North Profiles 2010







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(As of 01 May 2010)

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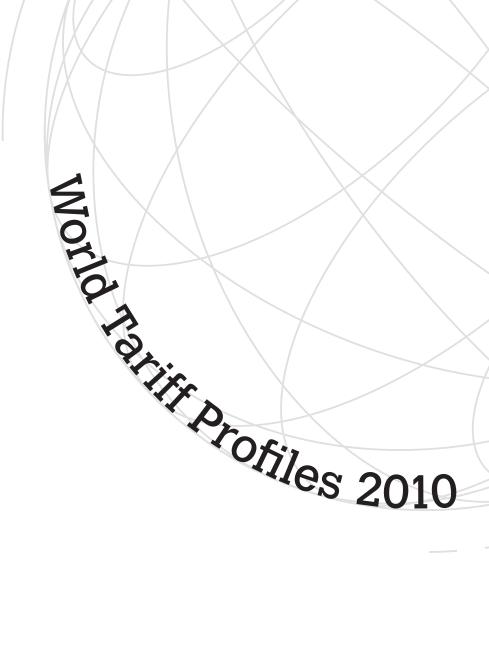
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WTO

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. At its heart are the WTO agreements, negotiated and signed by the bulk of the world's trading nations and ratified in their parliaments. The goal is to help producers of goods and services, exporters, and importers conduct their business. The WTO's main function is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible. It does this by administering trade agreements, acting as a forum for trade negotiations, settling trade disputes, reviewing national trade policies, assisting developing countries in trade policy issues through technical assistance and training programmes and cooperating with other international organizations.

UNCTAD

Established in 1964, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) promotes the development-friendly integration of developing countries into the world economy. UNCTAD has progressively evolved into an authoritative knowledge-based institution whose work aims to help shape current policy debates and thinking on development, with a particular focus on ensuring that domestic policies and international action are mutually supportive in bringing about sustainable development. Three key functions of UNCTAD are: (1) to function as a forum for intergovernmental deliberations, supported by discussions with experts and exchanges of experience, aimed at consensus building; (2) to undertake research, policy analysis and data collection for the debates of government representatives and experts; and (3) to provide technical assistance tailored to the specific requirements of developing countries, with special attention to the needs of the least developed countries and of economies in transition.

ITC

The International Trade Centre (ITC) is the joint agency of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations. ITC enables small business export success in developing countries by providing, with partners, sustainable and inclusive trade development solutions to the private sector, trade support institutions and policymakers. ITC's strategic objectives are to strengthen the international competitiveness of enterprises, to develop the capacity of trade service providers to support businesses, and to support policymakers in integrating the business sector into the global economy.

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The World Tariff Profiles is a joint publication of the WTO, ITC and UNCTAD devoted to market access for goods. This statistical yearbook contains a comprehensive compilation of the main tariff parameters for each of the 153 WTO Members and other countries and customs territories. Each country profile presents information on tariffs imposed by each economy on its imports complemented with an analysis of the market access conditions it faces in its major export markets.

Statistics for all countries are given in standardized tables which make easier comparisons between countries, between sectors and, specifically for WTO Members, between bound and applied tariffs as well. The calculations are based on national tariff schedules and imports in conformity with a standard Harmonized System (HS) nomenclature version. To the extent possible, ad valorem equivalents (AVEs) of non-ad valorem tariffs are estimated and are included in the estimation of tariff indicators. Nonetheless, certain caveats apply in the interpretation of these indicators and the reader is advised to read the methodological notes that precede the statistical tables.

The publication is presented in three main parts. The first part shows summary statistics for all countries and territories for all products, as well as a break-down into agricultural and non-agricultural products. The second part shows for each of these countries and territories, one full page with disaggregation by sectors and duty ranges. It also contains a section on the market access conditions faced in their respective major export markets. The third part contains a summary table on concessions on Other Duties and Charges (ODCs).

The <u>summary tables</u> in the first part are designed to allow a cross-country comparison as well as a comparison of the levels of bound and applied duties. Apart from the standard indicators like tariff averages, maxima, percentage of duty-free tariff lines, peaks and non-ad valorem duties, it also contains indicators of tariff dispersion such as the number of distinct duties and the coefficient of variation. The calculation of these indicators is based, where applicable, on a pre-aggregation to HS six-digit subheadings, which leads to a standardization across countries and thus makes the comparisons more compatible.

The <u>country pages</u> are divided into two blocks covering (A) the domestic market access protection and (B) the protection faced in the major export markets. In part A, information on bound and applied duties is shown by duty ranges and by sectors. Information for agricultural and non-agricultural duties is shown separately. In addition, there are indicators on the occurrence of special safeguards and on tariff quotas. In part B, the trade diversification and market access conditions in the five major export markets are depicted, broken down into agricultural and non-agricultural products.

The <u>technical annex</u> is a table containing the summary statistics on concessions on ODCs for WTO Members. The data sources and a glossary, which briefly explains some of the most commonly used tariff and trade-related terms, conclude the publication.

Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements are due, first of all, to all the data providers, mostly national administrations or WTO delegations who have made all this information available. In a number of cases, data has been made available on national websites or through regional organizations. Given the vast amount of statistical data and metadata that needed to be processed, and because this information is not available in one single organization, this publication was only possible as a joint effort of the WTO, ITC, and UNCTAD. Each of the three organizations has a proven track record in tariff analysis and comparative strengths in the field of tariff analysis.

The WTO, as the repository of its Members' binding commitments on goods and also as repository for Members notifications on their MFN applied tariffs, is of course at the core of this undertaking. The ITC complemented the missing up-to-date data on applied tariffs, preferential duties and contributed all the AVE estimates. UNCTAD collaborated with ITC in providing missing tariff data for some countries.

The preparation of this publication was coordinated by Jürgen Richtering (WTO) in close collaboration with Mondher Mimouni (ITC) under the overall supervision of Hubert Escaith, WTO's Chief Statistician. Adelina Mendoza (WTO) was responsible for doing all the calculations and preparing the tables in their final layout. Xavier Pichot (ITC) and Clément Delorme (ITC) were in charge of providing additional input data and of calculating all the ad valorem equivalents.

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