



Trade Policy Review Body

OVERVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL TRADING ENVIRONMENT

ANNUAL REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL¹

(Mid-October 2019 to mid-October 2020)

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¹ This Report covers the period mid-October 2019 to mid-October 2020. It is presented pursuant to Paragraph G of the Trade Policy Review Mechanism mandate and aims to assist the Trade Policy Review Body to undertake its annual overview of developments in the international trading environment that are having an impact on the multilateral trading system. The Report is issued under the sole responsibility of the Director-General. It has no legal effect on the rights and obligations of Members, nor does it have any legal implications with respect to the conformity of any measure noted in the Report with any WTO Agreements or any provisions thereof.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This WTO Trade Monitoring Report covers new trade and trade-related measures implemented by WTO Members between 16 October 2019 and 15 October 2020. It 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, WTO Members have implemented several new trade and trade-related policies specifically to cope with the crisis. This Report seeks to shed light on these policy developments in addition to the regular trade measures monitored for the review period.

2. **Overall, the findings of this Report present a very different picture compared to the last report. While the previous Report, issued in July 2020, captured only the very early effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, this Trade 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 were down 21% in Q2 compared to the previous year while commercial services exports were down 30%. WTO Members and Observers introduced the lowest number of regular trade-restrictive and trade facilitating measures since 2012. The trade coverage of the regular import-facilitating measures stood at USD 731.3 billion (up from USD 544.7 billion in the previous period) while that of import-restrictions came in at USD 440.9 billion (down from USD 746.9 billion). This was likely as a result of the sharp decline in overall global trade flows, the diversion of governments' attention towards fighting the pandemic – through trade policy as well as other areas, a relative stasis in major bilateral trade tensions that had elevated the trade coverage of import restrictions in earlier reporting periods, 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 227 billion, some USD 47 billion more than that of the COVID-19 trade-restrictive measures. Of the 335 COVID-19 trade and trade-related goods measures recorded for WTO Members and Observers since the outbreak of the pandemic, 58% were of a trade-facilitating nature and 42% were trade restrictive. Around 39% of COVID-19 restrictive measures on goods had been repealed by mid-October. In the services sectors heavily impacted by the pandemic, most of the 124 COVID-19 related measures adopted by WTO Members appeared to be trade facilitating. Over 1,000 support measures in direct response to the pandemic, and collectively worth several trillion US dollars, were put in place 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 sustainable 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** 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 were down 21% in Q2 compared to the previous year while commercial services exports were 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 many countries are dealing with the effects of new lockdowns.

5. **The drop in numbers of new regular trade-restrictive and trade-facilitating measures was significant and resulted in a decrease in the trade coverage of import-restrictive measures.** WTO Members and Observers introduced 89 new trade-restrictive and 88 trade-facilitating measures, i.e. the lowest figures since 2012. The trade coverage for the new import-facilitating measures was estimated at USD 731.3 billion (up from USD 544.7 billion in the previous period). The main sectors covered included electrical machinery and parts thereof, machinery and mechanical appliances, plastics and articles thereof and optical, photographic, measuring and medical or surgical instruments. The trade coverage of the new import-restrictive measures was estimated at USD 440.9 billion (down from USD 746.9 billion in the previous period). The main sectors affected included electrical machinery and parts thereof, machinery and mechanical appliances and precious stones and metals. WTO Secretariat estimates of the stockpile of import restrictions on goods implemented since 2009 and still in force by the end of 2019, suggest that 8.7% of world imports, or USD 1.6 trillion out of a total USD 18.9 trillion, are affected by import

restrictions put in place by WTO Members and Observers over the last decade. As at mid-October 2020 this figure was estimated at USD 1.7 trillion, suggesting that the stockpile of import restrictions in force continues to grow in value terms and as a percentage of imports.

6. The significant drop in the number of new measures implemented by WTO Members and Observers may be explained by the on-going global health emergency which has almost inevitably resulted in governments focusing less on designing and implementing regular trade policies and more on dealing with the immediate economic issues in the context of the pandemic. The precipitous fall in global trade since Q2 of 2020 also means that there has been less commerce to either facilitate or restrict. Despite the early wave of trade restrictions on various essential medical goods, Members have generally expressed and followed a commitment to ensure that trade could flow freely during the pandemic. Finally, the current review period has not seen any major new developments in relation to the sizable chunks of the trade coverage of restrictive measures which over the past couple of years have been associated with bilateral measures taken mainly between the United States and China.

7. **Most of the COVID-19 related measures taken on goods since the outbreak of the pandemic were trade-facilitating.** The majority of the 335 COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures were adopted on a temporary basis. Although in the early stages of the pandemic most measures restricted trade, as at mid-October 2020, 195 (58%) of all measures taken in response to the pandemic were of a trade-facilitating nature. A total of 140 measures (42%) could be considered trade restrictive. The gradual phase-out of export restrictions targeting products such as surgical masks, gloves, medicines, 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 39% of the COVID-19 restrictive measures implemented by WTO Members and Observers had been repealed by mid-October. By then, around 18% of COVID-19 trade facilitating measures had also been eliminated. The trade coverage of COVID-19 related trade-facilitating measures implemented since the beginning of the pandemic was estimated at USD 227 billion, while that of the COVID-19 trade-restrictive measures stood at USD 180 billion.

8. **WTO Members put in place a large number of COVID-19 related support measures.** Since the beginning of the pandemic, 638 COVID-19 support measures have been communicated by WTO Members and Observers to the Secretariat and another 405 measures were identified from public sources and governmental websites, i.e. a total of 1,043 COVID-19 support measures put in place by 94 WTO Members and 3 Observers. This amounts to 149 COVID-19 related support measures per month between March and mid-October 2020. The number and variety of 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 sustainable recovery.

9. **Services sectors were heavily affected by the pandemic** although the extent of the impact varies by sector and mode of supply. Members adopted 124 measures affecting trade in services in response to the pandemic. Most of these measures appear to be trade facilitating, including measures to ease the supply of, and access to, telecommunication services and measures to facilitate the supply of online health services. In a few cases, governments responded by removing existing trade restrictions, such as by relaxing limitations on the supply of Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services. However, some of the measures adopted also appear to be trade restrictive, including measures tightening foreign investment regimes. Under the monitoring of regular measures affecting trade in services, the Report provides information on 143 measures affecting trade in services that were introduced by WTO Members. While the majority are trade facilitating, a significant number of these new policies appear to be trade restrictive. Measures adopted relate to telecommunication services, services related to e-commerce, and services supplied online, including bans on certain communication apps, as well as different types of taxation measures. Various governments have also introduced new measures in relation to foreign investment in areas considered strategic or linked to national security.

10. **The significant increase of trade remedy initiations** confirm that these measures remain an important trade policy tool for WTO Members. During the review period, 392 initiations of trade remedy investigations and 130 terminations of trade remedy actions were recorded. Initiations of anti-dumping investigations accounted for almost 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 68.8 billion (up from the USD 46.23 billion in the previous period) and that of terminations at USD 9.9 billion (down from the USD 24.8 billion). The main products targeted by initiations of trade remedy investigations included iron and steel, furniture and lighting/lamps, aluminium and articles thereof, and plastics. As at 15 October 2020, two WTO Members had notified anti-dumping actions referring to the COVID-19 pandemic.

11. **WTO Members continued to use the SPS and TBT Committees' transparency mechanisms** to notify their sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) and technical barriers to trade (TBT) measures and to discuss and often resolve specific trade concerns (STCs) non-litigiously. Between 1 October 2019 and 30 September 2020, 1,911 SPS and 1,936 TBT notifications were submitted to the WTO, most of them by developing Members. As in previous Reports, the majority of regular SPS notifications related to food safety, whereas the bulk of emergency SPS measures related to animal health. Most TBT measures indicated the protection of human health or safety as their main objective. Since February 2020, a total of 59 COVID-19 related notifications and communications were submitted to the SPS Committee. 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 beginning of April, facilitating measures allowing temporary flexibility for control authorities to use electronic certificates for checks. As at 1 October 2020, 23 WTO Members had submitted 91 TBT notifications/communications on standards and regulations in response to the pandemic, most of these were submitted under the emergency/urgent notification provisions of the TBT Agreement. Around half of these notifications were of a temporary nature and covered 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.

12. **WTO Members 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 Secretariat research supports that very few trade concerns end up in disputes.

13. **In the Committee on Agriculture, most questions focused on Members' domestic support policies.** WTO Members posed 607 questions regarding individual notifications, overdue notifications and specific implementation matters (SIMs) under Article 18.6. Most of these questions were related to domestic support. A total of 35 SIMs targeted policies implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Seven notifications regarding export restrictions and prohibitions in connection with the pandemic were notified to the CoA during the review period.

14. **Many Intellectual Property (IP) measures introduced during the review period aimed at promoting innovation or facilitating access to COVID-19-related health technologies.** WTO Members 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. Overall, some 60 COVID-19 related IP measures were introduced during the review period.

15. **Compliance with regular notification requirements of the various WTO Agreements remains very uneven.** Although there have been significant efforts by some delegations to bring their notifications further up to date, progress is slow. The lack of compliance with notification obligations across WTO bodies is problematic, as it undermines individual agreements and, more generally, the operation of the multilateral trading system. Transparency in trade policy was pursued, as in previous years, through the Trade Policy Reviews and the RTA Transparency Mechanism.

16. **Other developments in selected trade-policy areas** in 2020 include work to advance negotiations, particularly on fisheries subsidies building on the decision taken by Members at MC11. Groups of Members also continued to pursue discussions on other issues, including electronic commerce, women's economic empowerment, domestic regulation in services and, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. This Report is submitted to the Trade Policy Review Body (TPRB) pursuant to Paragraph G of the Trade Policy Review Mechanism mandate in Annex 3 to the WTO Agreement. This provides for an annual Report by the Director-General to assist the TPRB in undertaking its annual overview of developments in the international trading environment that are having an impact on the multilateral trading system. It builds on the Director-General's Report to the TPRB on trade-related developments circulated to Members on 10 July 2020.¹

1.2. This Report covers the period from 16 October 2019 to 15 October 2020, unless otherwise indicated.² The Report is issued under the sole responsibility of the Director-General and is intended to be purely factual. It has no legal effect on the rights and obligations of Members, nor does it have any legal implication with respect to the conformity of any measure noted in the Report with any WTO Agreement. Specifically, the Report does not question the explicit right of Members to resort to trade-remedy measures and is without prejudice to Members' negotiating positions.

1.3. At the Eighth WTO Ministerial Conference in December 2011, Ministers recognized the regular work undertaken by the TPRB through the monitoring exercise of trade and trade-related measures, took note of the work initially done in the context of the global financial and economic crisis and directed it to be continued and strengthened. They invited the Director-General to continue presenting the Trade Monitoring Reports on a regular basis and asked the TPRB to consider these Reports in addition to the meeting dedicated to undertaking the annual overview of developments in the international trading environment. Ministers committed to duly comply with the existing transparency obligations and reporting requirements needed for the preparation of these Reports, and to continue to support and cooperate with the WTO Secretariat in a constructive fashion.³

1.4. As with the July mid-year 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. This Report again contains two separate *ad-hoc* annexes 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 Members 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.⁴ The full list of notifications received by the WTO Secretariat in context of the COVID-19 pandemic is also available on the WTO website.⁵

1.5. 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. WTO Members 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

¹ WTO document WT/TPR/OV/W/14, 10 July 2020.

² In addition to the trade policy measures implemented during the period under review and recorded by this Report, other measures which impact trade flows may have been taken by WTO Members and Observers.

³ WTO document WT/L/848, 19 December 2011.

⁴ The full list of measures can also be viewed at:
https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e.htm.

⁵ Viewed at: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm.

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.

1.6. Section 2 of the Report provides a comprehensive overview of recent economic and trade developments. Section 3 presents an account of selected trade and trade-related policy trends. Policy developments in trade in services and trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights are included in Sections 4 and 5, respectively. Section 6 covers the transparency of trade policies across a wide range of WTO bodies. The Report's Annexes list specific trade policy measures of individual WTO Members and Observers implemented during the period under review in four categories: trade-facilitating measures (Annex 1), trade-remedy actions (Annex 2), other trade and trade-related measures (Annex 3), and services measures (Annex 4). The country-specific measures listed in the four Annexes are new measures implemented by Members and Observers during the review period.⁶ Measures implemented outside this period are not included in the Annexes. The compilation of all measures that have been recorded in Annexes 1-3 by the Trade Monitoring Reports since October 2008 is available in the Trade Monitoring Database.⁷ Specific developments related to SPS measures and TBT are covered separately in Section 3. Annexes 5 and 6 provide information on recorded trade and trade-related measures taken by Members and Observers in the area of goods and services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic up to 15 October 2020.

1.7. Information on the measures included in this Report has been collected from inputs submitted by Members and Observers, as well as from other official and public sources.⁸ Replies to the initial request for information on measures taken during the period under review and replies to the requests for verification were received from 101 Members⁹ (Box 1.1), which represents 62% of the Membership, and covers around 97% of world imports.¹⁰ Five Observers also replied to the request for information. Overall, 92 Members were covered in the Secretariat's requests for verification of measures. Participation in the verification process was uneven, and in many cases the Secretariat received only partial responses and often after the indicated deadline.¹¹ Where it has not been possible to confirm the information, this is noted in the annexes.

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

⁶ The inclusion of any measure in this Report or in its annexes implies no judgement by the WTO Secretariat on whether a measure, or its intent, is protectionist in nature. Moreover, nothing in this Report implies any judgement, either direct or indirect, on the consistency of any measure with the provisions of any WTO Agreement.

⁷ Viewed at: <http://tmdb.wto.org>. The database does not include SPS and TBT measures, general economic support measures, services measures or TRIPS-related measures.

⁸ Appendix 1 contains a full overview of the participation of Members and Observers in the preparation of this Report.

⁹ The European Union and its member States counted separately.

¹⁰ This figure includes intra-EU trade.

¹¹ The information contained in the annexes reflects the overall participation in the exercise and responses to the verification request and should therefore not be considered exhaustive.

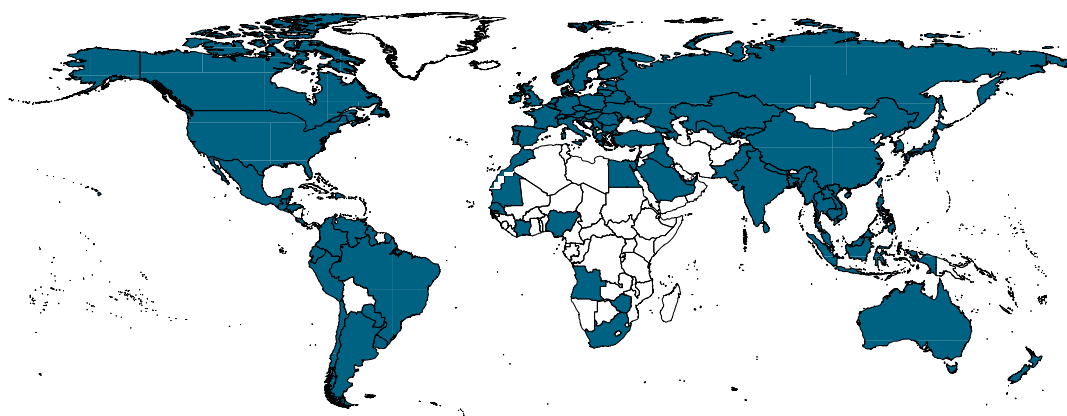
Box 1.1 Participation in the Preparation of this Report

1.	Albania	40.	Malaysia
2.	Angola	41.	Maldives
3.	Argentina	42.	Mauritania
4.	Australia	43.	Mauritius
5.	Azerbaijan ^a	44.	Mexico
6.	Bahrain, Kingdom of	45.	Moldova, Republic of
7.	Bangladesh	46.	Montenegro
8.	Barbados	47.	Morocco
9.	Belarus ^a	48.	Myanmar
10.	Belize	49.	Nepal
11.	Brazil	50.	New Zealand
12.	Cambodia	51.	Nigeria
13.	Canada	52.	Norway
14.	Chile	53.	Pakistan
15.	China	54.	Paraguay
16.	Colombia	55.	Peru
17.	Costa Rica	56.	Philippines
18.	Côte d'Ivoire	57.	Qatar
19.	Dominican Republic	58.	Russian Federation
20.	Ecuador	59.	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of
21.	Egypt	60.	Senegal
22.	El Salvador	61.	Serbia ^a
23.	European Union	62.	Seychelles
24.	The Gambia	63.	Singapore
25.	Georgia	64.	South Africa
26.	Guatemala	65.	Sri Lanka
27.	Guyana	66.	Switzerland
28.	Honduras	67.	Chinese Taipei
29.	Hong Kong, China	68.	Thailand
30.	India	69.	Turkey
31.	Indonesia	70.	Ukraine
32.	Iraq ^a	71.	United Arab Emirates
33.	Israel	72.	United Kingdom ^b
34.	Japan	73.	United States
35.	Kazakhstan	74.	Uruguay
36.	Korea, Republic of	75.	Uzbekistan ^a
37.	Kyrgyz Republic	76.	Vanuatu
38.	Lao People's Democratic Republic	77.	Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of
39.	Macao, China	78.	Viet Nam
		79.	Zimbabwe

a Observer.

b 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 unless otherwise specified, continues to cover the United Kingdom.

Source: WTO Secretariat.



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.

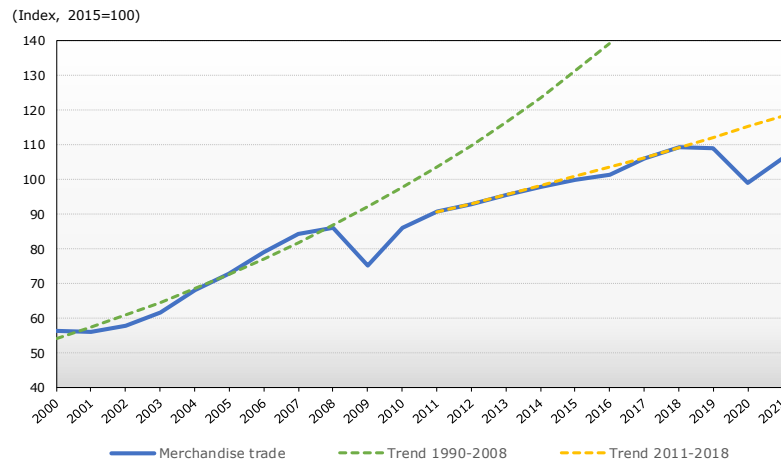
2.3. In light of these developments, the WTO Secretariat issued an updated trade forecast on 6 October 2020. In it, the Organization projected a 9.2% drop in the volume of world merchandise trade in 2020, followed by a 7.2% increase in 2021. The decline for 2020 is smaller than the 12.9% foreseen in 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.

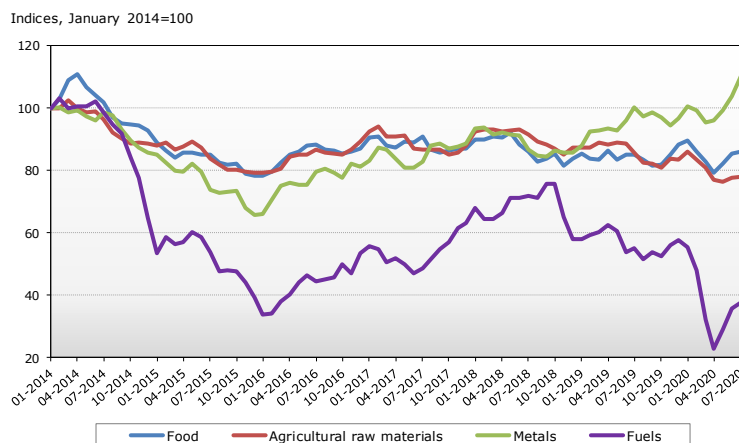
Source: WTO Secretariat.

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

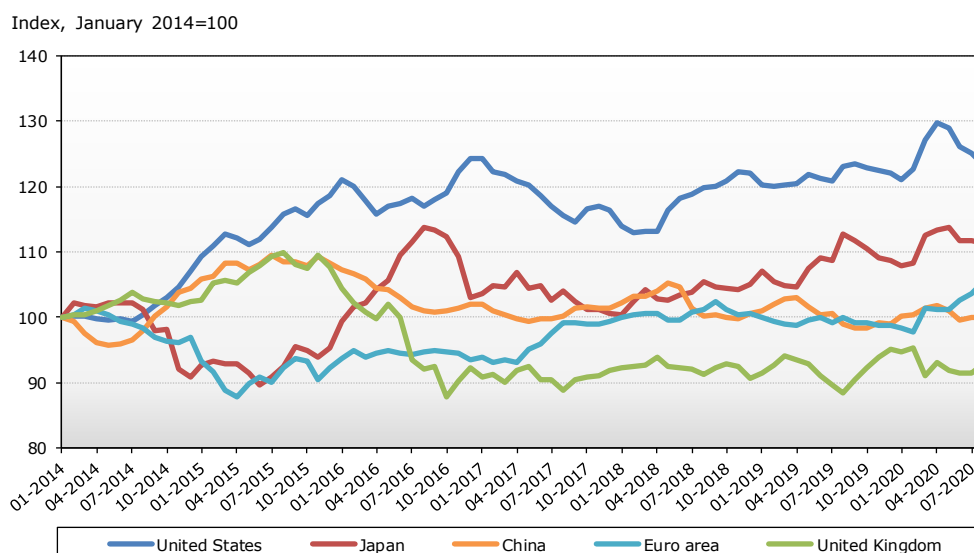
Source: IMF Primary Commodity Prices.

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%).

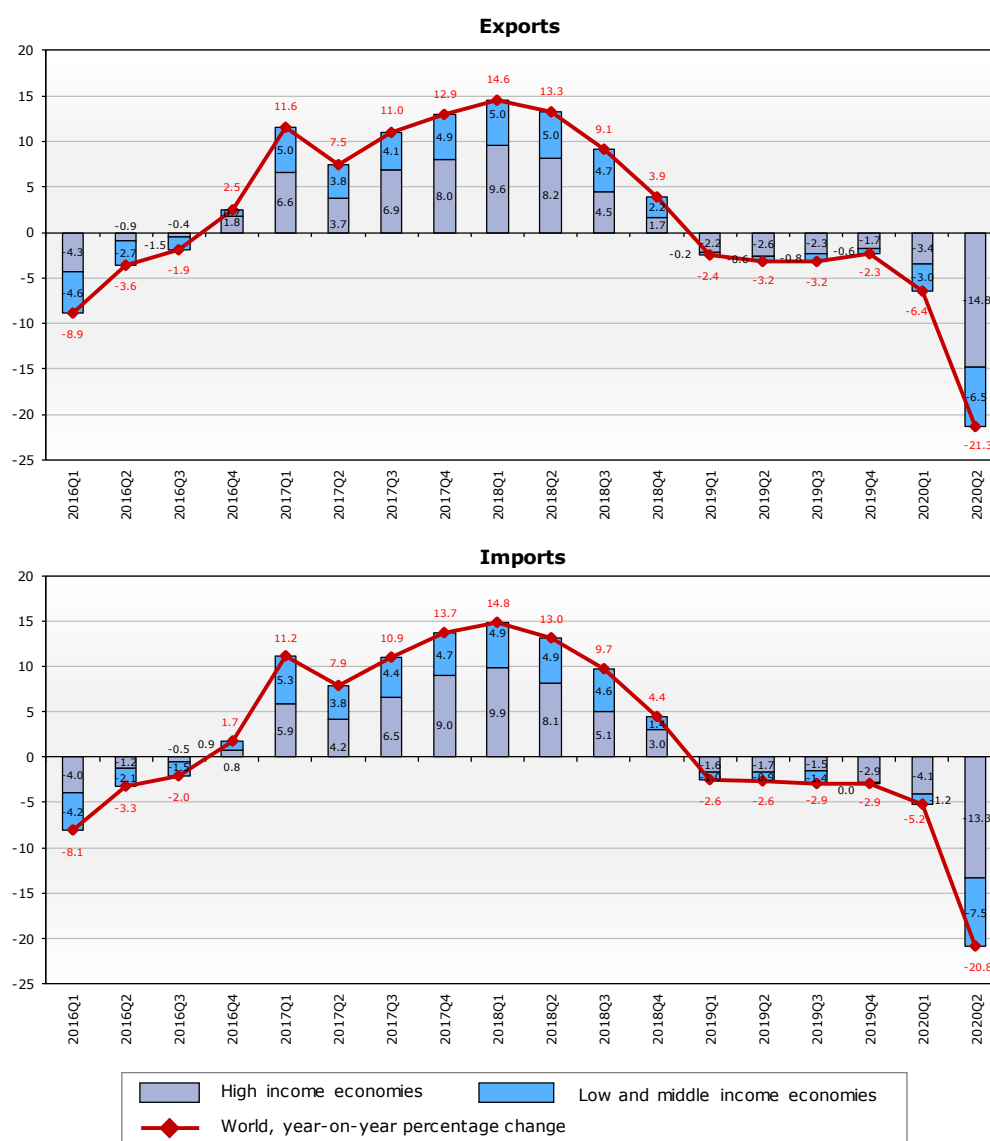
2.16. Trade volumes fell sharply in Q2, as the COVID-19 virus became more widespread and lockdowns were imposed across many countries. Most countries recorded large quarter-on-quarter declines in the volume of their exports, including the United States (-24.9%), Japan (-18.4%), India

(-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)

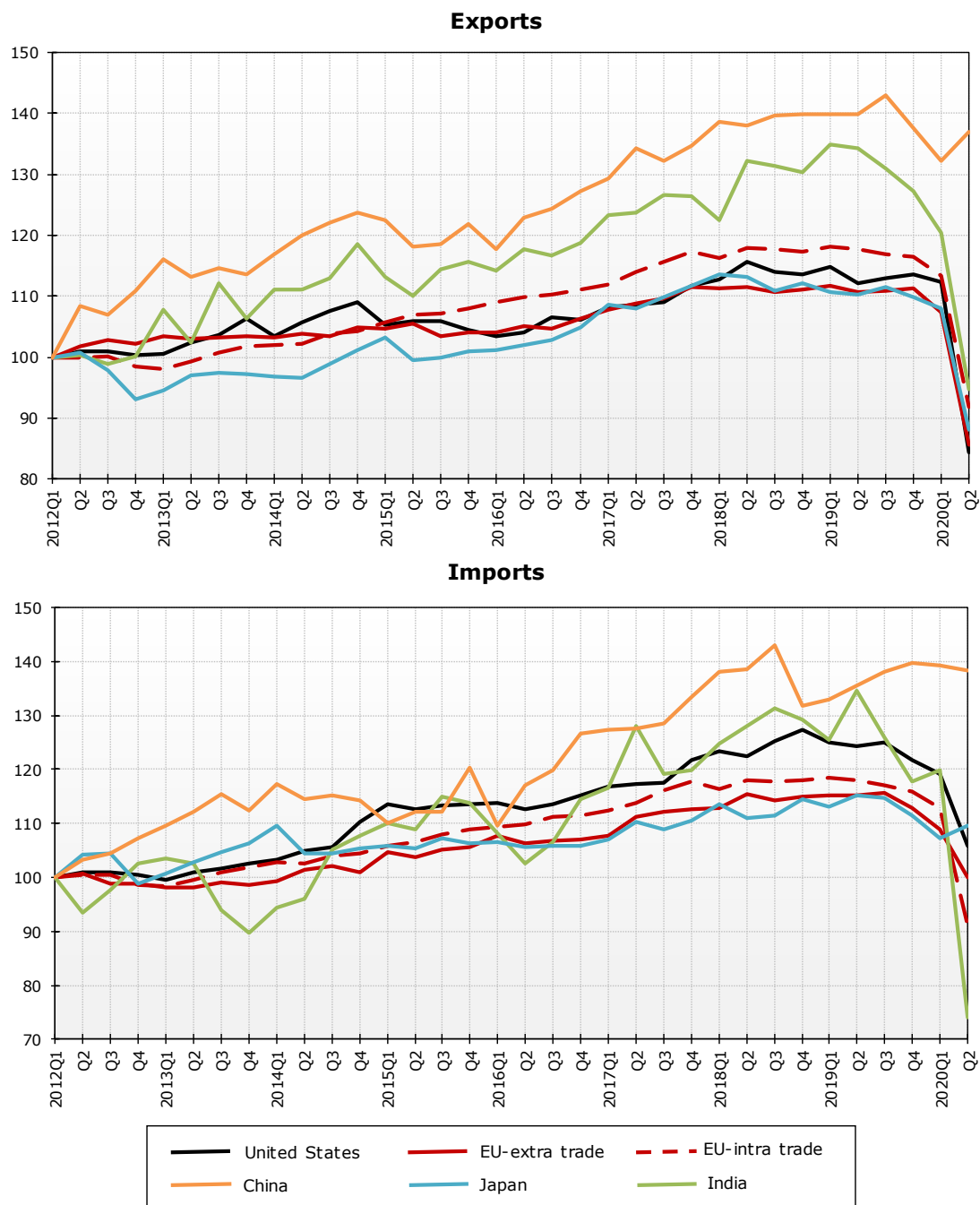


Note: Due to limited data availability, Africa and the Middle East are under-represented in world totals. Economies are categorized according to World Bank income classification (June 2020).

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)

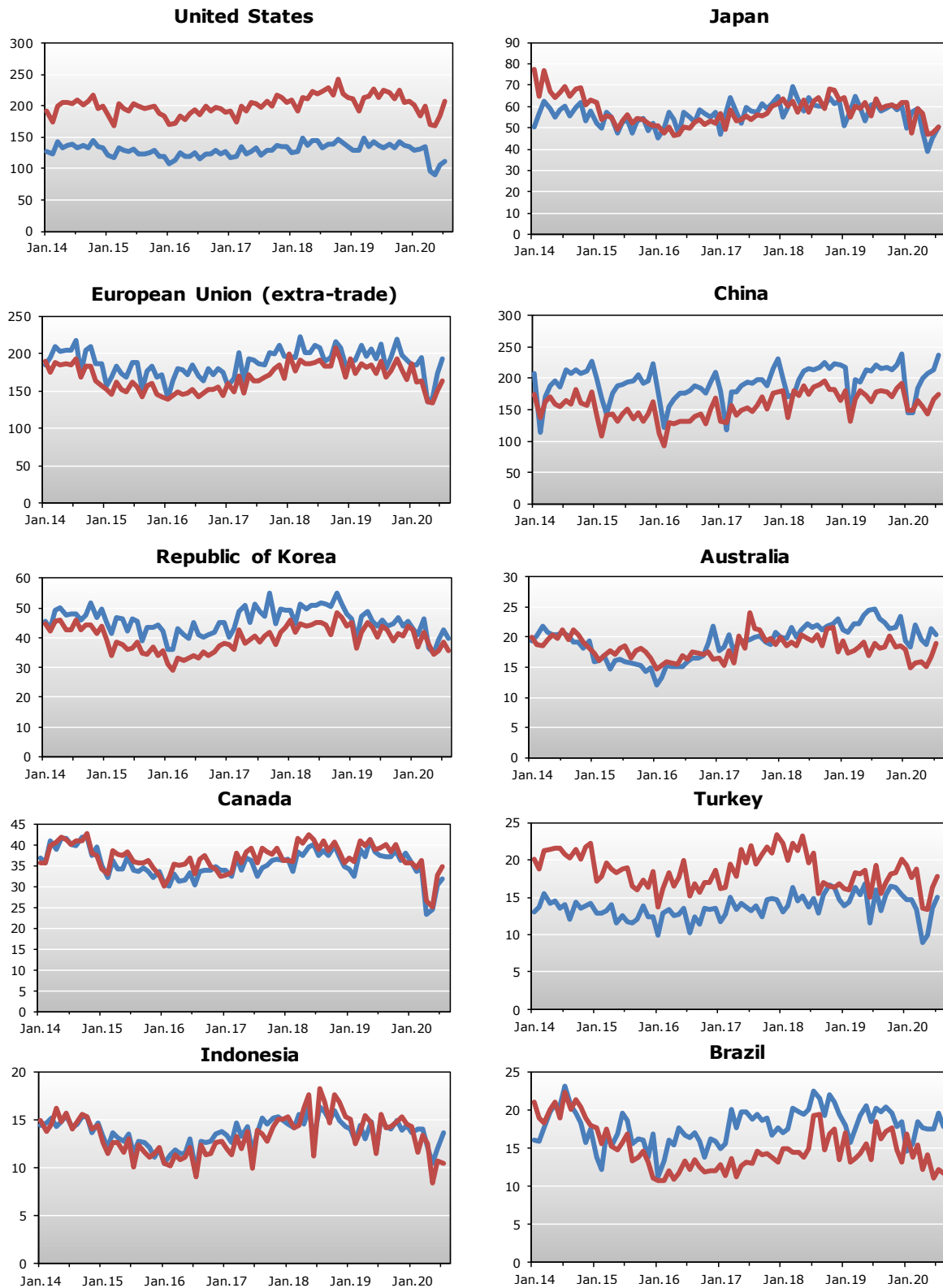


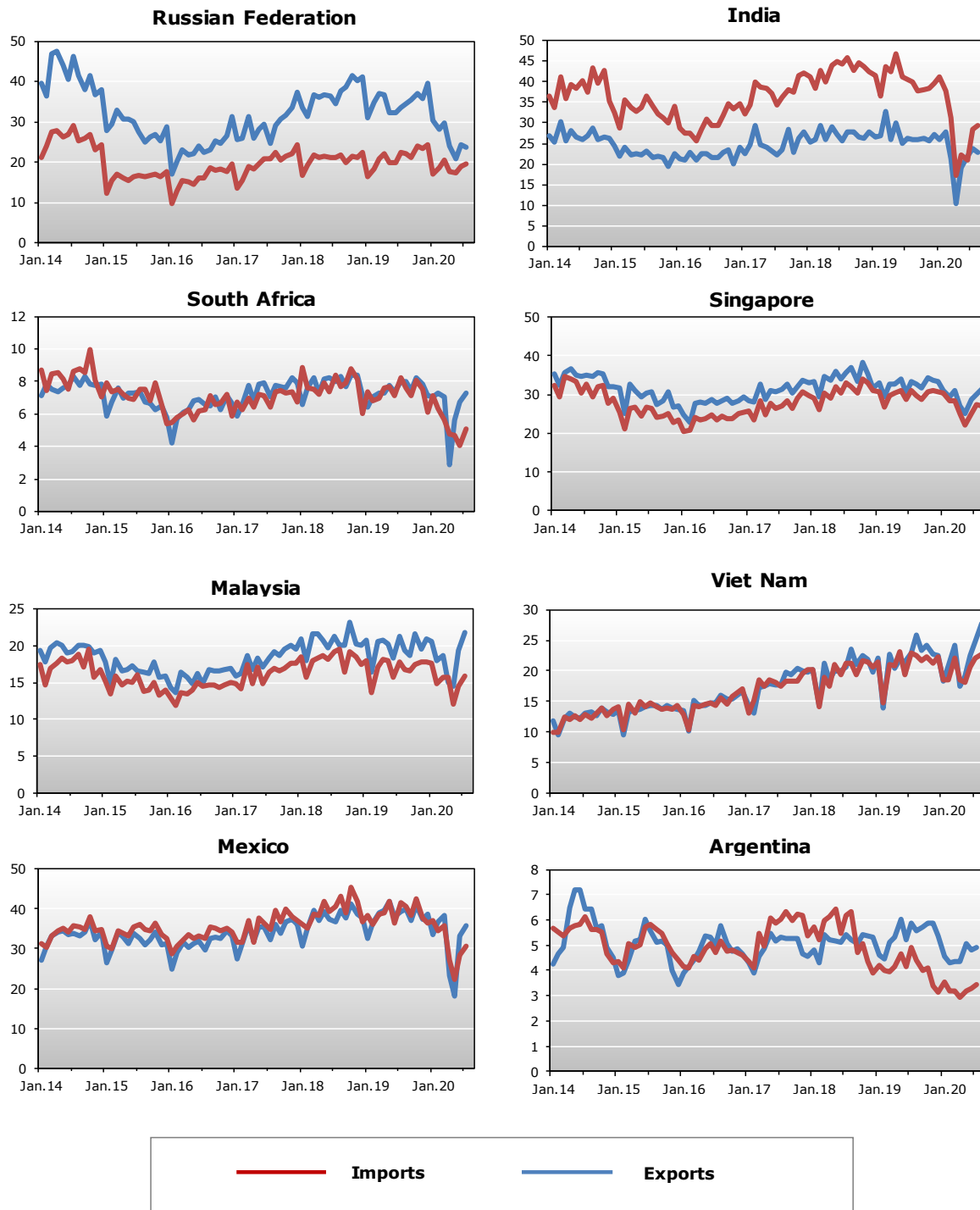
Note: Data for the United States, Japan and the European Union were obtained from national statistical sources, while figures for China and India are seasonally adjusted Secretariat estimates.

Source: WTO Secretariat and UNCTAD.

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

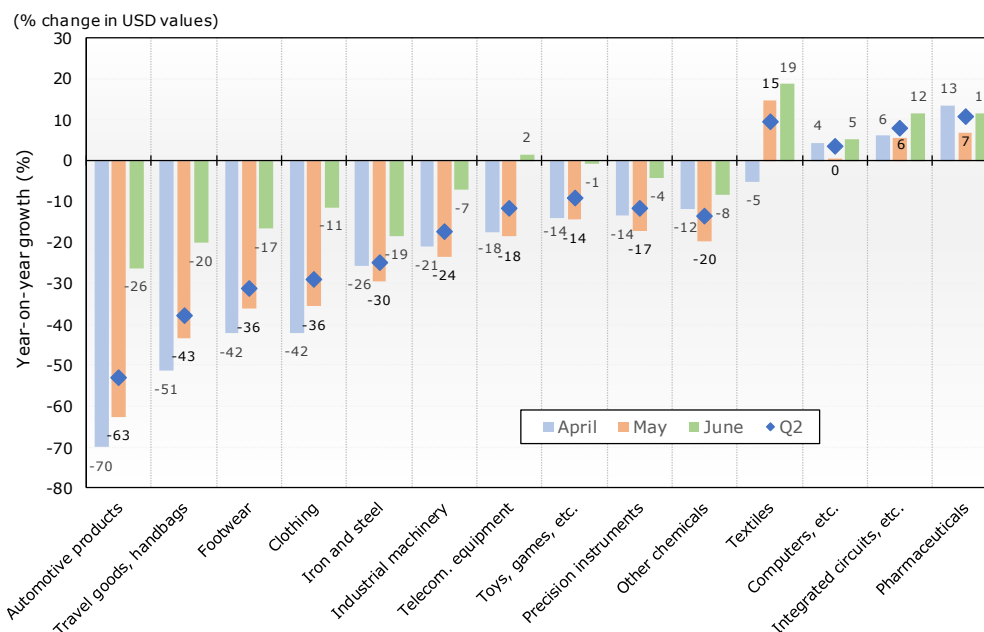
(USD billion)





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.

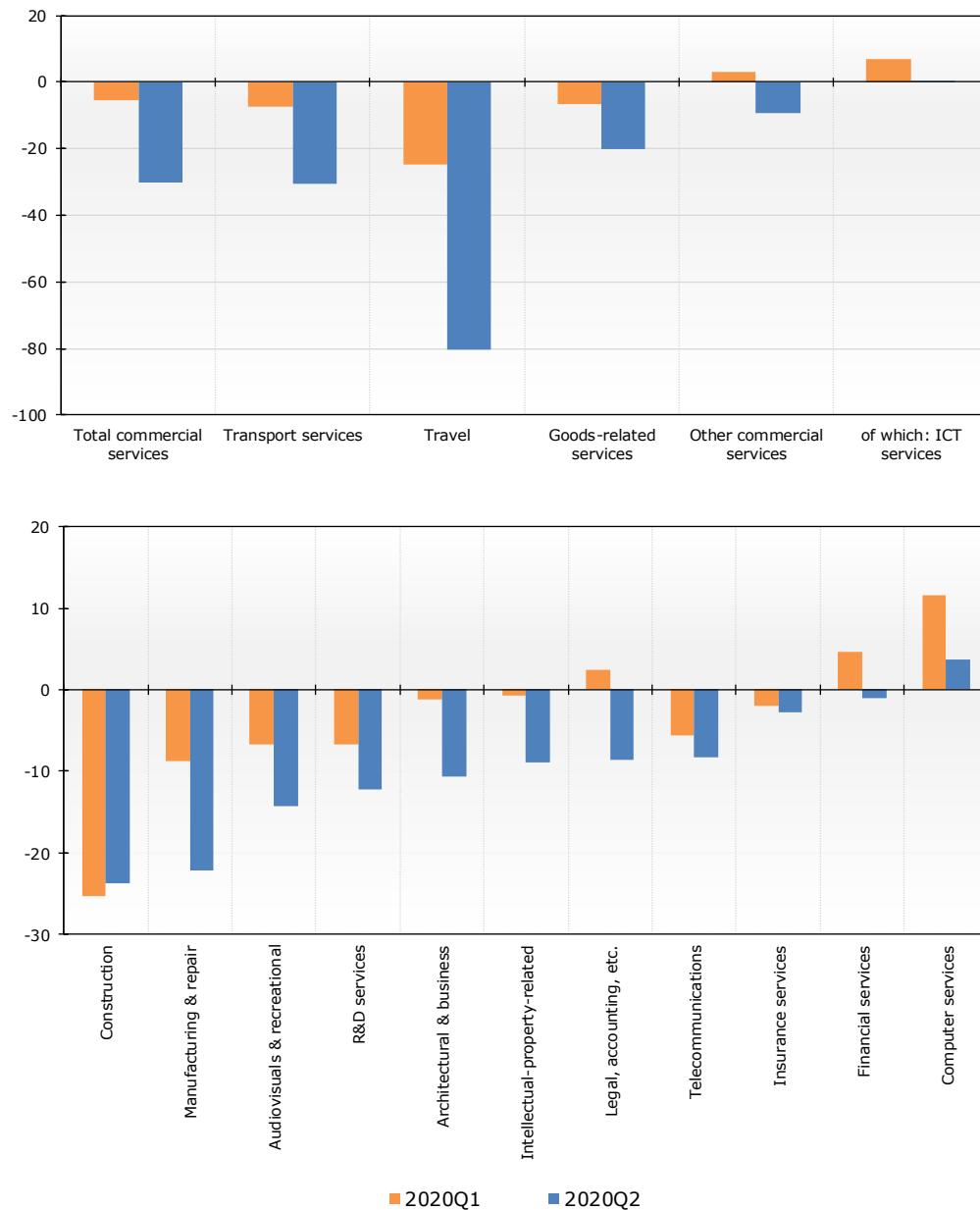
2.21. The US dollar value of world commercial services trade was down 30% year-on-year in the second quarter (Chart 2.8), while the value of merchandise trade was only down 21%. Lockdowns and travel restrictions were particularly devastating for the tourism industry, as travellers' expenditures dropped 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)

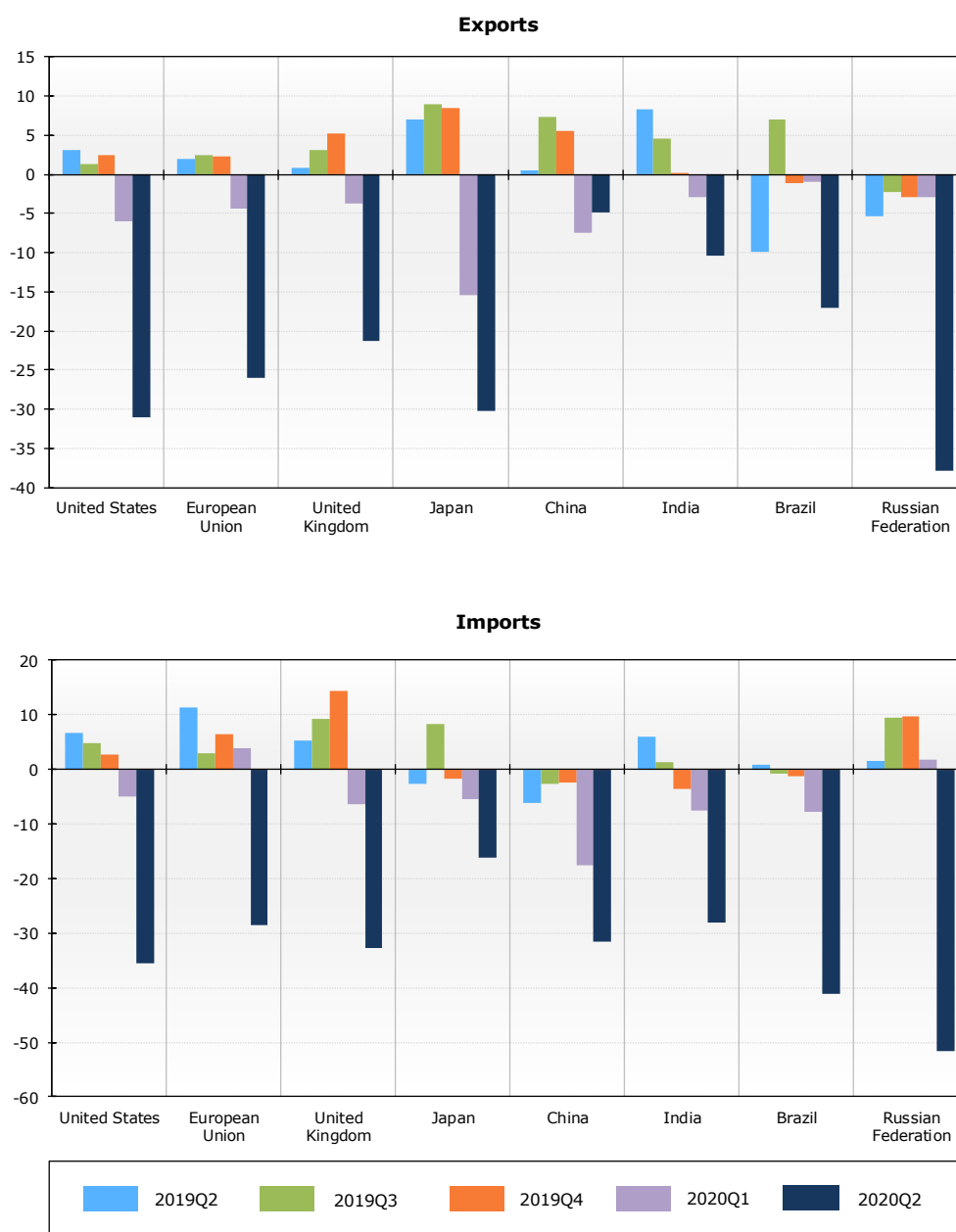


Source: WTO-UNCTAD-ITC and Secretariat estimates.

2.24. In Chart 2.9, shows the huge impact that 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

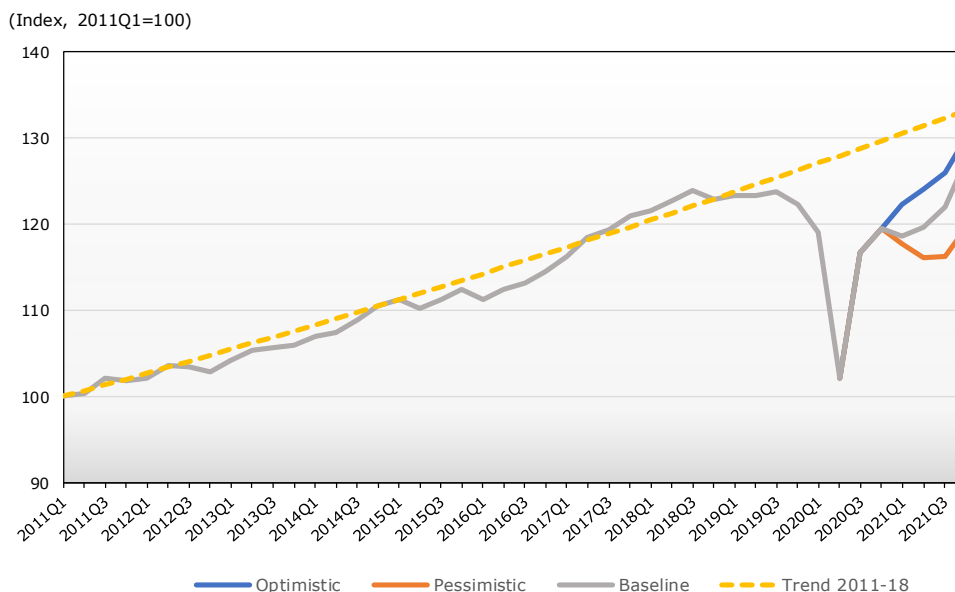
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Volume of world merchandise trade^b	2.3	1.4	4.7	2.9	-0.1	-9.2	7.2
Exports							
North America	2.6	0.7	3.4	3.8	1.0	-14.7	10.7
South and Central America	0.6	1.3	2.9	0.1	-2.2	-7.7	5.4
Europe	2.9	1.1	3.7	2.0	0.1	-11.7	8.2
Asia	1.3	2.3	6.7	3.7	0.9	-4.5	5.7
Other regions ^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 the 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. 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 ISSUES

3.1 Overview of Trends Identified during the Review Period

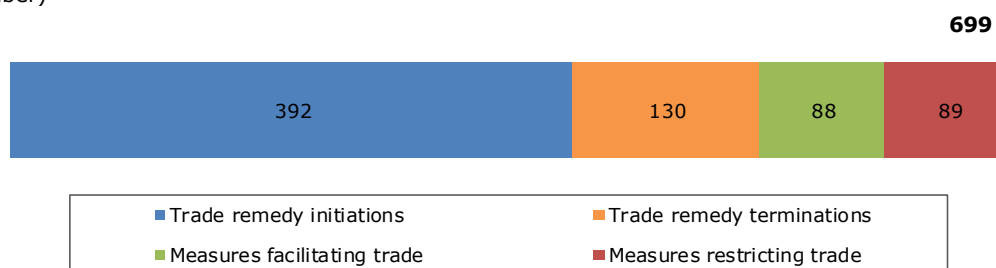
3.1. This Section provides analysis of selected trade and trade-related policy developments in the area of goods during the period from mid-October 2019 to mid-October 2020. It is divided into two parts. The *first* part looks at regular, i.e. non COVID-related, measures implemented during the review period, including calculations on trade coverage. 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 699 trade measures were recorded for WTO Members and Observers during the review period (Chart 3.1).¹ 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 coverage² of the measures recorded for WTO Members and Observers during the review period.

Chart 3.1 Overview of measures, mid-October 2019 to mid-October 2020

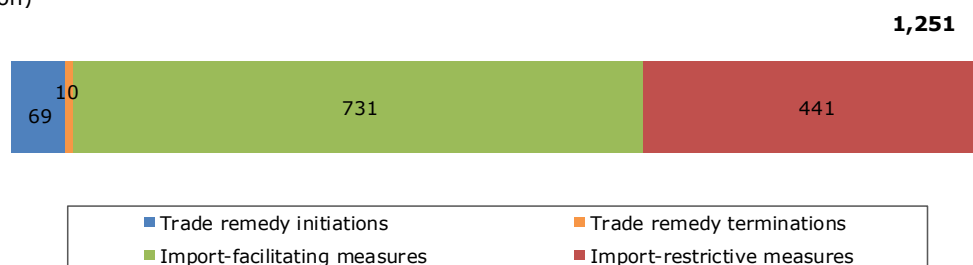
(By number)



Source: WTO Secretariat.

Chart 3.2 Trade coverage of measures, mid-October 2019 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, 88 new trade facilitating measures were recorded for WTO Members and Observers, of which 32 were of a temporary nature. This represent 13% of the total number of

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

² Trade coverage calculations in this Section are based on the available figures at the time of writing. The trade coverages in this Report are generally based on 2019 figures which were not available for all countries, notably China, for the mid-year Report circulated in June 2020. As such, the trade coverages reported in the present Report are not directly comparable to the trade coverages reported in the June Report.

measures recorded. Table 3.1 below shows that, as for previous periods, the reduction or elimination of import tariffs make up the bulk of trade-facilitating measures, followed by the elimination of taxes³, and the simplification of customs procedures.⁴ On the export side, measures included reductions of export duties and elimination of prior export authorizations.⁵

3.5. The trade coverage of the import-facilitating measures introduced during the review period was estimated at USD 731.3 billion (excluding ITA-related measures), i.e. 3.88% of the value of world merchandise imports.⁶ This share is the second-highest reported for these types of measures since October 2012 (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) 27.5%, machinery and mechanical appliances (HS 84) 11.5%, plastics and articles thereof (HS 39) 6.4%, and optical, photographic, measuring, medical or surgical instruments (HS 90) 5.5%.

Table 3.1 Measures facilitating trade (Annex 1)

Type of measure	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Mid-Oct 18 to mid-Oct 19 (WT/TPR/OV/22)	Mid-Oct 19 to mid-Oct 20 (WT/TPR/OV/23)
Import	176	140	176	208	151	115	135	100	104	82
- Tariff	154	109	147	165	116	94	111	85	93	72
- Customs procedures	12	26	17	32	28	18	14	2	4	3
- Tax	2	4	2	6	4	3	7	5	6	6
- QRs	7	1	10	5	1	0	3	1	1	1
- Other	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	7	0	0
Export	17	8	9	40	32	24	18	14	16	5
- Duties	7	3	3	18	5	1	6	10	10	4
- QRs	8	4	3	3	1	2	0	1	1	0
- Other	2	1	3	19	26	21	12	3	5	1
Other	6	1	1	4	3	0	0	1	0	1
Total	199	149	186	252	186	139	153	115	120	88
<i>Average per month</i>	<i>16.6</i>	<i>12.4</i>	<i>15.5</i>	<i>21.0</i>	<i>15.5</i>	<i>11.6</i>	<i>12.8</i>	<i>9.6</i>	<i>10.0</i>	<i>7.3</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 For example, elimination of the special welfare surcharge on certain products, and exemption of the health cess by India; excise duty rebate on certain vehicles by Mauritius; and elimination of regulatory duties on wheat by Pakistan.

⁴ For example, elimination of non-automatic licensing requirements on certain products by Argentina and Brazil; and extension of time frames for payments of customs duties by El Salvador.

⁵ For example, reduction of export duties on 5,114 tariff lines by Argentina; VAT rebate rates increased by China and elimination of prior export authorization requirement on onion and potatoes by Turkey.

⁶ These figures include one measure by China (interim import tariffs resulting in the temporary reduction of import tariffs on certain products), accounting for 57.5% of the total; and one measure by the United States (reduction of *ad valorem* duties on products from China), accounting for 18.8% of the total.

Table 3.2 Shares of trade covered by trade-facilitating measures

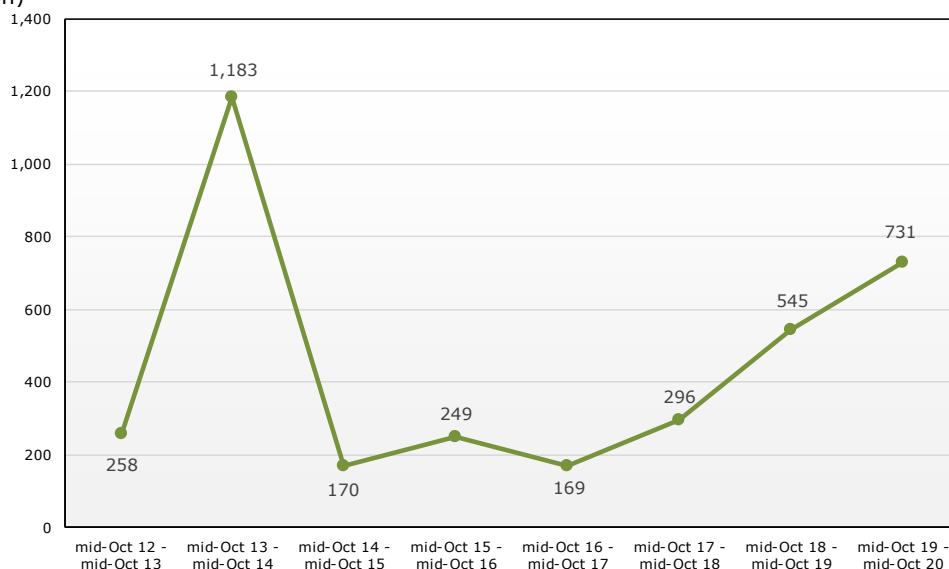
	Mid-Oct 13 to mid-Oct 14	Mid-Oct 14 to mid-Oct 15	Mid-Oct 15 to mid-Oct 16	Mid-Oct 16 to mid-Oct 17	Mid-Oct 17 to mid-Oct 18	Mid-Oct 18 to mid-Oct 19	Mid-Oct 19 to mid-Oct 20
Share in total world imports	6.4%	0.91%	1.51%	1.07%	1.68%	2.80%	3.88%

Note: Estimates are based on calendar year data. For example, data for mid-October 2018 to mid-May 2019 are based 2018 calendar year data. For some countries, 2019 import data were not yet available. The data for the previous full calendar year were used for those countries.

Source: WTO Secretariat and UNSD Comtrade database.

Chart 3.3 Trade coverage of new import-facilitating measures in each reporting 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

3.6. The implementation of the ITA Expansion Agreement⁷ is entering its final phase. This Report includes measures resulting from the implementation of the ITA Expansion Agreement by Albania; Australia, China, Colombia, European Union, Israel, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Montenegro, Philippines, Chinese Taipei and Thailand (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 139 billion, or around 0.74% world merchandise imports.⁸ Given the significant trade coverage value of these measures, they

⁷ Participants to the ITA : Albania; Australia; Canada (all duty free as of July 2019); China; Colombia; Costa Rica; the European Union; Georgia; Guatemala; Hong Kong, China (all duty free as of July 2016); Iceland (all duty free as of July 2017); Israel; Japan (all duty free as of July 2016); Korea, Rep. of; Macao, China; Malaysia; Mauritius; Montenegro; New Zealand; Norway (all duty free as of July 2016); Philippines; Singapore (all duty free as of July 2016); Switzerland (all duty free as of July 2017); Chinese Taipei; Thailand; and the United States (all duty free as of July 2019). WTO document G/MA/W/117, 26 January 2019.

⁸ Calculated at the HS six-digit level and using 2019 import figures.

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 misleading.

Trade remedy actions

3.7. During the period under review, 522 trade remedy actions were recorded for WTO Members and Observers, accounting for 75% of all non-COVID-19 related trade measures recorded in this Report.⁹ An overview of these measures can be found in annex 2. The average number of trade remedy initiations per month was the highest recorded since 2012. The monthly average of trade remedy terminations recorded was the lowest recorded since 2012 (Table 3.3 and Chart 3.4).

Table 3.3 Trade remedy actions (Annex 2)

Type of measure	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Mid-Oct 18 to mid-Oct 19 (WT/TPR/OV/22)	Mid-Oct 19 to mid-Oct 20 (WT/TPR/OV/23)
Initiations	255	338	304	277	343	298	273	280	270	392
- AD	208	287	236	229	298	249	202	214	212	310
- CVD	23	33	45	31	34	41	55	36	32	57
- SG	24	18	23	17	11	8	16	30	26	25
<i>Average per month</i>	<i>21.3</i>	<i>28.2</i>	<i>25.3</i>	<i>23.1</i>	<i>28.6</i>	<i>24.8</i>	<i>22.8</i>	<i>22.3</i>	<i>22.5</i>	<i>32.7</i>
Terminations	208	186	220	212	171	157	222	182	193	130
- AD	177	160	185	167	141	128	198	164	172	111
- CVD	21	17	23	25	15	12	24	8	12	8
- SG ^a	10	9	12	20	15	17	0	10	9	11
<i>Average per month</i>	<i>17.3</i>	<i>15.5</i>	<i>18.3</i>	<i>17.7</i>	<i>14.3</i>	<i>13.1</i>	<i>18.5</i>	<i>15.2</i>	<i>16.1</i>	<i>10.8</i>

a 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.

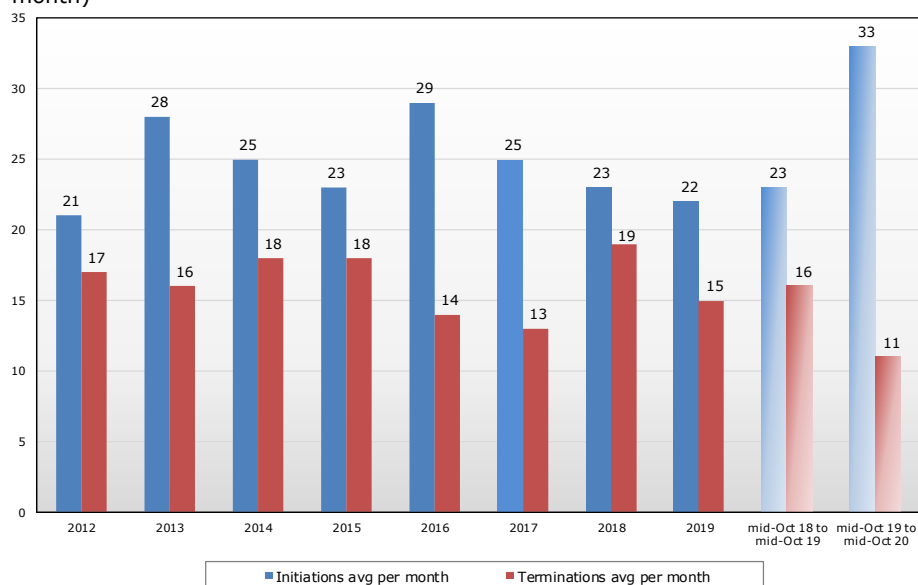
3.8. In terms of products, trade remedy actions taken during the review period included initiations of investigations on iron and steel (HS 72) 14.7%, furniture and lighting/lamps (HS 94) 11.7%, aluminium and articles thereof (HS 76) 11%, and plastics and articles thereof (HS 39) 9.7%.

3.9. The trade coverage of all trade remedy investigations initiated during the review period was USD 68.8 billion, i.e. 0.36% of the value of world merchandise imports (Table 3.4). For terminations, the trade coverage was valued at USD 9.9 billion (0.05% of the value of world merchandise imports).

⁹ 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.

Chart 3.4 Trade remedies initiations and terminations

(Average per month)



Note: Values are rounded.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Table 3.4 Share of trade covered by trade remedy initiations

	Mid-Oct 13 to mid-Oct 14	Mid-Oct 14 to mid-Oct 15	Mid-Oct 15 to mid-Oct 16	Mid-Oct 16 to mid-Oct 17	Mid-Oct 17 to mid-Oct 18	Mid-Oct 18 to mid-Oct 19	Mid-Oct 19 to mid-Oct 20
Share in total world imports	0.20%	0.17%	0.55%	0.48%	0.53%	0.24%	0.36%

Note: Estimates are based on calendar year data. For example, data for mid-October 2018 to mid-May 2019 are based 2018 calendar year data. For some countries, 2019 import data were not yet available. The data for the previous full calendar year were used for those countries.

Source: WTO Secretariat and UNSD Comtrade database.

Other trade and trade-related measures

3.10. Annex 3 to this Report lists measures which may be considered to have a trade-restrictive effect. A total of 89 new trade-restrictive measures were recorded for WTO Members and Observers, mostly tariff increases, followed by bans¹⁰, and stricter customs procedures.¹¹ Restrictive measures on exports included quantitative restrictions¹², the imposition of duties¹³ and stricter administrative customs procedures (Table 3.5).¹⁴

¹⁰ For example, QRs on tyres, power tilers and colour television by India.

¹¹ 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.

¹² For example, QRs on onions by India and Pakistan, QRs on waste and scrap of iron, steel and copper by Colombia and Mauritius, QRs on buckwheat by Ukraine, and QRs on bird eggs by Thailand.

¹³ For example, export duties on certain products by Argentina, and export taxes by Egypt.

¹⁴ For example, reference values requirements for exports of certain products by Argentina, catalogue of goods subject to export licensing by China, export licensing requirement on undenatured ethyl alcohol by Paraguay; and prior export authorization on onions by Turkey.

3.11. The measures recorded in annex 3 cover a wide range of products. The main sectors affected (HS Chapters) were electrical machinery and parts thereof (HS 85) 21.6%, machinery and mechanical appliances (HS 84) 15.8%, and precious stones and metals (HS 71) 9%.

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

Type of measure	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Mid-Oct 18 to mid-Oct 19 (WT/TPR/OV/22)	Mid-Oct 19 to mid-Oct 20 (WT/TPR/OV/23)
Import	135	146	133	167	99	84	114	78	81	71
- Tariff	75	86	83	107	64	47	70	46	47	39
- Customs procedures	31	27	19	32	16	19	6	6	7	8
- Tax	6	5	8	10	6	9	13	7	6	6
- QRs	16	17	8	12	12	7	16	14	12	13
- Other	7	11	15	6	1	2	9	5	9	5
Export	23	31	26	44	20	18	18	19	19	18
- Duties	3	5	12	13	6	4	9	7	6	6
- QRs	12	10	8	7	10	8	4	3	4	7
- Other	8	16	6	24	4	6	5	9	9	5
Other	12	7	12	15	12	14	0	2	2	0
- Other ^a	7	1	1	0	4	2	0	1	1	0
- Local content	5	6	11	15	8	12	0	1	1	0
Total	170	184	171	226	131	116	132	99	102	89
<i>Average per month</i>	<i>14.2</i>	<i>15.3</i>	<i>14.3</i>	<i>18.8</i>	<i>10.9</i>	<i>9.7</i>	<i>11.0</i>	<i>8.3</i>	<i>8.5</i>	<i>7.4</i>

a Other than local content measures.

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

3.12. The trade coverage of the trade-restrictive measures affecting imports implemented during the review period was estimated at USD 440.9 billion, i.e. 2.4% of the value of world merchandise imports (Table 3.6).¹⁵ This represents the third-highest value recorded since October 2012 (Chart 3.5).

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

	Mid-Oct 13 to mid-Oct 14	Mid-Oct 14 to mid-Oct 15	Mid-Oct 15 to mid-Oct 16	Mid-Oct 16 to mid-Oct 17	Mid-Oct 17 to mid-Oct 18	Mid-Oct 18 to mid-Oct 19	Mid-Oct 19 to mid-Oct 20
Share in total world imports	1.17%	1.23%	0.62%	0.50%	3.33%	3.84%	2.4%

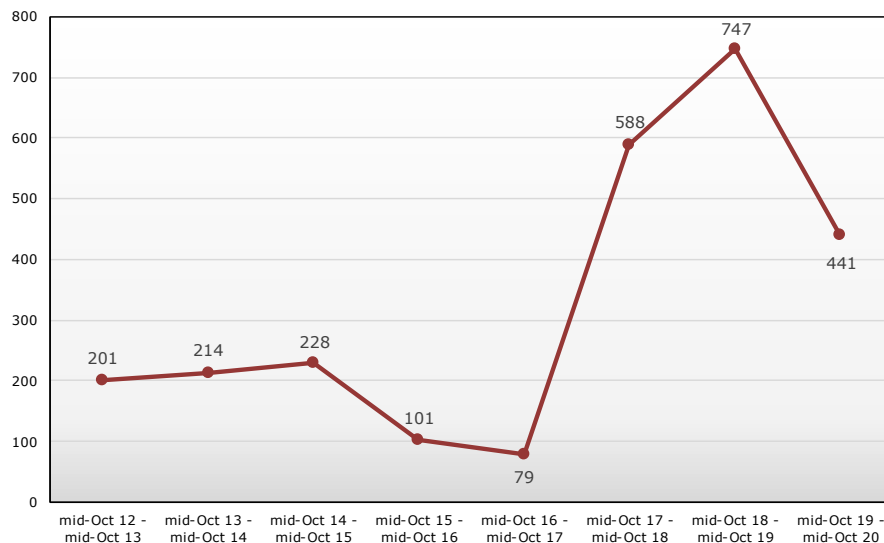
Note: Estimates are based on calendar year data. For example, data for mid-October 2018 to mid-May 2019 are based 2018 calendar year data. For some countries, 2019 import data were not yet available. The data for the previous full calendar year were used for those countries.

Source: WTO Secretariat and UNSD Comtrade database.

¹⁵ These figures include one measure by the United States (imposition of an additional duty of 15% on certain products from China), accounting for 45% of the total; three measures by India (increase of import tariffs on certain products), accounting for 18.1% of the total; and one measure by Argentina (further increase of the statistical fee), accounting for 11.1% of the total.

Chart 3.5 Trade coverage of new import-restrictive measures in each reporting 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

3.13. 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 beyond the envisaged termination date. Moreover, the Secretariat often does not receive 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.¹⁶

3.14. Table 3.7 and Chart 3.6 show that the stockpile of 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 8.7% of world imports were affected by import restrictions implemented since 2009 and still in force. This is the equivalent of USD 1.6 trillion out of USD 18.9 trillion of total world imports. Preliminary estimates suggest that the stockpile for 2020 (based on 2019 import figures) would be close to USD 1.7 trillion by mid-October 2020. Table 3.7 also shows that the trade coverage for terminations of import restrictions represents 0.07% of total world imports, suggesting that any roll-back of such measures is negligible.

¹⁶ Only import measures where HS codes were available are included in the calculation.

Table 3.7 Cumulative trade coverage of import-restrictive measures since 2009 to 2019

(USD billion, unless otherwise indicated)

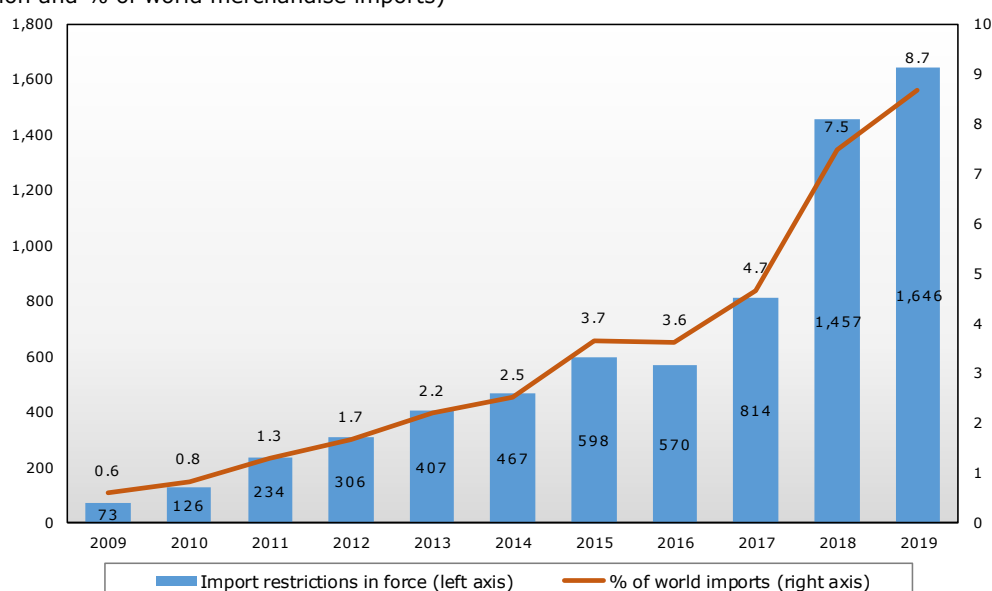
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total imports (world)	12,486	15,163	18,109	18,193	18,483	18,654	16,360	15,812	17,587	19,402	18,869
Total import restrictions in force	73.07	125.75	234.42	305.91	407.26	467.39	598.43	570.24	814.45	1,456.97	1,645.91
Share in world imports (%)	0.59	0.83	1.29	1.68	2.20	2.51	3.66	3.61	4.63	7.51	8.72
Total import restrictions terminated		1.68	15.43	59.41	37.15	34.05	1.51	38.09	3.88	5.45	13.12
Share in world imports (%)		0.01	0.09	0.33	0.20	0.18	0.01	0.24	0.02	0.03	0.07

Note: For some countries, 2019 import data was not yet available. The data for the previous full calendar year was used for those countries.

Source: WTO calculations, based on UNSD Comtrade database.

Chart 3.6 Cumulative trade coverage of import-restrictive measures on goods since 2009 to 2019

(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

3.15. Annex 5 to this Report lists trade and trade-related measures in the area of goods which have been implemented by WTO Members and Observers in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These measures were implemented between mid-October 2019 and mid-October 2020.¹⁷

3.16. As at mid-October 2020, 335 COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures had been recorded for 112 WTO Members and Observers¹⁸, most of these were adopted on a temporary basis. Although in the early stages of the pandemic a majority of measures restricted the free flow of trade¹⁹, the

¹⁷ The full list of measures can also be viewed at: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/covid19_e.htm.

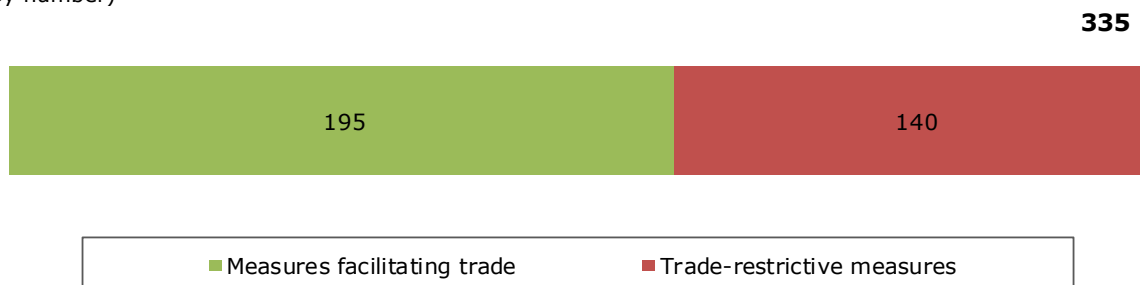
¹⁸ The European Union and its member States are counted as one.

¹⁹ WTO document WT/TPR/OV/W/14, 10 July 2020.

overall picture as of mid-October shows that 195 (58%) of all measures were of a trade facilitating nature.²⁰ A total of 140 measures (42%) could be considered to have a trade-restrictive effect (Charts 3.7 and 3.8).²¹ Export bans continue to account for more than 90% of all restrictive measures recorded.

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

(By number)

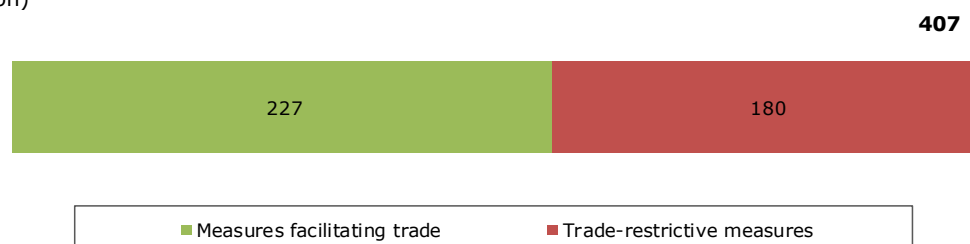


Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.17. The gradual phase-out of exports constraints targeting products such as surgical masks, gloves, medicines, 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 39% of the COVID-19 specific restrictive measures implemented by WTO Members and Observers had been repealed by mid-October.²² Around 18% of COVID-19 specific facilitating measures have been terminated.²³

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

(USD billion)



Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.18. Trade and trade-related measures listed in annex 5 appear to have come in two clearly identifiable waves. First, in the early stages of the trade response to the COVID-19 pandemic, WTO Members and Observers put in place stricter export regulations on personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves and masks, drugs and medicine utilized in the treatment of the virus, certain medical equipment such as ventilators or other respiratory support equipment, and disinfectant such as hand sanitizers. Export regulations came in the shape of new requirements for authorization to export, specific quotas and, in export bans. Second, subsequent restrictive trade measures targeted mainly basic food products such as sugar, cereals, buckwheat, meslin, rice, vegetables, soya beans, sunflower seeds, prepared food and oils in order to guarantee local food supplies.

²⁰ According to preliminary estimates by the WTO Secretariat, the trade coverage amounted to USD 227.2 billion (including exports and based on annual 2019 trade figures).

²¹ According to preliminary estimates by the WTO Secretariat, the trade coverage amounted to USD 179.8 billion (including exports and based on annual 2019 trade figures).

²² According to preliminary estimates by the WTO Secretariat, the trade coverage amounted to USD 108.4 billion (including exports and based on annual 2019 trade figures).

²³ According to preliminary estimates by the WTO Secretariat, the trade coverage amounted to USD 51.7 billion (including exports and based on annual 2019 trade figures).

3.19. As for imports, some Members increased tariffs and taxes on for example petrol and oils primarily, it seems, to generate revenue to help finance a variety of emergency economic support measures and programmes. These programmes are covered in Section 3.7.

3.20. As of mid-October, 124 COVID-19 measures by 54 WTO Members affecting trade in services had been recorded with most of them being trade-facilitating in nature. These measures are covered separately in Section 4 and annex 6.²⁴

3.21. Some 60 COVID-19 measures regarding trade-related intellectual property rights were recorded and verified for WTO Members and Observers until mid-October 2020. A number of these measures were aimed at facilitating innovation or access with respect to COVID-19-related health technologies, while others eased certain procedural requirements or deadlines for administrative matters. These measures are covered in Section 5.²⁵

3.22. 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.²⁶ Some WTO Members notified multiple times under the same subject area. About two-thirds of the 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. 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.

3.2 Trade remedy trends²⁷

3.23. This Section provides an assessment of trends in global (WTO-wide) trade remedy actions in the periods July 2017 to June 2018 (first period), July 2018 to June 2019 (second period) and July 2019 to June 2020 (current period).²⁸ Concerning anti-dumping, data for the current period indicate a significant increase in the number of new investigations initiated.²⁹ The number of countervailing duty investigations also increased in the current period, after a decline from the first period to the second. As for initiations of safeguard investigations, the declining trend since 2015 appears to have come to an end.

Anti-dumping measures

3.24. Global anti-dumping initiations decreased by 24% to 178 in the second period, from 233 in the first period, then increased, by 70%, to 303 in the current period (Table 3.8).

Table 3.8 Number of initiations of anti-dumping investigations

Reporting Member	July 2017–June 2018	July 2018–June 2019	July 2019–June 2020
Argentina	18	15	11
Australia	15	8	15
Bahrain, Kingdom of; Kuwait, State of; Oman; Qatar; Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; United Arab Emirates ^a	3	5	1

²⁴ The full list of measures can also be viewed at:

https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/trade_related_services_measure_e.htm.

²⁵ The full list of measures can also be viewed at:

https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/trade_related_ip_measure_e.htm.

²⁶ Viewed at: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm.

²⁷ This Section is without prejudice to the right of Members to take trade remedy actions under the WTO.

²⁸ These periods coincide with the Member's semi-annual reporting periods.

²⁹ Anti-dumping and countervailing investigations are counted on the basis of the number of exporting countries or customs territories affected by an investigation. Thus, one anti-dumping or countervailing investigation involving imports from *n* countries/customs territories is counted as *n* investigations.

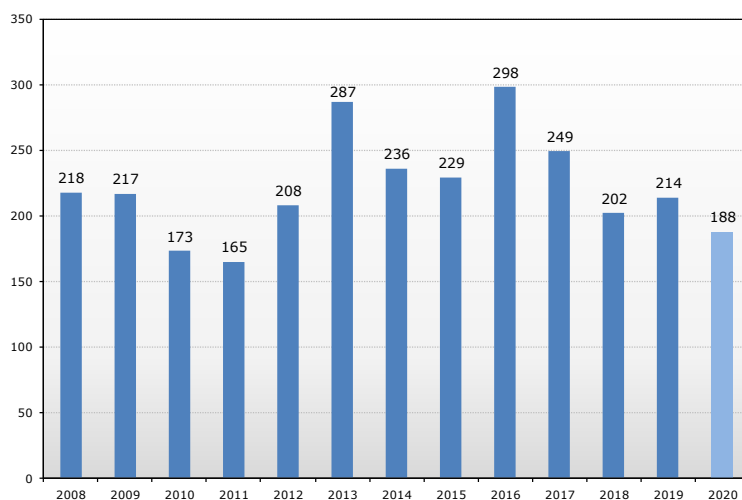
Reporting Member	July 2017–June 2018	July 2018–June 2019	July 2019–June 2020
Brazil	9	0	4
Canada	11	9	12
Chile	2	0	1
China	23	18	4
Colombia	8	1	1
Dominican Republic	0	1	0
Egypt	1	2	8
El Salvador	1	0	0
European Union	8	11	8
India	44	21	98
Indonesia	1	0	8
Japan	0	0	2
Korea, Republic of	6	7	1
Madagascar	0	1	0
Malaysia	0	8	4
Mexico	8	5	7
New Zealand	4	0	2
Pakistan	1	10	7
Peru	2	1	1
Russian Federation ^b	5	3	4
South Africa ^c	0	3	0
Chinese Taipei	2	0	0
Thailand	3	1	10
Turkey	8	0	4
Ukraine	7	11	7
United States	43	32	71
Viet Nam	0	5	12
Total	233	178	303

- a 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.
- b Notified by the Russian Federation, but investigations are initiated by the Eurasian Economic Union on behalf of its members, i.e. also Armenia, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, and Belarus (Observer) collectively.
- c Notified by South Africa, but investigations are initiated at the level of the Southern African Customs Union, i.e. also in respect of Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.25. Chart 3.9, covering anti-dumping initiations from 2008 to the first half of 2020, shows that the number of initiations increased from 165 in 2011 to 287 in 2013, decreased to 236 and 229 initiations in 2014 and 2015, respectively, then increased in 2016 to 298. This was the highest number of initiations since the 311 of 2002, but still off the all-time high of 372 in 2001. A downward trend then was observed in 2017–18 then, an increase in 2019. The initial figure covering the first six months of 2020 (188) may indicate a significant increase in initiations for the full year compared with 2019.

Chart 3.9 Total number of anti-dumping investigation initiations, 2008-20^a



- a Data for 2020 covers January to June.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.26. While anti-dumping investigations do not necessarily lead to the imposition of measures, an increase in the number of investigations initiated is an early indicator of a likely increase in the number of measures imposed.

3.27. Over the three periods, a total of 482 anti-dumping measures were imposed (Table 3.9). However, as it can take up to 18 months for an anti-dumping investigation to be concluded once initiated, these measures may not necessarily be the result of initiations in the same period. Between the first and third periods, the number of measures imposed decreased significantly, by 46%, from 217 to 118.

Table 3.9 Number of anti-dumping measures imposed

Reporting Member	July 2017–June 2018	July 2018–June 2019	July 2019–June 2020
Argentina	13	6	12
Australia	10	10	2
Bahrain, Kingdom of; Kuwait, State of; Oman; Qatar; Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; United Arab Emirates ^a	0	2	2
Brazil	10	3	6
Canada	2	13	3
Chile	1	1	0
China	12	17	10
Colombia	3	6	0
Dominican Republic	0	0	1
Egypt	5	1	2
El Salvador	1	0	0
European Union	6	2	6
India	44	19	9
Indonesia	2	0	1
Israel	0	3	0
Japan	3	0	0
Korea, Republic of	7	6	0
Malaysia	4	2	7
Mexico	6	6	3
Morocco	5	1	0
Pakistan	26	5	2
Peru	1	0	0
Philippines	1	0	0
Russian Federation ^b	1	1	4
South Africa ^c	0	0	3
Chinese Taipei	0	0	2
Thailand	2	0	1
Turkey	16	2	0
Ukraine	1	8	10
United States	34	33	29
Viet Nam	1	0	3
Total	217	147	118

- a Notified by all GCC member States collectively, as investigations are initiated by the GCC regional investigating authority on behalf of all GCC member States.
- b Notified by the Russian Federation, but investigations are initiated by the Eurasian Economic Union on behalf of its members, i.e. also Armenia, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, and Belarus (Observer) collectively.
- c Notified by South Africa, but investigations are initiated at the level of the Southern African Customs Union, i.e. also in respect of Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia.

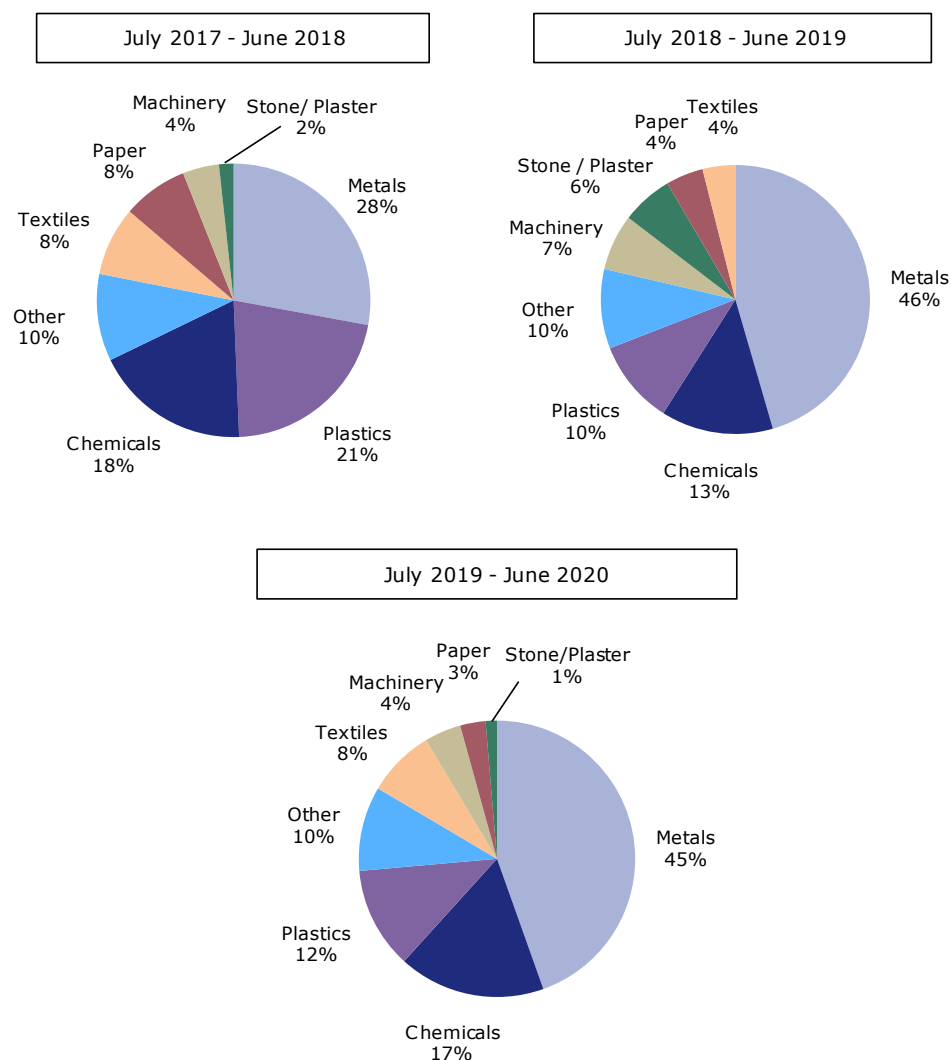
Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.28. Chart 3.10 shows that there was little change in terms of the products affected by anti-dumping investigations initiated during the three periods examined, with the majority focused on products in the metals, chemicals, and plastics and rubber sectors.

