



Trade Policy Review Body

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

(MID-OCTOBER 2020 TO MID-MAY 2021)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This WTO Trade Monitoring Report on trade-related developments comes as the world continues to battle the COVID-19 pandemic. The mid-October 2020 to mid-May 2021 review period covered in this Report provides important insight into a number of areas as countries begin addressing the challenges of a post-pandemic economic recovery. In particular, the past several months have seen international cooperation and coordination among nations and intergovernmental organizations increase and intensify.

2. The Rome Declaration, made during the Global Health Summit in May, reaffirmed that the pandemic remains an unprecedented global health and socio-economic crisis with disproportionate direct and indirect effects on the most vulnerable. It also emphasized that the pandemic would continue to be a threat until all countries are able to bring the disease under control through large-scale, global, safe, effective and equitable vaccination in combination with other appropriate public health measures.

3. Recently, the Heads of the IMF, the World Bank, the WHO and the WTO called for a new commitment to vaccine equity and defeating the pandemic and suggested a USD 50 billion health, trade and finance roadmap to end the pandemic and secure a global recovery. Coordination among manufacturers, suppliers and international organizations was a main theme at the Global COVID-19 Vaccine Supply Chain & Manufacturing Summit in March. Without a broad and inclusive international effort we will not be able to end this pandemic, nor will we be able to successfully fight the next one.

4. Cooperation on trade is important as policymakers consider preparedness, response and resilience as an interconnected package. Trade has been a force for good during the pandemic by enabling access to medical supplies. Despite the value of global merchandise trade shrinking by more than 8% in 2020, trade in medical supplies increased by 16%, and personal protective equipment (PPE) by 50%. As a platform for transparency, the WTO has a central role to play in ensuring that supply chains are kept open and restrictive trade policies are avoided. The multilateral trading system has kept trade flowing and provided Members with a well-established platform for providing information on the policies they have taken in response to the pandemic. Throughout the pandemic, WTO committees have worked intensively to address COVID-19-related issues and their impact on international trade. As during the global financial crisis (GFC) more than a decade ago, the foundation of the multilateral trading system has proved solid.

5. Overall, this Report suggests that trade policy restraint by WTO Members has prevented a destructive acceleration of protectionist trade measures that would have further harmed the world economy. This Report documents how many trade restrictions on goods imposed at the start of the pandemic have been rolled back and that new liberalizing measures have been introduced. The challenge ahead is to ensure that the trade-restrictive measures introduced in response to the pandemic are transparent, proportionate, targeted and temporary. WTO Members must work together as the world seeks to return to strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth, including through strengthened supply chains and diversified global vaccine-manufacturing capacity.

Specific findings

6. **World trade and output grew faster than expected in the first half of 2021**, after falling sharply in the second half of 2020 during the first wave of the pandemic. The turnaround was aided by strong monetary and fiscal policy support from governments, and by the arrival of effective vaccines against COVID-19. According to the WTO's most recent trade forecast on 31 March 2021, the volume of world merchandise trade will increase by 8% in 2021 and 4% in 2022. Trade growth in the second half of 2020 was still not strong enough to return trade to its pre-pandemic trend, but such a turn-around could happen by the first quarter of 2022 if vaccine production and dissemination accelerate, thus allowing containment measures to be relaxed sooner. Leading indicators point to a sustained expansion of merchandise trade in the first half of 2021. By contrast, commercial services trade has recovered more slowly, as it is strongly influenced by lockdowns and travel restrictions.

7. Despite these relatively positive developments, COVID-19 continues to pose a serious threat to the global economy and to public health. Production of vaccines has been slow and distribution uneven, contributing to significant disparities in access across countries. This is especially true for low-income developing economies, which are struggling to obtain enough doses to inoculate more than a small fraction of their populations. Failure of the international community to ensure wider access to vaccines, including in the poorest countries, could lead to a resurgence of the pandemic, which would set back the global economic recovery significantly.

8. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, **384 COVID-19-related trade measures in the area of goods have been implemented by WTO Members**, of which 248 (65%) were of a trade-facilitating nature and 136 (35%) could be considered trade restrictive. Several of these measures, originally introduced in immediate response to the pandemic, have been extended during the review period. Export bans accounted for 84% of all restrictive measures recorded. The reduction or elimination of import tariffs and import taxes accounted for 60% of trade-facilitating measures taken, and several Members reduced their tariffs on a variety of goods such as PPE, sanitizers, disinfectants, medical equipment and medicines/drugs. Some WTO Members and Observers severely affected by successive waves of the pandemic have also eliminated import tariffs on certain goods necessary to fight COVID-19, such as oxygen, oxygen canisters, certain drugs, and active substances.

9. **WTO Members continued to repeal measures implemented in response to the pandemic** and, as at mid-May 2021, around 21% of COVID-19 trade-facilitating measures and 54% of the COVID-19 trade-restrictive measures have been terminated, suggesting a swifter roll back of trade-restrictive measures. Fifty-seven percent of the 114 export restrictive measures put in place since the beginning of the pandemic have been repealed. The trade coverage of COVID-19-related trade-facilitating measures implemented since the beginning of the pandemic was estimated at USD 291.6 billion, while that of the COVID-19-related trade-restrictive measures stood at USD 205.8 billion. According to preliminary estimates by the WTO Secretariat, the trade coverage of the trade-facilitating measures still in force (USD 107.6 billion) is slightly higher than that of the trade-restrictive measures (USD 106.0 billion).

10. **WTO Members continued to implement COVID-19-related support measures to mitigate the social and economic impacts induced by the pandemic.** Since the beginning of the pandemic, at least 1,521 COVID-19-related economic support measures have been put in place by 106 Members and 4 Observers. Of these, as at 27 May 2021, 930 (61%) were communicated directly to the WTO Secretariat. The unprecedented number of COVID-19 support measures put in place since the beginning of the pandemic far exceeds the activity seen in the wake of the GFC. These measures included grants, loans or stimulus packages targeting sectors of the economy heavily affected by the crisis, including agriculture, health, aviation, transport, tourism, education and culture, and also fiscal and financial measures to support businesses and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), as well as broader stimulus packages. Most of these measures appeared to be temporary in nature even if some implemented in the early stages of the pandemic have been extended in 2021. Overall, the pace of introducing new support measures decreased during the review period.

11. **Support programmes by international intergovernmental organizations, regional development banks or bilateral assistance measures** complemented governmental measures. These programmes came in the form of grants, loans, vaccination roll-out programmes or vaccine donations, and credit and funding arrangements to reduce debt vulnerabilities in low-income countries where the pandemic has created urgent financing needs.

12. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, WTO Members and Observers have put in place 147 COVID-19-related measures affecting trade in services. Many of the services measures implemented in response to the pandemic have been extended and several have been terminated during the review period. The **downward trend in introducing new COVID-19-related measures affecting services by WTO Members**, a trend that has been observed since the third quarter of 2020, was confirmed. Between mid-October 2020 and mid-May 2021, 23 COVID-19-related trade-in-services measures were introduced by WTO Members and Observers. Most of these measures appear to be trade-facilitating.

13. During the review period, **WTO Members implemented 61 new trade-facilitating measures on goods and 70 new trade-restrictive measures unrelated to the pandemic.** The estimated trade coverage of the import-facilitating measures introduced during the review period was USD 445 billion (down from USD 731.3 billion in the previous period) and significantly exceeds the trade coverage of import-restrictive measures estimated at USD 127.1 billion (down from USD 440.9 billion in the previous period). This suggests a return to the regular trend identified since the beginning of the trade monitoring exercise in 2009. Deviation from this trend was the result of an escalation of bilateral trade tensions or, as reported in November 2020, a significant drop in the implementation of non-COVID-related trade policies observed in the second half of 2020.

14. **WTO Members introduced 122 regular measures affecting trade in services** during the review period, targeting different modes of supply across various sectors. While most of these

were trade-facilitating, some new policies appeared to be trade-restrictive, including measures affecting communication and network-enabled services, and policies pertaining to the screening of foreign investment in areas considered as strategic.

15. **Initiations of trade remedy actions by WTO Members reached its lowest level** after marking its highest peak in 2020. The monthly average of trade remedy initiations (19) was the lowest observed since 2012 and that of trade remedy terminations (18) was the second highest recorded since 2012. Initiations of anti-dumping investigations accounted for 83% of all trade remedy initiations. The trade coverage of trade remedy initiations recorded during the review period (134) was estimated at USD 17.6 billion (down from the USD 68.8 billion in the previous period) and that of terminations (129) at 15.1 USD billion (up from USD 9.9 billion in the previous period). Trade remedy actions remain an important trade policy tool for WTO Members, accounting for 67% of all non-COVID-19 related trade measures on goods recorded in this Report. As at 30 April 2021, two Members had notified anti-dumping actions referring to the COVID-19 pandemic.

16. **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. During the review period, 1,149 SPS and 1,372 TBT notifications were submitted by WTO Members, 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 84 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 2020, facilitating measures allowing temporary flexibility for control authorities to use electronic certificates for checks. As at 27 May 2021, 153 TBT notifications were submitted to the WTO on standards and regulations in response to the pandemic, most of these under the emergency/urgent notification provisions of the TBT Agreement. TBT notifications in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic cover a wide range of products, including medicines, PPE, food, medical equipment and medical supplies.

17. **Members continued to use WTO bodies to address their trade concerns.** 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.

18. **In the Committee on Agriculture (CoA), most questions focused on Members domestic support policies.** WTO Members posed 238 questions regarding individual notifications, overdue notifications and specific implementation matters (SIMs) under Article 18.6. Most of these questions were related to domestic support. The 96th and 97th CoA meetings which took place during the review period included a dedicated agenda item on COVID-19 which provided Members with an opportunity to engage in a holistic discussion on the crisis and the disruptions it has caused to food and agriculture systems globally. WTO Members also used the CoA's standard review process to request clarification on policies implemented in response to the pandemic.

19. **WTO Members continued to fine-tune their intellectual property (IP) domestic frameworks** during the review period. 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 for administrative IP matters. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, 71 IP-related measures, including administrative and substantive measures, were implemented by WTO Members. During the review period, WTO Members discussed on several occasions the proposed waiver of some TRIPS provisions in relation to the prevention, containment or treatment of COVID-19.

20. The Report also covers **several other important trade-related developments and discussions** that took place during the review period. Work continued in the first months of 2021 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, investment facilitation, women's economic empowerment, domestic regulation in services and MSMEs.

21. Resolving the health crisis and the fundamental challenges it brings to the world in terms of access to COVID-19 vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics will be fundamental to a sustainable economic recovery. **A full recovery in trade cannot be attained without a rapid and more equitable vaccine roll-out. WTO Members must show collective leadership in this respect, act to ensure that markets remain open and work together to achieve a successful outcome at MC12.**

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. This Monitoring Report¹ reviews trade and trade-related developments during the period from 16 October 2020 to 15 May 2021.² It is a mid-year preparatory contribution to the annual report by the Director-General provided for in paragraph (g) of the Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM) mandate, which aims to assist the Trade Policy Review Body (TPRB) in undertaking an annual overview of developments in the international trading environment that are having an impact on the multilateral trading system.

1.2. This Report is issued under the sole responsibility of the Director-General of the WTO. It is a factual transparency exercise and has no legal effect on the rights and obligations of WTO Members. It is without prejudice to the negotiating positions of Members and has no legal implication with respect to the conformity of any measure noted in the Report with any WTO agreement or any provision thereof. It does not seek to establish whether a trade measure is protectionist, and it does not question the right of Members to take certain trade measures (see Box 1.2 below).

1.3. The Report aims to shed light on the latest trends in the implementation of a broad range of policy measures that restrict or facilitate the flow of trade. It provides an update on the main indicators of the world economy and on the state of global trade. The Reports continue to evolve in terms of coverage and analysis of trade-related issues, reflecting discussions among, and inputs from, WTO Members.

1.4. The Report is presented amidst the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, which has triggered significant social and economic turmoil globally. The pandemic is covered extensively in this Report, including the specific work and discussions undertaken by WTO committees as a result of COVID-19. In line with the approach adopted in the context of the H1N1 health emergency in 2009-10, the WTO Secretariat has actively been seeking to provide a cross-cutting transparency platform so as to allow Members to gain a global understanding of the trade-related responses to the crisis. While this Report provides a snapshot of developments over a six-month period, the more comprehensive and updated overview of measures taken in response to the pandemic can be found on the dedicated COVID-19 page of the WTO website.³ The updated lists on the website are provided for transparency purposes and do not question or pass judgement on Members' right to implement any of the measures. The lists presented on the website are not exhaustive. This Report contains separate annexes on trade and trade-related measures taken by Members in the area of goods and services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic from 16 October 2020 to 15 May 2021.

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 with Members. In recognition of the fact that some measures did not initially have official government sources, the daily update of these measures was listed only on the WTO Members' website, pending verification by the relevant delegation. For those trade and trade-related goods and services measures submitted by delegations, or where official sources were found, a separate list was made available on the WTO public website. The cooperation of WTO Members in confirming measures, providing official sources and additional information to increase transparency, was efficient, especially considering the challenges caused by remote working conditions in operation globally. This was particularly evident in the constant reduction in the number of measures that lacked official sources. 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. 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

¹ The previous WTO Trade Monitoring Report presented to the TPRB (WTO document WT/TPR/OV/23, 30 November 2020) covered measures taken over the period from mid-October 2019 to mid-October 2020. The WTO Trade Monitoring Reports have been prepared by the WTO Secretariat since 2009. On 28 June 2021, the WTO Secretariat, together with the Secretariats of the OECD and UNCTAD, issued the G20 Reports on trade and investment measures implemented by G20 economies during the period mid-October 2020 to mid-May 2021 (available on the WTO website).

² Unless otherwise indicated in the relevant section. In addition to the trade policy measures implemented during the period under review and captured by this Report, other actions that impact trade flows may have been taken by WTO Members.

³ Viewed at: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/covid19_e.htm. This dedicated webpage on the WTO website provides detailed information on COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures and is updated regularly.

pandemic are available on the COVID-19 page of the WTO website. The full list of notifications received by the WTO Secretariat in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic is also available on the WTO website.

1.6. On 14 April 2021, the Director-General convened a virtual meeting themed "COVID-19 and Vaccine Equity: What Can the WTO Contribute". The event brought together speakers from the private sector, international organizations, civil society, and Members, including trade ministers and senior officials. It brought clarity as to the reasons for the inequity in global vaccine distribution and the factors impeding manufacturing upscaling and diversification. Issues touched upon during the event were also being discussed by delegations in several WTO bodies.

1.7. The structure of this Report reflects the significance of the pandemic on the work of the WTO. Each Section, except Section 2, will first cover the regular monitoring of trade and trade-related measures implemented during the review period. Subsequently, each Section will address, where relevant, specific developments in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.8. Section 2 of the Report provides an overview of recent economic and trade developments and includes the most recent forecasts for world trade growth taking into account the global pandemic. Section 3 presents an overview of selected trade and trade-related policy trends, including specific developments related to Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), and agriculture. Overviews of policy developments in trade in services and trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPS) are included in Sections 4 and 5, respectively.

1.9. Annexes 1-4 to this Report include new measures recorded for WTO Members and Observers during the review period. Measures implemented outside this period are not included in these Annexes. The compilation of all measures recorded by the trade monitoring reports since October 2008 is available in the Trade Monitoring Database (TMDB).⁴ Annexes 5 and 6 provide an overview of recorded trade and trade-related measures taken by Members in the area of goods and services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic between 16 October 2020 and 15 May 2021.

1.10. Information on the measures included in this Report was collected from inputs submitted by WTO Members and Observers, as well as from other official and public sources. Replies to the Director-General's initial request for information on measures taken during the period under review and replies to the requests for verification were received from 93 Members⁵ (Box 1.1), which represents 57% of the membership, and covers around 93.8% of world imports.⁶ Five Observers also replied to the request for information. Overall, 106 Members and Observers were covered in the Secretariat's requests for verification of measures with a total of 255 files sent to delegations. Participation in the verification process was uneven, and in many cases the Secretariat received only partial responses and often after the indicated deadline. Where it has not been possible to confirm the information, this is noted in the Annexes.

1.11. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the Global Trade Alert (GTA) have kindly contributed topical boxes to this Report.

⁴ Measures listed in Annexes 1, 2 and 3 to this Report will feature in the TMDB after the informal meeting of the TPRB on 29 July 2021. Viewed at: <http://tmdb.wto.org>.

⁵ The European Union and its member States counted separately.

⁶ This figure includes intra-EU trade.

Box 1.1 Participation in the preparation of this Report

1.	Albania	37.	Malaysia
2.	Angola	38.	Mali
3.	Argentina	39.	Mauritania
4.	Australia	40.	Mexico
5.	Azerbaijan ^a	41.	Moldova, Republic of
6.	Bahrain, Kingdom of	42.	Mongolia
7.	Bangladesh	43.	Montenegro
8.	Belarus ^a	44.	Myanmar
9.	Belize	45.	Nepal
10.	Brazil	46.	New Zealand
11.	Cambodia	47.	North Macedonia
12.	Canada	48.	Norway
13.	Chile	49.	Oman
14.	China	50.	Pakistan
15.	Colombia	51.	Paraguay
16.	Costa Rica	52.	Philippines
17.	Dominican Republic	53.	Qatar
18.	Ecuador	54.	Russian Federation
19.	Egypt	55.	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of
20.	El Salvador	56.	Serbia ^a
21.	Equatorial Guinea ^a	57.	Seychelles
22.	European Union ^b	58.	Singapore
23.	The Gambia	59.	Sri Lanka
24.	Honduras	60.	Switzerland
25.	Hong Kong, China	61.	Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu (Chinese Taipei)
26.	India	62.	Tajikistan
27.	Indonesia	63.	Thailand
28.	Iraq ^a	64.	Tunisia
29.	Israel	65.	Turkey
30.	Japan	66.	Ukraine
31.	Kazakhstan	67.	United Kingdom ^b
32.	Korea, Republic of	68.	United States
33.	Lao People's Democratic Republic	69.	Viet Nam
34.	Lesotho	70.	Zambia
35.	Macao, China	71.	Zimbabwe
36.	Madagascar		

a Observer.

b The United Kingdom withdrew from the European Union as of 1 February 2020. During the transition period, which ended on 31 December 2020, European Union law, with a few limited exceptions, continued 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, continued to cover the United Kingdom.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Box 1.2 About the WTO Trade Monitoring Report

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

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

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

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

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

Source: WTO Secretariat.

2 RECENT ECONOMIC AND TRADE DEVELOPMENTS

2.1 Overview of world trade

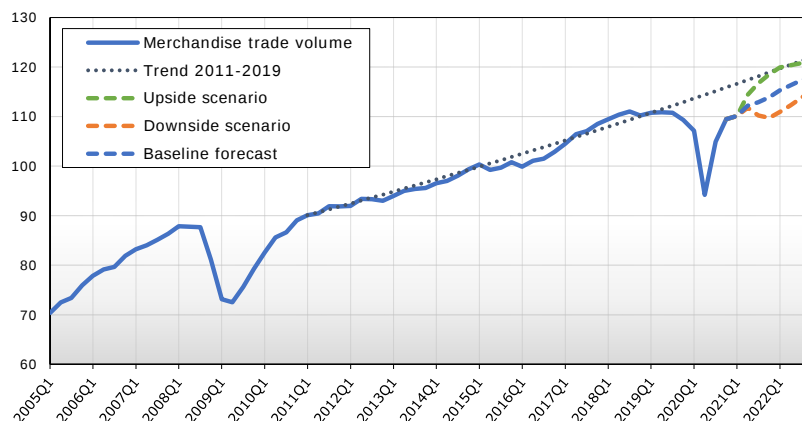
2.1. World trade and output grew faster than expected in the first half of 2021, after falling sharply in the second half of 2020 during the first wave of the pandemic. The turnaround was aided by strong monetary and fiscal policy support from governments, and by the arrival of effective vaccines against COVID-19. Leading indicators point to a sustained expansion of merchandise trade in the first half of 2021, consistent with the WTO's most recent trade forecast of 31 March 2021. In contrast to merchandise trade, commercial services trade has recovered more slowly, since it is strongly influenced by lockdowns and travel restrictions.

2.2. Despite these relatively positive developments, COVID-19 continues to pose a grave threat to the global economy and to public health. Production of vaccines has been slow and distribution uneven, contributing to significant disparities in access across countries. This is especially true for low-income developing economies, which are struggling to obtain enough doses to inoculate more than a small fraction of their populations. Failure of the international community to ensure wider access to vaccines, including in the poorest countries, could lead to a resurgence of the pandemic, which would set back the global economic recovery significantly. WTO Members need to show leadership and work together towards solutions that will save lives and prepare the ground for a sustainable recovery.

2.3. The volume of world merchandise trade jumped 11.4% (quarter-on-quarter) in Q3 2020 and 4.4% in Q4, capping a stronger-than-expected rebound from the 12.1% measured drop in Q2 (Chart 2.1). The bounce was strong enough to lift merchandise trade in Q4 back above its level in Q4 2019, before the pandemic broke out. By comparison, merchandise trade took more than two years (nine quarters) to return to its previous level after the global financial crisis of 2008-09.

Chart 2.1 World merchandise trade volume, Q1 2005-Q4 2022

(Index, 2015 = 100)



Source: WTO Secretariat and UNCTAD for trade volume data; WTO Secretariat for forecasts.

2.4. For the whole of 2020, the volume of merchandise trade was down a modest 5.3%, according to WTO trade statistics. There are several possible explanations for the smaller-than-expected contraction last year. First and foremost, fiscal and monetary policies in advanced economies were more expansive and open-ended than during the financial crisis. Fiscal policy in particular boosted household incomes and propped up demand for consumer goods, including imported ones.

2.5. Lockdowns and travel restrictions prevented the consumption of many types of services, causing consumers to bias their spending towards goods. Innovation in information technology also allowed people to work and shop from home, which kept income and economic activity from falling further. Effective pandemic responses in many economies, particularly in Asia, kept manufacturing supply chains operating, allowing them to continue producing much needed goods, including medical supplies and equipment. Finally, restraint in the implementation of restrictive trade policies prevented a protectionist spiral that would have impacted global trade very negatively.

2.6. According to the WTO's most recent trade forecast on 31 March 2021, the volume of world merchandise trade will increase by 8.0% in 2021 and 4.0% in 2022. The rebound in the second half

of 2020 was not strong enough to return trade to its pre-pandemic trend (represented by the dotted line in Chart 2.1), but such a reversion could happen by Q1 2022 if the more optimistic of two alternative scenarios in the trade forecast materializes. In the upside scenario, vaccine production and dissemination would accelerate, allowing containment measures to be eased sooner rather than later. This would add 1 percentage point to world gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 2021 and around 2.5 percentage points to world merchandise trade volume growth. In the downside scenario, trade recovery could stumble if vaccine production does not keep up with demand, or if vaccine-resistant strains of the virus emerge and spread. This would lower GDP growth by 1 percentage point and trade growth by around 2 percentage points in 2021.

2.7. Trade in nominal US dollar terms fell more sharply than trade in volume terms in 2020. The value of world merchandise exports was down 8% compared with the previous year, while commercial services receipts tumbled 20%. Services trade, in particular, was weighed down by travel restrictions, which prevented the delivery of services requiring physical presence or face-to-face interaction. The larger decline in merchandise trade in value terms compared to volume terms was due in part to falling oil prices, down by around one third between 2019 and 2020.

2.8. Merchandise trade flows in nominal US dollar terms also rebounded in the second half of 2020, but the recovery in services trade was weaker. The US dollar value of world merchandise trade was down 21% year-on-year in Q2 2020, but by Q4 it was up 2%. Commercial services trade declined by 28% year-on-year in Q2, and has remained down 19% year-on-year in Q4.

2.9. The policy response to the pandemic will probably be the single most important determinant of trade and output over the next two years. If a large percentage of the world's population gets vaccinated, then service industries will be able to resume, or approach the resumption of, normal activities, and people will be able to travel again. Unfortunately, progress to date has been discouraging, with huge discrepancies in vaccination rates between wealthier and poorer countries.

2.10. The European Union (32% with at least one dose as at 17 May 2020), the United States (47%) and the United Kingdom (54%) are likely to achieve herd immunity before large emerging economies such as Brazil (17%) or India (10%). Meanwhile, only 1.3% of people in African countries are estimated to have been vaccinated.¹ At this rate, it would take years and many lives lost for the region to catch up in the vaccination race.

2.2 Details on economic and trade developments

2.11. There are no readily available quarterly statistics on world GDP, but the OECD estimates for G20 economies provide a close approximation. These data show that the real GDP of the collective G20 fell 6.6% quarter-on-quarter in Q2 2020, during the first wave of the pandemic. Growth then turned positive in Q3, with a 7.8% increase, followed by a 2.1% rise in Q4. Figures for Q1 2021 are not yet available, but data for individual G20 economies suggest that growth may have slowed marginally.

2.12. GDP declines in advanced economies early in the pandemic were larger than the G20 average. The United States recorded a 9.0% drop in real output in Q2, a 7.5% rebound in Q3, and a smaller 1.1% increase in Q4. The European Union reported a 11.6% decline in Q2, followed by a 12.5% rebound in Q3. Growth in the European Union turned negative again in Q4 (-0.7%), probably due to the resurgence of the pandemic in Europe at that time. Finally, the United Kingdom's GDP plunged 19.5% in Q2, before rebounding 16.9% in Q3. Growth subsequently moderated to 1.3% in Q4.

2.13. Among emerging economies, China's pattern of GDP growth in 2020 was unique in that it recorded its largest decline in output in Q1, when the COVID-19 virus was first detected. Chinese output dropped 9.7% in Q1, and then rebounded 11.6% in Q2. Despite being hard hit by COVID-19 early in the pandemic, Brazil recorded a relatively modest 9.2% drop in GDP in Q2, followed by a 7.2% rise in Q3. By contrast, India's GDP dropped precipitously, with output falling 25.9% in Q2 before rebounding 23.7% in Q3. The large size of the Indian decline may be attributed to the importance of services in India's economy.

2.14. Chart 2.2 shows growth in the US dollar value of world merchandise trade (red line) together with contributions of income groups to that growth (stacked bars). World export and import growth normally diverge slightly due to differences in the recording of transactions across countries. High-income countries accounted for nearly 70% of the decline in exports in Q2 2020, and about

¹ Viewed at: <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations>.

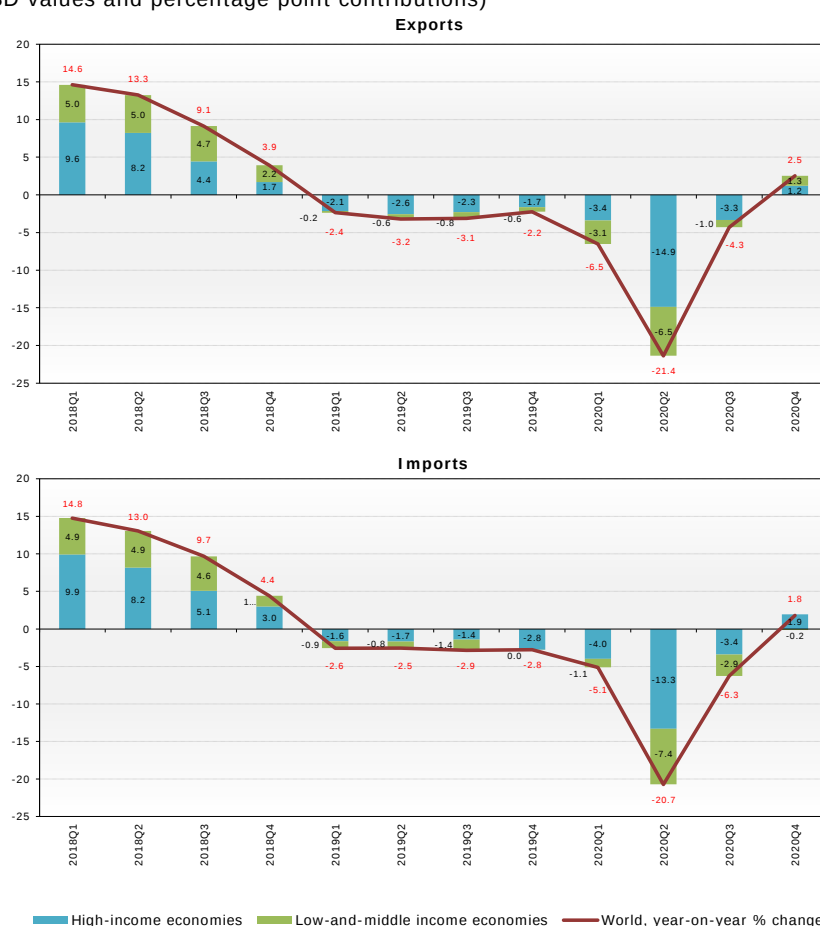
64% of the decline in imports. Nominal trade growth was negative throughout 2019 due to the elevated trade tensions outlined in previous Reports.

2.15. Chart 2.3 shows quarterly merchandise export and import volume indices for WTO regions from Q1 2015 to Q4 2020. In Q2 2020, North America and Europe recorded sharp year-on-year declines in exports – 25.8% and 20.4%, respectively. However, by Q4 they had regained most of the lost ground, with year-on-year declines of 3.0% and 2.4%, respectively. Middle Eastern exports also fell sharply in Q2, as oil consumption slumped worldwide due to reduced demand for gasoline and aviation fuel.

2.16. Asian exports recorded a smaller drop of 7.2% in Q2, but by Q4 shipments were already up 7.7% compared with the same period in 2019. This rapid recovery can be partly explained by the fact that, so far, the pandemic has been comparatively better controlled in most Asian economies. The region has also been supplying the world with a variety of consumer goods and medical supplies since the start of the pandemic, thus driving up regional export totals.

Chart 2.2 Contributions to year-on-year growth in world merchandise exports and imports, Q1 2018-Q4 2020

(% change in USD values and percentage point contributions)

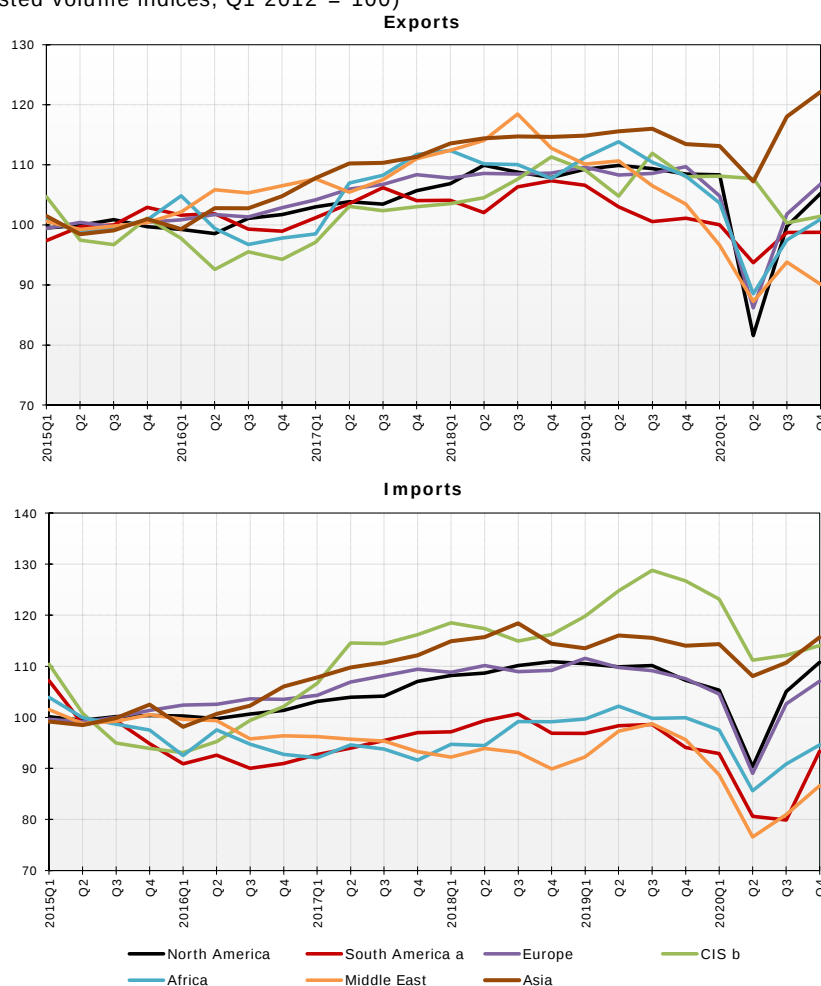


Note: Due to limited data availability, Africa and the Middle East are under-represented in world totals. Economies are categorized according to World Bank income classification.

Source: WTO Secretariat and UNCTAD.

Chart 2.3 Volume of merchandise exports and imports by region, Q1 2015-Q4 2020

(Seasonally adjusted volume indices, Q1 2012 = 100)



a Refers to South and Central America and the Caribbean.

b Refers to Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), including certain associate and former member States.

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 WTO Secretariat estimates.

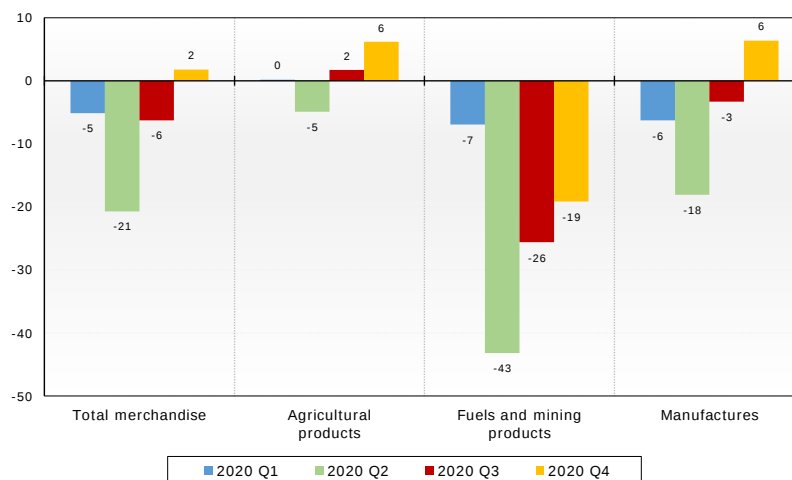
Source: WTO Secretariat and UNCTAD.

2.17. Chart 2.4 illustrates the evolution of merchandise trade in current US dollar terms over the course of 2020 by sector. The value of world trade in manufactured goods was 6% higher in Q4 2020 compared with the same period in 2019. Trade in agricultural products was up by a similar amount over the same period. By contrast, the value of fuels and mining products trade was still down 19% in Q4. The value of merchandise trade overall was up slightly compared with the previous year (2%). Although not shown in the chart, most types of manufactured goods saw significant gains in the second half of 2020, including textiles, pharmaceuticals, computers and telecommunications equipment.

2.18. Chart 2.5 shows year-on-year changes in world commercial services trade by major category. Travel suffered the steepest decline of any services category during the pandemic, down 82% year-on-year in Q2 2020. By Q4 it remained down 71%. Transport was also severely impacted, with a 29% decline in Q2, but this was reduced to 13% by Q4. Goods-related services, which cover manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others, improved from a 22% year-on-year decline in Q2 to a 6% year-on-year decline in Q4. Finally, the Other Commercial Services category, which includes many types of business and financial services, held up well during the pandemic, with a 6% year-on-year decline in Q2 and a 2% year-on-year decline in Q4.

Chart 2.4 Year-on-year growth in world merchandise trade by sector, Q1 2020-Q4 2020

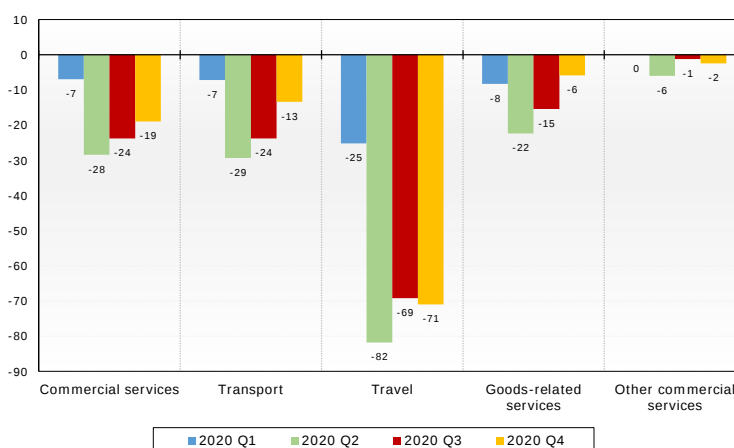
(% change in USD values)



Source: WTO Secretariat estimates.

Chart 2.5 Year-on-year growth in world commercial services trade by category, Q1 2020-Q4 2020

(% change in current USD values)



Source: WTO Secretariat and UNCTAD.

2.3 Trade forecast and economic outlook

2.19. Trade projections from the WTO's most recent forecast of 31 March 2021 are presented in Table 2.1. The WTO expects world merchandise trade volume growth of 8.0% in 2021, accompanied by real GDP growth at market exchange rates of 5.1%. For 2022, trade growth of 4.0% and GDP growth of 3.8% are anticipated.

2.20. The Middle East should see the fastest export growth of any region this year at 12.4%, explained by increased shipments of fuels for use in transport once travel restrictions are relaxed. It will be followed by Asia (8.4%), Europe (8.3%), Africa (8.1%), North America (7.7%), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) (4.4%) and South America (3.2%). The fastest growing region on the import side will be North America (11.4%), with demand fuelled by increased government spending. It will be followed by Europe (8.4%), South America (8.1%), the Middle East (7.2%), Asia (5.7%), the CIS (5.7%) and Africa (5.5%).

2.21. The implied ratios of trade volume growth to GDP growth in 2021 and 2022 would be 1.6-to-1 and 1.1-to-1, respectively. These ratios imply that trade will once again grow in lockstep with GDP once the shock of the pandemic has faded as it did following the 2008-2009 global financial crisis.

2.22. Leading indicators for trade in 2021 can provide an indication as to whether the WTO's trade forecast is being realized. A closely watched index of container port throughput published by the Institute of Shipping Economics and Logistics (ISL) was up nearly 11% year-on-year in the first three months of 2021. This points to strong trade growth in Q1 2021, especially because the index did not decline much in 2020. International cargo-tonne kilometre (CTK) statistics from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) show an even stronger increase, up 23% year-on-year in March. These indicators and others are summarized in the WTO's Goods Barometer Index (Box 2.1).

Table 2.1 Merchandise trade volume and real GDP, 2017-22

(Annual % change)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 ^a	2022 ^a
Volume of world merchandise trade^b	4.9	3.2	0.2	-5.3	8.0	4.0
Exports						
North America	3.4	3.8	0.3	-8.5	7.7	5.1
South America ^c	2.3	0.0	-2.2	-4.5	3.2	2.7
Europe	4.1	1.9	0.6	-8.0	8.3	3.9
CIS ^d	3.9	4.1	-0.3	-3.9	4.4	1.9
Africa	4.7	2.7	-0.5	-8.1	8.1	3.0
Middle East	-2.1	4.7	-2.5	-8.2	12.4	5.0
Asia	6.7	3.8	0.8	0.3	8.4	3.5
Imports						
North America	4.4	5.1	-0.6	-6.1	11.4	4.9
South America ^c	4.5	5.4	-2.6	-9.3	8.1	3.7
Europe	3.9	1.9	0.3	-7.6	8.4	3.7
CIS ^d	14.0	4.1	8.5	-4.7	5.7	2.7
Africa	-1.7	5.4	2.6	-8.8	5.5	4.0
Middle East	1.1	-4.1	0.8	-11.3	7.2	4.5
Asia	8.4	5.0	-0.5	-1.3	5.7	4.4
World GDP at market exchange rates	3.3	3.0	2.4	-3.8	5.1	3.8
North America	2.3	2.8	1.9	-4.1	5.9	3.8
South America ^c	0.8	0.2	-0.7	-7.8	3.8	3.0
Europe	2.8	2.0	1.5	-7.1	3.7	3.6
CIS ^d	2.3	2.9	2.1	-0.5	1.0	1.2
Africa	3.1	3.1	2.9	-2.9	2.6	3.8
Middle East	0.7	0.5	0.1	-6.0	2.4	3.5
Asia	5.1	4.6	4.1	-1.1	6.1	4.1

a Figures for 2021 and 2022 are projections corresponding to the baseline scenario in Chart 2.1.

b Average of exports and imports.

c Refers to South and Central America and the Caribbean.

d Refers to Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), including certain associate and former member States.

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

Box 2.1 Goods Trade Barometer May 2021

The WTO's latest Goods Trade Barometer of 28 May 2021 shows signs of a strong ongoing recovery in world goods trade following a steep but brief drop in the second quarter of last year as the global economy locked down as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The barometer is a composite leading indicator, providing real-time information on the trajectory of merchandise trade relative to recent trends ahead of conventional trade volume statistics. Information on several trade-related variables is combined into an overall index, with values greater than 100 indicating above trend growth and values less than 100 signalling the opposite. The current index reading of 109.7 is nearly 10 points above the baseline value of 100 for the index and up 21.6 points year-on-year, reflecting both the strength of the current recovery and the depth of the COVID-19 shock last year.

The barometer's component indices include the following:

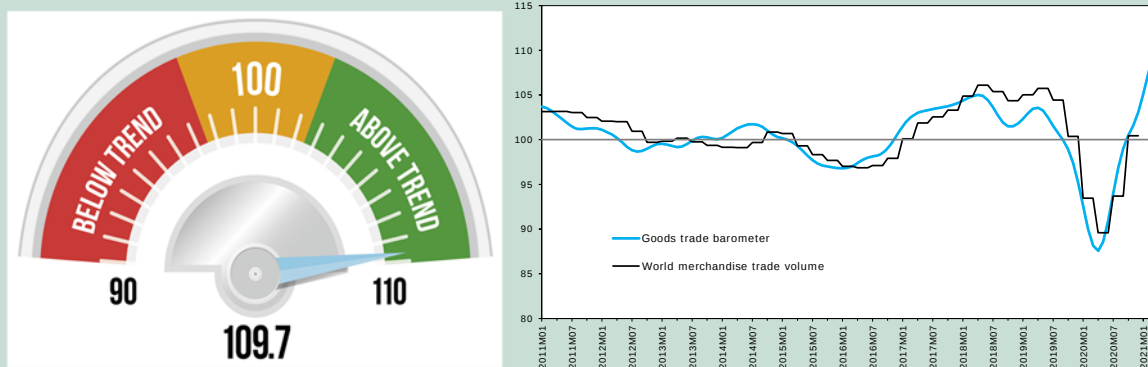
- New Export Orders derived from Purchasing Managers' Indices (PMIs);
- Automobile production and sales in major economies;
- Container port throughput in 20 food equivalent units (TEU);

- An air freight index from the International Air Transport Association (IATA); and
- Customs data on trade in electronic components in physical units.

The biggest gains were seen in export orders (114.8), air freight (111.1) and electronics (115.2), all of which are highly predictive of near-term trade developments. The strength of automobile production and sales (105.5) may reflect improving consumer sentiment, since confidence is closely linked to sales of durable goods. The same is true for agricultural raw materials (105.4), which mostly consists of wood intended for construction. The strength of container shipping (106.7) is also impressive in light of the fact that sea shipment held up well during the pandemic and had less ground to make up as a result.

The current barometer reading is broadly in line with the WTO's most recent trade forecast of 31 March 2021, which predicted an 8% rise in the volume of world merchandise trade in 2021 from last year's 5.3% decline. Quarterly trade volume statistics for the first half of 2021 have not been released yet, but are expected to show strong year-on-year growth, partly due to the recent firming up of trade and partly as a result of the collapse last year. However, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose a severe threat to world trade, as new waves of infection could easily undermine the current recovery.

Index value, March 2021 = 109.7



Source: WTO Secretariat.

3 TRADE AND TRADE-RELATED POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

3.1 Overview of trends identified during the review period

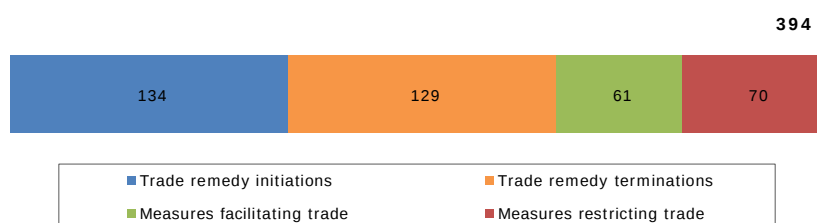
3.1. This Section provides analysis of selected trade and trade-related policy developments in the area of goods during the period from mid-October 2020 to mid-May 2021. It is divided into two parts. The first part looks at regular¹, i.e. non-COVID-related, measures implemented during the review period, and includes calculations on trade coverage.² The second part (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 1.

3.1.1 Regular trade measures

3.2. A total of 394 trade measures were recorded for WTO Members and Observers during the review period (Chart 3.1).³ 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 illustrates the trade coverage of the measures recorded for WTO Members and Observers during the review period.

Chart 3.1 Overview of measures, mid-October 2020 to mid-May 2021

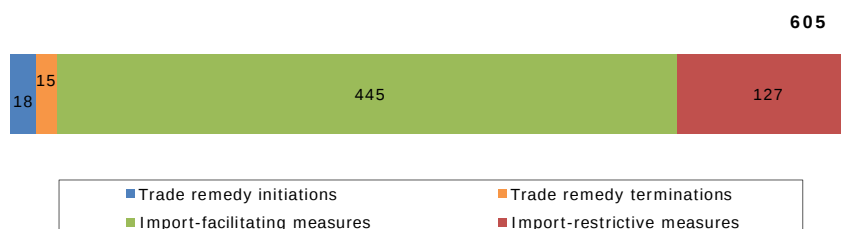
(By number)



Source: WTO Secretariat.

Chart 3.2 Trade coverage of measures, mid-October 2020 to mid-May 2021

(USD billion)



Source: WTO Secretariat.

Measures facilitating trade

3.3. Annex 1 to this Report lists measures that are clearly trade-facilitating. During the review period, 61 new trade-facilitating measures were recorded for WTO Members and Observers (Table 3.1), of which approximately half of a temporary nature. This represents 15% of the total number of measures recorded. The monthly average of 8.7 trade-facilitating measures recorded for the period is the third lowest recorded since 2012. It is, however, higher than the monthly average of trade-facilitating measures throughout the whole of 2020.

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

² The trade coverage of a measure is calculated to be the value of annual imports of the specific product concerned from countries affected by the measure. Highly traded goods may significantly influence the estimation of trade coverage.

³ 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.

Table 3.1 Measures facilitating trade (Annex 1)

Type of measure	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Mid-Oct 19 to mid-Oct 20 (WT/TPR/OV/23)	Mid-Oct 20 to mid-May 21 (7 months)
Import	185	149	181	206	147	113	144	100	91	82	55
- Tariff	156	116	150	154	111	93	119	85	79	72	50
- Customs procedures	12	28	17	30	27	17	15	2	3	3	0
- Tax	2	4	2	6	4	3	6	5	8	6	3
- QRs	7	1	11	5	1	0	3	1	1	1	2
- Other	8	0	1	11	4	0	1	7	0	0	0
Export	20	8	9	40	32	24	18	14	7	5	5
- Duties	8	3	3	18	5	1	6	10	5	4	3
- QRs	9	4	3	3	1	2	0	1	1	0	2
- Other	3	1	3	19	26	21	12	3	1	1	0
Other	5	1	1	4	3	0	0	1	1	1	1
Total	210	158	191	250	182	137	162	115	99	88	61
<i>Average per month</i>	<i>17.5</i>	<i>13.2</i>	<i>15.9</i>	<i>20.8</i>	<i>15.2</i>	<i>11.4</i>	<i>13.5</i>	<i>9.6</i>	<i>8.3</i>	<i>7.3</i>	<i>8.7</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 Annex 5.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.4. Table 3.1 above shows that, as for previous periods, the reduction or elimination of import tariffs made up the bulk of trade-facilitating measures, followed by the reduction of import taxes⁴ and the elimination of bans.⁵ On the export side, measures included reductions of export duties.⁶

3.5. The trade coverage of the import-facilitating measures introduced during the review period was estimated at USD 445 billion, i.e. 2.36% of the value of world merchandise imports (Chart 3.3).⁷ This share is the fourth-highest reported for these types of measures since October 2012 (Table 3.2). The HS Chapters within which most of the trade-facilitating measures were taken include machinery and mechanical appliances (HS 84) at 14.6%, electrical machinery and parts thereof (HS 85) at 10.1%, copper and articles thereof (HS 74) at 7.7%, and plastics and articles thereof (HS 39) at 6.9%.

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	Mid-Oct 20 to mid-May 21
Share in total world imports	6.4%	0.91%	1.51%	1.07%	1.68%	2.80%	3.88%	2.36%

Note: Estimates are based on calendar year data. For example, data for mid-October 2018 to mid-May 2019 are based on 2018 calendar year data. For the period mid-October 2020 to mid-May 2021, estimates are based on 2019 imports (data for 2020 for Belarus, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Seychelles, Tajikistan, Thailand and Viet Nam were not yet available at the finalization of the Report).

Source: WTO Secretariat and UN Comtrade database.

⁴ For example, elimination of import excise duties on diamonds, precious and semi-precious stones by Azerbaijan, and reduction of the Special Commodity Levy and CESS Levy by Sri Lanka.

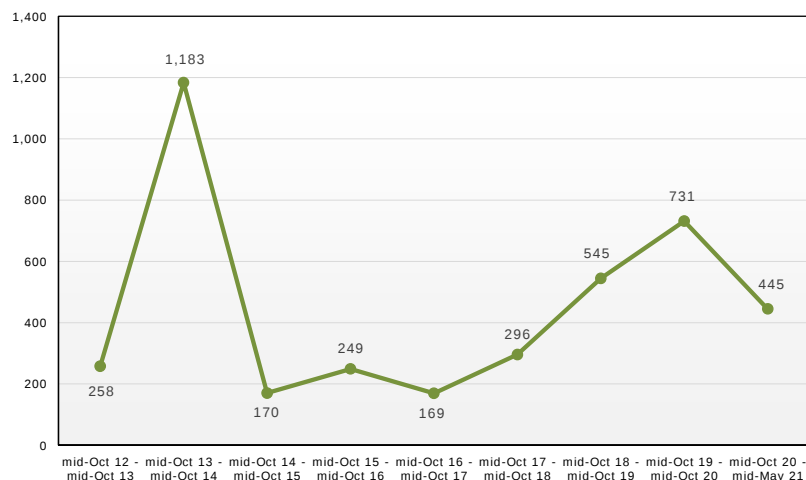
⁵ For example, amendments introduced to the import policy of odoriferous preparations by India, and increase of import quota on bovine meat by Switzerland.

⁶ For example, reduction of export duties on 5,114 tariff lines by Argentina, increased VAT rebate rates by China and elimination of prior export authorization requirement on onion and potatoes by Turkey.

⁷ These figures include one measure by China (interim import tariffs resulting in the temporary reduction of import tariffs on certain products), accounting for 72.8% of the total, and three measures by Brazil (reduction of import tariffs on certain products), accounting for 11.7% of the total.

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 (ITA) is not included in the figures. COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures are not included.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.6. Contrary to previous Reports that reported on the very significant trade coverage of measures resulting from the implementation of the ITA Expansion Agreement, the present review period includes only one such measure, by the Philippines. The total trade coverage of the implementation of the ITA Expansion Agreement so far is estimated at USD 584.6 million (0.003% of the value of world merchandise imports).

Trade remedy actions

3.7. During the period under review, 263 trade remedy actions were recorded for WTO Members, accounting for 67% of all non-COVID-19-related trade measures recorded in this Report.⁸ An overview of these measures can be found in Annex 2. After reaching its highest peak in 2020, the average number of trade remedy initiations during the review period was 19.1 per month, the lowest since 2012. The monthly average of trade remedy terminations is the second highest 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	2020	Mid-Oct 19 to mid-Oct 20 (WT/TPR/OV/23)	Mid-Oct 20 to mid-May 21 (7 months)
Initiations	255	338	304	277	343	298	273	280	427	392	134
- AD	208	287	236	229	298	249	202	214	349	310	111
- CVD	23	33	45	31	34	41	55	36	55	57	19
- SG	24	18	23	17	11	8	16	30	23	25	4
<i>Average per month</i>	21.3	28.2	25.3	23.1	28.6	24.8	22.8	23.3	35.6	32.7	19.1
Terminations	208	186	220	212	171	157	222	181	205	130	129
- AD	177	160	185	167	141	128	198	164	174	111	120

⁸ 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.

Type of measure	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Mid-Oct 19 to mid-Oct 20 (WT/TPR/OV/23)	Mid-Oct 20 to mid-May 21 (7 months)
- CVD	21	17	23	25	15	12	24	7	12	8	6
- SG ^a	10	9	12	20	15	17	0	10	19	11	3
<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>17.1</i>	<i>10.8</i>	<i>18.4</i>

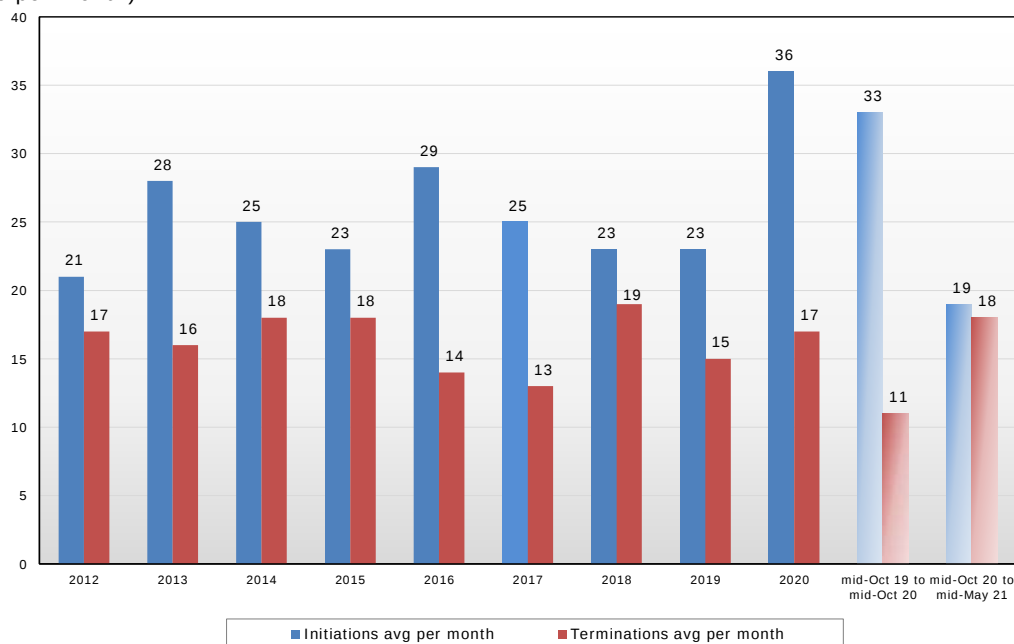
a The figure for a specific year is the sum of the following: (i) all ongoing investigations terminated during the course of that specific year without any measure; and (ii) all imposed measures expired during the course of that specific year.

Note: The information on trade remedy actions for 2012 to 2020 is based on Members semi-annual notifications. For the present review period, the information is also based on the responses and the verifications received directly from Members.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Chart 3.4 Trade remedies initiations and terminations

(Average per month)



Note: Values are rounded.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.8. In terms of products, trade remedy actions taken during the review period included initiations of investigations on electrical machinery and parts thereof (HS 85) at 19.3%, plastics and articles thereof (HS 39) at 17%, articles of iron and steel (HS 73) at 12.2%, and iron and steel (HS 72) at 11.5%.

3.9. The trade coverage of trade remedy investigations initiated during the review period was estimated at USD 17.6 billion, i.e. 0.09% of the value of world merchandise imports (Table 3.4). This share is the lowest recorded since 2014. For terminations, the trade coverage was valued at USD 15.1 billion (0.08% of the value of world merchandise imports).

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	Mid-Oct 20 to mid-May 21
Share in total world imports	0.20%	0.17%	0.55%	0.48%	0.53%	0.24%	0.36%	0.09%

Note: Estimates are based on calendar year data. For example, data for mid-October 2018 to mid-May 2019 are based 2018 calendar year imports. For the period mid-October 2020 to mid-May 2021, estimates are based on 2019 imports (data for 2020 for Belarus, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Seychelles, Tajikistan, Thailand and Viet Nam were not available at the time of finalization of the Report).

Source: WTO Secretariat and UN Comtrade database.

Other trade and trade-related measures

3.10. Annex 3 to this Report lists measures that may be considered to have a trade-restrictive effect. A total of 70 new trade-restrictive measures were recorded for WTO Members and Observers, mostly tariff increases, followed by stricter customs procedures⁹ and bans.¹⁰ Restrictive measures on exports included quantitative restrictions (QRs)¹¹, followed by the imposition of duties¹² and stricter administrative customs procedures (Table 3.5).

3.11. The measures recorded in Annex 3 cover a wide range of products. The main sectors affected (HS Chapters) were mineral fuel and oils (HS 27) at 28.4%, copper and articles thereof (HS 74) at 10.1%, iron and steel (HS 72) at 9.9%, and machinery and mechanical appliances (HS 84) at 6%.

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

Type of measure	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Mid-Oct 19 to mid-Oct 20 (WT/TPR/OV/23)	Mid-Oct 20 to mid-May 21 (7 months)
Import	134	146	133	166	99	84	114	77	72	71	43
- Tariff	75	86	83	106	64	47	70	46	40	39	15
- Customs procedures	31	27	19	32	16	19	6	6	10	8	12
- Tax	5	5	8	10	6	9	13	6	6	6	5
- QRs	16	17	8	12	12	7	16	14	10	13	8
- Other	7	11	15	6	1	2	9	5	6	5	3
Export	23	31	26	44	20	18	18	19	27	18	25
- Duties	3	5	12	13	6	4	9	7	4	6	5
- QRs	12	10	8	7	10	8	4	3	10	7	15
- Other	8	16	6	24	4	6	5	9	13	5	5
Other	12	7	12	13	11	14	0	2	0	0	2
- Other ^a	7	1	1	0	4	2	0	1	0	0	0
- Local content	5	6	11	13	7	12	0	1	0	0	2
Total	169	184	171	223	130	116	132	98	99	89	70
<i>Average per month</i>	<i>14.1</i>	<i>15.3</i>	<i>14.3</i>	<i>18.6</i>	<i>10.8</i>	<i>9.7</i>	<i>11.0</i>	<i>8.2</i>	<i>8.3</i>	<i>7.4</i>	<i>10.0</i>

a Other than local content measures.

⁹ For example, update of import criterion values by Argentina, amendments introduced to import policy procedures for certain products by India, import approval requirement on sugar by Egypt, and import procedures on hydrofluorocarbons by the Eurasian Economic Union.

