage of COVID-19 related trade-facilitating measures implemented since the beginning of the pandemic was estimated at USD 155 billion, while that of the COVID-19 trade-restrictive measures stood at USD 111 billion.

8. **G20 economies put in place a large number of COVID-19 related support measures.** Since the beginning of the pandemic, 205 COVID-19 support measures have been communicated by G20 economies to the Secretariat and another 206 measures were identified from public sources and governmental websites, i.e. a total of 411 COVID-19 support measures or almost 60 COVID-19 related support measures per month between March and mid-October 2020. The number and variety of G20 support measures implemented in response to the economic and social turmoil caused by COVID-19 is greater than that witnessed during the 2008-09 global financial crisis. These measures target sectors of the economy heavily affected by the crisis, including health, aviation, tourism or catering, and also include monetary, fiscal and financial measures as well as broader stimulus packages. Governmental measures were complemented with various support programs by international intergovernmental organizations. Most of these measures appeared to be temporary in nature. These emergency support measures are central to governments' strategies to address the pandemic-induced economic downturn and to prepare the ground for a strong recovery.

9. **Services sectors were heavily impacted by the pandemic** although the extent varies by sector and mode of supply. Services that rely on physical proximity between suppliers and consumers have been most impacted by mobility restrictions and social distancing measures imposed for public health reasons. Trade in certain modes of supply experienced severe downturns as the pandemic impacted on existing operations in foreign markets and on decisions concerning the set-up of new establishments. On the other hand, the crisis has boosted online supply in sectors such as retail, health, education, telecommunication or computer services. The crisis has accelerated companies' efforts to expand their online operations.

10. Overall, services measures introduced by G20 economies between mid-May and mid-October 2020, which mainly related to telecommunication services, e-commerce, and services supplied online, were trade-facilitating. However, several new policies appeared to be trade restrictive, including bans on certain communication apps imposed on national security grounds. As regards pandemic-related measures adopted in relation to services, most of the 68 adopted by G20 economies appeared to be trade facilitating, e.g. measures to ease the supply of, and access to, telecommunications services or measures to facilitate the provision of telemedicine services. Other measures were trade-restrictive, such as measures tightening foreign investment regimes, or affecting the temporary movement of natural persons.

11. **The significant increase of G20 trade remedy initiations** confirm that these measures remain an important trade policy tool for G20 economies. During the review period, 165 initiations of trade remedy investigations and 35 terminations of trade remedy actions were recorded. The

monthly average of trade remedy initiations (33) was the highest observed since 2012. Initiations of anti-dumping investigations accounted for around 80% of all trade remedy initiations, which also includes safeguards and countervailing actions. The trade coverage of trade remedy initiations recorded in this Report was estimated at USD 34.1 billion (up from the USD 24.5 billion in the previous period) and that of terminations at USD 2 billion (up from USD 1.9 billion in the previous period). These are developments which warrant further monitoring in the coming months. As at 15 October 2020, two G20 members had notified anti-dumping actions referring to the COVID-19 pandemic.

12. G20 economies continued to use the SPS and TBT Committees' transparency mechanisms to notify their SPS measures, accounting for 66% of all regular notifications and 35% of emergency notifications since 1995. Between 1 February and 30 September 2020, a total of 59 COVID-19 related notifications and communications were submitted to the SPS Committee. Of these, 23 were submitted by 12 G20 economies. The nature of most of these measures has shifted, from initial restrictions on animal imports and/or transit from affected areas, and increased certification requirements to, as of April, facilitating measures allowing temporary flexibility for control authorities to use electronic certificates for checks. Of the 23 G20 notifications and communications 12 could be considered trade-facilitating. G20 economies remain the most frequent users of the TBT Committee's transparency mechanisms, having submitted 46% of all TBT notifications since 1995. As at 1 October 2020, 91 TBT notifications/communications on standards and regulations were submitted to the WTO in response to the pandemic. G20 economies accounted for 45 of these. Around half of the TBT notifications in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic were of a temporary nature, often applying for a period of six months and covering a wide range of products, including personal protection equipment (PPE), medical equipment, medical supplies, medicines and food. Notified measures broadly fell into three main categories, i.e. streamlining certification procedures; ensuring the safety of medical goods; and making food available by relaxing technical regulations. Measures maintained by G20 economies are very often discussed in the SPS and TBT Committees under the heading of Specific Trade Concerns.

13. G20 economies continued to use WTO bodies to address their trade concerns. Although fewer meetings took place during the review period as a result of the pandemic, several of the concerns raised appeared to indicate persistent and unresolved issues. Some trade concerns were raised in more than one WTO body, suggesting that these concerns involve cross-cutting and technically complex issues and that WTO Members are continuing to use multiple platforms to address various aspects of such concerns. Preliminary analysis on trends between mid-October 2014 and mid-October 2019, showed that few (3%) trade concerns were persistently repeated within the WTO committee structure, and that one-third, mostly focused on clarifying technical elements of the measure concerned. Around 13% of all trade concerns raised were linked to 61 formal disputes, and most of them were discussed at the Council for Trade in Goods, or the Committees on Safeguards, Anti-dumping or Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.

14. In the Committee on Agriculture, most questions focused on policies implemented by G20 economies. Out of the 483 questions raised in the Committee on Agriculture during the review period, 73% (355 questions) related to policies implemented by G20 economies, including questions on Specific Implementation Matters (SIMs) under Article 18.6, individual notifications and overdue notifications, with most questions related to domestic support notifications or policies.

15. Many Intellectual Property measures introduced during the review period aimed at facilitating COVID-19-related health technologies. G20 economies continued to fine-tune their domestic intellectual property frameworks, including relaxing procedural requirements and extending deadlines for administrative IP matters in response to the pandemic.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. This twenty-fourth WTO Trade Monitoring Report reviews trade and trade-related measures implemented by G20 economies during the period from 16 May to 15 October 2020.¹ The G20 Trade Monitoring Reports have been prepared since 2009 in response to the request by G20 Leaders to the WTO, together with the OECD and UNCTAD, to monitor and report on trade and investment measures implemented by G20 economies. The previous Trade Monitoring Report on G20 economies, which covered the period from mid-October 2019 to mid-May 2020, was issued on 29 June 2020.

1.2. This Report is issued under the sole responsibility of the Director-General of the WTO. The Report aims to shed light on the very latest trends in the implementation of a broad range of policy measures that restrict as well as facilitate the flow of trade. It provides an update on the main indicators of the world economy and on the state of global trade. The Reports have continued to evolve in terms of coverage and analysis of trade-related issues, reflecting discussions among and inputs from G20 economies.

1.3. As with the June Report, the current Report comes at a time when the world continues to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. This global health crisis continues to have major social and economic ramifications, and this is covered extensively in this Report. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, the WTO Secretariat has continued to monitor and report, under the trade monitoring mandate, on the wide range of trade-related measures taken in response to the crisis. The cooperation of the G20 economies collectively in providing information on their policy actions continues to be fundamental for providing transparency on, and gaining a global understanding of, the trade-related responses to the crisis. This Report again contains two separate *ad-hoc* Annexes (Annexes 5 and 6) which provide information on recorded trade and trade-related measures implemented in the area of goods and services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic up to 15 October 2020. These annexes are provided for transparency purposes and do not question or pass judgment on the right of governments to implement any of the measures contained therein. Neither of the annexes is exhaustive. A consistent feature of the trade and trade-related measures taken in response to the COVID-19 crisis has been the frequent changes, adjustments and occasional roll-back of such measures to reflect the evolving situation. The updated lists of measures implemented in the context of the current pandemic are available on the COVID-19 page of the WTO website.² The full list of notifications received by the WTO Secretariat in context of the COVID-19 pandemic is also available on the WTO website.³

1.4. From a practical and methodological point of view, and in accordance with the long-standing practice of the WTO Trade Monitoring Exercise of verifying information and measures with Members, the WTO Secretariat implemented an ad-hoc verification process of COVID-19 related measures. In recognition of the fact that some measures did not initially have official government sources, the regular up-date of these measures was listed only on the dedicated COVID-19 page on the WTO Members website, pending verification by the relevant delegation. For those trade and trade-related goods, services and intellectual property measures submitted by delegations, or where official sources were found, a separate list was made available on the WTO public website. G20 economies deserve credit for their active cooperation in assisting the Secretariat in this transparency exercise, including through the notification process to the relevant WTO committees. In addition, in early October 2020, the WTO Secretariat added a list of general support measures taken in response to the pandemic on the COVID-19 dedicated web page of the WTO. The list only includes measures communicated by Members and Observers and features measures only in the original language of the submission. The list is an informal situation report and an attempt to provide transparency with respect to support measures taken in the context of the COVID-19 crisis.

1.5. The organization of this Report is similar to the June 2020 G20 Report. Each Section, except Section 2, will first cover the regular monitoring of trade and trade-related measures implemented

¹ Unless otherwise indicated in the relevant Section. In addition to the trade policy measures implemented during the period under review and captured by this Report, other actions which impact trade flows may have been taken by G20 economies.

² The full list of measures can also be viewed at:
https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/covid19_e.htm.

³ Viewed at: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm.

during the review period. Subsequently, each Section will address developments in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.6. Section 2 of the Report provides an overview of recent economic and trade developments in the G20 economies and includes the most recent forecasts for world trade growth taking into account the global pandemic. Section 3 presents selected trade and trade-related policy trends. Policy developments in trade in services and trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPS) are included in Sections 4 and 5, respectively.

1.7. Annexes 1 - 4 to this Report include new non COVID-19 related measures recorded for G20 economies during the review period. Measures implemented outside this period are not included in these Annexes. A summary table, listing all trade measures recorded since the beginning of the trade monitoring exercise in October 2008 with an indication of their status, as updated by G20 delegations, is made available separately and can be downloaded from the WTO's website.⁴ This information is also publicly available through the Trade Monitoring Data Base (TMDB).⁵ Annexes 5 and 6 include measures implemented in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic in the area of goods and services, respectively.

1.8. Information on measures included in this Report has been collated from inputs submitted by G20 economies and from other official and public sources. Initial responses to the Director-General's request for information were received from all G20 delegations. These data, as well as information collected from other public and official sources, were returned for verification. Where it has not been possible to confirm the information, this is noted in the Annexes.

1.9. The OECD and the International Trade Centre have contributed topical boxes to this Report.

⁴ Viewed at: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/trade_monitoring_e.htm.

⁵ Viewed at: <http://tmdb.wto.org>.

2 RECENT ECONOMIC AND TRADE DEVELOPMENTS

2.1 Overview

2.1. World trade declined precipitously during the review period, as the human and economic toll from the COVID-19 pandemic continued to rise. Normal economic activities were disrupted by lockdowns and travel restrictions, which remained in place in many countries throughout April and May 2020 before being scaled back in June. Preliminary data show signs of trade and output rebounding in the third quarter of 2020 following the relaxation of social distancing measures. Trade growth is expected to slow in the fourth quarter and beyond, as countries face renewed headwinds from the virus. The strength of the recovery is still uncertain, and trade will remain vulnerable to setbacks as long as the pandemic persists.

2.2. The volume of world merchandise trade as measured by the average of exports and imports fell 3.4% year-on-year in the first quarter of 2020 and 17.2% in the second quarter. On average, trade was down 10.2% in the first half of the year compared to 2019. Despite signs of a turnaround in June, trade fell 14.3% in Q2 over the previous period, making it the largest one-quarter decline on record. By comparison, trade only fell 10.2% in the first quarter of 2009, at the height of the global financial crisis. Peak-to-trough declines were similar in both cases, -17.6% during the financial crisis and -17.5% during the COVID-19 outbreak. Overall, the trade impact of the pandemic is comparable in size to the financial crisis, although the economic context is very different.

2.3. In light of these developments, the WTO Secretariat issued an updated trade forecast on 6 October 2020. In it, the Organization projected a 9.2% drop in the volume of world merchandise trade in 2020, followed by a 7.2% increase in 2021. The decline for 2020 is smaller than the 12.9% foreseen in the more optimistic of two scenarios explored in WTO's April 2020 trade forecast. The expected recovery in 2021 is also smaller than the previous estimate of 21.3%, which would have returned trade to its pre-pandemic trend. In contrast, the current forecast would leave merchandise trade well below its previous trajectory (Chart 2.1). More negative outcomes are possible if there is a strong resurgence of COVID-19 in the coming months and strict confinement measures are re-introduced. Many countries are already experiencing second waves of infection, prompting governments to consider stricter rules that could eventually weigh on trade.

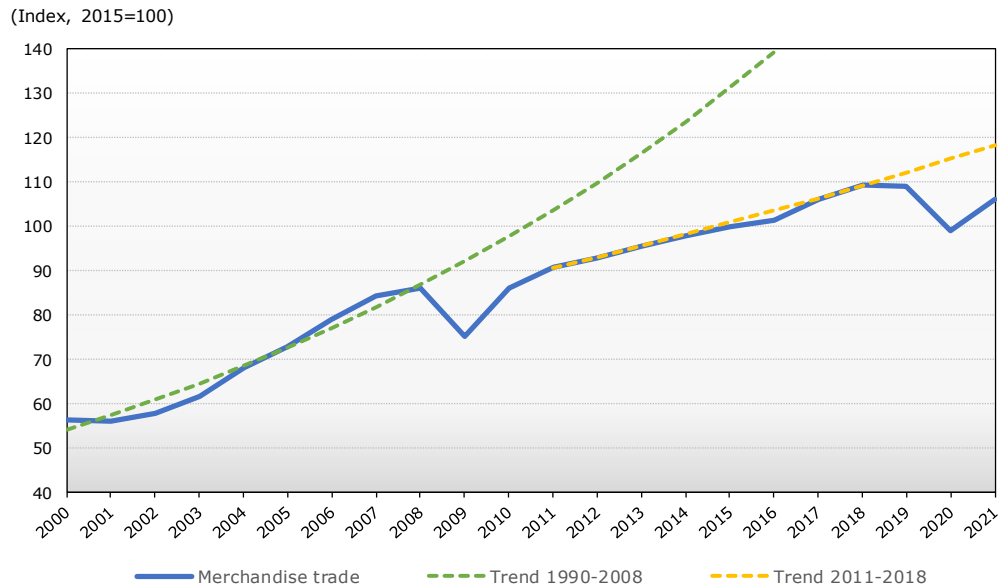
2.4. While the decline in world merchandise trade in the first half of 2020 was smaller than expected, the fall in world GDP was larger, requiring forecasts for the year to be revised downward. The consensus estimate for world GDP growth in 2020 was lowered to -4.8% in October from -2.5% in April. GDP is now expected to increase by 4.9% in 2021. This represents a downgrade from the previous estimate of 7.4%, which would have brought output back to its pre-pandemic trend. Like the trade forecast, GDP projections are subject to considerable uncertainty since they depend, to a large extent, on the evolution of the pandemic.

2.5. Trade growth in nominal US dollar terms also fell sharply in 2020, with even larger declines recorded for commercial services trade than for merchandise trade. World merchandise exports were down 6% year-on-year in the first quarter and 21% in the second, or 14% for the year to date through Q2. By comparison, commercial services exports were down 6% in Q1 and 30% in Q2, or 18% for the year to date. The magnitude of the decline in services trade contrasts with previous global recessions, when services trade tended to be less volatile than merchandise trade.

2.6. The unusually large drop in commercial services trade is likely related to social distancing measures and travel restrictions, which prevent the delivery of services that require physical proximity to consumers. Reduced spending on services, particularly in travel-related sectors, may have also left consumers with unspent income that could be redirected toward the purchase of goods. This may partly explain the relatively small decline in merchandise trade in the first half of 2020.

2.7. The trade slump hit countries in all regions and at all levels of development, although some were more affected than others. Asia, in particular, recorded smaller trade declines than other regions. This may be partly explained by proactive fiscal policies adopted in other regions, which have allowed consumers to maintain a relatively high level of consumption during the crisis. This would tend to stimulate exports from Asian economies, since these countries are major producers of goods for which demand remained strong during the pandemic, including electronics and medical supplies.

Chart 2.1 World merchandise trade volume, 2000-21



Note: Figures for 2020 and 2021 are projections.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

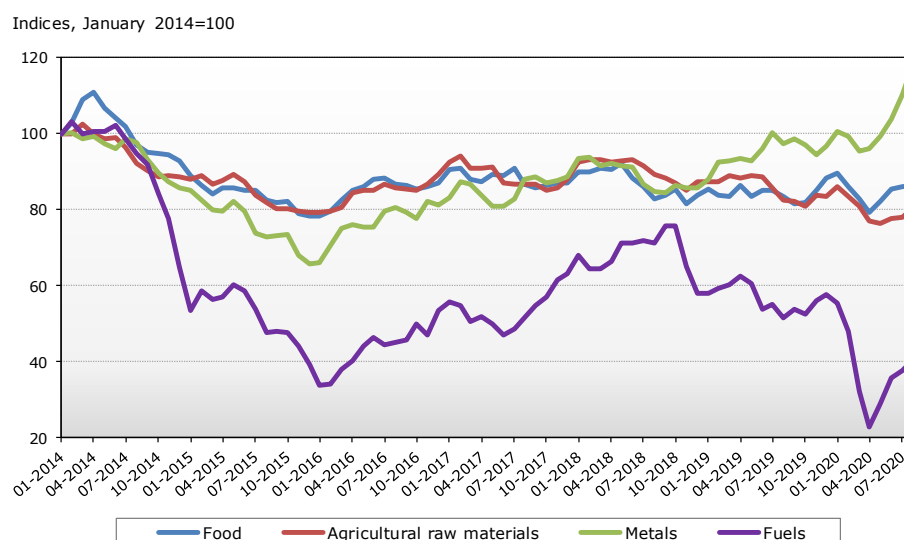
2.2 Economic Developments

2.8. There are no readily available quarterly statistics on world GDP, but OECD estimates of G20 economies provide a close approximation. These data show that the real GDP of G20 countries declined by 3.5% in the first quarter of 2020 and 6.9% in the second. The decline in both periods may have been distorted by the Chinese economy, which was out of sync with other G20 economies in the early stages of the pandemic. Chinese output contracted most in Q1 (-10.0%) when it became the first country to be hit by COVID-19. This was followed by a strong rebound in Q2 (+11.7%) when other economies were in steep decline. The COVID-19 outbreak was the principal cause of the global slowdown, although other factors may have played a role at the margin, including pre-existing trade tensions between major economies.

2.9. Quarterly GDP growth in the United States fell to -1.3% in Q1 and -9.0% in Q2, largely as a result of the pandemic. The United Kingdom registered even bigger declines, -2.5% in Q1 and -19.8% in Q2. The European Union (27) saw its growth fall to -3.4% in Q1 and -11.7% in Q2. Lastly, Japan's GDP growth was -0.6% in Q1 and -7.9% in Q2.

2.10. Commodity prices and exchange rates strongly influence nominal trade statistics, which are usually presented in US dollars. This is illustrated by Chart 2.2, which shows recent price trends for primary commodities, and Chart 2.3, which shows nominal effective exchange rates for major currencies.

Chart 2.2 Prices of primary commodities, January 2014-August 2020



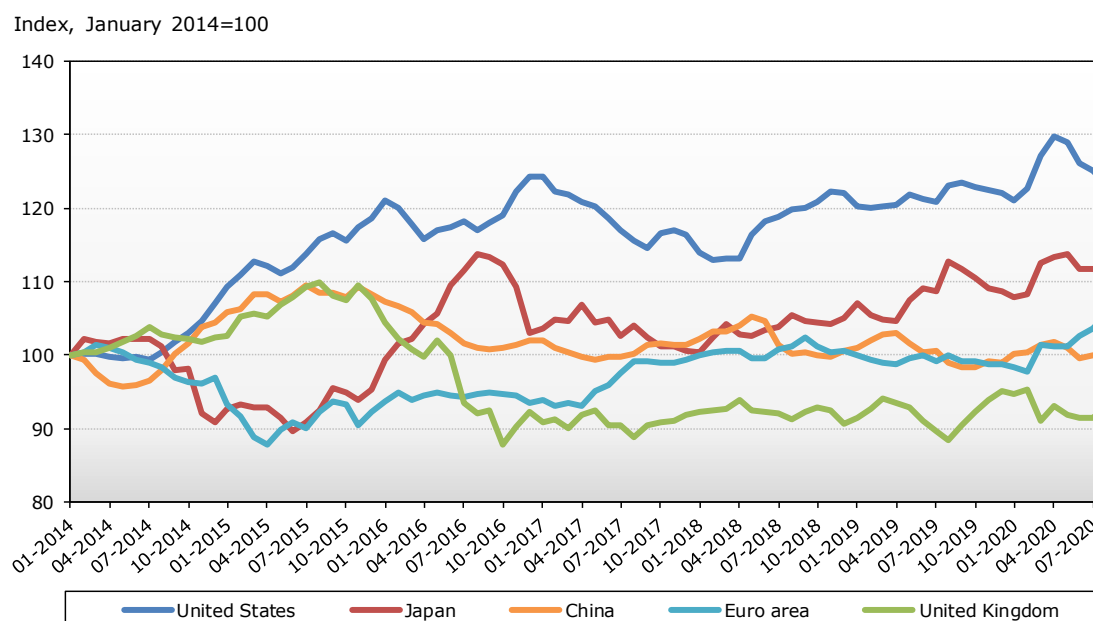
Source: IMF Primary Commodity Prices.

2.11. Prices for primary commodities other than metals fell in the second quarter of 2020 (April-June), with the price of fuels declining most, around 50% year-on-year (Chart 2.2). Food prices were down 3% over the same period, while prices for agricultural raw materials dropped 13%. In contrast, prices for metals rose 6% in Q2. As countries began to reopen their economies after lockdowns, the price of fuel started to rise, as travel restrictions were relaxed and demand for oil gradually picked up. Strong price increases were recorded between May and August 2020 for food (5%), agricultural raw materials (5%), metals (19%) and fuels (40%).

2.12. Nominal effective exchange rates fluctuated in the first half of 2020, as the COVID-19 virus spread worldwide (Chart 2.3). The US dollar and the Japanese yen appreciated by 4.4% and 4.5%, respectively, against a broad basket of currencies, while the Chinese renminbi declined by 1.1%. The British pound maintained its value, with a rise of just 0.3% over the same period. The euro also recorded a modest 1.0% appreciation from January to June 2020.

2.13. The US dollar appreciated in the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, reflecting the currency's traditional safe haven role, with a rise of 7.1% in nominal effective terms between January and April 2020. However, as the global economy gradually reopened, it declined by 5% between April and August 2020.

Chart 2.3 Exchange rate indices for selected economies, January 2014-August 2020^a



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

Source: Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

2.3 Merchandise Trade

2.14. Chart 2.4 shows growth in the US dollar value of world merchandise trade (red line) together with contributions of income groups (stacked bars). World export and import growth may diverge slightly due to differences in the recording of transactions. Year-on-year growth has been negative since the start of 2019, but the declines became much more pronounced in 2020, reaching -21% in the second quarter. As with the contraction in global GDP, high-income countries contributed more to the slowdown than lower- and-middle-income countries on both the export and import sides in Q2.

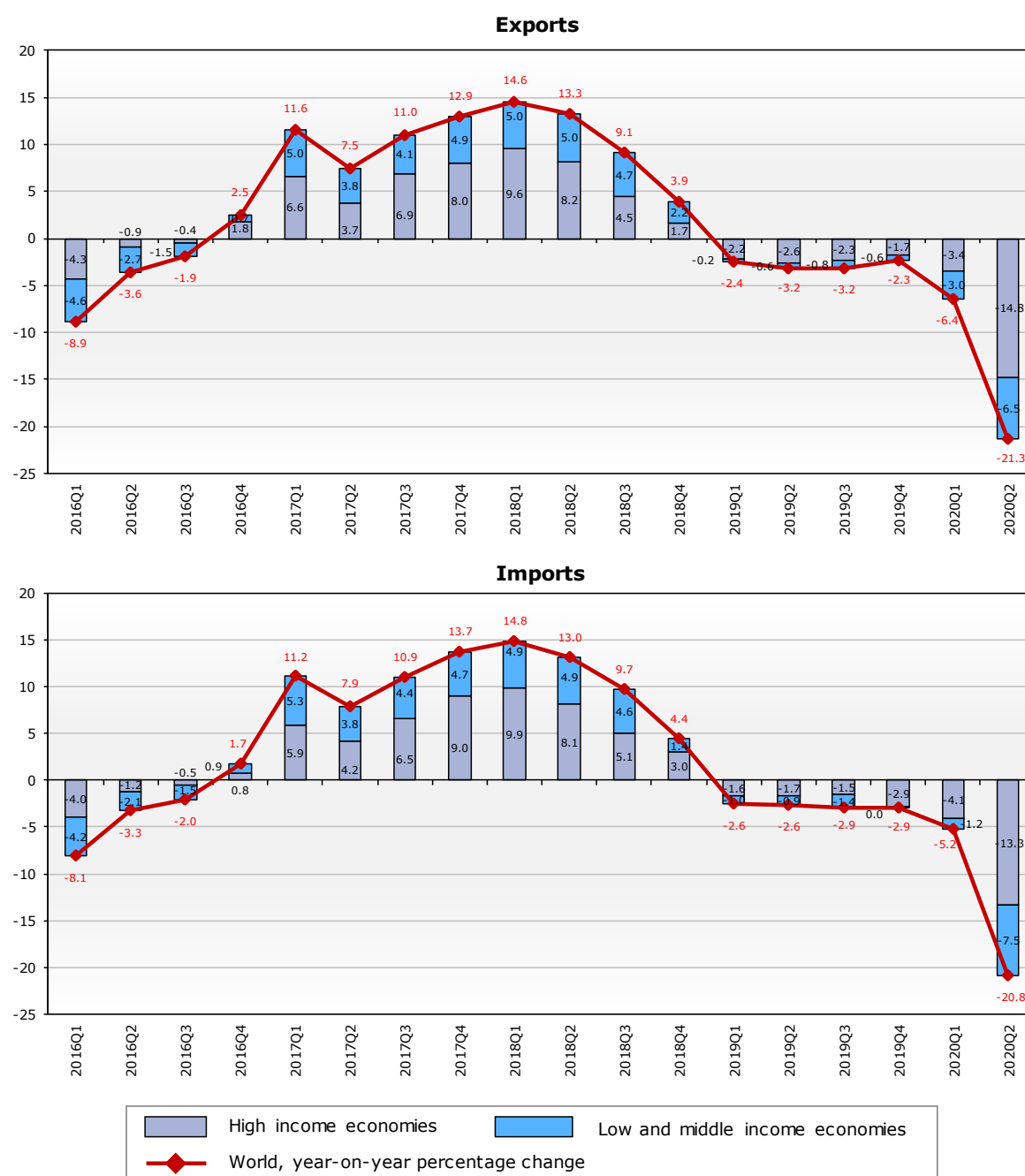
2.15. Chart 2.5 shows merchandise export and import volume indices for selected economies through 2020 Q2. Exports stalled in most countries in the first quarter, as lockdowns were imposed towards the end of the period. Moderate quarter-on-quarter declines were observed in Q1 for most countries, on both the export and import sides, except for India (imports up 1.7%) and China (imports flat, at -0.2%).

2.16. Trade volumes fell sharply in Q2, as the COVID-19 virus became more widespread and lockdowns were imposed across many countries. Most countries recorded large quarter-on-quarter declines in the volume of their exports, including the United States (-24.9%), Japan (-18.4%), India (-21.4%) and the European Union (-20.2% for EU-extra, -19.0% for EU-intra). China was the main exception, with positive export growth of 3.6% in Q2. On the import side, some countries recorded double-digit declines, including the United States (-11.1%), India (-38.2%) and EU-intra (-19.2%). However, some saw more moderate declines (China -0.8%, EU-extra -8.3%) or even increases (Japan +2.2%)

2.17. Monthly merchandise trade statistics in nominal US dollar terms are more timely than quarterly statistics in volume terms. These are shown in Chart 2.6 for selected economies through July or August, depending on data availability. The bottoming-out of trade around May 2020 is visible in many countries, as is the recovery starting in June. However, the Chart also provides a note of caution, since countries with data for the month of August appear to have suffered some minor setbacks (Brazil, India). This suggests that the trade recovery may be less than secure.

Chart 2.4 Contributions to year-on-year growth in world merchandise exports and imports, 2016Q1-2020Q2

(% change in USD values and % point contributions)

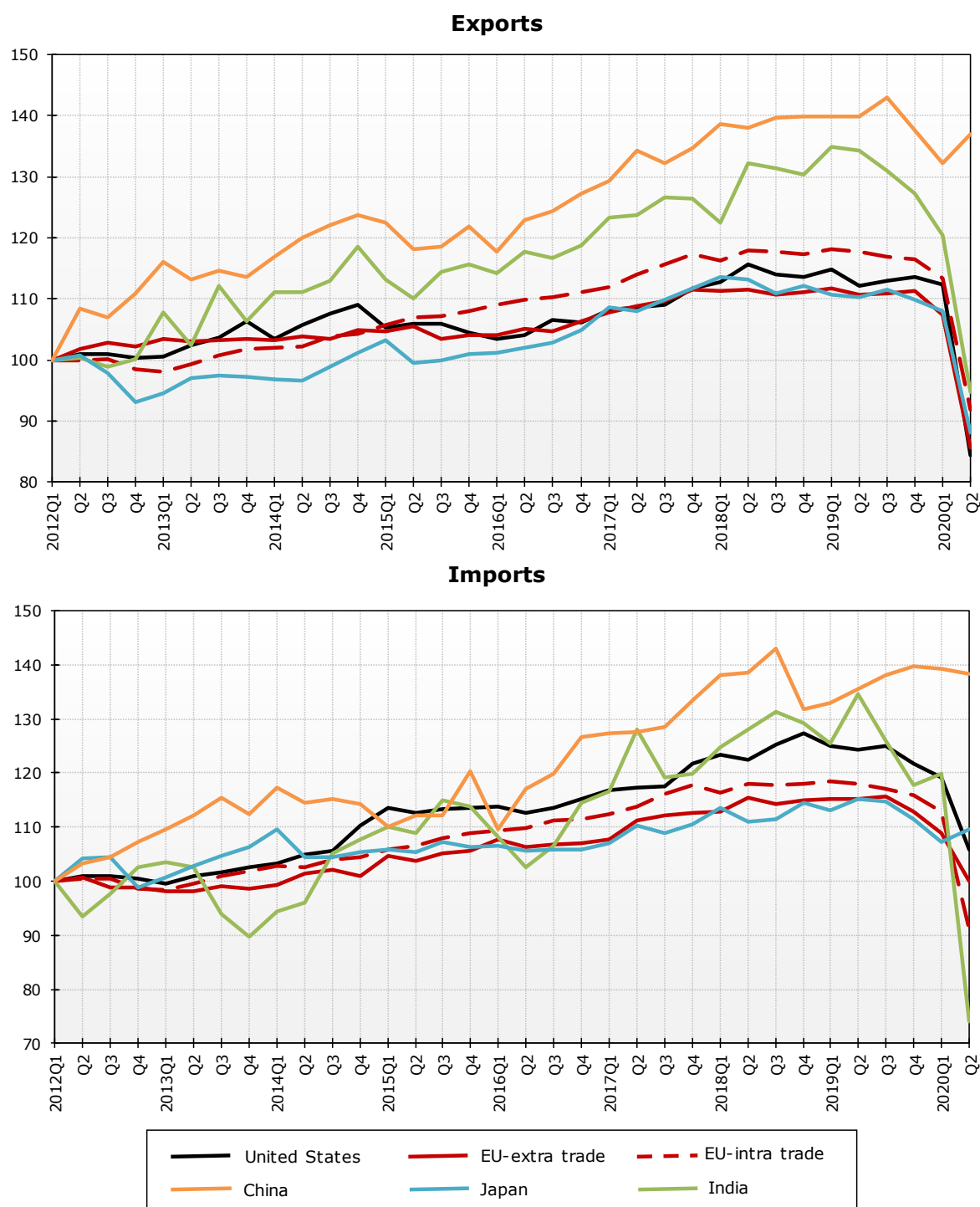


Note: Due to limited data availability, Africa and the Middle East are under-represented in world totals. Economies are categorized according to World Bank income classification (June 2020).

Source: WTO Secretariat and UNCTAD.

Chart 2.5 Volume of merchandise exports and imports of selected economies, 2012Q1-2020Q2

(Seasonally adjusted volume indices, 2012Q1 = 100)

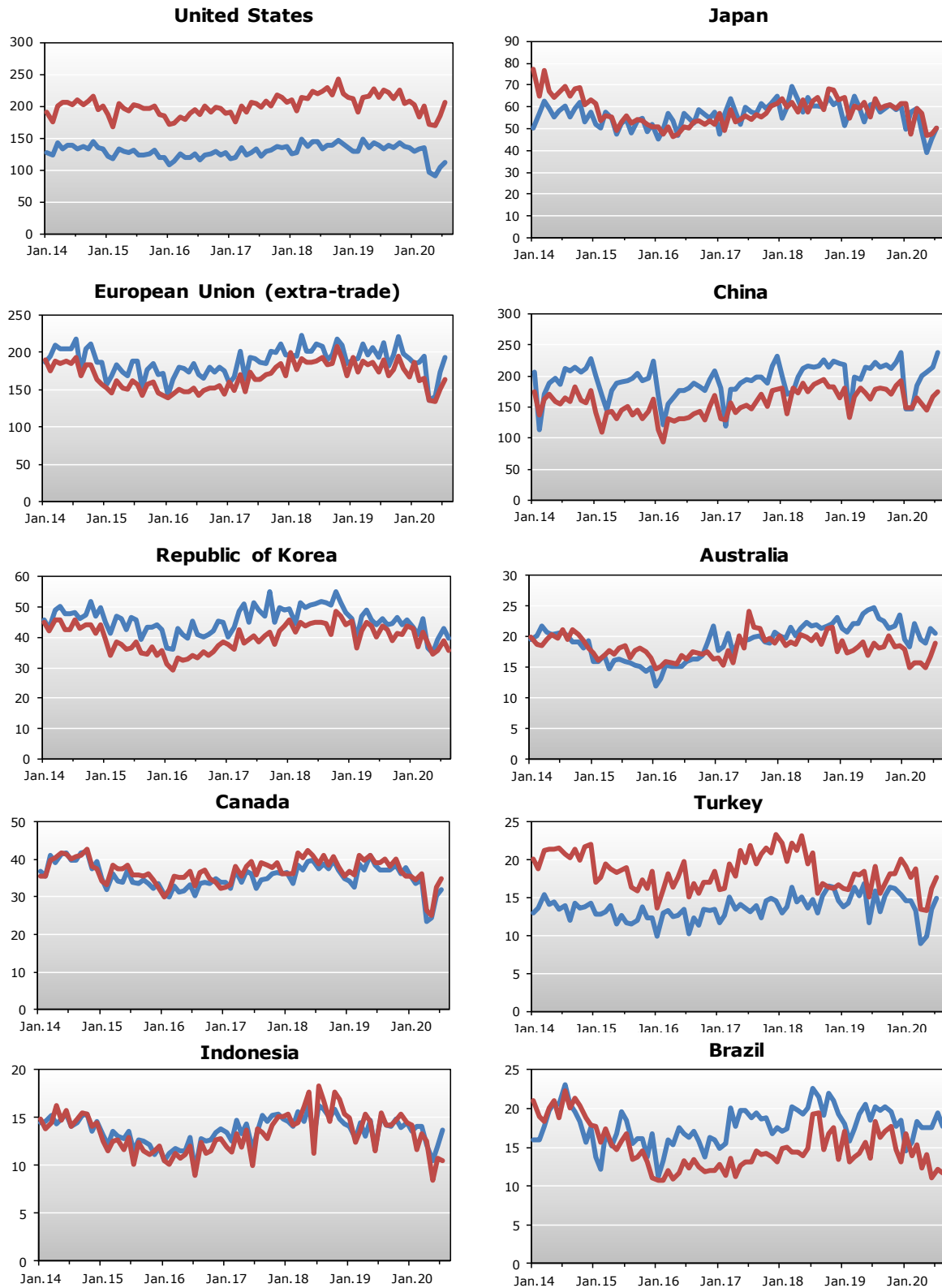


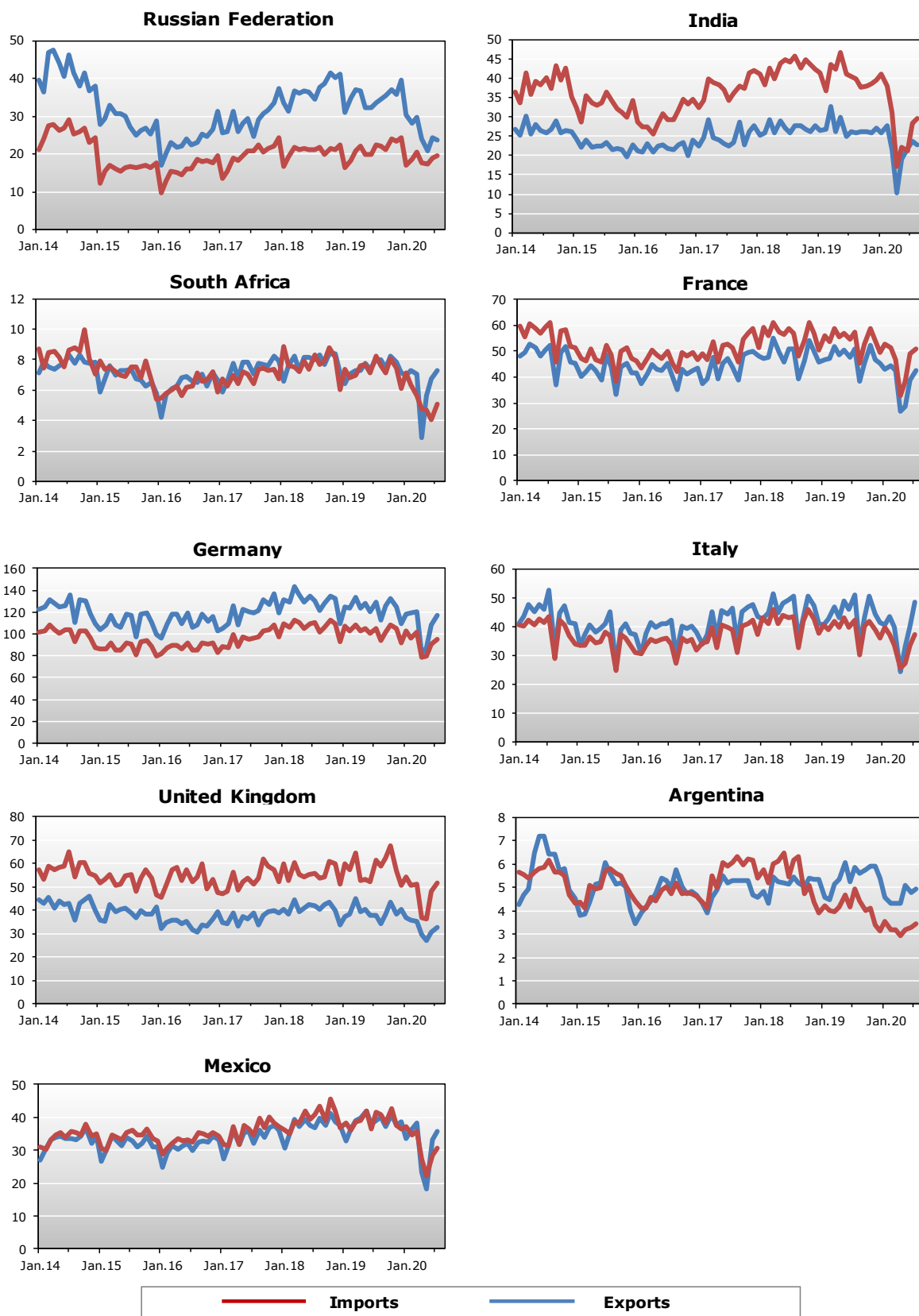
Note: Data for the United States, Japan and the European Union were obtained from national statistical sources, while figures for China and India are seasonally adjusted Secretariat estimates.

Source: WTO Secretariat and UNCTAD.

Chart 2.6 Merchandise exports and imports of selected economies, January 2014-August 2020

(USD billion)

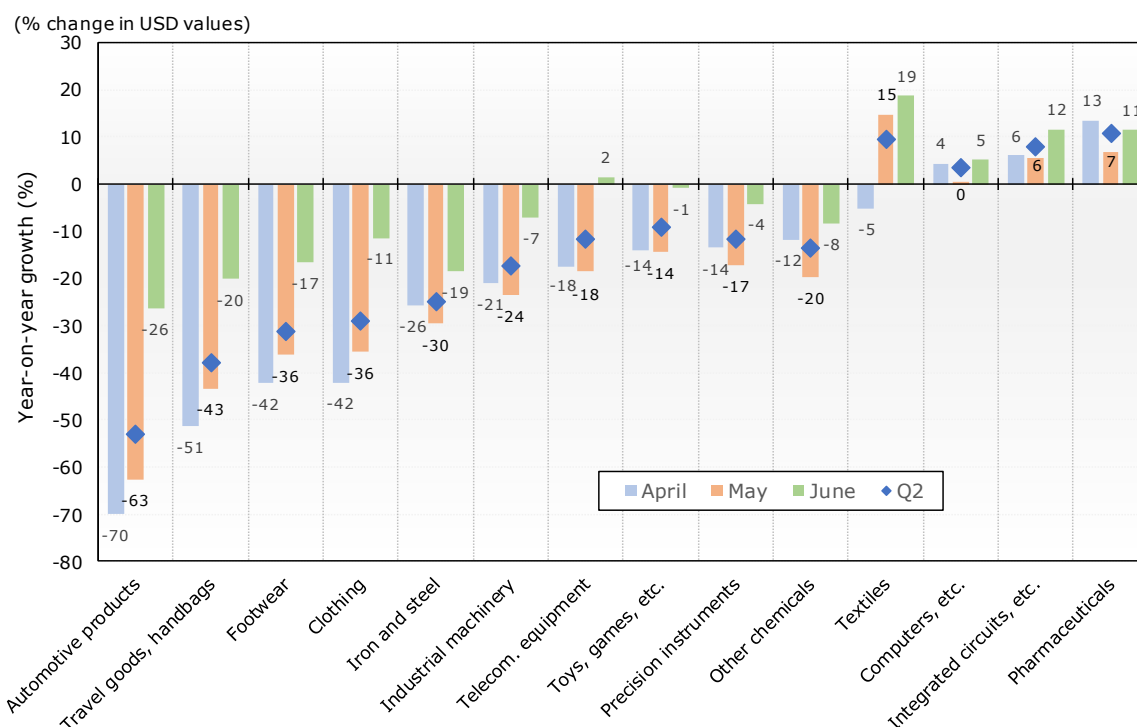




Source: IMF International Financial Statistics; Global Trade Information Services; the Global Trade Atlas database; and national statistics.

2.18. The pandemic devastated trade in certain types of goods, while encouraging it in others. Agricultural product trade held up well because food is a necessity, while fuel demand in part fell due to travel restrictions. There is a wide variety of outcomes among different classes of manufactured goods. These are illustrated by Chart 2.7, which shows year-on-year growth in the US dollar value of world trade, by product. Trade in automotive products was down 53% in Q2 of 2020 compared to the previous year, while that in computers, integrated circuits, and pharmaceuticals was up 3%, 8%, and 11%, respectively, compared to the same period in 2019.

Chart 2.7 Year-on-year growth in world manufactured goods trade, by product, 2020Q2



Source: WTO Secretariat estimates.

2.19. The following box on global value chains in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic has been contributed by the OECD.

Box 2.1 Efficiency and risks in global value chains in the context of COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic-related disruptions in supply chains have again highlighted the interconnectedness between countries through Global Value Chains (GVCs). The sources of disruptions ranged from surges in demand, aggravated by export restrictions in some cases, to difficulties in sourcing of materials and inputs from suppliers located in countries under lockdowns, to delays and frictions caused by transport and logistics disruptions or additional border procedures. Reflecting the growing evidence of the benefits of GVC participation, several countries reacted by pledging to keep markets open and ensuring a swift functioning of international supply chains (WTO, 2020). However, questions are also being asked whether more localised production can provide greater security against disruptions, shortages in supply and uncertainty for consumers and businesses, or whether the gains from deepening and expanding international specialisation in GVCs are worth what are argued to be the associated increased risks and instability.

GVCs connect economic actors located in multiple countries and can transmit foreign shocks; but they are also means of diversification and adjustment to shocks, including domestic ones. Which of these two shock-related properties of GVCs prevails, and to what extent the gains from deepening and expanding international specialisation in GVCs are actually associated with risks and instability, is an empirical matter; the balance will typically depend on sector, country, region and type of shock faced. Yet, few studies to date quantify these purported trade-offs. Recent simulations with the [OECD METRO model](#), a multi-country multi-sector computable general equilibrium (CGE) trade model, compare the performance of two stylised versions of the global economy in the face of stylised trade cost shocks similar to those observed in the recent pandemic to assess both efficiency and resilience (OECD, 2020).

The *interconnected economies* regime captures production fragmentation in GVCs much as we see it today, taking account of changes from COVID-19^a. In contrast, under the more *localised* regime, businesses and

consumers rely less on foreign suppliers (modelled using tariffs and subsidies, with firms more constrained in switching between sources)^b. The two baseline trade regimes are both exposed to the same series of shocks.

The model analysis shows that the shift to the *localised* regime would see a significant reduction of GDP levels across all countries; global real GDP would decrease by more than 5% relative to the post-COVID-19 baseline and in some countries GDP reductions would reach double digits. This suggests that greater localisation of value chains would add further GDP losses to the economic slowdown caused by the pandemic.

Furthermore, for most countries, and for all countries on average, the *localised* regime is also found to be more - not less - vulnerable to shocks. This is because, in the *localised* regime, smaller and less diversified domestic markets need to shoulder most of the adjustment pressures from shocks. While a few countries gain marginally in terms of real GDP stability in the localised regime. But the trade-off is very steep; several per cent of GDP have to be sacrificed in a shift to a localised regime in order to increase its stability by a fraction of a percentage point in the face of relatively significant trade cost shocks.

The modelling results, while based on stylised assumptions, suggest that the economic case for a significantly reshoring of GVCs is weak. Rather, GVCs, on top of generating efficiency gains, play an important role in cushioning economic shocks.

This points to risks associated with using government policy to significantly alter the geography of GVCs but it does not mean that governments have no role to play. There may thus be scope for governments and business to work together to increase the resilience of GVCs for essential goods, for example by: collecting and sharing information on potential bottlenecks in GVCs; or considering how best to assess risks and adjust stockpiles of essential goods. Critically, creating predictable regulatory, trade, and investment policy environments are essential for strengthening resilience in GVCs.

- a These include reductions in supply and productivity of labour, reductions in demand for certain goods and services, and a rise in trade costs related to new customs procedures for goods and restrictions on temporary movement of people in services (for details see OECD, 2020).
- b The model imposes a global rise in import tariffs to 25% and national value-added subsidies equivalent to 1 % of GDP directed to domestic non-services sectors to mimic subsidies that favour local production. Firms are also assumed to be more constrained in switching between different sources of products.

Source: OECD.

2.4 Trade in Commercial Services

2.20. As damaging as COVID-19 was for merchandise trade, its impact on trade in services was even greater. This negative influence is illustrated by Chart 2.8, which shows commercial services trade by sector through Q2, and Chart 2.9, which shows quarterly services exports and imports of major traders.

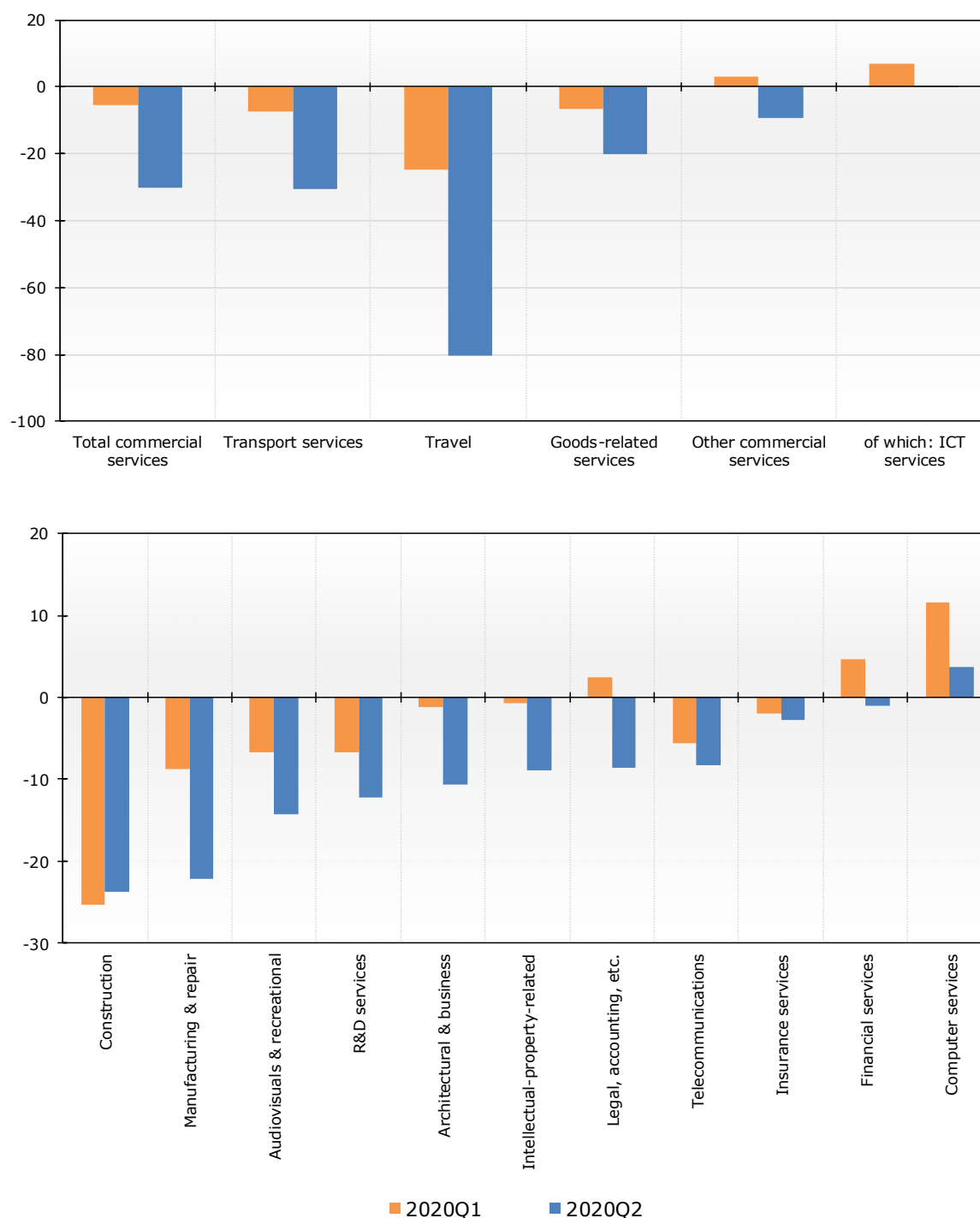
2.21. The US dollar value of world commercial services trade was down 30% year-on-year in the second quarter (Chart 2.8), while the value of merchandise trade was only down 21%. Lockdowns and travel restrictions were particularly devastating for the tourism industry, as travellers' expenditures dropped 81% and transport services fell 31% in Q2. Together, these two categories make up 43% of commercial services trade worldwide.

2.22. The category of other commercial services, which encompasses several sectors including financial services, was relatively less affected by the pandemic, with a decline of 9%. Within this category, many activities that require physical proximity, including movie production and live performances, were either prohibited or severely restricted due to health concerns. On the other hand, financial services were only marginally affected since these are more easily provided remotely.

2.23. The pandemic boosted demand for certain types of services, particularly ICT services, which registered an uptick of 0.1% in exports in Q2. Within ICT services, exports of computer services recorded a 3.6% year-on-year increase. These services have been instrumental in enabling working from home, without which, the economic impact of COVID-19 would have been considerably worse.

Chart 2.8 World commercial services trade by sector, 2020Q1-2020Q2

(Year-on-year % change in current USD values)

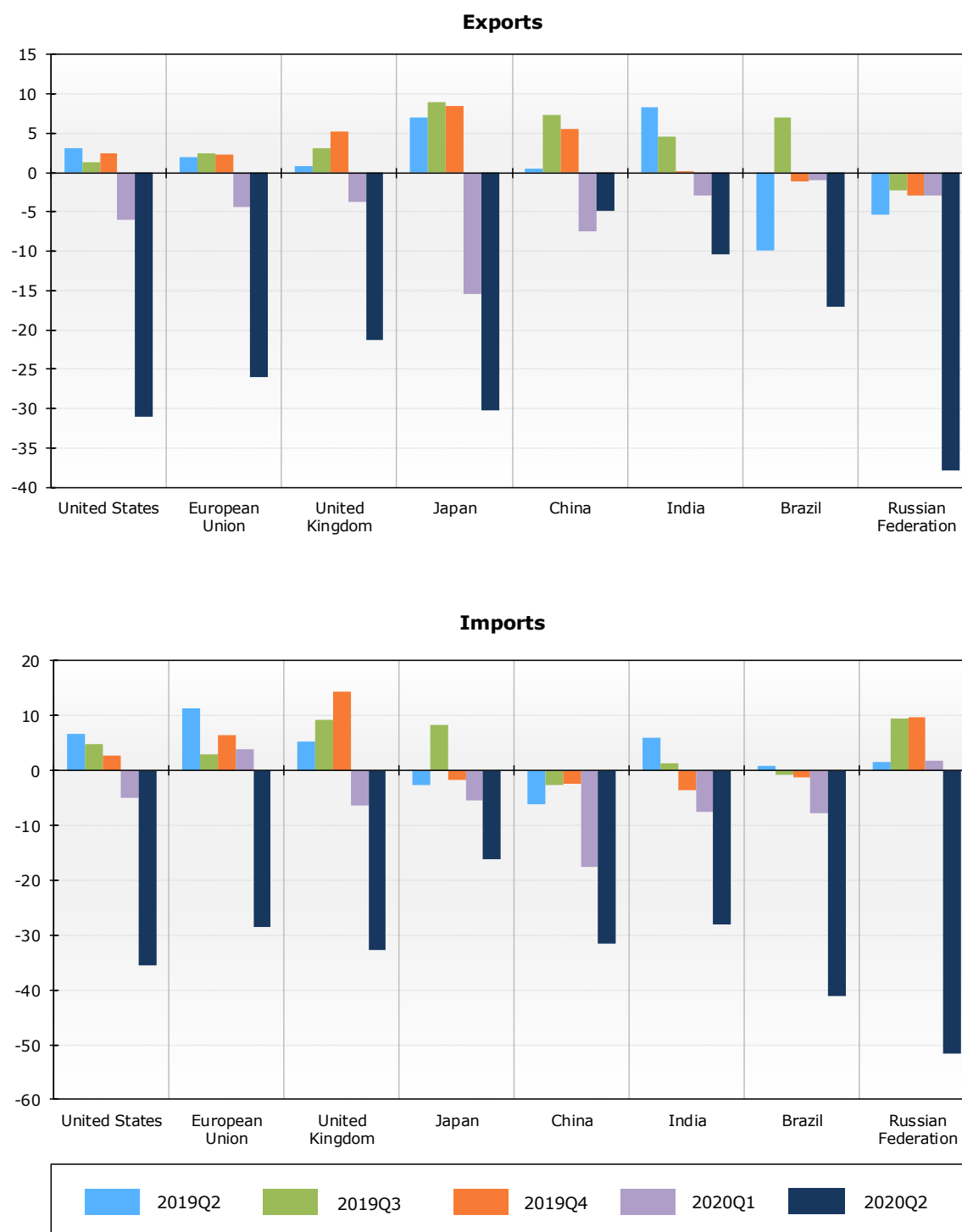


Source: WTO-UNCTAD-ITC and Secretariat estimates.

2.24. In Chart 2.9, shows the huge impact of COVID-19 on the commercial services trade of major economies. Most of these recorded double-digit declines in their exports in Q2, except for China, which only saw a 5% drop. Meanwhile, declines on the import side ranged between 16% for Japan and 52% for the Russian Federation.

Chart 2.9 Commercial services exports and imports of selected economies, 2019Q2-2020Q2

(Year-on-year % change in current USD values)



Source: WTO Secretariat and UNCTAD.

2.5 Trade Forecast and Economic Outlook

2.25. Trade projections from the WTO's most recent forecast of 6 October 2020 are presented in Table 2.1 and Chart 2.10. The Organization now expects a 9.2% decline in the volume of world

merchandise trade in 2020, accompanied by a 4.8% drop in world GDP at market exchange rates. Trade is expected to bounce back in 2021, with a 7.2% increase, while world GDP grows at a 4.9% annual rate (Table 2.1).

2.26. Both exports and imports are expected to contract in all regions in 2020. The smallest declines in exports should be seen in Asia (-4.5%), South and Central America (-7.7%) and Other Regions (-9.5%), while larger declines are anticipated in Europe (-11.7%) and North America (-14.7%). On the import side, single-digit declines are expected for Asia (-4.4%) and North America (-8.7%), while double-digit declines are anticipated for Europe (-10.3%), South and Central America (-13.5%) and Other Regions (-16.0%).

2.27. Trade expansion should return to all regions in 2021, with stronger growth in those that suffered larger declines in 2020. Exports should increase by 10.7% in North America, 8.2% in Europe, 6.1% in Other Regions, 5.7% in Asia and 5.4% in South and Central America. Imports should grow by 8.7% in Europe, 6.7% in North America, 6.5% in South and Central America, 6.2% in Asia and 5.6% in Other Regions.