3.29. Metal products were subject to the most initiations in each period, accounting for 28% of all initiations in the first, 46% in the second and 45% in the current period. In each period, at least 65 initiations targeted metals, of which between 70% and 81% focused on steel products (Chapters 72 and 73 of the HS classification). Over the three periods combined, the United States (78), India

(36), Australia (21), Canada (20), Thailand (13) and the European Union (13) accounted for more than half of the 281 initiations on metals. An increase in the number of initiations against metal products was seen in the last period, with 47 investigations initiated by the United States, 25 by India, 14 by Australia, 10 by Thailand, 8 by Canada, 6 by the European Union, 5 by Indonesia, 3 each by Egypt, the Russian Federation and Malaysia, 2 each by New Zealand and Ukraine, and 1 each by Turkey, Mexico, Chile, Colombia, Viet Nam, Saudi Arabia and Brazil. Initiations on metal products across the three periods affected mostly steel products, mainly from China (82, of which 61 involved steel products), Viet Nam (18, of which 16 involved steel products), Republic of Korea (13, of which 12 involved steel products), Turkey (13, of which 10 involved steel products), Malaysia (11, of which 6 involved steel products), India (10, of which 8 involved steel products) and Chinese Taipei (9, of which 8 involved steel products). In many instances, investigations were launched on the same product from several exporting countries. For instance, 19 steel products were the focus of 105 investigations.

Chart 3.10 Initiations of anti-dumping investigations, by product



Note: Values are rounded.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.30. Chemical products accounted for the second-largest share of initiations over the three reporting periods, with an 18% share of initiations in the first, 13% in the second, and 17% in the current period. India accounted for 45 of the 118 new investigations on products in this sector, followed by China (24) and the United States (16). These initiations involved mostly chemical products from China (23), the United States (10), Japan (7), the Russian Federation (7), Thailand (6) and the Republic of Korea (5). As with the metals sector investigations, investigations into

chemicals frequently involved the same product from several exporting countries, i.e. 14 products accounted for 67 of the investigations in this area.

3.31. The plastics and rubber sector ranked third in the second and current periods, accounting for 10% of all initiations in the second period and 12% in the current period; it ranked second in the first period, accounting for 21% of all initiations. India (35), the United States (19) and China (12) accounted for more than half of the 104 plastics and rubber investigations. China remained the main subject of investigations in this sector (22), followed by the Republic of Korea (11), Thailand (10), the United States (6) and Chinese Taipei, Malaysia and Japan (5 each).

3.32. In terms of countries or customs territories affected by new anti-dumping investigations, 46 were affected during the first, 44 during the second and 55 during the current period. China remained, by far, the most targeted Member during the three reporting periods, accounting for 27% of all investigations overall. The second most affected Members during the three reporting periods – the Republic of Korea and Malaysia – accounted for 5% each of the total initiations, followed by Viet Nam, Thailand, India and the United States, with 4% each.

3.33. As at 20 October 2020, only two 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 anti-dumping duties on syringes and parenteral solutions.

Countervailing measures

3.34. The number of initiations of countervailing duty investigations increased to 48 in the current period, compared to 37 in the second, after having decreased from 52 in the first period (Table 3.10).

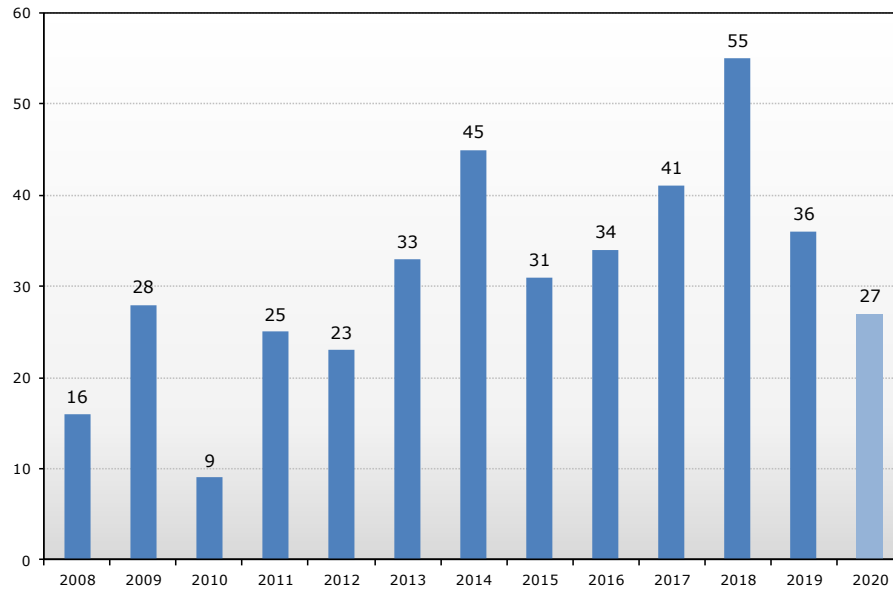
3.35. Among the 13 Members using countervailing measures, the United States initiated the largest number of new investigations (67), accounting for 49% of all initiations throughout the review period. India, the second-largest user (21), accounted for 15%, followed by Canada (14), with 10%. The remaining investigations were initiated by 10 different Members.

Table 3.10 Number of initiations of countervailing duty investigations

Reporting Member	July 2017–June 2018	July 2018–June 2019	July 2019–June 2020
Australia	2	1	6
Brazil	1	0	0
Canada	10	0	4
China	1	2	1
Colombia	0	1	0
European Union	3	4	3
India	1	9	11
New Zealand	2	0	0
Peru	0	1	0
Chinese Taipei	5	0	0
Turkey	1	0	0
Ukraine	0	1	0
United States	26	18	23
Total	52	37	48

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.36. Chart 3.11, reflecting annual figures, shows an upward trend in countervailing initiations from 2010 to 2014, notwithstanding a small fluctuation in 2012. Following a decrease in 2015, the number of initiations increased through 2018, when the number (55) matched the previous peak observed in 1999. The number of new initiations then decreased significantly in 2019. The figure covering the first six months of 2020 (27) could suggest a significant increase in countervailing initiations for the full year relative to 2019.

Chart 3.11 Total number of initiations of countervailing duty investigations, 2008-20^a

a Data for 2020 covers January to June.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

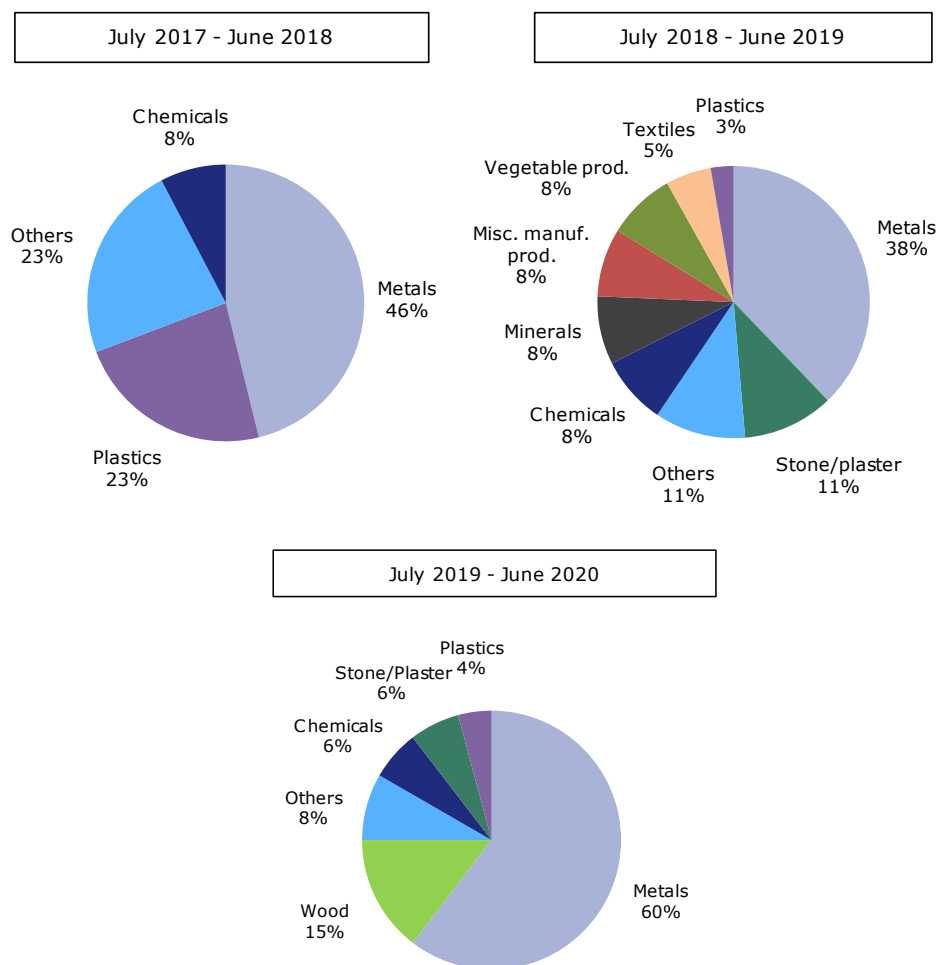
3.37. As with anti-dumping, countervailing duty investigations do not necessarily lead to the imposition of measures. However, a rise in the number of investigations initiated may be an early indicator of a likely rise in the number of measures imposed. Over the three periods, a total of 84 countervailing measures were imposed (Table 3.11). However, as it can take up to 18 months for an investigation to be concluded, these measures may not necessarily be the result of initiations in the same period. This lag may account for the substantial increase in the number of measures applied in the second period compared with the first, despite the drop recorded in the second period in the number of investigations initiated.

Table 3.11 Number of countervailing measures imposed

Reporting Member	July 2017-June 2018	July 2018-June 2019	July 2019-June 2020
Australia	1	1	0
Brazil	1	1	0
Canada	1	5	0
China	1	0	1
Colombia	0	0	1
European Union	0	3	4
India	1	1	8
Peru	0	1	0
Chinese Taipei	0	0	5
Ukraine	0	0	0
United States	15	18	15
Total	20	30	34

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.38. Concerning the products affected by countervailing investigations, Chart 3.12 shows that metals accounted for most of the initiations reported over the three periods, accounting for 46%, 38% and 60% of all initiations, respectively. For the three periods combined, 67 of the 137 total initiations recorded covered metals and 51 (76%) of these targeted steel products. The United States initiated 25 of the 51 investigations on steel products, of which 24 involved products from China.

Chart 3.12 Initiations of countervailing duty investigations, by product

Note: Values are rounded.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.39. Over the three reporting periods, chemicals and plastics were the second and third most-investigated sectors, with 15 and 10 initiations, respectively, followed by wood and stone/plaster products with 7 each.

3.40. Fourteen exporting countries or customs territories were affected by new countervailing investigations in the first and second periods, and 16 in the third. China was the most frequent target of investigations, accounting for 49% of all investigations during the three periods. India and Viet Nam were the second and third most frequent targets, each accounting for 9%.

3.41. As at 20 October 2020, no Member had notified any countervailing duty action referring to the COVID 19-pandemic.

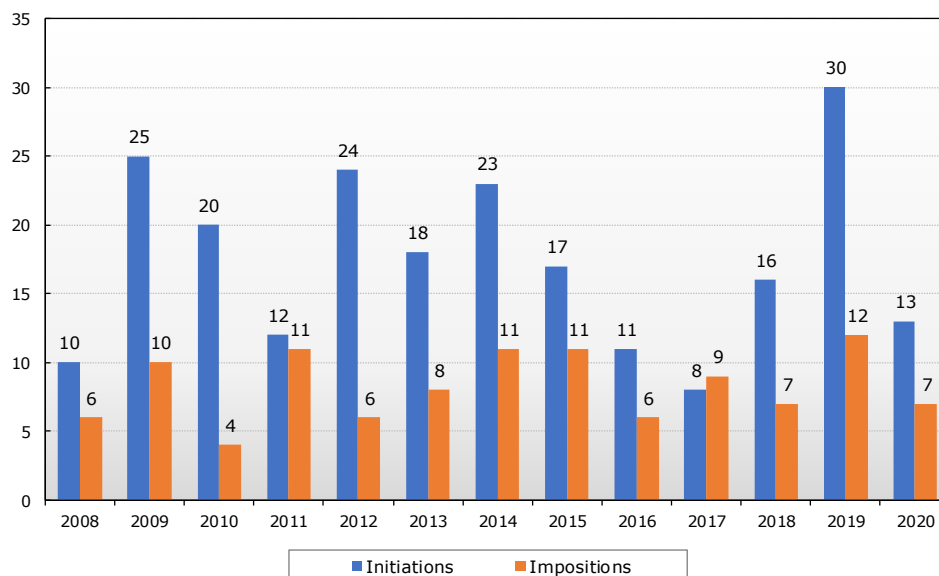
Safeguard measures

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/customs territories.³⁰ These measures are subject to different rules and timelines than anti-dumping and countervailing measures and are, therefore, not directly comparable to these other types of trade remedies.

³⁰ With the exception of special and differential treatment provided for developing countries in Article 9.1 of the Safeguards Agreement.

3.43. Chart 3.13 shows the trend of initiations of safeguard investigations side by side with the trend of impositions on a calendar-year basis from 2008 to the first half of 2020. The first half of 2020 recorded 13 initiations, and 7 impositions. If the trend in that period continues, the initiation and imposition figures could suggest a continuation of the relatively high figures registered in 2019. Extrapolated to a full year, these figures would amount to 26 initiations and 14 impositions. For initiations, 26 would be the third-largest figure since 1995. For impositions, 14 would be the second-largest since 1995. Until now, the largest number of impositions was in 2003, with 15.

Chart 3.13 Total number of safeguard investigation initiations, and imposition of measures, 2008-20^a



a Data for 2020 covers January to June. Some notifications are ambiguous about the timing when measures took effect. For those, 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. Table 3.12, which shows the breakdown on a July-June basis of Members that initiated safeguard investigations, confirms the recent sharp increase. It also shows that, while 12 Members initiated at least one investigation during the latest period, the top 3 Members accounted for nearly half of all initiations recorded. Table 3.13 shows the breakdown of Members that imposed measures. It is noteworthy that one Member accounted for 5 out of the total 13 impositions during the current period.

Table 3.12 Number of initiations of safeguard investigations

Reporting Member	July 2017–June 2018	July 2018–June 2019	July 2019–June 2020
Bahrain, Kingdom of; Kuwait, State of; Oman; Qatar; Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; United Arab Emirates ^a	1	0	1
Canada	0	1	0
Chile	1	0	0
Colombia	0	1	0
Costa Rica	1	1	0
Ecuador	0	0	1
Egypt	0	1	1
European Union	1	0	0
Guatemala	0	0	1
India	1	0	3
Indonesia	1	2	5
Jordan	0	0	1
Madagascar	0	3	4
Morocco	0	3	0
Panama	0	1	0
Philippines	0	3	5

Reporting Member	July 2017–June 2018	July 2018–June 2019	July 2019–June 2020
Russian Federation ^b	0	3	0
South Africa ^c	1	1	2
Turkey	1	1	2
Ukraine	1	0	6
Total	9	21	32

a Investigations are initiated at the level of the GCC.

b Identified here as the Russian Federation for brevity, but all investigations are initiated by the Eurasian Economic Union on behalf of all its members, i.e. also Armenia, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, and Belarus (Observer) collectively.

c Notified by South Africa, but investigations are initiated at the level of the Southern African Customs Union, i.e., also in respect of Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, and Namibia.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Table 3.13 Number of safeguard measures imposed

Reporting Member	July 2017–June 2018	July 2018–June 2019	July 2019–June 2020
Bahrain, Kingdom of; Kuwait, State of; Oman; Qatar; Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; United Arab Emirates ^a	1	1	0
Canada	0	1	0
Egypt	0	0	1
European Union	0	1	0
India	0	1	0
Indonesia	0	1	5
Madagascar	0	2	0
Malaysia	0	0	1
Morocco	0	0	2
Philippines	0	0	1
Russian Federation ^b	0	0	1
South Africa ^c	1	1	1
Turkey	1	0	1
Ukraine	0	1	0
United States	2	0	0
Viet Nam	1	0	0
Total	6	9	13

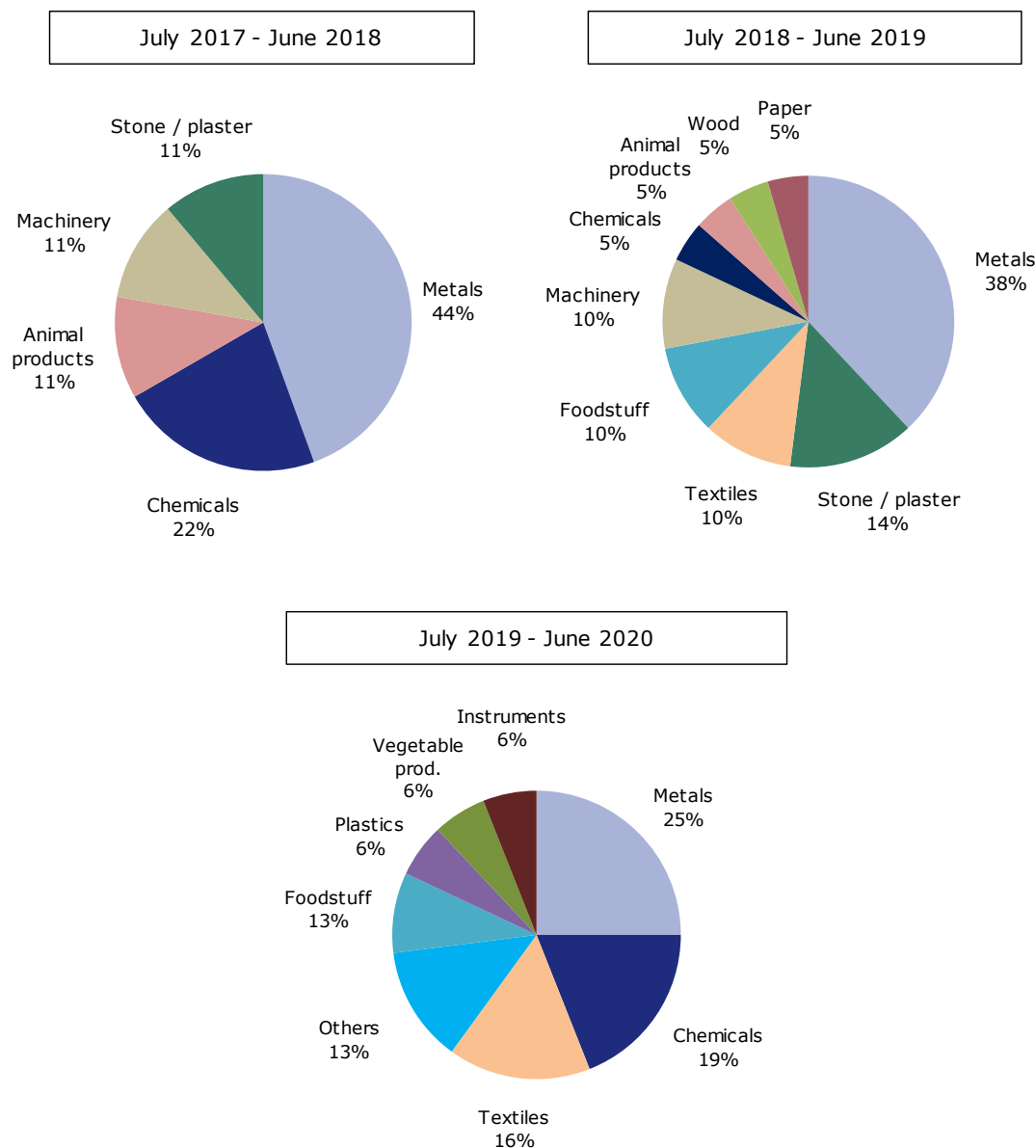
a Investigations are initiated at the level of the GCC.

b Identified here as the Russian Federation for brevity, but all measures are imposed by the Eurasian Economic Union on behalf of all its members, i.e. Armenia, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, and Belarus (Observer) collectively.

c Notified by South Africa, but all measures are imposed at the level of the Southern African Customs Union, i.e. also in respect of Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.45. Chart 3.14 shows the products covered by the initiated safeguard investigations, on a July-June basis. The share of investigations initiated in the metals sector (the vast majority of which involved steel products) continued to decrease, from 44% in the July 2017-June 2018 period, down to 25% in the July 2019-June 2020 period.

Chart 3.14 Initiations of safeguard investigations, by product

Note: Values are rounded.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

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

3.3 Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures³¹

3.47. Under the SPS Agreement, WTO Members are obliged to provide an advance notice of intention to introduce new or modified SPS measures³², or to notify immediately when emergency measures are imposed. The main objective of complying with the SPS notification obligations is to

³¹ Information presented in this Section was retrieved from the SPS Information Management System (SPS IMS: <http://spsims.wto.org>). This Section is based on notifications to the WTO for the period 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020. Specific trade concerns (STCs) are raised at SPS Committee meetings. The information in this Section summarizes the STCs raised at the 7-8 November 2019 and 25-26 June 2020 SPS Committee meetings. The March 2020 Committee meeting was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. WTO document JOB/SPS/5/Rev.1/Corr.1.

³² Transparency obligations are contained in Article 7 and Annex B of the SPS Agreement.

inform other Members about new or changed regulations that may significantly affect international trade. Therefore, an increased number of notifications does not automatically imply greater use of protectionist measures, but rather enhanced transparency regarding food safety, animal and plant health measures, many or most of which are presumably legitimate health-protection measures.

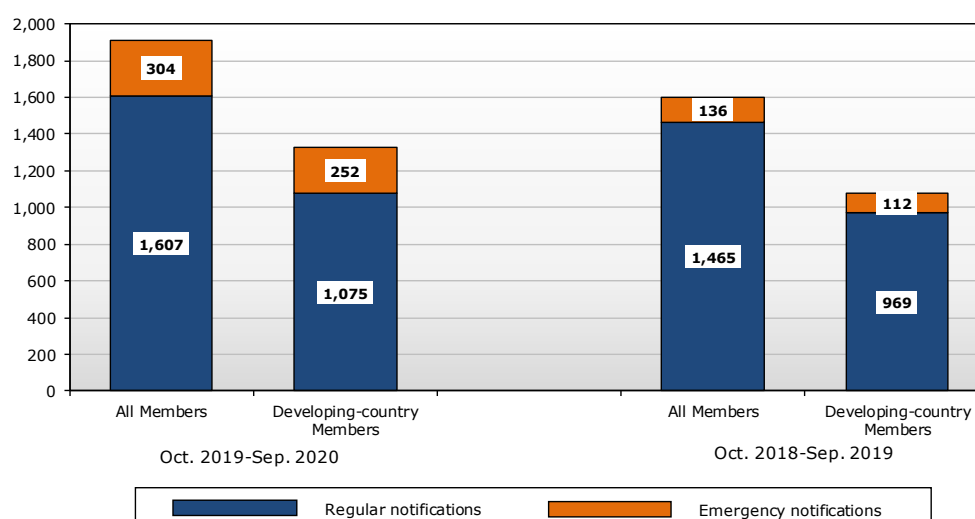
3.48. In the period from 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020, 1,911 SPS notifications (regular and emergency, including addenda) were submitted³³ to the WTO, resulting in a 19% increase of total notified measures compared to the previous period (1,601 notifications from 1 October 2018 to 30 September 2019). The share of notifications from developing-country Members, 69% (1,327 notifications) of the total number, remained stable as compared with the previous 12-month period, 68% (1,081 notifications) (Chart 3.15).

3.49. During the review period, WTO Members submitted 1,607 regular SPS notifications (including addenda), 67% (1,075 notifications) of which were submitted by developing-country Members. Compared with the previous 12-month period, the total number of regular notifications increased by 10% while those submitted by developing-country Members increased by 11%.

3.50. As far as emergency measures (including addenda) are concerned, a sharp increase in the number of notifications submitted was observed as compared with the previous period. While the total number of emergency notifications (including addenda) increased by 224% in the current review period (304 compared to 136 during the previous period), the proportion of all emergency notifications (including addenda) submitted by developing-country Members remained high, constituting 83% of the total (compared with 82% in the previous period). These high percentage figures are consistent with the general trend of the majority of emergency measures being notified by developing-country Members. This may be because they have less extensive SPS regulatory systems compared to developed-country Members. Consequently, when facing emergency challenges, they are more likely to have to introduce new regulations or change existing ones.

3.51. Many Members are following the recommendation to notify SPS measures even when these are based on a relevant international standard³⁴, as this substantially increases transparency. Of the 1,152 regular notifications (excluding addenda) submitted from 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020, 53% indicated that at least one international standard, guideline or recommendation was applicable to the notified measure (Chart 3.16). Of these, about 65% indicated that the proposed measure was in conformity with the applicable international standard.

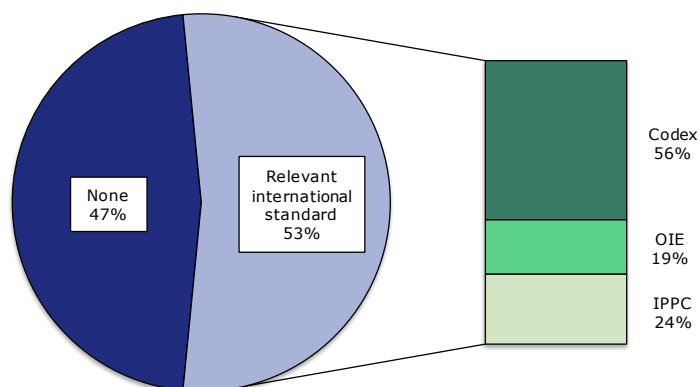
Chart 3.15 Number of SPS notifications, including regular, emergency and addenda



Source: WTO Secretariat.

³³ For this Report, submission refers to the date of circulation.

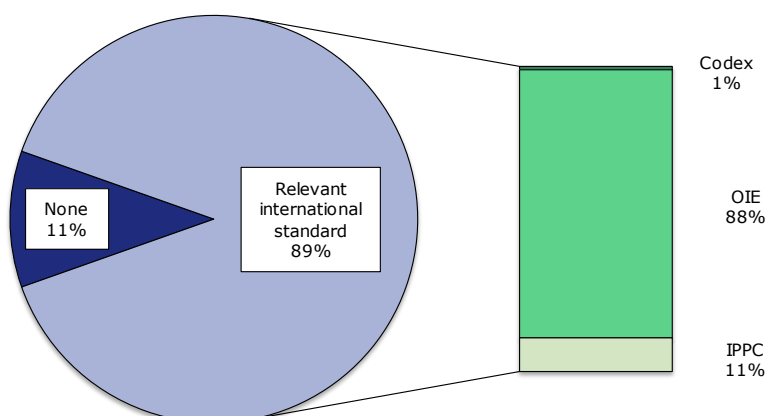
³⁴ WTO document G/SPS/7/Rev.4, paragraph 2.3.

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.

3.52. International standards often provide useful guidance regarding measures to address disease outbreaks and other emergency situations. Indeed, about 89% (206 in total) of the 231 emergency notifications (excluding addenda) submitted during the review period indicated that an international standard, guideline or recommendation was applicable to the notified measure (Chart 3.17). Of these, all but nine indicated that the measure was in conformity with the applicable international standard.

Chart 3.17 Emergency 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. Of the 1,152 regular notifications (excluding addenda) submitted in the review period, the majority were related to food safety.³⁵ The remainder related to plant protection and animal health and, to a lesser extent, to the protection of humans from animal diseases or plant pests, and the protection of the Member's territory from other damage from pests. It is usual for regular notifications to contain more than one objective.

3.54. Of the 231 emergency measures (excluding addenda) notified in the same period, the majority related to animal health, followed by those related to food safety, the protection of humans from animal diseases or plant pests, plant protection, and the protection of the Member's territory

³⁵ 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) protection of humans from animal/plant pests or diseases; and (v) protection of territory from other damages from pests. Members are required to identify the purpose of the measure in their notifications. It is common for more than one objective to be identified for a measure.

from other damage from pests. Similarly, emergency notifications may contain more than one objective.

3.55. While there is no formal provision for "counter notification", concerns regarding the failure to notify an SPS measure, or regarding a notified measure, can be raised as a specific trade concern (STC) at any of the regular meetings of the SPS Committee each year. In the SPS Committee meetings of 7-8 November 2019 and 25-26 June 2020³⁶, 22 STCs were raised for the first time (Table 3.14), and 16 previously raised STCs were discussed again (Table 3.15).

3.56. The margins of the SPS Committee meetings provide important opportunities for delegations, often including capital-based experts, to discuss and resolve STCs bilaterally. For example, during the review period, Peru withdrew an STC regarding Colombia's restrictions on coffee imports. This item had been included in the proposed agenda for the November 2019 meeting, and was withdrawn because bilateral progress had been made.³⁷ Before the June 2020 meeting, despite the fact that most delegates were not present in Geneva, bilateral consultations were still held, and the European Union withdrew an STC regarding Malaysia's import restrictions due to African swine fever, and the Russian Federation withdrew its support to the STC raised by the United States on China's administrative measures for registration of overseas manufacturers of imported food.³⁸ Furthermore, one STC was reported as resolved under the specific agenda item.³⁹ Since 1995, 42% of all STCs raised at the Committee have been reported as resolved or partially resolved.

Table 3.14 New SPS STCs raised in the November 2019 or June 2020 meetings

STC	Document title	Members maintaining the measure	Members raising the concern	Members supporting the concern	First date raised	Primary objective
465	Thailand's approval procedures for imports of pork and other animal products	Thailand	Brazil; European Union		07/11/2019	Other concerns
466	The Philippines' trade restrictions on imports of meat	Philippines	European Union		07/11/2019	Animal health
467	EU sanitary requirement for importation of hoof and horn	European Union	Indonesia		07/11/2019	Other concerns
468	Russian Federation's maximum limit of 3-monochloropropanediol (3MCPD) and glycidyl ester (GE) in palm oil products	Russian Federation	Indonesia	Colombia; Malaysia	07/11/2019	Food safety
469	EU regulation on high-risk plants (Regulation (EU) 2016/2031)	European Union	Israel	Canada; Kenya; United States	07/11/2019	Plant health
470	Thailand's phytosanitary restrictions on imports of fresh citrus fruits due to sweet orange scab	Thailand	Japan	Chile	24/06/2020	Plant health
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
473	Nepal's import ban on energy drinks	Nepal	Thailand		24/06/2020	Food safety
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

³⁶ The 19-20 March 2020 Committee meeting was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic (JOB/SPS/5/Rev.1/Corr.1). The June 2020 meeting was held in person, and Members were also able to participate via a virtual platform (JOB/SPS/8/Add.1).

³⁷ WTO document G/SPS/R/97/Rev.1.

³⁸ WTO documents G/SPS/R/99 and G/SPS/R/99/Corr.1.

³⁹ This was STC 421.

STC	Document title	Members maintaining the measure	Members raising the concern	Members supporting the concern	First date raised	Primary objective
475	Modification of EU MRLs for plant protection products: Mancozeb	European Union	Colombia; Costa Rica; Côte d'Ivoire; Ecuador; Paraguay	Brazil; Chile; Guatemala; Honduras; Mexico; Nicaragua; Panama; Peru	24/06/2020	Food safety
476	Thailand's draft notification of Ministry of Industry's List of Hazardous Substances and Ministry of Public Health Re: Food Containing Pesticide Residues (No. 3)	Thailand	United States	Canada; Colombia; Japan	24/06/2020	Food safety
477	General import restrictions on chocolate and cocoa products due to maximum levels of cadmium		Peru	Colombia; Ecuador	24/06/2020	Food safety
478	Viet Nam's National Technical Regulation on Animal Feeds - Maximum Allowable Limits of Safety Indicators in Animal Feeds and Ingredients for Production of Aquatic Feeds (Circular No. 04/2020/TT-BNNPTNT) and Decree 13/2020 Detailing the Law on Animal Husbandry	Viet Nam	Argentina; United States	Brazil	24/06/2020	Food safety
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
480	Guatemala's import restrictions on bovine and swine meat	Guatemala	Mexico		24/06/2020	Other concerns
481	Costa Rica's import restrictions on swine meat products	Costa Rica	Mexico		24/06/2020	Other concerns
482	Peru's import restrictions on pork	Peru	Brazil		24/06/2020	Food safety
483	Costa Rica's import restriction on dairy and dairy products	Costa Rica	Mexico		24/06/2020	Other concerns
484	India's approval procedures for animal products	India	Russian Federation		24/06/2020	Other concerns
485	China's administrative measures for 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.

3.57. Sixteen previously raised STCs were discussed at the November 2019 or June 2020 SPS Committee meetings (eight were discussed in both meetings).⁴⁰ Of these, three addressed persistent problems that have been discussed 10 times or more (Table 3.15). In addition, two STCs raised for the first time in November 2019 were discussed again in June 2020.⁴¹

⁴⁰ The eight STCs that were raised in both meetings are marked with an asterisk (*) beside their number in Table 3.15.

⁴¹ These were STCs 466 and 469.

Table 3.15 Previously raised SPS STCs discussed in the November 2019 or June 2020 meetings

STC	Document title	Member(s) maintaining the measure	Member(s) raising the concern	Members supporting the concern	First date raised (times subsequently raised)	Primary objective
193*	General import restrictions due to BSE		European Union; United States	Canada; Switzerland; Uruguay	01/06/2004 (38 times)	Animal health
382*	European Union 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; Uruguay; Viet Nam; Zambia	25/03/2014 (16 times)	Food safety
386	Measures on imports of hibiscus flowers	Mexico	Nigeria; Senegal	Burkina Faso	26/03/2015 (2 times)	Plant health
406	China's import restrictions due to highly pathogenic avian influenza	China	European Union; United States		16/03/2016 (10 times)	Animal health
413	Guatemala's restrictions on egg products	Guatemala	Mexico		27/10/2016 (4 times)	Food safety
431	South Africa's import restrictions on poultry due to highly pathogenic avian influenza	South Africa	European Union		02/11/2017 (6 times)	Animal health
439*	US import restrictions on apples and pears	United States	European Union		01/03/2018 (6 times)	Plant health
441*	Indonesia's approval procedures for animal and plant products	Indonesia	European Union	Brazil	12/07/2018 (5 times)	Other concerns
446	EU review of legislation on veterinary medicinal products	European Union	Argentina; United States	Australia; Brazil; Canada; Chile; Colombia; Japan; Paraguay	12/07/2018 (3 times)	Food safety
447*	New EU definition of the fungicide folpet	European Union	China		12/07/2018 (5 times)	Food safety
448*	EU MRLs for buprofezin, chlorothalonil, diflubenzuron, ethoxysulfuron, glufosinate, imazalil, ioxynil, iprodione, molinate, picoxystrobin and tepraloxydim	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 (4 times)	Food safety
459*	New EU MRLs for lambda-cyhalothrin	European Union	China	Paraguay	18/07/2019 (2 times)	Food safety

STC	Document title	Member(s) maintaining the measure	Member(s) raising the concern	Members supporting the concern	First date raised (times subsequently raised)	Primary objective
461	Turkey's FMD-related import restrictions on live cattle	Turkey	Argentina		18/07/2019 (1 time)	Animal health
463*	Ukraine's restrictions on swine products	Ukraine	Brazil		18/07/2019 (2 times)	Animal health
466**	The Philippines' trade restrictions on imports of meat	Philippines	European Union		07/11/2019 (1 time)	Animal health
469**	EU regulation on high-risk plants (Regulation (EU) 2016/2031)	European Union	Israel	Canada; Kenya; United States	07/11/2019 (1 time)	Plant health

* STCs raised in both SPS Committee meetings.

** STC raised for the first time in November 2019 and raised again in June 2020.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.58. Of the 22 STCs raised for the first time in the two SPS Committee meetings, 10 (45%) concerned food safety, 1 (5%) concerned measures covering animal health, 4 (18%) covered plant health, and 7 (32%) related to other types of concerns.⁴² Regarding previously raised STCs in the review period, 6 (38%) concerned measures covering food safety, 6 (38%) concerned animal health, 3 (19%) related to plant health, and 1 (6%) covered other types of concerns. Of the total number (38) of STCs raised or discussed in the review period, 16 (42%) concerned measures covering food safety, 7 (18%) covered animal health, 7 (18%) concerned plant health, and 8 (21%) related to other types of concerns.

3.59. Discussions among Members in the SPS Committee continue to be multifaceted and dynamic. While pesticide maximum residue limits (MRLs) continue to be a topic of concern for Members, several STCs related to approval procedures, as listed above, were also raised in the current review period.

COVID-19-related SPS measures (1 February⁴³ – 30 September 2020)

3.60. 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 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 available information. As more scientific evidence emerges and risk assessments can be carried out, these measures must be reviewed within a reasonable period of time.

3.61. From 1 February to 30 September 2020, 26 Members (counting the European Union as one) notified 59 SPS measures taken in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. Fourteen measures were notified as regular notifications. Additionally, seven addenda to regular notifications were submitted, mostly extending both implementation periods of temporary measures and comment periods and dates of adoption of previously notified regulations. Fifteen measures were notified as emergency measures. Additionally, six emergency addenda were notified, three lifting temporary restrictions previously imposed and three extending the validity of temporary trade-facilitating measures. Twelve Members submitted their measures through an information communication (GEN document); and one additional GEN document⁴⁴ was submitted by 38 Members. Overall, 28% of the WTO

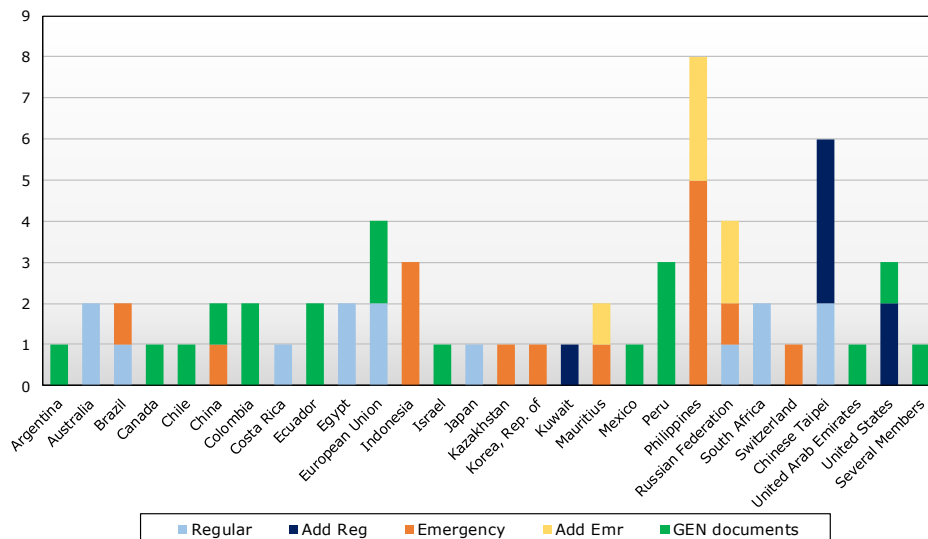
⁴² Such as control, inspection and approval procedures, and administrative measures.

⁴³ The first COVID-19-related notifications were received in February 2020.

⁴⁴ WTO document G/SPS/GEN/1778/Rev.3 (also circulated as G/TBT/GEN/296/Rev.3).

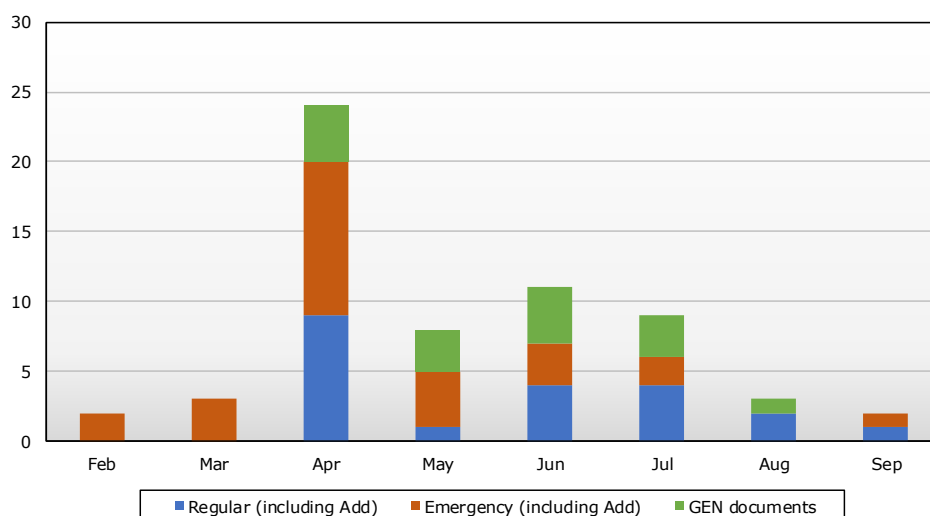
Members' notifications on COVID-19 are SPS measures.⁴⁵ Submitted documents are displayed by Member in Chart 3.18, and by month in Chart 3.19.

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



Source: WTO Secretariat.

Chart 3.19 Number of SPS notifications (regular, emergency and addenda) and GEN documents related to COVID-19, by month



Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.62. Initially, these measures mainly related to restrictions on animal imports and/or transit from affected areas (some of these measures were subsequently lifted) and increased certification requirements. Since the beginning of April, most notifications and communications relate to measures taken to facilitate trade, by allowing temporary flexibility for control authorities to use electronic versions of veterinary and/or phytosanitary certificates, since the COVID-19 situation has made the transmission of original paper certificates problematic. Overall, about two thirds of the 47 notifications (excluding addenda) and communications submitted were measures considered trade-facilitating.

⁴⁵ Dedicated WTO website, *COVID-19 and world trade*. Viewed at: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/covid19_e.htm.

3.4 Technical Barriers to Trade (TBTs)

Notifications submitted to the TBT Committee

3.63. 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.⁴⁶ Therefore, an increased number of notifications does not necessarily imply greater use of trade-restrictive measures. Rather, TBT notification obligations are meant to promote enhanced transparency regarding measures taken to address legitimate policy objectives, e.g. the protection of human, animal or plant life or health, or the environment.⁴⁷

3.64. From 1 October 2019 to 1 October 2020 (the "review period")⁴⁸, WTO Members submitted 1,936 new regular notifications of TBT measures, a notable decrease (7%) compared to the 2,077 notifications received during the preceding 12-month period. The clear majority of regular TBT notifications submitted during the review period (around 84%) continue to come from developing countries.

3.65. The Members which notified the most TBT measures during the review period - covering almost 60% of all new regular notifications - were Tanzania (161), Brazil (159), Kenya (122), Uganda (115), the United States (115), China (104), Israel (100), Rwanda (97), the European Union (90)⁴⁹ and the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the State of Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Yemen (84) (collectively as Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Standardization Organization (GSO) members).⁵⁰ Of the 1,936 new regular TBT notifications, the majority indicated the protection of human health or safety as their main objective⁵¹, including, as further explained in below, various measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The remaining notifications related to consumer information, labelling, the prevention of deceptive practices and consumer protection, and quality requirements.

3.66. A total of 1,407 "follow-up notifications"⁵² were submitted during the review period, representing an increase of about 35% as compared with those notified (1,043) during the preceding 12-month period. The continuing and frequent use by Members of this type of notification is a

⁴⁶ 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 TBT Committee in its Eighth, and last, Triennial Review (November 2018).

⁴⁷ 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.

⁴⁸ With respect to specific trade concerns (STCs), this Section takes account of the STCs raised in the TBT Committee meeting of 28-29 October 2020.

⁴⁹ Sixty-eight EU-wide regular notifications plus 22 notifications from certain individual EU member States: the Czech Republic (6), Denmark (5), Finland (4), Sweden (3), Spain (2), France (1) and the United Kingdom (1).

⁵⁰ The GSO-GCC has *ad hoc* observer status in the TBT Committee.

⁵¹ A TBT measure may pursue a variety of legitimate objectives, although historically the majority fall under one of the following categories: the protection of human, animal or plant life or health, or the environment. Members are required to identify the purpose of the measure in their notifications. It is not uncommon that more than one objective is identified for a measure.

⁵² Follow-up notifications are called "addenda", "corrigenda", or "supplements". They can also be in the form of "revisions" if the original measure is substantially re-drafted prior to adoption or entry into force. A revision replaces the original notification. All four are linked to the original notification of a measure, and include additional pertinent information, such as the extension of a notification comment period (*addenda*), the withdrawal or revocation of a measure (*addenda*), if the measure is substantially redrafted prior to adoption or entry into force (*revision*), or when the adopted final text of the measure becomes available (*addenda*). WTO document G/TBT/35/Rev.1 for further information on the different types of TBT notifications.

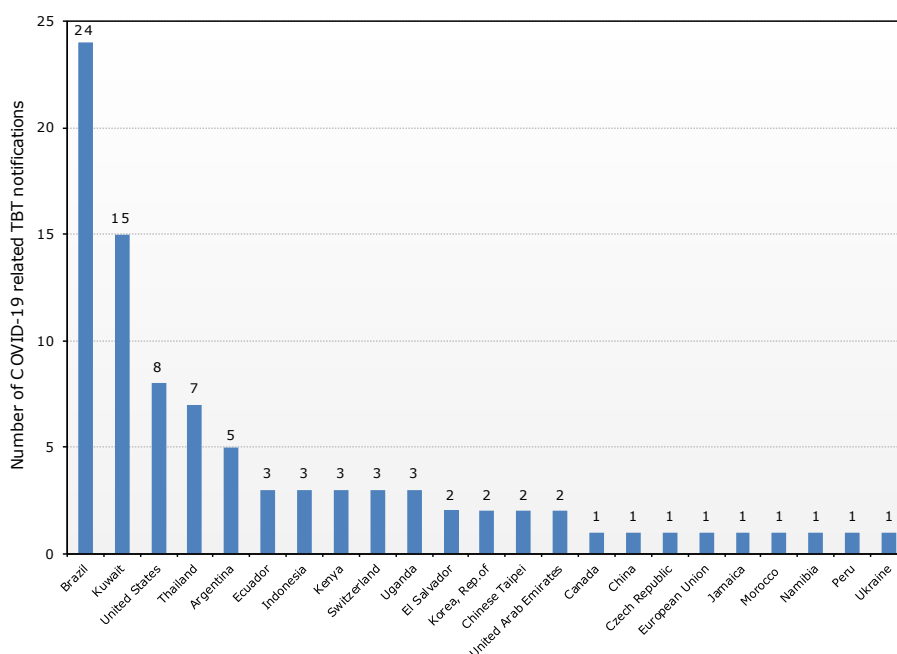
positive development, as it increases transparency and predictability across the measures' regulatory lifecycle.

COVID-19-related TBT notifications⁵³

3.67. During the review period, WTO Members submitted 91 TBT notifications/communications on standards and regulations in response to the pandemic.⁵⁴ Most of these were submitted under the emergency/urgent notification provisions of the TBT Agreement.⁵⁵ 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).

3.68. As indicated in Chart 3.20, TBT notifications in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic were submitted by 23 WTO Members. Around half of the notified measures were reported as temporary, often applying for a period of six months.

Chart 3.20 COVID-19 related TBT notifications, by WTO Member



Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.69. TBT notifications in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic cover a wide range of products, including personal protective equipment (PPE), medical equipment, other, medical supplies, medicines, food and general coverage (Chart 3.21).^{56,57}

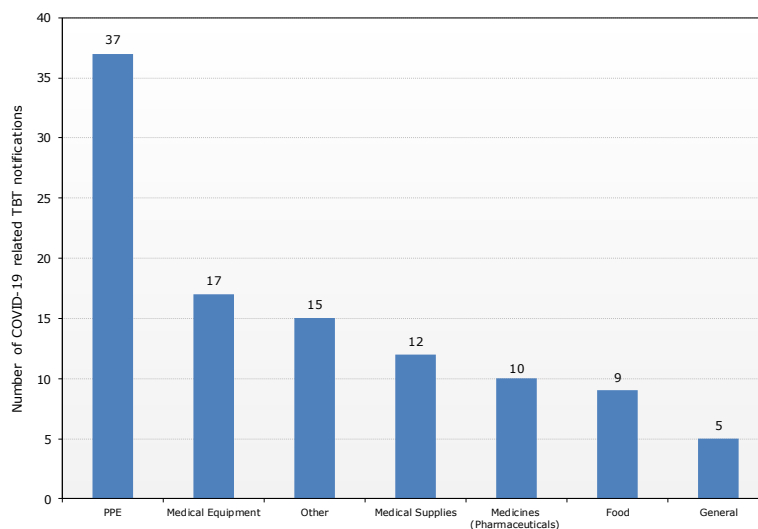
⁵³ For further information on TBT and COVID-19, see "[Standards, Regulations and COVID-19 – what actions taken by WTO Members?](#)" (WTO, 2020).

⁵⁴ 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).

⁵⁵ TBT Agreement, Articles 2.10, 2.12, 5.7, and 5.9.

⁵⁶ 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.

⁵⁷ The category of "General" includes notifications without a specific product scope. The "Other" category includes, for instance, clothing, textiles and tobacco products.

Chart 3.21 Product coverage of COVID-19 related TBT notifications

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.70. 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)⁵⁸

3.71. WTO Members use the TBT Committee as a forum for discussing trade issues related to specific TBT measures (technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures) maintained by other Members. These STCs normally relate to proposed draft measures notified to the Committee (but they can also relate to the implementation of existing adopted measures). Issues raised can range from simple requests for additional information and clarifications to more substantive questions about the consistency of measures with TBT Agreement disciplines.

3.72. A total of 275 (69 *new* and 206 *previously raised*) STCs were discussed during the four Committee meetings that fell within the review period: 62 (12 new and 50 previously raised) at the November 2019 meeting, 64 (12 new and 52 previously raised) at the February 2020 meeting, 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 of 77. In addition, some Members were being challenged for the first time in the Committee.

3.73. As depicted in Table 3.16, these 69 *new* STCs concerned TBT measures by India (12); the European Union (9); the United States (5); the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (4); China (4); the Russian Federation (3); Mexico (3); Colombia (3); France (2); the Republic of Korea (2); Viet Nam (2); and Brazil (2); and one each by: Mongolia; Peru; Ecuador; Ghana; Turkey; Qatar; Pakistan; Bangladesh; New Zealand; Australia; Myanmar; Zimbabwe; Chile; Tajikistan; Panama; and the United Kingdom. One new STC concerned a collective TBT measure by Armenia, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation and another one a collective measure by the Kingdom of Bahrain, the State of Kuwait, Oman, Yemen, the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

3.74. These new STCs covered regulations on a range of products (cheese, grape and wine products, pre-packed food, cosmetic and hygiene products, motor vehicles, electrical and electronic equipment, medical devices, alcoholic beverages, etc.), dealing with a variety of issues (labelling and packaging, conformity assessment procedures, harmonization, product quality, halal certification, health and safety, environmental protection, energy efficiency, etc.).

⁵⁸ With respect to STCs, this Section takes account of the STCs which Members raised in the 28-29 October 2020 TBT Committee meeting.

Table 3.16 New STCs raised in the TBT Committee meetings of November 2019 and February, May and October 2020

New STCs
European Union: Revised Draft EU Regulation on Ecological Design Requirements for External Power Supply (ID 596) <i>(raised by China)</i>
Brazil: Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply – MAPA Ordinance 79, 13 May 2019, establishing a public consultation to amend Technical Regulation 67, 5 November 2018, regarding the procedures and requirements for export and import certification of beverages, fermented acetic acids, wines and wine- and grape-derived products (ID 597) <i>(raised by United States, South Africa and New Zealand)</i>
India: Air Conditioners and related Parts (Quality Control) Order, 2018 (ID 598) <i>(raised by Republic of Korea and United States)</i>
Ecuador: Energy Efficiency Requirements for Clothes Dryers for Domestic Use (ID 599) <i>(raised by Republic of Korea)</i>
Ghana: Administrative Process for Homologation of Model of Motor Vehicle and its Variants (ID 600) <i>(raised by United States and Canada)</i>
United States: Modernization of the Labelling and Advertising Regulations for Wine, Distilled Spirits, and Malt Beverages (ID 601) <i>(raised by European Union)</i>
Qatar: Ministry of Public Health Circular regarding shelf life for cheese (ID 602) <i>(raised by United States and European Union)</i>
Turkey: Draft Amendment of the Regulation on Cosmetics (ID 603) <i>(raised by United States)</i>
Brazil: Ordinance 259, 27 May 2019, which makes corrections and updates to the Conformity Assessment Requirements for Medical Devices Subject to the Health Surveillance System in Ordinance 54, of 1 February 2016 (ID 604) <i>(raised by United States)</i>
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Electrical Clothes Dryers Energy Performance Requirements and Labelling (ID 605) <i>(raised by Republic of Korea)</i>
Republic of Korea: Ballast Water Management Act (ID 606) <i>(raised by European Union)</i>
Pakistan: Amendment to Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1950: Statutory Regulatory Order (SRO) 237 on labelling, shelf life, and halal certification (ID 607) <i>(raised by United States and European Union)</i>
Mexico: Draft Amendment to Mexican Official Standard NOM-051-SCFI/SSA1-2010: General specifications for the labelling of pre-packed food and non-alcoholic beverages (ID 608) <i>(raised by European Union, United States, Switzerland, Costa Rica and Guatemala)</i>
Colombia: Food Prioritized for its Sodium Content, Certification Requirements (ID 609) <i>(raised by United States and Guatemala)</i>
United States: Act to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to regulation of toxic chemicals in children's products (State of New York – Senate Bill 501B/Assembly Bill 6296A) (ID 610) <i>(raised by European Union)</i>
China: Draft Administrative Measures for Registration of Overseas Producers of Imported Foods (ID 611) <i>(raised by Mexico, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, United States, Japan, European Union and Chinese Taipei)</i>
Russian Federation: Law No. 425 on Amending Article 4 of Russian Federation Law on Protecting Consumer Rights (ID 612) <i>(raised by United States, Japan and European Union)</i>
India: Draft Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations (ID 613) <i>(raised by United States and European Union)</i>
European Union: Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council, 30 May 2018, on organic production and labelling of organic products (ID 614) <i>(raised by Dominican Republic, Canada, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and Chile)</i>
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Saber Conformity Assessment Online Platform/Saleem Product Safety Program (ID 615) <i>(raised by European Union)</i>
Mongolia: Mandatory Requirement for Enrichment of Agricultural Products with Vitamins (ID 616) <i>(raised by Russian Federation)</i>
France: Mandatory Labelling of SAR Radio Equipment (ID 617) <i>(raised by China)</i>
Peru: Supreme Decree No. 015-2019-SA, which amends the Manual of Advertising Warnings approved by Supreme Decree No. 012-2018-SA (ID 618) <i>(raised by Costa Rica, Chile, United States, Brazil, Colombia, European Union and Guatemala)</i>
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Electrical Clothes Washing Machines – Energy and Water Performance Requirements and Labelling (ID 619) <i>(raised by Republic of Korea)</i>
Bangladesh: Hazardous Waste (E-waste) Management Rules, 2019 (ID 620) <i>(raised by Canada, United States, Russian Federation and European Union)</i>
Viet Nam: Draft Circular replacing Circular No. 05/2019/TT-BTTTT dated 9 July 2019, specifying the list of products and goods with unsafe capability under management responsibility of Ministry of Information and Communications (ID 621) <i>(raised by United States)</i>
India: Draft Chemicals (Management and Safety) Rules, 2020 (ID 622) <i>(raised by United States)</i>
Colombia: Issuing the Technical Regulation on rational energy-use labelling for certain types of electrical and gas end-use equipment, for marketing in Colombia (ID 623) <i>(raised by Republic of Korea and 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>
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>
New Zealand: Consumer Information Standards (Origin of Food) Regulations 2019 (ID 629) <i>(raised by Canada)</i>
India: Quality Control Orders for Chemical and Petrochemical Substances (ID 630) <i>(raised by Canada, European Union, Chinese Taipei)</i>

New STCs
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 and 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>
Colombia: SIC External Circular 002 on Notices for Mobile Device Packaging (ID 638) <i>(raised by United States)</i>
India: Expansion of BIS Certification to plugs, socket outlets and power cords (ID 639) <i>(raised by China)</i>
Myanmar: Regulation on importation of alcoholic beverages (ID 640) <i>(raised by Mexico)</i>
China: Provisions for Cosmetics Registration (draft for comments) <i>(raised by Japan, United States and Republic of Korea) (*)</i>
China: Administrative Measures on Cosmetic Labelling <i>(raised by Japan and 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 and 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>
India: Phase II of the Mandatory Testing and Certification of Telecommunications Equipment (MTCTE), implementing the Indian Telegraph Amendment <i>(raised by United States) (*)</i>
Zimbabwe: Electricity (Minimum Energy Efficiency Performance of Domestic Electrical Appliances) Regulations, 2020 <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>
India: Indian standards and import restrictions in the automotive sector (Quality Control Orders): wheel rims, safety glass, helmets <i>(raised by European Union) (*)</i>
Russian Federation: Federal Law No. 468 on wine making and wine growing in the Russian Federation <i>(raised by European Union and Australia) (*)</i>
India: Order related to requirement of non-GM cum GM-free certificate accompanied with imported food consignment <i>(raised by United States and 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>
Chile: Technical specifications for the design of energy-efficiency labels for washing machines <i>(raised by China) (*)</i>
European Union: Information requirements in SCIP (Substances of Concern In articles as such or in complex objects (Products)) database <i>(raised by China and India) (*)</i>
Tajikistan: Additional inspection control of imported food products for palm oil content <i>(raised by Russian Federation) (*)</i>
France: New legislative requirements about index of repairability of electrical and electronic equipment <i>(raised by China) (*)</i>
European Union: Wine-labelling requirements – listing of importers for multiple destinations <i>(raised by Australia) (*)</i>
India: Phthalic Anhydride (Quality Control) Order, 2019 <i>(raised by Chinese Taipei) (*)</i>
Viet Nam: Decree No. 17/2020/ND-CP <i>(raised by Thailand) (*)</i>
Panama: Onions and Potatoes Harvest Life and Sprouting Requirements <i>(raised by United States) (*)</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>

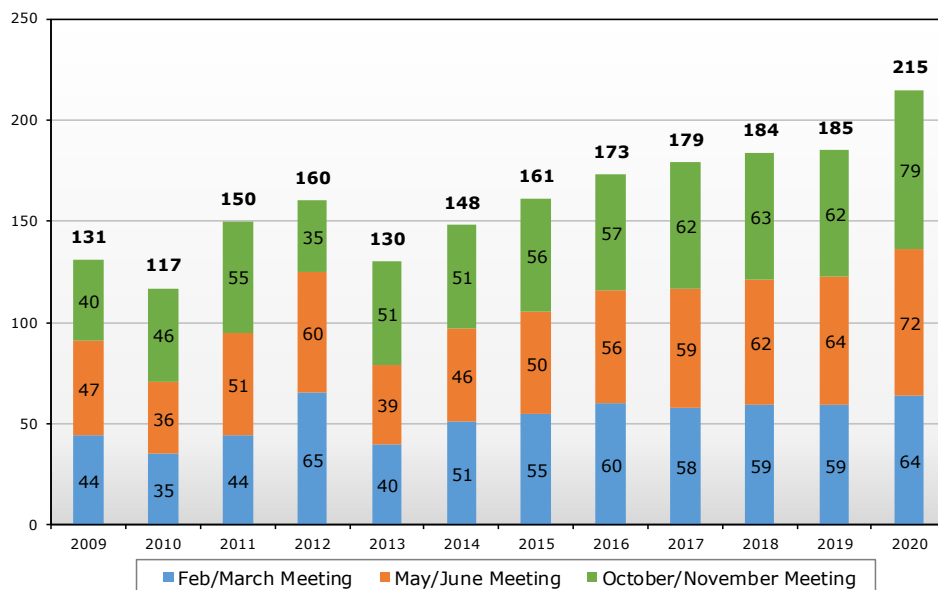
(*) No ID available – STC raised at 28-29 October 2020 TBT Committee meeting.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.75. As indicated in Chart 3.22, STCs are frequently discussed in the regular meetings of the TBT Committee, with almost 60 discussed per meeting in recent years. Depending on the extent of the trade-restrictiveness and importance of the issue to the Member(s) raising the STC, the same measure may come up at one or more meetings of the Committee. For example, an STC may be discussed at only one meeting as a new STC, and subsequently a resolution to the trade concern may be found. Alternatively, an STC may be discussed at subsequent meetings, as a previously raised STC. Previously raised STCs, in particular long-standing ("persisting") ones, generally involve more serious and/or complex concerns. Since 1995, Members have raised 662 new STCs.

Chart 3.22 STCs raised per Committee meeting, from 2009 to October 2020

(Number)



Note: The methodology of counting previously raised STCs was revised. The new methodology counts an STC each time it is raised: if raised for the first time, it is counted as a new STC, and if it is raised again, it is counted as a previously raised STC.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

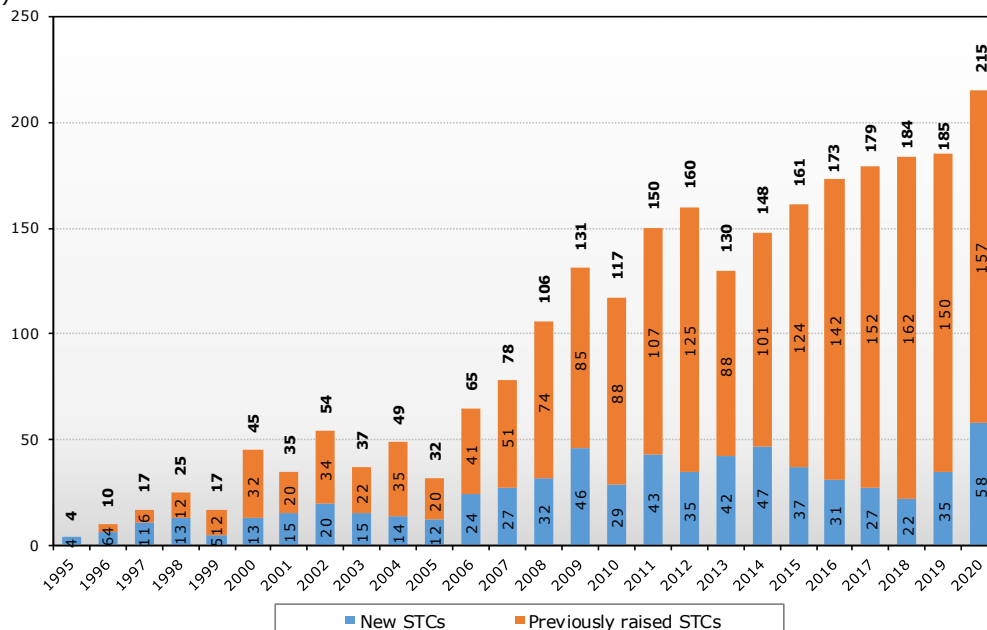
3.76. The number of new and previously raised STCs has been increasing every year. During the three Committee meetings held in 2020 for example, 213 STCs were discussed, which represents an 82% increase compared to 2010, when only 117 STCs were raised. In addition, the number of new concerns raised in 2020 (57) significantly increased (around 40%) as compared to the number raised in 2019 (35) (Chart 3.23). This continues the rising trend in the number of new concerns raised in the Committee since 2018. Similarly, the number of times previously raised STCs were discussed increased to 156, 6 STCs more than in 2019.⁵⁹ The overall trend suggests an increasing use of the TBT Committee as a forum for Members to raise and resolve trade concerns non-litigiously.⁶⁰ In particular, 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 – passing both the 200 and 50 thresholds respectively for the first time.

⁵⁹ See *Twenty-Fifth Annual Review of the Implementation and Operation of the TBT Agreement*, WTO document G/TBT/44, 19 February 2020, para. 4.2.

⁶⁰ The use of STCs for addressing trade frictions non-litigiously was the topic of a recent WTO Secretariat virtual event ("WTO TBT Committee and regulatory measures: prevention, not litigation"), the video of which can be viewed at: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tbt_e/tbt_t40_20920_e.htm.

Chart 3.23 STCs raised from 1995 to 2020

(Number)



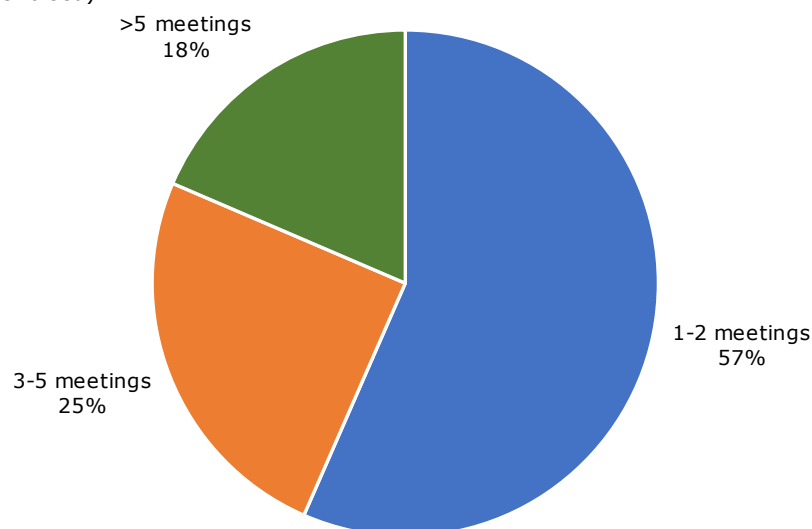
Note: The methodology of counting previously raised STCs was revised. The new methodology counts an STC each time it is raised: if raised for the first time, it is counted as a new STC, and if raised again, it is counted as a previously raised STC.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.77. The number of times that an STC is raised may be related to the importance Members attach to the concern or may provide insight into whether progress was made in addressing concerns. STCs which are raised at only one or two meetings may represent concerns for which some progress was made. However, longstanding STCs raised at five or more meetings may represent concerns for which less progress was made. As mentioned above, STCs frequently discussed at subsequent meetings as previously raised STCs usually represent more serious concerns. From 1995 to 2020, for instance, the majority of STCs (57%) were raised at one or two Committee meetings, and 25% were raised three to five times. Only 18% of STCs were raised more than five times (Chart 3.24).

Chart 3.24 STCs raised in the TBT Committee, 1995-2020

(Number of times raised)



Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.78. During the review period, which includes STCs raised in the meeting of the TBT Committee in November 2019 and the three TBT Committee meetings that took place in February, May and October 2020, seven "persistent" STCs – i.e. those previously raised STCs that were raised more than 16 times in TBT Committee meetings – were discussed (Table 3.17). All of these persistent STCs concerned measures by G20 members.

Table 3.17 Persistent STCs raised between 1 October 2019 and 1 November 2020

Persistent STCs
India: New Telecommunications-related Rules (Department of Telecommunications, No. 842-725/2005-VAS/Vol.III (3 December 2009); No. 10-15/2009-AS-III/193 (18 March 2010); and No. 10-15/2009-AS.III/Vol.II/(Pt.)/(25-29) (28 July 2010); Department of Telecommunications, No. 10-15/2009-AS.III/Vol.II/(Pt.)/(30) (28 July 2010) and accompanying template, "Security and Business Continuity Agreement") (ID 274) – <i>raised 29 times since 2010</i>
China: Requirements for information security products, including, <i>inter alia</i> , the Office of State Commercial Cryptography Administration (OSCCA) 1999 Regulation on commercial encryption products and its ongoing revision and the Multi-Level Protection Scheme (MLPS) (ID 294) – <i>raised 29 times since 2011</i>
Russian Federation: Draft Technical Regulation on Alcohol Drinks Safety (published on 24 October 2011) (ID 332) – <i>raised 25 times since 2012</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>
India: Electronics and Information Technology Goods (Requirements for Compulsory Registration) Order, 2012 (ID 367) – <i>raised 22 times since 2013</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

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

3.80. 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 calls for extended transition periods as well as flexibility in production and labelling requirements in order to allow Members to maintain 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 urged the need for international cooperation in all areas to face the pandemic, including by the promotion of measures that facilitate rather than obstruct trade.

3.81. 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."⁶¹

3.82. 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 WTO bodies⁶²

3.83. During the review period, several trade issues and concerns were raised by Members in formal meetings of various WTO bodies. This Section provides a factual overview of such concerns raised between mid-October 2019 and mid-October 2020.⁶³ The trade concerns covered in this Section have neither the status nor the procedural framework of the STCs raised in the SPS and TBT Committees. Nevertheless, they provide insight into which trade issues are discussed by Members across the WTO and, as such, add important transparency. This Section does not reproduce the full substantive description of the trade concerns outlined by WTO Members, but provides a reference to the formal meeting(s) where a particular issue featured. A full account and context of the concerns is provided in the formal meeting records of the respective WTO bodies. The list of concerns and issues mentioned in this Section is not exhaustive.

3.84. At the 3 March 2020 meeting of the *General Council* (GC)⁶⁴, concerns were raised on Kazakhstan's border restrictions of goods in transit⁶⁵ (raised by Kyrgyz Republic). At the GC meeting on 13 October 2020⁶⁶, concerns were raised on the United States Origin Marking Requirement, concerning 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).

3.85. At the *Council for Trade in Goods* (CTG) meeting on 14-15 November 2019⁶⁷, a new concern was raised on the use by the European Union of trade remedy instruments and, in particular, the amendments introduced by EU Regulations 2017/2321 and 2018/825 as to the calculation of the "normal value" of products subject to anti-dumping investigations and the right of the European Union not to apply the "lesser duty rule" in calculating the amount of anti-dumping duty (raised by Russian Federation). At the same meeting, 25 trade concerns were repeated (Table 3.18).

Table 3.18 Trade concerns raised again at the 14-15 November 2019 CTG meeting

Measures implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
Angola – import-restricting practices	Russian Federation
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	Japan
Egypt – manufacturer registration system	European Union, Russian Federation
European Union – 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

⁶¹ WTO document JOB/TBT/381, para. 1.11.

⁶² 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.

⁶³ Members and Observers are encouraged to communicate to the Trade Monitoring Section trade issues which they have raised in WTO bodies and which they believe are relevant to the monitoring exercise.

⁶⁴ WTO document WT/GC/M/182.

⁶⁵ WTO documents G/C/W/774; and G/TFA/W/20.

⁶⁶ WTO document WT/GC/M/187 (forthcoming).

⁶⁷ WTO document G/C/M/136.

Measures implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
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, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United States, Uruguay
European Union – Medical Device Regulation and <i>In Vitro</i> Diagnostic Medical Devices Regulation	United States
European Union – proposed modification of EU tariff rate quota commitments in response to Brexit	Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, New Zealand, Russian Federation, 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 – Regulation EC No. 1272/2008 (Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulation)	Russian Federation, United States
India – customs duties on ICT products	Canada, United States
India – quantitative restrictions on imports of certain pulses	Australia, Canada, European Union, Russian Federation, United States
Indonesia – import- and export-restricting policies and practices	European Union, Japan, Chinese Taipei, United States
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of Bahrain, and United Arab Emirates – selective tax on certain imported products	European Union, Switzerland, United States
Mongolia – quantitative restrictions and prohibitions on importations of certain agricultural products	Russian Federation
Russian Federation – trade-restricting practices	European Union, United States
United States – export control measures for ICT products	China
United States – measures on aviation security equipment	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
Viet Nam – decree on the regulation on conditions for automobile manufacturing, assembling, and importing, and automotive warranty and maintenance services	Russian Federation, United States

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.86. At the CTG meeting on 10-11 June 2020⁶⁸, six new trade concerns were raised (Table 3.19).

Table 3.19 New trade concerns raised at the 10-11 June 2020 CTG meeting

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.

3.87. At the same meeting, 23 trade concerns were repeated (Table 3.20).

⁶⁸ WTO document G/C/M/137.

Table 3.20 Trade concerns raised again at the 10-11 June 2020 CTG meeting

Measures implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
Angola – import-restricting practices	Russian Federation, United States
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
Egypt – Manufacturer registration system	European Union, Russian Federation
European Union – 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 (EU) 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, Kingdom of Bahrain, and United Arab Emirates – selective tax on certain imported products	European Union, Switzerland, United States
Mongolia – measures applied with respect to certain agricultural products	Russian Federation
Republic of Armenia and Kyrgyz Republic – accession to the Eurasian Economic Union: procedures under Article XXVIII:3 of the GATT 1994	European Union
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.

3.88. At the 11 November 2019 meeting of the *Committee on Market Access* (CMA)⁶⁹, new and persistent trade concerns were raised on: (i) Angola's import restriction practices (raised by United States); (ii) China's custom duties on certain integrated circuits (raised by European Union, and Chinese Taipei); (iii) Croatia's regulation of import and sale of certain oil products (raised by Russian Federation); (iv) the EU enlargement negotiations under Article XXIV:6 of the GATT 1994 to include Croatia (raised by Russian Federation); (v) the EU renegotiations of tariff rate quotas under Article XXVIII of the GATT 1994 (raised by Russian Federation); (vi) the rectifications and modifications of the United Kingdom's Schedule XIX (raised by Russian Federation); (vii) India's customs duties on telecommunication and other products (raised by China and United States); (viii) India's quantitative restrictions on imports of certain pulses (raised by Australia, Canada, European Union, Russian Federation and United States); (ix) Indonesia's customs duties on

⁶⁹ WTO document G/MA/M/71.

telecommunication products (raised by United States); (x) the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Digital Stamp Tax (raised by Switzerland); (xi) Mongolia's quantitative restrictions and prohibitions on the importation of certain agricultural products (raised by Russian Federation); and (xii) the Russian Federation's quantitative restrictions on exports of scrap and waste of ferrous metals (raised by European Union).

3.89. At the 8 June 2020 meeting of the CMA⁷⁰, new and persistent trade concerns were raised (Table 3.21).

Table 3.21 Concerns raised at the Committee on Market Access

Measures implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
Angola – Import Restriction Practices	Russian Federation
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, European Union, Russian Federation, United States
Indonesia – Customs Duties on Certain Telecommunication Products	United States
Kingdom of Bahrain, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates – Selective Tax on Certain Imported Products	European Union, Switzerland, United States
Mongolia – Quantitative Restrictions on the Importation of Certain Agricultural Products	Russian Federation
Nepal – Import Ban on Energy Drinks	Thailand
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.

3.90. 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.⁷¹

3.91. At the meeting of the *Committee on Import Licensing* (CIL) on 9 October 2020⁷², 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) Egypt's import licensing on certain agricultural and processed products (raised by European Union); (iv) Egypt's import licensing regime (raised by United States); (v) China's changes to import licensing for solid waste and certain recoverable materials (raised by United States); (vi) Dominican Republic's import licensing regime for agricultural products and livestock (raised by United States); (vii) India's import licensing regime for pneumatic tyres (raised by European Union); (viii) India's import licensing requirements on boric acid (raised by United States); (ix) India's import requirements on certain pulses (raised by Australia and Canada); (x) Indonesia's import licensing regime for cell phones, handheld computers and tablets (raised by United States); (xi) Indonesia's import licensing regime for certain textile products (raised by European Union); (xii) Indonesia's import licensing regime for rice (raised by Japan); (xiii) Indonesia's import regime for alcoholic beverages (raised by European Union); (xiv) Kenya's import licensing regime for agricultural products (raised by United States); and (xv) Thailand's import procedures on feed wheat (raised by European Union).

⁷⁰ WTO document G/MA/M/72.

⁷¹ WTO document G/L/59/Rev.1.

⁷² WTO document G/LIC/M/51.

3.92. At the meeting of the *Committee on Customs Valuation* on 25 October 2019⁷³, concerns were repeated on Pakistan's determination of the customs value of uncoated offset paper for writing, printing and photocopying imported from Thailand (raised by Thailand).

3.93. At the meeting of the *Trade Facilitation Committee* on 11 February 2020⁷⁴, concerns were raised on Kazakhstan's border restrictions of goods in transit⁷⁵ (raised by Kyrgyz Republic).

3.94. At the meetings of the *Committee on Agriculture* (CoA)⁷⁶ on 30-31 October 2019, 18 June 2020 (special meeting),⁷⁷ 28 July 2020 and 21-23 September 2020, several questions and concerns were raised with respect to Members' individual notifications, and on specific implementation matters (SIMs) under Article 18.6. During the review period, a total of 607 questions were discussed on individual notifications (288 questions), Article 18.6 matters (295 questions on 122 SIMs), and overdue notifications (24 questions). Additional details regarding these questions and concerns can be found in Section 3.6 of this Report.

3.95. At the meetings of the *Trade-Related Investment Measures* (TRIMs) Committee on 15 September 2020⁷⁸, new or persistent issues were raised (Table 3.22).

Table 3.22 Concerns raised at the TRIMs Committee

Measure implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
Indonesia	
Comprehensive review of localization measures ⁷⁹	European Union, Japan, United States
Russian Federation	
Measures implementing Russian Federation's import substitution policy ⁸⁰	European Union, United States

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.96. At the meetings of the *Council for Trade in Services* (CTS), held on 30 October 2019, 1 July 2020, and 2 October 2020, concerns were again raised about cybersecurity measures by China and Viet Nam (raised by Japan and United States, and echoed, in October 2019, by Australia, Canada, European Union, New Zealand and Chinese Taipei; in July 2020, by Canada, European Union and Chinese Taipei; and, in October 2020, by Australia, Canada, European Union and New Zealand).⁸¹ As part of its reply in July 2020, China expressed its concerns about measures by the United States related to cybersecurity.⁸²

3.97. 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).⁸³ Additional concerns were raised at the CTS meeting of 2 October 2020 on: (i) measures by the United States related to

⁷³ WTO document G/VAL/M/69.

⁷⁴ WTO document G/TFA/M/10.

⁷⁵ WTO document G/TFA/W/20.

⁷⁶ Questions raised under the review process in the CoA meetings on 30-31 October 2019, 18 June 2020, 28 July 2020 and 21-23 September 2020 are available in WTO document G/AG/W/202, 17 October 2019; 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/>.

⁷⁷ A special meeting of the CoA was convened on 18 June 2020 to discuss the impact of the pandemic on the agricultural sector.

⁷⁸ WTO document G/TRIMS/M/48 (forthcoming).

⁷⁹ 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.

⁸⁰ 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.

⁸¹ WTO documents S/C/M/141, 142 and 143 (forthcoming).

⁸² WTO document S/C/M/142.

⁸³ WTO documents S/C/M/142 and 143 (forthcoming).

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).⁸⁴

3.98. At the meeting of the *Committee on Trade and Development* (CTD) on 22 November 2019⁸⁵, the LDC Group expressed concerns regarding the under-utilization of LDCs' export potential, and highlighted the need to determine the barriers to preference utilization, and how these barriers could be removed. Members were also informed that the LDC Group had recently circulated a communication containing some of the LDCs' concerns regarding e-commerce. At a special virtual session of the CTD, held on 26 May 2020⁸⁶, concerns were raised by several Members on the negative impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the trade of developing countries. On 29 September 2020, at a CTD meeting focusing on technical assistance issues⁸⁷, concerns were expressed with respect to the significant drop in participation in online courses that was observed in 2019, as well as the decline in LDCs' participation in technical assistance activities. Lastly, in the context of the CTD's Dedicated Session on Small Economies, trade concerns were reiterated, at the meeting of 1 November 2019⁸⁸, regarding the vulnerability of small economies to natural disasters. Concerns regarding the challenges faced by small economies in attracting investments were also raised.

3.99. The above Section provides an overview of the various trade concerns raised in several WTO bodies between mid-October 2019 and mid-October 2020. 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. 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.

3.100. The following Section takes a closer look on trends characterizing the trade concerns raised in WTO committees and councils since 2015.

Trade Concerns raised in WTO Bodies – recent trends

3.101. 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, TBT⁸⁹ and Agriculture Committees.

3.102. 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 2019.⁹⁰ 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.

3.103. 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

⁸⁴ WTO document S/C/M/143 (forthcoming).

⁸⁵ WTO document WT/COMTD/M/110.

⁸⁶ WTO document WT/COMTD/M/111.

⁸⁷ WTO document WT/COMTD/W/112 (forthcoming).

⁸⁸ WTO document WT/COMTD/SE/M/39.

⁸⁹ Staff Working Paper ERSD-2020-09: [The role of WTO Committees through the lens of specific trade concerns raised in the TBT Committee](#), 1 May 2020.

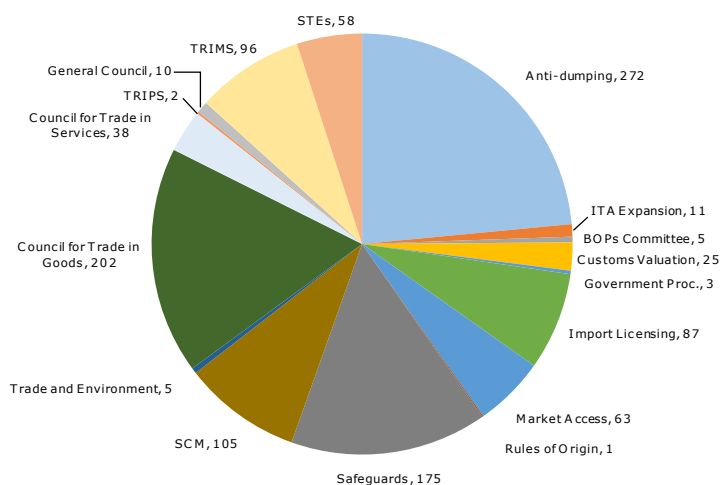
⁹⁰ These trade concerns and issues were covered by Section 3.5 of the Trade Monitoring reports WT/TPR/OV/18 to WT/TPR/OV/22.

measure or other technical elements of the targeted product(s). These concerns are generally discussed in the Committee considered to have the appropriate technical oversight of the corresponding WTO agreement.

3.104. 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). If a trade concern makes it onto the GC agenda, the Member(s) raising the matter feels that, for a variety of reasons, the issue needed to be moved up to a more political platform. 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.

3.105. 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 nine times⁹¹), indicating that very few (3%) trade concerns were persistently repeated within the WTO committee structure.

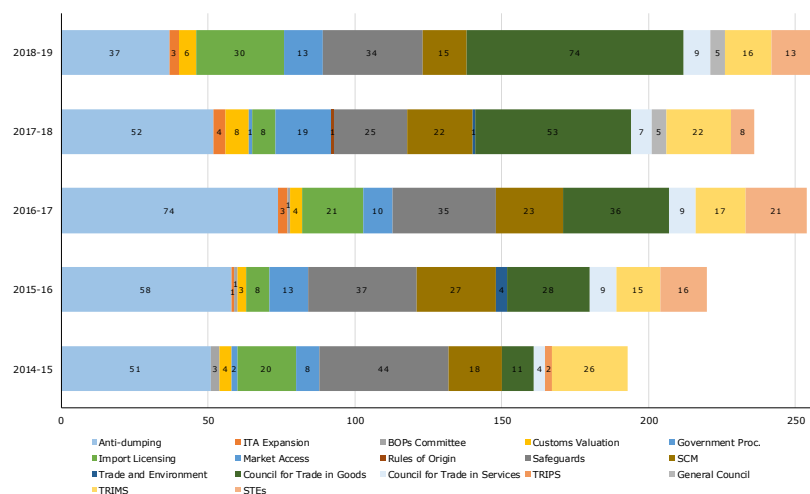
Chart 3.25 Total number of trade concerns raised between mid-October 2014 to mid-October 2019, by WTO body



Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.106. 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 3.26). 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.

⁹¹ 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 3.26 Trade concerns, by WTO body and by period

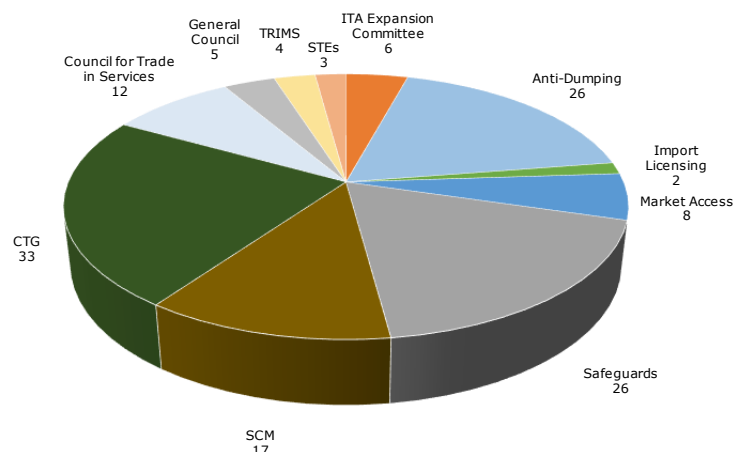
Note: The year axis covers the 12-months period from mid-October to mid-October. For example, 2014-15 covers mid-October 2014 to mid-October 2015.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.107. 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.

3.108. 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.

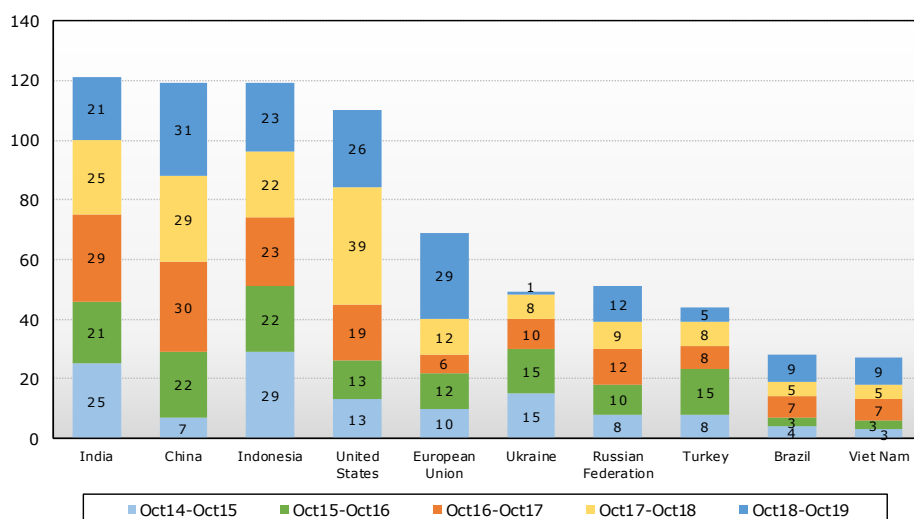
3.109. Most of the trade concerns linked to a formal dispute were raised at the CTG, where 33 concerns were linked to 16 DS cases (Chart 3.27). The Committee on Safeguards ranked second (26 concerns linked to 15 DS cases), followed by the Committee on Anti-dumping (26 concerns linked to 13 DS cases) 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 3.27 Trade concerns linked to disputes, by WTO body

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.110. 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: 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 3.28). 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.

3.111. 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.

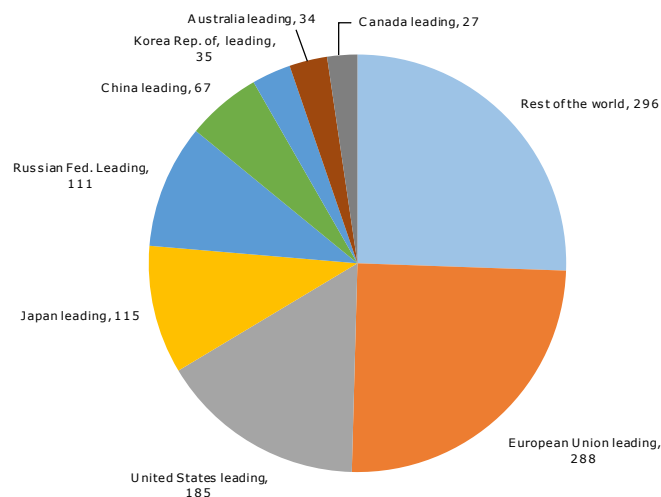
Chart 3.28 Top 10 Members implementing measures targeted by trade concerns between mid-October 2014 to mid-October 2019

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.112. Over the five years, trade concerns were raised by a small number of Members. Eight Members (European Union, United States, Japan, Russian Federation, China, Republic of Korea, Australia and Canada) were the principal actors, raising about 74% of all concerns. Large trading economies are, again, those raising most trade concerns (Chart 3.29). 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 3.29 Trade concerns raised 2014-19, by country



Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.113. 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.

3.114. 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.