¹⁰ For example, QRs on imports of certain food products by the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Nigeria, Nepal and Peru; on ceramic flags by Egypt; and changes in the management system for administration of import quotas by the European Union and Switzerland.

¹¹ For example, QRs on exports of certain food products by Argentina, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Egypt, India and the Eurasian Economic Union; on ferrous waste and scrap by Argentina; on oil, mineral fertilizers, waste of ferrous metals by the Kyrgyz Republic; and on wood by Montenegro.

¹² For example, export duties on 17 tariff lines by Argentina; on cereal by Egypt; on leather, wood and palm oil by Indonesia; on waste and scrap of cast iron by Malaysia; on soya beans by the Russian Federation; and on sunflower oil by the Eurasian Economic Union.

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 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 127.1 billion, i.e. 0.67% of the value of world merchandise imports (Table 3.6).¹³ This represents the third-lowest value recorded since October 2012 (Chart 3.5).

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

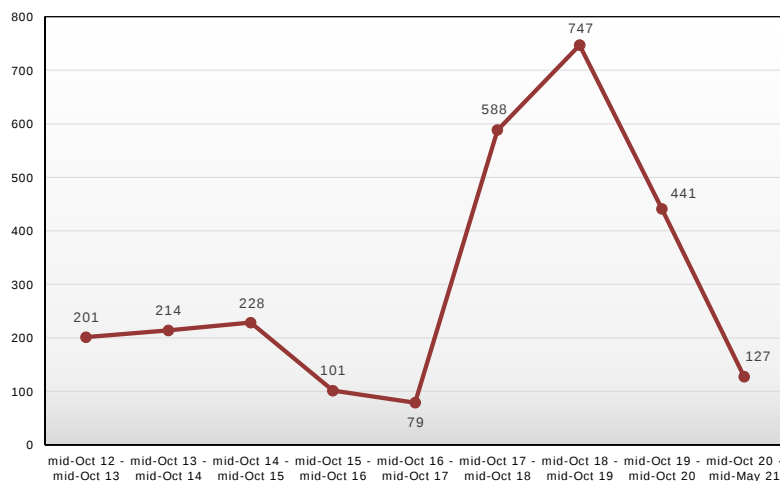
	Mid-Oct 13 to mid-Oct 14	Mid-Oct 14 to mid-Oct 15	Mid-Oct 15 to mid-Oct 16	Mid-Oct 16 to mid-Oct 17	Mid-Oct 17 to mid-Oct 18	Mid-Oct 18 to mid-Oct 19	Mid-Oct 19 to mid-Oct 20	Mid-Oct 20 to mid-May 21
Share in total world imports	1.17%	1.23%	0.62%	0.50%	3.33%	3.84%	2.4%	0.67%

Note: Estimates are based on calendar year data. For example, data for mid-October 2018 to mid-May 2019 are based 2018 calendar year imports. For the period mid-October 2020 to mid-May 2021, estimates are based on 2019 imports (data for 2020 for Belarus, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Seychelles, Tajikistan, Thailand and Viet Nam were not yet available at the time of finalization of the Report).

Source: WTO Secretariat and UN Comtrade database.

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 complex by the fact that many temporary measures remain in place beyond the envisaged termination date. Moreover, the Secretariat does not always receive accurate information on changes to reported measures. As a result, the figures below are estimates based on the

¹³ These figures include one measure by Argentina (extension of the statistical fee), accounting for 38.6% of the total; two measures by India (amendments on import policy of coal and steel monitoring system), accounting for 13.6% of the total; and one measure by the European Union (surveillance on ethanol for fuel), accounting for 10.4% of the total.

information recorded in the TMDB 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.¹⁴

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. At the end of 2020, some 8.96% of world imports were affected by import restrictions implemented since 2009 and which are still in force. This comes amidst a general deterioration in terms of the overall value of world imports. For this Report, no information was received from WTO Members and Observers about the termination of any non-COVID-19 related import restrictions. This is not particularly unusual, as such information is more often provided in the context of the end-of-year monitoring exercise.

3.15. Table 3.7 also shows that the trade coverage for terminations of import restrictions represented 0.07% of total world imports in 2019, suggesting that any roll back of such measures remains negligible.

Table 3.7 Cumulative trade coverage of import-restrictive measures, 2010-20

(USD billion, unless otherwise indicated)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 ^a
Total imports (world)	15,163	18,109	18,193	18,483	18,654	16,360	15,812	17,587	19,402	18,883	17,263
Total import restrictions in force	125.75	234.42	305.91	407.26	467.39	598.43	570.24	814.45	1,456.97	1,645.31	1,547.38
Share in world imports (%)	0.83	1.29	1.68	2.20	2.51	3.66	3.61	4.63	7.51	8.71	8.96
Total import restrictions terminated	1.68	15.43	59.41	37.15	34.05	1.51	38.09	3.88	5.45	13.12	n.a.
Share in world imports (%)	0.01	0.09	0.33	0.20	0.18	0.01	0.24	0.02	0.03	0.07	n.a.

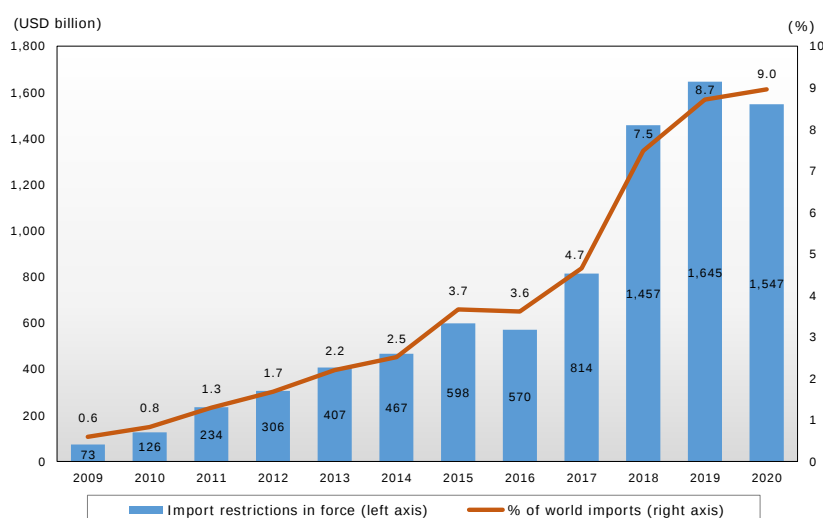
n.a. Not applicable.

a Provisional data for 2020.

Note: For some countries, 2020 import data were not yet available. The data for the previous full calendar available year were used for those countries.

Source: WTO calculations, based on UN Comtrade database and data provided by the authorities.

Chart 3.6 Cumulative trade coverage of import-restrictive measures on goods, 2009-20



Note: The cumulative trade coverage estimated by the Secretariat is based on information available in the 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

¹⁴ Only import measures where HS codes were available are included in the calculation.

include trade remedy measures. COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures are not included. The import values were sourced from the UN Comtrade database.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.16. This review period has not seen an escalation of tariff increases introduced as part of bilateral trade tensions mainly between the United States and China that characterized some previous reports. On the contrary, the current review period has recorded the extension of a waiver on the additional tariffs imposed by China on certain US products.

3.1.2 COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures

3.17. Annex 5 to this Report lists the COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures implemented between mid-October 2020 and mid-May 2021.

3.18. During the period under review, 54 new COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures were recorded for WTO Members and Observers. Among these, 15 were extensions of existing measures originally implemented in the early stages of the pandemic. Of the measures implemented during the review period, 33 (61%) were of a trade-facilitating nature and 21 measures (39%) could be considered trade restrictive.

3.19. Overall, since the outbreak of the pandemic, 384 trade and trade-related measures in the area of goods have been implemented by WTO Members and Observers specifically in response to the COVID-19 pandemic (Table 3.8).¹⁵

Table 3.8 COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures since the outbreak of the pandemic

	Facilitating	Phased-out	Restrictive	Phased-out	Total
Import	148	43	13	4	161
Export	84	7	114	65	198
Other	16	3	9	5	25
Total	248	53	136	74	384

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.20. Of the total 384 COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures recorded for WTO Members and Observers since the outbreak of the pandemic, 248 (65%) were of a trade-facilitating nature and 136 (35%) could be considered trade restrictive. Export bans account for 84% of all restrictive measures recorded. According to preliminary estimates by the WTO Secretariat, the trade coverage of the COVID-19 trade-facilitating measures implemented since the outbreak of the pandemic amounted to USD 291.6 billion (including imports and exports). The trade coverage of the COVID-19 trade-restrictive measures implemented since the outbreak of the pandemic was estimated at USD 205.8 billion (including imports and exports).

3.21. Table 3.8 shows that the reduction or elimination of import tariffs and import taxes accounted for 60% of trade-facilitating measures taken. Certain Members and Observers reduced their tariffs on a variety of goods, such as PPE, sanitizers, disinfectants, medical equipment and medicines/drugs. In many cases, tariff reductions were also accompanied by exemptions from VAT and other taxes.

3.22. WTO Members and Observers continued their gradual lifting of exports constraints targeting products such as surgical masks, gloves, medicine, disinfectants, and food products. Other trade and trade-related measures taken in the early stages of the pandemic are also being rolled back. As such, 54% of all COVID-19-specific restrictive measures implemented had been repealed by mid-May. According to preliminary estimates by the WTO Secretariat, the trade coverage of the trade-restrictive measures repealed amounted to USD 99.8 billion (including imports and exports). Fifty-seven percent of the 114 export restrictive measures put in place since the beginning of the pandemic have been repealed.

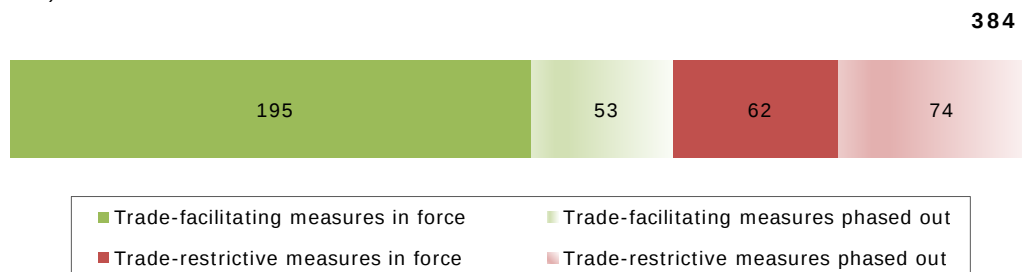
3.23. On the other hand, WTO Members and Observers have also been withdrawing facilitating measures implemented in response of the pandemic. Around 21% of COVID-19-specific facilitating measures have been terminated (Chart 3.7). According to preliminary estimates by the WTO

¹⁵ Details of the measures implemented in the context of the pandemic can be viewed at: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/covid19_e.htm.

Secretariat, the trade coverage of the trade-facilitating measures repealed amounted to USD 112 billion (including imports and exports). Chart 3.8 shows the trade coverage of trade-facilitating and trade-restrictive measures in force and phased out since the beginning of the pandemic.

Chart 3.7 COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures on goods, by mid-May 2021

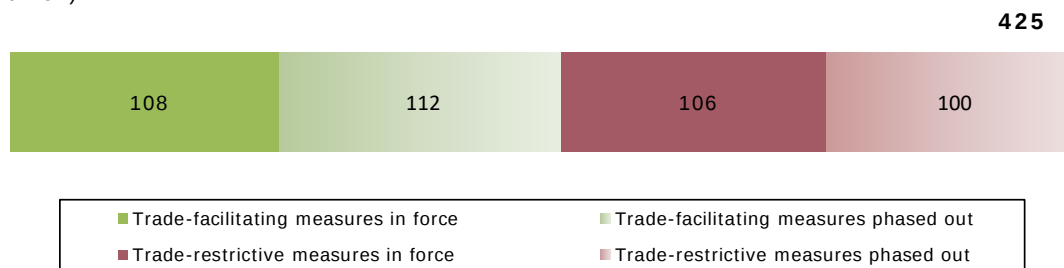
(By number)



Source: WTO Secretariat.

Chart 3.8 Trade coverage of COVID-19 trade and trade-related measures on goods, by mid-May 2021

(USD billion)



Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.24. Certain WTO Members and Observers severely affected by successive waves of the pandemic have also been eliminating import tariffs on certain goods necessary to fight COVID-19, such as oxygen, oxygen canisters, certain drugs and active substances. Some Members appear to have implemented – either in the current review period or slightly before - policies that have the effect of restricting exports. Despite widespread coverage in the media it has either not been possible for the Secretariat to obtain official confirmation of these policies or specific requests to omit such measures have been received by the Secretariat.

3.25. The WTO Secretariat acknowledges the considerable challenges that delegations have encountered in responding to, and participating in, this Trade Monitoring Report. Their collaboration and efforts to respect deadlines have contributed to the timely finalization of this Report.

3.26. On an overall note, it is worthwhile noting that several WTO Members and Observers have extended and continue to extend many trade-facilitating measures introduced in immediate response to the pandemic. At the same time, a host of other temporary facilitating measures have been rolled back to pre-pandemic tariffs levels. Although more trade-restrictive measures were rolled back, according to preliminary estimates, the trade coverage of the trade-facilitating measures still in force (USD 107.6 billion) is slightly higher than that of the trade-restrictive measures (USD 106.0 billion). This is significant and something that the WTO will continue to monitor closely. WTO Members and Observers need to demonstrate commitment to ensuring that trade restrictions implemented in response to the pandemic are targeted, transparent, proportionate and temporary. This will send a strong signal as the world embarks on a sustainable recovery from the pandemic.

3.2 Trade remedies¹⁶

3.27. This Section provides an assessment of trends in trade-remedy actions over three periods: January-December 2018, January-December 2019, and January-December 2020.¹⁷

Anti-dumping measures¹⁸

3.28. Between 2018 and 2019, global anti-dumping initiations increased by 5.9%, from 202 to 214. Between 2019 and 2020, initiations showed a further increase of 63.1%, to 349. Table 3.9 provides information on which Members initiated anti-dumping investigations during this three-year period.

Table 3.9 Initiations of anti-dumping investigations, 2018-20

(Number)

Member	2018	2019	2020
Argentina	19	17	6
Australia	12	7	18
Kingdom of Bahrain, State of Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates ^a	3	2	1
Brazil	7	1	9
Canada	14	6	24
Chile	2	0	2
China	16	14	4
Colombia	3	0	4
Dominican Republic	1	0	0
Egypt	1	6	10
European Union	8	11	12
India	32	59	92
Indonesia	0	6	2
Japan	0	1	1
Republic of Korea	5	5	3
Madagascar	0	1	0
Malaysia	2	7	9
Mexico	3	6	7
Morocco	0	0	3
New Zealand	2	0	4
Pakistan	8	6	3
Peru	0	1	3
Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Russian Federation ^b	6	4	4
South Africa ^c	3	0	4
Chinese Taipei	2	0	5
Thailand	1	2	13
Turkey	6	2	3
Ukraine	10	8	6
United States	34	33	89
Viet Nam	2	9	8
Total	202	214	349

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 Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and the Russian Federation individually, but investigations are initiated by the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) on behalf of all of its member States, i.e. Armenia, Belarus (non-WTO Member), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and the Russian Federation, collectively.

c Notified by South Africa, but investigations are initiated at the level of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) on behalf of its member States (Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa).

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.29. Chart 3.9 shows that the number of initiations of anti-dumping investigations increased significantly in 2020 over previous periods. The 349 initiations in 2020 represent the peak since 2002, but lower than the all-time high of 372 in 2001.

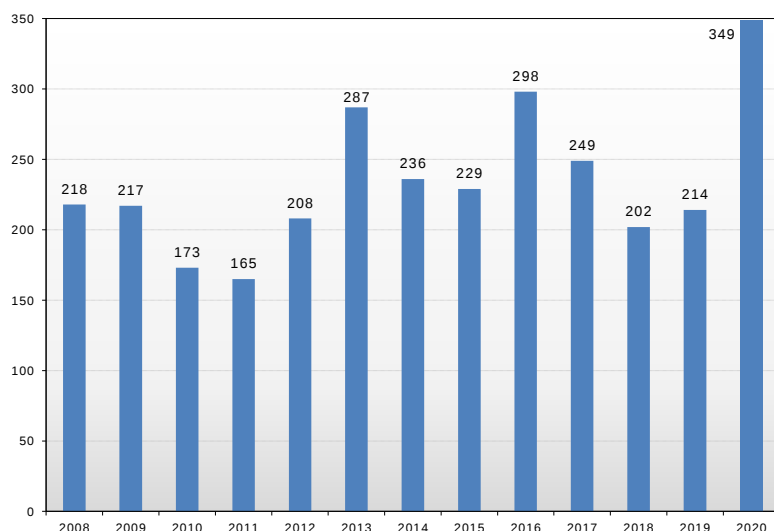
¹⁶ This Section is without prejudice to the right of Members to take trade remedy actions.

¹⁷ These periods coincide with Members' semi-annual reporting periods.

¹⁸ Anti-dumping and countervailing investigations are counted on the basis of the number (*n*) of exporting countries or customs territories affected by an investigation. Thus, one anti-dumping or countervailing investigation involving imports from *n* countries or customs territories is counted as *n* investigations.

Chart 3.9 Initiations of anti-dumping investigations initiations, 2008-20

(Number)



Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.30. Concerning the application of anti-dumping measures, while anti-dumping investigations do not necessarily lead to the imposition of measures, a decrease or increase in the number of investigations initiated is an early indicator suggesting a likely decrease or increase in the number of measures applied.

3.31. Over the three periods, 463 anti-dumping measures were applied (Table 3.10). As it can take up to 18 months for an anti-dumping investigation to be concluded once initiated, the measures applied in a given period may not necessarily be the result of investigations that were initiated in the same period.

Table 3.10 Anti-dumping measures applied, 2018-20

(Number)

Member	2018	2019	2020
Argentina	13	13	11
Australia	5	12	0
Kingdom of Bahrain, State of Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates	0	2	2
Brazil	9	6	0
Canada	7	8	5
Chile	0	1	0
China	23	12	9
Colombia	8	0	0
Dominican Republic	0	0	1
Egypt	0	1	2
El Salvador	1	0	0
European Union	3	4	8
India	37	13	12
Indonesia	1	1	1
Israel	0	3	0
Japan	2	0	1
Republic of Korea	7	2	1
Malaysia	4	6	6
Mexico	7	8	4
Morocco	3	1	0
Pakistan	19	4	4
Peru	1	0	0
Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and Russian Federation	0	2	5
South Africa	0	0	3
Chinese Taipei	0	2	0
Thailand	0	0	1
Turkey	10	0	2
Ukraine	2	9	9
United States	41	33	21
Viet Nam	0	3	6
Total	203	146	114

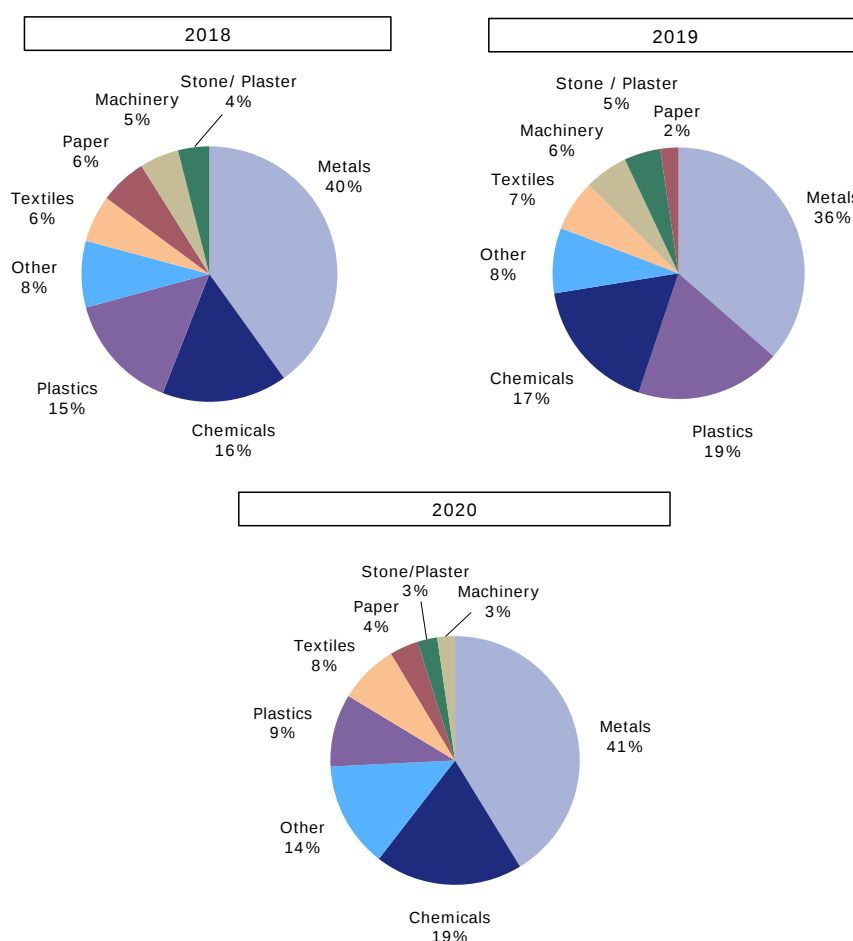
Note: Footnotes as in Table 3.9.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.32. Concerning the sectors affected by anti-dumping investigations, Chart 3.10 shows that there was little variation among the three periods examined, with the majority of initiations focused on products in the metals, chemicals, and plastics and rubber sectors.

3.33. Metal products were subject to the most initiations in each period. Over the three periods, the United States (84), India (36), Canada (29), Australia (19) and the European Union (17) accounted for more than half of the 303 initiations on metal products. An increase in the number of initiations on metal products was seen in the last period, with the United States initiating the highest number of investigations (52), followed by Australia (16); Canada (15); India (11); Thailand (10); the European Union (8); Egypt (6); Malaysia (5); the Republic of Korea (3); Ukraine, Mexico, Colombia, Chile, Brazil and New Zealand (2 each); and Chinese Taipei, Turkey, Indonesia, Viet Nam, the Russian Federation and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (1 each). Initiations on metal products in each of the three periods mainly affected products from China (84 total, 60 involving steel); Viet Nam (21 total, 19 involving steel); Turkey (14 total, 10 involving steel); the Republic of Korea (13 total, 12 involving steel); Indonesia (12 total, 10 involving steel); India (12 total, 10 involving steel); Malaysia (12 total, 8 involving steel) and the Russian Federation (9 total, 8 involving steel). In many instances, investigations were launched on the same product from several exporting Members. For instance, 9 steel products were the focus of 117 investigations.

Chart 3.10 Initiations of anti-dumping investigations, by product, 2018-20



Note: Values are rounded.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.34. Chemical products accounted for the second largest share of initiations over the three reporting periods. India accounted for 60 of the 136 new investigations on products in this sector over the three reporting periods, followed by the United States (22) and China (16). These initiations involved mostly chemical products from China (33), the United States (12), Japan (8), the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation (7 each) and Thailand (6). Investigations into chemical products frequently involved the same product from different countries – 17 products accounted for 75 of the investigations in this area.

3.35. Plastics and rubber products ranked third over the three periods. India (41), the United States (12) and China (9) accounted for more than half of the 103 plastics and rubber products investigations. China was the main subject of investigations in this sector (21), followed by Thailand (11), the United States, (8) the Republic of Korea (8) and Malaysia (7).

3.36. In terms of countries or customs territories affected by new anti-dumping investigations, 46 exporting Members were affected in 2018, 36 in 2019 and 64 in 2020. China remained the Member most affected by anti-dumping initiations during the three reporting periods: investigations into Chinese products accounted for 27% of all investigations. The second most affected Members during the three reporting periods – Viet Nam and Malaysia – each accounted for 5% of the total initiations, followed by the United States, Thailand, the Republic of Korea and Indonesia, at 4% each.

3.37. As at 30 April 2021, 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

3.38. As shown in Table 3.11, following a significant decrease (35%) in 2019 compared with 2018, the number of global initiations of countervailing duty investigations increased by 53% in 2020, reaching the same level as in 2018.

3.39. Among the 13 Members using countervailing measures during the three periods examined, the United States initiated the largest number of new investigations (71), accounting for 49% of all initiations. India accounted for 17% of all initiations, followed by Canada (8%). The remaining investigations were conducted by 10 different Members.

Table 3.11 Initiations of countervailing duty investigations, 2018-20

(Number)

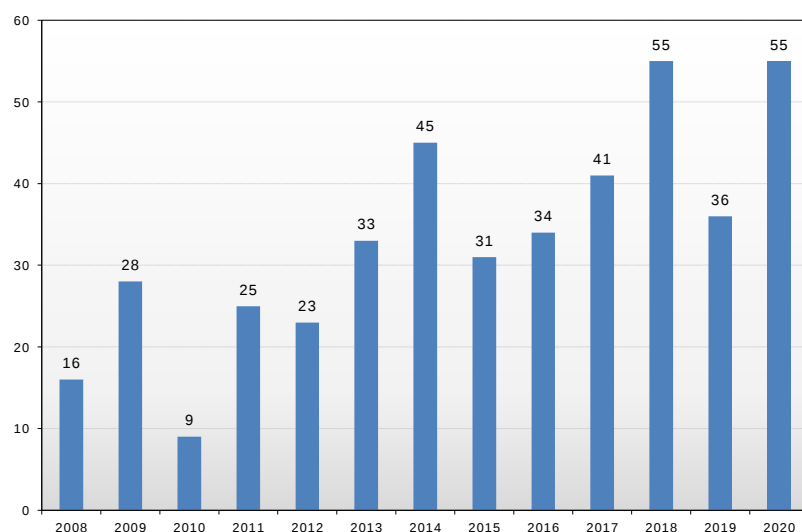
Member	2018	2019	2020
Australia	3	0	7
Canada	4	3	4
China	3	1	4
Colombia	0	1	0
European Union	2	5	3
India	10	9	6
New Zealand	1	0	0
Peru	1	0	0
Chinese Taipei	5	0	0
Turkey	1	0	0
Ukraine	1	0	0
United States	24	17	30
Viet Nam	0	0	1
Total	55	36	55

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.40. Chart 3.11, reflecting annual figures, shows an upward trend in countervailing initiations from 2010 to 2014, notwithstanding some fluctuation in 2012. Following a significant decrease in 2019, the number of countervailing initiations increased to the peak level of initiations that was observed in 1999 and 2018.

Chart 3.11 Initiations of countervailing investigations, 2008-20

(Number)



Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.41. As with anti-dumping, countervailing duty investigations do not necessarily lead to measures being applied. However, an increase in the number of investigations initiated may be an early indicator of a likely increase in the number of measures applied. Over the three periods, 87 countervailing measures were applied (Table 3.12). 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 number of investigations initiated between those periods.

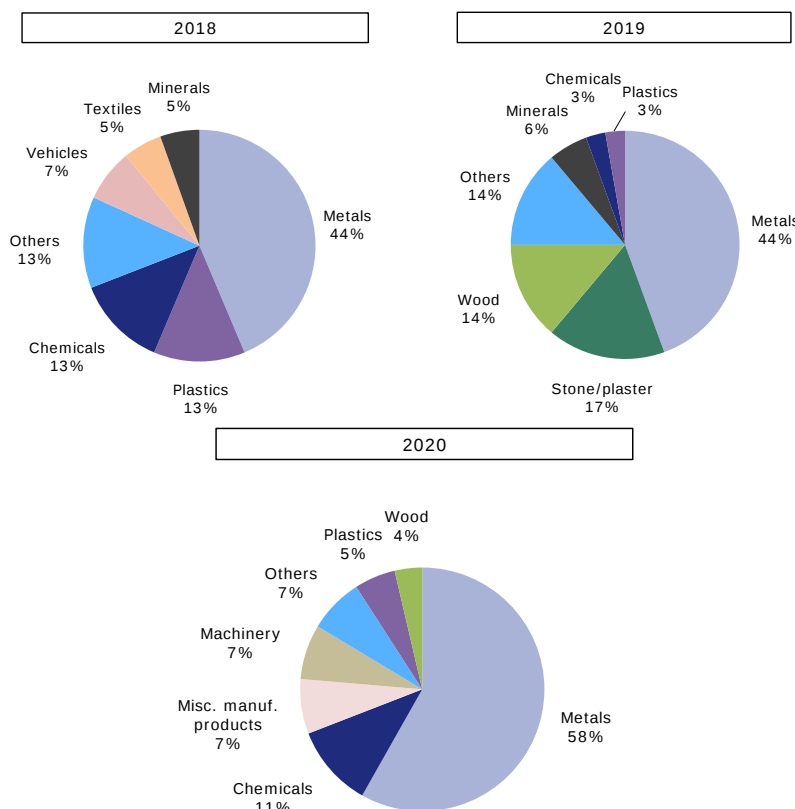
Table 3.12 Countervailing measures applied, 2018-20

(Number)

Member	2018	2019	2020
Australia	0	1	0
Brazil	1	1	0
Canada	6	0	1
China	1	0	2
Colombia	0	0	1
European Union	1	3	3
India	0	5	4
Peru	1	0	0
Chinese Taipei	0	5	0
United States	18	20	13
Total	28	35	24

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.42. Concerning the products affected by countervailing investigations, Chart 3.12 shows that metal products accounted for most of the initiations reported over the three periods. For the three periods combined, 72 of the 146 total initiations recorded covered metal products, and 51 of these affected steel products. The United States initiated 26 of its 71 investigations on steel products. Of the 51 steel-related initiations over the three periods, 20 involved products from China.

Chart 3.12 Initiations of countervailing investigations, by product, 2018-20

Note: Values are rounded.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.43. Over the three reporting periods, chemicals and plastics were the second and third most investigated sectors, with 14 and 11 initiations, respectively, followed by machinery and wood products, with 7 initiations each.

3.44. In terms of countries or customs territories affected by new countervailing investigations, 14 exporters were affected in both 2018 and 2019, and the number increased to 18 in 2020. China was the most frequent subject of investigations, accounting for 40% of all investigations during the three periods. Viet Nam, the second most frequent subject, accounted for 9% of initiations, followed by India, which accounted for 8%.

3.45. As at 30 April 2021, no countervailing duty action that referred to the COVID-19 pandemic had been notified by WTO Members.

Safeguard measures

3.46. Safeguard measures are temporary measures imposed in response to increased imports of goods that are causing serious injury. They are applied on imports of the subject product from all sources, i.e. all exporting countries or customs territories.¹⁹ Safeguard measures also are subject to different rules and timelines than those of anti-dumping and countervailing measures. For these reasons, they are not directly comparable to these other types of trade remedies.

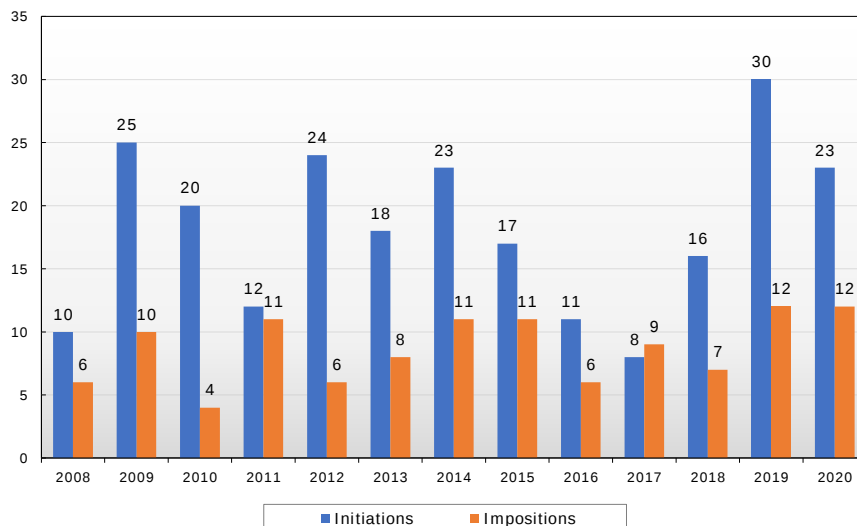
3.47. Chart 3.13 shows the number of initiations of safeguard investigations and of applications of measures since 2008. The number of initiations in 2020 was 23, and the number of measures applied was 12. The 30 initiations recorded for 2019 represented the second highest level since 1995 (the highest being in 2002, with 34 initiations). The 2020 initiation figure remains one of the highest levels since 1995. As for the application of measures, the 2020 level was the same as that in 2019,

¹⁹ With the exception of exporting Members covered by the special and differential treatment provided for developing countries in Article 9.1 of the Agreement on Safeguards.

which is, as with initiation, one of the highest levels since 1995. Until now, the largest number of measures applied in any year was in 2003, with 15 impositions.

Chart 3.13 Initiations of investigations and application of measures, 2008-20

(Number)



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

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.48. Table 3.13 shows the breakdown of Members that initiated investigations. While 11 Members initiated at least 1 investigation in 2020, the top 3 Members (Philippines, Ukraine and Indonesia) accounted for more than half of all initiations. Table 3.14 shows the breakdown of Members that imposed safeguard measures. Indonesia accounted for 5 of the 12 impositions in 2020.

Table 3.13 Initiations of safeguard investigations, 2018-20

(Number)

Member	2018	2019	2020
Kingdom of Bahrain, State of Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates ^a	0	1	0
Canada	1	0	0
Chile	1	0	0
Colombia	0	1	0
Costa Rica	1	1	0
Ecuador	0	1	0
Egypt	0	1	1
European Union	1	0	0
Guatemala	0	1	0
India	0	3	0
Indonesia	2	5	4
Jordan	0	1	0
Madagascar	3	4	0
Malaysia	0	0	1
Morocco	1	2	0
Panama	0	1	0
Peru	0	0	1
Philippines	2	2	5
Russian Federation ^b	1	2	0
South Africa ^c	1	1	2
Thailand	0	0	1
Turkey	2	0	2
Ukraine	0	3	4
United Kingdom ^d	0	0	1
United States	0	0	1
Total	16	30	23

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 Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and the Russian Federation individually, but investigations are initiated by the EAEU on behalf of all of its member States, i.e. Armenia, Belarus (non-WTO Member), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and the Russian Federation, collectively.
- c Notified by South Africa, but investigations are initiated at the level of SACU, i.e. also in respect of Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia.
- d On 8 October 2020, the United Kingdom submitted a notification explaining as follows: "The transition review was initiated [...]. The review will conclude whether the safeguard measure applied by the European Union, which is also applied by the United Kingdom, and which will be transitioned when the transition period under the Withdrawal Agreement pursuant to Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union ends at 23.00 GMT on 31 December 2020, should be varied, extended or revoked."

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Table 3.14 Safeguard measures applied, by reporting Member, 2018-20

(Number)

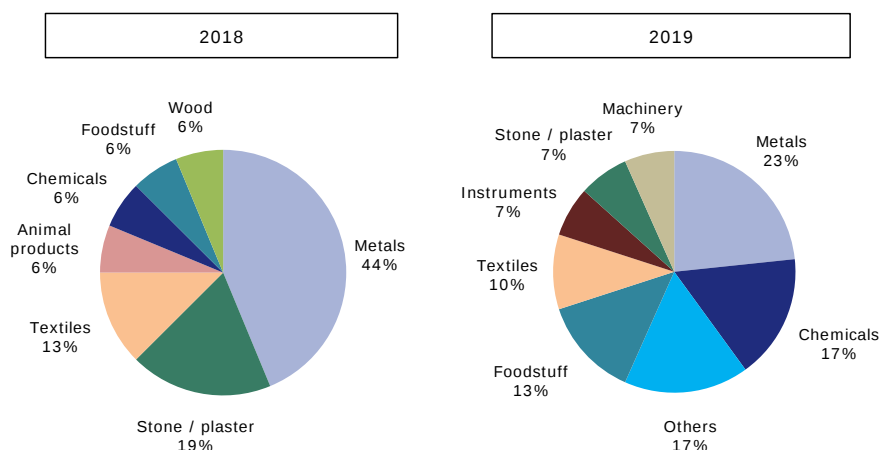
Member	2018	2019	2020
Kingdom of Bahrain, State of Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates ^a	1	1	0
Canada	0	1	0
Costa Rica	0	0	1
Egypt	0	1	0
European Union	0	1	0
India	1	0	0
Indonesia	1	1	5
Madagascar	0	2	1
Morocco	0	1	2
Philippines	0	1	0
Russian Federation ^b	0	1	0
South Africa ^c	0	1	1
Turkey	0	1	1
Ukraine	1	0	1
United States	2	0	0
Viet Nam	1	0	0
Total	7	12	12

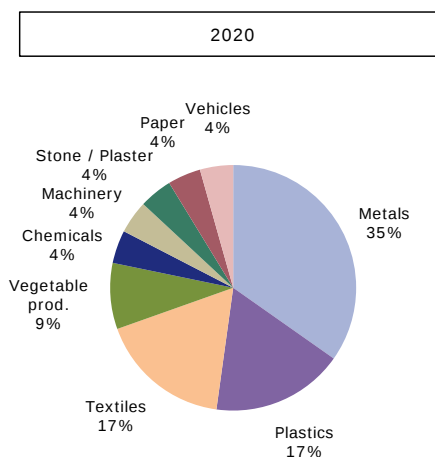
- a Notified by all GCC member States collectively, as investigations are initiated by the GCC regional investigating authority on behalf of all GCC member States.
- b Notified by Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and the Russian Federation individually, but investigations are initiated by the EAEU on behalf of all of its member States, i.e. Armenia, Belarus (non-WTO Member), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and the Russian Federation, collectively.
- c Notified by South Africa, but investigations are initiated at the level of SACU, i.e. also in respect of Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho and Namibia.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.49. Chart 3.14 shows the breakout by product sector of the initiated safeguard investigations. The share of investigations initiated in the metals sector (the vast majority of investigations involve steel products) increased from 23% (in 2019) to 35%, although this was lower than the 44% share in 2018.

Chart 3.14 Initiation of safeguard investigations, by product, 2018-20





Note: Values are rounded.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.50. As at 30 April 2021, no safeguard action with reference to COVID-19 had been notified to the WTO.

3.3 Sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures²⁰

3.51. Under the SPS Agreement, WTO Members are obliged to provide an advance notice of intention to introduce new or modified SPS measures²¹, or to notify immediately when emergency measures are imposed. The main objective of complying with SPS notification obligations is to 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 and animal and plant health measures, many or most of which are presumably legitimate health-protection measures.

3.52. In the period from 1 October 2020 to 31 March 2021, 1,149 SPS notifications (regular and emergency, including addenda) were submitted²² to the WTO, resulting in a 22% increase in total notified measures compared with the previous six-month period (938 notifications from 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020). The share of notifications from developing-country Members, accounting for 70% (808 notifications) of the total number, remained stable compared with 72% (671 notifications) for the previous six-month period (Chart 3.15).

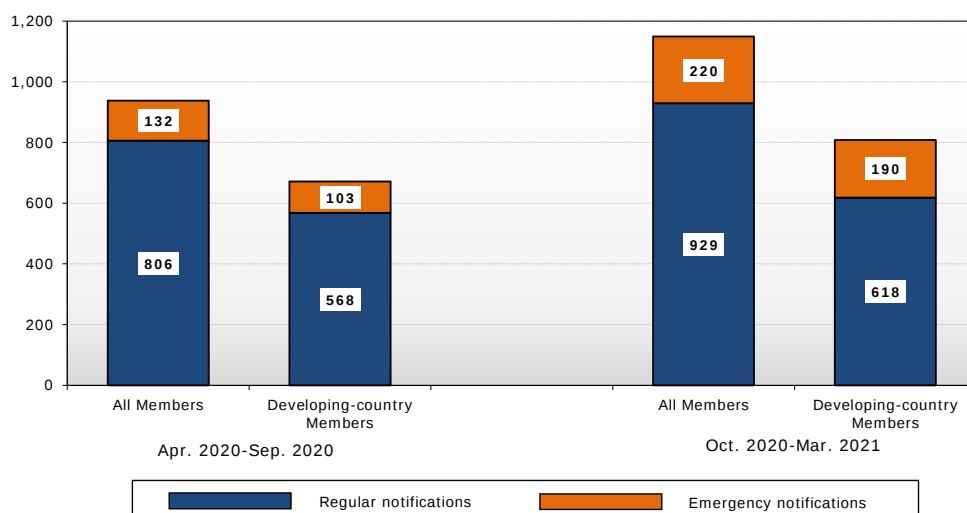
3.53. During the review period, WTO Members submitted 929 regular SPS notifications (including addenda), 67% (618 notifications) of which were submitted by developing-country Members. Compared with the previous six-month period, the total number of regular notifications increased by 15%, while those submitted by developing-country Members increased by 9%.

3.54. Regarding emergency measures (including addenda), the number of notifications submitted increased compared with the previous period. While the total number of emergency notifications (including addenda) increased by 67% in the current review period (220 compared with 132 during the previous six-month period), the proportion of all emergency notifications (including addenda) submitted by developing-country Members remained high, constituting 86% of the total (compared with 78% in the previous six-month period). These high percentage are consistent with the general trend of the majority of emergency measures being notified by developing-country Members, perhaps because they have less extensive SPS regulatory systems compared with those of developed-country Members. In other words, when facing emergency challenges, developing-country Members are more likely than developed-country Members to introduce new regulations or change existing ones.

²⁰ Information presented in this Section was retrieved from the SPS Information Management System (SPS IMS: <http://spsims.wto.org>). For more information, see also annual reports [G/SPS/GEN/804/Rev.12](#) and [G/SPS/GEN/204/Rev.20](#).

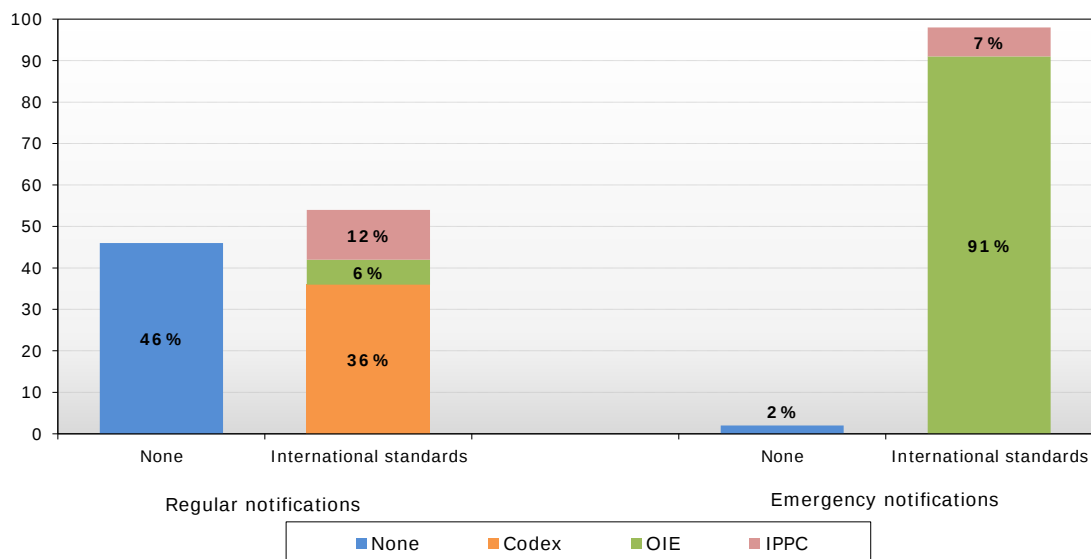
²¹ Transparency obligations are contained in Article 7 and Annex B of the SPS Agreement.

²² For this Report, "submission" refers to the date of circulation.

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

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.55. Many Members follow the recommendation to notify SPS measures even when they are based on a relevant international standard²³, as this substantially increases transparency. Of the 613 regular notifications (excluding addenda) submitted from 1 October 2020 to 31 March 2021, 54% indicated that at least one international standard, guideline or recommendation was applicable to the notified measure (Chart 3.16). Of these, about 61% indicated that the proposed measure was in conformity with the applicable international standard.

Chart 3.16 Regular and 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.

3.56. International standards often provide useful guidance regarding measures to address disease outbreaks and other emergency situations. Indeed, about 98% (171 of 174) emergency notifications (excluding addenda) submitted during the review period indicated that an international standard, guideline or recommendation was applicable to the notified measure (Chart 3.16). They all indicated that the measure was in conformity with the applicable international standard.

²³ WTO document G/SPS/7/Rev.4, 4 June 2018, para. 2.3.

3.57. Of the 613 regular notifications (excluding addenda) submitted during the review period, the majority (71%) were related to food safety.²⁴ The remaining notifications related to plant protection and animal health and, to a lesser extent, the protection of humans from animal diseases or plant pests, and the protection of the Member's territory from other damage from pests. Regular notifications usually contain more than one objective.

3.58. Of the 174 emergency measures (excluding addenda) notified in the same period, the majority (90%) 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 from other damage from pests. Emergency notifications may also contain more than one objective.

3.59. The WTO Secretariat prepares annual transparency reports containing detailed information on the implementation of the transparency provisions of the SPS Agreement.²⁵ 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.

3.60. Despite meetings not being held in person due to the global sanitary situation, the virtual margins of the SPS Committee meetings still provide important opportunities for delegations to discuss and resolve concerns bilaterally. For example, during the review period, Mexico withdrew an STC regarding Honduras' import restrictions on animal feed, which had been included in the proposed agenda for the November 2020 meeting²⁶, because bilateral progress was made. Likewise, before the March 2021 meeting, bilateral consultations between Brazil and Viet Nam were held. As a result, Viet Nam withdrew an STC regarding Brazil's regulation on the use of phosphates for fishery products, product registration before export and a heat treatment regime for cooked shrimp, and Brazil withdrew two STCs regarding Viet Nam's restrictions, one on Brazilian live cattle and another on Brazilian melons. These three STCs had been included in the draft annotated agenda for the meeting.²⁷

3.61. In the SPS Committee meetings of 5-6 and 13 November 2020 and 25-26 March 2021²⁸, 30 STCs were raised for the first time, and 39 previously raised STCs were discussed again (Table 3.15). Thirteen STCs were raised for the first time in November 2020 and raised again in March 2021.²⁹ Sixteen previously raised STCs were raised in both meetings.³⁰ Of these, five addressed persistent problems that have been discussed 10 times or more (Table 3.16).

3.62. Fourteen Members and 23 Members raised and supported, respectively, at least one new STC during the review period. A total of 15 Members responded to at least one new STC (Table 3.15).

²⁴ The objective of an SPS measure falls under one or more of the following categories: (i) food safety; (ii) animal health; (iii) plant protection; (iv) protection of humans from animal/plant pests or diseases; and (v) protection of territory from other damage 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.

²⁵ Information available in the latest revision of WTO document G/SPS/GEN/804/Rev.13, 19 March 2021.

²⁶ WTO document JOB/SPS/11, 19 October 2020.

²⁷ WTO document JOB/SPS/13, 5 March 2021.

²⁸ The November 2020 meeting was held in person, and Members were also able to participate via a virtual platform (WTO document JOB/SPS/11, 19 October 2020). The March 2021 meeting was held via a virtual platform only (WTO document JOB/SPS/13, 5 March 2021).

²⁹ These were STCs 487, 489, 490, 491, 493, 496, 497, 498, 500, 501, 502, 503 and 504.

³⁰ The 16 STCs that were raised in both meetings are 193, 382, 392, 393, 406, 431, 439, 441, 448, 456, 466, 470, 471, 479, 485 and 486.

Table 3.15 SPS STCs raised in the November 2020 or March 2021 meetings³¹

Meeting	Total STCs raised		Members raising		Members supporting		Members responding	
	New	Previously raised	New	Previously raised	New	Previously raised	New	Previously raised
November 2020	19	20	12	13	21	21	13	13
March 2021	11	35	6	19	4	25	7	17
Total (different STCs and Members)	30	39	14	19	23	25	15	18

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Table 3.16 Previously raised SPS STCs discussed in the November 2020 or March 2021 meetings, raised 10 times or more³²

STC	Document title	Member(s) responding	Member(s) raising the concern (total number of Members supporting)	First date raised (times subsequently raised)	Primary objective
193	General import restrictions due to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)	Several Members, including China, Colombia, Chinese Taipei and the United States	European Union, United States (3 Members)	01/06/2004 (40 times)	Animal health
382	European Union legislation on endocrine disruptors	European Union	Argentina, China, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, India, Panama, Paraguay, United States (39 Members)	25/03/2014 (18 times)	Food safety
406	China's import restrictions due to highly pathogenic avian influenza	China	European Union, United States	16/03/2016 (12 times)	Animal health
392	China's import restrictions due to African swine fever	China	European Union	15/07/2015 (10 times)	Animal health
393	Republic of Korea's import restrictions due to African swine fever	Korea, Republic of	European Union (1 Member)	15/07/2015 (10 times)	Animal health

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.63. Of the 30 STCs raised for the first time in the two SPS Committee meetings, 9 (30%) concerned food safety, 4 (13%) covered animal health, 3 (10%) concerned measures covering plant health and 14 (47%) related to other types of concerns.³³ Regarding the 39 previously raised STCs during the review period, 15 (39%) concerned measures covering food safety, 9 (23%) concerned animal health, 6 (15%) related to plant health and 9 (23%) covered other types of concerns. Of the 56 STCs raised or discussed during the review period, 19 (34%) concerned measures covering food safety, 12 (21%) covered animal health, 7 (13%) concerned plant health and 18 (32%) related to other types of concerns.

3.64. 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, were also raised in the current review period.

³¹ Further information on the new STCs raised in the review period is available in the SPS IMS. Viewed at: <http://spsims.wto.org/en/SpecificTradeConcerns/Search?ProductsCoveredHSCodes=&DoSearch=True&NumberOfSpecificTradeConcern=&FirstDateRaised=true&FirstDateRaised=false&DateSubsequentlyRaised=false&MarchApril=true&MarchApril=false&JuneJuly=false&October=true&October=false&YearFrom=2020&YearTo=2021&Members=&Title=&Keywords=&DateReportedAsResolvedFrom=&DateReportedAsResolvedTo=&DescriptionOfContent=>

³² Further information on the previously raised STCs discussed again during the review period is available in the SPS IMS. Viewed at: <http://spsims.wto.org/en/SpecificTradeConcerns/Search?ProductsCoveredHSCodes=&DoSearch=True&NumberOfSpecificTradeConcern=&FirstDateRaised=false&DateSubsequentlyRaised=true&DateSubsequentlyRaised=false&MarchApril=true&MarchApril=false&JuneJuly=false&October=true&October=false&YearFrom=2020&YearTo=2021&Members=&Title=&Keywords=&DateReportedAsResolvedFrom=&DateReportedAsResolvedTo=&DescriptionOfContent=&NumberOfRows=20>

³³ These concerns relate to control, inspection and approval procedures, and administrative measures, among others.

3.65. The WTO Secretariat prepares annual reports containing detailed information on STCs discussed in the SPS Committee. Since 1995, 53% of all STCs raised in the Committee have been reported as resolved or partially resolved.³⁴

COVID-19-related SPS measures (1 February 2020³⁵-31 March 2021)

3.66. 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 believed they had to act quickly to ensure appropriate health protection. 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.

3.67. Between 1 February 2020 and 31 March 2021, 29 Members (counting the European Union as one) submitted 84 SPS documents related to the COVID-19 pandemic (including 7 revisions to original documents). The last SPS COVID-19-related document was received on 3 March 2021. Sixteen measures were notified as regular notifications. Additionally, 14 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. Seventeen measures were notified as emergency measures. Additionally, 10 emergency addenda were notified, 6 lifting (or partially lifting) temporary restrictions previously imposed and 3 extending the validity of temporary trade-facilitating measures. Twelve Members submitted their measures through an information communication (GEN document), and one additional GEN document³⁶ was submitted by 40 Members. Overall, 26% of notifications on COVID-19 were SPS measures.³⁷ Submitted documents are displayed by Member in Chart 3.17, and by month in Chart 3.18.

3.68. Two COVID-19-related STCs were raised in the November 2020 SPS Committee meeting.³⁸

3.69. 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 2020, 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 55 notifications (excluding addenda) and communications submitted were measures considered to be trade facilitating.

³⁴ Information is available in the latest revision of the annual report on STCs (WTO documents G/SPS/GEN/204/Rev.21, 19 March 2021; and G/SPS/GEN/204/Corr.21, 23 March 2021).

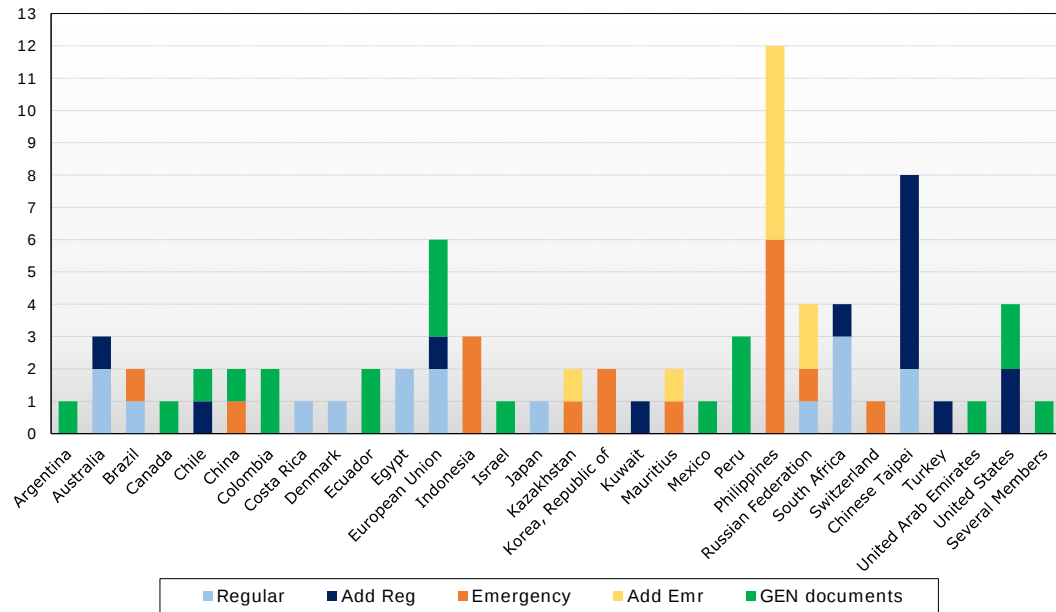
³⁵ The first COVID-19-related notifications were received in February 2020.

³⁶ WTO document G/SPS/GEN/1778/Rev.5, 14 January 2021 (also circulated as WTO document G/TBT/GEN/296/Rev.5, 14 January 2021).

³⁷ WTO, *COVID-19 and World Trade*. Viewed at: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/covid19_e.htm.

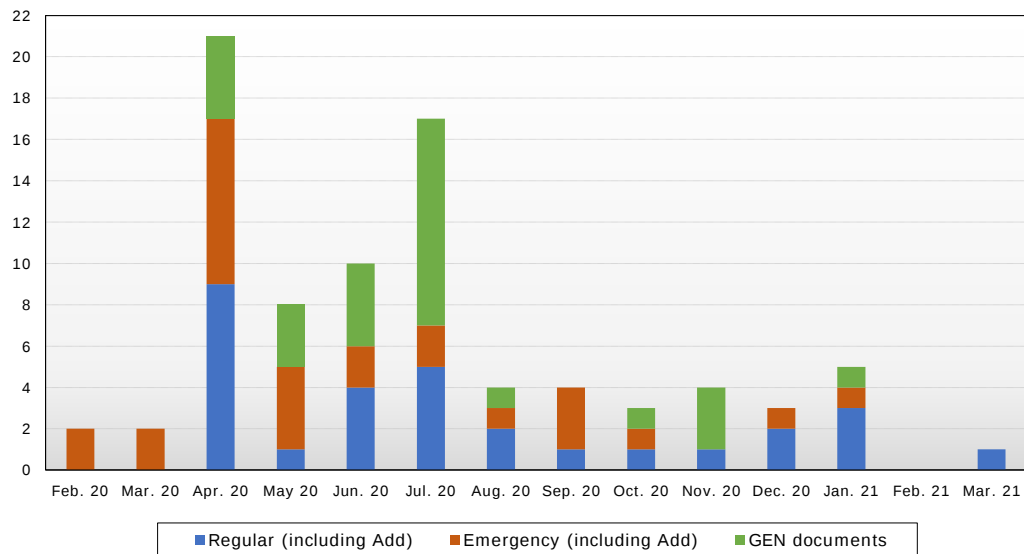
³⁸ STCs 487 and 488.

Chart 3.17 Number of SPS notifications (regular, emergency and addenda) and GEN documents (without revisions) related to COVID-19, by Member



Source: WTO Secretariat.

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



Source: WTO Secretariat.

Box 3.1 Enhancing monitoring and transparency in SPS and TBT measures

Accessing relevant information on SPS or TBT product requirements in export markets can represent a significant challenge, in particular for SMEs. WTO Members are required to notify SPS and TBT measures, still in draft form, that may have a significant effect on trade and that are not in accordance with existing international standards. Each year, the WTO receives around 5,000 SPS and TBT notifications.

The WTO facilitates the fulfilment of the transparency provisions contained in the SPS and TBT Agreements and provides easy access to information. Timely access to notifications is crucial, given the 60-day period that should normally be provided for submitting comments on the proposed regulations. The following publicly available online tools assist stakeholders in finding notifications of relevance to their trade and thus contributing to avoid and address potential trade barriers:

- SPS Information Management System (SPS IMS): www.spsims.wto.org
- TBT Information Management System (TBT IMS): www.tbtdims.wto.org and
- ePing alert system: <http://www.epingalert.org>.

The SPS/TBT IMSs are search platforms that, among other things, help identify SPS or TBT notifications (or any trade concerns raised by Members) using parameters such as product, notifying Member and objective. ePing is an online alert system allowing users (governments, economic operators, and civil society) to receive daily or weekly email alerts about SPS and TBT notifications covering products and markets of interest to them. ePing also facilitates dialogue among the public and private sectors to discuss and share information on notifications of concern, allowing stakeholders to address potential trade problems at an early stage of the regulatory lifecycle.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.4 Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)³⁹

Notifications submitted to the TBT Committee during the review period

3.70. 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.

3.71. During the review period, WTO Members submitted 1,372 new regular notifications of TBT measures.⁴⁰ Members that notified the most measures during the review period – 56% of all new regular notifications – were Tanzania (118), China (113), Uganda (93), Brazil (87), the United States (76), Rwanda (71), Pakistan (61), Kenya (56), the European Union (48) and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (43).

3.72. Of the 1,372 new regular TBT notifications received during the review period, the majority indicated the protection of human health or safety as their main objective, including, as further explained below, various measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The remaining notifications related to quality requirements, consumer information, labelling, prevention of deceptive practices, consumer protection and protection of the environment.

