

# A Practical Guide to Trade Policy Analysis



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**What is *A Practical Guide to Trade Policy Analysis*?**

*A Practical Guide to Trade Policy Analysis* aims to help researchers and policymakers update their knowledge of quantitative economic methods and data sources for trade policy analysis.

**Using this guide**

The guide explains analytical techniques, reviews the data necessary for analysis and includes illustrative applications and exercises. An accompanying DVD contains datasets and programme command files required for the exercises.

**Find out more**

Website: <http://vi.unctad.org/tpa>

# Contents

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Contributing authors and acknowledgements	3
Disclaimer	4
Foreword	5
Introduction	7
<b>CHAPTER 1: Analyzing trade flows</b>	<b>11</b>
A. Overview and learning objectives	13
B. Analytical tools	14
C. Data	34
D. Applications	39
E. Exercises	54
<b>CHAPTER 2: Quantifying trade policy</b>	<b>61</b>
A. Overview and learning objectives	63
B. Analytical tools	63
C. Data	79
D. Applications	84
E. Exercises	93
<b>CHAPTER 3: Analyzing bilateral trade using the gravity equation</b>	<b>101</b>
A. Overview and learning objectives	103
B. Analytical tools	103
C. Applications	120
D. Exercises	131

<b>CHAPTER 4: Partial-equilibrium trade-policy simulation</b>	<b>137</b>
A. Overview and learning objectives	139
B. Analytical tools	141
C. Applications	162
D. Exercises	172
<b>CHAPTER 5: General equilibrium</b>	<b>179</b>
A. Overview and learning objectives	181
B. Analytical tools	181
C. Application	200
<b>CHAPTER 6: Analyzing the distributional effects of trade policies</b>	<b>209</b>
A. Overview and learning objectives	211
B. Analytical tools	212
C. Data	218
D. Applications	221
E. Exercise	229

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The production of this book was managed by Anthony Martin (WTO) and Serge Marin-Pache (WTO). The website and DVD were developed by Susana Olivares.

## Disclaimer

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## Foreword

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This book is the outcome of joint work by the Secretariats of UNCTAD and the WTO. Its six chapters were written collaboratively by academics and staff of the two organizations. The volume aims to help researchers and policy-makers expand their knowledge of quantitative economic methods and data sources for trade policy analysis. The need for the book is based on the belief that good policy needs to be backed by good analysis. By bringing together the most widely used approaches for trade policy analysis in a single volume, the book allows the reader to compare methodologies and to select the best-suited to address the issues of today.

The most innovative feature of the book is that it combines detailed explanations of analytical techniques with a guide to the data necessary to undertake analysis and accompanying tutorials in the form of exercises. This approach allows readers of the publication to follow the analytical process step by step. Although the presentations in this volume are mostly aimed at first-time practitioners, some of the most recent advances in quantitative methods are also covered.

This book has been developed in response to requests from a number of research institutions and universities in developing countries for training on trade policy analysis. Despite the growing use of quantitative economics in policy making, no existing publications directly address the full range of practical questions covered here. These include matters as simple as where to find the best trade and tariff data and how to develop a country's basic statistics on trade. Guidance is also provided on more complicated issues, such as the choice of the best analytical tools for answering questions ranging from the economic impact of membership of the WTO and preferential trade agreements to how trade will affect income distribution within a country.

Although quantitative analysis cannot provide all the answers, it can help to give direction to the process of policy formulation and to ensure that choices are based on detailed knowledge of underlying realities. We commend this guide to those engaged in creating trade policy and we hope that by contributing to the understanding of state-of-the-art tools for policy analysis, this guide will improve the quality of trade policy-making and contribute to a more level playing field in trade relations.



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