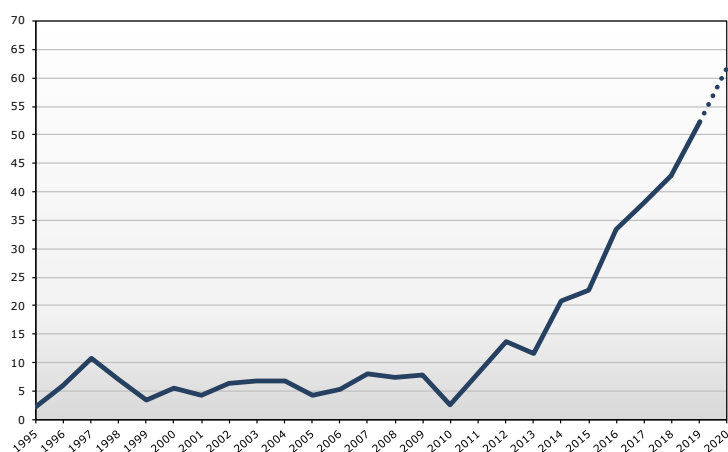
3.6 Policy Developments in Agriculture

3.115. The Committee on Agriculture (CoA) provides a forum for 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 that Members make in relation to their commitments. There is also a provision in Article 18.6 of the AoA that allows Members to raise any matter relevant to the implementation of commitments under the Agreement (i.e. Specific Implementation Matters (SIMs)).

3.116. During the review period, the CoA held three regular meetings, on 30-31 October 2019, 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 Members in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In total, Members posed 607 questions regarding individual notifications, overdue notifications and SIMs under Article 18.6. Most questions concerning individual notifications were related to domestic support notifications (over 69%). More than half of the SIMs related to domestic support policies, 27% to policies affecting market access, and 15% to policies in the area of export competition and other types of policies. A total of 35 SIMs targeted policies implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

3.117. In total, 18 Members raised 295 questions on 122 SIMs in the four meetings covered by this Report.^{92,93} As can be seen in Chart 3.30, the average number of questions raised under Article 18.6 per meeting has been on the rise since 2011, reaching an average of 52 questions in 2019, with an all-time high of 62 questions in the three meetings that have taken place so far in 2020. These numbers include questions that were repeated from one meeting to the next because responses were not provided within the relevant time-frames.

Chart 3.30 Average number of questions addressed under Article 18.6, per meeting, 1995-2020^a



a 2020 data covers questions raised until the September 2020 CoA meeting.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.118. Out of the 122 SIMs raised in the CoA during the period under review, 91 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.

3.119. Of the new SIMs, 35 were raised in relation to policies implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Of these, 11 targeted measures that potentially restricted or prohibited exports of cereals, processed vegetables, fruits, and agricultural products in general (Cambodia's prohibition of rice exports, Egypt's export prohibitions on agricultural products, El Salvador's export prohibitions on dried leguminous vegetables, EU-Romania's export prohibition on agricultural products, Honduras' export prohibitions on dried leguminous vegetables, Kazakhstan's export prohibition measures on certain food products, Myanmar's export quota on rice, Russian Federation's export quota, Tajikistan's export prohibitions on certain food products, Turkey's prior export authorization/registration and Viet Nam's export restriction measures on rice). An additional 16 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, EU aid to the potato sector, Japan's beef support and Thailand's sugar support) and to the agricultural sector in general (Canada's agriculture support package, Canada's Farm Credit Canada, China's measures to ensure agricultural input supplies, EU national state aid programmes in response to COVID-19, EU private storage aid, EU support measures in response to COVID-19, India's COVID-19 stimulus

⁹² 92nd, 93rd, 94th and 95th CoA meetings.

⁹³ Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, European Union, Guatemala, India, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Paraguay, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine and United States.

package, Turkey's treasury-backed loans, United States' Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, United States' direct payments to farmers and United States' Paycheck Protection Program). Five SIMs sought clarification on policies that potentially subsidized exports of agricultural products (Australia's International Freight Assistance Mechanism, EU-Czech's guarantee scheme, Japan's support package, Japan's transportation support and New Zealand's International Airfreight Capacity Scheme). Three SIMs were raised in relation to policies affecting market access (China's measures adopted at the border to avoid the transmission of COVID-19, Nepal's import ban and Russian Federation's import restrictions in response to COVID-19).

3.120. Half of the remaining 56 SIMs were raised in relation to domestic support programmes, 38% to market access issues and 12% to export competition and other issues.

3.121. Domestic support: Half of the new SIMs sought clarification on policies targeting specific products, including grains (Russian Federation's grain subsidy programme, Japan's corn policies, Thailand's support to rice and palm oil, Turkey's Turkish Grain Board and US biofuel policies), coffee (Colombia's coffee price stabilization fund), pork and other meats (China's state reserves programmes), and wine and champagne (Russian Federation's excise duties on wine and champagne). Members also raised questions concerning domestic support policies with a wider scope (India's Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, India's Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund, Brazil's subsidized loans, China's agricultural insurance, Angola's fuel subsidies, EU European Court of Auditors report, Russian Federation's state programme for rural territories development, Switzerland's financing of security stocks in agricultural sectors and US farm support). Other SIMs related to 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, Japan's supplementary budget to address impact of new trade deals, EU compensation to farmers to adjust to new trade deals and EU planned policy measures against US tariffs). A number of SIMs sought to obtain additional information on policies targeting environmental or SPS-related objectives (EU environmental policies, EU production subsidies resulting from the implementation of SPS measures and EU eco schemes payments), while others were raised in relation to domestic support notifications (India's DS:1 notification, Nigeria's DS notifications and US DS notifications). Lastly, one SIM sought an update from the United Kingdom regarding its agricultural policy resulting from Brexit.

3.122. Market access: Around 38% of the SIMs related to measures that restricted, or had the potential to restrict, trade in agricultural products, including eggs (Thailand's "licence" charge on eggs), beef and pork (Japan's beef special safeguard and pork safeguard), and grains (Chinese Taipei's rice TRQ tender system, EU variable import levies for cereals, Indonesia's import permission for rice). SIMs relating to more than one specific commodity were also raised (Angola's potential import restrictions, Canada's review of the TRQ system, Egypt's import licensing regime, EU deforestation and forest degradation strategy, Nigeria's foreign currency exchange restrictions for dairy imports, Norway's proposed changes to its Goods Schedule XIV, Saudi Arabia's new system for issuing import licenses, Turkey's applied tariffs, United Kingdom's border control during the Brexit transition period and Viet Nam's potential tariff reductions on certain agricultural products). 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).

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

3.124. Table 3.23 lists the SIMs that were discussed for the first time during the four 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 3.23.⁹⁴

⁹⁴ 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 3.23 New Specific Implementation Matters (SIMs) (Article 18.6)

SIM	Question raised by	Keywords	Products	N° of questions	ID number
EU 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
US 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
EU 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
New Zealand's International Airfreight Capacity Scheme	Canada, European Union, United States	COVID-19		4	95061, 94038, 94050, 94051
US DS notifications	China, India, New Zealand	Transparency issues (including Table DS:2)		4	95075, 95015, 93085, 92086
Viet Nam's export restriction measures on rice	Japan, Switzerland, Canada, Brazil	COVID-19	Rice	4	94027, 94028, 94040, 94046
United States - China-US Economic and Trade Agreement	Australia, Canada, Ukraine			4	95071, 93078, 93080, 93082
Canada's review of the TRQ system	Australia, New Zealand	Transparency issues, tariff quota fill	Poultry, dairy, milk, milk powders, butter, cheese, other, eggs	4	95043, 93045, 93046, 92088
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
China - China-US Economic and Trade Agreement	Australia, Canada			3	95044, 93049, 93050
Nigeria's foreign currency exchange restrictions for dairy and corn imports	European Union, New Zealand, United States	Import prohibitions and restrictions (including quantitative restrictions)	Dairy, milk, milk powders, butter, cheese, other, corn	3	95035, 93073, 93016
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
Canada's dairy policies (COVID-19)	Australia, New Zealand	COVID-19	Dairy, milk, milk powders, butter, cheese, other	2	94003, 94004,
Canada's Farm Credit Canada	United States, India	COVID-19		2	95011, 94053
EU-Romania's export prohibition on agricultural products	Switzerland, Japan	COVID-19		2	94013, 94041

SIM	Question raised by	Keywords	Products	N° of questions	ID number
Japan's beef support	Australia, United States	COVID-19	Bovine meat	2	94015, 94058
Kazakhstan's export prohibition measures on certain food products	Japan, Switzerland	COVID-19		2	94016, 94017
Turkey's prior export authorization/registration	Japan, Switzerland	COVID-19	Fruit	2	94023, 94024
Brazil's subsidized loans	India	Transparency issues (including Table DS:2)		2	95009, 93044
Thailand's support to rice and palm oil	United States		Rice, vegetable oils and fats	2	92014, 92015
US farm support	Canada, European Union			2	92020, 92050
China's measures adopted at the border to avoid the transmission of COVID-19	Australia	COVID-19		1	95045
Cambodia's prohibition of rice exports	Japan	COVID-19	Rice	1	94002
Canada's agriculture support package	Australia	COVID-19		1	94001
China's measures to ensure agricultural input supplies	United States	COVID-19		1	94054
Egypt's export prohibitions on agricultural products	Japan	COVID-19		1	94005, 94006
El Salvador's export prohibitions on dried leguminous vegetables	Japan	COVID-19	Processed vegetables	1	94007
EU national state aid programmes in response to COVID-19	New Zealand	COVID-19		1	95049
EU-Czech's 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
EU aid to the potato sector	Australia	COVID-19	Fresh vegetables, processed vegetables	1	94009
EU private storage aid	Australia	COVID-19		1	94008
EU variable import levies for cereals	Brazil	Transparency issues	Cereals, wheat, corn, rice, malt, coarse grains	1	95001
Honduras' export prohibitions on dried leguminous vegetables	Japan	COVID-19	Processed vegetables	1	94014
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
Myanmar's export quota on rice	Japan	COVID-19		1	94018
Nepal's import ban	United States	COVID-19	Processed fruits and nuts, alcohol	1	95034
Nigeria's DS notifications	Australia			1	95062
Norway's proposed changes to its Goods Schedule XIV	New Zealand			1	95065

SIM	Question raised by	Keywords	Products	N° of questions	ID number
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
Tajikistan's export prohibitions on certain food products	Japan	COVID-19		1	94021
Thailand's sugar support	Australia	COVID-19	Sugar, cane or beet sugar, other	1	95069
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
US 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
US 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
Chinese Taipei's rice TRQ tender system	Australia	Allocation of licences to importing entities	Rice	1	93053
Colombia's coffee price stabilization fund	United States	Transparency issues (including Table DS:2)	Coffee	1	93006
Egypt's import licence regime	Brazil	Allocation of licences to importing entities	Live animals, bovine, swine, sheep and goat, poultry, horses, other	1	93054
EU "From Farm to Fork" strategy	Colombia			1	93127
EU border adjustment mechanism for carbon emissions	Colombia			1	93143
EU production subsidies resulting from the implementation of SPS measures	Paraguay			1	93060
India's export subsidies/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 and pork safeguard	Canada		Bovine, swine	1	93070
Saudi Arabia's new system for issuing import licences	Brazil	Allocation of licences to importing entities		1	93074

SIM	Question raised by	Keywords	Products	N° of questions	ID number
Thailand's "licence" charge on eggs	New Zealand	Other	Eggs	1	93075
EU 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
Viet Nam's potential tariff reductions on certain agricultural products	Ukraine		Swine, poultry, fresh vegetables, wheat	1	93083
China's state trading enterprises	United States	State trading enterprises	Seeds	1	92004
Angola's fuel subsidies	Ukraine			1	92087
Angola's potential import restrictions	Canada	Import prohibitions and restrictions (including quantitative restrictions)		1	92045
China's state reserves programmes	Canada	Transparency issues (including Table DS:2)	Meat: bovine, swine, sheep and goat, poultry, horse, other	1	92047
EU compensation to farmers to adjust to new trade deals	Australia			1	92089
EU planned policy measures against US tariffs	Australia			1	92090
EU European Court of Auditors report	Brazil			1	92093
EU eco scheme payments	Brazil	Direct payments: payments under environmental programmes		1	92092
Japan's corn policies	Australia		Corn	1	92097
Russian Federation's state programme for rural territory development	European Union			1	92017
Russian Federation's excise duties on wine and champagne	European Union		Alcoholic	1	92121
Switzerland's financing of security stocks in agricultural sectors	European Union			1	92019
US biofuel policies	Ukraine		Corn, seeds	1	92103

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.125. Other SIMs that were discussed during the period under review related to follow-up questions on outstanding areas of concern (Table 3.24). A number of these matters have been raised in the CoA multiple times. Two of them have been 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 pulses policies have been raised in 11 CoA meetings, and the Philippine's rice waiver and Mongolia's quota regime for importation were raised 8 times each. Other policies from Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, European Union, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nigeria, Philippines, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States were also the subject of repeated concerns under Article 18.6.⁹⁵

⁹⁵ The complete set of questions and answers can be accessed through the AG IMS by using the ID numbers provided in Table 3.24. 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 Previously raised Specific Implementation Matters (SIMs) (Article 18.6)

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, Ukraine, United States	Processed vegetables	50	11	95052, 95056, 95057, 93058, 93066, 93067, 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
Philippines' rice waiver	Australia, Japan, Thailand, United States	Rice	11	8	92100, 92099, 91012, 89063, 88032, 87082, 86008, 85071, 84057, 84015, 84079
Mongolia's quota regime for importation	Russian Federation	Milk, cereal	8	8	95060, 93072, 92098, 91011, 90027, 88104, 87094, 86001
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
US 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
Brazil's wheat quota	Ukraine, Canada, India	Wheat	4	4	95010, 93043, 92046, 91001

SIM	Question raised by	Products	N° of questions	N° of meetings at which the issue was discussed	ID number
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
European Union - modification of agricultural schedule of commitments	Canada, New Zealand, Thailand, Australia		6	4	92101, 92091, 91015, 90087, 90028, 90128, 90129, 89001
India's dairy loans	United States	Dairy, milk, milk powders, butter, cheese, other	4	4	93011, 92011, 91149, 89027
US support to the cotton sector	Brazil, European Union, India	Cotton	4	4	92073, 90036, 87103, 86069
Nigeria's import prohibitions on certain agricultural products and use of reference prices for customs valuation purposes	United States, Australia	Swine, poultry, fruit, cereals, wheat, corn, rice, malt, coarse grains, waters	5	4	95064, 93015 48012, 51004, 51005
Canada's compensation for farmers after trade concessions	Australia, European Union, New Zealand, United States	Dairy, milk, milk powders, butter, cheese, other, poultry, eggs	5	3	93047, 92075, 92077, 92001, 91002, 91018
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
EU coupled payments	Brazil, India		3	3	93055, 92071, 91061
EU 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
China's rice policies	United States	Rice	5	2	92005, 91133, 91134, 91135, 91136
Egypt's export subsidy and Arrears Program	United States		2	2	93042, 91138
India's National Dairy Plan Phase I	United States	Dairy, milk, milk powders, butter, cheese, other	2	2	92012, 91152
EU support package to Irish beef farmers	Australia	Bovine	2	2	92079, 91004

SIM	Question raised by	Products	N° of questions	N° of meetings at which the issue was discussed	ID number
Turkey's flour export and Turkish Grain Board	European Union, United States	Wheat	2	2	93018, 90009
Switzerland's "Loi Chocolatière" and implementation of the Nairobi Decision on Export Competition	European Union	Cocoa (other)	2	2	92018, 90020

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.126. Regarding steps taken by Members 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, 11 have had their revised export subsidy schedules certified (Australia, Colombia, Iceland, Israel, Mexico, Norway, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey, United States and Uruguay); 2 (Canada and European Union) circulated their draft revised schedules, which are still pending certification; Indonesia just circulated its revised schedule; and 2 Members still have to circulate their revised draft ES schedules (Brazil and Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela).

3.127. 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 the annual dedicated discussion, Members have the possibility to ask questions in connection with this Decision at any CoA meeting. A total of 32 questions were raised in the context of the follow-up to the Decision, including questions regarding policies in the area of export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes, international food aid and state trading enterprises (Table 3.25).⁹⁶

Table 3.25 Questions raised in relation to the follow-up to the Nairobi Ministerial Decision on Export Competition (October 2019 to October 2020)

ID number	CoA meeting	Question raised by	Question answered by	Section
95007	95	United States	Israel	State trading enterprises
95063	95	European Union	Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of	Export subsidies
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
95126	95	European Union	Colombia	Export subsidies
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

⁹⁶ 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.

ID number	CoA meeting	Question raised by	Question answered by	Section
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
95134	95	European Union	New Zealand	Export subsidies
95135	95	United States	Norway	International food aid
95136	95	United States	Pakistan	State trading enterprises
95137	95	European Union	Russian Federation	Export subsidies
95138	95	United States	Russian Federation	Export subsidies
95139	95	United States	Thailand	Export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes
95140	95	United States	Thailand	State trading enterprises
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
95144	95	Canada	New Zealand	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
93142	93	United States	Viet Nam	Export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes
93173	93	United States	Japan	Export subsidies
93174	93	Australia	Myanmar	Export subsidies
93175	93	United States	Russian Federation	Export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes
93176	93	United States	Thailand	Export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes
92031	92	United States	China	Export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes, state trading enterprises, and international food aid
92032	92	United States	Russian Federation	Export subsidies
92044	92	European Union	Russian Federation	Export credits, export credit guarantees or insurance programmes

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Policy developments in agriculture related to the COVID-19 pandemic

3.128. 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, 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.

3.129. While Members used the standard review process of the CoA to request clarification on policies implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, 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 Members (counting the European Union as one) submitted *ad hoc* reports to the CoA, listing measures adopted by their governments in the wake of the pandemic (Table 3.26).

Table 3.26 Ad hoc reports on COVID-19 measures in the agricultural sector (October 2019–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
Israel	G/AG/GEN/160	22 June 2020
United States	G/AG/GEN/161	27 July 2020
Paraguay	G/AG/GEN/162	28 July 2020
El Salvador	G/AG/GEN/163	31 August 2020
Switzerland	G/AG/GEN/164	1 September 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](#).

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.130. 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.⁹⁷

3.131. In the context of the challenges created by the pandemic and the measures put in place to alleviate them, three initiatives were communicated to the CoA by groups of Members committing to take steps to ensure well-functioning global agriculture and agri-food supply chains. In these initiatives, Members 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 (Table 3.27).

Table 3.27 Joint submissions by WTO Members (mid-October 2019 - mid-October 2020)

Submissions	Sponsors	WTO document ^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](#).

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.132. Some of the measures put in place by Members in response to the pandemic included the restriction or prohibition of exports for 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

⁹⁷ 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).

practicable, to the CoA, comprising such information as the nature and the 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.

3.133. A total of seven notifications regarding export restrictions and prohibitions in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic were notified to the CoA during the review period. The first 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 3.28. All the concerned notifications can be accessed through the AG IMS (<http://agims.wto.org/>).

Table 3.28 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
02/04/2020	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.

3.134. Box 3.1 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

3.135. At the 24 July 2020 informal TPRB meeting dedicated to discussing the Director General's mid-year Trade Monitoring Report on Trade-related Developments⁹⁸, 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 Members circulated a communication⁹⁹ on enhancing transparency on trade-related COVID-19 measures and, in particular, on general economic support measures, through the trade monitoring exercise.

3.136. 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 to the request for information, and partly because such an annex would be biased against those Members that traditionally share and publish detailed information on such measures. 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 health crisis and expressed their strong support for doing so through the trade monitoring exercise.

3.137. In response to Director-General's 3 March 2020 and Deputy-Director General Agah's 3 September 2020 requests for information for this Trade Monitoring Report, 38 WTO Members (European Union¹⁰⁰; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Mauritius; Nepal; Peru; Russian Federation; Switzerland; Thailand; and Turkey) volunteered information on 86 regular general economic support measures, i.e. not explicitly linked to the COVID-19 pandemic. Very few additional measures were

⁹⁸ WTO document WT/TPR/OV/W/14, 10 July 2020. The mid-year Report covered the period from 16 October 2019 to 15 May 2020.

⁹⁹ Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore and Switzerland; WTO document WT/TPR/446, 04 August 2020.

¹⁰⁰ Counting the EU (27) and its members and the United Kingdom separately.

identified by the Secretariat from public sources. Although the number of regular support measures has increased during the review period compared to the previous one, most of general economic support measures put in place by WTO Members were related to the pandemic.

3.138. During the review period, regular support measures by WTO Members showed that the sectors which received significant financial disbursements included agriculture, food, transport and energy. Several support measures targeted investment in technology, industrial support, support to research and development and innovation programmes. Fiscal measures, soft loans, export incentive measures, state guarantees, investment loans, temporary reduction of taxes, loan guarantees for SMEs were also put in place. Several of these measures were multi-year programmes, with financial disbursements staggered over the lifetime of a project, while others were one-off grants or aid schemes.

COVID-19 related economic support measures

3.139. Sixty-seven WTO Members¹⁰¹ and one Observer (Azerbaijan) volunteered information on 638 COVID-19-related general economic support measures. In addition, 405 support measures were identified from public sources and governmental websites by the Secretariat, i.e. a total of 1,043 COVID-19 support measures put in place by 94 WTO Members and 3 Observers. This represents 149 measures such implemented per month between March and mid-October 2020. The overall, as well as the monthly, number of COVID-19-related support measures are both much greater than that witnessed during the 2008-09 global financial crisis (GFC), and their scope is considerably more comprehensive.

3.140. Since the beginning of October 2020, the Secretariat has made available 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.¹⁰²

3.141. Since March 2020, WTO Members and Observers have implemented an unprecedented number of general economic support measures to address the social and economic disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This was initially captured in the July Trade Monitoring Report, where the first wave of these support measures were reported. More than half (58%) of the first wave of COVID-19 support measures were put in place by G20 economies. As at mid-October 2020, this had declined to 39%, suggesting that a large number of measures were put in place by non-G20 WTO Members in the later stages of the current crisis. The COVID-19-related support measures have so far included support 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 of 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 areas targeted so far have included health, aviation, tourism, catering, cleaning and security, agriculture, fisheries, childcare, creative industries and sport.

3.142. 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 liquidity; easing of credit conditions terms; backing business investment; granting moratoriums; providing 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

¹⁰¹ Albania; Angola; Argentina; Australia; Bahrain, Kingdom of; Brazil; Canada; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; El Salvador; European Union; Guatemala; Guyana; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Macao, China; Malaysia; Maldives; Mauritania; Mauritius; Moldova; Montenegro; Myanmar; Nepal; Norway; Peru; Philippines; Qatar; Russian Federation; Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; Seychelles; Singapore; South Africa; Switzerland; Thailand; Turkey; and Vanuatu. Counting the EU (27) and its members and the United Kingdom separately.

¹⁰² WTO, COVID-19: Support measures. Viewed at: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/trade_related_support_measures_e.htm.

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.

3.143. With a few exceptions, COVID-19-related general economic support measures are temporary. 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 in some Members. The discussions surrounding the large injections of public money generally focused 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.

3.144. The above has captured activities in the area of regular and COVID-19 related general economic support measures between mid-October 2019 and mid-October 2020. 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.

3.145. 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 while 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.

3.146. Box 3.2 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.

3.147. Box 3.3 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 Overview of Trade Policy Reviews

3.148. Due to the restrictions imposed on account of the COVID-19 pandemic, just four Trade Policy Reviews (TPRs) were undertaken between mid-October 2019 and mid-October 2020. TPRs aim to provide the WTO membership with a deeper understanding of the trade and economic policies of the Member under review and lead to constructive and insightful discussions.¹⁰³

Lao People's Democratic Republic: 18 and 20 November 2019

3.149. Members commended Lao PDR for its strong economic growth which is setting the ground for its graduation from LDC status in 2024, and for enacting several economic policies to address structural vulnerabilities and weaknesses. Lao PDR's increased trade openness as depicted by the ratio of trade in goods and services to GDP increasing since accession was appreciated as were policies and initiatives to promote and improve the foreign investment and business environments despite challenges in certain areas (e.g. FDI restrictions, border-clearance procedures and high ground transportation costs). Efforts to strengthen intellectual property protection and enforcement, including by joining the Madrid Protocol in 2016 and amending the Law on Intellectual Property were acknowledged. Members also welcomed the Lao PDR Government's focus on developing its human capital through inclusive education.

3.150. Lao PDR was praised for its support and active participation in the Multilateral Trading System, particularly its ratification, and timely submission of category A, B and C notifications of the TFA; its intention to join the Information Technology Agreements (ITA) 1 and 2 by the first half of 2020; its support for the Joint Statement Initiatives on Investment Facilitation for Development, on Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, and on e-Commerce, and the Declaration on Women and Trade. Members were also appreciative of Lao PDR's ratification commitment in its Trade Facilitation Road Map for 2017-22, which aims to implement TFA measures in an accelerated time-bound manner to reduce trading costs, including significant steps already in place such as the implementation of the electronic National Single Window for customs clearance and duty payment, risk management, transparency and advance ruling. Additionally, Lao PDR was commended for its efforts in the passage and implementation of the Law on Standardization of 2014 and the alignment of most of its national standards with international standards. Members commended Lao PDR's efforts in tariff reduction and elimination of tariff peaks. They also appreciated that the entire customs tariff was applied on an *ad valorem* basis and was bound, making the import regime

¹⁰³ The summaries provided in this Section draw on the Chair's concluding remarks for each of the TPRs.

predictable. However, concerns were raised regarding the MFN applied tariff exceeding the bound tariff for 26 lines.

3.151. While noting steps taken to promote fiscal consolidation through modernization of tax systems and reducing state payroll and operating expenses, members expressed concerns about the level of fiscal deficits and public debt. Lao PDR was encouraged to continue its ambitious economic reform agenda, which is focused on diversifying the economy and increasing resilience and productivity, through reform initiatives in areas such as access to information, e-government, anti-corruption, investment promotion, and economic dispute resolution. Lao PDR's was also encouraged to expedite the promulgation of the law on anti-dumping and countervailing measures. Members invited Lao PDR to continue to take steps to improve IP protection and enforcement, including through developing judicial capacity to adjudicate IP cases and increasing public awareness. Other issues raised included: relatively higher protection of the agricultural sector and the prospects for further liberalization in trade in services. Additionally, Lao PDR's was encouraged to consider joining the WTO Government Procurement Agreement, Lao PDR's positive record of WTO notifications was also acknowledged.

Australia: 11 and 13 March 2020

3.152. Members complimented Australia for sustained economic expansion, approaching nearly three decades of uninterrupted growth. The resilient performance was anchored in a sound institutional framework built on trade openness and a generally positive attitude towards foreign investment. Australia's leadership role in the WTO and its active participation in almost all fora was appreciated, as was Australia's pursuit of enhanced transparency within the WTO framework which was backed up by an excellent track record in the fulfilment of its own notification obligations. Australia's generous contributions to aid for trade activities, in combination with full duty-free quota-free market access for LDCs and extensive trade preferences for developing countries, were also highlighted.

3.153. Members praised Australia for ratifying the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement; accession to the plurilateral Agreement on Government Procurement and implementation of the expanded Information Technology Agreement. It was noted that Australia had also accepted the Protocol amending the TRIPS Agreement and was committed to strengthening IP protection and enforcement. Australia's significant market liberalization under FTAs was also noted. While appreciating Australia's low average applied MFN tariffs; concerns were raised regarding relatively high bound tariffs in certain areas as well as a substantial number of tariff lines being unbound. Concerns were expressed about the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on cross-border trade in digital products and services, advantages accorded to certain producers through the Wine Equalization Tax and certain issues concerning the Luxury Car Tax. Australia was also called upon to reform its fiscal regime for offshore banking units.

3.154. Members welcomed the entry into force of the Biosecurity Act 2015 and related legislation, however in some Members view some products continued to be subject to barriers or measures that were more trade restrictive than necessary. Australia was also urged to ensure that its sanitary and phytosanitary regulations and requirements be consistent with the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. A new country of origin labelling system, affecting many types of imported food, was also a subject of wide interest.

3.155. It was noted that Australia continued to be an active user of anti-dumping and countervailing measures, was encouraged to use trade remedies prudently going forward. Concerns were also raised regarding the new foreign investment regime, with some members expressing that the Australian Government applied wide grounds for the screening of foreign investment that went beyond national security.

Japan: 6 and 8 July 2020

3.156. Japan, a key investment and trade partner for many Members, was commended for its key role in the global trading system, integration in the world economy and global value chains, the results of its macroeconomic policy (Abenomics), policies to promote women's economic empowerment and its response to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, it was noted that economic support could be costly as Japan was still to address fiscal consolidation and high public debt. Japan's

contribution to various initiatives at the WTO as well as to advance WTO reform and engagement in the negotiations on fisheries subsidies and domestic regulation in services, were acknowledged. Japan's strong track record with WTO notification obligations was also highlighted.

3.157. While noting the high degree of predictability in Japan's tariff regime and its trade facilitation efforts, Members encouraged a reduction of the complexity and peaks of its customs tariff. They encouraged Japan to improve efficiency in the handling of goods at the border and ensure that technical regulations do not impede trade. Japan was urged to remove certain export restrictions. Concerns were expressed that Agriculture remained highly protected by tariff and non-tariff (e.g., SPS) measures, and supported by subsidies, Tariff Rate Quota fill rates for certain products were low, some products faced market access barriers and the role of state trading in the sector. Many Members urged Japan to pursue a market-oriented reform, reduce subsidization and submit outstanding WTO notifications on domestic support on agriculture. Some Members encouraged alignment of domestic standards with international standards (e.g., Codex Alimentarius) in the agri-food sector. Japan was also urged to reduce its fisheries subsidies and increase transparency; rationalization of the fossil fuel subsidies regime was also encouraged. Concerns were also raised about non-tariff barriers affecting market access of certain goods.

3.158. Concern was expressed about recent measures to increase the scrutiny of foreign direct investment and to incentivize firms to re-shore production. Members felt that reforms relating to digital privacy and medical care should not unduly disadvantage foreign firms. Furthermore, some Members inquired about the prospects for more foreign participation in certain activities; they also noted market access difficulties in notably on Information Technology services, insurance, and telecommunications (5G spectrum allocation). Foreign participation in government procurement remained low and Japan was encouraged to revise its procedures and practices in this area.

Zimbabwe: 30 September and 2 October

3.159. Members welcomed Zimbabwe's commitment to undertake economic reforms aimed at macroeconomic stability and addressing structural issues and encouraged the authorities to continue to pursue its reform agenda. Members noted that the forex regime should not act as a disincentive for investors and exporters and welcomed efforts to stabilize its currency including through noting the introduction of a weekly forex auction. Further clarification was sought regarding measures to ensure that the forex market operates in an open and transparent manner, which may reduce inflation and improve the business environment.

3.160. Members appreciated Zimbabwe's repeal of its "indigenization" provisions, which ended the 49% foreign ownership cap in all sectors. Certain Members urged Zimbabwe to dismantle remaining investment restrictions, ensure investment protection and repatriation of dividends, and to eliminate remaining provisions prescribing the degree of export orientation of investment proposals. Furthermore, Zimbabwe was encouraged to reduce state-ownership, to improve the governance of state-owned enterprises, tackle corruption, and to address its outstanding land issue. Concerns about the role of the state in agriculture were raised and further information was sought regarding the functioning of the Grain Marketing Board, the "Command Agriculture" domestic support programme, and the new Climate Smart Agriculture programme.

3.161. Efforts to modernize the government procurement regime and the establishment of the procurement regulatory authority, were praised. Members also noted the increase in trademark applications and expressed interest in Zimbabwe's National Intellectual Property Policy and Implementation Strategy 2018-22. Zimbabwe was praised for its ratification of the TFA, active participation in regional trade negotiations as well as concluding an EPA with the European Union. Zimbabwe reiterated its commitment to the multilateral trading system and announced that the country was in the process of domesticating the WTO Agreement and ratifying the Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement. Members also reminded Zimbabwe of its transparency obligations in the WTO and invited it to reduce the backlog of outstanding WTO notifications.

3.162. Concerns were raised regarding MFN tariff rates exceeding bound rates; the 25% surtax levied on many products despite the binding of Other Duties and Charges at 15%; quantitative restrictions and complex non-automatic import licensing regime; some SPS requirements; and its new Consignment-Based Conformity Assessment system for a range of products. Further clarification

was sought regarding Zimbabwe's import licensing procedures for agricultural products, and its regime for the sale and use of GMOs and GMO products.

3.9 Other Selected Trade Policy Issues

3.163. The following Section provides a brief overview of the other selected trade policy issues where important developments took place during the review period. It also includes follow up to a number of issues which saw outcomes at MC11.

COVID-19 related discussions at the General Council

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

3.165. 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.¹⁰⁴ 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).

3.166. 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.¹⁰⁵

3.167. 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

¹⁰⁴ WTO document WT/GC/M/183, 16 June 2020 and WT/GC/M/183/Corr.1., 17 June 2020.

¹⁰⁵ WTO document WT/GC/M/184, 24 June 2020.

purposes; and, (iii) proposed greater scrutiny of COVID-19 agriculture support measures by Members and tracking by the Secretariat.¹⁰⁶

3.168. 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.¹⁰⁷

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

Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs)

3.170. During the review period, WTO Members notified eight RTAs (13 notifications) as compared to 15 RTAs (20 notifications) during the previous period (Table 3.29).¹⁰⁸ Of the new RTAs, three relate only to trade in goods, one of which was notified under the Enabling Clause and two under GATT Article XXIV; five RTAs include trade liberalization in both goods and services and were notified under GATT Article XXIV and GATS Article V. The notifications included three significant RTAs in terms of their potential share of trade: the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA/CUSMA/T-MEC) whose parties account for 16% of global merchandise trade and 14% of trade in commercial services; and the FTAs between the European Union and Viet Nam and Singapore, respectively. All three agreements liberalize trade in goods and services, and include additional provisions.

Table 3.29 Notifications of RTAs between 15 October 2019 and 15 October 2020

RTA name (parties)	Coverage	Date of notification (date of entry into force)	Notification
Indonesia - Pakistan	Goods	12/11/19 (01/09/13)	Enabling Clause
Hong Kong, China - Australia	Goods & Services	17/01/20 (17/01/20)	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V
Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) - Iran	Goods	31/01/20 (27/10/19)	GATT Art. XXIV
Chile - Indonesia	Goods	01/04/20 (10/08/19)	GATT Art. XXIV
European Union - Singapore	Goods & Services	01/04/20 (21/11/19)	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V
Peru - Australia	Goods & Services	24/06/20 (11/02/20)	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V
European Union - Viet Nam	Goods & Services	13/07/20 (01/08/20)	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V
United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA/CUSMA/T-MEC)	Goods & Services	16/09/20 (01/07/20)	GATT Art. XXIV & GATS Art. V

Source: RTA Database. Viewed at: <http://rtais.wto.org>.

3.171. As at 15 October 2020, the total number of RTAs notified to the WTO, and to the GATT before it, and currently in force, amounted to 306 (156 covering goods and services, 148 goods only, and 2 services only). The WTO Secretariat has also identified and verified, through the

¹⁰⁶ WTO document WT/GC/M/186, 28 September 2020.

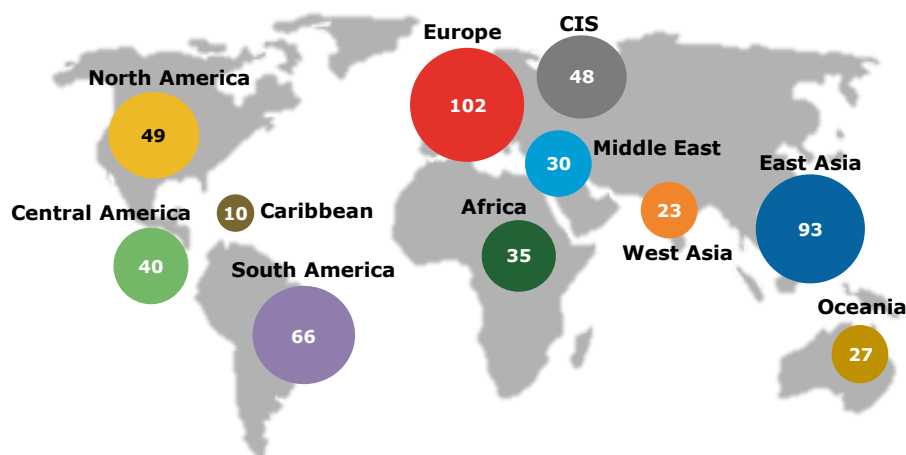
¹⁰⁷ WTO document WT/GC/M/187 (forthcoming).

¹⁰⁸ In addition, the CRTA received a notification of entry into force for Iceland of the Free Trade Agreement between the EFTA States and the Philippines and a joint notification from Canada, Mexico and the United States informing Members that the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) had been superseded by the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA/CUSMA/T-MEC).

respective parties, 54 RTAs that are in force, but have not yet been notified to the WTO.¹⁰⁹ The number of RTAs identified has decreased considerably during this period, in particular following notifications of changes made by parties to the Latin American Integration Association – LAIA – notified under the Enabling Clause.

3.172. Judging from overall notifications, RTA activity remains strongest in Europe (19% of RTAs in force), with successive EU enlargements and agreements with countries in Eastern Europe and around the Mediterranean basin, as well as RTAs notified by EFTA; this is followed by East Asia (18%) and South America (13%) (Chart 3.31).

Chart 3.31 RTAs in force, by region

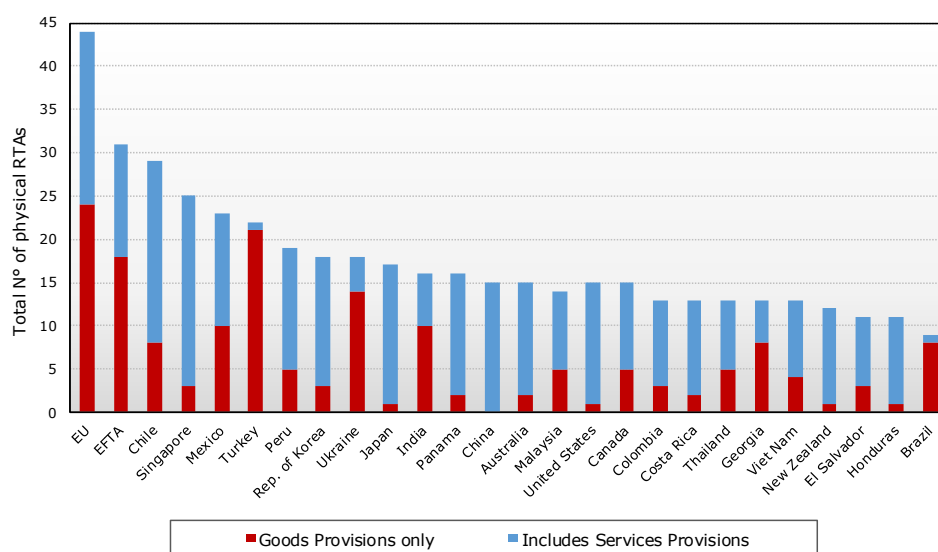


Note: RTAs involving countries/territories in two (or more) regions are counted more than once.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.173. The WTO Members with the most RTAs in force remain the European Union, the EFTA States, and Chile, with over 25 RTAs in force each, followed by Singapore, Mexico and Turkey, which have over 20 RTAs in force each (Chart 3.32). A number of other developing countries also have several RTAs in force, such as the Republic of Korea, Peru, India and Panama.

Chart 3.32 WTO Members with the largest number of RTAs in force



Source: RTA Section, WTO Secretariat.

¹⁰⁹ WTO document WT/REG/W/151, 16 September 2020.

Trade Facilitation

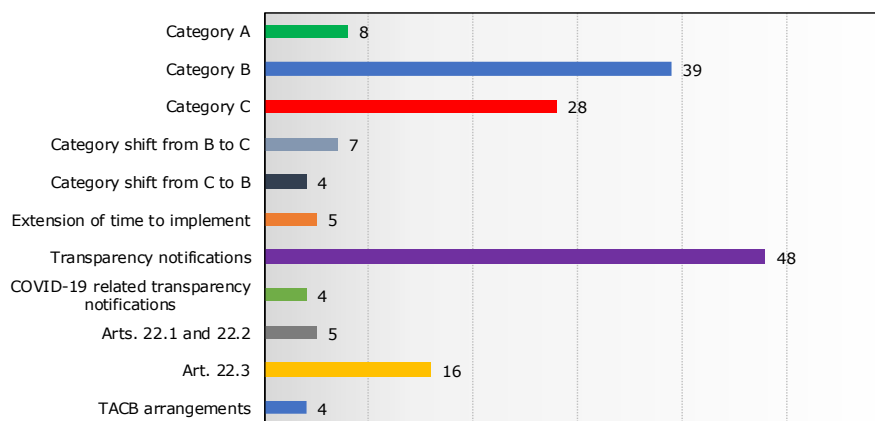
3.174. The Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) entered into force on 22 February 2017, when two thirds of WTO Members presented their corresponding instruments of acceptance. At the conclusion of the review period, the data accounted for 153 ratifications, which represents 93% of the WTO membership. Seven additional instruments of acceptance have been received by the Secretariat since October 2019.

3.175. Members also remained active in the presentation of implementation notifications. Forty-five Members submitted various notifications with their commitments under categories A, B and C, of which 8 presented Category A commitments, 39 presented Category B commitments and 28 presented Category C commitments.

3.176. Among the 45 Members, 7 made a category shift from B to C and 4 made a category shift from C to B. Five Members notified, and were granted, a request for additional time to implement a provision. Under Article 16.2 (b) of the TFA, nine least-developed country Members requested, and were granted, an extension of the deadline of 22 February 2020 in order to submit the definitive dates for notifying their category B provisions.

3.177. Notifications were also made on the transparency side. Forty-eight Members presented notifications under Articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2, of which four Members made transparency notifications in relation to COVID-19 measures. Furthermore, 5 Members notified their technical assistance and capacity-building activities, in accordance with Article 22. Lastly, 16 Members presented notifications under Article 22.3, relating to contact points for coordinating capacity-building support (Chart 3.33). Four Members notified their arrangements and progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building support.

Chart 3.33 Number of WTO Members that presented TFA notifications, 14 October 2019 to 14 October 2020



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

3.178. During the review period, the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (the Facility, or TFAF) organized or participated in nine demand-driven activities contributing to the full implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (the Agreement, or TFA) by WTO Members. Training and presentations by WTO officials were delivered to over 350 participants, representing around 90 Members, of which 33 were LDCs. These activities led to 31 notifications being submitted to the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee by Members that had participated in the TFAF training, within a period of eight weeks. In addition, the TFAF also assisted 14 Members to submit an expression of interest as a first step to apply for a TFAF grant; this is assistance available for Members who have been unable to identify support from "traditional" donors and development partners.

3.179. Since the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, the TFAF has been acting on its mandate to coordinate other International Organizations working to implement the 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.¹¹⁰

3.180. 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 responses¹¹¹ 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 assisting 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.

Trade Financing

3.181. After a first semester during which flows of trade finance plummeted due to the fall in trade flows, operational difficulties in processing trade finance documents and the retrenchment of international banks from the most vulnerable economies, the situation eased somewhat during the summer as a result of payment deferral and guarantee schemes from national governments, export credit agencies and multilateral development banks.¹¹² The demand for trade finance picked up towards the end of the second quarter of 2020, after most lockdowns had been terminated.¹¹³

3.182. With the pandemic continuing, banks had been expecting increased payment failures from counterparties, beyond sectors initially impacted by the lockdowns (airlines, aeronautics, tourism and, to some extent, the automotive sector). It quickly appeared that one-off extensions of the terms of payment by creditors would be insufficient to alleviate the crisis. In many developing countries, the sovereign risk had deteriorated along with the corporate risks, resulting in increased caution by international banks to engage in cross-border trade finance. Importers' banks in poor and middle-income countries were unable to find counterparties for the financing of goods ranging from energy commodities to consumer goods. Domestically, the high demand for lending also explained the reluctance to engage in cross-border trade operations. In view of already-recorded losses and expected ones, several large banks decided to either limit lending for cross-border trade, or to withdraw altogether from certain market segments and regions, leaving an additional gap in financing.¹¹⁴ The economies most affected by greater selectivity of lending are typically those not fully integrated into global supply chains or into the international financial system. As in previous economic crises, trade finance shortages have been most severe in Africa, Latin America, Central Europe and developing Asia. Multilateral development banks (MDBs) have also been reporting an increasing demand for support by middle-income countries for trade transactions that would normally be supported by the private sector, such as the importation of grain and energy commodities.

3.183. The WTO has teamed up with various MDBs, as in previous crises. The International Finance Corporation (IFC) and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) received explicit support from their Boards of Directors for their trade finance programmes, which had been integral to these institutions' crisis response. The EBRD increased its maximum intervention limit for trade finance from EUR 1.5 billion to EUR 3 billion. The African Development Bank and the African Export Import Bank have implemented exceptional measures to support local banks by having their letters of credit endorsed internationally. In addition, the supply chain finance programmes of the Asian Development Bank, the EBRD, and the IFC have been in very high demand, reflecting the effort to preserve the export capacity of developing countries. The Islamic Trade Finance Corporation has worked through local financial institutions to support SMEs. Requests for the facilities operated by

¹¹⁰ WTO, *LAUNCH: COVID-19 Trade Facilitation Repository*. Viewed at: <https://www.tfafacility.org/launch-covid-19-trade-facilitation-repository>.

¹¹¹ WTO, *The COVID-19 Crisis and Trade Facilitation*. Viewed at: <https://tfafacility.org/sites/default/files/tfacovidresults.pdf>.

¹¹² WTO document WT/WGTDF/W/96, 25 June 2020.

¹¹³ As an example, see Global Trade Review, Wragg, E., *Asian trade finance stages a V-shaped recovery while supply chain finance demand surges*, 9 September 2020. Viewed at: www.gtreview.com.

¹¹⁴ Bank withdrawal is discussed in *ABN-AMRO exit threatens commodity-trader liquidity squeeze*. Viewed at: www.bloomberg.com.

MDBs have come from over 80 countries, showing the global extent of the problem. Against this background, on 1 July 2020, the WTO and six MDBs issued a joint statement pledging greater coordination in providing support to trade finance markets, particularly towards developing countries. In parallel, the WTO has pledged to work with the private sector towards the objective of pooling resources and support to trade finance markets. Looking ahead, the situation is expected to remain challenging for the months to come, as a combination of increased commercial risks and deteriorated sovereign risks deter many private sector banks from expanding financing. The situation will continue to be monitored by the WTO through the expert group on trade finance.

Government Procurement

3.184. The WTO Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA) continues to gain importance as an instrument for promoting trade and good governance in government procurement markets. Currently, the Agreement has 20 Parties, covering 48 WTO Members^{115,116}. Thirty-six WTO Members/Observers participate as Observers in the GPA Committee, with the United Kingdom and Côte d'Ivoire having been granted observer status in February and July 2020, respectively. Switzerland indicated that its domestic procedures to ratify the revised GPA have been concluded, which will allow it to deposit its instrument of acceptance of the revised GPA in December 2020. Subsequently, the revised GPA is expected to be applicable to all its Parties in the beginning of 2021.

3.185. Important progress was made on several accessions to the Agreement. At its meeting held on 7 October 2020, the Committee on Government Procurement adopted a revised Decision¹¹⁷ on the accession of the United Kingdom in its own right, which invites the United Kingdom to deposit its instrument of accession in accordance with a renewed six-month time-period.¹¹⁸ Kazakhstan initiated its GPA accession process in November 2019, in accordance with the provisions included in its WTO accession protocol.¹¹⁹ It is currently preparing its initial market access offer and replies to the Checklist of Issues. Brazil submitted its application¹²⁰ for accession to the GPA in May 2020 and circulated its Replies to the Checklist of Issues and related information on its public procurement system in October 2020. It expects to circulate an ambitious market access offer by the end of 2020. Brazil's application for accession is the first from Latin America. As such, it is of systemic importance for the GPA. China has also actively pursued its efforts to accede to the GPA in the past months, by circulating a further revised market access offer in October 2019 and revised replies to the Checklist of Issues in June 2020, which updates the Committee on recent developments in relation to China's government procurement legislation and regime. Exchanges are taking place between China and other Parties based on these two documents. Tajikistan circulated a further revised market access offer in February 2020. North Macedonia, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Russian Federation also continued their processes of accession. The accessions of Albania, Georgia, Jordan and Oman are pending. Afghanistan, Mongolia, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Seychelles have provisions regarding accession to the Agreement in their respective Protocols of Accession to the WTO.

3.186. The GPA Committee continued to advance its Work Programmes, concerning notably: (i) sustainable procurement; (ii) the collection and reporting of statistical data; and (iii) SMEs. For information-sharing purposes, the Committee plans to hold a workshop on two topics of current interest in government procurement (labour rights and digitalization) in an appropriate format in 2021.

3.187. 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

¹¹⁵ Counting the European Union and its 27 member States and the United Kingdom, all of which are covered by the Agreement, as one Party.

¹¹⁶ In line with the decision of the GPA Committee of 27 February 2019 (GPA/CD/2) and 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. During the transition period, the United Kingdom is treated as a member State of the European Union.

¹¹⁷ WTO document GPA/CD/2/Add.2, 09 October 2020.

¹¹⁸ This enables the United Kingdom to become a Party to the GPA in its own right on 1 January 2021, after the expiry of the transition period agreed between the United Kingdom and the European Union.

¹¹⁹ WTO document GPA/ACC/KAZ/1, 02 October 2020.

¹²⁰ WTO documents GPA/152, 19 May 2020; and GPA/ACC/BRA/1, 19 May 2020.

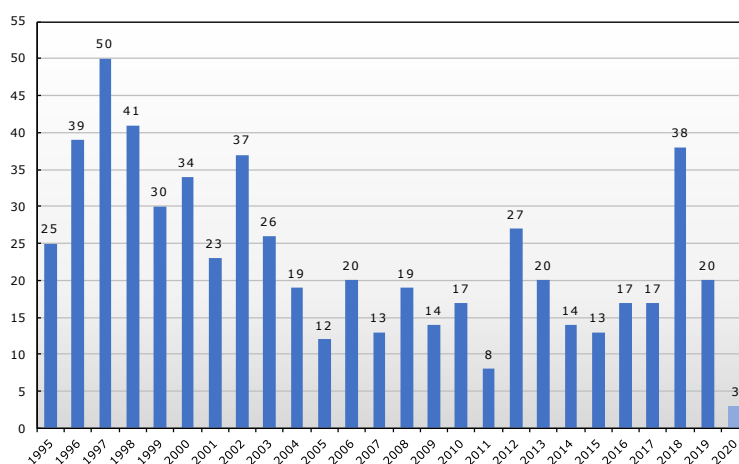
procurement procedures to address difficulties and challenges arising in situations of extreme urgency, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Several GPA Parties have provided information on their measures to the WTO, for transparency purposes.¹²¹ At the Committee's meeting on 7 October 2020, Parties expressed a general interest in experience-sharing and peer learning in a Member-driven process in the Committee.

Dispute Settlement

3.188. 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.

3.189. During the review period, Members requested consultations in six new cases and panels were established in ten disputes, including one compliance proceeding. The subject matter of new 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. As in previous years, both developed and developing country Members have been involved in dispute settlement proceedings, as complainants, respondents or third parties.

Chart 3.34 Number of disputes initiated per year 1995-2020



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

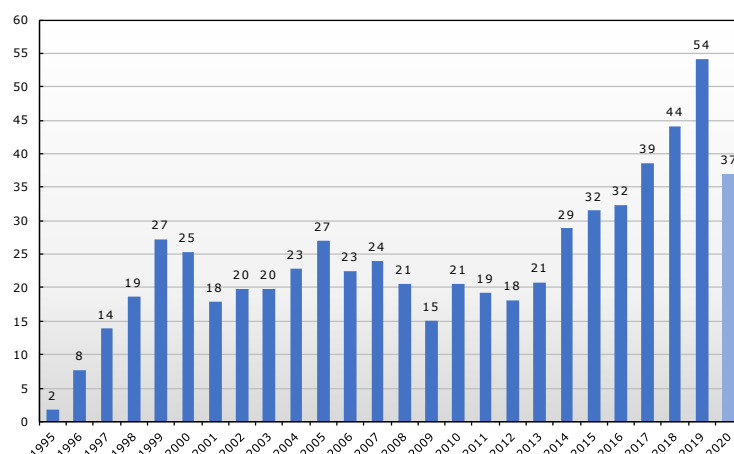
Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.190. 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. Members appealed six panel reports, including two concerning compliance with prior recommendations and rulings of the Dispute Settlement Body (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.

3.191. During the review period, on average, 37 panel and arbitration proceedings were ongoing each month.¹²² 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). In addition, five panels were at the composition stage and four other panels suspended work at the request of the parties.

¹²¹ WTO document GPA/S/2, 03 July 2020.

¹²² Appellate proceedings have not been included in this calculation.

Chart 3.35 Average number of ongoing dispute proceedings per month, 1995-2020

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

Source: WTO Secretariat.

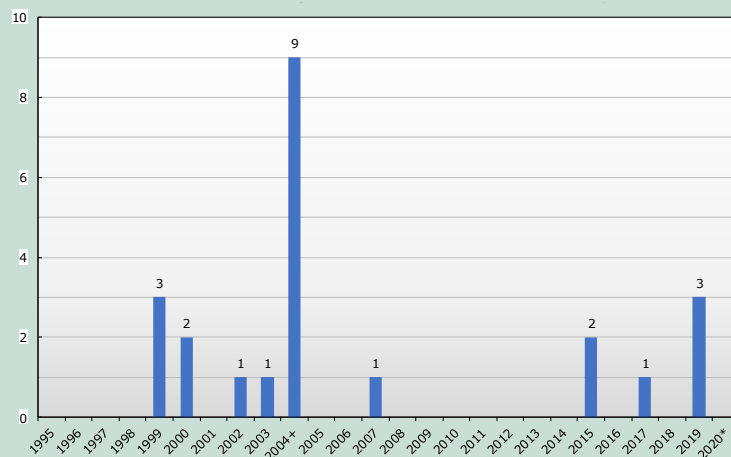
3.192. As with other activity areas of the WTO, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the functioning of the dispute settlement system. Lockdowns, travel restrictions and limited access to WTO premises have prevented panellists, arbitrators and delegations of WTO Members alike from participating in meetings in Geneva, thus delaying certain proceedings. Nevertheless, work on most disputes has 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 developed procedures addressing the difficulties in holding in-person meetings. These procedures have included additional exchanges of written submissions in place of substantive in-person 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 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. 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).

Figure A Arbitration awards on the level of suspension of concessions or other obligations, 1995-2020



* 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.

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.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Trade and Environment

3.193. Debates at the November 2019 meeting of the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) continued to raise important global issues at the intersection between trade and environmental policies. WTO Members held dedicated discussions at the CTE, and at side-events – in what was named Environment Week – on trade's potential role in facilitating the "circular economy", and on plastics pollution. Delegations shared their experience on measures adopted to promote circular economy and resource efficiency, and on addressing plastics, e-waste and marine pollution. Relevant International Organizations also briefed delegations on their work on these issues.¹²³ Several Member-driven workshops on the topic were held back-to-back with the CTE meeting¹²⁴, providing Members with the opportunity to report on these events at the formal meeting of the CTE. Most Members used this setting to reiterate more strongly the importance of trade and environment matters, including in the lead-up to MC12.

3.194. Delegations were also briefed on the relevant outcomes of the latest Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)¹²⁵, and Canada shared its recent trade measures adopted to combat the practice of shark finning.¹²⁶ Delegations were further briefed on ongoing work related to, *inter alia*: areas of potential interest in relation to market access for environmental services; a symposium on the links between trade and natural disasters; an initiative launched by New Zealand, Norway, Iceland, Costa Rica and Fiji to negotiate an Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability; and relevant work on trade and environment by observer organizations.¹²⁷

3.195. Given the strong interest in plastics and circular economy, the July 2020 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 roles of trade and the WTO to tackle plastics pollution¹²⁸; and on a proposal by Costa Rica, on behalf of the Friends Advancing Sustainable Trade Group, for a joint

¹²³ WTO documents WT/CTE/26, 09 December 2019; and WT/CTE/M/68, 17 March 2020.

¹²⁴ WTO document WT/CTE/M/68, 17 March 2020, paras. 2.40-46.

¹²⁵ WTO document WT/CTE/26, 09 December 2019, para. 2.1.

¹²⁶ WTO document WT/CTE/M/68, 17 March 2020, paras. 3.11-18.

¹²⁷ WTO document WT/CTE/M/68, 17 March 2020, paras. 1.17-24, 2.24 and 4.2-5.

¹²⁸ WTO document WT/CTE/M/69, paras. 2.12-30.

statement on trade and environmental sustainability.¹²⁹ 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 MC12.¹³⁰

3.196. 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.¹³¹ At the request of the delegations of Fiji and China, UNCTAD presented a paper on Trade in Plastics, Sustainability and Development.¹³² Further briefings were provided by other international institutions, and by delegations on their own initiatives.¹³³

3.197. 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 discussions 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 World Organisation for Animal Health and the 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.¹³⁴

3.198. COVID-19 was specifically raised at the CTE in the context of a briefing by the 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 regarding addressing 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 that WTO Members could consider, to support and facilitate efforts to rebuild economies in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.¹³⁵

3.199. 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

3.200. 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.

¹²⁹ WTO document WT/CTE/M/69, paras. 3.2-5.

¹³⁰ WTO document WT/CTE/M/69, paras. 1.1-8.

¹³¹ WTO document WT/CTE/M/69, paras. 2.6-11.

¹³² WTO document WT/CTE/M/69, paras. 2.40-51.

¹³³ WTO document WT/CTE/M/69, paras. 2.31-39 and 3.16-18, and Annexes 1 and 2.

¹³⁴ WTO document WT/CTE/M/69, paras. 3.13-15.

¹³⁵ WTO document WT/CTE/M/69, paras. 3.6-12.

Electronic Commerce

3.201. 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.

3.202. 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.

3.203. In the General Council, discussions mainly focused on the Moratorium. In March 2020, two submissions¹³⁶ 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.¹³⁷ Members also considered a submission in the TRIPS Council on operationalizing technology transfer.¹³⁸

3.204. 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.

3.205. 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.

Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs)

3.206. The Informal Working Group on MSMEs held five open-ended meetings during the reporting period to discuss group proposals for MC12, with another planned meeting at the end of October to fine-tune and complete the Group's MC12 package. The Group also held two workshops and five webinars on MSME-related topics. These workshops and webinars, held in collaboration with external stakeholders, included the presentation of a checklist for MC12 submitted by the Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce; a presentation on Trade Enablement of MSMEs through the Use of Technology, by South-African-based Global Trade Solution; two webinars, co-organized with the ICC, on cross-border payment services and on paperless trade and MSMEs; a webinar on supporting MSME resilience through digital tools, co-organized with the Global Innovation Forum; and two webinars to celebrate the 4th annual MSME day on 26 June, to look at the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on MSMEs from the perspective of national governments and International Organizations. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia joined the Group in November 2019, bringing the

¹³⁶ WTO documents WT/GC/W/798, 11 March 2020; and WT/GC/W/799/Rev.1, 29 June 2020.

¹³⁷ WTO document JOB/SERV/296/Rev.3, 29 September 2020.

¹³⁸ WTO document IP/C/W/665, 17 July 2020.

number of WTO Members participating in the initiative to 91. An annual report, detailing the activities of the Group in 2019, was adopted at the end-of-year wrap-up session in December 2019.¹³⁹

3.207. Negotiations by the Group continued after the COVID-19 outbreak in a small-group virtual format, to move discussions forward. Issues under consideration by the Group include support for the ITC-UNCTAD-WTO Global Trade Helpdesk; support for initiatives in other formal WTO Committees, including a call to Members to fully implement the TFA and the newly adopted Decision on the Modalities and Operation of the Integrated Database (IDB Decision)¹⁴⁰, and a call to identify additional opportunities for trade facilitation, including the adoption of digital solutions; Members' voluntary inclusion of MSME-related information in WTO TPRs; MSME inclusion in the development of trade regulations; and support for MSME access to finance and other financial solutions to support their participation in international trade. Funding for a web platform for MSMEs and policymakers was approved in June, which will link relevant trade information in one location, including that on how to trade, for MSMEs, and studies and best practices, for policymakers. Additionally, an online search tool of SME-related measures in Members' RTAs was published on the WTO website in September.

3.208. The importance of MSMEs to the global economy has become even more evident during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Group issued a joint declaration of support for MSMEs, noting the unprecedented impact of the pandemic on them, and the need to build their resilience. The Group underscored the need to enhance MSME access to regulatory and market information, affordable trade finance, and streamlined customs procedures and requirements. Many governments have put in place urgent stimulus and backstop measures to support their MSMEs, and work is underway to aggregate information on Members' COVID-19-related MSME support measures.

Women's Economic Empowerment

3.209. 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.¹⁴¹ 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. The working 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.

3.210. 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 reviews¹⁴², 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.

3.211. Research by the WTO indicates that women are particularly at risk from the trade disruption caused by the COVID-19.¹⁴³ 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.

¹³⁹ WTO document INF/MSME/R/13, 05 December 2019.

¹⁴⁰ WTO document G/MA/367, 03 June 2019.

¹⁴¹ WTO document WT/L/1095/Rev.1, 25 September 2020.

¹⁴² From February to September 2020.

¹⁴³ Viewed at: https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/info_note_covid_05aug20_e.pdf.

3.212. Box 3.5 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

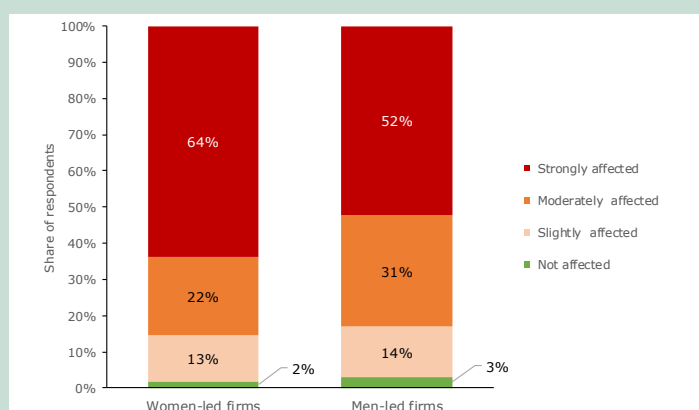
The COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented global crisis, affecting human health and economic welfare across the globe. However, the economic earthquake unleashed by the pandemic has not affected everyone in the same way. The shock seems to have had a disproportionate effect on companies led by women.

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



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 pandemic^g.

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.^k

- 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: ITC.

4 POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN TRADE IN SERVICES

4.1 Regular measures affecting trade in services

4.1. Several new measures affecting trade in services were introduced by WTO Members and Observers between mid-October 2019 and mid-October 2020. While most of the new measures are trade facilitating, a significant number of new policies appear to be trade restrictive. A large proportion of the measures adopted during the period under review relate to telecommunication services, e-commerce, and services supplied online. Measures adopted in relation to these services include bans on certain communication apps, as well as different types of taxation measures.

4.2. Further, like in last year's Report, various governments have introduced new measures in relation to foreign investment in areas considered strategic or linked to national security. Annex 4 provides additional information on 143 entries for new measures, which concern 50 WTO Members and 2 Observers.¹

Measures Affecting Supply Through Commercial Presence Across Various Sectors

4.3. WTO Members adopted several new measures in relation to their foreign investment regimes that affect supply through commercial presence (mode 3). A number of those new policies tighten foreign investment approval and screening processes. Other similar types of measures have been adopted in response to the pandemic and are discussed in the Section below.

4.4. For example, the Parliament of Austria adopted, on 15 July 2020, the new Investment Control Act (ICA), which expands the scope of FDI requiring prior approval. This concerns transactions resulting in the acquisition of Austrian businesses with activities in certain sensitive sectors, including in relation to critical energy infrastructure, critical digital infrastructure, and systems that safeguard the data sovereignty of the country. Since May, changes to Japan's Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act require overseas investors to seek prior notification from the government before obtaining a 1% or higher stake in a listed Japanese firm engaged in certain activities, including semiconductors and railroads. Prior to the amendments, the threshold was set at 10%.

4.5. In April 2020, Spain adopted new rules on foreign investment to prevent non-EU and non-EFTA investors from taking control of strategic Spanish companies. The new measure requires prior authorization for certain foreign acquisitions in a number of sectors, including critical infrastructure (e.g., energy, transportation, water, health, communications, media, and data processing or storage), sectors with access to sensitive information, and other sectors if the government considers the investment may affect public security, public order or public health.

4.6. The German government adopted, in April 2020, amendments to the Foreign Trade and Payments Act that tighten the screening of foreign investment by specifying that all proposed foreign investments will be examined for any "likely adverse impact" on public order, safety or security. Before the modifications, the criterion related to the "actual and serious threat" posed. In France, new measures have expanded and clarified authorizations for foreign investment in the country. On 1 April 2020, the thresholds for foreign investments by non-EU investors that are subject to prior authorization were lowered from 33.33% to 25% of voting rights in a French entity. The new measures also provide for additional sectors of activities that fall under the foreign investment regulations, including print and digital media, and critical technologies.

4.7. In the United States, new regulations effective since 13 February 2020 have broadened the jurisdiction of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the US (CFIUS) by expanding its review powers over foreign investments in United States businesses. The new regulations implement the Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act of 2018 (FIRRMA), which aims to allow the CFIUS to better address national security concerns. Under the new regime, the CFIUS has express jurisdiction to review non-controlling investments in critical technology, critical infrastructure and sensitive personal data businesses. The Security Cabinet of Israel established an advisory committee

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.

that will assess national security implications of foreign investment in finance, communications, infrastructures, transportation and the energy sector.

4.8. A number of other measures adopted by governments appear to include steps towards greater openness in relation to mode 3. For example, in Algeria, a WTO Observer, the 2020 Finance Law, enacted on 1 January 2020, abolished the rule that limited foreign capital ownership in companies to a maximum of 49% in non-strategic sectors. Implementing regulations issued in June specified that the abolition does not apply to enterprises involved in retail activities or to enterprises engaged in 'strategic' sectors, which include mining activities; oil and gas activities, including pipeline network operations; power distribution and transportation; and railways, ports and airports.

4.9. 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 in 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.

4.10. In Viet Nam, on 17 June 2020, the National Assembly adopted the amended Law on Investment and the Law on Enterprises. The amended Law on Investment abolishes or relaxes limitations in 22 'conditional' business activities, including franchising and logistics services, where market access is subject to the satisfaction of certain specific statutory conditions. At the same time, a number of sectors have been added to the list of activities subject to conditional market access, including architectural services, elderly care, and electronic identification and authentication services. In Oman, the new Foreign Capital Investment Law (FCIL), which entered into force on 1 January 2020, removed the requirement for companies to have at least 30% Omani ownership.

Measures related to communication services, e-commerce, and digitally-enabled services

4.11. A number of governments adopted digital services taxes, extended their domestic sales or value-added taxes to services supplied online, including from abroad, or adopted other types of tax measures in relation to communication services, e-commerce or digitally-enabled services.

4.12. In the United Kingdom, the digital services tax, effective from 1 April 2020, consists of a new 2% tax on the revenues of search engines, social media services and online marketplaces that derive value from UK users. These businesses are subject to the tax when the group's worldwide revenues from these digital activities exceed GBP 500 million and when more than GBP 25 million of these revenues are derived from UK users. In Italy, the Budget Law for 2020 introduced a 3% digital service tax on revenues derived from certain digital services provided to users located in the country. The tax applies to entities that meet certain revenue thresholds, namely a total amount of worldwide revenues equal to or exceeding EUR 750 million and an amount of revenues from qualified digital services in Italy equal to or exceeding EUR 5.5 million.

4.13. In October 2019, Austria adopted a new law introducing a 5% tax on online advertising for companies with global annual revenues of over EUR 750 million and advertising revenues of over EUR 25 million in the country. In Turkey, the government adopted, in December 2019, a digital services tax in the form of a 7.5% tax on revenue gained from digital advertising and the sale of any audio, visual or digital content services through digital platforms. Companies are subject to the tax if their revenues from the relevant services are at least EUR 750 million globally and TRY 20 million in Turkey.

4.14. On 23 March 2020, the Parliament of India passed an amended national budget, which expands the scope of India's equalization levy to include a new 2% tax on the sale of all goods and services by non-Indian companies over the Internet into India. The tax is levied on non-resident e-commerce operators.

4.15. Ecuador published new rules effective from 16 September 2020 on the imposition of the 12% value-added tax (VAT) to digital services, including those offered by a platform located outside of Ecuador. Foreign-based companies were previously not subject to any tax for the provision of the

service in Ecuador. On 9 June 2020, the Thai Cabinet approved the imposition of the value-added tax of 7% to suppliers of digital services and e-platform operators without a presence in Thailand for payments received from users in Thailand. The tax applies to non-resident companies and platforms that earn more than 1.8 million baht per year from the supply of digital services in Thailand.

4.16. 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. On 2 March 2020, the President of Chile signed into law a bill that requires non-resident suppliers of digital services to register and collect the value-added tax of 19%. In Singapore, since 1 January 2020, the goods and services tax (GST) applies to business-to-consumer (B2C) digital services imported into Singapore. Foreign suppliers of digital services and electronic marketplace operators must register with tax authorities if their annual global turnover and B2C digital services provided to customers in Singapore exceeds certain thresholds.

4.17. In Malaysia, from 1 January 2020, foreign-based service suppliers that provide digital services to consumers in Malaysia are required to charge the 6% service tax, like domestic suppliers. The law applies only to foreign suppliers with an annual turnover of at least MYR 500,000 in relation to the provision of digital services to consumers in country.

4.18. In Kenya, a new law signed by the President on 1 July 2020 introduced a 1.5% tax on all digital services transactions, which will be effective from 1 January 2021. Affected services include downloadable content, search engine services, subscription-based news, streamed videos and music, transport platforms, and web-hosting services. In Chad, the government exempted fixed communications and Internet services from the 18% tax on monthly turnover imposed on mobile operators.

4.19. In Argentina, the government adopted new measures to tax certain transactions involving the acquisition of foreign currency. The tax applies since 23 December 2019 to a number of transactions, including purchases by Argentine residents abroad, purchases made online through portals or virtual websites in foreign currency, purchases of services rendered abroad through Argentine travel agencies, and purchases of certain ground, air and maritime passenger services for foreign destinations. The tax rate is 30%, except for digital services, which are subject to a rate of 8%.

4.20. Aside from tax measures, various other policy changes took place in relation to the communication sector, e-commerce, or digitally-enabled services. For example, 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.

4.21. In Turkey, the Parliament adopted a law regulating social media. The new measure, effective from 1 October 2020, 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. In Pakistan, the government adopted a new law regulating social media platforms. It requires platforms to block or remove posts that are considered objectionable. The law also requires social media companies to set up a physical presence in the country. On 7 April 2020, the President of the Russian Federation signed a new law aimed at improving the system of universal communication services in the country. Under this law, at least one Internet access point should be created in areas with a population of 100 to 500 people that do not have data transmission services and Internet access.

4.22. In the United States, an Executive Order issued on 4 April 2020 formalized, through the establishment of a Committee, the *ad hoc* working group known as "Team Telecom", which will assist the Federal Communications Commission in the review of foreign participation in U.S. telecommunication services, with the objective of enhancing national security. In December 2019, the government of France issued a decree to assist the implementation of a law that aims to preserve national security interests in the context of the launch of the 5G network. Operators will be required to obtain prior approval from the French Prime Minister to operate 5G technology. In Italy, a new

law adopted in November 2019 established a "National Cyber Security Perimeter" and modified the foreign direct investment (FDI) regime in relation to "special powers", which allow the government to impose conditions on, or veto, certain transactions in strategic sectors.

4.23. 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 the European Union, the 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.

4.24. In Egypt, the government adopted the country's new data protection law, which is effective from 15 October 2020 and aims to regulate and protect citizens' data online. Foreign enterprises that process personal data from Egyptian subjects are required to appoint a representative in Egypt. A license needs to be obtained from the regulator to transfer personal data abroad; personal data can only be transferred to a country that provides the same level of protection to personal data as Egypt does. In Uganda, the Communications Commission modified its licensing framework for the telecom sector, introducing various licence categories and requiring all national telecom operators to float at least 20% of their shares on the Uganda Securities Exchange within two years of acquiring the new licence.

4.25. In Indonesia, the government issued a new regulation (GR 80) to regulate e-commerce activities in the country. Effective since 25 November 2019, the regulation requires all e-commerce businesses to obtain a business licence to carry out these activities. The implementing regulations for this law, issued in May 2020, specify two thresholds that 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.

Financial Services

4.26. Several governments adopted new measures in relation to financial services during the period under review. These included instances where governments removed or relaxed foreign equity limits or introduced new discriminatory measures.

4.27. For example, in India, the 49% foreign equity limitation for insurance intermediaries (e.g. brokers or agents) was eliminated on 1 January 2020. In Indonesia, the government adopted a new regulation relaxing foreign equity limits in insurance services. Since 2018, foreign equity ownership in insurance companies has been capped at 80%. Further capital increases had to respect the 80:20 ratio between foreign and domestic shareholders. The new regulation, effective from 20 January 2020, relaxed this rule and clarified the ability of insurers to conduct capital increases and manage their Shariah operations.

4.28. In Uganda, the government adopted a new measure requiring the purchase of marine insurance from local suppliers from 1 June 2020. All imports must have a valid marine insurance cover underwritten by a Ugandan-registered insurance company before clearance by the Uganda Revenue Authority. In Nigeria, the Central Bank issued new regulations on the operations of indirect participants in the payment system, thereby allowing mobile network operators, among others, to provide mobile money services for the first time.

4.29. The Central Bank of Malaysia issued new rules that, since 11 November 2019, require electronic trading platforms and networks to obtain prior approval from the Central Bank before offering services in the country. In the Philippines, a new measure allows foreign banks to open Islamic bank branches. The government of Viet Nam adopted new measures to regulate the cross-border supply of auxiliary insurance services. Foreign service providers are required to be from countries with which Viet Nam has contracted market access commitments on the cross-border supply of such services.

Transport services

4.30. In the European Union, as regards maritime transport, the European Commission prolonged for another four years the regulation outlining the conditions under which liner shipping consortia can provide joint services without infringing EU antitrust rules that prohibit anti-competitive agreements between companies. The Consortia Block Exemption Regulation allows, under certain conditions, liner shipping operators with a combined market share of below 30% to enter into cooperation agreements to provide joint liner shipping services. The current Consortia Block Exemption Regulation was due to expire on 25 April 2020.

4.31. In Costa Rica, a new measure removes limits on maximum foreign equity for international land transport services of passengers. Previously, companies providing these services were required to have at least 60% of their equity owned by investors that were citizens of Central America. On 18 November 2019, the government of Viet Nam issued a decree that increases from 30% to 34%, the maximum foreign equity in airlines.

Other services sectors

4.32. In the distribution services sector, Indonesia issued a new regulation on franchising. The measure removes the requirement to use 80% locally sourced raw materials, equipment or products and instead obliges the franchisor to prioritize the use of local goods and services so long as the goods and services meet the quality set by the franchisor. The government of Saudi Arabia adopted the New Franchise Law, effective from 22 April 2020, that establishes a regulatory framework for relationships between franchisors and franchisees.

4.33. With respect to health services, the Medical Council of India issued guidelines with respect to the practice of Registered Medical Practitioners (RMPs) through telemedicine. In Indonesia, the Ministry of Health published a new regulation on telemedicine services. In addition, the Minister of Health issued a new regulation on the classification and licensing of hospitals, which removed limits on foreign investment in certain types of hospitals.

4.34. In Costa Rica, the government adopted a new law to regulate the supply of tourism services through the rental of homes, apartments, villas, chalets, cottages, and rooms. It seeks to protect the rights of services users and to regulate the services platforms or intermediary companies. The law also requires hosts to register with the Tourism Institute and to pay the 13% VAT.

Measures affecting supply through the movement of natural persons

4.35. Various measures have been adopted in relation to mode 4, most of which are facilitative. For example, on 22 May 2020, Japan's Diet adopted a measure to ease certain limits on the activities of foreign lawyers in the country. 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 international connection. Viet Nam introduced in July a new visa for foreign natural persons that enter the country to promote services and establish a commercial presence according to international agreements that it has signed. The new visas will be issued with validity from 6 to 12 months.

4.36. On 1 August 2020, Estonia has introduced a "Digital Nomad Visa" that allows remote workers to live in Estonia and legally work for their employer or their own company registered abroad, while Mauritius adopted new rules that combine the Work Permit and the Residence Permit into one single permit and extend the validity of the Occupation Permit to 10 years, with the possibility of renewal.

Air services agreements

4.37. 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 vast majority of these ASAs provides for more liberal access conditions than was previously the case. The air transport sector is currently under severe strain (Box 4.1) as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak and this appears to have resulted in a marked fall in the number of ASAs concluded since the start of the pandemic.

Table 4.1 Air Transport Agreements² concluded or amended during the reporting period (October 2019- October 2020)

Parties		Date of signature	Source
Belize	Chinese Taipei	08.10.2019	https://www.breakingbelizenews.com/2019/10/08/deputy-prime-minister-tourism-minister-and-nemo-minister-visit-taiwan/
Jamaica	South Africa	08.10.2019	https://jis.gov.jm/jamaica-and-south-africa-sign-air-service-agreement/
Solomon Islands	United Arab Emirates	11.10.2019	https://www.solomontimes.com/news/govt-signs-air-services-agreement-with-turkey-and-uae/9406
Solomon Islands	Turkey	11.10.2019	https://www.solomontimes.com/news/govt-signs-air-services-agreement-with-turkey-and-uae/9406
United States	Kazakhstan	06.01.2020	Washington Trade Daily, 7 January 2020
Gabon	Burkina Faso	01.10.2019	https://www.agenceecofin.com/transports/0110-69674-le-burkina-faso-et-le-gabon-signent-un-accord-aerien-qui-ouvre-l-afrique-centrale-a-air-burkina
Turkey	Serbia	10.2019	https://www.exyuaviation.com/2019/10/serbia-turkey-approve-rigid-air.html
Morocco	Mexico	02.11.2019	https://aaco.org/media-center/news/aeropolitical/morocco-and-mexico-sign-mou-to-establish-direct-air-service
Barbados	Germany	11.2019	https://www.eturbonews.com/380104/european-expansion-new-direct-flight-from-germany-to-barbados/
Ukraine	Qatar	11.11.2019	https://112.international/finance/ukraine-and-qatar-liberalize-air-transportations-45457.html
Chinese Taipei	Nauru	13.12.2019	https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/3836462
Saint Lucia	United Arab Emirates	12.2019	https://www.stlucianewsonline.com/saint-lucia-negotiates-and-signs-new-bilateral-air-services-agreement/
India	Switzerland	12.2019	https://www.traveldailymedia.com/india-swiss-air-service-pact-to-be-amended/
Pakistan	Saudi Arabia	01.2020	https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/599048-pakistan-saudi-arabia-revise-air-service-agreement
Bahamas	United States	27.01.2020	https://ewnnews.com/bahamas-and-united-states-sign-into-force-historic-air-service-agreement
Bangladesh	Japan	03.02.2020	https://www.newagebd.net/article/98579/dhaka-tokyo-air-service-deal-revised
United States	Kenya	02.2020	https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2020-02-06-us-kenya-add-all-cargo-rights-to-air-transport-agreement/
Somalia	Rwanda	07.02.2020	https://allafrica.com/stories/202002080045.html
Rwanda	Tunisia	08.02.2020	https://www.ktpress.rw/2020/02/rwanda-tunisia-sign-air-service-agreement/
Ghana	Trinidad and Tobago	08.03.2020	https://www.looptt.com/content/trinidad-and-tobago-ghana-sign-air-service-agreement-mou
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/fg-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-u-s-india-others/
Nigeria	Morocco	09.10.2020	https://guardian.ng/saturday-magazine/travel-a-tourism/local-operators-okay-air-trade-agreement-with-u-s-india-others/
Nigeria	Rwanda	09.10.2020	https://guardian.ng/saturday-magazine/travel-a-tourism/local-operators-okay-air-trade-agreement-with-u-s-india-others/

Source: WTO Secretariat.

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.

4.2 COVID-19 related measures affecting trade in services³

4.38. As part of its Trade Monitoring exercise, the Secretariat compiled information on 124 measures affecting trade in services that were adopted by 54 WTO Members in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, from its onset and up to mid-October 2020.

4.39. Most of these measures 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. In addition, two Members relaxed some limitations on the supply of Voice over Internet Protocol services.

4.40. However, some measures adopted also appear to be trade restrictive. These are mostly measures that affect services supplied under a particular mode of supply across various sectors. For instance, various governments took measures to tighten foreign investment regimes, thereby affecting supply under mode 3 (commercial presence).

4.41. Annex 6 provides additional information on trade in services COVID-19-related measures, the bulk of which relate to financial services (41%), telecommunication services (17%), transport services (14%), and health services (8%) or apply across various sectors (16%). Seventy-six percent of measures listed in the annex were expressly verified by Members. A number of the measures taken by governments in response to the crisis were announced as temporary, and seven have already been withdrawn, as indicated in the annex.

Measures affecting supply through commercial presence

4.42. 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 services sectors.

4.43. In Poland, a new Act introduced, from 24 July 2020, a temporary screening mechanism to protect domestic assets against hostile acquisitions by foreign investors from non-EEA and non-OECD countries in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak. Acquisitions subject to approval include those that manage critical infrastructure and that provide cloud computing services. The government of Slovenia adopted new measures to screen certain foreign investments in the context of the pandemic. Foreign investors are required to notify the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology if they have acquired or intend to acquire at least a 10% share in the capital or voting rights in a Slovenian company that is active in certain specific areas, including critical infrastructure. The new rules, which are effective from 1 June 2020, apply until 30 June 2023.

4.44. 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.

4.45. In May, the government of New Zealand amended the Overseas Investment Act to update investment screening rules. Temporary emergency provisions introduced in response to the

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.

pandemic require overseas persons to notify the government of certain investments even if they are below the ordinary screening threshold. 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.

4.46. 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.

4.47. 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.

4.48. 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.

4.49. 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.

4.50. [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.

Measures affecting telecommunication services and e-commerce

4.51. WTO Members have adopted various measures in relation to telecommunication services. In both developed and developing economies, operators suspended data limits and boosted capacity in response to the pandemic at no additional cost, and many governments temporarily issued additional spectrum to operators, or took other measures to facilitate the operation of telecommunication suppliers.

4.52. For example, the National Communications Authority of [Ghana](#) temporarily granted additional spectrum at no cost for three months to the country's two largest mobile network operators in order to help cope with a significant increase in Internet traffic during the COVID-19 lockdown. To ensure that effective health-related information can be transmitted to and from rural areas, [Kenya](#) fast-tracked the issuance of an operating licence to Alphabet's Loon services to extend the availability of wifi to remote locations. In [Oman](#), the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority allocated additional mobile spectrum to the licensed network operators on a temporary basis and at no financial cost. In [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.

4.53. Several governments also adopted different types of measures to ensure access to telecommunication services. For instance, in [Colombia](#), the Government required mobile telephony

operators to maintain minimum service levels despite not receiving adequate remuneration from users. 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.

4.54. However, the COVID-19 crisis also led to the postponement of a number of auctions of 5G spectrum. For instance, Austria's Regulatory Authority for Broadcasting and Telecommunications delayed its upcoming second 5G auction, which had been expected to take place in April. 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.

4.55. The crisis resulted in certain WTO Members lifting restrictions on Voice-Over-Internet-Protocol (VoIP) services. In the United Arab Emirates, the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority decided, on 24 March 2020, to allow certain VoIP applications so as to facilitate work from home and help prevent the spread of COVID-19. While certain applications have been allowed, others remain banned. In a similar fashion, Oman's telecom regulator unblocked access to certain VoIP apps to facilitate operations of organizations, educational institutions, and government bodies during the pandemic.

4.56. Finally, 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.

Transport services measures

4.57. 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.

4.58. 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.⁴

4.59. With respect to maritime transport, governments adopted various port measures since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak. From February 2020, all major ports adopted a 14-day quarantine period for vessels arriving from, or transiting through, affected countries. Many ports have ceased calls for passenger ships. While cargo vessels may still call and operate at most ports, they are subject to enhanced maritime health declarations and screening requirements. In addition, strict restrictions have been imposed on crew disembarkation, shore leave, and substitution.⁵

⁴ Viewed at: <https://www.icao.int/safety/COVID-19OPS/Pages/ccrd.aspx> and <https://www.iata.org/en/programs/ops-infra/covid-contingency-differences-ccrd/>

⁵ In view of increased port restrictions, on 21 February 2020, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the World Health Organization issued a Joint Statement on the Response to the COVID-19 outbreak. On 27 March 2020, the IMO circulated to its member States a preliminary list of recommendations for governments and relevant national authorities on the facilitation of maritime trade during the COVID-19 pandemic, proposed by a broad cross-section of global industry associations representing the maritime transportation sector. The purpose of this list is to assist governments in avoiding the introduction of obstacles to ship and port operations, including the movement of seafarers and marine personnel when implementing policies and measures to address COVID-19. Recommendations cover measures to provide ship access to berths in ports, facilitate crew changes and port operation and ensure public health.

4.60. As regards road transport, most countries have suspended or largely reduced cross-border passenger transport services. Borders have generally remained open for freight transportation, although drivers are subject to border controls for quarantine purposes. In order to mitigate disruptions and facilitate freight transport, a number of governments adopted different types of relief measures. For instance, in the European Union, member States adopted such measures as the suspension of weekend traffic bans for heavy vehicles, and a temporary and limited relaxation of the enforcement of driving and rest times for the drivers of vehicles transporting goods.⁶ 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.

Health services measures

4.61. 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. On 8 May, the government of Romania adopted a measure authorizing medical doctors to do telemedicine by any means of communication, limited to 8 consultations per hour. 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. Also in April, the Malaysian Medical Council published an Advisory providing guidance in relation to medical services supplied remotely via information and communication technology during the pandemic.

4.62. 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.

4.63. 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 measures

4.64. 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.

4.65. 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 loosened requirements regarding liquidity and capital requirements, to ensure that banks are well-positioned to continue to provide credit to the economy. Bans on the short-selling of selected stocks have been imposed by certain jurisdictions with a view to stabilizing capital markets (e.g. Belgium, Indonesia). Some authorities have eased loan-loss provisions to allow banks to extend loan maturities for firms and households or allowed for forbearance of non-performing loans, while others have relaxed the cap on foreign currency forward positions.

⁶ As the European Union member States are gradually easing lockdowns, the relaxations of driving and rest time rules ended on 31 May 2020.

4.66. Many central banks have lifted certain restrictions and requirements applied to e-payment systems. This was seen particularly in Africa, where mobile payments are common. Ghana, for example, adopted new policies related to mobile money transactions for a period of three months, so that smaller withdrawals are not charged, and transaction limits and balance levels were increased. Rwanda removed fees on all mobile money transactions with increased daily and monthly limits depending on the type of user.

Temporary entry and stay of natural persons

4.67. 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.

4.68. 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

4.69. 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.⁷

4.70. 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.

4.71. 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.

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

⁷ 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.

4.73. 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

4.74. 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.⁸ 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.⁹

4.75. 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).¹⁰ 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).¹¹ 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 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

⁸ Viewed at: <https://www.unwto.org/news/international-tourist-numbers-down-65-in-first-half-of-2020-unwto-reports>.