2.28. These estimates are subject to considerable uncertainty, since they depend, to a large extent, on the evolution of the pandemic and the effectiveness of policy responses. Whether the recovery can be sustained over the medium term may depend on the resilience of investment, which could be undermined if confidence is damaged by further outbreaks of COVID-19. With second waves of infection hitting several countries, risks are firmly tilted to the downside, although there is some limited upside potential if effective medical treatments are made available in the coming months.

2.29. The latest trade forecast attempted to quantify some of the risks to the trade outlook. According to recent estimates, a resurgence of COVID-19 requiring further lockdowns could reduce global GDP growth by 2 to 3 percentage points in 2021. Other downside risks include an uncertain outlook for fiscal policy and a challenging job market. Together, these factors could shave up to 4 percentage points off merchandise trade growth next year. However, rapid deployment of an effective vaccine could boost confidence and raise GDP growth by 1 to 2 percentage points in 2021. This could add up to 3 percentage points to the pace of trade expansion next year.

2.30. These scenarios are illustrated by Chart 2.10. In the optimistic case, further waves of COVID-19 would be better managed due to experience with the disease, resulting in a smaller economic impact. In the pessimistic case, trade would not return quickly to its pre-pandemic trend due to increased debt burdens, high unemployment, and limited early availability of vaccines.

Table 2.1 Merchandise trade volume and real GDP, 2015-21^a

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Volume of world merchandise trade^b	2.3	1.4	4.7	2.9	-0.1	-9.2	7.2
Exports							
North America	2.6	0.7	3.4	3.8	1.0	-14.7	10.7
South and Central America	0.6	1.3	2.9	0.1	-2.2	-7.7	5.4
Europe	2.9	1.1	3.7	2.0	0.1	-11.7	8.2
Asia	1.3	2.3	6.7	3.7	0.9	-4.5	5.7
Other regions ^c	1.8	3.5	0.7	0.7	-2.9	-9.5	6.1
Imports							
North America	5.2	0.3	4.4	5.2	-0.4	-8.7	6.7
South and Central America	-7.6	-9.0	4.3	5.3	-2.1	-13.5	6.5
Europe	3.6	3.0	3.0	1.5	0.5	-10.3	8.7
Asia	2.1	2.2	8.4	4.9	-0.6	-4.4	6.2
Other regions ^c	-3.9	-4.5	3.4	0.3	1.5	-16.0	5.6
Real GDP at market exchange rates	2.8	2.4	3.1	2.8	2.2	-4.8	4.9
North America	2.8	1.7	2.4	2.8	2.1	-4.4	3.9
South and Central America	-0.8	-2.0	0.8	0.6	-0.2	-7.5	3.8
Europe	2.4	2.1	2.8	2.1	1.5	-7.3	5.2
Asia	4.3	4.2	4.8	4.1	3.9	-2.4	5.9
Other regions ^c	1.5	2.4	1.9	2.1	1.4	-5.5	3.5

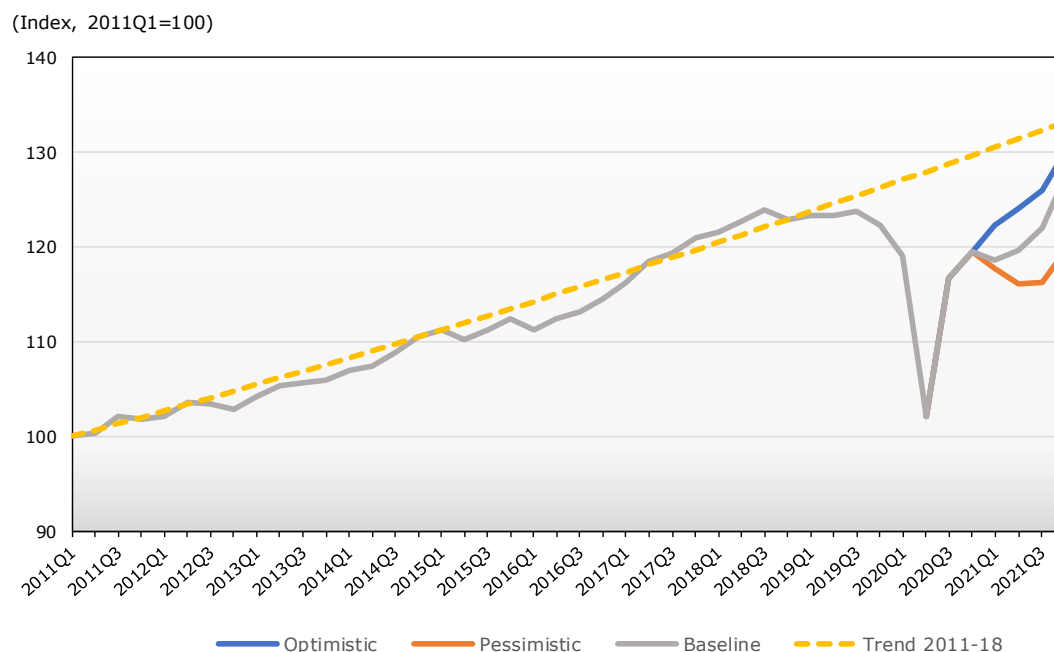
a Figures for 2020 and 2021 are projections.

b Average of exports and imports.

c Other regions comprise Africa, the Middle East and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), including associate and former member States.

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

Chart 2.10 Merchandise trade volume - optimistic and pessimistic scenarios



Source: WTO Secretariat estimates.

2.31. Box 2.2. takes a closer look at the evolution of the pandemic and role of trade as reported by a number of international organizations.

Box 2.2 COVID-19 Impact and Recovery: The Role of Trade

COVID-19 is an unprecedented exogenous shock to the global economy and trade. The following looks at the evolution of the pandemic and the nascent recovery taking place, which appears to be demand driven with trade being central to it. Notwithstanding the multitude of publications and studies, the following draws on the forecasts and outlooks of a few IGOs. However, these are to be considered with a degree of caution as the situation regarding the pandemic remains fluid with many countries experiencing second waves.

In January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a world health emergency and subsequently classified it as a pandemic in March. The impact of the pandemic on the global economy has been immense. The initial impact was a supply shock. The global economy has become increasingly interdependent and a large proportion of products are produced as part of global value chains. Plant closures in China and other parts of Asia in January 2020 led to supply chain disruptions and concerns regarding depleted inventories. As the pandemic spread from Asia to Europe, the economic crisis morphed into a wider demand crisis as containment measures such as lockdowns, travel restrictions, quarantine requirements and social distancing resulted in significant disruptions in economic activity.

In March 2020, the OECD estimated that the global economy would grow by 2.4% in 2020, a decline of 0.5% from its November 2019 projection^a. The estimate was based on the outbreak being limited in geographic scope and short-lived. Taking into account the extent of supply chain disruptions, tightening of global financial markets, changes in consumption patterns, volatile commodity prices and the wider impact and effectiveness of containment measures such as lockdowns, the IMF predicted in April 2020 that the global economy would contract by 3% in 2020^b. However, the IMF's prediction was subject to extreme uncertainty and did not fully take into consideration the impact of the pandemic on the Western Hemisphere as this had not been fully manifested then.

A March statement by G-7 Leaders reaffirmed support for global trade and investment and stated that they would mobilize "the full range of instruments, including monetary and fiscal measures, as well as targeted actions, to support immediately and as much as necessary the workers, companies and sectors most affected^c." The G-20 Trade and Investment Ministers also echoed the same sentiments in their Ministerial Statement of March 30 2020^d.

In response to the evolving crisis many countries put in place stimulus packages and relief measures. Central banks and monetary authorities have intervened in financial markets and national governments have put in place a series of fiscal policy measures focused on supporting the health sector, households and firms. Fiscal measures implemented include tax cuts and deferrals, wage and income supplements, expanding unemployment insurance and direct payments to households and businesses. Monetary policy measures include interest rate cuts, preferential loans and loan guarantees, increased liquidity, new lending and

financing programmes, asset purchases, foreign exchange swaps and the easing of prudential regulations and capital buffers. A non-exhaustive list of such measures is included in the original language of the submission on the WTO COVID-19 webpage^e. According to the IMF the global fiscal response implemented through mid-June 2020 amounted to over USD 11 trillion^f. Consequently, borrowing by governments rose from 3.9% of global GDP in 2019 to nearly 14% in 2020, with developed countries being responsible for the bulk of the increase. In this respect, the United States and the European Union and its member States implemented the largest stimulus packages.

The US Congress passed the COVID-19 Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, which is a USD 2.1 trillion fiscal stimulus package, *inter alia*, providing loans businesses, direct payments to lower and middle-income individual taxpayers, unemployment insurance, and tax deferrals. The Federal Reserve also cut the target range for the federal funds to a range of 0.00% to 0.25%, added nearly USD 2 trillion in liquidity to the banking system through increased reverse repo operations and began quantitative easing, which included the guaranteeing and purchase of corporate bonds and securities. The European Central Bank announced a 750 billion euro (USD 818 billion) temporary asset purchase programme of private and public sector securities to mitigate the risks posed by the pandemic. Additionally, the European Commission put rules in place that allowed member States to use the full flexibility of state aid rules to support the economy. The rules allow for direct grants, selective tax advantages and advance payments; state guarantees for loans taken by companies from banks; subsidized public loans to companies; safeguards for banks that channel state aid to the real economy; and short-term export credit insurance.

As an initial reaction to the crisis, many countries imposed export restrictions on products deemed vital such as personal protective equipment and basic food products, while others increased import tariffs on certain goods to generate revenue^g. However, since then, countries have endeavored to keep markets open and trade flowing and have not in general resorted to restrictive measures. In this regard, an array of trade facilitating measures have been implemented. These included: relaxation of procedural formalities; risk management prioritizing clearance of imports and exports of low-risk critical supplies; border agency cooperation to facilitate the import of critical supplies; and information technology such as single windows and trade information portals to support trade^h.

As the full impact of the pandemic was felt, global growth projections were readjusted downwards significantly. In June 2020, the OECD estimated that global economic growth would decline by 6.0% under a single wave scenario and by 7.6% under a second wave situation. The OECD also projected that global trade would contract by either 9.5% or 11.4% depending on the scenarioⁱ. In June, the IMF estimated that the global economy would contract by 4.9% and global trade would decline by 11.9%^j. At the same time, the World Bank's baseline estimate predicted a contraction in the global economy of 5.2%^k.

All three (OECD, IMF and World Bank), argue that the economic impact of the pandemic will be most acutely felt by developing and emerging economies, which are reliant on trade, tourism, remittances and commodity exports. Furthermore, the World Bank emphasizes that the contraction in global output will likely lead to declines in per capita incomes in most developing and emerging countries, resulting in many millions falling back into poverty.

In April 2020, the WTO forecasted that global trade volumes could decline between 13% and 32% in 2020. A June 2020 forecast update estimated that trade volumes could decline by 18.5% in 2020. The revised forecast reflected progress made in facilitating imports, including products related to COVID-19.

In the first half of 2020, global trade declined by 15%, while global output declined 10% by 2019. However, according to the OECD, IMF and the WTO, the adverse impact of the pandemic would have been far greater in the absence of prompt and effective policy support introduced globally as well as the commitment and effort to keep trade flowing and not resorting to widespread protectionism. As confinement measures have eased and businesses have reopened, a tepid economic recovery seems to be taking shape. In its September 2020 forecast, the OECD projects that the global economy would contract by 4.5%, significantly better than under the two scenarios projected in June. Similarly, in October 2020, the IMF also projected that the global economy would contract by 4.5% in 2020, an improvement on its June estimate, while the WTO predicted a contraction of 4.8%^l. In their October reports, the IMF forecasted that trade would decline by over 10% in 2020 while the WTO estimated that trade volumes would decline by 9.2%, both projections are an improvement on their June 2020 forecasts. However, it should be stressed that these forecasts are highly uncertain keeping in mind the fluid nature of the pandemic.

These forecasts come on the back of a sharper-than-expected recovery in China fuelled by strong infrastructure investment. Furthermore, according to the OECD, demand for consumer durables has picked up on account of confinement related pent-up demand and fiscal incentives. The increased demand is reflected in surge in global trade in June and July, which was driven to a large extent by China^m.

The above account has tried to shed light on the evolution of the crisis, its global impact, and how governments have responded and tried to balance public health and economic considerations. Several initiatives to keeping markets open, increasing trade facilitation, timely and unprecedented policy interventions and stimulus packages and the effectiveness of containment measures have seen the light of day. It appears that a confluence of factors such as keeping markets open, increased trade facilitation as opposed to protectionism, timely and unprecedented policy interventions and stimulus packages and the effectiveness of containment measures; have resulted in a fragile recovery. According to various estimates, global output is expected to

expand by around 5% in 2021ⁿ and trade is expected to grow in the range of 7-8%^o. However, the outlook comes with a high degree of uncertainty. Growth will depend on the magnitude and duration of new COVID-19 outbreaks and the degree to which current containment measures are maintained or reinforced. Additionally, it has been stressed that trade is fundamental to the recovery. It is imperative that markets and borders remain open and that existing trade and technology-related tensions between countries be resolved through multilateral cooperation so as not to undermine economic-related recovery^p.

- a OECD Interim Economic Assessment Coronavirus: *The world economy at risk* March 2020.
- b IMF World Economic Outlook April 2020.
- c Coronavirus COVID-19: G7 Leaders' Statement (16 Mar. 2020).
- d G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Statement, March 30, 2020.
- e 67 out of 164 WTO members have made submissions to the WTO. Viewed at:
https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/trade_related_support_measures_e.htm.
- f IMF World Economic Outlook Update June 2020.
- g For details of these measures please see WTO document WT/TPR/OV/W/14, 8 July 2020.
- h For details please see: <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/824081587487261551/pdf/Trade-and-COVID-19-Guidance-Note-Trade-Facilitation-Best-Practices-Implemented-in-Response-to-the-COVID-19-Pandemic.pdf>.
- i OECD Economic Outlook June 2020.
- j IMF World Economic Outlook Update June 2020.
- k World Bank: Global Economic Prospects June 2020.
- l OECD Interim Economic Outlook September 2020, IMF World Economic Outlook October 2020 and WTO press release Trade shows signs of rebound from COVID-19, recovery still uncertain October 2020.
- m WTO press release Trade shows signs of rebound from COVID-19, recovery still uncertain October 2020 and World Bank COVID-19 Trade Watch various issues.
- n The IMF forecasts global economic growth to be 5.2% in 2021, the OECD 5.0% and the WTO 4.9%.
- o The WTO projection for trade growth is 7.2% while the IMF estimates 8%.
- p OECD Interim Economic Outlook September 2020 and IMF World Economic Outlook October 2020.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3 TRADE AND TRADE-RELATED POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

3.1 Overview of trends identified during the review period

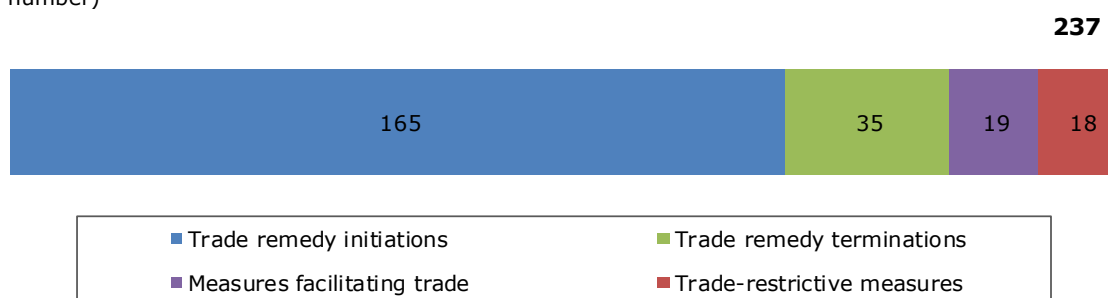
3.1. This Section provides analysis of selected trade and trade-related policy developments in the area of goods during the period from mid-May 2020 to mid-October 2020. It is divided into two parts. The *first* part looks at regular, i.e. non COVID-related measures implemented during the review period, including calculations on trade coverage.¹ The *second* part in Section 3.1.2, covers measures taken in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Measures in the second part are not included in the trade coverage calculations and are not counted towards the aggregate numbers in part one.

3.1.1 Regular trade measures

3.2. A total of 237 trade measures were recorded for the G20 economies during the review period (Chart 3.1).² This figure includes measures facilitating trade, trade remedy measures and other trade and trade-related measures, i.e. trade restrictive measures. It excludes measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Chart 3.2 below illustrates the trade coverage of the measures recorded for the G20 economies during the review period.

Chart 3.1 G20 trade and trade-related measures, mid-May 2020 to mid-October 2020

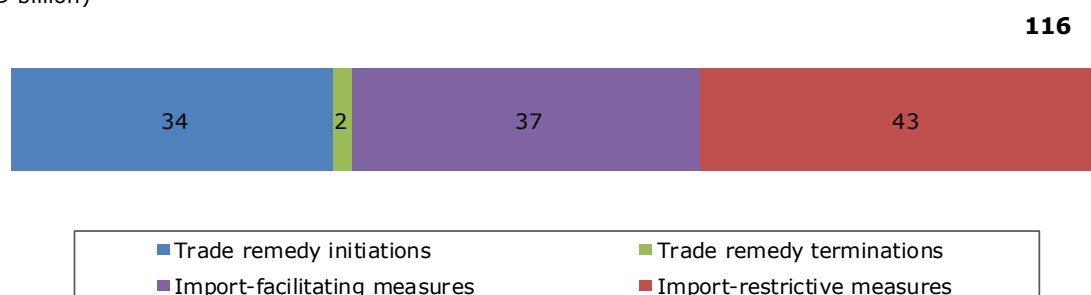
(By number)



Source: WTO Secretariat.

Chart 3.2 Trade coverage of G20 measures, mid-May 2020 to mid-October 2020

(USD billion)



Source: WTO Secretariat.

Measures facilitating trade

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

3.4. During the review period, 19 new trade facilitating measures were recorded for G20 economies (Table 3.1), of which ten were of a temporary nature. This represents 8% of the total number of

¹ COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures are not included. Those measures are covered in Section 3.1.2 and in Annex 5.

² 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.

measures recorded. The monthly average of 3.8 trade-facilitating measures recorded for the period is the lowest recorded since 2012.

Table 3.1 Measures facilitating trade (Annex 1)

Type of measure	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Mid-Oct 19 to mid-May 20 (7 months)	Mid-May 20 to mid-Oct 20 (5 months)
Import	83	63	71	66	59	60	71	54	27	17
- Tariff	72	50	58	55	51	49	63	51	23	15
- Customs procedures	8	12	9	7	6	9	4	1	1	1
- Tax	1	1	0	3	2	2	3	1	3	0
- QRs	2	0	4	1	0	0	1	1	0	1
Export	7	4	5	19	12	18	8	5	2	2
- Duties	3	2	2	10	5	1	5	4	2	1
- QRs	3	2	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
- Other	1	0	2	7	6	16	3	1	0	1
Other	4	1	1	2	2	0	0	1	1	0
Total	94	68	77	87	73	78	79	60	30	19
<i>Average per month</i>	<i>7.8</i>	<i>5.7</i>	<i>6.4</i>	<i>7.3</i>	<i>6.1</i>	<i>6.5</i>	<i>6.6</i>	<i>5.0</i>	<i>4.3</i>	<i>3.8</i>

Note: Revisions of the data reflect changes undertaken in the TMDB to fine-tune and update the available information. COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures are not included. Those measures are covered in Section 3.1.2 and in Annex 5.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.5. Table 3.1 above shows that, as for the previous periods, the reduction or elimination of import tariffs make up the bulk of trade-facilitating measures. On the export side, important measures included reductions of export duties and elimination of prior export authorizations.³

3.6. The trade coverage of the import-facilitating measures introduced during the review period was estimated at USD 36.8 billion (excluding ITA-related measures), i.e. 0.25% of the value of G20 merchandise imports.⁴ This share is the third-lowest reported for these types of measures since November 2014 (Table 3.2 and Chart 3.3). The HS Chapters within which most of the trade facilitating measures were taken include electrical machinery and parts thereof (HS 85) 24.7%, machinery and mechanical appliances (HS 84) 16.4%, pharmaceutical products (HS 30) 11.8%, and vehicles and parts thereof (HS 87) 11.7%.

Table 3.2 Share of trade covered by import-facilitating measures

	Mid-Oct 16 to mid-May 17	Mid-May 17 to mid-Oct 17	Mid-Oct 17 to mid-May 18	Mid-May 18 to mid-Oct 18	Mid-Oct 18 to mid-May 19	Mid-May 19 to mid-Oct 19	Mid-Oct 19 to mid-May 20	Mid-May 20 to mid-Oct 20
Share in G20 imports	1.29%	0.22%	0.68%	1.59%	2.92%	0.61%	4.88%	0.25%
Share in total world imports	0.99%	0.17%	0.52%	1.23%	2.28%	0.48%	3.78%	0.19%

Note: Estimates are based on calendar year data. For example, data for mid-May 2020 to mid-October 2020 are based 2019 calendar year data.

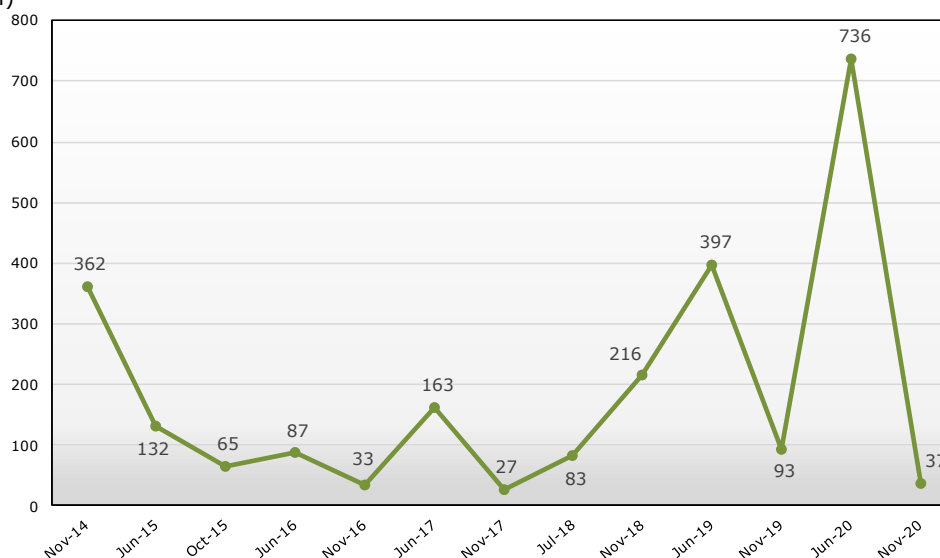
Source: WTO Secretariat and UNSD Comtrade database.

³ For example, reduction of export duties on 5,114 tariff lines by Argentina and elimination of prior export authorization requirement on onion and potatoes by Turkey.

⁴ These figures include one measure by Brazil (reduction of import tariffs on certain auto parts not produced in Mercosur), accounting for 66% of the total.

Chart 3.3 Trade coverage of new import-facilitating measures identified in each period (not cumulative)

(USD billion)



Note: These figures are estimates and represent the trade coverage of the measures (i.e. annual imports of the products concerned from economies affected by the measures) and not the cumulative impact of the trade measures. Liberalization associated with the 2015 Expansion of the WTO's Information Technology Agreement is not included in the figures. COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures are not included.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Trade Coverage of the ITA Expansion Agreement

3.7. The implementation of the ITA Expansion Agreement⁵ is entering its final phase. This report includes four measures resulting from the implementation of the ITA Expansion Agreement by Australia, China, European Union, and Republic of Korea (Annex 1). According to preliminary estimates by the WTO Secretariat, the trade coverage of the import-facilitating measures implemented during the review period in the context of the ITA Expansion Agreement amounted to USD 128.7 billion, or around 0.9% of the value of G20 merchandise imports.⁶ Given the significant trade coverage value of these measures, they have not been included in the figures estimating the trade coverage of import-facilitating measures in section 3.1.1, as it would make any comparison with previous Reports difficult.

Trade remedy actions

3.8. During the period under review, 200 trade remedy actions were recorded for G20 economies, accounting for 84% of all non-COVID-19 related trade measures recorded in this Report.⁷ An overview of these measures can be found in Annex 2. The average number of trade remedy initiations during the review period was 33 per month (Table 3.3 and Chart 3.4), the highest recorded since 2012. The monthly average of trade remedy terminations recorded is the lowest recorded since 2012.

⁵ G20 participants to the ITA : Australia; Canada (all duty free as of July 2019); China; the European Union; Japan (all duty free as of July 2016); Korea, Rep. of; and the United States (all duty free as of July 2019). See WTO document G/MA/W/117, 26 January 2019.

⁶ Calculated at the HS six-digit level and using 2019 import figures.

⁷ A single methodology for the counting of AD and CVD investigations is being applied across the Report, i.e. based on 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.

Table 3.3 Trade remedy actions (Annex 2)

Type of measure	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 ^a	Mid-Oct 19 to mid-May 20 (7 months)	Mid-May 20 to mid-Oct 20 (5 months)
Initiations	201	278	258	210	262	258	223	221	189	148	165
- AD	166	238	208	175	226	213	168	174	157	117	131
- CVD	22	33	37	31	30	39	47	35	27	28	28
- SG	13	7	13	4	6	6	8	12	5	3	6
<i>Average per month</i>	<i>16.8</i>	<i>23.2</i>	<i>21.5</i>	<i>17.5</i>	<i>21.8</i>	<i>21.5</i>	<i>18.6</i>	<i>18.4</i>	<i>31.5</i>	<i>21.1</i>	<i>33.0</i>
Terminations	161	153	171	151	142	113	182	153	63	55	35
- AD	130	135	144	122	120	93	162	141	55	53	33
- CVD	21	15	21	19	15	10	20	7	6	0	2
- SG ^b	10	3	6	10	7	10	0	5	2	2	0
<i>Average per month</i>	<i>13.4</i>	<i>12.8</i>	<i>14.3</i>	<i>12.6</i>	<i>11.8</i>	<i>9.4</i>	<i>15.2</i>	<i>12.7</i>	<i>10.5</i>	<i>7.9</i>	<i>7.0</i>

a January to June.

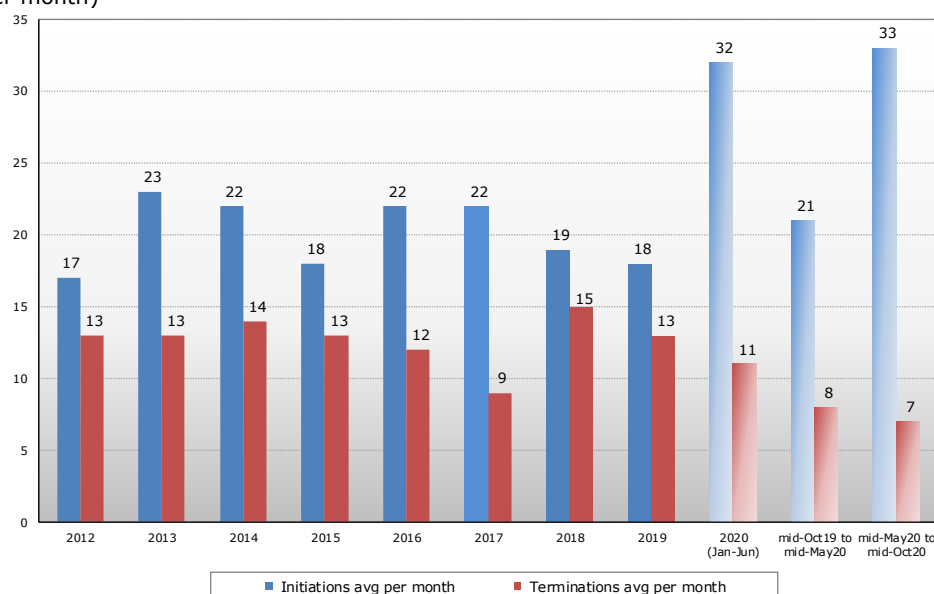
b The figure for a specific year is the sum of the following: (i) all ongoing investigations terminated during the course of that specific year without any measure; and (ii) all imposed measures expired during the course of that specific year. COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures are not included. Those measures are covered in Section 3.1.2 and in Annex 5.

Note: The information on trade remedy actions for 2012 to 2019 is based on the semi-annual notifications. For the present review period, the information is also based on the responses and the verifications received directly from Members.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Chart 3.4 G20 trade remedy initiations and terminations

(Average per month)



Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.9. In terms of products, trade remedy actions taken during the review period included initiations of investigations on rubber and articles thereof (HS 40) 15.4%, plastics and articles thereof (HS 39) 15%, certain furniture and lamps (HS 94) 13.9%, and iron and steel (HS 72) 10.3%.

3.10. The trade coverage of all trade remedy investigations initiated during the review period was USD 34.1 billion, i.e. 0.23% of the value of G20 merchandise imports (Table 3.4). For terminations, the trade coverage was valued at USD 2 billion (0.01% of the value of G20 merchandise imports).

Table 3.4 Share of trade covered by trade remedy initiations

	Mid-Oct 15 to mid-May 16	Mid-May to mid-Oct 16	Mid-Oct 16 to mid-May 17	Mid-May to mid-Oct 17	Mid-Oct 17 to mid-May 18	Mid-May to mid-Oct 18	Mid-Oct 18 to mid-May 19	Mid-May to mid-Oct 19	Mid-Oct 19 to mid-May 20	Mid-May 20 to mid-Oct 20
Share in G20 imports	0.47%	0.11%	0.20%	0.24%	0.43%	0.18%	0.14%	0.11%	0.16%	0.23%
Share in total world imports	0.36%	0.08%	0.15%	0.19%	0.33%	0.14%	0.11%	0.09%	0.13%	0.18%

Note: Estimates are based on calendar year data. For example, data for mid-May 2020 to mid-October 2020 are based 2019 calendar year data.

Source: WTO Secretariat and UNSD Comtrade database.

Other trade and trade-related measures⁸

3.11. Annex 3 to this Report lists measures which may be considered to have a trade-restrictive effect. A total of 18 new trade-restrictive measures were recorded for G20 economies, mostly tariff increases, followed by bans⁹ and stricter customs procedures.¹⁰ Restrictive measures on exports included stricter administrative customs procedures and the imposition of duties (Table 3.5).¹¹ The monthly average of 3.6 trade-restrictive measures recorded for the period is the lowest recorded since 2012.

Table 3.5 Other trade and trade-related measures (Annex 3)

Type of measure	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Mid-Oct 19 to mid-May 20 (7 months)	Mid-May 20 to mid-Oct 20 (5 months)
Import	58	59	45	62	42	36	60	45	26	13
- Tariffs	25	34	29	37	25	20	46	27	12	5
- Customs procedures	25	15	12	19	13	12	2	4	2	3
- Taxes	3	3	2	3	2	1	3	3	2	0
- QRs	4	7	2	3	2	2	8	9	8	3
- Other	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	2
Export	10	20	14	23	6	11	10	8	5	5
- Duties	1	1	4	5	1	3	6	1	2	1
- QRs	5	4	5	4	1	4	2	2	0	2
- Other	4	15	5	14	4	4	2	5	3	2
Other	8	4	9	9	9	12	0	1	0	0
- Other ^a	4	0	0	0	3	2	0	1	0	0
- Local content	4	4	9	9	6	10	0	0	0	0
Total	76	83	68	94	57	59	70	54	31	18
<i>Average per month</i>	6.3	6.9	5.7	7.8	4.8	4.9	5.8	4.5	4.4	3.6

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. COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures are not included. Those measures are covered in Section 3.1.2 and in Annex 5.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

⁸ Annex 3 does not include SPS, TBT and services measures, which are dealt with in Sections 3.3, 3.4, and 4 and Annex 4.

⁹ For example, QRs on tyres, power tilers and colour television by India.

¹⁰ For example, non-automatic import licensing requirements on 1.447 tariff lines by Argentina; elimination of automatic import licensing procedures on certain products by Brazil; and revised requirements for business registration number by Indonesia.

¹¹ For example, QRs on onions by India, reference values requirements for exports of certain products by Argentina.

3.12. The measures recorded in Annex 3 cover a wide range of products. The main sectors affected (HS Chapters) were mineral fuels and oils (HS 27) 23.7%, machinery and mechanical appliances (HS 84) 17.2%, vehicle and parts thereof (HS 87) 13%, and electrical machinery and parts thereof (HS 85) 7.5%.

3.13. The trade coverage of the trade-restrictive measures affecting imports implemented during the review period was estimated at USD 42.9 billion, i.e. 0.3% of the value of G20 merchandise imports (Table 3.6 and Chart 3.5).¹²

Table 3.6 Share of trade covered by import-restrictive measures (Annex 3)

	Mid-Oct 15 to mid-May 16	Mid-May to mid-Oct 16	Mid-Oct 16 to mid-May 17	Mid-May to mid-Oct 17	Mid-Oct 17 to mid-May 18	Mid-May to mid-Oct 18	Mid-Oct 18 to mid-May 19	Mid-May to mid-Oct 19	Mid-Oct 19 to mid-May 20	Mid-May 20 to mid-Oct 20
Share in G20 imports	0.51%	0.11%	0.37%	0.26%	0.61%	3.53%	2.47%	3.05%	2.77%	0.29%
Share in total world imports	0.40%	0.08%	0.29%	0.2%	0.47%	2.73%	1.93%	2.36%	2.14%	0.23%

Note: Estimates are based on calendar year data. For example, data for mid-May 2020 to mid-October 2020 are based 2019 calendar year data.

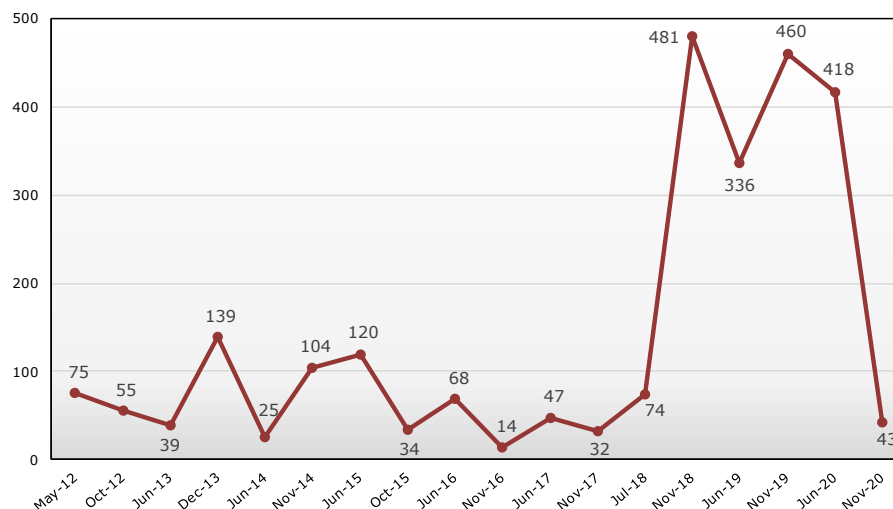
Source: WTO Secretariat and UNSD Comtrade database.

3.14. The overall picture with respect to the regular trade measures implemented by G20 economies during the review is noteworthy insofar as the trade coverages recorded for import facilitating and import restrictive measures are very close in size to the trade coverage of initiations of trade remedy actions. Normally, trade remedy initiations, while numerically important, cover a much lower share of trade than facilitating and restrictive measures. There may be several explanations for this narrative. First, the precipitous fall in global trade since Q2 of 2020 means that there has simply been less commerce to either facilitate or restrict. Second, the on-going global health emergency almost inevitably has resulted in governments focusing less on designing and implementing regular trade policies and more on dealing with the immediate trade issues in the context of the pandemic. Third, despite the early wave of trade restrictions on various essential medical goods, countries have generally expressed and followed a commitment to ensure that trade could flow freely during the pandemic. Finally, sizable chunks of the trade coverage of both facilitating and restrictive measures over the past 3-4 years have been directly associated with bilateral measures taken between the United States and China. The current review period has not seen any major new developments in that specific context.

¹² These figures include one measure by Argentina (non-automatic import licensing requirements), accounting for 43% of the total; one measure by Brazil (elimination of automatic import licensing procedures), accounting for 28.2% of the total; and one measure by Turkey (increase of import tariffs), accounting for 16.5% of the total.

Chart 3.5 Trade coverage of new import-restrictive measures identified in each period (not cumulative)

(USD billion)



Note: These figures are estimates and represent the trade coverage of the measures (i.e. annual imports of the products concerned from economies affected by the measures) introduced during each reporting period, and not the cumulative impact of the trade measures. COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures are not included.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

The stockpile of import-restrictive measures

3.15. Accurately estimating the roll-back of import-restrictive measures, and eventually the overall stockpile, is made more complex by the fact that a large number of temporary measures remain in place far beyond the envisaged termination date. Moreover, the Secretariat does not always get information on changes to reported measures. As a result, the figures below are estimates based on the information recorded in the Trade Monitoring Database since 2009. These estimates are also conditioned by the availability of termination dates of the import-restrictive measures and of the HS codes of products covered.¹³

3.16. Table 3.7 and Chart 3.6 show that the stockpile of G20 import restrictions in force has grown steadily since 2009 – in value terms and as a percentage of world imports – and that a significant increase in both took place from 2017 to 2018. This specific jump is largely explained by measures introduced on steel and aluminium, and by tariff increases introduced as part of bilateral trade tensions (but excluding those that have been terminated). At the end of 2019 some 10.4% of G20 imports were affected by import restrictions implemented by G20 economies since 2009 and still in force. This is the equivalent of USD 1.5 trillion out of a total USD 14.6 trillion of G20 total imports. Preliminary estimates suggest that the stockpile for 2020 (based on 2019 import figures) would be close to USD 1.6 trillion by mid-October 2020. Table 3.7 also shows that the trade coverage for G20 terminations of import restrictions represents 0.09% of G20 total imports, suggesting that any roll-back of such measures remains negligible.

Table 3.7 Cumulative trade coverage of G20 import-restrictive non COVID-19 related measures, 2009-19

(USD billion, unless otherwise indicated)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total imports (world)	12,486	15,163	18,109	18,193	18,483	18,654	16,360	15,812	17,587	19,402	18,869
Total imports (G20)	9,823	11,933	14,263	14,143	14,340	14,451	12,561	12,228	13,615	15,064	14,629
Total G20 import restrictions in force	68.12	114.82	214.60	226.26	369.04	418.51	500.95	506.92	724.23	1,327.78	1,517.86
Share in G20 imports (%)	0.69	0.96	1.50	1.60	2.57	2.90	3.99	4.15	5.32	8.81	10.38
Share in world imports (%)	0.55	0.76	1.19	1.24	2.00	2.24	3.06	3.21	4.12	6.84	8.04

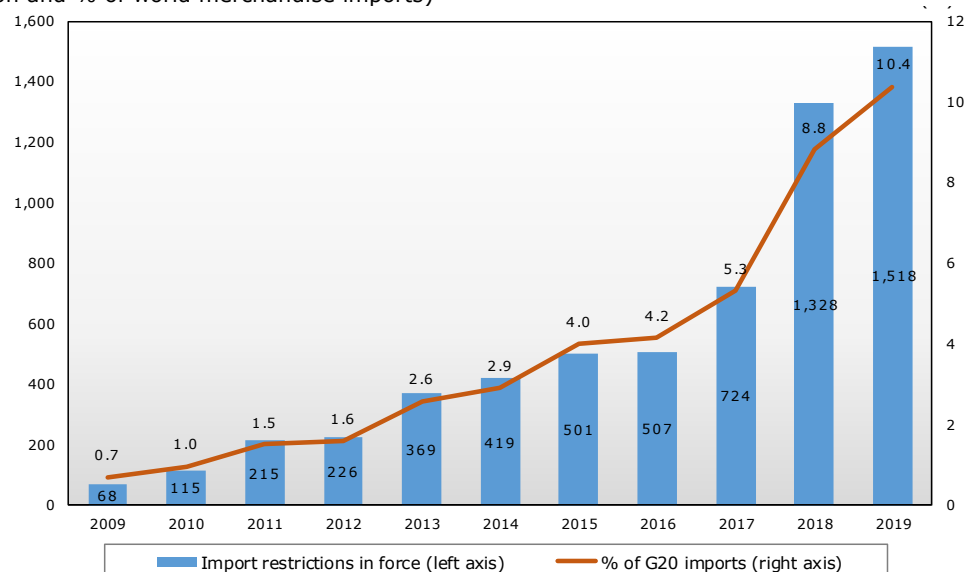
¹³ Only import measures where HS codes were available are included in the calculation.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total G20 import restrictions terminated		2.39	13.73	58.67	36.53	32.69	0.19	0.02	3.88	5.44	13.12
Share in G20 imports (%)		0.02	0.10	0.41	0.25	0.23	0.001	0.0001	0.03	0.04	0.09
Share in world imports (%)		0.02	0.08	0.32	0.20	0.18	0.001	0.0001	0.02	0.03	0.07

Source: WTO calculations, based on UNSD Comtrade database.

Chart 3.6 Cumulative trade coverage of G20 import-restrictive measures on goods in force since 2009

(USD billion and % of world merchandise imports)



Note: The cumulative trade coverage estimated by the Secretariat is based on information available in the Trade Monitoring Database (TMDB) on import measures recorded since 2009 and considered to have a trade-restrictive effect. The estimates include import measures for which HS codes were available. The figures do not include trade remedy measures. COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures are not included. The import values were sourced from the UNSD Comtrade database.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.1.2 COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures

3.17. Annex 5 to this Report lists trade and trade-related measures in the area of goods which have been implemented by G20 economies specifically in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The measures contained in Annex 5 were implemented between mid-May and mid-October 2020. Details of the measures implemented in the context of the pandemic up until mid-May 2020 are contained in annex 5 of the June G20 Report.¹⁴

3.18. Forty-one new COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures were recorded for G20 economies between May and October 2020. Some 34% of the measures were extensions of existing measures originally implemented in the early stages of the pandemic. Most of these measures were adopted on a temporary basis. Of the measures implemented during the review period, 18 (44%) were of a trade facilitating nature.¹⁵ And twenty-three measures (56%) could be considered trade restrictive.¹⁶ Export bans continue to account for more than 90% of all restrictive measures recorded.

¹⁴ The full list of measures can also be viewed at: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/covid19_e.htm.

¹⁵ According to preliminary estimates by the WTO Secretariat, the trade coverage of the COVID-19 trade facilitating measures implemented during the review period amounted to USD 129.6 billion (including exports and based on annual 2019 trade figures).

¹⁶ According to preliminary estimates by the WTO Secretariat, the trade coverage of the COVID-19 trade restrictive measures implemented during the review period amounted to USD 105.4 billion (including exports and based on annual 2019 trade figures).

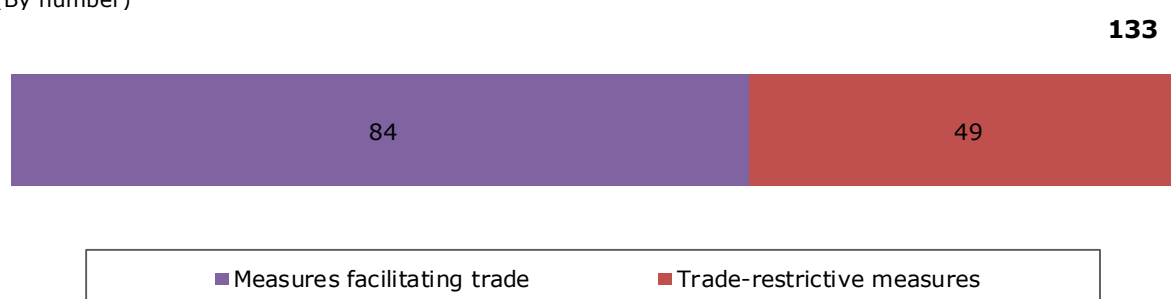
3.19. Annex 5 shows that the reduction or elimination of import tariffs and import taxes make up one-third of trade facilitating measures taken during the review period. Certain G20 economies reduced their tariffs on a variety of goods such as PPE, sanitizers, disinfectants, medical equipment and medicine/drugs. In many cases, tariff reductions were also accompanied by exemptions from VAT and other taxes. Regarding exports, the termination of export bans¹⁷ make up one-third of trade facilitating measures, followed by the elimination of export duties (11%).¹⁸

3.20. Overall, since the outbreak of the pandemic, 133 COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures¹⁹ have been recorded for the G20 economies collectively. Most of these measures were adopted on a temporary basis. Although in the early stages of the pandemic a majority of measures restricted the free flow of trade, the general picture as of mid-October shows that 84 (63%) of all G20 measures taken in response to the pandemic were of a trade facilitating nature.²⁰ A total of 49 measures (37%) could be considered trade-restrictive (Charts 3.7 and 3.8).²¹

3.21. Specifically, for this review period, four facilitating measures²² were phased-out.²³ Seven restrictive measures²⁴ were also repealed during the period between mid-May and mid-October.²⁵

Chart 3.7 G20 COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures, by mid-October 2020

(By number)



Source: WTO Secretariat.

¹⁷ For example, hydroxychloroquine, ventilators, PPE/masks, hand sanitizers, and certain food products.

¹⁸ For example, duties on raw hide and skins, and exoneration for SMEs.

¹⁹ Only one recorded measure has not been confirmed.

²⁰ According to preliminary estimates by the WTO Secretariat, the trade coverage of the COVID-19 trade facilitating measures implemented since the beginning of the pandemic amounted to USD 155 billion (including exports and based on annual 2019 trade figures).

²¹ According to preliminary estimates by the WTO Secretariat, the trade coverage of the COVID-19 trade restrictive measures implemented since the beginning of the pandemic amounted to USD 111.3 billion (including exports and based on annual 2019 trade figures).

²² For example, elimination of export duties on raw hides and skins by Argentina; termination of the temporary export quota on wheat by the Russian Federation; elimination of export tariffs on food products by the Eurasian Economic Union; and elimination of import tariffs on ethyl alcohol by Turkey.

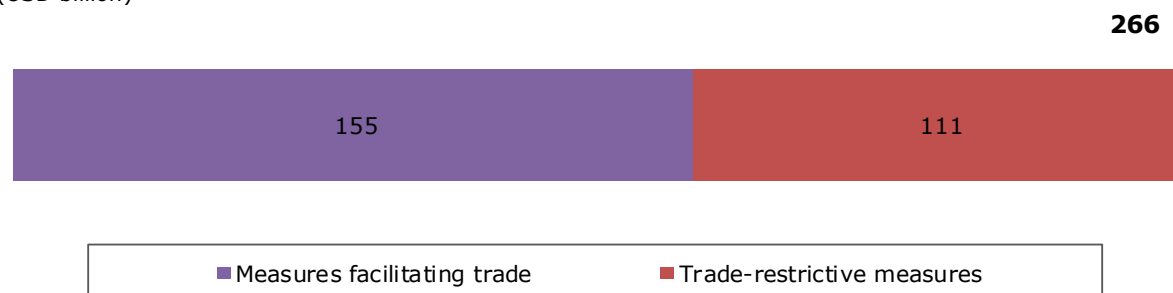
²³ According to preliminary estimates by the WTO Secretariat, the trade coverage amounted to USD 8.4 billion (including exports and based on annual 2019 trade figures).

²⁴ For example, termination of export licensing requirements on medical ventilators by Argentina; 4 termination of export bans on hydroxychloroquine, ventilators, PPE/masks, sanitizers by India; termination of export ban on food products by the Eurasian Economic Union; and termination of prior export authorization on lemons by Turkey.

²⁵ According to preliminary estimates by the WTO Secretariat, the trade coverage amounted to USD 32.1 billion (including exports and based on annual 2019 trade figures).

Chart 3.8 Trade coverage of G20 COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures, by mid-October 2020

(USD billion)



Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.22. The gradual phase-out of exports constraints targeting products such as surgical masks, gloves, medicine, and disinfectant continues. The roll back of other trade and trade-related measures taken in the early stages of the pandemic is also taking place. For instance, around 27% of the COVID-19 specific restrictive measures implemented by G20 economies had been repealed by mid-October.²⁶

3.23. On the other hand, G20 economies had also been repealing facilitating measures which had been implemented. For instance, around 21% of COVID-19 specific facilitating measures²⁷ have been terminated.²⁸

3.24. As of mid-October, 68 COVID-19 measures affecting trade in services were compiled for G20 economies with most of them being trade-facilitating in nature. The measures listed are covered separately in Section 4 and Annex 6.²⁹

3.25. Some 30 COVID-19 related measures regarding trade-related intellectual property rights were compiled for G20 economies - and verified by the respective economies - until mid-October 2020. A number of these measures were aimed at promoting innovation or facilitating access with respect to COVID-19-related health technologies to measures that ease certain procedural requirements or deadlines for administrative matters. These measures are further covered in Section 5.

3.26. By mid-October 2020, some 255 formal notifications and communications on COVID-19 trade-related measures had been received by the Secretariat from WTO Members and Observers, including from G20 economies. Some WTO Members notified multiple times under the same subject area. Notifications focused largely on SPS, TBT and QRs. About two-thirds of the overall notifications were related to SPS and TBT measures, such as trade in PPE, food, live animals and medical equipment. Many of these measures aimed at streamlining certification procedures, and moving towards more electronic/digital procedures, including electronic certification, to facilitate access to PPE and other medical equipment necessary to combat the pandemic, and to food. Some also focused on COVID-19 risks from international trade in live animals. In the case of the QR notifications, Members notified prohibitions and restrictions on the export of PPE, sanitizers and disinfectants, and pharmaceuticals were recorded. Some Members also restricted the export of foodstuffs and notified them to the Committee on Agriculture. Around half of the export restrictive measures were notified as temporary. These notifications are described in more detail in subsequent Sections of this Report.

²⁶ According to preliminary estimates by the WTO Secretariat, the trade coverage amounted to USD 45.1 billion (including exports and based on annual 2019 trade figures).

²⁷ For example: reduction of import tariffs; VAT exemptions, suspension of AD duties; elimination of certain taxes; import certification requirements.

²⁸ According to preliminary estimates by the WTO Secretariat, the trade coverage amounted to USD 37.2 billion (including exports and based on annual 2019 trade figures).

²⁹ Measures have been compiled for Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, the Russian Federation, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

3.2 Trade remedies³⁰

3.27. This Section provides an assessment of trends regarding the use of trade remedies by G20 economies during the following periods: July–December 2018, January–June 2019, July–December 2019 and January–June 2020.³¹ It also includes an assessment of these periods on a 6- and 12-month basis to show trends over time.

Anti-dumping measures³²

3.28. The most recent data (January–June 2020) show an increase of 69% in the number of anti-dumping investigations initiated by G20 members compared to July–December 2019. Table 3.8 shows that G20 members initiated 157 anti-dumping investigations in the most recent period, compared with 93 during the previous six months. During July 2019–June 2020 compared with July 2018–July 2019, the overall level of initiations by G20 members increased substantially (from 137 to 250) an increase almost entirely attributable to just two G20 economies, i.e. India and the United States.

Table 3.8 Number of initiations of anti-dumping investigations

G20 member	July-Dec. 2018	Jan.-June 2019	July-Dec. 2019	Jan.-June 2020	July 2018- June 2019	July 2019- June 2020
Argentina	5	10	7	4	15	11
Australia	1	7	0	15	8	15
Brazil	0	0	1	3	0	4
Canada	9	0	6	6	9	12
China	8	10	4	0	18	4
European Union	6	5	6	2	11	8
India	3	18	41	57	21	98
Indonesia	0	0	6	2	0	8
Japan	0	0	1	1	0	2
Korea, Republic of	3	4	1	0	7	1
Mexico	2	3	3	4	5	7
Russian Federation ^a	1	2	2	2	3	4
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of ^b	3	2	0	1	5	1
South Africa ^c	3	0	0	0	3	0
Turkey	0	0	2	2	0	4
United States	12	20	13	58	32	71
Total	56	81	93	157	137	250

a Notified by the Russian Federation, but investigations are initiated by the Eurasian Economic Union on behalf of its members collectively.

b Notified by all Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member States collectively, as investigations are initiated by the GCC regional investigating authority on behalf of all GCC member States.

c Notified by South Africa; investigations are initiated by the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) on behalf of its members collectively.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.29. In terms of product breakdown, metal products accounted for the largest share (approximately 30%-50%) of initiations over the different reporting periods. This sector accounted for 28 initiations in the second half of 2018, 24 in the first half of 2019, 39 in the second half of 2019 and 73 in the first half of 2020. Steel products (Chapters 72 and 73 of the HS classification) accounted for 70% of these investigations (115 out of 164). In many instances, a single importing Member initiated investigations on the same steel product from several exporting countries simultaneously – seven steel products accounted for 53 of the investigations over these periods. The United States initiated 47 investigations in this sector during July 2019–June 2020, followed by India with 25 and Australia with 14. China continues to be the most target subject of investigations on

³⁰ This Section is without prejudice to the right of Members to take trade remedy actions under the WTO.

³¹ These periods coincide with the Members' semi-annual reporting periods.

³² 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.

metal products, with 21 investigations on its products during July 2019–June 2020, followed by Viet Nam (9), Malaysia (8) and Indonesia (5).

3.30. Chemical products accounted for the second-largest share of initiations in the second half of 2018 and in the first half of 2019, dropping to third place in the second half of 2019, before moving back to second place in the first half of 2020. On a 12-month basis, the number of initiations on chemical products significantly increased, from 22 during July 2018–June 2019 to 42 during July 2019–June 2020. Chinese products were the most affected, accounting for 22% of the 64 new investigations of products in this sector over the 24 months examined. During July 2019–June 2020, China, United States, and Republic of Korea were the G20 economies most affected by initiations in this sector, with 12, 6 and 4 initiations, respectively, out of 42.

3.31. Plastics and rubber, which were below sixth place in the second half of 2018 (representing 4% of the total investigations), moved to second place in the first half of 2019 (along with chemical products), remaining in that position in the second half of 2019 and then dropping to third place in the first half of 2020. Chinese products accounted for 9 of the 47 new initiations in this sector over the 24 months. Textiles, which accounted for 6% of all initiations during the entire reporting period, ranking below sixth place in the second half of 2018 and the first half of 2019, moved to fourth place in the second half of 2019 and the first half of 2020.

3.32. While anti-dumping investigations do not necessarily lead to the imposition of measures, a rise in the number of investigations initiated is an early indicator of a likely rise in the number of measures imposed. Over the 24 months covered in this Section, a total of 210 anti-dumping measures were imposed by G20 economies (Table 3.9). 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 3.9 Number of anti-dumping measures imposed by G20 economies

G20 member	July-Dec. 2018	Jan.-June 2019	July-Dec. 2019	Jan.-June 2020	July 2018-June 2019	July 2019-June 2020
Argentina	1	5	8	4	6	12
Australia	0	10	2	0	10	2
Brazil	3	0	6	0	3	6
Canada	5	8	3	3	13	3
China	14	3	9	1	17	10
European Union	1	1	3	3	2	6
India	9	10	3	6	19	9
Indonesia	0	0	1	0	0	1
Japan	0	0	0	0	0	0
Korea, Republic of	4	2	0	0	6	0
Mexico	1	5	3	0	6	3
Russian Federation ^a	0	1	1	3	1	4
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of ^b	0	2	0	2	2	2
South Africa ^c	0	0	0	3	0	3
Turkey	2	0	0	0	2	0
United States	17	16	17	12	33	29
Total	57	63	53	37	120	90

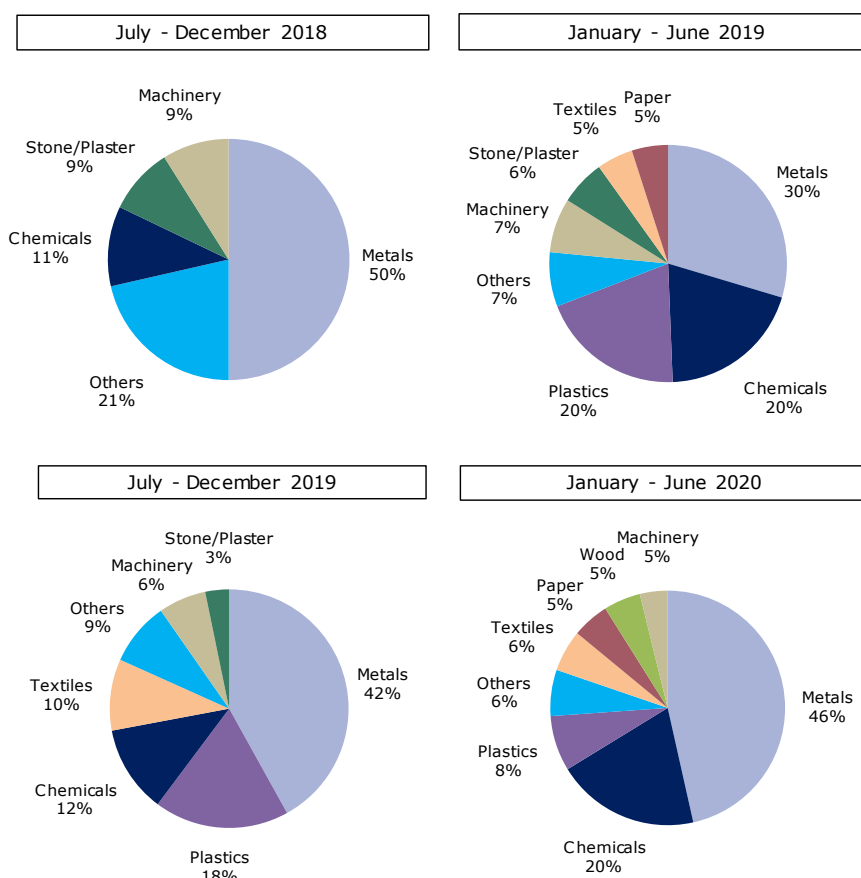
a Notified by the Russian Federation, but investigations are initiated by the Eurasian Economic Union on behalf of its members collectively.

b Notified by all GCC member States collectively, as investigations are initiated by the GCC regional investigating authority on behalf of all GCC member States.

