
4 Monitoring Crisis-Era Protectionism: Comparing the Findings of the WTO and G20

Introduction

The purpose of this chapter is to compare the findings of the WTO and Global

findings presented in these organisation's reports on protectionism.

developments. Then, taking the WTO's design choices as given, the findings of

WTO reporting on G20 trade measures

request from the leaders of the G20 nations. To date the WTO has published 12 reports, the latest of which was made publicly available last week, specifically on 5 November 2014. Some of these reports have garnered significant coverage in

trade. This finding in particular has been used by governments and some analysts

trade policy responses in an Excel file that includes worksheets for each G20

the GTA totals below reflect what was known in mid-October 2014 about policies

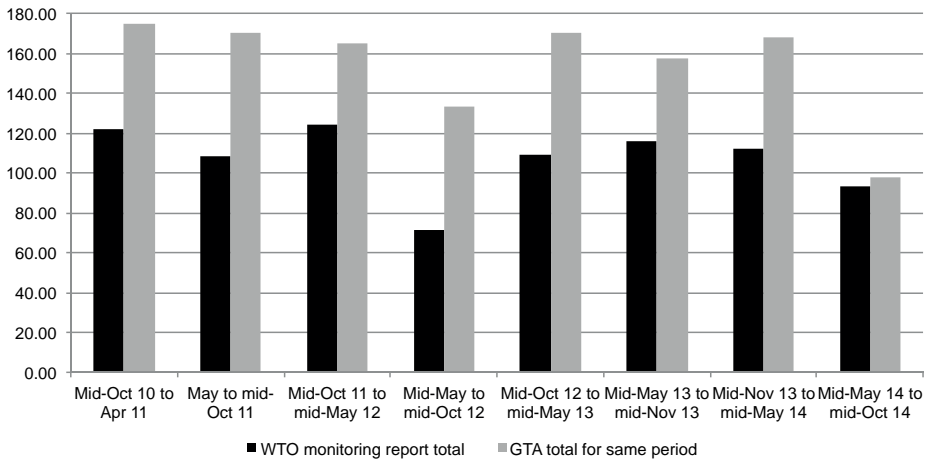
The WTO does not provide an explicit definition of what it takes to be “trade-restrictive” measures. The Excel file published along with the WTO reports definitely includes trade remedy measures (or “trade defence”, as they are referred

instruments: trade defence measures that resulted preliminary or final duties being imposed, tariff increases, import bans, more restrictive tariff-rate quotas, tighter import quotas, export taxes and restrictions, and measures to promote

“export” categories. Given that the WTO’s Excel file includes some public procurement measures and subsidies, then restrictiQ

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Figure 4.1. Total number of trade restrictive measures found during October 2010-October 2014 by the WTO and the GTA



did GTA find slightly more measures than the WTO. In contrast in the “other” category, which as noted earlier is defined in a more restrictive manner by GTA,

between October 2010 and October 2014, given that the Excel file circulated

other comparisons are possible. Specifically, the WTO’s Excel file assigns each trade and trade-related measures.” It is evident from consulting this Excel file that

trade defence duties. Consequently, the “trade remedies” grouping does not only

Table 4.1. Resort to protectionism reported by the WTO and GTA during October 2010-October 2014, by WTO category of trade restrictive measures

WTO reporting period	Trade remedy		Category of trade restrictive measure				Other		Total for a given reporting period	
	Total in WTO report	GTA total for same type of measure	Total in WTO report	GTA total for same type of measure	Import	Export	Total in WTO report	GTA total for same type of measure*	Total in WTO report	GTA total for same type of measure
Mid-Oct 10 to Apr 11	53	72	52	68	11	16	6	19	122	175
May 11 to mid-Oct 11	44	84	36	51	19	20	9	17	108	172
Mid-Oct 11 to mid-May 12	66	82	39	53	11	10	8	20	124	165
Mid-May 12 to mid-Oct 12	46	73	20	40	4	4	1	16	71	133
Mid-Oct 12 to mid-May 13	67	69	29	63	7	9	6	27	109	168
Mid-May 13 to mid-Nov 13	70	68	36	51	8	13	2	24	116	156
Mid-Nov 13 to mid-May 14	66	84	25	46	17	15	4	23	112	168
Mid-May 14 to mid-Oct 14	54	42	25	28	9	7	5	21	93	98
Total	466	574	262	400	86	94	41	167	855	1235

Table 4.2. The policy mix of G20 members found in the WTO Trade Monitoring Database and in the GTA

G20 member	Total number of measures in each database		Coverage of liberalising measures				Coverage of trade remedies				Coverage of other measures			
	WTO	GTA	GTA coverage as a percent of WTO coverage	Total number of measures in Annex I of WTO Report	Total number of implemented liberalising measures in GTA database	GTA coverage as a percent of WTO coverage	Total number of measures in Annex II of WTO Report	Total number of trade defence measures in GTA database	GTA coverage as a percent of WTO coverage	Total number of measures in Annex III of WTO Report	Total number of protectionist measures (other than trade defence) in GTA database	GTA coverage as a percent of WTO coverage	Total number of measures in Annex III of WTO Report	Total number of protectionist measures (other than trade defence) in GTA database
Argentina	163	362	222%	8	35	438%	76	83	109%	79	241	305%	241	
Australia	74	120	162%	2	14	700%	67	60	90%	5	41	820%	41	
Brazil	267	464	174%	108	189	175%	108	124	115%	51	151	296%	151	
Canada	68	137	201%	17	24	141%	48	45	94%	3	43	1433%	43	
China	139	232	167%	28	61	218%	61	65	107%	50	97	194%	97	
EU*	181	198	109%	4	42	1050%	159	112	70%	18	41	228%	41	
India	310	586	189%	58	144	248%	171	192	112%	81	247	305%	247	
Indonesia	131	189	144%	17	38	224%	45	44	98%	69	98	142%	98	
Japan	9	109	1211%	4	9	225%	5	10	200%	0	86	n.a.	86	
Korea	40	89	223%	15	26	173%	21	22	105%	4	34	850%	34	
Mexico	91	95	104%	21	18	86%	62	58	94%	8	17	213%	17	
Russia	218	546	250%	88	127	144%	26	44	169%	104	343	330%	343	
Saudi Arabia	7	24	343%	3	3	100%	2	0	0%	2	18	900%	18	

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South Africa	94	142	151%	21	47	224%	45	36	80%	28	54	193%
Turkey	86	124	144%	10	10	100%	53	95	179%	2	18	900%
USA	164	419	255%	3	35	1167%	149	184	123%	12	86	717%
All G20 countries*	2042	3449	169%	407	821	202%	1098	1174	107%	516	1771	343%

The first comparison performed was between the total number of measures of all types found in the WTO's Excel file and those in the GTA database, giving

commercial interests. For each G20 member in the WTO's Excel file, the total number of entries in the WTO's file was compared with the total number of

the same total number of trade remedy measures. At first glance, GTA reports

further investigation of the WTO Excel file, it was found that the WTO totals duties on trade remedies often first imposed before the global economic crisis.

foreign firms.) One of those three terminations in the GTA database relates to

The final comparison is between the number of "other" measures in the source cover a wide range of policy interventions and no definition is provided.

will not. The final three columns of Table 4.2 present this comparison across

the benchmarks against which the performance of official and independent
a higher internal profile and the like are obvious policy recommendations that

References

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