⁹ Viewed at: <https://www.unwto.org/news/international-tourist-numbers-down-65-in-first-half-of-2020-unwto-reports>.

¹⁰ Viewed at: <https://wtcc.org/Research/Economic-Impact>.

¹¹ Viewed at: <https://knoema.com/search?query=tourism+as+%25+of+GDP&pageIndex=&scope=&term=&correct=&source=Header>.

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>.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Distribution services

4.76. 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.¹² In the United States, retail and food services sales declined by 7.7% between February and April 2020, compared to the same period in 2019.¹³ In the European Union, sales of non-food products had dropped by 23.8% in April 2020 year-on-year.¹⁴ More recently, as limits on the operation of physical stores have been relaxed in a number of countries, total retail sales have gradually increased.¹⁵ Globally, total retail sales in 2020 are currently expected to be down notably from 2019.¹⁶ Given the recent introduction of new lockdowns in a number of countries the outlook remains uncertain.

4.77. 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.

4.78. In the United States, non-store sales increased by 31% in June 2020 year-on-year¹⁷ and, in the second quarter, 16% of total retail sales took place online, a 44.5% increase year-on-year.¹⁸ E-commerce sales in the United States are projected to raise by over 30% in 2020, after a 14.6% increase in 2019.¹⁹ In China, in early 2020, online sales of certain goods that traditionally had limited online penetration, such as daily essential products, increased between 50 and 150% compared to the previous year.²⁰ Between January and August 2020, online retail accounted for 24.6% of total

¹² 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/>.

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ 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>

¹⁷ Viewed at: <https://www.digitalcommerce360.com/2020/09/16/us-nonstore-retail-sales-jump-21-in-august/>.

¹⁸ 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>.

¹⁹ 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>.

²⁰ Viewed at: <https://www.bain.com/insights/chinas-consumer-industry-prepares-for-the-coronavirus-legacy/>.

retail sales in China, up from 17.4% in August 2018.²¹ Similar trends were observed in various markets.

4.79. 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.²²

Telecommunication and ICT services

4.80. 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.

4.81. 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.²³ Initially, China's Tencent also saw increased use of its social network, games, fintech and business services in the first quarter of 2020.²⁴ And Vodacom Group recorded a 40% rise in data traffic in South Africa during the lockdown.²⁵ As of August, average international Internet traffic was estimated to have increased by 48% in 2020, with strong capacity growth observed across different regions.²⁶

4.82. 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.²⁷ Other negative consequences of the crisis in the short term may include significant declines in roaming revenues, as a consequence of limits on mobility.²⁸ 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.²⁹ 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.³⁰ In Bangladesh, for example, the ICT industry is reported to have lost about USD 1.3 billion worth of trade due to the pandemic, with 70-80% of global work orders were cancelled.³¹

²¹ 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.

²² 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>.

²³ Viewed at: <https://about.fb.com/news/2020/03/keeping-our-apps-stable-during-covid-19/>.

²⁴ Viewed at: <https://www.mobileworldlive.com/asia/asia-news/gaming-surge-drives-tencent-growth/>.

²⁵ Viewed at: <https://www.mobileworldlive.com/featured-content/top-three/vodacom-data-traffic-surges-during-lockdown/>.

²⁶ Viewed at: https://blog.telegeography.com/internet-traffic-and-capacity-in-covid-adjusted-terms?hss_channel=tw-285211941.

²⁷ Viewed at: <https://australiancybersecuritymagazine.com.au/australias-ict-spending-set-to-decline-by-5-9-in-2020-due-to-covid-19/>.

²⁸ Viewed at: <https://www.mobileworldlive.com/featured-content/home-banner/operators-face-25b-roaming-hit-report/>.

²⁹ Viewed at: <https://www.omidia.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/>.

³⁰ For example, see "Virgin Media to Recruit 500 Call-Centre Staff in UK", Financial Times, 25 March 2020.

³¹ Viewed at: <https://tbsnews.net/thoughts/bangladesh-ict-sector-covid-world-impacts-and-way-outs-130945>.

4.83. 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

4.84. 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.³² 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.³³

4.85. 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.³⁴ 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.³⁵ 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.³⁶

4.86. 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.³⁷ In February 2020, 46% of scheduled departures on the major route from Asia to Northern Europe were cancelled,³⁸ 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.³⁹ The slowdown in port calls occurred worldwide. 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 2019.⁴⁰

4.87. 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,

³² Viewed at: https://www.icao.int/sustainability/Documents/COVID-19/ICAO_Coronavirus_Econ_Impact.pdf.

³³ Viewed at: <https://store.aci.aero/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/COVID19-4th-Economic-Impact-Advisory-Bulletin.pdf>.

³⁴ Viewed at: <https://www.iata.org/en/pressroom/pr/2020-08-31-01/>.

³⁵ 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>.

³⁶ Viewed at: <https://www.aircargonews.net/data/worldacd-airfreight-rates-pushed-up-by-capacity-crunch-in-h1-2020/>.

³⁷ 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/>.

³⁸ "Coronavirus impact raises red flags at European ports", Journal of Commerce, 19 February 2020.

³⁹ "Port of Los Angeles Sees Coronavirus Impact Sharply Reducing Imports", Wall Street Journal, 25 February 2020.

⁴⁰ "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>.

year-on-year.⁴¹ 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%.⁴² This resulted into higher costs for shipping and serious problems for supply chains.

4.88. 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.⁴³

4.89. 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.⁴⁴

4.90. 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 2020.⁴⁵

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, 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.

⁴¹ "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>.

⁴² "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>

⁴³ Viewed at: <https://unctad.org/news/navigating-through-coronavirus-crisis-and-uncertainty-how-maritime-transport-data-can-help>.

⁴⁴ 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.

⁴⁵ 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>.

Health Services

4.91. The COVID-19 crisis stimulated a surge in the use of telemedicine services.⁴⁶ 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.⁴⁷ For the first quarter of 2020, there was a 150% year-on-year growth in the use of telemedicine platforms in the region.⁴⁸ 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-19.⁴⁹

Education Services

4.92. 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.⁵⁰ These closures have also affected the provision of education services worldwide, causing the demand for online learning to skyrocket.

4.93. 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.⁵¹ 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.⁵²

4.94. 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.

4.95. Box 4.3 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.

⁴⁶ A study expects the global market to rise by 23% in 2020 as a consequence of the pandemic. Viewed at: <https://www.wisereports.com/reports/5358007-telemedicine-services-global-market-report-2020-30-covid>.

⁴⁷ Viewed at: <https://www.bain.com/insights/covid-19-accelerates-the-adoption-of-telemedicine-in-asia-pacific-countries/>.

⁴⁸ Viewed at: <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/07/27/business/economy-business/coronavirus-telemedicine-asia/>.

⁴⁹ Viewed at: <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/healthcare-systems-and-services/our-insights/telehealth-a-quarter-trillion-dollar-post-covid-19-reality>.

⁵⁰ Viewed at: <https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse>.

⁵¹ 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>.

⁵² Viewed at: <https://www.axios.com/international-student-enrollment-trump-covid19-5caad69c-f6d4-4b79-bfb4-7b6ed038bc5b.html>.

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.

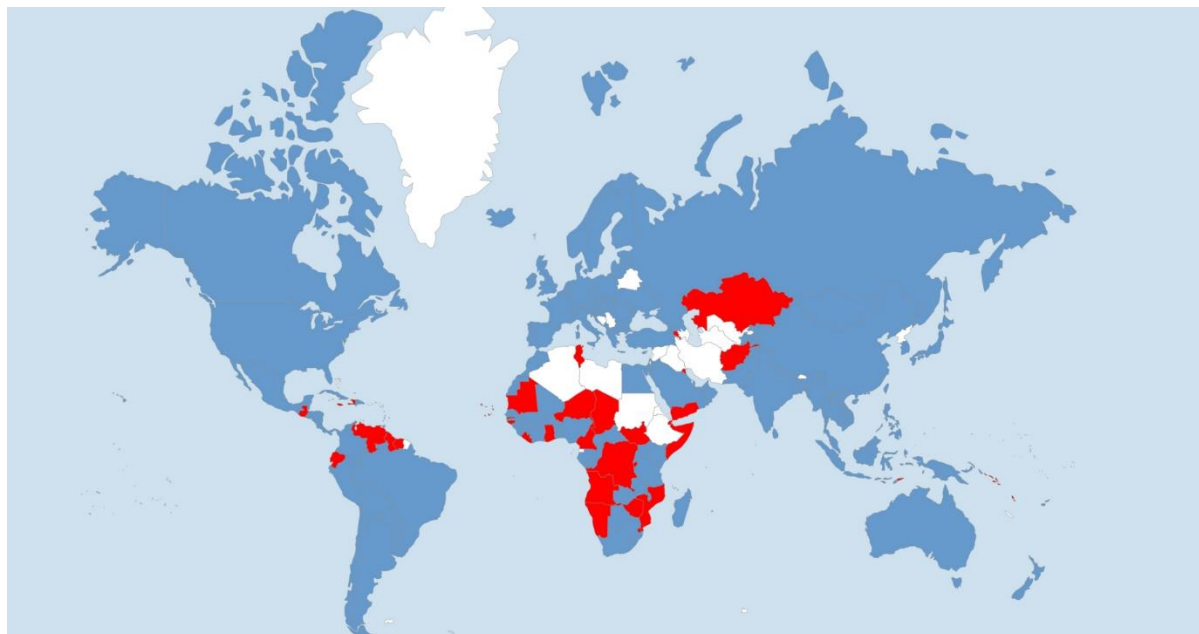
5 POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN TRADE AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

5.1. During the review period, WTO Members continued to fine-tune their intellectual property (IP) domestic frameworks, as shown by the submissions for the trade monitoring exercise and the notifications to the TRIPS Council. Starting in early 2020 and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, several Members 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. These government measures were complemented by voluntary action by IP right holders, for instance, the sharing of intellectual property rights (IPRs) to support research and development (R&D) and to facilitate access to relevant health technologies.¹

Acceptance of the Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement

5.2. Burundi, Niger and Barbados deposited their instruments of acceptance of the Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement in December 2019, March and April 2020, respectively.² The Protocol incorporates an additional flexibility into the TRIPS Agreement to address public health needs of countries with limited or no domestic capacity to produce pharmaceuticals and which rely on imports to satisfy their needs. The mechanism provides for a secure legal pathway that allows potential exporting Members to grant special compulsory licences expressly for the production and export of generic medicines to meet the needs of importing countries.

Chart 5.1 Acceptance of the Amendment to the TRIPS Agreement



Note: In blue, WTO Members which have accepted the Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement; in red, WTO Members yet to accept the Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement; and in white, non-WTO Members.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

¹ A number of these measures are listed in an information note on TRIPS and COVID-19. Viewed at https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/trips_report_e.pdf. Also, examples can be viewed at: <https://opencovidpledge.org/>; https://www.medtronic.com/us-en/e/open-files.html?cmpid=vanity_url_medtronic_com_openventilator_Corp_US_Covid19_FY20; <https://wellcome.ac.uk/press-release/publishers-make-coronavirus-covid-19-content-freely-available-and-reusable>; and <https://www.sanofi.com/en/media-room/press-releases/2020/2020-04-14-13-00-00>.

² The Amended TRIPS Agreement entered into force in January 2017 and applies to all Members which have accepted the Protocol. A waiver, agreed in 2003 (WTO documents WT/L/540, 2 September 2003 and WT/L/540/Corr.1, 29 July 2005), continues to apply to those Members that are yet to accept the Protocol. An up-to-date list of the Members that have accepted the Protocol is available at: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/trips_e/amendment_e.htm.

Bilateral and regional trade agreements (RTAs)

5.3. On the bilateral and regional fronts, WTO Members continued to implement and negotiate a network of reciprocal trade agreements that contain substantive IP provisions. Currently, over 70% of the RTAs in force and notified to the WTO contain specific IP provisions. Increasingly, RTAs have further developed the interconnection between IP and trade in goods and services, and the links of the IP system to other normative areas, such as investment, e-commerce, and competition policy.

5.4. During the review period, the Trade and Investment Agreement between the European Union and Singapore entered into force on 8 November 2019;³ the United States and China concluded Phase 1 of the Economic and Trade Agreement on 13 December 2019;⁴ the Agreement between the United States, Mexico and Canada (USMCA) entered into force on 1 July 2020;⁵ and the Trade Agreement between the European Union and Viet Nam entered into force on 31 July 2020.⁶

5.5. The European Union and Mexico announced the conclusion of the negotiations of their updated trade agreement in April 2020.⁷ Reportedly, substantive IP issues were under consideration during the negotiations in the framework of the Pacific Alliance;⁸ and the negotiations of Phase 2 of the African Continental Free Trade Area, scheduled to start in 2020, are also slated to cover substantive IP provisions.⁹

Specific IP-related international instruments

5.6. Members also joined specific IP-related international instruments: Canada acceded to the Patent Law Treaty;¹⁰ the European Union acceded to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications;¹¹ the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia acceded to the Vienna Agreement Establishing an International Classification of the Figurative Elements of Marks, the Locarno Agreement Establishing an International Classification for Industrial Designs¹² and the Strasbourg Agreement Concerning the International Patent Classification;¹³ and India acceded to the Nice Agreement Concerning the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks, the Vienna Agreement, and the Locarno Agreement.¹⁴

5.7. 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.¹⁵

5.8. The Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property signed a patent prosecution highway agreement with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Japanese Patent Office, and a Memorandum of Understanding with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to establish a national centre for training.¹⁶ The Indian Patent Office initiated a three-year patent prosecution highway pilot programme with the Japan Patent Office.¹⁷

³ Viewed at: <https://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/eu-singapore-agreement/>.

⁴ Viewed at: <https://ustr.gov/countries-regions/china-mongolia-taiwan/peoples-republic-china/phase-one-trade-agreement> and <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2019/december/united-states-and-china-reach>.

⁵ Viewed at: <https://www.state.gov/entry-into-force-of-the-united-states-mexico-canada-agreement/>.

⁶ Viewed at: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1412.

⁷ Viewed at: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_756.

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

⁹ Viewed at: https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/dgo/news/2020/news_0008.html and <https://www.tralac.org/blog/article/14066-the-proposed-afcfta-protocol-on-intellectual-property-rights.html>.

¹⁰ Submission by Canada to the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.

¹¹ WTO document IP/N/1/EU/35.

¹² Submission by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the WTO Monitoring Report.

¹³ Viewed at: <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2123181>.

¹⁴ Submission by India to the WTO Monitoring Report.

¹⁵ Submission by the Russian Federation to the WTO Monitoring Report.

¹⁶ Submission by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.

¹⁷ Submission by India to the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.

5.9. The Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOP HL) and the European Patent Office (EPO) agreed to continue indefinitely the existing Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Program.¹⁸

Developments in domestic legislation and administration of IPRs

5.10. Domestically, WTO Members and Observers are working to streamline IP into their economies. The relationship between IP and trade continued to develop and diversify, as Members continued to modernize and fine-tune their IP legislation and administration (Box 5.1).

Box 5.1 Domestic legislation and administrative developments

Australia^a

Between October and December 2019, public consultations were held on the amendments to the industrial design system. In February 2020, the Intellectual Property Laws Amendment Act, 2020 entered into force, phasing out the innovation patent system and introducing an objects clause into the Patent Act, 1990. Consultations were also held regarding the industrial designs system from 23 July to 28 August 2020.

Azerbaijan^b

In November 2019, the Cabinet of Ministers issued Resolution No. 437 on the Requirements for Patent Applications and Resolution No. 453 on the Rules for the Inclusion of Inventions, Utility Models and Industrial Designs in the State Register.

Canada^c

In March 2020, amendments to the Copyright Act and the Trademarks Act came into force.

Chile^d

In October 2019, amendments to the procedures on how to appear before the National Institute of Intellectual Property entered into force.

China^e

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

Hong Kong, China^f

In June 2020, the amendments to the Trademarks Ordinance came into force; they provide for the implementation of an international registration system, as per the WIPO Madrid Agreement. The Copyright Ordinance was amended to enhance exceptions relating to persons with disabilities, as per the WIPO Marrakesh Treaty.

India^g

In April 2020, the Startups Intellectual Property Protection Scheme was extended for a further period of 3 years, to facilitate patent, design and trademark applications. Applications can also be made through the Innovation Support Centre network, established in association with WIPO.

Indonesia^h

In December 2019, the Minister of Law and Human Rights issued Regulation No. 30, which contains detailed procedures for the granting of compulsory licences. 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 Patents; and Ministerial Regulation No. 20 provides 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.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabiaⁱ

Between October 2019 and April 2020, the national IP administration was revamped, as the authority on copyrights, trademarks patents, layout designs of integrated circuits, plant varieties and industrial designs was transferred to the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property, and hearings on IP-related civil and criminal cases were transferred to commercial courts. In January 2020, the IP Respect Council was created, with representatives from the public and private sectors.

Mauritius^j

In August 2020, the Mauritius Revenue Authority issued information on border measures regarding copyrights, patents, industrial designs, trademarks and collective marks.

Philippines^k

The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRRs), covering the sale or lease of original works after the first disposition by the author, and the IRRs on works created or used by the Government of the Philippines came into force in July 2020.

¹⁸ Submission by the Philippines to the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.

Russian Federation^l

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.

Seychelles^m

In September 2020, the statutory functions for copyright were transferred from the Department of Culture to the Department of Trade. The Registrar General was appointed as Registrar of Copyright.

Singaporeⁿ

In November 2019, the Intellectual Property Enforcement Act came into force, implementing the EU-Singapore Free Trade Agreement. Under the Copyright Act and the Trademark Act provisions for the seizure of suspected infringing goods that are to be exported is provided, at the request of the IPR holder.

Chinese Taipei^o

Amendments to the Enforcement Rules of the Patent Act came into force in November 2019 and June 2020. The amendments to the Trade Secrets Act, which came into force in January 2020, are aimed at strengthening confidentiality during investigation procedures. The Regulations Governing the Implementation of Filing Patent and Trademark Applications and Services by Electronic Means were amended in July 2020. To conform to copyright norms and judicial precedent, the Regulations Governing Application for Approval of Compulsory License of Musical Works and Royalties for Use Thereof were amended in August 2020.

Ukraine^p

The amendments to the Customs Code entered into force in November 2019, expanding the use of border measures and introducing the possibility of early release of goods suspected of infringing IPRs. In January 2020, the amendments to improve the protection of geographical indications came into force.

- a Submission by Australia to the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.
- b Submission by Azerbaijan to the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.
- c Submission by Canada to the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.
- d Submission by Chile to the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.
- e Submission by China to the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.
- f Submission by Hong Kong, China to the WTO Trade Monitoring Report and notification to the TRIPS Council.
- g Submission by India to the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.
- h Submission by Indonesia to the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.
- i Submission by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.
- j Submission by Mauritius to the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.
- k Submission by the Philippines to the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.
- l Submission by the Russian Federation to the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.
- m Submission by Seychelles to the WTO Trade Monitoring Report and notifications to the TRIPS Council.
- n Submission by Singapore to the WTO Trade Monitoring Report and notifications to the TRIPS Council.
- o Submission by Chinese Taipei for the WTO Trade Monitoring Report and notifications to the TRIPS Council.
- p Submission by Ukraine to the WTO Trade Monitoring Report and notifications to the TRIPS Council.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

COVID-19-related measures

5.11. Since early 2020, Members have undertaken IP measures that 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. In March 2020, the legislatures of Chile and Ecuador issued non-binding resolutions expressing their respective views on the need to take initiatives to facilitate access to COVID-19-related technologies, including the issuance of compulsory licences.

5.12. Some Members endeavoured to make patent information or product standards related to combatting COVID-19 more easily available, and/or introduced measures which may facilitate the grant of government use or compulsory licences for patented technology relevant to addressing the pandemic. These substantive measures are shown in Table 5.1.

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 trademark/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/ESTUDIOS	06/04/2020
Brazil	Under Ordinance (<i>Portaria</i> , in Portuguese) No. 149/2020, the INPI will prioritize the examination of patent applications related to innovations that could 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 (Act respecting certain measures in response to COVID-19) received Royal Assent. It amends Canada's 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

Member	Measure	Source	Date
Chile	As a way to collaborate in the effort to contain the spread of COVID-19, in March and April 2020, the INAPI (Instituto Nacional de Propiedad Industrial) prepared special editions of its reports on public domain technologies focused on elements for personal protection designed to mitigate contagion: IDP No. 106 - <i>Elementos de protección personal: Mascarillas</i> (Elements for personal protection: face masks) IDP No. 107 - <i>Elementos de protección personal: Gafas de seguridad</i> (Elements for personal protection: safety goggles) IDP No. 108 - <i>Elementos de protección personal: Guantes</i> (Elements for personal protection: gloves).	https://www.inapi.cl/docs/default-source/default-document-library/informe_106.pdf?sfvrsn=15745302_0 https://www.inapi.cl/docs/default-source/default-document-library/informe_107.pdf?sfvrsn=155a26d1_0 https://www.inapi.cl/docs/default-source/default-document-library/informe_dp_108.pdf?sfvrsn=bafdd1d5_0	01/03/2020
Chile	In the context of the PROSUR/PROSUL regional technical cooperation initiative, the INAPI contributed to the elaboration of the public domain patent report on technologies to combat COVID-19.	https://www.inapi.cl/sala-de-prensa/detalle-noticia/oficinas-de-prosur-publican-informe-de-tecnologias-de-dominio-publico-para-enfrentar-efectos-de-crisis-sanitaria	26/04/2020
China	The China Patent Information Center launched a freely accessible database for various coronavirus-related patents.	https://ncp.patentstar.cn/en	01/02/2020
Colombia	Colombia published a bulletin with all the public domain patents on technologies to combat COVID-19. All PROSUR members collaborated in the report.	https://prosur.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Boletin-PROSUR-COVID19-1.pdf	28/04/2020
Ecuador	The National Service for Intellectual Rights (SENADI) prepared an Infosite on technologies used for the treatment and prevention of COVID-19. The Infosite contains government measures and official information issued by national institutions, within the scope of their respective authorities, as well as sanitary measures that have been adopted as a result of the emergency declaration, in addition to information generated internationally on COVID-19, contained in dissemination platforms and technological bulletins prepared by International Organizations and other national intellectual property offices. The Infosite is constantly updated with information of interest to users.	https://www.propiedadintelectual.gob.ec/covid_19/	29/04/2020
Ecuador	The SENADI prepared an Information Bulletin on patents related to COVID-19, which contains useful information related to technologies, e.g. pharmaceuticals for experimental treatment; equipment; devices and medical supplies; and biosecurity equipment and technologies. The objective is to provide the relevant information to public and private entities.	https://www.propiedadintelectual.gob.ec/covid_19/files/BoletinABR/index.html#p=5	01/04/2020
Ecuador	Ecuador joined the preparation of the PROSUR Bulletin of Patents in the Public Domain on Technologies to Combat COVID-19.	https://prosur.org/blog/novedad/prosur-emite-publicacion-electronica-con-patentes-de-dominio-publico-en-la-region-dirigidas-a-enfrentar-covid-19/	01/04/2020

Member	Measure	Source	Date
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 German 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 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.	https://www.bgbl.de/xaver/bgbl/start.xav#_bgbl_%2F%2F*%5B%40atr_id%3D%27bgbl120s0587.pdf%27%5D_1588850035945	27/03/2020
Greece	Two bulletins were made available to the public via OBI's (Hellenic Industrial Property Organisation) website. These contain published patented medical technology related to vaccines and diagnostic methods, and 3D printing patented technology for facial masks and respirators. The bulletins were uploaded onto OBI's site on 11 May 2020.	http://www.obl.gr/el/news/%ce%b5%ce%bd%ce%b7%ce%bc%ce%b5%cf%81%cf%89%cf%84%ce%b9%ce%ba%ce%ae-%ce%bc%ce%b5%ce%bb%ce%ad%cf%84%ce%b7-%cf%83%cf%87%ce%b5%cf%84%ce%b9%ce%ba%ce%ac-%ce%bc%ce%b5-%cf%84%ce%b1-%ce%b5%ce%bd%ce%b4%ce%b5/	11/05/2020
Hungary	In connection with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government declared a special legal order (State of Danger). During this period, the Government may adopt decrees by means of which it may, as provided for by a cardinal act, suspend the application of certain acts, derogate from the provisions of acts, and take other extraordinary measures. Government Decree 212/2020 (16 May) on public health compulsory licences for exploitation within Hungary (hereinafter, Government Decree 212/2020), based on Art. 31 of the TRIPS Agreement, created a public health compulsory licence for exploitation within Hungary. The special legal order (State of Danger) was terminated on 18 June 2020, and thus Government Decree 212/2020 ceased to have effect on that day. Termination on 18/06/2020.	http://njt.hu/cgi_bin/njt_doc.cgi?docid=219512.383062 https://njt.hu/translated/doc/J2020R0212K_20200517_FIN.pdf	17/05/2020
Israel	On 18 March 2020, the Minister of Health issued a permit allowing the Government to import generic versions of lapinovir/ritonavir from India for the purpose of treating COVID-19 patients.	In Hebrew: http://freepdfhosting.com/645a6a5b51.pdf	18/03/2020
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

Member	Measure	Source	Date
Mauritania	Development of medicinal patents, available to all economic operators	Directorate of Industry Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism	01/03/2020
Russian Federation	Creation of a special news section in the official Internet site of the Russian Federal service for intellectual property "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 the 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 on the official Internet site of the Russian Federal Service for Intellectual Property, which contains information on patents relevant to the context of a pandemic (patent documents submitted by both domestic and foreign right holders).	https://www1.fips.ru/doc-virus/	01/05/2020
Singapore	Singapore made copyrighted software related to a contact-tracing solution for COVID-19 freely available under an open-source licence.	https://bluetrace.io/	25/03/2020
Chinese Taipei	The IP office released drug approval status and patent information of 52 potential medications for combating COVID-19.	https://www.tipo.gov.tw/en/cp-282-876373-c026a-2.html https://www.tipo.gov.tw/tw/cp-85-873260-f17e4-1.html	12/03/2020
Chinese Taipei	In order to support companies to quickly apply for trademark registration while lowering marketing risks, the IP office produced a list of the names of pandemic-prevention products and services, and is offering a fee reduction with respect to trademark applications which designate goods or services identical to those on the list.	https://www.tipo.gov.tw/en/cp-282-876373-c026a-2.html	27/03/2020
Chinese Taipei	The IP office set up a trademark consultation hotline in order to assist applicants with trademark searches (hotline until 31/05/2020, may be extended depending on the circumstances).	https://www.tipo.gov.tw/tw/cp-85-874399-4bac3-1.html	27/03/2020
Chinese Taipei	The IP office established a pandemic-prevention section in its Global Patent Search System which enables users to find patent information relating to epidemic prevention.	https://www.tipo.gov.tw/en/cp-282-876373-c026a-2.html https://www.tipo.gov.tw/tw/cp-853-875513-38fe6-1.html	22/04/2020
Chinese Taipei	The IP office released patent information relating to mask-producing facilities and technologies around the world in order to help prevent patent infringement by producers.	https://www.tipo.gov.tw/en/cp-282-876373-c026a-2.html https://www.tipo.gov.tw/tw/cp-85-875531-6ace8-1.html	28/04/2020
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

Member	Measure	Source	Date
United States	The USPTO launched the COVID-19 Prioritized Patent Examination Pilot Program, under which it 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
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.

5.13. Several Members took measures to ease procedural requirements, deadlines or fees with respect to administrative IP matters, as shown in Table 5.2. Generally, such measures appear to have been taken to mitigate any difficulties caused by COVID-19, which applicants, right holders or other stakeholders may encounter.¹⁹ WIPO launched "COVID-19 IP Policy Tracker", an online platform which provides information on the measures adopted in IP offices, among others, in response to the pandemic.²⁰

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: Resolución 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

¹⁹ Viewed at: <https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/cipointernet-internetopic.nsf/eng/wr00050.html>.

²⁰ Viewed at: <https://www.wipo.int/covid19-policy-tracker/#/covid19-policy-tracker/ipo-operations>.

Member	Measure	Source	Date
Australia	Streamlined extensions of time for COVID-19-related disruptions was to be 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
Chile	The National Institute of Industrial Property (INAPI) issued Resolution No. 314 of 17 March, which extended all deadlines of contentious and non-contentious procedures expiring between 17 March and 30 April, for a period equivalent to half of the original term. The INAPI issued Resolution No. 3.643 of 29 April, which extended all deadlines of contentious and non-contentious procedures expiring between 1 May and 15 May that had not been extended before.	https://www.inapi.cl/docs/default-source/default-document-library/rex-314_20_ampliacion-plazos_covid534ec653f4c43bfaf54fec7881f639f.pdf?sfvrsn=e8614e39_2 https://www.inapi.cl/docs/default-source/default-document-library/ampliacion_primera_quincena_de_mayo.pdf?sfvrsn=49c1691f_2	17/03/2020
Chile	Under Law No. 21.226 on the suspension of hearings and other activities in judicial cases, in force since 2 April 2020, the following measures are applied regarding contentious proceedings before the INAPI: a) all hearings held under these proceedings are suspended; b) judicial determinations and actions that may cause defencelessness to any of the parties are not decreed due to the restrictions imposed within the framework of the state of constitutional exception; c) in the event of unfeasibility to meet any deadline due to the restrictions imposed within the framework of the state of constitutional exception or as consequence of the health emergency, judiciary obstruction may be claimed within 10 days of impairment cessation; and d) the evidentiary terms are suspended until the expiration of 10 business days after the state of constitutional exception ends.	https://www.pjud.cl/documents/396588/0/21226.pdf/c2bb01aa-c89b-423d-8a83-6c28f19db4b2	02/04/2020
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
Greece	All time-limits set by law or by the Hellenic Industrial Property Organisation (OBI) related to the filing of patent applications, industrial design applications, supplementary protection certificate applications and topographies of semiconductor products, as well as to grant proceedings, excluding time-limits related to the payment of fees, were suspended from 11 March 2020 until 12 June 2020. The suspension of time-limits was granted pursuant to i) Article 38 par. 5 of Legislative Act of March 20, 2020; ii) Decision DIDAD/F.64.340/oik.9911/11.05.2020 of the Minister of Internal Affairs; and	http://www.obj.gr/el/news/%ce%b1%ce%bd%ce%b1%cf%83%cf%84%ce%bf%ce%bb%ce%ae-%cf%80%cf%81%ce%bf%ce%b8%ce%b5%cf%83%ce%bc%ce%b9%cf%8e%ce%bd-%cf%83%cf%84%ce%bf%ce%bd-%ce%bf%ce%b2%ce%b9-%ce%ba%ce%b1%cf%84-%ce%b5%cf%86%ce%b1%cf%81/ http://www.obj.gr/el/news/%cf%80%ce%b1%cf%81%ce%ac%cf%84%ce%b1%cf%83%ce%b7-%ce%b1%ce%bd%ce%b1%cf%83%cf%84%ce%bf%ce%bb%ce%ae%cf%82-%cf%80%cf%81%ce%bf%ce%b8%ce%b5%cf%83%ce%bc%ce%b9%cf%8e%ce	11/03/2020

Member	Measure	Source	Date
	iii) Decisions AC/7/A01/2020 and AC/10/A01/2020 of OBI's Administrative Council.	%bd-%cf%83%cf%84%ce%bf%ce%bd-%ce%bf/	
Greece	Physical presence of the public at the OBI was suspended from 23 March until 10 June 2020. Communication via phone or electronic means was encouraged. The filing procedure was not interrupted, due to the fact that all applications are filed electronically. Operations were not suspended by the OBI. Existing and new applications were processed by staff in rotating shifts.	http://www.obl.gr/el/news/%ce%b1%ce%bd%ce%b1%cf%83%cf%84%ce%bf%ce%bb%ce%ae-%ce%b5%cf%80%ce%b9%cf%83%ce%ba%ce%ad%cf%88%ce%b5%cf%89%ce%bd-%ce%ba%ce%bf%ce%b9%ce%bd%ce%bf%cf%8d-%cf%83%cf%84%ce%b1-%ce%b3%cf%81%ce%b1%cf%86%ce%b5/ http://www.obl.gr/el/news/%ce%b1%ce%bd%ce%b1%cf%83%cf%84%ce%bf%ce%bb%ce%ae-%ce%b5%cf%80%ce%b9%cf%83%ce%ba%ce%ad%cf%88%ce%b5%cf%89%ce%bd-%ce%ba%ce%bf%ce%b9%ce%bd%ce%bf%cf%8d-%cf%83%cf%84%ce%b1-%ce%b3%cf%81%ce%b1%cf%86%ce%b5-2/	23/03/2020
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 & 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
Philippines	The Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL) took certain procedural measures, including the extension of deadlines, the suspension of hearings, the extension of fee payments, and the acceptance of online filings	https://www.ipophil.gov.ph/advisories/ https://www.ipophil.gov.ph/	16/03/2020
Philippines	The extension of deadlines provided by IPOPHL does not apply to the filing of Third-Party Observations for inventions or Adverse Information on utility model and industrial design applications for personal protective equipment, medical health care equipment/devices, and pharmaceutical products urgently needed to contain and address the COVID-19 health situation.	https://law.upd.edu.ph/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/IPOPHL-MC-2020-010.pdf	20/04/2020
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/ https://rospatent.gov.ru/ru/news/informacionnoe-soobshchenie-23062020	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 IP (including those related to the payment of patent and other fees) which expire between 30 March 2020 and 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

Member	Measure	Source	Date
Singapore	The Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) extended certain deadlines for patent, trademark, design, plant variety protection and geographical indication matters.	https://www.ipos.gov.sg/docs/default-source/resources-library/practice-direction-no-2-of-2020.pdf https://www.ipos.gov.sg/	07/04/2020
Singapore	The IPOS introduced amendments to subsidiary legislation in response to COVID-19, which took effect on 5 June 2020. The key amendments enable the following: (i) extension of time for pending deadlines in special circumstances; and (ii) alternative filing modes and service of documents.	https://www.ipos.gov.sg/docs/default-source/resources-library/patents/circulars/2020-circular-no-3---introduction-of-amendments-to-subsidiary-legislation-in-response-to-covid-19.pdf https://www.ipos.gov.sg/docs/default-source/resources-library/registries-practice-direction-no-03-of-2020.pdf https://www.ipos.gov.sg/	05/06/2020
Singapore	The IPOS began implementing fully digital hearings for IP-related disputes (it recently concluded its first mediation held fully on a digital platform).		07/06/2020
Switzerland	The Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (IPI) extended certain deadlines for IPRs. The IPI is fully functional. Its premises are open to the public.	https://www.ige.ch/en/services/newsroom/coronavirus-news.html#c70226	27/07/2020
Chinese Taipei	The IP office announced relief for delays in complying with certain statutory or specified time-periods regarding patent and trademark matters due to the COVID-19 pandemic.	https://www.tipo.gov.tw/en/cp-282-877183-91552-2.html https://www.tipo.gov.tw/tw/cp-85-863734-8fbce-1.html	31/01/2020
Thailand	The Department of Intellectual Property extended certain deadlines for IPR administrative proceedings.	https://www.ipthailand.go.th/images/3534/2563/00018058.pdf https://www.ipthailand.go.th/en/home-eng.html	24/03/2020
Thailand	The Department of Intellectual Property introduced methods for e-certification and e-signature.	https://www.ipthailand.go.th/images/3534/2563/Covid19/DIPCACOVID19.pdf https://www.ipthailand.go.th/en/home-eng.html	30/03/2020
Thailand	The Department of Intellectual Property, Ministry of Commerce issued Practical Guidelines for Applicants in relation to the Memo according to Article 8 of the Licensing Facilitation Act B.E. 2558 (2015) during the Situation of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), relating to requests for extensions of time-periods of proceedings.	http://www.ipthailand.go.th/images/3534/2563/Covid19/dip_extend_application_covid19.pdf	27/05/2020
United Kingdom	The United Kingdom Intellectual Property Office extended certain deadlines for patent, SPC, trademark and design 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, it is waiving petition fees in certain situations for customers impacted by COVID-19. Details about eligible applications and re-examination proceedings are provided in the link.	https://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/coronavirus_relief_notice_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 Enrollment and Discipline, and certain payments by credit card.	https://www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/85%20FR%2017502.pdf	30/03/2020

Member	Measure	Source	Date
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

5.14. During the review period, the TRIPS Council met on three occasions: 17-18 October 2019; 6 February; and 30 July 2020.

5.15. At the October 2019 meeting, the Council discussed a proposal on transparency and notification requirements.²¹ It undertook the annual review of technical cooperation under Article 67, based on reports submitted by developed country Members²², intergovernmental organizations²³ and the WTO Secretariat;²⁴ the annual review of the Special Compulsory Licensing System; and started the annual review of incentives for technology transfer to LDCs, as per Article 66.2, on the basis of reports by developed country Members.²⁵ Delegations agreed to extend the period for acceptance of the Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement until end-2021; and a draft decision was submitted to the General Council for adoption at its meeting in December 2019.²⁶

5.16. The February 2020 meeting was preceded by the Workshop on the Implementation of Article 66.2 of the TRIPS Agreement: Incentives for Technology Transfer, during which capital-based LDC experts reviewed the reports by implementing Members. These experts enriched the discussions during the Council's conclusion of the review under Article 66.2, and presented a proposal to streamline reporting procedures.²⁷ The Council had before it a submission regarding a draft Codex Alimentarius standard which prohibited "cross-promotion" in product labelling across product categories (e.g. infant formula, follow-up formula, and formula for medical purposes) and could impact IPRs, specifically trademark rights under the TRIPS Agreement.²⁸

5.17. During the July 2020 meeting, delegations had a detailed exchange on COVID-19-related measures: under the agenda item "IP Measures in the context of COVID-19", Members focused on the compilation of IP-related measures maintained by the WTO Secretariat;²⁹ digitization in the context of the pandemic and TRIPS-related work in the e-commerce Work Programme;³⁰ and TRIPS flexibilities outside the patent area in the context of access to medical technologies under "IP and Public Interest".³¹ In preparation for the Review on the Implementation of Article 66.2, the LDC Group presented a proposal on reporting incentives for technology transfer.³²

5.18. Members actively shared their national experiences and engaged in policy discussions on two themes, namely IP and Innovation and IP and the Public Interest. Specific agenda items concerned "Public-Private Collaborations in Innovation - IP Commercialization";³³ "R&D Costs and Pricing of Medicines and Health Technologies";³⁴ "Making MSMEs more Competitive through Trademarks";³⁵ "The WTO TRIPS Agreement and the Copyright Three-Step Test";³⁶ and "Beyond Access to Medicines and Medical Technologies Towards A More Holistic Approach To Trips

²¹ WTO document JOB/IP/33/Rev.2

²² WTO document IP/C/W/655 and addenda.

²³ WTO document IP/C/W/645 and addenda.

²⁴ WTO document IP/C/W/658.

²⁵ WTO document IP/C/W/656 and addenda.

²⁶ WTO document WT/L/1081.

²⁷ WTO document RD/IP/37.

²⁸ WTO document IP/C/W/660 and IP/C/M/94/Add.1.

²⁹ Viewed at: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/trade_related_ip_measure_e.htm.

³⁰ WTO document IP/C/W/665.

³¹ WTO document IP/C/W/666.

³² WTO document IP/C/W/664.

³³ WTO document IP/C/W/657.

³⁴ WTO document IP/C/W/659.

³⁵ WTO document IP/C/W/661 and addenda.

³⁶ WTO document IP/C/W/663.

Flexibilities".³⁷ Discussions on non-violation and situation complaints under the TRIPS Agreement continued. In general, delegations maintained their established positions.³⁸

5.19. During the review period, 21 Members³⁹ notified legislative measures under Article 63.2. Most of them introduced their new or amended laws during the Council's meetings, providing insights into developments in different areas, for instance: copyright; trademarks; layout designs; industrial designs; patents; undisclosed information; trade secrets; protection of traditional knowledge; enforcement of IPRs; and competition. Ten Members submitted information on their contact points for the exchange of information and cooperation on trade in infringing goods, under Article 69.⁴⁰ One Member submitted its contact point for technical cooperation, as per Article 67.⁴¹

TRIPS-related Discussions in Trade Policy Reviews

5.20. During the review period, the Trade Policy Mechanism reviewed six Members⁴². These reviews included discussions on a wide range of IP issues with a bearing on trade policy, including:⁴³

- composition of IP assets;
- reform of the copyright regime;
- protection of indigenous cultural intellectual property;
- modernization of the trademark regime and the protection of olfactory or taste marks;
- geographical indications and the GI regime for non-agricultural products;
- patent regime, supplementary patent certificates and patent extension;
- compulsory licences;
- implementation of the Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement;
- protection of test data;
- regulation applicable to genetic resources accessed under the Nagoya Protocol;
- protection of trade secrets;
- enforcement, both online and at the border;
- anti-competitive practices;
- technical assistance and cooperation programmes implemented in the framework of Article 66.2 of the TRIPS Agreement;
- programmes to support IP management by SMEs; and
- accession and implementation of WIPO instruments.

³⁷ WTO document IP/C/W/666.

³⁸ WTO documents IP/C/M/93/Add.1; IP/C/M/94/Add.1; and IP/C/M/95/Add.1.

³⁹ Australia; Brazil; Canada; China; Czech Republic; European Union; Hong Kong, China; Hungary; Japan; Korea, Republic of; Kyrgyz Republic; Mexico; Myanmar; Russian Federation; Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; Slovenia; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; Ukraine; United Kingdom; and United States.

⁴⁰ Albania; Belize; India; Korea, Republic of; Kyrgyz Republic; Qatar; Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; Slovenia; Tonga; and Vanuatu.

⁴¹ Chile.

⁴² Peru, Lao People's Democratic Republic, European Union, Australia, Japan and Zimbabwe.

⁴³ WTO documents WT/TPR/M/393/Add.1; WT/TPR/M/394/Add.1; WT/TPR/M/395/Add.1; WT/TPR/M/396/Add.1; WT/TPR/M/397/Add.1; and RD/TPR/1174.

6 TRANSPARENCY OF TRADE POLICIES

Notifications and Surveillance in WTO Councils and Committees¹

6.1. This Section provides a factual overview of the compliance and timeliness of Members' notifications to the WTO. Notifications are the primary instrument for ensuring transparency in the multilateral trading system. They are submitted by each Member and reviewed by the relevant bodies of the WTO. The importance attached by WTO Members to this issue explains the very elaborate system of notifications and cross-notifications put in place under the terms of most agreements. Transparency in trade and in trade policy-making is fundamental for allowing trade policy makers and economic agents to make informed decisions, and markets to operate more efficiently.

6.2. The overview of the compliance and timeliness of Members' notifications to the WTO illustrates that, with a few exceptions, compliance with notification requirements of the various WTO Agreements remains very uneven. Although there have been significant efforts by some delegations to bring the overall record of their notifications further up to date, the general sense is that progress on this front remains too slow. The lack of compliance with notification obligations across WTO bodies is problematic because it undermines individual agreements and, more generally, the operation of the multilateral trading system. There are several reasons for low compliance with notification requirements, and an important one relates to the lack of capacity of many WTO Members, despite the continued efforts by the WTO Secretariat and the Committees. This lack of capacity, and the other reasons behind the poor compliance, must be addressed collectively by the WTO membership.

Anti-Dumping

6.3. Pursuant to Article 16.4 of the Agreement on the Implementation of Article VI of GATT 1994 ("the Anti-Dumping Agreement"), all Members are required to submit to the Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices, on a semi-annual basis, reports of any anti-dumping actions taken within the preceding six months, using an agreed standard form. Members that have not established an authority competent to conduct anti-dumping investigations have the option to make a one-time "nil" notification, valid unless and until they establish an investigating authority, in lieu of submitting nil notifications every six months.

6.4. Sixty Members² submitted semi-annual reports, either of anti-dumping actions taken, or of no actions having been taken, during the six-month period January-June 2020. Fifty-one Members submitted one-time nil notifications. The remaining 26 Members failed to submit semi-annual reports in respect of anti-dumping actions during this period. However, few of these non-notifiers are likely to have taken anti-dumping actions.

Subsidies and Countervailing Measures

6.5. The trends in the status of compliance with the obligation to notify subsidies to the Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures under Article 25.1 during the period 1995-2019 are shown in Table 6.1. Subsidy notifications are required every two years, and the most recent notifications were due on 30 June 2019. The share of Members that notified subsidies remained between 39% and 50% between 1995 and 2019. The share of Members that made a "nil" notification fell significantly over the same period. Excluding 1995, the share of Members making the required notifications did not exceed 70%, and generally hovered around 60%. Conversely, the share of Members not making any notification registered a substantial increase since 1995, from 25% to 50%, albeit with some intervening fluctuations.

¹ Notifications in the SPS and TBT Committees are dealt with in Sections 3.3 and 3.4 of this Report.

² The European Union is counted as one (28 member States until 31 January 2020). The United Kingdom withdrew from the European Union as of 1 February 2020. The European Union and the United Kingdom have communicated that 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. See WT/LET/1462 and WT/GC/206. Since February 2020, the United Kingdom has separately submitted legislative notifications to the Committee. These notifications were made under the sole responsibility of the United Kingdom and are counted in the number of Members that have submitted legislative notifications.

Table 6.1 Status of subsidy notifications

New and full subsidy notification (due on 30 June of the years shown)	1995	1998	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019
	% share of total											
Members that notified subsidies	50	39	44	45	47	48	48	47	48	47	46	43
Members that made a "nil" notification	25	16	15	14	13	11	17	20	19	18	13	7
Sub-total of notifying Members	75	55	59	59	60	59	65	67	67	65	59	50
Members that did not make any notification	25	45	41	41	40	41	35	33	33	35	41	50

Note: As at 23 October 2020. Values are rounded.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

6.6. Pursuant to Article 25.11 of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, all Members are required to submit to the Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, on a semi-annual basis, reports of any countervailing actions taken within the preceding six months, using an agreed standard form. Members that have not established an authority competent to conduct countervailing investigations have the option to make a one-time "nil" notification, valid unless and until they establish an investigating authority, in lieu of submitting nil notifications every six months.

6.7. Fifty-nine Members³ submitted semi-annual reports, either of countervailing actions taken, or of no actions having been taken, during the six-month period January-June 2020. Forty-four Members submitted one-time nil notifications. The remaining (34) Members failed to submit semi-annual reports in respect of countervailing actions during this period. Few, if any, of these non-notifiers are likely to have countervailing actions.

Safeguards Notifications

6.8. Unlike the Anti-Dumping Agreement or the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, the Agreement on Safeguards (SG) does not oblige Members to submit semi-annual reports. On the other hand, the SG Agreement obliges Members to notify individual SG actions, such as initiations of investigation or impositions of measure. The number of notifications regarding initiations and impositions are explained in Section 3.2 of this Report. In addition, pursuant to Article 12.6 of the SG Agreement, all Members are obliged to notify to the Committee on Safeguards their laws, regulations and administrative procedures relating to safeguard measures. As of 26 October 2020, 72 Members⁴ had notified their legislations, while 46 Members had notified that they had no such legislation. 19 Members had not made such a notification.

State Trading Enterprises

6.9. Notifications related to State Trading Enterprises are reviewed by the Working Party on State Trading Enterprises on behalf of the CTG. In July 2012, the Council agreed to extend indefinitely the new biannual frequency of new and full notifications.

³ The European Union is counted as one (28 member States until 31 January 2020). The United Kingdom withdrew from the European Union as of 1 February 2020. The European Union and the United Kingdom have communicated that 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. See WT/LET/1462 and WT/GC/206. Since February 2020, the United Kingdom has separately submitted legislative notifications to the Committee. These notifications were made under the sole responsibility of the United Kingdom and are counted in the number of Members that have submitted legislative notifications.

⁴ The European Union is counted as one (27 member States). The United Kingdom, which withdrew from the European Union as of 1 February 2020, has notified its laws and regulations, and is included in this figure separately.

6.10. Table 6.2 presents notifications received for the years in which a new and full notification was due. It shows a declining trend in total notifications over the period examined, which has accentuated over the past few years.

Table 6.2 Status of new and full STE notifications (due on 30 June of the year shown)^a

Year	1995	1998	2001	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018	2020
Number of Members that have notified ^b	65	65	72	64	63	66	66	61	63	66	47	29

a As at 27 October 2020.

b The European Union and its member States provide a single notification and are counted as one in this Table.

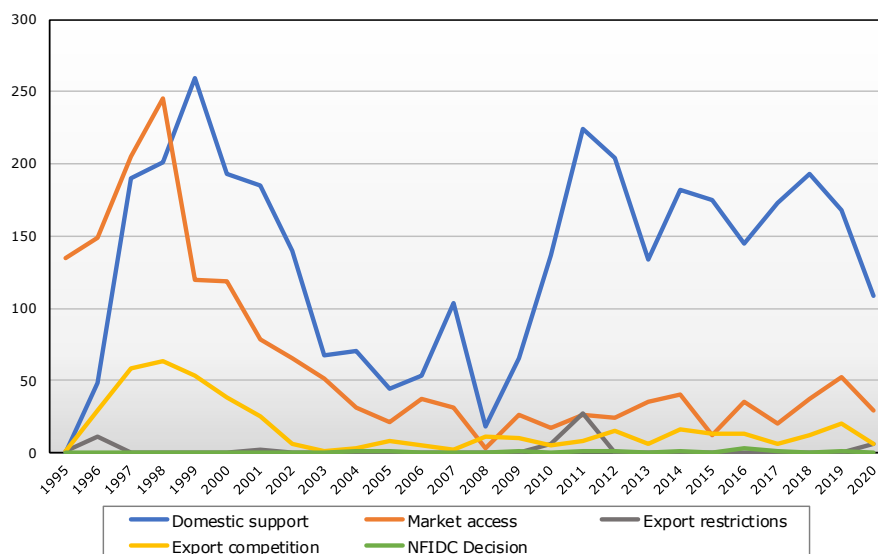
Source: WTO Secretariat.

Agriculture

6.11. 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.

6.12. More than 5,622 questions were raised in connection with individual notifications under the CoA's review process in the period 1995-2020. Throughout the years, most of these questions focused on domestic support notifications (DS:1 and DS:2), followed by questions concerning market access, in particular TRQs (MA:1 and MA:2). Specifically, since 2010, the prevalence of questions concerning domestic support notifications was considerably high, representing between 70% and 80% of all the questions raised in the CoA concerning individual notifications (Chart 6.1).

Chart 6.1 Questions raised on individual notifications, per section per year, 1995-2020^a

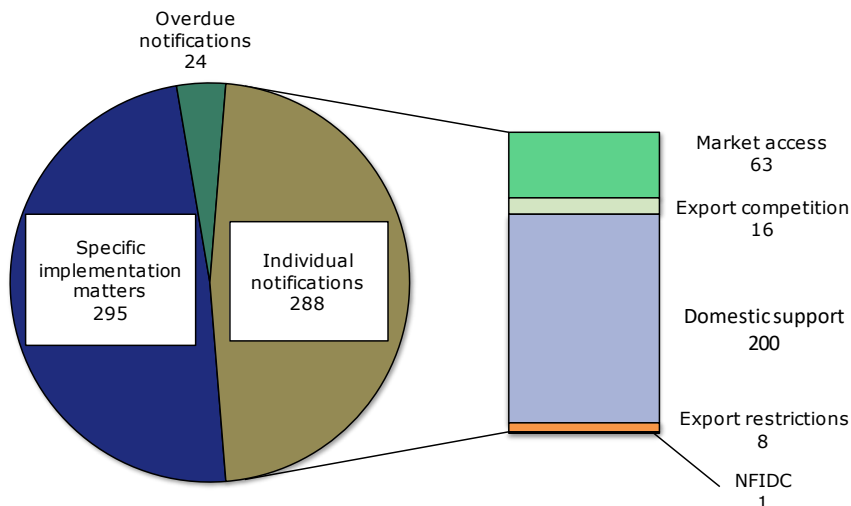


a 2020 data covers up to the September 2020 CoA meeting.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

6.13. From 15 October 2019 to 15 October 2020, Members submitted 370 notifications (including addenda and corrigenda). A total of 288 questions were posed concerning individual notifications during the CoA meetings that took place during this period. As seen in Chart 6.2, and in line with the historical trend, most of the questions related to domestic support notifications (69%), with domestic support notifications from India and the European Union being subject to the most scrutiny. A total of 24 questions addressed overdue notifications from Australia, China, Egypt, European Union, India, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Morocco, South Africa, Turkey, United States and Viet Nam.

Chart 6.2 Number of questions raised per section, mid-October 2019 - mid-October 2020^a



a Questions raised in the CoA meetings of October 2019, and June, July and September 2020.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Quantitative Restrictions (QRs)

6.14. The notification of QRs to the Market Access Committee is an obligation established by the 2012 Decision on Notification Procedures for Quantitative Restrictions (WTO document G/L/59/Rev.1, 03 July 2012). The Decision requires Members, every two years, to notify the WTO Secretariat of the QRs they have in force, as well as any changes in the interim. As of 16 October 2020, a total of 51 Members (or 78 Members counting the EU member States and the United Kingdom separately) had submitted QR notifications and 85 Members had never submitted a notification since the requirement was established in 2012. The number of notifications for each biennial period is provided in Table 6.3.

6.15. As of 16 October 2020, 23 Members (50 Members counting the EU member states and the United Kingdom separately), had submitted notifications under the QR Decision informing of the introduction of temporary export restrictions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵ In terms of the continued application of these measures, while some Members have notified the extension of the temporary measures, and others have notified either the complete or partial elimination of the temporary export restrictions or have confirmed the expiration of the measures, most Members have not notified additional information since their first QR notification. Finally, it should be noted approximately 19 additional Members confirmed to the Trade Monitoring Report the introduction of export restrictions as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic at some point, but did not notify these measures under the QR Decision.

⁵ See G/MA/W/157/Rev.1 (forthcoming).

Table 6.3 Notification procedures for QRs

No.	Notification requirement	Total number of notifications received as at 12 October 2020, by biennial period
1	QRs in force (regular notification)	2012-14: 24 notifications from 23 Members. 2014-16: 35 notifications from 31 Members. 2016-18: 34 notifications from 30 Members. 2018-20: 45 notifications from 41 Members. 2020-22: 13 notifications from 13 Members.
2	Changes to the QRs maintained (<i>ad hoc</i>), or introduction of new QRs	2012-14: 2 Members notified changes to existing QRs. 2014-16: 3 Members notified changes to existing QRs. 2016-18: 1 Member notified changes to existing QRs. 2018-20: 15 Members notified changes to existing QRs, most of which related to measures introduced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
3	QRs maintained by other Members (reverse notification)	No Member submitted this type of notification.
4	Non-tariff measures maintained by other Members (reverse notification)	No Member submitted this type of notification.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Import Licensing

6.16. Notification requirements in the area of import licensing procedures result from the WTO Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures. They are complemented by the "Procedures for Notification and Review under the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures" adopted by the Committee on Import Licensing in 1995 (G/LIC/3) and the "Understanding on Procedures for the Review of Notifications submitted under the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures" adopted on 23 October 1996 (G/LIC/4). The notification requirements are described in Table 6.4.

Table 6.4 Notification procedures for import licensing

No.	Notification requirement	Established in	Type	Notification category
1	Submission of full texts of relevant laws and regulations and any changes thereto	Article 8.2(b) of the Agreement; G/LIC/3	One-off and <i>ad hoc</i>	N/1 N/2
2	Sources in which information concerning import licensing procedures are published	Article 1.4(a) of the Agreement; G/LIC/3	One-off and <i>ad hoc</i>	N/1 N/2
3	New import licensing procedures and changes to existing procedures	Articles 5.1-5.4 of the Agreement	<i>Ad hoc</i>	N/2
4	Reply to the Questionnaire on Import Licensing Procedures	Article 7.3 of the Agreement; G/LIC/3	Annual, by 30 September each year	N/3

Source: WTO Secretariat.

6.17. The N/1 notification requires a WTO Member to notify all relevant laws and regulations with regard to import licensing procedures, as well as identify the source/publications containing such information. It contains both a one-off element (notification of existing laws and regulations and source/publications) and an *ad hoc* element (changes to laws and regulations thereafter). In theory, a WTO Member should have at least one N/1 submission, providing its laws and regulations on import licensing or indicating that its government does not maintain any import licensing regime.

6.18. The N/2 notification is an obligation for Members to notify new licensing laws/procedures or changes made to existing laws/procedures. It is *ad hoc* in nature, and only due when specific circumstances occur. A new notification form (for notification under Articles 5.1-5.4) was agreed at

the Import Licensing Committee meeting held on 4 April 2019 for Members to use on a voluntary basis.⁶ The N/3 notification requires Members to reply to a Questionnaire describing all import licensing procedures in place by 30 September every year.

6.19. As at 9 October 2020, 14 Members had not yet submitted any notification under any provision of the Agreement since joining the WTO. In addition, another ten had not yet submitted notifications regarding domestic import licensing-related laws or regulations; and another nine are yet to submit their Replies to the Annual Questionnaire under Article 7.3. During the review period, as at 9 October 2020, 261 new notifications under the Agreement on Import Licensing were received and circulated by the Secretariat. The Committee reviewed 222 N/2 notifications relating to the institution of new import licensing procedures or changes in these procedures from 18 Members⁷ and 39 N/3 notifications from 32 Members.⁸ No COVID-19 related notification was received by the Committee on Import Licensing during the review period.

Rules of Origin

6.20. The Committee on Rules of Origin reviews notification obligations with respect to three types of rules of origin as described in Table 6.5. Recent notifications have improved the overall compliance with notification obligations in all three areas.

Table 6.5 Notification procedures for rules of origin

No.	Legal reference	Notification requirement	Type
1	Article 5 of the Agreement on Rules of Origin (no template or format agreed by the Committee)	Non-Preferential Rules of Origin: all Members must submit a notification indicating: - if they apply non-preferential rules of origin (informing what the rules are); - or if they do not apply any non-preferential rules of origin.	One-off
2	Paragraph 4 of Annex II of the on Rules of Origin (no template or format agreed by the Committee)	Changes to legislation must be published promptly. Preferential Rules of Origin: Members only notify the preferential rules of origin of regional trade agreements any time a new agreement is concluded.	<i>Ad hoc</i>
3	Paragraph 4.3 of the 2015 Ministerial Decision on preferential rules of origin for LDCs (WT/L/917/Add.1) (Template agreed by the Committee: G/RO/84)	Preferential Rules of Origin for LDCs: Members granting non-reciprocal trade preferences to LDCs must notify the rules of origin which apply under those schemes. Any modifications must also be notified.	<i>Ad hoc</i>

Source: WTO Secretariat.

6.21. As of mid-October 2020, a total of 111 WTO Members⁹ submitted a notification on non-preferential rules of origin under Article 5 of the Agreement on Rules of Origin. 51 Members informed the Committee that they implement non-preferential origin requirements, while 60 other Members notified that they do not. As noted in previous reports, however, the majority of these notifications were made in 1995-96 and some are known to contain outdated and inaccurate information. Moreover, since no template was used for their preparation, most also provide incomplete information concerning Members' practices related to non-preferential rules of origin. A group of Members have proposed to update and standardise the information available by adopting a new notification template. This proposal is currently being discussed in the Committee¹⁰.

⁶ WTO document G/LIC/28, 01 May 2019.

⁷ Argentina; Costa Rica; European Union; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Republic of Korea; Macao, China; Morocco; Myanmar; Philippines; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Seychelles; Singapore; Switzerland; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; Ukraine; Viet Nam.

⁸ Argentina; Kingdom of Bahrain; Cameroon; Canada; China; Colombia; Costa Rica; Cuba; El Salvador; European Union; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Japan; Kazakhstan; Republic of Korea; Macao, China; Malaysia; Mauritius; Montenegro; New Zealand; Panama; Philippines; Russian Federation; Seychelles; Singapore; South Africa; Switzerland; Chinese Taipei; Turkey; Ukraine; United States; Uruguay.

⁹ The European Union and its member States are counted as one.

¹⁰ WTO document G/RO/W/182/Rev.3, 24 February 2020.

6.22. In relation to non-reciprocal preferences for LDCs, all WTO Members except two have notified their LDC-specific origin requirements. In addition, the Ministerial Decision also requires preference-granting Members to notify their preferential tariffs and import statistics from LDCs. Compliance with these obligations has been slowly improving but many gaps remain, in particular concerning preferential imports under LDC preferential schemes. Document G/RO/W/163/Rev.8 provides a more detailed overview of the information gaps.

6.23. In the context of the pandemic although some Members adopted temporary or permanent (trade-facilitating) measures covering certificates of origin, such measures have not yet been notified nor discussed in the Committee.

Customs Valuation

6.24. Notifications in the area of customs valuation stem not only from the Agreement on Customs Valuation itself, but also from a number of Decisions that have been adopted by the Committee on Customs Valuation. There are five main notification requirements (Table 6.6).

Table 6.6 Notification procedures for customs valuation

No.	Notification requirement	Established in	Type
1	Submission of complete texts of national legislation (laws, regulations, etc.)	Decision on the notification and circulation of national legislation in accordance with Article 22 of the Agreement (G/VAL/5, B.2, paragraph (i))	One-off
2	Changes in laws and regulations on customs valuation	Article 22.2 of the Agreement on Customs Valuation	<i>Ad hoc</i>
3	Responses to the checklist of issues	Decision on the Checklist of Issues (G/VAL/5, B.3)	One-off
5	Decision on carrier media (software) - application of paragraph 2	Decision on the valuation of carrier media bearing software for data processing equipment (G/VAL/5, A.4, paragraph 2)	<i>Ad hoc</i>

Source: WTO Secretariat.

6.25. The notification requirements in the area of customs valuation are either one-off or *ad hoc*, which means that different approaches are required to estimate their level of compliance. In addition, any estimate must take into account that the European Union notifies on behalf a group of Members, and that this number has changed several times since the WTO entered into force. Taking all these elements into account, the maximum number of one-off notifications as at 13 October 2020 cover 136 members (counting the EU as one). This denominator has been used to estimate the degree of compliance for the following notifications (i) submission of the complete texts of national legislation; (ii) responses to the checklist of issues; and (iii) date of implementation of the Decision on the treatment of interest charges in the customs value of imported goods (Table 6.7).

6.26. Because *ad hoc* notifications are, by definition, only due when specific circumstances occur, no maximum number of notifications can be used to estimate the overall degree of compliance. This is the case regarding: (i) changes in laws and regulations on customs valuation; and (ii) the application of paragraph 2 of the Decision on Carrier Media (software).

Table 6.7 Compliance regarding customs valuation notifications

No.	Notification requirement	Compliance as at 13 October 2020
1	Submission of complete texts of national legislation (laws, regulations, etc.)	Currently, 104 Members have notified their legislation and 32 Members have still to notify. This gives a compliance rate of 76%.
2	Changes in laws and regulations on customs valuation	Since this is an <i>ad hoc</i> type of notification (i.e. a Member is only required to notify if there is a change in its national legislation), it is not possible to assess the level of compliance. Thirty-one Members have notified changes to their national legislation on customs valuation since 1995.

No.	Notification requirement	Compliance as at 13 October 2020
3	Responses to the checklist of issues	Currently, 72 Members have notified responses to the checklist of issues and 64 Members have not yet fulfilled this requirement, giving a compliance rate of 53%.
4	Decision on interest charges - date of implementation	To date, 49 Members have notified the date from which they will apply the Decision on Interest Charges and 87 Members have still to notify. This gives a compliance rate of 36%.
5	Decision on carrier media (software) - application of paragraph 2	Since this is an <i>ad hoc</i> notification (i.e. a Member is only required to notify if its imports of carrier media bearing data and software are valued as provided for in paragraph 2 of the Decision), it is not possible to assess the level of compliance. To date, 44 Members (32%) have made this notification, but it is not possible to know whether Members are applying the paragraph without having submitted the notification.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Preshipment Inspection

6.27. Article 5 of the Agreement on Preshipment Inspection (PSI) provides that Members shall submit to the Secretariat copies of the laws and regulations under which they put the Agreement into force, as well as copies of any other laws and regulations relating to PSI. Changes in such laws and regulations shall also be notified immediately after their publication. Four Members have submitted notifications relating to PSI to the Committee on Customs Valuation, which is the body responsible for administering the implementation of the Agreement on PSI, since the last report.

Table 6.8 Compliance with PSI notifications

No	Notification requirement	Notifications received mid-October 2019 to mid-October 2020
1	Submission of copies of laws and regulations putting the Agreement into force	China
2	Other laws and regulations relating to PSI	Egypt
3	Changes in laws and regulations relating to PSI	No Member
4	Absence of laws and regulations on PSI	Seychelles, Tonga

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Integrated Database (IDB)

6.28. Reliable tariff information and import statistics of all trading partners are essential to enhancing transparency and formulating sound trade policies. Recognizing the importance of the Integrated Database (IDB) in collecting and disseminating tariff and trade data, WTO Members decided to improve and modernize the operation of the IDB. The Committee on Market Access (CMA) adopted, on 28 May 2019, a new Decision on the Modalities and Operation of the IDB¹¹, providing the WTO Secretariat with greater flexibility in enhancing the IDB data coverage, simplifying the data integration process, allowing the dissemination of previously restricted data to the public, and shortening the provisional period so users will have early access to updated data. The IDB relies on Members' notifications and on information collected by the Secretariat from national and international databases, which are included in the IDB following the relevant Member's approval (framework-sourced data). In cases where only import statistics are notified by a Member, the new Decision authorized the Secretariat to estimate the MFN applied tariffs on the basis of notified applied tariffs of adjacent years. This is important because tariffs are the basis for integrating and disseminating IDB information and without them, imports statistics even if notified, were not previously disseminated. The new IDB decision also allowed the Secretariat to explore options of automatic data exchanges between Members' databases and the IDB. The Decision has also synchronized the deadline for submitting import statistics, now set for all Members on 31 October for the previous year's data. Transparency was further strengthened as applied internal taxes and other duties and charges imposed by Members are now integrated and disseminated through the IDB.

¹¹ WTO document G/MA/367, 03 June 2019.

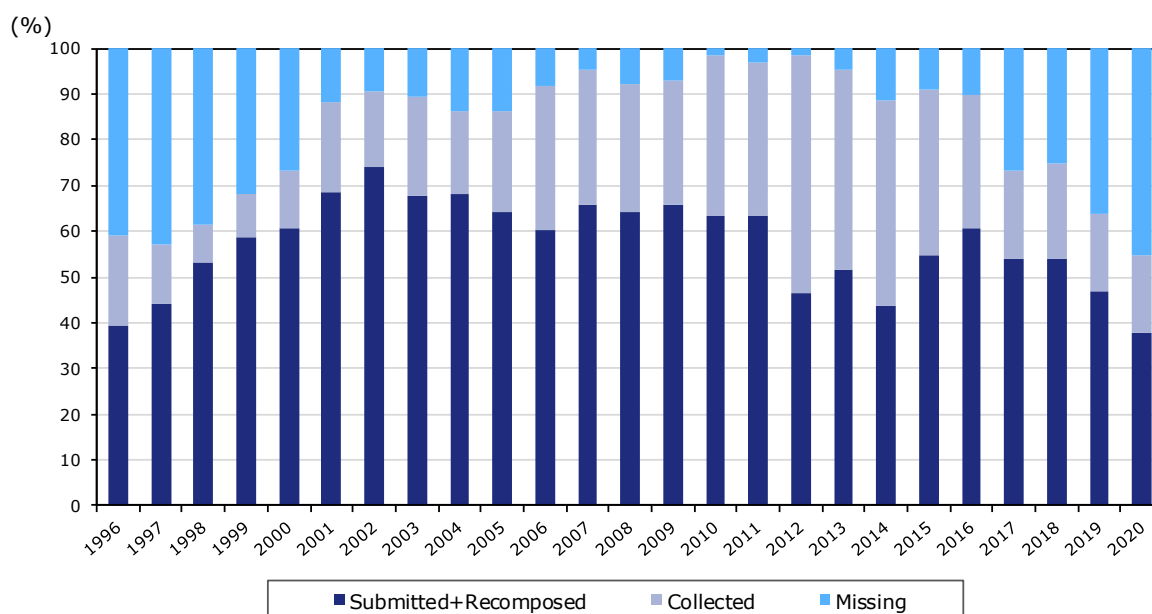
6.29. Charts 6.3 and 6.4 present the completeness of tariff and import notifications to the IDB, by number of notifications directly submitted by Members and information collected by the Secretariat.

6.30. As at 5 October 2020, the coverage of IDB notifications was, on average, 82% for tariffs and 76% for import statistics, slightly higher than the coverage cited in the last annual Report. The highest percentage of IDB tariff data completeness was recorded in 2010 and 2012 at 98% (Chart 6.3). From 2001 to 2016, the IDB shows at least 86% data availability, with an average of 92% for this consecutive sixteen-year period. The IDB coverage is lower for previous years, from 1996 to 2000, and for the more recent years, from 2017 to 2020 as notifications for those years are still incoming. The availability of the 2019 tariffs by the cut-off date was about 38% whereas for 2020, 55% of tariff data are already available despite the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. On import statistics, with the new notification deadline of 31 October, the latest reference year for this Report is 2018 (Chart 6.4). The highest IDB import statistics' coverage was recorded in 2009, at 89%. Completeness of import statistics collected through framework sources was highest in 2011 representing more than a third (34%) of expected data. Completeness of notified import statistics was highest in 2001 where 76% of import statistics were submitted by Members. The availability of import statistics has slightly improved from 44% for the 2017 imports to 46% for the 2018 imports.

6.31. Data availability varies among Members. Table 6.9 below shows the distribution of the completeness of Members' IDB data since their accession to the WTO. 45 Members have complete tariff information in the IDB and 41 Members have complete import statistics in the IDB. The Table also shows that 67% of Members have at least one outstanding tariff notification, and 70% have at least one outstanding import statistics notification.

6.32. The timeliness of IDB notifications, defined as receiving the IDB information within the year it is due, is illustrated in Table 6.10 since 2000. In cases where a valid submission was received on time but was later replaced or revised, the initial submission is included in the count of timely notifications. The same applies for data collected within the deadline but later replaced by a revised notification or by data retrieved from other framework sources.¹² Timely availability of tariffs was highest in 2013, but data punctuality has slowed down again, with some marked improvements in timeliness in 2019 and 2020. The Table also shows that since 2009, about 35% of imports statistics were available on their due date.

Chart 6.3 Completeness of IDB tariff notifications^a



a 2020 covers data available from January to September.

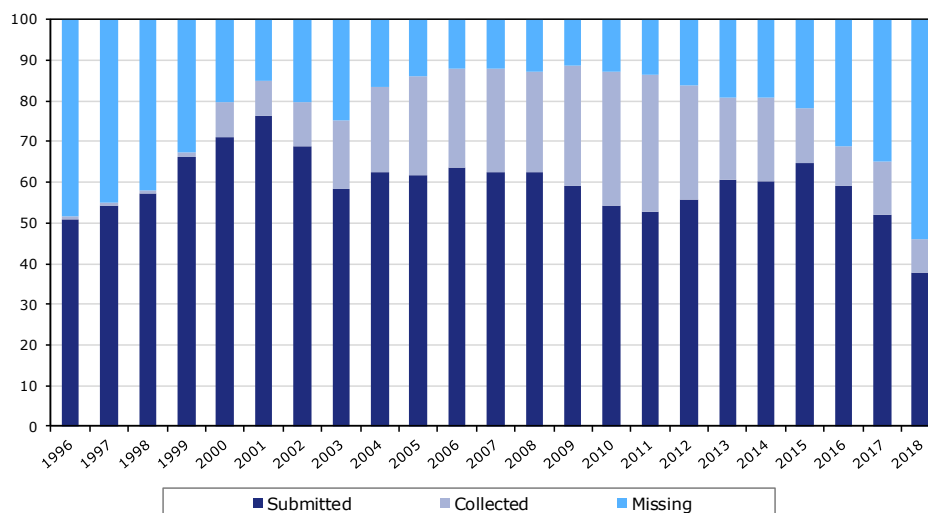
¹² The percentage of timely notifications is also based on the number of schedules.

Note: The completeness of notifications is calculated on the basis of the number of Members' schedules (i.e. European Union member States are included in the European Union schedule, and Lichtenstein in Switzerland's). The information provided by the European Union covers its 28 member States from 1 July 2013 until 31 January 2020. The United Kingdom withdrew from the European Union as of 1 February 2020 and during the transition period, which ends on 31 December 2020, EU MFN applied and preferential tariffs continue to cover the United Kingdom. See WT/Let/1462 and WT/GC/206.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Chart 6.4 Completeness of IDB import notifications^a

(%)



a Data for 2019 are due on 31 October 2020.

Note: The completeness of notifications is calculated on the number of Members' schedules (i.e. European Union member States are included in the European Union schedule, and Lichtenstein in Switzerland's). The information provided by the European Union covers its 28 member States from 1 July 2013 until 31 January 2020. The United Kingdom withdrew from the European Union as of 1 February 2020 and during the transition period, which ends on 31 December 2020, EU MFN applied and preferential tariffs continue to cover the United Kingdom. See WT/Let/1462 and WT/GC/206.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Table 6.9 Completeness of notifications among Members

Number of years with outstanding data	Tariffs (up to 2020)		Imports (up to 2018)	
	No. of Members	%	No. of Members	%
None (complete data)	45	33%	41	30%
1-2 years	21	16%	22	16%
3-5 years	27	20%	24	18%
6 or more years	42	31%	48	36%
Total number of Members' schedules	135	100%	135	100%
<i>Memo: With at least one year of outstanding data</i>	90	67%	94	70%

Source: WTO Secretariat.

6.33. Notifications of non-MFN tariff schemes to the IDB, i.e. preferential tariffs resulting from PTAs and FTAs/RTAs, have become more regular. This is partly due to the requirement under the PTA transparency mechanism (PTA-TM) whereby Members are obliged to notify non-reciprocal preferences, notably the GSP and LDC preferential trading schemes, and the amount of trade that occurs under these schemes. While notification of non-MFN tariff schemes is still on a voluntary basis, at least 60% of IDB tariff submissions since 2015 included additional duty schemes, aside from the MFN. In 2020, of the 74 tariff submissions received, 54 (73%) included preferential tariffs. Recently, the IDB has also included information on applied internal taxes and other duties and charges, as part of the applied tariff information. Although covering only eight Members presently, it is an additional step towards increased transparency. The IDB Status of Submissions document

circulated during the CMA regular meetings indicates the availability of MFN and non-MFN import tariff information available in the IDB over the last ten years as well as other import duties. The IDB is accessible through the Tariff Analysis Online (<https://tao.wto.org>), the Tariff Download Facility (<http://tdf.wto.org>), and for tariff information and trade statistics related to PTAs, through the PTA database (<http://ptadb.wto.org>).

Table 6.10 Percentage of IDB data available within the year of the deadline^a

(% of expected schedules)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Tariff	26	33	41	30	30	26	23	21	25	38	52	67	60	74	52	50	50	48	50	58	55
Import ^b	29	34	29	26	19	17	22	21	31	27	50	45	43	38	21	42	27	33	28	n.a. ^b	n.a. ^b

a The numbers might differ slightly from those reported in the past, as submissions recorded could be deemed unsuitable for inclusion in the IDB during processing.

b The deadline for 2019 imports is 31 October 2020, and for 2020 imports is 31 October 2021.

n.a. Not applicable.

Source: IDB, 5 October 2020.

6.34. The IDB data, complemented by additional data from partner institutions such as the ITC and UNCTAD, are used to calculate the applied tariffs and trade indicators published in the World Tariff Profiles (WTP), a yearly compendium of comprehensive market access indicators. A series of market access indicators generated from the IDB, including those published in the WTP, are also available from the WTO data portal (WTODATA viewed at <http://data.wto.org>), the online database for comprehensive trade-related indicators.

Balance-of-Payments Restrictions

6.35. Notification obligations in relation to restrictions to safeguard a country's balance of payments stem from Articles XII and XVIII of the GATT 1994 and the Understanding on Balance-of-Payments (BOP) Provisions (described in Table 6.11).

Table 6.11 Notification procedures for BOPs restrictions

Legal source	Notification requirement	Type
GATT Article XII:4(a)	Any Member applying new restrictions or raising the general level of restrictions by a substantial intensification of the measures applied under this Article shall immediately after instituting or intensifying such restrictions (or, in circumstances in which prior consultation is practicable, before doing so) consult with Members as to the nature of its BOP difficulties, alternative corrective measures which may be available, and the possible effect of the restrictions on the economies of other Members.	<i>Ad hoc</i> , followed by annual consultations
GATT Article XVIII:12(a)		<i>Ad hoc</i> , followed by biennial consultations
Understanding on BOP Provisions, para. 9	A Member shall notify to the General Council the introduction of, or any changes in, the application of restrictive import measures taken for BOP purposes, as well as any modifications in time-schedules for the removal of such measures as announced under paragraph 1. Significant changes shall be notified to the General Council prior to, or not later than, 30 days after their announcement.	<i>Ad hoc</i> , followed by a yearly consolidated notification

Source: WTO Secretariat.

6.36. The last BOP consultations were completed in July 2017 and no Member has notified the Secretariat of the imposition of measures for BOP purposes since then.

Regional Trade Agreements

6.37. Following an announcement by the Chair of the CRTA at the Committee meeting of 28 and 29 June 2011, the Secretariat has continued to circulate a list of agreements that have been verified by their parties as being in force through factual presentations prepared by the Secretariat, but not notified to the WTO. The list is circulated as a working document of the Committee before each meeting. The most recent list was circulated on 16 September 2020 and contained 54 such agreements.¹³ The Secretariat is also aware of several other agreements that are in force, but these have not yet been verified with the parties. WTO Members have intervened in various meetings of the CRTA to urge those whose agreements are on the list to notify them to the WTO. The Secretariat also continues to keep track of agreements under negotiation and reminds Members to notify these agreements when they come into force. The Secretariat's technical assistance work has also been used to explain notification requirements and procedures to Members.

Preferential Trade Arrangements

6.38. Under the Transparency Mechanism for Preferential Trade Arrangements (PTAs), which was established in December 2010¹⁴, newly notified PTAs are to be considered in dedicated sessions of the Committee on Trade and Development (CTD), on the basis of Secretariat-prepared factual presentations. Since the establishment of the Transparency Mechanism, eleven PTAs have been notified to the WTO. Three have been considered by the CTD in dedicated sessions, while for several others the notifying Members have yet to provide the Secretariat with the full set of data or information required for the preparation of the factual presentations. The CTD Chairman provides an update at each CTD meeting on the PTAs that are to be considered in dedicated sessions, and urges the notifying Members to provide the data and information as soon as possible.

6.39. The Transparency Mechanism for PTAs also stipulates that an electronic database on individual PTAs is to be maintained by the Secretariat. The Database on PTAs¹⁵ currently contains information on 34 PTAs. Table 6.12 provides an overview of the PTAs included in the database, which is updated primarily on the basis of information provided by the Members implementing PTAs. The CTD Chairman has urged Members to ensure that they are up-to-date with their notification and information requirements, and has invited them to remain in touch with the Secretariat on this matter.

Table 6.12 PTAs of WTO Members

WTO Member	Number of PTAs	Name or description of PTA
Armenia	1	Generalized System of Preferences
Australia	2	Generalized System of Preferences South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement ^a
Canada	2	Generalized System of Preferences Commonwealth Caribbean Countries Tariff
Chile	1	Duty-free treatment for LDCs
China	1	Duty-free treatment for LDCs
European Union	4	Generalized System of Preferences Trade preferences for countries of the Western Balkans Trade preferences for Pakistan ^b Trade preferences for the Republic of Moldova ^c
Iceland	1	Generalized System of Preferences
India	1	Duty-Free Tariff Preference Scheme for LDCs
Japan	1	Generalized System of Preferences
Kazakhstan	1	Generalized System of Preferences
Korea, Republic of	1	Preferential Tariff for LDCs
Kyrgyz Republic	1	Duty-free treatment for LDCs
Montenegro	1	Duty-free treatment for LDCs
Morocco	1	Duty-free treatment for African LDCs
New Zealand	2	Generalized System of Preferences South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement ^a
Norway	1	Generalized System of Preferences
Russian Federation	2	Generalized System of Preferences (1.1.2010-10.10.2016) ^d Generalized System of Preferences (as of 10.10.2016)

¹³ WTO document WT/REG/W/151, 16 September 2020.

¹⁴ WTO document WT/L/806, 16 December 2010.

¹⁵ Viewed at: <http://ptadb.wto.org>.

WTO Member	Number of PTAs	Name or description of PTA
Switzerland	1	Generalized System of Preferences
Chinese Taipei	1	Duty-free treatment for LDCs
Tajikistan	1	Duty-free treatment for LDCs
Thailand	1	Duty-free treatment for LDCs
Turkey	1	Generalized System of Preferences
United States	6	African Growth and Opportunity Act Andean Trade Preference Act ^e Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act Former Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands Generalized System of Preferences Trade preferences for Nepal

- a Australia and New Zealand both provide preferences under this PTA.
b The preferences granted under this PTA expired on 31 December 2013.
c The preferences granted under this PTA expired on 31 December 2015.
d The preferences granted under this PTA expired on 10 October 2016.
e The preferences granted under this PTA expired on 31 July 2013.

Source: Database on PTAs.

Government Procurement

6.40. To ensure the transparency and predictability of its Parties' procurement regimes, the Agreement on Government Procurement sets out notification obligations for its Parties in five areas: (i) national implementing legislation on government procurement; (ii) procurement thresholds in national currencies; (iii) statistics on procurement activities; (iv) modifications to schedules of commitments; and (v) media for the publication of procurement-related information. Various notifications were made during the reporting period under these requirements. The Committee also discussed issues related to the derestriction of the Committee's historical documents and is working towards adopting relevant decisions in 2021.

Transparency of TRIPS

6.41. The TRIPS Agreement requires WTO Members to notify to the Council for TRIPS their IP laws and regulations; to establish and notify contact points in their administrations for the purposes of cooperation with each other, aimed at the elimination of trade in infringing goods; and to notify the Council if they wish to use certain options under the Agreement relating to substantive obligations.

6.42. The bulk of notifications are laws and regulations notified pursuant to Article 63.2. Chart 6.5 shows the laws and regulations notified from 1995 to mid-October 2020. Notifications peaked in 1996, when developed-country Members notified existing laws or amendments that implemented the TRIPS Agreement. From 2000 onwards, notifications predominately came from developing-country Members and recently acceded Members. The most recent rise in notifications reflects diverse approaches by Members in updating their IP legal and policy settings in response to the changing economic, technological and social dimensions of IP. The cumulative total of laws and regulations notified as at mid-October 2020 was 5,419 legal texts, representing a wide array of distinct national means of adapting and applying TRIPS standards, according to national priorities and wider policy frameworks. However, there remain significant gaps in the coverage of more recent laws and legislative amendments, as several Members have not updated their initial notifications for well over a decade.

6.43. Transparency obligations also refer to final judicial decisions and administrative rulings of a general application, pertaining to the subject matter of the TRIPS Agreement, as well as to agreements which are in force between the government or a governmental agency of a Member and the government or a governmental agency of another Member, as provided for by Article 63.1. So far, very few Members have shared such information with the TRIPS Council.¹⁶

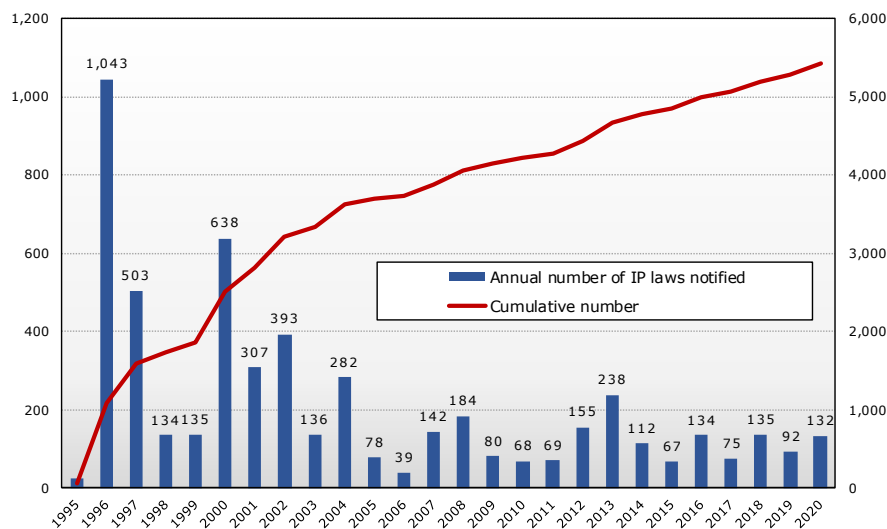
6.44. Following the recommendation made by the TRIPS Council in March 2010¹⁷, WTO Members agreed to share information on, and notify bilateral agreements, related to the protection of

¹⁶ See, for example: WTO documents IP/N/1/PHL/2; IP/N/1/GBR/1; and IP/N/1/HKG/3.

¹⁷ Paras. 73 and 74 of WTO document IP/C/M/62.

geographical indications to which they are a party. The records indicate that few Members have shared or notified such agreements to the TRIPS Council, despite the conclusion of several such agreements.

Chart 6.5 Notified laws and regulations under TRIPS Article 63.2 from 1995 to mid-October 2020



Source: WTO Secretariat. e-TRIPS.

TRIPS Checklists

6.45. To enable transparency on Part III of the TRIPS Agreement, i.e. on enforcement of IP rights, the TRIPS Council agreed that Members should provide responses to an illustrative list of questions on their domestic systems, termed the Checklist on Enforcement.¹⁸ Similarly, questionnaires were agreed to implement the Agreement's built-in reviews under Articles 24.2 on geographical indications¹⁹ and 27.3(b) on biotech patenting and plant variety protection²⁰. The Council also agreed that developed Members should provide reports on technical cooperation and on transfer of technology incentives for the benefit of LDCs. The resulting notifications and reports are circulated and reviewed by the TRIPS Council. They provide detailed information on measures taken to implement the provisions of the TRIPS Agreement at the national level. More specifically, the Checklists on enforcement, geographical indications, and biotech IP have direct bearing on trade policy considerations, and touch on many aspects of the global economy: for instance, the Checklist on Enforcement reports in detail on border measures.

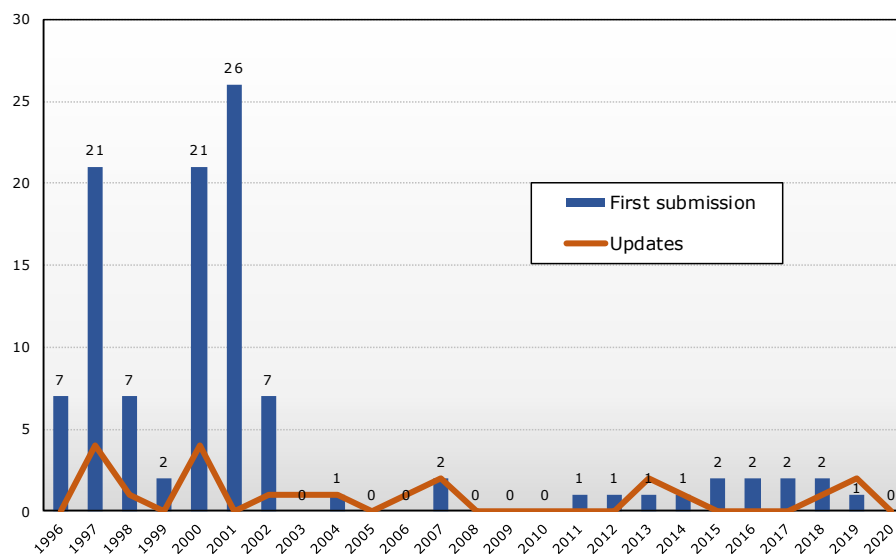
Enforcement

6.46. During the review period, there were no submissions of Checklists on Enforcement. Since 1996, 112 Members have submitted their Checklists, and 16 of those have submitted revisions. However, this means several Members never provided a Checklist, and many have not updated their reports for over 20 years. Chart 6.6 shows the Checklists on Enforcement submitted up to mid-October 2020. Submissions peaked in 1997, 2000 and 2001, when developed and developing Members deposited their respective Checklists.

