



UNCTAD TRAINS:

The Global Database on Non-Tariff Measures

User Guide (2017, Version 2)





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United Nations publication issued by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

UNCTAD/DITC/TAB/2017/3

SUMMARY

- The Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) database TRAINS provides information on a broad range of policy instruments including traditional trade policy instruments, such as quotas and price controls, as well as regulatory and technical measures that stem from important non-trade objectives related to health and environmental protection (Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)). The database is a systematic source of information and aims to enhance the transparency in NTMs.
- NTMs are here defined as policy measures, other than customs tariffs, that can potentially have an economic effect on international trade in goods, changing quantities traded, or prices or both. The concept of NTMs is neutral and does not imply a negative impact on trade nor any legal judgement.
- The International Classification of Non-Tariff Measures (UNCTAD, 2013) provides a taxonomy of NTMs. The classification has been developed jointly by UNCTAD and the MAST group, a multi-agency group (FAO, IMF, ITC, OECD, UNCTAD, UNIDO, World Bank and WTO) supporting transparency in trade. The data structure follows the MAST classification.
- A joint global effort by the African Development Bank, ALADI, ERIA, GRIPS, ITC, KIEP, Tripartite (EAC, COMESA, SADC), UNECE, World Bank, and WTO, coordinated by UNCTAD, collected the NTMs data mostly in cooperation with the governments. The collected data are official measures currently imposed by the country that affect imported or exported products
- The data collection follows a standardized approach (UNCTAD, 2016) that ensures cross-country comparability.
- The data is a comprehensive map of NTMs applied at the time of data collection in a country. Data include technical (SPS and TBT) and non-technical measures, divided in chapters named A to I. These are all import NTMs. There is also a chapter on export measures, named P. Import and export NTMs group, respectively, conditions for import and for export. TRAINS covers NTMs data for more than 85 per cent of world trade, and more than 100 countries.
- The data include the specific product/s to which they apply, using the HS classification system at the tariff line or 6 digit level. Data also include the partner country to which the regulation is imposed, implementation dates and the exact source information from official legislation.
- The data is publicly available in the web application TRAINS (trains.unctad.org) and WITS (wits.worldbank.org) as well as in MacMap. A researcher file is available at the web application TRAINS (Analysis) in STATA format.
- Descriptive indicators such as frequency ratio, coverage ratio and prevalence score can be more easily constructed using the latter, available in the web application TRAINS (Analysis).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The database was produced by Guillermo Abramowitz, Fabien Dumesnil, Santiago Fernandez de Cordoba, Maxim Gubarev, Narmin Khalilova, Christian Knebel, Michelle Kristy, Chi Le Ngo, Seul Lee, Mingcong Li, Samuel Munyaneza, Denise Penello Rial and Ralf Peters. The user guide has been written by Denise Penello Rial with contributions from the above team.

The UNCTAD NTMs TRAINS database is a product of the Trade Information Section in the Trade Analysis Branch of UNCTAD's Division on International Trade and Commodities.

The NTMs data collection is conducted jointly by UNCTAD with several regional and international partners: African Development Bank, Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), International Trade Centre (ITC), Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP), Tripartite (EAC, COMESA, SADC), UN Economic Commission for Europe, World Bank, and WTO.¹ We thank our partners and the project leaders in these organisations, in particular, Jean-Guy Afrika (AFDB), Soledad Villanueva, Santiago Teperino (ALADI), Lili Yan Ing, Shujiro Urata (ERIA), Ken Kawasaki (GRIPS), Mondher Mimouni (ITC), Bo-Young Choi, Jongduk Kim (KIEP), Vonesai Hove (TMSA), Hana Daoudi (UNECE), Aaditya Matoo, Chad Bown (WB), and Jürgen Richter (WTO). We would like to thank our donors, in addition to our partners, Canada, European Commission, Japan, the Russian Federation and the United States.

The note benefited from comments of Marco Fugazza, Alessandro Nicita, Samuel Rosenow and Julia Seiermann, and workshop participants of the MAST group and the PRONTO project. Denise Penello Rial built the Researchers' STATA database with contributions from Fabien Dumesnil and Alain McLaren. Fabien Dumesnil led the adaption of the web application TRAINS from the WTO application I-TIP with contributions from Sheikh Ahmed and Rado Razafinomba. Samuel Munyaneza and Siddhesh Vishwanath Kaushik lead the development of WITS. Jenifer Tacardon-Mercado formatted the document.

The views expressed in this paper are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations or its Member States. Any errors remain the authors' own. The data are not official government data and are the sole responsibility of the authors.

¹ WTO only notified data.

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