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

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Chart 3.9 G20 anti-dumping initiations, by product



Note: Values are rounded.

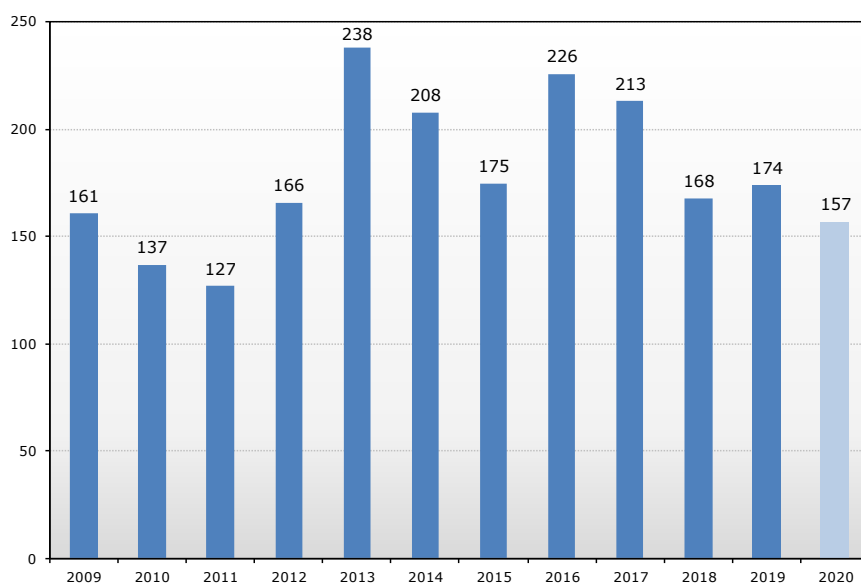
Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.33. On a calendar-year basis, since the first Trade Monitoring Report was circulated in 2009, anti-dumping activities of G20 members initially declined through 2011, then rebounded, peaking in 2013, with 238 new investigations initiated (Chart 3.10).³³ The initial figure covering the first six months of 2020 (157) may indicate an increase in anti-dumping initiations for the full year.

3.34. As at 20 October 2020, only two G20 members had notified anti-dumping actions referring to the COVID-19 pandemic. In March 2020, Brazil suspended anti-dumping duties on syringes and vacuum plastic tubes for blood collection, and Argentina suspended them on syringes and parenteral solutions.

³³ While 2013 shows an important increase in activity, the number of initiations is still significantly lower than the peaks of activity seen in 1999-2002.

Chart 3.10 Number of G20 initiations of anti-dumping investigations, 2009-20^a



a Data for 2020 cover January to June.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Countervailing measures

3.35. The most recent data (January-June 2020) show an increase of 29% in the number of countervailing duty investigations initiated by G20 members compared to July-December 2019 (Table 3.10). On a 12-month basis, the number of initiations significantly increased, to 48 in July 2020 from 34 in July 2019.

Table 3.10 Number of initiations of countervailing duty investigations

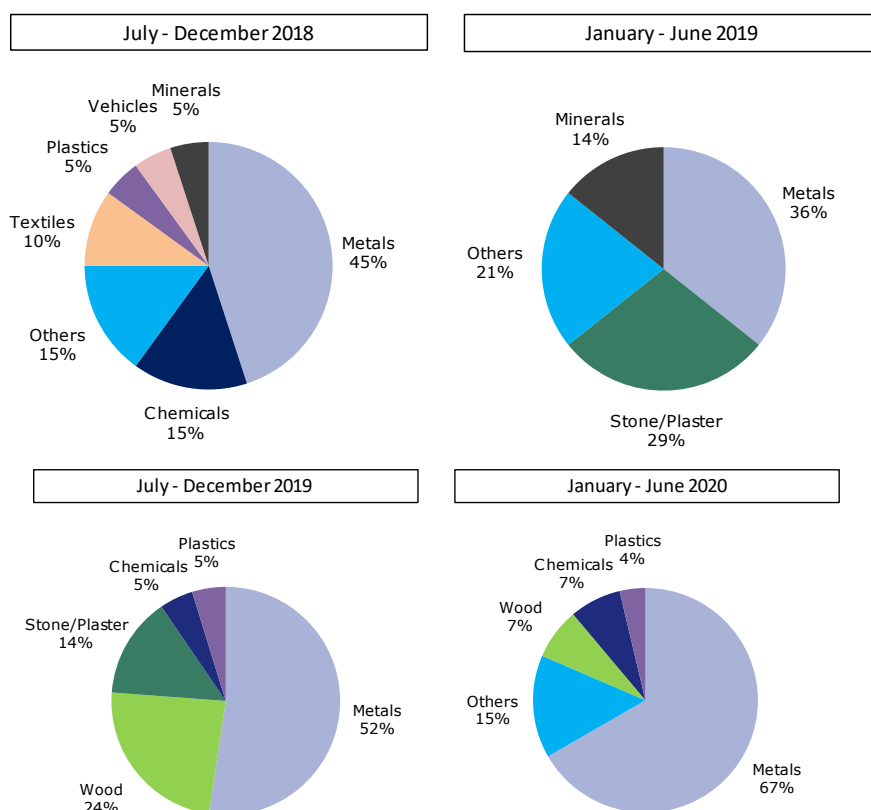
G20 member	July-Dec. 2018	Jan.-June 2019	July-Dec. 2019	Jan.-June 2020	July 2018- June 2019	July 2019- June 2020
Australia	1	0	0	6	1	6
Brazil	0	0	0	0	0	0
Canada	0	0	3	1	0	4
China	2	0	1	0	2	1
European Union	1	3	2	1	4	3
India	9	0	9	2	9	11
Turkey	0	0	0	0	0	0
United States	7	11	6	17	18	23
Total	20	14	21	27	34	48

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.36. Various sectors were targeted by countervailing investigations over the four periods, with metal products accounting for 43 of the 82 initiations by G20 members over the 24 months examined. Thirty of the investigations involving the metals sector concerned steel products. Almost all the investigations involving the metals sector were conducted concurrently with an anti-dumping investigation on the same product over the 24 months examined.

3.37. The stone/plaster and wood sectors accounted for the second- and third-largest numbers of investigations, with seven initiations each. The remaining investigations covered a range of goods, including chemicals, machinery, miscellaneous manufactured articles, plastics, minerals, vegetable products, vehicles, and textile products (Chart 3.11).

Chart 3.11 G20 initiations of countervailing duty investigations, by product

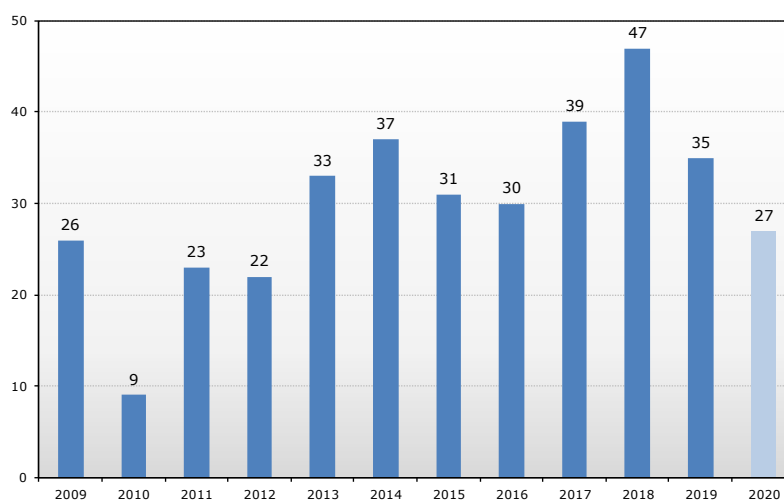


Note: Values are rounded.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.38. On a calendar-year basis, since the first Trade Monitoring Report in 2009, the number of countervailing duty investigations by G20 economies initially declined in 2010, then rose through 2014. Following a downward trend in 2015 and 2016, the number of initiations peaked in 2018 (Chart 3.12). The number of initiations in 2019 decreased by 26% compared to 2018. If, however, the trend in the first half of 2020 continues, the number of initiations in 2020 could be substantially higher than in 2019.

Chart 3.12 Countervailing investigations initiated by G20 members, 2009-20^a



^a Data for 2020 cover January to June.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.39. Over the 24 months covered, a total of 57 countervailing measures were imposed by G20 members (Table 3.11). However, as it can take up to 18 months for a countervailing investigation to be concluded, these measures may not necessarily be the result of initiations in the same period. This lag may account for the slight decrease in the number of measures applied in July 2019-June 2020 compared with July 2018-June 2019 despite the increase recorded in the number of investigations initiated.

3.40. As at 20 October 2020, no G20 member had notified to the WTO any countervailing duty action referring to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 3.11 Number of countervailing measures imposed by G20 members

G20 member	July-Dec. 2018	Jan.-June 2019	July-Dec. 2019	Jan.-June 2020	July 2018- June 2019	July 2019- June 2020
Australia	0	1	0	0	1	0
Brazil	0	1	0	0	1	0
Canada	5	0	0	0	5	6
China	0	0	0	1	0	1
European Union	1	2	1	3	3	4
India	0	1	4	4	1	8
United States	5	13	7	8	18	15
Total	11	18	12	16	29	28

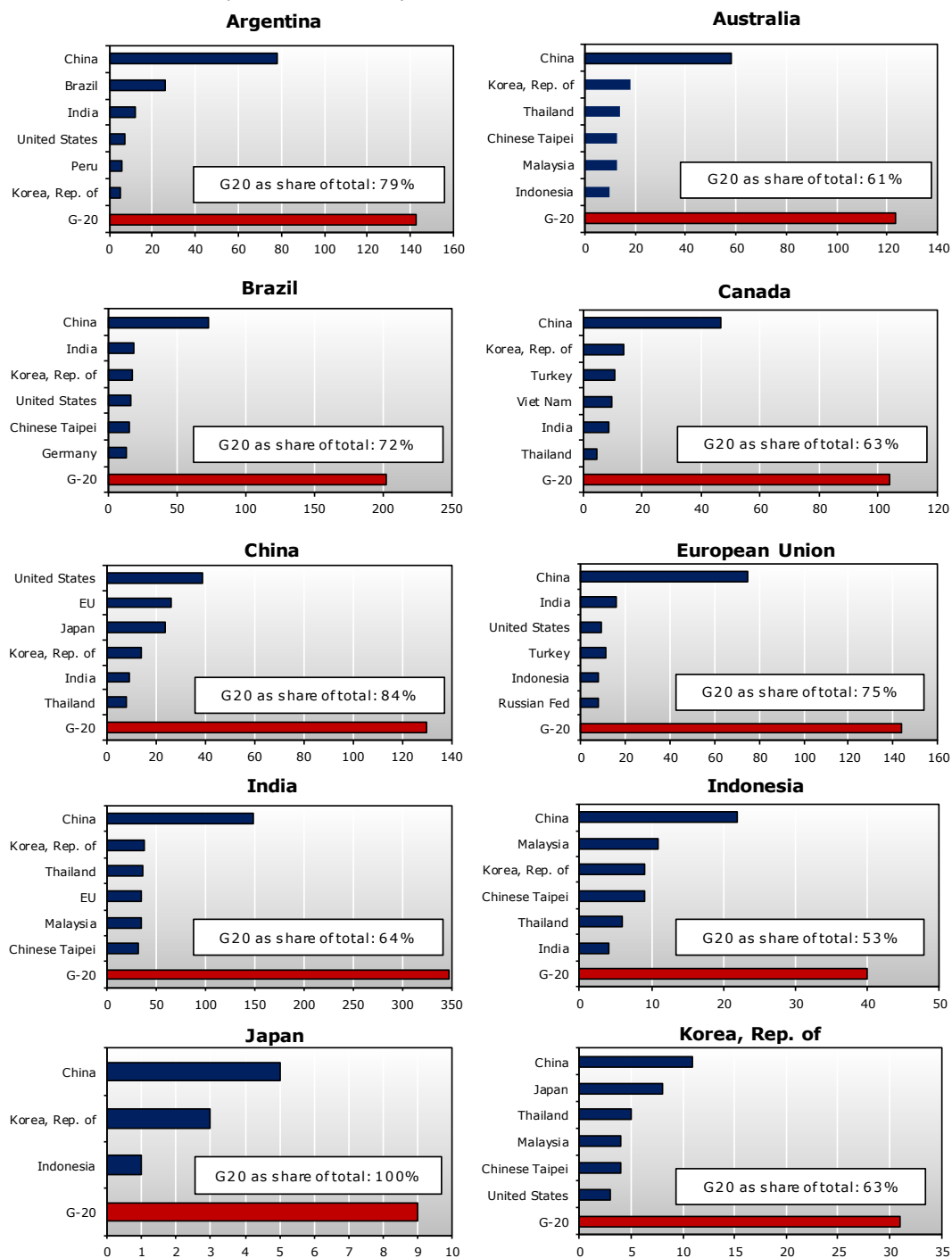
Source: WTO Secretariat.

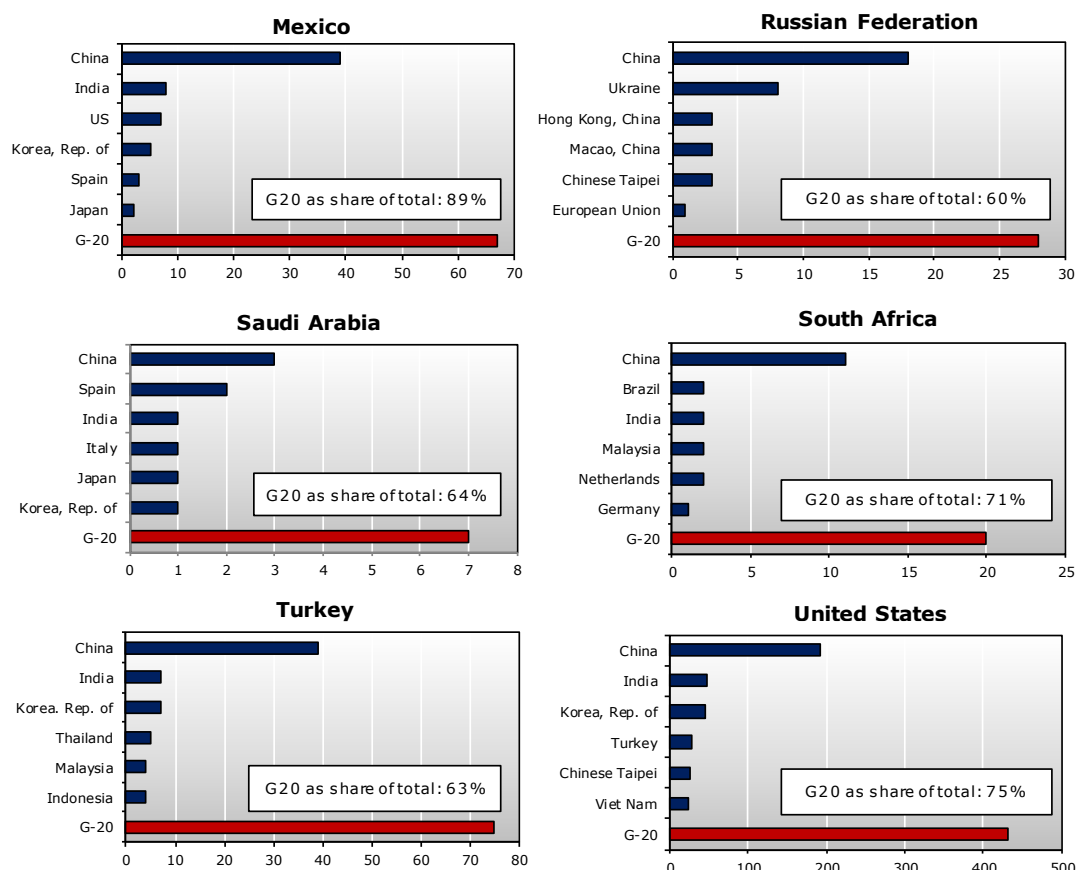
Anti-dumping and countervailing measures, by trading partner

3.41. Chart 3.13 shows the top six trading partners affected by trade remedy initiations (excluding safeguards) reported by each G20 member between 2008 and 2020 (January-June 2020). China remained, by far, the most targeted exporter, accounting for 29% of the reported initiations. The second most targeted exporter, Republic of Korea, accounted for 7% of total initiations. G20 initiations involving products from other G20 members accounted for approximately 70% of total initiations. In all reporting periods, initiations on products from other G20 members accounted for at least 53% of each individual G20 member's total initiations.

Chart 3.13 G20 anti-dumping and countervailing initiations by trading partner, 2008-20

(Number of initiations January 2008-June 2020)





Note: Argentina, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (at GCC level) initiated anti-dumping investigations only. While initiations/measures could target the European Union as a whole, they also could specifically target a particular EU member State.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

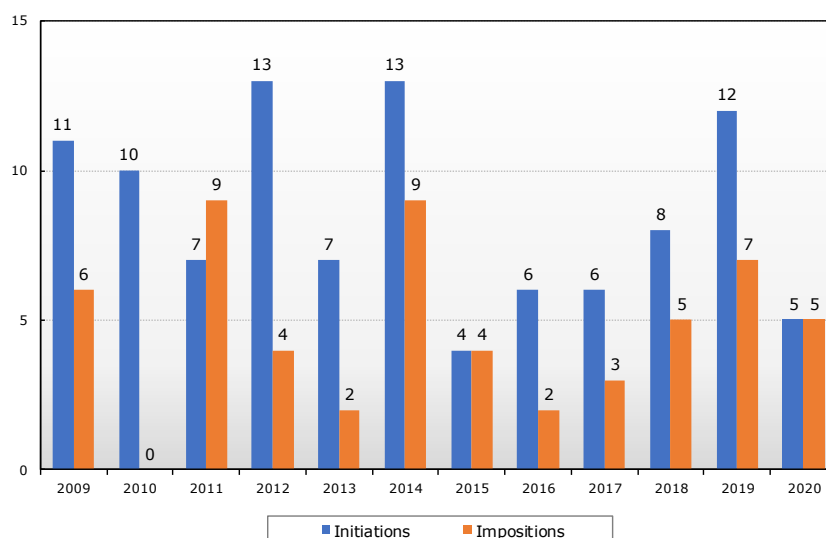
Safeguard measures

3.42. Safeguard measures are temporary measures imposed in response to increased imports of goods that cause serious injury to the importing Member's domestic industry and are imposed on products from all sources (i.e. all exporting countries)³⁴. Thus, safeguards are subject to different rules and timelines than anti-dumping and countervailing measures and, therefore, are not directly comparable to those measures.

3.43. Chart 3.14 shows the trend of G20 initiations of safeguard investigations, together with the trend of G20 impositions of measures, on a calendar-year basis, since 2009.

³⁴ With the exception of special and differential treatment provided for developing countries in Article 9.1 of the Safeguards Agreement.

Chart 3.14 G20 initiations of safeguard investigations and impositions of safeguard measures, 2009-20^a



a Data for 2020 cover January to June. Some notifications are ambiguous about timing. For those notifications, an additional notification clarifying, ex post, the timing of the measure's taking effect is sometimes filed. For this reason, the number of impositions in a given period indicated in past reports may differ from the figures indicated in the most recent Report.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.44. In the period covered by Chart 3.14, the number of G20 members' initiations peaked in 2012 and 2014. It fell in 2015 but, since then, the figures have gradually increased, with the most recent peak in 2019. The most recent figure of initiations for the first half of 2020 is 5. If this trend continues throughout the year, it might indicate a decrease in the number of initiations for all of 2020, which would be below that of 2019 but above the levels in 2015-18.

3.45. Regarding impositions of safeguard measures, the most recent peaks were in 2011 and 2014, both with 9 impositions. For the first half of 2020, 5 impositions were recorded. If this trend is sustained for the second half of 2020, the resulting level would be the highest since 2009.

3.46. Table 3.12 shows the initiations of safeguard investigations by G20 members on a six-month basis, while Table 3.13 shows the number of G20 impositions of safeguard measures during the same period.

Table 3.12 Initiations of safeguard investigations by G20 members

G20 member	July-Dec. 2018	Jan-June 2019	July-Dec. 2019	Jan-June 2020	July 2018-June 2019	July 2019-June 2020
Canada	1	0	0	0	1	0
China	0	0	0	0	0	0
European Union	0	0	0	0	0	0
India	0	0	3	0	0	3
Indonesia	1	1	4	1	2	5
Russian Federation ^a	1	2	0	0	3	0
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of ^b	0	0	1	0	0	1
South Africa ^c	0	1	0	2	1	2
Turkey	1	0	0	2	1	2
United States	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	4	4	8	5	8	13

a Notified by the Russian Federation, but investigations are initiated by the Eurasian Economic Union on behalf of its members collectively.
b Notified by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, but investigations are initiated at the level of the GCC.
c Notified by South Africa, but investigations are initiated by the SACU on behalf of its members collectively.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Table 3.13 Safeguard measures imposed by G20 members

G20 member	July-Dec. 2018	Jan-June 2019	July-Dec. 2019	Jan-June 2020	July 2018- June 2019	July 2019- June 2020
Canada	0	1	0	0	1	0
European Union	0	1	0	0	1	0
India	1	0	0	0	1	0
Indonesia	1	0	1	4	1	5
Russian Federation ^a	0	1	1	0	1	1
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of ^b	0	1	0	0	1	0
South Africa ^c	0	1	0	1	1	1
Turkey	0	0	1	0	0	1
United States	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2	5	3	5	7	8

a Notified by the Russian Federation, but investigations are initiated by the Eurasian Economic Union on behalf of its members collectively.

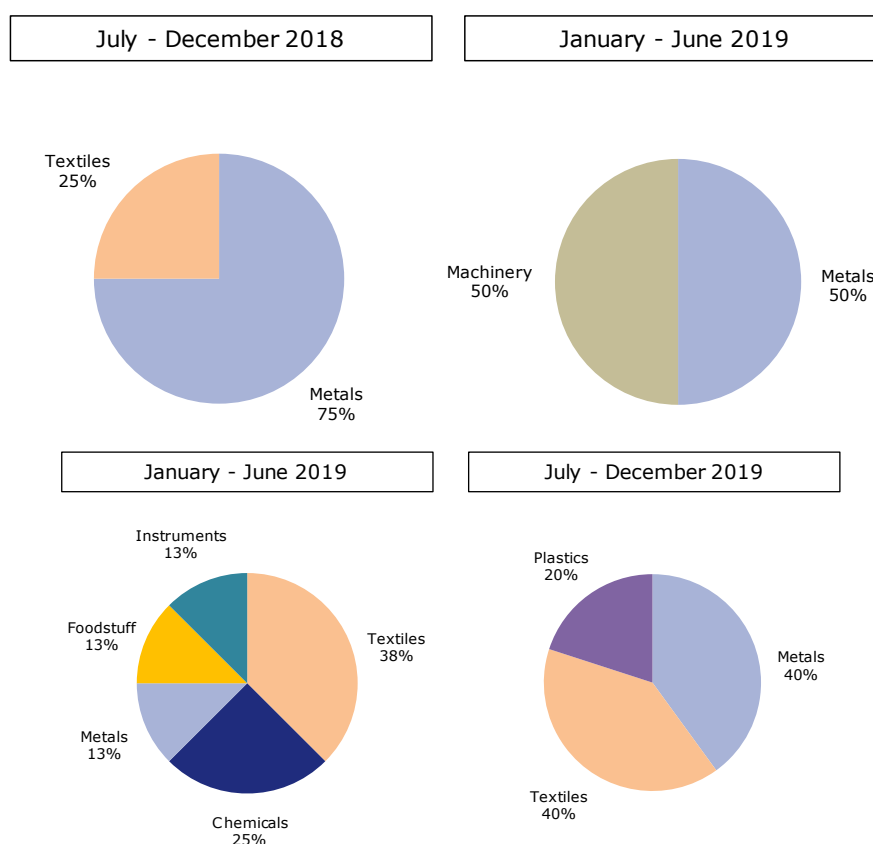
b Notified by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, but investigations are initiated at the level of the GCC.

c Notified by South Africa, but investigations are initiated by the SACU on behalf of its members collectively.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.47. Chart 3.15 shows the products covered by the initiated safeguard investigations, on a six-month basis. Initiations in the metals sector (the vast majority of which involve steel products) represented a large share for the last several periods, but the share dropped to 13% in the July-December 2019 period. The latest figure (January-June 2020), 40%, is an increase from the previous period, but is lower than the level seen in the second half of 2018 and the first half of 2019.

Chart 3.15 G20 initiations of safeguard investigations, by product



Note: Values are rounded.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.48. As at 20 October 2020, no G20 economy had notified a safeguard action referring to the COVID-19 pandemic to the WTO.

3.3 Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures³⁵

3.49. The Section below covers SPS transparency-related matters, including specific trade concerns (STCs) discussed in SPS Committee meetings, for the period 1 April to 30 September 2020. In addition, new SPS measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic are reported in a separate subsection, covering the period from 1 February to 30 September 2020.

SPS notifications

3.50. Under the SPS Agreement, WTO Members are obliged to provide an advance notification of their intention to introduce new or modified SPS measures³⁶, or to notify immediately when emergency measures are imposed. The main objective of complying with the SPS notification obligations is to inform other Members about new or modified regulations that may significantly affect international trade. Therefore, an increase in the number of notifications does not automatically imply greater protectionism, but can be a result of enhanced transparency and/or a greater number of legitimate health-protection measures.

3.51. G20 economies rank amongst the main "notifiers" of SPS measures, accounting for 66% of total regular notifications (including addenda), and 35% of emergency notifications, submitted to the WTO from 1 January 1995 until 30 September 2020. For the current reporting period, G20 economies submitted 59% of the regular and emergency notifications, including addenda, received by the WTO. Among the G20 economies, Brazil, Canada, European Union, Japan and United States submitted most of notifications to the WTO, accounting for 77% of all the notifications submitted by G20 economies in that period.

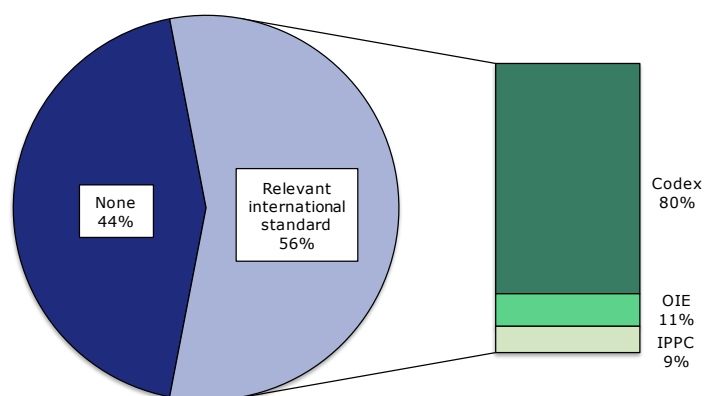
3.52. Many G20 economies are following the recommendation to notify SPS measures even when these are based on a relevant international standard³⁷, thereby substantially increasing the transparency regarding these measures. Of the 356 regular notifications (excluding addenda) submitted by G20 economies during the current review period, 56% indicated that an international standard, guideline or recommendation was relevant to the measure, of which 80% referred to Codex, 11% to OIE and 9% to IPPC (Chart 3.16). Furthermore, the notification formats include an entry asking whether the notified regulation conforms with the relevant international standard. Of the regular notifications that identified a relevant international standard, 36% indicated that the measure was in conformity with, or substantially the same as, the existing international standard, guideline or recommendation, which corresponds to a decrease of 22% relative to the previous reporting period. Of the remaining 64% of regular notifications, which did not indicate that the measure was in conformity with an existing international standard, Codex was the relevant international standard-setting body identified. Regarding emergency notifications, 97% of the emergency measures notified by G20 members indicated conformity with a relevant international standard, guideline or recommendation; in most cases, an OIE animal health standard.

³⁵ Information presented in this Section was retrieved from the SPS Information Management System (SPS IMS: <http://spsims.wto.org>). For more information, see also annual reports in document series [G/SPS/GEN/804/Rev.#](#) and [G/SPS/GEN/204/Rev.#](#).

³⁶ Transparency obligations are contained in Article 7 and Annex B of the SPS Agreement.

³⁷ WTO document G/SPS/7/Rev.4, paragraph 2.3.

Chart 3.16 Regular SPS notifications (excluding addenda) and international standards



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

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.53. The objective most frequently identified in the SPS measures notified by G20 economies during the review period was food safety, accounting for 78% of the notifications.³⁸ Food safety is a particularly important objective in the notifications of G20 economies, as the majority of notified measures relate to maximum residue limits (MRLs), food additives or pesticides and, in many notifications, several of these keywords were identified.

Specific Trade Concerns (STCs)

3.54. Measures maintained by G20 economies are often discussed in the SPS Committee. Of all WTO Members maintaining the most measures subject to an STC, the top ten are all G20 economies. The STCs raised in the SPS Committee on measures maintained by G20 economies account for 73% of all STCs raised to date.

3.55. Out of the 26 STCs raised or discussed in the SPS Committee meeting of 25-26 June 2020³⁹, 17 related to measures maintained by G20 economies. Eight were raised for the first time (Table 3.14), and 9 had been discussed in previous Committee meetings. Of those 8, 2 addressed persistent problems that have been discussed 16 and 38 times, respectively (Table 3.15).

Table 3.14 New STCs in relation to measures maintained by G20 members raised in the June 2020 SPS Committee meeting

STC	Document title	Member maintaining the measure	Members raising the concern	Members supporting the concern	Date raised	Primary objective
471	US non-recognition of the pest-free status in the European Union for Asian longhorn beetle and citrus longhorn beetle	United States	European Union		24/06/2020	Plant health
472	India's fumigation requirements for grain and other products	India	Russian Federation	Canada	24/06/2020	Plant health
474	Modification of EU MRLs for plant protection products: Chlorpyrifos and Chlorpyrifos-methyl	European Union	Colombia; Ecuador	Dominican Republic; Egypt; Guatemala; Honduras; Indonesia; Paraguay; Peru	24/06/2020	Food safety
475	Modification of EU MRLs	European	Colombia;	Brazil; Chile;	24/06/2020	Food safety

³⁸ 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 damage 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.

³⁹ WTO documents G/SPS/R/99 and G/SPS/R/99/Corr.1.

STC	Document title	Member maintaining the measure	Members raising the concern	Members supporting the concern	Date raised	Primary objective
	for plant protection products: Mancozeb	Union	Costa Rica; Côte d'Ivoire; Ecuador; Paraguay	Guatemala; Honduras; Mexico; Nicaragua; Panama; Peru		
479	India's new requirements for animal feed in the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (dated 27 January 2020)	India	United States		24/06/2020	Food safety
484	India's approval procedures for animal products	India	Russian Federation		24/06/2020	Other concerns
485	China's administrative measures for the registration of overseas manufacturers of imported food (26 November 2019)	China	United States	European Union; Japan; Switzerland; Thailand	24/06/2020	Other concerns
486	Saudi Arabia's temporary suspension of Brazilian poultry exporting establishments	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	Brazil		24/06/2020	Food safety

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Table 3.15 Previously raised STCs in relation to measures maintained by G20 members discussed in the June 2020 SPS Committee meeting

STC	Document title	Members maintaining the measure	Members raising the concern	Members supporting the concern	First date raised	Primary objective	Times subsequently raised
193	General import restrictions due to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy	Certain Members	European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; Uruguay	01/06/2004	Animal health	38
382	EU legislation on endocrine disruptors	European Union	Argentina; China; Ecuador; Guatemala; India; Panama; Paraguay; United States	Australia; Benin; Brazil; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Canada; Central African Republic; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Dominican Republic; Egypt; El Salvador; The Gambia; Ghana; Guinea; Honduras; Indonesia; Jamaica; Kenya; Korea, Republic of; Madagascar; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Nigeria; Pakistan; Peru; Philippines; Senegal; Sierra Leone; South Africa; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; Togo;	25/03/2014	Food safety	16

STC	Document title	Members maintaining the measure	Members raising the concern	Members supporting the concern	First date raised	Primary objective	Times subsequently raised
				Uruguay; Viet Nam; Zambia			
439	US import restrictions on apples and pears	United States	European Union		01/03/2018	Plant health	6
441	Indonesia's approval procedures for animal and plant products	Indonesia	European Union	Brazil	12/07/2018	Other concerns	5
446	EU review of legislation on veterinary medicinal products	European Union	Argentina; United States	Australia; Brazil; Canada; Chile; Colombia; Japan; Paraguay	12/07/2018	Food safety	3
447	New EU definition of the fungicide folpet	European Union	China		12/07/2018	Food safety	5
448	EU MRLs for buprofezin, chlorothalonil, diflubenzuron, ethoxysulfuron, glufosinate, imazalil, ioxynil, iprodione, molinate, picoxystrobin and tepraloxym	European Union	Colombia; Costa Rica; Côte d'Ivoire; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Guatemala; India; Panama; Paraguay; United States	Argentina; Brazil; Canada; Chile; El Salvador; Honduras; Nicaragua; Peru; Turkey; Uruguay	01/11/2018	Food safety	5
459	New EU MRLs for lambda-cyhalothrin	European Union	China	Paraguay	18/07/2019	Food safety	2
469	EU regulation on high-risk plants (Regulation (EU) 2016/2031)	European Union	Israel	Canada; Kenya; United States	07/11/2019	Plant health	1

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.56. Out of the 17 STCs on measures maintained by G20 members discussed in the review period, nine related to measures implemented by G20 economies on food safety, one on animal health, four on plant health, and three related to other types of concerns (two regarding approval procedures and one regarding administrative measures for registration of overseas manufacturers). Discussions among Members in the SPS Committee continued to be multifaceted and dynamic, despite the combined written and oral procedure adopted for the June 2020 meeting.⁴⁰

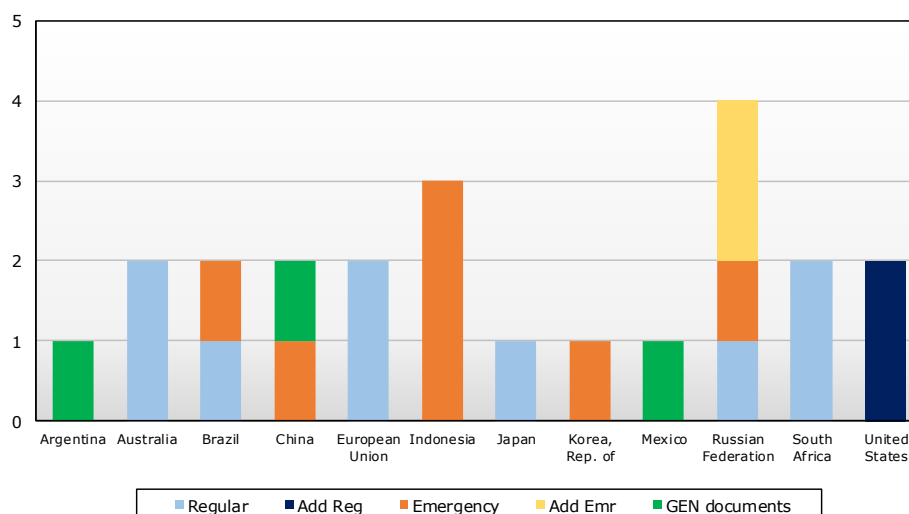
COVID-19-related SPS measures (1 February – 30 September 2020)

3.57. The SPS Agreement requires Members to base SPS-related trade measures on international standards, guidelines and recommendations, specifically those developed by the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) for food safety; the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) for animal health and zoonoses; and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) for plant health. The three standard-setting bodies and the WHO are monitoring the COVID-19 situation and, so far, have not recommended any trade restrictions. In the absence of relevant international standards, SPS measures must be based on a risk assessment. However, it may take some time before sufficient scientific evidence becomes available. Following the outbreak of the pandemic, some WTO Members felt they had to act quickly to ensure appropriate health protection and under the SPS Agreement, Members have the right to adopt provisional measures based on the available information. As more scientific evidence emerges and risk assessments can be carried out, the measures imposed must be reviewed within a reasonable period of time.

⁴⁰ WTO document JOB/SPS/7.

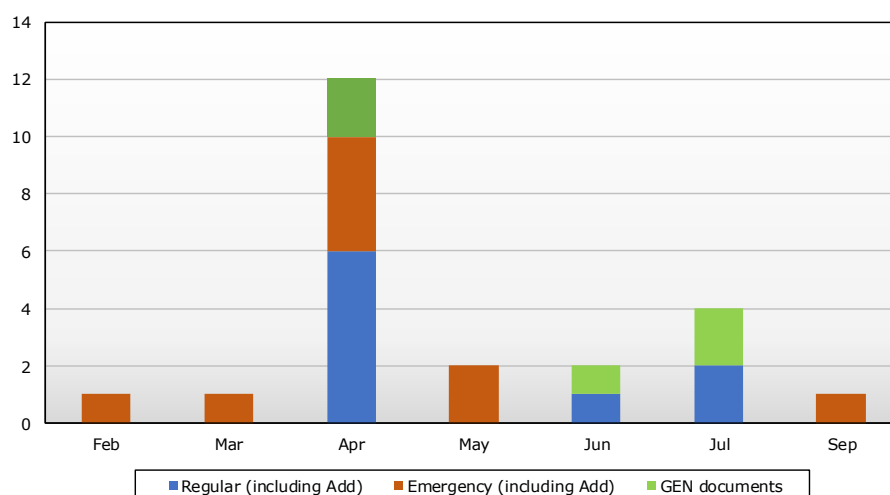
3.58. Between 1 February and 30 September 2020, 26 WTO Members submitted a total of 59 notifications and communications related to measures taken in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thirty-eight Members, including G20 economies, submitted one communication⁴¹, requesting the suspension of the processes and entry into force of reductions of MRLs for plant protection products, in light of the pandemic. Of the 59 notifications and communications, 23 were submitted by 12 G20 economies. Eleven measures were notified as regular notifications (including two addenda⁴²), seven⁴³ were notified as emergency measures, and three were submitted through a GEN document. Submitted documents are displayed, by G20 economy, in Chart 3.17 and, by month, in Chart 3.18.

Chart 3.17 Number of SPS notifications (regular, emergency and addenda) and GEN documents related to COVID-19, by G20 economies



Source: WTO Secretariat.

Chart 3.18 Number of SPS notifications (regular, emergency and addenda) and GEN documents related to COVID-19, by month



Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.59. Initially, these measures mainly related to restrictions on animal imports and/or transit from affected areas, and increased certification requirements. While several of the temporary restrictions imposed at the beginning of the pandemic were subsequently lifted, a new temporary import

⁴¹ WTO document G/SPS/GEN/1778/Rev.3 (also circulated as G/TBT/GEN/296/Rev.3).

⁴² Addenda to previous regular notifications to extend the final date for comments, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁴³ Two subsequent addenda were notified to withdraw previously notified restrictions.

restriction on wild animals considered possible intermediate hosts for COVID-19 transmission and the suspension of the import of frozen shrimps based on COVID-19 testing of imported cold-chain foods were imposed at a later stage. Apart from these, since April, the majority of notifications and communications submitted related to measures taken to facilitate trade, by allowing temporary flexibility for control authorities to use electronic certificates for checks. Of the 23 notifications and communications submitted by G20 economies, 12 were measures considered trade-facilitating.

3.4 Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)

Notifications submitted to the TBT Committee

3.60. The G20 economies remain the most frequent users of the TBT Committee's transparency mechanisms, having submitted 46% of all TBT notifications since 1995.⁴⁴

3.61. 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.⁴⁵ As a result, 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.⁴⁶

3.62. From 1 May to 1 October 2020 (the "review period")⁴⁷, G20 economies submitted 321 new regular notifications of TBT measures⁴⁸ out of 665 by all WTO Members (about 48%). The top five notifying G20 economies – covering around 71% of all G20 notifications – were Brazil (75); China (56); European Union (34); United States (33) and Republic of Korea (31). Of these 321 new regular notifications, the majority indicated as their main objective⁴⁹ the protection of human health or safety, including, as further explained below, various measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Various other notifications related to consumer information, labelling, prevention of deceptive practices and consumer protection, and quality requirements.

3.63. G20 economies sent 228 (about 53%) "follow-up notifications"⁵⁰ out of 434 submitted by all WTO Members during the review period. The continuing and frequent use of this type of notification

⁴⁴ Since 1995, over 29,285 new (regular) notifications of TBT measures have been submitted by WTO Members, 12,272 (42%) of which were by G20 economies. Overall, 39,298 new (regular) and follow-up (revisions, addenda, etc.) notifications of TBT measures have been submitted, 17,881 (46%) of which were notified by G20 economies.

⁴⁵ 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 guidelines 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". This recommendation was reiterated by the Committee in its Eighth, and last, Triennial Review (November 2018).

⁴⁶ TBT Agreement obligations are subject to 25 separate special and differential treatment (S&D) provisions conferring certain flexibilities. The Agreement contains more S&D provisions than any other WTO agreement apart from the GATT 1994.

⁴⁷With respect to specific trade concerns (STCs), this Section takes account of the STCs raised in the TBT Committee meeting of 28-29 October 2020.

⁴⁸ Viewed at: <http://tbttims.wto.org>.

⁴⁹ A TBT measure may pursue a variety of legitimate objectives, although, historically, the majority falls 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.

⁵⁰ Follow-up notifications are called "addenda", "corrigenda", or "supplements". They can also be in the form of "revisions" when the original measure is substantially re-drafted prior to adoption or entry into force. See G/TBT/35 for further information on the different types of TBT notifications.

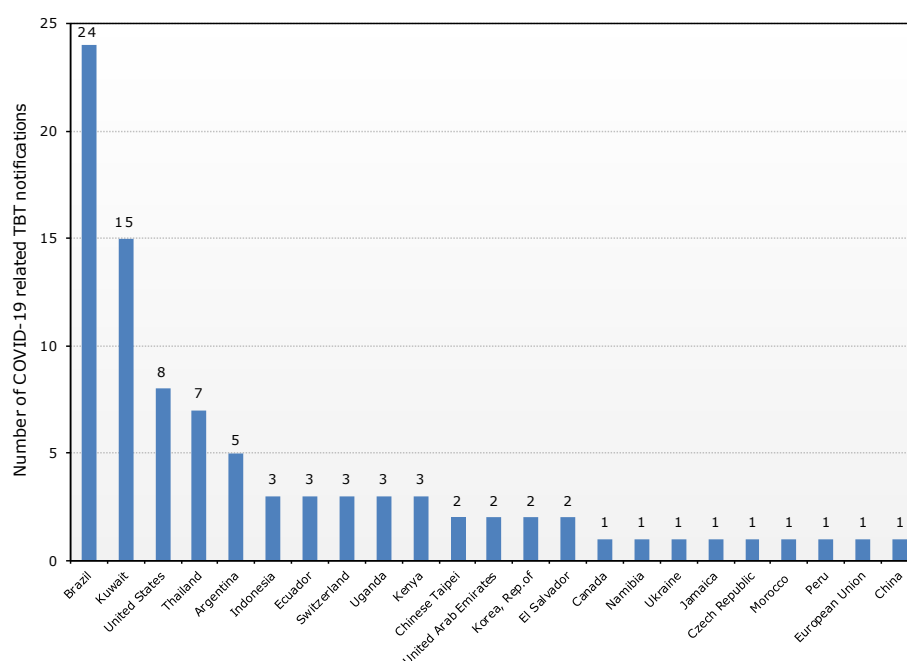
is a positive development, as it increases transparency and predictability across the measures' regulatory lifecycle.

COVID-19-related TBT notifications⁵¹

3.64. WTO Members submitted 91 TBT notifications/communications on standards and regulations in response to the pandemic.⁵² Most of the notifications were submitted under the emergency/urgent notification provisions of the TBT Agreement.⁵³ Under these provisions, WTO Members can adopt measures directly, and immediately notify them to the WTO, without providing the usual 60-day comment period (or six-month transition period prior to entry into force).

3.65. As at 1 October 2020, G20 economies had submitted almost half (45 out of 91) of all COVID-19-related TBT notifications by all WTO Members (Chart 3.18). The notifying G20 members include Brazil (24), United States (8), Argentina (5), Indonesia (3), Republic of Korea (2), Canada (1), European Union (1) and China (1). Around half of the total notified measures were reported as temporary, often applying for a period of six months.

Chart 3.19 COVID-19-related TBT notifications, by WTO Member



Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.66. TBT notifications in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic cover a wide range of products, including personal protection equipment (PPE), medical equipment, medical supplies, medicines, food and general coverage (Chart 3.20).^{54 55}

⁵¹ This Section covers notifications since the beginning of the pandemic. For further information on TBT and COVID-19, see "[Standards, Regulations and COVID-19 – what actions taken by WTO Members?](#)" (WTO, 2020).

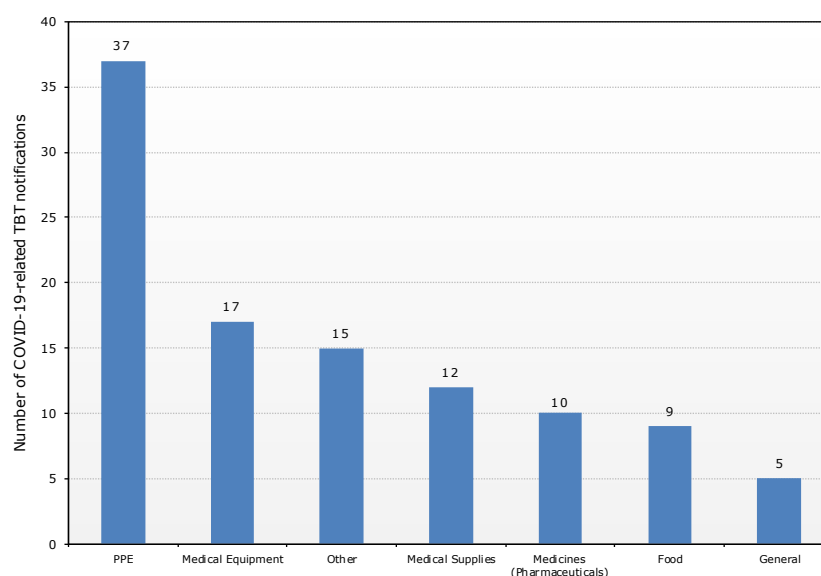
⁵² TBT notifications are classified as COVID-19-related if they contain the terms "coronavirus", "COVID", "SARS-COV-2" or "nCoV". This includes not only regular notifications but also eight follow-up notifications (in the form of revisions or addenda to previous regular notifications).

⁵³ TBT Agreement, Articles 2.10, 2.12, 5.7, and 5.9.

⁵⁴ With respect to medical goods, this Report adopts the product categories developed in "[Trade in Medical Goods in the Context of Tackling COVID-19](#)" (WTO, 2020), page 2 and Annex 1.

⁵⁵ The category of "General" includes notifications without a specific product scope. The "Other" category includes, for instance, clothing, textiles and tobacco products.

Chart 3.20 Product coverage of COVID-19-related TBT notifications



Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.67. The notified measures broadly fall into three main categories: streamlining certification procedures; ensuring the safety of medical goods; and making food available by relaxing technical regulations.

Measures discussed in the TBT Committee (STCs) ⁵⁶

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

3.69. A total of 149 (45 *new* and 104 *previously raised*) STCs were discussed during the two Committee meetings that fell within the review period: 72 (21 new and 51 previously raised) at the May 2020 meeting and 77 (24 new and 53 previously raised) at the October 2020 meeting. At the October meeting, Members submitted a record number of new STCs (24). The overall number of STCs raised also reached a record number of 77. In addition, some Members were being challenged for the first time in the Committee. In particular, overall in 2020, a record was reached with both the largest number of total STCs raised (213) and the largest number of new STCs raised (57) in a single year.

3.70. As depicted in Table 3.16, more than half (32 out of 45) of the *new* STCs discussed in the period concerned measures maintained by G20 economies.

Table 3.16 New STCs concerning G20 measures raised in the TBT Committee meetings of May and October 2020

New STCs - G20 measures
India: Draft Chemicals (Management and Safety) Rules, 2020 (ID 622) (<i>raised by United States</i>)
Russian Federation; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyz Republic; Armenia: Requirements for energy efficiency of energy related devices (ID 624) (<i>raised by Republic of Korea</i>)
United States: Guidance on Federal Conformity Assessment Activities (ID 625) (<i>raised by European Union</i>)
European Union: Revision of the Batteries Directive (ID 626) (<i>raised by Japan</i>)
European Union: Non-renewal of the approval of the active substance mancozeb (ID 627) (<i>raised by Colombia, Brazil, Costa Rica, United States, Ecuador, Paraguay, Guatemala, Indonesia, Nicaragua</i>)

⁵⁶ With respect to STCs, this Section takes account of the STCs which Members raised in the 28-29 October TBT Committee meeting.

New STCs - G20 measures
European Union: Draft Commission Regulation amending Annex III to Regulation (EC) No. 1925/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards botanical species containing hydroxyanthracene derivatives (ID 628) <i>(raised by Mexico)</i>
India: Quality Control Orders for Chemical and Petrochemical Substances (ID 630) <i>(raised by Canada, European Union, Chinese Taipei)</i>
India: Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, dated 27 January 2020, regarding operationalization of Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Amendment Regulations, 2020 (ID 631) <i>(raised by United States)</i>
India: Toys (Quality Control) Order, 2020 (IND/131); Amendment in Policy Condition No. 2(iii) to Chapter 95 of ITC (HS), 2017 - Schedule-I (Import Policy) (IND/143) (ID 632) <i>(raised by United States, European Union, Canada)</i>
India: FSSAI's Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 and the new implementing veterinary certificate for dairy products (ID 633) <i>(raised by European Union)</i>
European Union: EU Commission Regulation (EU) 2019/2013 for Energy Labelling of Electronic Displays (ID 634) <i>(raised by China)</i>
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: SASO 2663 Air Conditioner Minimum Energy Performance, labelling and testing requirements for low-capacity window type and single-slit, and related certifications (ID 635) <i>(raised by China)</i>
Australia: Maturation requirements for imported alcohol (ID 636) <i>(raised by Brazil)</i>
Russian Federation: Regulation on safety of alcoholic beverages, Technical Regulation TR EAEU 047/2018 (ID 637) <i>(raised by Mexico)</i>
India: Expansion of BIS Certification to plugs, socket outlets and power cords (ID 639) <i>(raised by China)</i>
China: Provisions for Cosmetics Registration (Draft for Comments) <i>(raised by Japan, United States, Republic of Korea) (*)</i>
China: Administrative Measures on Cosmetic Labelling <i>(raised by Japan, Republic of Korea) (*)</i>
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of Bahrain, State of Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Yemen, United Arab Emirates: Halal Feedstuff <i>(raised by United States, Russian Federation) (*)</i>
China: Commercial Cryptography Administrative Regulations <i>(raised by United States) (*)</i>
Mexico: Decree amending, supplementing and repealing various provisions of the Regulations on Sanitary Control of Products and Services and the Implementing Regulations to the General Law on Health with Respect to Advertising <i>(raised by United States) (*)</i>
European Union: Amendments of UN Regulation No. 22 (ECE/TRANS/WP.29/2020/60_Protective helmets) <i>(raised by Republic of Korea) (*)</i>
Mexico: Various State Measures Restricting Sale of Food and Drink Products to Minors <i>(raised by United States) (*)</i>
Russian Federation: Federal Law No. 468 on wine making and wine growing in the Russian Federation <i>(raised by European Union, Australia) (*)</i>
India: Order related to requirement of non-GM cum GM-free certificate accompanied with imported food consignment <i>(raised by United States, Brazil) (*)</i>
Republic of Korea: Revision of Safety Confirmation Criteria for Textile Products for Infants <i>(raised by European Union) (*)</i>
United States: Appliance Efficiency for Sprinkler Bodies <i>(raised by China) (*)</i>
European Union: Information requirements in SCIP database <i>(raised by China and India) (*)</i>
France: New legislative requirements about index of repairability of electrical and electronic equipment <i>(raised by China) (*)</i>
European Union: Wine-labelling requirements – list of importers for multiple destinations <i>(raised by Australia) (*)</i>
India: Phthalic Anhydride (Quality Control) Order, 2019 <i>(raised by Chinese Taipei) (*)</i>
United Kingdom: Wine-labelling and documentation requirements at the end of the Brexit transition period <i>(raised by Australia) (*)</i>
United States: Revised Origin Marking Requirement for Goods Produced in Hong Kong <i>(raised by Hong Kong, China) (*)</i>

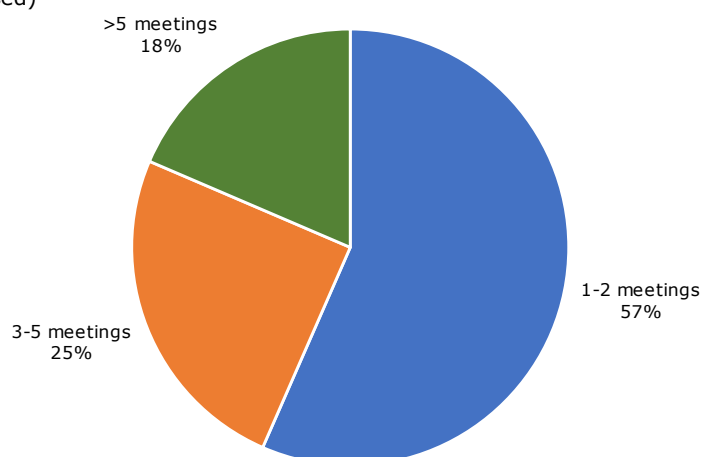
(*) No ID available – STC raised at 28-29 October 2020 TBT Committee meeting.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.71. The number of times that an STC is raised may be related to the importance attached to the concern by one or more WTO Members, or may provide insight into whether progress was made in addressing the concern. STCs which are raised at only one or two meetings may represent concerns on which progress was made. However, longstanding STCs raised at five or more meetings may represent concerns for which less or no progress has been made. STCs frequently discussed at subsequent meetings as previously raised STCs, in particular long-standing ("persistent") ones, generally involve more serious and/or complex concerns. From 1995 to 2020, the majority of STCs (57%) were raised at one or two Committee meetings, while 25% were raised three to five times. Around 18% of STCs were raised more than five times (Chart 3.21)."

Chart 3.21 STCs raised in the TBT Committee, 1995-20

(Number of times raised)



Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.72. During the review period, which includes STCs raised at the May and October 2020 TBT Committee meetings, four "persistent" STCs, were discussed (Table 3.17). All of these "persistent" STCs concerned measures maintained by G20 economies.

Table 3.17 "Persistent" STCs raised between 1 May and 30 October 2020

Persistent STCs
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 ongoing revision and the Multi-Level Protection Scheme (MLPS) (ID 294) – <i>raised 29 times since 2011</i>
European Union - Draft Implementing Regulations amending Regulation (EC) No. 607/2009 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No. 479/2008 as regards protected designations of origin and geographical indications, traditional terms, labelling and presentation of certain wine sector products (ID 345) – <i>raised 23 times since 2012</i>
European Union - Hazard-based approach to plant protection products and setting of import tolerances (ID 393) – <i>raised 21 times since 2013</i>
China - Regulations for the Supervision and Administration of Medical Devices (Order No. 650 of the State Council) (ID 428) – <i>raised 19 times since 2014</i>

Source: WTO Secretariat.

TBT Committee discussions during the COVID-19 pandemic

3.73. The TBT Committee continued its regular work on STCs during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee held, on an exceptional basis, its 13-14 May 2020 meeting via a written procedure, made possible by the new online "eAgenda platform". Members exchanged statements on 72 STCs, 21 of which were new. Using the eAgenda platform facilitated broad participation with nearly 50 Members engaging.

3.74. Although none of the STCs discussed during the written procedure related to COVID-19 measures (see above), Members made various points related to the pandemic in their statements. For instance, some mentioned the challenges faced by developing countries in addressing the pandemic due to the lack of financial and health resources - a challenge exacerbated by the implementation of measures on agricultural products. There were several calls for extended transition periods as well as flexibility in production and labelling requirements in order to allow Members to maintain the critical resources needed during the crisis. WTO Members also cited the global health emergency when announcing logistical issues resulting in implementation delays of certain measures. Lastly, Members emphasized the need for international cooperation in all areas to face the pandemic, including the promotion of measures that facilitate rather than obstruct trade.

3.75. The COVID-19 pandemic was also mentioned in the context of the TBT Committee's Thematic Session on technical assistance, held on 27 October 2020. In her remarks summing up the presentations made by Members in that session, the moderator remarked that:

"[t]he presenters also shared experiences on how to deliver best outcomes of assistance programs, such as focusing on sectors with high economic importance. Furthermore, cooperation and coordination among donors and partner countries were emphasized. Many institutions introduced COVID-19 related response programs, such as revising standards for personal protective equipment, which is of key significance in combatting the COVID-19 pandemic. Speakers also shared their experience on how the pandemic shifted priorities or engagement with partners. In this respect, the increased use of digital tools was highlighted."⁵⁷

3.76. In addition, at the regular meeting of the TBT Committee held on 28-29 October 2020, Members confirmed their decision to organize a special informal meeting of the Committee on 8 December 2020 to give delegations an opportunity share experiences on TBT measures that were adopted in response to COVID-19 in order to reflect on actions taken to facilitate trade (for instance, trade of essential goods) in the context of the continuing pandemic.