3.73. A total of 871 follow-up notifications (i.e. addenda, corrigenda or supplements) were submitted during the review period. The continuing and frequent use by Members of follow-up notifications is a positive development, as it increases transparency and predictability across the measures' regulatory lifecycle.

Measures discussed in the TBT Committee (STCs)⁴¹

3.74. The TBT Committee is used as a forum for discussing trade issues related to specific TBT measures (technical regulations, standards or conformity assessment procedures) maintained by other Members. These specific trade concerns (STCs) normally relate to proposed draft measures notified to the TBT Committee or to the implementation of existing measures. Issues can range from

³⁹ For the TBT Section, the review period covers 1 October 2020 to 15 May 2021.

⁴⁰ WTO Technical Barriers to Trade Information Management System. Viewed at: <http://tbtdims.wto.org>. These numbers concern only regular notifications (in which the original draft measure is submitted) and do not include follow-up notifications.

⁴¹ With respect to specific trade concerns (STCs), this Section takes account of the STCs raised in the TBT Committee meetings of 28-29 October 2020 and 24-26 February 2021.

requests for additional information and clarification to questions on the consistency of measures with TBT Agreement disciplines.

3.75. A total of 159 (44 new and 115 previously raised) STCs were discussed during the two Committee meetings that fell within the review period: 78 (24 new and 54 previously raised) at the October 2020 meeting, and 81 (20 new and 61 previously raised) at the February 2021 meeting.

3.76. As depicted in Table 3.17, the 44 new STCs concerned TBT measures by India (9), China (5), the European Union (5), the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (3), Mexico (3), the United States (3), and Canada, Chile, France, the GCC, Yemen, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, Panama, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe (1 each). The measures covered regulations on a range of products (e.g. wheel rims, safety glass, helmets, textiles, electrical and electronic equipment, vegetables, wine, cheese, palm oil and cosmetics), and dealt with a variety of issues (e.g. labelling and packaging, conformity assessment procedures, technical regulations or specifications, product quality, halal certification, health and safety, and energy efficiency).

Table 3.17 New STCs raised in the October 2020 and February 2021 TBT Committee meetings

New STCs
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of Bahrain, State of Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Yemen, United Arab Emirates: Halal Feedstuff (ID 643) (raised by United States and European Union)
China: Commercial Cryptography Administrative Regulations (ID 644) (raised by United States and European Union)
India: Phase II of the Mandatory Testing and Certification of Telecommunications Equipment (MTCTE), implementing the Indian Telegraph Amendment (ID 646) (raised by United States)
Mexico: Various State Measures Restricting Sale of Food and Drink Products to Minors (ID 648) (raised by United States)
India: Indian standards and import restrictions in the automotive sector (Quality Control Orders): wheel rims, safety glass, helmets (ID 649) (raised by European Union)
Russian Federation: Federal Law No. 468 on wine making and wine growing in the Russian Federation (ID 650) (raised by Australia, European Union and United States)
India: Order related to requirement of Non-GM-cum-GM-free certificate accompanied with imported food consignment (ID 651) (raised by Brazil, United States and European Union)
Republic of Korea: Revision of Safety Conformation Criteria for Textile Products for Infants (ID 652) (raised by European Union)
Chile: Technical specifications for the design of energy efficiency labels for washing machines (ID 654) (raised by Republic of Korea)
France: New legislative requirements about index of repairability of electrical and electronic equipment (ID 657) (raised by China)
European Union: Waste Framework Directive (ID 658) (raised by India)
European Union: Wine labelling requirements – listing of importers for multiple destinations (ID 659) (raised by Australia)
Panama: Onions and Potatoes Harvest Life and Sprouting Requirements (ID 662) (raised by United States)
United Kingdom: Wine labelling and documentation requirements at the end of the Brexit transition period (ID 663) (raised by Australia)
China: CSAR – Draft Specifications for Cosmetic Registration and Filings; Draft Specifications for Registration and Filing of New Cosmetics Ingredients; Draft Specifications for Cosmetic Efficacy Claim Evaluation, Provisions for the Supervision and Administration of Toothpaste (ID 665) (raised by Australia, Japan, Republic of Korea and United States)
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Technical Regulation for limiting and restricting hazardous materials in electrical and electronic equipment (ID 666) (raised by China, Japan and United Kingdom)
India: Draft Food Safety and Standards (Import) Amendment Regulation, 2020 (ID 667) (raised by Mexico and United States)
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Air Conditioners – Minimum Energy Performance, Labelling and Testing Requirements for Low Capacity Window Type and Single-Split (ID 668) (raised by Republic of Korea)
India: Flat Transparent Sheet Glass and Safety Glass (Quality Control) Order (ID 669) (raised by Republic of Korea)
United States: Energy Conservation Program: Energy conservation standards for residential dishwashers (ID 670) (raised by China)
India: Refrigerating Appliances (Quality Control) Order, 2020 (ID 671) (raised by Republic of Korea)
Thailand: Ministerial Regulation Prescribing Description, Production, and Method of Displaying of Standard Marks on the Industrial Products (ID 672) (raised by United States)
Oman: Water Heaters Energy Performance Requirements; Electrical Clothes Washing Machines Energy and Water Performance Requirements; and Refrigerators, Refrigerator-Freezers and Freezers Energy Performance, Testing and Labelling Requirements (ID 673) (raised by Republic of Korea)
India: Caustic Soda Quality Control Order, 2017 (ID 674) (raised by Chinese Taipei)
European Union: Non-recognition of test certificates (raised by Italy and the Netherlands) issued to electrical equipment by Central Power Research Institute (CPRI) (ID 675) (raised by India)
Canada: Medical Device Single Audit Program (MDSAP) (ID 676) (raised by China)

New STCs
China: Inventory of Existing Chemical Substances Produced or Imported in China (IECSC) requiring mandatory registration of certain chemicals for import and not notified at WTO (ID 677) (raised by India)
Mexico: Conformity Assessment Procedure under Mexican Official Standard NOM-223-SCFI/SAGARPA- 2018, "Cheese Names, Specifications, Commercial Information, and Test Methods", published on 31 January 2019 (ID 678) (raised by United States)
Nigeria: Onerous testing and conformity requirements by Société générale de surveillance (SGS) for machinery and their parts (ID 679) (raised by India)
European Union: Testing methods for prohibited chemicals of regulation on cosmetic products (ID 680) (raised by China)
India: Plain Copier Paper (Quality Order) 2020 (ID 681) (raised by Indonesia)
Morocco: Automotive glass testing requirements (ID 682) (raised by China)
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Concerns on conformity assessment practices of Saudi Arabia against Turkish products (ID 683) (raised by Turkey)
Turkey: Eco-design regulation (ID 684) (raised by Republic of Korea)
China: Provisions for Cosmetics Registration (Draft for Comments) (ID 641) (raised by Japan, Republic of Korea and United States)
China: Administrative Measures on Cosmetic Labelling (ID 642) (raised by Japan and Republic of Korea)
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 (ID 645) (raised by United States)
Zimbabwe: Electricity (Minimum Energy Efficiency Performance of Domestic Electrical Appliances) Regulations, 2020 (ID 647) (raised by Republic of Korea)
United States: Appliance Efficiency for Sprinkler Bodies (ID 653) (raised by China)
European Union: Information requirements in SCIP database (ID 655) (raised by China)
Tajikistan: Additional inspection control of imported food products for palm oil content (ID 656) (raised by Russian Federation)
India: Phthalic Anhydride (Quality Control) Order, 2019 (ID 660) (raised by Chinese Taipei)
Viet Nam: Decree No. 17/2020/ND-CP (ID 661) (raised by Thailand)
United States: Revised Origin Marking Requirement for Goods Produced in Hong Kong, China (ID 664) (raised by Hong Kong, China)

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.77. Overall, the number of new and previously raised STCs has been increasing every year. This trend suggests an increasing use of the TBT Committee as a forum for Members to raise and resolve trade concerns non-litigiously. In 2020, for example, Members reviewed 214 STCs, including 57 new concerns, which was the highest number on record since 1995.⁴² With two TBT Committee meetings scheduled to take place later this year, this trend will likely continue in 2021. Finally, during the two Committee meetings in the review period, seven persistent STCs – i.e. those previously raised STCs more than 16 times in Committee meetings – were discussed (Table 3.18). All of these persistent STCs concerned measures by G20 economies.

Table 3.18 Persistent STCs raised between 15 October 2020 and 15 May 2021

Persistent STCs
China: Requirements for information security products, including, <i>inter alia</i> , the Office of State Commercial Cryptography Administration (OSCCA) 1999 Regulation on commercial encryption products and its ongoing revision and the Multi-Level Protection Scheme (MLPS) (ID 294) raised <u>30 times</u> since 2011
Russian Federation: Draft Technical Regulation on Alcohol Drinks Safety (published on 24 October 2011) (ID 332) raised <u>27 times</u> since 2012
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) raised <u>25 times</u> since 2012
India: Electronics and Information Technology Goods (Requirements for Compulsory Registration) Order, 2012 (ID 367) raised <u>24 times</u> since 2013
European Union: Hazard-based approach to plant protection products and setting of import tolerances (ID 393) raised <u>23 times</u> since 2013
China: Regulations for the Supervision and Administration of Medical Devices (Order No. 650 of the State Council) (ID 428) raised <u>20 times</u> since 2014
China: Registration Fees for Drugs and Medical Device Products (ID 466) raised <u>17 times</u> since 2015

Source: WTO Secretariat.

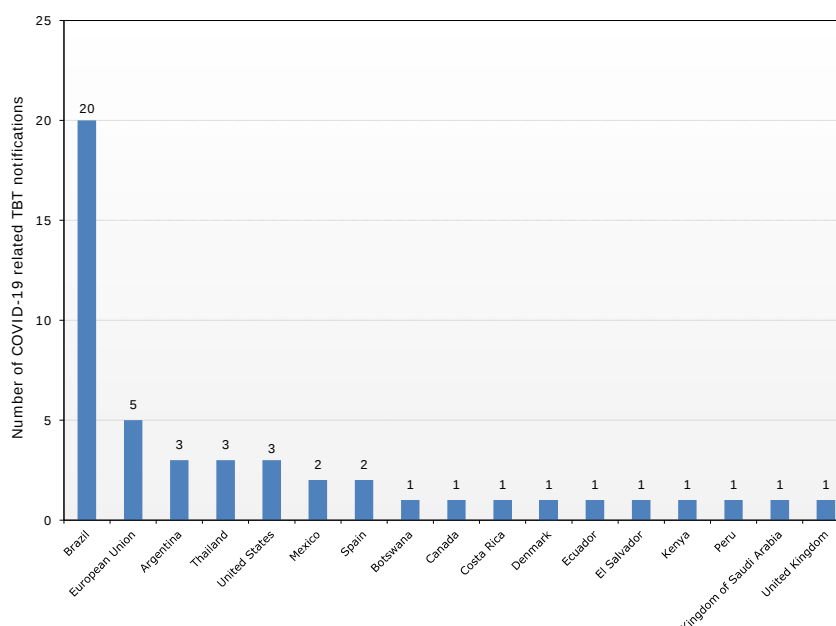
⁴² For more details on TBT notifications, STCs and trends from 2020, see *Twenty-Sixth Annual Review of the Implementation and Operation of the TBT Agreement* (WTO document G/TBT/45, 18 February 2021); and WTO (2021), *Technical Barriers to Trade: 10 Key Results from 2020*. Viewed at: https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/tbt10keys2021_e.pdf.

COVID-19-related TBT notifications during the review period

3.78. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, WTO Members submitted 153 COVID-19 related TBT notifications to the WTO.⁴³ During the review period, WTO Members submitted 48 TBT notifications/communications on standards and regulations in response specifically to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴⁴ All of these were submitted under the emergency/urgent notification provisions of the TBT Agreement.⁴⁵ 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 6-month transition period prior to entry into force).

3.79. TBT notifications in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic were submitted by 17 WTO Members (Chart 3.19).

Chart 3.19 COVID-19-related TBT notifications, by Member (as at 1 May 2021)



Source: WTO Secretariat.

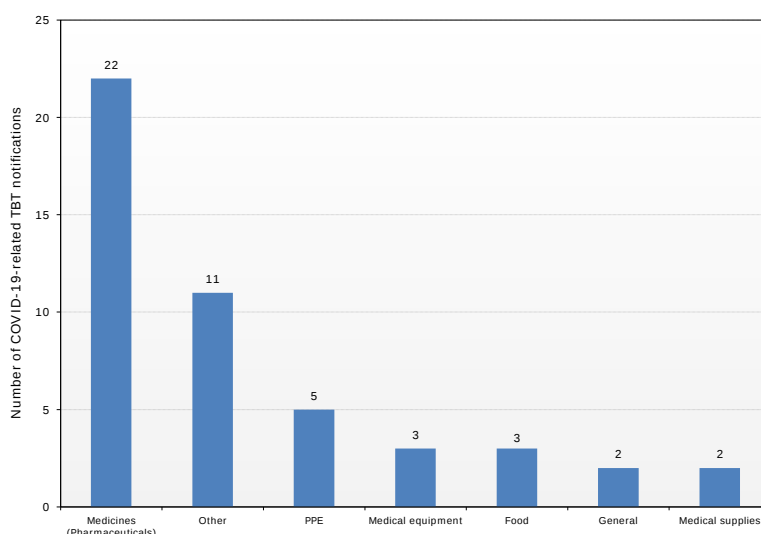
3.80. TBT notifications relating to the COVID-19 pandemic covered a wide range of products, including medicines, personal protective equipment (PPE), food, medical equipment, medical supplies and other products (Chart 3.20).⁴⁶

⁴³ As at 27 May 2021.

⁴⁴ TBT notifications are classified as COVID-19 related if they contain the terms "coronavirus", "COVID", "SARS-COV-2" or "nCoV". These COVID-19-related notifications include not only regular notifications but also eight follow-up notifications (revisions or addenda to previous regular notifications).

⁴⁵ TBT Agreement, Articles 2.10, 2.12, 5.7 and 5.9.

⁴⁶ The "General" category includes notifications without a specific product scope. The "Other" category includes, for example, furniture, textiles, office machines and cosmetics.

Chart 3.20 Product coverage of COVID-19-related TBT notifications (as at 1 May 2021)

Source: WTO Secretariat.

TBT Committee discussions on COVID-19-related measures

3.81. During the review period, WTO Members made a substantive references to the COVID-19 pandemic in 39 STCs. In most cases, it was considered that COVID-19 was impeding implementation and compliance with new regulations, and extensions to transition periods were requested.

3.82. At the TBT Committee informal meeting⁴⁷ held on 8 December 2020, Members shared experiences on TBT measures that they have adopted, or are planning to adopt, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Members implemented measures, such as shifting from on-site inspections to remote office assessments; developing capacity-building programmes to address the lack of national alignment to international standards, to facilitate access to medical devices during the pandemic; facilitating trade through the extension of validity periods of certificates; postponing implementation of planned regulatory changes; and simplifying surveillance and monitoring of notified bodies. The Secretariat also provided an overview of two relevant Secretariat documents relevant to TBT-related COVID-19 measures.⁴⁸

3.83. Box 3.2 takes a closer look at aerospace products that are subject to various non-tariff measures.

Box 3.2 TBT and aerospace products

In 2019, world exports of aerospace products^a were worth around USD 337 billion and accounted for 2.0% of total world merchandise exports. The United States and the European Union are by far the world's largest exporters of these products: in 2019, they accounted for almost 80% of global exports (USD 136 billion and USD 123 billion, respectively). The United States and the European Union were also the world's largest importers in 2019, accounting for more than half of global imports (USD 35 billion and USD 85 million, respectively).^b

Aerospace products are subject to various non-tariff measures, including a wide variety of regulations falling under the TBT Agreement. From January 1995 to October 2020, WTO Members notified 114 regulations related to these products. The largest share of these measures was notified by WTO Members from North America, followed by those from Asia. Almost half of these aerospace-related TBT notifications were submitted by the United States (40%^c) and China (9%^d).

Aerospace-related measures notified to the TBT Committee covered and addressed a wide variety of products and issues. In terms of coverage, products affected included: different types of aircraft (e.g. civilian/military, unmanned aircraft systems, passenger-carrying category planes, transport category planes, supersonic planes, turbine-powered planes); aerospace components (e.g. interior compartments, propellers, tyres, safe brakes, safety shear valves); emissions (e.g. ozone-depleting substances, halocarbon); space vehicles

⁴⁷ For further information, see WTO document [JOB/TBT/395, 22 January 2021](#).

⁴⁸ WTO (2020), *Standards, Regulations and COVID-19 – What Actions Taken by WTO Members?* Viewed at: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/standards_report_e.pdf; and WTO (2020), *Developing & Delivering COVID-19 Vaccines Around the World: A Checklist of Issues with Trade Impact*. Viewed at: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/vaccine_infographic_e.pdf.

(e.g. drones, helicopters, gliders, rotorcraft, tiltrotors); satellites (e.g. earth stations in motion, satellite technology and systems, non-geostationary satellites); aerospace electric equipment and systems (e.g. data transmission equipment, remote sensing space systems, automatic dependent surveillance-broadcast equipment, flight-guidance systems, optical signalling devices); air transport (e.g. cargo); aerospace engines (e.g. aircraft engines, hydraulic fluid, turbine lubricating oils, aviation gasoline); and on-board equipment (e.g. telecommunication installations, radio equipment, mobile communication services, oxygen concentrators, water).

Around 60%^e of aerospace-related TBT measures were adopted with the objective of addressing the protection of human health or safety. Other frequently stated objectives included protection of the environment, prevention of deceptive practices, consumer protection and quality requirements. Among these, the most prominent specific objective was the protection against risks of physical injuries, followed by the protection against risks arising from greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to air pollution.

To date, WTO Members have discussed at least five STCs regarding TBT measures regulating aerospace products. These measures were maintained by the European Union (2), China (2) and the United States (1), and covered the following: (i) unmanned aircraft systems; (ii) ICT products in civil aviation; (iii) information security products; (iv) transportation of lithium batteries; and (v) hush-kitted and reengined aircraft. The policy objectives indicated in such measures were the protection of human health or safety, national security requirements and the protection of the environment. Additionally, the issues mentioned by WTO Members raising such aerospace-related concerns included the creation of unnecessary barriers to trade, transparency (e.g. measure not notified to the Committee) and the use (or non-use) of international standards (Table 1).

Table 1 TBT STCs: aerospace products	
European Union: Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/945 on Unmanned Aircraft Systems and on Third-country Operators of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (ID 585) (raised for the first time on 20 June 2019 by China).	
China: Civil Aviation Network Information Security Management Rules (ID 538) (raised for the first time on 14 June 2017 by Canada, European Union and United States).	
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) (raised for the first time on 24 March 2011 by Australia, Brazil, Canada, European Union, Japan, Republic of Korea and United States).	
United States: Hazardous Materials: Transportation of Lithium Batteries (ID 262) (raised for the first time on 24 March 2010 by China, European Union, Israel, Japan and Republic of Korea).	
European Union: Regulation on Aircrafts (ID 32) (raised for the first time on 20 November 1998 by United States and Japan).	
a	Aerospace products are listed in Chapter 88, and at the 6-digit level (840710, 840910) of the Harmonized System.
b	WTO Secretariat, based on UN Comtrade database (sum of available reporters, including intra trade of the European Union, excluding re-exports of Hong Kong, China).
c	45 of 114 notifications.
d	10 of 114 notifications.
e	67 of 114 notifications.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.5 Trade concerns raised in other WTO bodies⁴⁹

3.84. During the review period, a number of 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 2020 and mid-May 2021.⁵⁰ The trade concerns covered in this Section have neither the status nor the procedural framework of the STCs raised in the SPS and TBT Committees. Nevertheless, they provide an up-to-date insight into which trade issues are being discussed by Members across the WTO and, as such, add important transparency. This Section does not reproduce the full substantive description of the trade concerns outlined by WTO Members, but provides a reference to the formal meeting(s) where a particular issue featured. A full account and context of the concerns can be found in the formal meeting records of the respective WTO bodies. The list of concerns and issues mentioned in this Section is not exhaustive.

3.85. At the March 2021 meeting of the General Council (GC)⁵¹ the delegations of Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Paraguay⁵² called on Members to exercise restraint in the adoption and implementation of export restrictions on COVID-19 vaccines. At the 5-6 May 2021 GC meeting⁵³,

⁴⁹ 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.

⁵⁰ Members are encouraged to communicate to the Trade Monitoring Section of the WTO trade issues which they have raised in WTO bodies and which they believe are relevant to the monitoring exercise.

⁵¹ WTO document WT/GC/M/190.

⁵² WTO document WT/GC/W/818.

⁵³ WTO document WT/GC/M/191 (forthcoming).

the delegations of Paraguay, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Costa Rica called on Members to exercise restraint in the adoption and implementation of trade restrictions that block equal access to COVID-19 vaccines.

3.86. During the review period, the Council for Trade in Goods (CTG) held two meetings. At the CTG meeting November 2020⁵⁴ seven new trade concerns were raised as per Table 3.19.

Table 3.19 New trade concerns raised at the 25-26 November 2020 CTG meeting

Measures implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
China – Implementation of Trade Disruptive and Restrictive Measures	Australia
Egypt – Import Restrictions for Sugar	European Union
Nigeria – Foreign Exchange Restrictions Affecting Dairy Imports	European Union
Panama – Import Restricting Practices	Costa Rica
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia – Trade Restrictive Policies and Practices Concerning Turkey	Turkey
Sri Lanka – Import Ban on Various Products	European Union
United States - Revised Origin Marking Requirement for Goods Produced in Hong Kong	Hong Kong, China

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.87. At the same meeting, 26 previously raised concerns were revisited by the Council as per Table 3.20.

Table 3.20 Previously raised concerns repeated at the 25-26 November 2020 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
China – Export Control Law	European Union, Japan
China – Measures Restricting the Import of Scrap Materials	United States
Egypt – Manufacturer Registration System	European Union, Russian Federation
European Union – Amendments to the Directive 2009/28/EC, Renewable Energy Directive	Colombia
European Union – Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (the European Green Deal of December 2019)	Armenia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Russian Federation
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 of the EU to include Croatia: Negotiations under Article XXIV:6 of the GATT 1994	Russian Federation
European Union – Implementation of Non-Tariff Barriers on Agricultural Products	Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, United States, Uruguay
European Union – Proposed Modification of TRQ Commitments: Systemic Concerns	Australia, Brazil, Canada, 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	United States, Uruguay
European Union – Regulation (EU) No. 2017/2321 and Regulation (EU) No. 2018/825	China, Russian Federation
European Union – Regulation EC No. 1272/2008 (CLP Regulation)	Russian Federation
India – 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, United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Qatar – Selective Tax on Certain Imported Products	European Union, Japan, Switzerland, United States
Mexico – Front of Pack Nutrition Labelling (Nom-51)	United States
Mongolia – Measures Applied with respect to Certain Agricultural Products	Russian Federation
Russian Federation – Trade Restricting Practices	European Union

⁵⁴ WTO document G/C/M/138.

Measures implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
United Kingdom – Draft Goods Schedule and Proposed UK TRQ Commitments: Systemic Concerns	Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, New Zealand, Russian Federation, United States, Uruguay
United States – Executive Order on Securing the Bulk-Power System	China
United States – Export Control Measures for ICT Products	China
United States – Import Restrictions on Apples and Pears	European Union
United States – Measures regarding Market Access Prohibition for ICT Products	China

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.88. At the 25-26 November 2020 CTG meeting, the delegations of Canada; Colombia; Costa Rica; Hong Kong, China; New Zealand; Norway; Singapore; Switzerland; and Uruguay circulated a communication on "COVID-19: Measures related to trade in goods"⁵⁵, calling on Members to continue providing to the WTO timely information and notifications on COVID-19 related measures and initiatives.

3.89. At the CTG meeting on 31 March and 1 April 2021⁵⁶ five new trade concerns were raised as per Table 3.21.

Table 3.21 New trade concerns raised at the CTG 31 March and 1 April 2021 meetings

Measures implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
European Union - COVID-19 Vaccine Export Transparency and Authorization Measure	Australia
India – Mandatory Certification for Steel Products	Japan
India – Import Restrictions on Air Conditioners	Japan
Mexico – Conformity Assessment Procedure for Cheese under Mexican Official Standard NOM-223-SCFI/SAGARPA-2018	United States
European Union – Sweden's Discriminatory Market Access Prohibition on 5G Equipment	China

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.90. At the same meeting, 27 previously raised concerns were revisited by the Council as per Table 3.22.

Table 3.22 Previously raised trade concerns repeated at the CTG 31 March and 1 April 2021 meetings

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
China – Export Control Law	European Union, Japan
China – Implementation of Trade Disruptive and Restrictive Measures	Australia
China – Measures Restricting the Import of Scrap Materials	United States
Egypt – Import Restrictions for Sugar	European Union
Egypt – Manufacturer Registration System	European Union, Russian Federation
European Union – Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (the European Green Deal of December 2019)	Armenia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Russian Federation
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 – Implementation of Non-Tariff Barriers on Agricultural Products	Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United States, Uruguay
European Union – Proposed Modification of TRQ Commitments: Systemic Concerns	Australia, Brazil, China, New Zealand, Uruguay
European Union – Quality Schemes for Agricultural Products and Foodstuffs – the Registration of Certain Terms of Cheese as Geographical Indications	Uruguay

⁵⁵ WTO document G/C/W/780.

⁵⁶ WTO document G/C/M/139 (forthcoming).

Measures implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
European Union – Regulation (EU) No. 2017/2321 and Regulation (EU) No. 2018/825	China, Russian Federation
European Union – Regulation EC No. 1272/2008 (CLP Regulation)	Russian Federation
India – Restrictions on Imports of Certain Pulses	Australia, Canada, European Union, Russian Federation, Ukraine, United States
Indonesia – Import and Export Restricting Policies and Practices	Australia, European Union, Japan, New Zealand, United States
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia – Trade Restrictive Policies and Practices Concerning Turkey	Turkey
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, State of Kuwait, Oman, and Qatar – Selective Tax on Certain Imported Products	European Union, Japan, Switzerland, United States
Mongolia – Measures Applied with respect to Certain Agricultural Products	Russian Federation
Russian Federation – Trade Restricting Practices	European Union, United States
Sri Lanka – Import Ban on Various Products	Australia, European Union
United Kingdom – Draft Goods Schedule and Proposed UK TRQ Commitments: Systemic Concerns	Australia, Brazil, China, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Uruguay
United States – Executive Order on Securing the Bulk-Power System	China
United States – Export Control Measures for ICT Products	China
United States – Import Restrictions on Apples and Pears	European Union
United States – Measures regarding Market Access Prohibition for ICT Products	China

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.91. At the 12 November 2020 meeting of the Committee on Market Access (CMA)⁵⁷, five new trade concerns were raised on: (i) the Russian Federation's draft decree restricting imports by certain entities (raised by European Union); (ii) the Russian Federation's track and trace Regime (raised by United States); (iii) Sri Lanka's import ban on various products (raised by European Union); (iv) Panama's import restrictive measures (raised by Costa Rica); and (v) India's import policies on tyres, television sets, and air conditioners (raised by European Union and Thailand). Persistent trade concerns were also raised on: (i) Angola's import restriction practices (raised by Russian Federation and United States); (ii) China's custom duties on certain integrated circuits (raised by European Union, Japan, and Chinese Taipei); (iii) the European Union's carbon border adjustment mechanism (the European Green Deal of December 2019) (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); (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 telecommunication products (raised by United States); (x) Mongolia's quantitative restrictions and prohibitions on the importation of certain agricultural products (raised by Russian Federation); (xi) Nepal's import ban on energy drinks (raised by Thailand) and (xii) the selective tax on certain imported products by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Oman and Qatar (raised by European Union, Switzerland and United States).

3.92. At the 29-30 April 2021 meeting of the CMA⁵⁸, 22 trade concerns were raised, of which eight were new (Table 3.23).

Table 3.23 Trade concerns raised at the Committee on Market Access

Measures implemented by	Member(s) raising/interested in the concern
Angola – Import Restriction Practices	Russian Federation, United States
China - Customs Duties on Certain Integrated Circuits	European Union, Japan, Chinese Taipei
China – Trade Disruptive and Restrictive Measures (new)	Australia
European Union - Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (The European Green Deal of December 2019)	Armenia, Kingdom of Bahrain, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Qatar, Russian Federation, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
European Union – Vaccine Export Transparency Mechanism (new)	Australia

⁵⁷ WTO document G/MA/M/73.

⁵⁸ WTO document G/MA/M/74 to be issued.

Measures implemented by	Member(s) raising / interested in the concern
Egypt – Manufacturer Registration System (Decree N° 43/2016) (new)	Russian Federation
India – Customs Duties on Telecommunication and Other Products	China
India – Import Policies on Tyres	European Union
India – Import Restriction on Air Conditioners	Japan
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
Indonesia - Import Restriction on Air Conditioners (new)	Japan
Mexico – Import Quota on Glyphosate (new)	United States
Mongolia – Quantitative Restrictions on the Importation of Certain Agricultural Products	Russian Federation
Nepal - Import Ban on Energy Drinks	Thailand
Russian Federation – Export Prohibition on Timber Products (new)	European Union
Russian Federation – Track and Trace Regime	United States
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, State of Kuwait, Oman, and Qatar - Selective Tax on Certain Imported Products	European Union, Japan, Switzerland, United States
Sri Lanka – Import Ban on Various Products	Australia, European Union
Sri Lanka – Import Ban on Palm Oil (new)	Indonesia
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.

3.93. 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.⁵⁹

3.94. At the 21 April 2021 meeting of the Committee on Import Licensing (CIL)⁶⁰, new and persistent trade concerns were raised (Table 3.24).

Table 3.24 Trade concerns raised at the Committee on Import Licensing

Measures implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
Argentina – Import Licensing system	United States
Angola - Import Licensing Requirements	European Union
China - Changes to Import Licensing for Certain Recoverable Materials	United States
Dominican Republic – Import Licensing System	United States
Egypt – Import Licensing System	United States
Egypt - Import Licensing Requirements for Certain Agricultural and Processed Products	European Union
India - Import Licensing Requirements for Boric Acid	United States
India - Quantitative Restrictions on Certain Pulses	Canada, Australia, European Union
India - Importation of Pneumatic Tyres	European Union
Indonesia – Import Licensing System	European Union
Indonesia – Import Licensing Regime for Cell phones, Handheld Computers and Tablets	United States
Indonesia - Import Licensing Restricting Policies and Practices	Australia
Indonesia - Import Restrictions: Compulsory Registration by Importers of Steel Products	Japan
Indonesia - Import Licensing Regime for Certain Textile Products	European Union, Japan
Indonesia - Import Restrictions on Air Conditioners	European Union, Japan
Philippines – Import Licensing System	United States
Thailand - Importation of Feed Wheat	European Union

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.95. At the meeting of the Committee on Rules of Origin on 30 October 2020⁶¹, trade concerns were raised on the United States' country of origin marking (raised by Hong Kong, China).

⁵⁹ WTO document G/L/59/Rev.1.

⁶⁰ WTO document G/LIC/M/52.

⁶¹ WTO document G/RO/M/75.

3.96. At the 30 November-1 December 2020 and 29-30 March 2021 meetings of the Committee on Agriculture (CoA)⁶², 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 238 questions were discussed on individual notifications (96 questions), Article 18.6 matters (131 questions on 77 SIMs), and overdue notifications (11 questions). Additional details regarding these questions and concerns can be found in Section 3.6 of this Report.

3.97. At the meetings of the Committee on Anti-Dumping Practices⁶³ on 28 October 2020 and 28 April 2021, concerns were raised as per Table 3.25.

Table 3.25 Concerns raised on anti-dumping practices

Measures implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
Australia - Sunset review – Ammonium Nitrate	Russian Federation
Australia - Repetitive initiations on similar products: Aluminium micro-extrusions and Aluminium zinc coated steel (<600mm)	China
- Hot dip galvanised steel angle and solid base angle	
Canada - Sunset review – refined sugar	European Union
Canada - Investigation - concrete reinforcing bars	Russian Federation
China - Investigation and imposition of ADDs – barley	Australia
China - Investigation - wines	Australia
China - Final determination and continued imposition of ADDs - stainless billets and hot-rolled plates and coils	Japan
China - Final determination and continued imposition of ADDs – optical fibre preform	Japan
Dominican Republic - Sunset review - steel reinforcing bars	Turkey
Egypt - Initiation - pre-stressed concrete steel strands	Turkey
Egypt - Initiation - machine-made carpet and other floor coverings	Turkey
European Union - Investigation - steel wheels	China
European Union - Investigation - glass fibre fabrics products	China
European Union Final determination and continued imposition of ADDs – grain-oriented flat-rolled products of electrical steel (GOES)	Japan
India - Final determination and continued imposition of ADDs – phthalic anhydride	Japan
Indonesia - Final determination and continued imposition of ADDs - cold rolled stainless sheet	Japan
Korea, Republic of - Final determination and continued imposition of ADDs based on the 4th sunset review - stainless steel bar	Japan
Mexico - Measures - bond paper	Brazil
Mexico - Sunset review - hot-rolled sheet	Ukraine
Mexico - Sunset review - alloy and non-alloy carbon steel plate in sheets and bars	Ukraine
Mexico - Sunset review – bars and rods of iron or non-alloy steel	Ukraine
Mexico - Continued application of an AD measure - cold-rolled sheet	Kazakhstan
Mexico - Final determination and continued imposition of ADDs - seamless steel tubing	Japan
Pakistan - Sunset review – cold-rolled coils/sheets	Ukraine
Philippines - Sunset review and extension of measures – wheat flour	Turkey
South Africa - Sunset review – frozen potato chips	European Union
South Africa - Sunset review - frozen bone-in chicken portions	European Union
South Africa - Initiation - Frozen bone-in portions of the species Gallus Domesticus	Brazil
Thailand - Final determination and continued imposition of ADDs - flat cold rolled stainless steel and flat hot rolled steel in coils and not in coils	Japan
Ukraine - Initiation - cement	Turkey
Ukraine - Initiation - pivot-reclining devices (mechanisms) for window and balcony door blocks	Turkey
United Kingdom - Transitional review - welded tubes and pipes of iron or non-alloy steel	Russian Federation
United States - Administrative review - frozen warmwater shrimp	China
United States -- Multiple actions on aluminium products/sheets	China
United States -Provisional measure - common alloy aluminium sheet	Norway

⁶² Questions raised under the review process in the CoA meetings on 30 November – 1 December 2020 and 29-30 March 2021 are available in WTO documents G/AG/W/208, issued on 19 November 2020, and G/AG/W/210, issued on 18 March 2021. 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/>.

⁶³ WTO documents G/ADP/M/58 and G/ADP/M/59 (forthcoming).

Measures implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
United States -Provisional measure - common alloy aluminium sheet	European Union
United States -Provisional determination - seamless carbon and alloy steel standard, line, and pressure pipe	Russian Federation
United States - Provisional measures - prestressed concrete steel wire strand	Ukraine
United States - Initiation - seamless carbon and alloy steel standard, line, and pressure pipe	Ukraine

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.98. Other issues and concerns raised concerned: (i) the length of the United States anti-dumping measures – 19 prolonged measures (raised by Japan); (ii) the European Union's Regulation (EU) 2017/2321 and Regulation (EU) 2018/825 (item placed on the agenda by Russian Federation and supported by China); (iii) overall importance of prompt notifications for transparency purposes (raised by the United States); and (iv) transitional reviews of anti-dumping measures conducted by the United Kingdom (raised by China and the Russian Federation).

3.99. At the meetings of the Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures on 27 October 2020 and 27 April 2021 concerns were raised on subsidies as per Table 3.26.

Table 3.26 Concerns raised at the Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures

Measures implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
Canada - Sunset review – Refined sugar	European Union
China - Countervailing duty investigation - n-Propanol (NPA)	United States
China - Countervailing duty investigation – Barley	Australia
China - Provisional measures - Wines in containers holding 2 litres or less	Australia
European Union - Countervailing duty investigation - certain woven and/or stitched glass fibre fabrics	China, Egypt
United States - Provisional measures - Phosphate fertilizers	Morocco, Russian Federation
United States - Provisional measures – Seamless carbon and alloy steel standard, line, and pressure pipe	Russian Federation

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.100. Additional concerns were raised on: (i) elimination of export subsidies by the Members that received extensions under Article 27.4 of the SCM Agreement; (ii) low and declining level of compliance with the notification and transparency obligations in the SCM Agreement; (iii) requests for information pursuant to Article 25.8 and 25.9 (proposal on procedures from the United States); (iv) subsidies and overcapacity (raised by Canada, European Union, Japan, Norway, and United States); (v) request for information on certain alleged subsidy programmes in the steel sector in China (raised by European Union and United States); (vi) countervailing duty regulation of the United States regarding designation of developing country status in CVD cases (raised by Brazil); (vii) countervailing duty regulation of the United States regarding the assessment of currency undervaluation in CVD cases (raised by Brazil and China); (viii) use of adverse facts available by the United States in certain CVD investigations (raised by China); (ix) transitional reviews of countervailing measures conducted by the United Kingdom (raised by China and Russian Federation); (x) subsidy transparency and China's publication and inquiry point obligations under China's protocol of accession (raised by European Union and United States).

3.101. At the meetings of the Committee on Safeguards held on 26 October 2020 and on 26 April 2021⁶⁴, concerns were raised on specific safeguard actions as per Table 3.27.

Table 3.27 Concerns raised at the Committee on Safeguards

Measure implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
Costa Rica	
Investigation on Refined White Sugar	Brazil
European Union	
Investigation on certain steel products	Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Switzerland, China, India, Brazil, Turkey

⁶⁴ WTO documents G/SG/M/57 and WTO document G/SG/M/58 (forthcoming).

Measure implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
Kingdom of Bahrain; State of Kuwait; Oman; Qatar; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; and United Arab Emirates^a	
Investigation on certain steel products	Japan, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Ukraine, United States, India
India	
Investigation on single mode optical fibre	Japan
Indonesia	
Investigation on carpets and other textile floor coverings	Japan
Investigation on articles of apparel and clothing accessories	European Union, Japan
Investigation on cigarette paper	European Union
Madagascar	
Investigation on pasta	Mauritius
Malaysia	
Investigation on ceramic floor and wall tiles	Japan
Morocco	
Investigation on welded pipes and tubes of iron or steel	European Union
Investigation on wire rods and reinforcing bars	Ukraine
Investigation on cold rolled sheets in coils or cut, and plated or coated sheets	Ukraine
Peru	
Investigation on clothing	Brazil
Philippines	
Investigation on galvanized iron sheets, coils and strips	Japan
Investigation on motor vehicles	Japan, Thailand, Republic of Korea, European Union, Indonesia
South Africa	
Investigation on certain flat-rolled products of iron, non-alloy steel or other alloy steel	Japan, European Union
Investigation on U, I, H, L and T sections of iron or non-alloy steel	Republic of Korea, Japan,
Investigation on bolts with hexagon heads of iron or steel	Chinese Taipei
Thailand	
Investigation on non-alloy hot rolled steel flat products in coils and not in coils	Japan
Turkey	
Investigation on toothbrushes	European Union
Investigation on wallpaper and similar wallcoverings	Ukraine, European Union
Ukraine	
Investigation on fresh cut roses	Ecuador, European Union, Colombia
Investigation on polymeric materials	European Union
Investigation on wires	European Union
United Kingdom	
Investigation on certain steel products	Japan, Russian Federation, Turkey, Switzerland, Republic of Korea, China, Brazil
United States	
Investigation on crystalline silicon photovoltaic cells	China
Investigation on fresh, chilled, or frozen blueberries	Chile, Peru
Investigation on large residential washers	Korea
Measures taken following Section 232 investigations	India, Japan, European Union, Turkey, Russian Federation, China
Viet Nam	
Investigation on certain semi-finished and finished products of alloy and non-alloy steel	Japan

a Investigations are initiated at the level of the GCC.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.102. At the meeting of the Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMs) Committee on 23 March 2021⁶⁵ new or returning issues were raised, as per Table 3.28:

Table 3.28 Concerns raised at the TRIMs Committee

Measure implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
Indonesia	
Comprehensive review of localization measures ^a	European Union, Japan, United States
Import restriction on carpets and other textiles	Japan
Import restriction on air conditioners	Japan

⁶⁵ WTO document G/TRIMS/M/49 (forthcoming).

Measure implemented by	Member(s) raising the concern
India	
Import restriction on air conditioners	Japan
Import restriction on tires	Japan
Russian Federation	
Measures implementing Russia's import substitution policy ^b	European Union, United States

- a G/TRIMS/Q/IDN/5, 14 May 2019; G/TRIMS/Q/IDN/6 of 13 March 2020; G/TRIMS/Q/IDN/7 of 7 June 2020; and G/TRIMS/Q/IDN/8 of 17 July 2020.
- b 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 of 2 September 2020.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.103. At the meeting of the Working Party on State Trade Enterprises (STEs) of 2 November 2020⁶⁶, trade concerns were raised on: (i) India's decision not to identify certain entities as STEs in its 2018 and 2019 notifications (raised by United States and European Union); (ii) Brazil's notification of no STEs (raised by United States); (iii) the continued non-notification of STEs by the Russian Federation (raised by United States and European Union); and (iv) the low level of compliance with notification obligations relating to STEs (raised by United States).

3.104. At the meeting of the Working Party on STEs of 3 May 2021⁶⁷, trade concerns were raised on: (i) Brazil's decision not to identify certain entities as STEs; (ii) the involvement of STEs in China's importation of key agricultural commodities and coal (raised by Australia); (iii) India's decision not to identify certain entities as STEs in its 2018 and 2019 notifications (raised by United States and Australia); (iv) the continued non-notification of STEs by the Russian Federation (raised by United States and European Union); and (v) the need to enhance transparency (raised by Canada, European Union, Japan, Republic of Korea, Philippines, Switzerland, and United States).

3.105. At the 16 and 20 November 2020 and 30 March 2021 meetings of the *Committee on Trade and Environment* (CTE)⁶⁸, the European Union briefed delegations on the trade aspects of the European Green Deal, which included, *inter alia*, its Farm-to-Fork policy, the objective of climate neutrality by 2050, and plans to adopt a carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM). While several delegations recognized the importance of the objectives pursued, Colombia and Paraguay raised concerns that increased costs could exclude smaller agricultural producers from developing countries from international markets in favour of bigger producers. On the climate policy and CBAM, Canada, China, Colombia, Ecuador, India, the Republic of Korea, Norway, Paraguay, the Russian Federation, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United States raised a series of specific concerns, including: the importance of respecting the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC); the bottom-up approach to climate action under the Paris Agreement; the importance of respecting trade obligations, including under preferential trade agreements, and avoid discriminatory and unnecessary barriers to trade; the need to assist developing countries in a just transition to low carbon economies.

3.106. At the meeting of the Council for Trade in Services (CTS) held on 4 December 2020, concerns were raised about certain tax measures of the Russian Federation (raised by United States). At that same meeting, concerns were reiterated about measures of the Russian Federation related to market access for foreign-licensed fixed satellite operators (raised by United States).⁶⁹ At the CTS meetings held on 4 December 2020 and 5 March 2021, concerns were reiterated about: (i) cybersecurity measures of China and Viet Nam (raised by Japan and United States); (ii) 5G-related measures of Australia (raised by China); (iii) measures of the Russian Federation requiring software pre-installation (raised by United States); (iv) measures of the United States related to mobile applications (raised by China); (v) measures of India on prior approval for acquisitions of Indian companies and on the use of mobile applications (raised by China).⁷⁰

3.107. At the meetings of the Committee on Trade and Development (CTD) on 20 November 2020⁷¹ and 29 March 2021⁷², the LDC Group expressed concerns regarding the relatively low rate of utilization of the trade preferences granted to LDCs and highlighted the need to determine the

⁶⁶ WTO document G/STR/M/37.

⁶⁷ WTO document G/STR/M/38.

⁶⁸ WTO documents WT/CTE/M/70, 17 March 2021 and WT/CTE/M/71 (forthcoming).

⁶⁹ WTO document S/C/M/144.

⁷⁰ WTO documents S/C/M/144 and 145.

⁷¹ WTO document WT/COMTD/M/113.

⁷² WTO document WT/COMTD/M/114 (forthcoming).

barriers to preference utilization, and how these barriers could be removed. Concerns were also raised at both meetings regarding the capacity constraints faced by developing countries and LDCs that prevented them from benefiting more fully from e-commerce. Calls were made to reinvigorate discussions under the Work Programme on E-Commerce before proceeding with negotiations on rule-making. At the meeting of the CTD's 40th Dedicated Session on Small Economies held on 2 November 2020⁷³, the Committee considered the opportunities and challenges for small economies in attracting investments. Concerns were also raised regarding the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the trade of small economies.

3.108. The above Section provides evidence of the numerous trade concerns raised in the various WTO bodies between mid-October 2020 and mid-May 2021. During the review period, although the WTO committees and councils meetings were hosted virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions, Members continued to raise trade issues and concerns. Several new trade concerns were raised during the review period and several had already been raised in previous periods, indicating persistent and unresolved issues. Also, some trade concerns were raised in more than one WTO body, suggesting that these concerns involve cross-cutting and technically complex issues. It may also suggest that WTO Members are continuing to use multiple platforms within the WTO committee structure to address various aspects of such concerns. Systemically, this is significant because of the increased transparency which it brings, but also because it demonstrates that Members are actively using the WTO committees to engage trading partners on real or potential areas of trade friction. At the same time, however, the repetition and non-resolution of the same trade concerns and issues in various WTO bodies may also be a source of concern. The Secretariat will continue to closely monitor developments in this area.

3.6 Policy developments in agriculture

3.109. The Committee on Agriculture (CoA) provides a forum to discuss matters related to agricultural trade, and to consult on matters related to the implementation of commitments under the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA). The review work of the CoA is based on notifications that WTO 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 their commitments (i.e. Specific Implementation Matters (SIMs)). The CoA has also been tasked with monitoring the implementation of specific outcomes reached under the agriculture negotiations.

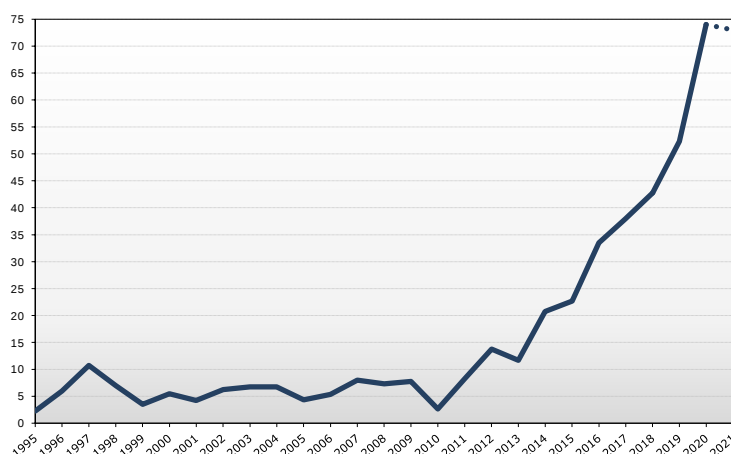
3.110. During the review period, the CoA held two regular meetings: 30 November-1 December 2020 and 29-30 March 2021 (96th and 97th CoA meetings). Members posed 238 questions regarding individual notifications, overdue notifications and SIMs under Article 18.6. Most questions concerning individual notifications were related to domestic support notifications (72%). For SIMs under Article 18.6, around 34% related to policies affecting market access; questions concerning domestic support policies accounted for the same percentage. Similarly, 14% of SIMs concerned the export competition pillar, while the same percentage of SIMs targeted matters related to export prohibitions and restrictions on foodstuffs. The remaining SIMs related to transparency issues. In total, 13 Members raised 131 questions on 77 SIMs at the 96th and 97th CoA meetings.⁷⁴

3.111. As can be seen in Chart 3.21, the average number of questions raised under Article 18.6 per meeting has been on the rise since 2011, reaching an all-time high of an average of 74 questions per meeting in 2020. These numbers include questions that were repeated in more than one meeting.

⁷³ WTO document WT/COMTD/SE/M/40.

⁷⁴ Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Japan, New Zealand, Paraguay, the Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine and the United States.

Chart 3.21 Average number of questions addressed under Article 18.6, per meeting, 1995-2021^a



a 2021 data cover questions raised until the 97th CoA meeting.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.112. Of the 77 SIMs raised in the CoA during the review period, 43 were discussed for the first time. Of these, around 39% related to market access issues, 28% to domestic support programmes, 19% to policies prohibiting or restricting exports of foodstuffs and the remaining 14% to export competition and other issues.

3.113. SIMs in the area of market access targeted measures that restricted, or had the potential to restrict, trade in agricultural products, including bovine meat (Indonesia's regulations on imports of bovine meat), cereals (China's maize import duties, Nigeria's border closures, the Philippines' market access volume utilization of corn and its Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance (SPSIC) permits and Chinese Taipei's ceiling price for imported rice under the tariff rate quota (TRQ)), cotton (India's increase on cotton tariffs), fruits and vegetables (Indonesia's imports of citrus, melons, strawberries and persimmons, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's imports of agricultural products from Turkey), poultry (Tajikistan's poultry tariffs), seeds (India's oilseeds policies) and sugar (Egypt's sugar import ban). Certain SIMs related to broader import policies of Members covering several products (Angola's import policies, Canada's Bill C-216, EU member States' regulations on domestic food products, India's Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC) and Sri Lanka's temporary suspensions and restrictions on imports of products).

3.114. In the domestic support pillar, Members sought clarification on support policies targeting specific products, including dairy products (Canada's farm gate milk prices and its dairy price increase in New Brunswick), cereals (China's minimum support prices and the Russian Federation's wheat subsidies), soybeans (France's soybean production and the European Union's Blue Box support) and sugar (India's support of sugar and biofuels), as well as domestic support policies with a wider sectoral scope (Australia's package reforms for the agricultural sector, China's rural development plans for 2021, the European Union's trade policy, France's national strategy for vegetable proteins and the United States' domestic support programmes and its COVID-19 relief package (H.R. 1319, American Rescue Plan Act of 2021)).

3.115. Eight SIMs related to policies restricting or prohibiting exports, including of cereals (the Russian Federation's grain export duties and its formula-based grain export tax, and Ukraine's export cap on corn), fresh vegetables (India's export prohibition on onions), seeds (the Russian Federation's sunflower seed export duty and its draft resolution on export duties) and soyabeans (the Russian Federation's soyabean export duty). One SIM concerned the Russian Federation's lack of notifications to the CoA regarding its recently implemented export restrictions.

3.116. Three SIMs sought further information and clarification on policies that potentially subsidized exports of agricultural products (India's export subsidies for sugar, the Russian Federation's support on exports of high value-added agricultural products and its support on exported agricultural products). Other SIMs concerned China's outstanding responses to questions raised in the CoA, Côte d'Ivoire's tax on imported spirits and France's requirements concerning the origin of goods on supermarket shelves.

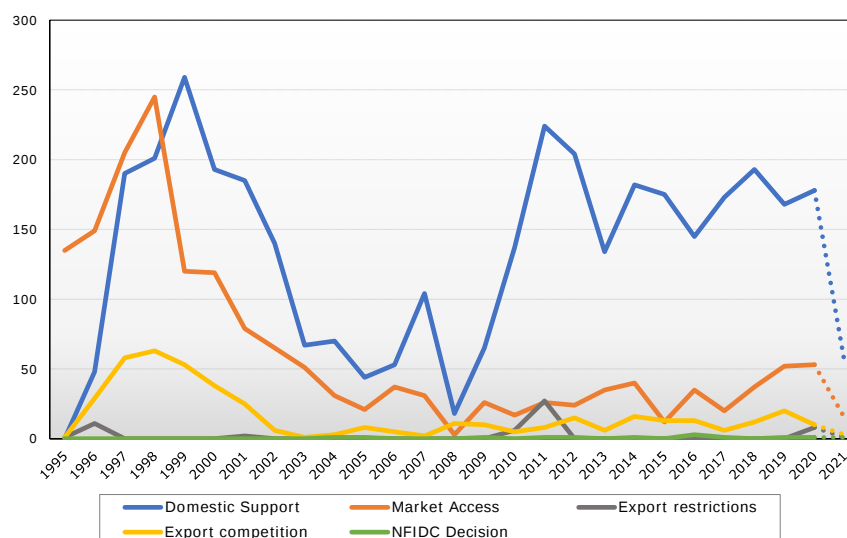
3.117. A total of 34 SIMs that were discussed during the review period were follow-ups to matters raised in previous CoA meetings. Some have been raised multiple times. For example, SIMs regarding Canada's new milk ingredient class and India's pulses policies have been raised in 17 and 13 CoA meetings, attracting 63 and 57 questions, respectively. Similarly, matters related to Mongolia's quota regime for importation, China's cotton policies, India's skim milk powder export subsidies and the Russian Federation's railway subsidy for exports have been raised on more than six occasions. The agricultural policies of Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, Honduras, India, Indonesia, New Zealand, Nigeria, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States were the subject of repeated concerns under Article 18.6. All 77 SIMs, including questions, answers and follow-up comments, can be accessed through the Agriculture Information Management System (AG IMS).⁷⁵

3.118. WTO Members continued to implement the December 2015 Nairobi Ministerial Decision on Export Competition. Of the 16 Members with positive export subsidy commitment levels in their schedules at the time of adoption of the Decision, 12 have had their revised export subsidy schedules certified (Australia, Colombia, Iceland, Indonesia, Israel, Mexico, Norway, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey, the United States and Uruguay); two (Canada and the European Union) circulated their draft revised schedules, which are pending certification; and two (Brazil and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) have yet to circulate their revised draft export subsidies (ES) schedules. At the 97th CoA meeting, Brazil reported the completion of the domestic process to approve the Decision, paving the way for the circulation of its draft schedule.

3.119. The CoA continued its review of the implementation of Members' commitments under the AoA, primarily on the basis of notifications submitted by Members. Twelve distinct notification requirements are applicable in the domain of agriculture, covering 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. Of the 12 notification requirements, 5 are "regular" or "annual" notification requirements: (i) imports under tariff and other quotas (MA:2); (ii) special agricultural safeguards (MA:5); (iii) domestic support (DS:1); (iv) export subsidies (ES:1) and (v) total exports (ES:2). Annual notifications are required to be submitted no later than a certain number of days following the end of the year in question, in accordance with the deadlines set out in the Committee's Notification Requirements and Formats (WTO document G/AG/2, 30 June 1995).

3.120. More than 5,790 questions were raised in connection with individual notifications under the CoA review process in the period 1995-2021 (until March 2021). Over the years, most of these questions focused on domestic support notifications (DS:1 and DS:2), followed by market access, especially TRQs (MA:1 and MA:2). Since 2010, the prevalence of questions concerning domestic support notifications has been high, representing between 70% and 80% of all the questions raised in the CoA concerning individual notifications (Chart 3.22).

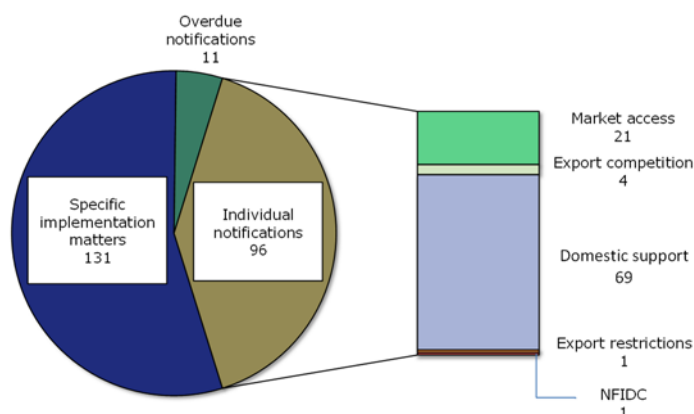
⁷⁵ In the AG IMS (<http://agims.wto.org/>), under the Review Process Q&A tab, select "Search Q&A Submitted Since 1995" and select 96 and 97 in the "Meeting number" field.

Chart 3.22 Questions raised on individual notifications, per topic, per year, 1995-2021^a

a 2021 data cover up to the 97th CoA meeting.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.121. From 15 October 2020 to 15 May 2021, Members submitted 243 notifications (including addenda and corrigenda). A total of 96 questions were posed concerning individual notifications at the CoA meetings that took place during this period. As seen in Chart 3.23, and in line with the historical trend, most of the questions related to domestic support notifications (72%), with domestic support notifications from India, Viet Nam and the European Union being subject to an extensive review based on multiple questions from other Members. A total of 11 questions addressed overdue notifications from Australia, Brazil, the European Union, India, Pakistan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Thailand and the United States.

Chart 3.23 Breakdown of the questions raised in the 96th and 97th CoA meetings

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Policy developments in agriculture related to the COVID-19 pandemic

3.122. The 96th and 97th CoA meetings covered by the review period included a dedicated agenda item on COVID-19 and agriculture. While Members used the CoA's standard review process to request clarification on each other's policies implemented in response to the pandemic, this standing agenda item provided Members with an opportunity to engage in a holistic discussion on the crisis and the serious disruptions it has caused to food and agriculture systems globally. The agenda item also offered Members a chance to review each other's *ad hoc* reports on measures taken in response to the pandemic. In this regard, seven Members (counting the European Union as one) submitted *ad hoc* reports to the CoA (Table 3.29). In addition, at the request of Members, the WTO Secretariat produced a compilation of Members' COVID-19 agricultural measures (WTO document G/AG/W/209, 9 December 2020) based on Members' *ad hoc* reports submitted to the CoA.

Table 3.29 *Ad hoc* reports on COVID-19 measures in the agricultural sector (mid-October 2020 to mid-May 2021^a)

Member	Document symbol	Issue date
Norway	G/AG/GEN/172	11/11/2020
Switzerland	G/AG/GEN/164/Corr.1, G/AG/GEN/164/Add.1	19/11/2020, 25/11/2020
European Union	G/AG/GEN/159/Add.3, G/AG/GEN/159/Add.4	26/11/2020, 24/03/2021
El Salvador	G/AG/GEN/163/Add.1	04/02/2021
South Africa	G/AG/GEN/180	12/03/2021
Israel	G/AG/GEN/160/Add.1	17/03/2021
Japan	G/AG/GEN/166/Rev.1	26/03/2021

a WTO Docs Online. Viewed at: https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S005.aspx.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.123. Observer international organizations also contributed to discussions under the agenda item on COVID-19 and agriculture. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the OECD, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Grains Council (IGC) submitted reports to the 96th and 97th CoA meetings, outlining their work in relation to the pandemic.⁷⁶

3.124. Some measures put in place by Members in response to the pandemic included restrictions or prohibitions on exports of certain goods, including agricultural products. The AoA establishes disciplines for cases where Members institute export prohibitions or restrictions to prevent or relieve critical shortages of foodstuffs (Article 12). Transparency is at the heart of these disciplines. The AoA states that: (i) Members are to give due consideration to the effects of such prohibition or restriction on importing Members' food security; and (ii) before any Member institutes an export prohibition or restriction, it shall give notice in writing, as far in advance as practicable, to the CoA, comprising such information as the nature and 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 that is a net food exporter of the specific foodstuff concerned. During the review period, there were no notifications submitted to the CoA on export restrictions or prohibitions on agricultural products attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic.

