

Δ Market Access Database 1.0 (ΔMAD v1.0)

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This note provides an overview of the first version of the Global Trade Alert's ΔMarket Access Database (ΔMAD v1.0), that was released in May 2023. Estimates of the shares of total goods imports covered by six different combinations of commercial policy intervention implemented on or after 1 November 2008 are presented for each of the years 2009 to 2023.

“Market access” is the currency of trade negotiations and, arguably, of the world trading system. Give-and-take in traditional trade talks relate to the degree to which each negotiating party agrees to give access to commercial opportunities inside its customs territory.

Once trade agreements are signed unilateral policy intervention is not supposed to encroach upon market access granted to trading partners. Hence there is a need to track whether a custom territories' imports are “covered” by new unilateral commercial policy interventions (including those not covered by existing trade agreements).

The need for aggregate indicators of commercial policy stance is another use case for estimates of the imports facing unilateral commercial policy intervention taken in a destination jurisdiction. Unlike other, more sophisticated indicators, the share of goods imports facing commercial policy interventions in force is relatively easy to calculate, well known, and readily interpreted.

The Global Trade Alert database has tracked unilateral commercial policy intervention by customs territories *since 1 November 2008*, the month the G20 Leaders pledged to eschew certain forms of trade and investment restrictions. The GTA database contains information on 60 types of commercial policy intervention and on the policy interventions of 243 customs territories. Over 52,500 unilateral commercial policy interventions have been recorded in the GTA database by May 2023.

Policy intervention relating to trade in goods was extracted from the GTA database and combined with the most disaggregated global trade flow data available (that found at the six-digit level of disaggregation in the UN COMTRADE database) to estimate the share of a jurisdiction's goods imported covered by a

specified class (configuration) of policy interventions. A total of 134,460 such market access estimates are presented in this database, ΔMAD v1.0. *Users should bear in mind that these estimates relate to the change in market access, not the overall level of market access at a point in time.*

Users can select one of six options for the commercial policy interventions affecting goods imports into a jurisdiction. These options have been designed so that the exposure to import tariffs and subsidies to import-competing firms can be separately recovered. Moreover, given the growing resort to export support measures in recent years, the exposure of a jurisdiction's imports to export support provided by third parties is also presented.

To capture the fact that policy interventions are introduced and lapse throughout the year, each import coverage estimate is duration-adjusted. For example, import coverage estimates associated with an import tariff increase that came into force on 6 January and remained in force all year are weighted by 360/365, reflecting the number of days in force. To limit endogeneity concerns, import coverage estimates are calculated using the global trade flow matrix for a given base year, of which there are three options.

Please send any questions about ΔMAD v1.0 to data@globaltradealert.org

Customs territories and regional covered in the Δ Market Access Database version 1.0

All of the customs territories in the GTA database plus the following regional trade agreements: ASEAN, EAC, EEU, EU-27, EU-28, MERCOSUR, NAFTA, SACU and SIECA.

Variables included in Δ Market Access Database version 1.0.

Jurisdiction	Name of the importing jurisdiction.
Jurisdiction UN Code	UN standard country or territory codes for statistical use (M49) relating to the importing jurisdiction
Year	Year to which a jurisdiction's goods import coverage estimate relates. Annual estimates are prepared for the years 2009 to 2023.
Base Year	Base year used to estimate a jurisdiction's goods import coverage estimate. There are three choices were mean for the years 2005-2007 (the three years before the GTA database begins) 2019 (pre-COVID-19 year), and mean for the years 2019-2021 (the last three years for which UN COMTRADE is currently available).
Configuration of Commercial Policy Interventions	<p>Six options are available reflecting different combinations of commercial policy interventions. They are.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>All inward</i>: Estimate refers to coverage of all policy measures affecting inflows of goods into the jurisdiction that were implemented by the jurisdiction in question. • <i>All inward except subsidies (L)</i>: Estimate refers to coverage of all policy measures affecting inflows of goods into the jurisdiction. except subsidies (MAST chapter L). • <i>All inward except subsidies (L) and import tariffs</i>: Estimate refers to coverage of all policy measures affecting inflows of goods into the jurisdiction except subsidies and tariffs (MAST chapter L and tariff policy changes recorded in the GTA database). • <i>Only inward subsidies (L)</i>: Estimate refers to coverage of subsidies to import-competing local firms (MAST Chapter L) affecting inflows of goods into the jurisdiction. • <i>Only import tariffs</i>: Estimate refers to coverage of import tariffs affecting inflows of goods into the jurisdiction. • <i>Export support measures</i>: Estimate refers to the share of the jurisdiction's imports of goods that compete against a rival from a third jurisdiction where some form of export support has been provided (examples of such support can be found in MAST chapter P6).
Imports Share Covered	Estimated share of a jurisdiction's goods imports covered by each configuration of policy interventions.
Number of Measures	Number of relevant recorded commercial policy interventions in force each year.
GTA Evaluation	Trade-distorting (favours local firms over foreign rivals) or trade-enhancing (liberalising or favours foreign firms over local rivals).
Intra-RTA Trade?	TRUE if the share is estimated taking into account intra-RTA trade, FALSE otherwise. Estimates are only prepared when the the jurisdiction is one of the regional trading agreements listed in the paragraph above this table.

Imports / Number of Measures	Total value of goods imports by the jurisdiction in the base year divided by the number of commercial policy measures in force every year. This is one measure of the coverage of the GTA database.
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Further relevant documentation

An account of the rationale of the GTA information collection methodology can be found in a published peer-review journal article, available [here](#). A detailed description of the GTA's methodology is available in the GTA Handbook, available [here](#). The methodology employed by the GTA team has not changed for many years.

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Please send comments or suggestions to data@globaltradealert.org.