3.5 Trade concerns raised in other bodies⁵⁸

3.77. Several trade issues and concerns raised at formal WTO meetings involved G20 economies. This Section provides a factual overview of such concerns raised between mid-May and mid-October 2020. The 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 insight into which trade issues are currently being discussed at the WTO and, as such, add valuable transparency. This Section does not reproduce the full substantive description of the trade concerns outlined by WTO Members regarding measures implemented by G20 economies, but rather provides a reference to the formal meeting(s) where the issue featured. A full account and context of the concerns is provided in the meeting records of the respective WTO bodies. The list of concerns and issues mentioned in this Section is not exhaustive and is limited to measures implemented by G20 economies.⁵⁹

3.78. At the 13 October 2020 meeting of the *General Council* (GC)⁶⁰, concerns were raised on the United States Origin Marking Requirement, about a revised requirement for all goods produced in Hong Kong, China and destined for the United States to be marked "China" (raised by Hong-Kong, China, under Other Business).

3.79. At the meeting of the *Council for Trade in Goods* (CTG) on 10 and 11 June 2020⁶¹, six new trade concerns were raised (Table 3.18).

Table 3.18 New trade concerns raised at the Council for Trade in Goods

Measures implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
European Union - proposed carbon border adjustment mechanism	Russian Federation
United Kingdom – draft goods schedule and proposed tariff rate quota commitments post-Brexit	Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Switzerland, United States, Uruguay
United States – import restrictions on apples and pears	European Union
Mexico – front-of-pack nutrition labelling (Nom-51)	United States
United States – executive order on securing the bulk-power system	China
European Union – safeguard measures on imports of certain steel products	Russian Federation

Source: WTO Secretariat.

⁵⁷ JOB/TBT/381, para. 1.11.

⁵⁸ This Section does not include the SPS and TBT Committees (covered separately). Issues raised in this Section may subsequently have become the subject of a dispute. The numerous questions and concerns raised in the Committee on Agriculture are briefly presented in this Section and more in detail in Section 3.6 of this Report.

⁵⁹ G20 economies are encouraged to communicate to the Trade Monitoring Section of the WTO's Trade Policies Review Division trade issues which they have raised in WTO bodies and which they believe are relevant to the monitoring exercise.

⁶⁰ WTO document WT/GC/M/187 (forthcoming).

⁶¹ WTO document G/C/M/137.

3.80. At the same meeting, trade concerns were repeated (Table 3.19).

Table 3.19 Trade concerns raised again at the Council for Trade in Goods

Measures implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
Australia – discriminatory market access prohibition on 5G equipment	China
China – customs duties on certain integrated circuits	European Union, Japan, Chinese Taipei
China – measures restricting the import of scrap materials	United States
China – new draft export control law	European Union, Japan
EU – amendments to Directive 2009/28/EC, Renewable Energy Directive	Colombia, Malaysia
European Union – draft implementing regulations regarding protected designations of origin and geographical indications, traditional terms, labelling and presentation of certain wine-sector products	United States
European Union – enlargement to include Croatia	Russian Federation
European Union – implementation of non-tariff barriers on agricultural products	Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United States, Uruguay
European Union – proposed modification of EU tariff rate quota commitments in response to Brexit	Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Switzerland, United States, Uruguay
European Union – quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs – the registration of certain terms of cheese as geographical indications	Argentina, United States, Uruguay
European Union – Regulations (EU) No. 2017/2321 and No. 2018/825	Russian Federation
European Union – Regulation EC No. 1272/2008 (Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulation)	Russian Federation
India – quantitative restrictions on imports of certain pulses	Australia, Canada, European Union, Russian Federation, Ukraine, United States
Indonesia – import- and export-restricting policies and practices	European Union, Japan, New Zealand
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia – selective tax on certain imported products	European Union, Switzerland, United States
Russian Federation – trade-restricting practices	European Union
United States – export control measures for ICT products	China
United States – measures regarding market access prohibition for ICT products	China
United States – prohibitive proposal on communication equipment or services released by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)	China

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.81. At the 8 June 2020 meeting of the *Committee on Market Access* (CMA)⁶², new and persistent trade concerns were raised (Table 3.20).

Table 3.20 Trade concerns raised at the Committee on Market Access

Measures implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
China - Customs Duties on Certain Integrated Circuits	European Union, Japan, Chinese Taipei
Enlargement of the European Union to include Croatia - Negotiations under Article XXIV:6 of the GATT 1994	Russian Federation
European Union - Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (The European Green Deal of December 2019)	Russian Federation
European Union – Renegotiation of Tariff Rate Quotas under Article XXVIII of the GATT 1994	Russian Federation
India – Customs Duties on Telecommunication and Other Products	China, Chinese Taipei
India – Quantitative Restrictions on Imports of Certain Pulses	Australia, Canada, the European Union, Russian Federation, United States
Indonesia - Customs Duties on Certain Telecommunication Products	United States

⁶² WTO document G/MA/M/72.

Measures implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia – Selective Tax on Certain Imported Products	European Union, Switzerland, United States
Russian Federation – Import Restrictions on Refined Fuel Products	European Union
Turkey – Increase of Applied Duty Rates	Switzerland
United Kingdom – Rectifications and Modifications of Schedule XIX	Russian Federation
United Kingdom – Renegotiation of Tariff Rate Quotas under Article XXVIII of the GATT 1994	Russian Federation

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.82. At the same meeting, Members also raised concerns in the context of the review of notifications under the 2012 Decision on notification procedures for quantitative restrictions.⁶³

3.83. At the meeting of the *Committee on Import Licensing* (CIL) on 9 October 2020⁶⁴, new and persistent trade concerns were raised on: (i) Argentina's import licensing system (raised by United States); (ii) Brazil's import licensing on industrial nitrocellulose (raised by European Union); (iii) China's changes to import licensing for solid waste and certain recoverable materials (raised by United States); (iv) India's import licensing regime for pneumatic tyres (raised by European Union); (v) India's import licensing requirements on boric acid (raised by United States); (vi) India's import requirements on certain pulses (raised by Australia and Canada); (vii) Indonesia's import licensing regime for cell phones, handheld computers and tablets (raised by United States); (viii) Indonesia's import licensing regime for certain textile products (raised by European Union); (ix) Indonesia's import licensing regime for rice (raised by Japan); and (x) Indonesia's import regime for alcoholic beverages (raised by European Union).

3.84. At the meetings of the *Committee on Agriculture* (CoA) on 18 June 2020 (special meeting),⁶⁵ 28 July 2020 and 21-23 September 2020, several questions and concerns were raised with respect to G20 members' individual notifications and on specific implementation matters (SIMs) under Article 18.6. During the review period, 355 questions were discussed concerning policies implemented by G20 members, including on individual notifications (148 questions), Article 18.6 matters (194 questions on 78 SIMs), and overdue notifications (13 questions). Additional details regarding these questions and concerns can be found in Section 3.6 of this Report.⁶⁶

3.85. At the meetings of the *Trade-Related Investment Measures* (TRIMs) Committee on 15 September 2020⁶⁷, new or persistent issues were raised (Table 3.21).

Table 3.21 Concerns raised at the TRIMs Committee

Measure implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
Indonesia	
Comprehensive review of localization measures ⁶⁸	European Union, Japan, United States
Russian Federation	
Measures implementing Russian Federation's import substitution policy ⁶⁹	European Union, United States

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.86. At the meetings of the *Council for Trade in Services* (CTS) held on 1 July and 2 October 2020, concerns were again raised about cybersecurity measures by China (raised by Japan and United

⁶³ WTO document G/L/59/Rev.1.

⁶⁴ WTO document G/LIC/M/51.

⁶⁵ A special meeting of the CoA was convened on 18 June 2020 to allow Members to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the agricultural sector, and the policies implemented by Members in response to it.

⁶⁶ Questions raised under the review process in the CoA meetings on 18 June 2020, 28 July 2020 and 21-23 September 2020 are available in WTO documents G/AG/W/206, 8 June 2020; G/AG/W/205/Rev.1, 15 July 2020; and G/AG/W/207, 9 September 2020. The questions, responses and follow-up comments are available through the Q&A section of the Agriculture Information Management System. Viewed at: <http://agims.wto.org/>.

⁶⁷ WTO document G/TRIMS/M/48 (forthcoming).

⁶⁸ WTO documents G/TRIMS/Q/IDN/5, 14 May 2019; G/TRIMS/Q/IDN/6, 13 March 2020; G/TRIMS/Q/IDN/7, 7 June 2020; and G/TRIMS/Q/IDN/8, 17 July 2020.

⁶⁹ WTO documents G/TRIMS/Q/RUS/4, 26 May 2016; G/TRIMS/Q/RUS/5, 27 September 2016; G/TRIMS/Q/RUS/6, 27 April 2017; G/TRIMS/Q/RUS/8, 24 January 2018; G/TRIMS/Q/RUS/7, 8 November 2017; G/TRIMS/Q/RUS/9, 22 March 2018; and G/TRIMS/Q/RUS/10, 2 September 2020.

States, and echoed, in July, by Canada, European Union and Chinese Taipei; and, in October, by Australia, Canada, European Union and New Zealand).⁷⁰ As part of its reply in July, China expressed its own concerns about measures by the United States related to cybersecurity.⁷¹

3.87. At the July and October 2020 meetings, concerns were raised about: (i) 5G-related measures by Australia (raised by China); (ii) measures by the Russian Federation related to market access for foreign-licensed fixed satellite operators (raised by United States and echoed by Canada and European Union); and (iii) measures by the Russian Federation requiring software pre-installation (raised by United States, and echoed by Canada, European Union and Japan).⁷² Additional concerns were raised at the CTS meeting of 2 October 2020 on: (i) measures by the United States related to mobile applications (raised by China); and (ii) measures by India on prior approval for acquisitions of Indian companies and on the use of mobile applications (raised by China).⁷³

3.88. The above Section provides evidence of the various trade concerns raised in several WTO bodies between mid-May and mid-October 2020. The overwhelming majority of the trade concerns raised in WTO committees and councils related to measures and policies implemented by G20 economies. During the review period, many meetings of WTO committees and councils were postponed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although fewer meetings took place during the review period, several conclusions presented in previous Reports remain valid. For example, several trade concerns raised during the review period had already been raised in previous periods, indicating persistent and unresolved issues. Also, during the review period, some trade concerns were raised in more than one WTO body, suggesting that these concerns involve cross-cutting and technically complex issues. It suggests that WTO Members are continuing to use multiple platforms within the WTO committee structure to address various aspects of such concerns. Systemically, 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 engage trading partners on real or potential areas of trade friction. At the same time, however, the repetition and non-resolution of the same trade concerns and issues in various WTO bodies may also be a source of concern. The Secretariat will continue to closely monitor developments in this area.

3.89. The following Section takes a closer look at trends characterizing trade concerns raised since 2015.

Trade Concerns raised in WTO Bodies – recent trends

3.90. Since October 2014, the Trade Monitoring reports have included overviews of trade concerns raised across WTO Committees and Councils. The motivation behind providing this information is an ambition to gain greater insight into the nature of the concerns and issues raised by Members in bodies which do not have the more established frameworks for doing so, such as the SPS, TBT⁷⁴ and Agriculture Committees.

3.91. The following overview takes a closer look at the trends that have characterized the trade concerns and issues raised in WTO bodies over the last five years, i.e. between mid-October 2014 and mid-October 2019⁷⁵. Trade concerns and issues raised in the SPS, TBT and Agriculture Committees are not covered in this section, as they are very well-documented in their respective Committees and are available through dedicated online databases.

3.92. The trade concerns and issues raised across WTO Committees and Councils incorporate different levels of complexity. Some simply seek to address technicalities within a specific area covered by a WTO agreement, including clarifications regarding implementation dates, scope of the measure or other technical elements of the targeted product(s). These concerns are generally

⁷⁰ WTO documents S/C/M/142 and 143 (forthcoming).

⁷¹ WTO document S/C/M/142.

⁷² WTO documents S/C/M/142 and 143 (forthcoming).

⁷³ WTO document S/C/M/143 (forthcoming).

⁷⁴ See also Staff Working Paper "The role of WTO committees through the lens of specific trade concerns raised in the TBT committee", 1 May 2020.

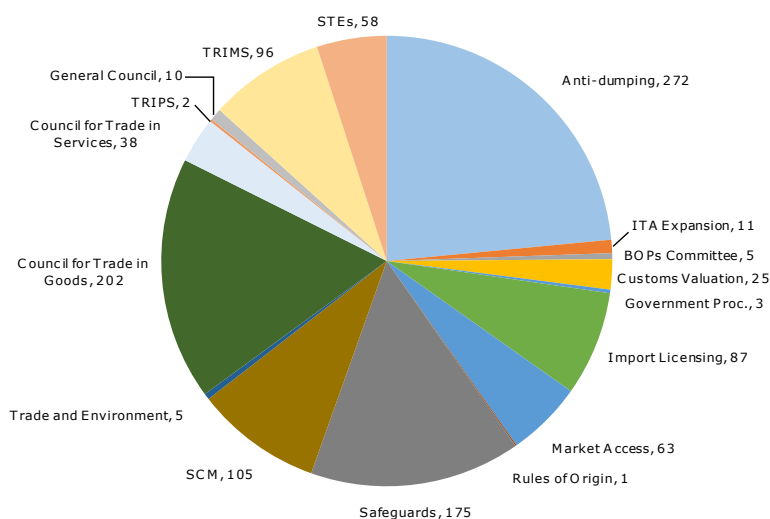
⁷⁵ These trade concerns and issues were covered by Section 3.5 of the Trade Monitoring reports WT/TPR/OV/18 to WT/TPR/OV/22.

discussed in the Committee considered to have the appropriate technical oversight of the corresponding WTO agreement.

3.93. More complex trade concerns generally touch, or are argued to touch, upon multiple WTO agreements. These concerns are often raised in more than one Committee meeting, and some are even raised at higher bodies, such as the Council for Trade in Goods (CTG) and/or the General Council (GC). The reviewed five-year period demonstrated that, if and when a trade concern persists, or is not addressed appropriately or comprehensively in the view of the raising Member(s), it tends to be reiterated in the same Committee, and, more importantly, often elevated to a higher body. This elevation underscores the importance of the issue(s) for the Member concerned. It could be argued that, in some cases, WTO committees serve the purpose of a temporary escape valve for Members, insofar as they can prove to the relevant domestic constituency that the concern is being dealt with.

3.94. During the reviewed period, 1,158 issues and concerns were raised in 129 formal meetings of 17 WTO committees and councils. Of these, 413 were raised only once, indicating that one third of trade concerns were of a simple nature, mostly geared towards clarifying technical elements of the measure concerned. Some 161 trade concerns were raised twice, 41 were raised three times, and 20 were raised four times. The remaining 37 were raised five times or more (18 were raised five times, 9 were raised six times, 7 were raised seven times and 3 were raised 9 times⁷⁶), indicating that very few (3%) trade concerns were persistently repeated within the WTO committee structure.

Chart 3.22 Total number of trade concerns raised over the past five years, by WTO body

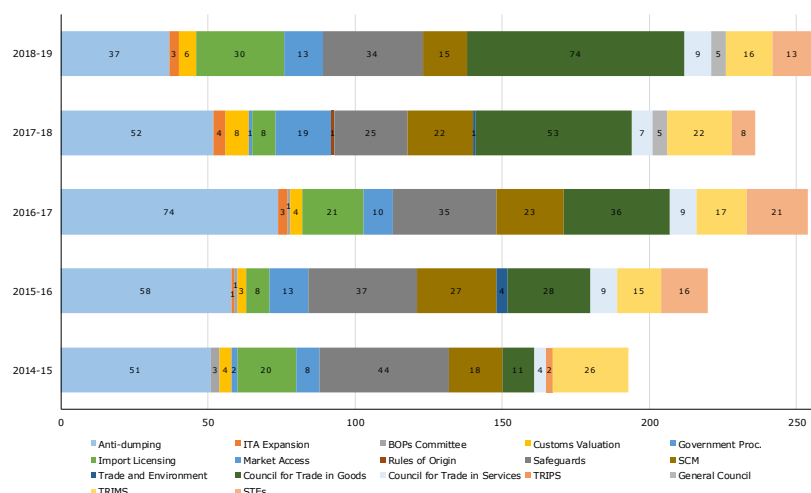


Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.95. Most of the 1,158 issues and concerns were raised in the Committee on Anti-dumping Practices (272 concerns, or 24% of all concerns), followed by the CTG (202, or 17%), the Committee on Safeguards (175, or 15%) and the Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM) (105, or 9%). These four Committees handled 65% of all concerns and issues raised over the reviewed period. The number of concerns handled by the Committees on Anti-dumping Practices, Safeguards, and Subsidies and Countervailing Measures remained relatively stable over the years (Chart 3.23). In contrast, the number of concerns raised at the CTG substantially and steadily increased, from 11 concerns in 2014-15 to 74 in 2018-19. Concerns were only raised in the GC since 2017, with five concerns raised in 2017-18 and another five in 2018-19.

⁷⁶ Indonesia's certain measures addressing local content in investment in the telecommunications sector was raised nine times; Indonesia's industry law and trade law were raised nine times; and India's QRs on imports of certain pulses was raised nine times.

Chart 3.23 Trade concerns, by WTO body and by period



Note: The year axis covers the 12-months period from mid-October to mid-October. For example, 2014-15 covers mid-October 2014 to mid-October 2015.

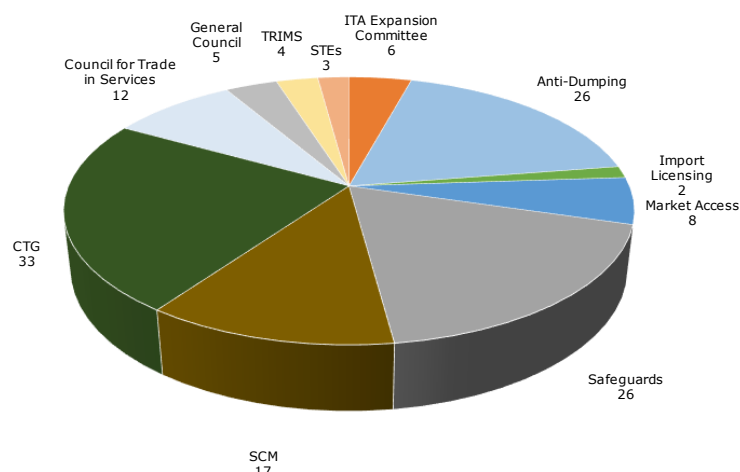
Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.96. It could be argued that concerns and issues are raised in the GC when they cannot be resolved in the subordinate committees. The limited number of concerns and issues which ended up on the agenda of the GC likely reflects the effectiveness and success of the WTO committee structure in resolving issues in the appropriate technical forum. However, trade tensions over the past couple of years are reflected in an increased number of concerns raised in the GC since 2017.

3.97. Some 142 trade concerns (13% of all trade concerns) raised over the reviewed period were linked to 61 dispute settlement (DS) proceedings. The paucity of concerns and issues ending in formal dispute settlement proceedings illustrates the success and usefulness of the WTO committees as platforms for solving problems non-litigiously. Of course, not all disputes were preceded by trade concerns raised in a WTO committee or council.

3.98. Most of the trade concerns linked to a formal dispute were raised at the CTG, where 33 concerns were linked to 16 DS cases (Chart 3.24). The Committee on Safeguards ranked second (26 concerns linked to 15 DS cases), followed by the Committee on Anti-dumping (26 concerns linked to 13 DS cases) and the Committee on SCM (17 trade concerns linked to 17 DS cases). At the GC meetings, although only 10 trade concerns were raised overall during the review period, 5 of those were linked to 5 disputes. This seems to indicate a relatively positive correlation between the number of trade concerns raised in a higher and more political WTO body and the number of formal disputes initiated. In other words, when Members raise trade concerns at a higher WTO body, there is a probability that the issue will result in a formal dispute.

Chart 3.24 Trade concerns linked to disputes, by WTO body

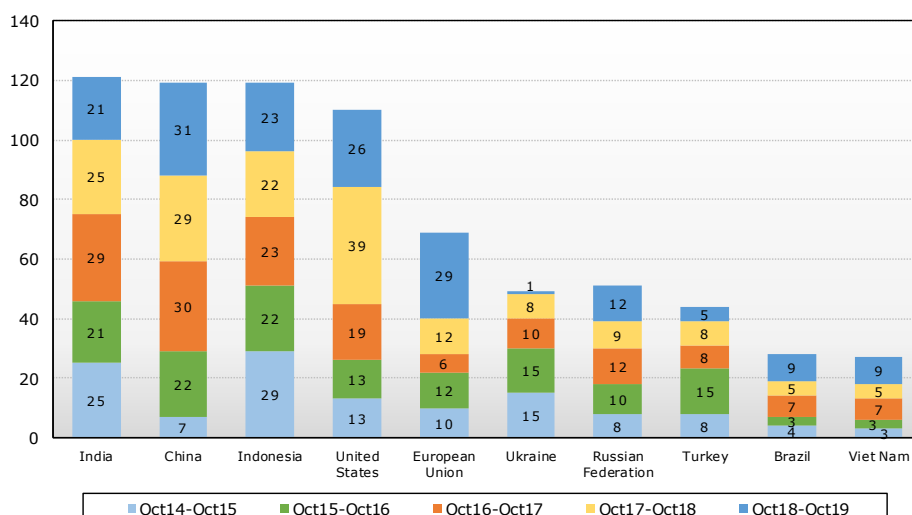


Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.99. Measures implemented by a small number of Members were targeted by the trade concerns raised over the past five years. Approximately 46% of the trade concerns and issues raised targeted measures implemented by five WTO Members (all G20 economies): India, with 121 trade concerns and issues raised, followed by China and Indonesia (119 each), the United States (113) and the European Union (69) (Chart 3.25). Big trading partners are the target of the majority of trade concerns, because of the wide range of measures these Members put in place but also because of the trade interdependence of these economies with the rest of the world.

3.100. Trade concerns related to Chinese measures increased considerably during the review period, peaking at 31 concerns raised in 2018-19. Concerns related to measures implemented by the United States also rose, with 39 recorded in 2017-18. There was also a spike in concerns raised regarding EU measures (29) in 2018-19. These concerns were, to a large extent, linked to measures put in place in the context of recent trade tensions among these three Members.

Chart 3.25 Top 10 Members implementing measures targeted by trade concerns over the five years

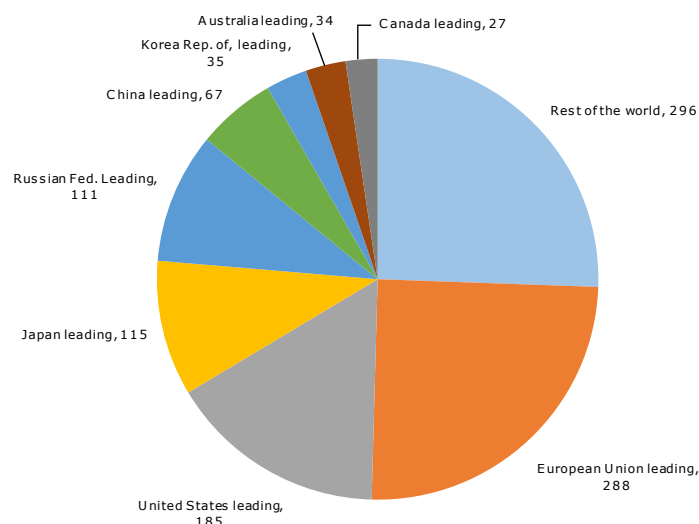


Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.101. Over the five years, trade concerns were raised by a small number of WTO Members. Eight WTO Members (Australia, Canada, China, European Union, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation and United States) were the principal actors, raising about 74% of all concerns. Large trading economies are, again, those raising most trade concerns (Chart 3.26). This is likely related

to the size of these economies and to their high exposure to trade measures of many other partners, and also because large economies have the administrative and logistical infrastructure and resources to gather information, coordinate domestically and be present at the meetings. Small economies, often as a result of capacity constraints, are not always in a position to participate in committee meetings and raise concerns. Instead, these Members often affiliate themselves with concerns raised by bigger trading partners, to make their voices heard.

Chart 3.26 Trade concerns raised 2014-2019, by country



Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.102. The above Section presented some of the trends that characterized the trade concerns and issues raised in WTO bodies between mid-October 2014 and mid-October 2019. The reviewed five-year period demonstrated that few (3%) trade concerns were persistently repeated within the WTO committee structure, and that one third of them were of a simple nature, mostly focusing on clarifying technical elements of the measure concerned. About 13% of all trade concerns raised were linked to 61 formal disputes, and most of them were discussed at the CTG, or the Committees on Safeguards, Anti-dumping or SCM. A positive correlation was observed between the number of trade concerns raised in a WTO body and the number of formal disputes initiated. Concerns that were raised at a higher WTO body were also most likely to result in a formal dispute. However, the scarcity of concerns and issues ending in formal disputes illustrates the success and usefulness of the WTO committees as platforms for solving problems non-litigiously.

3.103. It is clear from the above that further research in this area could help shed additional light and add to transparency surrounding the issue of trade concerns across WTO committees. For example, it would be of interest to establish in greater detail which type of concerns are raised, the range of products targeted and the size of the trade associated, and issues raised that could potentially be relevant to negotiations. In addition, integrating the trade concerns raised in WTO bodies in a dedicated database could facilitate the identification of other significant trends, including the rate and substance of concerns raised in more than one body, or to track whether an issue has not been raised again because it has been resolved. Although, preliminary analysis shows that very few trade concerns are related to prospective measures and to counter-notifications, a more granular analysis could bring further clarity on these aspects. The Secretariat will continue to monitor these issues in the interest of providing greater transparency with respect to the role of trade concerns in the multilateral trading system.

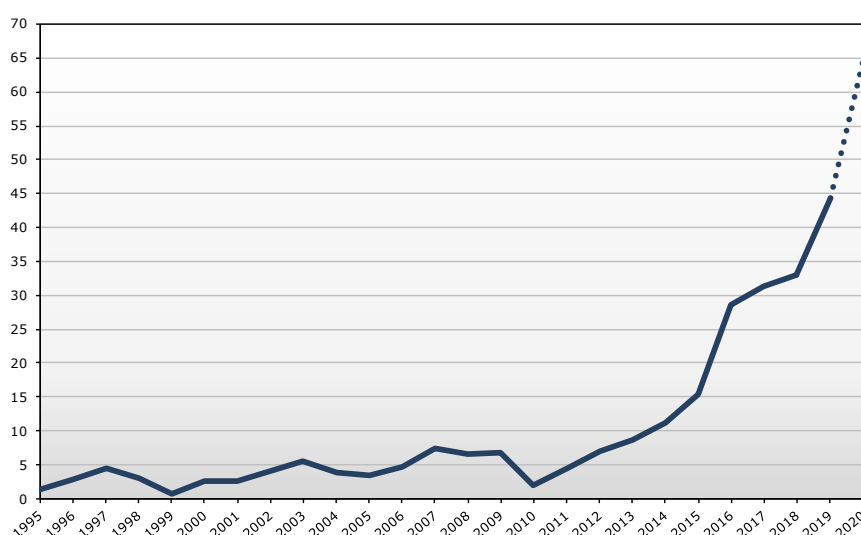
3.6 Policy Developments in Agriculture

3.104. The Committee on Agriculture (CoA) provides a forum for WTO Members to discuss matters related to agriculture trade, and to consult on matters related to Members' implementation of commitments under the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA). The review work of the CoA is based on notifications WTO Members make in relation to their commitments. There is also a provision in Article 18.6 of the AoA that allows WTO Members to raise any matter relevant to the implementation of commitments under the Agreement (i.e. Specific Implementation Matters (SIMs)).

3.105. During the review period, the CoA held two regular meetings on 28 July 2020 and 21-23 September 2020. A special meeting of the CoA was convened on 18 June 2020 to discuss agricultural policies implemented by WTO Members in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Out of the 483 questions raised during the period under review, 73% (355 questions) related to policies implemented by G20 economies, including questions on SIMs under Article 18.6, individual notifications and overdue notifications. Most questions on individual notifications by G20 economies were related to domestic support notifications (over 76%). Almost half of the SIMs related to domestic support policies, 28% to policies affecting market access, 15% to policies in the area of export competition and the remaining 7% to policies restricting or prohibiting exports and to other types of policies.

3.106. In total, 13 G20 economies (counting the European Union as one) received 194 questions on 78 SIMs under Article 18.6 for the three meetings.⁷⁷ As can be seen in Chart 3.27, the annual average number of questions addressed to G20 members under Article 18.6 has risen since 2011, reaching an all-time high average of 65 questions per meeting in 2020 (up to the September meeting). These numbers include questions that were repeated from one meeting to the next because responses were not provided within the relevant time-frames.

Chart 3.27 Average number of questions addressed to G20 members on SIMs under Article 18.6, 1995 2020^a



a 2020 data covers questions raised up to the September 2020 CoA meeting.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.107. Out of the 78 SIMs raised in the CoA during the period under review, 55 were discussed for the first time. The remaining matters had been discussed at least once in previous Committee meetings in the context of matters raised under Article 18.6.

3.108. Of the new SIMs, 24 were raised in relation to policies implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Of these, 3 targeted measures that potentially restricted or prohibited exports of agricultural products (EU-Romania's export prohibition on agricultural products, Russian Federation's export quota and Turkey's prior export authorization/registration). An additional 15 SIMs were raised in relation to domestic support programmes targeting producers of dairy, wine, potatoes, beef and sugar (Canada's dairy policies, EU-France and Italy's support for the wine sector, European Union's aid to the potato sector and Japan's beef support) and to the agricultural sector in general (Canada's agriculture support package, Canada's Farm Credit Canada, China's measures to ensure agricultural inputs supplies, European Union's national state aid programmes in response to COVID-19, European Union's private storage aid, European Union's support measures in response to COVID-19, India's COVID-19 stimulus package, Turkey's treasury-backed loans, United States' Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, United States' direct payments to farmers and United States'

⁷⁷ Australia; Brazil; Canada; China; European Union; India; Indonesia; Japan; Russian Federation; Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; Turkey; United Kingdom; and United States.

Paycheck Protection Program). A total of four SIMs were raised to seek clarification on policies that potentially subsidized exports of agricultural products (Australia's International Freight Assistance Mechanism, EU-Czech guarantee scheme, Japan's support package and Japan's transportation support). Lastly, two SIMs were raised in relation to policies affecting market access of agricultural products (China's measures adopted at the border to avoid the transmission of COVID-19, and Russian Federation's import restrictions in response to COVID-19).

3.109. Of the remaining 31 new SIMs concerning G20 members' policies, 12 (39%) targeted domestic support programmes, 13 (42%) were in relation to market access issues and the remaining 6 (19%) related to export competition and other issues.

3.110. Domestic support: 39% of the new SIMs sought clarification on policies implemented by G20 members that targeted grain producers (Russian Federation's grain subsidy programme and Turkey's Turkish Grain Board) and domestic support policies with a wider scope (India's Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, India's Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund, Brazil's subsidized loans and China's agricultural insurance). Other SIMs related to support policies put in place in response to the potential impact of new trade deals or increased tariffs implemented by other Members (China's exemptions to retaliatory tariffs and Japan's supplementary budget to address the impact of a new trade deal). A number of SIMs raised sought to obtain additional information on policies targeting environmental or SPS-related objectives (European Union's environmental policies and European Union's production subsidies resulting from the implementation of SPS measures) and another SIM was raised in relation to domestic support notifications (India's DS:1 notification). Lastly, one SIM sought an update from the United Kingdom regarding its agricultural policy resulting from Brexit.

3.111. Market Access: 42% of the SIMs raised related to measures that restricted, or had the potential to restrict, trade of agricultural products, including beef and pork (Japan's beef special safeguard and pork safeguard), and grains (European Union's variable import levies for cereals and Indonesia's import permission for rice). SIMs relating to more than one specific commodity were also raised (European Union's deforestation and forest degradation strategy, Saudi Arabia's new system for issuing import licences, Turkey's applied tariffs and United Kingdom's border control during the Brexit transition period). Some matters were raised in relation to new trade agreements (China-US economic and trade agreement, EU-US tariff reduction agreement and Japan-US trade agreement).

3.112. Export Competition and other areas: A total of four SIMs sought clarification on policies implemented by G20 members that potentially subsidized exports of agricultural products (China's agricultural exports by state-owned enterprises, India's export subsidies/export credits, India's scheme for remission of duties and taxes on exported products and Russian Federation's export subsidies). Two additional SIMs sought to obtain general information on agricultural policies being implemented by the European Union (European Union's "From Farm to Fork" strategy and European Union's border adjustment mechanism for carbon emissions).

3.113. Table 3.22 lists the SIMs that were discussed for the first time during the three CoA meetings covered by the Report. The complete list of questions and answers can be accessed through the Agriculture Information Management System (AG IMS) by using the ID numbers provided in Table 3.23.⁷⁸

Table 3.22 New Specific Implementation Matters (SIMs) (Article 18.6) concerning G20 members

SIM	Question raised by	Keyword	Products	N° of questions	ID number
European Union's support measures in response to COVID-19	Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Brazil, United States	COVID-19		8	95046, 95047, 94011, 94012, 94035, 94042, 94055, 94056
Australia's International Freight Assistance Mechanism	Canada, European Union, India, Thailand, United States	COVID-19		7	95008, 95041, 95042, 94033, 94034, 94048, 94049

⁷⁸ 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.

SIM	Question raised by	Keyword	Products	N° of questions	ID number
United States' Coronavirus Food Assistance Program	Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Brazil, European Union, India	COVID-19		7	95014, 95074, 94025, 94026, 94039, 94045, 94052
Russian Federation's export quota	Japan, Switzerland, Brazil, India, European Union	COVID-19	Cereals, wheat, corn, rice, malt, coarse grains	5	95012, 95067, 94019, 94020, 94043
European Union's environmental policies	New Zealand, Paraguay, Colombia	Transparency issues (including Table DS:2)		5	95097, 95098, 95116, 93057, 93059,
Japan's support package	Canada, Brazil, United States, Australia	COVID-19		4	95059, 94037, 94044, 94057
United States - China-US Economic and Trade Agreement	Australia, Canada, Ukraine			4	95071, 93078, 93080, 93082
China - China-US Economic and Trade Agreement	Australia, Canada			3	95044, 93049, 93050
Russian Federation's export subsidies	European Union			3	95036, 95037, 93017
Turkey's Turkish Grain Board	United States		Cereals, wheat, corn, rice, malt, coarse grains	3	95038, 93019, 93021
China's agricultural exports by state-owned enterprises	United States		Corn, rice, tobacco, cotton	3	95023, 95024, 95025
India's DS:1 notification	United States			3	95030, 95031, 95032
Canada's Farm Credit Canada	United States, India	COVID-19		2	95011, 94053
Brazil's subsidized loans	India	Transparency issues (including Table DS:2)		2	95009, 93044
Canada's dairy policies (COVID-19)	Australia, New Zealand	COVID-19	Dairy, milk, milk powders, butter, cheese, other	2	94003, 94004,
EU-Romania's export prohibition on agricultural products	Switzerland, Japan	COVID-19		2	94013, 94041
Japan's beef support	Australia, United States	COVID-19	Bovine meat	2	94015, 94058
Turkey's prior export authorization/registration	Japan, Switzerland	COVID-19	Fruit	2	94023, 94024
China's measures adopted at the border to avoid the transmission of COVID-19	Australia	COVID-19		1	95045
Canada's agriculture support package	Australia	COVID-19		1	94001
China's measures to ensure agricultural input supplies	United States	COVID-19		1	94054
European Union's national state aid programmes in response to COVID-19	New Zealand	COVID-19		1	95049
EU-Czech guarantee scheme	Australia	COVID-19		1	94010
EU-France and Italy's support for the wine sector	New Zealand	COVID-19	Alcoholic beverages	1	95050
European Union - EU-US tariff reduction agreement	China			1	95048
European Union's aid to the potato sector	Australia	COVID-19	Fresh vegetables, processed vegetables	1	94009
European Union's private storage aid	Australia	COVID-19		1	94008

SIM	Question raised by	Keyword	Products	N° of questions	ID number
European Union's variable import levies for cereals	Brazil	Transparency issues	Cereals, wheat, corn, rice, malt, coarse grains	1	95001
India's scheme for remission of duties and taxes on exported products	United States		Rice	1	95033
India's Agriculture Infrastructure Fund	Australia			1	95055
India's Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund	Australia			1	95054
India's COVID-19 stimulus package	Canada	COVID-19		1	94036
Indonesia's import permission for rice	Japan		Rice	1	95058
Japan's transportation support	United States	COVID-19		1	94059
Russian Federation's grain subsidy programme	United States		Cereals, wheat, corn, rice, malt, coarse grains	1	95040
Russian Federation's import restrictions in response to COVID-19	Australia	COVID-19, import prohibitions and restrictions (including quantitative restrictions)		1	95066
Turkey's treasury-backed loans	Australia	COVID-19		1	94022
Turkey's applied tariffs	Japan			1	95070
United Kingdom's border control during the Brexit transition period	Brazil			1	95002
United States' direct payments to farmers	Canada	COVID-19, transparency issues (including Table DS:2)		1	95072
United States - EU-US tariff reduction agreement	China			1	95073
United States' Paycheck Protection Program	European Union	COVID-19		1	94047
China's exemptions to retaliatory tariffs	Canada			1	93052
China's agricultural insurance	Canada			1	93051
European Union's "From Farm to Fork" strategy	Colombia			1	93127
European Union's border adjustment mechanism for carbon emissions	Colombia			1	93143
European Union's production subsidies resulting from implementation of SPS measures	Paraguay			1	93060
India's export subsidies/export credits	United States			1	93007
Japan - Japan-US Trade Agreement	Canada			1	93071
Japan's supplementary budget to address the impact of a new trade deal	Australia			1	93069
Japan's beef special safeguard (SSG) and pork safeguard (SG)	Canada		Bovine meat, swine meat	1	93070
Saudi Arabia's new system for issuing import licences	Brazil	Allocation of licences to importing entities		1	93074

SIM	Question raised by	Keyword	Products	N° of questions	ID number
European Union's deforestation and forest degradation strategy	Colombia			1	93128
United Kingdom's policy update resulting from Brexit	Canada	Transparency issues (including Table DS:2)		1	93077
United States - Japan-US Trade Agreement	Canada			1	93081

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.114. Other G20-related SIMs that were discussed during the period under review related to follow-up questions on outstanding areas of concern (Table 3.23). A number of these matters have been raised in the CoA multiple times. Two of these were raised in 16 and 15 CoA meetings, respectively, attracting 59 and 27 questions each (i.e. Canada's new milk ingredient class and Canada's wine sale policy). Questions related to India's pulse policies and its sugar policies were raised in 11 and 7 CoA meetings, respectively. Other policies from Brazil, Canada, European Union, India, Indonesia, Russian Federation, Turkey, United Kingdom the United States were also the subject of repeated concerns under Article 18.6. The complete set of questions and answers can be accessed through the AG IMS by using the ID numbers provided in Table 3.23.⁷⁹

Table 3.23 Previously raised Specific Implementation Matters (SIMs) (Article 18.6) concerning G20 members

SIM	Question raised by	Products	N° of questions	N° of meetings at which the issue was discussed	ID number
Canada's new milk ingredient class	Australia, India, New Zealand, United States	Dairy, milk, milk powders, butter, cheese, other	59	16	95005, 95006, 95146, 93048, 93002, 93003, 92076, 92078, 92002, 91132, 90018, 90120, 90039, 89020, 89053, 89055, 88120, 88121, 88065, 88064, 88061, 87015, 87063, 87064, 87065, 87159, 87160, 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
Canada's wine sale policy	Australia, European Union, New Zealand, United States	Alcoholic beverages	27	15	93004, 93005, 92003, 91137, 90040, 89021, 89054, 88096, 87016, 87066, 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
India's pulses policies	Australia, Canada, Russian Federation,	Processed vegetables	50	11	95052, 95056, 95057, 93058, 93066, 93067,

⁷⁹ 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.

SIM	Question raised by	Products	N° of questions	N° of meetings at which the issue was discussed	ID number
	Ukraine, United States				92096, 92008, 92094, 92049, 91005, 91008, 91075, 91076, 91077, 91140, 90032, 90088, 90029, 90004, 90043, 89004, 89007, 89024, 89057, 88060, 88066, 88092, 88095, 88109, 87001, 87017, 87073, 87074, 87087, 87088, 87077, 87070, 87071, 87072, 87075, 87076, 86061, 86062, 86063, 86065, 86039, 86035, 85064, 84044
India's sugar policies	Australia, Brazil, Canada, European Union, Russian Federation	Sugar, cane or beet sugar, other	13	7	95053, 93001, 92007, 92048, 90033, 89058, 89090, 88046, 88130, 88129, 88128, 88127, 88039, 88042, 88043, 87002, 87079
United States' proposed domestic support measures	Australia, Canada, China, Colombia, European Union, India, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Ukraine	Swine, milk, fresh vegetables, wheat, corn, coarse grains	25	6	93079, 93084, 93144, 93086, 93087, 92082, 92072, 92102, 91013, 91014, 91016, 91023, 91024, 91027, 91063, 91080, 90035, 89047, 89066, 88030, 88048, 88028, 88047, 88029, 88098
Russian Federation's railway subsidy for exports	Australia, Canada, European Union, Ukraine, United States	Cereals, wheat, corn, rice, malt, coarse grains	12	6	95068, 91161, 91162, 88073, 87022, 87098, 86010, 86068, 86067, 86038, 86047, 85036
India's skim milk powder export subsidies	Australia, European Union, New Zealand, United States	Dairy, milk, milk powders, butter, cheese, other	7	5	93008, 91151, 90002, 89026, 88070, 88037, 88122, 88040
United States' DS notifications	China, India, New Zealand		4	4	95075, 95015, 93085, 92086
Brazil's wheat quota	Ukraine, Canada, India	Wheat	4	4	95010, 93043, 92046, 91001
India's Transport and Marketing Assistance	Australia, United States	Dairy, milk, milk powders, butter, cheese, other	6	4	95051, 93065, 93010, 92095, 91006, 91154
India's support to rice exports	Japan, Thailand, United States	Rice	4	4	93009, 92013, 91153, 90111, 90130
India's dairy loans	United States	Dairy, milk, milk powders, butter, cheese, other	4	4	93011, 92011, 91149, 89027
Canada's review of the TRQ system	Australia, New Zealand	Poultry, dairy, milk, milk powders, butter, cheese, other, eggs	4	3	95043, 93045, 93046, 92088
Canada's compensation for farmers after	Australia, European Union,	Dairy, milk, milk powders,	5	3	93047, 92075, 92077, 92001, 91002, 91018

SIM	Question raised by	Products	N° of questions	N° of meetings at which the issue was discussed	ID number
trade concessions	New Zealand, United States	butter, cheese, other, poultry, eggs			
India's short-term crop loans	United States	Dairy, milk, milk powders, butter, cheese, other	3	3	93012, 92010, 91147
India's wheat public stockpiling	United States	Wheat	3	3	93014, 92009, 91141
Indonesia's Measure 18 in DS477 and DS478	New Zealand		3	3	93068, 92081, 91010
European Union's coupled payments	Brazil, India		3	3	93055, 92071, 91061
European Union's intervention policy	New Zealand, United States	Milk powders	6	3	95026, 95027, 95028, 95029, 92080, 92006, 90026
Turkey's IPR programme	Russian Federation, United States	Wheat	3	3	95039, 86029, 84113
United Kingdom's modification of agricultural schedule of commitments	Indonesia, India		3	3	93076, 88011, 83069
India's wheat policies	United States, Ukraine	Wheat	2	2	93013, 91009
Turkey's flour export and Turkish Grain Board	European Union, United States	Wheat	2	2	93018, 90009

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.115. Members continued to take steps towards the implementation of the December 2015 Nairobi Ministerial Decision on Export Competition. Out of the 16 Members with positive export subsidy commitment levels in their schedules at the time of adoption of the Decision, 9 are G20 economies. Australia, Mexico, South Africa, Turkey and the United States have had their revised export subsidy schedules certified; Canada and the European Union circulated their draft revised schedules, which are pending certification; Indonesia just circulated its revised schedule; and Brazil still has to circulate its revised draft schedule.

3.116. Members undertook the 2020 annual dedicated discussion on the implementation of the Nairobi Ministerial Decision on Export Competition at the September 2020 CoA meeting. In addition to this annual dedicated discussion, Members have the possibility to ask questions in connection with this Decision at any CoA meeting. During the three meetings covered by this Report, 24 questions were raised to G20 members, regarding policies in the area of export credits, export credit guarantees and insurance programmes, international food aid and state trading enterprises (Table 3.24).⁸⁰ The complete set of questions and answers can be accessed through the AG IMS, using the ID numbers provided in Table 3.24.⁸¹

⁸⁰ The complete set of questions and answers can be accessed through the AG IMS (<http://agims.wto.org>) by selecting the function "Search Q&A Submitted Since 1995" and inputting the ID number of the question concerned.

⁸¹ 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 3.24 Questions raised to G20 members in relation to the follow-up to the Nairobi Ministerial Decision on Export Competition (May to October 2020)

ID number	CoA meeting	Question raised by	Question answered by	Section
95118	95	United States	Argentina	Export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes
95119	95	European Union	Australia	Export subsidies
95120	95	United States	Australia	State trading enterprises
95121	95	European Union	Brazil	Export subsidies
95122	95	European Union	China	Export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes, and state trading enterprises
95123	95	United States	China	Export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes
95124	95	United States	China	International food aid
95125	95	United States	China	State trading enterprises
95127	95	United States	European Union	Export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes
95128	95	United States	European Union	Export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes
95129	95	United States	European Union	Export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes
95130	95	United States	European Union	Export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes
95131	95	United States	European Union	International food aid
95132	95	European Union	India	Export subsidies
95133	95	European Union	Indonesia	Export subsidies
95137	95	European Union	Russian Federation	Export subsidies
95138	95	United States	Russian Federation	Export subsidies
95141	95	China	United States	International food aid
95142	95	European Union	United States	International food aid
95143	95	Canada	China	Export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes
95145	95	Canada	Russian Federation	State trading enterprises
93024	93	United States	China	Export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes
93173	93	United States	Japan	Export subsidies
93175	93	United States	Russian Federation	Export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes

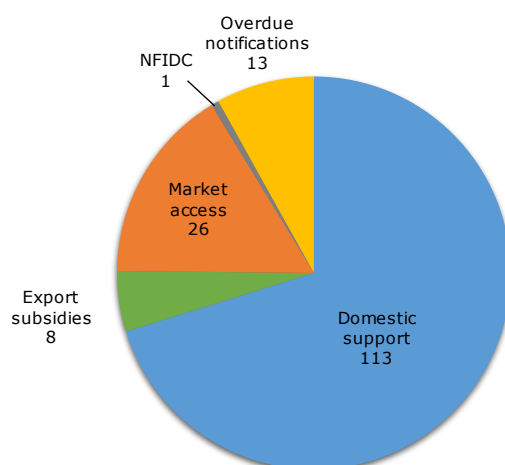
Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.117. The CoA continued its review of the implementation of Members' commitments under the Agreement. This review is largely carried out on the basis of notifications submitted by Members. Twelve distinct notification requirements are applicable in the domain of 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 SGs (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 WTO document G/AG/2.

3.118. From 15 May to 15 October 2020, G20 members submitted 26 notifications (including addenda and corrigenda). A total of 148 questions were raised concerning notifications from G20 members during the CoA meetings of June, July and September 2020. These questions accounted for more than 64% of all notification-related questions raised in the CoA in that period. As seen in Chart 3.28, during the review period, most questions concerned notifications related to domestic

support, followed by questions on market access. A total of 11 questions were addressed to China, European Union, India, Republic of Korea, South Africa and Turkey concerning overdue notifications.

Chart 3.28 Number of questions raised per topic, mid-May to mid-October 2020^a



a Questions raised in the CoA meetings of June, July and September 2020.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Policy developments in agriculture related to the COVID-19 pandemic

3.119. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the CoA held a special meeting on 18 June 2020 to discuss agriculture trade policies implemented in response to the pandemic within the framework of the AoA. At that meeting, WTO Members emphasized the importance of transparency for COVID-19-related measures, and agreed to include "COVID-19 and Agriculture" as a standing item on the agenda of future CoA meetings.

3.120. While WTO Members used the standard review process of the CoA to request clarification on policies implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic (details of these questions are covered under the section on Policy Developments in Agriculture), this new agenda item provided Members with an opportunity to engage in a holistic discussion of the pandemic and the serious disruptions it has caused to the food and agriculture systems globally. The agenda item also offered Members an opportunity to engage in the review of each other's agricultural measures in response to the pandemic. In this regard, nine WTO Members (counting the European Union as one) submitted *ad hoc* reports to the CoA on measures adopted by their governments in the wake of the pandemic; five of them were G20 economies (Table 3.25).

Table 3.25 *Ad hoc* reports by G20 members on COVID-19 measures in the agricultural sector (mid-May to mid-October 2020)

Member	Document symbol ^a	Issue date
European Union	G/AG/GEN/159, G/AG/GEN/159/ADD.1, G/AG/GEN/159/Add.1	6 June 2020, 23 July 2020, 17 September 2020
United States	G/AG/GEN/161	27 July 2020
Brazil	G/AG/GEN/165	4 September 2020
Japan	G/AG/GEN/166	15 September 2020
Canada	G/AG/GEN/167/Rev.1	21 September 2020

a Documents can be accessed via [WTO docs online](https://www.wto.org/press/2020/20200720_20200720_20200720.htm).

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.121. Observer international organizations to the CoA also contributed to discussions under the agenda item on COVID-19 and agriculture. The OECD, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Inter-American Institute for

Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) submitted reports to the September 2020 CoA meeting, outlining their work in relation to the pandemic.⁸²

3.122. In the context of the challenges linked to the pandemic and the measures put in place to alleviate them, three initiatives were communicated to the CoA by groups of WTO Members committing to take steps to ensure well-functioning global agriculture and agri-food supply chains. These initiatives called for COVID-19 measures to be targeted, proportionate, transparent, and temporary, and to not create unnecessary barriers to trade or disruption to global supply chains for agriculture and agri-food products, with any such measure having to be consistent with WTO rules. As seen in Table 3.26, several G20 members formed part of these initiatives (G20 economies are in bold).

Table 3.26 Joint submissions by WTO Members (mid-May to mid-October 2020)

Submissions	Sponsors	Document symbol ^a
Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic with open and predictable trade in agricultural and food products	Australia; Brazil; Canada; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Ecuador; European Union; Georgia; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malawi; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Nicaragua; Paraguay; Peru; Qatar; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Singapore; Switzerland; Chinese Taipei; Ukraine; United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom; United States; and Uruguay	G/AG/30/Rev.2, WT/GC/208/Rev.2
COVID-19 initiative: protecting global food security through open trade	Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay	G/AG/31/Rev.1, WT/GC/218/Rev.1, TN/AG/44/Rev.1
June 2020 statement of the Ottawa Group: focusing action on COVID-19	Ottawa Group (Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, European Union, Japan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore and Switzerland)	WT/GC/217

a Documents can be accessed via [WTO docs online](https://www.wto.org/eng/whatsnew/whatsnew.htm).

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.123. Some of the measures put in place by Members in response to the pandemic included the restriction or prohibition of exports of certain goods, including agricultural products. The AoA establishes disciplines for cases where Members institute export prohibitions or restrictions in order to prevent or relieve critical shortages of foodstuffs (Article 12). Transparency is at the heart of these disciplines. The AoA states that (i) Members are to give due consideration to the effects of such prohibition or restriction on importing Members' food security; and (ii) before any Member institutes an export prohibition or restriction, it shall give notice in writing, as far in advance as practicable, to the CoA, comprising such information as the nature and duration of such measure, and shall consult, upon request, with any other Member having a substantial interest as an importer with respect to any matter related to the measure in question. These written notices are referred to as Table ER:1 notifications. The AoA includes a special and differential treatment provision whereby the above requirements do not apply to developing country Members unless the measure is taken by a developing country Member which is a net-food exporter of the specific foodstuff concerned.

3.124. A total of seven notifications regarding export restrictions and prohibitions in connection to the COVID-19 pandemic were notified to the CoA during the review period. None of these were implemented by G20 economies; they are included in this Report for information purposes only. The first notification of export restriction and prohibitions was received on 30 March 2020. The products covered by the restrictions are eggs, feed, pasta, rice, sugar, wheat and wheat flour. The durations of the restrictions and the symbol of the notifications can be found in Table 3.27. All the concerned notifications can be accessed through the AG IMS (<http://agims.wto.org/>).

⁸² Reports by observer international organizations to the CoA: G/AG/GEN/168 (OECD), G/AG/GEN/169 (FAO), G/AG/GEN/170 (WFP), and G/AG/GEN/171 (IICA).

Table 3.27 Notified export restrictions (Table ER:1) in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic

Issue date	Member	Notification number	Duration of restriction	Relevant products subject to measures
30/03/2020	Thailand	G/AG/N/THA/107	One week	Eggs
02/04/2020	Thailand	G/AG/N/THA/107/Add.1	Extension of the measure by 1 month	Eggs
31/03/2020	Kyrgyz Republic	G/AG/N/KGZ/8	6 months	Wheat, wheat flour, rice, pasta, sugar, eggs, feed
2/04/2020	North Macedonia	G/AG/N/MKD/26	40 days	Wheat and wheat flour
15/06/2020	Myanmar	G/AG/N/MYN/21	2 months	Rice
15/06/2020	Myanmar	G/AG/N/MYN/21/Add.1	Extension of the measure by 90 days	Rice
04/08/2020	Viet Nam	G/AG/N/VNM/13	21 days	Rice

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.125. The following box on food systems and the COVID-19 pandemic has been contributed by the OECD.

Box 3.1 Food systems and COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic, and the necessary measures in place to contain it, have placed unprecedented stresses on food supply chains, with bottlenecks in farm labour, processing, transport and logistics, as well as significant shifts in demand. While to date food supply chains have demonstrated remarkable resilience, serious challenges to food security in developing countries persist^a. For countries already struggling with climate change, conflict and the serious locust plague, the additional economic shocks from COVID-19 are particularly concerning for vulnerable populations.

During COVID-19, open and predictable markets have been critical to ensure food can move to where it is needed. As the OECD *2020 Agricultural Monitoring and Evaluation* report shows, countries have introduced a range of policies in response to COVID-19, including support to farmers and others along the food chain; initiatives to keep food supply chains moving; and support to consumers and vulnerable populations. Several countries have taken active steps to facilitate trade, although others introduced export restrictions for key commodities^b.

Yet even before the outbreak of COVID-19, global food systems were faced with a formidable “triple challenge” of simultaneously providing food security and nutrition to a growing global population, ensuring the livelihoods of millions of people working all along the food chain, and ensuring the environmental sustainability of the sector and its contribution to climate change mitigation. Investments are needed to improve the resilience of food systems, not just to COVID-19, but also to climate and the range of other shocks that can affect the food and agriculture sector. Recent work in the OECD on food systems shows that policies and approaches to both address the dramatic short-term shocks and enhance long-term resilience are essential, and those that encourage global food systems rather than domestic self-sufficiency will be more effective at meeting the triple challenge.

Unfortunately, policy efforts have not been moving in the right direction. While there was a shift towards better targeted and less distorting agricultural support measures in recent years, this progress has now stalled. The OECD’s annual agricultural policy monitoring report (covering 54 countries and 75% of global agricultural value-added) shows that, in 2017-19, these countries provided a total of USD 708 billion per year in support to their agricultural sectors. About three-quarters of this support, USD 536 billion per year, was transfers to individual producers. Much of this support is linked to production of specific products, which not only distorts international markets, but also reduces the flexibility of farms and food systems to adapt to unexpected economic or production shocks, climate change, or shifts in consumer preferences^c.

Indeed, existing high levels of agricultural protection undermine global markets’ potential as a source of resilience by making it harder for supply shocks in one country to be compensated by production in others. With the fastest rates of population growth out to 2050 and associated growth in food demand in areas of relatively low agricultural productivity, increased global food trade will be essential to get food from where it can be produced to where it is needed. Furthermore, changing climatic conditions will also alter what can efficiently be grown where, causing shifts in trade – or potentially the need for more trade.

COVID-19 is compelling policy makers to make urgent decisions to ensure food supply chains continue to function. Encouragingly, so far they have mostly avoided the mistakes made during the food price crisis of 2007-8, and have taken steps such as accepting electronic SPS certificates to facilitate trade. But many other policy responses (such as additional distorting support to farmers) can have negative long-term effects. There is a need to ensure that short-term measures which incentivise production do not become permanent and that policies designed to contribute to long-term goals of resilient, sustainable and productive global food

systems are reinforced, not undermined, by policy action during the crisis. By adopting a policy package that includes investments in people, innovation, infrastructure and regulatory reform, governments can enhance the ability of food systems to withstand future shocks.

- a OECD (2020), "Food Supply Chains and COVID-19: Impacts and Policy Lessons", *OECD Policy Responses to Coronavirus (COVID-19)*, 2 June 2020, <http://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/food-supply-chains-and-covid-19-impacts-and-policy-lessons-71b57aea/>.
- b For a detailed overview of countries' policy responses to COVID-19, see OECD (2020), *Agricultural Policy Monitoring and Evaluation 2020*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/928181a8-en>.
- c Ibid.

Source: OECD.

3.7 General Economic Support

3.126. At the 24 July 2020 informal TPRB meeting dedicated to discussing the Director General's mid-year Trade Monitoring Report on Trade-related Developments⁸³, several WTO Members expressed their appreciation of, and full support to, the trade monitoring exercise as a factual and objective platform that reinforces transparency and predictability. Introducing his Report to the meeting, the Director-General called on WTO Members to redouble their efforts to maintain the transparency and predictability of the international trading system, and repeated his call to the WTO Membership to provide the Secretariat with guidance on how general economic support measures should be dealt with in future Trade Monitoring Reports. In this context, the European Union and 11 other Members⁸⁴ circulated a communication⁸⁵ on enhancing transparency on trade-related COVID-19 measures and, in particular, on general economic support measures, through the trade monitoring exercise.