3.7 General economic support

3.125. At the 11 December 2020 TPRB meeting dedicated to discussing the Director-General's Overview of Developments in the International Trading Environment report, WTO Members emphasized the importance of the trade monitoring exercise as a horizontal, factual and objective platform that reinforces transparency and predictability, especially in the difficult times of the COVID-19 pandemic. Members stressed the timeliness of the report in providing trends on the impact of the global health crisis on trade and commended the rapid reaction and responsiveness of the Secretariat in providing an online transparency platform for sharing COVID-19-related measures, including on support programmes. Several delegations suggested that this transparency platform may offer an opportunity to understand the nature of the policies and programmes implemented, their duration and the envisaged timetables for a phase-out.

3.126. 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 have been biased against those Members that traditionally share and publish detailed information of such measures and programmes. Compounding the lack of information volunteered by Members, some delegations have often insisted on excluding general economic support measures identified by the Secretariat from public sources and for which verification was sought. The December 2020 TPRB meeting generated an exchange of views on how to address this issue, with several Members emphasizing the need to preserve and strengthen transparency through the trade monitoring exercise. Several Members welcomed the online COVID-19 support measures list⁷⁷ compiled by the WTO Secretariat, which was put in place in the early stages of the pandemic. The list provides an informal situation report and is an attempt to

⁷⁶ WTO documents G/AG/GEN/175 (FAO), 26 November 2020; G/AG/GEN/176 (OECD), 27 November 2020; and G/AG/GEN/181 (IGC), G/AG/GEN/182 (IGC), and G/AG/GEN/183 (WFP), 16 March 2021.

⁷⁷ WTO, COVID-19: Support Measures. Viewed at: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/trade_related_support_measures_e.htm.

provide transparency with respect to support measures taken in response to the COVID-19 crisis. It includes only information and measures communicated by delegations directly to the WTO Trade Monitoring Section in response to the Director-General's requests in March 2020, September 2020 and March 2021. The COVID-19 list of support measures includes measures only in the original language of the submission and makes no attempt to categorize them. As it is difficult to ascertain the extent to which, if at all, these measures are trade related or impact competition.

3.127. During the review period, WTO Members continued to address the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in order to prepare for a sustainable and strong post-crisis economic recovery. In terms of general economic support, this translated to more resources being allocated to COVID-19-related support measures and to fewer regular support measures, implemented by WTO Members.

Regular economic support measures

3.128. In response to the Director-General's March 2021 request for information for this Trade Monitoring Report, 29 WTO Members⁷⁸ communicated 12 general economic support measures unrelated to the pandemic to the Secretariat. Although most Members may not have introduced support measures during the review period, the participation rate remained low, with 18% of the membership having shared regular support measures. The Secretariat's own research suggests that many support measures with potentially important ramifications for trade were implemented by WTO Members during the review period.

3.129. During the review period, regular support measures (not related to COVID-19) communicated by WTO Members, as well as those identified by the Secretariat, included measures relating to environmental sustainability targets, such as: investments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; subsidies for renewable energies; research and development programmes focusing on sustainability and energy efficiency or to achieve carbon neutrality; state aids to eliminate CO₂ emissions and to promote renewable energy sources; fiscal policies to support the supply of renewable energies; and loans for developing green and sustainability frameworks. Other measures included investments to promote the use or development of digital technologies, aid schemes to support high-capacity connectivity infrastructures, and support to research and innovation. Support to farmers and to the agricultural sector – as well as funds to assist MSMEs and businesses, loan guarantees for MSMEs and more general stimulus packages – were also put in place. Several of these measures were multi-year programmes, with financial disbursements staggered over the lifetime of a project. Other measures were one-off grants or aid schemes.

COVID-19-related economic support measures

3.130. In response to the Director-General's March 2021 request for information, 62 Members⁷⁹ and 3 Observers⁸⁰ volunteered 312 COVID-19-related support measures to the Secretariat.

3.131. Since the beginning of the pandemic, at least 1,521 COVID-19-related economic support measures have been put in place by 106 Members and 4 Observers.⁸¹ Of these, as at 27 May 2021, 930 (61%) were communicated directly to the WTO Secretariat. This number includes 39 COVID-19-related support measures for MSMEs that were communicated directly to the trade monitoring exercise by five Members following the recommendation adopted by the Informal

⁷⁸ Albania; the European Union; and Hong Kong, China. Counting the EU (27), its member States and the United Kingdom separately. The United Kingdom withdrew from the European Union as at 1 February 2020. During the transition period, which ended on 31 December 2020, European Union law, with a few limited exceptions, continued to be applicable to and in the United Kingdom. Information provided by the European Union during that transition period that is relevant to this document also covered the United Kingdom.

⁷⁹ Angola; Australia; Bahrain, Kingdom of; Belize; Brazil; Canada; Chile; China; Costa Rica; Dominican Republic; El Salvador; the European Union; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Israel; Madagascar; Malaysia; Mali; Mauritania; Mexico; Moldova, Republic of; Montenegro; Myanmar; Nepal; Norway; Paraguay; the Philippines; the Russian Federation; Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of; Switzerland; Chinese Taipei; Tunisia; Turkey; the United Kingdom; and Zambia. The European Union, its member States and the United Kingdom are counted separately. The United Kingdom withdrew from the European Union as at 1 February 2020. During the transition period, which ended on 31 December 2020, European Union law, with a few limited exceptions, continued to be applicable to and in the United Kingdom. Information provided by the European Union during that transition period that is relevant to this document also covered the United Kingdom.

⁸⁰ Belarus, Equatorial Guinea and Iraq.

⁸¹ Azerbaijan, Belarus, Equatorial Guinea and Iraq.

Working Group on MSMEs to further increase transparency and provide, on a voluntary basis, information on policies related to MSMEs.

3.132. The unprecedented number of COVID-19-related support measures put in place since the beginning of the pandemic far exceeds the activity seen in the wake of the global financial crisis of 2008-09. Most of the recorded COVID-19-related support measures were put in place by G20 economies (908, or 60% of the total), of which 618 (68%) were communicated to the Secretariat. So far in 2021, 294 such measures have been announced or implemented in the form of grants, loans or stimulus packages targeting sectors of the economy heavily affected by the pandemic, including agriculture, health, aviation, transport, tourism, education and culture, and also fiscal and financial measures to support businesses and SMEs as well as broader and very sizeable stimulus packages. Some of the measures implemented in the early stages of the pandemic were extended in 2021, but overall, the flow of new support measures has slowed during the review period. Several were one-off grants, and others included disbursements staggered over a few months up to several years. Some of these measures form part of rescue plans and stimulus packages worth several trillion US dollars.

3.133. Another set of support measures put in place by governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic included measures implemented by central banks to ease monetary policies; reduce policy rates, statutory reserve ratios and repo rates; regulate the foreign exchange market; issue and purchase government bonds; and ease debt terms and reschedule deferrals on credit instalments to lower funding costs across economies. 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 and 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 of measures implemented and funds allocated than those offered by lower-income economies, whose responses have often relied on funding or other assistance obtained from international organizations and/or donors.

3.134. COVID-19-related support measures generally appear to be temporary in nature. Several of these measures have been adjusted and/or extended to reflect changing circumstances and challenges that have arisen in dealing with new surges of the pandemic. Large injections of money in some countries have generated discussions about finding the right balance between maintaining support measures to address the negative impacts of the crisis and ensuring a coordinated phasing-out of such measures to effectively support a broad and sustainable recovery.

3.135. Some Members have needed additional resources and assistances in dealing with the pandemic. The Secretariat identified 283 bilateral and multilateral assistance⁸² measures that were received during the review period by 122 Members to address the COVID-19 crisis. Of the 283 measures, 129 related to vaccination roll-out and bilateral vaccine donations. Others included additional financing for governments to address the pandemic in the forms of loans, grants and donations of medical devices. Several assistance measures were also provided to support the education sector and MSMEs in facing the challenges brought by the pandemic. Although the Secretariat's information on the bilateral and multilateral assistance measures is not exhaustive⁸³, the amount of such assistance appeared to be substantial in 2020, as preliminary findings from the OECD⁸⁴ seem to indicate.

3.136. Globally, governments have provided unprecedented support to help their own societies and economies recover from the crisis. The United Nations March 2021 Policy Brief⁸⁵ estimated the global

⁸² Multilateral assistance refers to assistance from international organizations and regional development banks.

⁸³ Given the speed with which COVID-19-related policies and programmes were introduced and/or modified, the number and type of support measures covered in this Section are not exhaustive. For example, it has been difficult to keep up with all actions undertaken by central banks and other monetary institutions to maintain flexibility in terms of tools, lending programmes and interest rate decisions required to deal with new challenges as they have emerged. Additionally, many WTO Members continued to provide aid or assistance bilaterally or through multilateral initiatives such as the COVAX Facilities.

⁸⁴ OECD, *COVID-19 Spending Helped to Lift Foreign Aid to an All-Time High in 2020 but More Effort Needed*, 13 April 2021. Viewed at: <https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/COVID-19-spending-helped-to-lift-foreign-aid-to-an-all-time-high-in-2020-but-more-effort-needed.htm>.

⁸⁵ United Nations, *Policy Brief Liquidity and Debt Solutions to Invest in the SDGs: The Time to Act is Now*, March 2021. Viewed at: https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sg_policy_brief_on_liquidity_and_debt_solutions_march_2021.pdf.

value of national fiscal support measures related to COVID-19 at USD 18 trillion. The large stimulus packages by some governments to boost consumer spending provided some concerns about the inflationary effects of such programmes. The IMF projected⁸⁶ that, although commodity prices are expected to increase in the coming months, the volatility of prices should be short-lived and inflation pressures will remain contained in most countries.

3.137. While many high-income economies may enjoy sufficient fiscal space to accommodate large economic stimulus initiatives, other economies entered the pandemic with already elevated debt risks or with elevated debt levels. Public debt in emerging markets has surged to levels not seen in 50 years, according to the World Bank⁸⁷, and many developing countries have increasingly taken on debt on non-concessional terms. The IMF⁸⁸ identified as at 30 April 2021, 7 low-income countries in debt distress, 29 at high risk, 23 at moderate risk and 10 at low risk. Debt-service repayments throughout 2020 and 2021 would amount, according to UNCTAD⁸⁹, to between USD 2 trillion and USD 2.3 trillion in high-income developing countries, and between USD 700 billion to USD 1.1 trillion in middle-and low-income countries. Multilateral organizations have encouraged donors and creditors to take action in supporting emerging markets and low-income countries with financial liquidity problems. The IMF provided financial assistance and debt-service relief of USD 250 billion to member countries to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic⁹⁰, including initiatives such as the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT) and the Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust (CCRT). The establishment of the G20 economies Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) in place since 1st May 2020 to December 2021, provided 73 eligible low-income countries with a temporary suspension of debt-service payments owed to their official bilateral creditors. The World Bank contributed some USD 160 billion between April 2020 and June 2021 to help developing countries strengthen their pandemic response and health-care systems, and committed USD 26.3 billion in financing economies participating in the G20 DSSI.⁹¹ Stronger and coordinated global responses would be needed to address the difficulties faced by low-and middle-income economies in the context of the pandemic. Trade could play an important role in alleviating the debt pressure felt by many of these economies and lowering trade barriers could provide countries with more opportunities to push down their debt-to-exports ratios. Addressing supply-side constraints and improving access to trade finance would help these countries take better advantage of market opportunities.

3.138. The above has captured activities in the area of regular and COVID-19-related economic support measures, including bilateral and multilateral assistance, until mid-May 2021. Governments around the world have provided an unprecedented number and variety of support measures to address the social and economic impacts of the pandemic. These emergency support measures are central to governments' strategies to address the pandemic-induced economic downturn and to prepare for a sustainable recovery. Keeping international markets open will be an essential component of the recovery from this crisis, and a rapid, global and equitable vaccine roll-out is a prerequisite in this respect.

3.139. 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 such 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 crisis, 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 fully 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.

⁸⁶ IMF, *World Economic Outlook: Managing Divergent Recoveries*, April 2021. Viewed at: <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/Issues/2021/03/23/world-economic-outlook-april-2021>.

⁸⁷ World Bank, *Debt Service Suspension and COVID-19*, 19 May 2021. Viewed at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/factsheet/2020/05/11/debt-relief-and-covid-19-coronavirus>.

⁸⁸ IMF, *List of LIC DSAs for PRGT-Eligible Countries*, as of 30 April 2021. Viewed at: <https://www.imf.org/external/Pubs/ft/dsa/DSAlist.pdf>.

⁸⁹ UNCTAD, *Trade and Development Report 2020 Update*, April 2020. Viewed at: <https://unctad.org/webflyer/great-lockdown-great-meltdown-developing-country-debt-time-COVID-19>.
<https://unctad.org/webflyer/great-lockdown-great-meltdown-developing-country-debt-time-covid-19>.

⁹⁰ IMF, *COVID-19 Financial Assistance and Debt Service Relief*, last viewed 20 May 2021. Viewed at: <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/COVID-Lending-Tracker>.

⁹¹ World Bank, *Debt Service Suspension and COVID-19*, 19 May 2021. Viewed at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/factsheet/2020/05/11/debt-relief-and-COVID-19-coronavirus>.

3.8 Other selected trade policy developments

3.140. 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

3.141. At various General Council (GC) meetings during the review period, the TRIPS Council Chair reported on the discussions on the proposed waiver on some TRIPS provisions by India, South Africa and other co-sponsors in relation to the prevention, containment or treatment of COVID-19.⁹²

3.142. At these meetings, the European Union, Canada and other co-sponsors drew the General Council's attention to the Trade and Health Initiative in document WT/GC/223 which was established in an effort to enable trade policy to contribute to the fight against COVID-19 and to create conditions for a more stable and predictable trade environment which would help mitigate the impact of the pandemic. And, at the 5-6 May 2021 GC meeting, Canada and other co-sponsors referred to the relevant proposed General Council Declaration in JOB/GC/251/Rev1.⁹³

3.143. At the March 2021 GC meeting, the delegations of Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Paraguay presented their joint communication in document WT/GC/W/818 and called on Members to exercise restraint in the adoption and implementation of export restrictions on COVID-19 vaccines.⁹⁴

3.144. Finally, at the May 2021 GC meeting, the delegations of Paraguay, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Costa Rica called on Members to exercise restraint in the adoption and implementation of trade restrictions that block equal access to COVID-19 vaccines.⁹⁵

Box 3.3 COVID-19 and Vaccine Equity: What can the WTO contribute?

On 14 April 2021, the Director-General convened a virtual meeting titled: "COVID-19 and Vaccine Equity: What can the WTO contribute". The event brought together speakers from the private sector, international organizations, civil society, and Members, including trade ministers and senior officials. It brought clarity as to the reasons for the inequity in global vaccine distribution and the factors impeding manufacturing upscaling and diversification.

One theme that emerged strongly was that achieving speed and scale in COVID-19 vaccine manufacturing depends on open markets. Among the factors cited as constraining manufacturing scale-up were shortages in key input supplies, the effect of export prohibitions and restrictions, limited technology transfer, technically intricate production methods and complex regulatory compliance and shortage of skilled staff. The need for regulatory convergence on how to handle various variants of approved vaccines and medicines was another point highlighted.

Recognizing the complexity of vaccine manufacturing and hence the vital role of collaboration and the sharing of intellectual property (IP), know-how and data, the meeting explored several options regarding possible contributions by the IP system. Those included voluntary licensing and technology pooling, the full use of TRIPS flexibilities, and a waiver of Members' obligations to protect certain IP rights during the pandemic. Different views persisted as to how best to foster the transfer of technology and know-how to unlock existing, underutilized capacity and to build up new manufacturing capacities. However, there was broad agreement that pragmatic measures were needed to immediately accelerate vaccine.

In her closing remarks, the Director-General called on WTO Members, vaccine manufacturers and international organizations to act together to solve a problem of the global commons. She called on them to address trade-related obstacles to the scale-up of COVID-19 vaccine production to save lives, hasten the end of the pandemic and accelerate the global economic recovery.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Trade and environment

3.145. Debates at the November 2020 and March 2021 meetings of the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) have 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

⁹² WTO documents WT/GC/M/188, WT/GC/M/190 and WT/GC/M/191 (forthcoming).

⁹³ WTO documents WT/GC/M/188, WT/GC/M/190 and WT/GC/M/191 (forthcoming).

⁹⁴ WTO document WT/GC/M/190.

⁹⁵ WTO document WT/GC/M/191 (forthcoming).

during the second WTO Trade and Environment Week (November 2020) on several topics including: plastics pollution and circular economy; trade and climate change; sustainable paper production; and the new draft multilateral framework for biodiversity conservation. Relevant international organizations also briefed delegations on their work on these issues.⁹⁶ Several Member-driven workshops were held back-to-back with the CTE meetings, in particular in November⁹⁷, providing delegations with the opportunity to report on these events at the formal meetings of the CTE.

3.146. During the WTO Trade and Environment Week, two new initiatives were launched by groups of like-minded Members. The Structured Discussions on Trade and Environmental Sustainability (TESSD) will aim to identify areas for future work to help the WTO address sustainable development challenges more effectively and would work on possible environmental sustainability "actions and deliverables".⁹⁸ The Informal Dialogue on Plastics Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade (IDP) will seek to identify opportunities for enhanced trade cooperation within the rules and mechanisms of the WTO to support efforts in other fora.⁹⁹ Sponsors of both initiatives announced at the March 2021 meeting of the CTE that they would work towards potential outcomes by MC12 and beyond.

3.147. COVID-19 has been raised in both the November 2020 and March 2021 meetings as well as in side-events during the Environment Week. For instance, some Members noted the link between environmental degradation and pandemics; the importance of ensuring a green recovery from COVID-19; the role trade policy could play, including by seizing the opportunity provided by low global oil prices to reform fossil fuel subsidies. Observer institutions noted how COVID-19 had impacted their work, including ongoing processes under multilateral environmental agreements, and they presented their plans to contribute to a green recovery from COVID-19. Finally, the WTO Secretariat, jointly with UNEP, held a High-Level Event on Environment and Trade for a Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery from COVID-19 during the WTO Trade and Environment Week. At the event, panellists, including ministers and representatives from civil society and the private sector, called for trade policies to play a bigger role in a whole-of-society approach needed to tackle environmental challenges and build back better from the COVID-19 crisis.

3.148. The following box has been contributed by the OECD.

Box 3.4 Trade as a channel for environmental technology diffusion: the wind turbine manufacturing industry

Wind turbines embody an accumulation of sophisticated knowledge and know-how. Only a few companies, located in a few countries, have developed expertise in wind technologies, with their technological advantage growing over time. Such concentration also appears to characterize trade in wind turbines: the countries that dominate the field of wind technology are also the largest exporters of wind turbines.

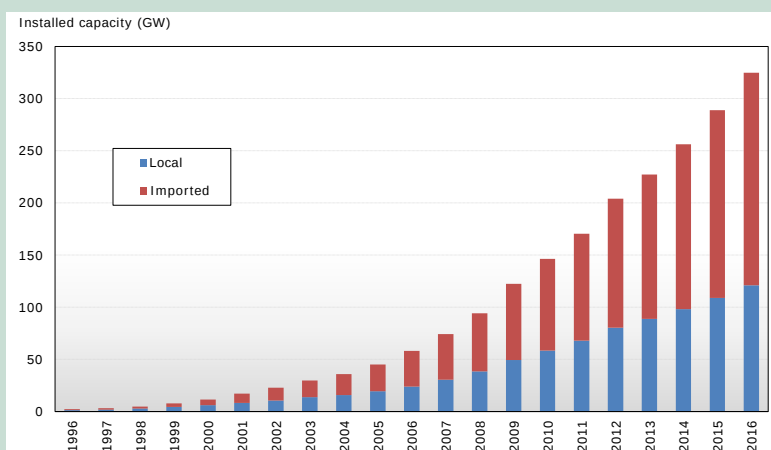
Given the importance of cumulative and tacit knowledge in the sector, expertise in wind technologies seems to be difficult to transfer and to duplicate across borders. Thus, trade in wind turbines can be seen as tantamount to trading (wind) technologies that deliver a level of efficiency that cannot be replicated in importing countries. This explains why, while installed wind power capacity has been increasing globally, most of the added installations have been wind turbines made by foreign manufacturers (Figure 1).

⁹⁶ Annual Report 2020, WTO document WT/CTE/27 and minutes of the November 2020 CTE meeting, WTO document WT/CTE/M/70, 17 March 2021.

⁹⁷ WTO document WT/CTE/M/70, 17 March 2021.

⁹⁸ WTO document WT/CTE/W/249/Rev.1. TESSD currently counts with 53 co-sponsors.

⁹⁹ WTO document WT/CTE/W/245. IDP currently counts with 16 co-sponsors.

Figure 1: Installed capacity of wind turbines increasingly relies on imports

Recent OECD work shows that wind projects are more effective if they diversify their sourcing through international trade. Relying on a high share of imported turbines – as opposed to locally manufactured wind turbines only – contributes to the competitiveness of wind power generation and, critically from an environmental perspective, contributes to the displacement of old, environmentally harmful technologies.

These results shed light on the debate about the role of "green protectionism" to achieve dual environmental and economic goals by simultaneously reducing carbon emissions and creating a local manufacturing industry to supply renewable equipment. The continued deployment of wind energy and the job creation associated with it are possible only if wind farms can compete with older power generation technologies. As the competitiveness of wind energy depends on access to the higher quality wind turbines available in international markets, government support to renewable energy should not discriminate against foreign suppliers.

Rather, firms should engage with the wind power industry by building on their existing industrial capabilities and their application in these sectors rather than trying to vertically-integrate the full range of skills required to commercialize complex wind technologies. Countries with the industrial capacity to produce components for aircrafts, automobiles, or other such products may have a competitive edge to manufacture components for wind turbines. Thus, the challenge may not be to design industrial policies for the creation of national champions but rather to ensure that domestic firms can apply their specific capabilities to new opportunities in global industries.

a Garsous, G. and S. Worack (2021), "Trade as a channel for environmental technologies diffusion: The case of the wind turbine manufacturing industry", *OECD Trade and Environment Working Papers*, No. 2021/01, OECD Publishing, Paris. Viewed at: <https://doi.org/10.1787/ce70f9c6-en>.

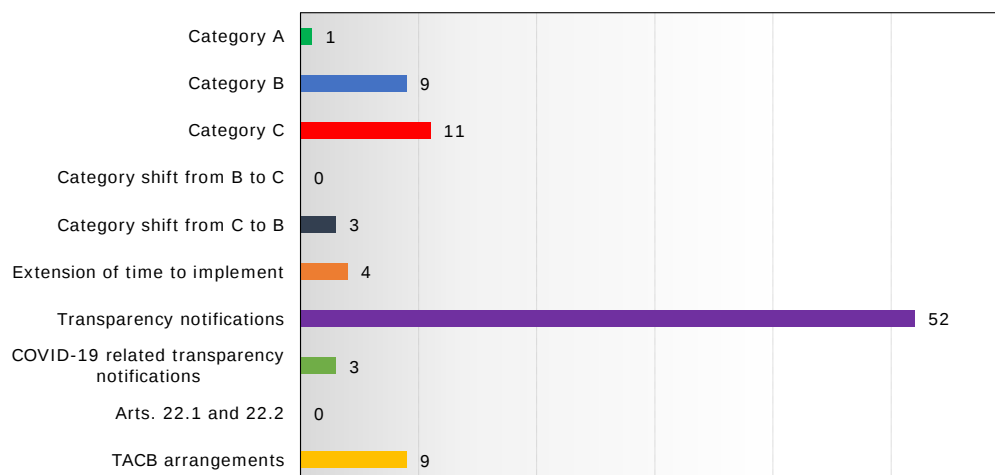
Source: OECD.

Trade facilitation

3.149. 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, 154 Members had domestically ratified the TFA and deposited their instruments of acceptance to the WTO, which represents 94% of the WTO membership.

3.150. During the review period, 16 Members submitted notifications with their commitments under categories A, B and C, of which 1 presented Category A commitments, 9 presented Category B commitments and 11 presented Category C commitments. Three Members notified a category shift from C to B. Four Members submitted notifications under Article 17 of the TFA. Fifty-two Members presented transparency notifications under Articles 1.4, 10.4.3, 10.6.2 and 12.2.2, which included transparency notifications by three Members in relation to COVID-19 measures. Nine Members notified arrangements and progress in the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building support (Chart 3.24).

Chart 3.24 Number of WTO Members that presented TFA notifications, 14 October 2020 to 1 May 2021



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

3.151. During the review period, the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (the Facility, or TFAF) organized or participated in 21 demand-driven activities contributing to the full implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (the Agreement, or TFA) by WTO Members.

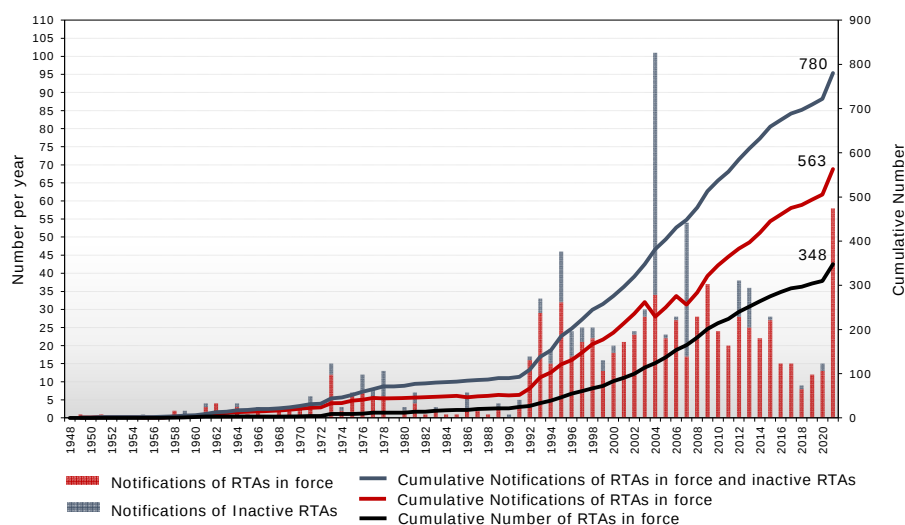
3.152. Since the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, the TFAF has been acting on its mandate to coordinate other International Organizations working to implement the TFA. The Facility immediately gathered relevant resources and tools from partners at the World Customs Organization, the 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.

3.153. 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 responses were received, providing insight into COVID-19-related TFA issues that could inform the development of priorities for the TFAF's 2021 work plan.

Regional trade agreements (RTAs)

3.154. Between October 2020 and May 2021, there was a sharp increase in the number of RTA notifications, with 43 new RTAs being notified to the WTO. Of these, 20 were notified under GATT Article XXIV and GATS V and one was notified under the Enabling Clause and GATS V (covering trade in goods and services), while 22 were notified under GATT Article XXIV (covering only trade in goods). These bring the total to 348 RTAs notified and in force (corresponding to 563 notifications in goods, services, and accessions)¹⁰⁰ (Chart 3.25).

¹⁰⁰ Information on these agreements in the WTO database on RTAs. Viewed at: <http://rtais.wto.org>.

Chart 3.25 RTAs notified to the GATT/WTO (1948 to 2021) by year of entry into force

Source: WTO Secretariat.

3.155. Among the RTAs notified during this period, around 80% involved the United Kingdom, which left the European Union at the end of 2020. Most of these RTAs therefore aim to replicate the preferential conditions under which the United Kingdom was trading with its RTA partners as a member of the European Union. The European Union and the United Kingdom also notified the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement to replace their previous trading relationship.

3.156. In addition to the UK notifications, eight RTAs notified involved WTO Members in the Asia Pacific region (six), Africa (three), the Americas, the Middle East and Europe (one each). Four RTAs covered members from two different regions. The Committee on Regional Trade Agreements (CRTA) will be considering the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) at its 100th Session in June 2021. The Agreement, which is one of the largest plurilateral RTAs to date, includes 11 parties, of which 7 have ratified the Agreement. Other plurilateral agreements include the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) which was notified on 16 September 2020 and will be considered by the CRTA shortly, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, RCEP, between 15 parties which has thus far been ratified by four parties, the African Continental Free Trade Area between 54 African economies which has been implemented since 1 January 2021, as well as the EU-MERCOSUR Agreement which has not yet been signed by the parties.

Government procurement

3.157. The WTO Agreement on Government Procurement 2012 (GPA 2012) continues to gain importance as an instrument for promoting trade and good governance in WTO Members' government procurement markets. Currently, the Agreement has 21 Parties, covering 48 WTO Members.¹⁰¹ Thirty-five WTO Members/Observers participate as Observers in the WTO Committee on Government Procurement.

3.158. The GPA 2012 entered into force for Switzerland on 1 January 2021. With the entry into force of the GPA 2012 for Switzerland, all GPA Parties have accepted the amended GPA. Accordingly, on 1 January 2021 the GPA 2012 replaced the GPA 1994 in relation to all GPA Parties. Moreover, the United Kingdom joined the GPA 2012, in its own right, also on 1 January 2021.¹⁰²

¹⁰¹ The European Union and its 27 member States are covered by the Agreement as one Party.

¹⁰² The United Kingdom had previously been covered by the GPA 1994 and subsequently by the GPA 2012 as a member State of the European Union and later in accordance with the Withdrawal Agreement concluded between the European Union and the United Kingdom and relevant decisions of the WTO Committee on Government Procurement. From 2018 to 2020, the United Kingdom negotiated with GPA Parties on GPA membership in its own right. On 2 December 2020, the United Kingdom deposited its instrument of accession to the GPA 2012.

3.159. Significant progress was made on several ongoing accessions to the Agreement. At present, 11 WTO Members are in the process of acceding to the GPA.¹⁰³ The Committee on Government Procurement continued to advance its Work Programmes, concerning notably: (i) sustainable procurement; (ii) the collection and reporting of statistical data; and (iii) SMEs. To enhance information-sharing in the Committee, the GPA Parties have agreed to hold workshops on two topics: (1) how can government procurement processes be conducted in a manner that protects and advances labour standards while still respecting international trade commitments?; and (2) how can digital advances support trade and competition in government procurement? These two workshops are tentatively planned for late 2021 and early 2022, respectively.

3.160. With regard to the COVID-19-related government procurement measures, GPA Parties expressed a general interest in experience-sharing and peer learning in a Member-driven process in the Committee.

Aid for trade

3.161. Aid-for-Trade (AfT) disbursements totalled 45.8 billion in 2019, up 1% from the previous year. Economic infrastructure accounted for 55% of total aid-for-trade support with 43% going to building productive capacity and 2% to trade policy and regulations. In terms of geographic distribution, Africa received 39% of disbursements and Asia some 37%, followed by the Americas (7%), Europe (5%) and Oceania (2%). Ten percent of disbursements supported projects implemented at a global level.

3.162. LDCs, a particular focus group of the AfT Initiative, received USD 13.5 billion in AfT funding (27% of the total) in 2019. The 2019 total represents an increase of USD 377.8 million on the 2018 funding figure. Lower-middle income countries received 39% of the total; upper-middle income countries, 18%.

3.163. The top 10 AfT donors in 2019 were Japan (USD 8.9 billion), the World Bank Group (USD 7.7 billion), EU Institutions (USD 5.7 billion), Germany (USD 4.9 billion), France (USD 2.7 billion), the United Kingdom (USD 2.7 billion), the Asian Development Bank (USD 2.1 billion), the United States (USD 2.0 billion), the African Development Bank (USD 2.1 billion) and the Republic of Korea (USD 0.7 billion). The top 10 recipients of AfT support in 2019 were India (USD 4.6 billion), Bangladesh (USD 1.9 billion), Egypt (USD 1.9 billion), Pakistan (1.5 billion), Kenya (USD 1.4 billion), Ethiopia (USD 1.3 billion), Viet Nam (USD 1.1 billion), the Philippines (USD 1.0 billion), Myanmar (USD 0.8 billion) and Senegal (USD 0.8 billion). USD 4.6 billion were disbursed for projects at a global level, USD 1.4 billion for African-wide projects and USD 1.1 billion for Sub-Saharan-wide projects.

3.164. Work on the WTO-led AfT Initiative is guided by the 2020-22 Work Programme, themed "Empowering Connected, Sustainable Trade".¹⁰⁴ The focus of the programme is on the opportunities that digital connectivity and sustainability offer for economic and export diversification - and how AfT can help empower different economic actors to realize these opportunities. The centrepiece of the Work Programme is the 2022 Global Review of Aid for Trade.

3.165. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted least-developed countries and many small, tourism-dependent developing countries hard. The trade and development impacts of the on-going pandemic were the focus of an Aid-for-Trade Stocktaking event (Box 3.5).

Box 3.5 Aid for Trade Stocktaking event – 23-25 March 2021

The Aid-for-Trade Stocktaking event on 23-25 March 2021 provided an opportunity to survey the on-going economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on trade and development prospects. A total of 35 sessions were held, with more than 200 speakers of whom some 46% were women. The online event generated analysis on how Aid for Trade is contributing to pandemic response, recovery and resilience measures. The divergent outlooks of different parts of the world in terms of economic growth, indebtedness and access to finance was a theme evoked in the high-level plenary event at which the Director-General was joined by the Heads of the IMF, OECD, UNCTAD, WHO and World Bank.

Equitable global COVID-19 vaccine roll-out was also identified as the best value global economic stimulus package available. There was recognition too of the need to redouble efforts to promote global value chain

¹⁰³ Albania, Brazil, China, Georgia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, North Macedonia, Oman, Russian Federation and Tajikistan.

¹⁰⁴ WTO document WT/COMTD/AFT/W/81/Rev.1.

integration and to address supply-side capacity constraints if hard-won development gains were not to be permanently reversed by the pandemic.

Keeping markets open was described as essential for vaccine delivery and to bring forth a strong and sustained recovery. Several sessions looked at adapting trade formalities to take account of the pandemic, both at a practical level in terms of using electronic tools to speed clearance and also how implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement provisions might help in this regard.

Regional approaches to COVID-19 recovery were also discussed, including leveraging the African Continental Free Trade Area and the PACER Plus agreement in the Pacific. There was also a focus on promoting recovery among MSMEs and in the tourism sector. One bright spot in terms of resilience was the rapid growth of digital trade, but again there was concern that opportunities for recovery were limited by the digital divide.

Promoting an inclusive and green recovery was also a theme discussed and one that will be taken forward through further work in the 2020-22 biennial AfT Work Programme. This work will culminate in the summer of 2022 during the Global Review of Aid for Trade that will examine the theme of "Empowering connected, sustainable trade."

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Trade finance

3.166. In view of the deterioration of trade finance markets in 2020, governments of large traders deployed specific measures for importers/exporters such as guaranteed loans and payment deferral schemes through banks and export credit agencies, in addition to maintaining sufficient liquidity through monetary policy. Recent developments suggest that for these countries the trade recovery is boosting demand for import and export finance. Generally, trade finance measures put in place last year are supporting this recovery despite increasing losses of trade loans and rising financing costs for SMEs. According to a January 2021 survey by one of the world's largest working capital fintech (C2FO) of over 6,700 SMEs in Europe, Asia and North America, the average interest rate for working capital increased by a third in the last year, including on short-term trade finance facilities, over concerns about late or extended (re)payments. The increase in working capital costs is found to be the highest in emerging economies (over 50% in some cases).

3.167. Low-to-middle income countries received much less support from public sources, apart from that deployed by multilateral development banks (some USD 30 to 40 billion overall). Since the beginning of 2020, sovereign and counterparty risks have deteriorated sharply – with an obvious knock-on effect on private sector trade finance availability. Available information point to continued high demand for multilateral trade finance facilities, as an indicator of rising gaps: year-on-year, the increase is +50% for the African Development Bank and the International Finance Corporation (IFC, World Bank Group), and +100% for the Asian Development Bank. The March 2021 Bank Survey of the IFC signals that 40% of local banks in client countries continue to experience "stress" with respect to the lack of confirming lines or credit lines from international banks, and that 90% of them would continue to need MDB support (guarantees). A March 2021 joint study by the Afreximbank and African Development Bank on the "Impact of COVID-19 on Trade Finance in Africa" pointed to a 30% increase in the rejection rate of letters of credit relative to pre-COVID, a reduced dollar availability and a reduced participation of local banks in trade finance in Africa.

Fisheries subsidies

3.168. The negotiations on fisheries subsidies in the Negotiating Group on Rules have continued in 2021 as Members could not reach an agreement by the end of 2020. This was mainly due to a confluence factors, including the COVID-19 pandemic, restrictions on movements and gatherings, and the postponement of MC12. However, all Members have reiterated their commitment to deliver as soon as possible an outcome that respects the mandate of Sustainable Development Goal 14.6 and the MC11 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. To this end, Members have been engaged continuously and intensively in the text-based negotiations since the fall of 2020, holding a Ministerial-level meeting in mid-July 2021.

Electronic commerce

3.169. Discussions on electronic commerce in the WTO are continuing under two parallel tracks – multilaterally under the GC and its relevant subsidiary bodies, and under the Joint Statement Initiative on Electronic Commerce (JSI). In both settings, delegations are reiterating the important

role of e-commerce in supporting the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to address development-related challenges.

3.170. At the multilateral level, discussions on the reinvigoration of the 1998 Work Programme and on the moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions are intensifying. The Work Programme was discussed extensively at the GC meetings in December 2020 and March 2021. Work continues in the relevant bodies entrusted with the implementation of the Work Programme. At the December 2020 General Council meeting, the Chairs of the Councils for Trade in Services, Trade in Goods and TRIPS reported on the work undertaken in their respective bodies. The December 2019 GC Decision calls for the reinvigoration of the Work Programme and for structured discussions on any trade-related topic brought forward by Members, including issues related to the moratorium. It also extends the moratorium until MC12 and instructs the GC to report to that meeting.

3.171. With over 35 proposals, JSI negotiations on e-commerce are ongoing under six broad themes: 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 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. In December 2020, the co-convenors (Australia, Japan and Singapore) circulated a consolidated negotiating text which provides the basis for further negotiations in 2021. Work in virtual small group format is intensifying to streamline the text as much as possible by MC12. Clean text was reached under the groups on unsolicited commercial electronic messages (spam) and on e-authentication and e-signatures.

Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)

3.172. The MSME Informal Working Group (MSME Group) was established at MC11 in December 2017, and currently comprises 91 WTO Members. Some Members oppose, or do not support, discussions on this issue, noting that it is not part of the original Doha Round discussions and that focusing on DDA issues should be the priority. The MSME Group in its 11 December 2020 meeting, endorsed the MSMEs final package which contains six recommendations and declarations and counts 96 signatories.¹⁰⁵ The package includes a recommendation on the collection and maintenance of MSME-related information from TPRs; a declaration to support the operationalization of the Global Trade Helpdesk, a joint ITC-UNCTAD-WTO initiative to aggregate international trade and market information in a single online portal; a recommendation on trade facilitation and MSMEs calling for full implementation of the TFA; a recommendation on promoting MSME inclusion in regulatory development in the area of trade; a recommendation to support the WTO integrated database (IDB), a time series database of Member tariffs and import statistics, through voluntary submission of information to the IDB; and a declaration on addressing the trade-related aspects of MSMEs' access to finance and cross-border payments.¹⁰⁶

3.173. At the MSME Group's first meeting of 2021, held on 18 February, presentations by external presenters on various topics were made, including low value shipments; Integrated Services for MSMEs (ISMITE); MSME access to finance; and MSME cybersecurity education. The Group was also briefed on MSME-related work and discussions in other WTO committees including the working group on trade, debt and finance; government procurement; and the standards and trade development facility. Members also discussed the organization of the Group's work for 2021, which was focused around three topics, namely implementation of the package; the Group's objective for MC12; and new issues for the Group to consider. Finally, work has started on the IT development of the Trade4MSMEs platform.

3.174. The following box on company resilience in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic has been contributed by the ITC.

Box 3.6 Enterprises' resilience during the pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic and related containment measures led to a devastating economic fallout. Nearly all companies were affected, with micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) particularly hard hit.^a The latest International Trade Centre (ITC) data show that nearly two out of three small businesses were strongly affected, compared with less than half of large companies.^b Despite this bleak finding, many companies have also been remarkably resilient.

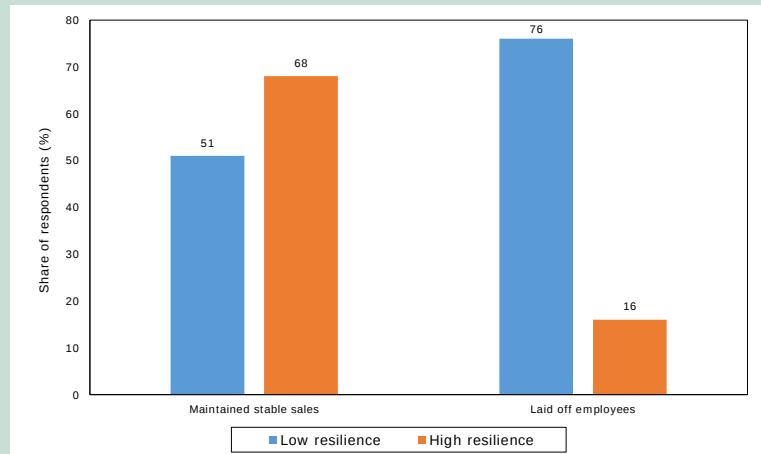
¹⁰⁵ WTO document INF/MSME/4/Rev.1.

¹⁰⁶ WTO document INF/MSME/R/21.

The ITC interviewed the same group of 770 firms in Benin, Cambodia and the Philippines before and after COVID-19 hit. It found that companies displaying certain competitiveness characteristics before the shock fared better during the crisis; that is, they were more resilient.^c

Resilience is based on pre-crisis characteristics, such as the strength of a company's business processes, its external connections and access to resources that underpin innovative responses. These elements make companies competitive in good times and resilient in bad times.^d Being resilient matters. It not only helps firms withstand crises, but also reduces the disastrous social and economic consequences of their decline. The ITC found that companies with higher resilience were almost five times less likely to lay off employees during the pandemic and 17 percentage points more likely to report stable sales, compared with companies with lower resilience.^e

Resilient companies had stable sales and employment during pandemic^f



Building resilience into small business recovery

Small firms make up 90% of all businesses and 70% of jobs across the world. They also employ a disproportionate share of young people and women, and account for around half of economic activity around the world.^g

The bad news is that small businesses tend to be less resilient. The ITC calculated the average resilience score of micro and small firms to be 20% lower than that of medium and large firms at the onset of the pandemic.^h The good news is that resilience can be built. Having experienced the disruption of COVID-19, MSMEs and those that support them are primed to act. In this context, policymakers and business support organizations (BSOs) are building MSME resilience into COVID-19 recovery programmes. Given scarce resources, an efficient strategy is to focus on the areas that make MSMEs competitive in good times, and resilient in bad times. For example, investments in innovation through research and development (R&D) proved essential to adapt successfully. Firms that invested more in R&D before the pandemic were more likely to adopt resourceful strategies to cope with the crisis. They were twice as likely to create new or customized products.

Skill matching was also important in dealing with COVID-19. Workers that possess the right set of skills and know the product and production process well are more likely to implement creative solutions to problems.ⁱ For example, when confinement rules forced SMEs to shut their doors, many put their full offering online, which required digital skills.^j

Small firms cannot succeed on their own. BSOs, policymakers, lead firms and international organizations have roles to play. For example, trade-related technical assistance can encourage robust company management practices. These include efficient inventory management, complete recordkeeping and diversification of input sources and export markets. Access to trade-related information through engagement with BSOs, and use of tools such as the ITC-UNCTAD-WTO Global Trade Helpdesk is critical prior to, during and after a crisis.^k

As underlined by the WTO Informal Working Group on MSMEs, there is need for a coordinated and holistic approach to help small businesses recover from the pandemic and prepare for future shocks. The ITC stands ready to support the efforts required to make trade inclusive and resilient.

a ITC, "SME Competitiveness Outlook 2020: COVID-19: The Great Lockdown and Its Impact on Small Business" (Geneva: International Trade Centre, 2020). Viewed at: <https://www.intracen.org/SMEOutlook/>.

b ITC, "SME Competitiveness Outlook 2021: A Greener Future: Building Competitive, Resilient and Sustainable SMEs" (Geneva: International Trade Centre, 2021).

c In 2019, ITC collaborated with institutions in three countries – Benin, Cambodia and the Philippines – to conduct an in-depth assessment of the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises, using its SME Competitiveness Survey. In mid-2020, a follow-up survey was carried out in the three countries, allowing for an assessment of whether and to what extent certain pre-crisis competitiveness factors influenced business outcomes during the crisis. The result is a dataset of 770 responses to both the ITC SME Competitiveness and the COVID-19 Business Impact Survey in the three countries. Data were collected between July 2019 and August 2020.

d ITC, "SME Competitiveness Outlook 2021: A Greener Future: Building Competitive, Resilient and Sustainable SMEs."

e ITC.

- f ITC, based on ITC SME Competitiveness and COVID-19 Business Impact Survey in Benin, Cambodia and the Philippines with 770 firms. Data collected between July 2019 and August 2020.
- g ITC, "SME Competitiveness Outlook 2020: COVID-19: The Great Lockdown and Its Impact on Small Business"; Matthew Wilson, "Guest Article: Five Trends for Trade and Development as We Emerge from Global Pandemic | SDG Knowledge Hub | IISD," IISD SDG Knowledge Hub (blog), April 19, 2021. Viewed at: <https://sdg.iisd.org/443/commentary/guest-articles/five-trends-for-trade-and-development-as-we-emerge-from-global-pandemic/>.
- h Justine Falciola, Sarah Mohan, and Valentina Rollo, "Identifying the Drivers of SME Resilience: A Framework and Index Based on Evidence from the COVID-19 Pandemic" (ITC Working Paper WP-03-2020.E, Geneva, March 2021). Company size is defined using the number of full-time employees: Micro: 0 to 4 employees; Small: 5 to 19 employees; Medium: 20 to 99 employees; Large: 100 or more employees.
- i Sapana Agrawal et al., "To Emerge Stronger from the COVID-19 Crisis, Companies Should Start Reskilling Their Workforces Now," McKinsey & Company, May 7, 2020. Viewed at: <https://www.mckinsey.com/business-functions/organization/our-insights/to-emerge-stronger-from-the-covid-19-crisis-companies-should-start-reskilling-their-workforces-now>; ITC, "Promoting SME Competitiveness in Benin: COVID-19: An Inclusive Path towards Resilience" (Geneva: International Trade Centre, 2020). Viewed at: https://www.intracen.org/uploadedFiles/intracenorg/Content/Publications/Benin_SME_EN_WEB_v1.3.pdf.
- j Christoph Ungerer and Alberto Portugal, "Leveraging E-Commerce in the Fight against COVID-19," Brookings (blog), April 27, 2020. Viewed at: <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2020/04/27/leveraging-e-commerce-in-the-fight-against-covid-19/>.
- k Viewed at: <https://globaltradehelpdesk.org/en>.

Source: International Trade Centre (ITC).

Women's economic empowerment

3.175. On 23 September 2020, the 127 proponents of the Buenos Aires Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment established the Informal Working Group on Trade and Gender (IWG). Its work is based on the objectives of the 2017 Buenos Aires Declaration and of the Interim Report establishing it.¹⁰⁷

3.176. Members and Observers of the IWG work on the basis of four pillars: experience-sharing; considering the concept and scope for a "gender lens"; reviewing analytical work undertaken; contributing to the Aid for Trade work programme. At its first 2021 meeting, on 26 February, the IWG adopted a Work Plan¹⁰⁸ to help its members advance on technical work and to inform an outcome at MC12. The technical work focuses on acquiring a better understanding of the trade and gender nexus and how gender is integrated into members' trade and trade policies.

3.177. The IWG has already taken up two pillars, namely (i) review of analytical work; and (ii) sharing of national experiences. On review of analytical work, in addition to the presentation of the WTO/World Bank joint report on their data and research efforts on trade and gender – entitled "Women and Trade: The Role of Trade in Promoting Gender Equality" – members have shared information on data and gathering statistics; on the correlation between higher per capita income and better gender equality at the national level; on women's participation on the services sector; on the Global Trade and Gender Arrangement between Canada, Chile and New Zealand; on gender equality and standards development; on gender chapters in Free Trade Agreements (FTAs); and on current research on how trade and export sector support women's jobs, the impact of trade on women and the under-representation of women and women entrepreneurs in trade. On experience-sharing, members discussed trading experience of the Association of Waorani Women of the Ecuadorian Amazon, who make cacao and palm fibre products in order to shift away from the unsustainable hunting of wildlife; export training and networking programmes for women and young entrepreneurs; applying gender-based analysis to trade agreements to help negotiators and policymakers assess how diverse groups of women and men would be impacted; experience securing the welfare of women avocado farmers in agricultural negotiations in Mauritius as well as efforts by the government and development partners to assist women entrepreneurs.

3.178. In addition, it is also noteworthy that since 2018, more than half of the WTO Members whose Trade Policy Review was carried out during this period, provided information on their gender-responsive trade policies. In 2021, so far, most Members reported on the work legal ecosystem they have put into place to promote women's participation in the economy.

¹⁰⁷ WTO document WT/L/1095/Rev.1, 25 September 2020.

¹⁰⁸ WTO document INF/TGE/W/1/Rev.2, 29 March 2021.

3.179. The following box has been contributed by the GTA.

Box 3.7 The COVID-19 vaccine shortage

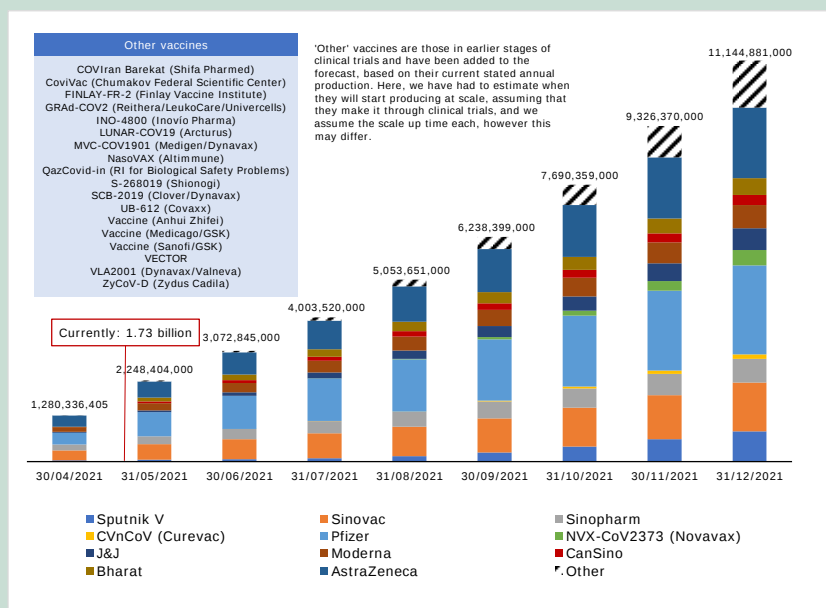
Currently there is a shortage of COVID-19 vaccines. The 1.73 billion doses of vaccine produced by 20 May 2021 is a fraction of the 10.82 billion doses needed to inoculate 75% of the world's population aged 5 or over.^a COVID-19 vaccine production is ramping up. This box reports the latest estimates of how much vaccine production this year will alleviate the current shortage. These estimates take account of (a) what was known in May 2020 about existing vaccine production capacity, (b) announced capacity expansions to come on stream later this year, and (c) lessons learned from attempts to boost production during the first five months of this year. The projections reported here do not include any extra production that might result from the adoption of a TRIPS waiver at the World Trade Organization.

Any forward-looking exercise like this involves making model-based forecasts. Data were collected on the production capacity for each vaccine-manufacturing facility globally. The three main inputs for each facility are company stated production, real observed production, and assumptions on scale-up time. A leading consultancy in this area, Airfinity, tracks the production by each site where vaccine manufacture is underway. Start dates for the bulk production at sites yet to come online are estimated based on when the relevant vaccine is expected to (a) publish phase III efficacy data and (b) be approved for production. The model is adjusted in light of prior forecast errors. This approach generates forecast over time of the total number of doses produced for each vaccine.^b

How good are previous forecasts using this approach? It is possible to compare total production levels forecasted in February 2021 with the observed outcomes and with the projections made by the vaccine manufacturers themselves. The latter exceeded actual production outcomes by a factor of three. However, Airfinity's forecasts closely track the substantial vaccine production increases observed in March and April 2021. The average percentage forecast error fell from 20.1% in March to 9.8% in April.

Using the same method, and taking account of the fact that 18 vaccines are in phase III trials, it is possible to project out COVID-19 vaccine production through to the end of 2021 (see Figure 1). By the end of December 2021, the total number of doses produced is projected to be 11.14 billion, exceeding the 10.82 billion doses needed. This forecasted production total is less than the comparable projection of 12 billion doses made by the Global Health Innovation Centre of Duke University, another independent tracker of COVID-19 vaccine developments.^c

Figure 2: By the end of 2021 total COVID-19 vaccine production is forecast to exceed 11 billion doses



In interpreting these forecasts three considerations should be borne in mind. First, vaccine hoarding would reduce the total number of vaccine doses available for inoculation in other countries. Second, policies that disrupt relevant international supply chains and even the risk of such policies may have a chilling effect on the production of vaccines, their ingredients, and distribution items.

Third, concerns have been raised about possible shortages of certain COVID-19 vaccine ingredients and medical items needed to distribute vaccines. Examples of bottlenecks have been mentioned in recent press reports. However, to date no evidence has come to light of a broad-based threat to the projected ramp up in vaccine production.

- a In the assessment of many experts inoculating 75% of the population is needed to reach herd immunity.
 b For more details see Simon Evenett and Matt Linley "How much vaccine will be produced this year?" 20 May 2021, available at <https://www.globaltradealert.org/reports/72>.
 c For a summary of that forecast see <https://launchandscalefaster.org/covid-19/vaccinemanufacturing>.

Source: Global Trade Alert (GTA).

4 POLICY DEVELOPMENT IN TRADE IN SERVICES

4.1 Regular measures affecting trade in services

4.1. Several new trade in services measures, in particular horizontal ones, were introduced by WTO Members between mid-October 2020 and mid-April 2021, affecting different modes of supply across various sectors. While most of the new measures are trade-facilitating (for instance, in the area of commercial presence and presence of natural persons), many new policies appear to be trade restrictive, including measures affecting communication and network-enabled services and policies pertaining to the screening of foreign investment. Annex 4 provides additional information on 122 new measures implemented by 47 WTO Members.¹

Measures affecting supply through multiple modes of supply across various sectors

4.2. On 2 November, Indonesia enacted a new Law regarding Job Creation (Omnibus Law), which simplifies licence processes and harmonizes various laws and regulations in various sectors (postal services, telecommunication services, health services, maritime transport, energy and related services). Business activities are divided into three risk categories: i.e. low, medium (certification needed) and high (business licence required). It provides that investment is permitted except for investment in business lines that are closed or those that can be carried out only by the Central Government. It also removes relevant requirements and restrictions for foreign investment that are currently stipulated in various laws governing several business sectors that are amended by the Omnibus Law. Indonesia liberalized foreign ownership limits in numerous sectors as from 4 March 2021, such as in the ICT, e-commerce, distribution, transportation, energy, construction and health services sectors. The minimum foreign investment threshold is IDR 10 billion. The Omnibus Law also introduces several changes to the Immigration Law, aiming to simplify the hiring of foreign workers.

4.3. In Angola, the government introduced a new legal framework for the promotion of local content in the oil and gas industry, where all companies of the sector must source services provided by companies established in Angola (100% Angolan-owned or firms incorporated in the country), effective since 20 October 2020.

Measures affecting supply through commercial presence across various sectors

4.4. Several Members introduced changes to their policies that affect the supply of services through commercial presence (Mode 3) across various sectors, mainly trade-facilitating measures. In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), significant amendments were made to the law on commercial companies, effective since 2 January 2021. Unless specific restrictions are created, the amendments stipulate that 100% foreign ownership is allowed in companies in the UAE, and the nationality requirement for the majority of the board of directors has been lifted. It is no longer required to have a UAE national or local company as a registered agent in case of onshore branching in an Emirate.

4.5. Viet Nam released the list of activities for which foreign investment is permitted from 26 March 2021, but under certain conditions. The conditions cover 58 specific items such as finance, communication services, advertising, education, various professional services, health, logistics and one item allowing authorities to issue pilot mechanisms on business lines considered as new (i.e. not existing at the date of issuance of the decree). The list of activities where foreign investment is prohibited notably includes press, opinion polling, waste collection from households, security and investigation services, public postal services and tourism services (except tourism services for international tourists). India released a new consolidated Foreign Direct Investment policy document, which incorporates restrictions notified earlier in the year on foreign direct investment and supersedes all previous press notes, press releases, clarifications and/or circulars issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

4.6. China released the new catalogue of industries where foreign investment is encouraged, effective 27 January 2021, covering new activities such as in the ICT, e-commerce, retail services and online services (education, health or office services) sectors. China also issued the 2020 version of its market access negative list, effective since 10 December 2020, which includes the list of

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

prohibited or restricted activities. Notably, restrictions on the establishment of financial holding companies were added to the list.

4.7. In Oman, the Government issued the list of activities prohibited for foreign investors, covering, *inter alia*, wholesale and retail sale of certain products; employment, insurance agents and real estate agents; cargo handling services and customs clearance services. The aim is to promote local products and entrepreneurship. Pakistan removed the prior approval requirement by the State Bank to remit disinvestment to foreign shareholders. This has been delegated to banks designated by companies.

4.8. Revised or new procedures pertaining to investment screening were adopted in a number of Members. In China, new measures, effective since 18 January 2021, authorize the review by the Foreign Investment Security Review Working Mechanism of foreign investments in certain sectors linked to security issues, and in important sectors such as transportation services, energy, financial services or in the area of digital trade. Also, a new law, effective since 1 December 2020, establishes the country's export supervision regime, which applies to "controlled items" that may cover services related to the maintenance of national security and also affects third parties that provide services to export operators concerned by the new law. Another new measure authorizes competent authorities to issue an injunction allowing Chinese citizens, legal entities and organizations not to recognize, implement or comply with foreign measures or laws that are designed to bar economic, trade and related activities between China and other countries.