¹⁸ WTO document IP/C/5; and responses circulated in the IP/N/6/* series of documents.

¹⁹ WTO document IP/C/13 and its Addendum; and responses circulated in the IP/C/W/117/* series of documents.

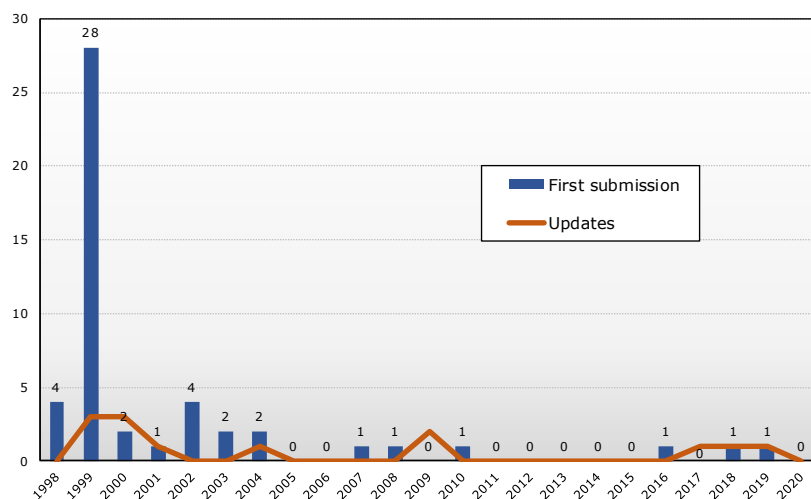
²⁰ See Checklist in WTO documents IP/C/W/122, and IP/C/W/273 and its Rev.1; and responses circulated in the IP/C/W/125/* series of documents.

Chart 6.6 Checklist on enforcement from 1996 to mid-October 2020

Source: WTO Secretariat. e-TRIPS.

Geographical Indications

6.47. The Checklist on Geographical Indications – review under Article 24.2 – has been submitted by only 37 Members²¹, of which 6 notified updates. During the review period, there were no further submissions. Chart 6.7 shows the Checklists on Geographical Indications submitted up to mid-October 2020. Submissions peaked in 1999 and 2001, when developed and developing Members deposited their respective Checklists.

Chart 6.7 Checklist on Geographical Indications from 1998 to mid-October 2020

Source: WTO Secretariat. e-TRIPS.

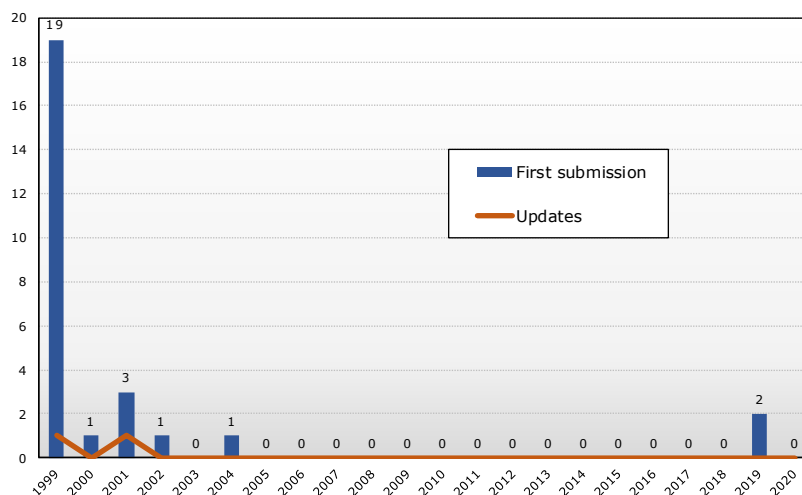
Biotech Patenting and Plant Variety Protection

6.48. The submission of Checklists on biotech patenting and plant variety protection – review under Article 27.3(b) – peaked with the start of the review of this provision in 1999. So far, only

²¹ Australia; Bulgaria; Canada; Colombia; Croatia; Cuba; Czech Republic; Ecuador; El Salvador; Estonia; European Union; Honduras; Hong Kong, China; Hungary; Iceland; Japan; Republic of Korea; Liechtenstein; Lithuania; Mexico; Republic of Moldova; Montenegro; Morocco; New Zealand; Norway; Peru; Poland; Romania; Slovak Republic; Slovenia; Switzerland; Chinese Taipei; Turkey; Ukraine; United States of America; Uruguay; and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

27 Members²² have notified their Checklists, and only one has provided an update. During the review period, there were no further submissions of Checklists on biotech patenting and plant variety protection. Chart 6.8 shows the Checklists on Article 27.3(b) submitted up to mid-October 2020. Submissions peaked in 1999 and 2001, when developed and developing Members deposited their respective Checklists.

Chart 6.8 Checklist on Biotech Patenting and Plant Variety Protection from 1999 to mid-October 2020



Source: WTO Secretariat. e-TRIPS.

e-TRIPS

6.49. The e-TRIPS System, composed of two user-friendly online platforms, was launched in March 2019 to facilitate submitting and accessing TRIPS-related documentation. The Submission System enables Members to easily submit TRIPS notifications, review materials, and reports. During the reporting period, 31 Members and 3 Observers have made 211 submissions through e-TRIPS.²³ The companion Gateway is an online information portal that allows users to search and extract the full range of TRIPS information managed by the Secretariat.²⁴ The Secretariat provides regular training sessions and updates to Members.

Services

6.50. From mid-October 2019 to mid-October 2020, 62 new notifications were made under various GATS provisions, and a further seven concerned changes to previously submitted notifications.

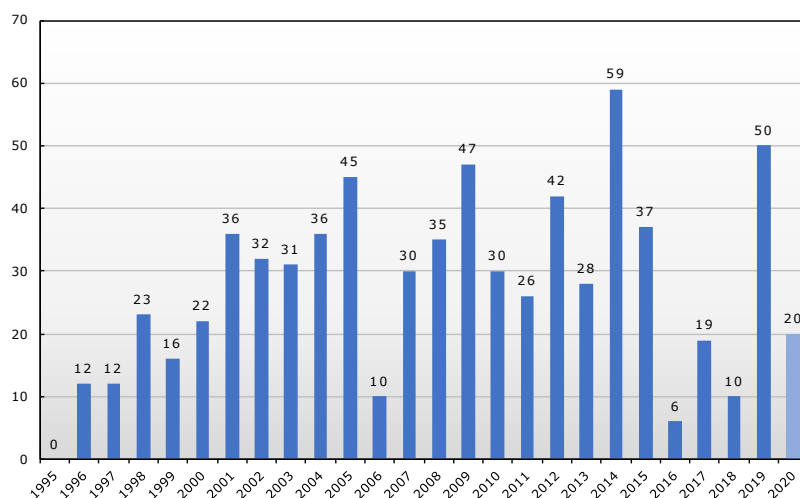
6.51. Out of the new notifications submitted, 44 were made under GATS Article III:3, by 38 WTO Members.²⁵ This Article requires each Member to notify to the Council for Trade in Services, at least annually, of any regulatory changes that significantly affect trade in services covered by its specific commitments. As Chart 6.9 shows, during the reporting period 2019-2020, the number of notifications pursuant to Article III:3 has increased substantially as compared to the preceding three years.

²² Australia; Bulgaria; Canada; Czech Republic; Estonia; European Union; Hong Kong, China; Hungary; Iceland; Japan; Republic of Korea; Lithuania; Mexico; Republic of Moldova; Morocco; New Zealand; Norway; Poland; Romania; Slovak Republic; Slovenia; South Africa; Switzerland; Thailand; Ukraine; United States of America; and Zambia.

²³ Data covers 15 October 2019 to 15 October 2020.

²⁴ Viewed at: e-trips.wto.org.

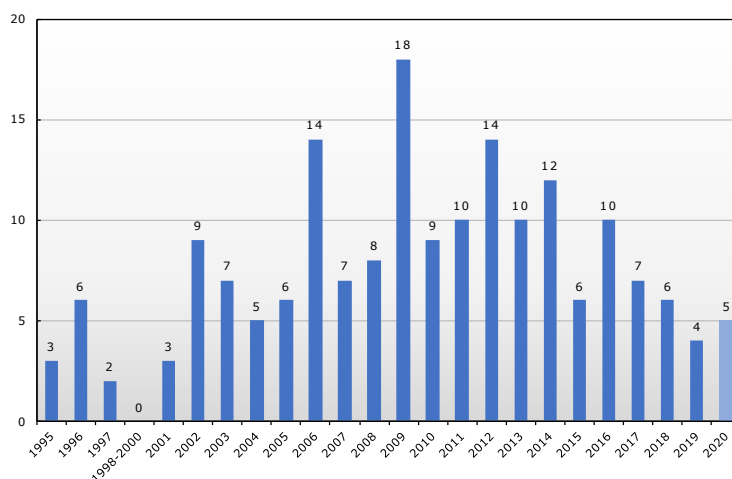
²⁵ The 28 and, as of 1 February 2020, 27 member states of the European Union are counted individually.

Chart 6.9 Notifications received pursuant to GATS Article III:3, 1995-2020

Note: 2020 data covers up to 30 September 2020. Changes to previously submitted notifications are not counted.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

6.52. During the same reporting period, five agreements concerning economic integration in services were notified under GATS Article V:7, involving 34 WTO Members.²⁶ These agreements were referred to the Committee on Regional Trade Agreements for consideration. After several years, during which the number of Economic Integration Agreements notified pursuant to Article V:7 was on an upward trend, the last few years witnessed a relative slowdown (Chart 6.10).

Chart 6.10 Economic Integration Agreements notified pursuant to GATS Article V:7, 1995-2020

Note: 2020 data covers up to 30 September 2020. The figures include agreements of the EC/EU with its future member States and EU enlargement agreements.²⁷ Notifications of changes to previously notified agreements are not counted.

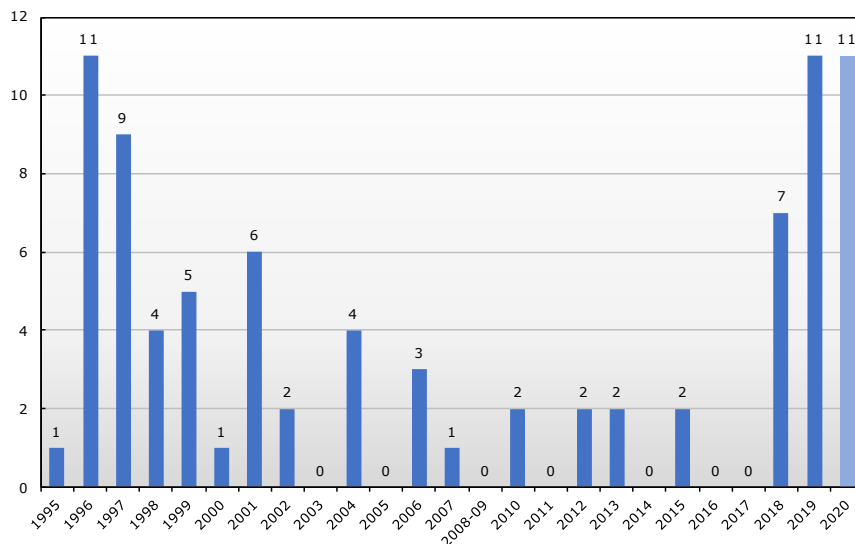
Source: WTO Secretariat.

²⁶ The 28 and, as of 1 February 2020, 27 member states of the European Union are counted individually.

²⁷ On 1 December 2009, the Treaty of Lisbon amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community (done at Lisbon, 13 December 2007) entered into force. On 29 November 2009, the WTO received a Verbal Note (WTO document WT/L/779, 30 November 2009) from the Council of the European Union and the Commission of the European Communities stating that, by virtue of the Treaty of Lisbon, as of 1 December 2009, the European Union replaced and succeeded the European Community.

6.53. 13 notifications were made under GATS Article VII:4 by seven WTO Members. This Article requires Members to notify to the Council for Trade in Services any new or existing mutual recognition agreements or arrangements. As illustrated in Chart 6.11, the number of notifications submitted pursuant to Article VII:4 increased markedly over the past three years when compared to the previous two decades.

Chart 6.11 Notifications received pursuant to GATS Article VII:4, 1995-2020



Note: 2020 data covers up to 30 September 2020. Changes to previously submitted notifications are not counted.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

6.54. No notifications were received under other GATS provisions during this period.

6.55. During the review period, the Council for Trade in Services has been notified of one measure under GATS Article III:3 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁸

²⁸ Measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic affecting trade in services can be found in Section 4 and annex 6 of this Report.

ANNEX 1 - MEASURES FACILITATING TRADE¹

(MID-OCTOBER 2019 TO MID-OCTOBER 2020)

Confirmed information²

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Albania		
Reduction of import tariffs under the Expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) (HS 8528.71.19)	WTO document G/MA/W/117/Add.1, 28 January 2016	Effective June 2020
Argentina		
Elimination of the requirement of certificate of origin for statistical purposes	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (22 May 2020) and Resolución No. 1288/2019, Ministerio de Producción y Trabajo (22 November 2019)	Effective 26 November 2019
Temporary elimination of export duties (<i>derechos de exportación</i>) for raw hides and skins, leather (NCM 4101; 4102; 4103; 4104), under an export quota	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (22 May 2020) and Decreto No. 847/2019 (DCTO-2019-847-APN-PTE-Desgravación) (6 December 2019)	Effective 10 December 2019 to 31 December 2021
Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous mineral eliminated from the list requiring non-automatic import licensing (4 tariff lines at 8-digit level NCM 2709.00.10; 2709.00.90; 2710.12.59; 2710.19.21)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (22 May 2020) and Disposición No. 3/2020 Subsecretaría de Política y Gestión Comercial - Ministerio de Desarrollo Productivo (11 March 2020)	Effective 11 March 2020
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;	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

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
80; 82; 83; 84; 85; 86; 87; 88; 89; 90; 91; 92; 93; 94; 95; 96; 97)		
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
Azerbaijan		
Extension of the temporary decrease (from 15% to 5%) of import tariffs on butter and other fats and oils derived from milk; dairy spreads (HS 0405)	Permanent Delegation of Azerbaijan to the WTO (12 May 2020)	Effective 31 December 2019 to 31 December 2021
Azerbaijan		
Temporary elimination (from 15%) of import tariffs on pigments and preparations based on titanium dioxide; anionic; polyethylene having a specific gravity of less than 0.94; film of polymers of vinyl chloride; certain unbleached Kraft paper and paperboard; single yarn of jute; synthetic filament yarn (effective 18 January 2020 to 18 January 2022) (HS 3206.11.00; 3402.11.90; 3901.10.10; 3920.43.10; 4804.51.00; 5307.10.00; 5402.53.00; 5402.62.00). Decrease of import tariffs on certain products, e.g. certain petroleum oils and undenatured ethyl alcohol (HS 2710.19.21; 2710.19.25; 2208.20; 2208.90.69; 2208.90.78)	Permanent Delegation of Azerbaijan to the WTO (5 June 2020)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on spare parts for bicycles for industrial assembly (effective 9 January 2020 to 9 January 2021), and on spare parts for passenger vehicles (full production type) for industrial assembly (effective 6 March 2020 to 6 March 2027) (HS Chapters 39; 40; 42; 70; 73; 76; 82; 83; 84; 85; 87; 90; 95; 96)	Permanent Delegation of Azerbaijan to the WTO (12 May 2020)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Brazil		
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain vaccines for humans (<i>hepatite B</i>), under an import quota of 30 million doses (effective 16 October 2019); on certain vaccines for humans (<i>difteria, tétano e pertussis</i>), under an import quota of 10 million doses (effective 1 December 2019); on certain vaccines for humans (<i>virus do papiloma humano recombinante</i>), under an import quota of 18 million doses (effective 1 December 2019); on certain vaccines for humans (<i>hepatite A</i>), under an import quota of 10 million doses (effective 24 October 2019); and on certain vaccines for humans (<i>raiva</i>), under an import quota of 4 million doses (effective 16 October 2019)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (20 May 2020), Secint Portaria No. 468/2019 (27 June 2019)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Reduction of import tariffs on certain products, e.g. inorganic chemicals, organic or inorganic compounds of precious metals, of rare-earth metals, of radioactive elements or of isotopes; organic chemicals; plastics and articles thereof; paper and paperboard; machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical machinery and equipment; tubular metal needles; skis; and travelling circuses and travelling menageries (96 tariff lines at 8-digit level, in NCM Chapters 28; 29; 39; 48; 84; 85; 90; 95). Elimination of import tariff (from 10%) on light-emitting diodes (NCM 8541.40.16)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (27 May 2020), Camex Resolution Nos. 4/2019 (24 October 2019) and 25/2019 (30 December 2019)	Effective 1 January 2020
Reduction of import tariffs (to 2%) on parts and accessories of motor vehicles (not produced in Mercosur) (NCM Chapters 39; 40; 68; 69; 70; 73; 74; 76; 83; 84; 85; 87; 90; 94), through the "ex-out" regime (mechanism designed to temporarily reduce import tariffs on capital goods and informatics and telecommunication equipment not locally produced)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (20 May 2020), Camex Resolution Nos. 23/2019 (30 December 2019), 8/2020 (30 January 2020), 27/2020 (1 April 2020), and 42/2020 (4 May 2020)	Effective 2 January 2020
Temporary reduction of import tariffs (to 2%) on p-phenylenediamine, diaminotoluenes, and their derivatives; salts thereof (NCM 2921.51.33), under an import quota of 10,440 tonnes (effective 29 October 2019 to 28 October 2020); on self-adhesive plates, sheets, film, foil, tape, strip and other flat shapes, of plastic, whether or not in rolls (NCM 3919.90.90), under an import quota of 200 tonnes (effective 29 October 2019 to 28 October 2020); on 6-hexanelactam (epsilon-caprolactam) (NCM 2933.71.00), under an import quota of 667 tonnes (effective 29 October 2019 to 13 January 2020); on ethylene dichloride (ISO) (1,2-dichloroethane) (NCM 2903.15.00), under an import quota of 400,000 tonnes (effective 26 November 2019 to 25 November 2020); on high tenacity yarn of polyester, whether or not textured (NCM 5402.20.00), under an import quota of 688 tonnes (effective 26 November 2019 to 25 November 2020); on certain acrylic polymers in primary forms (NCM 3906.90.49), under an import quota of 800 tonnes (effective 7 December 2019 to 6 December 2020); on jute (NCM 5303.10.10), under an import quota of 7,000 tonnes (effective 28 December 2019 to 27 December 2020). Temporary elimination of import tariffs on wheat and meslin (NCM 1001.19.00; 1001.99.00), under an import quota of 750,000 tonnes (effective 18 November	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (20 May 2020), Camex Resolution Nos. 5/2019 and 6/2019 (23 October 2019), 10/2019 (12 November 2019), 11/2019 (19 November 2019), and 17/2019 (28 November 2019) and Secex Portaria Nos. 42/2019 (25 October 2019), 44/2019 (18 November 2019), 46/2019, 47/2019 (25 November 2019) and 50/2019 (4 December 2019)	Effective: see individual dates in measure

Measure	Source/Date	Status
2019 to 17 November 2020); and on certain vaccines for humans (NCM 3002.20.21), under an import quota of 20 million doses (effective 26 November 2019 to 25 November 2020)		
Reduction of import tariffs on certain vessels for the transport of goods (NCM 8901.90.00)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (20 May 2020), Camex Resolution No. 10/2019 (12 November 2019)	Effective 18 November 2019
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on capital goods tariff lines, and informatics and telecommunications goods tariff lines (NCM Chapters 82; 84; 85; 86; 87; 90), through the "ex-out" regime (mechanism designed to temporarily reduce import tariffs on capital goods and informatics and telecommunications equipment not locally produced)	Camex Resolution Nos. 2/2019 and 3/2019 (22 October 2019), 14/2019 and 15/2019 (19 November 2019), 29/2019 and 30/2019 (30 December 2019), 10/2020 and 11/2020 (30 January 2020), 14/2020 and 15/2020 (19 February 2020); 29/2020 30/2020 (1 April 2020), 39/2020, 40/2020 (4 May 2020), 48/2020, 49/2020 (19 May 2020), 55/2020, 56/2020 (22 June 2020), 69/2020, 70/2020 (16 July 2020), 78/2020 79/2020 (25 August 2020), and 99/2020 100/2020 (24 September 2020)	Effective until 31 December 2021
Temporary reduction of import tariffs (to 2%) on soda lye or liquid soda (NCM 2815.12.00), under an import quota of 88,000 tonnes (effective 28 December 2019 to 27 December 2020); on disodium sulphate (NCM 2833.11.10), under an import quota of 910,000 tonnes (effective 31 January 2020 to 30 January 2021); on "generator circuit breaker systems" and "plug and switch systems" (NCM 8537.20.90), under an import quota of 340 units (effective 16 January 2020 to 15 January 2021); on poly(ethylene terephthalate) with a viscosity number of 78 ml/g or higher (NCM 3907.61.00), under an import quota of 10,000 tonnes (effective 30 December 2019 to 29 December 2020); and on certain yarn of polyester (NCM 5402.47.10), under an import quota of 2,200 tonnes (effective 2 January 2020 to 1 January 2021)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (20 May 2020), Camex Resolution Nos. 27/2019 and 28/2019 (30 December 2019; and Secex Portaria Nos. 1/2020, 4/2020 and 5/2020 (16 January 2020)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Extension of the temporary reduction of import tariffs (to 2%) on certain sulphates (NCM 2833.29.60), under an import quota of 25,000 tonnes (effective 17 January 2020 to 30 June 2020); on certain pigments (containing 82% or more by weight of titanium dioxide) (NCM 3206.11.10), under an import quota of 4,836 tonnes (effective 17 January 2020 to 30 June 2020); on polyamide-6 and 6-6 (NCM 3908.10.24), under an import quota of 7,100 tonnes (effective 17 January 2020 to 30 June 2020); and on certain uncoated paper and paperboard (NCM 4805.92.90), under an import quota of 15,993 tonnes (effective 17 January 2020 to 30 June 2020). Extension of the temporary reduction of import tariffs (to 6%) on pigments and preparations based on titanium dioxide (NCM 3206.11.10), under an import quota of 50,000 tonnes (effective 17 January 2020 to 30 June 2020). Extension of the temporary elimination of import tariffs on unwrought aluminium, not alloyed (NCM 7601.10.00), under an import quota of 150,000 tonnes (effective 17 January 2020 to 30 June 2020); on p-Xylene (NCM 2902.43.00), under an import quota of 145,000 tonnes (effective 17 January 2020 to 30 June 2020); and on sardines (NCM 0303.53.00), under an import quota of 110,000 tonnes (effective 9 February 2020 to 31 December 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (20 May 2020), Camex Resolution No. 32/2019 (30 December 2019; and Secex Portaria Nos. 2/2020 and 3/2020 (16 January 2020)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Temporary reduction of import tariffs (from 35% to 2%) on certain tanker semi-trailers (NCM 8716.39.00), under an import quota of 35 units (effective 16 January 2020 to 15 January 2021); (from 26% to 2%) on certain pile fabrics of man-made fibres (NCM 6001.92.00), under an import quota of 55,000 tonnes (effective 16 January 2020 to 15 January 2021); (from 14% to 2%) on printing ink (NCM 3215.19.00), under an import quota of 860 tonnes (effective 16 January 2020 to 15 January 2021); on polycarbonates (NCM 3907.40.90), under an import quota of 35,040 tonnes (effective 16 January 2020 to 15 January 2021); and on black printing ink (NCM 3215.11.00), under an import quota of 545 tonnes (effective 23 January 2020 to 22 January 2021); and (from 12% to 2%) on not backed aluminium foil rolled but not further worked (NCM 7607.11.90), under an import quota of 2,137 tonnes (effective 1 February 2020 to 31 January 2021). Temporary elimination (from 8%) on certain pharmaceutical products (NCM 3004.90.69) (effective 16 January 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (20 May 2020), Camex Resolution No. 26/2019 (30 December 2019; and Secex Portaria Nos. 6/2020, 7/2020 and 8/2020 (16 January 2020)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
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),	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.	Effective: see individual dates in measure

Measure	Source/Date	Status
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)	28/2020 (15 May 2020), 30/2020 (22 May 2020), 32/2020 and 33/2020 (3 June 2020)	
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 2021); 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 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)	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 September 2020) and 97/2020 (21 September 2020)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
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)	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
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		
On 15 December 2019, extension of the suspension of the imposition of additional tariffs on imports of certain vehicles, and parts and accessories thereof (211 tariff lines at 8-digit level, in HS Chapter 87), from the United States (originally effective from 1 January 2019 to 31 March 2019, and extended on 1 April 2019)	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (25 May 2020) and State Council Tariff Commission Announcement on suspending the imposition of tariffs on automobiles and parts and components thereof originated from the United States (Tariff Commission Announcement 2019/7). Viewed at: http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2019-12/15/content_5461332.htm	Effective 15 December 2019
Imposition of interim tariffs resulting in temporary reduction of import tariffs on certain products (HS Chapters 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 8; 12; 13; 14; 15; 18; 19; 20; 21; 22; 23; 24; 25; 27; 28; 29; 30; 31; 32; 33; 34; 35; 37; 38; 39; 40; 41; 43; 44; 45; 48; 49; 52; 53; 56; 61; 62; 63; 68; 69; 70; 71; 72; 74; 75; 76; 79; 81; 82; 84; 85; 87; 90; 91; 92; 96)	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (25 May 2020) and Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council, Circular on adjustments to tariffs including import interim tariff rates in 2020 (SCTC [2019] No. 50). Viewed at: http://gss.mof.gov.cn/gzdt/zhengcefabu/201912/P020191227623109204309.pdf	Effective 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020
VAT rebate rates increased (to 13%) on exports of 1,084 products (HS Chapters 15; 28; 29; 32; 33; 34; 38; 39; 40; 42; 43; 44; 48; 67; 68; 69; 70; 71; 72; 73; 74; 75; 78; 80; 81; 82; 83; 96); and (to 9%) on 380 products (HS Chapters 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 12; 13; 15; 16; 18; 19; 20; 21; 23; 38; 51; 53; 71)	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (25 May 2020) and Ministry of Finance General Administration of Taxation - Announcement No. 15/2020. Viewed at: http://www.chinatax.gov.cn/chinatax/n810341/n810755/c5146338/content.html	Effective 20 March 2020
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
Colombia		
Reduction (to 5%) of import tariffs on certain motor vehicles with gas engine (effective 28 November 2019). Elimination of import tariffs on certain motor vehicles with electrical engine (effective 28 November 2019); and on certain home appliances equipment (effective 5 December 2019) (HS 8701.20.00; 8702.90.20; 8703.22.10; 8703.22.90; 8703.23.10; 8703.23.90; 8703.24.10; 8703.24.90; 8704.31.10; 8702.40.10; 8702.40.90; 8703.80.10; 8703.80.90; 8704.90.51; 8704.90.59; 8509.90.00; 8516.90.00; 8536.90.10)	Permanent Delegation of Colombia to the WTO (30 April 2020) and Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo Decreto Nos 2051 (13 November 2019) and 2074 (18 November 2019)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Reduction of import tariffs under the Expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) (213 tariff lines at 10-digit level, in HS Chapters 32; 35; 37; 39; 49; 84; 85; 88; 90; 95)	Permanent Delegation of Colombia to the WTO (30 April 2020) and Decreto No. 2367, Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo (27 December 2019)	Effective 11 January 2020
Extension of the temporary elimination of import tariffs on nitrogenous mineral or chemical fertilizers; and on insecticides, fungicides and herbicides (HS 3102; 3105; 3808)	Permanent Delegation of Colombia to the WTO (21 October 2020) and Decreto No. 894 Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo (26 June 2020)	Effective 26 June 2020 to 25 June 2022
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on wheat and meslin; and on shelled ground-nuts, whether or not broken (HS 1001.11.00; 1001.19.00; 1001.91.00; 1001.99.10; 1001.99.20; 1202.42.00)	Permanent Delegation of Colombia to the WTO (21 October 2020) and Decreto No. 882 Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo (25 June 2020)	Effective 12 July 2020 to 11 July 2022
Costa Rica		
On 13 February 2020, the duty free import quota for rice in the husk (paddy or rough) (HS 1006.10.90) increased from 19,520 metric tonnes to 39,662 metric tonnes	Permanent Delegation of Costa Rica to the WTO (25 May 2020)	Effective August 2019 to June 2020
El Salvador		
Extension of time frames for payment of customs duties	Permanent Delegation of El Salvador to the WTO (25 May 2020)	Effective 27 January 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

Measure	Source/Date	Status
India		
Elimination of import tariffs on certain products, e.g. pure bred breeding horses; (from 10%) very low sulphur fuel oil, and specified parts of microphones; and (from 7.5%) on polyester liquid crystal polymers (LCPs) for use in the manufacture of connectors; and micro fuse bases. Reduction of import tariffs (from 10% to 7.5%) on calcined pet coke; (from 10% to 5%) on calendared plastic sheet for use in manufacturing of smart cards, newsprint, uncoated paper used in the manufacture of newspapers, and light-weight coated paper; (from 12.5% to 7.5%) on platinum and palladium for the manufacture of precious metal chemicals and precious metal catalyst; and (from 12.5% to 11.85%) on spent catalyst or ash containing precious metals for recovery of precious metal (HS 0101.21.00; 27; 3907.99.00; 8518.90.00; 8538; 2712.12.10; 2713.12.90; 3920.10.99; 4801; 48; 4810; 7110)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020)	Effective 2 February 2020
Amendments introduced to Notification No. 11/2018-Customs, Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), resulting in the elimination (from 10%) of the Special Welfare Surcharge on almonds shelled; walnuts in shell; walnuts shelled; frozen orange juice; not frozen orange juices; marble, travertine, ecaussine and other calcareous building stone slabs (HS 0802.12.00; 0802.31.00; 0802.32.00; 2009.11.00; 2009.12.00; 2009.19.00; 2515.12.20; 6802.10.00; 6802.21.10; 6802.21.20; 6802.21.90; 6802.91.00; 6802.92.00)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020)	Effective 2 February 2020
New goods included in the list of products exempted from the Special Welfare Surcharge (HS Chapters 84; 85; 90)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020)	Effective 2 February 2020
Imports of certain medical and surgical instruments and apparatus (HS 9018; 9019; 9020; 9021; 9022) exempted from the "health cess"	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and Ministry of Finance - Department of Revenue - Notification No. 8/2020-Customs (2 February 2020)	Effective 1 April 2020
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
Israel		
Further reduction of import tariffs under the Expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) (HS 8543.70.00; 8528.71.00)	WTO document G/MA/W/117/Add.11, 28 January 2016	Effective 1 July 2020
Japan		
Elimination of import tariffs on 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol (HS 2906.19); on 1,1,3,5-tetramethylpiperidine-1-iumhydroxide (HS 2933.39); on igniters, used in manufacturing parts of motor vehicles (HS 3603.00); on mixed alkylbenzenes (HS 3817.00); and on leather lace (HS 5804.21)	Permanent Delegation of Japan to the WTO (22 May 2020)	Effective 1 April 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
Malaysia		
Elimination of export duties on crude palm oil "CPO" (HS 1511.10.00)	Permanent Delegation of Malaysia to the WTO (28 September 2020)	Effective 1 January 2020
Further reduction of import tariffs under the Expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) (19 tariff lines at 9-digit level, in HS Chapters 35; 37; 39; 84; 85; 90; 95)	WTO document G/MA/W/117/Add.14, 28 January 2016	Effective 1 July 2020
Mauritania		
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on wheat and meslin, vegetables, fruits, soya-bean oil and its fractions, and preparations suitable for infants (HS 1001.11.00; 1001.19.00; 07; 08; 1507.90.00; 1901.10.00; 1901.20.00; 1901.90.10; 1901.90.20; 1901.90.30; 1901.90.40; 1901.90.91; 1901.90.99)	Permanent Delegation of Mauritania to the WTO (1 October 2020)	Effective 25 March 2020 to 31 December 2020
Mauritius		
Customs duty rebate (30% or MUR 125,000, whichever is the lesser) on buses, provided they were in a bonded warehouse before 5 June 2020 and cleared from Customs before 30 June 2021	Permanent Delegation of Mauritius to the WTO (27 October 2020)	Effective 5 June 2020
Excises duty rebate on certain vehicles, provided they were in a bonded warehouse before 5 June 2020 and cleared from Customs before 30 June 2021	Permanent Delegation of Mauritius to the WTO (27 October 2020)	Effective 5 June 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

Measure	Source/Date	Status
		to 30 September 2024
Montenegro		
Further reduction of import tariffs under the Expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) (13 tariff lines at 8-digit level, in HS Chapters 85 and 90)	WTO document G/MA/W/117/Add.16, 28 January 2016	Effective 1 July 2020
Morocco		
Temporary elimination of import tariffs (from 35%) on soft wheat (HS 1001)	Ministère de l'Économie, des Finances et de la Réforme de l'Administration - Projet de Loi de Finances Rectificative pour l'année budgétaire 2020. Viewed at: https://www.finances.gov.ma/Publication/db/2020/np-plfr2020-fr.pdf	Effective 2 January 2020 to 30 April 2020. Measure extended until 15 June 2020. Further extension until 31 December 2020
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on hard wheat, chickpeas, beans, and lentils	Ministère de l'Économie, des Finances et de la Réforme de l'Administration - Projet de Loi de Finances Rectificative pour l'année budgétaire 2020. Viewed at: https://www.finances.gov.ma/Publication/db/2020/np-plfr2020-fr.pdf	Effective 1 April 2020
Nepal		
Temporary reduction (by 50%) of import tariffs on fertilized eggs for incubation (HS 0407.11.00; 0407.19.00)	Permanent Delegation of Nepal to the WTO (31 March 2020)	Effective 4 November 2019
Decrease of import tariffs on certain products, (from 40% to 30%) on chocolate and other food preparations containing cocoa, sweet biscuits, waffles and wafers; (from 20% to 15%) on soap in other forms; (from 30% to 5%) on certain articles of plastic; (from 20% to 5%) on gowns; certain garments used for medical purpose; (from 15% to 5%) on disposable hairnets; induction stove; certain electro-thermic appliances parts; (from 5% to 1%) on agricultural or horticultural sprayers; (from 15% to 10%) on certain parts of electric accumulators (HS Chapters 18; 19; 21; 34; 39; 62; 65; 84; 85)	Permanent Delegation of Nepal to the WTO (25 September 2020)	Effective 28 May 2020
New Zealand		
Elimination of import tariffs on mattress of foam, of a kind used in profiling beds, designed for patient pressure reduction and support by maximizing the distribution of the patients weight; and spare parts: mattress cover of polyurethane coated knitted fabric, and air bladders of polyurethane coated nylon; whether imported together or separately (HS 3926.90.69; 6302.39.01; 9404.29.00)	Permanent Delegation of New Zealand to the WTO (27 October 2020), New Zealand Customs Service - Tariff Concession Approvals, Withdrawals and Declines Notice (No. 31) 2020 (30 July 2020)	Effective 1 May 2020
Pakistan		
Temporary elimination of import Regulatory Duties on wheat (HS1001). Imports also exempted of income tax	Permanent Delegation of Pakistan to the WTO (26 October 2020) and Ministry of Finance and Revenue, Customs - Notification No. S.R.O. 633(I)/2020 (21 July 2020)	Effective 21 July 2020
Philippines		
Reduction of import tariffs on certain products, e.g. plastic articles for the conveyance or packing of goods; and electrical machinery and equipment (HS 3923; 8518; 8519; 8527; 8528; 8536; 9025; 9030)	Permanent Delegation of the Philippines to the WTO (27 May 2020)	Effective 1 January 2020
Further reduction of import tariffs under the Expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) (50 tariff lines at 8-digit level in HS Chapters 32; 39; 84; 85; 90)	WTO document G/MA/W/117/Add.19, 28 January 2016	Effective 1 January 2020
Russian Federation (for the Eurasian Economic Union)		
Extension of the temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain cocoa and cocoa preparations (HS 1803.10.00; 1804.00.00)	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (27 May 2020)	Effective 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2022
Temporary elimination of import tariffs (from 10%) on vanadium (effective 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021); (from 5%) on surimi (effective 26 March 2020 to 30 April 2023); on stamping foils (effective 6 March 2020 to 31 August 2022); and on vanadium oxides and hydroxides (effective 22 February 2020 to 31 December 2020); (from 14%) on rods of optical glass (effective 23 January 2020 to 31 December 2020); on terephthalic acids (14 April 2020 to 31 December 2021); on accessories for the production of handheld power tools (effective 8 May 2020 to 30 June 2022); on electric cars (effective 4 May 2020 to 31 December 2021); on polyurethane and epoxy coatings for the production of optical fibre (effective 14 April 2020 to 31 December 2020); and on certain kinds of shellfish and krill meat (effective 26 March 2020 to 1 April 2023) (HS 0304.99.11; 3212.10.00; 2825.30.00; 7002.20.10;	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (27 May 2020)	Effective: see individual dates in measure (HS 8483.40.23.09; 8536.50.80.00; 8545.20.00.00 excluded)

Measure	Source/Date	Status
2917.36.00; 8536.50.80; 8545.20.00; 8483.40.23; 8703.80.00; 3907.30.00; 3909.50.90; 8112.92.92; 0307.43.38; 0307.43.90; 0307.52.90; 1605.40.00; 1605.53.90)		
Creation of a new tariff line, "certain LED lamps" (HS 8539.50.00.01; 8539.50.00.02; 8539.50.00.09) resulting in the temporary elimination of import tariffs	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (27 May 2020)	Effective 2 February 2020 to 1 January 2021
Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu		
Further reduction of import tariffs under the Expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) (10 tariff lines at 8-digit level, in HS Chapters 85 and 90)	WTO document G/MA/W/117/Add.22, 28 January 2016	Effective 1 July 2020
Thailand		
Further reduction of import tariffs under the Expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) (108 tariff lines at 8-digit level, in HS Chapters 84; 85; 90)	WTO document G/MA/W/117/Add.23, 28 January 2016	Effective 1 July 2020
Turkey		
Elimination of import tariffs (from 2%) on certain products of pig iron; and (from 2.7%) on certain products of ferro-alloys (HS 7201.10.11; 7201.10.30; 7202.11)	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (24 April 2020)	Effective 1 January 2020
Elimination of import tariffs (from 29%) on inulin used for the production of medical and nutritional products (effective 1 January 2020); (from 135%) on oligofructose used for the production of medical and nutritional products (effective 1 January 2020); (from 46.8%) on certain fats used in the production of infant formula (effective 1 January 2020); and (from 31.5%) on molasses used for the production of yeast (effective 3 April 2020) (HS 1108.20; 1702.90.95; 1517.90.99; 1703.10; 1703.90), within the scope of end use regulation	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (3 June 2020)	Effective: see individual dates in measure

ANNEX 2 - TRADE REMEDIES¹

(MID-OCTOBER 2019 TO MID-OCTOBER 2020)

Confirmed information²

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Argentina		
Termination on 30 October 2019 of anti-dumping duties on imports of tanks, casks, drums, cans, boxes and similar containers, for any material (other than compressed or liquefied gas), of iron or steel, whether or not lined or heat-insulated, but not fitted with mechanical or thermal equipment, of a capacity of 200 to 230 litres (NCM 7310.10.90) from Chile (investigation initiated on 1 June 2012 and definitive duty imposed on 29 November 2013)	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/ARG, 1 May 2020	
Termination on 19 November 2019 of anti-dumping duties on imports of conveyor or transmission belts or belting, of vulcanized rubber reinforced only with textile materials (NCM 4010.12.00) from China (investigation initiated on 1 June 2012 and definitive duty imposed on 29 November 2013)	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/ARG, 1 May 2020	
Initiation on 4 February 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of mowers for lawns, parks or sports-grounds (NCM 8467.29.99; 8433.11.00) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/ARG, 21 August 2020	
Initiation on 4 March 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of tape measures (NCM 9017.80.10) from India	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/ARG, 21 August 2020	
Termination on 6 March 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of paper and paperboard, coated on one or both sides with kaolin (China clay) or other inorganic substances, with or without a blinder, and with no other coating, whether or not surface-coloured, surface-decorated or printed, in rolls or rectangular (including square) sheets, of any size (NCM 4810.13.89; 4810.13.90; 4810.19.89; 4810.19.90) from Austria, China, Finland and the United States (investigation initiated on 15 December 2010. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 20 March 2012 and 14 June 2012, respectively)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/ARG, 21 August 2020	
Termination on 6 March 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of coated paper and paperboard (NCM 4810.29.90) from China (investigation initiated on 7 December 2016 and definitive duty imposed on 20 July 2017)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/ARG, 21 August 2020	
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		
Termination on 10 December 2019 of anti-dumping duties on imports of power transformers (HS 8504.22.00; 8504.23.00) from Thailand (investigation initiated on 29 July 2013 and definitive duty imposed on 10 December 2014)	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/AUS, 20 February 2020	
Initiation on 17 February 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of aluminium micro-extrusions (HS 7604.10.00; 7604.21.00; 7604.29.00; 7608.10.00; 7608.20.00; 7610.10.00; 7610.90.00) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/AUS, 31 August 2020	
Initiation on 24 February 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of mill finish aluminium extrusions (HS 7604.10.00; 7604.21.00; 7604.29.00; 7608.10.00; 7608.20.00; 7610.10.00; 7610.90.00) from Malaysia	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/AUS, 31 August 2020	
Initiation on 24 February 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of surface finish aluminium extrusions (HS 7604.10.00; 7604.21.00; 7604.29.00; 7608.10.00; 7608.20.00; 7610.10.00; 7610.90.00) from Malaysia	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/AUS, 31 August 2020	
Termination on 28 February 2020 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of high-density polyethylene "HDPE" (HS 3901.20.00; 3901.90.00) from Korea, Rep. of; Singapore; Thailand and the United States (initiated on 24 June 2019)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/AUS, 31 August 2020	
Initiation on 30 March 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of kraft paperboard (HS 4810.39.00; 4810.1; 4810.2) from the United States	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/AUS, 31 August 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
Initiation on 31 March 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of precision pipe and tube steel (HS 7306.30.00; 7306.50.00; 7306.61.00) from China; Korea, Rep. of; Chinese Taipei and Viet Nam	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/AUS, 31 August 2020	
Initiation on 31 March 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of precision pipe and tube steel (HS 7306.30.00; 7306.50.00; 7306.61.00) from China and Viet Nam	WTO document G/SCM/N/363/AUS, 8 September 2020	
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 duties 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 October 2020) and Anti-Dumping Notice No. 2020/73 (10 July 2020)	
Termination on 20 August 2020 of anti-dumping duties 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)	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Brazil		
Termination on 30 October 2019 of anti-dumping duties on imports of seamless steel chrome alloyed tubes (NCM 7304.51.19; 7304.59.11; 7304.59.19) from China (investigation initiated on 18 November 2013. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 14 April and 30 October 2014, respectively)	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/BRA, 7 April 2020	
On 1 November 2019, temporary suspension of anti-dumping duties on imports of ethanolamines, grades MEA (monoethanolamine) and TEA (triethanolamine) (NCM 2922.11.00; 2922.13.10; 3824.90.89) from Germany (investigation initiated on 10 May 2012 and definitive duty imposed on 4 November 2013)	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/BRA, 7 April 2020	
On 8 November 2019, temporary suspension of anti-dumping duties on imports of iron pipes (NCM 7303.00.00) from China, India and the United Arab Emirates (investigation initiated on 8 May 2018 and definitive duty imposed on 7 November 2019)	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/BRA, 7 April 2020	
On 13 November 2019, temporary suspension of anti-dumping duties on imports of padlocks (NCM 8301.10.00) from China (imposed on 29 December 1995)	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/BRA, 7 April 2020	
Termination on 16 January 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of tyres, of a kind used on motor cars (NCM 4011.10.00) from Ukraine (investigation initiated on 20 July 2012 and definitive duty imposed on 16 January 2014)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/BRA, 18 August 2020	
Termination on 17 January 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of hot-rolled steel (NCM 7208.10.00; 7208.25.00; 7208.26.10; 7208.26.90; 7208.27.10; 7208.27.90; 7208.36.10; 7208.36.90; 7208.37.00; 7208.38.10; 7208.38.90; 7208.39.10; 7208.39.90; 7208.40.00; 7208.53.00; 7208.54.00; 7208.90.00; 7225.30.00; 7225.40.90) from China and the Russian Federation (investigation initiated on 20 July 2016 and definitive duty imposed on 19 January 2018. Duty suspended on 19 January 2018)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/BRA, 18 August 2020	
Initiation on 31 January 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of CNG cylinder (NCM 7311.00.00) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/BRA, 18 August 2020	
Termination on 31 January 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of wire of steel coated with zinc (NCM 7217.20.10; 7217.20.90) from Sweden (investigation initiated on 14 October 2013 and definitive duty imposed on 30 January 2015)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/BRA, 18 August 2020	
Initiation on 20 February 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of phthalic anhydride (NCM 2917.35.00) from Israel and the Russian Federation	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/BRA, 18 August 2020	Terminated on 27 April 2020 (without measure)
Termination on 5 March 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of presensitized offset aluminium printing plates (NCM 3701.30.21; 3701.30.31) from Hong Kong, China (investigation initiated on 25 February 2014 and definitive duty imposed on 5 March 2015)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/BRA, 18 August 2020	
Termination on 5 March 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of inner grooved copper tubes (NCM 7411.10.90) from China and Mexico (investigation initiated on 23 December 2013 and definitive duty imposed on 5 March 2015)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/BRA, 18 August 2020	
Termination on 4 May 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of ferrite segment (arc) magnet (NCM 8505.19.10) from China and Korea, Rep. of (investigation initiated on 16 June 2014. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 30 October 2014 and 4 May 2015, respectively)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/BRA, 18 August 2020	
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)	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
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 Gecex 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 Gecex 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 8 November 2019 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain corrosion-resistant steel sheet 2 (HS 7210.30.00; 7210.49.00; 7210.61.00; 7210.69.00; 7212.20.00; 7212.30.00; 7212.50.00; 7225.91.00; 7225.92.00; 7226.99.00) from Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Viet Nam	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/CAN, 7 October 2020	Provisional duty imposed on 20 March 2020
Initiation on 8 November 2019 of countervailing investigation on imports of certain corrosion-resistant steel sheet 2 (HS 7210.30.00; 7210.49.00; 7210.61.00; 7210.69.00; 7212.20.00; 7212.30.00; 7212.50.00; 7225.91.00; 7225.92.00; 7226.99.00) from Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Viet Nam	WTO document G/SCM/N/363/CAN, 7 October 2020	Provisional duty imposed on 20 March 2020
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	
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)	
Chile		
Initiation on 27 April 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of steel grinding balls forged for mills of less than 4 inches in diameter (HS 7326.11.10) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/CHL, 9 July 2020	
Termination on 23 May 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of steel grinding balls forged for mills of less than 4 inches in diameter (HS 7326.11.10) from China (investigation initiated on 8 June 2018. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 19 January and 23 May 2019, respectively)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/CHL, 9 July 2020	
Initiation on 11 September 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of steel grinding balls forged for mills of less than 4 inches in diameter (HS 7228.30.00) from China	Permanent Delegation of Chile to the WTO (20 October 2020)	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
China		
Termination on 20 November 2019 of anti-dumping duties on imports of pyridine (HS 2933.31.00) from India and Japan (investigation initiated on 21 September 2012. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 27 May and 21 November 2013, respectively)	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/CHN, 21 April 2020	
Termination on 20 November 2019 of anti-dumping duties on imports of methyl ethyl ketone (HS 2914.12.00) from Japan and Chinese Taipei (imposed on 22 November 2007)	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/CHN, 21 April 2020	
Termination on 13 April 2020 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of vertical machining centre (HS 8457.10.10) from Japan and Chinese Taipei (initiated on 16 October 2018)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/CHN, 16 October 2020	
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 monoalkylether of ethylene glycol and propylene glycol or 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)	
Colombia		
Termination on 20 December 2019 of safeguard investigation on imports of sheets of paperboard and polyethylene, with an intermediate layer of aluminium foil as an oxygen barrier, used for the aseptic packaging of UHT treated foodstuffs (HS 4811.59.20) (initiated on 11 April 2019)	WTO document G/SG/N/9/COL/6, 9 March 2020	
Initiation on 11 May 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of oil country tubular goods (HS 7304.19.00; 7306.19.00) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/COL, 28 August 2020; and Permanent Delegation of Colombia to the WTO (21 October 2020)	Provisional duty imposed on 6 August 2020
Initiation on 1 September 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of profiles of iron or non-alloy steel obtained from flat-rolled products (HS	Permanent Delegation of Colombia to the WTO (21	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
7216.61.00; 7216.69.00; 7216.91.00; 7216.99.00; 7228.70.00) from China	October 2020) and Resolución No. 158, Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo (1 September 2020)	
Ecuador		
Initiation on 26 November 2019 of safeguard investigation on imports of smooth ceramics (HS 6907.21.00; 6907.22.00; 6907.23.00)	WTO document G/SG/N/9/ECU/3, 6 August 2020	Terminated on 31 July 2020 (without measure)
Egypt		
Initiation on 16 April 2020 of safeguard investigation on imports of raw aluminium (ingots, billets and wire rod) (HS 7601.10; 7601.20; 7605.11)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/EGY/15, 23 April 2020	
Initiation on 16 April 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of pre-stressed concrete steel strands (pc strands) (HS 7308.90.10) from China, Tunisia and Turkey	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/EGY, 10 August 2020	
Initiation on 29 June 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of machine made carpet and floor coverings of man-made textile materials, whether or not made up (machine made carpet) (HS 5702.42.00; 5703.20.00; 5703.30.00; 5703.90.00; 5705.00.00) from Turkey	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/EGY, 10 August 2020	
European Union		
Initiation on 18 December 2019 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	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/EU, 17 April 2020; and Commission Implementing Decision 2020/1202 (14 August 2020)	Terminated on 17 August 2020 (without measure)
Initiation on 14 February 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of aluminium extrusions (HS 7604.10.10; 7604.10.90; 7604.21.00; 7604.29.10; 7604.29.90; 7608.10.00; 7608.20.81; 7608.20.89; 7610.90.90) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/EU, 6 August 2020; and Commission Implementing Regulation 2020/1428 (12 October 2020)	Provisional duty imposed on 13 October 2020
Initiation on 14 May 2020 of anti-dumping 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/ADP/N/342/EU, 6 August 2020	
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	
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)	
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)	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Guatemala		
Termination on 9 January 2020 (without measure) of safeguard investigation on imports of flat-rolled products of other alloy steel, of a width of 600 mm or more (HS 7225.91.00; 7225.92.00; 7225.99.00) (investigation initiated on 27 August 2019)	WTO document G/SG/N/9/GTM/1, 28 January 2020	
India		
Initiation on 18 October 2019 of countervailing investigation on imports of flat products of stainless steel (HS 7219; 7220) from Indonesia	WTO document G/SCM/N/356/IND, 6 May 2020	
Termination on 27 October 2019 of anti-dumping duties on imports of paracetamol (HS 2922.29.33) from China (imposed on 6 September 2001)	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/IND, 18 May 2020	
Initiation on 29 October 2019 of countervailing investigation on imports of styrene butadiene rubber (HS 4002.19) from Korea, Rep. of	WTO document G/SCM/N/356/IND, 6 May 2020	
Initiation on 4 November 2019 of safeguard investigation on imports of isopropyl alcohol (HS 2905.12.20)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/IND/47, 15 November 2019	
Initiation on 5 November 2019 of countervailing investigation on imports of fibreboards (HS 4411.12; 4411.13; 4411.93; 4411.14; 4411.92) from Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam	WTO document G/SCM/N/356/IND, 6 May 2020	
Termination on 20 November 2019 of anti-dumping duties on imports of digital versatile disc-recordable (DVD-R's) (HS 8523) from China; Hong Kong, China; and Chinese Taipei (imposed on 23 July 2008)	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/IND, 18 May 2020	
Initiation on 3 December 2019 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of new pneumatic tyres of rubber for buses and lorries, with or without tubes and/or flaps (HS 4011.20.10) from Thailand	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/IND, 15 October 2020	
Termination on 8 December 2019 of anti-dumping duties on imports of cable ties (HS 3926.90) from China and Chinese Taipei (imposed on 31 October 2008)	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/IND, 18 May 2020	
Initiation on 9 December 2019 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of mono ethylene glycol (MEG or ethylene glycol) (HS 2905.31.00) from Kuwait; Oman; Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; Singapore and the United Arab Emirates	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/IND, 15 October 2020	Terminated on 6 April 2020 on imports from Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of
Initiation on 23 December 2019 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of 1-phenyl-3-methyl-5-pyrazolone (HS 2933.19.20) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/IND, 15 October 2020	Provisional duty on 9 June 2020
Termination on 30 December 2019 of anti-dumping duties on imports of pentaerythritol-I (HS 2905.42) from Chinese Taipei (imposed on 27 March 2002)	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/IND, 18 May 2020	
Initiation on 10 January 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of ciprofloxacin hydrochloride "PUC" (HS 2941.90.30) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/IND, 15 October 2020; and Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020)	Provisional duty on 2 September 2020
Initiation on 14 January 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of dimethyl formamide "DMF" (HS 2921.11.10) from China and Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/IND, 15 October 2020	
Initiation on 14 January 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of viscose spun yarn "VSY" (HS 5510.11.10; 5510.12.10; 5510.11.90; 5510.12.90; 5510.90.10; 5510.90.90) from China, Indonesia and Viet Nam	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/IND, 15 October 2020	
Initiation on 20 January 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of newsprint in rolls or sheets, excluding glazed newsprint (HS 4801.00.90; 4801.00.10) from Australia; Canada; the European Union; Hong Kong, China; the Russian Federation; Singapore and the United Arab Emirates	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/IND, 15 October 2020	
Initiation on 22 January 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of soda ash (HS 2836.20) from Turkey and the United States	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/IND, 15 October 2020	
Initiation on 22 January 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of aniline (HS 2921.41.10) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/IND, 15 October 2020	
Initiation on 31 January 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of toluene di-isocyanate "TDI" (HS 2929.10.20) from the European Union; Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; Chinese Taipei and the United Arab Emirates	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/IND, 15 October 2020	
Termination on 2 February 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of purified terephthalic acid "PTA" (HS 2917.36.00) from Korea, Rep. of and Thailand (investigation initiated on 8 October 2013. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 25 July 2014 and on 27 May 2015, respectively)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/IND, 15 October 2020	
Termination on 2 February 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of purified terephthalic acid "PTA" (HS 2917.36.00) from China; Indonesia; Iran, Islamic Rep. of; Malaysia and Chinese Taipei (investigation initiated	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/IND, 15 October 2020	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
on 18 June 2015. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 10 December 2015 and 5 July 2016, respectively)		
Initiation on 7 February 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of self-adhesive polyvinyl chloride film "SAV" (HS 3919.90.90; 3919.10.00; 3919.90.10; 3919.90.20; 3920.99.19; 3920.99.59; 3920.99.99; 3921.90.99; 3926.90.99) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/IND, 15 October 2020	
Initiation on 10 February 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of black toner in powder form (HS 3707.90.10; 3707.90.90) from China, Malaysia and Chinese Taipei	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/IND, 15 October 2020; and Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020)	Provisional duty on 10 August 2020
Initiation on 25 February 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of phenol (HS 2907.11) from Thailand and the United States	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/IND, 15 October 2020	
Initiation on 2 March 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of soda ash (HS 2836.20) from Turkey	WTO document G/SCM/N/363/IND, 15 October 2020	
Termination on 6 April 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of flexible slabstock polyol (HS 3907.20) from Australia and the European Union (investigation initiated on 12 July 2013 and definitive duty imposed on 7 April 2015)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/IND, 15 October 2020	
Termination on 13 April 2020 (without measure) of safeguard investigation on imports of phenol (HS 2907.11.10) (investigation initiated on 23 August 2019)	WTO document G/SG/N/9/IND/17, 21 April 2020	
Initiation on 20 April 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of copper and copper alloy flat rolled products (HS 7409.11.00; 7409.19.00; 7409.21.00; 7409.29.00; 7409.31.00; 7409.39.00; 7409.40.00; 7409.90.00; 7410.11.00; 7410.12.00) from China; Korea, Rep. of; Malaysia; Nepal; Sri Lanka and Thailand	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/IND, 15 October 2020	
Initiation on 22 April 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of plain medium density fibre board having thickness less than 6 mm (HS 4411.12.00; 4411.13.00; 4411.92.19; 4411.92.29; 4411.93.19; 4411.94.19) from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/IND, 15 October 2020	
Initiation on 9 May 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of natural mica based pearl industrial pigments excluding cosmetic grade (HS 3206.11) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/IND, 15 October 2020	
Initiation on 11 May 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of plain medium density fibre board having a thickness of 6 mm and above (HS 4411.12.00; 4411.13.00) from Viet Nam	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/IND, 15 October 2020	
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;	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020), Notification F. No.	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
5403.41.50; 5403.41.70; 5403.41.90; 5403.42.90; 5403.49.90) from China	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), 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 (arylates) (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)	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
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 - 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	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
	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. 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 23 October 2019 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of cold-rolled stainless steel "CRS" (HS 7219.32.00; 7219.33.00; 7219.34.00; 7219.35.00; 7219.90.00; 7220.20.10; 7220.20.90; 7220.90.10; 7220.90.90) from China and Malaysia	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/IDN, 20 May 2020	
Initiation on 13 November 2019 of safeguard investigation on imports of fructose syrup (HS 1702.60.20)	WTO documents G/SG/N/6/IDN/34, 15 November 2019; and G/SG/N/11/IDN/23, 22 September 2020	Definitive duty imposed on 17 September 2020
Initiation on 9 March 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of hot-rolled coil of other alloy steel (HS 7225.30.90) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/IDN, 22 October 2020	
Initiation on 23 March 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of lysine (HS 2922.41.00) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/IDN, 22 October 2020	
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	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Israel		
Termination on 19 May 2020 of anti-dumping duties on float glass (HS 7005.29.90) from Turkey (investigation initiated on 27 October 2015. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 18 April and 23 November 2016, respectively)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/ISR, 16 September 2020	
Japan		
Termination on 24 April 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of toluenediisocyanate (HS 2929.10) from China (investigation initiated on 14 February 2014. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 25 December 2014 and 25 April 2015, respectively)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/JPN, 7 September 2020	
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	
Jordan		
Termination on 14 May 2020 (without measure) of safeguard investigation on imports of potato chips and potatoes prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid, not frozen (HS 2005.20.90; 2106.90.99) (investigation initiated on 1 September 2019)	WTO document G/SG/N/9/JOR/10, 18 May 2020	
Korea, Rep. of		
Initiation on 3 December 2019 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of plywood (HS 4412.31; 4412.33; 4412.34; 4412.39; 4412.99) from Viet Nam	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/KOR, 6 October 2020	Provisional duty-imposed 29 May 2020
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)	
Malaysia		
Termination on 13 March 2020 of anti-dumping duties on polyethylene terephthalate (HS 3907.60.00) from China; Indonesia; and Korea, Rep. of (investigation initiated on 17 June 2014. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 13 November 2014 and 14 March 2015, respectively)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/MYS, 28 September 2020	
Initiation on 17 March 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of flat-rolled products of non-alloy steel plated or coated with aluminium and zinc (HS 7210.61.11; 7210.61.12; 7210.61.19; 7210.61.91; 7210.61.92; 7210.61.99; 7212.50.23; 7212.50.24; 7212.50.29) from China; Korea, Rep. of and Viet Nam	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/MYS, 28 September 2020	
Initiation on 13 September 2020 of safeguard investigation on imports of ceramic floor and wall tiles (HS 6907)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/MYS/6, 23 September 2020	
Mexico		
Initiation on 1 November 2019 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of hydraulic bottle jacks (HS 8425.42.02) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/MEX, 18 September 2020	Provisional duty imposed on 4 June 2020
Initiation on 19 March 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of dioctyl phthalates (HS 2917.32.01) from Korea, Rep of and the United States	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/MEX, 18 September 2020	
Initiation on 31 March 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of polyester-textured textile filament (HS 5402.33.01) from China and India	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/MEX, 18 September 2020	
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	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
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 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	
Morocco		
Termination on 20 October 2019 of anti-dumping duties on imports of A4 size paper (70-90 gr/m ²) (HS 4802.56.90) from Portugal (investigation initiated on 18 March 2013. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 25 April and 21 October 2014, respectively)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/MAR, 16 October 2020	
New Zealand		
Initiation on 24 March 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of galvanized wire (HS 7217.20.10; 7217.20.90) from China and Indonesia	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/NZL, 28 September 2020; and Permanent Delegation of New Zealand to the WTO (27 October 2020)	Provisional duty imposed on 25 August 2020
Pakistan		
Initiation on 7 December 2019 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of phthalic anhydride (HS 2917.35.00) from China; Korea, Rep. of; Russian Federation and Chinese Taipei	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/PAK, 13 August 2020	
Initiation on 23 January 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain electrical capacitors (HS 8532.10.00; 8532.22.00; 8532.25.00; 8532.29.00; 8532.30.90) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/PAK, 13 August 2020	
Termination on 21 February 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of aluminium beverage cans (HS 7612.90.10; 7612.90.30) from Jordan, Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates (investigation initiated on 1 November 2018 and provisional duty imposed on 3 May 2019)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/PAK, 13 August 2020	
Initiation on 29 February 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of inorganic yellow chrome pigment (HS 3206.20.10) from India and Korea, Rep. of	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/PAK, 13 August 2020	
Peru		
Termination on 22 January 2020 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of poplin blend fabrics (HS 5407.81.00; 5407.82.00; 5512.11.00; 5512.19.00; 5513.11.00; 5513.21.00; 5514.11.00; 5514.21.00) from China (initiated on 15 February 2019)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/PER, 2 September 2020	
Termination on 22 January 2020 (without measure) of countervailing investigation on imports of maize (HS 1005.90.11) from the United States (initiated on 24 July 2018)	WTO document G/SCM/N/363/PER, 5 October 2020	
Initiation on 6 February 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of woven fabrics of synthetic staple fibres, containing 85% or more by weight of synthetic staple fibres (HS 5512.11.00; 5512.19.00) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/PER, 2 September 2020	
Philippines		
Termination on 17 October 2019 (without measure) of safeguard investigation on imports of rice (HS 1006.30.30; 1006.30.40; 1006.30.91; 1006.30.99) (initiated on 11 September 2019)	WTO documents G/SG/N/6/PHL/14, 13 September 2019 and G/SG/N/9/PHL/3, 18 October 2019	
Termination on 8 January 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of wheat flour (HS 1101.00.10) from Turkey (investigation initiated on 7 June 2013. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 2 June 2014 and 9 January 2015, respectively)	Permanent Delegation of the Philippines (27 May 2020)	
Termination on 28 January 2020 of safeguard duties on imports of ceramic floor and wall tiles (HS 6907.21.23; 6907.21.24; 6907.21.93; 6907.21.94; 6907.22.13; 6907.22.14; 6907.22.93; 6907.22.94; 6907.23.13; 6907.23.14; 6907.23.93; 6907.23.94; 6907.40.92) (investigation initiated on 20 December 2018 and provisional duty imposed on 8 August 2019)	WTO document G/SG/N/9/PHL/4, 28 January 2020	
Initiation on 6 February 2020 of safeguard investigation on imports of motor vehicles (HS 8703; 8704)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/PHL/15, 18 February 2020	
Initiation on 17 June 2020 of safeguard investigation on imports of aluminium zinc, sheets, coils and strips "GL" (HS 7210.61.11; 7210.61.19; 7210.61.91; 7210.61.92; 7210.61.99; 7210.69.11; 7210.69.19; 7210.69.91; 7210.69.99; 7212.50.19; 7212.50.23; 7212.50.24; 7212.50.29; 7212.50.93; 7212.50.94; 7212.50.99)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/PHL/16, 22 June 2020	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Initiation on 17 June 2020 of safeguard investigation on imports of prepainted galvanized iron "PPGI" and prepainted aluminium zinc "PPGL" (HS 7210.70.11; 7210.70.19; 7210.70.90; 7210.70.91; 7210.70.99; 7210.90.10; 7210.90.90; 7212.40.11; 7212.40.12; 7212.40.19; 7212.40.91; 7212.40.92; 7212.40.99)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/PHL/17, 22 June 2020	
Initiation on 17 June 2020 of safeguard investigation on imports of galvanized iron sheets, coils and strips "GI" (HS 7210.41.11; 7210.41.19; 7210.41.91; 7210.41.99; 7210.49.91; 7210.49.99; 7212.30.12; 7212.30.13; 7212.30.19; 7212.30.99)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/PHL/18, 22 June 2020	
Termination on 25 August 2020 of safeguard duties on imports of float glass (HS 7005.29.90; 7005.21.90; 7005.10.90) (investigation initiated on 19 February 2019 and provisional duty imposed on 22 October 2019)	WTO document G/SG/N/7/PHL/11/Suppl. 1, 26 August 2020	
Initiation on 14 September 2020 of safeguard investigation on imports of high-density polyethylene and linear low-density polyethylene pellets and granules (HS 3901.20.00; 3901.10.12; 3901.10.92; 3901.40.00; 3901.90.90)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/PHL/19, 7 September 2020	
Russian Federation (for Eurasian Economic Union)		
Initiation on 24 December 2019 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of welded tubes of stainless steel (HS 7306.40.20; 7306.40.80; 7306.61.10; 7306.69.10) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/RUS, 6 May 2020	
Termination on 27 December 2019 (without measure) of safeguard investigation on imports of welded tubes of stainless steel (HS 7306.40.20; 7306.40.80; 7306.61.10; 7306.69.10) (initiated on 4 March 2019)	WTO document G/SG/N/9/RUS/2, 17 January 2020	
Initiation on 9 April 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of graphite electrodes with a diameter of 520 mm or less (HS 8545.11.00) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/RUS, 15 October 2020	
Termination on 9 April 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of citric acid (HS 2918.14) from China (investigation initiated on 21 February 2014 and definitive duty imposed on 10 April 2015)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/RUS, 15 October 2020	
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)	
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (for Gulf Cooperation Council)		
Initiation on 23 October 2019 of safeguard investigation on imports of certain steel products (HS 7208; 7209; 7210; 7211; 7212; 7213; 7214; 7215; 7216; 7222; 7225; 7227; 7228; 7301; 7304; 7305; 7306; 7308)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/SAU/3, 24 October 2019	
Termination on 28 November 2019 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of super-absorbent polymers (HS 3906.90) from Japan and Chinese Taipei (investigation initiated on 14 February 2019)	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/SAU, 18 May 2020	
Initiation on 29 April 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of plates, sheets, and strip, of aluminium alloys, of a thickness not exceeding 8 mm but greater than 0.2 mm, except those polished, coated, heat treatable, and aluminium can stock used for beverage cans and its lids (HS 7606.12.00; 7606.92.00) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/SAU, 5 October 2020	
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	
Serbia		
Initiation on 29 June 2020 of safeguard investigation on imports of ribbed concrete steel in bars - rebars (HS 7214.20.00)	Permanent Delegation of Serbia (23 September 2020)	
South Africa (for SACU - Southern African Customs Union)		
Initiation on 15 May 2020 of safeguard investigation on imports of bolts with hexagon heads of iron or steel (HS 7318.15.43)	WTO documents G/SG/N/6/ZAF/8, 25 May 2020; and G/SG/N/7/ZAF/5, 16 September 2020	Provisional duty imposed on 2 October 2020
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)	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu		
Initiation on 4 August 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain aluminium foil (HS 7607.11.20; 7607.11.90) from China	Permanent Delegation of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu to the WTO (24 September 2020)	
Thailand		
Initiation on 17 October 2019 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of painted hot dip plated or coated with aluminium-zinc alloys of cold-rolled steel (HS 7210.70.11; 7210.70.91; 7212.40.11; 7212.40.12; 7212.40.19; 7212.40.91; 7212.40.92; 7212.40.99; 7225.99.90; 7226.99.19; 7226.99.99) from China and Korea, Rep. of	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/THA, 11 February 2020	
Initiation on 21 February 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of flat hot dip galvanized of cold rolled steel in coil and not in coil (HS 7210.49.12; 7210.49.13; 7210.49.19; 7210.49.91; 7210.49.99; 7212.30.11; 7212.30.12; 7212.30.13; 7212.30.19; 7225.9290) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/THA, 22 July 2020	
Initiation on 7 April 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of tinplate (HS 7210.12.90) from China; the European Union; Korea, Rep. of; and Chinese Taipei	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/THA, 22 July 2020	
Initiation on 15 May 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of tin free steel (HS 7210.50.00) from China; the European Union and Korea, Rep. of	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/THA, 22 July 2020	
Termination on 7 June 2020 of safeguard duties on imports of non alloy hot rolled steel flat products in coils and not in coils (HS 7208.36.00; 7208.37.00; 7208.38.00; 7208.39.90; 7208.51.00; 7208.52.00; 7208.53.00; 7208.54.90) (investigation initiated on 30 January 2014. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 7 June and 24 December 2014, respectively)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/THA/4/Suppl.3, 8 May 2020	
Initiation on 21 August 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of biaxially oriented polypropylene "BOPP" film in common grade (HS 3920.20.10) from China, Indonesia and Malaysia	Permanent Delegation of Thailand to the WTO (5 October 2020)	
Initiation on 18 September 2020 of safeguard investigation on imports of aluminium foil (HS 7607.11.00; 7607.19.00)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/THA/6, 24 September 2020	
Turkey		
Termination on 13 November 2019 of anti-dumping duties on imports of oriented strand board "OSB" (HS 4410.12) from Canada and the United States (imposed on 18 December 2008)	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/TUR, 20 February 2020	
Termination on 13 November 2019 of anti-dumping duties on imports of hook and loop (HS 5806.32.90) from China and Chinese Taipei (imposed on 13 December 2002)	WTO document G/ADP/N/335/TUR, 20 February 2020	
Initiation on 14 April 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of baby food with cereals (HS 1901.10.00) from Croatia	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/TUR, 23 September 2020	
Termination on 10 May 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of stud-link and welded link chain of iron or steel (HS 7315.81; 7315.82) from China (imposed on 20 December 2003)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/TUR, 23 September 2020	
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	
Ukraine		
Initiation on 7 December 2019 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of steel fastenings (HS 7318.15.69; 7318.15.81; 7318.15.89; 7318.15.90; 7318.16.91; 7318.16.99) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/UKR, 2 October 2020; and Permanent Delegation of Ukraine to the WTO (19 October 2020)	Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 28 May and 21 September 2020, respectively
Initiation on 7 December 2019 of safeguard investigation on imports of syringes (HS 9018.31.10)	WTO document G/SG/N/9/UKR/7, 14 September 2020	Terminated on 2 September 2020 (without measure)
Initiation on 11 February 2020 of safeguard investigation on imports of caustic soda (HS 2815.12.00)	WTO document G/SG/N/9/UKR/8, 16 September 2020	Terminated on 2 September 2020 (without measure)

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Initiation on 25 February 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of pivot-reclining devices (mechanisms) for window and balcony door blocks (HS 8302.41.50) from Turkey	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/UKR, 2 October 2020	
Initiation on 25 February 2020 of safeguard investigation on imports of polymeric materials (HS 3901.20.90; 3904.10.00)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/UKR/17, 28 February 2020	
Initiation on 28 May 2020 of safeguard investigation on imports of fresh cut roses (HS 0603.11.00)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/UKR/18, 12 June 2020	
Initiation on 25 June 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of plywood (HS 4412.32.10; 4412.32.90; 4412.39.00; 4412.99.40; 4412.99.50; 4412.99.85) from Belarus	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/UKR, 2 October 2020	
Initiation on 28 July 2020 of safeguard investigation on imports of wires (HS 8544.49.20; 8544.49.91; 8544.60.10; 8544.60.90; 8544.70.00)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/UKR/19/Corr.1, 21 September 2020	
United States		
Initiation on 21 November 2019 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of forged steel fittings (HS 7307.92.30; 7307.92.90; 7307.93.30; 7307.93.60; 7307.93.90; 7307.99.10; 7307.99.30; 7307.99.50) from India and Korea, Rep. of	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/USA, 9 October 2020	Provisional duty imposed on 28 May 2020
Initiation on 21 November 2019 of countervailing investigation on imports of forged steel fittings (HS 7307.92.30; 7307.92.90; 7307.93.30; 7307.93.60; 7307.93.90; 7307.99.10; 7307.99.30; 7307.99.50) from India	WTO document G/SCM/N/363/USA, 16 October 2020	Provisional duty imposed on 30 March 2020
Initiation on 15 January 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of 4 th tier cigarettes (HS 2402.20.80) from Korea, Rep. of	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/USA, 9 October 2020	
Initiation on 15 January 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of forged steel fluid end blocks (HS 7218.91.00; 7218.99.00; 7224.90.00; 7326.19.00; 7326.90.86; 8413.91.90) from Germany, India and Italy	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/USA, 9 October 2020	
Initiation on 15 January 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of forged steel fluid end blocks (HS 7218.91.00; 7218.99.00; 7224.90.00; 7326.19.00; 7326.90.86; 8413.91.90) from China, Germany, India and Italy	WTO document G/SCM/N/363/USA, 16 October 2020	Provisional duty imposed on 26 May 2020
Termination on 17 January 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of magnesium (HS 8104.11.00; 8104.19.00; 8104.30.00) from Israel (investigation initiated on 20 November 2018 and provisional duty imposed on 9 July 2019)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/USA, 9 October 2020	
Termination on 17 January 2020 of countervailing duties on imports of magnesium (HS 8104.11.00; 8104.19.00; 8104.30.00) from Israel (investigation initiated on 20 November 2018 and provisional duty imposed on 8 May 2019)	WTO document G/SCM/N/363/USA, 16 October 2020	
Termination on 30 January 2020 of countervailing duties on imports of certain fabricated structural steel (HS 7308.90.30; 7308.90.60; 7308.90.95; 7216.91.00; 7216.99.00; 7222.40.60; 7228.70.60; 7301.10.00; 7301.20.10; 7301.20.50; 7308.40.00; 7308.90.95; 9406.90.00) from Canada (investigation initiated on 4 March 2019 and provisional duty imposed on 12 July 2019)	WTO document G/SCM/N/363/USA, 16 October 2020	
Termination on 31 January 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of dried tart cherries (HS 0813.40.30; 0813.40.90; 0813.50.00; 2006.00.20; 2006.00.50; 2008.60.00) from Turkey (investigation initiated on 20 May 2019 and provisional duty imposed on 27 September 2019)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/USA, 9 October 2020	
Termination on 31 January 2020 of countervailing duties on imports of dried tart cherries (HS 0813.40.30; 0813.40.90; 0813.50.00; 2006.00.20; 2006.00.50; 2008.60.00) from Turkey (investigation initiated on 20 May 2019 and provisional duty imposed on 27 September 2019)	WTO document G/SCM/N/363/USA, 16 October 2020	
Initiation on 5 February 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of wood mouldings and millwork products (HS 4409.10.40; 4409.10.45; 4409.10.50; 4409.10.60; 4409.10.65; 4409.22.40; 4409.22.50; 4409.22.60; 4409.22.65; 4409.29.41; 4409.29.51; 4409.29.61; 4409.29.66; 4418.99.95; 4421.99.97) from Brazil and China	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/USA, 9 October 2020	
Initiation on 5 February 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of wood mouldings and millwork products (HS 4409.10.40; 4409.10.45; 4409.10.50; 4409.10.60; 4409.10.65; 4409.22.40; 4409.22.50; 4409.22.60; 4409.22.65; 4409.29.41; 4409.29.51; 4409.29.61; 4409.29.66; 4418.99.95; 4421.99.97) from China	WTO document G/SCM/N/363/USA, 16 October 2020	Provisional duty imposed on 12 June 2020
Initiation on 18 February 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain vertical shaft engines between 225 cc and 999 cc, and parts thereof (HS 8407.90) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/USA, 9 October 2020	
Initiation on 18 February 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of certain vertical shaft engines between 225 cc and 999 cc, and parts thereof (HS 8407.90.10; 8407.90.90; 8409.91.99) from China	WTO document G/SCM/N/363/USA, 16 October 2020	Provisional duty imposed on 19 June 2020
Initiation on 24 February 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of difluoromethane "R-32" (HS 2903.39.20; 3824.78.00) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/USA, 9 October 2020	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Initiation on 3 March 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain corrosion inhibitors (HS 2933.99.82) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/USA, 9 October 2020	
Initiation on 3 March 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of certain corrosion inhibitors (HS 2933.99.82) from China	WTO document G/SCM/N/363/USA, 16 October 2020	
Termination on 20 March 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of certain fabricated structural steel (HS 7308.90.30; 7308.90.60; 7308.90.95; 7216.91.00; 7216.99.00; 7222.40.60; 7228.70.60; 7301.10.00; 7301.20.10; 7301.20.50; 7308.40.00; 7308.90.95; 9406.90.00) from Canada, China and Mexico (investigation initiated on 4 March 2019 and provisional duty imposed on 10 September 2019)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/USA, 9 October 2020	
Termination on 20 March 2020 of countervailing duties on imports of certain fabricated structural steel (HS 7308.90.30; 7308.90.60; 7308.90.95; 7216.91.00; 7216.99.00; 7222.40.60; 7228.70.60; 7301.10.00; 7301.20.10; 7301.20.50; 7308.40.00; 7308.90.95; 9406.90.00) from China and Mexico (investigation initiated on 4 March 2019 and provisional duty imposed on 12 July 2019)	WTO document G/SCM/N/363/USA, 16 October 2020	
Initiation on 31 March 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of ultra-high molecular weight polyethylene (HS 3901.10.10; 3901.20.10) from Korea, Rep. of	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/USA, 9 October 2020	
Initiation on 7 April 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of common alloy aluminium sheet (HS 7606.11.30; 7606.11.60; 7606.12.30; 7606.12.60; 7606.91.30; 7606.91.60; 7606.92.30; 7606.92.60) from Bahrain; Brazil; Croatia; Egypt; Germany; Greece; India; Indonesia; Italy; Korea, Rep. of; Oman; Romania; Serbia; Slovenia; South Africa; Spain; Chinese Taipei and Turkey	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/USA, 9 October 2020	
Initiation on 7 April 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of common alloy aluminium sheet (HS 7606.11.30; 7606.11.60; 7606.12.30; 7606.12.60; 7606.91.30; 7606.91.60; 7606.92.30; 7606.92.60) from Bahrain, Brazil, India and Turkey	WTO document G/SCM/N/363/USA, 16 October 2020	
Initiation on 14 April 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain vertical shaft engines between 99 cc and up to 225 cc, and parts thereof (HS 8407.90.10; 8407.90.90; 8409.91.99; 8433.11; 8424.30) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/USA, 9 October 2020	
Initiation on 22 April 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of certain non-refillable steel cylinders (HS 7310.29.00; 7311.00.00) from China	WTO document G/SCM/N/363/USA, 16 October 2020	
Initiation on 22 April 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain non-refillable steel cylinders (HS 7310.29.00; 7311.00.00) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/USA, 9 October 2020	
Initiation on 24 April 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of mattresses (HS 9404.21.00; 9404.29.10; 9404.29.90; 9401.40.00; 9401.90.50) from Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Serbia, Thailand, Turkey and Viet Nam	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/USA, 9 October 2020	
Initiation on 24 April 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of mattresses (HS 9404.21.00; 9404.29.10; 9404.29.90; 9401.40.00; 9401.90.50) from China	WTO document G/SCM/N/363/USA, 16 October 2020	
Initiation on 13 May 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of prestressed concrete steel wire strand (HS 7312.10) from Turkey	WTO document G/SCM/N/363/USA, 16 October 2020	
Initiation on 13 May 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of prestressed concrete steel wire strand (HS 7312.10) from Argentina, Colombia, Egypt, Indonesia, Italy, Malaysia, the Netherlands, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Chinese Taipei, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United Arab Emirates	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/USA, 9 October 2020	
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	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
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	
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)	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
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 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	
Viet Nam		
Initiation on 31 October 2019 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of monosodium glutamate (HS 2922.42) from China and Indonesia	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/VNM, 12 October 2020	Provisional duty imposed on 25 March 2020
Termination on 14 January 2020 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of fireboard of wood (HS 4411.12; 4411.13; 4411.14; 4411.92; 4411.93; 4411.94) from Malaysia and Thailand (initiated on 16 April 2019)	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/VNM, 12 October 2020	
Initiation on 6 April 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of polyester filament yarn (HS 5402.33; 5402.46; 5402.47) from China, India, Indonesia and Malaysia	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/VNM, 12 October 2020	
Initiation on 29 June 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of high fructose corn syrup (HS 1702.60) from China and Korea, Rep. of	WTO document G/ADP/N/342/VNM, 12 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-RELATED MEASURES¹

(MID-OCTOBER 2019 TO MID-OCTOBER 2020)

Confirmed information²

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Argentina		
Amendments introduced in the export duties legislation (<i>derechos de exportación</i>). For certain exported products (in NCM Chapters 01; 02; 03; 04; 05; 07; 10; 11; 15; 20; 44; 47; 51; 52) with duty set at 9%	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (22 May 2020) and Decreto No. 37/2019 (DCTO-2019-37-APN-Decreto No. 793/2018. Modificación) (14 December 2019)	Effective 14 December 2019
Temporary increase (up to 33%) of export duties (<i>derechos de exportación</i>) on certain products, e.g. live animals; meat and edible meat offal; fish and crustaceans; products of animal origin; dried leguminous vegetables; cereals; wheat or meslin flour; cereal flours; cereal groats, meat and pellets; oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains; animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes; preserved ground-nuts; residues and waste from food industries; prepared animal fodder; biodiesel and mixtures thereof; wood and wood charcoal; wool, not carded or combed; and cotton, not carded or combed (539 tariff lines at 8-digit level, in Chapters NCM 01; 02; 03; 05; 07; 10; 11; 12; 15; 20; 23; 38; 44; 51)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (22 May 2020) and Decreto No. 230/2020 (DCTO-2020-230-APN-PTE- Fijase alícuota del derecho de exportación) - Nomenclatura Común del Mercosur (4 March 2020)	Effective 6 March 2020
Further increase in the statistical fee (<i>tasa de estadística</i>) (from 2.5% to 3%) (originally implemented from May 2019 to 31 December 2019) for all imports. Certain exemptions in force	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (22 May 2020) and Ley 27541- de Solidaridad Social y Reactivación Productiva en el Marco de la Emergencia Pública (21 December 2019)	Effective 21 December 2019 to 31 December 2020
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

¹ The inclusion of any measure in this 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.

