

I-TIP: Improving the transparency of trade policy measures

The Integrated Trade Intelligence Portal (I-TIP) will provide a single entry point for all information compiled by the WTO on trade policy measures. Containing information on over 25,000 measures, I-TIP currently covers both tariff and non-tariff measures affecting trade in goods as well as information on trade agreements and the accession commitments of WTO members. Later in 2013, it will be expanded to cover trade in services and other areas. Its aim is to serve the needs of those seeking detailed information on trade policy measures as well as those looking for summary information.

I-TIP will be made available to the public for the first time on Trade Data Day, which takes place at the WTO on 16 January 2013.

<https://i-tip.wto.org>



Trade in goods

I-TIP provides comprehensive information on non-tariff measures (NTMs) applied by WTO members in merchandise trade. The information includes members' notifications of NTMs as well as information on "special trade concerns" raised by members at WTO committee meetings. Areas currently covered by I-TIP include technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phytosanitary measures relating to food safety and animal/plant health, and anti-dumping and countervailing measures.

- graphs displaying summary information of trade measures, by WTO member or groupings of members
- tables showing product coverage by WTO member
- summary or detailed lists of measures, as selected by the user, that can be exported into Excel.

I-TIP also provides a direct link to the WTO's extensive tariff and trade databases.

In 2013, the aim is to broaden the content available on I-TIP by including other NTMs and by improving I-TIP's functionality. The new information will include members' notifications of import licensing and quantitative restrictions as well as notifications relating to agricultural commitments. It will also include information from the WTO's Trade Monitoring Data Base (see below). Other information on NTMs will be added further down the line.

Trade in services

The services component of I-TIP will be made available in July 2013. This integrated database will consist of information on members' commitments under the WTO's General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), services commitments in regional trade agreements, applied measures, and services statistics. A search function will allow users to access information by member, sector, and mode of supply. Search results can be presented in summary form or in more detail. Users will be able to export the information in various formats. At a later stage, summary reports will also be possible.

Air Services Agreements Projector

The WTO's Air Services Agreements Projector (ASAP) allows users to obtain information on an economy's network of bilateral air services agreements (ASAs) and associated passenger traffic flows. Based on 2011 data, it includes information on agreements available from the International Civil Aviation Organization or through WTO Trade Policy Reviews as well as scheduled passenger traffic statistics provided by the International Air Transport Association. ASAP's Air Liberalization Index provides a measure of the openness of each ASA. Users may obtain information by signatory or groupings of signatories. The information is displayed on a world map along with the underlying data.

Trade Monitoring Data Base

The Trade Monitoring Data Base (TMDB) will provide information on trade measures taken by WTO members and observers since October 2008. Drawing on data in the WTO's trade monitoring reports, the database will allow users to select information by a number of criteria, such as by country implementing the trade measures, by product(s), by countries affected by the measures, by type of measure, and by date. Information on new trade measures will be included in the TMDB only once it has been verified by the relevant countries. The database is expected to be made public in the first quarter of 2013.

Digital Dispute Settlement Registry

The Secretariat is working with WTO members to develop a Digital Dispute Settlement Registry, which will allow members to submit dispute settlement documents online through a secure and convenient facility from anywhere in the world. The system will also serve as a storage facility for all panel and Appellate Body records dating back to 1995. The application will permit members and the public to search for publicly available information from past disputes, including material that has only been available in printed form up to now. Members will be able to conduct sophisticated searches - for example, searching by keywords such as "national treatment".

Accession Commitments Database

The Accession Commitments Database, launched in May 2012, provides access to all WTO accession commitments and related information contained in the Working Party Reports and Accession Protocols of WTO members that have joined since 1995. Information can be extracted and exported in various ways.

Trade agreements

I-TIP also provides access to information on regional trade agreements (RTAs) and preferential trade arrangements (PTAs) through its RTA and PTA databases. These databases were established as part of the Transparency Mechanism for RTAs and PTAs, which requires members to notify all such trade agreements to the WTO as soon as possible.