4.9. In Canada, the Government published on 24 March 2021 updated guidelines on the National Security Review of Investments. The guidelines increase the examination of foreign investments to sectors involving sensitive personal data, investment by foreign state-owned investors or private investors closely tied to enterprises influenced by foreign governments. In the United Kingdom, a new law was adopted on 29 April 2021, reforming the screening of investments. It introduced mandatory notification obligations for transactions in data-related infrastructure, artificial intelligence, communications and transport. The Government may review investments in other sectors if a transaction is considered as giving rise to national security risks. Australia reformed the act and regulations pertaining to the review of foreign investment to protect national security. All proposed investments by foreign persons into Australia that raise national security concerns will require Foreign Investment Review Board (FIRB) approval, regardless of the value of the transaction or the nature of the foreign investor. The threshold for screening acquisitions was 10% of the position of control or influence in a national security business or starting a national security business.

4.10. A number of European Union member States revised their FDI policies (Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Italy, Malta and Slovak Republic) to introduce more scrutiny for certain acquisition projects. The Czech Republic adopted a new law for screening foreign investment in key sectors, effective since 1 May 2021. It identifies two types of foreign investment for screening: (i) those requiring prior authorization in risk areas; and (ii) those that do not need prior approval but are assessed as risk-prone and could be subject to *ex officio* screening up to five years after their completion. Finland amended its Act on screening of investment, effective since 11 October 2020 and based on the EU regulation. The Act identifies the key national interests for which the exercise would be conducted. Since 1 May 2021, Germany added new activities subject to screening, such as those relating to artificial intelligence, cybersecurity or ICT services. For critical technologies, a 20% threshold would apply.

4.11. Italy clarified and expanded the scope of application of the review of acquisitions that require prior government approval, effective since 14 January 2021. The process covers assets and sectors of strategic importance to national interest. Measures introduced by some EU member States (e.g. Germany and Malta) also include the review of investments in connection to activities affecting security or public order in other EU member States.

4.12. In the United States, a new rule, effective since 15 October 2020, modifies the criteria for mandatory declarations for certain foreign investment transactions involving a US business that produces, designs, tests, manufactures, fabricates or develops one or more "critical technologies". The measure removes the previous analysis and nexus to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes and replaces it with an analysis of export control authorization requirements. Also, a new act requires that issuers of securities declare that they are not owned or controlled by any foreign government. Specifically, an issuer must make this certification if the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board is unable to audit specified reports because the issuer has retained a foreign public accounting firm not subject to inspection by the board.

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

4.13. Several Members adopted new measures in relation to communications services, e-commerce and Internet- and other network-enabled services. In particular, a number of governments adopted new measures relating to digital services taxes during the review period.

4.14. In Mexico, a new decree, effective on 1 January 2021, addressed income tax and VAT treatment of digital services and transactions performed on online platforms. The withholding tax should be levied on the total amount of income without VAT that individuals receive or cash-in: 2.1% for ground/land passenger transport services and the delivery of goods, 4% for lodging/accommodation services, and 1% for the transfer of goods and the provision of services. In case of noncompliance, non-resident legal entities without a permanent establishment in Mexico can have their digital service in Mexico temporary blocked.

4.15. In Spain, from 16 January 2021, certain digital services are subject to a 3% indirect tax applicable to revenues (excluding VAT) in which there is participation of users in the country. Companies are subject to the tax if their global yearly net revenues are above EUR 750 million and Spanish yearly taxable income subject to the tax is above EUR 3 million. The tax applies regardless of the tax residence of the digital service provider. In India, the Finance Act 2021, enacted on 28 March 2021, amended certain provisions related to the 2% equalization levy for e-commerce operators introduced in April 2020. According to the 2021 Act, it will apply to foreign e-commerce operators for the sales of goods or the provision of services in India (whether on own-account or as intermediary in the transaction), except for those sales or provision by a person resident in India or by the Indian permanent establishment of a non-resident in India. Foreign e-commerce companies will need to segregate the inventory of resident and non-resident sellers on their platforms to make clear where the levy will be applicable.

4.16. Various Members adopted measures in relation to the platform economy. Japan introduced new measures, effective from 1 February 2021, to improve the transparency and fairness of digital platforms. It sets out principles for certain digital platform providers identified according to the size of their sales in Japan (JPY 300 billion for B-to-C shopping malls and JPY 200 billion for B-to-C application stores). In China, the State Administration for Market Regulation issued Measures for the Supervision and Administration of Online Transactions. Since 1 May 2021, the measures have provided specific rules for operators of e-commerce platforms, including sales via livestreaming and social media, and set out the responsibilities of platform operators, including with respect to protection of consumers' rights and protection of personal information.

4.17. Various other changes took place in relation to Internet- and other network-enabled services, communication services, and more particularly data issues. In India, the Government adopted the Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code, which establish a new regulatory category. Significant social media intermediaries will be identified based on the number of registered users and will have to retain user information for six months and disclose user information to law enforcement agencies. Chief compliance officers and related positions of these intermediaries, as well as of over-the-top service providers and of news media content providers, must be employees who are resident in India. Also, new guidelines seek to eliminate prior approvals, licences and other restrictions on the collection, generation, preparation, dissemination, storage, publication, updating and/or digitization of geospatial data and maps in India. The guidelines also restrict cross-border transfer of geospatial data. Such data must be stored and processed only in India, even if such data are licensed to a foreign company by an authorized Indian entity. Finally, the Government published an amendment under its Allocation of Business Rules that expands the authority of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to regulate and censor social media, digital news and streaming services.

4.18. On 18 November 2020, Pakistan issued rules allowing the Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (PTA) to censor content that is considered objectionable. The rules also allow the Government to ban online platforms if they do not comply with takedown requests. Panama adopted a new law, effective on 29 March 2021, that restricts the transfer of personal data abroad unless the recipient country or company complies with data protection standards defined in the law.

4.19. In the United States, the President issued an Executive Order on 5 January 2021 that prohibits, on national security grounds, transactions with certain connected mobile and desktop applications and other software developed or controlled by Chinese companies (Alipay, CamScanner, QQ Wallet, SHAREit, Tencent QQ, VMate, WeChat Pay and WPS Office). The Order entered into force 45 days after the issue date.

4.20. In Kenya, the minimum Kenyan equity participation requirement was increased from 20% to 30% in all licensed companies in the sector, with a requirement to comply within three years for existing licensed operators (ICT Policy Guidelines published on 9 April 2021). In the Republic of Korea, the Government enacted and implemented amendments to the Telecommunications Business Act, including a requirement on foreign telecom services suppliers to, *inter alia*, appoint a local representative.

Financial services

4.21. Some policy changes took place during the review period in the financial services sector, including measures relating to forms of entry permitted and relaxation of foreign equity limits, as well as some new restrictive measures. For example, the relevant laws of Kazakhstan have been amended to allow foreign banks, insurance (and reinsurance) organizations and insurance brokers to open direct branches under certain conditions. This is a consequence of the expiration of the five-year transition period pursuant to the commitments set forth in its GATS Schedule of Specific Commitments, effective since 16 December 2020.

4.22. In February 2021, the United Kingdom Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) issued new measures that set out the Authority's approach to the authorization and supervision of international firms and the circumstances in which they may need to establish a UK subsidiary rather than a branch. The FCA indicates that relevant banks (and insurers), as dual-regulated firms, should consider the document, as the Authority will provide consent to any authorization applications that they submit to the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA).

4.23. The People's Bank of China released guidelines on the collection and processing of personal financial information that apply to the financial services sector. Personal financial information can be transferred abroad for business purposes and under certain conditions (e.g. consent, privacy and security assessment), but it is required, *inter alia*, that certain sensitive information is not shared with third-party service providers. On 12 November 2021, the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (CBIRC) issued a Notice on Matters Related to Insurance Fund Financial Equity Investment, which removes restrictions on financial equity investment of insurance funds. Since 1 February 2021, only licensed insurance institutions are allowed to engage in Internet insurance business. Therefore, such activities can no longer be conducted via a third-party platform.

4.24. In Hong Kong, China, new measures provide for a new regulatory environment for insurance-linked securities, effective since 16 December 2020. Insurance-linked securities are a risk-management tool that enables insurers or reinsurers to offload risks that they have underwritten to the capital market by way of securitization and is often treated as an alternative form of reinsurance.

4.25. Since 17 March 2021, the Netherlands prohibits provision of cross-border direct insurance services by third-country insurers, as per the European Commission's policy to disallow this form of service provision. As a result of these measures, life and non-life insurers from non-EU/EEA countries can no longer provide direct cross-border insurance services in the Netherlands. Reinsurance through the provision of services by third-country insurers remains permitted.

4.26. On 26 January 2021, the Central Bank of Myanmar issued new rules for Non-Banking Financial Institutions (NBFI) operations in Myanmar, such as conducting finance company business, leasing business or factoring business, which are defined in the Financial Institutions Law. The rules cover NBFI registration and the prohibition of deposit acceptance by these entities, and they open the possibility for 100% foreign ownership.

4.27. Since 1 January 2021, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has limited to a maximum of 30% the market share of foreign electronic payment service suppliers processing online payments made through India's United Payment Interface (owned and operated by NPCI).

4.28. The Philippines Central Bank adopted a series of measures affecting banking and other financial services, relating, *inter alia*, to digital banks. The Guidelines on the Establishment of Digital Banks, published on 8 December and effective on 23 December, call for a maximum 40% foreign ownership allowed by foreign individuals or foreign non-bank corporations. Within three months of approval of the Central Bank, existing banks converting to digital banks should meet the minimum capital requirement in the Circular and implement the transition plan, including divestment or closure of branches or similar entities.

Other services sectors

4.29. Several Members adopted new policies in the transportation services sector. In Brazil, a new decree was published on 12 April, which provides for public calls regarding the use of port facilities in organized ports and introduces temporary use contracts. The procedures for public calls for the lease of port facilities within the polygonal of the organized port were amended, and it is possible to dismiss bids if it is verified that an interested party is a user of the facilities. The term of port concessions and leasing of port facilities is a maximum of 70 years. A temporary use contract was also provided for interested parties in cargo handling, with an unconsolidated market for the temporary use of port areas and facilities located in the polygonal of the organized port, with dismissal of prior bidding. Turkey established a legal framework for shared electric scooter businesses. Each authorized entity can obtain one fifth of the maximum permissible shared e-scooter permits in a given district (up to 1/200 of the population, subject to certain exceptions). At least 30% of fleet must be manufactured domestically.

4.30. Members also adopted measures in other sectors. Costa Rica has authorized since 23 April 2021 foreign-flagged vessels and their crew to engage in transport, diving, recreation and other touristic activities within Costa Rican waters. It also allows the hiring of national crew members to carry out these practices. The Philippines allows up to 100% foreign ownership in large-scale geothermal exploration, development and utilization activities, under certain conditions such as a minimum investment of USD 50 million. Since 1 January 2021, in Oman, foreign lawyers are no longer permitted to plead or appear in courts. They are still allowed to work in other positions, such as clerks or counsellors in law firms.

Measures affecting supply through the movement of natural persons

4.31. Various Members introduced new measures affecting the supply of services through the movement of natural persons, some of which are introducing more restrictive policies. For example, in Angola, a new law obliges investors in free trade zones to give preference to the employment of Angolans. Investors may employ foreign qualified employees, provided the number of Angolan employees is higher, in addition to the Local Content regulations already in force. Seychelles authorities modified in February 2021 the provisions of the Gainful Occupation Permit (GOP), a permit available to foreign workers with skills not locally available to work temporarily in the country, calling for stricter enforcement of labour market testing. Additionally, employers must submit a Certificate of Eligibility, which allows them to recruit foreign workers if no qualified local workers are available. In Viet Nam, effective 15 February 2021, a longer experience is required for some foreign workers (foreign experts/specialists or technicians). But with the decree, foreign nationals are not required to obtain a work permit if their visits last less than 30 days, limited to 3 entries per year. Finally, work permits may be extended only once, for a maximum of two years (previously, work permits could be extended an unlimited number of times).

4.32. Members introduced a number of measures facilitating the supply of services through the presence of natural persons. In Singapore, a new work pass was introduced for qualified foreign nationals in technology roles. Five hundred such passes are available, and they are valid for an initial period of two years with the possibility of an extension for another two years, subject to the applicant's eligibility. In Chile, the Congress approved a law for a new immigration framework. It institutes, *inter alia*, a new short-term work authorization process, which requires foreign nationals to apply for a Special Work Authorization. Foreign nationals in certain subcategories will be able to work in Chile without requiring sponsorship from an employer.

4.33. Ecuador's National Assembly adopted on 28 January 2021 a new law that institutes a visa for foreign nationals entering the country to conduct acts of commerce or business; establish contacts with companies and individuals; carry out administrative or judicial procedures; participate in sports activities, volunteer work, study, academic purposes or in the field of science, technology, innovation, art and culture. The visa allows foreign nationals to stay in Ecuador for up to 180 days within a 1-year period. Starting in April 2021, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has introduced a new short-term work visa, called the Temporary Work Visit Visa (TWVV). It provides foreign nationals with a multiple-entry visa valid for one year and allows them to work in the Kingdom for up to six months in that one-year period. Employers must comply with a number of conditions to qualify for the new visa quota.

Air services agreements

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

4.35. As part of the strategies for COVID-19 response and aviation recovery, at the end of 2020 the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC) concluded a new multilateral agreement to liberalize air cargo services in the region. The agreement came into effect immediately among its 10 signatories, and establishes expanded traffic rights, namely "seventh freedom" traffic rights, permitting airlines from one LACAC member State to provide all-cargo services between two other signatory States without restrictions on routes and capacity. The agreement will remain in effect for one year, until 31 December 2021, and may be extended for a further year, at the discretion of LACAC States.

Table 4.1 Air Transport Agreements² concluded or amended between October 2020 and May 2021

Parties		Date of signature	Source
Israel	United Arab Emirates	20.10.2020	https://www.businesstravelnews.com/Global/UAE-Israel-Sign-Agreements-for-Direct-Air-Service-Visa-Exemptions
Ukraine	Thailand	22.10.2020	https://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-politics/3121605-cabinet-of-ministers-endorses-amendments-to-air-service-agreement-with-thailand.html
Bangladesh	Austria	19.10.2020	https://thepolicytimes.com/flight-operation-between-dhaka-and-vienna/
Cambodia	Hungary	3.11.2020	http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-11/04/c_139490188.htm
United Kingdom	United States	17.11.2020	https://www.cityam.com/uk-and-us-sign-aviation-agreement-to-protect-vital-travel-links/
Rwanda	Brazil	18.11.2020	https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/rwanda-ratifies-5-bilateral-deals-expand-aerospace-network
Rwanda	Democratic Republic of Congo	18.11.2020	https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/rwanda-ratifies-5-bilateral-deals-expand-aerospace-network
Rwanda	Namibia	18.11.2020	https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/rwanda-ratifies-5-bilateral-deals-expand-aerospace-network
Rwanda	Somalia	18.11.2020	https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/rwanda-ratifies-5-bilateral-deals-expand-aerospace-network
Rwanda	Tunisia	18.11.2020	https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/rwanda-ratifies-5-bilateral-deals-expand-aerospace-network
Rwanda	Republic of Korea	27.11.2020	https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/rwanda-korea-sign-deal-open-airspace
Guyana	Suriname	7.12.2020	https://menafn.com/1101258838/Guyana-Suriname-open-air-agreement-to-expand-connectivity
India	Philippines	23.12.2020	https://www.cnbctv18.com/aviation/cabinet-approves-signing-of-revised-bilateral-air-service-agreements-with-afghanistan-philippines-7811431.htm
India	Afghanistan	23.12.2020	https://www.cnbctv18.com/aviation/cabinet-approves-signing-of-revised-bilateral-air-service-agreements-with-afghanistan-philippines-7811431.htm
Brazil, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela	Latin-American Civil Aviation Commission (LACAC) air cargo liberalization agreement	24.12.2020 (until 31.12.21)	https://www.atn.aero/#/article.html?id=78616
Republic of Korea	Georgia	4.02.2021	http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210205000273
Kuwait	Luxembourg	26.03.2021	https://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2967911&lang=ue=en

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

4.36. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, WTO Members and Observers put in place 147 COVID-19-related measures affecting trade in services. Several new COVID-19-related measures affecting trade in services were introduced by WTO Members and Observers between mid-October 2020 and mid-May 2021. The number of reported new measures is far fewer than the number recorded in the first half of 2020 when governments wanted to ensure a fast and efficient response to mitigate the economic, social and health consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The decrease in the number of new measures introduced since mid-October 2020 confirms the downward trend witnessed from the third quarter of 2020. Annex 6 lists the 23 new COVID-19-related measures affecting trade in services, implemented by 16 WTO Members and one Observer (Iraq).

4.37. Most of these measures appear to be trade-facilitating, including measures to provide (or reintroduce) flexibility for transport services suppliers to ensure that supply chains are not disrupted (and at the same time the spread of the virus contained), facilitate entry processes for business travellers or essential personnel in the transport sector, or provide flexibilities for the financial services sector. However, a number of measures are trade-restrictive, for instance those increasing the scope of foreign investment screening.

4.38. Some measures that were taken in response to the outbreak of the pandemic and the subsequent waves have been extended and were still in force at the time writing of this Report (e.g. some EU measures extended the special measures introduced for the screening of foreign direct investment until 30 June 2021; in the United Kingdom, the airport slot allocation waiver was extended on 26 March 2021, ensuring that airlines do not have to operate flights at least 80% of the time to retain their slots; and Paraguay extended until 31 December 2021 the exceptional support measures in the financial services sector).

4.39. However, there were also several measures that terminated in certain economies. For example, Canada confirmed the termination on 6 April 2021 of a number of the financial support measures it had initiated in March 2020 (support of the financial and operational resilience of financial institutions, and a repo facility to counter severe market-wide liquidity stress and support the stability of the financial system). Australia removed on 1 January 2021 the temporary changes to the foreign investment review framework (introduced on 29 March 2020) that were designed to safeguard its national interest during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. During this period the monetary threshold amounts under the Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1975 were AUD 0 for proposed foreign investments.

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 judgement 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 or all the measures taken to ease the impact of border restrictions or other limits on movement.

4.40. Finally, as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, some Members introduced innovative visa categories for workers willing to relocate and work remotely, as explained in Box 4.1.

Box 4.1 Remote working visas

In response to the COVID pandemic, a growing number of Members are implementing "remote working visas". Also known as "digital nomad visas" or "virtual working permits", they provide foreigners with a temporary stay permit that allows them to work remotely for a company located abroad.

The unprecedented flexibility in work location that has emerged as a result of the pandemic has prompted several governments to institute formalized, legal paths for remote work, with the aim of attracting long-term visitors so as to increase local economic activity and promote recovery.

Eligibility for remote working visas is usually limited to full-time, skilled and highly paid employees of foreign companies, as well as independent professionals meeting similar requirements. These individuals' family members are generally also granted resident permits. The permit holders and their dependants are not permitted to be employed, or to provide services, in the destination country.

Members having instituted such visas include Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Iceland, Seychelles and the United Arab Emirates.

See, for instance, <https://www.fragomen.com/insights/alerts/remote-working-visa-be-introduced#:~:text=A%20new%20Remote%20Working%20Visa,by%20their%20home%20country%20employer.&text=The%20visa%20will%20not%20require,in%20the%20United%20Arab%20Emirates>.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

Measures affecting supply through commercial presence

4.41. During the review period, a number of EU member States prolonged until 30 June 2021 the special measures introduced for the screening of foreign direct investment (France, Hungary, Italy and Spain). On 19 November 2020, Spain also broadened the regime it introduced in March 2020. Until 30 June 2021, investments made by EU and EFTA residents are considered to be foreign direct investments if they are EU or EFTA residents and invest in listed companies in Spain or in unlisted companies if the value of the investment exceeds EUR 500 million. In Hungary, the temporary Act on foreign investment control no longer applies to acquisitions among affiliated companies.

Financial services

4.42. In the United Kingdom, during the review period, the Bank of England and the PRA announced a range of measures to give firms more operational flexibility to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g. guidance on submitting 2021's annual submissions and other types of regulatory reporting, the benchmarking exercise relating to capital internal models, or reporting and disclosure of exposures subject to measures applied in response to the COVID-19 pandemic).

4.43. In Indonesia, the Financial Services Authority (OJK) issued on 29 December 2020 an amendment to a previously introduced policy under OJK Regulation No. 14/POJK.05/2020 on Countercyclical Policy in relation to the Impact of COVID-19 for Non-Bank Financial Institutions, which came into force on 17 April 2020 and is valid until 31 December 2020. On 10 December 2020, the OJK issued an amendment to the above regulation (OJK Regulation No. 58/POJK.05/2020) that came into force on 16 December 2020. The amendment extends the period of the stimulus for non-bank financial institutions and adjusts several provisions, including the addition of regulatory subjects in the regulation, namely microfinance institutions and fintech peer-to-peer lending companies.

4.44. In Japan, the Minister of State for Financial Services issued a statement on maintaining the functions of the financial system and financial markets under the Declaration of a State of Emergency Responding to the Spread of the COVID-19 Infection on 7 January 2021. The Financial Services Agency (FSA) made requests to financial institutions to take prompt and flexible measures related to cash flow support for companies and individuals by publishing notices on 19 January 2021. Myanmar adopted over the review period a number of measures in the financial services sector, such as temporarily lowering minimum reserve requirements for banks.

Transportation services

4.45. During the reporting period, as the COVID-19 contagion continued to disrupt transport globally, governments around the world introduced new measures or updated temporary measures to mitigate the impact of the pandemic and contain the spread of virus. For example, the Maritime

and Coastguard Agency of the United Kingdom revised the medical certificate policy for seafarers to allow them to continue working on merchant ships in support of the supply chain. The UK Government also relaxed the requirements on drivers' hours and rest periods between 22 January 2021 and 31 March 2021. In Costa Rica, the traceability requirement was abolished for persons involved in international land transport of goods, in order to facilitate the supply of these services. During the review period, Paraguay introduced measures to guarantee the supply of services in the logistics chain of ports, maritime and inland waterway transport, as well as to ensure the development of the international commercial land passenger transport.

4.46. In order to slow the spread of the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in India and mitigate its impact on shipping, India's Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways issued several orders in May 2021 extending the validity of recruitment and placement of seafarers' licences and the validity of ship sanitation certification, restricting ships to shore interaction and prioritizing vaccination for seafarers.

4.47. Reaction to the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in South East Asia has also led to tightened requirements on crew change at ports in several countries. For example, since May 2021, Singapore has prohibited crew exchange for seafarers with recent travel history to Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka within the last 21 days preceding arrival to Singapore. In the United Arab Emirates, the authority of Fujairah announced on 27 April 2021 with immediate effect that if a vessel's last port of call was India, crews were not allowed to disembark. Given that India is a major supplier of seafarers to global shipping, the new restrictions on crews have worsened the global seafarer crisis and further disrupted worldwide shipping.

4.48. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia introduced on 31 March 2021 a measure in the air transport services sector, allowing the extension of the validity of licences, attestations and certificates for aircrew, trainers, examiners and flight dispatchers, in accordance with terms and conditions that ensure safety levels. The New Zealand Ministry of Transport established from 1 May to 31 October 2021 a scheme to secure regional connectivity and ensure that critical air services can continue while disruptions from COVID-19 persist.

Measures affecting the temporary entry and stay of natural persons

4.49. The Government of Indonesia launched in October 2020 an e-visa to streamline the visa application process and remove the need to wait in queues at the border to obtain a visa on arrival. The e-visa is first being made available to business travellers from selected countries that have a Travel Corridor agreement with Indonesia, as well as investors, skilled workers and civil servants.

4.50. In Costa Rica, the General Immigration Directorate launched an online platform on 22 March 2021 on which foreign nationals can submit certain immigration applications and related documents without the need to apply in person.

4.51. While the measures listed in this Report refer to those introduced since mid-October 2020, the full list of trade-in-services-related measures compiled since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic is available at: [WTO | COVID-19: Measures affecting trade in services](#).

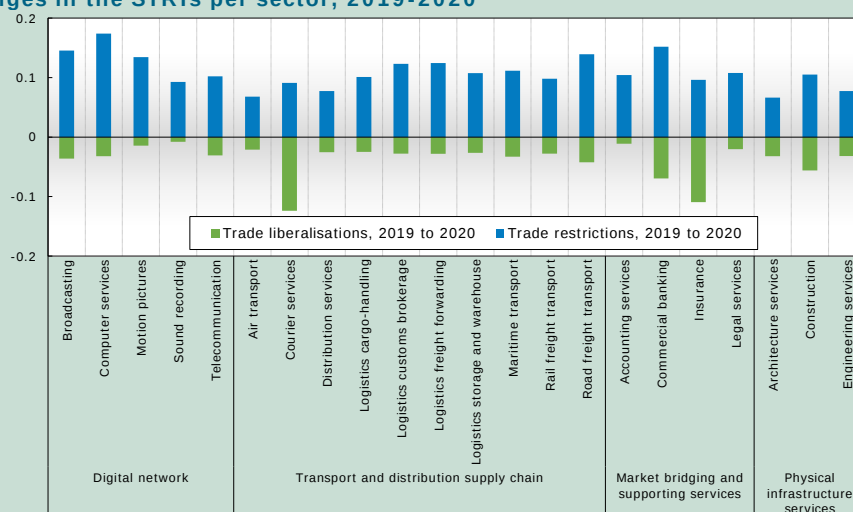
4.52. The following box has been contributed by the OECD.

Box 4.2 Barriers to services trade – trends up to 2021

Annual monitoring by the OECD finds that the global regulatory environment for services trade became more restrictive in 2020, with new barriers compounding the shock of the COVID-19 pandemic on exporters.

New barriers to trade were most prevalent in computer, commercial banking and broadcasting services sectors (Figure 1). Tightened measures affected primarily services traded through commercial establishments (Mode 3), and to a lesser degree the other modes of supply. This was due to new restrictions in some countries on measures affecting the ability of foreign firms to set up affiliates in new markets as a result of increased FDI screening conditions and processes, among others. Liberalizing measures occurred most frequently in courier services and insurance services.

Figure1 Changes in the STRIs per sector, 2019-2020



Note: The figure shows the sum of all the positive changes (trade restrictions) and negatives changes (trade liberalisation) across all the measures in a given sector over the period considered. Within sectors and for each country, the STRIs range between 0 and 1, where 1 indicates a completely closed regulatory environment for services trade.

Source: OECD, Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI) database (<http://oe.cd/stri-db>).

At the same time, governments lowered barriers to cross-border digital trade in 2020 as part of the overarching policy response to the COVID-19 pandemic. More facilitation measures were introduced than in previous years, helping remote working and online business operations. Nonetheless, the considerable build-up of restrictions applied to digital trade over the last few years, and the restrictions that continue to apply in certain sectors, such as computer and telecommunications services, risk slowing down the pace of digital transformation in a post-pandemic era.

National and collective action to ease barriers to services trade can reduce trade costs for firms that provide services across borders. On average, across sectors and countries, services trade costs could decline by more than 15% after 3-5 years if countries could converge towards best performers by reducing regulatory gaps by half. An ambitious reform agenda to address restrictive measures in services and enhance market access opportunities globally is key to revitalising trade and growth. Lifting restrictions to trade in services will be critical as governments seek to put the global economy on the road to a sustainable recovery and enhance resilience of their economies.

Source: OECD, STRI: Policy Trends up to 2021.

5 POLICY DEVELOPMENTS IN TRADE IN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

5.1. During the review period, WTO Members continued to fine-tune their intellectual property (IP) domestic frameworks, as shown in the submissions for the trade monitoring exercise, and the discussions in and notifications to the TRIPS Council. 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 for administrative IP matters.

Acceptance of the Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement

5.2. The Gambia deposited its instrument of acceptance of the Protocol Amending the TRIPS Agreement¹, on 20 October 2020; and Antigua and Barbuda deposited its instrument of acceptance on 12 May 2021. The United Kingdom confirmed its continued acceptance of the Protocol, on 1 January 2021. To date, 133 Members are bound by the amended TRIPS Agreement. The additional flexibility incorporated in the Agreement addresses public health needs of countries with limited or no domestic capacity to produce pharmaceuticals and that rely on imports in order to satisfy their needs. The mechanism provides for a secure legal pathway that allows potential exporting Members to grant special compulsory licences exclusively for the production and export of generic medicines to the importing country or countries.

IP-related international, regional and bilateral instruments

5.3. During the review period, the following international instruments entered into force in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure and to the Strasbourg Agreement Concerning the International Patent Classification, on 16 October 2020; as well as the Vienna Agreement Establishing an International Classification of the Figurative Elements of Marks and the Locarno Agreement Establishing an International Classification for Industrial Designs, on 3 December 2020. Furthermore, the IP offices of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (SAPI) and China (CNIPA) signed a Cooperation Agreement on Patent Prosecution Highway, on 30 October 2020.²

5.4. The Russian Federation completed the ratification procedures of the Treaty on Trademarks, Service Marks and Appellations of Origin of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), with the entry into force of Federal Law No. 360-FZ, on 20 November 2020. The Treaty will enter into force upon final notification from the EAEU member States. The ratification procedures of the Protocol to the Eurasian Patent Convention on the Protection of Industrial Designs of September 1994 were also completed and the Protocol entered into force on 11 April 2021 for the Russian Federation.³

5.5. Mexico and the United Kingdom signed an Agreement on the Mutual Recognition and Protection of Designations for Spirit Drinks, on 3 November 2020.⁴

Bilateral and regional trade agreements

5.6. Regional trade agreements (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. Currently, over 70% of the RTAs in force and notified to the WTO contain specific IP provisions. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement was signed in November 2020.⁵ It contains a comprehensive IP chapter, building on the TRIPS Agreement, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), the Republic of Korea-United States FTA (KORUS), and the ASEAN+1 FTA.

¹ WTO document WT/L/641, 8 December 2005.

² Submission by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.

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

⁴ Submission by Mexico for the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.

⁵ The 15 parties to the RCEP include the 10 member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), as well as five of their free trade agreement (FTA) partners – Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea.

National IP-related strategies

5.7. In December 2020, Albania launched its Cross-cutting Strategy Against Organized Crime and Serious Crimes 2021-2025 and the Action Plan 2021-2022. It is also implementing its National Strategy for Integrated Border Management and Action Plan 2021-2027.⁶

Domestic legislation and administrative developments

5.8. Domestically, WTO Members are continuously working to streamline IP into their economies and modernizing their IP legislation and administration. Table 5.1 shows the measures submitted for the trade monitoring exercise.

Table 5.1 Domestic legislation and administrative developments

Member / Observer	Measure
Albania	The Council of Ministers issued Decision No. 199 "On determining the special conditions of licensing, accompanying documents, procedures for reviewing or revoking the license, application fees and annual quotas of licenses for commercial activities of cultural assets", on 31 March 2021.
Australia	Public consultations on geographical indications in the framework of the negotiations of a Free Trade Agreement with the European Union took place in October-November 2020.
China	The National Intellectual Property Administration issued the Decision on Amending the Guidelines for Patent Examination (Announcement No. 391), which entered into force on 15 January 2021.
Indonesia	The Regulations on the Procedures for Trade Mark Application, Patent Application and Compulsory Licenses were amended, on 3 February 2021. Viewed at: https://peraturan.go.id/common/dokumen/bn/2021/bn105-2021.pdf , https://peraturan.go.id/common/dokumen/bn/2021/bn106-2021.pdf and https://peraturan.go.id/common/dokumen/bn/2021/bn107-2021.pdf
Mexico	The Federal Law of Industrial Property Protection entered into force on 5 November 2020. ^a The law amended, consolidated and supplemented prior legal instruments.
Philippines	The Revised Rules of Procedure on Administrative Enforcement of Intellectual (IP) Rights" entered into force on 3 March 2021; and brought electronic, digital or online channels under the authority of the IP Office.
Russian Federation	Certified scientific and educational organizations are authorized to undertake preliminary search and assessment of patentability for inventions and utility models, as per Federal Law No. 262-FZ, which entered partially into force on 30 October 2020 and will fully enter into force on 1 August 2021. Applicants to submit 3D-models with their applications for inventions, utility models, industrial designs, and trademarks and electronic titles of protections can now be issued, as per Federal Law No. 217-FZ, which entered into force on 17 January 2021.
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	The Saudi Authority for IP (SAPI) expanded the scope of the optional Copyright Registration to architectural works, on 28 December 2020; and issued the Rules for Licensing IP Agents, on 19 November 2020. The Council of Ministers approved the cancellation of the bylaw of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) patent office, on 30 March 2021. As a result, patent applicants need to file Paris Convention or Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) applications; and Article 1 of the GCC Trademark Law was amended on 1 April 2021.
Thailand	The IP Department of the Ministry of Commerce issued the notices on Accelerated Issuance of Trademark First Action; Accelerated Consideration on the Request of Trademark Renewal; and the New Version of Patent and Petty Patent Certificates, in April 2021.
Ukraine	The Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers No 1315 "On amending certain Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on intellectual property" authorized the National IP Institute to register copyrights and agreements relating to authors' rights over their works. It came into force on 23 December 2020.

a See also notification to the TRIPS Council IP/N/1/MEX/21.

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

⁶ Submission by Albania for the WTO Trade Monitoring Report.

COVID-19 related measures

5.9. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, 71 IP-related measures, including administrative and substantive measures, were implemented by WTO Members. Members have implemented substantive IP-related measures to facilitate innovation or access with respect to COVID-19-related health technologies; as well administrative measures to ease procedural requirements, fees, or deadlines. Legislatures of some Members have also acted, for example on 30 April 2021, the Brazilian Senate approved a proposal to suspend patent protection for COVID-19 vaccines, tests, and medications during the pandemic. The resolution was sent to the Lower House of Congress for consideration and possible amendments.⁷

5.10. Some Members have 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. Substantive measures normally require the enactment of government decrees or amendments to existing legislation. These substantive measures are shown in Table 5.2.

Table 5.2 IP COVID-19-related substantive measures

Member	Measure	Source	Date
Australia	IP Australia's Trademark COVID-19 Helpline ceased to operate on 1 April 2021.	https://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/about-us/news-and-community/news/business-continuity-and-coronavirus-disease-covid-19-outbreak	1/04/2021
Canada	ExploreIP is a searchable database that showcases an inventory of public sector patents held by government, academia or other public sector institutions. ExploreIP's new "COVID-19 related" technology category allows IP owners to promote technologies that could help in the fight against COVID-19, as well as help interested businesses find and obtain licences for those technologies.	https://ised-isde.canada.ca/ipm-mcpi/?lang=en	12/02/2021
Hungary	Based on the ground of the Hungarian Patent Act (Act No. XXXIII of 1995 on the Protection of Inventions by Patents) and Art. 31 of the TRIPS Agreement, the Hungarian Intellectual Property Office issued three compulsory licenses for domestic use of Remdesivir.	https://www.sztnh.gov.hu/en	01/12/2020
Russian Federation	Based on the ground of national security pursuant to Art. 1360 of the Civil Code, an Order granting a compulsory licence with regards to a number of patents related to Remdesivir until the end of 2021 with the aim of supplying the population of the Russian Federation. ^a	http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/Document/View/0001202101050003	31/12/2020
United States	The USPTO is expanding the Patents for Humanity Awards Program to include a new category for those who are responding rapidly to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic by using or developing game-changing technologies. This new award category will provide business incentives for patent applicants, holders, and licensees whose inventions track, prevent, diagnose, or treat COVID-19.	https://www.uspto.gov/ip-policy/patent-policy/patents-humanity-covid-19	05/04/2021

a The information on the compulsory licence was reported by the Russian Federation to the TRIPS Council in March 2021. Viewed at: <http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/Document/View/0001202101050003>.

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

⁷ Viewed at: <https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/brazil-senate-votes-suspend-patent-protection-covid-19-vaccines-2021-04-30/>.

5.11. Several Members took measures to ease procedural requirements, deadlines or fees with respect to administrative IP matters, as shown in Table 5.3. Administrative measures continue to evolve, as IP offices from various Members⁸ extended temporarily IP-related deadlines or ceased to provide such extensions and adapted their services and required fees.

Table 5.3 Intellectual Property COVID-19-related administrative measures

Member	Measure	Source	Date
Australia	IP Australia ceased offering streamlined extensions of time for COVID-19 related disruptions on 1 April 2021. From 1 April 2021 extensions of time will still be available for customers who continue to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic on a case-by-case basis. The Commissioner of Patents and Registrars of Trade Marks, Designs and Plant Breeder's Rights will consider the impacts of COVID-19 when assessing extension requests. A declaration explaining why customers cannot comply with a due date will be required, and a sample declaration will be available to assist them.	https://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/about-us/news-and-community/news/business-continuity-and-coronavirus-disease-covid-19-outbreak	1 April 2021
Lithuania	The State Patent Bureau has extended certain deadlines for trademark, design and patent matters. Suspension of payment of the fees and time limits means extension of these terms for the period equal to the period of suspension. Actions, for which time limits have been suspended, may be performed after renewal of these time limits within the number of days for which the time limits have been suspended.	https://vpb.lrv.lt/en/news/important-additional-suspension-of-time-limits-related-to-the-payment-of-fees-and-performing-of-actions	From 16 December 2020 until 15 March 2021. From 27 March 2021 until 6 April 2021.
New Zealand	The Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand (IPONZ) online case management system remains fully operational during lockdown, the conditions may hinder or prevent some applicants, owners, third parties and/or their agents from meeting time sensitive deadlines. IPONZ will give favourable consideration to any request to extend a time critical deadline for completing any action.	https://www.iponz.govt.nz/about-iponz/ and https://www.iponz.govt.nz/news/iponz-services-during-covid-19/	16/07/2020
Russian Federation	Under Government Resolution of 20 June 2020 No. 893, time limits for the applicant's opportunity to perform actions related to the legal protection of intellectual property (including those related to the payment of patent and other fees) which expire from 30 March 2020 to 30 November 2020 may be extended at the request of the applicant until 31 December 2020.	https://rospatent.gov.ru/ru/news/informacionnoe-soobshchenie-23062020	22/06/2020
Thailand	The IP Department of The Ministry of Commerce issued a Notification on the Extension of Time Periods for Submission of Documents and Request for Amendment of Patent and Petty Patent Applications during the New Wave of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Outbreak (applicable to the deadlines that fall between 16 April – 31 May 2021).	https://www.ipthailand.go.th/en/	19/04/2021

⁸ For example: Japan, Brazil, India, Chile, the United Kingdom, Jamaica, Finland, Georgia, Australia and Mongolia. Viewed at: <https://www.worldtrademarkreview.com/brand-management/ip-offices-implement-measures-in-wake-of-coronavirus-crisis>.

Member	Measure	Source	Date
United States	As a companion to the COVID-19 prioritized examination, the USPTO has implemented the Fast-Track Pilot Program for Appeals Related to COVID-19, under which an appellant may have certain COVID-19-related <i>ex parte</i> appeals before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB or Board) accorded fast-track status. The Fast-Track Pilot Program for Appeals Related to COVID-19 is effective on 15 April 2021.	https://www.uspto.gov/patents/patent-trial-and-appeal-board/covid-fast-track-appeals-pilot-program?MURL=PTABCOVIDFastTrack	15/04/2021

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

TRIPS Council

5.12. During the review period, the TRIPS Council met formally on four occasions, (14-15 October, 10 December 2020; and on 10-11 March and 30 April 2021); and held several informal meetings and consultations. At the October 2020 and March 2021 meetings, the Council discussed the proposal by India and South Africa to waive parts of the TRIPS Agreement during the pandemic⁹ and the proposal by the LDC Group to extend the transition period beyond 1 July 2021.¹⁰ It also reviewed Members' annual reports on incentives for technology transfer and technical cooperation activities. At both meetings, Members continued to share information and best practices on domestic policies to boost MSMEs' intellectual property and competitiveness in green technologies.¹¹ The Council reconvened on 10 December 2020 and on 30 April 2021 specifically to agree on the Chair's oral status report on the discussions of the waiver proposal to the General Council.

5.13. Since mid-October 2020, 11 Members¹² have notified legislative measures under Article 63.2. The United Kingdom submitted 75 notifications that charted the evolution over two decades in relation to trademarks and designs. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia submitted its responses to the illustrative list of questions on Article 27.3(b).¹³

5.14. The Plurinational State of Bolivia notified its intention to exercise the flexibilities under the Amended TRIPS Agreement, amendment, on 19 February 2021; and formally notified its need to import 15 million doses of a vaccine against COVID-19, on 11 May 2021.¹⁴ Antigua and Barbuda notified its intention to use the flexibilities, on 17 May 2021.¹⁵

TRIPS-related discussions in Trade Policy Reviews

5.15. During the review period, the Trade Policy Reviews of Thailand; Indonesia; Macao, China; India; Nicaragua; Myanmar; the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Mongolia; Qatar; Tonga; and Viet Nam took place. They included discussions and information exchanges on a wide range of IP issues with a bearing on trade policy.

⁹ WTO document IP/C/W/669 and addenda.

¹⁰ WTO document IP/C/W/668.

¹¹ WTO documents IP/C/W/667 and IP/C/W/675.

¹² Albania, Croatia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Slovenia, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Viet Nam.

¹³ WTO document IP/C/R/BT/SAU/1.

¹⁴ WTO documents IP/N/8/BOL/1 and IP/N/9/BOL/1, respectively.

¹⁵ WTO document IP/N/8/ATG/1.

ANNEX 1 - MEASURES FACILITATING TRADE¹

(MID-OCTOBER 2020 TO MID-MAY 2021)

Confirmed information²

Measure	Source / Date	Status
Albania		
Reduction of import tariffs (from 15% to 2%) on inflatable yachts and other vessels for pleasure or sports; rowing boats and canoes	Permanent Delegation of Albania to the WTO (17 May 2021)	Effective 6 March 2021
Argentina		
Extension of the temporary reduction of import tariffs on certain hybrid motor vehicles, under an import quota of 1,000 vehicles	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (18 May 2021) and Decreto No. 846/2020, Nomenclatura Común del Mercosur (4 November 2020)	Effective 7 November 2020, for 6 months
Amendment introduced in the list of products with export duties (<i>derechos de exportación</i>), resulting in the reduction and elimination of export duties on certain products (4,606 tariff lines at 8-digit level, in NCM Chapters 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12; 13; 14; 15; 16; 17; 18; 19; 20; 21; 22; 23; 24; 25; 26; 28; 29; 30; 31; 32; 33; 34; 35; 36; 38; 39; 40; 41; 43; 44; 45; 47; 50; 51; 52; 53; 54; 55; 56; 67; 69; 70; 71; 72; 73; 74; 75; 76; 78; 79; 80; 81; 84; 85; 87; 90; 94)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (18 May 2021) and Decreto No. 1060/2020 - Nomenclatura Común del Mercosur - Derechos de Exportación (30 December 2020)	Effective 1 January 2021
Amendments introduced to the national list of exemptions to the Mercosur Common Tariff (103 tariff lines at 8-digit level in NCM Chapters 15; 22; 28; 29; 30; 31; 32; 37; 38; 39; 40; 45; 54; 55; 59; 64; 70; 72; 73; 76; 84; 85; 87)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (18 May 2021) and Nomenclatura Común del Mercosur - Decreto No. 297/2021 (5 May 2021)	Effective 7 May 2021
Reduction of import tariffs on certain products, e.g. (from 14% to 2%) on vinyl chloride-vinyl acetate-copolymers, corrugated paper and paperboard, heterocyclic compounds with nitrogen hetero-atom(s) only; (from 16% to 2%) on certain primary batteries, tubular metal needles and needles for sutures; (from 18% to 2%) on lead-acid, of a kind used for starting piston-engines; (from 14% to zero) on machines for electroplating and electrolysis; (from 10% to 2%) on sodium dichromate; and (from 12% to 2%) on formic acid	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (18 May 2021) and Nomenclatura Común del Mercosur - Decreto No. 297/2021 (5 May 2021)	Effective 7 May 2021
Azerbaijan		
Temporary elimination of import excise duties on diamonds, precious and semi-precious stones, silver, gold, platinum, articles of jewellery, articles of goldsmiths, and coins	Permanent Delegation of Azerbaijan to the WTO (20 May 2021)	Effective 1 January 2021, for 3 years
Elimination of import tariffs on diamonds, precious and semi-precious stones, silver, gold, platinum, articles of jewellery, articles of goldsmiths, and coins	Permanent Delegation of Azerbaijan to the WTO (20 May 2021)	Effective 6 May 2021
Brazil		
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on soya beans; soya beans crude oil, whether or not degummed; oil-cake and other solid residues resulting from the extraction of soyabean oil (effective 21 October 2020 to 15 January 2021); and on maize (corn) (effective 21 October 2020 to 31 March 2021); on certain immunological products for retail sales; inductors; LED lamps (effective 1 November 2020); trailers and semi-trailers for the	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (27 May 2021) and Gecex Resolution Nos. 101/2020 and 102/2020 (20 October 2020), 105/2020 (22 October 2020), 129/2020 (24 December 2020)	Effective: see individual dates in measure

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 with the provisions of any WTO agreement.

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

Measure	Source / Date	Status
transport of goods (effective 16 January 2021 to 31 December 2021); looped pile fabrics (effective 16 January 2021)		
Temporary reduction of import tariffs on disodium sulphate; pharmaceutical products; orthopaedic or fracture appliances; bicycles and other cycles not motorized; poly(vinyl chloride), not mixed with any other substance; immunological products for retail sale; vaccines; apparatus based on the use of X-rays	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (27 May 2021) and Gecex Resolution Nos. 158 (11 February 2021), 159 (17 February 2021), 174 and 175 (22 March 2021)	
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on non-electrical articles of graphite or other carbon, under an import quota of 2,530 tonnes; on ethylene dichloride (ISO) (1,2-dichloroethane), under an import quota of 400,000 tonnes; on alcohol peroxides, under an import quota of 300 tonnes; on aromatic polyamides and their derivatives, salt thereof, under an import quota of 10,440 tonnes; on printing ink, under an import quota of 800 tonnes; on activated carbon, under an import quota of 1,500 tonnes; on petroleum resins, under an import quota of 30,000 tonnes; on self-adhesive plates of plastic, under an import quota of 330 tonnes; on high tenacity yarn of polyesters, whether or not textured, under an import quota of 2,688 tonnes; on polycarbonates, under an import quota of 10,000 tonnes; on coffee extracts, essences and concentrates, under an import quota of 200 tonnes; on food preparations, under an import quota of 1,371.43 tonnes; on acrylic polymers in primary forms, under an import quota of 840 tonnes; on poly(ethylene terephthalate), having a viscosity number of 78ml/g or higher, under an import quota of 10,000 tonnes; on synthetic filament yarn, under an import quota of 2,200 tonnes; on synthetic staple fibres of polypropylene, under an import quota of 795 tonnes; on spherical roller bearings, under an import quota of 1,000 units; on polymers of propylene, under an import quota of 77,000 tonnes	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (27 May 2021) and Gecex Resolution Nos. 161/2021 (22 February 2021), 177 (23 March 2021), 184 (30 March 2021)	
Reduction of import tariffs on certain capital goods, informatics and telecommunications equipment: from up to 2% to zero; from 4% to 3.6%; from 6% to 5.4%; from 8% to 7.2%; from 10% to 9%; from 12% to 10.8%; from 14% to 12.6%; and from 16% to 14.4%	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (27 May 2021); Gecex Resolution Nos. 173/2021 (18 March 2021) and 183/2021 (30 March 2021)	Effective 26 March 2021
Reduction of import tariffs (to 2%) on certain products, e.g. mucilages and thickeners, trichloroethylene, aromatic ethers, salts of formic acid, gluconic acid, rock drilling or earth boring tools, and certain motorcycle/bicycle parts and accessories	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (27 May 2021) and Gecex Resolution No. 136 (24 December 2020)	Effective 31 December 2020
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on wheat and meslin, under an import quota of 750,000 tonnes (effective 18 November 2020 to 17 November 2021); on certain vaccines for human medicine, under an import quota of 20 million doses (effective 26 November 2020 to 25 November 2021); on certain vaccines for human medicine, under an import quota of 28 million doses (effective 1 December 2020 to 30 November 2021); on acrylic or modacrylic, under an import quota of 9,000 tonnes (effective 1 December 2020 to 30 November 2021); on other polyethers, under an import quota of 2,000 tonnes (effective 1 December 2020 to 30 November 2021); on cellulose ethers, under an import quota of 1,200 tonnes (effective 2 December 2020 to 1 December 2021); on not roasted malt, under an import quota of 300,000 tonnes (effective 30 December 2020 to 31 December 2021); on sardines, under an import quota of 120,000 tonnes (effective 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021); on wheat and meslin, under an import quota of 750,000 tonnes (effective 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021); on sewing machines of	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (27 May 2021) and Secex Portaria Nos. 60/2020, 61/2020, 62/2020 (17 November 2020), 66/2020 (1 December 2020), 67/2020 (3 December 2020), 73/2020, 74/2020, 75/2020 (31 December 2020), 1/2021 (8 January 2021)	Effective: see individual dates in measure

Measure	Source / Date	Status
the household type, under an import quota of 500,000 units (effective 14 January 2021 to 13 January 2022); on not alloyed unwrought aluminium, under an import quota of 262,000 tonnes (effective 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021); on colouring matter, containing 80% or more by weight of titanium dioxide calculated on the dry matter, under an import quota of 9,672 tonnes (effective 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021), on disodium sulphate, under an import quota of 910,000 tonnes (effective 19 February 2021 to 31 December 2021); and on certain cellulose ethers, under an import quota of 1,200 tonnes		
Temporary reduction of import tariffs (to 2%) on film of polymers of ethylene, under an import quota of 600 tonnes (effective 1 December 2020 to 30 November 2021); on chemical preparations for photographic uses, under an import quota of 1,700 tonnes (effective 1 December 2020 to 30 November 2021); on other paper, paperboard, cellulose wadding and webs of cellulose fibres, under an import quota of 6,000 tonnes (effective 1 December 2020 to 30 November 2021); on miscellaneous edible preparations for infant use, under an import quota of 2,705 tonnes (effective 2 December 2020 to 1 December 2021); on polycarbonates, under an import quota of 10,000 tonnes (effective 14 January 2021 to 13 July 2021); on uncoated paper and paperboard, weighing more than 150 g/m ² but less than 225 g/m ² , under an import quota of 31,985 tonnes (effective 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021); (to 4%) on poly(vinyl chloride), not mixed with any other substances, under an import quota of 160,000 tonnes (effective 12 December 2020 to 11 March 2021)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (27 May 2021) and Secex Portaria Nos. 66/2020 (1 December 2020), 67/2020 (3 December 2020), 70/2020 (15 December 2020), 1/2021 (8 January 2021)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Elimination of import tariffs on certain machine-tools for working any material by removal of material, operated by laser (effective 1 November 2020); and on revolvers and pistols, other than those of heading HS 9303 and HS 9304 (effective 1 January 2021); and on new pneumatic tyres of rubber (effective 21 January 2021)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (27 May 2021) and Gecex Resolution No. 111 (23 October 2020), 126 (8 December 2020) and 148 (20 January 2021)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Reduction of import tariffs (from 35% to 30%) on tricycles, scooters, pedal cars and similar wheeled toys; dolls' carriages; dolls; other toys; reduced-size ("scale") models and similar recreational models, working or not; puzzles of all kinds	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (27 May 2021) and Gecex Resolution No. 121 (17 November 2020)	Effective 1 December 2020
Reduction of import tariffs (from 35% to 20%) on vehicles specially designed for travelling on snow; golf cars and similar vehicles	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (27 May 2021) and Gecex Resolution No. 137 (24 December 2020)	Effective 1 January 2021
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on capital goods tariff lines, and informatics and telecommunications goods tariff lines (NCM Chapters 73; 84; 85; 86; 87; 90; 94), through the "ex-out" regime (mechanism designed to temporarily reduce import tariffs on capital goods and informatics and telecommunications equipment not locally produced)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (27 May 2021) and Gecex Resolution Nos. 116 and 117 (11 November 2020) 131 and 132 (24 December 2020)	Effective until 31 December 2021
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on disodium sulphate, under an import quota of 455,000 tonnes; on non-electrical articles of graphite or other carbon, under an import quota of 2,530 tonnes; and on certain caseinates, under an import quota of 1,224 tonnes	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (27 May 2021) and Gecex Resolution No. 192 (3 May 2021)	Effective 4 May 2021
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain vaccines and pharmaceutical products	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (27 May 2021) and Gecex Resolution No. 202 (4 May 2021)	Effective 5 May 2021
Reduction of import tariffs (to 2%) 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 April 2021), Gecex Resolution Nos. 108/2020 (22 October 2020), 114/2020 (11	

Measure	Source / Date	Status
	November 2020), 138/2020 (31 December 2020), 150/2021 (1 February 2021), 169/2021 (24 February 2021), 178/2021 (23 March 2021), 196/2021 (29 April 2021), 209/2021	
Canada		
Elimination of import tariffs on certain products of stainless steel, and on parts of railways or tramways locomotives or rolling-stock	Permanent Delegation of Canada to the WTO (21 May 2021)	Effective 23 April 2021
China		
Imposition of interim tariffs resulting in temporary reduction of import tariffs on certain products (in HS Chapters 1: 2; 3; 4; 5; 8; 12; 13; 14; 15; 17; 18; 19; 20; 21; 22; 23; 25; 27; 28; 29; 30; 31; 32; 33; 35; 37; 38; 39; 40; 41; 43; 44; 45; 48; 49; 52; 53; 56; 61; 62; 63; 68; 70; 71; 72; 74; 75; 76; 79; 81; 82; 84; 85; 87; 90; 91; 92; 96)	Customs Tariff of Import and Export of the People's Republic of China (2021)	Effective 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021
Elimination of import tariffs on anti-HIV drugs. Imports also exempted from VAT	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (26 April 2021)	Effective 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2030
Colombia		
Elimination of the temporary export quota on waste and scraps of copper and aluminium (38.675 tonnes) (originally implemented from 27 August 2020 to 26 February 2021)	Permanent Delegation of Colombia to the WTO (12 May 2021) and Decreto No. 1541, Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo (24 November 2020)	Effective 24 November 2020
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain electrical motorcycles	Permanent Delegation of Colombia to the WTO (12 May 2021) and Decreto No. 1796, Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo (30 December 2020)	Effective 14 January 2021 to 13 January 2023
Ecuador		
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on cotton not carded or combed, under an import quota of 6,700 metric tonnes (for the year 2021) (import quota of 7,035 metric tonnes for the year 2022; and import quota of 8,330 metric tonnes for the year 2023) for affiliate of the Ecuador Textile Industry Association (AITE) (non-affiliate members of the AITE are granted a quota of 648 metric tonnes for each year)	Permanent Delegation of Ecuador to the WTO (26 May 2021), Resolución COMEX No. 001-2021 (22 January 2021)	Effective 3 February 2021 to 31 December 2023
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on new pneumatic tyres of rubber for buses or lorries, under an import quota of 60,000 units	Permanent Delegation of Ecuador to the WTO (26 May 2021), Resolución COMEX Nos. 001-2021 (22 January 2021) and 003-2021 (1 March 2021)	Effective 15 March 2021, for 1 year
Indonesia		
Reduction of export duties (from 15% to 5%) on sheets for veneering (including those obtained by slicing laminated wood), for plywood or for similar laminated wood and other wood, sawn lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded, spliced or end-jointed, of a thickness not exceeding 6 mm	Permanent Delegation of Indonesia to the WTO (11 June 2021)	Effective 23 October 2020
Japan		
Elimination of import tariffs on dimethyl 2,6-naphthalenedicarboxylate; and on <i>m</i> -phenylenediamine	Permanent Delegation of Japan to the WTO (25 May 2021)	Effective 1 April 2021
Korea, Rep. of		
Temporary elimination of import tariff on eggs, under import quota	Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Korea to the WTO (26 May 2021)	Effective 27 January to 30 June 2021

Measure	Source / Date	Status
Mauritania		
Extension of the temporary elimination of import tariffs on wheat and meslin, vegetables, fruits, soya-bean oil and its fractions, and preparations suitable for infants (originally implemented on 25 March 2020 until 31 December 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Mauritania to the WTO (8 April 2021)	
Mexico		
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain trolley buses	Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the WTO (28 May 2021) and Diario Oficial de la Federación (Official Journal), 22 October 2020	Effective 22 October 2020 to 30 September 2024
Mongolia		
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on new agricultural tractors, machinery and equipment, irrigation systems, greenhouse equipment, forestry and poultry machinery, fertilizers and pesticides	Permanent Delegation of Mongolia to the WTO (18 May 2021)	Effective 23 April 2021 to 1 January 2022
Montenegro		
Implementation of the Customs Tariff Regulation for 2021 resulting in the decrease of import tariffs for certain products, e.g. poultry meat and edible offal, electrical machinery and equipment, and certain optical elements	Permanent Delegation of Montenegro (20 May 2021)	Effective 12 April 2021
Nepal		
Elimination of import tariffs on printed books, newspapers and other products of the printing industry	Permanent Delegation of Nepal to the WTO (24 May 2021)	Effective 9 November 2020
Paraguay		
Extension of the temporary elimination of import tariffs on capital goods (222 tariff lines at 8-digit level in NCM Chapters 84; 85; 86; 87; 89; 90; 94)	Permanent Delegation of Paraguay to the WTO (28 April 2021) and Decreto 4662 - Ministerio de Hacienda (31 December 2020)	Effective 1 January 2021 to 30 June 2021
Philippines		
Further reduction of import tariffs under the Expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) (63 tariff lines at 8-digit level in HS Chapters 32; 39; 84; 85; 90; 95)	Permanent Delegation of the Philippines to the WTO (26 May 2021)	Effective 1 January 2021
Extension of the temporary reduction of import tariffs (to 5%) on mechanically deboned meat of chicken and turkey	Permanent Delegation of the Philippines to the WTO (26 May 2021)	Effective 25 February 2021 to 31 December 2022
Temporary decrease of import tariffs on meat of swine, fresh, chilled or frozen	Permanent Delegation of the Philippines to the WTO (26 May 2021)	Effective 9 April 2021. Rates amended on 18 May 2021
Russian Federation (for Eurasian Economic Union)		
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain products, e.g. on certain organic chemicals (effective 19 December 2020 to 31 December 2023); on certain tanning or dyeing extracts (effective 19 December 2020 to 31 December 2023); on viscose rayon fibres (effective 30 January 2021 to 31 December 2021); on desiccated coconuts (effective 22 November 2020 to 31 December 2023); on photographic plates (effective 30 December 2020 to 31 December 2023); on fluorspar (effective 26 February 2021 to 28 February 2022); on natural calcium phosphates (effective 5 January 2021 to 4 January 2024); on aluminium fluorides (effective 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2023); on precious and semi-precious stones (effective until 31 December 2022); on carbon-graphite electrodes (effective 21 March 2021 to 31 March 2022); on fishing cages (effective 31 March 2021 to 31 March 2022); on certain raw	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (28 May 2021)	Effective: see individual dates in measure

Measure	Source / Date	Status
materials of mineral origin containing precious metals (effective 29 April 2021 to 31 December 2024); on titanium waste and scrap (effective 1 March 2021 to 31 March 2024); on graphite electrodes (effective 3 April 2021 to 31 December 2022); on acrylic polymers in primary forms (effective 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2023)		
Sri Lanka		
Amendments introduced in the Export Development Act, No. 40 of 1979, resulting in the decrease of CESS levy on certain imported articles of apparel and clothing accessories	Permanent Delegation of Sri Lanka to the WTO (11 June 2021)	Effective January 2021
Amendments introduced in the Special Commodity Levy Act, No. 48 of 2007 (Order under Section 2), resulting in the elimination of the special commodity levy (SCL) on certain imported fish and prepared and preserved fish products	Permanent Delegation of Sri Lanka to the WTO (11 June 2021)	Effective January 2021
Amendments introduced in the Export Development Act, No. 40 of 1979 (Order under Section 14), resulting in the decrease of the export development board levy "CESS" on natural rubber, balata, gutta-percha, guayule, chicle and similar natural gums, in primary forms or in plates, sheets or strip. Elimination of the export "CESS" on certain natural sands	Permanent Delegation of Sri Lanka to the WTO (11 June 2021)	Effective 13 January 2021
Switzerland		
Increase of the import quota (by 600 tonnes) on bovine meat not further prepared than seasoned	Permanent Delegation of Switzerland to the WTO (19 May 2021)	Effective 1 January 2021
Turkey		
Temporary elimination of import tariffs on wheat and meslin, barley and maize (corn) (effective 21 October 2020 to 30 April 2021); on rape, colza and safflower seeds, sunflower crude oil, sunflower seed oil and rape, colza, safflower oil (effective 20 March 2021 to 30 June 2021). Temporary reduction of import tariffs (from 19.3% to 9%) on sunflower seeds (effective 5 November 2020 to 30 June 2021), red lentils (effective 5 November 2020 to 30 April 2021); (from 36% to 10%) on sunflower seed oil (effective 25 October 2020 to 31 December 2020); (to 5%) on rice in the husk (paddy or rough), husked (brown); (from 36% to 10%) rice, and (from 45% to 15%) on other rice	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (26 May 2021)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Elimination of the temporary increase of import tariffs (to 5%) on certain iron and steel products (HS Chapter 72) (originally implemented on 18 April to 31 December 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (26 May 2021)	Effective 1 January 2021
United Kingdom		
Implementation of the UK's Integrated Schedule. The UK Global Tariff (UKGT) applies to all trading partners with whom the United Kingdom has no alternative agreements, such as FTAs, other regional trade arrangements, or preferential access scheme. The tariff rate applied under the UKGT is lower than that previously applied (under the European Union's CET) for over 5,600 tariff lines at 8-digit level	United Kingdom Mission to Geneva (27 May 2021). Viewed at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tariffs-on-goods-imported-into-the-uk	Effective 31 December 2020 (11 pm)

Recorded, but not confirmed information

Measure	Source / Date	Status
Bangladesh		
Reduction of import tariffs on rice	Daily Bangladesh (7 January 2021)	Effective January 2021
Nigeria		
Reduction of import tariffs on certain products, e.g. (from 35% to 5%) on tractors; (from 35% to 10%) on motor vehicles for the transport of more than 10 persons, and motor vehicles for the transport of goods; (from 30% to 5%) on motor vehicles	Finance Act 2020. Viewed at: https://firs.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/finance-act-2020_signed.pdf	Effective 1 January 2021

Note: For detailed information about HS codes, refer to the TMDb (https://tmdb.wto.org/en/explore#page=1&members=C032&q20=0&measure_type=5&after_dt=2018-10-16&before_dt=2019-09-01&affected_members=&product_chapters=).