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
Azerbaijan		
Extension of the temporary increase of import tariffs on certain products, e.g. meat and edible meat offal of the poultry; eggs; edible fruits and nuts; fruit and vegetable juices; waters; certain clays; mineral products; articles of cement; articles of plaster; and ceramic products (HS Chapters 2; 4; 7; 8; 20; 22; 25; 68; 69)	Permanent Delegation of Azerbaijan to the WTO (12 May 2020)	Effective 15 December 2019 to 31 December 2021
Increase of import excise rates on certain products, e.g. undenatured ethyl alcohol; cigars, cheroots, cigarillos and cigarettes, of tobacco or of tobacco substitutes (HS 2207.10.00; 2208.90.91; 2208.90.99; 2208.30; 2208.40; 2208.50; 2208.60; 2208.70; 2208.90.11; 2208.90.78; 2402.10.00; 2402.90.00; 2402.20)	Permanent Delegation of Azerbaijan to the WTO (5 June 2020)	
Belize		
Implementation of import licensing requirements on certain products; e.g. fish; meslin flour; dairy produce; eggs; vegetables; fruits; maize; rice; cereal flours; prepared foodstuffs; sugar and sugar confectionery; miscellaneous edible preparations; toilet paper; live poultry; meta and edible meat offal; water; beer; preparation of a kind used in animal feeding; petroleum oils; petroleum gases; ephedrine and its salts; certain medicaments; wood and articles of wood; and miscellaneous manufactured articles (HS Chapters 1; 2; 3; 4; 7; 8; 10; 11; 16; 17; 20; 21; 48; 3; 4; 21; 22; 23; 27; 29; 30; 44; 94)	Permanent Delegation of Belize to the WTO (2 October 2020)	Effective 1 June 2020
Brazil		
Increase of import tariffs (from zero to 20%) on certain fairground amusements (<i>carrosséis</i>) (NCM 9508.90.19; 9508.90.22); and (from 6% to 12%) on smart cards (NCM 8523.52.10)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (20 May 2020), Camex Resolution Nos. 4/2019 (24 October 2019) and 13/2019 (19 November 2019)	Effective 1 January 2020
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)	
China		
On 15 December 2019, imposition of additional 10% and 5% <i>ad valorem</i> rates of duty on certain products from the United States (third batch) suspended	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (25 May 2020) and State Council Tariff Commission Announcement on Applying Additional Tariffs to Certain Imported Goods Originated from the United States (Batch No. 3), and the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council, Announcement on suspending additional tariffs on certain imports from the United States [2019] No. 7. Viewed at: http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2019-12/15/content_5461332.htm	Effective 15 December 2019 (12:01 pm)
Imposition of additional tariffs on certain products (HS 2710.19.99; 2712.90.10; 3901.20.00; 3901.40.10; 3910.40.20; 3902.10.00) imported from the United States suspended from 26 December 2019 to 25 December 2020	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (25 May 2020) and Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council (SCTC), Announcement on the Second Exclusion List of the First Batch of Imports from the U.S. Subject to Additional Tariffs (SCTC Announcement [2019] No. 8). Viewed at: http://www.mof.gov.cn/zhengwuxinxi/zhengcefabu/201912/P020191219362467972158.pdf	Effective 26 December 2019 to 25 December 2020
Release of the 2020 catalogue of goods subject to import licensing (HS Chapters 29; 38; 84; 89; 90)	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (25 May 2020) and MOFCOM, GACC Announcement No. 65 [2019]. Viewed at: http://www.mofcom.gov.cn/article/b/c/201912/20191202927133.shtml	Effective 1 January 2020
Release of the 2020 catalogue of goods subject to export licensing (HS Chapters 1; 2; 10; 11; 12; 13; 14; 25; 26; 27; 28; 29; 32; 38; 44; 46; 52; 71; 72; 75; 80; 81; 84; 87; 94)	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (25 May 2020) and MOFCOM, GACC Announcement No. 66 [2019]. Viewed at: http://www.mofcom.gov.cn/article/b/e/201912/20191202927141.shtml	Effective 1 January 2020

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Temporary decrease of import tariffs (from 10% to 5% and from 5% to 2.5%) on certain products (1,717 goods in HS Chapters 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12; 13; 14; 15; 16; 17; 18; 19; 20; 21; 22; 23; 25; 26; 27; 28; 29; 30; 31; 32; 33; 34; 35; 36; 37; 38; 39; 40; 41; 42; 43; 44; 48; 49; 50; 51; 52; 53; 54; 55; 57; 58; 61; 62; 63; 64; 65; 67; 69; 70; 71; 72; 73; 74; 80; 81; 82; 83; 84; 85), imported from the United States	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (25 May 2020) and Announcement of the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council on Adjusting the Additional Tariffs on Certain Imports Originating in the United States (Announcement No. 1 [2020] of the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council. Viewed at: http://gss.mof.gov.cn/gzdt/zhengcefabu/201908/P020190823604938915640.pdf	Effective 14 February 2020
Imposition of additional tariffs on 65 products (HS Chapters 44; 47; 49; 84; 85; 90) from the United States suspended from 28 February 2020 to 27 February 2021. For certain products, the additional tariff levied to be refunded	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (25 May 2020) and Announcement of the State Council Tariff Commission on the second exemption list of tariffs on the United States tax commission announcement [2020] No. 3. Viewed at: http://gss.mof.gov.cn/gzdt/zhengcefabu/202002/t20200221_3472600.htm (21 February 2020)	Effective 28 February 2020 to 27 February 2021
Colombia		
Imposition of import tariffs on footwear (HS 64). <i>Ad valorem</i> tariff (35%) on: (i) waterproof footwear (HS 6401), other footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics (HS 6402), and footwear with outer soles of rubber, plastics, leather or composition leather and uppers of textile material (HS 6404) for FOB value declared of USD 6/kg or less; (ii) other footwear (HS 6405) for FOB value declared of USD 7/kg or less; (iii) footwear with outer soles of rubber, plastics, leather or composition leather and uppers of leather (HS 6403) for FOB value declared of USD 10/kg or less; and (iv) uppers and parts thereof, other than stiffeners (HS 6406.10.00) for FOB value declared of USD 5/kg or less (free-trade agreement partners exempted)	Permanent Delegation of Colombia to the WTO (30 April 2020) and Decreto No. 2279, Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo (16 December 2019)	Effective 17 December 2019 to 17 December 2020
Temporary increase (from zero to 10%) of import tariffs on certain ceramic products (HS 6910.90.00)	Permanent Delegation of Colombia to the WTO (30 April 2020) and Decreto No. 199 Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo (10 February 2020)	Effective 26 February 2020
Temporary export quota on waste and scraps of iron and steel (28.404 tonnes) and on waste and scraps of copper and aluminium (38.675 tonnes) (HS 7204.10.00; 7204.21.00; 7204.29.00; 7204.30.00; 7204.41.00; 7204.49.00; 7404.00.00; 7503.00.00; 7602.00.00; 7802.00.00; 7902.00.00)	Permanent Delegation of Colombia to the WTO (21 October 2020) and Decreto No. 1120, Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo (12 August 2020)	Effective 27 August 2020 to 26 February 2021
Egypt		
Further extension and increase of the temporary export taxes (from EGY 6,000/tonne to EGY 7,000/tonne) on certain lead and articles thereof (HS 7801.10; 7801.91; 7801.99; 7804.19; 7806.00)	Permanent Delegation of Egypt to the WTO (22 May 2020) and Ministerial Decree No. 1156 (20 December 2019)	Effective until 31 December 2020
Imposition of temporary export taxes (EGY 3,000/tonne) on used or new rags, scrap twine, cordage, rope and cables and worn out articles of twine, cordage, rope or cables, of textile materials (HS 6310)	Permanent Delegation of Egypt to the WTO (22 May 2020) and Ministerial Decree No. 195/2020	Effective 30 March 2020, for 1 year
Further extension of the temporary export taxes (EGY 600/tonne) on cereal straw and husks, unprepared, whether or not chopped, ground, pressed or in the form of pellets excluding rice straw and husks; (EGY 700/tonne) on hay, clover and other forage products; (EGY 900/tonne) on bran, sharps and other residues, whether or not in the form of pellets, derived from the sifting, milling or other working of cereals or of leguminous plants excluding rice residues; vegetable materials and vegetable waste, vegetable residues and by-products; whether or not in the form of pellets, of a kind used in animal feeding excluding corn cobs; (EGY 300/tonne) on corn silage (effective 16 December 2019 to 31 December 2020); (EGY 2,000/tonne) on copper matte, precipitated copper, unrefined copper; copper anodes for electrolytic refining, refined copper and copper alloys in raw forms, copper waste and scrap, bars, rods, angles and special forms of copper, articles of copper, cast,	Permanent Delegation of Egypt to the WTO (22 May 2020)	Effective: see individual dates in measure

Measure	Source/Date	Status
moulded, stamped or forged, but not further worked; (EGY 7,000/tonne) on lead in raw forms, lead waste and scrap, lead plates, sheets, strip and foil over 0.2 mm thick, other articles of lead, aluminium waste and scrap; (EGY 1,300/tonne) on cast iron waste and scrap, stainless steel waste and scrap, alloy steel waste and scrap, other than stainless, tinned iron or steel waste and scrap, ferrous waste and scrap, turnings, shavings, chips, milling waste, sawdust, filings, trimmings and stampings, whether or not in bundles, ferrous waste and scrap, remelted scrap ingots of iron or steel; (EGY 2,600/tonne) on slag, ash and residues; (not from the manufacture of iron or steel), containing mainly zinc, hard zinc spelter and other than hard zinc spelter, zinc in raw forms, zinc waste and scrap, zinc dust, powders and flakes; (EGY 3,600/tonne) on waste and scrap of paper and paperboard (effective 23 December 2019 to 31 December 2020); (EGY 1,200/tonne) on talc blocks and crushed; (EGY 500/tonne) on talc powder; (EGY 300/tonne) on talc ultra-soft powder; (EGY 150/tonne) on raw quartz; (EGY 200/tonne) on feldspar blocks; (EGY 100/tonne) on raw feldspar crushed or powder; (EGY 400/tonne) on marble, crude or roughly trimmed; granite, crude or roughly trimmed; and (EGY 100/tonne) on sand (effective 9 February 2020)		
Temporary import ban on white and raw sugar (HS 1701)	Ministry of Trade and Industry - News (4 June 2020)	Effective 4 June 2020, for 3 months
India		
Amendments introduced to import condition No. 2 of Chapter 39 of the ITC (HS), 2017, Schedule- I (Import Policy), resulting in an import prohibition on PET flakes made from used PET bottles	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (1 May 2020)	Effective 24 October 2019
Initiation on 7 November 2019 of bilateral safeguard investigation on imports of polybutadiene rubber "PBR" (HS 4002.20.00) from Korea, Rep. of	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and Notification F. No. 22/7/2019-DGTR - (Case No. (SG) 7/2019) - Bilateral Safeguard Investigation, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (7 November 2019)	
Import policy of gold (in any form, other than monetary gold and silver in any form) amended from "Free" to "Restricted". Import allowed only through nominated agencies as notified by the Reserve Bank of India (in case of banks) and Directorate General of Foreign Trade (for other agencies). Import under Advance Authorization and supply of gold directly by the foreign buyers to exporters under Para 4.45 of FTP against export orders are exempted	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (1 May 2020)	Effective 18 December 2019
Amendments introduced to the import policy of peas (HS 0713.10.00). Import of peas (<i>Pisum sativum</i> , including yellow peas, green peas, dun peas and kasper peas) restricted. Imports subjected to MIP c.i.f. (INR 200/kg) and allowed only through Kolkata sea port	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (1 May 2020)	Effective 18 December 2019
Amendments introduced to the import policy of refined palm oil and its fractions (HS 1511.90), resulting in an import restriction	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and Notification No. 39/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce (8 January 2020)	Effective 8 January 2020
Amendments introduced to the import policy of coconuts (HS 0801.11.00). Imports of desiccated coconut with c.i.f. value of INR 150/kg - and above is "Free". Imports below c.i.f. value of INR 150/kg "Prohibited"	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (1 May 2020)	Effective 8 January 2020
Increase of import tariffs (from zero to 30%) on tuna bait, and fin fish feed; (from 30% to 40%) on whey and cheese; (from 5% to 30%) on pancreas; (from 5% to 10%) on bulbs and tubers; colour positive/negative unexposed cinematographic film in rolls; instant print film; and lead bars, rods, profiles and wires; (from zero to 100%) on meslin, durum wheat seeds and seeds of wheat (other than durum seeds); (from 5% to 10%) on MP3 or MP4 or MPEG	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and Notification F. No. 22/7/2019-DGTR - (Case No. (SG) 7/2019) - Bilateral Safeguard Investigation, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (7 November 2019)	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
4 players with or without radio or video reception; tin plates, sheets and strip of thickness exceeding 0.2 mm; tin foil (whether or not printed or backed with paper, paper-board, plastics or similar backing material) of a thickness not exceeding 0.2 mm; and tin powders and flakes; (from 5% to 30%) on sugar beets; (from 5% to 150%) on angostura bitter; (from 80% to 100%) on margarine, animal and vegetable fats and oils under HS 1517 and 1518; (from 20% to 30%) on crude glycerol, glycerol waters and glycerol lyes (other than crude glycerine), and extrose monohydrate; (from 10% to 30%) on molasses resulting from refining of sugar; (from 30% to 45%) on chewing gum; (from 17.5% to 30%) on certain food preparations for infant use and put up for retail sale; (from 30% to 50%) on certain food preparations for infant use and put up for retail sale; (from 30% to 35%) on preserved potatoes; (from 7.5% to 30%) on peanut butter; (from 7.5% to 10%) on colloidal precious metals; compounds of precious metal; amalgams of precious metals, certain motors; and zinc tubes, pipes and tube or pipe fittings; (from 5% to 7.5%) on butyl acrylate, kainine salts, polished cubic zirconia, platinum and palladium used in the manufacture of catalytic converters, raw substrate (ceramic); wash coated substrate (ceramic); raw substrate (metal); wash coated substrate (metal); stainless steel wire cloth stripe (falling under HS 7314.14.10); wash coat used in manufacture of catalytic converters and their parts; sprinklers and drip irrigation; and poultry incubators and brooders; (from 10% to 20%) on isolated soya protein; (from zero to 10%) on cinematographic films, exposed but not developed; tanned furskin; specified vibrator motors/ringers; and display assemblies; (from zero to 7.5%) on compostable polymer or bio-plastic; (from 7.5% to 25%) on water blocking tape; (from zero to 10%/15%) on raw furskin; (from zero to 0.5%) on certain synthetic or reconstructed precious or semi-precious stones; (from zero to 12.5%) on gold wire with phosphorus or antimony doping, gold in the form of wire, ribbon, pre-form of purity of 99.9%; (from 10% to 15%) on headphones and earphones; on copper and articles thereof, when used in the manufacture of specified electronic goods; and (from 2.5% to 7.5%) on rotary tillers/weeders		
Increase of import tariffs (from 30% to 40%) on completely built units (CBUs) of commercial vehicles (other than electric vehicles); (from 25% to 40%) on CBUs of commercial electrical vehicles; (from 15% to 30%) on semi knocked down (SKD) electric passenger vehicles; (from 15% to 25%) on SKD electric vehicles -buses, trucks and two wheelers; and (from 10% to 15%) on completely knocked down (CKD) forms of electric vehicles - passenger vehicles, three wheelers, two wheelers, buses and trucks (HS 8702; 8703; 8704; 8711)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (1 May 2020)	Effective 2 February 2020
Increase of the road and infrastructure cess (to INR 10/L) on imports of petrol and high-speed diesel oil (HS 2710). On 6 May 2020, a further increased to INR 18/L	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and Ministry of Finance - Department of Revenue Notification Nos. 15/2020-Customs (13 March 2020) and 21/2020-Customs (5 May 2020)	Effective 14 March 2020
Amendments introduced to the export policy of onions (HS 0703.10.10; 0712.20.00), resulting in an export liberalization	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and Notification No. 49/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (2 March 2020)	Effective 15 March 2020
Withdrawal of the basic customs duty exemption on certain products, e.g. on gold used in the manufacture of semi-conductor devices or light emitting diodes; on copper and articles thereof used for the manufacturing of ITA goods (HS 7108.12.00; 7108.13.00)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and Ministry of Finance - Department of Revenue - Notification Nos. 5/2020-Customs, 6/2020-Customs, 7/2020-Customs (2 February 2020)	Effective 1 April 2020
Increase of import tariffs on certain products, e.g. (from 30% to 100%) on shelled walnuts (HS 0802.32.00); (from 10% to 17.5%) on certain	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (26 May 2020) and the Finance Bill, 2020 (Bill No. 26 of 2020) (1 February 2020). Viewed at:	Effective 1 April 2020

Measure	Source/Date	Status
miscellaneous chemical products (HS 3824.99.00); (from 25% to 35%) on footwear (HS 64); (from 10% to 20%) on artificial flowers, foliage and fruit and parts thereof, articles made of artificial flowers, foliage or fruits (HS 6702); tableware, kitchenware, other household articles and toilet articles, of porcelain or china (HS 6911); ceramic tableware, kitchenware, other household articles and toilet articles, other than of porcelain or china (HS 6912); glassware (HS 7013); glass beads, imitation pearls, imitation precious or semi-precious stones and similar glassware (HS 7018.10.20); table, kitchen or other household articles and parts thereof, of copper; pot scourers and scouring or polishing pads, gloves and the like, of copper (HS 7418.10); table, kitchen or other household articles and parts thereof, of aluminium; pot scourers and scouring or polishing pads, gloves and the like, of aluminium (HS 7615.10); and certain miscellaneous articles of base metal (HS 8301; 8304; 8305; 8306; 8310); certain fans (HS 8414.51); certain electrical machinery and equipment (HS 8504; 8509; 8510); electric instantaneous or storage water heaters (HS 8516); certain miscellaneous manufactured articles (HS 9603; 9604; 9615; 9617); (from 10% to 12.5%) on coin (HS 7118); compressors of a kind used in refrigerating equipment (HS 8414.30.00); and certain hoods (HS 8414.80.11); (from 15% to 20%) certain parts of footwear (HS 6406); table, kitchen or other household articles and parts thereof, of iron or steel; iron or steel wool; and pot scourers and scouring or polishing pads, gloves and the like, of iron or steel (HS 7323); (from 7.5% to 10%) on certain fans (HS 8414.51.40; 8414.59); refrigerators, freezers and other refrigerating or freezing equipment (HS 8418); certain machinery (HS 8419.89.10); and brazing or soldering machines and apparatus (HS 8515); (from 7.5% to 20%) on certain fans (HS 8414.51.90; 8414.59.20); (from 10% to 15%) on certain filtering or purifying machinery and apparatus for gases (HS 8421.39); and (from 20% to 25%) on miscellaneous manufactured articles (HS 9401; 9403; 9404; 9405); (from 20% to 60%) on tricycles, scooters, pedal cars and similar wheeled toys, dolls, puzzles, and recreational models (HS 9503)	https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/doc/Finance_Bill.pdf	
Amendments introduced in the Import Policy Conditions of Silver under Chapter 71 of the ITC (HS), 2017, Schedule - I (Import Policy). Imports restricted. Imports allowed only through nominated agencies as notified by the Reserve Bank of India (in the case of banks) and the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (for other agencies). However, imports of silver (powder; unwrought; sheets, plates, strips, tubes and pipes) under advance authorization and the supply of silver directly by foreign buyers to exporters under Para 4.45 of the FTP against export orders are exempted (HS 7106)	Notification No. 05/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (13 May 2020)	Effective 13 May 2020
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

Measure	Source/Date	Status
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
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 import licensing regulations on iron and steel, steel alloys and their derivative products (HS Chapter 72; 73)	Permanent Delegation of Indonesia to the WTO (3 June 2020) and Regulation of Minister of Trade No. 3/2020	Effective 31 January 2020
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
Malaysia		
Temporary import ban on carboxamide-function and heterocyclic compounds (effective 2 June 2020); and on particle board, oriented strand board of wood, and fibreboard of wood (effective 17 October 2020) (HS 2932.99.90; 2924.29.90; 4410.11.00; 4410.12.00; 4410.19.00; 4410.90.00; 4411.12.00; 4411.13.00; 4411.14.00; 4411.92.00; 4411.93.00; 4411.94.00)	Permanent Delegation of Malaysia to the WTO (28 September 2020)	Effective: see individual dates in measure

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Mauritius		
Increase of import tariffs (from 80% to 100%) on sugar (HS 1701)	Permanent Delegation of Mauritius to the WTO (27 October 2020)	Effective 5 June 2020
Temporary export ban on copper waste and scrap (HS 7404.00.00) (except for any person who is engaged in a manufacturing or recycling business which generates scrap metal including copper waste and scrap as a by-product to export the by-products)	Permanent Delegation of Mauritius to the WTO (27 October 2020)	Effective 1 August 2020
Mexico		
Extension of the temporary increase of import tariffs (from 20% to 25% - 30%) on certain footwear (32 tariff lines at 8-digit level in Chapter 64); and (from 20% to 25%) on certain articles of apparel and clothing accessories (285 tariff lines at 8-digit level in Chapters 61; 62; 63) (originally effective 6 May 2019, for 180 days)	Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the WTO (22 May 2020) and Diario Oficial de la Federación (Official Journal), 28 October 2019	Effective 29 October 2019
Import prohibition on e-cigarettes (HS 3824.90.83; 8543.70.18; 8543.90.03)	Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the WTO (22 May 2020) and Diario Oficial de la Federación (Official Journal), 19 February 2020	Effective 20 February 2020
Updated list of "criterion values" (<i>precios estimados</i>) for imports of yarn of synthetic staple fibres, felt, non-wovens, pile fabrics, articles of apparel and clothing accessories, rags and footwear (HS 5509; 5602; 5603; 6001; 6107; 6108; 6110; 6210; 6310; 6402; 6403; 6404)	Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the WTO (22 May 2020) and Diario Oficial de la Federación (Official Journal), 3 March 2020	Effective March 2020
Morocco		
Temporary increase of import tariffs (from 30% to 40%) on certain consumer goods	Ministère de l'Économie, des Finances et de la Réforme de l'Administration - Projet de Loi de Finances Rectificative pour l'année budgétaire 2020. Viewed at: https://www.finances.gov.ma/Publication/db/2020/np-plfr2020-fr.pdf	
Nepal		
Increase of import tariffs (to Rs 6,500/10 g) on gold and (Rs 75/10 g) on silver (HS 7106; 7108)	Permanent Delegation of Nepal to the WTO (31 March 2020)	Effective 4 November 2019
Increase of import tariffs on certain products, (from 10% to 15%) on potatoes; certain spices; twine, cordage, ropes and cables of sisal or other textile fibres of the genus Agave; statuettes and other ornamental ceramic articles; (from 10% to 30%) on extracts, essences and concentrates of tea or maté; certain vehicles, with only electric motor for propulsion; (from zero to 5%) on mineral or chemical fertilizers, nitrogenous; certain monitors; (from 5% to 10%) on certain synthetic organic colouring matter and preparations; (from 15% to 20%) on other plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, non-cellular and not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials; other plates, sheets, film, foil and strip of cellular plastics; paper and paperboard cellulose; cartons, boxes and cases of corrugated paper and paperboard; articles of stationery; building blocks and bricks; refrigerators, freezers; certain motor vehicle parts and accessories; certain parts and accessories of motorcycles (from zero to 20%) certain monitors; (from 10% to 80%) on certain vehicles with only electric motor for propulsion; and on alcoholic beverages and spirits; light oils and preparations; silver; non-monetary gold; kerosene (HS Chapters 7; 9; 21; 22; 27; 31; 32; 39; 48; 56; 68; 69; 70; 71; 84; 85; 87)	Permanent Delegation of Nepal to the WTO (25 September 2020)	Effective 28 May 2020
New Zealand		
Increase of the Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Levy rate for the year 2020, due to increases in emission unit prices (HS Chapters 39; 84; 86; 87; 88; 89)	Permanent Delegation of New Zealand to the WTO (21 May 2020), Ministry for the Environment. Viewed at: https://www.mfe.govt.nz/climate-change/new-zealand-emissions-trading-scheme/participating-nz-ets/synthetic-greenhouse-gases	Effective 1 January 2020
Pakistan		
Temporary export ban on onions	Permanent Delegation of Pakistan to the WTO (30 April 2020)	

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Paraguay		
Temporary implementation of import licensing requirements (<i>licencia previa de importación</i>) on poultry meat and edible offal; bars of iron or non-alloy steel; certain articles of iron and steel; and Portland cement (NCM 0207.11.00; 0207.12.00; 0207.13.00; 0207.14.00; 7214.20.00; 7306.30.00; 7306.61.00; 2523.10.00; 2523.21.00; 2523.29.10; 2523.29.90; 2523.30.00; 2523.90.00)	Permanent Delegation of Paraguay to the WTO (28 October 2020)	
Temporary implementation of export licensing requirements (<i>licencia previa de exportación</i>) 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; 2207.10.90)	Permanent Delegation of Paraguay to the WTO (28 October 2020)	Effective 21 May 2020
Russian Federation (for Eurasian Economic Union)		
Temporary increase of import tariffs (from zero to 5%) on light-emitting diode (LED) lamps (HS 8539.50.00)	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (27 May 2020)	Effective 2 February 2020 to 31 December 2020
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
South Africa (for SACU - Southern African Customs Union)		
Increase of import tariffs (from 12%/37% to 42%/62%) on frozen meat and edible offal of fowls of the species <i>gallus domesticus</i> (HS 0207) (effective 13 March 2020); (from zero to 30%) on fully-automatic top-loading washing machines (HS 8450.11.10) (effective 30 March 2020); and (to 15%) on polyethylene terephthalate "PET" (HS 3907) (effective 30 March 2020). Imports from the European Union and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) members exempted	Permanent Delegation of South Africa to the WTO (25 May 2020) and International Trade Administration Commission Notice Nos. R. 309 - Government Gazette No. 43091 (13 March 2020), R. 425 and 426 - Government Gazette No. 43179 (30 March 2020)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Sri Lanka		
Temporary imposition of a special commodity levy on imports of sprats, onions, dried fish, mango and kiwis (HS 0305.54.10; 0305.52.00; 0305.53.00; 0305.54.90; 0305.59.30; 0305.59.90; 0703.10.20; 0713.31.19; 0804.50.50; 0804.50.60; 0810.50; 0810.90.90)	Permanent Delegation of Sri Lanka to the WTO (26 October 2020)	Effective 1 August 2020, for 3 months. Levy for onions has been revised downward subsequently
Thailand		
Temporary export ban on bird Eggs of fowls of the species <i>Gallus Domesticus</i> (HS 0407.21.00; 0407.29.90)	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/THA/2/Add.2, 30 March 2020	Effective 26 March 2020 to 1 April 2020
Import prohibition on used motor vehicles	Permanent Delegation of Thailand to the WTO (27 May 2020)	Effective 10 December 2019
Turkey		
Increase of import tariffs (by 10%/15%) on certain textile products (effective 18 October 2019); (by 17%) on certain products of stainless steel (effective 1 January 2020); and (by 6.5%/15%) on fork-lift trucks (effective 25 January 2020) (HS 5803; 5804; 5806; 5807; 5808; 5809; 5810; 5811; 8427.10; 8427.20; 8427.90; 7219.31; 7219.32; 7219.33; 7219.34; 7219.35; 7220.20.21; 7220.20.29; 7220.20.41; 7220.20.49; 7220.20.81; 7220.20.89)	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (3 June 2020)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Implementation 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)	Terminated on 19 July 2020
Regulation of import tariffs on sunflower seed oil (18% until 31 May 2020 and 30% until 30 June 2020); and on sunflower seeds (9% until 31 May 2020 and 13% until 30 June 2020) (HS 1512.11.91; 1206.00.91; 1206.00.99)	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (3 June 2020)	Effective 18 April 2020
Temporary increase of import tariffs (to 5%) on certain iron and steel products (HS Chapter 72)	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (8 October 2020)	Effective 18 April to 31 December 2020

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Temporary increase of import tariffs (to 35%) on certain textile, garment and leather products (HS Chapters 30; 42; 43; 51; 52; 53; 54; 55; 56; 57; 58; 59; 60; 61; 62; 63; 64; 65; 66; 67)	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (8 October 2020)	Effective 21 April to 31 December 2020
Temporary increase of import tariffs (to 45%) on mining, metal, chemicals, plastic, pepper, iron and steel, metals, electrical and electronic goods, machinery, vehicles, furniture, lightning products (HS Chapters 29; 32; 33; 34; 35; 37; 39; 40; 44; 48; 49; 68; 69; 70; 71; 72; 73; 74; 76; 82; 83; 84; 85; 87; 90; 91; 94; 95; 96; 97)	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (8 October 2020)	Effective 21 April to 31 December 2020
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-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)	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (8 October 2020)	Effective 19 June 2020
Ukraine		
Temporary export restriction on buckwheat and buckwheat grain (uncoated) (HS 1008.10.00; 1104.29.17)	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/UKR/4/Add.3, 15 April 2020	Effective 9 April 2020 to 1 July 2020
United States		
Imposition of an additional duty of 15% on certain products from China (555 tariff lines at 8-digit level, in HS Chapters 03; 05; 06; 08; 12; 14; 15; 16; 22; 28; 29; 32; 33; 36; 38; 39; 40; 41; 43; 44; 49; 52; 54; 55; 58; 60; 61; 62; 63; 64; 66; 67; 69; 70; 71; 72; 73; 76; 79; 82; 83; 84; 85; 87; 89; 90; 91; 92; 93; 94; 95; 96)	USTR Press Releases (13 and 23 August 2019). Viewed at: https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2019/august/ustr-announces-next-steps-proposed ; and https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2019/august/ustr-statement-section-301-tariff	Effective 15 December 2019
An additional 25% <i>ad valorem</i> rate imposed on top of the applicable MFN or FTA rate of duty on certain derivative steel articles (HS 7317.00.30; 7317.00.55; 7317.00.65; 8708.10.30; 8708.29.21) for national security reasons (originally imposed on 23 March 2018). Imports from Argentina; Australia; Brazil; Canada; Mexico and Korea, Rep. of exempted	Permanent Delegation of the United States to the WTO (24 October 2020) and Presidential Proclamation on adjusting imports of derivative aluminium articles and derivative steel articles into the United States (24 January 2020). Viewed at: https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-adjusting-imports-derivative-aluminum-articles-derivative-steel-articles-united-states/	Effective 8 February 2020
An additional 10% <i>ad valorem</i> rate imposed on top of the applicable MFN or FTA rate of duty on certain derivative aluminium articles (HS 7614.10.50; 7614.90.20; 7614.90.40; 7614.90.50; 8708.10.30; 8708.29.21) for national security reasons (originally imposed on 23 March 2018). Imports from Argentina, Australia, Canada and Mexico exempted	Permanent Delegation of the United States to the WTO (24 October 2020) and Presidential Proclamation on adjusting imports of derivative aluminium articles and derivative steel articles into the United States (24 January 2020). Viewed at: https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-adjusting-imports-derivative-aluminum-articles-derivative-steel-articles-united-states/	Effective 8 February 2020
Reduction from 15% to 7.5% of <i>ad valorem</i> additional duty (originally implemented in August 2019 - Annex A) on products from China (HS Chapters 01; 02; 04; 05; 06; 07; 08; 09; 10; 12; 13; 14; 15; 16; 17; 18; 19; 20; 21; 22; 23; 24; 26; 27; 28; 29; 32; 33; 34; 35; 36; 38; 39; 40; 41; 43; 44; 48; 49; 52; 53; 54; 55; 58; 59; 60; 61; 62;	Office of the United States Trade Representative - Notice of Modification of Section 301 Action: China's Acts, Policies, and Practices Related to Technology Transfer, Intellectual Property, and Innovation [Billing Code 3290-F0] (January 2020). Viewed at: https://ustr.gov/issue-	Effective 14 February 2020

Measure	Source/Date	Status
63; 64; 65; 66; 67; 69; 70; 71; 72; 73; 74; 76; 82; 83; 84; 85; 87; 88; 90; 91; 92; 93; 94; 95; 96; 97)	areas/enforcement/section-301-investigations/section-301-china/300-billion-trade-action (Notice of Modification - January 15, 2020)	
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

Recorded, but non-confirmed information³

Measure	Source/Date	Status
Kazakhstan		
Transit goods for the Kyrgyz Republic delayed in customs	Akipress.com (13 February 2020)	
Tanzania		
Imposition of an excise duty (80%) on cigarettes imported from Kenya	Tobacco Journal International (27 February 2020)	

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

ANNEX 4 – MEASURES AFFECTING TRADE IN SERVICES¹

(MID-OCTOBER 2019 TO MID-OCTOBER 2020)

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
MEASURES AFFECTING VARIOUS SECTORS					
Algeria (Observer)					
A new Act adopted by the Algerian Parliament implements key changes to the legal framework for foreign investment. In particular, it abolishes the rule limiting foreign shareholdings to a maximum of 49% of the capital of an Algerian enterprises and specifies that the abolition does not apply to enterprises involved in retail activities or to enterprises engaged in 'strategic' sectors. Strategic sectors include: mining activities; oil and gas activities, including pipeline network operations; power distribution and transportation; and railways, ports and airports. The law also repeals the State's pre-emption right on foreign mergers and acquisitions relating to Algerian enterprises, and abolishes restrictions on obtaining foreign financing.	Mode 3	All sectors	Law No. 20-07 of 4 June 2020, Supplementary Finance Law Viewed at: https://www.leconomistemaghrebin.com/2020/06/10/algerie-investissement-revision-de-la-regle-51-49/	Gazetted on 4 June 2020	
The 2020 Finance Law, enacted on 1 January, abolished the rule that limited foreign capital ownership in companies to a maximum of 49% in non-strategic sectors. Sectors concerned will be defined in separate legislation. The new law also permits the use of external financing for "strategic, flagships, and targeted" projects. Previously, only local financing was allowed.	Mode 3	All sectors	2020 Finance Law Viewed at: https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=5a5ea290-25ad-47c8-907c-fec4bd940849	28 November 2019	
Argentina					
The government adopted new measures to tax certain transactions involving the acquisition of foreign currency. Set to apply for five years from 23 December 2019, the tax applies to a number of transactions, including: - purchases of foreign currency without a specific purpose by Argentine residents, under the limitations imposed by the Central Bank;	Modes 1-2	Various sectors	General Resolution 4659/2020; Decree 99/2019 - Ley de Solidaridad Social y Reactivación Productiva en el Marco de la Emergencia Pública; Viewed at:	Published in Official Gazette on 7 January 2020 Effective 23 December 2019	

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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - purchases of goods or services from abroad or purchases by Argentine residents abroad through credit, debit or purchase, including cash withdrawals made outside Argentina; - purchases made online through portals or virtual websites in foreign currency; - purchases of services rendered abroad through Argentine travel agencies; - purchases of ground, air and maritime passenger services with destinations outside Argentina (except ground passenger services to neighbouring countries). <p>The tax rate is 30%, except for the purchase of digital services, which are subject to a 8% rate. Both Argentine individuals and entities are subject to the tax. Argentine financial institutions, credit card issuers, travel agencies and transport companies must collect the tax.</p>			https://taxinsights.ey.com/archive/archive-news/argentina-implements-new-tax-on-purchase-of-foreign-currency.aspx https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primer		
Austria					
<p>The Austrian Parliament adopted on 15 July 2020 the new Investment Control Act (ICA), which replaces the previously applicable framework for foreign direct investment (FDI) in Austria under the Foreign Trade Act.</p> <p>The ICA expands the scope of FDI requiring prior approval. This concerns transactions resulting in the direct or indirect acquisition of an Austrian business with activities in certain sensitive sectors. Businesses in "highly sensitive sectors" that are subject to the new FDI approval requirement include those: providing/operating critical energy infrastructure; providing/operating critical digital infrastructure, in particular 5G infrastructure; and providing/operating systems that safeguard the data sovereignty of the country.</p>	Mode 3	Various sectors	<p>Investment Control Act (Federal Law enacting and Investment Control Act and amending the Foreign Trade Act 2011)</p> <p>Viewed at: https://iclg.com/briefing/13995-austrian-parliament-adopts-new-fdi-screening-act-austria https://www.ehlaw.at/en/new-austrian-law-on-foreign-direct-investments-fdi/ </p>	Effective 25 July 2020	YES
<p>The government adopted a new law introducing a 5% tax on online advertising revenue for companies with global annual revenues of over EUR 750 million (from all sources) and advertising revenues of over EUR 25 million in Austria.</p> <p>The Act applies to domestic online advertising services, which are defined as services received by a user with a domestic IP address and whose content and design are targeted at domestic users. The Austrian Broadcasting Corporation (ORF) is not subject to the advertisement tax.</p>	Multiple modes	Internet and other network-enabled services	<p>Digital Tax Act 2020</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.bdo.global/en-gb/microsites/digital-services-taxation/countries-cit-map/austria-digital-services-tax </p>	<p>Published in the Austrian Federal Law Gazette on 22 October 2019;</p> <p>Effective from 1 January 2020</p>	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Belize					
Belize adopted a new law to combat cybercrime, which creates offences of cybercrime and provides for penalties, investigation and prosecution of the offences.	Multiple modes	All sectors	Cybercrime Act 2020	October 2020	
Benin					
Benin's Agency for the Promotion of Investments and Exports launched a new online platform (monentreprise.bj) allowing all regulatory processes required to open a business to be conducted digitally, at lower costs and more promptly.	Mode 3	All sectors	Viewed at: https://cio-mag.com/le-benin-lance-sa-plateforme-de-creation-dentreprise-en-ligne/	17 February 2020	
Chile					
<p>The Tax Reform (Law No. 21210, published on 24 February 2020), introduced amendments to the VAT Law in order to create a new simplified registration and compliance VAT regime for non-resident suppliers to facilitate compliance on business-to-consumer (B2C) transactions, according to OECD International VAT/GST Guidelines. For these purposes, the Tax Reform grouped together into a new special provision (Article 8, letter n, of the VAT Law) the following VAT taxable events, all of which consist of remunerated services supplied by non-resident:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (i) The intermediation of (a) any services rendered in Chile, or (b) sales made in Chile or abroad provided that the latter give rise to an import to Chile; - (ii) The supply or delivery of digital entertainment content, such as videos, music, games or other analogues, through downloading, streaming or other technology, including for these purposes, texts, magazines, newspapers and books; - (iii) The supply of software, storage, platforms or IT infrastructure; and - (iv) Advertising, regardless of the support or means through which it is delivered, completed or executed. <p>All these services are subject to the general VAT rate of 19%.</p>	Mode 1	Selected sectors	<p>Law No. 21210</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.leychile.cl/Navegar?idNorma=1142667</p>	Effective 1 June 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
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
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
On 26 December 2019, the Regulations for the Implementation of the Foreign Investment Law of the People's Republic of China were issued by the State Council. The regulation came into force on 1 January 2020. ²	Mode 3	All Sectors	P.R.C. State Council Decree No. 723	Effective 1 January 2020	YES
New measures were adopted in relation to the reporting of information on foreign investment.	Mode 3	All Sectors	MOFCOM and State Administration for Market Regulation Decree [2019] No. 2	Issued on 30 December 2019; effective from 1 January 2020	YES

² The new Foreign Investment Law is addressed in WT/TPR/OV/22, Annex 4.

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Colombia					
The government issued a new decree regulating the circulation of electronic sales invoices as a security.	Multiple modes	All sectors	Decree 1154 of 20 August 2020 Viewed at: https://dapre.presidencia.gov.co/normativa/normativa/DECRETO%201154%20DEL%2020%20DE%20AGOSTO%20DE%202020.pdf	20 August 2020	YES
A new measure established the procedure for a voluntary alternate tax payment through withholding system for the VAT on digital services provided from abroad by foreign service providers to Colombian residents.	Mode 1	Internet and other network-enabled services	Resolution 000017 of 28 February 2020 Viewed at: https://www.dian.gov.co/normatividad/Normatividad/Resolución%20000017%20de%2028-02-2020.pdf	11 March 2020	YES
Ecuador					
Ecuador's tax authorities published new rules on the imposition of the 12% value-added tax (VAT) to digital services. The new VAT regulation applies to such services as online courses, internet gambling, hotel bookings, the purchase of audiovisual content, and food orders.	Mode 1	Internet and other network-enabled services	Viewed at: https://www.sri.gob.ec/web/quest/registro-declaracion-y-pago-del-iva-prestadores-de-servicios-digitales-no-residentes	Effective 16 September 2020	YES
Egypt					
The government adopted the country's new data protection law, which aims to regulate and protect citizens' data online. Foreign enterprises that process personal data from Egyptian subjects are required to appoint a representative in Egypt. The Law also imposes a licensing, permit and security accreditation framework for data processing, data control, dealing in sensitive data, electronic marketing, and cross-border transfer of data. A license needs to be obtained from the regulator to transfer personal data abroad; personal data can only be transferred to a country that provides the same level of protection to personal data as Egypt does. Further details are to be published in the implementing regulations, which will be issued within six months from the law's entry into force.	Multiple modes	Internet and other network-enabled services	Resolution No. 151 of 2020 Viewed at: https://dailynewseqypt.com/2020/09/23/egypt-new-data-protection-law-and-what-it-means-for-business/	Effective 15 October 2020	
The government amended the regulations governing the investment regime to require all companies with foreign investment that are incorporated or to be incorporated in Egypt to provide authorities with certain information and data in order to calculate the direct and indirect foreign investment capital. In case of breach of or non-compliance, fines of up to L.E.50.000 can be imposed.	Mode 3	All sectors	Decree 2731 of 2019 amending the Executive Regulations of the Investment Law no. 72 of 2017 Viewed at: https://www.dailynewsseqypt.com/2019/11/13/egypt-pm-approves-new-amendments-to-investment-laws-executive-regulations/	Effective 7 November 2019	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
European Union					
On 1 January 2020, the European Union Directive on cross-border conversions, mergers and divisions entered into force. The Directive seeks to create a European Union-wide legal framework to enhance the fundamental principle of freedom of establishment. The new rules introduce procedures for cross-border conversions and divisions and provide for additional rules on cross-border mergers of limited liability companies established in an EU member state.	Mode 3	All sectors	Directive (EU) 2019/2121 of 27 November 2019 Viewed at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32019L2121	Effective 1 January 2020	YES
France					
The government adopted new measures that expand and clarify authorizations for foreign investment in France. The measures lower the thresholds for foreign investments by non-EU investors subject to prior authorisation, from 33.33% to 25% of voting rights in an entity governed by French law. They also provide for additional sectors of activities that fall under the foreign investment regulations, including print and digital media, and critical technologies (e.g. cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, robotics, additive manufacturing, semiconductors, quantum technologies, and energy storage). Further, the screening will focus on ascertaining whether a foreign investor has links to a foreign government or a foreign public body. Thus, investors are obligated to provide information in their applications on any potential significant capital ties or financial support received from a State or public body outside the European Union over the last five years. Moreover, the new measures aim to provide greater legal certainty to investors (first reply within 30 days, possibility to request an opinion on the sensitivity of activities).	Mode 3	All sectors	Decree No. 2019-1590 of 31 December 2019 and Ministerial Order of 31 December 2019 Viewed at: https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000039727443&categorieLien=id https://investmentpolicy.unctad.org/investment-policy-monitor/measures/3468/france-expands-and-clarifies-its-fdi-screening-regime https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?q=7ffc3378-9939-4291-bfe2-092a45934b1f	Effective 1 April 2020	YES
Germany					
The government adopted modifications to its foreign investment regime that aim to prevent the outflow of information or technologies that could have serious consequences for public order, safety and security in Germany. Among other things, the amendments tighten the screening of foreign investment. All proposed foreign investments will be examined for any "likely adverse	Mode 3	All sectors	Amendments to the Foreign Trade and Payments Act Viewed at: https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/aussenwirtschaftsgesetz-1742278	8 April 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<p>impact" on public order, safety or security – in line with the EU FDI Screening Regulation. The Foreign Trade and Payments Act had hitherto used as its criterion only the "actual and serious threat" posed.</p> <p>National investment screening can in future also take into account any possible impact on the public order, safety or security of another member state of the European Union, or on any projects or programmes that affect the interests of the Union.</p>					
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 1 and 3	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	
<p>On 23 March, the Indian Parliament passed an amended national budget, which expanded the scope of India's equalization levy to include a new 2% tax on the sale of all goods and services by non-Indian companies over the Internet into India. The tax is levied on e-commerce operators, which are defined as non-residents who own, operate or manage a digital or electronic facility or platform for online sale of goods, online provision of services, or both.</p>	Mode 1	All sectors	<p>Amendments to the Finance Act 2020</p> <p>Viewed at: https://mnetax.com/indias-new-2-percent-equalisation-levy-on-the-digital-economy-enters-into-force-38297 </p>	Effective 1 April 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>	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:</p>	Published on 19 May 2020; effective 19 November 2020.	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<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 consumers in a year and/or having delivered more than 1,000 products to Indonesian consumers in a year.</p> <p>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.</p>			http://jdih.kemendag.go.id/peraturan/detail/1949/2 http://jdih.kemendag.go.id/peraturan/detail/2000/2		
<p>The government issued Regulation No. 80 of 2019 on Trading Through Electronic Systems (GR 80), which aims to regulate e-commerce activities in Indonesia. Among other things, the regulation requires all e-commerce businesses to obtain a business licence to carry out these activities.</p> <p>The regulation also applies to entities incorporated and located outside of Indonesia that conduct e-commerce business activities in Indonesia. A foreign supplier that meets certain thresholds relating to their business activities in Indonesia will have to appoint an Indonesian representative to act on its behalf. Threshold are to be further specified in separate regulations.</p> <p>GR 80 stipulates that personal data collected by e-commerce companies cannot be transferred offshore, unless the receiving jurisdiction is deemed by the Ministry of Trade as having the same level of protection of personal data as Indonesia.</p>	Multiple modes	Various sectors	<p>Government Regulation No. 80/2019 on Trading Through Electronic Systems (GR 80)</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.bakermckenzie.com/en/insight/publications/2019/12/indonesia-specific-e-commerce-regulation https://www.aseanbriefing.com/news/indonesia-as-law-on-e-commerce-clear-guidelines-and-compliance-by-november-2021/ </p>	Effective 25 November 2019	
<p>Further, e-commerce operators must prioritize the use of an Indonesian domain name, and assist compliance with government policies, such as policies on local content. Operators are also required to protect consumer rights in accordance with Indonesian law, and to provide a mechanism for responding to and resolving consumer complaints. The regulation, while effective since 25 November 2019, has a 2-year transitional period.</p>					

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<p>The government issued a new regulation on electronic systems and transactions, revoking its earlier regulation of 2012 on the same subject. The new regulation allows private sector electronic system operators to transfer, process, and store data outside of Indonesia. Public electronic system operators must still keep their electronic systems and data in Indonesia, unless otherwise provided.</p> <p>Private electronic system operators must allow supervision by government agencies, including granting access to the electronic systems and data for monitoring and law enforcement purposes.</p> <p>The regulation provides that institutions that have 'strategic' electronic data must connect their electronic documents and electronic backup records to certain data centres in the event of an incident that must be reported to the cybersecurity authority. Strategic electronic data that must be protected include those in sectors such as transport, finance, health care, information technology and communication, and energy.</p>	Modes 1-2	Internet and other network-enabled services	<p>Government Regulation No. 71 of 2019 on the Implementation of Electronic Systems and Transactions (GR 71), which revokes Government Regulation No. 82 of 2012 on the same subject (GR 82).</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.bakermckenzie.com/en/insight/publications/2019/10/new-regulation-electronic-system-and-transactions </p>	21 October 2019	
Israel					
The Security Cabinet of Israel established an advisory committee that will assess national security implications of foreign investment in finance, communications, infrastructures, transportation and the energy sector. Where a transaction raises potential national security concerns, regulators may consult with the committee on a voluntary basis.	Mode 3	All sectors	<p>Viewed at: https://www.gov.il/en/departments/news/spoke_national_security301019 https://investmentpolicy.unctad.org/investment-policy-monitor/measures/3426/israel-government-establishes-a-committee-to-evaluate-national-security-implications-of-foreign-investment </p>	30 October 2019	YES
Italy					
<p>A new law in Italy establishes a 'National Cyber Security Perimeter', aiming to ensure a high level of security of networks, information systems and IT services. The government is to issue a list of entities and companies subject to security-related obligations.</p> <p>The new law also modifies the FDI regime in relation to 'special powers', which allow the government to impose conditions on, or veto, certain transactions in strategic sectors. Among other things, the new law extends the term for the government to exercise special powers from 15 to 45 days, broadens the content of the information to be provided to the government, and specifies the criteria used to assess if a foreign investment is likely to affect national</p>	Mode 3	Various sectors	<p>Law No. 133/2019</p> <p>Viewed at: https://bakermckexchange.com/rv/ff00572f12700e271e452d323a4d8e8d81e03882 https://investmentpolicy.unctad.org/investment-policy-monitor/measures/3493/italy-cybernetic-national-security-perimeter-law-tightens-the-fdi-screening-regime </p>	Effective 21 November 2019	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
security or public order. The law provides that the assessment should now also consider whether foreign contracts and acquisitions could compromise integrity and security of networks and data passing through these networks.					
<p>The Italian Budget Law for 2020 introduced a 3% digital service tax (DST) on revenues derived from certain digital services provided to users located in Italy.</p> <p>The tax applies to entities that meet certain revenue thresholds: - total amount of worldwide revenues (wherever arising) equal to or exceeding EUR 750 million and an amount of revenues from qualified digital services in Italy equal to or exceeding EUR 5.5 million.</p> <p>The tax is to be paid by Italian taxpayers as well as by non-Italian-resident companies, and covers both B2C and B2B transactions. The DST provisions contain a sunset clause providing that it will be automatically repealed once an agreement on the scope of a DST is reached at OECD level. Digital services subject to the DST fall in three categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - digital targeted advertising, which concerns advertising on a digital platform targeted at users of that interface; - intermediation services, which concerns online platforms and multi-sided digital interfaces that allow users interaction and facilitate the supply of goods or services; and - data transmission services, which involve the transmission of data collected and generated by users from their activities on digital interfaces. 	Multiple modes	Internet and other network-enabled services	<p>Law No. 160 of 27 December 2019</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=a45c9cc5-3b43-407d-9b4d-74e7ab3859cc https://www.ey.com/en_gl/tax-alerts/ey-italys-digital-services-tax-enters-into-force-as-of-1%C2%A0january-2020 </p>	Effective 1 January 2020	
Japan					
Japan's Diet adopted amendments to the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act. Among other things, the amendments require overseas investors to seek prior notification from the government before obtaining a 1% or higher stake in a listed Japanese firm engaged in business related to weapons, nuclear energy, semiconductors, railroads and other areas. Prior to the amendments, the threshold was set at 10%. This is accompanied by a system where foreign investors can be exempted from prior-notification requirement if they meet certain conditions.	Mode 3	All sectors	<p>Amended Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act</p> <p>Viewed at: https://investmentpolicy.unctad.org/investment-policy-monitor/measures/3457/japan-revises-rules-on-foreign-investment https://asia.nikkei.com/Economy/Japan-tightens-entry-of-foreign-investors-in-12-strategic-sectors </p>	Effective May 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Certain foreign investors' actions after stock purchases will also be subject to prior-notification, namely: (i) when foreign investors or closely related persons become board members of the investee company; and (ii) when foreign investors propose transfer or disposition of critical business domain of the investee company at shareholders' meetings.					
Kenya					
A new law signed by the President on 1 July 2020 will impose a 1.5% tax on all digital services transactions. Affected services include downloadable content, search engine services, subscription-based news, streamed videos and music, transport platforms, and web-hosting services.	Mode 1	Internet and other network-enabled services	2020 Finance Bill Viewed at: https://www.itnewsafrika.com/2020/07/kenya-introduces-digital-tax-for-online-sales/	Effective 1 January 2021	
The government adopted the Data Protection Act, which sets out requirements on how personally identifiable data obtained by firms and government entities can be handled, stored and shared. An independent office will investigate data infringements. The Act requires proof that personal data will be secure as a condition for transferring the data outside Kenya. The Act also requires consent of the data subject as a condition for the cross-border transfer of sensitive personal data.	Multiple modes	Internet and other network-enabled services	Data Protection Act, 2019 Viewed at: http://kenyalaw.org/kl/fileadmin/pdfdownloads/Acts/2019/TheDataProtectionAct_No24of2019.pdf https://qz.com/africa/1746202/kenya-has-passed-new-data-protection-laws-in-compliance-with-gdpr/	8 November 2019	
The Finance Act 2019 broadens the coverage of the Income Tax Act to include income accruing from a digital marketplace. In addition, a similar change has been made to the VAT Act to make digital market services subject to value-added tax. The law defines a digital marketplace as a platform that enables direct interactions between buyers and sellers of goods and services through electronic means.	All modes	Internet and other network-enabled services	Finance Act 2019 Viewed at: https://theconversation.com/kenyas-tax-on-digital-trade-and-services-whats-known-and-not-known-127366 https://www.bowmanslaw.com/insights/tax/what-new-digital-taxes-contemplated-in-the-finance-act-mean-for-digital-trade-and-services-in-kenya/	Effective 7 November 2019	
A new measure signed into law by the President on 19 March 2020 expands the use of electronic signatures and electronic authentication. The new Bill, which amends the Information and Communication Act, also allows, among other things, for the transfer of properties and securities to be conducted digitally.	All modes	All sectors	Business Law (Amendment) Bill, 2019 Viewed at: https://techweez.com/2020/03/19/business-law-bill-electronic-signatures	Signed into law on 19 March 2020	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
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=28&query=PERSONAL%20INFORMATION%20PROTECTION%20ACT#liBgcolor17	5 August 2020	YES
Malaysia					
<p>From 1 January 2020, foreign service providers outside Malaysia that provide any digital services to consumers in Malaysia are required to charge 6% service tax to consumers, which includes individuals and businesses.</p> <p>Under the law, digital services are any service that is delivered or subscribed over the Internet or other electronic network and which cannot be obtained without the use of information technology and where the delivery of the service is essentially automated. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - supply of digital content/products, e.g. e-books, games, apps, movies, TV shows and music; - online licencing of software, including computer games; - databases, including updates and add-ons; - advertising services on the Internet (online advertising platforms); - subscription to membership or news website; - webinars or distance learning courses; - supply and hosting of websites, remote maintenance of software and hardware; - storage and processing of information in the Internet, e.g. cloud services; - provision of access to the Internet search systems; - provision of domain name services; - electronic Distribution Platform (EDP). <p>The law applies only to foreign service providers with an annual turnover of at least MYR 500,000 in relation to the provision of digital services to</p>	Mode 1	Internet and other network-enabled services	<p>Service Tax (Amendment) Act 2019</p> <p>Service Tax Regulations (Amendment) 2020</p> <p>Service Tax (Digital Services) (Amendment) Regulations 2019</p> <p>Viewed at: http://www.federalgazette.agc.gov.my/outputakmap/20190709_A1597_BI_Act%20A1597%20BI.pdf</p> <p>https://www.mysst.customs.gov.my/assets/document/SST%20Regulations/regula/Service%20Tax%20Regulations%20(Amendment)%202020.pdf</p> <p>https://www.mysst.customs.gov.my/assets/document/SST%20Regulations/regula/Service%20Tax%20(Digital%20Services)%20Amendment%20Regulations%202019.pdf</p>	<p>Effective 1 January 2020</p> <p>Effective 14 May 2020</p> <p>Effective 1 January 2020</p>	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
consumers in Malaysia. Those suppliers must register with authorities in Malaysia.					
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/tmf-mexico-vat-digital-services-provided-foreign-resident-without-pe.html	Effective 1 June 2020	
North Macedonia					
The government a new law to encourage 'strategic investments'. The law grants preferential treatment to such investments, which have to be above a certain threshold value and to be in a defined list of sectors, including energy, transport, tourism, health, telecommunication, wastewater and waste management.	Mode 3	Various sectors	Law on Strategic Investments Viewed at: https://www.karanovicpartners.com/news/law-on-strategic-investments-adopted-in-north-macedonia/	Published in the Official Gazette on 20 January 2020	
Oman					
The Ministry of Commerce and Industry of Oman issued, on 14 June 2020, the Executive Regulations of the new Foreign Capital Investment Law (FCIL). The new FCIL had entered into force on 1 January 2020 and had removed the requirement for companies to have at least 30% Omani ownership. The Executive Regulations set up a process for the granting of investment licences, which are required for foreign investors to launch investment projects. Applications for investment licences must include an economic feasibility study. Competent authorities have to reach a decision on applications within 14 working days. A 'negative list' sets out the activities that are prohibited to foreign investors, including small-scale activities.	Mode 3	All sectors	Executive Regulations of the new Foreign Capital Investment Law (New FCIL) Viewed at: https://www.omanobserver.om/oman-announces-executive-regulations-of-foreign-capital-investment-law/	14 June 2020	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Singapore					
<p>The Personal Data Protection Commission revised its advisory guidelines on the Personal Data Protection Act, including by adding a new chapter on cloud services. The new Chapter 8 offers more clarity on the responsibilities of cloud service providers and organisations using cloud services to process personal data.</p> <p>Further, Chapter 6 has been revised to provide greater clarity on the obligations of organisations and data intermediaries where personal data is transferred overseas. Chapter 15 has been revised to provide clarity on situations where organisations need not accede to an access request, the charging of fees, access requests relating to legal proceedings, and good practice of preserving personal data after rejecting an access request.</p>	Modes 1-3	Internet and other network-enabled services	<p>Update to the Advisory Guidelines on Key Concepts in the Personal Data Protection Act</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.pdpc.gov.sg/guidelines-and-consultation/2020/03/advisory-guidelines-on-key-concepts-in-the-personal-data-protection-act </p>	9 October 2019	YES
<p>Since 1 January 2020, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) has been extended to business-to-consumer (B2C) imported digital services in Singapore by way of an Overseas Vendor Registration (OVR) regime. This is a consumption tax on the cross-border consumption of digital services by consumers who do not reside in the same jurisdiction as the service provider. Foreign suppliers of digital services and electronic marketplace operators must register under the OVR regime and account for GST on their B2C digital services if their annual global turnover and B2C digital services provided to customers in Singapore exceeds certain thresholds. Previously, only services procured from local GST-registered businesses were subject to GST.</p> <p>For authorities, the imposition of GST on imported digital services is in line with internationally agreed standards formulated by the OECD Global Forum on VAT to harmonise the application of VAT/GST in the context of international trade.</p>	Mode 1	Internet and other network-enabled services	<p>Viewed at: https://www.iras.gov.sg/irashome/GST/GST-registered-businesses/GST-and-Digital-Economy/GST-on-Imported-Services/ </p>	Effective 1 January 2020	YES
Spain					
<p>The Spanish government changed its rules on foreign investment to prevent investors from non-EU and non-EFTA countries from taking control of strategic Spanish companies.</p> <p>A new Royal Decree has developed Law 19/2003 concerning the criteria and circumstances under which the Government could suspend the FDI regime and where, therefore, the investment at stake would</p>	Mode 3	All sectors	<p>Spanish Royal Decree-Law 8/2020, of 17 March, on Urgent Extraordinary Measures to Address the Economic and Social Impact of COVID-19.</p> <p>Spanish Royal Decree-Law 11/2020, of March 31, adopting urgent additional measures in the social and economic sphere to confront COVID-19.</p>	Approved by the government on 18 March 2020; approved by the Parliament on 9 April 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<p>need a prior authorisation. The aim of the government is to avoid prospective investors to take advantage of market volatility and decline in equity valuations to acquire Spanish companies. The new requirement concerns situations where foreign investors come to hold a stake of 10% or more of the share capital of a Spanish company or where, as a result of the transaction, they participate effectively in the management or controls the Spanish company.</p> <p>Prior authorizations would be required for investments in the following sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - critical infrastructure, including energy, transportation, water, health, communications, media, data processing or storage, aerospace, defence, electoral or financial infrastructures, and sensitive facilities, as well as land and real estate that are key to the use of such infrastructures; - critical technologies and dual-use items, including artificial intelligence, robotics, semiconductors, cyber security, aerospace, defence, energy storage, quantum and nuclear technologies, as well as nanotechnologies and biotechnologies; - supply of fundamental inputs, in particular energy, commodities and food safety; - sectors with access to sensitive information, in particular personal data, or with the capacity to control such information; - media; - other sectors if the government considers the investment may affect public security, public order and public health. <p>In addition, prior authorisation will also be required, irrespective of the sector, if the foreign investor: is directly or indirectly controlled by a foreign government; has made investments affecting security, public order and public health in another EU Member State; or has open administrative or judicial proceedings for criminal or illegal activities.</p> <p>The Royal Decree-Law 11/2020, of March 31, clarified the following elements contained in the Royal Decree-Law 8/2020:</p> <p>(i) The definition of FDI (EU investor whose ultimate owner is a non-resident is considered as an FDI; ultimate owner would hold more than 25% equity</p>			<p>Viewed at: https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-spain-bme/update-1-spains-move-to-stop-foreign-companies-swooping-spooks-bme-investors-idUSL8N2BA7FD https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=6e34f7ee-7fe9-4155-98c7-aa37aef764d0</p>		

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
participation, as well as the effective control over the vehicle); (ii) The transitional period for the ongoing transactions. The previous legal framework would apply to agreements that have already been signed between both parties and where the price has been fixed prior to the stock market crash at the beginning of March. The new measure also introduced a de minimis rule – i.e. investments in the sectors listed in RDL 8/2020 which are lower than EUR 1 million are exempted from prior authorisation and for investments higher than EUR 1 million and lower than EUR 5 million, a fast-track procedure of a maximum of 30 days is in place.					
Thailand					
On 9 June 2020, the Thai Cabinet approved an amendment to the Revenue Code to impose the value-added tax of 7% to suppliers of digital services and e-platform operators without a presence in Thailand for payments received from users in Thailand. The requirement applies to non-resident companies or platforms that earn more than 1.8 million baht per year from the supply of digital services in Thailand.	Mode 1	Internet and other network-enabled services	Viewed at: https://www.reuters.com/article/us-thailand-tax-digital-idUSKBN23G1K0	9 June 2020	
Turkey					
The government adopted a digital services tax (DST). The new measure introduces a 7.5% tax on the revenue gained from the supply of such services as digital advertising, sale of any audio, visual or digital content through digital platforms and services provided in digital media for listening, recording, playing, viewing or using any of these contents. Any services that provide for or operate in a way in which users can interact with each other, such as social media platforms and digital intermediary services relating to the above services will also be subject to DST. The tax applies to services deemed to have been provided in Turkey. Companies are subject to the tax if their revenues from the relevant services are at least EUR 750 million globally and TL 20 million in Turkey.	Multiple modes	Internet and other network-enabled services	Law no.7194 on Digital Services Tax Viewed at: https://www.mondaq.com/turkey/Tax/873488/A-Summary-Of-The-New-Legislation-Regarding-Digital-Services-Tax https://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/Turkeys_7.5_Digital_Services_Tax_to_be_effective_1_March_2020/\$FILE/2020G_000230-20Gbl_Indirect_Turkey%20-%20Digital%20Services%20Tax%20to%20be%20effective%201%20March%202020.pdf	Published in the Official Gazette on 7 December 2019 Effective 1 March 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Ukraine					
The government adopted new measures simplifying registration procedures for representative offices of foreign companies in Ukraine. Registration fees have been reduced, and the timelines have been shortened from 60 to 20 business days.	Mode 3	All sectors	Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 23 October 2019 No. 893 "On Some Issues for Registration of Representative Offices of Foreign Business Entities in Ukraine" Viewed at: https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/893-2019-%D0%BF	Effective 2 November 2019	YES
United Kingdom					
The government introduced the digital services tax (DST), a new 2% tax on the revenues of search engines, social media services and online marketplaces which derive value from UK users. These businesses will be liable to the DST when the group's worldwide revenues from these digital activities are more than £500 million and more than GBP 25 million of these revenues are derived from UK users. If the group's revenues exceed these thresholds, its revenues derived from UK users will be taxed at a rate of 2%. There is an allowance of £25 million, meaning that a group's first £25 million of revenues derived from UK users will not be subject to the DST. The government indicated it is committed to dis-applying the DST once an appropriate international solution is in place.	Multiple modes	Internet and other network-enabled services	Viewed at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/introduction-of-the-digital-services-tax/digital-services-tax https://www.gov.uk/hmrc-internal-manuals/digital-services-tax	Effective 1 April 2020	YES
United States					
New regulations have broadened the jurisdiction of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) by expanding its review powers over foreign investments in United States businesses. The new regulations implement the Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act of 2018 ("FIRRMA"), which aimed to allow CFIUS to better address national security concerns. The new rules clarify and revise proposed regulations issued by the Treasury Department in September 2019. Under the new regime, the CFIUS has express jurisdiction to review non-controlling investments in critical technology, critical infrastructure and sensitive personal data businesses. This is limited to situations where a foreign investor gains: access to material non-public technical information related to critical technology or covered investment critical infrastructure; membership or observer rights on, or	Mode 3	All sectors	Provisions Pertaining to Certain Transactions by Foreign Persons Involving Real Estate in the United States (31 C.F.R. part 802) Viewed at: https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm872	Effective 13 February 2020	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
the right to nominate an individual to the board of directors; or an involvement in decision-making of the U.S. business. Transactions involving government-controlled entities from certain foreign countries are exempted from these requirements.					
Uzbekistan (Observer)					
<p>The government adopted, on 25 December 2019, a new Investment Law. The law establishes a framework for the protection and promotion of both domestic and foreign investment.</p> <p>Among other things, the law guarantees foreign investors the freedom to transfer funds and protection against expropriation. It also provides that foreign invested companies shall be treated equally to domestic companies.</p> <p>The law also provides for the creation of a one-stop-shop service by the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade.</p>	Mode 3	All sectors	<p>Law No. 598 on Investment and Investment Activities</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=372e53d5-7a4f-45bf-9eb7-8b56dcc8f365 </p>	Effective 27 January 2020	
Viet Nam					
<p>On 17 June 2020, the National Assembly adopted the amended Law on Investment and Law on Enterprises, which aim to improve the business environment in Viet Nam.</p> <p>The amended Law on Enterprises aims to simplify the business registration process. The amended Law on Investment abolishes or relaxes limitations in 22 'conditional' business activities, including franchising and logistics services, where market access is subject to the satisfaction of certain specific statutory conditions. At the same time, a number of sectors have been added to the list of activities subject to conditional market access, including architectural services, elderly care, and electronic identification and authentication services.</p>	Mode 3	All sectors	<p>Amended Law on Investment and Law on Enterprises</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.vietnam-briefing.com/news/vietnams-adopts-amended-law-on-enterprises-and-investment.html/#:~:text=Vietnam's%20National%20Assembly%20passed%20the,the%20EVFTA%20and%20the%20CPTPP </p>	Effective 1 January 2021	
CONSTRUCTION AND RELATED ENGINEERING SERVICES					
China					
Annulment of the Administrative Measures on Foreign Investment in Construction Companies (MOHURD MOFTEC Decree No. 113) and the Supplementary Provisions to the Administrative Measures on Foreign Investment in Construction Companies (MOHURD MOFCOM Decree No. 121). Foreign-invested companies are treated the same as domestic companies and are allowed to carry out a variety of construction activities according to the law.	Mode 3	Construction and Related Engineering Services	<p>Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development and Ministry of Commerce Provisions on Annulling Certain Rules Including the Administrative Measures on Foreign Investment in Construction Companies (MOHURD MOFCOM Decree No.49)</p> <p>Viewed at: http://www.mohurd.gov.cn </p>	Effective 17 January 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
DISTRIBUTION SERVICES					
Indonesia					
The Minister of Trade issued a new regulation on franchising. Among other things, the measure removes the requirement to use 80% locally-sourced raw materials, equipment or products and instead obliges the franchisor to prioritise the use of local goods and services so long as the goods and services meet the quality set by the franchisor. The new regulation also removes the restriction on the maximum number of outlets. Under the previous framework, a franchisor's maximum number of outlets was 150 for 'modern shop businesses' and 250 for food and beverage businesses.	Mode 3	Franchising services	Ministry of Trade Regulation No. 71 of 2019 on Franchises Viewed at: https://www.fieldfisher.com/en/insights/indonesia-key-changes-to-franchising-law-as-minist	September 2019	
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of					
The government adopted the New Franchise Law, which establishes a regulatory framework for relationships between franchisors and franchisees. The law will apply to all franchising arrangements implemented in Saudi Arabia. Previously, franchising arrangements were treated as a commercial agency and were governed by the Commercial Agencies Law.	Modes 1 and 3	Distribution services	Commercial Franchise Law 122/1441 Viewed at: https://www.twobirds.com/en/news/articles/2020/uae/saudi-franchise-law-and-the-implications-on-existing-franchise-agreements	Published in the Official Gazette on 22 October 2019. Effective 22 April 2020.	YES
EDUCATION SERVICES					
China					
Foreign education institutions, other organizations or individuals are allowed to separately set up non-compulsory vocational training institutions in pilot free trade zones, to further deepen the reform and opening up process in the field of education.	Mode 3	Education services	Special Administrative Measures on Access of Foreign Investment to the Pilot Free Trade Zones (Negative List) (2019 edition) Viewed at: http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2019-06/30/content_5404702.htm?from=singlemessage&isappinstalled=0	Effective as of 30 June 2019 until the issuance of the Special Administrative Measures on Access of Foreign Investment to the Pilot Free Trade Zones (Negative List) (2020 edition)	YES
Costa Rica					
The government adopted a new law on education and dual training, which allows students to participate in vocational training in addition to their classroom studies.	Mode 3	Education services	Law No. 9728 (Law of on Dual Education and Training) Viewed at: http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=89820&nValor3=118020&strTipM=TC	Effective 15 October 2019	YES
Ukraine					
A new measure was adopted in order to clarify the terminology and simplify the procedure for obtaining a license to supply higher education services.	Mode 3	Education services	Law No. 392 of 18 December 2019 'On Amending Some Legislative Acts of Ukraine on Improvements of Education Activity in Higher Education Sector'	Effective 16 January 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
			Viewed at: https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/392-20		
HEALTH SERVICES					
Germany					
Digital health applications that meet certain requirements will be covered by the German state health insurance schemes from 2020. Patients will need to obtain a prescription by a physician or psychotherapist or their health scheme's prior approval. To qualify for coverage, an app must be a digital low-risk medical device. In addition, the manufacturer must apply for registration with a new registry which will be kept by the Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices. The detailed requirements for registration are being provided for in a regulation that entered into force on 21 April 2020. The regulation contains provisions pertaining to aspects such as security, data protection, data security and quality. In addition, digital health applications need to provide evidence concerning a positive impact on care (i.e. medical benefit or procedural or structural improvements to care).	Multiple modes	Health services	Viewed at: https://www.bundesrat.de/DE/plenum/bundesrat-kompakt/19/983/12.html;jsessionid=C5D4768B55129D47A44E9774F4D75CB9.1_cid382?nn=4352768#top-12	19 December 2019	YES
India					
Telemedicine in India is now regulated by the 'Telemedicine Practice Guidelines' released by the Board of Governors (in supersession of the the Medical Council of India). These guidelines enable practice of Registered Medical Practitioners (RMP) through telemedicine. The Guidelines are added as Appendix 5 of the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics Regulation 2002). Freedom is given to medical practitioners to use any suitable technology for consultations with patients. The guidelines cover the following types of interactions: patient to RMP, caregiver to RMP, health worker to RMP, RMP to RMP and emergency situations. The guidelines do not cover consultations involving doctors or patients outside India. Finally, the guidelines cover technology platforms enabling telemedicine.	Mode 3	Health services	Viewed at: https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/Telemedicine.pdf	25 March 2020	YES
Indonesia					
The Ministry of Health (MOH) issued a new regulation on telemedicine services that provides official directions on the scope of telemedicine, requirements, rights and obligations, cost, funding and supervision.	Mode 3	Health services	Ministry of Health Regulation No. 20 of 2019 on the Implementation of Telemedicine Services between Health Services Facilities ("MOH Regulation 20"), implementing MOH Regulation No. 90 of 2015 on Provision of Healthcare Services in Remote and Very Remote Areas	November 2019	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
			Viewed at: https://www.bakermckenzie.com/en/insight/publications/2019/09/updates-on-telemedicine-services-in-indonesia		
The Minister of Health issued a new regulation on the classification and licensing of hospitals, which repeals a regulation adopted in 2019, thereby removing certain limits on foreign investment in certain types of hospitals classified as Class C and D. Foreign investment (up to a maximum of 67% for non-ASEAN investors) is no longer linked to the classification of the hospitals, but according to the number of beds provided (i.e. 200 beds or another required number of beds in accordance with the relevant international agreements or cooperation).	Mode 3	Hospital services	MOH Regulation No. 3 of 2020 on the Classification and Licensing of Hospitals ("MOH Regulation 3") Viewed at: https://www.bakermckenzie.com/-/media/files/insight/publications/2020/02/client-alert-on-the-minister-of-health-finally-revokes-the-controversial-regulation-no30-of-2019-on-the-classification-and-licensing-of-hospitals.pdf	February 2020	
Singapore					
The Parliament of Singapore approved the Healthcare Services Bill, which replaces the Private Hospitals and Medical Clinics Act. The new regulatory regime introduces a services-based licensing regime where healthcare service providers need to obtain a licence based on the type of service they provide, rather than the previous premises-based licensing regime. This aims to provide greater clarity and flexibility in the licensing of healthcare services. Certain non-premise-based services such as telemedicine, mobile medical and ambulance services will be subject to the new licensing scheme. The Bill is expected to be implemented in three phases, targeting the first half of 2021 and ending by end 2022.	Mode 3	Health services	Healthcare Services Act Viewed at: https://www.moh.gov.sg/docs/librariesprovider/8/default-document-library/healthcare_services_(draft)_bill_2017122241b0a3bc9c8c4d65b2ac0bbfa0aa81bf.pdf	6 January 2020	YES
United Arab Emirates					
The Dubai Health Authority issued standards for telehealth services. These standards set out the minimum requirements for the provision of telehealth services, focused on ensuring high quality care delivery and ensuring protection of patient data and confidentiality. Telehealth services include, but are not limited to, scheduling appointments, assessment, providing medical advice, treatment, therapy, laboratory testing, diagnostics, surgery, monitoring chronic conditions, counselling, and prescribing and dispensing of medication.	Multiple modes	Health services	Standards for Telehealth Services Viewed at: https://services.dha.gov.ae/sheryan/wps/porta/home/circular-details?circularRefNo=CIR-2019-00000368&isPublicCircular=1&fromHome=true https://www.dha.gov.ae/Documents/HRD/RegulationsandStandards/standards/Standards%20for%20Telehealth%20Services%20Final.pdf	October 2019	
POSTAL AND COURIER SERVICES					
Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu					
The government amended the Post Act, which aims to ensure that postal services develop comprehensively	All modes	Postal Services	Amendment to Postal Act of 5 December 2018	1 November 2019	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
and are carried out in an accessible, fair and reasonable fashion.			Viewed at: https://law.moj.gov.tw/ENG/LawClass/LawAll.aspx?pcode=K0050001 https://law.moj.gov.tw/ENG/News/NewsDetail.aspx?msgid=11793		
TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ICT/AUDIOVISUAL SERVICES					
Chad					
The government has exempted fixed communications and internet services from a 18% tax on monthly turnover imposed on mobile operators.	Mode 3	Telecommunication services	Finance Act 2020 Viewed at: https://www.commsupdate.com/articles/2020/01/13/chad-exempts-internet-services-from-cellco-tax/?utm_source=CommsUpdate&utm_campaign=22ce2102c8-CommsUpdate+13+January+2020&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0688983330-22ce2102c8-11663509	December 2019	
Colombia					
The government has adopted a number of new measures in relation to audiovisual services and creative industries, including as regards productions qualifying for the Colombia Film Fund and tax benefits for enterprises in creative industries.	Multiple modes	Audiovisual services	Decree 474 of 25 March 2020 Law 2010 (article 91) of 27 December 2019 and Regulatory Decree 286 of 26 February 2020 Viewed at: https://dapre.presidencia.gov.co/normativa/normativa/DECRETO%20474%20DEL%2025%20DE%20MARZO%20DE%202020.pdf https://dapre.presidencia.gov.co/normativa/normativa/LEY%202010%20DEL%2027%20DE%20DICIEMBRE%20DE%202019.pdf	Published 25 March 2020 Published on 27 December 2019	YES
Ecuador					
A new tax legislation introduces a special consumption tax of: 15% for paid television services; 15% for fixed telephony services and voice, data and SMS plans of mobile services provided to companies; and 10% for mobile phone services and plans that market only voice, data and SMS of mobile services provided to natural persons, excluding prepaid services.	Multiple modes	Telecommunication and audiovisual services	Article 35, Organic Law of Tax Simplification and Progressivity, published in Official Registry No. 111 of 31 December 2020 Viewed at: https://www.sri.gob.ec/web/guest/ley-organica-de-simplificacion-y-progresividad-tributaria	Effective 1 January 2020	YES
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.	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	Effective 12 July 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<p>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 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>			<p>Viewed at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32019R1150</p>		
France					
<p>In December, the government issued a Decree to assist the implementation of a law (No. 2019-810) that aims to preserve the interests of French defence and national security within the context of the launch of the 5G network.</p> <p>Operators will be required to obtain prior approval from the French Prime Minister in order to operate 5G technology in French territory. The prior approval requirement applies to all operators which plan to operate, in French territory, certain devices which, by virtue of their functions, present a risk to the continuity, integrity, security or availability of the network, or to the confidentiality of communications. The provisions apply to operators of all nationalities.</p>	Mode 3	Telecommunication services	<p>Decree No. 2019-1300 of 6 December 2019 Viewed at: https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000039455649&categorieLien=id</p>	6 December 2019	YES
Guyana					
<p>The Telecommunications Act of 2016 was recently enacted, thereby liberalizing the telecommunications sector and breaking up the previous monopoly. New licences were granted to three service providers: E-Networks, Digicel and the Guyana Telephone and Telegraph Company (GTT), the incumbent.</p>	All modes	Telecommunication services	<p>Commencement Orders of 5 October 2020, enacting the Telecommunications Act of 2016 Viewed at: https://newsroom.gy/2020/10/06/service-providers-granted-new-licenses-to-operate-in-liberalised-sector/</p>	5 October 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
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	Viewed at: https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1635206 https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1650669	29 June 2020 and 2 September 2020	
Nepal					
The Nepal Telecommunications Authority (NTA) reduced interconnection fees. From mid-March 2020, fees will be capped at NPR 0.20 per minute for calls between two landlines, NPR 0.10 for calls from a landline to a mobile, NPR 0.20 for calls from a mobile to a landline and NPR 0.10 for calls between two mobile networks.	Multiple modes	Telecommunication services	Viewed at: https://www.commsupdate.com/articles/2020/01/27/regulator-slashes-interconnection-fees/?utm_source=CommsUpdate&utm_campaign=596bcb413-CommsUpdate+27+January+2020&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0688983330-596bcb413-11663509	March 2020	YES
Pakistan					
<p>The government adopted a new law regulating social media platforms. The new measure requires platforms to block or remove posts that are considered objectionable.</p> <p>The regulator can also obtain, on demand, user data and information from the companies. The regulations aim to monitor and mitigate online content relating to terrorism, extremism, hate speech, fake news, incitement to violence and national security. Unlawful content must be removed within 24 hours. In case of non-compliance, a company's services can be blocked and fine of up to 500 million rupees can be imposed.</p> <p>The law also requires social media companies to set up a physical presence in the country and to appoint a contact person who will report to a national coordinator at Pakistan's Ministry of Information and Telecommunications.</p>	Multiple modes	Social media platforms	<p>Citizens Protection (Against Online Harm) Rules, 2020</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.dw.com/en/pakistans-new-internet-laws-tighten-control-over-social-media/a-52375508 https://gulfnews.com/world/asia/pakistan/pakistan-rethinks-social-media-laws-1.70073974</p>	28 January 2020	
Peru					
A new measure modifies various provisions of the Telecommunications Law, including as regards marketing or reselling, the registry of marketers, and the registry for value added services.	Mode 3	Telecommunication services	<p>Supreme Decree No. 033-2019-MTC</p> <p>Viewed at: https://cdn.www.gob.pe/uploads/document/file/419370/DS_033-2019-MTC.pdf</p>	9 November 2019	YES
Russian Federation					
The State Commission for Radio Frequencies (SCRF) has allocated a block of 5G spectrum to an indefinite number of users, including industrial enterprises and telecom operators. The decision to do so was taken by the State Committee for Emergencies on 17 March 2020.	Mode 3	Telecommunication services	Viewed at: https://www.commsupdate.com/articles/2020/03/20/24ghz-mmwave-5g-spectrum-available-without-auction-megafonrostelecom-receive-test-mmwave-band/	20 March 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
The President signed, on 7 April, a new law aimed at improving the system of universal communication services in the Russian Federation. Under this law, at least one internet access point should be created in areas with a population of one hundred to five hundred people that do not have data transmission services and Internet access. In addition, if mobile radiotelephone communication services are not provided in the indicated areas, then at least one access point must be equipped with communication means for their provision.	Mode 3	Telecommunication services	Federal Law on Amendments to the Federal Law on Communications Viewed at: http://en.kremlin.ru/acts/news/63161	7 April 2020	YES
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	Updated Regulations of the Telecommunications Law (Decision No. 4 of the Minister of Communications and Information Technology of 29/1/1442 H) Viewed at: https://www.citc.gov.sa/ar/mediacenter/pressreleases/Pages/20201005.aspx	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	Cyber Security Regulatory Framework for Telecommunications, Information Technology and Mail Providers Viewed at: https://www.citc.gov.sa/ar/mediacenter/pressreleases/Pages/20200813.aspx	13 August 2020	YES
Thailand					
The National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission issued a notification to stipulate the criteria, procedures, conditions, and fees in relation to the granting of licences for foreign satellites providing services in Thailand. The new measure allows Thai entrepreneurs to use foreign satellite channels to provide services and to comply with the government's policy on allowing foreign satellites to provide services in Thailand.	Multiple modes	Telecommunication Services	NBTC Notification - Criteria and procedures to grant a licence to foreign satellite to provide services in Thailand (The Royal Gazette Vol.137 Special Section 37, dated 18 February 2020)	Effective 19 February 2020	YES
Turkey					
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%. The law also requires user data from social media networks to be stored in Turkey.	Mode 1	Social media platforms	Social Media Law Viewed at: https://www.mondaq.com/turkey/social-media/983466/turkey-introduces-new-social-media-law	Effective 1 October 2020	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Uganda					
The Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) modified its licensing framework for the telecom sector, introducing various licence categories and requiring all national telecom operators to float at least 20% of their shares on the Uganda Securities Exchange within two years of acquiring the new license.	Mode 3	Telecommunication services	Viewed at: http://www.connectingafrica.com/author.asp?doc_id=757077&itc=newsletter_connectingafrica_connectingafricainsights&utm_source=newsletter_connectingafrica_connectingafricainsights&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=01312020	October 2019 Effective 30 June 2020	
Ukraine					
The government adopted new measures to encourage foreign investment in film productions. The scope of the cash rebate system for foreign filmmakers' production costs on Ukrainian territory was raised from 16.6% to 25%.	Mode 3	Audiovisual services	Law of Ukraine of 20 September 2019 No. 130 'On amending Law of Ukraine On State Support for Cinematography in Ukraine' Viewed at: https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/130-20	Effective 19 October 2019	YES
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. 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.	Modes 1 and 3	Communication services	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 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	19 September 2020	YES
An Executive Order issued on 4 April 2020 formalizes, through the establishment of a Committee, the <i>ad hoc</i> working group known as 'Team Telecom' which will assist the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in the review of foreign participation in U.S. telecommunication services, with the objective of enhancing national security. Team Telecom will now have 120 days to conduct national security reviews of license applications.	Mode 3	Telecommunication services	Executive Order on Establishing the Committee for the Assessment of Foreign Participation in the United States Telecommunications Services Sector Viewed at: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-363550A1.pdf	4 April 2020	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Albania					
The Albanian Parliament approved three new laws in relation to capital markets and the investment funds sector. The measures aim to contribute to the development of the domestic capital market and its integrity. These laws are drafted in alignment with European Directives and regulations in the field of capital markets.	Multiple modes	Financial services	Law no. 62/2020 "On Capital Markets"; Law no. 56/2020 "On Collective Investment Undertakings"; Law no. 66/2020 "On Financial Markets based on Distributed Ledger Technology".	Effective 1 September 2020 Effective 20 June 2020 1 September 2020	
Australia					
<p>On 1 July 2020, the government officially launched the Consumer Data Right (CDR), which gives consumers the right to securely share data between providers and aims to allow consumers to use services that make it easier to compare products and services and access new and improved services. The CDR initially applies to the banking sector and then to the energy sector; additional sectors are to be introduced in the future.</p> <p>The Consumer Data Right in the banking sector gives consumers the ability to securely share their banking data (e.g. transaction history) with other providers offering the consumer a service or product. The Consumer Data Right also requires businesses to provide public access to information on specified products that they offer.</p> <p>The regime imposes mandatory obligations on certain Authorised Deposit-taking Institutions to share information and data relating to products and individual consumers.</p> <p>Any entity that wishes to receive consumer data to provide products or services to consumers under the Consumer Data Right regime must be accredited. Foreign entities are able to be accredited provided that they have a local agent.</p>	Modes 1 and 3	Financial services (Provision and transfer of financial information, and financial data processing and related software by providers of other financial services)	Treasury Laws Amendment (Consumer Data Right) Act 2019 C2019A00063 Consumer Data Right (Authorised Deposit-Taking Institutions) Designation 2019 F2019L01153 Consumer Data Right (Energy) Designation 2020 F2020L00833 Competition and Consumer (Consumer Data Right) Rules 2020 F2020C00554	<p>Effective 14 August 2019</p> <p>Dated 4 September 2019; came into effect the day after it was registered</p> <p>Dated 26 June 2020; came into effect the day after it was registered</p> <p>Effective 6 February 2020</p>	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<p>The Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) introduced a new regulatory relief framework for foreign financial services providers (FFSPs) that wish to provide financial services to wholesale clients or professional investors in Australia. This replaced an old FFSP relief framework.</p> <p>The new framework has two key elements: a new foreign Australian Financial Service (AFS) licensing regime for FFSPs; and Licensing relief for FFSPs of funds management financial services seeking to induce some types of professional investors.</p>	Modes 1 and 3	Banking and other financial services	<p>New FFSP regulatory framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Foreign AFS licensing regime: ASIC Corporations (Foreign Financial Services Providers—Foreign AFS licensees) Instrument 2020/198 - Funds management licensing relief: ASIC Corporations (Foreign Financial Services Providers—Funds Management Financial Services) Instrument 2020/199 <p>Old FFSP relief framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sufficient equivalence relief: ASIC Corporations (Repeal and Transitional) Instrument 2016/196 - Sufficient equivalence relief for Luxembourg entities: ASIC Corporations (CSSF-Regulated Financial Services Providers) Instrument 2016/1109 - Limited connection relief: ASIC Corporations (Foreign Financial Services Providers—Limited Connection) Instrument 2017/182 	<p>Foreign AFS licensing regime: start date of 1 April 2020 for new FFSPs, and 1 April 2022 for existing FFSPs relying on old sufficient equivalence relief.</p> <p>Old sufficient equivalence relief (previously contained in 7 separate instruments): end date of 31 March 2020 for new FFSPs, 31 March 2022 for existing FFSPs relying on transition period for old sufficient equivalence relief.</p> <p>Funds management licensing relief: start date of 1 April 2022.</p> <p>Limited connection relief (originally CO 03/824): gazetted on 1 October 2003, end date of 31 March 2022.</p>	YES
China					
<p>The China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (CBIRC) revised and released the Implementation Rules of Administrative Licensing of Foreign-funded Banks.</p> <p>The Implementation Rules are in line with the Regulations on the Administration of Foreign-funded Banks, allowing foreign banks to set up branches and subsidiaries with legal person status in China. It removes the total asset requirement for foreign banks to set up business entities in China, and expands the scope of major Chinese shareholders in Sino-foreign joint venture banks.</p>	Mode 3	Banking services	<p>Implementation Rules of Administrative Licensing of Foreign-funded Banks</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.cbirc.gov.cn/en/view/pages/ItemDetail.html?docId=882439&itemId=980 </p>	3 January 2020	YES
<p>The restriction on foreign ownership in joint-venture life insurance companies has been removed on 1 January 2020. Foreign ownership in joint-venture life insurance companies can reach 100%. Relevant parties may submit applications to the CBIRC in accordance with the Regulations on Foreign-funded Insurance Companies, the Implementation Rules of the Regulations on Foreign-funded Insurance Companies, and this Notice. The CBIRC will start the revision of the provision of "foreign ownership shall not exceed 51% of the company's total equity"</p>	Mode 3	Life insurance services	<p>Notice of the CBIRC General Office on Clarifying Timing of Removing Foreign Ownership Restrictions on Joint Venture Life Insurance Companies (CBIRC General Office [2019] No.230)</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.cbirc.gov.cn/en/view/pages/ItemDetail.html?docId=858743&itemId=980 </p>	Effective 1 January 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
capital" in the existing Implementation Rules of the Regulations on Foreign-funded Insurance Companies, which will be reissued after revision.					
Removal of 51% foreign ownership limit in fund management companies.	Mode 3	Financial services	Viewed at: http://www.csrc.gov.cn/pub/csrc_en/newsfacts/release/201910/t20191015_364441.html	Effective 1 April 2020	YES
Removal of 51% foreign ownership limit in securities companies. The removal of the foreign equity cap was originally due as of 1 December 2020, but the timetable was brought forward on 16 March.	Mode 3	Financial services	Viewed at: http://www.csrc.gov.cn/pub/csrc_en/newsfacts/release/202003/t20200318_372197.html	Effective 1 April 2020	YES
Removal of 51% foreign ownership limit in foreign-invested futures companies.	Mode 3	Financial services	Viewed at: http://www.csrc.gov.cn/pub/csrc_en/newsfacts/release/201910/t20191015_364440.html	Effective 1 January 2020	YES
Since 1 January 2020, the accumulated equity ratios (including direct holding and indirect control) of foreign shareholders in foreign-invested futures companies are up to 100%.	Mode 3	Financial Services	Article 7 of the Administrative Measures on Foreign Investment in Futures Companies (China Securities Regulatory Commission No.149) Viewed at: http://www.csrc.gov.cn/zjhpublish/zjh/201808/t20180824_343039.htm	Effective 1 January 2020	YES
Costa Rica					
New regulations were issued to promote inclusion and access in the insurance market with an adequate level of protection for the insurance consumer, by defining principles, requirements and other regulatory conditions applicable to self-issuing insurance.	Modes 1 and 3	Insurance services	Regulation on inclusion and access to insurance Viewed at: http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=92320&nValor3=122187&strTipM=TC	Effective 1 September 2020	YES
A new law that reforms the current law regulating competition and the protection of consumers entered into force on 20 June 2020. Among other things, it limits the maximum interest rate that can be charged by natural or legal persons that grant financing to a third party for financial, commercial and microcredit operations.	Mode 3	Other credit granting services	Reform of the Law for the Promotion of Competition and Effective Protection of the Consumers Viewed at: http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=91663&nValor3=121084&strTipM=TC	Effective 20 June 2020	YES
A new regulation on operations and services supplied through non-bank correspondents was published. It establishes a general framework of sound practices for the performance of operations and the provision of services through non-bank correspondents.	Mode 3	Financial services	Viewed at: http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=92075&nValor3=121780&strTipM=TC	Adopted on 20 July 2020; effective 3 February 2021.	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
The government adopted a new law regulating new financial instruments, including derivatives.	Multiple modes	Financial services	Law No. 9746 Viewed at: http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=89892&nValor3=118131&strTipM=TC	Effective 22 October 2019	YES
A new measure regulates the maximum fees that services providers charge to process the transactions that use payment devices. It also regulates the credit card system to promote its safety and efficiency. The maximum fees will be determined by the Central Bank based on technical studies and will be subject to a public consultation.	Multiple modes	Financial services	Law No. 9831 – Maximum Fees of the Credit Card System Viewed at: http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=90791&nValor3=0&strTipM=TC	Effective 26 March 2020	YES
Ghana					
The Bank of Ghana has decided to extend by six months, until 31 December 2020, the deadline for meeting new minimum capital requirements applicable to all existing payment service providers, electronic money issuers, banks, and specialized deposit-taking institutions. The Bank of Ghana increased the minimum capital requirements for payment service providers from GHC5 million to GHC20 million. The new minimum capital requirements serve to operationalize the Payment Systems and Services Act, adopted in 2019. Among other things, the Act requires payment service companies to have at least 30% domestic equity participation, to maintain minimum capital in Ghana, and to process all retail electronic payment transactions within Ghana.	Multiple modes	Payment services	Notice No. BG/GOV/SEC/2020/02 Payment Systems and Services Act Viewed at: https://www.bog.gov.gh/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/NOTICE-EXTENSION-OF-DEADLINE-FOR-MEETING-THE-MINIMUM-CAPITAL-REQUIREMENTS.pdf https://www.bog.gov.gh/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Payment-Systems-and-Services-Act-2019-Act-987-.pdf https://thebftonline.com/2019/editors-pick/bog-to-announce-new-capital-for-momo-players/	Issued on 30 March 2020	
India					
As of this year, the 49% foreign equity limitation for insurance intermediaries (e.g. brokers, agents) has been eliminated. The clarification of the FDI policy follows the announcement made by the Finance minister in the Union Budget in 2019.	Mode 3	Insurance services	Viewed at: https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1601507 https://dipp.gov.in/sites/default/files/pn1_2020.pdf	Effective 27 April 2020	YES
Indonesia					
Indonesia's Financial Services Authority issued a new regulation on the merger, consolidation, acquisition, integration and conversion of commercial banks. Among other things, the measure introduces mechanisms to facilitate the transformation of foreign bank branches into subsidiaries.	Mode 3	Banking services	Regulation No. 41/POJK.03/2019 of the Indonesian Financial Services Authority Viewed at: https://www.allenoverly.com/en-gb/global/news-and-insights/publications/indonesia-introduces-new-bank-m-and-a-rules	Effective 26 December 2019	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<p>The government adopted a new regulation relaxing foreign equity limits in insurance services. Foreign equity ownership in insurance companies has been capped to 80% since April 2018. Further capital increases had to respect the 80:20 ratio between foreign and domestic shareholders. The new regulation relaxed this rule and added clarity regarding the ability of insurers to conduct capital increases and manage their Sharia operations.</p> <p>The new regulation provides the following two key changes: 1) no obligation for capital increases to be made in a ratio of 80:20 - the obligation for an Indonesian shareholder to make a corresponding 20% capital injection in the event of a capital increase is now deleted; and 2) sharia spin-offs may be subject to the existing foreign ownership cap that is applicable to the parent insurance company, rather than the ratio of 80:20.</p>	Mode 3	Banking services	<p>Government Regulation No. 3/2020 of 20 January 2020 (GR 3/2020), which amends Government Regulation No. 14 of 2018 on Foreign Ownership of Insurance Companies (GR 14/2018).</p> <p>Viewed at: https://theinsiderstories.com/indonesia-raises-foreign-ownership-in-insurance-companies-above-80/ </p>	Effective 20 January 2020	
Malaysia					
The Central Bank of Malaysia issued new rules requiring electronic trading platforms and networks to obtain prior approval from the central bank before offering services in Malaysia.	Multiple modes	Financial services	<p>Policy Document on the Framework for Electronic Trading Platforms</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.bnm.gov.my/index.php?ch=57&pq=150&ac=859&bb=file </p>	Effective 11 November 2019	YES
Nigeria					
<p>The Central Bank of Nigeria issued new regulations on the operations of indirect participants in the payment system, thereby allowing mobile network operators, among others, to provide mobile money services for the first time.</p> <p>Mobile network operators, retailers, mobile money operators and banking agents with sufficient capital (minimum of USD 14 million) can apply to become a payment service bank, which can provide payment services and collect deposits that can be invested in government securities or placed on deposit with a bank. They are excluded from providing credit or insurance products.</p>	Multiple modes	Financial services	<p>Circular on the Regulation for the Operations of Indirect Participants in the Payment System</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.cbn.gov.ng/Out/2019/PSMD/Circular%20and%20Regulation%20for%20the%20Operation%20of%20Indirect%20Participants%20in%20the%20Payment%20System%20(002).pdf https://www.mondag.com/Nigeria/Finance-and-Banking/854160/New-Payment-Regulations-Open-The-Door-To-MNOs-In-Nigeria </p>	Effective 11 November 2019	
Philippines					
The Central Bank of the Philippines adopted a series of new measures affecting banking and other financial services. These relate, for example, to the adoption of the Payment System Oversight Framework, changes to the rules on the real estate loan limit of banks, and a reduction in reserve requirements of banks.	Mode 3	Banking and other financial services	<p>Circulars Nos. 1087, 1089, 1091 to 1093;</p> <p>Memorandum No. M-2020-057</p> <p>Viewed at: http://www.bsp.gov.ph/ </p>	July-September 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<p>A new measure allows foreign banks to open Islamic bank branches. On 1 March 2020, the Monetary Board approved the preliminary policy initiatives of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to implement the Republic Act (R.A.) No. 11439 (Act Providing for the Regulation and Organization of Islamic Banks and the relevant provisions on Islamic banking), which became effective on 15 September 2019.</p> <p>Subject to the approval of the Monetary Board, conventional banks, whether domestic or foreign, will be allowed to open Islamic banking unit or to establish a subsidiary Islamic bank. Foreign banks can operate in the Philippines under any of the modes of entry provided under R.A. No. 7721, as amended, or An Act Liberalizing the Entry and Scope of Operations of Foreign Banks in the Philippines and for Other Purposes.</p>	Modes 1 and 3	Banking and other financial services	<p>Viewed at: http://www.bsp.gov.ph/publications/media.asp?id=5255</p>	Effective 1 March 2020	YES
<p>The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (Central Bank of the Philippines) adopted a series of new measures affecting banking and other financial services. These relate, for example, to amendments to the Framework for Dealing with Domestic Systemically Important Banks, modifications of reserve requirements, and the adoption of a national quick response code standard to ensure the safety, efficiency, and reliability of payment systems.</p>	Mode 3	Banking and other financial services	<p>Circulars Nos. 1050-1082</p> <p>Viewed at: http://www.bsp.gov.ph/</p>	October 2019 – May 2020	YES
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of					
<p>The Board of the Capital Market Authority has issued a resolution to approve the amendments to the Instructions for Book Building Process and Allocation Method in IPOs (The Instructions).</p>	Mode 3	Financial services	<p>Resolution of the Board of the Capital Market Authority, dated 17 September 2019</p> <p>Viewed at: https://cma.org.sa/en/RulesRegulations/Regulations/Documents/Instructions_BookBuilding_Allocation.pdf</p>	Effective on 6 October 2019	YES
<p>The Board of the Capital Market Authority issued a resolution to approve the amendments to the Rules on the Offer of Securities and Continuing Obligations (The Rules).</p>	Mode 3	Financial services	<p>Resolution of the Board of the Capital Market Authority, dated 30 September 2019</p> <p>Viewed at: https://cma.org.sa/en/RulesRegulations/Regulations/Documents/OSRCI_en.pdf</p>	Effective on 6 October 2019, except for paragraphs 1 and 3 of Article 90 of the Rules, which entered into force on 1 January 2020	YES
<p>The Board of the Capital Market Authority issued a resolution to approve the amendments to the Instructions for Companies Announcement (The Instructions).</p>	Mode 3	Financial services	<p>Resolution of the Board of the Capital Market Authority, dated 30 September 2019</p> <p>Viewed at: https://cma.org.sa/en/RulesRegulations/Regulations/Documents/Instructions-FSI-Ownership-Listed-Companies-en.pdf</p>	Effective on 6 October 2019	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
The Board of the Capital Market Authority issued a resolution to approve the amendments to the Glossary of Defined Terms Used in the Regulations and Rules of the Capital Market Authority (The Glossary).	Mode 3	Financial services	Resolution of the Board of the Capital Market Authority, dated 30 September 2019 Viewed at: https://cma.org.sa/en/RulesRegulations/Regulations/Documents/CMA_Glossary_en.pdf	Effective on 6 October 2019	YES
The Board of the Capital Market Authority issued a resolution to adopt the Securities Central Counterparties Regulations (The Regulations).	Mode 3	Financial services	Resolution of the Board of the Capital Market Authority, dated 18 November 2019 Viewed at: https://cma.org.sa/en/RulesRegulations/Regulations/Documents/Securities-Central-Counterparties-Regulations-en.pdf	Effective on 8 January 2020	YES
Switzerland					
The Law and its implementing Ordinance contain the code of conduct that financial service providers must observe with regard to their clients. They distinguish between two main categories of clients: retail clients and professional clients. They establish requirements for prospectuses for securities offers and provide that retail clients must be provided with a user-friendly document containing basic information on financial instruments. The Law and its implementing Ordinance provide for a register of advisers, with mandatory registration for certain advisers. Lastly, the Law and its implementing Ordinance also require all financial service providers to be affiliated with an ombudsman's office.	Multiple modes	Financial services	Federal Law of 15 June 2018 on financial services (SR 950.1); Ordinance of 6 November 2019 on financial services (SR 950.11) Viewed at: https://www.admin.ch/opc/fr/classified-compilation/20152661/index.html https://www.admin.ch/opc/fr/classified-compilation/20192374/index.html S/C/N/987	Effective 1 January 2020	YES
The Law and its implementing Ordinance standardize the regulation of authorizations for financial service providers. They define the differing supervisory standards for portfolio managers, managers of collective assets, fund management companies and securities firms. The trustees and portfolio managers who administer assets on behalf of individual clients or occupational pension schemes are also subject to prudential supervision.	Multiple modes	Financial services	Federal Law of 15 June 2018 on financial establishments (SR 954.1); Ordinance of 6 November 2019 on financial establishments (SR 954.11) Viewed at: https://www.admin.ch/opc/en/classified-compilation/20152662/index.html https://www.admin.ch/opc/fr/classified-compilation/19960659/index.html S/C/N/988	Effective 1 January 2020	YES
Thailand					
The Bank of Thailand adopted a series of measures affecting financial services. These include: - the creation of a new licensing regime allowing non-bank operators to issue e-money in foreign currencies for customers' payments of cross-border goods and	Mode 3	Financial services	Notification of the Ministry of Finance and Directions of the Minister to Authorized e-Money Service Operators; Notice of the Competent Officer - Rules and Practices	Effective June-September 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
<p>services when travelling abroad and for e-commerce platforms. No limits on foreign shareholding are applied;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - new regulations on procedures and conditions for providing peer-to-peer lending platform services; foreign shareholding is limited to 25%; - new regulations concerning the Good Corporate Governance qualifications of board of directors, major shareholders and persons with power of management in credit card services providers, personal loan services providers and retail loans businesses; - new measure on the number of, and quantification criteria for, service locations of branches and subsidiaries of foreign commercial banks. 			<p>regarding the Undertaking of Authorized e-Money Service Operators;</p> <p>Notification of the Ministry of Finance on Business Subject to Approval to clause 5 of the Revolutionary Council Decree 58 (Peer-to-Peer Lending Platform), dated 30 July 2020;</p> <p>Notification of the Bank of Thailand No. FPG. 14/2563 on Regulations, Procedures and Conditions for Undertaking Business of Peer-to-Peer Lending Platform, dated 31 July 2020;</p> <p>Notification of Ministry of Finance on Business Subject to Approval to clause 5 of the Revolutionary Council Decree 58 (Credit Card Business), dated 30 July 2020;</p> <p>Notification of the Bank of Thailand No. FPG. 11/2563 on Regulations, Procedures and Conditions for Undertaking Credit Card Business, dated 31 July 2020;</p> <p>Notification of Ministry of Finance on Business Subject to Approval to clause 5 of the Revolutionary Council Decree 58 (Personal Loans), dated 30 July 2020;</p> <p>Notification of the Bank of Thailand No. FPG. 12/2563 on Regulations, Procedures and Conditions for Undertaking Business of Personal Loans, dated 31 July 2020;</p> <p>Notification of Ministry of Finance on Business Subject to Approval to clause 5 of the Revolutionary Council Decree 58 (Retail Loans Business), dated 30 July 2020;</p> <p>Notification of the Bank of Thailand No. FPG. 13/2563 on Regulations, Procedures and Conditions for Undertaking Business of Retail Loans Business, dated 31 July 2020;</p> <p>Notification of the Bank of Thailand No. FPG. 17/2563 on Number and quantifying criteria of service locations of foreign commercial bank's subsidiary and branch of a foreign commercial bank.</p>		