3.127. Since July 2017, the Secretariat has been unable to justify the inclusion of a separate annex on general economic support measures in the Trade Monitoring Reports. This has been partly due to the low participation and response rate of WTO Members (including G20 economies) to the request for information, and partly because such an annex would be biased against those Members that traditionally share and publish detailed information of such measures and programmes. Some delegations have often insisted on excluding general economic support measures identified by the Secretariat from public sources. The July 2020 TPRB meeting generated an exchange of views on how to address this issue considering the multiple support programmes put in place by governments in response to the human, social and economic costs associated with the pandemic. Several delegations emphasized the importance of strengthening transparency in the context of the COVID-19 crisis, and expressed their strong support for doing so through the trade monitoring exercise.

3.128. In response to Deputy-Director General Agah's 3 September 2020 request for information, six G20 economies (European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Russian Federation, Turkey) volunteered information on 11 regular general economic support measures, i.e. not explicitly related to COVID-19. Very few additional measures were identified by the Secretariat from public sources. This is equivalent to the previous period, where 11 measures were communicated by seven G20 economies (European Union, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Turkey, United Kingdom) to the Secretariat. It is no surprise that G20 economies have implemented few regular general economic support measures over the past five months given the comprehensive support programmes put in place to deal with the pandemic.

3.129. During the review period, regular support measures by G20 economies included schemes for SMEs, transport innovation measures, state guarantees, investment loans and temporary reduction of taxes. One scheme included the phasing-out of liquidity facilities. Several of these measures were multi-year programmes, while others were one-off grants or aid schemes.

⁸³ WTO document WT/TR/OV/W/14, 10 July 2020. The mid-year Report covered the period from 16 October 2019 to 15 May 2020.

⁸⁴ Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore and Switzerland.

⁸⁵ WTO document WT/TPR/446, 04 August 2020.

COVID-19-related economic support measures since the beginning of the pandemic

3.130. In response to the Director General's March 2020 and Deputy-Director General Agah's September 2020 requests for information, 205 of the 638 COVID-19-related general economic support measures were communicated by 15 G20 economies (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, European Union (including France, Germany, Italy and United Kingdom), India, Indonesia, Russian Federation, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Turkey). In addition, 206 support measures were identified from public sources and governmental websites by the Secretariat, which amounted to a total of 411 COVID-19 support measures put in place by all G20 economies. This represents almost 59 measures put in place per month between March and mid-October 2020. The number of COVID-19-related support measures implemented by G20 economies is greater than that witnessed during the 2008-09 global financial crisis (GFC), and their scope is considerably more comprehensive.

3.131. In accordance with the long-standing transparency mandate of the trade monitoring exercise, since beginning of October 2020, the Secretariat has circulated⁸⁶ the COVID-19-related support information communicated by delegations directly to the trade monitoring exercise. The list of these measures is available on the WTO website. The measures that feature in the list appear in the original language of the submission, and are updated regularly.

3.132. Since March 2020, G20 economies have implemented an unprecedented number of general economic support measures to address the profound social and economic disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This was initially captured by the June/July Trade Monitoring Reports, where the first wave of these support measures were reported. The COVID-19-related support measures have so far included measures to sectors of the economy heavily affected by the crisis; funds to increase the capacity of national healthcare systems and to provide incentives to research into vaccines, diagnostics and treatments for the virus; aid schemes to support SMEs and larger companies; compensation schemes for the loss of revenue or additional costs related to the financial impacts of the outbreak; financial support to households, self-employed workers and employees; and wage subsidies to help cover payrolls of companies affected by the crisis. Specific sectors targeted so far have included health, aviation, tourism, catering, cleaning and security, agriculture, fisheries, childcare, creative industries and sport.

3.133. Another set of support measures put in place by governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic included measures implemented by central banks to ease monetary policies; reduce policy rates, statutory reserve ratios and repo rates; issue and purchase government bonds; and ease debt terms and reschedule deferrals on credit instalments to lower funding costs across the economy. Government responses have also included financial and fiscal measures to ensure economic stability, including strengthening the supply of credit to households and businesses; providing the banking system with additional liquidities; easing lending and borrowing terms; backing business investment; granting moratoriums; granting credit guarantees; and reducing taxes and fees. The responses of high-income economies have been significantly more generous in terms of the number and variety of measures implemented and funds allocated, compared to lower-income economies, whose responses have often relied on funding or other assistance obtained from international organizations and/or donors.

3.134. With a few exceptions, COVID-19-related general economic support measures are temporary, with explicit time-frames specified in terms of duration. Several of these measures have been adjusted and/or extended to reflect changing circumstances and the challenges which have arisen recently in dealing with a second wave of the pandemic. Currently, the discussions surrounding the large injections of public money generally focus on them as a necessary response to the crisis, and on the importance of maintaining such support measures to bring it under control and to mitigate increasing harms. At the same time, and increasingly looking to the future, there appears to be recognition of the need to ensure that exit strategies in the phasing-out of state aid must be coordinated so as not to jeopardize a swift and sustainable recovery from the pandemic. The collective commitment to ensure that the emergency trade and investment measures are transparent, temporary, proportionate and targeted is fundamental to ensuring that they do not become a source of distortion and unfair competition in the future. This is especially important given

⁸⁶ WTO, COVID-19: Support measures. Viewed at:
https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/trade_related_support_measures_e.htm.

the size of some of the pandemic-related rescue plans and stimulus packages, including some worth several trillion US dollars.

3.135. The above has captured the activities of the G20 in the area of regular general economic support between mid-March and mid-October 2020, and of COVID-19-related support measures since the beginning of the pandemic, so as to provide a more complete picture of all the policies and measures implemented. Given the speed with which COVID-19-related policies and programmes are introduced and/or modified, the number and type of measures covered in this Report are not exhaustive. For example, it has been difficult to keep up with all the specific actions undertaken by central banks and other monetary institutions, given their determination to maintain flexibility in terms of the tools, lending programmes and interest rate decisions required to deal with new challenges as they emerge. In addition, funding or other assistance obtained from international organizations, regional banks or donors have not been covered by this overview.

3.136. The trade monitoring exercise does not make any judgement as to the WTO-compatibility of any of the measures referred to in this Section. While it is possible that these measures, whether taken as part of a Member's overall commercial strategy or as part of a Member's emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic, may affect trade in some way, it is not always straightforward to conclude that they restrict or facilitate trade (and by how much), or that they distort competition. Nevertheless, and recognizing that other international organizations are often better placed to report on and analyse many of these measures, providing a brief overview of such measures taken during the review period represents an important element of transparency regarding developments in the international trading system. The Secretariat will continue to monitor and report on general economic support measures within the resources available to it.

3.137. The following box takes a wider look at the type of support measures put in place, so far in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Box 3.2 COVID-19 related general economic support measures – a wider look

In response to the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, governments have taken steps to revive national economies, to safeguard jobs, and to support individuals during containment measures. In March 2020, the Director-General requested WTO Members to provide information on such measures to increase transparency around the responses globally. This request for information mirrored the approach taken in the context of the global financial crisis (GFC). However, compared to the GFC, governments and central banks have ventured even further beyond traditional fiscal and monetary policy interventions, implementing unprecedented packages of policies. Some economic support measures have been horizontal in nature while others have been sector-, firm-, or labor market specific. The following seeks to shed further light on the types of measures which governments have implemented over the past 9-10 months and which have been reported and analyzed by several institutions.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic International Organizations have gone to considerable lengths to document the frequency and form of the economic support measures taken worldwide. The [International Monetary Fund](#) and [Organization for Co-operation and Development](#) have introduced and updated policy trackers. Meanwhile the International Labour Organization has maintained a webpage on [Country policy responses](#). These three international organizations have developed their own approaches to tracking policy. Nevertheless, there is considerable overlap in the types of economic support measures covered.

Table 1 reports the number of countries said to have announced different types of economic support measures related to the pandemic as well as the total number of each type of economic support measure. As the number of countries covered by these three trackers differs, care is needed in interpreting the counts of policy interventions. The same goes for the methodology and reporting conventions which may not be aligned and may involve different ways of counting. Nevertheless, and even if caution is required in seeking definitive conclusions, interesting patterns still emerge.

Two-thirds of the countries tracked by the IMF have implemented at least one economic support package. A total of 138 economies tracked by the IMF have undertaken central bank policy interventions. Nearly 85% of the economies tracked by the OECD have implemented fiscal spending increases. The ILO reports that 60% of the countries tracked have introduced some type of government support scheme for employees or workers. Providing an exact estimate of the magnitude of the total support measures implemented is complicated by the frequent adjustments to existing packages, but varying estimates have the total cost of these measures at USD 12-17 trillion amounting to 13-19% of global GDP^a.

The IMF has detected 30 changes in exchange rate policy undertaken by 27 different economies. At least 70% of countries tracked by these three international organizations have deferred or reduced taxes during 2020. The OECD has documented 38 measures to support exporters undertaken by 27 different governments. The ILO's Country policy responses page reveals the extensive resort to other forms of state aid to companies this

year. For example, a total of 148 countries have announced or implemented 673 subsidies or other forms of state support to non-exporting firms.

Table 1: Worldwide reporting on economic support measures by the ILO, IMF, and OECD

Type of economic support measure	Number of	ILO Country policy responses	IMF Policy Tracker	OECD Policy Tracker
Economic support packages	Countries implicated	47	118	43
	Policy interventions announced	57	222	73
Central bank measures	Countries implicated	64	138	60
	Policy interventions announced	124	226	163
Exchange rate Interventions	Countries implicated	5	27	6
	Policy interventions announced	6	30	6
Fiscal spending increases	Countries implicated	77	97	83
	Policy interventions announced	102	119	136
Tax reductions/deferrals	Countries implicated	135	136	86
	Policy interventions announced	378	195	277
Support for employees or workers	Countries implicated	114	93	61
	Policy interventions announced	217	120	116
Other state aid (not export related)	Countries implicated	148	133	87
	Policy interventions announced	673	251	438
Support for exporters	Countries implicated	17	19	27
	Policy interventions announced	24	23	38
	Number jurisdictions covered	188	178	98

Further information on resort to economic support measures can also be found in the Global Trade Alert database^b. According to this database, since the beginning of this year, G20 economies have implemented a total of 636 support measures of different types. Table 2 provides granular information on those types of public policy interventions where five or more measures were implemented by G20 members since 1 January 2020. For those interventions where the tradeable products and sector of economic activity could be identified, statistics are reported on the range of economic activity implicated by each type of G20 policy intervention.

Through 21 October 2020, a total of 167 state loans had been provided by G20 governments according to the GTA database. That only 5.1% of all HS codes were implicated by these loans - while nearly 90% of sectors were - could suggest that many loans are being offered to enterprises operating in the services sectors. According to the GTA, financial grants, tax and social insurance relief enacted by G20 economies this year affected more than 60% of all economic sectors.

The product coverage implicated by changes in G20 members' internal taxation of imports is nearly complete, although this does not imply that every G20 economy undertook such policy intervention. Resort to local sourcing requirements appears to target narrow segments of economic activity, measured by products and by sectors implicated. More generally, according to the data in the GTA database, significant variation appears across policy intervention types in the range of tradable products implicated and the sectors of economic activity likely affected.

Table 2 below lists the G20 economic support measures identified in the GTA database. As has often been argued by observers of such economic support measures, including in the context of the global financial crisis from 2009 onwards, reporting on these measures at any point in time will not be exhaustive. The principal reason for this is the time lag often seen in the context of reporting and providing transparency on such measures.

Table 2: G20 economic support measures by type of policy intervention

Policy intervention type	Number implemented by G20	Products (% 6 digit HS codes implicated)	Sectors (% 3 digit CPC codes implicated)
State loan	167	5,1	89,7
Financial grant	127	16,0	67,2

Loan guarantee	63	1,3	35,0
Tax or social insurance relief	53	1,9	60,5
Local sourcing requirement	47	0,6	5,2
Internal taxation of imports	36	94,5	17,3
Capital injection and equity stakes (including bailouts)	27	3,2	11,9
Public procurement localisation requirement	22	8,8	19,1
Interest payment subsidy	19	8,2	42,2
Price stabilisation measure	13	0,7	3,3
Localisation incentive	12	1,9	5,2
Production subsidy	11	0,9	5,2
Public procurement market access	6	17,2	19,5
State aid, nes.	5	4,4	8,2

Source: Global Trade Alert database.

According to the information available in the GTA database, the four most frequently sectors affected by G20 economic support measures as a result of the pandemic are passenger transportation (including air transport), the motor vehicles sector, pharmaceutical goods and medical and surgical equipment. These sectors were implicated 63, 43, 41, and 39 times, respectively.

The above seeks to provide a preliminary and tentative overview of some wider findings regarding the provision of general economic support measures implemented in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is not exhaustive and further changes should be envisaged as more measures are announced and/or adjusted. What remains clear in the overall narrative of general economic support measures implemented in response to the pandemic is that without the timely, comprehensive and effective policy support that has been implemented by countries to cushion the impact of the this exogenous shock on household incomes, firms and societies more broadly, the impact on global output and employment would have been significantly worse. The WTO Secretariat will continue to monitor developments in this area and provide a transparency platform for Members to engage on these issues.

- a COVID-19 recovery funds dwarf clean energy investment needs, 16 October 2020. Viewed at: <https://climateanalytics.org/publications/2020/covid-19-recovery-funds-dwarf-clean-energy-investment-needs/>; Wigglesworth, Robin, Long Live Jay Powell, the New Monarch of the Bond Market, *Financial Times*, June 23, 2020. Viewed at: <https://www.ft.com/content/5db9d0f1-3742-49f0-a6cd-16c471875b5e> and <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2020/10/06/sp100620-the-long-ascent-overcoming-the-crisis-and-building-a-more-resilient-economy>.
- b Viewed at: <https://www.globaltradealert.org/>.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.138. The below box explores the issue of reshoring in the context of the global supply chain model.

Box 3.3 Reshoring: reconsidering the global supply chain model

The traditional global supply chain model mostly depends on cost-reduction strategies, based on just-in-time production, with minimum inventories. This model, however, is typically vulnerable to major disruptions in supply, such as natural disasters, geopolitical crises, pandemics, and similar events. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed this core weakness of the global supply-chain model, triggering concerns about reliance on single suppliers, in particular when essential medical devices, pharmaceuticals, and personal protective equipment were in short supply. These concerns reignited discussions that had already started on "reshoring" manufacturing, and diversifying suppliers of critical inputs and components, in order to strengthen essential industries and to make them more resilient to global disruptions.

Reshoring, is the practice of bringing the manufacturing of goods and services back home from overseas. The related term "near-shoring" refers to companies establishing manufacturing in or bringing it back to regions close to the home country.

Even before the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, some analysts suggested manufacturing goods closer to where they are sold as a solution for companies seeking to reduce distribution costs and mitigate risk. In this regard, the following factors were identified as factors to justify reshoring decisions:

mounting labour and logistics costs in offshore countries; increased automation; concerns regarding intellectual property theft; stricter quality and safety standards; new environmental regulations for higher sustainability; national security concerns regarding certain industries; and geopolitical and trade tensions.

Under normal circumstances, firms reshore if it increases profits, or if there is a serious risk in keeping production offshore. Even in these circumstances, the operational cost of reshoring may mean that companies hesitate before making any reshoring decisions. For this reason, some analysts argue that governments should create incentives for reshoring, through a wide range of policy tools such as tax incentives, cost-sharing programmes, local-content measures, and trade remedies.

According to publicly available sources, some governments have already introduced measures to encourage reshoring or to build self-reliance and diversification of suppliers in certain industries. These measures include incentives such as fiscal support programmes and local-content provisions. It also should be noted that the pandemic has affected consumer preferences, with increased demand for locally produced goods which, in some parts of the world, has triggered "buy national" campaigns.

Should reshoring become a large-scale phenomenon, it could have a major impact on global value chains and, consequently, on world trade flows. This could, in turn, affect economic growth in those economies, especially developing economies, in which global value chains have played a significant role in increasing employment levels and reducing poverty.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.8 Other Selected Trade Policy Issues

3.139. The following Section provides a brief overview of the other selected trade policy issues where important developments took place during the review period.

COVID-19 related discussions at the General Council

3.140. The General Council has seen WTO Members engage on COVID-19 related matters on several occasions since the outbreak of the pandemic.

3.141. At the 15 May General Council meeting, which took place in virtual format, 65 delegations took the floor to exchange information and share views on COVID 19 trade-related measures.⁸⁷ Several delegations also touched upon the importance of transparency with respect to measures taken in response to the pandemic, including with respect to the duration of such measures. In the course of the meeting, delegations referred to several relevant communications including:

- Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic with Open and Predictable Trade in Agricultural and Food Products (WT/GC/208, 22 April 2020; WT/GC/208/Rev.1, 14 May 2020; and WT/GC/208/Rev.2, 29 May 2020).
- ASEAN Declaration and Statements on COVID-19 (WT/GC/210, 01 May 2020).
- Securing LDCs' Emergency Access to Essential Medical and Food Products to combat the COVID-19 Pandemic (WT/GC/211, 04 May 2020).
- Statement on COVID-19 And the Multilateral Trading System by Ministers Responsible for the WTO from Co-Sponsors (WT/GC/212, 05 May 2020; WT/GC/212/Rev.1, 29 May 2020; and WT/GC/212/Rev.2, 31 July 2020).
- Statement on COVID-19 by APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade (WT/GC/213, 08 May 2020).
- Joint Ministerial Statement on COVID-19 (WT/GC/214, 13 May 2020).
- Statement on Highlighting the Importance of MSMEs in the time of COVID-19 (WT/GC/215, 14 May 2020 and WT/GC/215/Rev.1, 26 May 2020).
- G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting Ministerial Statement (WT/GC/216, 20 May 2020).

⁸⁷ WTO Document WT/GC/M/183, and WT/GC/M/183/Corr.1.

3.142. At the 29 May General Council meeting, the Republic of Korea presented the COVID-19 Joint Ministerial Statement in WT/GC/214, co-sponsored by Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Singapore. This included the commitment of these five Members to alleviate the pandemic and work to ensure the flow of goods in global supply chains, facilitate essential movement of people and minimise the negative impacts on trade and investment arising from the pandemic to facilitate an inclusive and sustainable economic recovery.⁸⁸

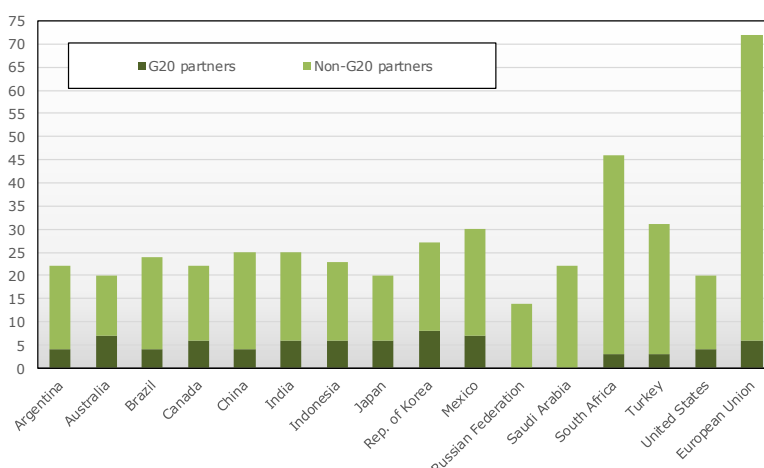
3.143. At the 22-23 and 31 July General Council meeting, Australia presented the revised communication in WT/GC/218/Rev.1, on behalf of the co-sponsors, seeking to limit the impacts of COVID-19 by reinforcing the importance of open markets, maintaining global supply chains and transparency. To achieve those objectives, the co-sponsors (i) called for such measures to be targeted, proportionate, transparent, temporary and consistent with WTO Rules and made further calls for restraint, timely rollback and the avoidance of market distortions; (ii) called for an agreement for Members to not impose export restrictions on food purchased for humanitarian purposes; and, (iii) proposed greater scrutiny of COVID-19 agriculture support measures by Members and tracking by the Secretariat.⁸⁹

3.144. Finally, at the 13-14 October General Council meeting, Malaysia presented the communication in WT/GC/220 which: (i) reaffirmed their commitment to effectively mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and promptly navigate the region towards a path of resilient, sustainable, inclusive and expedited economic recovery; (ii) acknowledged the importance of a free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable trade and investment environment to drive economic recovery at such challenging times; and (iii) committed to ensure that emergency measures designed to tackle COVID-19 were targeted, proportionate, transparent, temporary, did not create unnecessary barriers to trade or disruption to global supply chains, and were consistent with WTO rules.⁹⁰

Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs)

3.145. The G20 economies continue to account for a major share of current RTA activities. All eight RTAs notified between 16 October 2019 and 15 October 2020 included at least one G20 economy. As of 15 October 2020, 306 RTAs had been notified to the WTO and were in force. Of these RTAs, around two-thirds (64%) involve at least one G20 economy. While G20 economies, led by the European Union member States, have a large number of RTAs in force, the share of their RTAs with other G20 partners is limited and, in the case of some, such as the Russian Federation and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, this share is zero (Chart 3.29).

Chart 3.29 Cumulative number of RTA partners (RTAs in force, notified and not notified), as of October 2020



Source: WTO Secretariat.

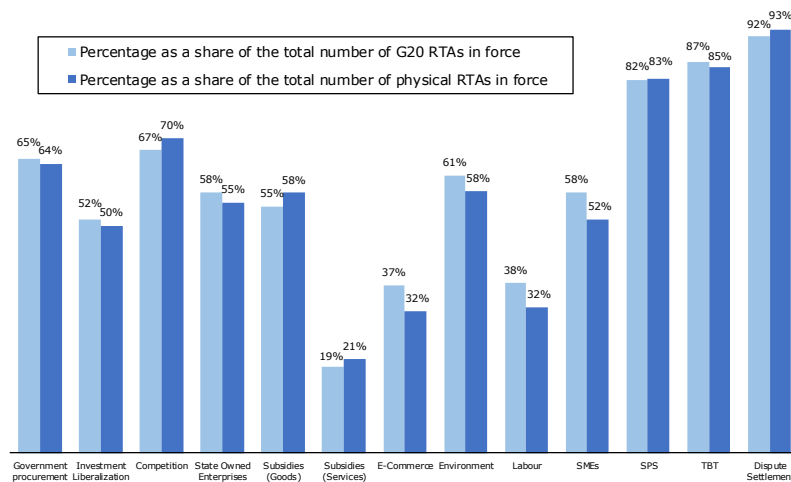
⁸⁸ WTO document WT/GC/M/184.

⁸⁹ WTO document WT/GC/M/186.

⁹⁰ WTO document WT/GC/M/187 (forthcoming).

3.146. In addition to the liberalization of trade in goods and services, most G20 RTAs increasingly include other provisions. They tackle issues that are not barriers at the border but nevertheless have an impact on trade. Such provisions include subsidies, SPS standards and TBTs, and also regulations on labour and environment, competition, government procurement and dispute settlement. Chart 3.30 shows that the number of G20 RTAs that have such provisions range from 21% for subsidies in services to 93% with provisions on dispute settlement. The frequency of a number of such provisions is greater in RTAs involving G20 economies, than for all RTAs. This includes provisions such as competition, subsidies (goods and services), SPS provisions and dispute settlement. However, the share is lower in other cases: only 32% of RTAs involving G20 members include provisions on electronic commerce, compared to 37% of all RTAs notified to the WTO, while 58% of all RTAs and 52% of G20 RTAs contain provisions to assist small and medium sized enterprises.

Chart 3.30 Key provisions in G20 RTAs and all RTAs



Source: WTO Secretariat, October 2020. For more details on these topics: <http://rtais.wto.org>.

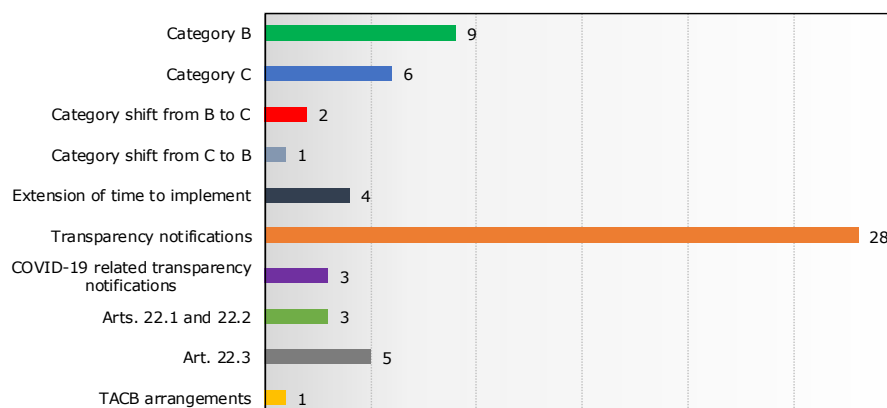
Trade Facilitation

3.147. The Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) entered into force on 22 February 2017, when two thirds of WTO Members presented their corresponding instruments of acceptance. At the conclusion of the review period, the data accounted for 153 ratifications, which represents 93% of the WTO Membership. Two additional instruments of acceptance have been received by the Secretariat since mid-May 2020.

3.148. Members also remained active in the presentation of implementation notifications. Twelve Members submitted various notifications with their commitments under categories A, B and C, of which 9 presented Category B commitments and 6 presented Category C commitments. Among the 12 Members, 2 made a category shift from B to C and 1 made a category shift from C to B. Four Members notified, and were granted, a request for additional time to implement a provision.

3.149. Notifications were also made on the transparency side. Twenty-eight Members presented notifications under Articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2, of which three Members made transparency notifications in relation to COVID-19 measures. Furthermore, 3 Members notified their technical assistance and capacity-building activities, in accordance with Article 22. Lastly, 5 Members presented notifications under Article 22.3, relating to contact points for coordinating capacity-building support (Chart 3.31). One additional Member notified their arrangements and progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building support.

Chart 3.31 Number of WTO Members that presented TFA notifications, 15 May 2020 to 14 October 2020



Source: <https://www.tfadatabase.org>.

3.150. Since the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (the Facility, or TFAF) has been acting on its mandate to coordinate other international organizations working to implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (the Agreement, or TFA). The Facility immediately gathered relevant resources and tools from partners at the World Customs Organization, the World Bank Group, UNCTAD, the Global Alliance/World Economic Forum, the International Air Transport Association, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, and the International Railway Union, among others, to provide links and a brief explanation of each. These were subsequently published on the Facility website.⁹¹

3.151. In further cooperation with the International Chamber of Commerce, the TFAF compiled a survey for government officials and private sector representatives to register any TFA-related restrictions they encountered. The survey, launched in March 2020, invited government officials and private sector representatives to identify TFA-related border processes that had been impacted, positively or negatively, by the pandemic. Some 199 responses⁹² were received, providing insight into COVID-19-related TFA issues that could inform the development of priorities for the TFAF's 2021 work plan. The plan will focus on helping Members to recover, and to respond to the TFA-related impacts of the pandemic. The responses indicated that all border processes, including availability of information, are more burdensome as a result of the pandemic and, therefore, strengthened the argument for full and effective implementation of the TFA.

Government Procurement

3.152. The Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA) currently has 20 Parties, covering 48 WTO Members⁹³, including 10 G20 economies.⁹⁴ Thirty-six WTO Members/Observers participate as Observers in the Committee on Government Procurement, including nine G20 economies.⁹⁵ At

⁹¹ WTO, *LAUNCH: COVID-19 Trade Facilitation Repository*. Viewed at: <https://www.tfafacility.org/launch-covid-19-trade-facilitation-repository>.

⁹² WTO, *The COVID-19 Crisis and Trade Facilitation*. Viewed at: <https://tfafacility.org/sites/default/files/tfacovidsurveyresults.pdf>.

⁹³ Counting the European Union and its 27 member States and the United Kingdom, which are all covered by the Agreement, as one Party.

⁹⁴ Australia, Canada, European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom and United States. In line with the decision of the GPA Committee on the United Kingdom's GPA membership in its own right for the post-Brexit period, and as the result of the withdrawal agreement between the European Union and the United Kingdom that provides for a transition period during which EU law would apply to, and in, the United Kingdom, the latter is covered by the GPA until the date of expiry of that transition period.

⁹⁵ Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Russian Federation, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and United Kingdom in its own right.

present, 12 WTO Members are in the process of acceding to the GPA⁹⁶ and another 4 undertook commitments in their accession protocols to initiate accession to it.⁹⁷

3.153. At its meeting on 7 October 2020, the Committee adopted a revised decision⁹⁸ on the United Kingdom's accession to the GPA in its own right. The decision opens the way for the United Kingdom to submit its instrument of accession in a timely manner and join the Agreement on 1 January 2021.⁹⁹

3.154. Brazil applied for accession to the GPA in May 2020¹⁰⁰, and circulated its replies to the Checklist of Issues, and its laws and regulations in the area of government procurement, in October 2020. It is preparing an initial market access offer and hopes to submit it by the end of 2020. Brazil might become the first GPA Party from Latin America. China is also actively pursuing its accession to the GPA. Following the circulation of its sixth revised market access offer in October 2019, it circulated its revised Replies to the Checklist of Issues in June 2020.¹⁰¹ Discussions continue based on these documents. The Russian Federation is in the process of preparing its next market access offer and amending its government procurement law.¹⁰²

3.155. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, various WTO Members have adopted policies and/or guidance on government procurement to be used in emergency situations. These measures aim, for example, to achieve enhanced efficiency of procurement activities to ensure timely access to health-related goods and services. Such provisions allow procuring entities to deviate from standard procurement procedures to address difficulties and challenges arising in situations of extreme urgency, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Several GPA Parties have provided information on their measures to the WTO, for transparency purposes.¹⁰³ At the Committee's meeting on 7 October 2020, Parties expressed a general interest in experience-sharing and peer learning in a Member-driven process in the Committee.

Dispute Settlement

3.156. Between the beginning of October 2019 and the beginning of October 2020, the WTO dispute settlement system dealt with a large number of proceedings initiated in 2018 and 2019. As compared to the previous review period, Members filed fewer new complaints. This period was also marked by the suspension of the Appellate Body's work in December 2019 and the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

3.157. During the review period, Members requested consultations in six new cases, five of which involved measures adopted by G20 economies. The Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) established panels in ten disputes, including one compliance proceeding, seven of which were among G20 economies. The subject matter of disputes brought to the WTO spanned a wide range of issues under the GATT 1994, the SCM Agreement, the Anti-Dumping Agreement, the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, and the Safeguards Agreement.

⁹⁶ Albania, Brazil, China, Georgia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, North Macedonia, Oman, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and United Kingdom. Among these Members, the United Kingdom is seeking to accede to the revised GPA in its own right for the period after the transition period provided for under the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement.

⁹⁷ Afghanistan, Mongolia, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Seychelles.

⁹⁸ WTO document GPA/CD/2/Add.2.

⁹⁹ In line with relevant decisions, the United Kingdom continues to be covered by the GPA as a member State of the European Union until the expiry of the transition period established by the Withdrawal Agreement concluded between the European Union and the United Kingdom.

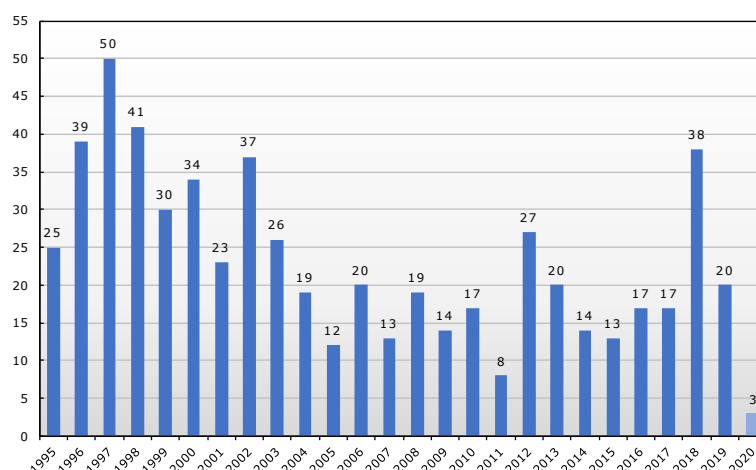
¹⁰⁰ WTO document GPA/152.

¹⁰¹ WTO document RD/GPA/107.

¹⁰² WTO documents RD/GPA/100 and RD/GPA/107.

¹⁰³ WTO document GPA/S/2.

Chart 3.32 Number of disputes initiated per year, 1995-20



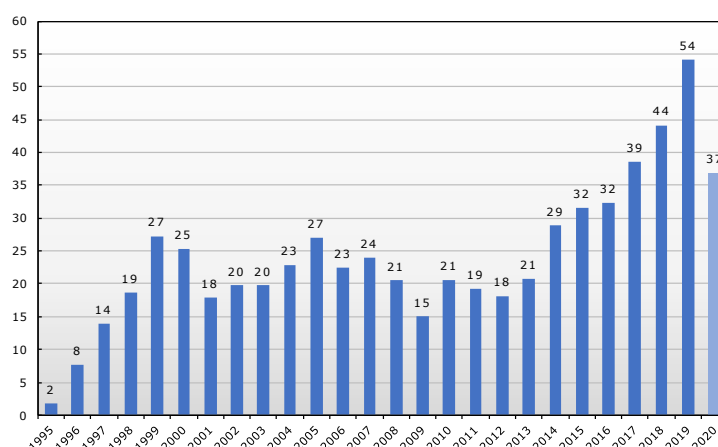
Note: 2020 covers January-September data. The figures reflect information about request for consultations filed in new disputes.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.158. During the period under consideration, panels and arbitrators circulated rulings in a total of ten disputes and the Appellate Body issued five reports in four disputes. Nearly all of these rulings concerned measures adopted by G20 economies. Members appealed six panel reports, including two concerning compliance with prior recommendations and rulings of the DSB. This brings to 14 the total number of proceedings pending before the Appellate Body. As of December 2019, however, the Appellate Body has been reduced to one member and cannot hear appeals, including those currently pending.

3.159. During the review period, on average, 37 panel and arbitration proceedings were ongoing each month.¹⁰⁴ As of the end of September 2020, panels and arbitrators were working, respectively, on 32 panel proceedings and four arbitrations on the determination of the level of suspension of concessions or other obligations under Article 22.6 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU). Of these, 31 panel and arbitration proceedings concerned measures adopted by G20 economies. In addition, five panels were at the composition stage and work of four other panels had been suspended at the request of the parties. All of the disputes awaiting composition of the panel concern measures adopted by G20 economies.

Chart 3.33 Average number of ongoing dispute proceedings per month, 1995-20



Note: 2020 covers January-September data. Appellate proceedings excluded from the calculation in 2020.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

¹⁰⁴ Appellate proceedings have not been included in this calculation.

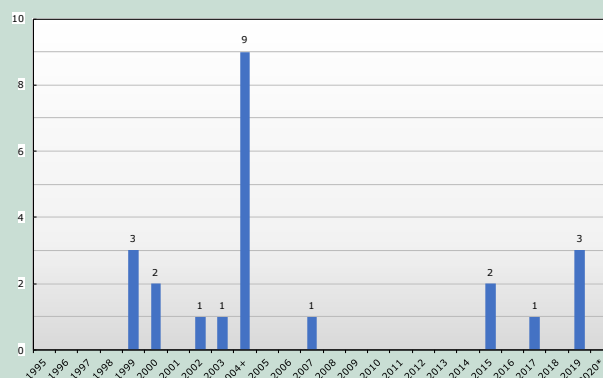
3.160. As with other activity areas of the WTO, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the functioning of the dispute settlement system. Lockdowns, travel restrictions and limited access to WTO premises have prevented panellists, arbitrators and delegations of WTO Members alike from participating in meetings in Geneva, thus delaying certain proceedings. Nevertheless, work on most disputes continued according to the schedules. Since 16 March 2020 when access to the WTO premises was restricted (totally at first, and later partially), panels and arbitrators have issued rulings in five disputes and the Appellate Body circulated one report to Members. Over that period, Members requested consultations in two new cases and the DSB established panels in eight disputes. In cooperation with the parties, and with the Secretariat's assistance, panels and arbitrators have devised procedures addressing the difficulties in holding in-person meetings. These procedures have included additional exchanges of written submissions in place of in-person substantive meetings and/or substantive meetings conducted at least partially through remote technology. As of the end of September 2020, panels in two disputes have held substantive meetings with parties using remote technology.

Box 3.4 Arbitrations on the level of suspension of concessions or other obligations

Recent years have seen an increase in the number of requests for arbitration to determine the level of suspensions of concessions or other obligations under Article 22.6 of the DSU. When a Member – typically the responding party in a panel proceeding – fails to comply with DSB's rulings and recommendations, the DSB can authorize the complaining Member to suspend concessions or other obligations under WTO agreements concerning trade with that responding Member. If the latter objects to the amount of suspension proposed by the complaining Member, it can refer the matter to arbitration.

Over the past five years, arbitrators have issued six decisions on the level of suspension of concessions or other obligations in five disputes.^a In contrast, during the preceding 10 years, only one such award was issued (Figure A). In addition, four arbitration proceedings under Article 22.6 were ongoing as of the end of September 2020 and further two were at the composition stage.

Figure A Arbitration awards on the level of suspension of concessions or other obligations, 1995-20

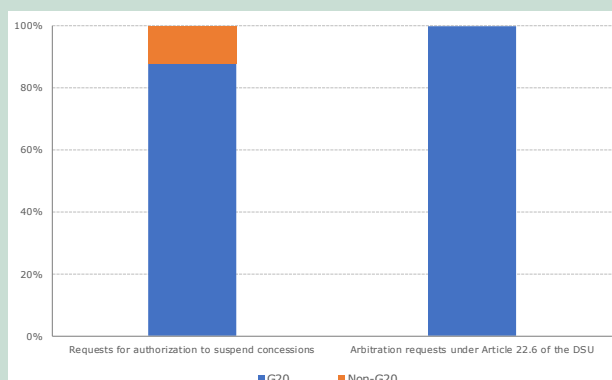


* 2020 data based on the number of arbitration awards issued from January to September 2020.

+ All arbitration awards issued in 2004 related to three disputes.

G20 economies have been by far the most frequent users of arbitration proceedings under Article 22.6 of the DSU (Figure B). In all but three cases, the authorization to suspend concessions was requested by G20 economies.^b Moreover, all such authorization requests were directed towards G20 economies.

Figure B Participation of G20 and non-G20 economies in arbitration proceedings under Article 22.6 of the DSU, 1995-20*



- * In arbitration proceedings under Article 22.6 of the DSU that resulted in an arbitration award.
- a In disputes with multiple complainants, an arbitrator typically issues a separate award for each complainant that requested the authorization of the DSB to suspend concessions or other obligations, if such request has been contested by the respondent.
- b This number concerns arbitration proceedings under Article 22.6 of the DSU that resulted in an arbitration award.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Trade and Environment

3.161. Given the strong interest in plastics and circular economy, the July 2020 Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) meeting continued to focus on these topics. Substantive debate took place on a proposal by China and Fiji to engage in discussions on the role of trade and the WTO to tackle plastics pollution¹⁰⁵; and on a proposal by Costa Rica, on behalf of the Friends Advancing Sustainable Trade Group, for a joint statement on trade and environmental sustainability.¹⁰⁶ New Zealand and other signatories of the Statement on Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform at the eleventh WTO Ministerial Conference (MC11) briefed delegates on their recent engagement with WTO Members to renew the MC11 statement for delivery at MC12.¹⁰⁷

3.162. Delegations were also briefed by the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions on the adoption of the plastics waste amendments to the Basel Convention. The goal was to enhance the control of the transboundary movement of plastics waste, and to clarify the scope of the Basel Convention as it applies to such waste.¹⁰⁸ At the request of the delegations of Fiji and China, UNCTAD presented a paper on Trade in Plastics, Sustainability and Development.¹⁰⁹ Further briefings were provided by other international institutions, and by delegations on their own initiatives.¹¹⁰

3.163. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) briefed delegations on their role in addressing the risks of zoonotic disease outbreaks such as COVID-19. The upcoming meeting of the CITES Standing Committee will offer an opportunity for further discussion on the importance of regulation, monitoring and control of trade in wild animals and animal products. The Secretariat also highlighted its ongoing collaboration with relevant organizations, such as the World Organisation for Animal Health and Food and Agriculture Organization. Lastly, it also noted that it was working with Parties and partners, such as the International Air Transport Association, to reflect upon ways whereby CITES might contribute to mitigating zoonotic disease risks at various points of intervention, from source, through transport and transit countries, to destination.¹¹¹

¹⁰⁵ WTO document WT/CTE/M/69, paras. 2.12-30.

¹⁰⁶ WTO document WT/CTE/M/69, paras. 3.2-5.

¹⁰⁷ WTO document WT/CTE/M/69, paras. 1.1-8.

¹⁰⁸ WTO document WT/CTE/M/69, paras. 2.6-11.

¹⁰⁹ WTO document WT/CTE/M/69, paras. 2.40-51.

¹¹⁰ WTO document WT/CTE/M/69, paras. 2.31-39 and 3.16-18, and Annexes 1 and 2.

¹¹¹ WTO document WT/CTE/M/69, paras. 3.13-15.

3.164. COVID-19 was specifically raised at the CTE in the context of a briefing by CITES. Outside the Committee, under the initiative of the Chair of the CTE, and with the support of the Secretariat, a special webinar was held during World Environment Day, 4 June 2020, on the topic Sustainable Trade after COVID-19: Can we do Better? The webinar brought together a wide range of perspectives from the WTO Director-General and panellists from government, the private sector and international organizations, to address the following key issues: (i) the role of sustainable trade after COVID-19; (ii) how global supply chains could be rendered both greener and more resilient to environmental and other shocks; and (iii) concrete action WTO Members could consider, to support and facilitate efforts to rebuild economies in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.¹¹²

3.165. In other forums, some stakeholders showed interest in discussing how trade relates to past and future transmissions of diseases of animal origin. Such discussions usually revolved around the need for science-based, fit-for-purpose and coherent regulation, to ensure safe and sustainable trade in animals, including wildlife. It also touched on other important environmental aspects related to the emergence of diseases of animal origin, such as habitat degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change, and the potential role of trade.

Fisheries Subsidies

3.166. The negotiations on fisheries subsidies in the Negotiating Group on Rules are continuing with the objective of reaching an agreement by the end of 2020. All Members are committed to an outcome that respects the mandate of Sustainable Development Goal 14.6 and the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference to prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, and eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing with special and differential treatment integral to the negotiations. However, the negotiations are legally and politically complex and the technical and practical problems associated with international negotiations during the COVID-19 pandemic have complicated the process. Nevertheless, progress is being made and negotiators are now focused on drafts of obligations and supporting disciplines that could be applied to fisheries subsidies.

Electronic Commerce

3.167. Discussions on electronic commerce in the WTO are continuing on two parallel tracks – multilaterally under the General Council and its relevant subsidiary bodies, and under the Joint Statement on Electronic Commerce initiative. In both settings, delegations noted how the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the role of e-commerce in supporting economic recovery, and the urgent need to address current vulnerabilities and to bridge the digital divide. In that regard, delegations stressed the importance of deepening the discussions on e-commerce.

3.168. In December 2019, the General Council adopted a decision to reinvigorate the Work Programme and to continue the practice of not imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions (the Moratorium) until MC12. Members also agreed to conduct structured discussions based on all trade-related topics of interest brought forward by Members, including on the scope, definition and impact of the Moratorium.

3.169. In the General Council, discussions mainly focused on the Moratorium. In March 2020, two submissions¹¹³ by Members on the impact of the Moratorium were circulated. The submissions were subsequently introduced and discussed at an informal open-ended meeting on the Work Programme, held on 14 July. In addition, on 13 July, the Secretariat organized a webinar which focused on two main issues: quantifying the Moratorium, and the Moratorium's impact on economic development. Besides discussions on the Moratorium, Members raised other issues under the Work Programme in the relevant bodies, particularly in the Council for Trade in Services, the Council for Trade in Goods and the TRIPS Council. In the Council for Trade in Services, a group of Members submitted a communication calling for exploratory discussions on supporting the digital capability of business and consumers.¹¹⁴ Members also considered a submission in the TRIPS Council on operationalizing technology transfer.¹¹⁵

¹¹² WTO document WT/CTE/M/69, paras. 3.6-12.

¹¹³ WTO documents WT/GC/W/798, and WT/GC/W/799/Rev.1.

¹¹⁴ WTO document JOB/SERV/296/Rev.3.

¹¹⁵ WTO document IP/C/W/665.

3.170. Under the Joint Statement on Electronic Commerce initiative, 76 WTO Members issued a Joint Statement in January 2019, launching WTO negotiations on trade-related aspects of electronic commerce. Since then, nine additional Members have joined, bringing the total number of participants to 85. With over 30 proposals, negotiations are ongoing under six focus groups: enabling e-commerce; openness and e-commerce; trust and e-commerce; cross-cutting issues, such as transparency, domestic regulation, and cooperation; telecommunications; and market access. Delegations are also encouraged to consider the unique opportunities and challenges faced by developing countries and LDCs, as well as by MSMEs, in relation to each issue under discussion.

3.171. In 2020, more time has been allocated for small-group and informal meetings, to assist delegations in further streamlining the texts and reducing the number of different textual options. In August 2020, the co-conveners circulated a stocktake text, which incorporates inputs from small-group discussions as well as consultations conducted by facilitators and Members. The stocktake is the basis for further negotiations towards achieving a consolidated text by the end of 2020. While the meetings are open to all Members, not all participate. Some Members expressed opposition to these negotiations on the grounds that they are not part of the current negotiating mandate.

Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs)

3.172. The WTO Informal Working Group on MSMEs was established at MC11 in December 2017, and currently comprises 91 WTO Members, covering all regions of the world and all levels of development. Some Members continue to oppose, or not support, discussions on this issue, noting that it is not part of the original Doha Round discussions, and that focusing on DDA issues should be the priority.

3.173. Although the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the original schedule of meetings, negotiations continued, in a small-group format, to move discussions forward. The Group also held one formal meeting during the reporting period, in July 2020, with another planned at the end of October to fine-tune and complete the Group's MC12 package. Issues under discussion by the Group include: promotion of transparency through the WTO TPR process and access to trade-related information, such as through the ITC Global Trade Helpdesk; MSME-inclusion in the development of trade regulations; and support for WTO work with particular relevance to MSMEs, such as trade facilitation, access to finance, and other financial solutions to support MSMEs' participation in international trade, and the implementation of the recently adopted decision on the Integrated Database. Additionally, funding for a web platform for MSMEs and policymakers was approved in June, which will link relevant trade information, including information on how to trade, for MSMEs, and studies and best practices, for policymakers. The Group held five webinars in June and July to raise the Group's awareness on topics including cross-border payments, paperless trade, and small business resilience through digital tools, and to celebrate the 4th annual MSME Day on 26 June. Lastly, an online search tool of SME-related measures in Members' RTAs was published on the WTO website in September.

3.174. To highlight the importance of MSMEs to the global economy and the unprecedented impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on small business especially, the Group issued a joint declaration of support for MSMEs. The declaration noted the unprecedented impact the crisis has had on MSMEs, and the need to build their resilience. The Group underscored the need to enhance MSME access to regulatory and market information, customs procedures and requirements, and affordable trade finance, among others. Work is also underway to aggregate information provided by Members on COVID-19-related MSME support measures.

Women's Economic Empowerment

3.175. On 23 September 2020, the 127 proponents of the Buenos Aires Declaration on women and trade established a collaborative, informal, open and transparent working group at the WTO.¹¹⁶ They aim to continue to share best practices among Members on removing trade-related barriers and increasing the participation of women in trade; consider and clarify what a "gender lens" is in the context of international trade and review how a gender lens could usefully be applied to the work of the WTO; review and discuss gender-related analytical work produced by the WTO Secretariat; and explore how best to support the delivery of the WTO Aid for Trade work programme. However, some other Members are of the view that the empowerment of women is not a trade issue. The working

¹¹⁶ WTO document WT/L/1095/Rev.1.

group will convene its first meeting in the second half of 2020 and establish a notional schedule of activities and themes for the period until MC12.

3.176. The Buenos Aires Declaration has been a catalyst for Members' increasing focus on trade and gender. The 127 proponents of the Declaration agreed to continue to implement its objectives agreed in 2017, which include sharing information and voluntary reporting during the WTO trade policy review process. In 2020, out of the four completed reviews¹¹⁷, two Members have extensively reported on their activities held in the WTO on trade and gender, gender related commitments included in their various trade agreements, some regional initiatives and investment programmes under the WTO-led Aid for Trade initiative incorporating gender issues. From January 2018 to September 2020, 18 WTO Members have voluntarily included as part of their TPRs, information on their gender responsive trade policies (out of 34 reviews conducted). Of these Members, five have dedicated specific chapters/sections on this issue and have mentioned the Buenos Aires Declaration.

3.177. Research by the WTO indicates that women are particularly at risk from the trade disruption caused by the COVID-19.¹¹⁸ One of the reasons for this is that a larger share of women works in sectors and types of firms that have been particularly hard-hit by the pandemic. The joint World Bank and WTO report on trade and gender, "Women and Trade: the Role of Trade in Promoting Gender Equality", published in July 2020, also highlights ways in which trade can continue to benefit women in the post-COVID-19 recovery period.

3.178. The following box on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women-led firms has been contributed by the International Trade Centre.

Box 3.5 Women-led firms harder hit by COVID-19

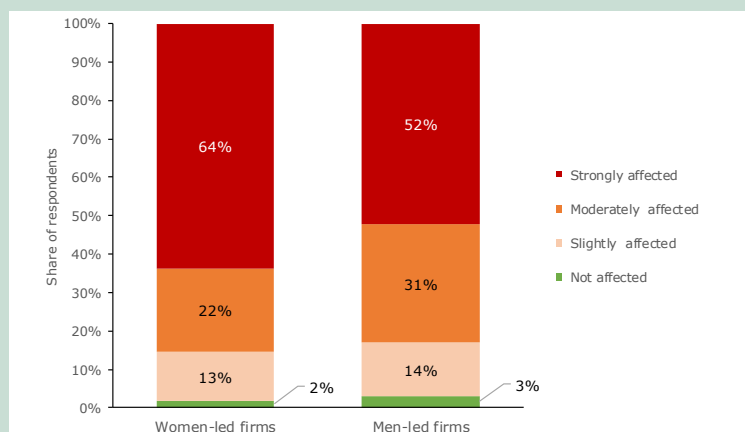
The COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented global crisis, affecting human health and economic welfare across the globe. However, the economic earthquake unleashed by the pandemic has not affected everyone in the same way. The shock seems to have had a disproportionate effect on companies led by women.

Firms led by women tend to be smaller in size, and so had little cash on hand to finance themselves during economic shutdowns^a. Women-led firms are also concentrated in the sectors that were worst affected by the measures taken to contain the spread of the pandemic, including accommodation, food services, retail, and apparel manufacturing^b. Furthermore, women-owned companies tend to have limited access to the information and networks^c that evidence shows was critical to the ability to learn about and cope with the business disruption associated with COVID-19^d. These factors led preliminary research to conclude that they might be particularly hurt by the economic ramifications of the disease^e.

The evidence affirms that women-led companies were indeed more severely affected by the pandemic. The International Trade Centre (ITC) COVID-19 Business Impact Survey gathered evidence on how the pandemic affected 2109 businesses in 120 countries between April and June 2020.

Analysis of that data shows that even when we take into account the fact that women-led firms tend to be in more exposed sectors, a significantly higher share of women-led firms say they were strongly affected by COVID-19 than men-led ones. 64% of women-led firms declared that their business operations were strongly affected by the pandemic in the first half of 2020, compared with 52% of men-led companies (see Figure).

Higher share of women-led firms strongly affected by pandemic^f



¹¹⁷ From February to September 2020.

¹¹⁸ Viewed at: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/info_note_covid_05aug20_e.pdf.

Moreover, women often work in the informal sector without a safety net, and had to in many cases bear the burden of increased childcare and face domestic violence. This underscores the vulnerability of women, including the entrepreneurs among them, during the pandemic⁹.

Build a gender lens into recovery agenda

As attention shifts to post-COVID-19 recovery, renewed attention is warranted to how market trends will affect female entrepreneurs. In summer 2020, a survey of lead companies, high-level policy-makers, and experts identified changing consumer demand, digitalization, and supply chain diversification as key drivers of global value chains in the post-pandemic era. These trajectories may have a different effect on women-led firms, for example because of their limited access to the resources necessary to respond to demand shifts, or because of lack of digital literacy skills. Indeed, these market trends could potentially have exclusionary effects for women-owned business, compounding barriers and bottlenecks already faced in international trade and logistics systems^h.

The growing momentum to 'build back better' should harness gender equality as an engine to rebuild the global economy as part of an ambitious sustainability and inclusiveness agenda. This calls for action from business, government and the international community. Concrete actions include leveraging corporate and public procurement, facilitating financing options that explicitly incorporate a gender lens, tailoring government support packages, and digital literacy and training to women-owned businesses.

Lessons can be learned from efforts to equip female entrepreneurs with the knowledge and skills to navigate the COVID-19 business environment. During the pandemic, SheTrades -- the ITC initiative for economic empowerment of women -- launched a crisis management toolkit as well as an emergency webinar series together with UPS, Maersk, VISA, Working Capital Associates and technical expertsⁱ.

At the multilateral level, the Buenos Aires Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment provides an essential framework for trade policy makers. Through the Declaration, 127 member states, with support from WTO, ITC and UNCTAD, have shared knowledge and good practices on women and trade, all captured in a recent publication by the International Gender Champions' Trade Impact Group. In September 2020, member states built on this work by establishing an informal working group on trade and gender. The group has specifically recognised the asymmetric effects of COVID-19-induced trade disruption on women and men^j.

- a ITC. (2015). *Unlocking Markets for Women to Trade*. International Trade Centre. Viewed at: <https://doi.org/10.18356/aa9eaa55-en>.
- b World Trade Organization. 2020. The economic impact of COVID-19 on women in vulnerable sectors and economies: Information note. Viewed at: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/info_note_covid_05aug20_e.pdf.
- c ITC. (2015). *Unlocking Markets for Women to Trade*. International Trade Centre. <https://doi.org/10.18356/aa9eaa55-en>; Brenton, P., Gamberoni, E., & Sear, C. (2013). *Women and Trade in Africa: Realizing the Potential* (p. 188). The World Bank. Viewed at: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2013/11/20/boosting-trade-in-africa-why-women-are-the-key>.
- d ITC. (2020). *Promoting SME competitiveness in the Philippines*. International Trade Centre; ITC. (2020). *Promoting SME competitiveness in Benin*. International Trade Centre.
- e World Bank and World Trade Organization. 2020. *Women and Trade: The Role of Trade in Promoting Gender Equality*. Washington, DC: World Bank. Viewed at: https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/women_trade_pub2807_e.pdf.
- f Respondents were asked 'How have your business operations been affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic?' and 'What is the gender of the top manager of the business?' ITC calculations based on ITC COVID-19 Business Impact Survey. Data collected 21 April – 2 June 2020. Response rates vary across countries and regions. To control for sector composition, shares are calculated at the sector level and then aggregated using simple averages.
- g Viewed at: <https://www.un.org/en/un-coronavirus-communications-team/make-prevention-and-redress-violence-against-women-key-part>; https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/info_note_covid_05aug20_e.pdf.
- h ITC, International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), UPS and Women 20. (2020). *Women Entrepreneurs: An Action Plan to 'Build Back Better'*". ITC: Geneva.
- i Viewed at: <https://www.shetrades.com/en/covid-19>.
- j WTO. (2020). Interim report following the Buenos Aires joint declaration on trade and women's economic empowerment. WTO document WT/L/1095/Rev.1. WTO: Geneva.

Source: International Trade Centre (ITC).

4 POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN TRADE IN SERVICES

4.1 Regular measures affecting trade in services

4.1. In addition to COVID-related measures covered below, G20 economies introduced new measures affecting trade in services between mid-May 2020 and mid-October 2020. Most of these measures relate to telecommunication services, e-commerce, and services supplied online, some of which are trade restrictive. Annex 6 provides additional information on 16 entries from China, European Union, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Turkey, United Kingdom, and United States.¹

Measures Affecting Supply Through Commercial Presence Across Various Sectors

4.2. In June 2020, the government of China issued the 2020 Negative List for foreign investment, which identifies sectors where activities of foreign investors are either restricted or prohibited. The new List opens additional sectors to foreign investment, reducing the number of items on the list from 40 to 33 compared to the previous year. Among changes, the foreign ownership limits for securities companies, securities management investment companies, futures companies, and life insurance companies have been withdrawn. The government also issued a new Negative List for foreign investment in pilot free trade zones, which, among other things, allows wholly foreign-owned enterprises to establish vocational training institutions.

Measures in relation to Communication Services, E-commerce, and Digitally-Enabled Services

4.3. On 29 June 2020, the Indian government announced a ban on 59 Chinese apps due to national security considerations. Subsequently, on 2 September 2020, an additional 118 mobile applications were prohibited. The ban covers such apps as TikTok, WeChat, Baidu Translate, and QQ Music. In the United States, in response to the President's Executive Orders signed on 6 August 2020, the Department of Commerce announced, on 19 September 2020, prohibitions on transactions relating to the mobile applications WeChat and TikTok due to national security concerns.

4.4. In Turkey, the Parliament adopted a law regulating social media. The new measure, effective from 1 October, requires foreign social media platforms with more than one million daily users to appoint a local representative in Turkey, which would be tasked with addressing complaints relating to their platforms' content. The law also requires user data from social media networks to be stored in Turkey.