Source: WTO Secretariat.

ANNEX 2 - TRADE REMEDIES¹

(MID-OCTOBER 2020 TO MID-MAY 2021)

Confirmed information²

Measure	Source / Date	Status
Argentina		
Termination on 20 October 2020 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of mechanical appliances (whether or not hand-operated) for projecting, dispersing or spraying liquids or powders; fire extinguishers, whether or not charged; spray guns and similar appliances; and steam or sand blasting machines and similar jet projecting machines from China (initiated on 18 April 2019)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/ARG, 19 March 2021	
Initiation on 10 November 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain motorcycle parts and accessories (<i>cadenas</i>) from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/ARG, 19 March 2021	
Initiation on 10 November 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of isocyanates 80:20 from the United States	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/ARG/Corr.1, 23 March 2021	
Termination on 9 December 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of non-adjustable hand-operated spanners and wrenches from China, India, and Chinese Taipei (investigation initiated on 9 June 2014 and definitive duty imposed on 10 December 2015)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/ARG, 19 March 2021	
Termination on 16 December 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of zip fastener chains and slides from China and Peru (imposed on 8 October 2009)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/ARG, 19 March 2021	
Initiation on 12 January 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of electric water heaters with steel tanks, of a kind used for domestic purposes, with a capacity of 150 litres or less from China	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (18 May 2021) and Resolución No. 5/2021 - Ministerio de Desarrollo Productivo, Secretaría de Industria, Economía del Conocimiento y Gestión Comercial Externa (11 January 2021)	
Termination on 19 January 2021 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of winches and capstans powered by electric motors from Turkey (initiated on 30 July 2019)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (18 May 2021) and Resolución No. 15/2021 Ministerio de Desarrollo Productivo, Secretaría de Industria, Economía del Conocimiento y Gestión Comercial Externa (15 January 2021)	
Termination on 21 January 2021 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of mowers for lawns, parks or sports-grounds from China (initiated on 4 February 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (18 May 2021) and Resolución No. 16/2021 - Ministerio de Desarrollo Productivo, Secretaría de Industria, Economía del Conocimiento y Gestión Comercial Externa (19 January 2021)	

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 with the provisions of any WTO agreement.

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

Measure	Source / Date	Status
Initiation on 26 February 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of ball bearings from India	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (18 May 2021) and Resolución No. 46/2021 - Ministerio de Desarrollo Productivo, Secretaría de Industria, Economía del Conocimiento y Gestión Comercial Externa (25 February 2021)	
Initiation on 26 February 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of glass cubes and other glass smallware, whether or not on a backing, for mosaics or similar decorative purposes from Thailand and Turkey	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (18 May 2021) and Resolución No. 47/2021 - Ministerio de Desarrollo Productivo, Secretaría de Industria, Economía del Conocimiento y Gestión Comercial Externa (25 February 2021)	
Initiation on 14 May 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of monofilament of which any cross-sectional dimension exceeds 1 mm, rods, sticks and profile shapes, whether or not surface-worked but not otherwise worked, of plastics (<i>perfiles de polímeros de cloruro de vinilo</i>) from Turkey	Resolución No. 238/2021 - Ministerio de Desarrollo Productivo, Secretaría de Industria, Economía del Conocimiento y Gestión Comercial Externa (13 May 2021)	
Australia		
Termination on 19 November 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of steel reinforcing bar from Singapore and Chinese Taipei (investigation initiated on 17 October 2014. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 13 March and 19 November 2015, respectively)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/AUS, 19 April 2021	
Initiation on 15 March 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of quenched and tempered steel plate from the United States	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (26 May 2021) and Anti-Dumping Notice No. 2021/31 (15 March 2021)	
Termination on 17 March 2021 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of aluminium micro-extrusions from China (initiated on 17 February 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (26 May 2021) and Anti-Dumping Notice No. 2021/38 (17 March 2021)	
Initiation on 22 March 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain copper tube from Viet Nam	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (26 May 2021) and Anti-Dumping Notice No. 2021/41 (22 March 2021)	
Initiation on 27 April 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of clear float glass from Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (26 May 2021) and Anti-Dumping Notice No. 2021/54 (27 April 2021)	
Initiation on 27 April 2021 of countervailing investigation on imports of clear float glass from Malaysia	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (26 May 2021) and Anti-Dumping Notice No. 2021/54 (27 April 2021)	
Brazil		
Temporary suspension on 6 November 2020, of anti-dumping duties on imports of iron pipes from China, India and the United Arab Emirates (investigation initiated on 8 May 2018 and definitive duty imposed on 8 November 2019)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (27 May 2021) and Gecex Resolution No. 113 (5 November 2020)	
Termination on 28 December 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of polypropylene resin from the Republic of Korea (investigation initiated on 19 March 2013. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 17 January and 28 August 2014, respectively)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/BRA, 19 April 2021	

Measure	Source / Date	Status
Initiation on 18 February 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of sodium hydroxide (caustic soda) from the United States	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (27 May 2021) and Circular No. 7 - Ministério de Economia, Secretaria Especial de Comércio Exterior e Assuntos Internacionais (17 February 2021)	
Termination on 19 February 2021 of anti-dumping duties on imports of synthetic fibre blankets from China (investigation initiated on 5 May 2009 and definitive duty imposed on 29 April 2010)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (27 May 2021)	
Termination on 19 February 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of clear float flat glass from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States (investigation initiated on 15 July 2013. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 14 July and 19 December 2014, respectively)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (27 May 2021) and Circular No. 10 - Ministério de Economia, Secretaria Especial de Comércio Exterior e Assuntos Internacionais (18 February 2021)	
Temporary suspension on 19 February 2021 of anti-dumping duties on imports of clear float flat glass from Mexico (investigation initiated on 15 July 2013. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 14 July and 19 December 2014, respectively)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (27 May 2021)	
Initiation on 22 February 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of citric acid, and salt and esters of citric acid from Colombia and Thailand	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (27 May 2021) and Circular No. 12 - Ministério de Economia, Secretaria Especial de Comércio Exterior e Assuntos Internacionais (19 February 2021)	
Initiation on 25 February 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of flat-rolled products of stainless steel, of a width of 600 mm or more (304) from Indonesia and South Africa	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (27 May 2021) and Circular No. 15 - Ministério de Economia, Secretaria Especial de Comércio Exterior e Assuntos Internacionais (24 February 2021)	
Initiation on 5 March 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of high tenacity yarn of polyesters, whether or not textured from China and India	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (27 May 2021) and Circular No. 18 - Ministério de Economia, Secretaria Especial de Comércio Exterior e Assuntos Internacionais (4 March 2021)	
Termination on 22 March 2021 of anti-dumping duties on imports of radial tyres of rubber for buses and lorries from South Africa and Chinese Taipei (investigation initiated on 10 June 2013 and definitive duty imposed on 24 November 2014)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (27 May 2021) and Circular No. 20 - Ministério de Economia, Secretaria Especial de Comércio Exterior e Assuntos Internacionais (19 March 2021)	
Temporary suspension on 22 March 2021 of anti-dumping duties on imports of radial tyres of rubber for buses and lorries from Japan (investigation initiated on 10 June 2013 and definitive duty imposed on 24 November 2014)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (27 May 2021)	
Termination on 29 April 2021 of anti-dumping duties on imports of vacuum plastic tubes for blood collection from Germany (investigation initiated on 4 November 2013. Definitive duty imposed on 30 April 2015. Duty temporarily suspended on 31 March 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (27 May 2021) and Gecex Resolution No. 193 and Secex Circular No. 29 (29 April 2021)	

Measure	Source / Date	Status
Canada		
Termination on 16 October 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of corrosion-resistant steel sheet 2 from the United Arab Emirates and Viet Nam (investigation initiated on 8 November 2019 and provisional duty imposed on 20 March 2020)	WTO document G/SCM/N/371/CAN, 17 March 2021	
Termination on 16 November 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of corrosion-resistant steel sheet 2 from the United Arab Emirates (investigation initiated on 8 November 2019 and provisional duty imposed on 20 March 2020)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/CAN, 15 March 2021; and Permanent Delegation of Canada to the WTO (21 May 2021)	
Initiation on 4 December 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of concrete reinforcing bar 4 from Oman and the Russian Federation	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/CAN, 15 March 2021; and Permanent Delegation of Canada to the WTO (26 April 2021)	Provisional duty imposed on 23 March 2021
Initiation on 17 December 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of grinding media from India	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/CAN, 15 March 2021; and Canada Border Services Agency - Notice of preliminary determinations GM 2020 IN (30 April 2021)	Provisional duty imposed on 30 April 2021
Initiation on 17 December 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of certain grinding media from India	WTO document G/SCM/N/371/CAN, 17 March 2021; and Canada Border Services Agency - Notice of preliminary determinations GM 2020 IN (30 April 2021)	Provisional duty imposed on 30 April 2021
Initiation on 21 December 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of upholstered domestic seating from China and Viet Nam	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/CAN, 15 March 2021; and Canada Border Services Agency - Notice of preliminary determinations UDS 2020 IN (5 May 2021)	Provisional duty imposed on 5 May 2021
Initiation on 21 December 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of upholstered domestic seating from China and Viet Nam	WTO document G/SCM/N/371/CAN, 17 March 2021; and Canada Border Services Agency - Notice of preliminary determinations UDS 2020 IN (5 May 2021)	Provisional duty imposed on 5 May 2021
Termination on 30 December 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of certain oil country tubular goods from the Philippines (investigation initiated on 21 July 2014. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 3 December 2014 and 2 April 2015, respectively)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/CAN, 15 March 2021	
Termination on 5 February 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of heavy plate from Turkey (investigation initiated on 27 May 2020 and provisional duty imposed on 9 October 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Canada to the WTO (21 May 2021)	
Termination on 19 February 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of decorative and other non-structural plywood from China (investigation initiated on 11 June 2020 and provisional duty imposed on 23 October 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Canada to the WTO (21 May 2021)	
Termination on 19 February 2021 of countervailing investigation on imports of decorative and other non-structural plywood from China (investigation initiated on 11 June 2020 and provisional duty imposed on 23 October 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Canada to the WTO (21 May 2021)	

Measure	Source / Date	Status
Initiation on 15 April 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain small power transformers from Austria, the Republic of Korea and Chinese Taipei	Permanent Delegation of Canada to the WTO (21 May 2021) and Canada Border Services Agency - Notice of Initiation of Investigation SPT 2021 IN (15 April 2021)	
Chile		
Termination on 25 November 2020 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of steel grinding balls forged for mills of less than 4 inches in diameter from China (initiated on 27 April 2020)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/CHL, 31 March 2021	
China		
Termination on 2 November 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of adipic acid from the European Union, the Republic of Korea, and the United States (investigation initiated on 10 November 2008. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 26 June and 2 November 2009, respectively)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/CHN, 9 March 2021	
Egypt		
Initiation on 29 December 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of Edam and Gouda cheese from the Netherlands	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/EGY, 25 February 2021	
Initiation on 29 December 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of monofilament of polymers of vinyl chloride (UPVC) from Turkey	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/EGY, 25 February 2021	
Initiation on 29 December 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC) from the United States	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/EGY, 25 February 2021	
European Union		
Initiation on 21 October 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of steel wind towers from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/EU, 16 April 2021	
Initiation on 22 October 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of aluminium converter foil from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/EU, 16 April 2021	
Termination on 9 November 2020 (without measure) of countervailing investigation on imports of certain hot-rolled stainless steel sheets and coils "SSHR" from China and Indonesia (initiated on 10 October 2019)	WTO document G/SCM/N/371/EU, 10 March 2021	
Initiation on 4 December 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of converter foil from China	WTO document G/SCM/N/371/EU, 10 March 2021	
Termination on 8 December 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of seamless pipes and tubes fittings of iron or steel from China (imposed on 24 September 2009)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/EU, 16 April 2021	
Termination on 19 December 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of certain aluminium foils from the Russian Federation (investigation initiated on 8 October 2014. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 4 July and 18 December 2015, respectively)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/EU, 16 April 2021	
Initiation on 21 December 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain iron or steel fasteners from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/EU, 16 April 2021	
Initiation on 21 December 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of optical fibre cables from China	WTO document G/SCM/N/371/EU, 10 March 2021	
Initiation on 17 February 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain graphite electrode systems from China	Commission Notice 2021/C 57/03 (17 February 2021)	
Initiation on 17 February 2021 of countervailing investigation on imports of stainless steel cold-rolled flat products from India and Indonesia	Commission Notice 2021/C 57/04 (17 February 2021)	
Initiation on 18 February 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of calcium silicon from China	Commission Notice 2021/C 58/15 (18 February 2021)	
Initiation on 18 February 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of superabsorbent polymers from the Republic of Korea	Commission Notice 2021/C 58/16 (18 February 2021)	

Measure	Source / Date	Status
India		
Termination on 20 October 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of hexa methylene tetramine "hexamine" from China and the United Arab Emirates (investigation on 25 March 2014 and definitive duty imposed on 21 October 2015)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/IND, 19 April 2021	
Initiation on 23 October 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of low density polyethylene "LDPE" from Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and the United States	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/IND, 19 April 2021	
Termination on 16 November 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of diketopyrrolo pyrrole pigment red 254 (DPP red 254) from China and Switzerland (investigation initiated on 20 June 2014 and definitive duty imposed on 17 August 2015)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/IND, 19 April 2021	
Termination on 17 November 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of caustic soda-III from China and the Republic of Korea (imposed on 26 December 2002)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/IND, 19 April 2021	
Termination on 20 November 2020 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of coated/plated tin mill flat-rolled steel products from the European Union, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the United States (initiated on 28 June 2019)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/IND, 19 April 2021	
Termination on 20 November 2020 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of mono ethylene glycol (MEG or ethylene glycol) from Kuwait, Oman, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates (initiated on 9 December 2019)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/IND, 19 April 2021	
Termination on 30 November 2020 of anti-dumping duties on acrylic fibre from Thailand (imposed on 25 April 1997)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/IND, 19 April 2021	
Termination on 1 December 2020 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of acrylic fibre from Belarus, the European Union, Peru and Ukraine (initiated on 24 September 2019)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/IND/Rev.1, 26 April 2021	
Termination on 3 December 2020 of anti-dumping duties on melamine tableware and kitchenware products from China, Thailand, and Viet Nam (investigation initiated on 28 October 2014 and definitive duty imposed on 4 December 2015)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/IND, 19 April 2021	
Termination on 3 December 2020 of anti-dumping duties on plastic processing machinery from China (imposed on 12 May 2009)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/IND, 19 April 2021	
Termination on 3 December 2020 of anti-dumping duties on acrylonitrile butadiene rubber from the Republic of Korea (imposed on 31 January 1997)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/IND, 19 April 2021	
Termination on 3 December 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of nylon tyre cord fabric-II from China (imposed on 26 July 2004)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/IND, 19 April 2021	
Termination on 4 December 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of hot-rolled flat products of stainless steel of 304 series from China, the Republic of Korea and Malaysia (investigation initiated on 11 March 2014 and definitive duty imposed on 5 June 2015)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/IND, 19 April 2021	
Termination on 7 December 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of gliclazide from China (investigation initiated on 28 August 2014 and definitive duty imposed on 8 December 2015)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/IND, 19 April 2021	
Termination on 13 December 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of albendazole from China (investigation initiated on 11 September 2014 and definitive duty imposed on 14 December 2015)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/IND, 19 April 2021	
Termination on 14 December 2020 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of choline chloride in all forms from China, Malaysia and Viet Nam (initiated on 1 October 2019)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/IND/Rev.1, 26 April 2021	
Initiation on 17 December 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of caustic soda from the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Oman and Qatar	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/IND, 19 April 2021	

Measure	Source / Date	Status
Initiation on 24 December 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of aluminium primary foundry alloy ingot from Malaysia	Notification F. No. 6/43/2020-DGTR (Case No. OI (CVD) 7/2020), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (24 December 2020)	
Termination on 30 December 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of all fully drawn yarn from China and Thailand (imposed on 26 March 2009)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/IND, 19 April 2021	
Termination on 31 December 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of carbon black from China and the Russian Federation (investigation initiated on 26 December 2008. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 30 July 2009 and 28 January 2010)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/IND, 19 April 2021	
Termination on 9 January 2021 of anti-dumping duties on imports of Phenol-I from South Africa (imposed on 13 August 2002)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (8 June 2021)	
Termination on 18 January 2021 of countervailing duties on imports of castings of wind operated electricity generators from China (investigation initiated on 29 May 2014 and definitive duty imposed on 19 January 2016)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (8 June 2021)	
Termination on 20 January 2021 of anti-dumping duties on imports of plain medium density fibre board from China, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand (imposed on 8 October 2009)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (8 June 2021)	
Termination on 27 January 2021 of anti-dumping duties on mulberry raw silk from China (investigation initiated on 9 December 2014 and definitive duty imposed on 28 January 2016)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (8 June 2021)	
Termination on 31 January 2021 of anti-dumping duties on imports of cold rolled flat products of stainless steel (cold rolled flat products of stainless steel of width greater than 1250 mm) from China, the European Union, the Republic of Korea, South Africa, Chinese Taipei, Thailand and the United States (imposed on 22 April 2009)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (8 June 2021)	
Termination on 31 January 2021 of anti-dumping duties on methylene chloride from China and the Russian Federation (investigation initiated on 7 April 2015. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 8 December 2015 and 31 May 2016, respectively)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (8 June 2021)	
Termination on 31 January 2021 of anti-dumping duties on imports of phthalic anhydride from Japan and Russian Federation (investigation initiated on 9 May 2014 and definitive duty imposed on 4 December 2015)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (8 June 2021)	
Termination on 7 February 2021 of anti-dumping duties on imports of float glass from China (imposed on 7 January 2003)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (8 June 2021)	
Initiation on 17 February 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of plastic processing machines "PPM" from China	Notification F. No. 6/45/2020-DGTR (Case No. AD - OI - 46/2020), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (17 February 2021)	
Initiation on 24 February 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of polyurethane leather which includes any kind of textile coated one sided or both sided with polyurethane from China	Notification F. No. 6/55/2020-DGTR (Case No. AD - OI - 46/2020), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (24 February 2021)	

Measure	Source / Date	Status
Initiation on 25 February 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of n, n' -dicyclohexyl carbodiimide "DCC" from China	Notification F. No. 6/53/2020-DGTR (Case No. AD - OI - 45/2020), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (25 February 2021)	
Initiation on 26 February 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of melamine from the European Union, Japan, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates	Notification F. No. 6/1/2021-DGTR (Case No. AD - OI - 1/2021), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (26 February 2021)	
Termination on 7 March 2021 of anti-dumping duties on imports of polypropylene from Singapore (investigation initiated on 24 February 2009. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 30 July 2009 and 19 November 2010, respectively)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (8 June 2021)	
Termination on 14 March 2021 of anti-dumping duties on imports of ofloxacin from China (investigation initiated on 4 October 2016 and definitive duty imposed on 15 March 2018)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (8 June 2021)	
Termination on 14 March 2021 of anti-dumping duties on plastic processing machines or injection moulding machines from Malaysia, the Philippines, Chinese Taipei, and Viet Nam (investigation initiated on 14 October 2014 and definitive duty imposed on 15 March 2016)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (8 June 2021)	
Termination on 20 March 2021 of anti-dumping duties on imports of resorcinol from China and Japan (investigation initiated on 13 October 2016 and definitive duty imposed on 21 March 2018)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (8 June 2021)	
Initiation on 30 March 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of fluoro backsheet from China	Notification F. No. 6/3/2021-DGTR (Case No. OI - 3/2021), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (30 March 2021)	
Initiation on 31 March 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain rubber chemicals viz., TDQ, PVI and CBS from China, the European Union and the Russian Federation	Notification F. No. 6/4/2021-DGTR (Case No. AD (OI) - 4/2021), Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce - Directorate General of Trade Remedies (31 March 2021)	
Termination on 23 April 2021 of anti-dumping duties on imports of methyl ethyl ketone "MEK" from China, Japan, South Africa and Chinese Taipei (investigation initiated on 9 February 2017 and definitive duty imposed on 24 April 2018)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (8 June 2021)	
Termination on 25 April 2021 of anti-dumping duties on imports of synchronous digital hierarchy (SDH) transmission equipment from China and Israel (investigation initiated on 21 April 2009. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 8 December 2009 and 16 December 2010, respectively)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (8 June 2021)	
Termination on 1 May 2021 of anti-dumping duties on imports of measuring tapes from Malaysia, Chinese Taipei, Thailand and Viet Nam (investigation initiated on 27 July 2015 and definitive duty imposed on 2 May 2016)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (8 June 2021)	
Termination on 12 May 2021 of anti-dumping duties on imports of recordable digital versatile disc DVDs of all kinds from Thailand and Viet Nam (investigation initiated on 5 May 2009. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 12 April and 28 September 2010, respectively)	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (8 June 2021)	

Measure	Source / Date	Status
Initiation on 15 May 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of solar cells from China, Thailand and Viet Nam	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (8 June 2021)	
Indonesia		
Initiation on 26 October 2020 of safeguard investigation on imports of cigarette paper	WTO document G/SG/N/6/IDN/37, 28 October 2020	
Initiation on 18 November 2020 of safeguard investigation on imports of expansible polystyrene "EPS"	WTO document G/SG/N/6/IDN/38, 18 November 2020	
Malaysia		
Termination on 11 January 2021 (without measure) of safeguard investigation on imports of ceramic floor and wall tiles (initiated on 13 September 2020)	WTO document G/SG/N/9/MYS/3, 15 January 2021	
Mexico		
Termination on 3 December 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of concrete steel nails from China (provisional and definitive duties imposed on 29 March and 29 November 2004, respectively)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/MEX, 11 March 2021	
Termination on 4 December 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of steel plate in sheets from China (investigation initiated on 26 July 2013. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 31 January and 14 October 2014, respectively)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/MEX, 11 March 2021	
Termination on 4 December 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of carbon steel tubing with straight longitudinal seams from the United Kingdom (provisional and definitive duties imposed on 26 May 2009 and 5 January 2010, respectively)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/MEX, 11 March 2021	
Termination on 6 April 2021 of anti-dumping duties on imports of blenders for domestic and commercial use from China (investigation initiated on 9 August 2013. Provisional and definitive duties imposed on 14 April and 9 December 2014, respectively)	Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the WTO (28 May 2021) and Diario Oficial de la Federación (Official Journal), 6 April 2021	
Morocco		
Initiation on 24 December 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of machine-made carpets from China, Egypt and Jordan	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/MAR, 18 February 2021	
Initiation on 23 April 2021 of safeguard investigation on imports of lighting columns	WTO document G/SG/N/6/MAR/13, 27 April 2021	
New Zealand		
Initiation on 30 October 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of frozen potato fries and wedges from Belgium and the Netherlands	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/NZL, 16 April 2021	
Termination on 21 November 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of galvanized wire from Indonesia (initiated on 25 May 2020)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/NZL, 16 April 2021	
Peru		
Initiation on 1 November 2020 of safeguard investigation on imports of clothing (HS Chapters 61; 62; 63)	WTO document G/SG/N/6/PER/3, 17 November 2020	
Initiation on 9 December 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of slide fasteners and parts thereof from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/PER, 22 April 2021	
Russian Federation (for Eurasian Economic Union)		
Termination on 22 January 2021 of anti-dumping duties on imports of steel railway wheels from Ukraine (investigation initiated on 17 October 2014. Definitive duty imposed on 22 January 2016 and temporarily suspended from 25 August 2019 to 1 June 2020)	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (28 May 2021)	
Termination on 30 November 2020 of safeguard duties on imports of certain flat-rolled steel products (investigation initiated on 7 August 2018 and duty imposed on 1 December 2019)	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (28 May 2021)	

Measure	Source / Date	Status
Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu (Chinese Taipei)		
Initiation on 28 October 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of ceramic tiles from India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Viet Nam	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/TPKM, 2 February 2021	
Thailand		
Initiation on 18 November 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of flat hot-rolled steel in coils and not in coils from Egypt and Viet Nam	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/THA, 5 February 2021	
Turkey		
Initiation on 17 October 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of low density polyethylene from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/TUR, 12 March 2021	
Initiation on 9 January 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of hot-rolled flat steel from the European Union and the Republic of Korea	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (26 May 2021)	
Termination on 14 January 2021 of anti-dumping duties on imports of polystyrene from Egypt (investigation initiated on 30 November 2014 and definitive duty imposed on 14 January 2016)	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (26 May 2021)	
Initiation on 27 March 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of cocoa butter from Malaysia	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (26 May 2021)	
Initiation on 1 April 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of diesel or semi-diesel engines not exceeding 15 kW from China	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (26 May 2021)	
Initiation on 12 May 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of dental implants from the Republic of Korea	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (26 May 2021)	
Ukraine		
Initiation on 25 November 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of thermal insulation materials from Belarus and the Russian Federation	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/UKR, 21 April 2021	
Initiation on 19 December 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of coated rolled carbon steel products from China	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/UKR, 21 April 2021	
Termination on 16 January 2021 (without measure) of anti-dumping investigation on imports of aluminium car wheels from China and the Russian Federation (initiated on 19 July 2019)	Permanent Delegation of Ukraine to the WTO (13 May 2021)	
Initiation on 16 February 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of particle board from Belarus and the Russian Federation	Permanent Delegation of Ukraine to the WTO (13 May 2021)	
Initiation on 21 April 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of potato starch from Belarus	Permanent Delegation of Ukraine to the WTO (13 May 2021)	
Initiation on 21 April 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain articles of asphalt or of similar material from Belarus and the Russian Federation	Permanent Delegation of Ukraine to the WTO (13 May 2021)	
Initiation on 28 April 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of wires from China	Permanent Delegation of Ukraine to the WTO (13 May 2021)	
United States		
Initiation on 26 October 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain aluminium foil from Armenia, Brazil, Oman, Turkey, and the Russian Federation	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/USA, 15 April 2021	
Initiation on 28 October 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of certain aluminium foil from Oman and Turkey	WTO document G/SCM/N/371/USA, 7 April 2021	
Initiation on 3 November 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of thermal paper from Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Spain	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/USA, 15 April 2021	
Initiation on 16 November 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of utility scale wind towers from India, Malaysia and Spain	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/USA, 15 April 2021	
Initiation on 16 November 2020 of countervailing investigation on imports of utility scale wind towers from India and Malaysia	WTO document G/SCM/N/371/USA, 7 April 2021	

Measure	Source / Date	Status
Initiation on 23 November 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of polyester textured yarn from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/USA, 15 April 2021	
Termination on 5 November 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain glass containers from China (investigation initiated on 21 October 2019 and provisional duty imposed on 29 April 2020)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/USA, 15 April 2021	
Termination on 9 December 2020 of anti-dumping duties on imports of chloropicrin from China (imposed on 22 March 1984)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/USA, 15 April 2021	
Termination on 11 December 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of forged steel fluid end blocks from India (investigation initiated on 15 January 2020 and provisional duty imposed on 23 July 2020)	WTO document G/ADP/N/350/USA, 15 April 2021	
Initiation on 8 February 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of pentafluoroethane (R-125) from China	International Trade Commission, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-662 and 731-TA-1554 (preliminary), Federal Register 5247, Vol. 86, No. 11 (19 January 2021)	
Initiation on 8 February 2021 of countervailing investigation on imports of pentafluoroethane (R-125) from China	International Trade Commission, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-662 and 731-TA-1554 (preliminary), Federal Register 5247, Vol. 86, No. 11 (19 January 2021)	
Initiation on 23 February 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of granular polytetrafluoroethylene "PTFE" resin from India and the Russian Federation	International Trade Commission, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-663-664 and 731-TA-1555-1556 (preliminary), Federal Register 7876, Vol. 86, No. 20 (2 February 2021)	
Initiation on 23 February 2021 of countervailing investigation on imports of granular polytetrafluoroethylene "PTFE" resin from India and the Russian Federation	International Trade Commission, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-663-664 and 731-TA-1555-1556 (preliminary), Federal Register 7876, Vol. 86, No. 20 (2 February 2021)	
Initiation on 25 March 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain mobile access equipment and subassemblies thereof from China	International Trade Administration, Investigation No. A-570-139, Federal Register 15922, Vol. 86, No. 56 (25 March 2021)	
Initiation on 25 March 2021 of countervailing investigation on imports of certain mobile access equipment and subassemblies thereof from China	International Trade Administration, Investigation No. C-570-140, Federal Register 15905, Vol. 86, No. 56 (25 March 2021)	
Initiation on 26 April 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of walk-behind snow throwers from China	International Trade Commission, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-666 and 731-TA-1558 (preliminary), Federal Register 17852, Vol. 86, No. 64 (6 April 2021)	
Initiation on 26 April 2021 of countervailing investigation on imports of walk-behind snow throwers from China	International Trade Commission, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-666 and 731-TA-1558 (preliminary), Federal Register 17852, Vol. 86, No. 64 (6 April 2021)	

Measure	Source / Date	Status
Initiation on 27 April 2021 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of organic soybean meal from India	International Trade Commission, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-667 and 731-TA-1559 (preliminary), Federal Register 18296, Vol. 86, No. 66 (8 April 2021)	
Initiation on 27 April 2021 of countervailing investigation on imports of organic soybean meal from India	International Trade Commission, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-667 and 731-TA-1559 (preliminary), Federal Register 18296, Vol. 86, No. 66 (8 April 2021)	
Termination on 2 April 2021 (without measure) of safeguard investigation on imports of fresh, chilled, or frozen blueberries (initiated on 29 September 2020)	WTO document G/SG/N/9/USA/5, 6 April 2021	
Viet Nam		
Initiation on 11 December 2020 of anti-dumping investigation on imports of sorbitol from China, India and Indonesia	Permanent Delegation of Viet Nam to the WTO (1 June 2021)	

Note 1: Until the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020, the European Union's trade defence regulations and measures continued to apply to and in the United Kingdom, and the full list of measures in force can be found in the European Union's semi-annual report for anti-dumping measures covering the period of July-December 2020.

Note 2: For detailed information about HS codes, refer to the TMDB (https://tmdb.wto.org/en/explore#page=1&members=C032&q20=0&measure_type=5&after_dt=2018-10-16&before_dt=2019-09-01&affected_members=&product_chapters=).

Source: WTO Secretariat.

ANNEX 3 - OTHER TRADE-RELATED MEASURES¹

(MID-OCTOBER 2020 TO MID-MAY 2021)

Confirmed information²

Measure	Source / Date	Status
Argentina		
Extension of the temporary export ban on ferrous waste and scrap, remelting scrap ingots of iron or steel; copper waste and scrap; and aluminium waste and scrap	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (18 May 2021) and Decreto No. 1040/2020, Nomenclatura Común del Mercosur (23 December 2020)	Effective 25 December 2020, for 360 days
Extension of the statistical fee (<i>tasa de estadística</i>) for all imports until 31 December 2021. Certain exemptions in force	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (18 May 2021) and Decreto No. 1057/2020, Ley de Solidaridad Social y Reactivación Productiva en el Marco de la Emergencia Pública (23 December 2020)	Effective 31 December 2020 to 31 December 2021
Amendment introduced in the list of products with export duties (<i>derechos de exportación</i>), resulting in the increase of export duties on certain products (17 tariff lines at 8-digit level)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (18 May 2021) and Decreto No. 1060/2020 - Nomenclatura Común del Mercosur - Derechos de Exportación (30 December 2020)	Effective 1 January 2021
Temporary suspension of the register of sworn declarations of foreign sales of agricultural products for maize exports with shipping permit dated before 1 March 2021, in order to guarantee domestic supply requirements	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (18 May 2021) and Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca - Dirección de Prensa y Comunicación - Noticias (30 December 2020). Viewed at: https://www.magyp.gob.ar/sitio/areas/prensa/index.php?accion=noticia&id_info=201230140611	
Exportable surplus of maize for the remainder of the 2019/20 season set at 30,000 tonnes/day	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (18 May 2021) and Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca - Dirección de Prensa y Comunicación - Noticias (11 January 2021). Viewed at: https://www.magyp.gob.ar/sitio/areas/prensa/index.php?accion=noticia&id_info=210110234753	Effective January 2021 to 1 March 2021
Updated list of "criterion values" (<i>valores criterio de carácter preventivo</i>) for imports of certain products, e.g. on radiators for central heating (effective 30 March 2021), parts and accessories for certain musical instruments (effective 14 April 2021), on artificial teeth (effective 14 April 2021), on headphones (effective 14 April 2021), and on certain woven fabrics of synthetic staple fibres, containing 85% or more by weight of polyester staple fibres (effective 14 April 2021), from specific origins	Administración Federal de Ingresos Públicos - Dirección General de Aduanas, Resolución General Nos. 4952/2021 (26 March 2021), 4961/2021, 4963/2021, 4964/2021, and 4965/2021 (12 April 2021)	Effective: see individual dates in measure

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 with the provisions of any WTO agreement.

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

Measure	Source / Date	Status
Reference values for exports on certain products, e.g. cranberries (effective 15 December 2020), tomatoes (effective 18 March 2021), meat of bovine animals (effective 29 January and 19 March 2021), swine meat (effective 19 March 2021), garlic (21 April 2021), apples and pears (effective 26 April 2021), and frozen bovine meat (effective 10 May 2021), for certain specified destinations	Administración Federal de Ingresos Públicos - Dirección General de Aduanas, Resolución General Nos. 4880/2020 (11 December 2020), 4914/2021 (26 January 2021), 4943/2021 (12 March 2021), 4946/2021 (15 March 2021), 4948/2021 (16 March 2021), 4969/2021 (19 April 2021); 4974/2021 (22 April 2021) and 4985/2021 (6 May 2021)	Effective: see individual dates in measure
Bolivia, Plurinational State of		
Implementation of a domestic supply certificate and fair price (<i>Certificado de Abastecimiento Interno y Precio Justo (CAIPJ)</i>) requirement on exports of bovine meat, to avoid local shortage, resulting in a temporary export ban	Ministerio de Desarrollo Productivo y Economía Plural - Resolución Bi - Ministerial No. 006/2021 (22 April 2021). Viewed at: https://dgaj.produccion.gob.bo/docs/MDPyEP-RBM-006.2021.pdf	Effective 3 May 2021
Chile		
Implementation of a sworn declaration requirement (<i>Declaración Jurada del Exportador</i>) for the export of certain precious metals and metals clad with precious metal	Permanent Delegation of Chile to the WTO (27 May 2021) and Resolución Exenta No. 156 - Servicio Nacional de Aduanas (15 January 2021)	Effective February 2021
China		
Recycling materials for brass, recycling materials for copper and recycling materials for cast aluminium alloys that meet the following Standards (Recycling Materials for Brass (GB/T38470-2019), Recycling Materials for Copper (GB/T38471-2019) and Recycling Materials for Cast Aluminium Alloys (GB/T38472-2019)) do not belong to solid waste and can be imported freely. Imports not conforming to the Standards mentioned above are prohibited	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (26 April 2021) and Announcement on Matters Related to Standardizing the Management on the Importation of Recycling Materials for Brass, Recycling Materials for Copper and Recycling Materials for Cast Aluminium Alloys (Announcement of Ministry of Ecology and Environment, General Administration of Customs, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology 2020 No. 43)	Effective 1 November 2020
Certain goods (199 tariff lines at 10-digit level) removed from the catalogue of goods prohibited in processing trade	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (26 April 2021) and Announcement on Adjusting the Catalogue of Goods Prohibited in Processing Trade, Announcement of Ministry of Commerce, General Administration of Customs (2020 No. 54)	Effective 1 December 2020
On 26 December 2020, the exclusion period of the second exclusion list of the first batch of goods subject to additional tariff from the United States, extended until 25 December 2021	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (26 April 2021) and Announcement of Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council on the Second Extension of the Exclusion List of Goods Subject to Additional Tariff on the United States (Announcement No. 10 [2020] of the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council)	
Recycling iron-steel materials meeting the Standards of Recycling Iron-steel Materials (GB/T39733-2020) do not belong to solid waste and can be imported freely. Imports not conforming to the Standard mentioned above are prohibited	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (26 April 2021) and Announcement on Matters Related to Standardizing the Management on the Importation of Recycling Iron-Steel Materials (Announcement of Ministry of Ecology and Environment, National Development and Reform Commission, General Administration of Customs, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology 2020 No. 78)	Effective 1 January 2021

Measure	Source / Date	Status
On 28 February 2021, the exclusion period of the first exclusion list of the second batch of goods subject to additional tariff from the United States extended until 16 September 2021	Permanent Delegation of China to the WTO (26 April 2021) and Announcement of Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council on the Third Extension of the Exclusion List of Goods Subject to Additional Tariff on the United States (Announcement No. 2 [2021] of the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council)	
Colombia		
Extension of the imposition of import tariffs on footwear. <i>Ad valorem</i> tariff (35%) on: (i) waterproof footwear, other footwear with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics, and footwear with outer soles of rubber, plastics, leather or composition leather and uppers of textile material for FOB value declared of USD 6/kg or less; (ii) other footwear 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 for FOB value declared of USD 10/kg or less; and (iv) uppers and parts thereof, other than stiffeners for FOB value declared of USD 5/kg or less (free trade agreement partners exempted) (originally implemented from 17 December 2019 to 17 December 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Colombia to the WTO (12 May 2021) and Decreto No. 1633, Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo (14 December 2020)	Extended until 31 December 2022
Temporary imposition of import tariffs on articles of apparel and clothing accessories (HS Chapters 61 and 62). <i>Ad valorem</i> tariff (40%) for FOB value declared of USD 10/kg or less; <i>ad valorem</i> tariff (15%) plus USD 1.5/kg for FOB value declared of USD 10/kg	Permanent Delegation of Colombia to the WTO (12 May 2021) and Decreto No. 414, Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo (16 April 2021)	Effective 29 April 2021 to 28 April 2023
Egypt		
Implementation of import approval requirement issued by the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade for white and raw sugar	Permanent Delegation of Egypt to the WTO (25 May 2021)	Effective 3 December 2020. On 4 March 2021, renewed for 3 months
Temporary import ban on ceramic flags and paving, hearth or wall tiles; ceramic mosaic cubes and the like, whether or not on a backing; finishing ceramics	Permanent Delegation of Egypt to the WTO (25 May 2021)	Effective 24 December 2020, for 3 months
Extension of the temporary export ban on beans (originally implemented on 5 October 2020, for 3 months)	Permanent Delegation of Egypt to the WTO (25 May 2021)	Effective 5 January 2021, for 3 months
Temporary export ban on dried beans (quantities in excess of the needs of the domestic market may be exported based on the estimates of the Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade and the approval of the Ministry of Trade and Industry)	Permanent Delegation of Egypt to the WTO (25 May 2021)	Effective 4 April 2021, for 3 months
Further extension of the temporary export taxes (EGP 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; (EGP 700/tonne) on hay, clover and other forage products; (EGP 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; (EGP 300/tonne) on corn silage; (EGP 2,000/tonne) on copper matte, precipitated copper, unrefined copper; copper anodes for electrolytic refining, refined copper and copper	Permanent Delegation of Egypt to the WTO (25 May 2021)	Effective until 31 December 2021

Measure	Source / Date	Status
alloys in raw forms, copper waste and scrap, bars, rods, angles and special forms of copper, articles of copper, cast, moulded, stamped or forged, but not further worked; (EGP 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; (EGP 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; (EGP 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; (EGP 3,600/tonne) on waste and scrap of paper and paperboard; (EGP 1,200/tonne) on talc blocks and crushed; (EGP 500/tonne) on talc powder; (EGP 300/tonne) on talc ultra-soft powder; (EGP 150/tonne) on raw quartz; (EGP 150/tonne) on raw feldspar blocks; (EGP 75/tonne) on raw feldspar crushed or powder; (EGP 400/tonne) on marble and granite, crude or roughly trimmed; (EGP 100/tonne) on sand; on azotic fertilizers (excluding pure ammonium nitrate with a concentration higher than 34.2% nitrogen); and (EGP 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		
European Union		
Introduction of retrospective Union surveillance of imports of renewable ethanol for fuel	Commission Implementing Regulation 2020/1628 (3 November 2020)	Effective 4 November 2020
Change of management system from simultaneous examination to the "first come first served" principle for the administration of import tariff quotas on barley; turkey; broken rice for use in the production of food preparations of HS Code 1901.10.00; and broken rice	Public information transmitted by the EU Delegation Commission (27 April 2021) and Commission Implementing Regulation 2020/1988 (11 November 2020)	Effective 1 January 2021
India		
Insertion of Policy Condition regarding import under all HS Codes in Chapters 72; 73; 86 of ITC (HS), 2017 to require compulsory registration under the Steel Import Monitoring System (SIMS). SIMS requires importers to submit advance information in an online system and obtain an automatic registration number by paying a registration fee. The importer can apply for registration not earlier than 60 days and not later than 15 days before the expected date of arrival of import consignment. The automatic registration number remain valid for 75 days	Notification No. 33/2015-2020 and Public Notice No. 19/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (28 September 2020)	Effective 16 October 2020
Amendments introduced to the export policy of onions seeds, resulting in an export prohibition	Notification No. 43/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (29 October 2020)	Effective 29 October 2020
Amendments introduced to the import policy of odoriferous preparations. Imports of odoriferous preparations such as room, fresheners, car freshener that do not operate by burning is "Free"	Notification No. 54/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (1 January 2021)	Effective 1 January 2021

Measure	Source / Date	Status
Amendments introduced to the export policy of onions. The export of all varieties of onions has been made "Free"	Notification No. 50/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (28 December 2020)	Effective 1 January 2021
Amendments introduced to the import policy of coal (anthracite, bituminous, coking and steam). The import policy of coal is subject to "Coal Import Monitoring System (CIMS)"	Notification No. 49/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (22 December 2020)	Effective 1 February 2021
Increase of the basic customs duty on certain products, e.g. (from zero to 5%) on cotton, not carded or combed; (from zero to 10%) on cotton waste; and (from 10% to 15%) on raw silk and silk yarn. Imposition of an Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (5%) on imports of raw cotton	Permanent Delegation of India to the WTO (8 June 2021)	Effective 1 February 2021
Amendments introduced to the import policy of copper and aluminium under Chapters 74 and 76 of ITC (HS), 2017, Schedule-I (Import Policy)-reg. The import policy of copper and aluminium is subject to compulsory registration under the Non Ferrous Metals Import Monitoring System (NFMIMS)	Notification No. 61/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (31 March 2021)	Effective 1 April 2021
The import policy of mosquito killer racket is revised from "Free" to "Prohibited" if c.i.f. value is below INR 121/per racket	Notification No. 2/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (26 April 2021)	Effective 26 April 2021
Amendments introduced to the import policy of melon seeds. The import policy of melon seeds is revised from "Free" to "Restricted"	Notification No. 3/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (26 April 2021)	Effective 26 April 2021
Indonesia		
Amendments introduced to the list of goods subject to export duties (leather; wood; cocoa beans, palm oil, crude palm oil, and derivative products; combination of crude palm oil and its derivative products; result of the processing of metal minerals; and certain mineral products)	Permanent Delegation of Indonesia to the WTO (3 May 2021)	Effective 23 October 2020
Government procurement regulations requiring the use of domestic products and services	Permanent Delegation of Indonesia to the WTO (3 May 2021)	Effective 2 February 2021
Kyrgyz Republic		
Temporary export ban on oil and petroleum oil products with the exception of mazout. The ban will be valid until the saturation of the domestic market or the formation of common markets for oil and petroleum oil products of the Eurasian Economic Union	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/KGZ/1/Add.4, 10 March 2021	Effective 1 March 2021
Temporary export ban on mineral fertilizers	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/KGZ/1/Add.5, 30 March 2021	Effective 22 March 2021
Temporary export ban on scrap and waste of ferrous metals	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/KGZ/1/Add.6, 7 April 2021	Effective 16 April 2021, for 6 months
Malaysia		
Increase of export duties (from zero to 15%) on waste and scrap of cast iron, waste and scrap of tinned iron or steel, turnings, shavings, chips, milling waste, sawdust, filings, trimmings and stampings, whether or not in bundles	Permanent Delegation of Malaysia to the WTO (29 April 2021)	Effective 25 March 2021
Moldova, Republic of		
Imposition of excise duties on imports of used motor vehicles	Permanent Delegation of Moldova to the WTO (12 May 2021)	Effective 1 January 2021

Measure	Source / Date	Status
Montenegro		
Export licences on raw materials or wood (HS Chapter 44) of a lower level of processing in order to: (i) preserve the stability of the supply of raw materials to the processing sector; (ii) ensure the stability of the population of the northern part of Montenegro who use wood for heating; (iii) preserve the stability of the prices of fuel; and (iv) control the preservation of the forest fund, combat illegal harvesting, and control the implementation of the cutting in line with the cutting plan	Permanent Delegation of Montenegro (20 May 2021) and WTO document G/MA/QR/N/MNE/2, 10 December 2020	Effective 15 April 2021 to 1 May 2023
Myanmar		
As per MOC Notification No. 51/2020, issued on 8 July 2020, 1,224 HS lines based on the 2017 customs tariff of Myanmar (10-digit level) are on the negative list. As per MOC Notification No. 68/2020, the negative list for export licensing was reduced from 4,613 to 3,931 HS lines (10-digit HS Codes)	Permanent Delegation of Myanmar to the WTO (1 June 2021); and WTO document WT/TPR/S/405/Rev.1, 8 April 2021	Effective 22 October 2020
Nepal		
Introduction of import quotas on peas (80,000 metric tonnes), nuts (25,000 metric tonnes), dry dates (5,000 metric tonnes) and uncrushed black pepper (15,000 metric tonnes)	Permanent Delegation of Nepal to the WTO (24 May 2021)	Effective 22 March 2021
Peru		
Temporary import ban on certain vegetable products and meat (e.g. soya, nuts), from the Plurinational State of Bolivia	Servicio Nacional de Sanidad Agraria del Peru, Nota de Prensa (20 January 2021). Viewed at: https://www.gob.pe/institucion/senasa/noticias/298487-peru-suspende-importacion-de-productos-agropecuarios-procedentes-de-bolivia	
Russian Federation		
Imposition of temporary export duties on soya beans (30% but not less than EUR 165/tonne)	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (28 May 2021)	Effective 1 February to 30 June 2021
Russian Federation (for Eurasian Economic Union)		
Temporary increase of import tariffs (from 10% to 12%) on rectangular (including square) aluminium plates, sheet and strip, of a thickness exceeding 0.2 mm of aluminium alloys	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (28 May 2021)	Effective 3 April 2021 to 28 February 2023
Imposition of import procedures on hydrofluorocarbons	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (28 May 2021)	Effective 16 April 2021
Imposition of a temporary export tariff quota (17.5 million tonnes) for grains (wheat and meslin, rye, barley and corn)	Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (28 May 2021)	Effective 15 February to 30 June 2021
Seychelles		
Amendments introduced in the Customs Management (Prohibited and Restricted Goods) (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations, 2020 resulting in the inclusion of certain plastic products (balloons and toys containing balloons) in the list of import prohibited goods	Permanent Delegation of Seychelles to the WTO (28 May 2021)	Effective 1 January 2021
South Africa (for Southern African Customs Union)		
Increase of import tariffs (from 10% to 15%) on acrylic resins (effective 24 December 2020); (to 15%) on certain aluminium plates, sheets and strip, of a thickness exceeding 0.2 mm; and on aluminium foil (whether or not printed or backed with paper, paperboard, plastics or similar backing materials) of a thickness (excluding any backing) not exceeding 0.2 mm (effective 31 December 2020). Imports from the European Union, EFTA and Southern African Development Community (SADC) members exempted	International Trade Administration Commission Notice Nos. R 1406 - Government Gazette No. 44029 (24 December 2020), and R.1428 - Government Gazette No. 44049 (31 December 2020)	Effective: see individual dates in measure

Measure	Source / Date	Status
Sri Lanka		
Amendments introduced in the Export Development Act, No. 40 of 1979, resulting in the increase of CESS levy on certain imported products (in HS Chapters 03; 04; 06; 07; 08; 09; 10; 11; 12; 14; 15; 16; 17; 18; 19; 20; 21; 22; 24; 27; 29; 30; 32; 33; 34; 35; 38; 39; 40; 42; 43; 44; 46; 48; 49; 59; 64; 68; 69; 70; 72; 73; 74; 76; 82; 83; 85; 87; 94; 96)	Permanent Delegation of Sri Lanka to the WTO (11 June 2021)	Effective January 2021
Switzerland		
Increase of import tariffs (from CHF 850/100 kg to 2,304/100 kg) on prepared or preserved meat of swine; and (from CHF 638/100 kg to 2,212/100 kg) on bovine prepared or preserved meat	Permanent Delegation of Switzerland to the WTO (19 May 2021)	Effective 1 January 2021
Change of management system from simultaneous examination to the "first come, first served" principle for the administration of import tariff quota No. 20 on cider fruits (apples and pears); and quota No. 21 on products originating from pome fruits	Permanent Delegation of Switzerland to the WTO (19 May 2021)	Effective 1 January 2021
Tajikistan		
Increase of import tariffs (from 10% to 15%) on poultry and (up to 30%) on tobacco products (HS Chapter 24)	WTO document G/MA/W/167, 25 February 2021	
Turkey		
On 1 January 2021 reduction (up to 5%) of the previously increased import tariffs (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) (originally implemented on 21 April to 31 December 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (26 May 2021)	Effective 1 January 2021
On 1 January 2021 reduction of the previously increased import tariffs (45%) on mining, chemicals, plastic, pepper, iron and steel, metals, electrical and electronic goods, machinery, vehicles, furniture, and lighting 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) (originally implemented on 21 April 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the WTO (26 May 2021)	Effective 1 January 2021
United States		
Executive Order entitled Strengthening Buy American Provisions, Ensuring Future of America is Made in America by all of America's Workers	Permanent Delegation of the United States to the WTO (26 May 2021) and Executive Order. Viewed at: https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/01/25/president-biden-to-sign-executive-order-strengthening-buy-american-provisions-ensuring-future-of-america-is-made-in-america-by-all-of-americas-workers/ (25 January 2021)	

Recorded, but not confirmed information³

Measure	Source / Date	Status
Bangladesh		
Imposition of import regulatory duties (10%) on onions	Daily Bangladesh (7 January 2021)	Effective January 2021
Bolivia, Plurinational State of		
Temporary import ban on certain vegetable products (e.g. potatoes, onions, tomatoes) from Peru	El Comercio (20 January 2021)	

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

Measure	Source / Date	Status
Nigeria		
The Central Bank of Nigeria included milk and dairy products in the list of items not eligible for foreign exchange, resulting in a temporary import ban	New Telegraph (Nigeria) (17 March 2021)	
Termination of the exemption of excise duties on imports for certain goods not manufactured in Nigeria	Finance Act 2020. Viewed at: https://firs.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/finance-act-2020_signed.pdf	Effective 1 January 2021
Tunisia		
Export licensing requirements on iron waste and scrap	Press reports referring to Decree No. 94 - Customs (9 December 2020)	Effective December 2020

Note: For detailed information about HS codes, refer to the TMDB (https://tmdb.wto.org/en/explore#page=1&members=C032&q20=0&measure_type=5&after_dt=2018-10-16&before_dt=2019-09-01&affected_members=&product_chapters=).

Source: WTO Secretariat.