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
A new measure modifies the licensing regime for loss adjusters. A new applicant for a loss adjuster licence must register as a juridical person and have a head office or branch in Thailand.	Mode 3	Loss Adjustment Services	Article 35/3 (b) of Non-Life Insurance Act (No.4) Clause 6 of Notification of the Insurance Commission Re: Specification of Rules, Procedures, Conditions, Application for Permission, and Renewal of Loss Adjusters, Inspection and adjustment of loss. B.E. 2562 (2019)	21 November 2019	YES
Thailand's Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) adopted a series of measures affecting financial services. These relate, for example, to the repealing of certain regulations on accounting reports for securities companies, and to amendments to capital requirements for digital assets businesses.	Mode 3	Financial services	SEC adoption of the Circular of the Association of Thai Securities Companies' guidelines on portfolio advisory and program trading; SEC notification No. GorThor 6/2562, 63/2562, 8/2562, 34/2562; Notification of Capital Market Advisory Board TorJor 14/2563	Effective November 2019 – March 2020	YES
Uganda					
A new measure requires the purchase of marine insurance from local suppliers. The Insurance Regulatory Authority (IRA) is implementing a local marine cargo insurance policy. Effective 1 March 2020, there shall be voluntary marine insurance provided locally by insurance companies licensed by IRA and compulsory local purchase shall take effect on 1 June 2020. The importers using the system will benefit from a more favorable tax compensation. Under the compulsory marine insurance scheme, all imports must have a valid marine insurance cover underwritten by a Ugandan registered insurance company before clearance by Uganda Revenue Authority.	Modes 1 and 3	Non-life insurance services	Viewed at: https://ira.go.ug/news_details.php?det=96	Effective 1 June 2020	
Ukraine					
The government adopted a new law that aims to enhance the ability of legal instruments to detect and prevent financial crimes and to provide greater transparency in the Ukrainian financial sector in the context of the ongoing process of financial cooperation with Europe.	Mode 3	Financial Services	Law of Ukraine No. 361 "On Prevention and Counteraction to Legalization (Laundering) of Proceeds from Crime, Terrorism Financing and Financing of Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction"	Effective 28 April 2020	YES
Viet Nam					
The government adopted new measures to regulate the cross-border supply of auxiliary insurance services. Offshore service providers are required to be from countries with which Viet Nam has contracted market access commitments on the cross-border supply of such services. An offshore service supplier may be	Mode 1	Auxiliary insurance services	Decree No. 80 on the implementation of Law No. 42 on amendments to the Insurance Business Law Ministry of Finance Circular No. 65 Viewed at:	Effective 1 November 2019	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
subject to additional conditions. In the case of cross-border supply to insurance companies or insurance brokerage companies, the supplier must, for example: have been lawfully operating for at least 10 years up until the point of service provision; have been operating with profit for 3 consecutive financial years up until the point of service provision. For cross-border supply to individuals and to organizations other than entities mentioned above, the foreign supplier must cooperate with a supplier of auxiliary insurance services that is legally established in Viet Nam.			https://www.bakermckenzie.com/en/insight/publications/2019/12/new-regulations-insurance-vietnam		
TOURISM AND TRAVEL RELATED SERVICES					
Colombia					
A new measure was adopted to facilitate the development of high-impact tourism projects, which are designated as 'special tourism projects'.	Mode 3	Tourism services	Decree 1155 of 20 August 2020 Viewed at: https://dapre.presidencia.gov.co/normativa/normativa/DECRETO%201155%20DEL%2020%2008%20AGOSTO%20DE%202020.pdf	20 August 2020	YES
Costa Rica					
The government adopted a new law that aims to regulate the supply of tourism services in the form of home rentals, apartments, villas, chalets, cottages, and rooms. It seeks to protect the rights of users of such services, and to regulate the services platforms or intermediary companies, which mediate between the users and suppliers of non-traditional lodging. In addition, the law requires hosts to register with the Tourism Institute and to pay the 13% value-added tax.	Multiple modes	Tourism services	Law No. 9742 - Framework Law for the Regularization of non-traditional hosting and intermediation through digital platforms Viewed at: http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=90073&nValor3=118473&strTipM=TC	Published in November 2019; effective 1 June 2020	YES
TRANSPORT SERVICES					
Costa Rica					
A new measure removes limits on maximum foreign equity in companies that provide international land transport services of passengers. Previously, companies providing these services were required to have at least 60% of their equity owned by investors that were citizens of Central America.	Mode 3	Road transport services	Executive Decree No. 42072 Viewed at: http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=90232&nValor3=118737&strTipM=TC	Effective 13 December 2019	YES
The government issued new regulations on air traffic services that aim to guarantee that flights over Costa Rican airspace are carried out in conditions that allow increasing the safety and efficiency of air operations.	Modes 1 and 3	Air transport services	Executive Decree No 42397-MOPT of 30 June 2020 Viewed at: http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=91732&nValor3=121243&strTipM=TC	Effective 1 July 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
European Union					
The European Commission has prolonged for another four years the regulation outlining the conditions under which liner shipping consortia can provide joint services without infringing EU antitrust rules that prohibit anticompetitive agreements between companies. The Consortia Block Exemption Regulation allows, under certain conditions, liner shipping operators with a combined market share of below 30% to enter into cooperation agreements to provide joint liner shipping services (known as "consortia"). These agreements, however, cannot include price-fixing or market-sharing. The current Consortia Block Exemption Regulation was due to expire on 25 April 2020.	Modes 1 and 3	Maritime transport services	Consortia Block Exemption Regulation Viewed at: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_518	24 March 2020	YES
Philippines					
The Maritime Industry Authority adopted new measures relating to, for example, the licensing of ship repair entities, and mandatory insurance to cover liability for damage to ships used in domestic shipping services.	Multiple modes	Maritime transport services	Memorandum Circulars No. SR-2019-01, SR-2019-02, and SR-2019-03 Viewed at: https://marina.gov.ph	October-December 2019	YES
The Maritime Industry Authority adopted an amendment to MC No. 2013-04 providing for the "Omnibus Rules on the Issuance of Special Permit for the Temporary Utilization of Philippine-Registered Domestic Ships to Operate in International Voyages".	Multiple modes	Maritime transport services	Memorandum Circular No. OS-2020-01 Viewed at: https://marina.gov.ph	Published on 23 April 2020	YES
Viet Nam					
On 18 November 2019, the government issued a decree that increases from 30% to 34% the maximum foreign equity in airlines.	Mode 3	Air transport services	Decree 89/2019/ND-CP Viewed at: https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/548582/foreign-investors-allowed-34-per-cent-holding-at-vietnamese-airlines.html	Effective 1 January 2020	
SERVICES SUPPLIED THROUGH THE MOVEMENT OF NATURAL PERSONS					
Belize					
The Immigration Act was amended in relation to the movement of nationals of Caribbean Community States. The amendment expands coverage to spouses and dependants, sets out new definitions, and clarifies the periods of automatic and indefinite stay for nationals of Caribbean Community States.	Mode 4	All sectors	Immigration (Amendment) (No. 2) Act, 2020	September 2020	
China					
Foreign high-level management and technical personnel engaged in technical cooperation and economic and trade activities in China may now apply for a visa or residence permit valid for 2 to 5 years.	Mode 4	All sectors	Viewed at: https://www.nia.gov.cn/n741440/n741577/c1076430/content.html	Effective 1 August 2019	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Estonia					
On 1 August 2020, Estonia has introduced a "Digital Nomad Visa" that allows remote workers to live in Estonia and legally work for their employer or their own company registered abroad.	Mode 4	All sectors	Viewed at: https://e-resident.gov.ee/nomadvisa/	Adopted on 7 August 2020	YES
France					
The French Ministry of Home Affairs has implemented changes to its Talent Passport programme, including expedited and streamlined application processing.	Mode 4	All sectors	Viewed at: https://www.mondaq.com/france/Immigration/882460/Talent-Passport-Improvements-Implemented	Effective January 2020	
Germany					
A new immigration law expands the framework under which qualified professionals from non-EU Members can work in Germany. It allows vocationally trained foreign nationals to be employed in Germany also in occupations that are not experiencing a skills shortage. The measure abolishes the requirement to check the unavailability of German or EU nationals before non-EU citizens are allowed to take up a skilled occupation. Moreover, employers can launch an expedited procedure for qualified professionals at the relevant foreigners' registration office in Germany, thereby significantly shortening the duration of the administrative procedure for the issuing of the visa.	Mode 4	All sectors	Viewed at: https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/visa/skilled-immigration-act/	Effective 1 March 2020	YES
Hong Kong, China					
A new pilot scheme allows nationals of countries that are visiting Hong Kong, China visa-free and that are in possession of a "Letter of proof" issued by qualified arbitral institutions to participate in arbitral proceedings in Hong Kong, China as visitors, without having to obtain employment visas. The pilot scheme will be reviewed after two years.	Mode 4	Business services	Pilot Scheme on Facilitation for Persons Participating in Arbitral Proceedings in Hong Kong Viewed at: https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202006/29/P2020062900772.htm	Effective 29 June 2020	
Japan					
On 22 May 2020, the Diet adopted a measure to ease certain limits on the activities of foreign lawyers in the country. 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 international connection, e.g., if one of the companies is more than 50% owned by foreigners. Moreover, it also establishes the provisions of international	Mode 4	All sectors	Act on Special Measures concerning the Handling of Legal Services by Foreign Lawyers Viewed at: http://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/common/data/outline/200522151124_200522.pdf http://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/law/detail/?id=3584&vm=04&re=01&new=1	Effective 29 August 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
mediation, allowing the preceding scope of representation. 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.					
The Immigration Service Agency of Japan (ISA) has expanded the online residence application system for companies to apply for various certificates for, <i>inter alia</i> , Status of Residence of "Business Managers", "Intra-Company Transferees" and "Highly Skilled Professional".	Mode 4	All sectors	Viewed at: http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/tetuduki/zairyukanri/onlineshinsei.html	Effective 24 March 2020	YES
Mauritius					
On 7 August, Mauritius adopted new rules that, <i>inter alia</i> , combine the Work Permit and Residence Permit into one single permit, and lengthen the validity of the Occupation Permit (OP) to 10 years, with the possibility of renewal.	Mode 4	All sectors	Viewed at: https://www.platformafrica.com/2020/08/13/new-streamlined-permits-regime-introduced-in-mauritius/ WTO document: S/C/N/1022	Effective 2 September 2020	
Nigeria					
A new visa policy has been implemented which provides, <i>inter alia</i> , a new visa avenue for highly skilled foreign nationals and a 90-day visa-on-arrival for all African Union nationals, frequently travelling executives and emergency relief workers.	Mode 4	All sectors	Viewed at: https://assets.kpmg/content/dam/kpmg/ng/pdf/tax/fq-launches-nigeria-visa-policy-2020.pdf	Effective January 2020	
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of					
Foreign nationals travelling for business must now obtain a visa pre-approval before submitting a Business Visit Visa application.	Mode 4	All sectors	Viewed at: http://www.tradearabia.com/news/MISC_364167.html	Effective February 2020	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Singapore					
Beginning 1 October 2020, the Fair Consideration Framework job advertisement requirement was extended to employers of S Pass applicants. Employers of EP and S Pass applicants must first advertise those vacancies for a period of 28 days, up from the previous 14-day period, on a designated jobs portal that is accessible by the public. This is intended to maximise access to opportunities for all job seekers. Positions for ICTs, positions paying a fixed salary of S\$20,000 or more a month, and positions in companies with fewer than 10 employees are exempted from the job advertising requirement. In Singapore, employers are required to adopt fair hiring practices that do not discriminate based on non-job related characteristics such as age, gender, nationality or race.	Mode 4	All sectors	Viewed at: https://www.mom.gov.sg/newsroom/press-releases/2020/0827-tightening-of-work-pass-requirements	Effective 1 October 2020	YES
Thailand					
The Department of Employment has introduced changes that streamline the work permit process by allowing filing at the One-Stop Service Centre and faster in-country processing.	Mode 4	All sectors	Viewed at: https://blog.newlandchase.com/thailand-faster-processing-of-certain-pre-work-permit-approval-applications	Effective October 2019	YES
The government issued on 1 April 2020 a Ministerial Notification on prohibited works by foreigners. This Ministerial Notification sets forth four categories of prohibited works: 1- works entirely reserved for Thai workers: 27 works; 2 - works that foreign workers are permitted to perform under agreements between Thailand and other Parties; 3- works that semi-skilled or skilled foreign workers shall perform under the condition that they must have employers; 4- works that foreign workers are permitted to perform under the condition of having employers and being permitted to enter Thailand by Immigration Law under MOUs or Agreements between Thai Government and Foreign Governments.	Mode 4	All sectors	Ministry of Labour Ministerial Notification on prohibited works which foreign workers are not permitted to work, dated 1 April 2020, enacted under the Foreigners' Working Management Emergency Decree (No.2) B.E. 2561(2018).	Gazetted on 21 April 2020; effective after 60 days after publication in the Royal Gazette.	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
United Kingdom					
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.	Mode 4	Health services	Viewed at: https://www.gov.uk/tier-2-health-care-visa	4 August 2020	YES
Viet Nam					
Viet Nam introduced a new visa for foreign natural persons that enter the country to promote services and establish a commercial presence according to international agreements that it has signed. The new visas will be issued with validity from 6 to 12 months.	Mode 4	All sectors	Amendment to the Law on entry, exit, transit and residence of foreigners in Viet Nam Viewed at: https://vietnaminsider.vn/vietnam-new-immigration-law-things-every-foreigner-should-know/#:~:text=Vietnam%20will%20issue%20visas%20with,came%20into%20force%20this%20month.	Effective July 2020	

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

(MID-OCTOBER 2019 TO MID-OCTOBER 2020)

Confirmed information²

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Albania	Temporary export prohibition on certain drugs and medical devices (HS 3002; 3003; 3004; 3005; 3006; 4818; 6307; 9018; 9019; 9020; 9021; 9022), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/ALB/1/Add.1, 27 March 2020	Effective 17 March 2020
Algeria	Temporary export ban on certain products (1,219 tariff lines at 10-digit level, in HS Chapters 2; 4; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 15; 16; 17; 19; 20; 21; 22; 28; 30; 33; 34; 38; 39; 40; 48; 61; 62; 63; 65; 84; 90; 94), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Direction Générale des Douanes - Instruction No. 111/PM (22 March 2020). Viewed at: http://www.douane.gov.dz/spip.php?article429&lang=fr	Effective 22 March 2020
Anguilla	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on hand sanitizers; hand sanitizer dispensers; bleach; disinfectant wipes; isopropyl alcohol (rubbing alcohol); disinfectant sprays; toilet paper; diapers; hand soap/antibacterial soap; baby wipes/Kleenex/paper towels; liquid disinfectants; garbage bags; dishwashing liquid; cleaning cloths laundry detergent; gloves (disposable); masks; nebulizers; medications (flu, fever and cold); personal protective clothing, headgear, shoe-covers; and on certain food products (e.g. rice; brown sugar; white sugar; flour; chicken; milk; fresh or chilled vegetables; canned vegetables, fresh or chilled fruits, canned fruits; and water), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from interim goods taxes and administrative fees	EX/MEM No. 20/90 - COVID-19 Response - Customs Duty and Tax Relief Package (2 April 2020). Viewed at: https://macmap.org/OfflineDocument/Covid19/COVID_AIA_1.pdf	Effective 13 April 2020, for 3 months
Argentina	Certain products (e.g. medical equipment and personal protective equipment) eliminated from the list requiring non-automatic import licensing requirements (15 tariff lines at 8-digit level, in NCM Chapters 22; 38; 62; 63; 65; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (14 April 2020); Disposición No.5/2020 Subsecretaría de Política y Gestión Comercial - Ministerio de Desarrollo Productivo (18 March 2020); and WTO document G/LIC/N/2/ARG/28/Add.6, 14 April 2020. Viewed at: http://servicios.infoleg.gob.ar/infolegInternet/anejos/335000-339999/335690/norma.htm	Effective 19 March 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 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	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). Viewed at: https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/pri mera/227045/20200320?busqueda=1 ; https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/pri mera/232573/20200727?busqueda=1 ; and https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/pri mera/232758/20200730?busqueda=1	Effective 20 March 2020. Terminated on 30 July 2020
Argentina	On 21 March 2020, temporary suspension of the anti-dumping duties on imports of hypodermic syringes of plastic, disposable, sterile, with or without needles (NCM 9018.31.11; 9018.31.19) from China (investigation initiated on 15 September 2009 and definitive duty imposed on 15 March 2011)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (14 April 2020) and WTO document G/ADP/N/342/ARG, 21 August 2020	Effective 21 March 2020, and in force throughout the COVID-19 emergency period
Argentina	On 24 March 2020, temporary suspension of the anti-dumping duties on imports of parenteral solutions (NCM 3004.90.99) from Brazil and Mexico (investigation initiated on 29 June 2018 and definitive duty imposed on 2 December 2019)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (14 April 2020) and WTO document G/ADP/N/342/ARG, 21 August 2020	Effective 24 March 2020, and in force throughout the COVID-19 emergency period
Argentina	Temporary implementation of export licensing requirement on certain products (NCM Chapters 22; 30; 38; 40; 62; 63; 84; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On 27 July 2020, export licensing requirements eliminated for certain products (NCM 2827.49.21; 2905.12.10; 2905.12.20; 3923.30.00; 9018.12.90; 9018.12.10; 3004.20.29; 3004.49.90; 3004.60.00; 3004.90.59; 3004.90.69)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (14 April 2020) and Decreto Nomenclatura Común del Mercosur Nos. 317/2020 - (28 March 2020), 405/2020 and 617/2020 (24 July 2020), and Resolución No. 140/2020 Ministerio de Desarrollo Productivo (6 April 2020). Viewed at: https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/pri mera/232553/20200727?busqueda=1	Effective 28 March 2020, and in force throughout the COVID-19 emergency period
Argentina	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain products (NCM Chapters 22; 29; 38; 39; 40; 63; 65; 84; 90; 94), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from the statistical fee (<i>tasa de estadística</i>)	Decreto Nos. 333/2020 - Derechos de Importación Extrazona (1 April 2020), 455/2020 (10 May 2020), and 745/2020 Derechos de Importación Extrazona (13 September 2020)	Effective 3 April 2020, and in force throughout the COVID-19 emergency period
Argentina	Import of certain products temporary exempted from VAT (NCM Chapters 22; 29; 38; 39; 40; 63; 65; 84; 90; 94), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Decreto Nos. 333/2020 - Derechos de Importación Extrazona (1 April 2020) and 455/2020 (10 May 2020), and Resolución General No. 4696/2020 - Administración Federal de Ingresos Públicos (14 April 2020)	Effective 15 April 2020, for 60 days
Argentina	Temporary authorization to exceptionally accept documents of origin in electronic form for accreditation and to determine the origin of imported goods, and to access tariff preferences that are part of preferential agreements signed by Argentina (LAIA, Israel, Egypt and SACU). Presentation of original format to Customs not required, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO and Circular No. 2/2020 Administración Federal de Ingresos Públicos (6 April 2020)	Effective 8 April, and in force throughout the COVID-19 emergency period

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Argentina	Temporary suspension until 1 October 2020 of the requirement to submit the Sworn Declaration of Product Composition (<i>Declaración Jurada de Composición de Productos</i> "DJCP"), 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)	Effective 3 April 2020 to 2 June 2020. On 2 June 2020, elimination extended for 120 days (renewable if necessary). On 30 September 2020, extended and 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
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	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). Viewed at: http://servicios.infoleg.gob.ar/infolegInternet/anejos/340000-344999/340757/norma.htm	Effective 8 June 2020 to 7 August 2020. Extended until 30 September 2020. On 30 September 2020 extended until 31 October 2020
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)	Decreto No. 812/2020 (DCTO-2020-812-APN-PTE- Derecho de exportación) - Nomenclatura Común del Mercosur (19 October 2020)	Effective 21 October 2020, to 31 December 2020
Australia	Temporary restrictions on the non-commercial export of personal protective equipment and sanitizer products, essential to combatting the COVID-19 pandemic. The measure seeks to prevent individuals and criminal syndicates from hoarding, price-gouging and profiteering on non-commercial exports from Australia. Legitimate commercial and humanitarian exports are exempt, as are care packages to family overseas, although products cannot be sent through the mail. The measures apply only to a specific list of products: personal protective equipment that can be worn by individuals to limit transmission of organisms: disposable face masks, disposable gloves, disposable gowns, protective eye wear in the form of goggles, glasses or visors; and alcohol wipes and hand sanitizer (HS 3401.11; 3401.19; 3401.20; 3808.94; 3926.20; 4015.11; 4015.19; 6116.10; 6210.10; 6210.20; 6210.30; 6210.40; 6210.50; 6216.00; 6307.90; 6505.00; 9004.90; 9020.00)	WTO documents G/MA/QR/N/AUS/3/Add.1/Corr.1, 29 April 2020; G/MA/QR/N/AUS/4/Add.1, 18 June 2020; G/MA/QR/N/AUS/4/Add.2, 8 September 2020; and G/MA/QR/N/AUS/5, 5 October 2020	Effective from 30 March 2020 and during the human biosecurity emergency period; that is, while the Biosecurity (Human Biosecurity Emergency) (Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential) Declaration 2020 is in force (three months from 18 March 2020). The Declaration 2020 is now due to end on 17 December 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Australia	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 (HS 3002.15.10; 3401.11.00; 3401.19.00; 3401.20.00; 3808.94.00; 3821.00.10; 3822.00.19; 3822.00.20; 3822.00.39; 3822.00.40; 3926.20.21; 3926.20.29; 3926.90.90; 4015.11.00; 4015.19.90; 4015.90.21; 4015.90.29; 4818.50.00; 6210.10.10; 6210.10.90; 6210.50.10; 6210.50.90; 6307.90.10; 6307.90.29; 6307.90.40; 6307.90.99; 9004.90.00)	WTO document G/MA/W/152/Add.1, 31 July 2020	Effective 1 February 2020 to 31 July 2020. Measure extended until 31 December 2020
Azerbaijan	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain products, e.g. medical gloves, sterile shoe covers, mittens, sterile masks, respirators (effective 5 March 2020 to 1 June 2020); on raw materials for the production of medical masks (effective 5 March 2020 to 31 December 2022) (HS 3926.20.00; 4015.19.00; 6307.90.98; 5603.12.10; 5603.13.10), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from VAT	Permanent Delegation of Azerbaijan to the WTO (16 October 2020), Resolution Nos. 84, 114, 188 and 233 - Cabinet of Ministers	Effective until 1 September 2020
Azerbaijan	Temporary export ban on certain medical supplies and preparations (e.g. sterile gloves, splints, medical masks and goggles, disinfectants, special clothing and other necessary medical supplies and preparations) (HS 2207.10.00; 2207.20.00; 2208.90.10; 2208.90.90; 3808.94; 3822.00.00; 3926.20; 4015.19; 5603; 6307.90; 9004.90; 9019.20.00; 9025.19; 3005.90.10), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Azerbaijan to the WTO (16 October 2020), Resolution Nos. 42 and 152 - Cabinet of Ministers	Effective 14 February 2020 to 1 May 2020. Extended until 1 November 2020
Azerbaijan	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on nonwovens, whether or not impregnated, coated, covered or laminated; and other made up articles, including dress patterns (5603.11.90; 5603.12.90; 5603.13.90; 6307.90.98)	Permanent Delegation of Azerbaijan to the WTO (16 October 2020)	Effective 2 September 2020 to 31 December 2022
Bahrain, Kingdom of	Temporary export ban on face masks (effective 8 April 2020), certain PPE, hand sanitizers and disinfectants (effective 26 March 2020), due to the COVID-19 (HS 3401.11.50; 2208.90.11; 6307.90.97)	Permanent Delegation of Bahrain to the WTO (7 October 2020)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Bangladesh	Temporary export prohibition on surgical masks, face masks, and disinfectants (hand sanitizers) (effective 12 March 2020) (HS 6307.90.40; 6307.90.90; 3808.94.91), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/BGD/1, 16 April 2020	Effective 2 March 2020 to 2 April 2020
Bangladesh	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on protective garment, disinfectant, and COVID-19 test kits (HS 2905.12.90; 3002.15.00; 3822.00.00; 9027.80.00; 3808.94.91; 9018.90.90; 9020.00.00; 3926.20.20; 3926.20.90; 6210.10.00; 6210.40.00; 6210.50.00; 6211.33.00; 6211.39.00; 6211.43.00; 6211.49.00; 9004.90.00), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from VAT and other taxes	WTO document G/MA/W/156, 29 May 2020	Effective 22 March 2020 to 30 June 2020
Bangladesh	Temporary elimination of applied tariffs (CD), regulatory duty (RD), supplementary duty (SD), value added tax (VAT), advanced tax (AT) and advanced income tax (AIT) for the importation of certain products (HS 2905.12.90; 3002.15.00; 3808.94.91; 3822.00.00; 3926.20.90; 5602.90.00; 5603.11.90; 5603.12.90; 5603.13.90; 5603.14.00; 5603.92.90; 5603.93.00; 5603.94.00; 5903.10.90; 6307.90.00; 7312.90.00; 9004.90.00; 9020.00.00; 9027.80.00), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/W/159, 18 August 2020	Effective 1 July 2020 to 30 September 2020
Belarus	Temporary export restrictions on certain personal protective equipment (e.g. respirators, face masks, medical gloves, chemical protection suits, surgical boots and boot covers, breathing equipment) (HS Chapters 30; 39; 40; 56; 59; 62; 63; 84; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Belarus (15 April 2020) and Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 149 (17 March 2020)	Effective 16 March 2020 to 1 June 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Belarus	Temporary export restriction on certain basic food items (e.g. buckwheat, onions, garlic) (HS codes 1008.10.00; 1103.19.90; 1104.29.30; 1904.90.80; 0703.10.11; 0703.10.19; 0703.20.00), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Belarus (15 April 2020) and Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 185 (31 March 2020)	Effective 3 April 2020 to 3 July 2020
Bolivia, Plurinational State of	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on wheat and meslin (HS 1001), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Bolivia to the WTO (11 August 2020)	Effective 8 April 2020 to 8 April 2022
Bolivia, Plurinational State of	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain pharmaceutical products, protective equipment and medical supplies (HS Chapters 17; 22; 25; 28; 29; 30; 35; 38; 40; 48; 61; 62; 65; 73; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Decreto Supremo No. 4227 y Circular No. 102/2020 - Aduana Nacional (29 April 2020). Viewed at: https://www.aduana.gob.bo/aduana7/sites/default/files/kcfinder/files/circulares/circular1022020.pdf	Effective 29 April 2020
Brazil	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	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, 90/2020 (16 September 2020) and 103/2020 (20 October 2020)	Effective 18 March 2020 to 30 September 2020. Extended until 30 October 2020. Extended on 1 November 2020
Brazil	Implementation of special export licensing scheme for goods to fight the COVID-19 pandemic (NCM Chapters 22; 29; 38; 39; 40; 56; 62; 63; 73; 90)	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/BRA/2/Add.1, 3 June 2020	Effective 18 March 2020
Brazil	Temporary elimination of import licensing requirements on certain products (e.g. vacuum plastic tubes for blood collection and syringes) (NCM 3822.00.90; 3926.90.40; 9018.39.99; 9018.31.11; 9018.31.19), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (1 May 2020) and WTO document G/TFA/W/24, 29 September 2020	Effective 23 March 2020
Brazil	On 26 March 2020 temporary suspension of the anti-dumping duties on vacuum plastic tubes for blood collection imported from Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States; and on and syringes imported from China (NCM 3822.00.90; 3926.90.40; 9018.39.99; 9018.31.11; 9018.31.19), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (26 October 2020) and Resolução No. 23/2020, Ministério da Economia/Secretaria-Executiva da Câmara de Comércio Exterior (25 March 2020)	Effective 26 March 2020 to 30 September 2020
Brazil	Temporary implementation of prior export authorization on chloroquine, hydroxychloroquine, azithromycin, fentanyl, midazolam, ethosuximide, propofol, alcuronium, vecuronium, rocuronium, succinylcholine, ivermectin, and nitazoxanide (NCM 2941; 3003; 3004; 3005; 3006; 2907; 2923; 2932; 2933; 2934; 3001), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/BRA/2/Add.1, 3 June 2020; Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (1 May 2020) and Resolution Ministério da Saúde/Agência Nacional de Vigilância Sanitária Nos. 352, 370 and 371	Effective March 2020
Brazil	Temporary elimination of import licensing requirements on certain products (<i>dispensa de licenciamento de anuência da Subsecretaria de Operações de Comércio Exterior "SUEXT"</i>) used in the treatment of COVID-19 (NCM 3921.13.90; 5503.20.10; 6210.10.00; 9018.90.10)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (1 May 2020); Notícia Siscomex Nos. 23/2020 and 12/2020; and Gecex/Camex Resolution Nos. 17/2020 and 31/2020	Effective 20 March 2020
Brazil	Temporary elimination of the IPI (<i>Imposto sobre Produtos Industrializados</i>) internal industrial tax on certain products (NCM 2207.20.19; 3808.94.11; 3808.94.19; 3808.94.29; 3926.20.00; 3926.90.40; 3926.90.90; 3926.90.90; 4015.19.00; 7326.20.00; 9004.90.20; 9004.90.90; 9018.19.80; 9018.39.23; 9018.39.99; 9019.20; 9020.00.90; 9025.11.10), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (1 May 2020) and Decree Nos. 10.285 (20 March 2020) and 10.302 (1 April 2020)	Effective March 2020 to 30 September 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Brazil	Temporary export prohibition of individual protection equipment, mechanical ventilators and monitors (NCM 3926; 6116; 6216; 6307; 9018; 9004; 8473), due to the COVID-19 pandemic (the prohibition is subject to exceptions provided that the needs of the Brazilian population are met)	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/BRA/2/Add.1, 3 June 2020	Effective 24 April 2020
Brazil	Temporary exemption from the requirement of inexistence of national production for the import of used pulmonary ventilators, vital signs monitors, infusion pumps, oximeters and capnographs and stretchers for the transport of patients, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/TFA/W/24, 29 September 2020; and Secex Portaria No. 25/2020 (8 May 2020)	Effective 11 May 2020
Brazil	Temporary simplification of requirements on the manufacture, import and purchase of certain products identified as essential for use in healthcare services on the fight against the COVID-19	WTO document G/TFA/W/24, 29 September 2020	Effective 23 March 2020 to 18 September 2020
Cambodia	Temporary export ban on COVID-19 test kits (HS 3822.00.30; 3822.00.90; 9027.80.10; 9027.80.30; 9027.80.40), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Cambodia to the WTO (14 September 2020)	Effective 30 March 2020
Cambodia	Temporary export ban on rice, paddy rice and fish, due to the COVID-19 pandemic (originally implemented on 5 April 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Cambodia to the WTO (23 October 2020)	Terminated on 20 May 2020
Canada	Canada is waiving tariffs and sales taxes on all goods imported by or on behalf of public health agencies, hospitals and testing sites, and first response organizations (e.g. police, fire and local civil defence groups, including medical response teams). As of 6 April 2020, Canada is also waiving tariffs and sales taxes on goods imported by or on behalf of public or private care residences, such as seniors' residences, retirement homes, nursing homes and shelters	WTO document G/MA/W/145, 1 April 2020; Permanent Delegation of Canada to the WTO (24 September 2020). CBSA Customs Notice 20-08: Imported Goods for Emergency Use in Response to COVID-19. Viewed at: https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/publications/cn-ad/cn20-08-eng.html	Announced 16 March 2020 until further notice
Canada	Goods imported into Canada are generally subject to the Goods and Services Tax (GST), at a rate of 5%, as well as applicable customs duties, which vary by product and country of origin. Typically, payments owing for customs duties and the GST on imports are due on a monthly basis. In order to provide cash flow and liquidity support for importers, Canada announced on 27 March 2020 that it will defer payment deadlines for March, April, and May to 30 June 2020	WTO documents G/MA/W/145, 1 April 2020 and G/TFA/W/24, 29 September 2020; Permanent Delegation of Canada to the WTO (24 September 2020) and Canada Border Service Agency, Customs Notice 20-11 (27 March 2020). Viewed at: https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/publications/cn-ad/cn20-11-eng.html	Announced 27 March 2020 until 30 June 2020
Canada	Temporary waiving otherwise applicable customs duties on imports of specified medical supplies, including personal protective equipment (PPE), in order to support efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19. Relief is available to all importers of specified goods including businesses, distributors, and individual Canadians. Key categories of products covered by the measure include diagnostic test kits, face and eye protection, gloves, protective garments, disinfectants/sterilization products, medical devices, thermometers, wipes, and medical consumables, and other goods (e.g. soap). The scope of relief is based on the indicative list of medical supplies and PPE identified jointly by the WHO and the WCO as critical for combatting COVID-19, as well as related classification guidance by the Canada Border Services Agency	WTO documents G/MA/W/153, 14 May 2020 and G/TFA/W/24, 29 September 2020. Customs Notice viewed at: https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/publications/cn-ad/cn20-19-eng.html	Effective 5 May 2020 until further notice
Chad	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain products (HS Chapters 10; 11; 15; 19; 22; 25; 28; 30; 34; 38; 39; 40; 48; 61; 62; 63; 73; 84; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Arrêté No. 76/PR/MFB/DGSDDI/2020 - Ministère des Finances et du Budget (24 April 2020). Viewed at: https://macmap.org/OfflineDocument/Covid19/COVID_TCD_1.pdf	Effective 24 April 2020 to 31 December 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Chile	Temporary deferral of VAT payment on imports for smes, under certain conditions, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Chile to the WTO (20 October 2020), Resolución Nos. 1559 and 2308 - Servicio Nacional de Aduanas. Viewed at: http://www.aduana.cl/aduana/site/docs/20200420/20200420125554/res_1559_2020.pdf ; and http://www.aduana.cl/aduana/site/docs/20200420/20200420125554/res_1559_2020.pdf	Effective 17 April 2020
China	MOFCOM notice actively guiding and encouraging enterprises to apply for import and export licenses in a paperless way; further simplifying the materials required for the paperless application for import and export licenses; optimizing the application and updating processes of electronic keys, and encouraging enterprises to apply for and update electronic keys online	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (26 October 2020). Viewed at: http://www.mofcom.gov.cn/article/ae/ai/202002/20200202934222.shtml	Effective 6 February 2020
China	Circular of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs implementing nine facilitation measures regarding three categories of agricultural administrative approval (license renewal, simplification of approval procedure, and optimization of approval process)	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (26 October 2020). Viewed at: http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/zhengceku/2020-02/13/content_5478044.htm	Effective 12 February 2020
China	Trade facilitation measures through the holding of the 127 th Canton International Fair online, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (26 October 2020). Viewed at: http://www.mofcom.gov.cn/article/ae/ai/202004/20200402956113.shtml	Effective 15 June 2020 to 24 June 2020
Colombia	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain personal protective equipment, raw materials and capital goods not locally produced, due to the COVID-19 pandemic (HS Chapters 21; 25; 28; 30; 32; 34; 35; 38; 39; 40; 42; 48; 56; 58; 62; 63; 70; 73; 74; 76; 82; 83; 84; 85; 87; 90; 94; 96)	WTO document G/MA/W/146/Corr.1, 8 April 2020; and Decreto - Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo Nos. 410/2020 (16 March 2020), 463/2020 (22 March 2020) and 1085/2020 (3 August 2020)	Effective 22 March 2020, for 6 months. On 3 August 2020, temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain face masks (HS 6307.90.30) terminated (applied tariff 15%)
Colombia	Temporary export ban on certain personal protective equipment (HS Chapters 22; 30; 34; 38; 39; 40; 48; 63; 90; 94), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/COL/1, 2 April 2020; and Decreto No. 462/2020 - Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo (22 March 2020)	Effective 22 March 2020, for 6 months
Colombia	Temporary elimination of imports tariffs on maize; grain sorghum; soya beans; and oil-cake and other solid residues, whether or not ground or in the form of pellets, resulting from the extraction of soyabean oil (<i>sorgo y torta de soya</i>) (HS 1005.90.11; 1007.90.00; 1201.90.00; 2304.00.00), under certain import quotas, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Decreto No. 523/2020 - Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo (7 April 2020). Viewed at: https://dapre.presidencia.gov.co/normativa/normativa/DECRETO%20523%20DEL%207%20DE%20ABRIL%20DE%202020.pdf	Effective 7 April 2020 to 30 June 2020
Colombia	In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Colombian Government has adopted economic, social and ecological emergency measures to prevent and address a situation of serious public concern, which include placing the entire population under lockdown. This situation has led to a significant decrease in domestic demand for fuels and the fuel alcohol (ethanol) (HS 2207.20.00) required for their oxygenation. Due to the resulting increase in ethanol reserves, the limited storage capacity for ethanol, and the effects of this situation on overall sugar production, limits have been placed on imports of fuel alcohol, subject to certain conditions and exemptions, for a two-month period, which may be extended by one month, as provided for in Decree No 527 of 7 April 2020	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/COL/1/Add.1, 9 June 2020; and Permanent Delegation of Colombia to the WTO (1 October 2020)	Effective 7 April 2020. On 8 June 2020, measure extended until 8 August 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Colombia	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain accumulators (<i>separadores acumuladores eléctricos</i>) (HS 8507.90.20), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Colombia to the WTO (21 October 2020) and Decreto No. 1086/2020 - Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo (3 August 2020). Viewed at: https://www.mincit.gov.co/getattachment/535102c5-0c2f-449a-b1bf-7f54cdab6e98/Decreto-1086-del-03-de-agosto-de-2020-por-el-cual.aspx	Effective 3 August 2020, for 6 months
Costa Rica	Temporary export control requirements for statistical purposes on certain personal protective equipment (e.g. face masks, disinfectant) and medical equipment (HS 6505.00; 9004.90; 6402.99; 9020.00; 6307.90; 6211.49; 4015.11; 4015.19; 9018.90; 3822.00; 3005.10; 3005.90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/W/155, 29 May 2020	Effective 18 March 2020
Costa Rica	Moratorium on import tariffs during April - June 2020, for all products included in HS Chapters 25 to 97, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The fees subject to this moratorium must be cancelled before 31 December 2020	WTO document G/MA/W/155, 29 May 2020	Effective 19 March 2020
Costa Rica	Temporary export licensing requirements on certain personal protective equipment (e.g. face masks, gloves) (HS 9004.90.10; 6307.90.20; 4015.19.00; 6210.10.90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/CRI/3/Add.1, 17 April 2020; Permanent Delegation of Costa Rica to the WTO (14 April 2020); and Decreto Ejecutivo No. 42291-MEIC-S-COMEX (8 April 2020). Viewed at: https://www.imprentanacional.go.cr/pub/2020/04/10/ALCA82_10_04_2020.pdf	Effective 10 April 2020
Costa Rica	Implementation of stringent maximum periods of stay in Costa Rica for road carriers, due to the COVID-19 pandemic (Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua: 10 days; El Salvador and the Dominican Republic: 72 hours (reciprocity); Panama: 4 days (reciprocity); other Nationalities: 10 days). Truck drivers required to have successfully passed COVID-19 test in order to operate in Costa Rica territory	Permanent Delegation of Costa Rica to the WTO (26 May 2020). Viewed at: https://www.imprentanacional.go.cr/pub/2020/05/09/ALCA109_09_05_2020.pdf	Effective 7 May 2020
Costa Rica	Addendum to notification G/MA/QR/N/CRI/3/Add.1. The notified measure has modified the previous measure by defining the amounts exempt from export licensing and by adding new products that are subject to such licensing. It should also be noted that as long as no shortage alert is issued by the authorities, no export is subject to licensing. However, where an alert is issued, licences are required for exports exceeding the established threshold (thresholds: spectacles (up to 50 units); face masks (up to 500 units); gloves (up to 100 pairs); certain reusable PPE " <i>batas</i> " (up to 100 units); certain alcohol " <i>alcohol fricción</i> " (up to 1,000 L); disinfectant " <i>alcohol multiuso</i> " (up to 1,000 L); certain alcohol " <i>solución antiséptica para higiene</i> " (up to 600 L); disinfectant " <i>alcohol en gel</i> " (up to 600 L); and undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of 80% vol. or higher (up to 1,000 L)). Exports up to the maximum amount indicated are allowed twice per month	WTO documents G/MA/QR/N/CRI/3/Add.2, 6 July 2020 and G/MA/QR/N/CRI/4, 6 October 2020	Effective 22 June 2020, and in force throughout the COVID-19 emergency period
Costa Rica	Due to COVID-19 pandemic, Costa Rica temporally limited the entrance of foreign citizens, but continued to allow the influx of road carriers, updating the maximum periods of stay authorized for this sector, following sanitary recommendations by the Ministry of Health. Currently, for border-to-border transit, truck drivers can stay in the country for a maximum of 72 hours, and, to perform the operations of load and/or unload of merchandise truck drivers can stay in the country for a maximum of 10 days. If truck drivers present symptoms related to COVID-19 they will not be allowed no enter the country. These periods of stay will be effective until 6 November, when they will be revised again	Permanent Delegation of Costa Rica to the WTO (26 October 2020). Viewed at: https://www.imprentanacional.go.cr/pub/2020/10/14/ALCA271_14_10_2020.pdf	Effective 14 October 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Côte d'Ivoire	Temporary export ban on disinfectant alcohol based gel, due to the COVID-19 pandemic (originally implemented on 25 March 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Côte d'Ivoire to the WTO (27 October 2020)	Terminated on 24 June 2020
Côte d'Ivoire	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on pharmaceutical products and medical equipment, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from VAT and other import duties	Permanent Delegation of Côte d'Ivoire to the WTO (27 October 2020)	Effective 4 May 2020
Dominican Republic	Temporary exemption of VAT on imports of ethyl alcohol (HS 2207.20), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/W/149, 15 April 2020; and Permanent Delegation of the Dominican Republic to the WTO (14 April 2020)	Effective 19 March 2020
Dominican Republic	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain personal protective equipment (e.g. gloves, face masks) (HS 6210.10.00; 4015.11.00; 4015.19.11; 6307.90.30; 9019.20.00), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/W/149, 15 April 2020; and Permanent Delegation of the Dominican Republic to the WTO (14 April 2020) and Aviso Aduanas (2 April 2020). Viewed at: https://www.aduanas.gob.do/media/14050/aviso-eliminacion-temporal-impuestos-articulos-medicos.pdf	Effective 2 April 2020
Dominican Republic	Temporary elimination of imports tariffs on certain medical equipment, thermometers and hydrogen peroxide (HS 8419.20.00; 2847.00.00; 9022.12.00; 9018.90.19; 9025.11.10), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from VAT (ITBIS) and other duties and charges	WTO document G/MA/W/149/Add.1, 12 May 2020; and Permanent Delegation of the Dominican Republic to the WTO (1 May 2020)	Effective 16 April 2020
Ecuador	Temporary export ban on certain personal protective equipment and pharmaceutical ingredients (HS Chapters 28; 30; 34; 38; 39; 40; 42; 56; 62; 63; 65; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic (originally implemented on 2 March 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Ecuador to the WTO (26 October 2020) and Acuerdo del Ministerio de Salud Pública No. 00126 (11 March 2020)	Terminated on 25 June 2020 (except for face masks (HS 6307.90.30))
Ecuador	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain personal protective equipment and pharmaceutical ingredients (HS Chapters 28; 30; 39; 40; 62; 65; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic (originally implemented on 22 March 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Ecuador to the WTO (9 April 2020) and Resolución 004-2020 - Comité de Comercio Exterior (22 March 2020) and Acuerdo del Ministerio de Salud Pública No. 00026 (2 July 2020). Viewed at: https://www.produccion.gob.ec/dispositivos-medicos-con-arancel-cero-para-enfrentar-emergencia-sanitaria/	Terminated on 3 July 2020
Egypt	Temporary export ban on certain personal protective equipment and medical supplies (e.g. all types of alcohol and its derivatives except for methyl alcohol; protective spectacles and goggles; plastic face shields (covering more than the eye area); gloves, facemasks, protective garments and suits, hair nets, footwear; disinfectants; sterilization products; chlorine (for disinfection) except for liquid chlorine with a concentration of 99% (gas stored in tubes under a pressure of 10 Pa) ;soap except for soap bars; thermometers; wooden tongue depressors; medical waste plastic bags (red); and corpse bags) (HS Chapters 22; 28; 30; 34; 38; 39; 40; 44; 48; 61; 62; 63; 64; 65; 84; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As from 17 June 2020, exports of supply in excess of national demand authorized, upon approval by the Ministry of Trade and Industry	WTO documents G/MA/QR/N/EGY/1/Rev.1, 28 April 2020; and G/MA/QR/N/EGY/1/Rev.1/Add.1, 24 June 2020	Effective 17 March 2020, for 3 months. On 17 June 2020, export ban extended for 3 months. On 18 June 2020, export ban on all types of alcohol and its derivatives (except methyl alcohol) and face masks extended for 3 months
Egypt	Temporary export ban on leguminous vegetables and products thereof, with the exception of: peanuts; fresh or chilled peas; fresh or chilled beans; frozen leguminous vegetables; white beans; and canned chickpeas (HS 0708; 0713; 1106; 2004; 2005), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO documents G/MA/QR/N/EGY/1/Rev.1, 28 April 2020; and G/MA/QR/N/EGY/1/Rev.1/Add.1, 24 June 2020	Effective 28 March, for 3 months. On 15 June 2020, export ban extended for 3 months on beans and lentils

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
El Salvador	Temporary elimination of the Central American Common Tariff on imports of certain food products, pharmaceutical products and personal protective equipment (HS Chapters 04; 07; 10; 11; 19; 20; 21; 28; 30; 34; 38; 40; 96), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Certain products also exempted from VAT	Permanent Delegation of El Salvador to the WTO (13 October 2020) and Decretos 604 (20 March 2020), 616 (2 April 2020); and Dirección General de Aduanas - Boletín Informativo No. DGA-009-2020. Viewed at: https://www.diariooficial.gob.sv/diarios/do-2020/03-marzo/20-03-2020.pdf	Effective 20 March 2020
El Salvador	Temporary export ban on certain dried leguminous vegetables (<i>frijol rojo en grano</i>) (HS 0713.33.40), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of El Salvador to the WTO (13 October 2020) and Acuerdo Ejecutivo 512, Ministerio de Economía, Agricultura y Ganadería, and Dirección General de Aduanas - Boletín Informativo No. DGA-009-2020	Effective 26 March 2020 to 31 December 2020
European Union	Exports of personal protective equipment (HS 39; 40; 61; 62; 63; 90) subject to the temporary production of an export authorization, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As from 19 March 2020, exports to EFTA members, the Faroe Islands, Andorra, San Marino and the Vatican City, as well as the overseas countries and territories listed in Annex II of the Treaty exempted	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/EU/4/Add.1, 8 April 2020; and Commission Implementing Regulation 2020/402 (14 March 2020), as amended by Regulations 2020/426 (19 March 2020)	Effective 15 March 2020, for a period of 6 weeks. No longer in force, repealed by Regulation 2020/568 (23 April 2020)
European Union	Exports of personal protective equipment subject to an export authorization. EFTA members, Western Balkans, the Faroe Islands, Andorra, San Marino and the Vatican City, as well as the overseas countries and territories listed in Annex II of the Treaty are exempted from the scope of the measures. The new regulation is more targeted, coverings three product categories, instead of the five in the original export authorization scheme mentioned above (only protective masks, spectacles and garment exports will require an export authorization) (HS 9004.90.10; 9004.90.90; 6307.90.98; 9020.00.00; 3926.20.00; 4015.90.00; 6113.00; 6114; 6210.10.10; 6210.10.92; 6210.10.98; 6210.20.00; 6210.30.00; 6210.40.00; 6210.50.00; 6211.32.10; 6211.32.90; 6211.33.10; 6211.33.90; 6211.39.00; 6211.42.10; 6211.42.90; 6211.43.10; 6211.43.90; 6211.49.00). The new scheme now explicitly requires member States to authorize exports of emergency supplies in the context of humanitarian aid and to process the relevant applications in an expedite manner. It asks the member States to positively assess exports to state agencies in charge of distributing personal protective equipment or involved in combating the COVID-19 outbreak	WTO documents G/MA/QR/N/EU/4/Add.2, 7 May 2020; and G/MA/QR/N/EU/4/Add.3, 16 June 2020; and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/568 (23 April 2020). Viewed at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020R0568&from=EN and https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2147	Effective 26 April 2020, for 30 days. Terminated on 25 May 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. The goods are intended for one of the following uses: (i) distribution free of charge by bodies and organizations to persons affected by or at risk from COVID-19 or involved in combating the COVID-19 outbreak; (ii) being made available free of charge to the persons affected by or at risk from COVID-19 or involved in combating the COVID-19 outbreak while remaining the property of the bodies and organizations; and (iii) the goods are imported for release for free circulation by or on behalf of state organizations, including state bodies, public bodies and other bodies governed by public law or by or on behalf of organizations approved by the competent authorities in the member States	WTO document G/TFA/W/24, 29 September 2020; and European Commission Decisions 2020/491 (3 April 2020) and 2020/1101 (23 July 2020)	Effective 30 January 2020 to 31 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
European Union	Implementation of Green Lanes under the Guidelines for border management measures to protect health and ensure the availability of goods and essential services. In order to preserve the EU-wide operation of supply chains and ensure the functioning of the Single Market for goods, wherever internal border controls exist or have been introduced, member States are requested to designate immediately all the relevant internal border-crossing points of the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) and additional ones, as "green lane" border crossings, for land (road and rail), sea and air transport	WTO document G/TFA/W/24, 29 September 2020; and European Commission Notice 2020/C 96 I/01 (24 March 2020)	
European Union	Guidance from the EU Commission on using the public procurement framework in the emergency situation related to the COVID-19 crisis. The document recalls the options and flexibilities provided by the existing EU public procurement framework in emergency situations such as that caused by the COVID-19 outbreak. It provides an overview of the choice of tendering procedures available to public buyers and applicable deadlines	European Commission Communication 2020/C 108 I/01 (1 April 2020)	
European Union	Guidelines for border management measures to protect health and ensure the availability of goods and essential services. These guidelines set out principles for an integrated approach to an effective border management to protect health while preserving the integrity of the EU Single Market	C(2020) 1753 final (16 March)	
European Union	Communication from the Commission - European Commission Guidelines: Facilitating Air Cargo Operations during COVID-19 outbreak. The Guidelines aim to ensure essential transport flows. Member States are requested to facilitate air cargo operations during the COVID-19 outbreak	European Commission Guidelines: Facilitating Air Cargo Operations during COVID-19 outbreak (C(2020) 2010 final (26 March 2020)). Viewed at: https://ec.europa.eu/transport/sites/transport/files/legislation/c20202010_en.pdf	
European Union	Guidance on customs issues related to the COVID-19 emergency. As a result of the crisis created by the COVID-19 pandemic, questions have emerged concerning the application of customs provisions relating to the customs decision-making process, customs procedures and customs formalities. The objective of this page is to offer guidance to the concerned stakeholders on practical solutions given by the current EU legal framework	European Commission. Viewed at: https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/covid-19-taxud-response/guidance-customs-issues-related-covid-19-emergency_en	
European Union	Guidelines on the optimal and rational supply of medicines to avoid shortages during the COVID-19 outbreak. These guidelines aim to protect public health and preserve the integrity of the Single Market, while ensuring that Europe has the supply of affordable medicines it needs during the COVID-19 outbreak. The guidelines outlined that: (i) "lifting export bans and restrictions": member States are expected to protect public health in a spirit of European solidarity. In order to achieve this objective, it is critically important that member States lift export bans on medicines within the internal market. While it is understandable that countries wish to ensure the availability of essential medicines nationally, export bans are detrimental to the availability of medicines for European patients even when they are legally justifiable. Measures leading to the requisitioning of medicines, intermediates or APIs, or their production, should not be considered as an option. These measures, especially as far as they are applied to active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) or intermediates, endanger supply since they lead to a slowdown in industry output; and (ii) "avoiding national stockpiling": the COVID-19 pandemic affects all member States. They must ensure that essential medicines are available in the hospitals and pharmacies that need them most, regardless of their location. Preventive stockpiling by member States puts supply at risk for all countries. <i>A fortiori</i> , more localized stockpiling can be even more harmful - member States should therefore ensure that stockpiling by wholesalers and pharmacies (including by hospital pharmacies) is prevented	European Commission Communication 2020/C 116 I/01 (8 April 2020)	

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Belgium	Restriction on the sale of medical products and personal protective equipment	Public information transmitted by the EU Delegation. Ministerial Decree "Arrêté ministériel portant des mesures particulières dans le cadre la pandémie de SRAS-CoV-2 basées sur le livre XVIII du Code de droit économique". Viewed at: http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/cgi_loi/change_lg.pl?language=fr&la=F&cn=2020050201&table_name=loi	Effective 23 March 2020. Modified on 27 March, 7 April and 2 May. Expired on 23 June 2020
Bulgaria	Temporary export ban on certain quinine-based drugs, due to the COVID-19 pandemic (effective 20 March 2020)	Public information transmitted by the EU Delegation. Viewed at: http://www.mh.government.bg/bg/novini/aktualno/zabranyava-se-iznost-na-lekarstva-na-hininova-osno/	On 14 May 2020 measure terminated
Cyprus	Temporary export prohibition of medicinal products, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Exports of all pharmaceutical products for human use are prohibited, unless the Minister of Health authorizes such exports in writing	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/EU/4/Add.3, 16 June 2020	
Czech Republic	Prohibition of export of hand sanitizers of Main group 1, Product type 1 listed in Annex V of EU Regulation No. 528/2012 (with exemption of small amounts for personal use) by all entities except manufacturers of these products from the territory of the Czech Republic (effective 5 March 2020)	Public information transmitted by the EU Delegation and Ministry of Health Extraordinary Measure Nos. MZDR 5503/2020-9/PRO and MZDR 16771/2020-2/MIN/KAN	Measure repealed on 20 April 2020
Czech Republic	Prohibition of export of selected COVID-19 related medicines (976 items) from the territory of the Czech Republic. Applies only to re-exports of medicines destined for the Czech market. Medicines manufactured directly to foreign order may be exported (effective 2 April 2020)	Public information transmitted by the EU Delegation and Government Regulation No. 146/2020 amending Government Regulation No. 104/2020. Viewed at: http://www.sbirka.cz/POSL4TYD/NOVE/20-104.htm	Measure expired on 18 May 2020
Denmark	Order on: (i) measures concerning the supply of personal protective equipment; (ii) medicinal product emergency response; and (iii) measures on supply of disinfectants, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Public information transmitted by the EU Delegation and Order BEK Nos. 252, 253 (22 March 2020) and 277 (25 March 2020)	Effective until 31 August 2020
Estonia	Temporary export restriction of medicinal products, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/EU/4/Add.3, 16 June 2020	Last amendment as of 26 March 2020
France	Temporary export prohibition of medicinal products (certain medicinal products containing hydroxychloroquine or the combination lopinavir/ritonavir); and requisition measure on face masks, due to the COVID-19 pandemic (effective 23 March 2020)	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/EU/4/Add.3, 16 June 2020; and Public information transmitted by the EU Delegation, Décret No. 2020-293 (Articles 12 and 12-2) (23 March 2020). Viewed at: https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000041746694&categorieLien=cid	On 11 May 2020 measure repealed
Germany	Declaration of supply shortage for pneumococcal vaccines, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The declaration facilitates reallocation and import of vaccines	Public information transmitted by the EU Delegation	Effective 17 March 2020
Greece	Temporary export prohibition of medicinal products (vaccines and medicines that are or might be in shortage due to the COVID-19 pandemic)	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/EU/4/Add.3, 16 June 2020	Effective 13 April 2020
Hungary	Temporary export ban on certain drugs, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Public information transmitted by the EU Delegation. Decision OGYÉI No. 22268-2/2020	On 14 May 2020 measure terminated
Italy	Strengthening measures of the National Health Service and economic support for families, workers and businesses	Public information transmitted by the EU. Decreto-Legge No. 18 (17 March 2020). Viewed at: https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/03/17/20G00034/sge	Measure repealed

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Italy	Further urgent civil protection interventions related to the emergency health risk related to the occurrence of COVID-19 pandemic	Public information transmitted by the EU. Decree Nos. 639 (16 June 2020), 641 (28 February 2020) and 667 (22 April 2020). Viewed at: https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/atto/serie_general_e/caricaDettaglioAtto/originario?atto.dataPubblicazioneGazzetta=2020-02-28&atto.codiceRedazionale=20A01349&elenco30giorni=false	Measure repealed on 22 April 2020
Latvia	Temporary export ban on medical products, due to the COVID-19 pandemic (originally effective until 9 June 2020)	Public information transmitted by the EU. Order No. 68 Ministry of Health (2 April 2020)	Measure repealed in May 2020
Netherlands	Temporary export ban of personal protective equipment to third countries, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Public information transmitted by the EU Delegation	Effective 23 March 2020
Poland	Announcement of the Minister of Health, regarding the list of medicinal products, foodstuffs for particular nutritional uses and medical devices threatened by lack of availability on the territory of Poland	Public information transmitted by the EU Delegation. Viewed at: http://dziennikmz.mz.gov.pl/compatible/KeywordsSearch/55	Effective 17 April 2020. List updated on 7 September 2020
Romania	Temporary export ban on certain food products, e.g. grain and meslin; barley; oat; corn; rice; wheat flour and meslin; soy beans; sunflower seeds; cane or bean sugar; bakery, pastry and biscuit products, unposted bread, empty capsules from starch leaf used for medicines, waffles with lid, dried pasta from flour, from starch, starch extracted from potatoes and similar products; and cakes and other solid residues, whether or not ground or agglomerated in pellet form, resulting from the extraction of soybean oil (HS 1001; 1003; 1004; 1005; 1006; 1101; 1201; 1206; 1512; 1701; 1905; 2304; 2306), due to the COVID-19 pandemic (originally effective from 1 April 2020 to 16 April 2020)	Military Ordinance No. 8 on measures for preventing the spread of COVID-19 (9 April 2020). Viewed at: https://www.mai.gov.ro/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Military-Ordinance-no-8.pdf	On 16 April 2020 measure terminated
Romania	Export ban on certain medical supplies and equipment partially lifted (exports allowed only to other EU Members and with previous authorization from the National Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices). Export ban remains in force for drugs used in the treatment of COVID-19	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/EU/4/Add.3, 16 June 2020; Public information transmitted by the EU Delegation. Ministry of Health Order No. 672/2020 amending Order No. 428/2020	Effective 23 April 2020, for 6 months
Slovak Republic	Temporary restriction of parallel exports of medicinal products (registered medicinal products for human use and in vitro diagnostic medical devices intended for the market of the Slovak Republic), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/EU/4/Add.3, 16 June 2020	Effective 16 March 2020
Spain	Extension of timeframes for payment of certain customs debts and related taxes (during the period 2 March 2020 to 30 May 2020), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Public information transmitted by the EU Delegation. Royal Decree-Law No. 11/2020	Effective 2 March 2020. Measure no longer in force since 30 May 2020
Spain	Royal decree No. 463/2020 allowing requisition of all goods necessary for protecting human health, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Public information transmitted by the EU Delegation. Royal decree No. 463/2020	Effective 14 March 2020. Measure no longer in force since 21 June 2020
Fiji	Temporary elimination of import excise duty (from 15%) on ethanol for the production of hand sanitizers. Temporary elimination of import fiscal duties on certain products, e.g. hand sanitizers and antibacterial hand wash; gloves, masks; disposable hair nets; disinfectant wipes; tissue papers; face shields (medical use); medical goggles and spectacles; protective garments; long-sleeved medical gowns; ethanol for companies involved in hand sanitizer production; disinfectants/sterilization products; hospital beds; hydrogen peroxide; paper bed sheets; thermometers; air purifiers; and boots (specifically used in the medical environment), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Ministry of Economy: Economic and Fiscal Update Supplement to the COVID-19 Response Budget Address (26 March 2020). Viewed at: https://macmap.org/OfflineDocument/Covid19/COVID_FJI_1.pdf	Effective March 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Fiji	Temporary elimination of VAT on imports of certain products, e.g. vaccines and pharmaceutical products (HS Chapter 30); medical equipment (HS Chapter 90); scanners and cameras used in medical examinations; hand sanitizers and antibacterial hand wash; gloves, masks; disposable hair nets; disinfectant wipes; tissue papers; face shields (medical use); medical goggles and spectacles; protective garments of rubberized materials; long-sleeved medical gowns; ethanol for companies involved in hand sanitizer production; disinfectants/sterilization products; hospital beds; hydrogen peroxide; paper bed-sheets; thermometers; air purifiers; and boots (specifically used in the medical environment), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Ministry of Economy: Economic and Fiscal Update Supplement to the COVID-19 Response Budget Address (26 March 2020). Viewed at: https://macmap.org/OfflineDocument/Covid19/COVID_FJI_1.pdf	Effective March 2020
Fiji	Temporary increase of the import fiscal duties (by FJD 0.2/L on fuel (diesel and petrol)), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Ministry of Economy: Economic and Fiscal Update Supplement to the COVID-19 Response Budget Address (26 March 2020). Viewed at: https://macmap.org/OfflineDocument/Covid19/COVID_FJI_1.pdf	Effective March 2020
The Gambia	Termination of the temporary prohibition on exports and re-exports on essential commodities and petroleum products, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of The Gambia to the WTO (28 October 2020)	Terminated on 16 July 2020
Georgia	Temporary export ban on diagnostic or laboratory reagents on a backing, prepared diagnostic or laboratory reagents whether or not on a backing, other than those of heading HS 3002 or 3006; certified reference materials; other articles of plastics and articles of other materials of headings HS 3901 to 3914; articles of apparel and clothing accessories (including gloves, mittens and mitts); for all purposes, of vulcanized rubber other than hard rubber; gloves, mittens and mitts; garments, made up of fabrics of headings HS 5602, 5603, 5903, 5906 or 5907; facemasks, masks; medical hats; thermometers; mechano-therapy appliances; and disinfectants (HS 3808.94; 3926.20.00; 3822.00.00; 4015.11.00; 4015.19.90; 6210.10.90; 6307.90.99; 6506.99.90; 9025.19.20; 9019.20.00; 3808.94), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO documents G/MA/QR/N/GEO/2/Add.1, 15 April 2020; and G/MA/QR/N/GEO/2/Add.2, 28 July 2020	Effective 3 April 2020 to 10 May 2020. Extended for certain products (HS 3822.00.00; 9025.19.00; 9019.20.00; 3808.94)
Georgia	Elimination of the temporary export ban on certain pharmaceutical products and medical devices (HS 3926.20.00; 4015.11.00; 4015.19.90; 6210.10.90; 6307.90.99; 6506.99.90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic (originally effective 3 April 2020 to 10 May 2020)	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/GEO/2/Add.2, 28 July 2020	Effective 9 July 2020
Guyana	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain PPE, medical equipment, disinfectant (HS Chapters 21; 22; 28; 30; 34; 38; 39; 40; 48; 61; 62; 63; 65; 84; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from VAT and excise taxes	Permanent Delegation of Guyana to the WTO (16 October 2020)	Effective 26 March 2020
Honduras	Temporary export ban on certain dried leguminous vegetables (<i>frijol rojo en grano</i>) (HS 0713.33.40), due to the COVID-19 pandemic (to guarantee local food supplies) (originally implemented on 30 March 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Honduras to the WTO (24 April 2020) and Acuerdo Ministerial No. 028-2020 (30 March 2020)	Terminated on 26 August 2020
India	Amendments introduced to the export policy of Personal Protective Equipment/Masks-reg (HS 3926.90; 6217.90; 6307.90; 9018.50; 9018.90; 9020), resulting in an export restriction due to the COVID-19 pandemic	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. 44/2015-2020 (31 January 2020) and 48/2015-2020 (25 February 2020)	Effective 31 January 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
India	Certain products (e.g. surgical masks/disposable masks (2/3 ply); all gloves except NBR gloves; all ophthalmic instruments and appliances under HS 9018.50 except medical goggles; surgical blades; non-woven shoes (disposable); breathing appliances used by airmen, divers, mountaineers and firemen; gas masks with chemical absorbent for filtration against poisonous vapour, smoke, gases; HPDE tarpaulin/plastic tarpaulin; PVD conveyor belts; and biopsy punches) exempted from the export ban implemented due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020) and Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Notification Nos. 47/2015-2020 (8 February 2020)	Effective February 2020. DGFT has allowed export of Surgical/Disposable Masks (2/3 Ply) and All Gloves (except NBR Gloves) vide Notification No. 47/2015-20 (8 February 2020). Export policy of Nitrile/NBR gloves under HS 3926.90 and ex 4015 or any other HS code is revised from "prohibited" to "restricted" category vide notification 42/2015-2020 (22 October 2020)
India	Amendments introduced to the export policy of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) and formulations made from these APIs (HS 2922.29.33; 2933.29.10; 2933.29.20; 2933.59.90; 2936.22.10; 2936.25.00; 2936.26.10; 2937.23.00; 2941.40.00; 2941.50.00; 2941.90.50; 2941.90.90; 2942.00.90; 3004.20.50; 3004.20.61; 3004.20.95; 3004.39.19; 3004.50.32; 3004.50.34; 3004.50.39; 3004.90.15; 3004.90.21; 3004.90.22; 3004.90.23; 3004.90.99), resulting in an export restriction due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (27 October 2020) and Notification No. 50/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (3 March 2020)	Effective 3 March 2020. Export of 13 APIs and 13 formulations, made from these APIs, where India is dependent on China for KSM/APIs were placed under "restricted" category (export to be allowed under license from DGFT) to ensure domestic availability of these medicines
India	Amendments introduced to the export policy of Masks, Ventilators, and Textile Raw Materials for Masks and Coveralls (HS 3926.90; 6217.90; 6307.90; 9018; 9020; 5603.11; 5603.12; 5603.13; 5603.14; 5603.91; 5603.92; 5603.93; 5603.94), resulting in an export restriction due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (1 May 2020) and Notification No. 52/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (19 March 2020)	Effective 19 March 2020
India	Amendments introduced to the export policy of Ventilators, including any Artificial Respiratory Apparatus or Oxygen Therapy or any other Breathing Appliances/Devices and Sanitizers (HS 3004.90.87; 3401; 3402; 3808.94; 9018; 9019; 9020), resulting in an export restriction due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (1 May 2020) and Notification No. 53/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (24 March 2020)	Effective 24 March 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)	Effective 25 March 2020. On 18 June 2020, export policy changed from "prohibited" to "free"

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
India	Amendments introduced to the import policy of Iron and Steel and incorporation of policy condition in HS Chapters 72; 73; 86, Schedule-I (import policy), resulting in an extension of validity to 135 days to automatic registration number generated under the Steel Import Monitoring System "SIMS" until 31 March 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (1 May 2020) and Notification No. 58/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (31 March 2020)	Effective 31 March 2020
India	Imports of certain medical and surgical instruments and apparatus (HS 9018; 9019; 9020; 9021; 9022) exempted from the "health cess"	Ministry of Finance - Department of Revenue - Notification No. 8/2020-Customs (2 February 2020)	Effective 1 April 2020
India	Amendments introduced to the export policy of diagnostic kits (diagnostic or laboratory reagents on a backing, preparation diagnostic or laboratory reagents whether or not on a backing, other than those of heading HS 3006 or 3008; certified reference materials) (HS 3822), resulting in an export restriction due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (1 May 2020) and Notification No. 59/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (4 April 2020)	Effective 4 April 2020
India	Further amendments introduced to the export policy of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) and formulations made from these APIs (HS 2933.29.10; 2933.29.20; 2933.59.90; 2936.22.10; 2936.25.00; 2936.26.10; 2937.23.00; 2941.40.00; 2941.50.00; 2941.90.90; 2942.00.90; 3004.20.50; 3004.20.61; 3004.20.95; 3004.39.19; 3004.50.32; 3004.50.34; 3004.50.39; 3004.90.15; 3004.90.21; 3004.90.22; 3004.90.23; 3004.90.99), changing from restricted to free, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (1 May 2020) and Notification No. 02/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (6 April 2020)	Effective 6 April 2020
India	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on: (i) artificial respiration or other therapeutic respiration apparatus (ventilators) (HS 9018; 9019); (ii) face masks and surgical masks (HS Chapter 63); (iii) personal protection equipment (HS Chapter 62); (iv) COVID-19 testing kits (HS Chapters 30 and 38); and (v) inputs for the manufacture of items (i) to (iv) subject to the condition that the importer follows the procedure set out in the Customs (Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty) Rules, 2012, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from the Health Cess	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (1 May 2020) and Notification No. 20/2020-Customs, Ministry of Finance - Department of Revenue (9 April 2020)	Effective 9 April 2020 to 30 September 2020
India	Further amendments introduced to the export policy of formulation made from paracetamol (including FDCs) (HS 3004.90.99), changing from restricted to free, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Paracetamol APIs will remain restricted for export	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (1 May 2020) and Notification No. 03/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (17 April 2020)	Effective 17 April 2020
India	Amendments introduced in the Export Policy of Sanitizers. Only "alcohol based hand sanitizers" are prohibited for export (HS 3004; 3401; 3402; 3808.94), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All other items falling under the HS Codes mentioned are freely exportable	Notification No. 04/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (6 May 2020)	Effective 6 May 2020
India	Amendments introduced in the Export Policy of Masks, allowing the export of non-medical/non-surgical masks of all types (cotton, silk, wool, knitted) (HS 3926.90; 6217.90; 6307.90; 9018.90; 90209. All other types of masks falling under any HS Codes continued to remain prohibited for exports	Notification No. 06/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (16 May 2020)	Effective 16 May 2020
India	Amendments introduced in the Export Policy of Paracetamol API (HS 2922.29.33), making its exports "free" with immediate effect, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Notification No. 07/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (28 May 2020)	Effective 28 May 2020
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