4.5. In India, the government issued, in July 2020, new rules on e-commerce to complement the Consumer Protection Act 2020. The rules set out the duties and liabilities of e-commerce entities, marketplace e-commerce entities, sellers on marketplace, and inventory e-commerce entities. In Indonesia, the government issued, in May 2020, implementing regulations for its Law on E-Commerce. Two thresholds trigger the requirement for an offshore e-commerce operator to establish a representative office in Indonesia: sales to more than 1,000 customers in Indonesia or having shipped more than 1,000 packages to customers in Indonesia, within a period of one year. The regulation also requires e-commerce business actors to prioritize locally produced goods and services.

4.6. In Mexico, as of 1 June 2020, digital services supplied by foreign entities to users in Mexico are subject to the 16% value added tax. The European Union's Regulation on platform-to-business relations started applying from 12 July 2020. With the new rules, online platforms can no longer suspend or terminate a seller's account without clear reasons and possibilities to appeal. Also, all platforms must set up an internal complaint-handling system to assist business users. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia updated the Regulations of the Telecommunications Law and, in August, published a new cybersecurity regulatory framework.

¹ The inclusion of any measure in the Annex implies no judgement by the WTO Secretariat on whether a 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 with the provisions of any WTO agreement.

Measures affecting supply through the movement of natural persons

4.7. Japan's Diet adopted a measure to ease certain limits on the activities of foreign lawyers in the country. The new measure, effective since 29 August 2020, allows foreign lawyers to act as a legal representative in a broader scope of international arbitrations, including arbitrations between Japanese companies if there is an international connection.

Air services agreements

4.8. Table 4.1 presents information on air services agreements (ASAs) concluded or amended during the period under review. These include both new ASAs and revisions of existing ones. As far as can be assessed from available sources, the majority of these ASAs provides for improved access conditions than was previously the case. The air transport sector is currently under severe strain (Box 4.3) as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and this appears to have resulted in a marked fall in the number of ASAs concluded during the reporting period.

Table 4.1 Air Transport Agreements² including G20 economies concluded or amended during the reporting period (May to October 2020)

Parties		Date of signature	Source
Korea, Rep. of	22 European Union member States	25.06.2020	https://www.econotimes.com/S-Korea-and-EU-expand-air-routes-in-revised-aviation-pact-1586184
Nigeria	United States	29.07.2020	https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2020/07/30/fq-ratifies-nigeria-us-air-transport-agreement/
Bangladesh	United States	30.09.2020	https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/bangladesh-us-sign-air-service-agreement-1601475158
Nigeria	India	09.10.2020	https://guardian.ng/saturday-magazine/travel-a-tourism/local-operators-okay-air-trade-agreement-with-us-india-others/

Source: WTO Secretariat.

4.2 COVID-19 related measures affecting trade in services³

4.9. As part of its monitoring exercise, the Secretariat has compiled information on 68 measures affecting trade in services that have been adopted by G20 economies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, up to Mid-October 2020.

4.10. Most measures adopted appear to be trade-facilitating. This includes measures to ensure that more telecommunications capacity is made available to operators; measures to facilitate access by the population to Internet and mobile data and to online education and health services; measures to provide – and in certain instances reintroduce – flexibility for suppliers of transport services and facilitate the continued supply of cross-border transport of freight; and lighter requirements imposed on banks (liquidity and capital requirements) to ensure that they are well positioned to continue to provide credit to the economy. At the same time, various governments have taken measures to tighten foreign investment regimes, thereby affecting supply under mode 3 (commercial presence).

4.11. Annex 6 provides additional information on the measures adopted by G20 economies. Measures have been compiled for Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russian Federation, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, and United States.

² The term "Air Transport Agreements" is used here to refer to Air Services Agreements, Memoranda of Understanding, Exchange of Notes, and other such relevant instruments.

³ The information in this Section, and in Annex 6, was compiled by the WTO Secretariat and is an informal situation report and an attempt to provide transparency with respect to measures affecting trade in services taken in the context of the COVID-19 crisis. It does not pass judgment on or question the right of WTO Members to take such actions. The Secretariat has not sought to determine or indicate whether the measures listed in the table in Annex 6 have trade-restrictive or trade-facilitating effects. The information is not exhaustive and does not include information on general support measures relating to services. Further, the objective is not to list all COVID-19 related measures taken by governments around the world to limit movement, nor all the measures taken to ease the impact of border restrictions or other limits on movement.

Measures affecting supply through commercial presence

4.12. Various WTO Members have introduced measures tightening foreign investment regimes to prevent foreign takeovers in sectors considered of strategic importance, thereby affecting supply under mode 3 in various sectors, including telecommunication, health and transport services.

4.13. In the United Kingdom, a new measure, effective since 23 June, gives the government greater scope to intervene in takeovers that involve businesses with a role in combatting or mitigating the impacts of public health emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. On 20 May 2020, the German government adopted amendments to the Foreign Trade and Payments Ordinance that, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, expand the scope of investment review to the health sector. The government will have the opportunity to review acquisitions by non-EEA investors of voting rights of 10% or more in German companies operating in specified areas of the health sector.

4.14. In India, the government amended its FDI policy in order to curb takeovers or acquisitions of Indian companies as a result of the pandemic. The amendment provides that an entity of a country that shares a land border with India - or where the beneficial owner of an investment into India is situated in or is a citizen of any such country - can invest only with prior government permission. In France, the Minister for the Economy and Finance announced, on 29 April 2020, an update to the screening procedure for FDI in the context of the current health and economic crisis. The new measure includes biotechnologies in the list of critical technologies that are likely to be subject to screening. Also, the threshold for triggering a screening procedure is lowered from 25% to 10% of voting rights in the acquired company.

4.15. The government of Canada issued, on 18 April, a Policy Statement indicating that it would subject certain foreign investments to enhanced scrutiny under the Investment Canada Act. FDI of any value in Canadian businesses that are related to public health or are involved in the supply of critical goods and services to Canadians or the Government are now to be scrutinized with particular attention. The government also subjected all foreign investments by state-owned investors, regardless of their value, or by private investors assessed as being closely tied to or subject to direction from foreign governments, to enhanced scrutiny under the Act.

4.16. On 29 March, Australia announced temporary changes to its foreign investment review framework in order to safeguard national interests during the crisis. During this period, all proposed foreign investments subject to the Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1975 require approval, regardless of value or of the nature of the foreign investor. In Italy, on 9 April 2020, the Government widened its foreign investment screening powers to new sectors, such as food security, health, banks and insurance companies, financial infrastructure, and acquisitions of 10% or more of shares in local companies.

4.17. On 25 March 2020, the European Commission issued new guidelines for screening FDI in companies and critical assets located in the European Union. The measure aims to respond to the increased potential risk to strategic industries as a result of the economic shock resulting from COVID-19. Among other things, the new guidelines call on member States to make full use of existing FDI screening mechanisms and to take fully into account the risks to critical health infrastructures, the supply of critical inputs, and other critical sectors.

4.18. China adopted new policies aiming to facilitate and retain foreign investment. In February 2020, the Government issued a circular requiring local departments of commerce to, among other things, help foreign-invested enterprises to resume normal production and operation and strengthen services for large foreign-invested projects.

Telecommunication services and e-commerce

4.19. G20 governments have adopted various measures in relation to telecommunication services, typically aiming to facilitate the operations of suppliers of telecommunication services and to improve access to such services. For example, in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Communications and Information Technology Commission extended the provision of additional spectrum on the 700 and 800 MHz bands, to mobile service providers to enhance network performance. In the United States, the Federal Communication Commission launched the Keep Americans Connected Initiative to

ensure that Americans did not lose their broadband or telephone connectivity in the context of COVID-19.

4.20. At the same time, in reaction to the crisis, Indonesia adopted, in March, a law specifying that foreign-based suppliers providing e-commerce services into Indonesia would be considered as having a permanent establishment in Indonesia and would be subject to income tax and to an electronic transaction tax if certain criteria for 'significant economic presence' are met. The threshold for significant economic presence is yet to be stipulated. Further, as part of the COVID-19 emergency bill signed by the President on 31 March 2020, a new regulation requires foreign suppliers of digital services to register and charge the VAT, as of 1 July 2020.

4.21. For its part, Canada postponed its next 5G spectrum sale in an effort to help operators prioritize delivering connectivity during the COVID-19 pandemic. The 3500 MHz spectrum auction process is now scheduled to start on 15 June 2021.

Transport services

4.22. Mobility-related measures and border restrictions imposed by WTO Members for public health considerations have naturally affected transport services significantly, in particular cross-border transport services. In a second-phase response to the crisis, several governments have revised some of their travel and border measures, for example to ensure that the movement of "essential" foreign services workers, including transport workers, was not overly burdened.

4.23. In air transport services, several Members are allowing alleviation in Safety Operational Measures, providing airlines with greater flexibility while safeguarding safety of passengers and crew. These include personnel license validity, ratings, certificates, and attestations of air crew, instructors, examiners, aircraft maintenance license holders, and air traffic controllers. Airlines operating internationally need to have certainty that alleviations approved by their authority are acceptable by other Members.

Health services

4.24. In Brazil, the Government adopted a new measure in March that permits, on an exceptional and temporary basis, the use of telemedicine for medical services, including for medical consultations and digital medicine prescriptions. In Indonesia, the Medical Council issued, in April, a new regulation providing the legal basis for the supply of telemedicine services. Suppliers are required to register and to have a permit to practice at their healthcare facility in Indonesia.

4.25. In France, the Government relaxed rules on the use of telemedicine services. Until 31 May 2020, all persons affected by COVID-19 (and other patients under certain circumstances) could benefit from telemedicine services even in the absence of a pre-existing relationship between the healthcare provider and the patient. In South Africa, the Health Professions Council issued guidance on the application of telemedicine during the COVID-19 pandemic, aiming to facilitate the use of video or phone calls by doctors and therapists to treat patients. Previously, such services were essentially limited to cases where there was an already-established practitioner-patient relationship.

4.26. In the United States, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted to adopt a USD 200 million telehealth programme to support healthcare providers responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The programme aims to help healthcare providers purchase telecommunications, broadband connectivity, and devices necessary for providing telehealth services. The FCC also launched a Connected Care Pilot Program. This three-year Program will provide up to USD 100 million of support from the Universal Service Fund to help defray health care providers' costs of providing connected care services.

Financial services

4.27. In view of the key role of the financial services sector in supporting all other economic activities by stabilizing markets and ensuring the flow of credits and payments, Central Banks and financial regulators around the world have proactively intervened. Interventions included coordinated actions by central banks to ensure availability of liquidity in US dollars for international

transactions, and a range of monetary and regulatory measures by governments to alleviate the economic and financial stability impact in their jurisdictions.

4.28. Monetary authorities have been active and creative with different monetary instruments, including the lowering of key/base interest rates, quantitative easing, and reductions of reserve requirements. In addition to the reduction of counter-cyclical capital buffers, regulatory authorities in various jurisdictions have relaxed requirements regarding liquidity and capital requirements, to ensure that banks are well-positioned to continue to provide credit to the economy.

Measures affecting the temporary entry and stay of natural persons

4.29. In Australia, the government issued on 31 August a new list of Priority Skilled Occupations (PMSOL), which identifies 17 occupations that fill critical skills needs that support Australia's economic recovery from COVID-19. Employer sponsored nomination and visa applications with an occupation on the PMSOL will be given priority processing. Included among the 17 occupations are nurses, medical practitioners, software engineers, construction project managers, and mechanical engineers.

4.30. In the United States, a regulation published by the Department of Homeland Security in the Federal Register on 8 October will amend the criteria for H-1B visas by revising definitions such as "specialty occupation", "worksite" and "third-party worksite" and requiring corroborating evidence of work in a specialty occupation, among other changes. The regulation cites the need to strengthen the integrity of the H-1B programme during the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to more effectively ensure that the employment of H-1B workers does not have an adverse impact on the wages and working conditions of similarly employed workers as among the rationales for the changes. On 24 June, a new measure (the "Proclamation Suspending Entry of Aliens Who Present a Risk to the Labor Market Following the Coronavirus Outbreak") suspended the entry of foreign nationals in certain non-immigrant visa categories until the end of 2020. The visa categories affected by the suspension are: H-1B, L-1, H-2B, and J-1, as well as related categories for dependents, with certain exemptions.

4.3 Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on trade in services

4.31. The following aims to provide information on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on trade in services in different sectors and modes of supply.⁴

4.32. Services sectors have been heavily affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, as underscored by most recent trade in services statistics presented in section 2.4 of this report. Given the sector's role in providing inputs for other economic activities, including facilitating supply chains and trade in goods, disruptions in services supply are having a broad economic and trade impact. Furthermore, since services account for most of women's employment globally and a large share of micro, small and medium-sized enterprise (MSME) activity, the disruption in services supply also impacts social and economic inclusiveness.

4.33. Drops in demand and supply have strongly impacted services trade, though the type and extent of the impact varies by sector and mode of supply. Services that rely on physical proximity between suppliers and consumers have been most severely impacted by mobility restrictions and social distancing measures imposed for public health reasons. While direct contact can sometimes be substituted by remote supply, this is not necessarily the case in all services sectors or countries. Sectors such as distribution (especially retailing services), tourism and passenger transport have been profoundly affected.

4.34. Trade in certain modes of supply has experienced severe downturns. Supply under mode 2 (consumption abroad) has been paralysed and remains constrained. Travel restrictions have similarly limited mode 4, which involves the temporary movement of natural persons across borders. The supply of services through mode 3 (commercial presence) has also been negatively affected, as

⁴ This section draws in part from the Secretariat's Information Note, "Trade in Services in the Context of COVID-19", available at: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/services_report_e.pdf.

the pandemic impacted on existing operations in foreign markets and on decisions concerning the set-up of new establishments.

4.35. At the same time, the crisis has boosted online supply in sectors such as retail, health, education, telecommunication or audiovisual services. The crisis has accelerated companies' efforts to expand their online operations and is creating new consumer habits and behaviours that are likely to contribute to a profound and long-term shift towards online services and the digital economy. In the future, increased supply of services through digital networks can strongly impact trade, leading to increased supply through mode 1 (cross-border supply). The crisis is also underscoring the importance of transport, financial, distribution and logistics services in facilitating merchandise trade.

Tourism and travel-related services

4.36. As underscored in trade statistics for the second quarter of 2020, the global tourism and travel sector has been the hardest hit by the crisis so far, as mobility restrictions and border closures halted the movement of tourists abroad (mode 2). On 15 September, the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) announced that international tourist arrivals had dropped by 65% in the first half of 2020, and by 93% in June alone, when compared to 2019 levels. According to the UNWTO, this resulted in a loss of 440 million international arrivals, and about USD 460 billion in export revenues from international tourism.⁵ Asia-Pacific and Europe were the hardest-hit regions in the first half of 2020, with international tourist arrivals declining by 72% and 66%, respectively.⁶

4.37. The sector's decline has had severe economic consequences, given its overall economic importance for many countries and regions. According to the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC), direct, indirect and induced tourism impact in 2019 contributed USD 8.9 trillion to global GDP (10.3%) and 330 million jobs (1 in 10).⁷ For some economies, in particular smaller ones, tourism accounts not only for the largest share of total exports, but also for a significant share of GDP (e.g. 67% for Seychelles, 62% for St Kitts and Nevis, and 48% for Vanuatu).⁸ According to balance-of-payments statistics, travel represented 24% of world commercial services exports in 2019, and accounted for 48% of services exports of LDCs.

Box 4.1 COVID-19 and tourism

Tourism is one of the sectors most adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the latest data available from the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), international tourist arrivals declined by around 65% in the first half of 2020 compared with the same period in 2019, which translates into a loss of around USD 0.5 trillion in export revenues. This is more than five times the loss incurred in 2009 as a result of the Global Financial Crisis. The decline for 2020 is expected to be around 70%, with accumulated losses in the range of USD 910 billion to USD 1.2 trillion. It is also estimated that 100-120 million tourism-related jobs are at risk.

As per the data available, during the first half of 2020 the regions worst affected in terms of tourist arrivals were Asia and Pacific (72% decline year-on-year), Europe (66%), Africa (57%), Middle East (57%) and the Americas (55%). However, June saw an improvement in international tourist arrivals due to the easing of lockdowns combined with the beginning of the northern hemisphere summer holiday period. Additionally, demand for domestic tourism has started to rise pointing towards a strong recovery in 2021 on the assumption that restrictions are eased and there is no second wave of the pandemic. Nonetheless, the UNWTO estimates that the return to 2019 levels in terms of international arrivals would take between two and a half to four years.

Authorities around the world are cognizant of the dire consequences of the pandemic on the tourism sector and have taken measures to mitigate the economic impact and preserve livelihoods. A non-exhaustive list of support measures implemented by WTO members and submitted to the Trade Monitoring Section of the WTO Secretariat include many measures related to tourism, e.g. tax exemptions, state aid and support schemes, grants, unemployment benefits and assistance, loan guarantee schemes, debt relief, administrative cost assistance, concessional credit. In addition, measures addressing SMEs and MSMEs have also been

⁵ Viewed at: <https://www.unwto.org/news/international-tourist-numbers-down-65-in-first-half-of-2020-unwto-reports>.

⁶ Viewed at: <https://www.unwto.org/news/international-tourist-numbers-down-65-in-first-half-of-2020-unwto-reports>.

⁷ Viewed at: <https://wtcc.org/Research/Economic-Impact>.

⁸ Viewed at: <https://knoema.com/search?query=tourism+as+%25+of+GDP&pageIndex=&scope=&term=&correct=&source=Header>.

implemented to assist the tourism sector. The above measures are included in the original language of the submission on the COVID-19 webpage^a.

In addition to the non-exhaustive list of measures, stakeholders and multilateral organizations are also moving towards developing recovery measures and supporting the re-opening of the tourism sector, often in a manner which also addresses sustainability issues, for example in the context of climate change and loss of biodiversity. In this respect, the UN, the OECD and the World Bank, among others, have weighed in on recovery efforts being focused on sustainable and eco-friendly solutions^b.

a Viewed at: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/trade_related_support_measures_e.htm.

b Viewed at: https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sg_policy_brief_covid-19_tourism_august_2020.pdf; <https://www.unwto.org/news/g20-tourism-leaders-commit-to-intensify-efforts-towards-a-sustainable-recovery>; <https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/tourism-policy-responses-to-the-coronavirus-covid-19-6466aa20/>; <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/34348>; have weighed in on recovery efforts being focused on sustainable and eco-friendly solutions.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Distribution services

4.38. In the first months of the pandemic, the imposition of severe limits on the operation of stores considered as non-essential had a strong negative impact on distribution services, including its supply under mode 3 (commercial presence), which is significant in the sector. For example, in January/February 2020, at the peak of the outbreak in China, data published by the National Bureau of Statistics found that retail trade in the country had declined by 20.5% compared to the previous year.⁹ In the United States, retail and food services sales declined by 7.7% between February and April 2020, compared to the same period in 2019.¹⁰ In the European Union, sales of non-food products had dropped by 23.8% in April 2020 year-on-year.¹¹ More recently, as limits on the operation of physical stores have been relaxed in a number of countries, total retail sales have gradually increased.¹² Globally, total retail sales in 2020 are currently expected to be down notably from 2019.¹³ Given the recent introduction of new lockdowns in a number of countries the outlook remains uncertain.

4.39. At the same time, the pandemic and social distancing measures have caused a strong expansion of online distribution services around the world. Online retail purchases jumped, as consumers increased their e-commerce activities and the range of goods typically bought online expanded. The increase in online sales was particularly steep for healthcare and household products, including groceries. Facing reduced visitors, several brick-and-mortar outlets have moved to expand their online presence and their delivery and pickup services.

4.40. In the United States, non-store sales increased by 31% in June 2020 year-on-year¹⁴ and, in the second quarter, 16% of total retail sales took place online, a 44.5% increase year-on-year.¹⁵ E-commerce sales in the United States are projected to raise by over 30% in 2020, after a 14.6% increase in 2019.¹⁶ In China, in early 2020, online sales of certain goods that traditionally had limited

⁹ This is consistent with analysis from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Viewed at: <https://blogs.imf.org/2020/03/20/blunting-the-impact-and-hard-choices-early-lessons-from-china/>.

¹⁰ OECD (2020), "E-Commerce in the Times of COVID-19", 7 October 2020. Viewed at: https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/view/?ref=137_137212-t0fignerdb&title=E-commerce-in-the-time-of-COVID-19.

¹¹ OECD (2020), "COVID-19 and the Retail Sector: Impact and Policy Responses", 16 June 2020, viewed at: https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/view/?ref=134_134473-kuqn636n26&title=COVID-19-and-the-retail-sector-impact-and-policy-responses.

¹² In the United States, for example, retail sales had reached pre-pandemic levels in July and August 2020: <https://www.census.gov/retail/index.html>. In China, official data showed that retail sales in August had increased by 0.5% year-on-year, the first such increase since the COVID-19 outbreak: http://www.stats.gov.cn/english/PressRelease/202009/t20200916_1789791.html.

¹³ One study estimates 2020 worldwide retail sales to be 5.7% lower than in 2019. Viewed at: <https://www.emarketer.com/content/covid-19-impact-on-worldwide-retail-will-worse-than-great-recession>.

¹⁴ Viewed at: <https://www.digitalcommerce360.com/2020/09/16/us-nonstore-retail-sales-jump-21-in-august/>.

¹⁵ Viewed at: <https://www.globalxetfs.com/e-commerce-entering-the-next-wave-of-growth/#:~:text=E%2Dcommerce%20has%20become%20the,increase%20from%20Q2%20last%20year>.

¹⁶ This figure captures online sales of both goods and services. Viewed at: <https://www.emarketer.com/content/us-ecommerce-growth-jumps-more-than-30-accelerating-online-shopping-shift-by-nearly-2-years>.

online penetration, such as daily essential products, increased between 50 and 150% compared to the previous year.¹⁷ Between January and August 2020, online retail accounted for 24.6% of total retail sales in China, up from 17.4% in August 2018.¹⁸ Similar trends were observed in various markets.

4.41. While most online retail sales take place within borders, the pandemic also boosted cross-border online sales in some regions. A report analysing online retail sales of apparel, accessories, cosmetics and footwear items from 300 vendors selling to more than 185 countries showed a 21% increase in cross-border online sales between 1 January to 14 June 2020, year-on-year. In May, such cross-border online sales increased by 42% in the United States, year-on-year; in the Gulf region, they grew by 115% in March, 575% in April, and 236 %in May, year-on-year.¹⁹

Telecommunication and ICT services

4.42. With more people engaging in remote work and education and increased reliance on the internet for entertainment and social contact, the demand for information and communication technology (ICT) services and related infrastructure has been unprecedented and unanticipated. The ICT industry's networks and applications have enabled sustained demand not only for telework and education, but also for telemedicine, food delivery, logistics and contactless payments.

4.43. Data traffic continues to witness the high levels observed early in the pandemic. In March 2020, Facebook reported that in countries hard hit by the pandemic, use of its online messaging service was up more than 50%, and voice and video traffic doubled.²⁰ Initially, China's Tencent also saw increased use of its social network, games, fintech and business services in the first quarter of 2020.²¹ And Vodacom Group recorded a 40% rise in data traffic in South Africa during the lockdown.²² As of August, average international Internet traffic was estimated to have increased by 48% in 2020, with strong capacity growth observed across different regions.²³

4.44. Despite the increased demand for ICT services, the pandemic is also having certain negative impacts, which affect trade in different modes of supply. In the first months of the pandemic, a significant number of auctions of 5G spectrum were postponed, although governments have now begun to reschedule them. Further, operations of suppliers may be impacted as struggling businesses reduce ICT expenditures to the essentials to reduce costs.²⁴ Other negative consequences of the crisis in the short term may include significant declines in roaming revenues, as a consequence of limits on mobility.²⁵ The crisis also poses difficulties for suppliers relying on advertising revenue, as companies reduce spending as a result of the pandemic and subsequent economic slowdown.²⁶ Moreover, the pandemic presents challenges for the business service outsourcing sector. Some companies have flagged an intention to reduce their dependence on outsourcing, which could have long-term trade implications.²⁷ In Bangladesh, for example, the ICT industry is reported to have lost

¹⁷ Viewed at: <https://www.bain.com/insights/chinas-consumer-industry-prepares-for-the-coronavirus-legacy/>.

¹⁸ OECD (2020), "E-Commerce in the Times of COVID-19", 7 October 2020. Viewed at: https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/view/?ref=137_137212-t0fignerdb&title=E-commerce-in-the-time-of-COVID-19.

¹⁹ Viewed at: <https://www.digitalcommerce360.com/2020/07/28/global-cross-border-ecommerce-grows-21/#:~:text=Cross%2Dborder%20online%20sales%20worldwide,web%20merchants%20sell%20online%20globally>.

²⁰ Viewed at: <https://about.fb.com/news/2020/03/keeping-our-apps-stable-during-covid-19/>.

²¹ Viewed at: <https://www.mobileworldlive.com/asia/asia-news/gaming-surge-drives-tencent-growth/>.

²² Viewed at: <https://www.mobileworldlive.com/featured-content/top-three/vodacom-data-traffic-surges-during-lockdown/>.

²³ Viewed at: https://blog.telegeography.com/internet-traffic-and-capacity-in-covid-adjusted-terms?hss_channel=tw-285211941.

²⁴ Viewed at: <https://australiancybersecuritymagazine.com.au/australias-ict-spending-set-to-decline-by-5-9-in-2020-due-to-covid-19/>.

²⁵ Viewed at: <https://www.mobileworldlive.com/featured-content/home-banner/operators-face-25b-roaming-hit-report/>.

²⁶ Viewed at: <https://www.ondia.com/resources/product-content/global-advertising-market-set-for-tough-2020-as-covid-19-impact-hits-global-economy> and <https://www.digitalcommerce360.com/2020/04/30/facebook-signals-online-advertising-to-take-a-big-hit/>.

²⁷ For example, see "Virgin Media to Recruit 500 Call-Centre Staff in UK", Financial Times, 25 March 2020.

about USD 1.3 billion worth of trade due to the pandemic, with 70-80% of global work orders were cancelled.²⁸

4.45. In the longer term, increased online transactions and other activities may translate into higher earnings in the sector. While the sector is not immune to reductions in corporate spending as businesses seek cost reductions, the pandemic may, if supportive policies are maintained, ultimately offer stimulus to the sector as a result of new habits and a more urgent need for innovation. Resumption of 5G spectrum auctions and new and reenergised broadband rollout programs confirm that governments see internet and broadband data transmission services as critical to recovery from the COVID-induced economic slump.

Transport services

4.46. The pandemic has had a dramatic effect on the air transport service sector. In September, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) estimated that world air passenger traffic could drop by 60% in 2020, compared to 2019, leading airline revenues to potentially fall by as much as USD 370 to USD 390 billion. The ICAO expects the most substantial reduction in international passenger numbers to be in Europe, while the sharpest drop in domestic passenger traffic is forecast for the Asia-Pacific region, followed by North America.²⁹ Airports Council International (ACI), the airport industry body, forecast at the end of August that flight cancellations and airport closures would result in a decline of more than 5.6 billion passengers globally for 2020, and that airport revenue losses for the year would exceed USD 104 billion.³⁰

4.47. In addition, as around 35% of global trade (by value) travels by air, the collapse in passenger flights has had a significant impact on air cargo capacity. Data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) reveal that belly capacity for international air cargo shrank by over 70% in July 2020 compared to the previous year.³¹ Although this was partially offset by a nearly 30% increase in capacity through expanded use of freighter aircraft, including the use of idle passenger aircraft for all-cargo operations, capacity to meet demand for air freight transport currently remains constrained. Air cargo demand also declined compared to the previous year, though that trend is gradually reversing.³² As a result, air freight rates have increased significantly – by an estimated average of nearly 50% worldwide, with Asia Pacific routes experiencing the largest increase.³³

4.48. With lockdown and quarantine measures implemented in most countries since the outbreak of COVID-19, the maritime transport sector came under significant pressure. Both container ship calls and their cumulative capacity plunged from January to March 2020. At the same time, the ratio of missed port calls (i.e. scheduled vessel calls that do not occur) rose sharply. Global container trade volumes declined by 8.6% in February 2020 year-on-year.³⁴ In February 2020, 46% of scheduled departures on the major route from Asia to Northern Europe were cancelled,³⁵ and the port of Los Angeles, the largest US container port, announced that cargo volumes had fallen by approximately 25% compared to the prior year.³⁶ The slowdown in port calls occurred worldwide.

²⁸ Viewed at: <https://tbsnews.net/thoughts/bangladesh-ict-sector-covid-world-impacts-and-way-outs-130945>.

²⁹ Viewed at: https://www.icao.int/sustainability/Documents/COVID-19/ICAO_Coronavirus_Econ_Impact.pdf.

³⁰ Viewed at: <https://store.aci.aero/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/COVID19-4th-Economic-Impact-Advisory-Bulletin.pdf>.

³¹ Viewed at: <https://www.iata.org/en/pressroom/pr/2020-08-31-01/>.

³² Ibid. Also see, for example: <https://www.flightglobal.com/airlines/scoot-converts-a320-into-temporary-freighter/139873.article>; <https://www.freightwaves.com/news/korean-air-jettisons-passenger-seats-to-up-cargo-capacity>.

³³ Viewed at: <https://www.aircargonews.net/data/worldacd-airfreight-rates-pushed-up-by-capacity-crunch-in-h1-2020/>.

³⁴ Viewed at: <https://www.itf-oecd.org/sites/default/files/global-container-shipping-covid-19.pdf> Further, port operators in China reported that volume for container shipping decreased by between 20% and 40% between 20 January and 10 February 2020 compared to the same period in 2019: <https://www.hellenicshippingnews.com/what-does-coronavirus-mean-for-container-shipping/>.

³⁵ "Coronavirus impact raises red flags at European ports", Journal of Commerce, 19 February 2020.

³⁶ "Port of Los Angeles Sees Coronavirus Impact Sharply Reducing Imports", Wall Street Journal, 25 February 2020.

The number of ship calls at EU ports declined by 14.9% in the first 36 weeks of 2020 compared to the same period in 2019.³⁷

4.49. Major shipping routes have been significantly affected by the pandemic. In the first 36 weeks of 2020, ship traffic decreased by 50.2% from Europe to China and by 30.2% from China to Europe, year-on-year.³⁸ Over the same period, ship traffic from Europe to the United States declined by 29.5% , while the decline in traffic from the United States to the European Union reached 38.3%.³⁹ This resulted into higher costs for shipping and serious problems for supply chains.

4.50. Since May, container shipping has been on a gradual upward trend, although the situation varies significantly across regions. UNCTAD estimated that, by early August, container port ship calls in China and Hong Kong, China had increased by 4.1% compared to 2019, but calls in North America and Europe were still 16.3% and 13.2% below levels registered one year earlier.⁴⁰

4.51. The COVID-19 pandemic has also seriously disrupted land transport worldwide. Most countries have suspended or largely reduced cross-border passenger transport services. While borders remained open for freight transportation, drivers were subject to border controls for quarantine purposes, which has led to a slowdown of logistics flows. In order to mitigate disruption, several governments have adopted measures to facilitate freight transport. For example, most EU member States implemented temporary relief measures, including the suspension of weekend traffic bans for heavy vehicles, as well as a temporary and limited relaxation of the enforcement of driving and rest times for the drivers of vehicles transporting goods.⁴¹

4.52. While countries' political responses to COVID-19 cover a wide range of measures, including those aimed at mitigating supply chain disruptions, a report published by the International Road Transport Union (IRU) in late June 2020 underscores that restrictions outweigh facilitation measures, suggesting long-term impacts on the industry. According to the IRU, the annual turnover is expected to decline by 18% in the freight road transport sector globally. As regards passenger road transport, revenue is forecast to decline by 57% in 2020.⁴²

Box 4.2 COVID-19 Government aid measures in air transport

Air transport is also one of the sectors most affected by the COVID-19 outbreak and the social distancing and mobility restrictions imposed to contain the spread of the epidemic. Latest available data reveal that global passenger traffic declined 91.3% year-over-year in May 2020^a. According to IATA's latest estimates, full-year 2020 traffic is expected to fall 66% in 2020 compared to 2019^b.

The crisis has put airlines' finances under severe strain. Governments have intervened to support the industry to ensure that it remains viable, ready to restart connectivity and able to underpin the wider travel value chain. In addition to introducing facilitating regulatory measures thus far, governments have provided, so far, USD 160 billion in financial support. By far the largest part of government support has taken the form of loans, followed by wage subsidies, loan guarantees and equity financing. Additional support measures include specific industry tax relief, including on tickets or fuels, and cash injections.

This assistance is not evenly spread geographically. As a share of airlines' regional revenue^c, by May 2020 government support has varied between 25% in North America and 1% in Latin America and Africa and the Middle East. Even amongst the top-10 passenger markets, levels of support have differed markedly,

³⁷ "COVID-19: Impact on Shipping", EMSA (European Maritime Safety Agency), 11 September 2020. Viewed at: <http://www.emsa.europa.eu/news-a-press-centre/covid19-impact/item/4002-september-2020-covid-19-impact-on-shipping-report.html>.

³⁸ "COVID -19: Impact on Shipping", EMSA (European Maritime Safety Agency), 11 September 2020. Viewed at: <http://www.emsa.europa.eu/news-a-press-centre/covid19-impact/item/4002-september-2020-covid-19-impact-on-shipping-report.html>.

³⁹ "COVID -19: Impact on Shipping", EMSA (European Maritime Safety Agency), 11 September 2020. Viewed at: <http://www.emsa.europa.eu/news-a-press-centre/covid19-impact/item/4002-september-2020-covid-19-impact-on-shipping-report.html>.

⁴⁰ Viewed at: <https://unctad.org/news/navigating-through-coronavirus-crisis-and-uncertainty-how-maritime-transport-data-can-help>.

⁴¹ On 16 March 2020, the European Commission issued guidelines for border measures to protect health and keep goods and essential services available. The guidelines set out principles for an integrated approach to an effective border management to protect health while preserving the integrity of the internal market. Viewed at: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/20200316_covid-19-guidelines-for-border-management.pdf.

⁴² IRU Intelligence Report "Covid-19 Impacts on the Road Transport Industry", June 2020. Viewed at: <https://www.iru.org/resources/iru-library/covid-19-impacts-road-transport-industry-executive-summary>.

accounting for over 36% of 2019 ticket revenues in France, nearly 33% in the United States and less than 2% in Australia, Canada and India^d. According to IATA; there is virtually no correlation between the size of the aid extended and the airlines' pre-COVID return on invested capital.

- a Viewed at: <https://aci.aero/news/2020/07/31/aci-world-data-reveals-catastrophic-impact-of-pandemic-on-global-traffic/>.
- b Viewed at: <https://www.iata.org/en/pressroom/pr/2020-09-29-02/>.
- c 2019 revenue to, from and within each region.
- d Viewed at: <https://www.iata.org/en/iata-repository/publications/economic-reports/government-aid-and-airlines-debt/>.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Health Services

4.53. The COVID-19 crisis stimulated a surge in the use of telemedicine services.⁴³ In China, for example, the growth of online medical services has accelerated substantially, with some platforms experiencing three-digit growth rates between December 2019 and January 2020. The number of users of online medical platforms in Asian economies (e.g. Australia, Indonesia, Singapore) has grown rapidly.⁴⁴ For the first quarter of 2020, there was a 150% year-on-year growth in the use of telemedicine platforms in the region.⁴⁵ Some providers are also expanding their activities to enable patients to benefit from certain services sourced abroad, e.g. second opinions. The use of telemedicine also increased in Europe and North America, where the COVID-19 outbreak prompted calls for making more extensive use of telemedicine. In the United States, healthcare providers have reported 50 to 175 times more telehealth visits compared to pre-COVID-19.⁴⁶

Education Services

4.54. The closure of schools and higher education institutions in response to the pandemic carried significant social and economic consequences; UNESCO estimated that during the peak of the crisis, school and university closures in 190 countries had impacted over 90% of the world's student population.⁴⁷ These closures have also affected the provision of education services worldwide, causing the demand for online learning to skyrocket.

4.55. The pandemic also had a significant economic impact on the higher education sector. In particular, the closure of universities and border measures has had a chilling effect on international student inflows, which constitute an important source of revenue for tertiary institutions.⁴⁸ In the United States, the American Council on Education estimated a 25% decline of international student enrollment in the fall of 2020, resulting in a USD 25 billion revenue loss for educational institutions.⁴⁹

4.56. As systems massively move to e-learning, the digital divide in relation to connectivity, access to devices and skill levels is taking on even more significance. Looking forward, the current crisis is likely to have a significant and lasting impact on the provision of education and, thereby, on international trade in educational services, notably by increasing the demand and supply of online education.

⁴³ A study expects the global market to rise by 23% in 2020 as a consequence of the pandemic. Viewed at: <https://www.wiseguyreports.com/reports/5358007-telemedicine-services-global-market-report-2020-30-covid>.

⁴⁴ Viewed at: <https://www.bain.com/insights/covid-19-accelerates-the-adoption-of-telemedicine-in-asia-pacific-countries/>.

⁴⁵ Viewed at: <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/07/27/business/economy-business/coronavirus-telemedicine-asia/>.

⁴⁶ Viewed at: <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/healthcare-systems-and-services/our-insights/telehealth-a-quarter-trillion-dollar-post-covid-19-reality>.

⁴⁷ Viewed at: <https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse>.

⁴⁸ OECD (2020), "The Impact of COVID-19 on Education; Insights from Education at a Glance 2020", available at: <https://www.oecd.org/education/the-impact-of-covid-19-on-education-insights-education-at-a-glance-2020.pdf>.

⁴⁹ Viewed at: <https://www.axios.com/international-student-enrollment-trump-covid19-5caad69c-f6d4-4b79-bfb4-7b6ed038bc5b.html>.

4.57. The following box on the impact on services trade costs as a result of travel restrictions imposed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been contributed by the OECD.

Box 4.3 Impact of COVID-19 international travel restrictions on services trade costs

Restrictions on the movement of people across international borders, implemented on health and safety grounds in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, have implications for services exporters. Services trade costs are estimated to increase by an average of 12% across sectors and countries. The full impact is expected to materialize in the medium term (3-5 years) after an extended period of limited international travel. It is therefore important that emergency measures designed to tackle COVID-19 be targeted, proportionate, transparent and temporary.

About 60% of the increase result from measures that restrict the movement of business travelers. Limitations on the entry of foreign services providers account for one third. The remainder comes from sector-specific measures.

There is large variability in the increase in services-trade costs across sectors. Variations reflect differences in the stringency of initial policy responses and the cross-sectoral differences in the importance of business travel and labour mobility to services trade:

- Trade costs for professional services are estimated to increase by around 5% to 21%. The magnitude varies across professions depending on the pre-existing degree of openness. Trade costs in logistics services could jump by between 5% and 20%.
- Trade costs could rise by 3% to 16% across transport modes, reflecting the fact that transport is more capital intensive than other service sectors.
- The regulatory environment for commercial banking and insurance is particularly uncertain.
- Remote connection and teleworking could help to mitigate somewhat increases in trade costs, especially for professional services and insurance, but the extent of this is difficult to assess.

Countries are also likely to be differently affected, depending on their initial regulation stringency and sectoral structure. Countries whose regulations regarding movement of people were liberal before the crisis are expected to witness the largest increase in trade costs, should borders continue to be closed to passenger travels.

Countries are necessarily focused on ensuring the health and economic security of their people. Looking beyond the immediate, steps to reduce services trade costs will promote a recovery that is robust, widespread and sustainable. Easing of COVID-19-related international travel restrictions, when health and safety considerations permit, will ensure that trade in services, which is highly intertwined with manufacturing in global value chains, can support the recovery.

Source: OECD.

5 POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN TRADE AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

5.1. During the review period, G20 economies continued to fine-tune their intellectual property (IP) domestic frameworks. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of them have implemented specific IP measures aimed at facilitating the development and dissemination of COVID-19-related health technologies, as well as at relaxing procedural requirements and extending deadlines for administrative IP matters.

Specific IP-related international instruments

5.2. G20 economies joined specific IP-related international instruments.¹ The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia acceded to the Strasbourg Agreement Concerning the International Patent Classification.² The Russian Federation completed the ratification procedures regarding the Protocol on the Protection of Industrial Designs to the Eurasian Patent Convention and the Treaty on Trademarks, Service Marks and Appellations of Origin of the Eurasian Economic Union.³

Developments in domestic legislation and administration of IPRs

5.3. Domestically, G20 economies are streamlining IP into their economies, as well as modernizing and fine-tuning their IP legislation and administration (Box 5.1).

Box 5.1 Domestic legislation and administrative developments

Australia^a

Consultations were held regarding the industrial design system, from 23 July to 28 August 2020.

China^b

In June 2020, the "Jianwang 2020" special campaign was launched to combat online infringements and piracy.

Indonesia^c

In July 2020, Regulation No. 34 revoked Regulation No. 27 of 2004 on Procedures on Government Use of Patents; Presidential Regulation No. 77 of 2020 provided for Procedures for Government Use of Patent; and Ministerial Regulation No. 20 provided for the Requirements and Procedures on Special Tariffs for Patent and Copyright Services. In August 2020, Government Regulation No. 46 provided for Requirements and Procedures for Patent Transfers.

Russian Federation^d

Since June 2020, Decree No. 893 provides applicants the opportunity to extend the terms of some procedures for the protection of IPRs. In July 2020, Federal Law No. 217-FZ implemented digital titles of protection (patents and certificates) and authorized applicants to submit images of inventions, utility models, industrial designs and trademarks as three-dimensional models; and Federal Law No. 262-FZ provides for certified scientific and educational organizations to conduct preliminary search and assessment of patentability for inventions and utility models

a Submission by Australia to the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.

b Submission by China to the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.

c Submission by Indonesia to the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.

d Submission by the Russian Federation to the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

COVID-19-related measures

5.4. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, IP measures undertaken by G20 economies range from those aimed at promoting innovation or facilitating access with respect to COVID-19-related health technologies to measures that ease certain procedural requirements or deadlines for administrative matters. The substantive measures are shown in Table 5.1.

¹ WTO document IP/N/1/EU/35.

² Saudi Press Agency, *Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Chairs Cabinet's Virtual Session 3 NEOM*.

Viewed at: <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2123181>

³ Submission by the Russian Federation to the WTO Monitoring Report.

Table 5.1 IP COVID-19-related substantive measures

Member	Measure	Source	Date
Argentina	Argentina published a bulletin, developed in collaboration with PROSUR member countries, of certain health technologies related to COVID-19.	https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/boletin-prosur-covid-19	26/04/2020
Australia	The Trade Mark COVID-19 Helpline supports and assists small to medium Australian businesses that are having to quickly adapt to changing circumstances due to COVID-19, in exploring use of their trade mark(s) on different goods and services to those currently covered under the respective trademark application or registration.	https://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/trade-marks/managing-your-trade-mark/introducing-trade-mark-covid-19-helpline	20/05/2020
Brazil	The National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI, in Portuguese) published patent landscapes on patents or patent applications filed at the INPI on diagnostic methods for the new coronavirus and other respiratory viruses, ventilators and Remdesivir. This project was part of PROSUR (<i>Sistema de Cooperación sobre aspectos de información operacional y de Propiedad Industrial</i> , in Spanish), which published a bulletin of certain health technologies related to COVID-19.	http://www.inpi.gov.br/menu-servicos/patente/tecnologias-para-covid-19/ESTUDOS	06/04/2020
Brazil	Under Ordinance (<i>Portaria</i> , in Portuguese) No. 149/2020, the INPI prioritizes the examination of patent applications related to innovations that can be used to fight COVID-19 from 7 April 2020 to 30 June 2021.	http://www.inpi.gov.br/noticias/inpi-vai-acelerar-exame-de-patentes-relativas-ao-combate-do-covid-19/view	07/04/2020
Canada	Bill C-13 (an act respecting certain measures in response to COVID-19) received Royal Assent. It amends the Patent Act to empower the Commissioner of Patents, on the application of the Minister of Health, to authorize the Government or another specified person to supply a patented invention to the extent necessary to respond to a public health emergency that is a matter of national concern. These amendments include safeguards to protect the interests of patent holders; for example, ensuring that a patent holder receives adequate remuneration for the use of the patent, placing limitations on the duration of the authorization, providing the patent owner with notice of the authorization, and ensuring that the patent owner has recourse to the courts if any person authorized acts outside the scope of the authorization. This amendment remained in effect until 30/09/2020.	https://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-1/bill/C-13/royal-assent Notified to the TRIPS Council in WTO document IP/N/1/CAN/30.	Entry into force 25/03/2020
China	The China Patent information Center launched a freely accessible database for various COVID-19-related patents.	https://ncp.patentstar.cn/en	01/02/2020
European Union	The European Committee for Standardization and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization, in collaboration with their members, agreed to make freely available certain copyrighted European standards for certain medical devices and personal protective equipment.	https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_502	20/03/2020
Germany	An amendment to the Act on the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases in Humans grants the Parliament the competence to determine the existence of an "epidemic situation of national significance". On grounds of public interest or national security, the	https://www.bqbl.de/xaver/bqbl/start.xav#bqbl_%2F%2F*%5B%40attr_id%3D%27bqbl120s0587.pdf%27%5D_1588850035945	27/03/2020

Member	Measure	Source	Date
	Federal Ministry for Health is authorized to order the competent authority to allow the use of patent-protected inventions to ensure the supply of various health technologies, including medicines, diagnostics and personal protection equipment.		
Korea, Republic of	The Korean Intellectual Property Office made available patent information on technology relating to the diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19, including patent analysis and trend reports.	https://www.kipo.go.kr/ncov/index_e.html	24/04/2020
Russian Federation	Creation of a special news section in the official Internet site of the Russian Federal Service for Intellectual Property, the "Patent of the week", to promote inventions which represent technical solutions related to the fight against COVID-19.	https://rospatent.gov.ru/ru/news?categories%5B%5D=3#news-container	01/03/2020
Russian Federation	Decision of Russian Federal Service for Intellectual Property on accelerated consideration of applications for inventions and utility models in the field of technologies for combating viruses and associated diseases (pneumonia) without charging an additional fee.	https://rospatent.gov.ru/ru/news/rospatent-budet-prioritetno-rassmatrivat-zayavki-na-izobreteniya-v-oblasti-borby-s-virusami https://www1.fips.ru/doc-virus/	23/04/2020
Russian Federation	Creation of a special information section in the official Internet site of the Russian Federal Service for Intellectual Property, which contains information on patents relevant in the context of a pandemic (patent documents submitted by both domestic and foreign right holders).	https://www1.fips.ru/doc-virus/	01/05/2020
United States	The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) launched a website called Patents 4 Partnerships, which lists patents and published applications relating to COVID-19 that the owners have indicated are available for licensing, along with contact information.	https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USPTO/bulletins/28971ab	04/05/2020
United States	The USPTO launched the COVID-19 Prioritized Patent Examination Pilot Program, under which grants requests for prioritized patent examination for applicants which qualify for small and micro-entity status with respect to applications that cover a product or process that is subject to U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval for use in the prevention and/or treatment of COVID-19.	https://www.uspto.gov/about-us/news-updates/uspto-announces-covid-19-prioritized-examination-pilot-program-small-and?utm_campaign=subscriptioncenter&utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=	08/05/2020
United States	The USPTO launched the Prioritized Examination Program for certain trademark and service mark applications, which allows COVID-19-related trademark applications to be advanced out of turn and immediately assigned for examination.	https://www.uspto.gov/trademark/laws-regulations/covid-19-petition-prioritize-applications	15/06/2020

Member	Measure	Source	Date
United States	The USPTO implemented a deferred-fee provisional patent application pilot programme and collaboration database to promote the expedited exchange of information about inventions designed to combat COVID-19. Under this programme, the USPTO permits applicants to defer payment of the provisional application filing fee until the filing of a corresponding non-provisional application. In turn, applicants must agree that the technical subject matter disclosed in their provisional applications will be made available to the public via a searchable collaboration database maintained on the USPTO's website.	https://www.uspto.gov/initiatives/deferred-fee-provisional-patent-application-pilot-program-and-collaboration-database https://www.uspto.gov/	17/09/2020

Source: WTO Secretariat. Submissions to the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.

5.5. G20 economies also took measures to ease procedural requirements, deadlines or fees with respect to administrative IP matters (Table 5.2).

Table 5.2 IP COVID-19-related administrative measures

Member	Measure	Source	Date
Argentina	The National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI) suspended all substantive procedures before it, including certain deadlines, from 13 April to 30 August 2020. The suspension can be further extended, if necessary. Relevant resolutions include: INPI No. 34/2020 (B.O. 13/4/2020); No. 37/2020 (B.O. 28/4/2020); No. 42/2020 (B.O. 12/5/2020); No. 47/2020 (B.O. 27/5/2020); No. 51/2020 (B.O. 9/6/2020); No. 69/2020 (B.O. 9/6/2020); No. 78/2020 (B.O. 21/7/2020); No. 109/2020 (B.O. 5/8/2020); and No 116/2020 (B.O. 19/8/2020).	https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/ https://www.argentina.gob.ar/inpi/institucional/legislacion https://www.argentina.gob.ar/inpi	12/04/2020
Australia	Streamlined extensions of time for COVID-19-related disruptions were continued until 30 September 2020 (to be reviewed). Its continuation is being regularly reviewed considering the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic disruptions. At least one week's notice will be provided before it is ended.	https://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/free-streamlined-extensions-time-covid-19-disruptions https://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/	22/04/2020
China	The China National Intellectual Property Administration issued Notice No. 350 clarifying relief measures for parties exceeding the time-limits for handling affairs in relation to patents, trademarks and layout-designs of integrated circuits as a result of COVID-19.	http://english.sipo.gov.cn/news/officialinformation/1147236.htm http://english.sipo.gov.cn/index.htm	28/01/2020
European Union	The European Union Intellectual Property Office extended certain deadlines for trademark and design matters.	https://euipo.europa.eu/ohimportal/en/web/guest/news/-/action/view/5644669 https://euipo.europa.eu/ohimportal/en/home	16/03/2020
India	The India Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks extended certain deadlines for patent, design and trademark matters.	http://www.ipindia.nic.in/newsdetail.htm?681/ http://www.ipindia.nic.in/index.htm	19/03/2020
Italy	The Italian Patent and Trademark Office extended the deadlines for administrative proceedings for trademarks, patents, designs and models.	https://uibm.mise.gov.it/index.php/en/202-news-english/2036408-covid-19-extension-of-the-deadline-for-administrative-proceedings-to-15-may https://uibm.mise.gov.it/index.php/en/	08/04/2020

Member	Measure	Source	Date
Russian Federation	From 15 April to 17 May, a system of full electronic interaction was applied between the Russian Federal Service for Intellectual Property and applicants.	https://rospatent.gov.ru/ru/news/o-poryadke-vzaimodeystviya-zayaviteley-s-rospatentom-s-062020 https://www1.fips.ru/news/pravila-priema-zayavok-v-usloviyakh-pandemii/	15/04/2020
Russian Federation	Under Government Resolution No. 893 of 20 June 2020, time-limits for the applicant to perform actions related to the legal protection of intellectual property (including those related to the payment of patent and other fees) which expire from 30 March 2020 to 30 November 2020 may be extended at the request of the applicant until 31 December 2020.	https://rospatent.gov.ru/ru/news/informacionnoe-soobshchenie-23062020	22/06/2020
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	The Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property extended certain statutory deadlines for all IPRs.	https://www.saip.gov.sa/en/الملكية-الفكرية-تعلن-عن-تمديد-المهل-ال https://www.saip.gov.sa/en/	27/03/2020
United Kingdom	The United Kingdom Intellectual Property Office extended certain deadlines for patent, SPC, trademark and designs matters. The expiration date was 30/07/2020.	https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-important-update-on-ipo-services https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/intellectual-property-office	24/03/2020
United States	The USPTO considers the effects of COVID-19 to be an "extraordinary situation" within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.183 and 37 CFR 2.146 for affected patent and trademark applicants, patentees, re-examination parties, and trademark owners. Therefore, the USPTO is waiving petition fees in certain situations for customers impacted by COVID-19. Details of eligible applications and re-examination proceedings are provided in the link.	https://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/coronavirus_relief_oqnoti ce_03162020.pdf	16/03/2020
United States	The USPTO extended certain deadlines for patent and trademark matters.	https://www.uspto.gov/about-us/news-updates/uspto-extends-certain-patent-and-trademark-deadlines-june-1 https://www.uspto.gov/	27/03/2020
United States	The USPTO is waiving the requirement of 37 CFR 1.4(e)(1) and (2) for original handwritten signature for certain correspondence with the Office of Enrolment and Discipline, and certain payments by credit card.	https://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/85%20FR%2017502.pdf	30/03/2020
United States	Until further notice, the USPTO accepts plant patent applications and follow-on documents through the USPTO patent electronic filing systems (EFS-Web or Patent Center).	https://www.uspto.gov/about-us/uspto-allow-filing-plant-patent-applications-and-correspondence-patent-electronic-filing	06/05/2020

Source: WTO Secretariat. Submissions to the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.

TRIPS Council

5.6. During the review period, the TRIPS Council met once, on 30 July 2020. G20 economies actively engaged in exchanges on COVID-19-related measures; digitization in the context of the pandemic and TRIPS-related work on the e-commerce Work Programme;⁴ and TRIPS flexibilities outside the patent area in the context of access to medical technologies under "IP and Public Interest".⁵ Discussions on non-violation and situation complaints under the TRIPS Agreement continued. In general, G20 delegations maintained their established positions.⁶ Six G20 economies⁷ notified legislative measures under Article 63.2.

⁴ WTO document IP/C/W/665.

⁵ WTO document IP/C/W/666.

⁶ WTO document IP/C/M/95/Add.1.

⁷ Australia; Japan; Mexico; Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; United Kingdom; and United States.