ANNEX 4 – MEASURES AFFECTING TRADE IN SERVICES¹

(MID-OCTOBER 2020 TO MID-MAY 2021)

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
MEASURES AFFECTING VARIOUS SECTORS					
Angola					
On 20 October 2020, the Presidential Decree No. 271/20 approved the new legal framework for the promotion of local content in the oil and gas industry, expressly repealing Ministry of Petroleum Order No. 127/03, of 25 November 2003. All companies active in the Oil Industry (including services providers), must source raw materials, goods and equipment manufactured in Angola and services provided by companies established in Angola (100% Angolan-owned or firms incorporated in Angola). The contracts for foreign technical assistance and management services are subject to Concessionaire's supervision and must contain a detailed programmes for training, knowledge and technology transfer, and development and improvement of skills of the national workforce.	Modes 1, 3 and 4	All sectors	Presidential Decree No. 271/20 on Local Content Regulations. Viewed at: https://centurionlg.com/2020/11/03/angola-new-regulations-on-local-content/	Effective 20 October 2020	
A new law, amending the Private Investment Law, introduces a contractual regime of investment, where terms and conditions for the implementation of the projects and the incentives and benefits to be granted under the private investment contracts may be subject to negotiation between the sponsor of the investment project and the Angolan State. This new investment regime is available to private investments in any sector of activity. There is no longer the need to prove the complete implementation of private investment projects as a condition for the repatriation of dividends. Internal credit is accessible to external investors and is no longer subject to the condition of implementation of the investment project.	Mode 3	All sectors	Law No. 10/21 amending the Private Investment Law. Viewed at: https://cms.law/en/prt/publication/meet-the-law-angola2	22 April 2021	

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
Australia					
A package of reforms was passed to ensure Australia's foreign investment screening framework keeps pace with emerging risks and global developments while remaining a welcoming destination for foreign investment. The Act improves and updates the operation of the framework across national security, compliance monitoring and enforcement, and integrity as well as streamlining requirements and making technical changes to improve the operation of the law.	Mode 3	Certain sectors	Foreign Investment Reform (Protecting Australia's National Security) Act 2020 (Act) Foreign Investment Reform (Protecting Australia's National Security) Regulations 2020 (Regulations). Viewed at: https://firb.gov.au/	1 January 2021	YES
Canada					
Thresholds above which foreign investors from WTO Members in Canadian businesses have to obtain federal government approval have been lowered for the year 2021. The review threshold for 2021 is CAD 1.043 billion in enterprise value for investments to directly acquire control of a Canadian business (CAD 415 million for state-owned enterprises of WTO Members).	Mode 3	Various sectors	Thresholds for Review pursuant subsections 14.1(1) and (2) of the Investment Canada Act, Canada Gazette, Part I, Volume 155, Number 7: GOVERNMENT NOTICES. Viewed at: https://gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2021/2021-02-13/html/notice-avis-eng.html#n15 https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/ica-lic.nsf/eng/h_lk00050.html	Published 13 February 2021	
An update of the Guidelines on the National Security Review of Investments was issued under section 38 of the Investment Canada Act. The government will notably increase the examination of foreign investments where, amongst other things sensitive personal data are involved (e.g. personally identifiable health or genetic; biometric; financial; communications; geolocation), or investment by foreign state-owned investors, or private investors closely tied to enterprises influenced by foreign governments.	Mode 3	Various sectors	Guidelines on the National Security Review of Investments. Viewed at: https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/ica-lic.nsf/eng/lk81190.html	Published 24 March 2021	
China					
The Market Access Negative List (2020) jointly issued by China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) includes items referring to prohibited or licensed activities. Requirements were relaxed or removed for inspection services	Mode 3	All sectors	Market Access Negative List (2020). Viewed at: https://www.ndrc.gov.cn/xxgk/zcfb/ghxwj/202012/t20201216_1252897_ext.html	Effective 10 December 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
for exported and imported goods, services assessing forest and mineral resources and carbon emissions, and appointing new executives in securities companies. Restrictions on the establishment of financial holding companies were added to the list.					
The National Development and Reform Commission and Ministry of Commerce issued the new catalogue of industries where foreign investment is encouraged. The scope in which foreign investment is encouraged was increased. This covers research and development of fifth-generation mobile communication technologies, development of blockchain technologies, design of sewage treatment facilities, maintenance of high-end equipment, transformation and integration of digital production lines, cross-border e-commerce retail, distribution centres for import and export of bulk commodities, community chain distribution, and online education, health and office services.	Mode 3	All sectors	Decree No. 38 of National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Commerce: Catalogue of Industries that Encourage Foreign Investment (Version 2020). Viewed at: https://www.ndrc.gov.cn/xxgk/zcfb/tzggwl/202012/t20201228_1260594.html	Effective 27 January 2021	YES
The Measures on Security Review of Foreign Investment jointly issued by the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Commerce, authorize the "Foreign Investment Security Review Working Mechanism" to review foreign investments in certain sectors linked to security issues (military support and defence, and related activities), as well as investments in certain sectors resulting in foreign control over important domestic enterprises, such as for infrastructure, transportation, energy, cultural products, Internet/online products and services; information technology, financial services, critical technologies; and other important sectors/areas.	Mode 3	All sectors	Measures on Security Review of Foreign Investment. Viewed at: https://www.ndrc.gov.cn/xxgk/zcfb/tzggwl/202012/t20201219_1255025.html	Effective 18 January 2021	YES
China issued the Export Control Law to safeguard national security and national interest, fulfil its obligation of non-proliferation, as well as strengthen and regulate export control.	Mode 3	All sectors	Export Control Law. Viewed at: http://www.npc.gov.cn/npc/c30834/202010/cf4e0455f6424a38b5aecf8001712c43.shtml	Effective 1 December	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
The Ministry of Commerce released Rules on Counteracting Unjustified Extra-territorial Application of Foreign Legislation and Other Measures requiring Chinese citizens, legal entities, or other organizations to report to the competent authority that he/it is prohibited or restricted by foreign legislation and other measures from engaging in normal economic, trade and related activities with entities in a third State. The competent authority has the power to allow the reporter not to recognize, implement, or comply with the said foreign norms.	Multiple modes	All sectors	Rules on Counteracting Unjustified Extra-Territorial Application of Foreign Legislation and Other Measures. Viewed at: http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/policyrelease/announcement/202101/20210103029708.shtml	9 January 2021	YES
The People's Bank of China, China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission, China Securities Regulatory Commission, and the State Administration of Foreign Exchange issued a plan to support Hainan's development by allowing qualified non-residents to purchase properties in Hainan Free Trade Port on the principle of actual needs, authorizing qualified non-bank financial institutions to participate in the interbank foreign exchange market when meeting certain conditions, and enhancing foreign participation in Hainan's financial sector.	Multiple modes	All sectors	Viewed at: http://www.pbc.gov.cn/goutongjiaoliu/113456/113469/4227077/index.html	Effective 2 April 2021	YES
The National Development and Reform Commission published a list of reforms for Shenzhen, including the gradual lifting of restrictions on foreign ownership in telecommunications or promoting the streamlining of visa rules to attract talent.	Multiple modes	All sectors	Viewed at: https://www.ndrc.gov.cn/xxgk/jd/jd/202010/t20201020_1248448.html	18 October 2020	YES
In the Hainan Free Trade Port, market access to foreign investment will be expanded in various sectors, such as telecommunication, education or business services. In the area of telecommunications services, Hainan will remove restrictions on foreign investment in online transaction processing and processing companies. For legal services, foreign investors will be allowed to engage in some commercial non-litigation affairs in Hainan. Hainan also lifted the prohibition of foreign investment in market surveys, except that the survey of radio and television ratings should still be controlled by the Chinese party. Foreign investors can also conduct social surveys	Mode 3	Selected sectors	Special Administrative Measures for the Access of Foreign Investment in Hainan Free Trade Port (Negative List, 2020 Edition). Viewed at: https://www.ndrc.gov.cn/xxgk/zcfb/tzqgw/202012/t20201231_1261607.html	Effective 1 February 2021	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
in the form of equity joint ventures. The minimum percentage of ownership by Chinese party shareholders should be 67% and the legal representative should be a Chinese citizen.					
On 7 February 2021, the Anti Monopoly Commission of the State Council of China issued the Antitrust Guidelines in the Field of Platform Economy. The Guidelines provide better guidance for enforcement of Chinese antitrust laws and compliance of companies in the platform sector.	Mode 3	Internet- and other network-enabled services	Viewed at: http://gkml.samr.gov.cn/nsjg/fldj/202102/t20210207_325967.html	Effective 7 February 2021	YES
The State Administration for Market Regulation issued Measures for the Supervision and Administration of Online Transactions. The measures provide specific rules for operators of e-commerce platforms, including sales via livestreaming and social media, sets out the responsibilities of platform operators, including with respect to protection of consumers' rights and protection of personal information.	Modes 1 and 3	Internet- and other network-enabled services	Measures for the Supervision and Administration of Online Transactions Government Statement Viewed at: http://gkml.samr.gov.cn/nsjg/fqs/202103/t20210315_326936.html	Effective 1 May 2021	YES
Czech Republic					
A new act will allow the Ministry of Industry and Trade to oversee foreign investment into key sectors. The law identifies two types of foreign investments and two types of screening: - foreign investment requiring prior approval in risk areas, e.g. (i) operating critical infrastructure such as communications, financial, health, transport services; (ii) administering an ICT system for critical information infrastructure of an essential service, or operation of an essential service; or (iii) manufacturing or development of military material or selected dual-use items; and - foreign investments that do not need prior approval but are assessed as risk-prone can be subject to ex officio screening up to 5 years after their completion. The law foresees the possibility to ask for a consultation prior to the investment (i.e. a preliminary assessment). Consultations are mandatory if the target holds a national radio or television broadcasting license or is the publisher of a periodical with an average aggregate	Mode 3	Various sectors	Foreign Direct Investments Screening Act (Act No. 34/2021 Coll.). Viewed at: https://foreigninvestment.bakermckenzie.com/2021/03/03/czech-republic-introduces-new-foreign-investment-screening-regime/ https://www.whitecase.com/publications/alert/new-regulation-cross-border-transactions-act-screening-foreign-investments	Effective 1 May 2021	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
minimum circulation of 100,000 print copies per day.					
Finland					
The Act has been amended based on the EU Regulation. Key national interests for which investment will be screened cover: military national defence, functions vital to society, national security and foreign and security policy objectives, and safeguarding public order and security in accordance with Articles 52 and 65 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, if there is a genuine and sufficiently serious threat to a fundamental interest of society. The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment was designated as a national focal point for cooperation and exchange of information between EU Member States and the European Union.	Mode 3	All sectors	Law No.682/2020 Amending the Act on the Screening of Foreign Corporate Acquisitions. Viewed at: https://www.finlex.fi/fi/laki/alkup/2020/2020068_2 https://tem.fi/en/-/amendments-to-the-act-on-the-screening-of-foreign-corporate-acquisitions-ministry-of-economic-affairs-and-employment-to-become-a-national-contact-point	Effective 11 October 2020	YES
Germany					
The government expanded the coverage of investment projects subject to screening, which now includes those touching upon public order or security of another EU member state as well as those with effects on projects or programmes of EU interest. Also, the standard under which an FDI may be prohibited or restrictive measures may be imposed has been tightened from "endangering" to "likely to affect".	Mode 3	Various sectors	16th Amendment to the German Foreign Trade and Payments Ordinance. Viewed at: https://www.gibsondunn.com/update-on-german-foreign-investment-control-new-eu-cooperation-mechanism-and-overview-of-recent-changes/	Effective 28 October 2020	YES
New activities were added to the investment projects subject to screening, in particular those relating to high-technology industries such as artificial intelligence, IT products for cybersecurity, 3D printing for industrial applications based on metal or ceramic materials, or information and communication technology services important to Germany. For critical technologies, a 20% threshold will apply. In addition to the acquisition of voting rights, the acquisition of control and management rights can also trigger a notification or an ex officio review.	Mode 3	Various sectors	17th Amendment to the Foreign Trade and Payments Ordinance. Viewed at: https://www.engage.hoganlovells.com/knowledge/services/news/new-rules-german-government-passes-far-reaching-expansion-of-foreign-investment-control_1	Effective 1 May 2021	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
The government implemented a new law that extends the competence of the competition authority to deal with restraints on competition by digital companies and new antitrust rules that cover abuse of power and other restraints on competition by digital platforms.	Multiple modes	Internet- and other network-enabled services	Law amending the law against Restraints of competition for a focused, proactive and digital competition law 4.0 and other provisions. Viewed at: https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/fi/leadadmin/Dateien/3_Downloads/Gesetze_und_Verordnungen/GuV/K/GWB-Art_8-Kinderkrankengeld_BGBI.pdf	19 January 2021	YES
India					
The government further liberalised FDI policy in several sectors, including, <i>inter alia</i> , contract manufacturing, digital media, single brand retailing, insurance intermediaries and civil aviation and defence. The government has released the 'Consolidated FDI Policy Circular 2020' which supersedes all previous press notes, press releases, clarifications and/or circulars issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.	Mode 3	All Sectors	Consolidated FDI Policy Circular of 2020. Viewed at: https://dipp.gov.in/sites/default/files/FDI-PolicyCircular-2020-29October2020_1.pdf	Effective 15 October 2020	YES
New guidelines seek to eliminate the prior approvals, licenses and other restrictions on the collection, generation, preparation, dissemination, storage, publication, updating and/or digitization of geospatial data and maps in India. Foreign companies can license the digital maps and geospatial data of spatial accuracy/value finer than the threshold value from Indian entities only for the purpose of serving their customers in India. There are restrictions on cross-border transfer of geospatial data. Such data must be stored and processed only in India, even if the same is licensed to a foreign company by an authorized Indian entity.	Modes 1 and 3	Internet- and other network-enabled services	Guidelines on Liberalisation of Acquisition and Production of Geospatial Data. Viewed at: https://dst.gov.in/sites/default/files/Final%20Approved%20Guidelines%20on%20Geospatial%20Data.pdf	Issued 15 February 2021	YES
The Finance Act 2021 amended certain provisions related to the 2% equalization levy for e-commerce operators introduced in April 2020. According to the new act, it will apply to e-commerce operators for: - the sale of goods irrespective of whether the e-commerce operator owns the goods or not, however it shall not include the sale of goods owned by a person resident in India or by the	Mode 1	All sectors	Finance Act 2021. Viewed at: https://www.india-briefing.com/news/indias-digital-tax-2-percent-not-applicable-foreign-e-commerce-companies-indian-arm-21956.html/ https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/cabinet approves amendments to the finance bill-2021/	Enacted 28 March 2021	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Indian permanent establishment of a non-resident; and - the provision of services irrespective of whether the service is provided or facilitated by the e-commerce operator, however it shall not include the provision of services by a person resident in India or by the Indian permanent establishment owned of a non-resident. The new act also clarified that: - transactions that are taxable as royalty or fees for technical services in India under the Income-tax Act, 1961 (Income-tax Act) read with the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAAs) are not covered; and - e-commerce supply or service, "online sale of goods" and "online provision of services" includes the following online activities: (a) acceptance of sale offer; (b) placement of the purchase order; (c) acceptance of the purchase order; (d) payment; or (e) supply of goods or provision of services, partly or wholly.					
Indonesia					
The "Omnibus law" on job creation simplified the license process and harmonizes various laws and regulations, aiming to streamline decision-making and attract investment. Business activities are divided into three categories based on business's risks, i.e. low, medium (certification needed) and high risk (business licence required). It provides that investment is permitted except for investment in business lines that are closed or those that can only be carried out by the central government. It also removes relevant requirements and restrictions for foreign investment that are currently stipulated in various laws governing several business sectors that are amended by the Omnibus Law that will be further regulated in one implementing regulation. It also introduces several changes to the Immigration Law.	Multiple modes	All sectors	Law No. 11 of 2020 regarding Job Creation (the "Omnibus Law"). Viewed at: https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=c6626343-89fa-442d-9ffb-98e16f3f99a5 https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=325667ec-4f80-4cba-af93-a540842edaa1	Enacted 2 November 2020	YES
A new Presidential Regulation liberalized foreign ownership limits in a number of services sectors	Mode 3	All sectors	Presidential Regulation No. 10 of 2021 regarding Investment Business Fields.	Effective 4 March 2021	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
using a positive list, e.g. telecommunications, e-commerce, media services, transportation, energy, distribution, construction or health services. It is part of Indonesia's ongoing economic reforms through the Omnibus Law. It replaces the prior negative list system. In principle, a business sector is open to 100% foreign investment unless it is stipulated with specific requirements. The minimum foreign investment threshold prescribed is 10 billion Indonesian rupiahs excluding the value of any land and buildings.			Viewed at: https://www.bi.go.id/id/publikasi/peraturan/Pages/PBI_222320.aspx		
Italy					
The government adopted new measures that clarify and expand the scope of application of the review of acquisitions that require prior government approval. The process covers assets and sectors of strategic importance to the national interest, and include sectors such as energy, water, health, data and sensitive information, financial services, artificial intelligence and media, as well as transport (ports, airports etc.), and broadband and ultra-broadband services.	Mode 3	All sectors	Decrees of the President of the Council of Ministers, Nos. 179 of 18 December 2020 and 180 of 23 December 2020: - Regulation for the identification of assets and relationships of national interest in the areas referred to in Article 4, paragraph 1 of Regulation (EU) No. 2019/452 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2019, pursuant to Article 2(1)(b) of Decree-Law No. 21 of 15 March 2012, converted, with amendments, by Law No. 56 of 11 May 2012 - Regulation for the identification of assets of strategic importance in the energy, transport and communications sectors, in accordance with Article 2, paragraph 1, of Decree-Law No. 21 of 15 March 2012, converted, with amendments, by Law No. 56 of 11 May 2012. Viewed at: https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/12/30/20G00200/sq https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/12/30/20G00199/sq https://investmentpolicy.unctad.org/investment-policy-monitor/measures/3665/italy-expands-the-list-of-sectors-and-assets-subject-to-investment-screening	Effective 14 January 2021	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Japan					
New measures came into force to improve transparency and fairness of digital platforms. The Act defines "digital platforms" and calls for the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry ("METI") to designate any digital platform provider which is required to endeavour to improve the transparency and fairness of platforms in particular, amongst other digital platforms, "Specified Digital Platform Providers" (SDPPs). The act will apply to SDPPs, which covers business-to-consumer ("B-to-C") online shopping malls with annual sales in Japan measured from April 1 to March 31 of at least JPY 300 billion and B-to-C application stores with annual sales in Japan of at least JPY 200 billion. The act requires SDPPs to (i) disclose certain terms and conditions to sellers and consumers (e.g. factors used for ranking in user search responses, conditions to refuse the use of the specified digital platform by a supplier), (ii) develop fair procedures and systems, and (iii) submit an annual report on their business operations to the METI. In April 2021, in accordance with the Act on Improvement of Transparency and Fairness in Trading on Specified Digital Platforms, METI designated the following digital platform providers as SDPPs subject to regulation under the Act: Amazon Japan G.K., Rakuten Group Inc., Yahoo Japan Corporation, Apple Inc/iTunes K.K. and Google LLC.	Modes 1 and 3	Internet- and other network-enabled services	Act on Improving Transparency and Fairness of Digital Platforms. Viewed at: https://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/mono_info_service/information_economy/digital_platforms/index.html	Effective 1 February 2021	YES
Malta					
Malta adopted new measures for the authorization of foreign investment. The act defines the power of the National FDI Screening Office to authorize or refuse FDI projects on the grounds of security or public order as well as implement screening decisions, report annually to the European Commission, and liaise with the authorities of third countries on FDI screening-related issues. All foreign investment activities listed in a schedule in the act (covering energy, transport, water, health, communications, media, data	Mode 3	All sectors	National Foreign Direct Investment Screening Office Act. Viewed at: https://www.nfdismalta.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/NFDIS-Act-Publication.pdf	Published 18 December 2020 Effective 11 October 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
processing or storage or financial activities) should be notified to the National Foreign Direct Investment Screening Office, when foreign investment is 10% or above. Within 5 days the Office should inform the applicant whether the investment will be subject to screening. Factors to be considered are whether the foreign investor is directly or indirectly controlled by the government, including state bodies or armed forces, of a third country, including through ownership structure or significant funding; whether the foreign investor has already been involved in activities affecting security or public order in an EU member; or whether there is a serious risk that the foreign investor engages in illegal or criminal activities.					
Mexico					
Mexico adopted new measures that address the income tax and VAT treatment of digital services and transactions performed on online platforms. Notably, the withholding tax, that is applicable to resident and non-resident entities, should be levied on the total amount of income without VAT that individuals receive or cash-in. The tax rates are 2.1% for ground/land passenger transport services and the delivery of goods; 4% for lodging/accommodation services; and 1% for the transfer of goods and the provision of services. In case of noncompliance, non-resident legal entities without a permanent establishment in Mexico can have their digital service in Mexico temporary blocked, until such time that it complies with the obligations. Prior to blocking, the entity will be informed of the non-compliance. Since the blocking will be carried out through the operators of public networks in Mexico, telecommunication operators may also be subject to fines for noncompliance or delays in orders for blocking and unblocking.	Modes 1 and 3	Internet- and other network-enabled services	Decree amending the Income Tax Law, the Value Added Tax Law, and the Federal Tax Code. Viewed at: http://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_to_imagen_fs.php?codnota=5606951&fecha=08/12/2020&cod_diario=289781 https://mnetax.com/mexico-amends-tax-rules-applying-to-digital-service-providers-online-platforms-42363	Effective 1 January 2021	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
New Zealand					
Update to the Privacy Act to strengthen privacy protections by promoting early intervention and risk management by agencies.	All modes	All sectors	The Privacy Act 2020. Viewed at: https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2020/0031/latest/LMS23223.html	Effective 1 December 2020	YES
Oman					
A new measure prohibits the acceptance of applications for the ownership of non-fully owned Omani companies of lands and real estate located in the places of prohibition stipulated in the aforementioned Royal Decree No. 29/2018. Company owners holding Omani nationality, and companies wholly owned by citizens from any of the GCC countries may own the lands and real estate necessary to carry out the activity licensed for purchase. Decision No. 41/2017 and everything that contradicts this decision or contravenes its provisions shall be repealed.	Mode 3	All sectors	Ministerial Decree No. 45/2021 Regarding the Controls of the Ownership of Land and Real Estate by Companies for Carrying Out Their Activity. Viewed at: https://mja.gov.om/eng/legislation/decisions/ https://timesofoman.com/article/100358-ministry-of-housing-and-urban-planning-issues-new-decision	Effective 13 April 2021	YES
A new measure lists the activities prohibited for foreign investors, in order to promote local products and entrepreneurship, in particular SMEs. The list includes wholesale and retail sale of certain products, transport and sale of drinking water, repair services of motor vehicles, cargo handling services, customs clearance services, employment agencies, insurance agents, real estate agents. This decision is based on the Foreign Capital Investment Law issued by Royal Decree No 50/ 2019. The list of prohibited activities for foreign investment will be updated to keep pace with the economic developments in the sultanate.	Mode 3	Selected sectors	Ministerial Decision No. 209/2020 Determining the List of Activities that Are Prohibited to be Undertaken by Foreign Investment. Viewed at: https://mja.gov.om/eng/legislation/decisions/details.aspx?id=1576&type=D https://muscatdaily.com/Oman/388993/Ministry-issues-list-of-activities--prohibited-for-foreign-investment	Effective 14 December 2020	YES
Pakistan					
The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) introduced a new mechanism to enable companies in Pakistan to remit out disinvestment proceeds to their foreign shareholders. The authority to remit the disinvestment proceeds has been completely delegated to the bank designated by the company. Now, the banks can remit the disinvestment proceeds without seeking any approval from SBP.	Mode 3	All sectors	FE Circular No. 05 of 2020 Mechanism for Valuation and Repatriation of Disinvestment Proceeds. Viewed at: https://www.sbp.org.pk/press/2020/Pr-27-Oct-20.pdf https://www.sbp.org.pk/epd/2020/FEC5.htm	Effective 26 October 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
The Ministry of Information and Technology issued rules on the "Removal and Blocking of Unlawful Online Content". The rules allow the Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (PTA), the country's internet regulator, to censor content that is considered objectionable. The rules allow the government to ban online platforms if they do not comply with takedown requests, and require all platforms to provide the investigation agency with users' data in decrypted, readable and comprehensible format. Subject to justifiable technical limitations, the information to be provided may include subscriber information, traffic data, content data and any other information or data.	Multiple modes	Internet- and other network-enabled services	Rules on the "Removal and Blocking of Unlawful Online Content". Viewed at: https://www.reuters.com/article/pakistan-socialmedia-censorship-idINKBN27Z2KF https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/1/26/pakistani-government-says-will-review-internet-censorship-rules	Notified on 18 November 2020	YES
Panama					
A new law restricts the transfer of personal data abroad unless the recipient country or company complies with data protection standards defined in the law. The law also provides for consent procedures for the processing of personal data and establishes a data regulator with authority to impose fines for violations.	Multiple modes	Internet- and other network-enabled services	Law No. 81 on the Protection of Personal Data, 26 March 2019. Viewed at: https://www.gacetaoficial.gob.pa/pdfTemp/28743_A/GacetaNo_28743a_20190329.pdf https://www.dataguidance.com/notes/panama-data-protection-overview	Effective 29 March 2021	
Philippines					
A new measure removes the restriction for providing incentives to foreign companies. Also, from July 2020 to 2022, foreign companies will be eligible for a reduction in the corporate income tax (CIT) rate to 25% compared to the regular rate of 30%. From 2022 to 2027, the 25% CIT will steadily decline by one percent per year, to finally reach 20% in 2027 for foreign companies. The Board of Investments is expected to finalize the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Act by end-May 2021.	Mode 3	All sectors	Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises (CREATE) Act. Viewed at: https://taxreform.dof.gov.ph/tax-reform-packages/p2-corporate-recovery-and-tax-incentives-for-enterprises-act/ https://www.dti.gov.ph/news/signing-of-create-act/ https://taxreform.dof.gov.ph/bills/republic-act-no-11534-create-law/	Effective 11 April 2021	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
			https://mb.com.ph/2021/05/24/boi-sees-create-irr-completion-this-month-sipp-in-january-2022/		
Slovak Republic					
The government amended the Critical Infrastructure Act, establishing an investment screening process. Acquisitions of more than 10% of shares or voting rights in critical infrastructure will be reviewed. This covers investment in transportation, information and communication technology, postal, health, water or financial services. If the transaction compromises public order or national security, authorities can propose that the Government either (i) prohibits the transaction, or (ii) approves the transaction conditionally. The Government may then grant an unconditional or conditional approval in cases where the benefits of the transaction outweigh the risks or propose remedies to ensure that the benefits outweigh the risks.	Mode 3	All sectors	Act of 8 February 2011 on Critical Infrastructure. Viewed at: https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/march/tradoc_159517.pdf https://foreigninvestment.bakermckenzie.com/2021/04/13/slovakia-introduces-new-foreign-investment-screening-regime/#page=1	Effective 1 March 2021	YES
Spain					
A new law introduces an indirect tax of 3% applicable to revenues (excluding VAT) derived from the provision of certain digital services in which there is a participation of users situated in Spain. Digital services fall in three categories: (a) on-line advertising services, (b) on-line intermediation services and (c) data transmission services when data have been generated in Spain. The tax applies to entities that meet certain revenue thresholds at the group level: (i) global yearly net revenues above 750 million euros and (ii) Spanish yearly taxable income subject to the tax above 3 million euros. The tax applies regardless of the tax residence of the digital service provider.	Multiple modes	Internet- and other network-enabled services	Law No. 4/2020, on Taxes on Certain Digital Services Viewed at: https://www.boe.es/diario_boe/txt.php?id=BOE-A-2020-12355#:~:text=El%20Impuesto%20sobre%20Determinados%20Servicios%20Digitales%20es%20un%20tributo%20de%20territorio%20de%20aplicaci%C3%B3n%20del%20impuesto. https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/spain-s-new-digital-services-tax-comes-9578590/	Effective 16 January 2021	YES
United Arab Emirates					
A new decree makes significant amendments to the Federal law No. 2 of 2015 on Commercial companies. The decree allows up to 100% foreign	Mode 3	All sectors	Decree Law No. 26 of 2020. Viewed at:	Effective 2 January 2021	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
ownership in companies in UAE unless a specific restriction is created. No amendments may be made to existing memorandum of association of an existing company having a strategic impact activity. A Cabinet Decision is expected to define the scope of strategic impact activities. The requirement that the chairman and the majority of the board of directors be nationals has been lifted (to come into effect 6 months after the publication of the Decree Law in the official gazette). This is pending specific restrictions to be specified in future regulations. There is no longer a requirement to have a UAE national or local company as registered agent in the case of an onshore branch in an Emirate. The decree supersedes the current Foreign Direct Investment Law (Federal Law No. 19/2018) and Cabinet Resolution No.16 of 2020 that established a positive list where foreign investment was possible subject to minimum capital requirements, and a negative list of sectors where foreign ownership was prohibited.			https://wam.ae/en/details/1395302889305		
United Kingdom					
The United Kingdom adopted the National Security & Investment Law, which reforms the screening of investments in the country. The new Act will introduce mandatory notification obligations for certain transactions in 17 core sectors, including data infrastructure, artificial intelligence, communications, and transport. The government can review investments, including beyond the 17 sectors, if a transaction is believed to give rise to national security risks.	Mode 3	All sectors	National Security & Investment Law. Viewed at: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-security-and-investment-bill https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-security-bolstered-as-bill-to-protect-against-malicious-investment-granted-royal-assent	Given Royal Assent on 29 April 2021	YES
United States					
A new Act requires certain issuers of securities to declare that they are not owned or controlled by any foreign government. Specifically, an issuer must make this certification if the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board is unable to audit specified reports because the issuer has retained a	Mode 3	All sectors	Holding Foreign Companies Accountable Act. Viewed at: https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/945	18 December 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
foreign public accounting firm not subject to inspection by the board. Furthermore, if the board is unable to inspect the issuer's public accounting firm for three consecutive years, the issuer's securities are banned from trade on a national exchange or through other methods.					
The U.S. Department of the Treasury modified the criteria for mandatory declarations for certain foreign investment transactions involving a U.S. business that produces, designs, tests, manufactures, fabricates, or develops one or more "critical technologies". The measure removes the previous analysis and nexus to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes and replaces it with an analysis of export control authorization requirements. Additionally, it makes amendments to the definition of the term "substantial interest" and a related provision.	Mode 3	All sectors	Final Rule on Provisions Pertaining to Certain Investments in the United States by Foreign Persons Viewed at: https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-09-15/pdf/2020-18454.pdf	Effective 15 October 2020	YES
The President issued an Executive Order that prohibits, on national security grounds, transactions with certain connected mobile and desktop applications and other software developed or controlled by Chinese companies. Companies concerned are Alipay, CamScanner, QQ Wallet, SHAREit, Tencent QQ, VMate, WeChat Pay, and WPS Office.	Modes 1 and 3	Mobile, desktop applications and other software	Executive Order No. 13971, Addressing the Threat Posed by Applications and Other Software Developed or Controlled by Chinese Companies. Viewed at: https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/01/08/2021-00305/addressing-the-threat-posed-by-applications-and-other-software-developed-or-controlled-by-chinese	Issued on 5 January 2021, and effective 45 days after	YES
Viet Nam					
A new decree provides the list of business lines for which foreign investors (including foreign-invested companies which are deemed as foreign investors under Article 23-1 of the Investment Law 2020) are not allowed ("Prohibition List"). It also includes the list of business lines where foreign investors are permitted but have to satisfy market entry conditions ("Market Entry Condition List"). The prohibition list covers 25 business lines (e.g. press, public opinion polling, waste collection from households, security and investigation services, public postal services, tourism services, except	Mode 3	Various sectors	Decree No. 31/2021/ND-CP guiding the implementation of Investment Law. Viewed at: https://vietnam-business-law.info/blog/2021/4/6/new-decree-312021-guiding-the-implementation-of-the-investment-law-2020-on-the-market-entry-of-foreign-investors	Effective 26 March 2021	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
international tourism services for international tourists to Viet Nam). The Market entry list includes 58 specific items (e.g. finance, communication services, advertising, education, various professional services, health, logistics) and one item allowing authorities to issue pilot mechanisms on business lines considered as new (i.e. not existing at the date of issuance of the decree). The Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) coordinated with other authorities to review and collect all market entry conditions and publish them on the National Portal on Investment.					
HEALTH SERVICES					
Indonesia					
Under the Omnibus Law, foreign ownership of hospitals is authorized up to 100%. The government regulation, which is an implementing regulation for the Omnibus law, requires that any hospital with foreign ownership has at least 200 beds. Other requirements continue to apply.	Mode 3	Health-related services	Government Regulation No. 47 of 2021 on Hospital Administration. Viewed at: https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=a956a169-bd73-4acd-bcf4-79ab57c47bcd	19 March 2021	YES
POSTAL AND COURIER SERVICES					
Indonesia					
The Omnibus Law amends the relevant provision of the Post Law that sets out the requirements for foreign postal operators to do business in Indonesia. The Law stipulates that the requirements for foreign postal operators will be further regulated in a Government Regulation. The Omnibus Law also removes the requirement that foreign postal operators cooperate with domestic postal operators, as well as the requirement for postal operators to obtain a license from the Minister of Communication and Informatics to be a public company.	Mode 3	Postal services	Law No. 11 of 2020 regarding Job Creation (the "Omnibus Law"). Viewed at: https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=94b928d3-4f9a-412a-9e50-3ff8923f73d4&utm_source=Lexology+Daily+New+feed&utm_medium=HTML+email+-+Body+-+General+section&utm_campaign=Lexology+subscriber+daily+feed&utm_content=Lexology+Daily+Newsfeed+2021-04-14&utm_term=	Enacted: 2 November 2020	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ ICT/AUDIOVISUAL SERVICES					
Brazil					
The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations has adopted an ordinance containing the government's artificial intelligence (AI) strategy. The ordinance strengthens research,	Multiple modes	Computer and related services	Ordinance No. 4.617 Establishing the Brazilian Artificial Intelligence Strategy and its thematic axes.	6 April 2021	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
development and innovation in AI and includes guidelines in government initiatives in topics such as privacy, security, ethics and human rights by design and calls for transparency, equity and non-discrimination.			Viewed at: https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/portaria-gm-n-4.617-de-6-de-abril-de-2021-*--313212172		
Cambodia					
The Cambodian government issued a sub-decree establishing a National Internet Gateway (NIG), which is tasked with managing domestic and international internet connections in the country.	Modes 1 and 3	Telecommunication services	Sub-decree No. 23 on the Establishment of National Internet Gateway (NIG) Viewed at: https://data.opendevdevelopmentcambodia.net/en/dataset/7d273604-61a9-456e-b631-8f73dff13e9b/resource/bfc522d6-9e02-4f5e-a63c-5daaf3181088/download/20210216_no_23-sub_degree.pdf https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=37ce4930-c39f-46ab-aa38-4bbf36881ff0	Signed by Prime Minister 16 February 2021	
India					
The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued notices ordering mobile operators to resume blocking SMS by use of "content scrubbing" filters. The measures, based on a 2018 regulation to reduce unsolicited commercial communications (spam) and fraud, require telecom companies to verify SMS content with a template pre-registered by the sender before delivering the message.	Modes 1 and 3	Telecommunication services	Press release No. 24/2021: Implementation of the 'Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations' Viewed at: https://www.trai.gov.in/sites/default/files/PR_No_24of2021.pdf	1 April 2021	YES
The government adopted a set of guidelines for digital intermediaries and a code of ethics for digital media. The rules establish a new regulatory category referred to as "significant social media intermediaries" (SSMIs). Inclusion in this category is based on the number of registered users, a threshold that will be determined by the government. Entities falling within this category must retain user information for 6 months and disclose user information to law enforcement agencies. They must establish a 3-tiered mechanism (grievance officer, self-regulating body, inter-departmental committee) to oversee the operations of "news and online curated content"	Modes 1 and 3	Digital media services	Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code. Viewed at: https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=f4c5cf68-5014-467d-94c8-21885824b9bb https://www.meity.gov.in/writereaddata/files/Intermediary_Guidelines_and_Digital_Media_Ethics_Code_Rules-2021.pdf	25 February 2021	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
publishers". Chief compliance officers and related positions of the SSIMs, Over-the-Top service providers and news media content providers must be employees who are resident in India. The rules give the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting authority to block content in emergencies where "no delay is acceptable."					
The government published an amendment under its Allocation of Business Rules that expands the authority of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to regulate and censor social media, digital news and streaming services.	Modes 1 and 3	Audiovisual services	Allocation of Business Three Hundred and Fifty Seventh Amendment Rules, 2020, CG-DL-E-10112020-223032. Viewed at: http://egazette.nic.in/WriteReadData/2020/223032.pdf	9 November 2020	YES
Indonesia					
Indonesia promulgated a Regulation to complete a regulatory framework on management and supervision of electronic system providers by private entities (private ESPs). The Regulation clarifies registration requirements (and removes data localization requirements previously included in the draft measure). ESPs are required to provide guidelines for the use of their electronic system in Indonesia and ensure that the system (i) does not contain prohibited information and/or documents, and (ii) does not facilitate the dissemination of prohibited information and/or documents.	Modes 1 and 3	Telecommunication services	Regulation No. 5 of 2020 regarding Private Electronic System Provider Viewed at: https://jdih.kominfo.go.id/produk_hukum/view/id/759/t/peraturan+menteri+komunikasi+dan+informatika+nomor+5+tahun+2020 https://www.hoganlovells.com/-/media/hogan-lovells/pdf/2021-pdfs/2021_01_26_corporate_and_finance_alert_indonesian_regulator_set_clearer_terms_for_internet_platforms.pdf	Effective 24 November 2020	
Under the "Omnibus Law", implementing regulations on Postal, Telecommunication and Broadcasting on Capital Investment Business Fields (known as the "Priority List"), proposes easing of foreign investment and associated foreign equity restrictions for the technology and telecommunication sectors. Government Regulation 46 also provides that for spectrum leasing and spectrum pooling with another telecommunication network operator, or a special telecommunication operator (without the need to obtain a specific spectrum licence).	Mode 3	Telecommunication services	Government Regulation No. 46 of 2021 on Postal, Telecommunication and Broadcasting. Viewed at: https://globalcompliancenews.com/indonesia-building-up-regulations-to-support-digital-economy-18032021/	18 March 2021	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Japan					
In order to strengthen the effectiveness of law enforcement for entities including foreign corporations, the amendment of the Telecommunications Business Act introduced regulations related to the obligation to designate the domestic representative or the domestic agent at the time of registration or notification. It also introduces a publication system that also target domestic corporations in the case of violations of the Act.	Multiple modes	Telecommunication services	Telecommunications Business Act. Viewed at: http://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/law/detail/?id=3648&vm=04&re=2	Effective 1 April 2021	YES
Kenya					
An amendment to the ICT policy guidelines increased the minimum Kenyan equity participation requirement from 20% to 30% in all licensed companies in the sector. All companies licensed to provide broadcasting services must continue to comply with the 30% local equity requirements. The Policy requires licensees to comply with the new local equity participation requirements within three years.	Mode 3	Telecommunication services	Gazette Notice No. 3192 amending the National ICT Policy Guidelines, 2020. Viewed at: https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=88c77c37-90e2-41ed-b0e1-68591829e8fb&utm_source=Lexology+Daily+Newsfeed&utm_medium=HTML+email+-+Body+-+General+section&utm_campaign=Lexology+subscriber+daily+feed&utm_content=Lexology+Daily+Newsfeed+2021-04-14&utm_term=	Published on 9 April 2021	
Korea, Rep. of					
The government enacted and implemented amendments to the Telecommunications Business Act, including a requirement on foreign telecom services suppliers to appoint a local representative.	Mode 1	Telecommunication services	Amended Telecommunications Business Act. Viewed at: https://www.kimchang.com/en/insights/detail.kc?sch_section=4&idx=22016#:~:text=An%20amendment%20to%20the%20Korean,10%2C%202020%20(the%20%E2%80%9CAmended	Effective 10 December 2020	YES
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of					
The Communication and Information Technology Commission released an updated version of the cloud computing regulatory framework. It facilitates requirements for the provision of cloud computing services, by rearranging registration categories, clarifying requirements for the registration process, explaining the mechanisms for dealing with data and its classifications, and outlines the subscribers' responsibilities of cloud computing services and service providers.	Modes 1 and 3	Computer and related services	Cloud Computing Regulatory Framework. Viewed at: https://www.citc.gov.sa/ar/mediacenter/pressreleases/Pages/2020122201.aspx# https://www.citc.gov.sa/en/RulesandSystems/RegulatoryDocuments/Pages/CCRF.aspx	Effective 3 December 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Seychelles					
New regulations were introduced on the "per-second" billing by operators of public land mobile network and records of customers of prepaid mobile services.	Mode 3	Telecommunication services	Broadcasting and Telecommunications (Records of Customers of Prepaid Mobile Services by Operators of Public Land Mobile Network) (Amendment) Regulations S.I. 24 of 2021 Broadcasting and Telecommunication (Per-second Billing by Operators of Public Land Mobile Network) Regulations; S.I. 2 of 2021. Viewed at: https://www.nationalassembly.sc/legislation/statutory-instrument-sis/si-2-2021-broadcasting-and-telecommunications-records https://www.nationalassembly.sc/legislation/statutory-instrument-sis/si-24-2021-broadcasting-and-telecommunication-second-billing	Enacted 22 January and 3 March 2021	YES
Tanzania					
The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) suspended new data tariffs offered by the country's mobile operators. Telecommunications companies revised their prices for voice calls, SMS and data services to comply with the new regulations. However, the TCRA is temporarily suspending the new data bundles and their pricing to give service providers time to conduct detailed analysis that would better serve the interests of consumers.	Mode 3	Telecommunication services	Viewed at: https://www.commsupdate.com/articles/2021/04/07/tcra-suspends-cellcos-revised-data-tariffs/?utm_source=CommsUpdate&utm_campaign=db64166f38-CommsUpdate+07+April+2021&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0688983330-db64166f38-11673382	2 April 2021	
Ukraine					
The new law established equal rights for all providers of electronic communications networks and services to access the infrastructure and introduces a dispute settlement procedure.	Modes 1 and 3	Telecommunication services	The Law of Ukraine No 1089-IX On electronic communications. Viewed at: https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1089-20#Text	Adopted 16 December 2020 Effective 1 January 2022	YES
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Albania					
The Board of the Capital market Authority approved five regulations (By-laws in the Capital Market) covering:	Multiple modes	Financial services	Regulation No. 187, dated 16.12.2020 "On the form and procedure of registration of the offering memorandum for bonds issuance".	16 and 29 December 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
- licensing of investment firms, their branches and recognition of foreign investment firms, - activities of tied agents of investment firms, - requirements for key personnel in investment firms or offering investment services, - assessing client suitability, - procedure for registering the offering memorandum for the issuance of bonds.			Regulation No. 188, dated 16.12.2020 "On the registration and activity of the tied agent of the investment firm". Regulation No. 195, dated 29.12.2020 "On the licensing of the investment firm, the registration of the branch of the foreign investment firm and the recognition of the foreign investment firm". Regulation No. 196, dated 29.12.2020 "On the certification procedure and qualifications of the employees with key functions of the investment firm". Regulation No. 197, dated 29.12.2020 "On the assessment of client's suitability". Regulation No.112 dated 31.08.2020 on "Licensing of Collective Investment Undertakings". Regulation No. 132 dated 30.09.2020 "The form, calculation and amount of its own funds that the fund management company must have". Regulation No. 133, dated 30.09.2020 "On Investor communications". Regulation No. 156, dated 23.10.2020 "Risk management of the management company of collective investment undertakings". Regulation No. 189, dated 16.12.2020 "On Suspension of issue and redemption of units in CIU". Regulation No. 2, dated 27.01.2021 "On the Operation of Licensed Collective Investment Undertakings established in Albania by Fund Management Companies and Depositaries".		
The Albanian Parliament approved on 16 March 2021 a new law fulfilling the recommendations of the European Commission, through progress reports and through the annual meetings of the	Multiple modes	Insurance services	Law on compulsory motor insurance in the transport sector	Effective 1 July 2021	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Sub-Committee EU-Albania "Internal Market and Competition".					
China					
The People's Bank of China has released new guidelines on the collection and processing of personal financial information which apply to regulated banks, financial institutions and insurance companies. Personal financial information includes information which is collected, processed, generated and secured through the provision of financial products or services in China. Personal financial information can be transferred abroad if necessary for business purposes and under certain conditions (e.g. consent, privacy and security assessment). It is required, amongst other things, that certain sensitive information is not shared with third party service providers.	Multiple modes	Financial services	Personal Financial Information Guidelines Viewed at: https://www.mondaq.com/china/security/1018664/stricter-data-localisation-and-security-rules-for-financial-and-insurance-data-in-china	20 December 2020	
The People's Bank of China (PBOC) introduced a data lifecycle security code. It represents the key guideline for handling personal and other financial information by financial institutions. They are classified into five levels and different compliance obligations are specified for each. This will require financial institutions to assess and classify/tag financial data against the five levels and apply the relevant compliance obligations to each level accordingly. Financial institutions must comply with these extra steps as well as compliance obligations under the Cybersecurity Law, Personal Information Security Specification, etc. Apps and web terminals operated by financial institutions must not retain any information at level 3 or above once the transaction in question is concluded. Level 5 data (i.e. important data, not defined) must only be stored in Mainland China and cannot be transferred or accessed abroad. For all other financial data (i.e. levels 1 to 4), the general principal is that such data should be stored in Mainland China. Financial data at level 3 or above – which includes all customer personal information – can only be transferred to, or accessed by, third	Mode 3	Financial services	Financial Data Security Data Lifecycle Security Code (JR/T 0223-2021). Viewed at: https://blogs.dlapiper.com/privacymatters/china-navigating-china-episode-16-new-data-lifecycle-guidelines-for-financial-institutions-in-china-detailed-assessments-additional-security-measures-and-some-data-localisation-introduced/ http://www.360doc.com/content/21/0416/10/70074794_972578115.shtml	Effective 8 April 2021	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
parties (onshore or offshore) if: (i) necessary for business purposes; and (ii) prior approvals are obtained. Transfers to group companies are also regulated, and different requirements apply to each level. The code details extensive data security measures that must be applied throughout the data lifecycle for each level of data. Financial institutions must undertake an additional data security impact assessment if they acquire any data from an external (third party) supplier.					
The China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (CBIRC) issued a Notice on Matters Related to Insurance Fund Financial Equity Investment. The core of the Notice is to remove industry restrictions on financial equity investment of insurance funds.	Mode 3	Insurance services	Notice on Matters Related to Insurance Fund Financial Equity Investment. Viewed at: http://www.cbirc.gov.cn/cn/view/pages/governmentDetail.html?docId=942106&itemId=861&generaltype=1	Effective 12 November 2020	YES
The CBIRC introduced new rules regarding Internet Insurance Business Measures according to which only licensed insurance institutions (qualified operators) are allowed to engage in internet insurance business.	Modes 1 and 3	Insurance services	Internet Insurance Business Measures (New Internet Insurance Measures). Viewed at: https://www.cbirc.gov.cn/cn/view/pages/governmentDetail.html?docId=949137&itemId=861	Effective 1 February 2021	YES
The CBIRC issued the Decision on Amending the Implementation Rules of the Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Foreign-funded Insurance Companies. Restrictive provisions on the ratio of foreign shares are removed. A foreign insurance company or a foreign-funded insurance group company, as shareholder of a foreign insurance company, can hold 100% of the shares. The decree also clarifies access conditions for foreign insurance group companies and foreign financial institutions to invest in foreign-funded insurance companies.	Mode 3	Insurance services	Decree of China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (2021 No. 2). Viewed at: http://www.cbirc.gov.cn/cn/view/pages/ItemDetail.html?docId=971698&itemId=928	Effective 10 March 2021	YES
China's State Council promulgated new regulations providing that no entity or individual may publish an advertisement containing fundraising content or otherwise distribute publicity material for fundraising to the public.	Mode 3	Banking services Advertising services	Regulations on the Prevention and Handling of Illegal Fundraising Viewed at:	Effective 1 May 2021	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
For Internet information service providers failing to fulfil their obligations to prevent and dispose of suspected illegal fundraising information, the competent authorities shall order rectification, issue a warning or confiscate the illegal proceeds. For online instances such as websites or mobile applications that were established or developed for illegal fundraising, the competent telecommunications authority shall shut them down in accordance with law.			https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=fa0e88b2-a27f-4d7a-981d-2ff27b002042&utm_source=Lexology+Daily+Newsfeed&utm_medium=HTML+email+-+Body+-+General+section&utm_campaign=Lexology+subscriber+daily+feed&utm_content=Lexology+Daily+Newsfeed+2021-04-16&utm_term=		
Costa Rica					
The National Council for the Supervision of the Financial System introduced several reforms to regulations related to public offering securities to promote environmental, social and sustainable objectives in the securities market.	Modes 1 and 3	Banking and other financial services	Reform Securities Public Offering Regulations, Infrastructure Project Financing Regulations, Securitization Process Regulation and General Regulations on Management Companies and Investment Funds. Viewed at: http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=93220&nValor3=123657&strTipM=TC	Effective 16 December 2020	YES
A regulation was published establishing the minimum responsibilities and obligations that apply to branches of foreign banks established in Costa Rica.	Mode 3	Banking and other financial services	Regulation on Minimum Responsibilities and Obligations of Foreign Bank Branches in Costa Rica. Viewed at: http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=93233&nValor3=123675&strTipM=TC	Effective 16 December 2020	YES
A new version of the regulation concerning exchange derivatives operations establishes the procedure before the General Superintendency of Financial Entities (SUGEF) to negotiate exchange derivatives contracts with clients, which complements the authorization of the entity by the Central Bank of Costa Rica (BCCR). It also establishes prudential provisions on limits for operations with exchange derivatives.	Mode 3	Banking and other financial services	Regulation on Transactions with Exchange Derivatives (SUGEF AGREEMENT 9-20) and Reform Regulation on the Patrimonial Adequacy of Financial Institutions Viewed at: http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=93230&nValor3=123660&strTipM=TC	Effective 16 December 2020	YES
A new version of the regulation on foreign	Mode 3	Banking and other	Foreign Currency Derivatives Regulation	Effective 16 December 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
currency derivatives was approved. It establishes the terms of use and negotiation of derivative contracts in foreign currency carried out by entities supervised by the General Superintendence of Financial Institutions and the General Superintendence of Securities that have exchange intermediary status. The measure also regulates the obligations and responsibilities of these entities to supply information to the Central Bank of Costa Rica and to the corresponding supervisory bodies.		financial services	Viewed at: http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=93227&nValor3=123653&strTipM=TC		
An amendment to the Law for the Regulation of Financial Intermediation of Cooperative Organizations allows savings and credit cooperatives to grant loans to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises to promote economic reactivation. In addition, the reform eliminates a series of restrictions previously imposed on cooperatives for lending to enterprises and expands the scope of financial services that they may offer to their members.	Mode 3	Credit granting services	Reform Regulation of Financial Intermediation of Cooperative Organizations. Viewed at: http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=93089&nValor3=123423&strTipM=TC	Effective 2 December 2020 (except for the amendment referring to the possibility of making investments in securities issued by different financial institutions, effective six months after publication)	YES
A new regulation was approved, which regulates the management of the deposit guarantee fund (FGD) and other guarantee funds (OFG) created by Law No. 9816 ("Law of Creation of the Guarantee Fund Deposit and Resolution Mechanisms"). The purpose of the measure is to guarantee, up to a certain limit, the deposits and savings that natural and legal persons keep in entities contributing to the Fund, as well as establish the resolution mechanisms of financial intermediaries supervised by the General Superintendency of Financial Entities (SUGEF).	Mode 3	Credit granting services	Regulation on the management of the deposit guarantee fund (FGD) and other guarantee funds. Viewed at: http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=93574&nValor3=124296&strTipM=TC https://www.sugef.fi.cr/ver/normativa/normativa_vigente/Sugef%2040-21%20%20(v01%2028%20enero%202021).pdf#.YH9e6ehKjcs	Effective 3 May 2021	YES
Revisions were introduced to the Law for the Promotion of Competition and Effective Defence of the Consumer regulating financial, commercial and microcredit operations, including limits on the maximum annual interest rate that individuals or legal entities may charge when granting financing to a third party.	Mode 3	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=92971&nValor3=123	Effective 18 November 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
			240&strTipM=TC		
Hong Kong, China					
The Insurance (Amendment) Ordinance 2020 and relevant subsidiary legislation provide for, <i>inter alia</i> , a new regulatory regime for insurance-linked securities ("ILS"). ILS is a risk management tool that enables insurers or reinsurers to offload risks that they have underwritten to the capital market by way of securitization and is often treated as an alternative form of reinsurance.	Multiple modes	Insurance services	Insurance (Amendment) Ordinance 2020 and the Insurance (Special Purpose Business) Rules. Viewed at: https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr19-20/english/ord/2020ord017-e.pdf https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr20-21/english/subleg/negative/2021ln007-e.pdf https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr20-21/english/subleg/negative/2021ln008-e.pdf https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr20-21/english/subleg/negative/2021ln002-e.pdf https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=70e6237a-844b-4a3a-a457-ca96c83a5fa0	Effective 29 March 2021	YES
India					
The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), limited to a maximum of 30% the market share of foreign electronic payment service suppliers processing online payments made through India's United Payment Interface (owned and operated by NPCI).	Multiple modes	Electronic payment services	Press release No 216: NPCI Press Release - UPI balances consumer experience with growth outlook with a 30% volume cap for Third Party App Providers (TPAPs). Viewed at: https://www.npci.org.in/PDF/npci/press-releases/2020/UPI-balances-consumer-experience-with-growth-for-TPAPs.pdf	Effective 1 January 2021	YES
Indonesia					
Bank Indonesia (BI) implemented structural changes to the payment licensing framework in Indonesia which includes the reclassification of the activities of payment service operators (from previously an institutional-based approach to now an activity and risk-based approach). This regulation will enable BI to better mitigate potential risks in Indonesia's financial system while keeping up with the rapid development of digitalization and innovation in the payment systems industry. Worth noting regarding share ownerships are:	Mode 3	Payment services	Regulation No. 22/23/PBI/2020 on Payment System. Viewed at: https://www.bi.go.id/id/publikasi/peraturan/Pages/PBI_222320.aspx#	Published 29 December 2020 Effective 1 July 2021.	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
a) a maximum of 85% foreign equity participation (FEP) or 49% FEP with voting rights for non-bank payment service providers b) a maximum of 20% FEP for non-bank payment infrastructure providers with or without voting rights.					
Kazakhstan					
Due to the expiration of the five-year transition period pursuant to the commitments set forth in the GATS Schedule of Specific Commitments of the Republic of Kazakhstan in relation to the financial services sector, the relevant laws of Kazakhstan have been amended to allow foreign banks, insurance (and reinsurance) organizations and insurance brokers to open direct branches in the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan: In order to open branches, foreign banks and insurance and reinsurance organizations are required to meet the requirements and conditions established by the Laws of the RK "On Banks and Banking Activities in the Republic of Kazakhstan" and "On Insurance Activities": 1) in the banking sector: - the minimum amount of total assets of a non-resident bank, which has submitted an application for the opening of a branch, must be not less than USD 20 billion; - the minimum amount of deposit which can be accepted from a natural person by non-resident bank branches must be not less than USD 120,000. 2) in the insurance and reinsurance sectors: - the minimum amount of total assets of a non-resident insurance organization/non-resident reinsurance organization, which has submitted an application for the opening of a branch, must be not less than USD 5 billion; - branches of non-resident insurance companies/non-resident reinsurance organizations are allowed to provide insurance services in certain sectors only if the parent non-resident companies have at least 10 years of experience in those sectors and classes.	Mode 3	Financial services	Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 2444 "On Banks and Banking Activities in the Republic of Kazakhstan" of 31 August 1995; Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 126 "On Insurance Activities" of 18 December 2000; Entrepreneur Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 375-V ZRK of 29 October 2015. Law of the RK No. 399-VI ZRK "On Amending Some Legislative Acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan Concerning the Restoration of Economic Growth" of 2 January 2021. Law of the RK No. 168-VI ZRK "On Amending Some Legislative Acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan Concerning Currency Regulation and Currency Control, Risk-Oriented Supervision of Activity of the Financial Organizations, Protection of the Rights of Consumers of Financial Services and Improvement of Activity of the National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan" of 2 July 2018. Law of the RK No. 422-V ZRK "On Amending Some Legislative Acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan Concerning Non-Performing Loans and Assets of Second-Tier Banks, the Provision of Financial Services and the Activities of Financial Organizations and the National Bank of the Republic of Kazakhstan" of 24 November 2015	Effective 16 December 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Mexico					
The Executive Branch adopted a new measure imposing certain requirements on the operations of electronic payment fund institutions, in order to ensure the security of operations with their clients and safeguard their principal activities, internal operations and processes in the event of unforeseen acts, situations or events that may block, damage or limit, such activities. The regulation requires, <i>inter alia</i>, that electronic payment fund institutions notify their clients of a series of transactions within a period of no more than 5 seconds, including money transfers. The regulation also contains provisions on the use of Cloud services by electronic payment fund institutions.	Multiple modes	Electronic payment services	Provisions Applicable to Electronic Payment Fund Institutions referred to in Articles 48, Second Paragraph, 54, First Paragraph, and 56, First and Second Paragraphs of the Law to Regulate Financial Technology Institutions. Viewed at: http://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5610487&fecha=28/01/2021 https://www.banxico.org.mx/marco-normativo/normativa-emitida-por-el-banco-de-mexico/reglas-conjuntas-instituciones-de-fondos-de-pago-e/%7BADF42F57-E748-2DBE-AAA2-1988AA7A29FE%7D.pdf	Effective 28 April 2021	YES
Moldova, Republic of					
A new regulation was approved to ensure the proper enforcement of the Law amending certain legislative acts, especially the Capital Market Law (No. 97/2020), partially transposing the provisions of Regulation (EU) No. 1060/2009 regarding the activity of credit rating agencies. This sets up the principles and requirements regarding the registration, supervision and activity of credit rating agencies.	Multiple modes	Financial services	National Commission for Financial Markets Decision No. 56/3 from 23.11.2020. Source: Permanent Delegation of Moldova to the WTO (12 May 2021)	Effective 1 January 2021	YES
The Regulation on approving the establishment and operation of the collective placements (No. 49/14/2014) and the Regulation on licensing and authorization on the capital market (No. 56/11/2014) were amended.	Multiple modes	Financial services	National Commission for Financial Markets Decision No. 52/8 from 03.11.2020. Source: Permanent Delegation of Moldova to the WTO (12 May 2021)	Effective 20 November 2020	YES
The Parliament approved a new law to transpose into national legislation the European supervisory framework, specifically the provisions of EU Directive No.2009/138 as of 25.11.2009 regarding the access to the activity and the conduct of the insurance and reinsurance activity (Solvency II).	All modes	Financial services	Law on insurance and reinsurance activity (No. 438 of 05.11.2020). Source: Permanent Delegation of Moldova to the WTO (12 May 2021) https://www.xprimm.com/MOLDOVA-the-draft-law-on-insurance-and-reinsurance-activities-	Adopted 4 December 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
			passed-its-first-reading-in-parliament-articol-2.12.31-16393.htm		
Myanmar					
The Central Bank of Myanmar issued new rules for Non-Banking Financial Institutions (NBFI) operations in Myanmar, such as conducting finance company business, leasing business, or factoring business, which are defined in the Financial Institutions Law. These cover NBFI registration, the prohibition of deposit acceptance by these entities and opens the possibility for 100% foreign ownership.	Mode 3	Financial services	Notification 1/2021 in relation to non-banking financial institutions. Viewed at: https://www.cbm.gov.mm/sites/default/files/directive_nbfi_myanfor_website_27-1-2021-1-9 https://www.tilleke.com/insights/myanmar-issues-new-guidelines-for-non-banking-financial-institutions/	26 January 2021	YES
Netherlands					
A new Act introduces a prohibition on the provision of cross-border direct insurance services by third-country insurers, as per the European Commission's policy to disallow this form of service provision. As a result of these measures, life and non-life insurers from non-EU/EEA countries can no longer provide direct cross-border insurance services in the Netherlands. Reinsurance through the provision of services by third-country insurers remains permitted.	Mode 1	Insurance services	Act amending the Dutch Financial Supervision Act. Viewed at: https://www.dnb.nl/en/sector-information/supervision-laws-and-regulations/laws-and-eu-regulations/financial-supervision-act/ https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=6de198ad-1714-4a6b-90f0-9af243d82fb6	Effective 17 March 2021	YES
New Zealand					
Introduction of licencing regime for financial benchmark administrators operating in New Zealand. The measure is designed on an opt-in basis so that it only captures the financial benchmarks that are intended to be regulated.	All modes	Financial services	Financial Markets (Derivatives Margin and Benchmarking) Reform Amendment Act 2019. Viewed at: https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2019/0046/latest/whole.html	Effective 15 March 2021	YES
Introduction of new requirements on all those that give financial advice to a retail client.	All modes	Financial services	Financial Services Legislation Amendment Act 2019. Viewed at: https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2019/0008/latest/whole.html	Effective 15 March 2021	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Philippines					
The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP, Philippines central bank) adopted a series of new measures affecting banking and other financial services. These relate, for example, to: - defining "digital bank" (maximum 40% ownership allowed by foreign individuals or foreign non-bank corporations, head office in Philippines), - prudential requirements (minimum capital, foreign currency deposit unit asset cover), - rules and regulations governing operations of virtual asset service providers, - reducing the minimum size of an account and expand the securities eligible as investment outlet for commingled funds under investment management, - reporting requirements of banks and quasi-banks as part of the report rationalization initiative of the BSP, and - amendments to the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 10000 ("The Agri-Agra Reform Credit Act of 2009", to improve financing to the agrarian reform, fisheries, and agricultural sector).	Mode 3	Banking and other financial services	Circulars Nos. 1102, 1104, 1105, 1107 to 1111; Memorandum Nos. M-2020-083, 084; M-2021-001 Viewed at: http://www.bsp.gov.ph/	October 2020 – March 2021	YES
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of					
The Board of the Capital Market Authority issued a resolution to approve the amendments to the Investment Funds Regulations and Real Estate Investment Funds Regulations and the Glossary of Defined Terms Used in the Regulations and Rules of the Capital Market Authority.	Mode 3	Banking and other financial services	Amended by the resolution of the Board of Capital Market Authority dated 24 February 2021. Viewed at: https://cma.org.sa/en/Market/NEWS/Pages/CMA_N_2865.aspx https://cma.org.sa/en/RulesRegulations/Regulations/Documents/IFRs%20Regulations-%20Final%20English.pdf https://cma.org.sa/en/RulesRegulations/Regulations/Documents/REAL%20ESTATE%20INVE%20FUND%20REG_.pdf	Effective 1 May 2021 (except for amendments to the provisions specified in the announcement).	YES
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.	Mode 3	Banking and other financial services	Amended by the resolution of the Board of the Capital Market Authority dated 14 January 2021. Viewed at:	Effective 28 January 2021 (except sub-paragraphs (2) and, (8/b-c) of paragraph (a) of article 6, and articles 8, 9	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
			https://cma.org.sa/en/RulesRegulations/Regulations/Documents/OSRCI_en.pdf	and 14 which will be effective 1 January 2022)	
The Board of the Capital Market Authority issued a resolution to approve the amendments to the Rules for Special Purposes Entities.	Mode 3	Banking and other financial services	Amended by the resolution of the Board of the Capital Market Authority dated 14 January 2021. Viewed at: https://cma.org.sa/en/RulesRegulations/Regulations/Documents/Market_Conduct_Regulations_En.pdf	Effective 28 January 2021	YES
The Board of the Capital Market Authority issued a resolution to approve the amended Market Conduct Regulations.	Mode 3	Banking and other financial services	Amended by the resolution of the Board of the Capital Market Authority dated 25 January 2021. Viewed at: https://cma.org.sa/en/RulesRegulations/Regulations/Documents/Market_Conduct_Regulations_En.pdf	Effective 26 January 2021	YES
The Board of the Capital Market Authority issued a resolution to approve the amendment to Annex 1 (Proxy Form) of the Regulatory Rules and Procedures issued pursuant to the Companies Law relating to Listed Joint Stock Companies by deleting the official seal requirement, if the shareholder is a legal person.	Mode 3	Banking and other financial services	Amended by the resolution of the Board of the Capital Market Authority dated 18 November 2020. Viewed at: https://cma.org.sa/en/RulesRegulations/Regulations/Documents/Regulatory-Rules-and-Procedures-issued-pursuant-to-the-Companies-Law.pdf	Effective 24 November 2020	YES
Switzerland					
The Act seeks to increase legal certainty, remove hurdles for Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT)- and blockchain-based applications and limit new risks. The new Act is not designed as a specific law, but rather amends a number of other federal laws in a targeted manner. The Act adapts, <i>inter alia</i> , securities law in order to provide a legal basis for the trading of rights through electronic registers and makes targeted changes to intermediated securities law so as to clarify the relationship with the new category of securities. This part of the DLT bill entered into effect on 1 February 2021.	Multiple modes	Financial services	Federal Act on the Adaptation of Federal Law to Developments in Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) (RO 2021 33). Viewed at: https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/oc/2021/33/fr	Effective 1 February and 1 August 2021	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
The remaining major provisions of the DLT bill, such as the harmonization of banking law provisions on bank insolvency and the establishment of a new authorization category in financial market infrastructure law for DLT trading systems, should enter into effect on 1 August 2021.					
Turkey					
A new regulation made it possible to perform identity verification transactions by an online video call without the need for the customer representative and the customer to be physically present in the same location. In addition, after identity verification was made remotely or through branches, it becomes possible to establish remote banking contracts.	Modes 1 and 3	Banking services	Regulation on Remote Identification Methods to be Used by Banks and Establishment of Contractual Relations in Electronic Environment. Viewed at: https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2021/04/20210401-7.htm	Effective: 1 May 2021	YES
Ukraine					
The National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) adopted a resolution establishing the licensing regime for the supply of financial leasing services (e.g. consumer credits) by non-bank financial institutions. The resolution establishes the list of requirements and documents to be submitted and details the procedure for informing applicants about the decision (or cancellation) of the issuance of the license to provide such financial services.	Mode 3	Financial services	Resolution of Board of the National Bank of Ukraine No. 27 "On approval of the Regulations on determination of conditions of implementation of activities for provision of financial services which implementation requires the corresponding license (license conditions)" of March 30, 2021. Viewed at: https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=65191d73-e5dc-4d2b-9b9e-52f55db1400b	Effective 31 March 2021	YES
United Kingdom					
The Prudential Regulation Authority of the Bank of England published a policy statement and final supervisory statement (SS) on outsourcing and third-party risk management. The statement includes details on the obligations to be met to comply with banking supervisory rules on the outsourcing to payment providers including related data. Firms will be expected to comply by Thursday 31 March 2022.	Mode 3	Financial services	Outsourcing and Third Party Risk Management, Policy Statement PS7/21, which includes the final Supervisory Statement SS2/21 of the same title. Viewed at: https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/-/media/boe/files/prudential-regulation/consultation-paper/2021/march/ps721.pdf?la=en&hash=6C70BEE48B89D7965D43894DB848FC41CD5EC6C0	Published 29 March 2021	YES
The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) published new measures, which set out the authority's	Mode 3	Financial services	Financial Conduct Authority Handbook.	Issued February 2021	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
approach to the authorisation and supervision of international firms and the circumstances in which they may need to establish a UK subsidiary rather than a branch. The FCA indicates that relevant banks (and insurers), as dual-regulated firms, should consider the document as the authority will provide consent to any authorisation applications that they submit to the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA).			Viewed at: https://www.fca.org.uk/publication/corporate/approach-to-international-firms.pdf		
The Cross-Border Payments Regulation (EC) No. 924/2009 (CBPR, as amended by the Amending Regulation) was "on-shored" into UK law following the end of the Brexit transition period, with amendments. Only the new transparency requirements on currency conversion charges under Article 3a and Article 3b (as inserted by the Amending Regulation) are retained. This means that the equality of charges requirements are not part of the UK CBPR regime.	Modes 1 and 3	Financial services	UK Cross-Border Payments Regulation. Viewed at: https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=ba2105fb-c321-4101-bd45-b1535ac4dd21	1 January 2021	YES
United States					
A new Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) rule will determine the cross-border application of certain of the CFTC's swaps regulations for swap dealers and major swap participants, including applicable registration thresholds. The rule extends the cross-border approach of the CFTC's 2016 cross-border rule relating to the application of margin requirements for uncleared swaps and harmonizes to a significant degree the CFTC's cross-border approach to swap dealer regulation with the Securities and Exchange Commission's cross-border approach to security-based swap dealer regulation.	Multiple modes	Financial services	Cross-Border Application of the Registration Thresholds and Certain Requirements Applicable to Swap Dealers and Major Swap Participants. Viewed at: https://www.cftc.gov/sites/default/files/2020/09/2020-16489a.pdf?utm_source=govdelivery	Effective 13 November 2020	YES
Viet Nam					
The State Bank of Vietnam (SBV) issued a measure guiding the implementation of foreign currency (FX) transactions on the FX market of credit institutions authorized to engage in such activities ("authorised credit institutions").	Modes 1 and 3	Banking services	Circular No. 02/2021/TT-NHNN on Guiding Forex Transactions of Licensed Credit Institutions in Forex Market. Viewed at: https://www.sbv.gov.vn/webcenter/portal/m_en/home/sbv/prerel/otherpre?_afrLoop=21720229457605297#%40%3F_afrLoop%3D2172022945	Effective 17 May 2021	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
			7605297%26centerWidth%3D100%2525%26leftWidth%3D0%2525%26rightWidth%3D0%2525%26showFooter%3Dfalse%26showHeader%3Dfalse%26_adf.ctrl-state%3D160yugw30n_4		
TOURISM AND TRAVEL RELATED SERVICES					
Albania					
The government adopted a number of measures in the area of tourism and travel services These relate for example to the establishment of criteria to operate as a certified maritime tourism operators, or improved and simplified procedures for the submission of applications for various activities (tourist guide services, beach stations, hotels)	Multiple modes	Tourism and travel related services	DCM No. 845/2020 on the approval of detailed rules for the development of maritime tourism activities carried out through vessels for tourist and entertainment purposes. DCM No. 521, of 01.07.2020 on some amendments and addenda on DCM No. 692/2016, on the approval of the regulation "criteria for equipment with certificate for exercising the activity of the tourist guide, tasks, responsibilities and code of ethics". DCM No. 1172, of 24.12.2020 on some amendments and addenda on DCM No.171, of 27.03.2019, on the approval of the regulation "on the conditions and criteria of exercising the activity of the beach station". Minister Order No. 321, of 11.12.2020, for an addendum on Minister Order No. 243, of 09.07.2019 "On the approval of classification procedure of accommodation structure of 4-5 stars, holder of a registered trademark, internationally recognized as "Brand name".	Approved July-December 2020	YES
Costa Rica					
A new law authorized foreign-flagged vessels and their crew to engage in lucrative activities related to water transport, diving, recreation and tourism within Costa Rican waters, and allows the hiring of national crew members to carry out these practices. Also, the new law increases the maximum term of concessions for marines from 35 to 40 years, and extensions from 10 to 20 years. Initial terms of the concession for berths may be 35 years and extensions of 10 years may be granted.	Modes 1 and 3	Tourism and travel related services Maritime transport	Law on Boosting to Tourist Marines and Coastal Development. Viewed at: http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=94128&nValor3=125176&strTipM=TC	Effective 23 April 2021	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Russian Federation					
Guides and guide-interpreters must be citizens of the Russian Federation unless stipulated otherwise under international agreements.	Modes 3 and 4	Tourism and travel related services	Federal Law No. 93-FZ "On Amending the Federal Law "On the Fundamentals of Tourist Activities in the Russian Federation" as Part of Legal Regulation of Activities of Guides, Guide-interpreters and Instructors-guides". Source: Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation to the WTO (3 May 2021)	Adopted 20 April 2021 Effective 1 July 2022	YES
RECREATIONAL, CULTURAL AND SPORTING SERVICES					
Albania					
New measures were adopted covering the establishment of quotas for licences for commercial activities of cultural assets.	Mode 3	Personal, cultural and recreational services	Decision No. 199 dated 31.3.2021 "On determining the special conditions of licensing, accompanying documents, procedures for reviewing or revoking the license, application fees and annual quotas of licenses for commercial activities of cultural assets"	31 March 2021	YES
TRANSPORT SERVICES					
Brazil					
The new Decree provides for the public calls regarding the use of port facilities in organized ports and introduces temporary use contracts. The procedures for public calls related to the lease of port facilities within the polygonal of the organized port were amended and it is possible to dismiss bids if the existence of a single interested party in the area's use is verified. Port concession now have a term of up to 70 years, including the original concession and its extensions. Leasing of port facilities is possible up to 35 years, extendable up to a limit of 70. The temporary use contract was also provided for interested parties in cargo handling, with an unconsolidated market for the temporary use of port areas and facilities located in the polygonal of the organized port, with dismissal of prior bidding.	Mode 3	Maritime transport services	Decree 10,672 amending Decree 8,033/2013, regulating Law 12,815/2013 (Ports Law). Viewed at: https://www.mayerbrown.com/en/perspectives-events/publications/2021/04/regulatory-decree-of-brazils-ports-law-changed	Published 12 April 2021	YES
Hungary					
The government introduced measures to monitor the legal use of bilateral and multilateral	Multiple modes	Road transport services	Regulation on the Advance Electronic Licence Registration System.	Effective 1 January 2021	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
authorizations for the international carriage of goods by road and to verify the regularity of cabotage operations. Registration is mandatory for all international shipments of goods subject to a license in Hungary. The shipment is subject to authorization if the carrier is required to use a bilateral or CEMT permit. Registration is mandatory for all cabotage operations, including the transport task before and after the cabotage operation. Registration is two-tiered, first the company registers (company registration) and has the option to register its vehicles in the system, followed by the registration of the given transport task (transport registration). A user of an undertaking with administrator rights must register the transport operation whenever the activity is a cabotage operation or subject to bilateral or multilateral authorization. The system applies to both foreign and Hungarian road transportation companies with: lorries over 3.5 tonnes, involved in international road transport for a fee in Hungary; lorries with a maximum permissible gross laden weight of more than 7.5 tonnes for international road freight transport; lorries carrying out cabotage operations in Hungary. Failing to register a transport can result in a fine.			Viewed at: https://bireg.gov.hu/info/en/orientation.html		
Indonesia					
The Omnibus Law revises 68 articles in Law No. 17 of 2008 regarding Shipping. The main changes concern easing the licensing process in the shipping sector and allowing the use of foreign vessels for certain activities in Indonesian waters. The Omnibus Law adds a provision to the Shipping Law, stating that if Indonesian-flagged vessels are unavailable, foreign-flagged vessels may be used to conduct special activities in Indonesian waters other than carrying passengers and/or goods. A significant portion of the changes to the Shipping Law involve centralizing licensing and certification authority with the Central Government.	Modes 1 and 3	Maritime transport	Law No. 11 of 2020 regarding Job Creation (the "Omnibus Law") Viewed at: https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?q=94b928d3-4f9a-412a-9e50-3ff8923f73d4&utm_source=Lexology+Daily+Newsfeed&utm_medium=HTML+email+-+Body+-+General+section&utm_campaign=Lexology+subscriber+daily+feed&utm_content=Lexology+Daily+Newsfeed+2021-04-14&utm_term=	Enacted: 2 November 2020	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Turkey					
A new regulation laid out the legal framework for the shared electric scooter ("e-scooters") business. Operations are subject to a two-tiered licensing procedure: (1) businesses authorization certificate from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure; (2) shared e-scooter permit for e-scooters that will be used to be issued by the Transportation Coordination Center in metropolitan municipalities and Provincial traffic commissions in municipalities. Each authorization certificate holder will be able to obtain shared e-scooter permits amounting up to one fifth of the maximum permissible shared e-scooter permits (up to 1/200 of the population, subject to certain exceptions) in a given district. The administration may impose conditions on prices. At least 30% of the e-scooter fleet must be manufactured domestically to comply with domestic content principles.	Mode 3	Transport services	Electric Scooters Regulation. Viewed at: https://herguner.av.tr/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/64.pdf https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2021/04/20210414-3.htm	Published and effective 14 April 2021	YES
ENERGY SERVICES					
Indonesia					
The Law No. 22 of 2001 on Oil and Gas was amended by the Omnibus Law. Companies involved in upstream oil and gas business activities are now required to obtain a business license through an online system managed by the Central Government. The Omnibus Law simplifies the multiple business licensing requirement for downstream oil and gas business activities (processing, transportation, storage and/or trading) under the Oil and Gas Law. Rather, it designates a single integrated Business License that is applicable for all of the foregoing business activities.	Mode 3	Energy-related services	Law No. 11 of 2020 regarding Job Creation (the "Omnibus Law"). Viewed at: https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?q=94b928d3-4f9a-412a-9e50-3ff8923f73d4&utm_source=Lexology+Daily+Newsfeed&utm_medium=HTML+email+-+Body+-+General+section&utm_campaign=Lexology+subscriber+daily+feed&utm_content=Lexology+Daily+Newsfeed+2021-04-14&utm_term=	Enacted 2 November 2020	
As a follow-up to the Omnibus Law, the Government of Indonesia issued Government Regulation No. 25 of 2021 regarding the Administration of the Energy and Mineral Resources Sector, which regulates not only the power sector, but also the mineral resources and geothermal sectors. The regulation stipulates the following business licenses: (a) power supply for	Mode 3	Consultancy, construction and maintenance of power installation	Government Regulation No. 25 of 2021 regarding the Administration of the Energy and Mineral Resources Sector. Viewed at: https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?q=ca91f194-6924-4458-bfe1-89057e3c94a7&utm_source=Lexology+Daily+Ne	Effective 2 February 2021	