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 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 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
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 goggles 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 goggles 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	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
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 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
India	Amendments in Export Policy of Nitrile/NBR Gloves (HS 3926.90; 4015), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The export policy of Nitrile/NBR Gloves is revised from "Prohibited" to "Restricted"	Notification No. 42/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (22 October 2020)	Effective 22 October 2020
Indonesia	Temporary elimination of import certification requirements on imports of onions and garlic (HS 0703), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Indonesia to the WTO (1 April 2020) and Ministry of Trade Regulation No. 27	Effective 18 March 2020 to 31 May 2020
Indonesia	Temporary export ban on antiseptic, raw materials to fabricate masks, personal protective equipment (PPE), ethyl alcohol and masks (HS Chapters 22; 30; 38; 56; 62; 63), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Indonesia to the WTO (1 April 2020) and Ministry of Trade Regulation Nos. 23 and 31. Viewed at: http://jdih.kemendag.go.id/peraturan/detail/1983/2 .	Effective 18 March 2020 to 30 June 2020
Indonesia	Temporary elimination of import certification requirements on imports of certain products, e.g. masks and personal protective equipment, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Indonesia to the WTO (1 April 2020) and Ministry of Trade Regulation No. 28	Effective 23 March 2020 to 30 June 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Indonesia	Postponing the payment of excise duties on imports of certain goods, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Indonesia to the WTO (13 May 2020) and Regulation No. 30/PMK 04/2020 - Ministry of Finance	Effective 9 April 2020
Indonesia	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain medical and pharmaceutical products used in the treatment of COVID-19 (HS Chapters 29; 30; 38; 40; 62; 63; 90). Imports also exempted from VAT and income taxes	Permanent Delegation of Indonesia to the WTO (28 September 2020); Regulation No. 34/PMK 03/2020 - Ministry of Finance amended by 83/PMK 04/2020 - Ministry of Finance	Effective 17 April 2020
Israel	Temporary export licensing requirements on medical equipment (e.g. alcohol, face masks, medical oxygen, swabs, personal cleaning products containing ethyl/isopropyl alcohol, disinfection products, artificial respiration devices) (HS 2207; 2208; 2804.40; 3005; 3402.20; 3808.90; 6210; 6307.90; 8413; 8414; 8481.80; 9018; 9019.20; 9020), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/ISR/1, 6 May 2020	Effective until 30 May 2020
Israel	Temporary export licensing requirements on medical equipment (e.g. alcohol, swabs, personal cleaning products containing ethyl/isopropyl alcohol, disinfection products, face masks, artificial respiration devices, and respirators) (HS 2207; 2208; 3005; 3402.20; 3808.90; 6307.90; 9019.20; 9020), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/ISR/1/Add.1, 16 June 2020	Effective until 30 June 2020
Jamaica	Temporary reduction of export fees and charges, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries - Communication (18 April 2020). Viewed at: https://www.micaf.gov.jm/content/cut-export-fees-boost-manufacturers--floyd-green	Effective 1 April 2020
Japan	Prioritization of customs clearance for relief goods relating to countermeasures to the COVID-19 and other goods that require an urgent clearance to maintain the lifeline	WTO document G/TFA/W/24, 29 September 2020	Effective 3 March 2020
Japan	Simplified import and export declaration forms for relief goods relating to countermeasures to the COVID-19 etc	WTO document G/TFA/W/24, 29 September 2020	Effective 3 March 2020
Japan	Exemption of customs duty and (domestic) consumption tax for imported goods which are proved to be provided free of charge	WTO document G/TFA/W/24, 29 September 2020	
Japan	Extension of time limits for customs procedures, including those for payment of customs duties in certain cases, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/TFA/W/24, 29 September 2020	Effective 11 May 2020
Japan	Refund of, reduction of, or exemption from certain customs fees, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/TFA/W/24, 29 September 2020	Effective 11 May 2020
Kazakhstan	Temporary export ban on certain personal protective equipment, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/KAZ/3, 8 October 2020	Effective 20 February 2020
Kazakhstan	Temporary export ban on certain products (e.g. buckwheat; white sugar; potatoes (except for seeds of heading HS 0701.10.00); sunflower seeds, whether or not broken; refined sunflower-seed oil (10 litre packages or less); refined sunflower-seed oil (more than 10 liter packages); and cereal groats) (HS 1008.10.00; 1701.99; 0701; 1206; 1512.11.91; 1103.19.90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic (originally effective 2 April 2020 to 1 September 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Kazakhstan to the WTO (4 June 2020), Ministry of Agriculture Order No. 111 (2 April 2020), amended by Order No. 123	Terminated in May 2020
Kazakhstan	Temporary QRs (export quota) on certain products, e.g. wheat or meslin flour; soft wheat and meslin; seed potatoes; unrefined sunflower-seed oil (10 liter packages or less); and unrefined sunflower-seed oil (more than 10 liter packages) (HS 1101.00; 1001.99.00; 0701.100.00; 1512.11.91; 1512.11.91), due to the COVID-19 pandemic (originally effective 2 April 2020 to 1 September 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Kazakhstan to the WTO (4 June 2020), Ministry of Agriculture Order No. 111 (2 April 2020), amended by Order No. 123	Terminated in May 2020
Kazakhstan	Temporary import ban on cement clinkers; Portland cement; other Portland cement; aluminous cement; and other hydraulic cements (HS 2523), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Kazakhstan to the WTO (6 May 2020), Ministry of Industry and Infrastructural Development Order No. 191 (9 April 2020)	Effective 27 April 2020 to 27 October 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Kazakhstan	Temporary import ban on certain petroleum products (gasoline; other distillates- gas oils of petroleum or bituminous minerals) (HS 2710) from the Russian Federation delivered by railway, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Kazakhstan to the WTO (6 May 2020), Ministry of Energy Order Nos. 112 and 163	Effective 1 May 2020 to 1 August 2020
Kazakhstan	Temporary export ban on certain types of timber (HS 4401; 4403; 4404; 4406; 4407), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Kazakhstan to the WTO (6 May 2020), Ministry of Industry and Infrastructural Development Order No. 238 (27 April 2020)	Effective 15 May 2020 to 15 November 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	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	Effective 6 March 2020 to 30 June 2020. Ban on melt blown filters extended until 5 August 2020
Korea, Rep. of	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on surgical and sanitary masks and melt blown filters (HS 6307.90.90; 5603.12.10; 5603.12.90; 5603.92.00), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/W/147, 14 April 2020	Effective 18 March 2020 to 30 June 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 2020 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. This measure will remain in effect from 12 July 2020 to 11 December 2020. 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 2020 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 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	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/KOR/2/Add.4, 31 August 2020	Effective 6 August 2020 to 5 January 2021
Korea, Rep. of	Include surgical and protective masks, hand sanitizers and thermometers in the list of tariff exemptions for self-use of small quantities of goods	WTO document G/TFA/W/24, 29 September 2020	Effective March 2020 to July 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
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. Items subject to the restriction are described in Section 1. 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	
Kyrgyz Republic	Temporary export ban on wipes and other antibacterial products; and disinfectants, due to the COVID-19 pandemic (HS 3401; 3408)	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/KGZ/1/Add.1, 24 March 2020	Effective 22 March 2020, for 6 months
Kyrgyz Republic	Temporary export ban on certain food products (e.g. wheat and meslin, wheat flour, cooking oil, rice, pasta, chicken eggs, sugar, iodized table salt, feed (hay, straw, mixed feed, bran and grain feed)), due to the COVID-19 pandemic (HS 0407.11.00; 0407.21.00; 1001; 1006; 1101.00; 1214.90.90; 1512; 1902; 2302; 2309; 2501.00.91)	WTO documents G/MA/QR/N/KGZ/1/Add.1, 24 March 2020 and G/AG/N/KGZ/8, 31 March 2020	Effective 22 March 2020, for 6 months
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Temporary elimination of import tariffs and other duties on medical devices and other products for prevention, control (e.g. masks, sanitizers, medical equipment), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Laos to the WTO (23 October 2020)	
Malaysia	Temporary export ban on face masks (HS 6307.90.40; 6307.90.90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Malaysia to the WTO (17 April 2020) and Customs (Prohibition of Exports) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 2020, Government Gazette Jil 64 - No. 6 (19 March 2020). Viewed at: http://www.customs.gov.my/ms/cp/Documents/P.U%20%28A%29%2092%20-%20Perintah%20Kastam%20%28Larangan%20Mengenai%20Eksport%29%20%28Pindaan%29%20%28No.%202%29%20-%202020.pdf	Effective 20 March 2020
Malaysia	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on face masks (effective 23 March 2020); on PPE, medical equipment and COVID-19 consumables (effective 23 March 2020); and on raw materials, undenatured ethyl alcohol and denatured ethyl alcohol used for the production of hand sanitizers (effective 30 March 2020) (HS 3808.94.90; 6307.90.40; 6307.90.90; 9025.19.19; 9025.90.10; 8419.20.00; 9027.30.10; 9402.90.10; 9011.80.00; 8418.50.91; 9027.50.10; 6307.90.40; 9004.90.50; 3926.20.90; 3926.90.39; 4015.11.00; 4015.19.00; 6116.10.90; 6216.00.10; 6505.00.20; 6210.10.19; 6210.20.40; 6210.30.40; 6210.40.90; 6210.50.90; 4818.90.00; 3917.33.91), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from sales taxes and excise duties	Permanent Delegation of Malaysia to the WTO (28 September 2020). Viewed at: http://www.mysst.customs.gov.my/assets/document/Announcement/PENGECUALIAN%20DI_DE_CJ%20KEPADA%20PENGILANG%20HAND%20SANITIZER.pdf and http://mysst.customs.gov.my/assets/document/Announcement/PENGECUALIAN%20DUTI%20IMPORT%20DAN%20CUKAI%20JUALAN%20MULAI%2023%20MAC%202020.pdf	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Maldives	Temporary reduction of import tariffs on certain personal protective equipment (e.g. hand sanitizers, disinfectants, protective masks, hand wash, gloves used for medical purposes, and face shields), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from processing fee's	Permanent Delegation of the Maldives to the WTO (27 April 2020)	Effective 17 March 2020
Mauritius	Temporary elimination of VAT on imports of protective masks, gloves, test kits, breathing appliances, hand sanitizers and certain medical equipment (HS 6307.90.30; 9020.00.00; 3808.94.10), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Mauritius to the WTO (27 October 2020). Viewed at: https://www.mra.mu/download/Notice240320.pdf	Effective 24 March 2020
Mauritius	Temporary elimination of export charges imposed by the Port Authority and cargo handling corporation, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Mauritius to the WTO (24 September 2020)	Effective until 31 December 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Moldova, Republic of	Temporary export restriction on certain medical equipment (e.g. medical masks, medical gloves, biocide products (medical disinfectants)) (HS 6307.90; 4818.90; 4015.11; 4015.19; 3808), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/MDA/1/Add.2, 19 October 2020; and Permanent Delegation of Moldova to the WTO (19 October 2020)	Effective 11 March 2020 to 15 May 2020. Extended for some products until 31 August 2020. Ceased to be applicable after 31 August 2020
Moldova, Republic of	Temporary elimination of excise duties on imports of undistorted ethyl alcohol for use in antiseptic products (disinfectants, biocides and antibacterial cosmetics) (HS 2207.10.00), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Moldova to the WTO (19 October 2020). Viewed at: https://gov.md/sites/default/files/dispozitia_cse_nr.6.pdf	Effective 26 March 2020, extended but ceased to be applicable after 15 September 2020
Morocco	Temporary export ban on face masks, protective masks, and antiseptic preparations (HS 6307.90.50; 3808.94, 3401.11; 3402.20.00; 3926.90.92; 4818.90; 4823.90; 6307.90.40; 6307.90.90; 9020.00.00), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Morocco to the WTO (8 April 2020), and Arrêté du Ministre de l'Industrie, du Commerce et de l'Economie Verte et Numérique Nos. 859-20 (2 March 2020) and 926-20 (10 March 2020)	Effective March 2020
Myanmar	Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar through Ministry of Commerce Bulletin Nos. 3/2020 (7 April 2020) and 5/2020 (24 April 2020) adopted a temporary measure on the restrictions of export of rice, with the aim of preventing critical shortage of rice which is an essential foodstuff in the national diet	Permanent Delegation of Myanmar to the WTO (19 June 2020). Viewed at: https://myanmartradeportal.gov.mm/uploads/documents/2020/4/Rice%20Exporting%20during%20COVID-19.pdf	
Myanmar	Temporary elimination of import license fees on medicines and raw materials used in medicines, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Myanmar to the WTO (19 June 2020). Viewed at: https://www.commerce.gov.mm/sites/default/files/order%2027-2020.pdf	Effective 11 April 2020
Myanmar	Temporary reduction of demurrage charges for all imports and exports, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Myanmar to the WTO (5 October 2020). Viewed at: http://www.mpa.gov.mm/announcement/%E1%80%B1%E1%80%94%E1%80%BD%E1%80%AC%E1%80%84%E1%80%B9%E1%80%B7%E1%80%B1%E1%80%94%E1%80%BD%E1%80%B8%E1%80%B1%E1%81%BE%E1%80%80%E1%80%B8%E1%80%99%E1%80%BA%E1%80%AC%E1%80%B8%E1%80%BB%E1%80%95%E1%80%84%E1%80%B9%E1%80%86%E1%80%84%E1%80%B9%E1%80%9E%E1%80%90%E1%80%B9%E1%80%99%E1%80%BD%E1%80%90%E1%80%B9%E1%80%BB%E1%80%81%E1%80%84%E1%80%B9%E1%80%B8-amendment-demurrage-charges	Effective 9 April 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Nepal	Temporary reduction of import tariffs on certain personal protective equipment, machinery for production of face masks, non-woven fabrics, elastic ropes, medical equipment and pharmaceutical products, due to the COVID-19 pandemic (HS 8449.00.10; 5603.11.00; 5603.91.00; 5604.10.00; 7226; 3926.20.11; 3926.20.21; 3926.20.31; 3926.20.41; 6207.91.10; 6207.99.10; 6208.91.10; 6208.92.10; 6208.99.10; 6210.10.10; 6210.20.10; 6210.30.10; 6210.40.10; 6210.50.10; 6211.32.10; 6211.33.10; 6211.39.10; 6211.42.10; 6211.42.10; 6211.43.10; 6211.49.10; 6505.00.11; 30; 3821.00.00; 3822.00.00; 4015.11.00; 6307.90.20; 8419.20.10; 9025.11.00; 9025.19.10; 9019.20.00; 9018.90.00; 9004.90.00)	Permanent Delegation of Nepal to the WTO (25 September 2020)	Effective 29 May 2020
New Zealand	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain soap, testing kits, diagnostic reagents (HS 3401; 3822), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of New Zealand to the WTO (16 April 2020) and Tariff Concession Approvals, Withdrawals and Declines Notice (No. 11) 2020 (25 March 2020)	Effective 25 March 2020 to June 2020
New Zealand	Temporary reduction of import tariffs on certain medical and hygiene products (HS Chapters 19; 21; 30; 34; 38; 39; 61; 62; 63; 65; 84; 85; 90; 96, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Immediate suspension of these tariffs has occurred through the application of tariff concessions, under Part 2 of the Working Tariff Document of New Zealand. Once New Zealand has entered into the post COVID-19 recovery phase, the tariff suspensions will be incorporated into Part 1 of the Working Tariff Document of New Zealand and this will complete the MFN applied tariff elimination process. These actions do not affect New Zealand's bound tariff commitments	Permanent Delegation of New Zealand to the WTO (16 April 2020); WTO documents G/C/W/777, G/C/W/778 and G/MA/W/150, 16 April 2020; G/TFA/W/24, 29 September 2020; and Tariff Concession Approvals, Withdrawals and Declines Notice (No. 14) 2020 (15 April 2020). Viewed at: https://www.customs.govt.nz/business/tariffs/working-tariff-document/working-tariff-document/	Effective 16 April 2020
New Zealand	12-month deferral of the scheduled fees and charges for Customs' clearance of imported and exported goods across New Zealand's border, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/TFA/W/24, 29 September 2020	Effective April 2020
Nigeria	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on essential medical supplies (HS Chapters 30; 38; 39; 40; 48; 61; 62; 65; 84; 90) used in the treatment of COVID-19. Imports also exempted from VAT	Permanent Delegation of Nigeria to the WTO (27 October 2020)	Effective 1 May 2020, for 6 months
North Macedonia	Temporary export ban on wheat and meslin (HS 1001.19.00; 1001.91.00; 1001.99.00) , due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/MKD/1, 1 April 2020	Effective until 30 April 2020
Norway	Temporary implementation of export licensing requirements on personal protective equipment (HS Chapters 39; 40; 61; 62; 63; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic (list updated on 28 April 2020) (originally effective 6 March 2020 to 1 January 2021)	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/NOR/1/Add.1, 5 June 2020	Ceased to apply from 27 May 2020
Oman	Temporary export ban on face masks, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Oman to the WTO (5 June 2020)	
Pakistan	Temporary export ban on certain personal protective equipment (e.g. face masks, gloves, sanitizers, goggles, "tyvek suits"), due to the COVID-19 pandemic (originally implemented on 24 March 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Pakistan to the WTO (26 October 2020) and Ministry of Commerce - Order SRO 239(I)/2020 (24 March 2020). Viewed at: http://www.commerce.gov.pk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/S.R.O-239I2020.pdf	Lifted on 9 June 2020
Pakistan	Temporary export ban on anti-malarial drugs, due to the COVID-19 pandemic (originally implemented on 9 April 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Pakistan to the WTO (26 October 2020) and Ministry of Commerce - Orders SRO 297(I)/2020 (9 April 2020) and 889(I)/2020 (24 September 2020). Viewed at: http://www.commerce.gov.pk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/SRO-297-Anti-Malarial-fdrugs.pdf and www.commerce.gov.pk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/SRO-899.pdf	Lifted on 24 September 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Pakistan	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on oxygen gas and its cylinders, and cryogenic tanks (HS 2804.40.00; 7311.00.90; 7311.), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Pakistan to the WTO (26 October 2020) and Ministry of Finance and Revenue (Revenue Division), Notification (Customs) S.R.O 593 (I) 2020 (1 July 2020). Viewed at: http://download1.fbr.gov.pk/SROs/2020711873638670SRO593(I)2020.pdf	Effective 23 June 2020, for 3 months
Panama	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain products (HS Chapters 28; 34; 38; 40; 48; 62; 63; 94), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Consejo de Gabinete, Decreto de Gabinete No. 7 (18 March 2020)	Effective 19 March 2020, for 6 months
Paraguay	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain personal protective equipment, pharmaceutical products, machinery and mechanical appliances, vehicles, transport equipment, medical or surgical instruments and apparatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic (in NCM Chapters 28; 38; 40; 62; 63; 84; 85; 86; 87; 89; 90; 94)	Permanent Delegation of Paraguay to the WTO (27 October 2020) and Ministerio de Hacienda Decreto Nos 3471 and 3478	Effective until 31 December 2020
Paraguay	Temporary implementation of export licensing requirements (<i>licencia previa de exportación</i>) on face masks and disinfectants (NCM 3808.94.19; 3808.94.29; 5603.11.30; 5603.12.40; 5603.13.40; 6307.90.10; 6307.90.90; 9020.00.90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/PRY/1/Add.1, 29 May 2020	Effective 17 March 2020, for 1 year
Paraguay	Extension of the temporary reduction of import tariffs on certain products included in Paraguay's exception list to the Mercosur Common Tariff (<i>lista de excepciones</i>) (NCM Chapters 18; 20; 22; 29; 34; 37; 39; 40; 42; 66; 67; 69; 70; 71; 73; 76; 82; 83; 84; 85; 90; 91; 92; 94; 95; 96), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Paraguay to the WTO (27 October 2020) and Decreto 3474 - Ministerio de Hacienda (19 March 2020)	Effective 12 March 2020 to 30 June 2020
Paraguay	Temporary reduction of VAT (to 5%) on imports of certain personal protective equipment and pharmaceutical products (NCM 2207.2019; 2828.90.11; 29252923; 30039057; 30049047; 34022000; 3808.94.19; 3808.94.29; 38220090; 39069049; 39262000; 4015.11.00; 40151900; 56031130; 56031240; 56031340; 6210.10.00; 6307.90.10; 6307.90.90; 65050090; 90049020; 90183119; 90183924; 90183929; 90183999; 90189099; 9020.00.90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Paraguay to the WTO (27 October 2020) and Ministerio de Hacienda - Decreto No. 3477 (20 March 2020), amended by Decreto No. 3529 (13 April 2020)	Effective 20 March 2020 to 30 September 2020
Paraguay	Adjustment of fees related to the importation of goods, resulting in a 30-40% reduction in import costs, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/AG/GEN/162, 28 July 2020	Effective second half of 2020
Peru	Temporary elimination of import tariffs (from 11% and 6%) on pharmaceutical products and personal protective equipment (77 tariff lines at 10-digit level, in HS Chapters 22; 28; 29; 30; 39; 40; 62; 63; 65; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Peru to the WTO (14 April 2020) and Decreto Supremo Nos. 051-2020-EF (13 March 2020) and 59-2020-EF (28 March 2020)	Effective March 2020
Peru	Temporary implementation of export authorization requirements on face masks, gloves and personal protective equipment (HS 2804.40.00; 6307.90.30; 4015.11.00; 4015.19.90; 5603.11.00; 5603.12.90; 6210.10.00; 9019.20.00), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/PER/2, 23 Junio 2020	Effective April 2020
Philippines	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on qualified manufacturers and suppliers of medicines, medical equipment and devices, personal protective equipment (PPEs), surgical equipment and supplies, laboratory equipment and re-agents and their packaging, medical supplies, tools and consumables (alcohol, sanitizers, thermometers), raw materials, COVID-19 testing kits, or any other articles needed in the supply chain such as capital equipment, spare parts, and accessories (HS Chapters 22; 28; 29; 30; 33; 34; 35; 37; 38; 39; 40; 44; 48; 52; 54; 55; 59; 62; 63; 65 70; 84; 90; 94; 96), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from other taxes and fees (originally effective from 24 March 2020 to 23 May 2020)	Permanent Delegation of the Philippines to the WTO (23 October 2020) and Finance – Department of Trade and Industry Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2020-02. Viewed at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eYAL2qIOV8pg6k-yyrWRI3vu55DIt1f/view and https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2020/09sep/20200911-RA-11494-RRD.pdf	Amended on 11 September 2020 (Republic Act No. 11469). The Department of Trade and Industry through the Board of Investments shall certify that the equipment and supplies being imported are not locally available or insufficient in quality and preference

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Philippines	Temporary increase of import tariffs (from zero to 10%) on crude petroleum oil and refined petroleum products (HS 2709; 2710; 2711), due to the COVID-19 pandemic (originally implemented on 2 May 2020)	Permanent Delegation of the Philippines to the WTO (23 October 2020), President Executive Order No. 113 (2 May 2020) and Memorandum No. 128-2020 (23 June 2020). Viewed at: https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2020/05may/20200502-EO-113-RRD.pdf	Terminated on 25 June 2020
Qatar	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain medical supplies and food products, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Qatar to the WTO (21 September 2020)	Effective 9 months
Russian Federation	Temporary export ban on certain personal protective equipment (e.g. face masks) (HS Chapters 30; 38; 39; 40; 56; 59; 62; 63; 84; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (20 April 2020), and Decree No. 223 (2 March 2020)	Effective 2 March 2020 to 1 June 2020
Russian Federation	Temporary (1 month) exemption from weight control of vehicles transporting food and non-food necessities in trailers and semi-trailers of the platform type with a tented top, as well as in vans, trailers, semi-trailers of the refrigerated and isothermal type, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (23 April 2020), and Orders of the Federal Service for supervision of transport Nos. B5-101-p(фс) (19 March 2020) and B5-107-p(фс) (24 March 2020)	Effective 21 March 2020 to 25 April 2020
Russian Federation	Temporary export quota (7 million tonnes) on wheat and meslin, rye, barley and maize (HS 1001; 1002; 1003; 1005)	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (20 April and 21 July 2020) and Decree No. 385 (31 March 2020)	Effective 1 April. Terminated on 30 June 2020
Russian Federation	Extension of the list of imported medical products exempted from VAT (HS 29; 30; 38; 39; 40; 62; 63; 65; 84; 85; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (20 April 2020) and Decree No. 419 (2 April 2020)	Effective 6 April 2020
Eurasian Economic Union	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain products, e.g. organic chemicals; amine-function compounds; atonic 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	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)	Effective 3 April 2020. Measure extended until 31 March 2021
Eurasian Economic Union	Temporary export ban on certain personal protective equipment (e.g. face masks) (HS Chapters 29; 30; 38; 39; 40; 56; 59; 62; 63; 84; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (20 April 2020) and Decision of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission No. 41 (24 March 2020)	Effective 5 April 2020 to 30 September 2020
Eurasian Economic Union	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	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (20 April and 21 July 2020) and Decision of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission No. 43 (31 March 2020)	Effective 12 April 2020. Terminated on 30 June 2020
Eurasian Economic Union	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	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)	Effective 18 April 2020 to 30 June 2020. Terminated on 1 August 2020
Eurasian Economic Union	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on lactose and lactose syrup; certain food preparations; inorganic chemicals; organic chemicals; gelatine; miscellaneous chemical products; plastics and articles thereof; folding carton, boxes and cases; aluminium containers for compressed or liquified gas; and freezers of the upright type (HS Chapters 17; 21; 28; 29; 35; 38; 39; 42; 48; 76; 84), 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. 34 (3 April 2020)	Effective 18 April 2020 until 31 March 2021

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Eurasian Economic Union	Temporary simplification of the country of origin confirmation procedure applied to goods imported from developing and LDCs countries, including through a possibility to provide electronic or paper copy of the certificate of origin	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (23 April 2020) and Decision of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission No. 36 (3 April 2020)	Effective 18 April 2020 to 30 September 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
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain products, e.g. vegetables, fruits, fruit juices, cold preparations, vitamins, hand sanitizers, hands sanitizer dispensing machines, rubbing alcohol, gloves, masks, and cleansing or sanitizing wipes (HS Chapters 07; 08; 20; 21; 29; 30; 34; 39; 40; 48; 63; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from VAT	Saint Kitts and Nevis - Customs & Excise Department - Memorandum (26 March 2020)	Effective 26 March 2020, for 6 months
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	Postponing the collection of customs duties on imports for a period of 30 days against the submission of a bank guarantee, for the next three months and setting the necessary criteria for extending the postponement period for the most affected activities as needed, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Saudi Arabia to the WTO (3 May 2020)	
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	Temporary export ban on COVID-19 detection and prevention products (e.g. personal protective equipment, face masks, diagnostic tests) medical equipment and pharmaceutical products (268 tariff lines at 10-digit level in HS Chapters 22; 25; 30; 33; 34; 38; 39; 40; 44; 48; 62; 63; 65; 84; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Saudi Arabia to the WTO (3 May 2020), and WTO document G/MA/QR/N/SAU/1, 18 June 2020	Effective 4 February 2020
Serbia	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on ethyl alcohol (undenatured, of an alcoholic strength by volume of 80 % vol. or higher) (HS 2207.10.00), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Serbia to the WTO (19 May 2020) and Decisions on requirements for exemption from custom duties for certain products - Official Gazette No. 48/20 (31 March 2020). Viewed at: http://www.pravno-informacioni-sistem.rs/SlGlasnikPortal/eli/rep/sgrs/vlada/odluka/2020/48/2/reg	Effective 1 April 2020. Terminated on 1 May 2020
Serbia	Temporary export ban on medicines (for use in humans) (effective 15 April 2020, for 30 days) (HS 2844; 3002; 3003; 3004), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Serbia to the WTO (19 May 2020); Decisions on export ban on medicines - Official Gazette No. 55/20 (13 April 2020) and 60/2020 (24 April 2020)	Lifted on 24 April 2020
Serbia	Temporary export ban on certain products (e.g. soaps, certain sanitary products, disinfectants, personal protective products) (HS Chapters 22; 28; 34; 38; 39; 40; 48; 62; 63; 90; 96), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On 1 May 2020, exports to the European Union of medical protective equipment (HS 3926.00.00; 4015.90.00; 6210.10.92; 6307.90.98; 9004.90.10) exempted	Permanent Delegation of Serbia to the WTO (19 May 2020); Decision on the temporary ban on exports of essential products to the general public - Official Gazette No. 54/20 (10 April 2020), amended by Decision Nos. 59/20 (22 April 2020) and 63/20 (30 April 2020)	Effective 13 April 2020, for 30 days. Certain products excluded from the ban: baby wipes (HS 3401. 11.00.00); toilet bowl cleaners, tabs for automatic dish washing and windscreen cleaners (HS 3402.90.90.00); masks wholly made of woven textile fabrics (HS 6307.90.98.00). Export ban lifted on 7 May 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Serbia	Temporary export ban on certain products (e.g. sunflower oil, seed and crude oil, sugar beet molasses), due to the COVID-19 pandemic (maize export quota of 400,000 tonnes) (HS 1206.00.99; 1512.11.91; 1703.90.00; 1005.90.00)	Permanent Delegation of Serbia to the WTO (19 May 2020); Decision on the temporary ban on exports of essential products to the general public - Official Gazette No. 54/20 (10 April 2020), amended by Decision No. 59/20 (22 April 2020) and Regulation RS No. 66/20 (7 May 2020)	Effective 13 April 2020, for 30 days. Export ban lifted on 7 May 2020
Singapore	Temporary relaxation of import licensing requirements for hand sanitizers, masks, thermometers, and protective gear (HS 3926.20; 4015.11; 4015.19; 4818.50; 6116.10; 6210.10; 6210.20; 6210.30; 6210.40; 6210.50; 6216.00; 6307.90; 6505.00; 9004.90; 9020.00; 9025.19), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Importers do not require an importer's licence from the Health Science Authority of Singapore (HSA). Instead, importers only need to notify the HSA of their intention to import, as well as provide information on the brand and quantity of the devices to be imported into Singapore. They must also maintain proper sales and distribution records, which might be required for submission when necessary (such as for a recall of products)	WTO document G/TFA/W/24, 29 September 2020	Effective 31 January 2020
Singapore	Elimination of import tariffs and all other duties and charges on essential goods including medical, hygiene and pharmaceutical products (HS Chapters 19; 21; 22; 28; 29; 30; 34; 38; 39; 40; 48; 61; 62; 63; 65; 70; 84; 85; 90; 96) and agricultural products, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Singapore to: (i) refrain from imposing export prohibitions or restrictions on essential goods including medical, hygiene, pharmaceutical products and agricultural products; and (ii) expedite the movement of such essential goods through sea and airports	WTO documents G/C/W/777, G/C/W/779; G/MA/W/151, 16 April 2020; and G/TFA/W/24, 29 September 2020	Effective 15 April 2020
Singapore	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on medicated samsu and other samsu (HS 2208), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Singapore to the WTO (25 September 2020)	Effective 15 April 2020
South Africa	"COVID-19 export control regulation" on certain personal protective equipment (e.g. face masks, disinfectant) (HS 3808.94; 6307.90; 9020.00; 2933.39; 2933.49; 2933.99; 3002.12; 3002.20; 3004), due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Goods shall not be exported except by virtue of an export permit	Permanent Delegation of South Africa to the WTO (6 April 2020) and Department of Trade and Industry, Notice No. R.424 - Government Gazette No. 43177 (27 March 2020)	Effective 27 March 2020
Sri Lanka	Temporary export ban on face masks - N95 type, and disposable surgical face masks (implemented on 20 March 2020), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Sri Lanka to the WTO (25 April 2020) and Medical Devices (availability within Sri Lanka) Regulations 2/2020, Gazette - Extraordinary 2167/17 (20 March 2020) and 2170/9 (11 April 2020). Viewed at: https://nmra.gov.lk/images/PDF/gazzet/2167-17_EPUBLISH.pdf and https://nmra.gov.lk/images/PDF/gazzet/nmraGazette/2170-09_E.pdf	Terminated on 11 April 2020
Switzerland	Exports of personal protective equipment and essential medical goods (HS Chapters 30; 39; 40; 48; 61; 62; 63; 90) subject to export authorization by the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Exports to EU members, EFTA members, the United Kingdom, the Faroe Islands, Andorra, San Marino and the Vatican City, as well as the overseas countries and territories listed in Annex II of the European Treaty exempted, under certain conditions (as long as reciprocity is guaranteed, i.e. similar exports from the aforementioned States and territories to Switzerland do not require a licence or indeed are not prohibited)	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/CHE/3, 22 July 2020	Effective 26 March 2020, revised 4 April 2020. Terminated on 22 June 2020
Switzerland	Temporary increase of the 2020 import quotas Nos. 7 and 9 for birds' eggs, milk and cream, and butter (HS 0402.21.11; 0402.29.11; 0405.10.11; 0405.10.91; 0405.90.10; 0407.21.10; 0407.90.10), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Switzerland to the WTO (26 October 2020)	Effective 2 April 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Switzerland	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain personal protective equipment and medical goods (HS Chapters 28; 38; 39; 40; 48; 61; 62; 63; 65; 90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/W/154, 27 May 2020; and Permanent Delegation of Switzerland to the WTO (25 September 2020)	Effective 10 April 2020. Terminated on 9 October 2020
Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu	Temporary export ban on masks with filtering efficiency of 94% or more, of textile materials and other masks, of textile materials (HS 6307.90.50), due to the COVID-19 pandemic (originally effective 24 January 2020 to 30 June 2020)	Permanent Delegation of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu to the WTO (17 June 2020)	Terminated on 1 June 2020
Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu	Temporary reduction of import tariffs (from 20% to 10%) on other undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume exceeding 90% volume (HS 2207.10.90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu to the WTO (24 September 2020)	Effective 27 February 2020 to 26 August 2020. Extended until 26 November 2020
Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu	Temporary elimination of import tariffs (from 7.5%) on masks, filtering efficiency of 94% or more, of textile materials (HS 6307.90.50), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu to the WTO (17 June 2020)	Effective 27 February 2020. Terminated on 26 May 2020
Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu	Temporary export restriction on medicinal alcohol products (HS 2208.90.10; 3808.94.20), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu to the WTO (24 September 2020)	Effective 16 April 2020
Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu	Temporary export restriction on undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of less than 80% vol (HS 2208.90.10) and disinfectant products (HS 3808.94.20), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For exports of commodities under these items of medicines for human use, a photocopy of medicine permit issued by the Ministry of Health and Welfare is required	Permanent Delegation of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu to the WTO (17 June 2020)	Effective 1 May 2020
Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu	Requirement by the Ministry of Economic Affairs in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Welfare and the Ministry of Finance, for importers of medical masks (HS 6307.90.50) to apply in advance for an import approval from the Bureau of Foreign Trade (BOF), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Importers can apply for the advance approval on the BOF's Mask Import Approval Application System. Requirement to declare product flow on the system every Monday following the customs clearance date.	Permanent Delegation of the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu to the WTO (24 September 2020)	Effective 16 September 2020
Thailand	Temporary export ban on surgical masks; face-masks for protection against dust, smoke or toxic substances used for safety apparatus and others (HS 6307.90.40; 6307.90.90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/THA/2/Add.3, 2 April 2020	Effective 5 February 2020, for 1 year

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Thailand	Temporary export ban on bird eggs of fowls of the species <i>Gallus Domesticus</i> (HS 0407.21.00; 0407.29.90)	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/THA/2/Add.3, 2 April 2020	Originally effective 26 March 2020 to 1 April 2020. Extended from 2 April 2020 to 30 April 2020
Turkey	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on ethyl alcohol. Temporary elimination of additional customs duties (13% and 20%) on breathing machines and medical masks, due to the COVID-19 pandemic (HS 2207.20.00; 6307.90.98; 9019.20.00)	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (24 April and 21 September 2020)	Effective 25 March 2020. On 15 September 2020 termination of the elimination of import tariffs on ethyl alcohol
Turkey	Implementation of temporary prior export authorization/registration on gas, dust and radioactive dust filter masks, protective clothing, liquid-proof aprons (protective gowns used against chemicals), protective glasses, medical and surgical masks, medical sterile/non-sterile gloves (effective 4 March 2020); ethyl alcohol, eau de cologne, disinfectant, hydrogen peroxide and non-woven fabrics (effective 18 March 2020); on ventilators, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, oxygen concentrator, ventilator apparatus, anaesthesia and ventilator circuits, cannula, intubation apparatus and intensive care monitors (effective 26 March 2020); and on fresh lemons (effective 7 April 2020) (HS 2207; 2208.90.91; 2208.90.99; 3303.00.90; 3402.90.10; 3808.94.10; 3808.94.20; 3808.94.90; 2905.12.00; 2847; 5603; 8481; 9019.20.00; 9018.90.84; 9026; 9027.10; 9018; 9018.90.60; 9018.39; 9019; 9019.20; 9018.19.10; 0805.50), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (24 April 2020)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Turkey	Termination of prior export authorization/registration on certain products, e.g. ethyl alcohol, eau de cologne, disinfectant, hydrogen peroxide, ventilator, extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, oxygen concentrator, ventilator apparatus, anaesthesia and ventilator circuit, cannula, intubation apparatus and intensive care monitors, and fresh lemons (HS 2207; 2208.90.91; 2208.90.99; 3303.00.90; 3402.90.10; 3808.94.10; 3808.94.20; 3808.94.90; 2905.12.00; 2847; 8481; 9019.20.00; 9018.90.84; 9026; 9027.10; 9018; 9018.90.60; 9018.39; 9019; 9019.20; 9018.19.10; 0805.50), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (8 May and 3 September 2020)	Effective 2 May 2020. On 7 August 2020 terminated on fresh lemons
Ukraine	Temporary export restriction on insulated waterproof laboratory suits; disposable (single use) medical insulative overalls, gloves of other polymer material; nitrile medical gloves, non-sterile, non-starch; nitrile non-powdered gloves; medical and surgical face masks; safety glasses; full face visors; respirators with a protection rate of not less than FFP2; undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of 80% volume or higher; ethyl alcohol and other spirits, except for bioethanol, distilled beverages, denatured, of any strength, and similar (HS 3926.20.00; 6210.10.92; 6210.10.98; 4015.11.00; 4015.19.00; 6307.90.98; 9004.90.10; 9004.90.90; 9020.00.00; 2207), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO documents G/MA/QR/N/UKR/4/Add.5, 9 June 2020; and G/MA/QR/N/UKR/4/Add.6, 10 July 2020; and Permanent Delegation of Ukraine to the WTO (19 October 2020)	Effective 14 March 2020 to 1 June 2020 (for ethyl alcohol - originally effective 25 March 2020 to 1 June 2020). Extended until 1 July 2020. In July 2020 further extended until 1 August 2020. Terminated on 1 August 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Ukraine	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on medicine, medical goods and medical equipment (HS Chapters 22; 28; 29; 30; 34; 38; 39; 40; 42; 48; 61; 62; 63; 65; 70; 84; 85; 90; 94), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from VAT	Permanent Delegation of Ukraine to the WTO (19 October 2020) and Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 224 (20 March 2020), amended by Resolution No. 620 (22 July 2020). Viewed at: https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/224-2020-n?fbclid=IwAR2E5-us7p3rAan_KeyY7pDbCfLAZByYu7eYmEhuwzvW80BBWOFxjAdSuE#n9%E2%80%8B and https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/620-2020-%D0%BF#n9	Effective 21 March 2020 (elimination of import tariffs effective: 21 March 2020 to 22 July 2020)
Ukraine	Termination of the temporary export restriction on ethyl alcohol and other spirits, except for bioethanol, distilled beverages, denatured, of any strength, and similar (HS 2207), imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic (originally effective 25 March 2020 to 1 June 2020)	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/UKR/4/Add.4, 19 May 2020	Terminated on 15 May 2020
United Kingdom	Temporary export ban (including parallel exportation from the United Kingdom) of certain medicaments (HS Chapters 25; 28; 29; 30; 31; 39), needed to treat COVID-19 patients in ICU and other settings for the protection of UK public health. The restrictions do not apply to drugs manufactured or intended for other countries and, as such, apply only to the export of drugs put in the supply chain for UK patients. The legal basis of the restrictions is Regulations 43(2) and 78 of the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 requiring wholesale dealers and marketing authorization holders to ensure continued supply for UK patients. These are temporary measures, in place to relieve critical shortages of medicines necessary for the protection of human health. The Department for Health and Social Care will prohibit the export of a medicine if it considers that the following conditions are met: (i) medicine is required to meet the needs of UK patients; (ii) medicine is either being exported or is a threat of being exported; and (iii) export of that medicine is either contributing to, or may contribute to, a shortage of that medicine in the UK. Once a medicine is deemed to meet these criteria, it is added to a list on gov.uk. This list is reviewed regularly. There are a number of exceptions that permit export of medicines on this list, including where the medicine will be used by international humanitarian organisations, where it will be used in clinical trials and research, or where it will be used by British Citizens abroad	United Kingdom Mission to Geneva (27 October 2020). Viewed at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876961/Medicines_that_cannot_be_parallel_exported_from_the_UK_MASTER_4.csv/preview and https://www.gov.uk/guidance/parallel-export-and-hoarding-of-restricted-medicines ; and https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/medicines-that-cannot-be-parallel-exported-from-the-uk	
United Kingdom	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	United Kingdom Mission to Geneva (25 September 2020); GOV.UK: business and industry, trade and investment, customs declarations, duties and tariffs (import and export). Viewed at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877754/COVID_19_commodity_codes_list.csv/preview ; and https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pay-no-import-duty-and-vat-on-medical-supplies-equipment-and-protective-garments-covid-19	Effective 27 March 2020 to 31 July 2020 (can apply retrospectively to eligible goods imported after 30 January). Extended until 31 October 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
United Kingdom	The United Kingdom applied EU export restrictions on Personal Protective Equipment in response to shortages (or potential shortages) in these goods during the COVID-19 pandemic. Under these restrictions, anyone wishing to export the goods in scope to a destination not exempted under the regulations needed to apply for a licence. In the UK, licence applications were reviewed by the Department for Health and Social Care. Full information on this process was provided through gov.uk.	United Kingdom Mission to Geneva (25 September 2020). Viewed at: https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2122 ; https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2147 ; and https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-protective-equipment-ppe-export-control-process/personal-protective-equipment-ppe-export-control-process	Effective 15 March 2020 to 26 May 2020. A full list of goods in scope from 24 April 2020 is available within the amending legislation at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020R0568&from=EN
United States	Temporary exclusion of certain products from the additional duty of 25% on a list of 19 products from China (imposed on 1 September 2019). Published on 20 March 2020 but effective retroactively from 1 September 2019	Office of the United States Trade Representative, Notice of product exclusions: China's acts, policies, and practices related to technology transfer, intellectual property, and innovation. Federal Register/Vol. 85, No. 47 FR No. 13970 (10 March 2020)	Effective 1 September 2019 to 1 September 2020
United States	Temporary exclusion of certain products from the additional duty of 25% on a list of products from China (imposed on 1 September 2019). Published on 20 March 2020 but effective retroactively from 1 September 2019	Office of the United States Trade Representative, Notice of product exclusions: China's acts, policies, and practices related to technology transfer, intellectual property, and innovation. Federal Register/Vol. 85, No. 50 FR No. 15247 (15 March 2020)	Effective 1 September 2019 to 1 September 2020
United States	Presidential Memoranda allocating to domestic use certain personal protective equipment (e.g. N-95 filtering facepiece respirators; other filtering facepiece respirators; elastomeric, air-purifying respirators and appropriate particulate filters/cartridges; PPE surgical masks; and PPE gloves or surgical gloves) (HS 3926.20.10; 4015.11.01; 4015.19.00; 6116.10.00; 6216.00.09; 6307.90.99; 9020.00.80), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/USA/4/Add.1, 14 May 2020	Effective 7 April 2020 to 10 August 2020
United States	Initiation of an investigation by the United States International Trade Commission aiming at identifying imported goods related to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, their source countries, tariff classifications, and applicable rates of duty. The Commission will seek to provide: (i) the 10-digit HS code for the article; (ii) its legal description; (iii) general duty rate; (iv) any special or additional rates of duty imposed; (v) the dates on which the rates were imposed; (vi) the authorities under which they were imposed; (vii) whether any such duties have been suspended and, if so, the date of suspension as well as how long the suspension is scheduled to last; (viii) the total rate of duty imposed on such article, including any special or additional rate of duty; and (ix) the major countries of origin for each such article, and the import value of each such article from each country for the years 2017-19	United States International Trade Commission - Investigation No. 332-576 - COVID-19, Related Goods: U.S. Imports and Tariffs (13 April 2020). Viewed at: https://usitc.gov/press_room/news_release/2020/er0504II1540.htm	Report to be delivered as soon as possible, but not later than 30 April 2020. Report released on 4 May 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
United States	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. The rule covers five types of personal protective equipment (PPE): N-95 filtering facepiece respirators; other filtering facepiece respirators; elastomeric, air-purifying respirators and appropriate particulate filters/cartridges; PPE surgical masks; and PPE gloves or surgical gloves	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
United States	Temporary postponement of the time to deposit certain estimated duties, taxes, and fees during the national emergency concerning the COVID-19 outbreak. 90 calendar-day deferment period on formal entry payments for importers with significant financial hardship (applicable to payments for goods imported in March and April 2020). Imports subject to AD/CVD duties, and Section 201, 232 and 301 trade remedies are not included in this relief effort. No interest will accrue for postponed payments of estimated duty, taxes, and fees during the 90-day postponement period.	Department of Homeland Security U.S. Customs and Border Protection Department of The Treasury (19 CFR Part 24 USCBP-2020-0017 CBP Dec. 20-05 RIN 1515-AE54) (19 April 2020). Viewed at: https://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/assets/documents/2020-Apr/Temporary-Postponement-of-Payment-Period%20for-DTF-20-4-2020-1.pdf	
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
Uruguay	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain personal protective equipment and pharmaceutical products, due to the COVID-19 pandemic (NCM Chapters 28; 30; 34; 35; 38; 39; 40; 56; 62; 63; 65; 90; 94). Imports also exempted from other duties and taxes.	Permanent Delegation of Uruguay to the WTO (30 April 2020) and Resoluciones Ministerio de Economía y Finanzas - (24 March and 14 April 2020)	Effective 24 March 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Uzbekistan	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain products, e.g. poultry meat and edible offal; fish; milk and cream; butter; eggs; vegetables; dried leguminous vegetables; wheat or meslin flour; cereal grains otherwise worked (for example, hulled, rolled, flaked, pearled, sliced or kibbled), except rice (HS 1006); germ of cereals, whole, rolled, flaked or ground; Sunflower-seed, safflower or cotton-seed oil and fractions thereof, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified; white sugar; pasta; baker's yeast; wadding, gauze, bandages and similar articles (dressings, adhesive plasters, poultices), impregnated or coated with pharmaceutical substances or put up in forms or packings for retail sale for medical, surgical, dental or veterinary purposes; preparations for oral or dental hygiene; soaps; organic surface-active agents (other than soap); surface-active preparations, washing preparations (including auxiliary washing preparations) and cleaning preparations; candles; tapers; matches; gloves, mittens and mitts of vulcanized rubber; toilet or facial tissue stock, towel or napkin stock; toilet paper and similar paper; nonwovens, whether or not impregnated, coated, covered or laminated; ozone therapy, oxygen therapy, aerosol therapy, artificial respiration or other therapeutic respiration apparatus; and napkins and napkin liners for babies, and similar articles, of any material (HS Chapters 2; 3; 4; 7; 11; 15; 17; 19; 21; 30; 33; 34; 36; 40; 48; 56; 90; 96), due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from excise taxes	Permanent Delegation of Uzbekistan to the WTO (4 May 2020)	Effective April 2020 to 31 December 2020
Viet Nam	Temporary elimination of import taxes on medical and certain personal protective equipment used in the fight of COVID-19 pandemic (HS Chapters 38; 39; 56; 60; 63; 72; 73; 76)	Permanent Delegation of Viet Nam to the WTO (6 May 2020), Decision No. 155/QĐ-BCT - Ministry of Finance (7 February 2020). Viewed at: https://thuvienphapluat.vn/van-ban/xuat-nhap-khau/Quyết-dinh-155-QĐ-BCT-2020-mat-hang-mien-thue-nhap-khau-chong-dich-viem-duong-ho-hap-cap-434146.aspx	Effective 7 February 2020
Viet Nam	Temporary export licensing requirements on face masks (HS 6307.90.40; 6307.90.90), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Viet Nam to the WTO (6 May 2020)	Effective 11 March 2020. Terminated on 29 April 2020
Viet Nam	Viet Nam's Ministry of Industry and Trade on 10 April 2020 issued Decision 1106/QĐ-BCT prescribing a global quota of 400,000 tons for rice export in April 2020. The global quota restriction then ceased to be in force from 1 May 2020 as provided in Announcement 172/TB-VPCP dated 29 April 2020 by the Prime Minister	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/VNM/1, 19 August 2020	Effective 10 April 2020 to 1 May 2020
Viet Nam	Temporary export ban on certain drugs (37 items in HS 3004) used in the COVID-19 treatment	Permanent Delegation of Viet Nam to the WTO (17 June 2020) and Drug Administration Notice Nos. 4162/QLD-KD and 5595/QLD-KD. Viewed at: https://dav.gov.vn/cong-van-so-4162qld-kd-ve-viec-tam-dung-xuat-khau-thuoc-phong-chong-covid-19-n2826.html	Effective 15 April 2020. Terminated on 5 May 2020
Viet Nam	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on non-woven fabrics for the production of protection clothing used in the fight of COVID-19 pandemic (HS 5603)	Permanent Delegation of Viet Nam to the WTO (17 June 2020) and Ministry of Finance Decision Nos. 436/QĐ-BCT and 155/QĐ-BCT. Viewed at: https://www.customs.gov.vn/Lists/VanBanPhapLuat/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=12752 and https://www.customs.gov.vn/Lists/VanBanPhapLuat/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=13002	Effective 27 March 2020

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Zimbabwe	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on undenatured ethyl alcohol; hydrogen peroxide; immunological products, put up in measured doses or in forms or packings for retail sales; thermometers and pyrometers; and medical equipment (HS 2207.10.90; 2208.90.99; 2847.00.00; 3002.15.00; 9025.11.00; 9025.19.00; 9027.80.00), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Zimbabwe to the WTO (16 April 2020) and Customs and Excise (General) (Amendment) Regulations, 2020 (No. 101)	Effective 30 March 2020
Zimbabwe	Temporary export ban on medical supplies used in the treatment of COVID-19	Statutory Instrument 93 of 2020 - Public Health (COVID-19 Prevention, Containment and Treatment) (National Lockdown) (Amendment) Order, 2020 (No. 3). Viewed at: https://www.veritaszim.net/sites/veritas_d/files/SI%202020-093%20Public%20Health%20%28COVID-19%20Prevention%2C%20Containment%20and%20Treatment%29%20%28National%20Lockdown%29%20%28Amendment%29%20Order%2C%202020%20%28No.%203%29.pdf	Effective 30 March 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.

Recorded, but not confirmed information³

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Armenia	Temporary export ban on certain personal protective equipment, pharmaceutical products and medical equipment (HS Chapters 29; 30; 35; 38; 39; 40; 56; 59; 62; 63; 84; 85; 87; 90; 94), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Press reports referring to Decision No. 31 (3 April 2020). Viewed at: https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=141432	Effective 3 April 2020
Bangladesh	Temporary export ban on certain drugs (e.g. hydroxychloroquine) used in the treatment of COVID-19	Bangladesh Sangbad Sanstha (19 April 2020)	
Cameroon	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on pharmaceutical products and medical equipment, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from VAT and other import duties	Radio Okapi (28 March 2020)	
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain pharmaceutical products and medical equipment, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from VAT	Financial Afrik (30 March 2020)	Effective 3 months
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Temporary elimination of VAT and other imports charges on certain basic food products, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Financial Afrik (30 March 2020)	Effective 3 months
Guatemala	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on maize (<i>maíz blanco y amarillo</i>), under certain import quotas, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	República (22 March 2020)	
Hong Kong, China	Temporary import ban of certain poultry meat from Brazil, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	ANSA - Spanish Service (BASP) (18 August 2020)	

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

Member/ Observer	Measure	Source/Date	Status
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	Temporary export ban on certain personal protective equipment (e.g. face masks), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	The Tehran Times (10 March 2020)	
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	Elimination of the import ban on ethanol, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Azer press (18 March 2020)	
Jordan	Temporary export ban on certain personal protective equipment (e.g. face masks, disinfectants, sanitizers), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	The Jordan Times (25 March 2020)	
Kenya	Temporary export ban on face masks, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	The East African (3 March 2020)	
Lebanon	Temporary export ban on medical supplies and protective equipment, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Naharnet (22 February 2020)	
Libya	Temporary export ban on face masks and sterilization materials, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	The Libya Observer (16 March 2020)	
Mali	Temporary export ban on certain food products (e.g. sugar, meat, wheat, rice), face masks, disinfectants, gas and cattle, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	L'Essor (21 April 2020)	
Morocco	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on wheat	Le Temps (25 March 2020)	
Norway	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain personal protective equipment and pharmaceutical products, due to the COVID-19 pandemic (HS Chapters 39; 40; 61; 62; 63; 90)	Press reports referring to Regulation Ministry of Health and Care (6 March 2020)	Effective 20 March 2020 to 1 January 2021
South Africa	Elimination of the temporary export ban on wine and fresh products, imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Business Day (South Africa) (9 April 2020)	
Sudan	Temporary export ban on maize	Middle East Monitor (UK) (3 April 2020)	Effective 15 April 2020
Syrian Arab Republic	Temporary export ban on vegetables eggs, milk, cheese and sterilization items, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	OCHA Services- Reliefweb (10 April 2020). Viewed at: https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syrian-arab-republic-covid-19-update-no-05-10-april-2020	
Tajikistan	Temporary export ban on food products (e.g. vegetables, cereals, meat, flour, eggs, wheat), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Asia-Plus (5 May 2020)	Effective 25 April 2020
United Arab Emirates	Temporary elimination of customs fees on imported goods	KPMG - jurisdictional tax measures and government reliefs in response to COVID-19	Effective 12 March 2020
Zambia	Temporary elimination of excise duties on imports of ethanol for use in sanitizers, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Zambia Reports (27 March 2020)	

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

(MID-OCTOBER 2019 TO MID-OCTOBER 2020)

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Albania	Financial Services	In response to COVID-19, the Albanian Financial Supervisory Authority (AFSA) issued guidelines for supervised entities with respect to the adoption of preventive measures in the context of the pandemic. These concerned, for example, reporting requirements, liquidity requirements, and the review of insurance contracts in view of current risk exposures.	AFSA Board Decision no. 94 of 29 July 2020	29 July 2020	
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

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 May 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	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
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
Austria	Telecommunication services	Austria's Regulatory Authority for Broadcasting and Telecommunications (RTR) delayed its upcoming second 5G auction due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The spectrum auction had been expected to take place in April.	Viewed at: https://www.rtr.at/en/pr/pinfo31032020TK https://www.commsupdate.com/articles/2020/03/27/austria-postpones-multiband-5g-spectrum-auction/	17 March 2020	Yes
Belgium	Financial services	On 11 March, the National Bank of Belgium (NBB) announced that it would release the CCyB buffer by lowering the CCyB rate from 0.5% RWA to 0% RWA. This measure was enacted by Royal Decree and became applicable from 1 April 2020. By releasing the CCyB, the NBB aims at supporting the provision of credit and at avoiding potential procyclical effects that may arise from the COVID-19 crisis.	Viewed at: https://www.nbb.be/en/articles/national-bank-belgium-releases-full-countercyclical-buffer	11 March 2020	Yes
Belgium	Financial services	On March 17, the Financial Services and Markets Authority (FSMA) prohibited short selling of securities and similar transactions on the regulated market of Euronext Brussels for one month. On 15 April 2020, the FSMA renewed this measure for another month. This measure expired on 18 May 2020.	Viewed at: https://www.fsma.be/en/news/prohibition-short-selling-update-19032020 https://www.fsma.be/fr/news/renewal-prohibition-short-selling	17 March and 15 April 2020 <u>The measure expired on 18 May 2020</u>	Yes

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
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/pressdet ail/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
Bulgaria	Financial services	The government adopted a package of measures aimed at preserving the stability of the banking system and strengthening its flexibility to reduce the adverse effects on households and companies from the restrictions caused by the pandemic. Key measures include: full capitalization of the banking system's profit; cancellation of increases of the countercyclical capital buffer scheduled for 2020 and 2021; increase of the banking sector's liquidity by reducing commercial banks' foreign exposure.	Viewed at: http://bnb.bg/PressOffice/POPressRe leases/POPRDate/PR_20200319_EN	19 March 2020	Yes
Bulgaria	Financial services	The Governing Board of the Bulgarian National Bank approved the deferral and settlement of repayments to banks and other financial institutions; this will constitute private moratorium in accordance with European Banking Authority (EBA) Guidelines on legislative and non-legislative moratoria on loan repayments applied in the light of the COVID-19 crisis.	Viewed at: http://bnb.bg/PressOffice/POPressRe leases/POPRDate/PR_20200410_BG	10 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/innovatio n-science-economic-development/news/2020/06/ministe r-bains-updates-plans-to-improve-quality-coverage-and-price-of-telecom-services.html	5 June 2020	Yes

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
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
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 banks, village banks, as well as city commercial banks operating solely within provincial-level administrative regions.	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
Colombia	Telecommunication services	A new measure requires mobile telephony operators (voice and data) to maintain minimum service levels despite not receiving adequate remuneration from the user.	Decree 464 of 23 March 2020 Viewed at: https://dapre.presidencia.gov.co/normativa/normativa/DECRETO%20464%20DEL%2023%20DE%20MARZO%20DE%202020.pdf	23 March 2020	Yes
Costa Rica	Tourism services	The Costa Rica Tourism Board adopted a number of measures in response to COVID-19, including agreeing to a moratorium on the payment of the tourism tax on airfare from April to June 2020 for companies experiencing liquidity problems.	Viewed at: https://www.ict.go.cr/es/noticias-destacadas-2/1684-ict-acuerda-moratoria-a-empresas-en-pago-de-impuestos-turisticos.html	31 March 2020	Yes
Costa Rica	Distribution of fuel	The government has granted automatic extensions of 3 months to concessions, authorizations and operating permits for suppliers of fuel, including service stations.	Viewed at: http://direcciondecombustiblesminiacr.blogspot.com/2020/03/prorroga-de-3-meses-las-concesiones.html	31 March 2020	Yes
Costa Rica	Financial services	The government issued a directive urging banks, at the request of debtors affected by COVID-19, to undertake measures to readjust loan conditions and reduce interest rates.	Directive No. 075-H Viewed at: http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&param2=1&nValor1=1&nValor2=90784&nValor3=119725&strTipM=TC&IResultado=4&nValor4=1&strSelect=sel	18 March 2020	Yes
Costa Rica	Financial services	Authorities have taken temporary monetary and financial policy measures to mitigate the economic impact of COVID-19, including lowering the countercyclical buffer level to 0% to support banks in extending credit facilities to customers.	Resolution SGF-0902-2020; Agreement No. SGV-A-239 of the General Securities Superintendence Viewed at: https://www.sugef.fi.cr/normativa/acuerdos_superintendente.aspx https://www.sugeval.fi.cr/noticias/ventos/Noticias/Modificación%20temporal%20en%20el%20plazo%20de%20entrega%20de%20reportes%20regulatorios%20en%20el%20contexto%20del%20COVID-19.pdf http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&param2=1&nValor1=1&nValor2=91074&n	March-May 2020	Yes

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
			Valor3=120164&strTipM=TC&IResultado=1&nValor4=1&strSelect=sel http://www.pqrweb.gq.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&param2=1&nValor1=1&nValor2=91082&nValor3=120171&strTipM=TC&IResultado=2&nValor4=1&strSelect=sel		
Czech Republic	Financial services	On 16 March 2020, the Czech National Bank (CNB) Bank Board revised its earlier decision adopted in May 2019 to increase the countercyclical capital buffer rate for exposures located in the Czech Republic to 2% with effect from 1 July 2020. This decision meant that banks continued to maintain the currently applicable rate of this buffer at 1.75%. On 26 March 2020 the rate of this buffer was lowered to 1 % as of 1 April 2020.	Viewed at: https://www.cnb.cz/en/	March-April 2020	Yes
Estonia	Financial services	In March, the central bank of Estonia (Eesti Pank) lowered commercial bank capital requirements from 1% to 0% by removing the systemic risk buffer.	Viewed at: https://www.eestipank.ee/en/press/eesti-pank-cutting-capital-buffer-requirements-banks-110-million-euros-25032020?fbclid=IwAR1b5-x3sXNd7arBeaHqjJBqm33vMSKDufTWf54eTTgw1BCkmG0E4JFUA74	March 2020	Yes
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

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
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.	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. Viewed at: http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/PE-4-2020-REV-1/en/pdf	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
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=7ef90fd23-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_03_31_02_49&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_10959edeb5-7ef90fd23-190580935	30 March 2020	Yes

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
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/rep1/2020/EN/COM-2020-558-F1-EN-MAIN-PART-1.PDF	Effective 14 October 2020	Yes
Finland	Financial services	On 16 March, the Financial Supervisory Authority (FIN-FSA) exempted temporarily banks from fulfilling certain additional capital and liquidity requirements.	Viewed at: https://www.finanssivalvonta.fi/en/publications-and-press-releases/Press-release/2020/financial-supervisory-authority-enhances-monitoring-of-financial-sector/	16 March 2020	Yes
Finland	Financial services	On 17 March, the Financial Supervisory Authority (FIN-FSA) lowered bank capital requirements by 1% by removing the systemic risk buffer.	Viewed at: https://www.finanssivalvonta.fi/en/publications-and-press-releases/Press-release/2020/macprudential-decision-fin-fsa-board-lowers-credit-institutions-capital-requirements/	17 March 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=JORFTEXT000041704122&categorieLien=id https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000041737421&dateTexte=20200410 https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000041746744&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	On 18 March, Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin) lowered the countercyclical capital buffer from 0.25% to 0% as of 1 April.	<p>Viewed at: https://www.bundesbank.de/en/tasks/topics/statement-on-the-countercyclical-capital-buffer-by-the-german-financial-stability-committee-828822 </p>	01 April 2020	Yes
Ghana	Financial services	The Bank of Ghana modified policies in relation to mobile money transactions for a period of three months. Since 20 March 2020, smaller withdrawals and transactions (below GHS100) do not carry a charge. This is alongside an increase in maximum transaction limits and balance levels for all customers.	<p>Viewed at: https://www.mobileworldlive.com/featured-content/money-home-banner/african-nations-back-mobile-money-in-virus-battle/ </p>	20 March 2020	-
Ghana	Telecommunication services	The National Communications Authority of Ghana has temporarily granted additional spectrum at no cost for three months to the country's two largest mobile network operators (Vodafone and MTN Ghana) to help cope with a significant increase in internet traffic during the COVID-19 lockdown.	<p>Viewed at: http://www.africanwirelesscomms.com/news-details?itemid=3149&post=two-ghanaian-operators-receive-additional-temporary-spectrum-293333 </p>	15 April 2020	-
Hong Kong, China	Financial services	On 16 March, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority lowered the countercyclical buffer level from 2.0% to 1.0% to support banks in extending credit.	<p>Viewed at: https://www.hkma.gov.hk/eng/news-and-media/press-releases/2020/03/20200316-5/ </p>	16 March 2020	Yes

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Hong Kong, China	Financial services	On 3 April, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority wrote to the industry to encourage banks to consider utilising liquidity buffers built up under the regulatory liquidity framework to meet their liquidity demand and support business activities. The Hong Kong Monetary Authority is prepared to accept banks operating temporarily with a lower level of liquidity ratios as a result.	Viewed at: https://www.hkma.gov.hk/media/eng/doc/key-information/guidelines-and-circular/2020/20200403e1.pdf	3 April 2020	Yes
Hong Kong, China	Financial services	On 8 April, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority lowered the regulatory reserve requirement on locally incorporated authorized institutions ("AIs") by 50%.	Viewed at: https://www.hkma.gov.hk/media/eng/doc/key-information/guidelines-and-circular/2020/20200408e1.pdf	8 April 2020	Yes
Hungary	Various sectors	On 26 May, the government established a temporary foreign investment screening mechanism, with the objective of protecting public security, order and health during the COVID-19 pandemic. It requires prior governmental approval in 21 "strategic" sectors, including health care, telecommunications, power distribution, transport and storage, construction, and tourism. Under the Decree, investments by foreign investors will require the approval of the Minister if they involve the acquisition of an interest exceeding (i) 10 % and a value of HUF 350 million, (ii) 15 %, 20 % or 50% irrespective of its value, or (iii) 25 % if acquired by more than one foreign investor. A "foreign investor" is from outside the EU, the EEA and Switzerland. However, certain acquisitions of a majority interest require the Minister's approval if the foreign investor is a company or other organisation domiciled in the EU, the EEA or Switzerland.	Government Decree no. 227/2020 Viewed at: https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?q=6a5278c7-7cb9-4a7d-a1e3-0f08dcb19f68	26 May 2020. <u>The measure is no longer in effect.</u>	-
Hungary	Health services	New temporary rules were issued on telemedicine on 30 April 2020 during the period of state emergency. The provision of health services and their financial settlement are not conditional on the physical presence of the patient, if the specifics of care and the professional judgement of the doctor permit this. A new law also extended the right to conduct telemedicine consultations by 90 days after the end of the state of emergency (18 June 2020).	Government Decree no. 157/2020 (IV. 29.) Viewed at: https://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/tris/en/search/?trisaction=search.detail&year=2020&num=271	29 April 2020 <u>The measure is no longer in effect.</u>	-
India	All sectors	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. 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.	Viewed at: https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1615711	18 April 2020	-

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
India	Telecommunication services	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).	Viewed at: https://dot.gov.in/sites/default/files/Relaxation%20inT%26C%20of%20OSP%2013.3.20.PDF?download=1	13 March 2020	Yes
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

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
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	-
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/page/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/gazzetta/serie_generale/caricaDettaglio?dataPubblicazioneGazzetta=2020-04-08&numeroGazzetta=94&elenco30giorni=tru	09 April 2020	Yes

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
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
Italy	Financial services	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. This measure ceased to have effect as from 23h59 on 18 May 2020, pursuant to Consob Resolution no. 21367 of 15 May 2020.	Viewed at: http://www.consob.it/documents/46180/46181/press_release_20200317.pdf/0f50bec8-8dda-439a-a2fd-f63bbd39f2e3	17 March 2020. <u>Withdrawn as of 23h59 on 18 May 2020</u>	Yes
Japan	Financial services	In response to the recent spread of COVID-19, the relevant authorities have taken measures, including: (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; (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 ; (iii) The FSA established the Consultation Hotline Related to COVID-19 for financial services users on February 28; (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, March 13, March 24, April 7, April 10, April 16, April 21, April 27, May 8, May 11, May 19, May 27, and June 10; (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; (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 (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.	Viewed at: https://www.fsa.go.jp/en/ordinary/coronavirus202001/press.html	Updated 26 August 2020	Yes

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Kenya	Telecommunication services	To ensure that effective health-related information can be transmitted to and from rural areas, Kenya has fast-tracked the issuance of an operating license to Alphabet's Loon services to extend availability of Wifi to remote locations.	Viewed at: https://www.president.go.ke/2020/03/23/kenya-approves-roll-out-of-google-loon-4g-to-mitigate-coronavirus-work-disruptions/ https://www.developingtelecoms.com/telecom-technology/wireless-networks/9362-internet-connectivity-comes-to-rural-kenya-by-balloon.html	24 March 2020	-
Korea (Rep. of)	Financial services	On 16 March, FSC announced that the government will tighten regulations on stock short-selling for six months beginning on March 16.	Viewed at: http://www.fsc.go.kr/eng/new_press/releases.jsp	16 March 2020	Yes
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_000000000032705&searchBbsId1=MOSFBBS_00000000028	19 March 2020	Yes
Lithuania	Financial services	On 31 March, the National Bank of Lithuania lowered the countercyclical buffer level from 1 % to 0% as of 1 April.	Viewed at: https://www.lb.lt/en/	Effective 1 April 2020	Yes
Malta	Health Services	Live-in carers and healthcare professionals whose single permit is about to expire can send an email to medical.ima@gov.mt to have their permit extended by a return email for a period of three months.	Viewed at: https://lovinmalta.com/news/foreign-healthcare-workers-living-on-work-permit-in-malta-get-automatic-three-month-extension-amid-covid-19-concerns/	19 March 2020	Yes
Malaysia	Health services	The Malaysian Medical Council published an Advisory on Virtual Consultations, which provides guidance in relation to medical services supplied remotely via information and communication technology during the COVID-19 pandemic.	Viewed at: mmc.gov.my	April 2020	
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	-

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Moldova, Republic of	Financial services	The government undertook a number of measures in the financial services sector, such as allowing commercial banks to reschedule mortgage loans for physical persons, giving banks the possibility to defer credit rates to individuals for 3 months (until 30 June 2020), and encouraging lending by non-banking entities (microfinance organizations) at lower interest rates.	Decision No. 69 of 17 March 2020 of the National Bank of Moldova; Decision No. 81 of 27 March 2020 of the Executive Committee Board of the National Bank of Moldova; Decision the National Commission for Financial Markets (NCFM) no. 13/5 of 24 March 2020.	Adopted in March 2020	Yes
Moldova, Republic of	Tourism services	The government reduced the VAT rate from 20% to 15% for the sector of hotels, restaurants, and cafes.	Law No. 60 of 23 April 2020	Effective 1 May 2020	Yes
Moldova, Republic of	Transport services	The government introduced various measures affecting transport services in the context of the crisis. For example, cargo drivers and transport service personnel that carry out transport of goods, as well as the aircraft/ships/train crews, have been exempted from the requirement of self-isolation and 14 day of quarantine (if they do not present any clinical signs of respiratory infection).	Provisions No. 2 of 20 March 2020 and No. 6 of 26 March 2020 of the Commission on Exceptional Situations of the Republic of Moldova Viewed at: https://gov.md/sites/default/files/di_spozitia_2_din_20.03.2020_a_cse_a_rm_cu_modificari_0.pdf https://gov.md/sites/default/files/di_spozitia_cse_nr.6.pdf	20 and 26 March 2020	Yes
Moldova, Republic of	Various sectors	The government adopted a series of measures to respond to the crisis, including with respect to public digital signatures, the movement of natural persons, the activities of lawyers, notaries and bailiffs, and medical/healthcare workers.	Provisions No. 6 of 26 March 2020, No. 8 of 28 March 2020, No. 10 of 31 March 2020, and No. 16 of 10 April 2020 of the Commission on Exceptional Situations of the Republic of Moldova; Decision no. 9 of 15 March 2020 of the Extraordinary National Commission on public health of the Republic of Moldova Viewed at: https://gov.md/sites/default/files/di_spozitia_nr_8.pdf https://gov.md/sites/default/files/di_spozitia_cse_nr.6.pdf https://gov.md/sites/default/files/di_spozitia_cse_nr.10.pdf https://gov.md/sites/default/files/di_spozitia_cse_nr.3_anexa.pdf	March-April 2020	Yes

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Myanmar	Various sectors	In response to the crisis, authorities have adopted several measures affecting trade in services. This includes: - temporarily lowering the minimum reserve requirement for banks to 3.5% of deposits; - gradually reducing the Central Bank's rate from 10% to 7% between March and April 2020; - taking measures to encourage mobile financial services, including mobile payments; - exempting tour operator businesses from licence fees for one year, from 1 April 2020; - reducing charges for demurrage, which are imposed when a ship is not loaded or unloaded within an agreed period of time, as well as storage fees.	Central Bank of Myanmar's Directives Nos. 1/2020, 4/2020, 6/2020, and 8/2020; Announcement of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Directive no. 6/2020 of 15 April 2020; Myanmar Port Authority, Announcement of 9 April 2020. Viewed at: https://www.cbm.gov.mm https://tourism.gov.mm/news/announcements/ http://www.mpa.gov.mm/announcement	March-April 2020	Yes
Myanmar	Financial services	The Central Bank of Myanmar adopted a number of measures in the context of COVID-19, including: - The CBM's bank rate was reduced by 1.5 percentage points, from 8.5% to 7.0%; - The Minimum Reserve Requirement (Local Currency-MMK) for banks was lowered to 3.5% of customers' deposits (from 5%); - The maximum permitted transaction amount for mobile financial services was increased.	Central Bank of Myanmar's Directive No. 8/2020, released on 27 April 2020; Central Bank of Myanmar's Directive No. 6/2020 released on 9 April 2020; Central Bank of Myanmar's Directive No. 11/2020 released on 23 September 2020; Central Bank of Myanmar's release of 25 September 2020. Viewed at: https://www.cbm.gov.mm/sites/default/files/currency_policy/8-2020.pdf https://www.cbm.gov.mm/sites/default/files/admin_it/rinstruction.pdf https://www.cbm.gov.mm/sites/default/files/directive_no.11-2020.pdf	April-September 2020	
Nepal	Road transport services	All border crossing points are closed. These restrictions also apply to international freight movements.	Viewed at: https://www.iru.org/apps/flash-getfile-action?id=889&file=global-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak.pdf	24 March 2020	-
Netherlands	Financial services	On 17 March, the Central Bank lowered systemic buffers from 3% of global risk-weighted exposures to 2.5% for ING, 2% for Rabobank and 1.5% for ABN Amro.	Viewed at: https://www.dnb.nl/en/news/news-and-archive/persberichten-2020/dnb387870.jsp	17 March 2020	Yes

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
New Zealand	All sectors	Amendments to the Overseas Investment Act update investment screening rules. Temporary emergency notification requirements are in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and require overseas persons to notify the government of certain investments even if they are below the ordinary screening threshold. These amendments are designed to safeguard New Zealand's national interest during the COVID-19 crisis.	Overseas Investment (Urgent Measures) Amendment Act Viewed at: https://www.beehive.govt.nz/releases/better-protection-new-zealand-assets-during-covid-19-crisis http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2020/0261/latest/LMS342288.html?search=ts_act%40bill%40regulation%40deemedreg_overseas+investment_resel_25_a&p=1	28 May 2020	Yes
Oman	Telecommunication services	Oman's Telecom regulator has unblocked access to VoIP apps, including Skype, Google Meet and Zoom, to facilitate continuity for organisations, private and educational institutions, and government bodies during the pandemic.	Viewed at: https://www.tra.gov.om/media-center/media-center/1848-notice-issued-by-tra-oman-on-the-measures-taken-by-the-sultanate-of-oman-to-guarantee-the-provision-of-telecommunication-services-limit-the-spread-of-the-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-and-mitigate-its-effects	18 March 2020	-
Oman	Telecommunication services	The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) has allocated additional mobile spectrum to the licensed network operators on a temporary basis and at no financial cost.	Viewed at: https://www.tra.gov.om/media-center/media-center/1848-notice-issued-by-tra-oman-on-the-measures-taken-by-the-sultanate-of-oman-to-guarantee-the-provision-of-telecommunication-services-limit-the-spread-of-the-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-and-mitigate-its-effects	26 March 2020	-
Peru	Telecommunication services	A new decree requires telecommunication operators to prioritise telecommunications traffic from public entities, in particularly those in the health sector, to prevent vital communications from being slowed by the increasing use of networks for tele-work, tele-education and leisure activities. The decree also requires operators to provide better access to telecommunications services for government ministries involved in combating the pandemic, including those for the interior, defence and education.	Emergency Decree No. 035-2020 Viewed at: https://busquedas.elperuano.pe/normaslegales/decreto-de-urgencia-que-establece-medidas-complementarias-pa-decreto-de-urgencia-n-035-2020-1865377-1/	Published: 3 April 2020 Entry into force: 4 April 2020 Expiration: 31 December 2020	Yes

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Philippines	Health services	A new measure allows medical consultation via phone call, chat, short messaging service (SMS), or audio- or video- conferencing, among others. It also permits the issuance by physicians of electronic clinical abstracts, referrals and prescriptions within a telemedicine consultation. Telemedicine consultations have to be based on a prior patient -physician relationship.	The issuance of Department of Health (DOH) and National Privacy Commission (NPC) Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) 2020-0001 (Guidelines on the Use of Telemedicine in COVID-19 Response) Viewed at: https://www.covid19.gov.ph/information/issuances/5ee389645f0ff7001737a0e7	28 March 2020	Yes
Philippines	Financial services	The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP - Central Bank of the Philippines) adopted a series of new measures affecting banking and other financial services. These relate, for example, to regulatory relief for BSP-supervised financial institutions (BSFIs) affected by COVID-19 situation, and to the facilitation of access to foreign exchanges resources for financial transactions. In addition, the Monetary Board adopted a series of measures, including increases in single borrower limits, relaxing maximum penalties for reserve deficiencies, relaxation of certain notification requirements, extension of the period of compliance with BSP supervisory requirements, measures to facilitate loans to MSMEs.	Memoranda Nos. M-2020-008, 011-013, 015, 017, 039; Circulars No. 1079, 1080, 1083; Monetary Board Resolution No. 403.A Viewed at: http://www.bsp.gov.ph/	March-May 2020	Yes

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Poland	All sectors	<p>A new Act establishes a screening mechanism for foreign investments in Poland in order to protect domestic assets against hostile acquisitions by foreign investors from non-EU, non-EEA and non-OECD countries in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak. The screening mechanism is to remain in force for 24 months, until 24 July 2022.</p> <p>Transactions falling under the screening process include acquisitions of control as well as acquisitions of significant participation in certain Polish entities, defined as holding at least 20% of votes in company bodies or profit sharing or value of all capital shares contributed to the company, in the case of a partnership. Covered transactions require prior clearance from the President of the Office for Competition and Consumer Protection.</p> <p>The targeted entity must have an annual turnover exceeding 10 million EUR in Poland and either: - be a public company, including listed companies; - manage assets classified as critical infrastructure; develop software crucial for certain industries (e.g., energy, water and sewage disposal, Internet and telecommunications, transport and logistics, financial services, health care); - provide cloud computing services; or, - operate in certain strategic sectors.</p> <p>The procedure consists of two stages: - initial control procedure lasting up to 30 days; - proper control procedure lasting up to 120 days, initiated when the initial control procedure is not sufficient.</p>	<p>Act on subsidies to interest rates on bank loans granted to entrepreneurs affected by the effects of COVID-19 and on simplified proceedings for approval of the arrangements in connection with the COVID-19</p> <p>Publication in the Journal of Laws is available at (in Polish): http://dziennikustaw.gov.pl/DU/2020/1086</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?q=9a67e4ff-6ef7-4933-9577-df92850b9462e4ff-6ef7-4933-9577-df92850b9462</p>	Effective 24 July 2020	Yes
Romania	Financial services	An emergency ordinance delays the instalment payments for loans, for a period between 1 and 9 months. The initiative is aimed at both citizens and legal persons affected economically by the COVID-19 pandemic.	Emergency Ordinance No 37/2020	30 March 2020	Yes
Romania	Health services	The government adopted a measure authorizing medical doctors to do telemedicine by any means of communication, limited to 8 consultations per hour.	<p>Decision no. 369/2020 (GD 369/2020) for the amendment of Government Decision no. 252/2020 on measures in the healthcare field during the state of emergency in Romania</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.cms-lawnow.com/ealerts/2020/05/romania-adopts-measure-advancing-telemedicine-longdistance-care?cc_lang=en</p>	8 May 2020	Yes

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Rwanda	Financial services	Rwanda temporarily removed fees on transfers between bank accounts and mobile wallets, and on mobile money transfers. Merchant fees on payments for all contactless transactions were also removed to reduce risk of COVID-19 transmission.	Viewed at: https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/mobile-money-transfers-made-free-boost-cashless-payments	18 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/mediacenter/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/mediacenter/pressreleases/Pages/20200330.aspx#	25 August 2020	Yes

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Slovenia	Various sectors	<p>The government of Slovenia has adopted new measures to screen certain foreign investments in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The new rules are set to apply from 1 June 2020 until 30 June 2023.</p> <p>It requires foreign investors to notify the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology if they have acquired or intend to acquire at least a 10% share in the capital or voting rights in a Slovenian company that is active in certain specific areas, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - critical infrastructure, including in the fields of energy, transport, water, health, communications, media, data processing or storage; - critical technologies and dual-use items, including artificial intelligence, robotics, semiconductors, cybersecurity, aerospace and defence technology, energy storage technology, quantum and nuclear technology, nano- and biotechnology, as well as health, medical and pharmaceutical technology; - the supply of critical resources, including energy or raw materials, food security, medical and protective equipment; - access to or control of sensitive information, including personal data; - the freedom and pluralism of the media; and - projects or programmes in the interest of the European Union as defined in Annex I to Regulation 2019/452/EU. 	<p>Act on the intervention measures to mitigate and eliminate the consequences of the COVID-19 epidemic</p> <p>Viewed at: https://www.cms-lawnow.com/ealerts/2020/06/slovenia-legislates-for-government-screening-of-foreign-investment </p>	Effective 1 June 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	-
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	-
Spain	Telecommunication services	The Spanish government temporarily delayed plans to auction spectrum for 5G services due to the extraordinary situation created by the COVID-19 pandemic.	Viewed at: https://www.mineco.gob.es/stfls/mineco/prensa/noticias/2020/200623_np_dividendo.pdf	20 March 2020. This temporary measure is no longer applicable. On 23 June 2020, the Council of Ministers approved the new date for the auction.	Yes

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Spain	Telecommunication services	The Spanish government temporarily suspended portability for fixed and mobile operators for the duration of the pandemic. This temporary measure has subsequently been withdrawn on 26 May 2020.	Royal Decree-Law 8/2020 Spanish Royal Decree-Law 11/2020, of March 31, adopting urgent additional measures in the social and economic sphere to confront COVID-19 Royal Decree-Law 19/2020 of 26 May 2020 Viewed at: https://www.boe.es/buscar/doc.php?id=BOE-A-2020-5315	Approved by Government on 18 March 2020 and by Parliament on 9 April 2020; <u>withdrawn on 26 May 2020</u>	Yes
Spain	Financial services	On 31 March, the Central Bank announced that the counter-cyclical capital buffer will be kept to 0%.	Viewed at: https://www.bde.es/f/webbde/GAP/Secciones/SalaPrensa/NotasInformativas/20/presbe2020_29en.pdf	31 March 2020	Yes
Spain	Financial services	On 16 March, the government banned temporarily short-selling. This temporary measure was subsequently withdrawn on 18 May 2020.	Viewed at: http://cnmv.es/portal/verDoc.axd?t=%7b5baf609e-ed4e-4dad-a697-80c55548e181%7d http://www.cnmv.es/Portal/verDoc.axd?t=%7bfcdd0a76-57cb-4603-b0fa-191527c9cf86%7d	Introduced on 16 March 2020; <u>no longer in force from 23h59 on 18 May 2020</u>	Yes
Sweden	Financial services	On 16 March, the Financial Supervisory Authority lowered the countercyclical capital buffer rate from 2.5% to 0% to support banks in extending credit.	Viewed at: https://www.fi.se/en/published/pres-s-releases/2020/fi-lowers-the-countercyclical-capital-buffer-to-zero/	16 March 2020	Yes
Sweden	Financial services	On 16 March, the Financial Supervisory Authority allowed banks to temporarily operate below the liquidity coverage ratio.	Viewed at: https://www.fi.se/en/published/pres-s-releases/2020/fi-on-liquidity-coverage-ratios-lcr-for-swedish-banks/	16 March 2020	Yes

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Sweden	Financial services	On 14 April, the Financial Supervisory Authority decided that banks will have the possibility of offering all new and existing mortgagors an exemption from the amortisation requirements due to the spread of the coronavirus and its effects on the Swedish economy. The exemption will be in force until the end of august 2021.	Viewed at: https://www.fi.se/en/published/news/2020/banks-may-now-grant-amortisation-exemption/	14 April 2020	Yes
Switzerland	Financial services	On 25 March, after consulting with the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FINMA), the SNB submitted a proposal to the Federal Council requesting that the countercyclical capital buffer be reduced to 0% with immediate effect. The measure is designed to further support the banks in their key role as lender. The Federal Council approved the proposal on 27 March 2020.	Viewed at: https://www.snb.ch/en/mmr/reference/pre_20200325/source/pre_20200325.en.pdf https://www.efd.admin.ch/efd/en/home/dokumentation/nsb-news_list.msg-id-78604.html	25 and 27 March 2020	Yes
Switzerland	Financial services	On 19 May, the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority FINMA published further guidance in the context of the COVID-19 crisis containing adjustments to the periods for various exemptions already granted and specifying in more detail how the net stable funding ratio (NSFR) is calculated. The measure was initially planned to be applicable until 1 July 2020. On 19 May 2020, it has been extended until 1 January 2021.	Viewed at: https://finma.ch/en/news/2020/05/20200519-news-aufsichtsmittteilung-062020/ https://finma.ch/en/documentation/finma-guidance/	19 May 2020	Yes
Switzerland	Financial services	On 26 March, the Swiss National Bank (SNB) introduced the new SNB COVID-19 refinancing facility (CRF). The measure is aimed at strengthening the supply of credit to the Swiss economy by providing the banking system with additional liquidity. On 11 May, the SNB announced the expansion of the CRF to include cantonal loan guarantees as well as joint and several loan guarantees for start-ups.	Viewed at: https://www.snb.ch/en/mmr/reference/pre_20200325/source/pre_20200325.en.pdf https://www.snb.ch/en/mmr/reference/pre_20200511/source/pre_20200511.en.pdf	26 and 27 March 2020	Yes
Chinese Taipei	Postal services	Temporary restrictions and suspensions on the acceptance of outbound mail have been put in place due to limited airline transportation capacity.	Ministry of Transportation and Communications	March 2020	Yes
Tajikistan	Road transport services	Registration and other customs operations with goods and products imported into the country are carried out at border terminals, and their further transportation to the destination must be carried out by national operators.	Viewed at: https://www.iru.org/apps/flash-getfile-action?id=889&file=global-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak.pdf	16 March 2020	-

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
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/ContentBddk/dokuman/mevzuat_0954.pdf	26 March 2020	Yes
Ukraine	Distribution services	Licensees who have a license to carry out business activities in the retail trade of medicines are allowed to trade in medicines and related products remotely, to organize and carry out delivery of medicines and related products directly to consumers in accordance with the conditions of storage of medicines defined by the manufacturer during their transportation, in particular, with the involvement of postal operators on a contractual basis.	Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 220 of 23 March 2020 Viewed at: https://www.kmu.gov.ua/npas/pro-vnesennya-zmin-do-licenzijnih-umov-provadjhennya-gospodarskoyi-divalnosti-z-virobnictva-likarskih-zasobiv-optovoyi-ta-rozdribnoyi-torgivli-likarskimi-i230320-220	Effective 10 April 2020	Yes
United Arab Emirates	Air transport services	The United Arab Emirates General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) published a Decision allowing for flexibility to the validity periods for licenses, ratings, certificates applicable to Flight Crew and Cabin Crew.	Viewed at: https://www.iata.org/en/pressroom/pr/2020-03-21-01/	21 March 2020	-
United Arab Emirates	Telecommunication services	The United Arab Emirates lifted certain restrictions on Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services. The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority decided to allow certain VoIP applications so as to facilitate work from home and help prevent spread of COVID-19. Permitted applications include Microsoft Teams, Skype for Business, Google Hangouts Meet, Cisco Webex, and Zoom. VoIP applications like Skype, WhatsApp and FaceTime remain banned.	Viewed at: https://www.tra.gov.ae/en/media-hub/dgspeech/2020/3/30/additional-apps-for-distance-learning.aspx https://www.gsmarena.com/uae_has_unbanned_google_hangouts_meet_cisco_webex_and_a_few_other_services-news-42364.php https://www.tahawultech.com/region/uae/uae-tra-authorises-voip-tools-amid-the-coronavirus-pandemic/	24 March 2020	Yes

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
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/uksi/2020/627/note/made https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/748/contents/made https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/763/contents/made </p>	Effective 21 July 2020	Yes
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. 	<p>Viewed at: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-agrees-measures-with-telecoms-companies-to-support-vulnerable-consumers-through-covid-19 </p>	29 March 2020	-
United Kingdom	Health services	<p>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.</p>	<p>Viewed at: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nhs-frontline-workers-visas-extended-so-they-can-focus-on-fighting-coronavirus </p>	31 March 2020	-

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
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
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	-

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
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	-
United States	Telecommunication and health services	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. 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.	Viewed at: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-363498A1.pdf	02 April 200	-
United States	Telecommunication services	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'. 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.	Viewed at: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-363051A1.pdf https://www.commsupdate.com/articles/2020/03/18/fcc-grants-us-cellular-access-to-extra-aws-3-spectrum/	15 and 18 March 2020	-

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
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.	Viewed at: https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-grants-verizon-temporary-spectrum-access-during-covid-19-pandemic https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-grants-t-mobile-temporary-spectrum-access-during-coronavirus https://www.commsupdate.com/articles/2020/03/20/verizon-is-the-latest-us-cellco-to-receive-temporary-spectrum-boost/	20 March 2020	-

APPENDIX 1 PARTICIPATION

Member/ Observer	Replies to DG email (OV/W/14) (√ = replies received)	Replies to DG email (OV/23) (√ = replies received)	Annual overview (OV/23) Replies to request for verification (√ = replies received)	New measures (√ = information sent)	Services (√ = information sent)	Summary and status (√ = information sent)
1. Albania		√	√	√	√	
2. Algeria ^a					√	
3. Angola		√				
4. Argentina	√	√	√	√		√
5. Armenia (EAEU)				√		
6. Australia	√	√	√	√	√	√
7. Azerbaijan ^a	√	√	√	√		
8. Bahrain, Kingdom of (GCC)		√		√		
9. Bangladesh	√					
10. Barbados			√		√	
11. Belarus ^a (EAEU)	√			√		
12. Belize		√		√	√	
13. Botswana (SACU)				√		
14. Brazil	√	√	√	√		√
15. Cambodia		√	√			
16. Canada	√	√	√	√	√	√
17. Chile	√	√	√	√		√
18. China	√	√	√	√	√	√
19. Colombia	√	√	√	√	√	√
20. Costa Rica	√	√	√		√	
21. Côte d'Ivoire			√	√		
22. Dominican Republic	√	√				
23. Ecuador	√	√	√		√	
24. Egypt	√			√	√	
25. El Salvador	√	√	√			
26. Eswatini (SACU)				√		
27. European Union	√	√	√	√	√	√
28. The Gambia	√		√	√		
29. Georgia			√			
30. Guatemala	√	√				
31. Guyana		√	√			
32. Honduras	√					
33. Hong Kong, China	√	√			√	
34. India	√		√	√	√	√
35. Indonesia	√	√	√	√	√	√
36. Iraq ^a		√				
37. Israel	√			√		√
38. Japan	√	√	√	√	√	√
39. Jordan						
40. Kazakhstan (EAEU)	√			√		
41. Kenya					√	
42. Korea, Republic of	√	√	√	√	√	√
43. Kuwait, the State of (GCC)				√		
44. Kyrgyz Republic (EAEU)	√			√		
45. Lao People's Democratic Republic			√	√		
46. Lesotho (SACU)				√		
47. Macao, China	√	√				

Member/ Observer	Replies to DG email (OV/W/14) (√ = replies received)	Replies to DG email (OV/23) (√ = replies received)	Annual overview (OV/23) Replies to request for verification (√ = replies received)	New measures (√ = information sent)	Services (√ = information sent)	Summary and status (√ = information sent)
48. Malaysia	√	√		√	√	√
49. Maldives	√					
50. Mauritania		√		√		
51. Mauritius	√	√	√	√	√	
52. Mexico	√	√		√	√	√
53. Moldova, Republic of			√			
54. Montenegro	√	√	√	√		
55. Morocco	√			√		
56. Myanmar	√	√		√	√	
57. Namibia (SACU)				√		
58. Nepal	√	√		√		
59. New Zealand	√		√	√		
60. Nigeria	√		√	√		
61. Norway	√		√			
62. Oman (GCC)				√	√	
63. Pakistan	√		√	√		√
64. Panama				√		
65. Paraguay	√	√	√	√		
66. Peru	√					√
67. Philippines	√	√	√	√	√	√
68. Qatar (GCC)	√	√		√		
69. Russian Federation (EAEU)	√	√	√	√		√
70. Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of (GCC)	√	√	√	√	√	√
71. Senegal			√	√		
72. Serbia ^a	√	√	√	√		
73. Seychelles		√	√	√		
74. Singapore	√	√	√		√	
75. South Africa (SACU)	√	√	√	√		√
76. Sri Lanka	√		√	√		
77. Switzerland	√	√	√		√	
78. Chinese Taipei	√	√	√	√	√	√
79. Tanzania				√		
80. Thailand	√	√	√	√	√	√
81. Tunisia						
82. Turkey	√	√		√	√	√
83. Ukraine	√	√	√	√		√
84. United Arab Emirates (GCC)	√			√		
85. United Kingdom	√	√	√	√	√	
86. United States	√			√	√	√
87. Uruguay	√					
88. Uzbekistan ^a	√					
89. Vanuatu		√				
90. Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of	√					
91. Viet Nam	√			√	√	√
92. Zimbabwe	√					

a Observer.

Source: WTO Secretariat.