ANNEX 1 - MEASURES FACILITATING TRADE¹

(MID-MAY 2020 TO MID-OCTOBER 2020)

Confirmed information²

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Argentina		
Temporary reduction of import tariffs (to 2%) on polyamide-6 or polyamide-6,6 (NCM 3908.10.24), under an import quota of 4,000 tonnes (effective 28 August, for 12 months); on silicones in primary forms (<i>cuacho de silicona líquida</i>) (NCM 3910.00.90), under an import quota of 55 tonnes (effective 28 August, for 12 months); on mixtures of odoriferous substances and mixtures (including alcoholic solutions) with a basis of one or more of these substances, of a kind used as raw materials in industry (NCM 3302.20.90), under an import quota of 288,000 kg (effective 28 August, for 24 months); on epoxide resins (NCM 3907.30.11), under an import quota of 52,800 kg (effective 28 August, for 12 months); on carbon electrodes (NCM 8545.19.90), under an import quota of 10,500 tonnes (effective 28 August, for 12 months); on hop corns, ground, powdered or in the form of pellets; lupulin (NCM 1210.20.10), under an import quota of 150 tonnes (effective 28 August, for 12 months); on certain pharmaceutical products (NCM 3004.90.29), under an import quota of 840 units (effective 28 August, for 12 months); on certain medical instruments (NCM 9018.39.29), under an import quota of 6 million units (effective 28 August, for 12 months); on certain artificial waxes and prepare waxes (NCM 3404.90.19), under an import quota of 600 tonnes (effective 28 August, for 6 months); and on disperse dyes and preparations based thereon (NCM 3204.11.00), under an import quota of 600 tonnes (effective 28 August, for 6 months)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (23 October 2020) and MERCOSUR/CCM/DIR Nos. 24/20, 25/20, 26/20, 27/20, 28/20, 29/20, 30/20, 31/20, 32/20 and 33/20 (3 July 2020)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Temporary reduction of import tariffs (to 2%) on gluten-free infant formula (NCM 2106.90.90), under an import quota of 100 tonnes; on certain food preparations (gluten-free) (NCM 1901.10.10), under an import quota of 115 tonnes; and on certain dairy products (<i>leche modificada</i>) (NCM 1901.10.10), under an import quota of 68 tonnes	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (23 October 2020) and MERCOSUR/CCM/DIR Nos. 38/20, 39/20 and 40/20 (9 July 2020)	Effective 27 September 2020, for 12 months
Extension of the temporary reduction of import tariffs (to 2%) on 6-hexanelactam (epsilon-caprolactam) (NCM 2933.71.00), under an import quota of 1,000 tonnes; and on disodium sulphate (<i>anhidro</i>) (NCM 2833.11.10), under an import quota of 120,000 tonnes	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (23 October 2020) and MERCOSUR/CCM/DIR Nos. 21/20 (4 June 2020) and 35/20 (3 July 2020)	Effective 27 September 2020, for 12 months
Amendment introduced in the list of products with export duties (<i>derechos de exportación</i>), resulting in the reduction of export duties on certain products (5,114 tariff lines at 8-digit level, in NCM Chapters 30; 31; 32; 33; 34; 35; 36; 37; 38; 39; 40; 41; 42; 43; 44; 45; 46; 47; 48; 49; 50; 51; 52; 53; 54; 55; 56; 57; 58; 59; 60; 61; 62; 63; 64; 65; 66; 67; 68; 69; 70; 71; 73; 74; 75; 76; 80; 82; 83; 84; 85; 86; 87; 88; 89; 90; 91; 92; 93; 94; 95; 96; 97)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (23 October 2020) and Decreto Nos. 785/2020 and 789/2020 - Nomenclatura Común del Mercosur - Derechos de Exportación (5 October 2020)	Effective 5 October 2020
Australia		
Further reduction of import tariffs under the Expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) (8 tariff lines at 8-digit level, in HS Chapter 85)	WTO document G/MA/W/117/Add.2, 26 January 2016	Effective 1 July 2020

¹ The inclusion of any measure in this Annex implies no judgement by the WTO Secretariat, 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
Brazil		
Temporary reduction of import tariffs (to 2%) on sodium sulphites (NCM 2832.10.10), under an import quota of 24,650 tonnes (effective 18 September 2020); on plates, sheets and strip, of a thickness exceeding 0.2 mm of aluminium alloys (NCM 7606.12.90), under an import quota of 5,100 tonnes (effective 1 August 2020); on aluminium foil rolled but not further worked (NCM 7607.11.90), under an import quota of 2,137 tonnes (effective 1 August 2020); on contact lenses (NCM 9001.30.00), under an import quota of 6.5 million units (effective 18 September 2020); on metal permanent magnets (NCM 8505.11.00), under an import quota of 360,000 units (effective 27 May 2020 to 26 May 2021); on certain electrical apparatus for switching or protecting electrical circuits (NCM 8535.90.00), under an import quota of 500 units (effective 27 May 2020 to 26 May 2021); on titanium oxides (NCM 2823.00.10), under an import quota of 12,000 tonnes (effective 27 May 2020 to 26 May 2021); on poly(methylene phenyl isocyanate) (crude MDI, polymeric MDI) (NCM 3909.31.00), under an import quota of 105,000 tonnes (effective 27 May 2020 to 26 May 2021); on palm kernel or babassu oil (NCM 1513.29.10), under an import quota of 224,785 tonnes (effective 27 May 2020 to 26 May 2021); on mixtures of odoriferous substances (NCM 3302.90.90), under an import quota of 1,250 tonnes (effective 27 May 2020 to 26 May 2021); on partially oriented polyesters (NCM 5402.46.00), under an import quota of 127,575 tonnes (effective 4 July 2020 to 3 July 2021); on polycarbonates (NCM 3907.40.90), under an import quota of 35,040 tonnes (effective 1 June 2020 to 31 May 2021); on insecticides (NCM 3808.91.95), under an import quota of 1,500 tonnes (effective 4 July 2020 to 3 July 2021); on high tenacity yarn of polyesters, whether or not textured (NCM 5402.20.00), under an import quota of 8,000 tonnes (effective 24 July 2020 to 23 July 2021); on not alloyed nickel (<i>catodos</i>) (NCM 7502.10.10), under an import quota of 7,200 tonnes (effective 4 July 2020 to 3 July 2021); on black printing ink (NCM 3215.11.00), under an import quota of 545 tonnes (effective 1 June 2020 to 31 May 2021); on printing inks (NCM 3215.19.00), under an import quota of 860 tonnes (effective 1 June 2020 to 31 May 2021)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (26 October 2020); Camex Resolution Nos. 36/2020 and 37/2020 (4 May 2020), 46/2020 and 47/2020 (19 May 2020), 72/2020 (22 July 2020); and Secex Portaria Nos. 28/2020 (15 May 2020), 30/2020 (22 May 2020), 32/2020 and 33/2020 (3 June 2020)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Extension of the temporary reduction of import tariffs on certain pigments and preparations based on titanium dioxide (NCM 3206.11.10), under an import quota of 54,836 tonnes (effective 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020); on certain uncoated paper and paper board (NCM 4805.92.90), under an import quota of 15,993 tonnes (effective 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020); on certain sulphates (NCM 2833.29.60), under an import quota of 50,000 tonnes (effective 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021); on p-xylene (NCM 2902.43.00), under an import quota of 300,000 tonnes (effective 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021); on polyamides in primary forms (NCM 3908.10.24), under an import quota of 14,200 tonnes (effective 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2020); on not allowed aluminium (NCM 7601.10.00), under an import quota of 150,000 tonnes (effective 17 January 2020 to 31 December 2020); and on certain pharmaceutical products (NCM 3004.90.69; 3004.90.99)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (26 October 2020); Camex Resolution No. 54/2020 (22 June 2020); and Secex Portaria No. 41/2020 (30 June 2020)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain electrical transformers, static converters (for example, rectifiers) and inductors (NCM 8504.50.00) (effective 13 July 2020); on certain vaccines (NCM 3002.90.92); on medicaments 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 packing (NCM 3004.90.39) (effective 13 July 2020); and on certain motor vehicles (NCM) (effective 1 October 2020). Temporary reduction of import tariffs (from 18% to 2%) on carboys, bottles, flasks and similar articles (NCM 3923.30.10) (effective 22 September 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (26 October 2020); Camex Resolution No. 66/2020 (10 July 2020) and Gecex Resolution Nos. 92/2020 and 93/2020 (21 September 2020)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Temporary reduction of import tariffs (to 2%) on acrylic or modacrylic (NCM 5501.30.00), under an import quota of 6,240 tonnes (effective 10 September 2020); on lignin sulphonates (NCM 3804.00.20), under an import quota of 72,000 tonnes (effective 10 September 2020); on nickel alloys sheets (NCM 7506.20.00), under an import quota of 2,500 tonnes (effective 10 September 2020); on certain instruments and appliances used in	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (26 October 2020); Camex Resolution No. 65/2020 (23 June 2020); Gecex Resolution Nos. 86/2020, 87/2020, 88/2020 (9	Effective: see individual dates in measure

Measure	Source/Date	Status
medical sciences (NCM 9018.90.92), under an import quota of 2.5 million units (effective 18 September 2020); and on poly(vinyl chloride) (NCM 3904.10.20), under an import quota of 12,000 tonnes (effective 26 July 2020). Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain vaccines for human medicine (NCM 3002), under an import quota of 112 million doses (effective 10 September 2020); on rice (NCM 1006.10.92; 1006.30.21), under an import quota of 400,000 tonnes (effective 10 September 2020); and on undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of 80% vol. or higher; ethyl alcohol and other spirits, denatured, of any strength (NCM 2207.10.10; 2207.20.11), under an import quota of 187.5 million L (effective 10 September 2020)	September 2020) and 97/2020 (21 September 2020)	
Reduction of import tariffs (to 2% and zero) on certain auto parts not produced in Mercosur (NCM Chapters 39; 40; 69; 70; 73; 76; 83; 84; 85; 87; 90)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (26 October 2020)	
Elimination of non-automatic import licensing procedures on certain products (NCM Chapters 3; 40; 44; 54; 55; 56; 60; 61; 62; 65; 72; 73; 84; 87)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (26 October 2020)	
China		
Further reduction of import tariffs under the Expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) (176 tariff lines at 8-digit level, in HS Chapters 32; 37; 39; 49; 59; 84; 85; 90)	WTO document G/MA/W/117/Add.4, 28 January 2016; and Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (26 October 2020)	Effective 1 July 2020
European Union		
Further reduction of import tariffs under the Expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) (17 tariff lines at 8-digit level, in HS Chapters 85 and 90)	WTO document G/MA/W/117/Add.7/Rev.1, 20 February 2017	Effective from 1 July 2020
India		
Temporary reduction of import tariffs on lentils (<i>mosur</i>) (HS 0713.40.00)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020)	Effective 2 June to 31 August 2020
Korea, Rep. of		
Further reduction of import tariffs under the Expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) (84 tariff lines at 10-digit level, in HS Chapters 84; 85; 90)	WTO document G/MA/W/117/Add.13, 28 January 2016	Effective 1 July 2020
Mexico		
Extension of the temporary elimination of import tariffs on rice in the husk (paddy) (HS 1006.10.01), under import quotas (from 1 September 2020 to 31 December 2020: 30,000 tonnes; and from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021: 75,000 tonnes)	Diario Oficial de la Federación (Official Journal), 7 September 2020	Effective 1 September 2020 to 31 December 2021
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain electric motor vehicles (HS 8702.90.07; 8703.90.01; 8704.90.01)	Diario Oficial de la Federación (Official Journal), 3 September 2020	Effective 3 September 2020 to 30 September 2024
Turkey		
Termination on 19 July 2020 of temporary prior export authorization on onions and potatoes (HS 0701.90; 0703.10.19) (implemented on 7 January 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (8 October 2020)	

ANNEX 2 - TRADE REMEDIES¹

(MID-MAY 2020 TO MID-OCTOBER 2020)

Confirmed information²

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Argentina		
Initiation on 27 May 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of polystyrene, expandable, in granules (NCM 3903.11.10; 3903.11.20) from China and Chinese Taipei	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/ARG, 21 August 2020	
Australia		
On 22 May 2020, anti-dumping investigation on imports of power transformers (HS 8504.22.00; 8504.23.00) from China resumed (investigation originally initiated on 18 March 2019 and terminated on 31 January 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (23 October 2020) and Anti-Dumping Notice No. 2020/66 (17 July 2020)	
Initiation on 27 May 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of painted steel strapping (HS 7212.40.00) from China and Viet Nam	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/AUS, 31 August 2020	
Initiation on 27 May 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of painted steel strapping (HS 7212.40.00) from China	WTO document G/SCM/N/363/AUS, 8 September 2020	
Termination on 17 June 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of rod in coils (HS 7213.91.00; 7227.90.90) from Chinese Taipei (investigation initiated on 10 April 2014. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 2 March and 17 June 2015, respectively)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/AUS, 31 August 2020	
Termination on 25 June 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of steel reinforcing bar (HS 7213.10.00; 7214.20.00; 7227.90.10; 7227.90.90; 7228.30.10; 7228.30.90; 7228.60.10) from Turkey (investigation initiated on 16 November 2018 and provisional duty imposed on 15 January 2019. Investigation terminated on 20 June 2019. An appeal was made to the Anti-Dumping Review Panel (ADRP) and was subsequently revoked on 27 September 2019. Investigation resumed following publication of a new Statement of Essential Facts on 11 May 2020)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/AUS, 31 August 2020	
Termination on 25 June 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of steel reinforcing bar (HS 7213.10.00; 7214.20.00; 7227.90.10; 7227.90.90; 7228.30.10; 7228.30.90; 7228.60.10) from Turkey (investigation initiated on 16 November 2018 and terminated on 20 June 2019. An appeal was made to the Anti-Dumping Review Panel (ADRP) and was subsequently revoked on 27 September 2019. Investigation resumed following publication of a new Statement of Essential Facts on 11 May 2020)	WTO document G/SCM/N/363/AUS, 8 September 2020	
Initiation on 30 June 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of aluminium zinc coated steel of a width equal to or greater than 600 mm (HS 7210.61.00; 7225.99.00) from Korea, Rep. of; Chinese Taipei and Viet Nam	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/AUS, 31 August 2020	
Initiation on 30 June 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of aluminium zinc coated steel of a width equal to or greater than 600 mm (HS 7210.61.00; 7225.99.00) from Viet Nam	WTO document G/SCM/N/363/AUS, 8 September 2020	
Initiation on 30 June 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of aluminium zinc coated steel of a width less than 600 mm (HS 7212.50.00; 7226.99.00) from China and Viet Nam	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/AUS, 31 August 2020	
Initiation on 30 June 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of aluminium zinc coated steel of a width less than 600 mm (HS 7212.50.00; 7226.99.00) from China and Viet Nam	WTO document G/SCM/N/363/AUS, 8 September 2020	
Initiation on 13 July 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain copper tube (HS 7411.10.00) from China and Korea, Rep. of	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (23 October 2020) and Anti-Dumping Notice No. 2020/71 (13 July 2020)	
Initiation on 13 July 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of certain copper tube (HS 7411.10.00) from China and Korea, Rep. of	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (23 October 2020) and Anti-Dumping Notice No. 2020/71 (13 July 2020)	
Initiation on 15 July 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain concrete underlay film (HS 3920.10.00) from Malaysia	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (23	

¹ The inclusion of any measure in this Annex implies no judgement by the WTO Secretariat, 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
	October 2020) and Anti-Dumping Notice No. 2020/73 (10 July 2020)	
Termination on 20 August 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain hollow structural sections "HSS" (HS 7306.30.00; 7306.50.00; 7306.61.00; 7306.69.00) from Thailand (investigation initiated on 21 July 2014. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 16 March and 20 August 2015, respectively)	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (23 October 2020) and Anti-Dumping Notice No. 2020/70 (27 July 2020)	
Termination on 18 September 2020 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of hot dip galvanized steel angle (HS 7216.61.00; 7228.70.00; 7308.30.00; 7308.90.00) from China (initiated on 24 June 2019)	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (23 October 2020) and Anti-Dumping Notice No. 2020/108 (18 September 2020)	
Brazil		
Termination on 22 June 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of elastomeric rubber pipes (NCM 4009.11.00) from Israel and Malaysia (investigation initiated on 20 June 2014 and definitive duty imposed on 22 June 2015)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/BRA, 18 August 2020	
Termination on 25 June 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of sea salt (NCM 2501.00.19) from Chile (investigation initiated on 12 March 2010 and definitive duty imposed on 8 September 2011. On 13 July 2018 duty temporary suspended. On 12 July 2019 duty temporary suspended)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (26 October 2020) and Camex Resolution No. 62/2020 (23 June 2020)	
Initiation on 23 July 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of phthalic anhydride (NCM 2917.35.00) from Israel and the Russian Federation	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (26 October 2020) and Secex Circular No. 45/2020 (21 July 2020)	
Initiation on 29 July 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of aluminium plates, sheets and strip, of a thickness exceeding 0.2 mm (NCM 7606.11.90; 7606.12.90; 7606.91.00; 7606.92.00; 7607.11.90; 7607.19.90) from China	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (26 October 2020) and Secex Circular No. 46/2020 (28 July 2020)	
Termination on 14 August 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of polyvinyl chloride resins (HS 3904.10.10) from Korea, Rep. of (imposed on 29 August 2008)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (26 October 2020) and Secex Circular No. 50/2020 (14 August 2020)	
On 15 August 2020, temporary suspension of anti-dumping duties on imports of polyvinyl chloride resins (NCM 3904.10.10) from China (imposed on 29 August 2008)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (26 October 2020) and Secex Resolution No. 73/2020 (14 August 2020)	
Initiation on 18 August 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of babies' garments and clothing accessories, knitted or crocheted (NCM 6111.20.00) from China; Hong Kong, China and Paraguay	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (26 October 2020)	
On 17 September 2020, temporary suspension of anti-dumping duties on phenol (NCM 2907.11.00) from the European Union and the United States (imposed on 16 October 2002)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (26 October 2020) and Secex Resolution No. 91/2020 (16 September 2020)	
Termination on 25 September 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of butyl acrylate (NCM 2916.12.30) from Germany (investigation initiated on 1 December 2014. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 1 April and 25 September 2015, respectively)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (26 October 2020)	
Canada		
Initiation on 27 May 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of heavy plate (HS 7208.51.00; 7208.52.00) from Germany; Korea, Rep. of; Malaysia; Chinese Taipei and Turkey	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/CAN, 7 October 2020; Permanent Delegation of Canada to the WTO (26 October 2020); and Canada Border Services Agency - Notice of Preliminary Decision HP 2020 IN (9 October 2020)	Terminated on 9 October 2020 on imports from Korea, Rep. of and Malaysia. Provisional duty imposed on 9 October 2020
Initiation on 11 June 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of decorative and other non-structural plywood (HS 4412.10.00; 4412.33.00; 4412.34.00; 4412.39.00; 4412.94.00; 4412.99.30; 4412.31.00; 4412.99.10; 4412.99.90) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/CAN, 7 October 2020	
Initiation on 11 June 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of decorative and other non-structural plywood (HS 4412.10.00; 4412.33.00; 4412.34.00; 4412.39.00; 4412.94.00; 4412.99.30; 4412.31.00; 4412.99.10; 4412.99.90) from China	WTO document G/SCM/N/363/CAN, 7 October 2020	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Initiation on 14 August 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain wheat gluten (HS 1109.00.10; 1109.00.20) from Australia, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany and Lithuania	Permanent Delegation of Canada to the WTO (26 October 2020) and Canada Border Services Agency - Notice of Initiation of Investigation WG 2020 IN (14 August 2020)	
Initiation on 22 September 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain concrete reinforcing bar (HS 7213.10.00; 7214.20.00; 7215.90.00; 7227.90.00) from Algeria, Egypt, Indonesia, Italia, Malaysia, Singapore and Viet Nam	Permanent Delegation of Canada to the WTO (26 October 2020) and Canada Border Services Agency - Notice of Initiation of Investigation RB3 2020 IN (22 September 2020)	
China		
Termination on 25 May 2020 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of 7-phenylacetamido-3-chloromethyl-3-cephem-4-carboxylic acidpmethoxybenzyl ester (HS 2934.99.60) from India (initiated on 26 November 2018)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/CHN, 16 October 2020	
Termination on 25 May 2020 (without measure) of countervailing investigation on imports of 7-phenylacetamido-3-chloromethyl-3-cephem-4-carboxylic acidpmethoxybenzyl ester (HS 2934.99.60) from India (initiated on 26 November 2018)	WTO document G/SCM/N/363/CHN, 1 October 2020	
Initiation on 3 August 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of polyphenylene ether (PPE or PPO) (HS 3907.20.90) from the United States	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (26 October 2020) and MOFCOM Announcement No. 31 (3 August 2020)	
Initiation on 14 August 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of polyphenylene ether (PPE or PPO) (HS 3907.20.90) from the United States	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (26 October 2020) and MOFCOM Announcement No. 32 (14 August 2020)	
Initiation on 18 August 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of wine in containers holding 2 liters or less (HS 2204.21.00) from Australia	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (26 October 2020) and MOFCOM Announcement No. 34 (18 August 2020)	
Initiation on 31 August 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of wine in containers holding 2 liters or less (HS 2204.21.00) from Australia	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (26 October 2020) and MOFCOM Announcement No. 35 (31 August 2020)	
Initiation on 31 August 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain monoalkyl ether of ethylene glycol and propylene glycol of certain glycol ether (HS 2909.44.00; 2909.49.90) from the United States	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (26 October 2020) and MOFCOM Announcement No. 36 (31 August 2020)	
Initiation on 14 September 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of monoalkylethers of ethylene glycol or of diethylene glycol (HS 2909.44.00; 2909.49.90) from the United States	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (26 October 2020) and MOFCOM Announcement No. 37 (14 September 2020)	
Initiation on 25 September 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of poly (vinyl chloride) "PVC" (HS 3904.10.90) from the United States	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (26 October 2020) and MOFCOM Announcement No. 40 (25 September 2020)	
Termination on 10 October 2020 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of methionine (HS 2930.40.00) from Japan, Malaysia and Singapore (initiated on 10 April 2019)	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (26 October 2020)	
Initiation on 14 October 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of poly (vinyl chloride) "PVC" (HS 3904.10.90) from the United States	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (26 October 2020) and MOFCOM Announcement No. 41 (14 October 2020)	
European Union		
Termination on 2 June 2020 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of continuous filament glass fibre products - glass fibre reinforcements (GFR) (HS 7019.11.00; 7019.12.00; 7019.31.00) from Bahrain and Egypt (initiated on 3 May 2019)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/EU, 6 August 2020	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Initiation on 12 June 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of certain hot-rolled flat products of iron, non-alloy or other alloy steel (HS 7208.10.00; 7208.25.00; 7208.26.00; 7208.27.00; 7208.36.00; 7208.37.00; 7208.38.00; 7208.39.00; 7208.40.00; 7208.52.10; 7208.52.99; 7208.53.10; 7208.53.90; 7208.54.00; 7211.13.00; 7211.14.00; 7211.19.00; 7225.19.10; 7225.30.90; 7225.40.60; 7225.40.90; 7226.19.10; 7226.91.91; 7226.91.99) from Turkey	WTO document G/SCM/N/363/EU, 6 August 2020	
Initiation on 14 August 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of aluminium flat-rolled products (HS 7606.11.10; 7606.11.91; 7606.11.93; 7606.11.99; 7606.12.20; 7606.12.92; 7606.12.93; 7606.12.99; 7606.91.00; 7606.92.00; 7607.11.90) from China	Commission Notice 2020/C 268/05 (14 August 2020)	
Termination on 17 August 2020 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of pins and staples (HS 7317.00.20; 7317.00.60; 7317.00.80; 7326.20.00; 7616.10.00; 8305.20.00; 8308.10.00) from China (initiated on 18 December 2019)	Commission Implementing Decision 2020/1202 (14 August 2020)	
Initiation on 24 September 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of optical fibre cables (HS 8544.70.00) from China	Commission Notice 2020/C 316/09 (24 September 2020)	
Initiation on 30 September 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of stainless steel cold-rolled flat products (HS 7219.31.00; 7219.32.10; 7219.32.90; 7219.33.10; 7219.33.90; 7219.34.10; 7219.34.90; 7219.35.10; 7219.35.90; 7219.90.20; 7219.90.80; 7220.20.21; 7220.20.29; 7220.20.41; 7220.20.49; 7220.20.81; 7220.20.89; 7220.90.20; 7220.90.80) from India and Indonesia	Commission Notice 2020/C 322/06 (30 September 2020)	
Initiation on 14 October 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of birch plywood (HS 4412.33.00) from the Russian Federation	Commission Notice 2020/C 342/02 (14 October 2020)	
Initiation on 14 October 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of mono ethylene glycol (HS 2905.31.00) from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States	Commission Notice 2020/C 342/03 (14 October 2020)	
India		
Initiation on 21 May 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of polyester yarn (polyester spun yarn) (HS 5509.21.00) from China, Indonesia, Nepal and Viet Nam	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/IND, 15 October 2020	
Initiation on 21 May 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of phthalic anhydride "PAN" (HS 2917.35.00) from China; Indonesia; Korea, Rep. of; and Thailand	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/IND, 15 October 2020	
Termination on 21 May 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of USB flash drives (HS 8523.51.00) from China and Chinese Taipei (investigation initiated on 21 June 2013 and definitive duty imposed on 22 May 2015)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/IND, 15 October 2020	
Termination on 21 May 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of pentaerythritol (HS 2905.42.00) from the Russian Federation (investigation initiated on 21 June 2013 and definitive duty imposed on 22 May 2015)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/IND, 15 October 2020	
Initiation on 26 May 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of acrylonitrile butadiene rubber (HS 4002.59.00) from China, the European Union, Japan and the Russian Federation	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/IND, 15 October 2020	
Initiation on 27 May 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of rubber chemical PX-13 (HS 3812) from China; Korea, Rep. of; and the United States	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/IND, 15 October 2020	
Termination on 30 May 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of acrylic fibre (HS 5501.30; 5503.30; 5506.30) from Korea, Rep. of (imposed on 25 April 1997)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/IND, 15 October 2020	
Termination on 6 June 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of vitamin-E (HS 2936.28.00) from China (imposed on 17 March 2003)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/IND, 15 October 2020	
Initiation on 20 June 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of aluminium foil 80 micron and below (HS 7607.11.10; 7607.11.90; 7607.19.10; 7607.19.91; 7607.19.92; 7607.19.93; 7607.19.94; 7607.19.95; 7607.19.99; 7607.20.10) from China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/IND, 15 October 2020	
Initiation on 30 June 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of aluminium wire/wire rods above 7 mm dia (HS 7601.10.40; 7601.20.40; 7604.10.10; 7604.29.20; 7605.11.00; 7605.21.00) from Malaysia	WTO document G/SCM/N/363/IND, 15 October 2020	
Initiation on 20 July 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of viscose rayon filament yarn above 60 deniers (HS 5401.20.00; 5403.31.00; 5403.32.00; 5403.41.10; 5403.41.20; 5403.41.30; 5403.41.50; 5403.41.70; 5403.41.90; 5403.42.90; 5403.49.90) from China	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020), Notification F. No. 6/26/2020-DGTR (Case No. CVD-OI- 5/2020), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (20 July 2020)	
Initiation on 4 August 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of glass fibre and articles thereof (HS 7019) from Bahrain, Kingdom of and Egypt	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020),	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
	Notification F. No. 6/24/2020-DGTR (Case No. ADD-OI- 20/2020), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (4 August 2020)	
Initiation on 21 August 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of aceto acetyl derivatives (arylides) (HS 2924.29.20; 2924.29.90) from China	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020), Notification F. No. 6/28/2020-DGTR (Case No. ADD-(OI) 23/2020), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (21 August 2020)	
Initiation on 4 September 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of vitamin C (HS 2936.27.00) from China	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020), Notification F. No. 6/32/2020-DGTR (Case No. AD-(OI) 27/2020), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (4 September 2020)	
Initiation on 8 September 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain flat rolled products of aluminium (HS 7606; 7607) from China	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020), Notification F. No. 6/27/2020-DGTR (Case No. (AD-OI - 22/2020), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (8 September 2020)	
Initiation on 16 September 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of sodium hydrosulphite "SHS" (HS 2831.10.10; 2832.10.20) from China and Korea, Rep. of	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020), Notification F. No. 6/35/2020-DGTR (Case No. (AD-OI - 29/2020), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (16 September 2020)	
Initiation on 22 September 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of untreated fumed silica (HS 2811.22.00; 2811.21.90; 2839.19.00; 3404.90.90) from China and Korea, Rep. of	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020), Notification F. No. 6/40/2020-DGTR (Case No. (AD-OI - 35/2020), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (22 September 2020)	
Initiation on 24 September 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of ceftriaxone sodium sterile (HS 2941.10.90; 2941.90.90; 2942.00.90) from China	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020), Notification F. No. 6/46/2020-DGTR (Case No. (AD-OI - 39/2020), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
	- Directorate General of Trade Remedies (24 September 2020)	
Initiation on 25 September 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of copper tubes and pipes (HS 7411.21.00; 7411.22.00; 7411.29.00) from Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020), Notification F. No. 4/10/2020-DGTR (Case CVD-8/2020), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (25 September 2020)	
Initiation on 28 September 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of silicone sealants (HS Chapters 32 and 35) from China	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020), Notification F. No. 6/31/2020-DGTR (Case No. (AD-OI - 26/2020), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (28 September 2020)	
Initiation on 28 September 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of persulphates (HS 2833.40.00) from China and the United States	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020), Notification F. No. 6/25/2020-DGTR (Case No. (AD-OI - 21/2020), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (28 September 2020)	
Initiation on 28 September 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of hydrofluorocarbons (HFC) component R-32 (HS 2903.39) from China	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020), Notification F. No. 6/33/2020-DGTR (Case No. (AD-OI - 28/2020), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (28 September 2020)	
Initiation on 29 September 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of calcined gypsum powder (HS 2520.20.10) from Iran, Islamic Rep. of; Oman; the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020), Notification F. No. 6/45/2020-DGTR (Case No. (AD-OI - 38/2020), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (29 September 2020)	
Initiation on 30 September 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of elastomeric filament yarn (HS 5402.44.00; 5404.11.00) from Singapore	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020), Notification F. No. 6/44/2020-DGTR (Case No. (AD-OI - 37/2020), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (30 September 2020)	
Initiation on 30 September 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of hydrofluorocarbon "HFC" blends (HS 3824.78.00) from China	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020), Notification F. No.	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
	6/34/2020-DGTR (Case No. (AD-OI - 29/2020), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (30 September 2020)	
Initiation on 30 September 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of "decor paper" (HS 4805.91.00; 4802.20.90) from China	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020), Notification F. No. 6/38/2020-DGTR (Case No. (AD-OI - 33/2020), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (30 September 2020)	
Initiation on 30 September 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of caprolactam (HS 2933.71.00) from the European Union; Korea, Rep. of; the Russian Federation and Thailand	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020), Notification F. No. 6/39/2020-DGTR (Case No. (AD-OI - 34/2020), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (30 September 2020)	
Indonesia		
Initiation on 10 June 2020 of safeguard investigation on imports of carpets and other textile floor coverings (HS 5701; 5702; 5703; 5704; 5705)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/IDN/35, 12 June 2020	
Initiation on 1 October 2020 of safeguard investigation on imports of articles of apparel and clothing accessories (HS 6101; 6102; 6103; 6104; 6105; 6106; 6109; 6110; 6111; 6117; 6201; 6202; 6203; 6204; 6205; 6206; 6209; 6214)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/IDN/36, 2 October 2020	
Japan		
Initiation on 29 June 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of dipotassium carbonate (HS 2836.40) from Korea, Rep. of	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/JPN, 7 September 2020	
Korea, Rep. of		
Initiation on 25 September 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of flat-rolled products of stainless steel (HS 7219.12.10; 7219.12.90; 7219.13.10; 7219.13.90; 7219.14.10; 7219.14.90; 7219.22.10; 7219.22.90; 7219.23.10; 7219.23.90; 7219.24.10; 7219.24.90; 7219.31.10; 7219.31.90; 7219.32.10; 7219.32.90; 7219.33.10; 7219.33.90; 7219.34.10; 7219.34.90; 7219.35.10; 7219.35.90; 7219.90.10; 7219.90.90; 7220.11.10; 7220.11.90; 7220.12.10; 7220.12.90; 7220.20.10; 7220.20.90; 7220.90.10; 7220.90.90) from China, Indonesia and Chinese Taipei	Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Korea to the WTO (26 October 2020)	
Mexico		
Termination on 23 July 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of partially hydrogenated fatty acid (HS 3823.19.99) from the United States (imposed on 7 April 2005)	Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the WTO (29 September 2020) and Diario Oficial de la Federación (Official Journal), 23 July 2020	
Termination on 23 July 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of sodium hexametaphosphate (HS 2835.39.02) from China (imposed on 3 August 2004)	Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the WTO (29 September 2020) and Diario Oficial de la Federación (Official Journal), 23 July 2020	
Termination on 30 July 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of stearic acid (HS 3823.11.01; 3823.19.99) from the United States (imposed on 8 April 2005)	Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the WTO (29 September 2020) and Diario Oficial de la Federación (Official Journal), 30 July 2020	
Initiation on 31 July 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of triethanolamine (HS 2922.15.01) from the United States	Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the WTO (29 September 2020) and Diario Oficial de la	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
	Federación (Official Journal), 31 July 2020	
Initiation on 21 September 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of carbon and alloy steel slab (HS 7207.12.99; 7207.20.99; 7224.90.02; 7224.90.99) from Brazil and the Russian Federation	Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the WTO (29 September 2020) and Diario Oficial de la Federación (Official Journal), 21 September 2020	
Russian Federation (for Eurasian Economic Union)		
Initiation on 29 June 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of aluminium cookware (HS 7615.10; 7616.99) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/RUS, 15 October 2020	
Initiation on 27 July 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of virgin high-density polyethylene (HS 3901.20.90) from Uzbekistan	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (26 October 2020)	
Initiation on 17 September 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of melamine (HS 2933.61.00) from China	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (26 October 2020)	
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of (for Gulf Cooperation Council)		
Termination on 6 June 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of ceramic flags and paving, hearth, floor or wall tiles, whether or not on a backing; and finishing ceramics (ceramic tiles) (HS 6907.30.00) from Spain (initiated on 5 November 2018)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/SAU, 5 October 2020	
South Africa (for SACU – Southern African Customs Union Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, and South Africa)		
Initiation on 19 June 2020 of safeguard investigation on imports of U, I, H, L and T sections of iron or non-alloy steel (HS 7216.31; 7216.32; 7216.33; 7216.40; 7216.50; 7228.70)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/ZAF/9, 23 June 2020	
Initiation on 18 September 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of pasta (HS 1902.11; 1902.19) from Egypt, Latvia, Lithuania and Turkey	Permanent Delegation of South Africa to the WTO (16 October 2020)	
Turkey		
Initiation on 30 May 2020 of safeguard investigation on imports of staple fibres of polyesters, not carded, combed or otherwise processed for spinning (HS 5503.20.00)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/TUR/26, 8 June 2020	
Initiation on 11 June 2020 of safeguard investigation on imports of polyethylene terephthalate chips (HS 3907.69.00)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/TUR/27, 17 June 2020	
Initiation on 24 June 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of welded stainless steel tubes, pipes and profiles (HS 7306.40.20; 7306.40.80; 7306.61.10) from Viet Nam	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/TUR, 23 September 2020	
United States		
Termination on 19 May 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of sodium sulfate anhydrous (HS 2833.11.50; 2833.11.10; 2833.19.00) from Canada (investigation initiated on 24 April 2019 and provisional duty imposed on 8 November 2019)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/USA, 9 October 2020	
Termination on 9 June 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of refillable stainless steel kegs (HS 7310.10.00; 7310.29.00) from Germany (investigation initiated on 16 October 2018. Provisional duty imposed on 4 June 2019 and definitive duty imposed on 16 December 2019, respectively)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/USA, 9 October 2020	
Initiation on 22 June 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain walk-behind lawn mowers and parts thereof (HS 8433.11) from China and Viet Nam	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/USA, 9 October 2020	
Initiation on 22 June 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of certain walk-behind lawn mowers and parts thereof (HS 8433.11) from China	WTO document G/SCM/N/363/USA, 16 October 2020	
Termination on 23 June 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of citric acid and certain citrate salts (HS 3824.90; 2918.14; 2918.15) from Canada (imposed on 29 May 2009)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/USA, 9 October 2020	
Initiation on 26 June 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of phosphate fertilizers (HS 3103.11.00; 3103.19.00; 3105.20.00; 3105.30.00; 3105.40.00; 3105.51.00; 3105.59.00) from Morocco and the Russian Federation	International Trade Commission, Investigation 701-TA-650-651 (preliminary) (26 June 2020)	
Initiation on 26 June 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of phosphate fertilizers (HS 3103.11.00; 3103.19.00; 3105.20.00; 3105.30.00; 3105.40.00; 3105.51.00; 3105.59.00) from Morocco and the Russian Federation	International Trade Commission, Investigation 701-TA-650-651 (preliminary) (26 June 2020)	
Initiation on 29 June 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of passenger vehicle and light truck tyres (HS 4011.10; 4011.20) from Korea, Rep. of; Chinese Taipei; Thailand and Viet Nam	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/USA, 9 October 2020	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Initiation on 29 June 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of passenger vehicle and light truck tyres (HS 4011.10; 4011.20) from Viet Nam	WTO document G/SCM/N/363/USA, 16 October 2020	
Initiation on 9 July 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain metal lockers and parts thereof (HS 9403.20.00; 9403.90.80) from China	International Trade Commission, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-656 and 731-TA-1533 (preliminary) - Federal Register/Vol 85, No. 136 FR 42917 (15 July 2020)	
Initiation on 9 July 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of certain metal lockers and parts thereof (HS 9403.20.00; 9403.90.80) from China	International Trade Commission, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-656 and 731-TA-1533 (preliminary) - Federal Register/Vol 85, No. 136 FR 42917 (15 July 2020)	
Initiation on 16 July 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of twist ties (HS 8309.90.00; 5609.00.30; 3920.51.00; 3923.90.00; 3926.90.99; 4811.59.60; 4821.10.20; 4821.10.40; 4821.90.00; 4821.90.40; 4823.90.86) from China	International Trade Commission, Investigation 701-TA-649 and 731-TA-1523 (preliminary) - Federal Register/Vol 85, No. 158 FR 49681 (14 August 2020)	
Initiation on 16 July 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of twist ties (HS 8309.90.00; 5609.00.30; 3920.51.00; 3923.90.00; 3926.90.99; 4811.59.60; 4821.10.20; 4821.10.40; 4821.90.00; 4821.90.40; 4823.90.86) from China	International Trade Commission, Investigation 701-TA-649 and 731-TA-1523 (preliminary) - Federal Register/Vol 85, No. 158 FR 49681 (14 August 2020)	
Initiation on 20 July 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of standard steel welded wire mesh (HS 7314.20.00; 7314.39.00) from Mexico	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration A-201-853 - Federal Register/Vol 85, No. 144 FR 45167 (27 July 2020)	
Initiation on 20 July 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of standard steel welded wire mesh (HS 7314.20.00; 7314.39.00) from Mexico	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration C-201-854 - Federal Register/Vol 85, No. 144 FR 45181 (27 July 2020)	
Initiation on 27 July 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of silicon metal (HS 2804.69.10; 2804.69.50) from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland and Malaysia	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration A-893-001, A-400-001, A-557-820 - Federal Register/Vol 85, No. 144 FR 45177 (27 July 2020)	
Initiation on 27 July 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of silicon metal (HS 2804.69.10; 2804.69.50) from Kazakhstan	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration C-834-811 - Federal Register/Vol 85, No. 144 FR 45173 (27 July 2020)	
Initiation on 4 August 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of seamless carbon and alloy steel standard, line, and pressure pipe (HS 7304.19.10; 7304.19.50; 7304.31.60; 7304.39.00; 7304.51.50; 7304.59.60; 7304.59.80) from Czech Republic; Korea, Rep. of; the Russian Federation and Ukraine	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration - A-851-804, A-821-826, A-580-909 and A-823-819 - Federal Register/Vol 85, No. 150 FR 47176 (4 August 2020)	
Initiation on 4 August 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of seamless carbon and alloy steel standard, line, and pressure pipe (HS 7304.19.10; 7304.19.50; 7304.31.60; 7304.39.00; 7304.51.50; 7304.59.60; 7304.59.80) from Korea, Rep. of; and the Russian Federation	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration - C-821-827 and C-580-910 - Federal Register/Vol 85, No. 150 FR 47170 (4 August 2020)	
Initiation on 4 August 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of seamless refined copper pipe and tube (HS 7411.10.10; 7407.10.15; 7419.99.50; 8415.90.80) from Viet Nam	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration A-522-831 - Federal	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
	Register/Vol 85, No. 150 FR 47181 (20 July 2020)	
Initiation on 5 August 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of chassis (HS 8716.39.00; 8716.90.50) from China	International Trade Commission, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-657 and 731-TA-1357 - Federal Register/Vol 85, No. 151 FR 47400 (5 August 2020)	
Initiation on 5 August 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of chassis (HS 8716.39.00; 8716.90.50) from China	International Trade Commission, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-657 and 731-TA-1357 - Federal Register/Vol 85, No. 151 FR 47400 (5 August 2020)	
Initiation on 25 August 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of methionine (HS 2930.40.00; 2930.90.46) from France, Japan and Spain	Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration Nos. A-427-831, A- 588-878 and A-469-822 - Federal Register/Vol 85, No. 165 FR 52324 (25 August 2020)	
Initiation on 29 September 2020 of safeguard investigation on imports of fresh, chilled, or frozen blueberries (HS 0810.40.00; 0811.90.20)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/USA/13, 8 October 2020	

Note: The Trade Remedies Investigations Directorate in the United Kingdom is currently only conducting reviews of certain existing EU trade defence measures under Part 12 of the Trade Remedies (Dumping and Subsidisation) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (as amended) until Members are notified otherwise.

ANNEX 3 - OTHER TRADE AND TRADE-RELATED MEASURES¹

(MID-MAY 2020 TO MID-OCTOBER 2020)

Confirmed information²

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Argentina		
Reference values for exports on certain products, e.g. on onions and shallots (NCM 0703.10.19) (effective 22 July 2020); on milk and cream, concentrated or containing added sugar or other sweetening matter (NCM 0402.10.10; 0402.10.90; 0402.21.10; 1901.90.90) (effective 24 July 2020); on dried grapes (NCM 0806.20.00) (effective 3 August 2020); on certain fish (<i>corvinas</i>) (NCM 0303.89.10) (effective 23 September 2020); and on potatoes (NCM 0701.90.00) (effective 11 September 2020), for certain specified destinations	Administración Federal de Ingresos Públicos - Dirección General de Aduanas, Resolución Generales Nos. 4764/2020 (16 July 2020), 4765/2020 (20 July 2020), 4785/2020 (31 July 2020), 4819/2020 (21 September 2020), 4812/2020 (9 September 2020)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Amendments introduced to the list of products requiring non-automatic import licensing requirements (1,447 tariff lines at 8-digit level, in NCM Chapters 2; 4; 9; 16; 17; 18; 19; 20; 21; 22; 23; 27; 28; 29; 31; 32; 33; 34; 36; 38; 39; 40; 44; 48; 49; 51; 52; 54; 55; 56; 57; 58; 59; 60; 61; 62; 63; 65; 68; 69; 70; 72; 73; 74; 76; 79; 82; 83; 84; 85; 86; 87; 89; 90; 92; 93; 94; 95; 96)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (23 October 2020) and Disposición Nos. 9/2020 (19 May 2020) and 10/2020 (21 May 2020) - Ministerio de Desarrollo Productivo, Subsecretaría de Política y Gestión Comercial	Effective 20 May 2020
Gradual readjustment scheme on export duties (<i>derechos de exportación</i>) on soya products (up to 33%) (NCM 1201.90.00; 1208.10.00; 1507.10.00; 1507.90.11; 1507.90.19; 1507.90.90; 1517.90.10; 1517.90.90; 1518.00.90; 2302.50.00; 2304.00.10; 2304.00.90; 2308.00.00; 2309.90.10; 2309.90.60; 2309.90.90; 3826.00.00)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (23 October 2020) and Decreto No. 790/2020 - Nomenclatura Común del Mercosur - Derechos de Exportación (5 October 2020)	Effective 5 October 2020
Brazil		
Elimination of automatic import licensing procedures on certain products (NCM Chapters 27; 32; 39; 40; 54; 55; 56; 60; 61; 62; 63; 68; 69; 70; 72; 73; 76; 82; 83; 84; 85; 87; 90; 96)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (26 October 2020)	
India		
Withdrawal of concessional rate of import duty of 10% available to the import of bamboo for the manufacture of agarbattis, resulting in a uniform rate of 25% on import of bamboos (HS 1401.10.00)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020)	Effective 9 June 2020
Amendments introduced to the import policy of tyres (HS 4011), changing from "free" to "restricted"	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020), Notification No. 12/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (12 June 2020)	Effective 12 June 2020
Amendments introduced to the import policy of cut flowers (HS 0603). Imports of cut flowers continue to remain "Free" but only allowed through Chennai airport	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020), Notification No. 17/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (9 July 2020)	Effective 9 July 2020
Amendments introduced to the import policy and policy conditions of items under Chapter 84 ITC (HS), 2017, Schedule - I (Import Policy) - "Import Policy for Power Tillers and its Components", resulting in an import restriction for (i) power tillers and; (ii) engine, transmissions, chassis and rotavator forming parts of power tillers (HS 8432.80.20; 8432.90.90). Imports for all other items "Free"	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020), Notification No. 19/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (15 July 2020)	Effective 15 July 2020

¹ The inclusion of any measure in this Annex implies no judgement by the WTO Secretariat, 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
Amendments introduced to the import policy of items under Exim Code 8528.72 of Chapter 85 of ITC (HS), 2017, Schedule - I (Import Policy). Imports of colour televisions amended from "Free" to "Restricted"	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020), Notification No. 22/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (30 July 2020)	Effective 30 July 2020
Advanced Authorization shall not be issued where item of export is "gold medallions and coin's" or "gold jewellery/articles manufactured by fully mechanized process"	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020), Notification No. 25/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (10 August 2020)	Effective 10 August 2020
Initiation on 8 September 2020 of bilateral safeguard investigation on imports of PVC suspension grade resin (HS 3904) from Japan	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020), Notification F. No. 20/6/2020-DGTR - (Case No. (SG) 6/2020) - Bilateral Safeguard Investigation, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (8 September 2020)	
Amendments introduced to the export policy of onions (HS 0703.10.10; 0712.20.00), resulting in an export prohibition	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020), Notification No. 31/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (14 September 2020)	Effective 14 September 2020
Insertion of policy condition in Chapter 85 and 94 of ITC (HS), 2017, Schedule - I (Import Policy), enabling random sampling of LED products and control gear for LED products notified under "electronics and information technology goods (requirement of compulsory registration) Order, 2012"	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020), Notification No. 32/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (17 September 2020)	Effective 17 September 2020
Amendments introduced to the export policy of onions (HS 0703.10.10; 0712.20.00). Export of Bangalore Rose onions and Krishnapuram onions (serial number 52, chapter 7), up to quantity of 10,000 MT each, allowed for the period up to 31 March 2021 under certain conditions: (i) export shipment only through Chennai port; (ii) certificate from the Horticulture Commissioner, Government of Karnataka certifying the item and quantity; and (iii) certificate to be registered at the Office of Additional DGFT	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020), Notification No. 39/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (9 October 2020)	Effective 9 October 2020
Indonesia		
Revised requirements for business registration number (NIB) through the Online Single Submission (OSS) System. Imports of footwear, electronics, two-wheeled bicycles and tricycles, can only be carried out by the owners of NIB that applies as API-U after obtaining import approval (IP) through INATRADE. Imports also require the surveyor report (ILS) (HS 6404.11.10; 6404.11.20; 6404.11.90; 6404.19.00; 6404.20.00; 8415.10.10; 8415.10.90; 8712.00.10; 8712.00.20; 8712.00.30; 8712.00.90)	Permanent Delegation of Indonesia to the WTO (28 September 2020)	Effective 28 August 2020
Russian Federation (for Eurasian Economic Union)		
Temporary increase of import tariffs (from zero to 6.5%) on low density polymers of ethylene (HS 3901.10)	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (26 October 2020)	Effective September 2020, for 1 year
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of		
Increase of import tariffs on certain products, e.g. dairy products, juices, vegetable and olive oils, certain chemicals, building materials, and vehicles	Permanent Delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the WTO (28 October 2020)	Effective 10 June 2020
Turkey		
Increase of import tariffs (from 3.9% to 19.5%) on certain outdoor trees (effective 19 June 2020); (from 1% to 15%) on natural cork (effective 19 June 2020); (to 20%) on citric acid, self-adhesive plates, strips of unvulcanized rubber, hygienic or pharmaceutical articles (incl. teats, of vulcanized rubber), conveyor belts of vulcanized rubber, self-	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (8 October 2020)	Effective 19 June 2020

Measure	Source/Date	Status
adhesive paper and paperboard (surface decorated), tyre cord fabric of high, tenacity yarn of nylon, wigs, tubes or pipe fittings of iron or steel, wire of alloy steel other than stainless, ovens, cables, articles of iron and steel, precious stones, pumps, compressors, harvesting machinery, measuring devices, textile machinery (effective 28 June 2020); and on maté, chewing gum, sugar confectionery, cocoa powder, chocolate, uncooked pasta, pasta, couscous, prepared foods obtained by swelling or roasting cereals or cereal products, bulgur wheat in the form of worked grains, cereals (excluding maize (corn) in grain), crispbread, gingerbread, sweet biscuits, waffles and wafers, rusks, bread, pastry, cakes, biscuits, active yeasts, inactive yeasts, prepared baking powders, beer made from malt (effective 20 August 2020) (HS Chapters 6; 29; 39; 40; 45; 48; 59; 63; 65; 67; 69; 70; 71; 72; 73; 76; 84; 85; 87; 90)		
United States		
On 16 August 2020, re imposition of an additional 10% <i>ad valorem</i> rate of duty on non-alloyed unwrought aluminium (HS 7601.10) from Canada, for national security reasons	Presidential Proclamation on adjusting imports of steel into the United States (24 October 2020) and Proclamation on Adjusting Imports of Aluminium Into the United States (6 August 2020). Viewed at: https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-adjusting-imports-aluminum-united-states-080620/ . USTR Statement on Canadian Aluminium (15 September 2020), viewed at: https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/september/ustr-statement-canadian-aluminum	To be terminated effective 1 September 2020

ANNEX 4 – MEASURES AFFECTING TRADE IN SERVICES¹

(MID-MAY 2020 TO MID-OCTOBER 2020)

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
MEASURES AFFECTING VARIOUS SECTORS					
China					
The government issued the 2020 Negative List for foreign investment, which opens up additional sectors. The measure reduces the number of items in the list from 40 to 33 compared to the previous year. The negative list identifies sectors where activities of foreign investors are either restricted or prohibited. Among changes, the foreign ownership limits for securities companies, securities management investment companies, futures companies, and life insurance companies have been withdrawn.	Mode 3	Selected sectors	Special Administrative Measures (Negative List) for the Access of Foreign Investment (2020) (Order No. 32 [2020] of the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Commerce) Viewed at: https://www.china-briefing.com/news/chinas-2020-new-negative-lists-signals-further-opening-up/	Issued on 23 June 2020	YES
The government issued a new Negative List for foreign investment in pilot free trade zones. Among changes, it the 2020 list allows wholly foreign-owned enterprises to establish vocational training institutions.	Mode 3	Selected sectors	Special Administrative Measures (Negative List) for the Access of Foreign Investment in the Pilot Free Trade Zones (2020) (Order No. 33 [2020] of the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Commerce) Viewed at: https://www.china-briefing.com/news/chinas-2020-new-negative-lists-signals-further-opening-up/	Issued on 23 June 2020	YES
A new Notice was issued to clarify the implementation of the foreign investment information reporting system by local commerce departments and market regulatory departments.	Mode 3	All Sectors	Notice by the General Office of the Ministry of Commerce and the General Office of the State Administration for Market Regulation on Further Improving the Foreign Investment Information Reporting System and Strengthening and Improving the Compliance Oversight (ShangBanZiHan No. 240 [2020])	Issued on 8 July 2020	YES

¹ The inclusion of any measure in this Annex implies no judgement by the WTO Secretariat, 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
New rules have been issued with the objective of optimizing the complaint mechanism and methods, coordinating to handle complaints of foreign investors in a timelier manner, and better protecting the legitimate rights and interests of foreign investors.	Mode 3	All Sectors	Rules on Handling Complaints of Foreign-Invested Enterprises (Order No. 3 [2020] of the Ministry of Commerce)	Issued on 31 August 2020	YES
India					
<p>New rules on e-commerce have been issued to complement the Consumer Protection Act.</p> <p>The rules set out the duties and liabilities of e-commerce entities, marketplace e-commerce entities, sellers on marketplace, and inventory e-commerce entities.</p> <p>Duties of e-commerce entities include, for example, the mandatory provision, in a clear and accessible manner, of information regarding return, refund, exchange, warranty and guarantee, delivery and shipment, modes of payment, and grievance redressal mechanism.</p> <p>The rules require foreign-based e-commerce enterprises that systematically offer goods or services to consumers in India to have a place of business in India.</p>	Modes and 3	1 Various sectors	<p>Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules 2020</p> <p>Viewed at: https://consumeraffairs.nic.in/theconsumerprotection/consumer-protection-e-commerce-rules-2020 </p>	Notified on 20 July 2020	
Indonesia					
<p>Indonesia issued the implementing regulations for its Law on E-Commerce, which was adopted in 2019 (Government Regulation No. 80 of 2019 on Trading Through Electronic Systems (GR 80)) and Ministry of Trade Regulation No. 50 of 2020 (MR 50).</p> <p>GR 80 and MR 80 categorized three types of e-commerce entities subject to comply with the general requirements in accordance with provisions of laws and regulations: merchants (sellers), e-commerce providers, and intermediary service providers.</p> <p>Two thresholds trigger the requirement to appoint a representative office in Indonesia for consumer protection, business development, and dispute settlement purposes: having conducted transactions with more than 1,000 Indonesian</p>	Multiple modes	Various sectors	<p>Ministry of Trade Regulation 50 of 2020 regarding Provisions on Business Licensing, Advertising, Guidance and Supervision of Businesses Trading Trade through Electronic Systems (MOT Reg. 50/2020)</p> <p>Viewed at: http://jdih.kemendag.go.id/peraturan/detail/1949/2 http://jdih.kemendag.go.id/peraturan/detail/2000/2 </p>	Published on 19 May 2020; effective 19 November 2020.	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
consumers in a year and/or having delivered more than 1,000 products to Indonesian consumers in a year. Business actors are required to assist with government programs in prioritizing the trade, increasing the competitiveness, and/or providing promotional space facilities for domestic goods and/or services.					
Korea, Rep. of					
The Personal Information Protection Commission implemented and enforced the revised Personal Information Protection Act, which includes the special cases concerning Pseudonymous data. According to the revised Act, a personal information controller may process pseudonymized information without the consent of data subject for statistical purposes, scientific research purposes and archiving purposes in the public interest, and shall take safety measures as may be necessary to ensure safety when processing the pseudonymized information, as prescribed by the Act and Presidential Decree.	Modes 1 and 3	Internet and other network-related services	Personal Information Processing Guidelines Viewed at: http://www.law.go.kr/LSW/eng/engLsSc.do?menuId=2&query=PERSONAL%20INFORMATION%20PROTECTION%20ACT#liBgcolor1Z	5 August 2020	YES
Mexico					
As of 1 June 2020, digital services supplied by foreign entities to users in Mexico are subject to the 16% value added tax (VAT). Relevant digital services under the rules include the downloading or accessing of images, movies, text, videos, music and games (excluding electronic books, magazines and newspapers), and intermediary services between third-party sellers of goods or services and buyers.	Mode 1	Internet and other network-enabled services	Omnibus Tax Bill Viewed at: https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2020/05/tnf-mexico-vat-digital-services-provided-foreign-resident-without-pe.html	Effective 1 June 2020	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ICT/AUDIOVISUAL SERVICES					
European Union					
The EU Regulation on platform-to-business relations, which applies since 12 July 2020, aims to improve fairness of online platforms' commercial trading practices. With the new rules, online platforms can no longer suspend or terminate a seller's account without clear reasons and possibilities to appeal. The rules also require, for example, that terms	Modes 1, 2 and 3	Online intermediation services and online search engines	Regulation (EU) 2019/1150 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on promoting fairness and transparency for business users of online intermediation services Viewed at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32019R1150	Effective 12 July 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<p>and conditions be easily available and provided in plain and intelligible language.</p> <p>All platforms must set up an internal complaint-handling system to assist business users. Only the smallest platforms in terms of head count or turnover are exempt from this obligation.</p> <p>Some provisions apply to online search engines, such as the requirement that marketplaces and search engines disclose the main parameters they use to rank goods and services on their site.</p> <p>The regulation covers online platform intermediaries and general online search engines that provide their services to businesses established in the EU and businesses, which offer goods or services to consumers located in the EU- regardless of the place of establishment of the online platform intermediaries and online search engines.</p>					
India					
On 29 June 2020, the Indian government announced a ban on 59 Chinese apps due to national security considerations. The ban covers such apps as TikTok, WeChat, Baidu Translate, and QQ Music. On 2 September 2020, the government banned, in addition, 118 mobile applications.	Modes 1 and 3	Communication services	<p>Viewed at: https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1635206 https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1650669</p>	29 June 2020 and 2 September 2020	
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of					
Saudi Arabia's Communications and Information Technology Commission announced updates to the Regulations of the Communications Law, which aim to enhance transparency in the ICT sector and raise the level of protection for users, investors and service providers.	Multiple modes	Telecommunication services	<p>Updated Regulations of the Telecommunications Law (Decision No. 4 of the Minister of Communications and Information Technology of 29/1/1442 H)</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.citc.gov.sa/ar/mediacenter/pressreleases/Pages/20201005.aspx</p>	October 2020	YES
The Communications and Information Technology Commission published a new regulatory framework on cybersecurity for telecommunication, information technology and mail suppliers. The framework sets out requirements to improve cybersecurity risk management.	Mode 3	Communication services	<p>Cyber Security Regulatory Framework for Telecommunications, Information Technology and Mail Providers</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.citc.gov.sa/ar/mediacenter/pressreleases/Pages/20200813.aspx</p>	13 August 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Turkey					
<p>The Parliament adopted, on 29 July 2020, a law regulating social media. The new measure requires foreign social media platforms with more than one million daily users to appoint a local representative in Turkey, which would be tasked with addressing complaints relating to their platforms' content. Failure to comply can result in advertising bans, fines, and reduction of bandwidth by up to 90%.</p> <p>The law also requires user data from social media networks to be stored in Turkey.</p>	Mode 1	Social media platforms	<p>Social Media Law</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.mondag.com/turkey/social-media/983466/turkey-introduces-new-social-media-law </p>	Effective 1 October 2020	
United States					
<p>In response to the President's Executive Orders signed on 6 August 2020, the Department of Commerce announced, on 19 September 2020, prohibitions on transactions relating to the mobile applications WeChat and TikTok due to national security concerns.</p> <p>The identified prohibitions encompass business-to-business transactions within the land and maritime borders of the United States and its territories, and include specific exceptions. The prohibitions applicable to WeChat became effective as of 20 September. The prohibition of the provision of TikTok through an online mobile application store in the United States was scheduled to go into effect on 27 September, but is currently being reviewed by U.S. courts. The remainder of prohibitions applicable to TikTok become effective on 12 November, unless the national security concerns related to TikTok are resolved before that date.</p>	Modes 1 and 3	Communication services	<p>Executive Orders 13942 and 13943, Addressing the Threat Posed by WeChat, and Taking Additional Steps to Address the National Emergency with Respect to the Information and Communications Technology and Services Supply Chain</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/08/11/2020-17700/addressing-the-threat-posed-by-wechat-and-taking-additional-steps-to-address-the-national-emergency https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/08/11/2020-17699/addressing-the-threat-posed-by-tiktok-and-taking-additional-steps-to-address-the-national-emergency </p>	19 September 2020	YES
SERVICES SUPPLIED THROUGH THE MOVEMENT OF NATURAL PERSONS					
Japan					
<p>On 22 May 2020, the Diet adopted a measure to ease certain limits on the activities of foreign lawyers in the country.</p> <p>The new measure allows foreign lawyers to act as a legal representative in a broader scope of international arbitrations, including arbitrations between Japanese companies if there is an</p>	Mode 4	All sectors	<p>Act on Special Measures concerning the Handling of Legal Services by Foreign Lawyers</p> <p>Viewed at: http://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/commmon/data/outline/200522151124_200522.pdf </p>	Effective 29 August 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<p>international connection, e.g., if one of the companies is more than 50% owned by foreigners. Moreover, it also establishes the provisions of international mediation, allowing the preceding scope of representation.</p> <p>The measure also relaxes the requirements for approval by the Minister of Justice. To obtain approval, foreign lawyers are currently required to have three years of related job experience. The new law recognizes up to two years of subordinate work in Japan as job experience, instead of up to one year at present.</p>			http://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/law/detail/?id=3584&vm=04&re=01&new=1		
United Kingdom					
<p>The Home Office issued new guidance on a Health and Care visa available from 4 August 2020 and falling under the Tier 2 (General) category. To qualify for this visa, they applicants have to fill a job that falls within a specified list of occupations and be employed by the National Health Service (NHS), an NHS-commissioned service provider or a social care provider listed in the Home Office's Tier 2 guidance. Applicants and their dependent family members will be exempt from paying the immigration health surcharge (IHS), and will also benefit from a reduced application fee.</p>	Mode 4	Health services	<p>Viewed at:</p> https://www.gov.uk/tier-2-health-care-visa	4 August 2020	YES

ANNEX 5 - COVID-19 TRADE AND TRADE-RELATED MEASURES (GOODS)¹

(MID-MAY 2020 TO MID-OCTOBER 2020)

Confirmed information²

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Argentina	Termination on 30 July 2020 of the temporary implementation of export licensing requirement on medical ventilators (artificial respiration apparatus) (NCM 9019.20.10) issued by the Ministry of Production Development with the intervention of the Ministry of Health, due to the COVID-19 pandemic (originally implemented on 20 March 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (14 April 2020) and Decreto Nos. 301/2020 (19 March 2020) 625/2020 (29 July 2020); and Ministerio de Desarrollo Productivo Resolución Nos. 140/2020 (6 April 2020) and 367/2020 (24 July 2020)	
Argentina	On 30 September 2020 extension of the temporary suspension of the requirement to submit the Sworn Declaration of Product Composition (<i>Declaración Jurada de Composición de Productos "DJCP"</i>), pursuant to Secretariat of Trade (SC) Resolution No. 404/2016 and the amendments thereto, for the products falling under the following MERCOSUR Common Nomenclature (NCM/SA) tariff headings: 6210.10.00; 6307.90.10; 6307.90.90; 6505.00.22, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/TBT/N/ARG/309/Add.6, 19 June 2020; and Resolución No. 420/2020 - Ministerio de Desarrollo Productivo, Secretaría de Comercio Interior (19 September 2020)	In force throughout the COVID-19 emergency period
Argentina	Temporary suspension of certain customs processing deadlines (<i>plazos operativos</i>) and procedures, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Resolución General No. 4726/2020 - Administración Federal de Ingresos Públicos (27 May 2020)	Effective 30 May 2020, and in force throughout the COVID-19 emergency period
Argentina	Temporary elimination of export duties (<i>derechos de exportación</i>) on raw hides and skins, leather and furskins, due to the COVID-19 pandemic (4101.20.00; 4101.50.10; 4101.50.20; 4101.50.30; 4101.90.10; 4101.90.20; 4101.90.30; 4102.10.00; 4103.90.00)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (22 September 2020); and Decreto No. 549/2020 (DCTO-2020-549-APN-PTE-Derecho de exportación) - Nomenclatura Común del Mercosur (22 June 2020)	Effective 23 June 2020 to 23 August 2020

¹ This table has been compiled by the WTO Secretariat and is an informal situation report and an attempt to provide transparency with respect to measures affecting trade in goods taken in the context of the COVID-19 crisis. It does not pass judgment on or questions the right of WTO members to take such actions. The Secretariat has not sought to determine and indicate whether the measures listed in the table have trade-restrictive or trade-facilitating effects. The information in this table is not exhaustive and does not include information on general support measures. The measures listed in this table provide a situation report up to 15 October 2020. A consistent feature of the trade and trade-related measures taken in response to the COVID-19 crisis has been the frequent changes, adjustments and occasional roll-back of such measures to reflect the evolving situation. The updated lists of measures implemented in the context of the current pandemic are available on the COVID-19 page of the WTO website: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/trade_related_goods_measure_e.htm.