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
the public interest business license; (b) power supply for own interest business license; (c) business license for power supporting services. Foreign representative offices (FROs) may only engage in the following power supporting services: (i) consultancy installation; (ii) construction and installation; and (iii) maintenance. FROs can only perform high-cost supporting services work (equal or exceeding the required minimum values). They are subject to certain requirements and obligations: - joint operation with local power supporting services entity that 100% locally owned, and in the form of a limited liability company; - employ at least 50% of Indonesians; - appoint Indonesian as head; - prioritize local products; and - qualification equivalent to Indonesian standards.			wsfeed&utm_medium=HTML+email+-+Body+-+General+section&utm_campaign=Lexology+subscriber+daily+feed&utm_content=Lexology+Daily+Newsfeed+2021-04-16&utm_term=		
Philippines					
Foreign investment up to 100% is now possible in large scale geothermal exploration, development and utilization activities, under the third Open and Competitive Selection Process (OCSP3) in the awarding of Renewable Energy Service Contracts. This is done in the context of the Renewable Energy Act of 2008 (Republic Act 9513) and the Guidelines Governing a Transparent and Competitive System of Awarding Renewable Energy Service/Operating Contracts and Providing for the Registration Process of Renewable Energy Developers (Department Circular 2009-07-0011, last modified on the Department of Energy website in August 2019). Foreign investors need to meet conditions, such as large-scale projects with a minimum investment of 50 million USD and should be under the Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) as provided under the Constitution.	Mode 3	Energy services	Department of Energy Statement. Viewed at: https://www.doe.gov.ph/press-releases/doe-statement-allowing-foreign-investors-100-ownership-large-scale-geothermal-0?ckattempt=1 https://www.thinkgeoenergy.com/philippines-allows-100-foreign-ownership-in-large-scale-geothermal-projects/#:~:text=Philippines%20allows%20100%25%20foreign%20ownership%20in%20large%20scale%20geothermal%20projects,-Makban%20geothermal%20power&text=The%20Philippines%20are%20now%20allowing.investment%2	1 January 2021	YES
Ukraine					
A new law provides for the option of unbundling the Ukrainian electricity Transmission System Operator (TSO) under the independent system operator unbundling model and for its certification	Modes 1 and 3	Services incidental to electricity transmission	Law No. 3364-1-d On Amending Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine Regarding Certification of the Electricity Transmission System Operator.	Adopted 15 April 2021	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
in accordance with the EU Third Energy Package by the Regulator (after obtaining a positive conclusion of the Energy Community Secretariat on unbundling the TSO).			Viewed at: https://portal.rada.gov.ua/en/news/News/206908.html		
SERVICES SUPPLIED THROUGH THE MOVEMENT OF NATURAL PERSONS					
Angola					
The new Free Trade Zones Law (Law No. 35/20) aims at attracting foreign investment in Angola, including in commercial and services sectors. In addition to the Local Content regulations in force in Angola, the law obliges investors to give preference to the employment of Angolans. Investors may employ foreign qualified employees, provided the number of Angolan employees is higher.	Mode 4	All sectors	Free Trade Zones Law No. 35/20. Viewed at: http://legalmca.com/en_GB/2020/10/30/angola-approves-free-trade-zones-law/	12 October 2020	
Chile					
Chile's Congress has approved a law for a new immigration framework. The new law institutes, amongst other things, a new short-term work authorisation process, which requires foreign nationals to apply for a Special Work Authorization. The category of temporary residence has been expanded. All foreign nationals who want to live and work in Chile will need a Temporary Residence Visa (TRV), which will now include 13 sub-categories. Foreign nationals in certain subcategories will be able to work in Chile without requiring sponsorship from an employer. Finally, dependent family members of foreign nationals with TRVs will automatically receive work authorisations, whereas until now they were not permitted to work in Chile.	Mode 4	All sectors	Migration Law. Viewed at: https://www.mondaq.com/work-visas/1016868/congress-approves-law-for-new-immigration-framework#:~:text=Chile%27s%20new%20immigration%20rule%20will,status%20under%20the%20new%20rule	Effective 20 April 2021	YES
Ecuador					
Ecuador's National Assembly adopted on 28 January 2021 a new law which institutes a visa for foreign nationals entering the country for acts of commerce, business and to establish contacts with companies and individuals; to carry out administrative or judicial procedures; for sports activities, volunteer work, study, academic purposes, or in the field of science, technology,	Mode 4	All sectors	Organic Law Reforming the Organic Law on Human Mobility. Viewed at: https://www.asambleanacional.gob.ec/es/leyes-aprobadas?leyes-aprobadas=All&title=Ley+Org%C3%A1nica+de+Movilidad+Humana&fecha=	Effective 5 February 2021	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
innovation, art and culture. The visa allows foreign nationals to stay in Ecuador for up to 180 days within a one-year period.					
Indonesia					
A new regulation following the enactment of Law No. 11 of 2020 regarding Job Creation, introduces several changes that aim to simplify the process for hiring expatriate workers in Indonesia.	Mode 4	All sectors	Government Regulation No. 34/2021. Viewed at: https://www.aseanbriefing.com/news/indonesias-omnibus-law-new-regulation-to-ease-the-hiring-of-foreign-workers/	Effective 2 February 2021	YES
Oman					
Foreign lawyers are no longer allowed to plead or appear in courts. They are still allowed to work in other positions, such as clerks or counsellors in law firms.	Mode 4	Legal services	Viewed at: https://www.omanobserver.om/no-expatriate-lawyers-in-courts-from-2021/ https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/legal/story/No-expatriate-lawyers-in-Oman-from-January-2021-SNG_196216747/	Effective 1 January 2021	YES
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of					
The Saudi Arabian government has introduced a new short-term work visa, called the Temporary Work Visit Visa (TWVV). It provides foreign nationals with a multiple-entry visa valid for one year and allows them to work in the kingdom for up to 6 months in that one-year period. Employers must comply with a number of conditions to qualify for the new visa quota.	Mode 4	All sectors	Viewed at: https://www.qiwa.sa/en/visit-visa https://www.balglobal.com/bal-news/saudi-arabia-duration-of-stay-extended-for-short-term-work-visas/	Effective April 2021	YES
Seychelles					
Seychelles authorities have modified the provisions of the Gainful Occupation Permit (GOP), a permit available for foreign workers with skills not locally available to work temporarily in the country. Labour market testing is now more strictly enforced. Employers must provide proof of advertising the position when the GOP application is submitted to the Department of Employment. They must also provide the Department of Employment with a list of job vacancies for which they plan to recruit foreign workers; the list will be checked against a jobseeker database. Additionally, employers must submit a Certificate	Mode 4	All sectors	Gainful Occupation Permit. Viewed at: https://resources.envoyglobal.com/blog/seychelles-gainful-occupation-permit-modified-to-benefit-local-workers	Effective February 2021	YES

Measure	Mode(s) of supply	Sectoral classification	Source	Date	Verified by Member
of Eligibility, which allows them to recruit foreign workers if no qualified local workers are available.					
Singapore					
A new work pass has been introduced for qualified foreign nationals in technology roles. 500 such passes are available, and they are valid for an initial period of two years with the possibility of an extension for another two years, subject to the applicant's eligibility.	Mode 4	All sectors	Tech.Pass. Viewed at: https://www.edb.gov.sg/en/about-edb/media-releases-publications/tech-pass-to-attract-entrepreneurs-and-leaders-to-develop-singapores-status-as-a-tech-hub.html	Effective 1 January 2021	
Viet Nam					
A new decree introduced longer experience requirements for some foreign workers: - experts/specialists: bachelor's degree or higher and 3 years' experience related to the position in Viet Nam, as well as at least 5 years' work experience and a practicing certificate related to the position; - technicians: training certificate in their technical or related specialty for at least one year and must have worked for at least 3 years in their trained area of specialty; alternatively, 5 years of experience related to the position in Viet Nam. A work permit is not required if the visit is for less than 30 days; limited to no more than three entries per year (visits of less than 30 days were possible with unlimited entries, provided the cumulative stay did not exceed 90 days). Work permits may be extended once, for a maximum of two years (previously, work permits could be extended an unlimited number of times).	Mode 4	All sectors	Decree No. 152/2020/ND-CP Foreign Workers Working in Viet Nam. Viewed at: https://resources.envoyglobal.com/blog/vietnam-new-decree-to-be-published-impacting-foreign-nationals-working-in-vietnam	Effective 15 February 2021	

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

Confirmed information²

Member / Observer	Measure	Source / Date	Status
Argentina	On 29 November 2020, termination of the temporary suspension of certain customs processing deadlines (<i>plazos operativos</i>) and procedures, during the validity of the provisions of Decree No. 298/2020 and its amending regulations (suspension of administrative deadlines) (originally implemented on 30 May 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (18 May 2021)	
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	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (26 April 2021) and 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
Argentina	Temporary elimination of export licensing requirement on certain pharmaceutical products, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Argentina to the WTO (26 April 2021) and Decreto 243/2021 - Nomenclatura Común del Mercosur (18 April 2021). Viewed at: https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/243125/20210419	Effective 19 April 2021, and in force throughout the COVID-19 emergency period
Argentina	Temporary elimination of export licensing requirement on oxygen and containers for compressed or liquified gas, of iron or steel, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Decreto 286/2021 - Nomenclatura Común del Mercosur (29 April 2021). Viewed at: https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/243780/20210430	Effective 29 April 2021, and in force throughout the COVID-19 emergency period
Australia	On 11 December 2020 termination of the temporary restrictions on the non-commercial export of personal protective equipment and sanitizer products, essential to combatting the COVID-19 pandemic (originally implemented on 30 March 2020)	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/AUS/4/Add.3, 18 December 2020	
Australia	Further extension of the temporary tariff concession measure to facilitate the importation of certain goods (face masks, gloves, gowns/clothes, disinfectant preparations (excluding hand sanitizers), soaps, COVID-19 test kits and reagents, and viral transport media) required to manage the crisis created by the COVID-19 pandemic (originally implemented on 1 February 2020)	Permanent Delegation of Australia to the WTO (26 May 2021); and WTO document G/MA/W/165, 18 December 2020	On 31 December 2020 extended through to 30 June 2021
Bahrain, Kingdom of	On 6 April 2021, termination of the temporary export ban on face masks (originally implemented on 8 April 2020 and extended several times)	WTO documents G/MA/QR/N/BHR/1/Rev.1/Add.1, 30 March 2021; and G/MA/QR/N/BHR/1/Rev.1/Add.2, 20 April 2021	

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 judgement 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 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/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
Bolivia, Plurinational State of	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on vaccines essential in combatting COVID-19	Decreto Supremo 4438 (30 December 2020)	Effective 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021
Brazil	Further extension of the temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain personal protective equipment, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Resolução Ministério da Economia/Secretaria-Executiva da Câmara de Comércio Exterior Nos 144 (6 January 2021), 146 (15 January 2021), 162 (22 February 2021), 182 (29 March 2021)	Extended in December until 30 June 2021
Brazil	Further extension of the 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, due to the COVID-19 pandemic (originally implemented on 26 March 2020)	Resolução No. 23/2020, Ministério da Economia/Secretaria-Executiva da Câmara de Comércio Exterior (25 March 2020); Gecex Resolution Nos. 145 (6 January 2021) and 147 (15 January 2021)	On 7 January 2021, extension of the suspension on syringes until 30 June 2021. On 16 January 2021, extension of the suspension on vacuum plastic tubes until 30 June 2021
Brazil	Special export licence for products essential in combatting COVID-19 (e.g. syringes and syringe needles)	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/BRA/2/Add.2, 1 February 2021	Effective 1 January 2021
Brazil	Elimination of prohibitions and certain licensing procedure requirements on imports of used goods related to actions under a Public Health Emergency of National Concern, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (26 April 2021) and Secex Portaria No. 79 (11 February 2021)	Effective 12 February 2021
Brazil	Export license requirement for certain products used to prevent and fight COVID-19 (e.g. oxygen and vaccines for human medicines)	Permanent Delegation of Brazil to the WTO (26 April 2021) and Notícia Siscomex Exportação No. 09/2021 (5 February 2021)	Effective 6 February 2021
Cambodia	Temporary import ban on frozen meat of bovine animals, from specific origins, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Cambodia to the WTO (2 June 2021)	Effective 1 May 2021
Canada	Conditional prohibition of the export of certain pharmaceuticals. Interim Order Respecting Drug Shortages (Safeguarding the Drug Supply). The Interim Order does not prohibit exports but provides the Minister of Health the authority to do so if a sale could cause or exacerbate a critical drug shortage	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/CAN/4/Add.1, 17 December 2020	Effective 26 November 2020
Colombia	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on oxygen and certain artificial respiration or other therapeutic respiration apparatus, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Colombia to the WTO (12 May 2021)	Effective 23 April 2021, 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. This periods are harmonized within Central America. If truck drivers present symptoms related to COVID-19 they will not be allowed no enter the country	Permanent Delegation of Costa Rica to the WTO (25 May 2021), Decreto No. 42690, and RES-D.JUR-67-04-2021-ABM. Viewed at: http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?nValor1=1&nValor2=92834 , RES-D.JUR-66-04-2021-ABM and https://www.imprentanacional.go.cr/pub/2021/04/28/ALCA83_28_04_2021.pdf	Effective 7 April 2021

Member / Observer	Measure	Source / Date	Status
Dominican Republic	Stricter import requirements on ethyl alcohol, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of the Dominican Republic to the WTO (7 May 2021)	Effective 28 April 2021
European Union ^a	Amending Directive 2006/112/EC as regards temporary measures in relation to value added tax applicable to COVID-19 vaccines and in vitro diagnostic medical devices in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Members States may take one of the following measures: (i) apply a reduced rate to the supply of COVID-19 in vitro diagnostic medical devices and services closely linked to those devices; (ii) grant an exemption with deductibility of VAT paid at the preceding stage in respect of the supply of COVID-19 in vitro diagnostic medical devices and services closely linked to those devices. Member States may grant an exemption with deductibility of VAT paid at the preceding stage in respect of the supply of COVID-19 vaccines and services closely linked to those vaccines. Only COVID-19 vaccines authorized by the Commission or by Member States shall be eligible for the exemption	European Commission Council Directive 2020/2020 (7 December 2020)	Effective 11 December 2020 to 31 December 2022
European Union	Export authorization of vaccines against SARS-related coronaviruses (SARS-CoV species) irrespective of their packaging. Authorisations are granted to the extent that the volume of exports is such that it does not pose a threat to the execution of Advanced Purchase Agreements that the Union has concluded with vaccines manufacturers. Exemptions from measures are listed in Article 1.5 of the regulation and include exports to Republic of Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Faeroe Islands, the Republic of Iceland, Kosovo ^b , the Principality of Liechtenstein, Montenegro, the Kingdom of Norway, the Republic of North Macedonia, the Republic of San Marino, Serbia, the Swiss confederation, Vatican City State, the overseas countries, territories listed in Annex II of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union, and exports to Büsingen, Helgoland, Livigno, Ceuta and Melilla, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine ^c , Syria, Tunisia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Israel, Moldova and Ukraine, exports in the context of humanitarian aid, exports to low and middle income countries in the COVAX AMC list ^d , as well as exports of goods purchased and/or delivered through COVAX, UNICEF and PAHO with destination to any other COVAX participating country	Public information transmitted by the EU Delegation. Commission Implementing Regulation 2021/111 (29 January 2021). Viewed at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0111&from=EN . WTO document G/MA/QR/N/EU/5/Add.1, 5 February 2021	Effective 30 January 2021 to 12 March 2021. Measure expired
European Union	Export authorization shall be required for the export of vaccines against SARS-related coronaviruses (SARS-CoV species), irrespective of their packaging as well as for export of active substances, including master and working cell banks used for the manufacture of such vaccines Authorizations are granted to the extent that the volume of exports is such that it does not pose a threat to the execution of Advance Purchase Agreements that the European Union has concluded with vaccine manufacturers. Exemptions from measures are listed in Article 1.9 of the regulation and include exports to the Republic of Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Faeroe Islands, the Republic of Iceland, Kosovo ^b , the Principality of Liechtenstein, Montenegro, the Kingdom of Norway, the Republic of North Macedonia, the Republic of San Marino, Serbia, the Swiss confederation, Vatican City State, the overseas countries, territories listed in Annex II of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union, and exports to Büsingen, Helgoland, Livigno, Ceuta and Melilla, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine ^c , Syria, Tunisia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Israel, Moldova and Ukraine, exports in the context of humanitarian aid, exports to low and middle income countries in the COVAX AMC list ^d , as well as exports of goods purchased and/or delivered through COVAX, UNICEF and PAHO with destination to any other COVAX participating country.	Public information transmitted by the EU Delegation. Commission Implementing Regulation 2021/442 (12 March 2021). Viewed at: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2021/442/oj . WTO document G/MA/QR/N/EU/5/Add.2, 18 March 2021	Effective 13 March 2021 to 30 June 2021
European Union	The measure introduces changes to the existing mechanism imposed by Regulation 2021/442 (12 March 2021). Export authorisation shall be required for the export of vaccines against SARS-related coronaviruses (SARS-CoV species) currently falling under CN codes 3002.20.10;	Public information transmitted by the EU Delegation. Commission Implementing Regulation 2021/521 (24 March 2021). Extended by Commission Implementing Regulation 2021/734 (5 May	Effective 26 March 2021 for a period of 6

Member / Observer	Measure	Source / Date	Status
	ex 2933.99.80; ex 2934.99.90; ex 3002. 90.90; ex 3504.00.90 ^e , irrespective of their packaging as well as for export of active substances, including master and working cell banks used for the manufacture of such vaccines, currently falling under CN codes ex 2933.99.80; ex 2934.99.90; ex 3002.90.90; ex 3504.00.90 ^e . Authorisations are granted to the extent that the volume of exports is such that it does not pose a threat to the execution of Advance Purchase Agreements that the European Union has concluded with vaccines manufacturers. Authorisations are granted where exports do not pose a threat to the security of supply within the European Union. In order to determine whether the condition above is fulfilled, the competent authorities shall assess the following factors: 1) does the destination country restrict its own exports of vaccines or their raw materials, either by law or other means?; and 2) are the conditions prevailing in the destination country better or worse than the EU's, in particular its epidemiological situation, its vaccination rate and its access to vaccines. Exemptions from measures are listed in Article 1.9 (b), 1.9 (c), 1.9 (d), 1.9 (e), and 1.9 (f) of the Regulation (EU) 2021/442 as well as in Article 1 of the Regulation (EU) 2021/521. They include exports in the context of humanitarian aid, exports to low and middle income countries in the COVAX AMC list ^d , as well as exports of goods purchased and/or delivered through COVAX, UNICEF and PAHO with destination to any other COVAX participating country	2021). Viewed at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0521&from=EN and https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R0734&from=EN . WTO documents G/MA/QR/N/EU/5/Add.3, 31 March 2021; and G/MA/QR/N/EU/5/Add.4, 11 May 2021	weeks, until 6 May 2021. Extended from 7 May 2021 until 30 June 2021 (Exemptions reintroduced for Iceland, Lichtenstein and Norway)
Bulgaria	Temporary export prohibition of certain medicinal products, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Public information transmitted by the EU Delegation	Effective 10 March 2021 to 30 April 2021
Hungary	Temporary export ban on Gelofusine solution for infusion and Gelaspan 4 % solution for infusion in the distribution activities, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Public information transmitted by the EU Delegation	Effective 11 December 2020 until 11 June 2021
India	Amendments in Export Policy of Nitrile/NBR Gloves, 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
India	Amendments in Export Policy of Medical Googles, and Nitrile/NBR Gloves, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The export policy of Medical Googles and Nitrile/NBR Gloves is revised from "Restricted" to "Free"	Notification No. 47/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (22 December 2020)	Effective 22 December 2020
India	Procedure and criteria for submission and approval of application for exports of diagnostic kits and their components/laboratory reagents. Export quota for the following types of diagnostic kits fixed for the period December 2020 to February 2021: VTM kits or its component elements (660 Lakh); RNA extraction kits or its component elements (400 Lakh); and RT-PCR kit (COVID/Non COVID) or its component elements (280 Lakh)	Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Export Cell - Trade Notice Nos. 39/2020-21 (19 January 2021) and 45/2020-21 (2 March 2021)	
India	The export of Injection Remdesivir and Remdesivir Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) falling under the ITCHS Codes 2934.99 and 3004.90, or falling under any other HS Codes has been prohibited	Notification No. 1/2015-2020, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (11 April 2021)	Effective 11 April 2021
India	Temporary elimination of import tariffs (from 10%) on: (i) Remdesivir Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API); (ii) on Beta Cyclodextrin (SBEBDCD) used in manufacture of Remdesivir, subject to the condition that the importer follows the procedure set out in the Customs (Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty) Rules, 2017; and (iii) on injection Remdesivir, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Notification No. 27/2021-Customs, Ministry of Finance - Department of Revenue (20 April 2021). Viewed at: https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2021/cs-tarr2021/cs27-2021.pdf	Effective until 31 October 2021
India	Operationalization of DGFT "COVID-19 Helpdesk" for International Trade-related Issues. The Department of Commerce have undertaken to monitor the status of export and imports and difficulties being faced by trade stakeholders in view of the surge of COVID-19 cases. DGFT has accordingly operationalized a "COVID-19 Helpdesk" to support and seek suitable resolutions to issues arising in respect of International Trade. It would look into issues relating to Department of Commerce/DGFT, Import and Export Licensing Issues, Customs clearance	Trade Notice No. 02/2021-22, Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (26 April 2021)	

Member / Observer	Measure	Source / Date	Status
	delays and complexities arising thereon, Import/Export documentation issues, Banking matters. The Helpdesk would also collect and collate trade-related issues concerning other Ministries/Departments/Agencies of Central Government and State Governments and will co-ordinate to seek their support and provide possible resolution(s)		
India	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain goods to fight COVID-19, e.g. COVID-19 vaccines, oxygen concentrator, medical oxygen, oxygen canisters, oxygen filling systems, oxygen storage tanks, oxygen generator, ISO containers for shipping oxygen, oxygen cylinders including cryogenic cylinders and tanks, ventilators	Notification No. 28/2021-Customs, Ministry of Finance - Department of Revenue (24 April 2021). Viewed at: https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2021/cs-tarr2021/cs28-2021.pdf	Effective 24 April 2021
India	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on inflammatory diagnostic (marker) kits, namely- IL6, D-Dimer, CRP (C-Reactive Protein), LDH (Lactate De-Hydrogenase), ferritin, Pro Calcitonin (PCT) and blood gas reagents, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Notification No. 29/2021-Customs, Ministry of Finance - Department of Revenue (30 April 2021). Viewed at: https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2021/cs-tarr2021/cs29-2021.pdf	Effective 30 April 2021
India	Temporary reduction of the Integrated Good and Services Taxes "IGST" on oxygen concentrator, imported for personal use, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Notification No. 30/2021-Customs, Ministry of Finance - Department of Revenue (1 May 2021). Viewed at: https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2021/cs-tarr2021/cs30-2021.pdf	Effective 1 May 2021 to 30 June 2021
India	Temporary exemption of goods specified in notification Nos. 27/2021-Customs and 28/2021-Customs, from Integrated Good and Services Taxes "IGST" levied thereon at the time of import subject to conditions as follows: (i) when such goods are imported into India free of cost for the purpose of COVID Relief by a state government, or any entity, relief agency, or statutory body empowered in this regard by any state government; (ii) said goods are received from abroad for free distribution in India for the purpose of COVID relief; and (iii) follows the procedure prescribed in the notification	Ad hoc Exemption Order No. 4/2021-Customs, Ministry of Finance - Department of Revenue (3 May 2021). Viewed at: https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2021/cs-tarr2021/AdHoccs04-2021.pdf	Effective 3 May 2021 to 30 June 2021
Indonesia	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on vaccines essential in combatting COVID-19, raw materials used in the production of the vaccine, and equipment necessary for its production and handling. Imports also exempted from other taxes	Permanent Delegation of Indonesia to the WTO (3 May 2021) and Regulation No. 188/PMK 04/2020 - Ministry of Finance	Effective 26 November 2020
Indonesia	Extension of the exemption from VAT and income taxes on imports of certain medical and pharmaceutical products	Permanent Delegation of Indonesia to the WTO (3 May 2021) and Regulation No. 239/2020 - Ministry of Finance	Effective 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021
Iraq, Rep. of	Extension of the temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain personal protective equipment, pharmaceutical products, medical or surgical instruments and apparatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of Iraq (3 May 2021)	Effective 14 February 2021
Japan	Elimination of import tariffs on gloves, of polymers of vinyl chloride, of a thickness of less than 0.2 mm	Permanent Delegation of Japan to the WTO (25 May 2021)	Effective 1 April 2021
Republic of Korea	On 23 October 2020 termination of the temporary quantitative restriction on the exportation of surgical and anti-droplet masks, filtering respirators, and melt blown filters	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/KOR/3/Add.1, 6 November 2020	
Kyrgyz Republic	Termination of the temporary export ban on maize, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/KGZ/1/Add.3, 18 January 2021	Effective 30 December 2020
Kyrgyz Republic	Temporary export ban on certain food products (e.g. horses, live bovine animals, live sheep and goats, live poultry, wheat and meslin, barley, maize, rice, wheat flour, vegetable oils (except safflower), granulated sugar, chicken eggs, iodized table salt, feed), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/KGZ/1/Add.3, 18 January 2021	Effective 8 January 2021
Kyrgyz Republic	Temporary export prohibition of medicines and medical products (HS Chapters 28; 29; 30; 39; 48; 62; 63; 84; 85; 90; 94), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/KGZ/1/Add.7, 21 April 2021	Effective 12 April 2021
Madagascar	Elimination of import tariffs on certain pharmaceutical products, PPE and gloves. Imports also exempted from VAT	Permanent Delegation of Madagascar to the WTO (3 May 2021)	Effective 25 January 2021

Member / Observer	Measure	Source / Date	Status
Mexico	Creation of 3 new tariff lines, resulting in the elimination of import tariffs on vaccines essential in combatting COVID-19 and aluminium containers for oxygen	Permanent Delegation of Mexico to the WTO (28 May 2021) and Diario Oficial de la Federación (Official Journal), 22 February 2021	Effective 23 February 2021, and in force throughout the COVID-19 emergency period
Mongolia	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on rice (buckwheat, millet), vegetable oil, animal feeds, grass, fodder seeds, edible wheat, wheat germ, oilseeds, vegetable crude oil due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from VAT	Permanent Delegation of Mongolia to the WTO (18 May 2021)	Effective December 2020 to 1 July 2021
Nepal	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on medical grade oxygen (liquid and gaseous oxygen); helmets for non-invasive ventilators; oxygen cylinder, liquid oxygen container, liquid oxygen tank, oxygen cannister, ISO containers for shipping oxygen and cryogenic road transport tank for oxygen; vacuum pressure swing absorption "VPSA", pressure swing absorption "PSA", oxygen plants and cryogenic oxygenic air separation units "ASU"; oxygen cylinder valve; syringe pump, infusion pump, high flow nasal cannula; ICU monitor; oxygen concentrator, venturi mask, reservoir mask, ventilator mask, non-Invasive ventilator mask, ventilator circuit, oxygen connectors and tubing, oxygen filling system, oxygen generators, compressors, tubing, humidifiers and viral filters for ventilators, oro-nasal masks and nasal masks for non-invasive ventilators; oxygen flowmeter and oxygen regulator; blood gas analyser; and ICU bed, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from other taxes and fees	Permanent Delegation of Nepal to the WTO (24 May 2021)	Effective 26 April 2021
North Macedonia	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain products, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	Permanent Delegation of North Macedonia to the WTO (22 April 2021)	Effective 1 February 2021 to 31 December 2021
Paraguay	Temporary VAT reduction (to 0.5%) on imports of vaccines essential in combatting COVID-19	Permanent Delegation of Paraguay to the WTO (28 April 2021)	Effective 6 April 2021 to 31 December 2021
South Africa	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on vaccines essential in combatting COVID-19. Imports also exempted from VAT	International Trade Administration Commission, Notice No. 88, Government Gazette No. 44152 (12 February 2021), and, Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, Notice No. 34/2021 (28 January 2021)	Effective 12 February 2021 and in force throughout the COVID-19 emergency period
Thailand	On 5 February 2021 extension of the temporary export restriction on surgical masks; face-masks for protection against dust, smoke or toxic substances used for safety apparatus and others, due to the COVID-19 pandemic (the export of such products is subject to an approval from the authorized committee)	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/THA/2/Add.4, 21 May 2021	Effective until 5 February 2022
Turkey	Temporary export authorization for certain personal protective equipment (PPE), due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/TUR/2/Add.1, 9 April 2021	Effective 4 March 2021
Turkey	Temporary export registration for meltblown fabric, due to the COVID-19 pandemic	WTO document G/MA/QR/N/TUR/2/Add.1, 9 April 2021	Effective 18 March 2021
Ukraine	Amendments introduced in the list of imported products to fight COVID-19 exempted from VAT (HS Chapters 28; 30; 38; 39; 48; 62; 63; 73; 90)	Permanent Delegation of Ukraine to the WTO (13 May 2021)	Effective April 2021
United Kingdom	On 31 December 2020 expiration of the temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain medical supplies, equipment and protective garments, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports also exempted from VAT (originally implemented on 27 March 2020)	United Kingdom Mission to Geneva (27 April 2021); GOV.UK: business and industry, trade and investment, customs declarations, duties and tariffs (import and export)	

Member / Observer	Measure	Source / Date	Status
United Kingdom	Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain medical items which are critical in the response to COVID-19. All products listed by the World Health Organization in June 2020 as COVID-19 critical are able to enter the UK tariff free	United Kingdom Mission to Geneva (27 April 2021)	Effective 1 January 2021, for 12 months
United States	Further Extension and Modification of FEMA temporary rule allocating certain scarce or threatened materials for domestic use (originally implemented from 7 April 2020 to 30 June 2021 - unless sooner modified or terminated)	Permanent Delegation of the United States to the WTO (26 May 2021) and WTO document G/MA/QR/N/USA/5/Add.1, 1 February 2021	Modifications 31 December 2020
Viet Nam	Suspension of temporary import for re-export of medical masks, medical gloves and anti-epidemic isolation suits	Permanent Delegation of Viet Nam to the WTO (1 June 2021)	Effective 22 January 2021 to 31 December 2021

- a 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.
- b This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.
- c This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the EU member States on this issue.
- d Please refer to <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/92-low-middle-income-economies-eligible-access-covid-19-vaccines-gavi-covax-amc>.
- e The scope of products covered by this measure is exactly the same as for the regulation 2021/111. For more clarity, regulation 2021/442 provides the relevant CN codes for active substances, which was not the case in the regulation 2021/111.

Note: For detailed information about HS codes, refer to the *WTO, COVID-19 and World Trade*: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/trade_related_goods_measure_e.htm.

Source: WTO Secretariat.

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

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Colombia	All sectors	New measures eased requirements under the Special Import-Export Systems (SEIEX) in order to facilitate the export of goods and services. The new provisions apply for a period of 18 months.	Resolution No. 1213 and Decree No. 1371 on transitory provisions with respect to the Special Import - Export Systems (SEIEX) Viewed at: https://dapre.presidencia.gov.co/normativa/normativa/DECRETO%201371%20DEL%2019%20DE%20OCTUBRE%20DE%202020.pdf https://www.mincit.gov.co/getattachment/585a4976-6915-495c-8fd4-91e195ca5b54/Resolucion-1213-del-30-de-noviembre-de-2020-por-me.aspx	20 October 2020 – 19 April 2022	YES
Costa Rica	All sectors	The Ministry of the Interior and Police and the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners introduced new temporary migratory measures within the framework of the State of National Health Emergency due to COVID-19.	Executive Decree Nos. 42690-MGP-S, 42703-MGP-S and 42916-MGP-S. Viewed at: http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scii/	October 2020 -April 2021	YES
Costa Rica	All sectors	Costa Rica's General Immigration Directorate has launched an on-line platform called "TramiteYa!" on which foreign nationals can submit certain immigration applications and related documents without the need to apply in person.	Viewed at: https://www.migracion.go.cr/Paginas/Migraci%C3%B3n-Digital.aspx	22 March 2021	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 judgement 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
Costa Rica	Road transport services	The Ministry of the Interior and Police and the Ministry of Health modified sanitary measures in immigration matters to prevent the effects of COVID-19. The traceability requirement was abolished for persons involved in international land transport of goods, in order to facilitate the current conditions, while authorities analyze alternative traceability measures.	Executive Decree No. 42651-MGP-S Reform to Executive Decree No. 42238-MGP-S of 17 March 2020 related to Sanitary measures in immigration matters to prevent the effects of COVID-19 Viewed at: http://www.pgrweb.go.cr/scij/Busqueda/Normativa/Normas/nrm_texto_completo.aspx?param1=NRTC&nValor1=1&nValor2=92654&nValor3=122740&strTipM=TC	9 October 2020	YES
Hungary	All sectors	The temporary Act on foreign investment control has been modified and no longer applies to acquisitions among affiliated companies. In addition, it now applies until 30 June 2021.	Viewed at: https://www.cms-lawnow.com/ealerts/2020/11/hungary-an-extension-to-foreign-investment-control#:~:text=The%20Hungarian%20parliament%20has%20introduced,pandemics%20(%E2%80%9CTemporary%20Act%E2%80%9D)	10 November 2020	YES
Indonesia	All sectors	The Indonesian government has launched an e-visa to streamline the visa application process and remove the need to wait in border queues to obtain a visa on arrival. The e-visa is first being made available to business travelers from selected countries who have a Travel Corridor agreement with the Indonesian government, as well as investors, skilled workers, and civil servants. The Minister temporarily suspends the granting of visit Visa exemptions and visit visa on arrival until the COVID-19 pandemic is declared to have ended by the ministry or institution in charge of the handling of COVID-19. During the pandemic COVID-19, eVisa also prioritized for business essentials players who can encourage economic growth and related to the humanitarian activity.	Indonesian e-Visa Minister of Law and Human Rights (MOLHR) Regulation No. 26/2020 on Visa and Stay Permit during New Normal Adaptation Period Viewed at: https://www.onlinevisa.com/indonesia-visa/	Effective October 2020	YES

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Indonesia	Financial services	The Indonesian Financial Services Authority had previously introduced a countercyclical policy under OJK regulation No. 14/POJK.05/2020 on Countercyclical Policy in relation to the Impact of COVID-19 for Non-Bank Financial Institutions that came into force on 17 April 2020. That policy was previously valid until 31 December 2020. On 10 December 2020, the OJK issued an amendment to the above regulation (OJK Regulation No. 58/POJK.05/2020) that came into force on 16 December 2020. The amendment extends the period of the stimulus for non-bank financial institutions and adjusts several provisions, among others the addition of regulatory subjects in the regulation, namely microfinance institutions and fintech peer-to-peer lending companies.	Financial Services Authority (OJK) Regulation No. 58/POJK.05/2020 on Amendment to OJK regulation No. 14/POJK.05/2020 on Countercyclical Policy in relation to the Impact of COVID-19 for Non-Bank Financial Institutions (POJK 58/2020) Viewed at: https://www.ojk.go.id/id/regulasi/Pages/Perubahan-Atas-Peraturan-Otoritas-Jasa-Keuangan-Nomor-14-tentang-Kebijakan-Countercyclical-Dampak-Penyebaran-.aspx https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/id/Documents/audit/id-aud-ojk-banking-regulations-ian2021.pdf	Effective 16 December 2020	YES
Iraq (observer)	Financial services	The Central Bank of Iraq (CBI) announced the launch of the "Digital Onboarding Service", i.e. an integrated digital financial system that is expected to reduce the country's dependency on cash, thereby enabling the State to fight corruption, evasion and bureaucracy in financial dealings within banks operating in Iraq.	Viewed at: https://www.iraq-businessnews.com/2021/02/10/new-electronic-banking-service-launched-in-iraq/	Issued 7 February 2021	YES
Japan	Financial services	In response to the spread of COVID-19, the relevant authorities have taken measures, including: (i) Minister of State for Financial Services issued a statement on maintaining the functions of the financial system and financial markets under the Declaration of a State of Emergency Responding to the Spread of the COVID-19 Infection on January 7, 2021; (ii) The Financial Services Agency (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 January 19, 2021; (iii) 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 January 8, 2021; and (iv) 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, 2020, under which some meetings have been held since then.	Viewed at: https://www.fsa.go.jp/en/ordinary/coronavirus202001/press.html	October 2020 – April 2021	YES

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Myanmar	Various sectors	Authorities adopted a number of measures in the context of COVID-19, including: - temporarily lowering from 1-10-2020 to 31-3-2021 the minimum reserve requirement (Local Currency-MMK) for banks to 3.5% of customers' deposits (from 5%); - exemption of 2% Advance Income Tax (AIT) on exports until 30 April 2021 (extended from 28 February and 31 March 2021); - provide loan with a maximum interest rate of 2% per annum (up to fifty lakh kyats per store), low interest rate loan (1 year loan term) to small grocery stores in Nay Pyi Taw Council and other regions and states which were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.	Central Bank of Myanmar's Directive No. 10/2020 Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry's Notifications 2/2021, 4/2021 and 5/2021 released on 19 March 2021) Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry's Announcement Viewed at: https://www.cbm.gov.mm/sites/default/files/currency_policy/rr_3.5.pdf https://www.mopfi.gov.mm/en	September 2020 – April 2021	YES
New Zealand	Air transport services	The New Zealand Ministry of Transport has established a scheme to secure regional connectivity and ensure that critical air services can continue while disruptions from COVID-19 persist.	Maintaining International Air Connectivity Scheme (MIAC), Ministry of Transport Viewed at: https://www.transport.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Paper/MIAC-additional-information.pdf	1 May 2021 – 31 October 2021	YES
Paraguay	Maritime transport	The Executive Power issued decrees in order to guarantee the provision of services in the logistics chain of ports, river vessels and maritime cargo lines.	Decrees Nos. 4115, 4220, 4331, 4455, 4525/2020 – 4705, 4798, 4880, 4990, 5025, 5053, 5071/2021, article 2, number 18. Decrees Nos. 5100 and 5118/2021, Article 1. Viewed at: https://www.mspbs.gov.py/decretos-covid19.html	October 2020 - April 2021	YES
Paraguay	Land transport	The Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare established requirements and guidelines in relation to land terminals, passenger and passenger transport companies, to mitigate the risk of contagion from COVID-19 and ensure the development of international commercial passenger transport operations.	Terminal Health Protocol, International Land Passenger Transport (Bus, Personal and Private Vehicles) Viewed at: https://www.mspbs.gov.py/dependencias/portal/adjunto/8da5ca-20203112Ingresoterrestre.pdf	23 December 2020	YES

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Philippines	Financial services	The Central Bank of the Philippines (Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas or BSP -) 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, regulatory relief for foreign banks established prior to the enactment of Republic Act 10641 (allowing the full entry of foreign banks in the Philippines) that breached the single borrower limit, or relaxation of certain reporting requirements.	Memoranda Nos. M-2020-079, 081, 085 to 088, 095; M-2021-002, 011, 012 Circulars No. 1098, 1100, 1101, 1103 Circular Letter CL-2020-051 Viewed at: http://www.bsp.gov.ph/	October 2020 – February 2021	YES
Romania	Financial services	An emergency ordinance (No. 37/2020) 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. This was amended by the emergency order and Law No 1 of the Annex to Regulation (EEC) 141 of 21 July 2020.	Emergency Order No. 227, Law No. 1 of the Annex to Regulation (EEC) 141 of 21 July 2020 for the approval of the Government Emergency Ordinance No. 67/2020	30 December 2020	
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	Air transport services	In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, a measure was introduced to allow the extension of the validity of licenses, attestations, and certificates for aircrew, trainers, examiners and flight dispatchers, in accordance with terms and conditions that ensure safety levels.	Viewed at: https://gaca.gov.sa/scs/Satellite?blobcol=urldata&blobheader=application%2Fpdf&blobheadername1=Content-Disposition&blobheadervalue1=inline&blobkey=id&blobtable=MungoBlobs&blobwhere=1442854983908&ssbinary=true	31 March 2021 Valid until 30 June 2021	YES
Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	Air transport services	Airlines are exempted from the compensation obligations in the Customer Protection Rights Regulation based on Force Majeure (as per Article 16). Airlines must continue to provide the appropriate care and assistance services.	Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the WTO	20 December 2020 Valid for 2 weeks	YES
Singapore	Maritime transport services	The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore issued a new circular that tightens requirements for crew change to combat COVID-19.	Viewed at: https://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/port-of-singapore/circulars-and-notices/port-marine-circulars/detail/afbeaccd-7cb8-43f5-93fa-6b7afd2e08f6	6 May 2021	
Singapore	Maritime transport services	Crew exchanges for seafarers are banned for those that had traveled to Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka within the last 21 days preceding arrival to Singapore	Viewed at: https://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/port-of-singapore/circulars-and-notices/detail/e689cae8-46ab-4f22-8fe8-b30fab33beef	8 May 2021	

Member	Sector	Measure	Source	Date	Verified by Member
Spain	All sectors	Royal Decree-Law 34/2020 introduces a transitional rule, until 30 June 2021, to the Spanish FDI regime by which it requires authorisation to be obtained for certain investments by residents of other EU and EFTA countries. RDL 34/2020 introduces changes in article 7 bis "Suspension of the liberalization regime for certain foreign direct investments in Spain" RDL 34/2020 broadens the suspension regime introduced by Royal Decree-Law 8/2020 of 17 March 2020 on urgent and extraordinary measures to confront the economic and social impact of COVID-19, later amended by Royal Decree-Law 11/2020 of 31 March 2020 on adopting additional urgent social and economic measures to confront COVID-19. During the period between 19 November 2020 and 30 June 2021, investments made by EU and EFTA residents are considered to be foreign direct investments if they meet the conditions set by the Decree, namely: if residents in the EU or EFTA carry out FDI in listed companies in Spain or in unlisted companies if the value of the investment exceeds EUR 500,000,000.	Royal Decree-Law No. 34/2020 Viewed at: https://www.boe.es/eli/es/rdl/2020/11/17/34/con	Effective 19 November 2020	YES
United Arab Emirates	Maritime transport services	The authority of Fujairah announced with immediate effect that if a vessel's last port of call is India, crews are not allowed to disembark	Viewed at: https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/ship-operations/fujairah-bans-crew-change-ships-arriving-india	27 April 2021	
United Kingdom	Financial services	The Bank of England and the Prudential Regulatory Authority (PRA) have announced a range of measures to give firms more operational flexibility to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g. guidance on submitting the 2021's annual submissions and other types of regulatory reporting, the benchmarking exercise relating to capital internal models, or reporting and disclosure of exposures subject to measures applied in response to the COVID-19 outbreak).	Viewed at: https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/coronavirus/information-for-firms	October 2020 - April 2021	YES
United Kingdom	Transport services	A number of measures relating to drivers and seafarers were published, in particular to avoid disruptions in the supply chain (driver hours relaxation reintroduced from 23 December 2020 until 31 March 2021; drivers hours and tachographs temporary exemptions effective on 22 January 2021; temporary relaxation of medical fitness certificates for merchant seafarers and ML5 medical certificate holders).	Viewed at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-drivers-hours-relaxations/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-drivers-hours-relaxations https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2021/58/made/data.xht?view=snippet&wrap=true https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/967565/Medical_policy_during_COVID19_pandemic_for_Merchant_Seafarers_and_Fishermen_V3.pdf	December 2020 – March 2021	YES