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

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Argentina	Temporary waiving of export duties (60 days) through the sworn export declaration, for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSME) registered in the MSME National Register (originally implemented on 8 June until 7 August 2020, extended until 30 September 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (22 September 2020); and. Resolución General Nos. 4728/2020 (29 May 2020), 4787/2020 and 4826/2020 (28 September 2020) - Administración Federal de Ingresos Públicos (4 August 2020)	On 30 September 2020 extended until 31 October 2020
Australia	Extension of the temporary restrictions on the non-commercial export of personal protective equipment and sanitizer products, essential to combatting the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/AUS/5, 5 October 2020	The Declaration 2020 is now due to end on 17 December 2020
Australia	Extension of the temporary tariff concession measure to facilitate the importation of certain goods (face masks, gloves, gowns/clothes, disinfectant preparations (excluding hand sanitizers), soaps, COVID-19 test kits and reagents, and viral transport media) required to manage the crisis created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The measure was first published on 1 May 2020 in Australian Customs Notice Number 2020/20 and initially in place until 31 July 2020, with refunds available for customs duty paid on prescribed goods imported from 1 February 2020. The measure was extended until 31 December 2020, published in Australian Customs Notice Number 2020/30	WTO document G/MA/W/152/Add.1, 31 July 2020	Measure extended until 31 December 2020
Brazil	Extension of the temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain personal protective equipment (NCM Chapters 17; 22; 25; 28; 29; 30; 33; 34; 37; 38; 39; 40; 48; 55; 56; 59; 61; 62; 63; 65; 70; 72; 73; 76; 84; 85; 87; 90; 94), due to the COVID-19 pandemic (originally effective from 18 March to 30 September 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (1 May 2020) and Resolução Ministério da Economia/Secretaria-Executiva da Câmara de Comércio Exterior Nos. 17/2020 (17 March 2020), 22/2020 (25 March 2020), 28/2020 (1 April 2020), 31/2020 (7 April 2020), 32/2020 (16 April 2020), 33/2020, 34/2020 (29 April 2020), 44/2020 (14 May 2020), 51/2020 and 52/2020 (17 June 2020), 67/2020 (10 July 2020), 75/2020 (25 August 2020), 89/2020 and 90/2020 (16 September 2020)	Measure extended until 30 October 2020
European Union	Relief from import duties and VAT exemption on importation granted for goods needed to combat the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak during 2020 (originally effective 30 January to 31 July 2020)	WTO document G/TFA/W/24, 29 September 2020; and European Commission Decisions 2020/491 (3 April 2020) and 2020/1101 (23 July 2020)	On 27 July 2020, Decision amended extending the period of application by 3 months (effective 30 January 2020 to 31 October 2020)

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
India	Amendments introduced in the Export Policy of Alcohol based Hand Sanitizers. Only "alcohol based hand sanitizers" exported in containers with the dispenser pump are prohibited for export (HS 3004; 3401; 3402; 3808.94), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Exports of alcohol based hand sanitizers in any other form/packaging are "free"	Notification No. 08/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (1 June 2020)	Effective 1 June 2020
India	Amendments introduced in the Export Policy of Diagnostic Kits/Laboratory Reagents/Diagnostic Apparatus. VTM kits and reagents, RNA extraction kits and reagents, and RT-PCR kits and reagents are "restricted" for exports, whether as an individual item or as part of any diagnostic kits/reagent, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All other diagnostic kits/reagents/instruments/apparatus are freely exportable subject to submission of an undertaking by the exporter to the Customs Authorities at the time of export (HS 3822; 3926.90.99; 7017.90; 8419.90.90; 9018.90.99; 3005.90; 9027.90.90; 3822.00.90; 3822.00.19; 9027; 3507; 2934)	Notification No. 09/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (10 June 2020)	Effective 10 June 2020
India	Amendments introduced to the export policy of Hydroxychloroquine (HS 2933.39.90; 2933.49.00; 2933.99.00; 3004.90.59; 3004.90.99), resulting in an export restriction (subject to some exceptions), due to the COVID-19 pandemic (originally effective 25 March 2020). On 4 April 2020, exceptions eliminated resulting in an export prohibition of hydroxychloroquine	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (1 May 2020) and Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Notification Nos. 54/2015-2020 (25 March 2020), 01/2015-2020 (4 April 2020) and 13/2015-2020 (18 June 2020)	On 18 June 2020, export policy changed from "prohibited" to "free"
India	Amendments introduced in the export policy of Personal Protective Equipment/Masks (HS 3926.90; 6217.90; 6307.90; 9018.50; 9018.90; 9020), resulting in an export prohibition due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All other items are freely exportable	Notification No. 14/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (22 June 2020)	Effective 22 June 2020
India	Amendments introduced in the Export Policy of Personal Protective Equipment/Masks, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Certain PPEs exported either as part of kits or as individuals items (e.g. (i) medical coveralls of all classes/categories; (ii) medical goggles; (iii) all masks other than non-medical/non-surgical masks (cotton, silk, wool, polyester, nylon, rayon, viscose-knitted, woven or blended); (iv) nitrile/NBR gloves; and (v) face shields) (HS 3926.90; 6217.90; 6307.90; 9018.50; 9018.90; 9020), are prohibited for export. All other items are freely exportable	Notification No. 14/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (22 June 2020)	Effective 22 June 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
India	Amendments introduced to Foreign Trade Policy 2015-2020 (amendment in Para 4.44 - "export of cut and polished diamonds with re-import facility at zero duty") resulting in enhancement of the time limit for re-import facility with zero duty from 3 months to 6 months for case where re-import period is expiring between 1 February 2020 to 31 July 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Notification No. 15/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (25 June 2020)	Effective 25 June 2020
India	Further amendments introduced in the export policy of Personal Protective Equipment/Masks (HS 3926.90; 6217.90; 6307.90; 9018.90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. PPE medical coveralls for COVID-19 are now "restricted" for exports. A monthly quota of 50 Lakh PPE medical coverall for COVID-19 has been fixed for issuance of export licenses to the eligible applicants to export, as per the criteria to be separately issued in a Trade Notice	Notification No. 16/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (29 June 2020)	Effective 29 June 2020
India	Amendments introduced in the Export Policy of Textile Raw Material for Masks and Coveralls, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Only non-woven fabric of 25 to 70 GSM and melt blown fabric of any GSM exported is prohibited for export. All other non-woven fabrics with GSM other than 25-70 GSM are freely allowed for exports	Notification No. 18/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (13 July 2020)	Effective 13 July 2020
India	Amendments introduced in the Export Policy of PPE/Masks. Only surgical drapes, isolation aprons, surgical wraps and X-Ray gowns are removed from prohibition under the medical coveralls of all classes and categories. All other items continue to remain prohibited for exports, as part of prohibition on PPE, due to the COVID-19 pandemic (HS 9018.50; 9018.90; 9020; 3926.90; 6217.90; 6307.90)	Notification No. 20/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (21 July 2020)	Effective 21 July 2020
India	Amendments introduced in the Export Policy of PPE/Masks. Export policy of 2/3 ply surgical masks, medical googles is amended from "prohibited" to "restricted", due to the COVID-19 pandemic (HS 9018.50; 9018.90; 9020; 3926.90; 6217.90; 6307.90). Exports of face shields has been made "free". A monthly export quota of 4 crore units per months has been fixed for 2/3 ply surgical masks and 20 lakh units per month for medical googles for issuing export licences to eligible applicants as per the criteria to be separately issued in a Trade Notice	Notification No. 21/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (28 July 2020)	Effective 28 July 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
India	Amendments introduced in the Export Policy of Ventilators (HS 9018; 9019; 9020). Export of all ventilators including any artificial respiratory apparatus or oxygen therapy apparatus or any other breathing appliance/device are made "Free" for export, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Notification No. 23/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (4 August 2020)	Effective 4 August 2020
India	Amendments introduced in the Export Policy of Textile Raw Material for Masks and Coveralls (HS 5603.11; 5603.12; 5603.13; 5603.14; 5603.91; 5603.92; 5603.93; 5603.94), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Only melt blown fabric of any GSM is prohibited for export. All other non-woven fabrics of any GSM (including GSM 25-70, which were earlier prohibited) are freely allowed for exports	Notification No. 28/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (18 August 2020)	Effective 18 August 2020
India	Amendments in Export Policy of PPE/Masks (HS 9018.50; 9018.90; 9020; 3926.90; 6217.90; 6307.90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Export policy of 2/3 ply surgical masks, medical coveralls of all classes and categories (including medical coveralls for COVID-19) is amended from "Restricted" to "Free" category and these coveralls (including gowns and aprons of all types) are now freely exportable. Medical goggles continue to remain in restricted category with monthly quota of 20 lakh units and nitrile/NBR gloves continue to remain prohibited. The export policy of N-95/FFP2 masks or its equivalent masks is revised from "Prohibited" to "Restricted" category. A monthly export quota of 50 lakh units has been fixed for N-95/FFP2 masks or its equivalent, for issuing export licences to eligible applicants as per the criteria to be separately issued in a Trade Notice	Notification No. 29/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (25 August 2020)	Effective 25 August 2020
India	Procedure and criteria for submission and approval of application for exports of diagnostic kits. Export quota fixed for the for diagnostic for the period September 2020 to November 2020: VTM kits (150 Lakh); RNA extraction kits (400 Lakh); and RT-PCR kits (100 Lakh)	Trade Notice No. 29/2020-21, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (13 October 2020)	Effective September 2020 to November 2020
India	Amendments in Export Policy of PPE/Masks (HS 9020; 3926.90; 6217.90; 6307.90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The export policy of N-95/FFP2 masks or its equivalent masks is amended from "Restricted" to "Free" category, making all types of masks freely exportable	Notification No. 36/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (6 October 2020)	Effective 6 October 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
India	Amendments in Export Policy of Alcohol based Hand Sanitizers (HS 3004; 3401; 3402; 3808.94), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The export of alcohol based hand sanitizers in container with dispenser pumps is free for export, making exports of alcohol based hand sanitizers in any form/packaging freely exportable, with immediate effect	Notification No. 40/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (15 October 2020)	Effective 15 October 2020
Korea, Rep. of	Temporary export ban on surgical and sanitary masks, filtering respirators, and melt blown filters (HS 6307.90.90; 5603.12.90; 5603.92.00), due to the COVID-19 pandemic (originally effective 6 March to 30 June 2020)	WTO documents G/MA/QR/N/KOR/2/Add.1/Corr.1, 22 June 2020; and G/MA/QR/N/KOR/2/Add.3, 20 July 2020	Ban on melt blown filters extended until 5 August 2020
Korea, Rep. of	Temporary export restriction on filtering respirators. Due to the global outbreak of COVID-19, the relevant measure has been adopted with a view to preventing a critical shortage of surgical masks and filtering respirators in Korea, Rep. of. Filtering respirator producers and those who have concluded contracts with the producers for the purpose of exportation are allowed to export up to 30% of the total daily production volume of filtering respirators. Overseas shipments for humanitarian purposes may be exported with approval from the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/KOR/2/Add.2, 22 June 2020	This measure will remain in effect from 18 June to 11 July 2020
Korea, Rep. of	Temporary export restriction on filtering respirators. Due to the global outbreak of COVID-19, the relevant measure has been adopted with a view to preventing a critical shortage of surgical masks and filtering respirators in Korea, Rep. of. Filtering respirator producers and those who have concluded contracts with the producers for the purpose of exportation are allowed to export filtering respirators on the condition that their monthly export volume does not exceed 50% of the monthly average production volume of the domestic filtering respirators in the last two months. Overseas shipments for humanitarian purposes may be exported after consulting with the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy and obtaining approval from the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/KOR/2/Add.3, 20 July 2020	Effective 12 July to 11 December 2020
Korea, Rep. of	Temporary export prohibition on melt blown filters and SMS filters (spunbond meltblown spunbond filters). Due to the global outbreak of COVID-19, the relevant measure has been adopted with a view to preventing a critical shortage of masks in Korea, Rep. of. Producers and those	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/KOR/2/Add.4, 31 August 2020	Effective 6 August 2020 to 5 January 2021

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
	who have concluded contracts with the producers for the purpose of exportation are allowed to export only melt blown filters for filtering respirators on the condition that their monthly export volume does not exceed 15% of the monthly average production volume of the melt blown filters in the last two months. A producer who wants to export melt blown filters for filtering respirators in excess of the allowable amount must obtain prior approval from the Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy according to the relevant regulation. Melt blown filters for surgical masks and SMS filters are prohibited from being exported		
Korea, Rep. of	Temporary quantitative restriction has been imposed on the exportation of surgical and anti-droplet masks (HS 6307.90.90). The restriction is necessary to protect human health and prevent any critical shortage of essential products in response to COVID19. The restriction, however, allows exception concerning humanitarian purposes under MFDS approval	WTO documents G/MA/QR/N/KOR/2/Add.5, 6 October 2020 and G/MA/QR/N/KOR/3, 13 October 2020	
Russian Federation	Termination of the temporary export quota (7 million tonnes) on wheat and meslin, rye, barley and maize (HS 1001; 1002; 1003; 1005) (originally implemented on 1 April 2020)	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (20 April and 21 July 2020) and Decree No. 385 (31 March 2020)	Terminated on 30 June 2020
Eurasian Economic Union	Extension of the temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain products, e.g. organic chemicals; amine-function compounds; ationic organic surface-active agents; non-ionic organic surface-active agents; antisera; wadding, gauze, bandages and similar articles; surgical gloves; personal protective equipment; and instruments and appliances used in medical, surgical sciences (HS Chapters 17; 21; 25; 28; 29; 30; 34; 35; 38; 39; 40; 42; 55; 56; 59; 62; 70; 76; 84; 94; 96), due to the COVID-19 pandemic (originally effective 3 April 2020)	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (9 October 2020) and Decision of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission No. 21 (16 March 2020)	Measure extended until 31 March 2021
Eurasian Economic Union	Termination of the temporary export ban on certain food products (e.g. bulb onions; garlic; turnips; rye; rice; buckwheat; millet; cereal groats; meal and pellets; buckwheat grains pearled; soya beans, whether or not broken; sunflower seeds, whether or not broken; prepared foods from buckwheat) (HS Chapters 07; 10; 11; 12; 19), due to the COVID-19 pandemic (originally effective 12 April 2020)	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (21 July 2020) and Decision of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission No. 43 (31 March 2020)	Terminated on 30 June 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Eurasian Economic Union	Termination of the temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain food products (e.g. potatoes, onions, garlic, cabbage, carrots, peppers, rye, rice, buckwheat, buckwheat groats, baby food and raw materials for its production, juices), and medicines, pipettes, disinfection systems, endoscopes and contactless thermometers, medical substances, refrigerators and containers for medical purposes (HS Chapters 7; 10; 11; 17; 19; 20; 21; 28; 29; 30; 35; 38; 39; 42; 48; 76; 84; 87; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic (originally implemented on 18 April 2020)	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (9 October 2020) and Decision of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission Nos. 33 and 34 (3 April 2020)	Terminated on 1 August 2020
Eurasian Economic Union	Extension of the list of imported goods exempted from customs tariffs (HS 2809.20.00; 2847.00.00; 2902.19.00; 2905.39.20; 2905.39.25; 2909.43.00; 2912.19.00; 2917.34.00; 2918.19.98; 3302.90.90; 3402.19.00; 3906.90.90; 3911.90.99; 3912.31.00; 3912.39.85; 3920.43.10; 4016.99.97; 6505.00.90; 6506.10.10), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (9 October 2020) and Decision of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission No. 53 (27 May 2020)	Effective 3 July 2020
Turkey	Termination of prior export authorization/registration on fresh lemons (HS 0805.50), due to the COVID-19 pandemic (originally implemented on 2 May 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (3 September 2020)	Terminated on 7 August 2020
Turkey	Termination of the temporary elimination of import tariffs on ethyl alcohol (HS 2207.20.00), due to the COVID-19 pandemic (originally implemented on 25 March 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (21 September 2020)	Terminated on 15 September 2020
United Kingdom	Extension of the temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain medical supplies, equipment and protective garments (HS Chapters 22; 28; 30; 34; 38; 39; 40; 48; 56; 61; 62; 63; 65; 84; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from VAT (originally effective 27 March to 31 July 2020 (can apply retrospectively to eligible goods imported after 30 January))	United Kingdom Mission to Geneva (25 September 2020); GOV.UK: business and industry, trade and investment, customs declarations, duties and tariffs (import and export)	Measure extended until 31 October 2020
United States	Executive Order on Ensuring Essential Medicines, Medical Countermeasures, and Critical Inputs are made in the United States	Executive Order (6 August 2020). Viewed at: https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-ensuring-essential-medicines-medical-countermeasures-critical-inputs-made-united-states/	Effective 6 August 2020
United States	Temporary export authorization for certain personal protective equipment (PPE) (HS 6307.90.99; 4015.11.01; 4015.19.00; 6210.10; 6210.40; 6210.50). Extension of temporary measures in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and modifications to the scope of products affected by the temporary measures	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/USA/4/Add.2, 1 September 2020	Revised measures effective 10 August 2020 through 31 December 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
United States	Extension of the temporary rule by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) allocating certain scarce or threatened materials for domestic use, so that these materials may not be exported from the United States without explicit approval by the FEMA, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Department of Homeland Security - Federal Emergency Management Agency (44 CFR Part 328 - RIN 1660-AB01): Prioritization and Allocation of Certain Scarce or Threatened Health and Medical Resources to Domestic Use, Federal Register/Vol. 85, No. 70 FR No. 20195 (10 April 2020). Viewed at: https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-04-10/pdf/2020-07659.pdf ; and Department of Homeland Security - Federal Emergency Management Agency, "Temporary Final Rule on the Prioritization and Allocation of Certain Scarce and Critical Health and Medical Resources for Domestic Use", Federal Register/Vol. 85, No. 154 FR No. 48113 (10 August 2020). Viewed at: https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR2020-08-10/pdf/2020-17467.pdf	Effective 7 April 2020 to 10 August 2020. Modified on 10 August 2020 and extended through 31 December 2020

Note: The United Kingdom withdrew from the European Union as of 1 February 2020. During the transition period, which ends on 31 December 2020, European Union law, with a few limited exceptions, continues to be applicable to and in the United Kingdom. During the transition period, the information provided by the European Union which is relevant to this document continues to cover the United Kingdom.

ANNEX 6 - COVID-19 TRADE AND TRADE-RELATED MEASURES (SERVICES)¹

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Australia	Various sectors (mode 4)	The government issued a new list of Priority Migration Skilled Occupations (PMSOL), which identifies 17 occupations that fill critical skills needs that support Australia's economic recovery from COVID-19. Employer sponsored nomination and visa applications with an occupation on the PMSOL will be given priority processing. Included among the 17 occupations are nurses, medical practitioners, software engineers, construction project managers, and mechanical engineers.	Direction no. 88 Migration Act 1958 Direction under section 499 – Order of Priority Allocation within the Subclass 482 (Temporary Skill Shortage) visa program and Subclass 457 (Temporary Work (Skilled)) visa program Viewed at: https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/employing-and-sponsoring-someone/sponsoring-workers/pmsol	Initiated on 31 August 2020	Yes
Australia	Postal services	The Australian Government has temporarily adjusted Australia Post's regulated letter delivery speed and frequency requirements to reflect COVID-19 induced operating constraints.	Australian Postal Corporation (Performance Standards) Amendment (2020 Measures No. 1) Regulations 2020. F2020L00579 Viewed at: https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2020L00579	The changes apply from 16 May 2020 to 30 June 2021, subject to review in late 2020.	Yes
Australia	All sectors	On 29 March 2020, the Australian Government announced temporary changes to the foreign investment review framework that are designed to safeguard Australia's national interest during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. During this period the monetary threshold amounts under the Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1975 will be \$0 for proposed foreign investments made on or after 10:30pm (AEDT) 29 March 2020.	Viewed at: https://firb.gov.au/ga-temporary-changes-foreign-investment-framework	Effective from 10:30pm (AEDT) 29 March 2020	Yes

¹ This table has been compiled by the WTO Secretariat and is an informal situation report and an attempt to provide transparency with respect to measures affecting trade in services taken in the context of the COVID-19 crisis. It does not pass judgment on or questions the right of WTO members to take such actions. The Secretariat has not sought to determine and indicate whether the measures listed in the table have trade-restrictive or trade-facilitating effects. The information in this table is not exhaustive and does not include information on general support measures relating to services. Further, the objective of this table is not to list all COVID-related measures taken by governments around the world to limit movement, nor all the measures taken to ease the impact of border restrictions or other limits on movement. The measures listed in this table provide a situation report up to 15 October 2020. A consistent feature of the trade and trade-related measures taken in response to the COVID-19 crisis has been the frequent changes, adjustments and occasional roll-back of such measures to reflect the evolving situation. The updated lists of measures implemented in the context of the current pandemic are available on the COVID-19 page of the WTO website: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/covid19_e.htm#measures.

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Australia	Financial services	On 19 March, the Australian Prudential Regulatory Authority (APRA) announced support for use of capital buffers to promote ongoing lending to the economy.	Viewed at: https://www.apra.gov.au/news-and-publications/apra-adjusts-bank-capital-expectations	19 March 2020	Yes
Australia	Selected sectors	The government has introduced new measures in response to COVID-19 to allow some temporary work visa holders employed in critical sectors including agriculture, food processing, health, aged and disability care and childcare to remain in Australia and continue working until it is safe and practicable for them to return to their countries. Visas may be granted for stays of up to 12 months.	Viewed at: https://covid19.govcms.gov.au/staying-australia#15	Initiated 1 April 2020	Yes
Brazil	Road transport services	Extension of the terms of Resolution 5876 for compliance with contractual and regulatory obligations and inclusion of the Complementary License for International Road Freight Transport among the documents close to expiry date whose validity will be extended.	Resolution No. 5,900 of the National Agency for Road Transport (ANTT)	21 July 2020	Yes
Brazil	Financial services	On 16 March, the Central Bank of Brazil reduced the Conservation Capital Buffer from 2.5% to 1.25% for one year.	Viewed at: https://www.bcb.gov.br/en/press-detail/2322/nota	16 March 2020	Yes
Brazil	Health services	To deal with the health emergency, the use of telemedicine for medical services, including medical consultation and digital medicine prescription, is permitted on an exceptional and temporary basis through ordinance 467/20.	Ordinance 46/20 Viewed at: http://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/portaria-n-467-de-20-de-marco-de-2020-249312996	20 March 2020	Yes
Canada	Telecommunication services	Canada has postponed its next 5G spectrum sale by six months to allow the telecommunications industry to maintain its focus on providing essential services to Canadians during the COVID-19 pandemic. The auction is now scheduled to start on 15 June 2021.	Viewed at: https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/06/minister-bains-updates-plans-to-improve-quality-coverage-and-price-of-telecom-services.html	5 June 2020	Yes
Canada	Financial services	The Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI) has taken a number of prudential measures in respect of capital, liquidity and reporting requirements to support the financial and operational resilience of financial institutions and provide flexibility in addressing conditions precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic.	OSFI Capital, Liquidity and reporting Requirements Viewed at: https://www.osfi-bsif.gc.ca/Eng/fi-if/in-ai/Pages/DTI20200327_let.aspx https://www.osfi-bsif.gc.ca/Eng/osfi-bsif/med/Pages/20200828_nr.aspx	Initiation: 27 March 2020. Phased withdrawal of certain measures starting 31 August 2020	Yes

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Canada	Financial services	Under the Standing Term Liquidity Facility (STLF), the Bank of Canada can provide loans to eligible financial institutions in need of temporary liquidity support and where the Bank has no concerns about their financial soundness.	Standing Term Liquidity Facility (STFL) Viewed at: https://www.bankofcanada.ca/markets/market-operations-liquidity-provision/framework-market-operations-liquidity-provision/?#stlf	Initiation: 30 March 2020	Yes
Canada	Financial services	The Bank of Canada has activated the Contingent Term Repo Facility (CTRF), which is its standing repo facility to counter any severe market-wide liquidity stresses and support the stability of the Canadian financial system. The CTRF offers Canadian dollar term funding to eligible counterparties on a standing, bilateral basis against securities issued or guaranteed by the Government of Canada or a provincial government. This facility provides funding liquidity to a broad range of financial institutions that can demonstrate significant activity in the Canadian money and/or bond markets, are subject to federal or provincial regulation, and meet any other conditions the Bank may require.	Contingent Term Repo Facility Viewed at: https://www.bankofcanada.ca/markets/market-operations-liquidity-provision/market-operations-programs-and-facilities/contingent-term-repo-facility/ https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2020/04/bank-of-canada-announces-activation-of-the-contingent-term-repo-facility/	Initiation: 6 April 2020	Yes
Canada	Financial services	Under the Insured Mortgage Purchase program (IMPP), the Government of Canada will purchase up to \$150 billion of insured mortgage pools through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. This action will provide long-term stable funding to banks and mortgage lenders, help facilitate continued lending to Canadian consumers and businesses, and add liquidity to Canada's mortgage market.	Insured Mortgage Purchase Program Viewed at: https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/media-newsroom/news-releases/2020/cmhc-expands-insured-mortgage-purchase-program https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/finance-and-investing/insured-mortgage-purchase-program	Initiation: 18 March 2020	Yes

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Canada	All sectors	<p>On 18 April 2020, the government issued a Policy Statement indicating that, in the context of the pandemic, it would subject certain foreign investments into Canada to enhanced scrutiny under the Investment Canada Act.</p> <p>The government will scrutinize with particular attention foreign direct investments of any value, controlling or non-controlling, in Canadian businesses that are related to public health or involved in the supply of critical goods and services to Canadians or to the government. The government will also subject all foreign investments by state-owned investors, regardless of their value, or private investors assessed as being closely tied to or subject to direction from foreign governments, to enhanced scrutiny under the Act. This may involve the Minister requesting additional information or extensions of timelines for review as authorized by the ICA, in order to ensure that the government can fully assess these investments.</p> <p>This enhanced scrutiny of certain foreign investments is to apply until the economy recovers from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	Viewed at: https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/ica-lic.nsf/eng/lk81224.html	18 April 2020	Yes
China	Air transport services	The Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) has provided flexibility in the delivery of classroom training and for the completion of recurrent training requirements. It has also granted the ability to extend the validity periods to some elements of training applicable to pilots, engineers, cabin crew and dispatchers.	Viewed at: https://www.iata.org/en/pressroom/pr/2020-03-21-01/	21 March 2020	Yes
China	All sectors	On 10 February 2020, the MOFCOM General Office issued the Circular on Strengthening the Services for Foreign-Invested Enterprises and Investment Attraction Work While Actively Fighting Against COVID-19 Pandemic, requiring local departments of commerce to provide necessary services for foreign-invested enterprises and attract investment on the condition of effectively preventing and controlling the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the Circular requires local departments of commerce to: 1) actively help foreign-invested enterprises to resume normal production and operation; 2) strengthen services for large foreign-invested projects; 3) innovate and improve the work of investment promotion; 4) offer targeted assistance based on local conditions; and 5) continue to improve the business environment.	<p>Circular on Strengthening the Services for Foreign-Invested Enterprises and Investment Attraction Work While Actively Fighting Against COVID-19 Pandemic</p> <p>Viewed at: http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/</p>	10 February 2020	Yes
China	Financial services	On 3 April 2020, the People's Bank of China decided to cut the Required Reserve Ratio by 1 percentage point, with a cut of 0.5 percentage points on April 15 and May 15 each time, for rural credit cooperatives, rural commercial banks, rural cooperative	Viewed at: http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4002931/index.html	03 April 2020	Yes

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
		banks, village banks, as well as city commercial banks operating solely within provincial-level administrative regions.			
European Union	All sectors	<p>The European Commission issued new guidelines for screening foreign direct investment in companies and critical assets located in the European Union, including those operating in the fields of health, medical research, biotechnology and infrastructures deemed essential for security and public order. This aims to respond to the increased potential risk to strategic industries, as a result of the economic shock posed by COVID-19.</p> <p>The guidelines offer guidance to be applied within the context of the recently adopted framework for EU screening and review of FDI. Among other things, the new guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Call on Member States to make full use of existing FDI screening mechanisms and take fully into account the risks to critical health infrastructures, supply of critical inputs, and other critical sectors; - Call on those Member States without screening mechanisms to set up a full-fledged screening mechanism and in the meantime to use other available options to address cases where the acquisition or control of a particular business, infrastructure or technology would create a risk to security or public order in the EU, including a risk to critical health infrastructures and supply of critical inputs. 	Viewed at: https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2020/march/tradoc_158676.pdf	25 March 2020	Yes
European Union	Air transport services	On 30 March, the European Union suspended its rule that require air carriers to operate slots for at least 80 percent of the time to keep the entitlement in the next equivalent season for the whole summer season, until 24 October 2020.	<p>Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council Amending Council Regulation (EEC) NO 95/93 on Common Rules for the Allocation of Slots at Community Airports.</p> <p>Viewed at: http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/PE-4-2020-REV-1/en/pdf</p>	Effective 1 March 2020, and retroactively from 23 January for flights between the EU and China or Hong Kong, China.	Yes
European Union	Air transport services	The European Commission has published guidelines setting out operational measures to facilitate the operation of air cargo during the COVID-19 outbreak.	Viewed at: https://ec.europa.eu/transport/sites/transport/files/legislation/c20202010_en.pdf	26 March 2020	Yes
European Union	Air transport services	The European Aviation Safety Agency allowed the extension of the validity periods for licences, ratings, endorsements, certificates and attestations of aircrew, instructors, examiners, aircraft maintenance licence holders and air traffic controllers as well as extension of airworthiness review certificates.	Viewed at: https://www.iata.org/en/pressroom/pr/2020-03-21-01/	21 March 2020	Yes

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
European Union	Financial services	On 12 March, the European Central Bank said banks directly supervised by the ECB can fully use capital buffers and that banks will benefit from relief in the composition of capital for Pillar 2 Requirements. Banks are also expected not to increase capital distributions in response to these measures. Banks will also be allowed to operate temporarily below the liquidity coverage ratio.	Viewed at: https://www.bankingsupervision.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2020/html/ssm.pr200312~43351ac3ac.en.html	12 March 2020	Yes
European Union	Road transport services	On 16 March 2020, the European Commission issued guidelines for border measures to protect health and keep goods and essential services available. The guidelines set out principles for an integrated approach to an effective border management to protect health while preserving the integrity of the internal market.	Viewed at: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/20200316_covid-19-guidelines-for-border-management.pdf	16 March 2020	Yes
European Union	Road transport services and environmental services	On 30 March 2020, the European Commission issued some specific guidelines in order to ensure the continuation of national and cross-border waste shipments in the EU. The guidelines indicate that the Green Lanes apply mutatis mutandis to the shipments of waste, and invite Member States to implement this principle.	Viewed at: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/shipments/pdf/waste_shipment_and_COVID19.pdf?utm_source=POLITICO.EU&utm_campaign=7ef90fbd23-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_03_31_02_49&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_10959edeb5-7ef90fbd23-190580935	30 March 2020	Yes
European Union	Road transport services	On 25 May 2020, the European Parliament and the Council adopted Regulation (EU) 2020/698 which lays down specific and temporary measures in view of the COVID-19 outbreak concerning the renewal or extension of certain certificates, licences and authorisations and the postponement of certain periodic checks and periodic training in certain areas of transport legislation.	Regulation (EU) 2020/698 Viewed at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2020:165:FULL&from=IT	25 May 2020	Yes
European Union	Maritime transport services	On 25 May 2020, the European Parliament and the Council adopted Regulation (EU) 2020/697 which amends Regulation (EU) 2017/352, so as to allow the managing body of a port or the competent authority to provide flexibility in respect of the levying of port infrastructure charges in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak.	Regulation (EU) 2020/697 Viewed at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2020:165:FULL&from=IT	25 May 2020	Yes
European Union	Air transport services	The European Commission has extended the airport slot waiver for the 2020-2021 winter season, until 27 March 2021.	Viewed at: https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/1/2020/EN/COM-2020-558-F1-EN-MAIN-PART-1.PDF	Effective 14 October 2020	Yes

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
France	All sectors	<p>The Minister for the Economy and Finance announced on 29 April 2020 an update to the screening procedure for foreign direct investment (FDI) in the context of the current health and economic crisis.</p> <p>The new measure includes biotechnologies in the list of critical technologies that are likely to be subject to FDI screening. It also lowers, from 25% to 10%, the threshold of voting rights in the acquired company that triggers the screening procedure. This change in the threshold will apply for a limited period of time, only for listed companies, and for investors from third countries (European Union and European Economic Area investors are exempted).</p>	<p>Text no. 22 of the French Official Journal no. 0105 dated 30 April 2020.</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.tresor.economie.gouv.fr/Articles/2020/04/30/covid-19-update-of-the-foreign-direct-investment-screening-procedure-in-france </p>	Effective 30 April 2020	Yes
France	Health services	<p>The government has relaxed the rules on the use of telemedicine services. Until 31 May 2020, all persons affected by COVID-19 (and other patients under certain circumstances) can benefit from telemedicine services even if there is no prior relation between the healthcare provider and the patient. This can be done using video transmission tools (equipped location for the health service provider, dedicated platform or Internet website or app). If the patient is not duly equipped, the service can be provided by phone.</p>	<p>Decree No. 2020-227 of 9 March 2020; Decree No. 2020-277 of 19 March 2020; Order (Arrêté) of 23 March 2020</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT00041704122&categorieLien=id https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT00041737421&dateTexte=20200410 https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT00041746744&categorieLien=id </p>	9, 19 and 23 March 2020	Yes
France	Financial services	<p>On 18 March, the Haut Conseil de Stabilité Financière (the French macroprudential authority) reduced the countercyclical capital buffer from 0.25% of risk-weighted assets (RWA) to 0% RWA.</p>	<p>Viewed at: https://www.economie.gouv.fr/files/directions_services/hcsf/HCSF_20200318_Communique_de_presse_de_seance.pdf </p>	18 March 2020	Yes
France	Financial services	<p>On 17 March, the Autorité des marchés financiers (the French financial markets authority) announced the prohibition of short selling for one month.</p>	<p>Viewed at: https://www.amf-france.org/en/news-publications/news-releases/amf-news-releases/amf-announces-short-selling-ban-one-month </p>	17 March 2020	Yes

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Germany	Selected sectors	<p>On 20 May 2020, the government adopted amendments to the Foreign Trade and Payments Ordinance that, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, expand the scope of investment review to the health sector.</p> <p>The government will have the opportunity to review acquisitions by non-EEA investors of voting rights of 10% or more in German companies operating in specified areas of the health sector, including the marketing of essential medicinal products.</p> <p>In addition, the amendments provide that the 10% notification threshold will also apply to companies providing services necessary to ensure the functioning of government communication infrastructures of the Federal Agency for Public Safety Digital Radio.</p> <p>Further, in line with the EU Screening Regulation, the Ordinance clarifies that the review can consider whether the foreign investor is directly or indirectly controlled by the government of a third country, either through the ownership structure or funding.</p>	<p>Amendments to the Foreign Trade and Payments Ordinance</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/germany-tightens-foreign-direct-85114/ </p>	20 May 2020	Yes
Germany	Financial services	<p>On 18 March, Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin) lowered the countercyclical capital buffer from 0.25% to 0% as of 1 April.</p>	<p>Viewed at: https://www.bundesbank.de/en/asks/topics/statement-on-the-countercyclical-capital-buffer-by-the-german-financial-stability-committee-828822 </p>	01 April 2020	Yes
India	All sectors	<p>The government amended its Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy in order to curb takeovers or acquisitions of Indian companies as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The amendment provides that an entity of a country that shares a land border with India - or where the beneficial owner of an investment into India is situated in or is a citizen of any such country - can invest only with prior government permission.</p>	<p>Viewed at: https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1615711 </p>	18 April 2020	-
India	Telecommunication services	<p>The Department of Telecommunications relaxed the guidelines for Other Service Providers [OSP] (companies providing 'Applications Services' like tele-banking, tele-medicine, tele-education, tele-trading, e-commerce, call centre, network operation centre and other IT Enabled Services).</p>	<p>Viewed at: https://dot.gov.in/sites/default/files/Relaxation%20inT%26C%20of%20OSP%2013.3.20.PDF?download=1 </p>	13 March 2020	Yes

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
India	Telecommunication services	To ensure uninterrupted service for prepaid phone users amid the lockdown, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has asked telecom operators to extend the validity of pre-paid services. Further, India's Congress asked telecom operators to waive call charges for migrant workers for a month as hundreds of thousands attempt to leave cities and return home.	Viewed at: https://www.commsupdate.com/articles/2020/03/30/india-industry-adapts-to-pandemic-challenges/	30 March 2020	-
India	Financial services	The Reserve Bank of India has allowed banks to temporarily maintain lower levels of liquidity and has introduced additional flexibility in the implementation of banks' capital requirements, in particular the countercyclical capital buffer and the capital conservation buffer, among various measures to assist banks in the context of the shutdown in India following the COVID-19 outbreak.	Viewed at: https://www.rbi.org.in/home.aspx	March-April 2020	Yes
India	Financial services	The Reserve Bank of India has authorized banks to deal in offshore non-deliverable rupee derivative markets (Offshore NDF Rupee Market). Banks in India that operate International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) Banking Units (IBUs) will be able to participate in the NDF market with effect from 1 June 2020. Banks may participate through their branches in India, their foreign branches or through their IBUs. Previously, Indian banks were not permitted to participate in Indian rupee derivative market or the off-shore Non-Deliverable Forward market.	Viewed at: https://www.rbi.org.in/home.aspx	March 2020; Effective 1 June 2020	Yes
Indonesia	Health services	The Indonesian Medical Council (Konsil Kedokteran Indonesia) ("KKI") issued a new regulation on telemedicine in the context of the pandemic. It provides a legal basis, and permission for doctors and dentists, to provide telemedicine services. Suppliers are required to have a registration certificate and a permit to practice at their healthcare facility in Indonesia. Doctors and dentist are allowed to examine and diagnose through laboratory checks, radio images, and therapy in medical records (manual or electronic), as well as to prescribe drugs and providing a sick leave letter.	KKI Regulation No. 74 of 2020 on Clinical Authorities and Medical Treatment Through Telemedicine During the COVID-19 Pandemic Viewed at: http://www.kki.go.id/index.php/subMenu/informasi/berita/detailberita/280 https://www.dentons.com/en/insights/articles/2020/july/20/the-rise-of-telemedicine-in-indonesia	30 April 2020	Yes
Indonesia	Financial services	On 23 March, the Financial Services Authority (OJK) prohibited short selling transactions until a date to be determined.	Viewed at: https://www.ojk.go.id/en/berita-dan-kegiatan/siaran-pers/Pages/Joint-Press-Release-OJK-and-SRO-Maintain-Continuous-Stock-Exchange%E2%80%99s-Orderly,-Fair.aspx	23 March 2020	-

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Indonesia	Internet and other network-enabled services	A new measure requires foreign suppliers of intangibles and services to register and charge the value added tax of 10%, the same rate as for domestic sales.	Ministry of Finance Regulation No. 48/PMK.03/2020 Viewed at: https://jdih.kemenkeu.go.id/in/pa/ge/dokumen-peraturan/d433363c-14d8-472d-9bc0-3edf04822f16	Adopted on 31 March 2020; Effective 1 July 2020	YES
Indonesia	Internet and other network-enabled services	Income Tax: Foreign suppliers/platforms that satisfy the significant economic presence criteria will be regarded as having a permanent establishment in Indonesia and subjected to income tax, unless the permanent establishment could not be deemed to exist due to the implementation of tax treaty. The threshold for significant economic presence criteria is not stipulated in the current regulation (Law Number 2 Year 2020); Electronic Transaction Tax: Foreign suppliers/platforms that satisfy the significant economic presence criteria and reside in a jurisdiction having an effective tax treaty with Indonesia, will be subjected to Electronic Transaction Tax. The threshold for significant economic presence criteria, the tax rate, and calculation of tax are not stipulated in the current regulation (Law Number 2 Year 2020); Both Income Tax and Electronic Transaction Tax have not been effectively implemented as the implementation of both needs implementing regulations.	Law Number 2 Year 2020	Adopted on 31 March 2020; not yet in force.	YES
Italy	Selected sectors	On 9 April 2020, the government widened, during the emergency period, its foreign investment screening powers to new sectors, such as food security, health, banks and insurance companies, financial infrastructure, as well as to acquisitions within the European Union not only for control but also for the acquisition of shares of 10% or more. The new measure also makes it possible for the government to start exerting special powers ex officio for non-notified operations. The new measure is valid until 31 December 2020.	Law Decree No. 23 of 2020 Viewed at: https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/qa/azzetta/serie_generale/caricaDettaglio?dataPubblicazioneGazzetta=2020-04-08&numeroGazzetta=94&elenco30giorni=tru	09 April 2020	Yes
Italy	Financial services	On 20 March, Banca d'Italia allowed all banks and non-bank intermediaries to operate temporarily below the level of the Pillar 2 Guidance and the capital conservation buffer, as well as below the liquidity coverage ratio.	Viewed at: https://www.bancaditalia.it/media/comunicati/documenti/2020-01/Deadlines-extension-COVID-19.pdf?language_id=1	20 March 2020	Yes

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Italy	Financial services	<p>On 17 March, Consob, the public authority responsible for regulating the Italian securities markets, prohibited the taking or increasing of net short positions (short-selling and other bearish transactions) on all stocks traded on the Italian regulated market for a duration of 3 months.</p> <p>This measure ceased to have effect as from 23h59 on 18 May 2020, pursuant to Consob Resolution no. 21367 of 15 May 2020.</p>	<p>Viewed at: http://www.consob.it/documents/46180/46181/press_release_2020_0317.pdf/0f50bec8-8dda-439a-a2fd-f63bbd39f2e3 </p>	<p>17 March 2020. Withdrawn as of 23h59 on 18 May 2020 </p>	Yes
Japan	Financial services	<p>In response to the recent spread of COVID-19, the relevant authorities have taken measures, including:</p> <p>(i) Minister for Financial Services issued a statement on maintaining the function of the financial system and financial markets under the Declaration of a State of Emergency Responding to the Spread of COVID-19 on April 16 as well as the other issues including amendment to the "Act on Special Measures for Strengthening Financial Functions" on May 27;</p> <p>(ii) The Financial Services Agency (FSA) made available a leaflet for those facing difficulties with cash flow as impact of the ongoing COVID-19 epidemic spreads on April 8 ;</p> <p>(iii) The FSA established the Consultation Hotline Related to COVID-19 for financial services users on February 28;</p> <p>(iv) The FSA made requests to financial institutions to take prompt and flexible measures related to cash flow support for companies and individuals in consideration of COVID-19 spreads by publishing notices on February 7, March 6, March13, March 24, April 7, April 10, April 16, April 21, April 27, May 8, May 11, May 19, May 27, and June 10;</p> <p>(v) The FSA published an update for reference casebook on a collection of financial institutions' favorable response-practices to deal with COVID-19 affected parties on May 22;</p> <p>(vi) The FSA put forth the conditions for the extension of deadline for submitting annual securities and other reports in connection with the COVID-19 infection due to unavoidable reasons on February 10; and</p> <p>(vii) The FSA established the Networking Group on the corporate disclosure, financial reporting and audit of listed companies in consideration of the impact of the COVID-19 Infection on April 3 and published related documents on April 15 and July 2.</p>	<p>Viewed at: https://www.fsa.go.jp/en/ordinar y/coronavirus202001/press.html </p>	<p>Updated 26 August 2020 </p>	Yes
Korea (Rep. of)	Financial services	<p>On 16 March, FSC announced that the government will tighten regulations on stock short-selling for six months beginning on March 16.</p>	<p>Viewed at: http://www.fsc.go.kr/eng/new_press/releases.jsp </p>	<p>16 March 2020</p>	Yes

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Korea (Rep. of)	Financial services	On 19 March, Korean regulator raised the cap of foreign exchange (FX) derivatives positions for local banks from 40% to 50%, and from 200% to 250% for foreign banks.	Viewed at: http://www.moef.go.kr/nw/nes/detailNesDtaView.do?menuNo=4010100&searchNttId1=MOSF_00000000032705&searchBbsId1=MOSFBBS_000000000028	19 March 2020	Yes
Mexico	Air transport services	In Mexico, the Agencia Federal de Aviación Civil (AFAC) is extending the validity of permits, licenses and/or certificates for technical personnel for three months.	Viewed at: https://www.iata.org/en/pressroom/pr/2020-03-21-01/	21 March 2020	-
Russian Federation	Air transport services	The Russian Federation has exempted flight crews from the 14-day quarantine.	Viewed at: https://tiaca.org/news/covid-19-tiacas-weekly-update-governments-are-urged-to-facilitate-the-flow-of-air-cargo-to-fight-covid-19-and-its-effects/	26 March 2020	Yes
Saudi Arabia	Communication services	The ICT regulator has launched the second phase of a pilot regulatory environment project for delivery applications, with the aim of supporting and enabling delivery applications. The aim is to strengthen the organization of the delivery applications sector. The pilot programme was initiated during the early stage of COVID-19 lockdown to ensure the continuity of businesses and to meet the public's needs.	Viewed at: https://www.citc.gov.sa/ar/media-center/pressreleases/Pages/20200410.aspx	October 2020	Yes
Saudi Arabia	Telecommunication services	The Communications and Information Technology Commission extended the provision of additional spectrum on the 700 and 800 MHz bands, to mobile service providers to enhance network performance, increasing the usage of frequency bands by more than 50%. The measure aims to enhance the current 4G networks to accommodate the increase in data consumption due to remote educational process, as part of efforts to respond to COVID-19.	Viewed at: https://www.citc.gov.sa/en/media-center/pressreleases/Pages/20200330.aspx#	25 August 2020	Yes
South Africa	Telecommunication services	The Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) is extending the validity of existing frequency spectrum licences by three months, due to South Africa's COVID-19 lockdown. The due date for the renewal of radio frequency spectrum licences and payment of the renewal fees is normally 31 March of each year.	Viewed at: https://www.icasa.org.za/news/2020/due-date-for-the-renewal-of-radio-frequency-spectrum-licences-extended	31 March 2020	-

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
South Africa	Health services	The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) issued a guidance note on the application of telemedicine during the COVID-19 pandemic, and which facilitates the use of video or phone calls by doctors and therapists to treat patients. Previously, such services were essentially for cases where there was an already established practitioner-patient relationship.	Viewed at: https://ahpcs.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/GUIDELINES_TELEHEALTH-TELEMEDICINE_1_24Mar2020.pdf	25 March 2020	-
Turkey	Financial services	On 26 March, Turkish authorities introduced flexibility in the compliance of liquidity ratios until the end of 2020.	Viewed at: https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-turkey-banks/turkish-banking-watchdog-eases-banks-liquidity-ratio-due-to-coronavirus-idUSL8N2BJ8BU https://www.bddk.org.tr/Content/Bddk/dokuman/mevzuat_0954.pdf	26 March 2020	Yes
United Kingdom	Various sectors	<p>Amendments to the Enterprise Act 2002 introduced a new public interest consideration for government intervention in mergers and acquisitions. This new public interest consideration allows the government to intervene in mergers involving businesses with a role in combatting or mitigating the impacts of public health emergencies, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The economic disruption caused by the pandemic may mean that some businesses with critical capabilities are more susceptible to takeovers – either from outwardly hostile approaches, or financially distressed companies being sold to malicious parties.</p> <p>These new powers will enable the Government to intervene if a business that is directly involved in a pandemic response, for example, a vaccine research company or personal protective equipment manufacturer, finds itself the target of a takeover.</p>	<p>The Enterprise Act 2002 (Specification of Additional Section 58 Consideration) Order 2020</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uk-si/2020/627/note/made https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uk-si/2020/748/contents/made https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uk-si/2020/763/contents/made</p>	Effective 21 July 2020	Yes

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
United Kingdom	Telecommunication services	<p>The Government has agreed measures with telecoms companies to support vulnerable consumers through COVID-19.</p> <p>The UK's major internet service and mobile providers, namely BT/EE, Openreach, Virgin Media, Sky, TalkTalk, O2, Vodafone, Three, Hyperoptic, Gigaclear, and KCOM have all agreed the following commitments, effective immediately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All providers have committed to working with customers who find it difficult to pay their bill as a result of COVID-19 to ensure that they are treated fairly and appropriately supported; - All providers will remove all data allowance caps on all current fixed broadband services; - All providers have agreed to offer some new, generous mobile and landline packages to ensure people are connected and the most vulnerable continue to be supported. For example, some of these packages include data boosts at low prices and free calls from their landline or mobile; - All providers will ensure that vulnerable customers or those self-isolating receive alternative methods of communication wherever possible if priority repairs to fixed broadband and landlines cannot be carried out. 	Viewed at: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-agrees-measures-with-telecoms-companies-to-support-vulnerable-consumers-through-covid-19	29 March 2020	-
United Kingdom	Health services	Since 31 March 2020, visas for doctors, nurses and paramedical personnel with visas due to expire before 1 October 2020 are automatically extended for one year, free of charge. This also concerns the personnel's family members.	Viewed at: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nhs-frontline-workers-visas-extended-so-they-can-focus-on-fighting-coronavirus	31 March 2020	-
United Kingdom	Air transport services	The UK Civil Aviation Authority has issued a number of regulatory exemptions to support the sector, including extending the validity periods of licences, certificates and ratings, as well as exemptions to allow appropriate and safe regulatory alleviations for operators from the Upset Prevention and Recovery Training requirements. In addition, an exemption allows General Aviation Pilots to operate without an approved medical certificate issued by a medical examiner in order to ease pressures on the health care system.	Viewed at: https://publicapps.caa.co.uk/modalapplication.aspx?catid=1&pagetype=65&appid=11&mode=list&type=sercat&id=17	March-October 2020	Yes
United Kingdom	Financial services	On 11 March, the Bank of England lowered the countercyclical capital buffer rate from 1% to 0%, and introduced flexibility in the compliance of liquidity requirements, so as to support banks in extending credit.	Viewed at: https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/news/2020/march/boe-measures-to-respond-to-the-economic-shock-from-covid-19	11 March 2020	Yes

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
United States	Air transport services	The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has taken a number of regulatory actions to help address the widespread economic and health effects that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on the aviation industry. These include extending the temporary waiver of minimum slot-use requirements through 24 October 2020, giving air carrier personnel grace periods for completing certain training and qualification requirements, authorizing airlines to transport cargo that is secured to the seat tracks of certain passenger aircrafts, allowing flight attendants to relocate from the seats they would normally occupy so they can observe social distancing.	Viewed at: https://www.faa.gov/coronavirus/	Various dates	Yes
United States	Temporary entry and stay of natural persons	A regulation published by the Department of Homeland Security in the Federal Register on 8 October will amend the criteria for H-1B visas by revising definitions such as "specialty occupation", "worksite" and "third-party worksite" and requiring corroborating evidence of work in a specialty occupation, among other changes. The regulation cites the need to strengthen the integrity of the H-1B programme during the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to more effectively ensure that the employment of H-1B workers does not have an adverse impact on the wages and working conditions of similarly employed US workers as among the rationales for the changes.	Viewed at: https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/10/08/2020-22347/strengthening-the-h-1b-nonimmigrant-visa-classification-program	8 October 2020; effective 7 December 2020.	Yes
United States	All sectors	The "Proclamation Suspending Entry of Aliens Who Present a Risk to the U.S. Labor Market Following the Coronavirus Outbreak" suspends the entry of foreign nationals in certain non-immigrant visa categories starting from 24 June until the end of 2020. The visa categories affected by the suspension are: H-1B, L-1, H-2B, and J-1, as well as related categories for dependents, with certain exemptions.	Viewed at: https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-suspending-entry-immigrants-present-risk-u-s-labor-market-economic-recovery-following-covid-19-outbreak/	Effective 24 June 2020	-
United States	Telecommunication services	The Federal Communication Commission launched the "Keep Americans Connected Initiative" to ensure that Americans do not lose their broadband or telephone connectivity in the context of COVID-19. As of mid-March, more than 550 companies and associations have pledged to keep Americans connected.	Viewed at: https://www.fcc.gov/keep-americans-connected	13 March 2020	-
United States	Telecommunication services	The FCC has temporarily altered regulations for its Rural Health Care and E-rate programmes to make it easier for broadband providers to offer participants improved connections or additional equipment for telemedicine and remote learning during the pandemic. The changes will remain in effect through 30 September.	Viewed at: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-363137A1.pdf	16 March 2020	-

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
United States	Telecommunication and health services	<p>The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted to adopt a \$200 million telehealth program to support healthcare providers responding to the coronavirus pandemic. Funds were appropriated by Congress as part of the CARES Act. The program aims to help healthcare providers purchase telecommunications, broadband connectivity, and devices necessary for providing telehealth services</p> <p>The FCC also launched a Connected Care Pilot Program. This three-year Pilot Program will provide up to \$100 million of support from the Universal Service Fund (USF) to help defray health care providers' costs of providing connected care services and to help assess how the USF can be used in the long-term to support telehealth.</p>	Viewed at: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-363498A1.pdf	02 April 200	-
United States	Telecommunication services	<p>The Federal Communications Commission granted special temporary authority (STA) to T-Mobile U.S.A. to use additional spectrum in the 600 MHz Band to help it meet increased customer demand for broadband during the coronavirus pandemic. The company requested this authority to make it easier for Americans to participate in telehealth, distance learning, and telework, and remain connected while practicing recommended 'social distancing'.</p> <p>On 18 March, the FCC announced that US Cellular was granted a similar STA to use additional spectrum to help meet increased customer demand for mobile broadband during the coronavirus pandemic.</p>	<p>Viewed at: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-363051A1.pdf</p> <p>https://www.commsupdate.com/articles/2020/03/18/fcc-grants-us-cellular-access-to-extra-aws-3-spectrum/</p>	15 and 18 March 2020	-
United States	Telecommunication services	Verizon has received a temporary (60-day) spectrum boost from the FCC to help meet increased customer demand for mobile broadband access during the pandemic. FCC had already issued temporary, 60-day spectrum to two companies, T-Mobile and US Cellular.	<p>Viewed at: https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-grants-verizon-temporary-spectrum-access-during-covid-19-pandemic</p> <p>https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-grants-t-mobile-temporary-spectrum-access-during-coronavirus</p> <p>https://www.commsupdate.com/articles/2020/03/20/verizon-is-the-latest-us-cellco-to-receive-temporary-spectrum-boost/</p>	20 March 2020	-