

World Trade Report 2012



Trade and public policies:
A closer look at non-tariff
measures in the 21st
century



Major themes of World Trade Report 2012

- Motivation behind NTMs is changing (public policies becoming more prevalent)
- NTMs raise a transparency issue
- Public policies have ambiguous trade effects
- Public policies require deeper cooperation



Motivations behind NTMs

- Governments employ NTMs to achieve public policy objectives such as:
 - Protection of public health or the environment
 - Addressing information asymmetries
- Archetypical examples of public policy NTMs: TBT/SPS measures and domestic regulation in services
- Public policy concerns have grown, adding significantly to the complex nature and variety of NTMs deployed by governments
- The expansion of the policy agenda implies that NTMs will not shrink in relevance like tariffs have done...



Motivations behind NTMs

- ...but NTMs can also serve a dual purpose
 - They may be designed or administered in ways that intentionally restrict trade even if their primary purpose is to serve a public policy
- The potential for dual purpose underlies the difficulty of:
 - Distinguishing between “legitimate” and “protectionist” motivations for NTMs
 - Identifying instances where NTMs create “unnecessary” trade costs



Transparency

- Transparency is a major issue with regard to both NTMs and services measures
- Information on public policies is not as easily accessible as information on border measures
- Public policy measures are diverse and difficult to compare across countries and sectors (AVEs are needed)
- Their effects depend on how they are applied



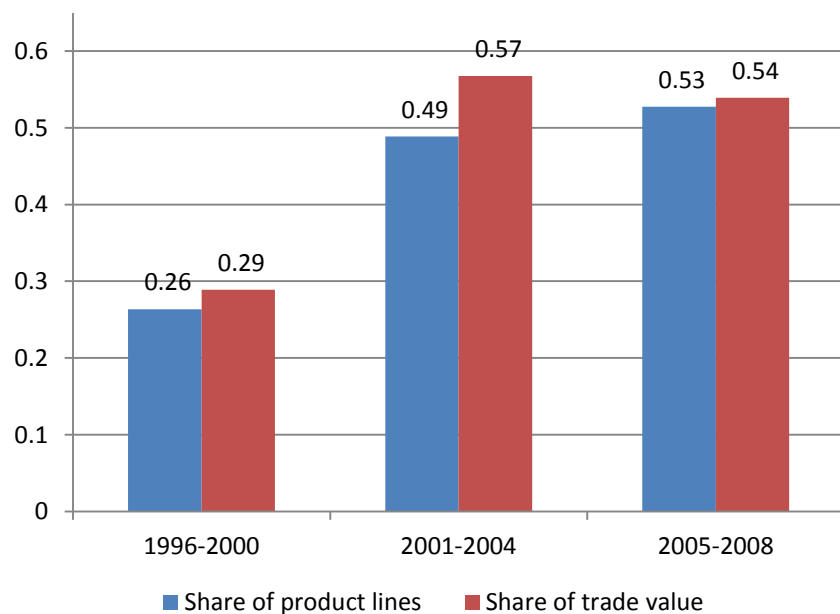
Transparency

- The report taps diverse sources of data: notifications, data collected from official sources, concerns raised at the WTO, disputes, business surveys
- None of the available data sources provides comprehensive coverage
- Some stylized facts:
 - Inconclusive evidence of a rising trend in NTM incidence over the last 20 years
 - Some evidence of upward trend in TBT/SPS measures
 - TBT/SPS measures are major impediment to exporters
 - Procedural obstacles matter

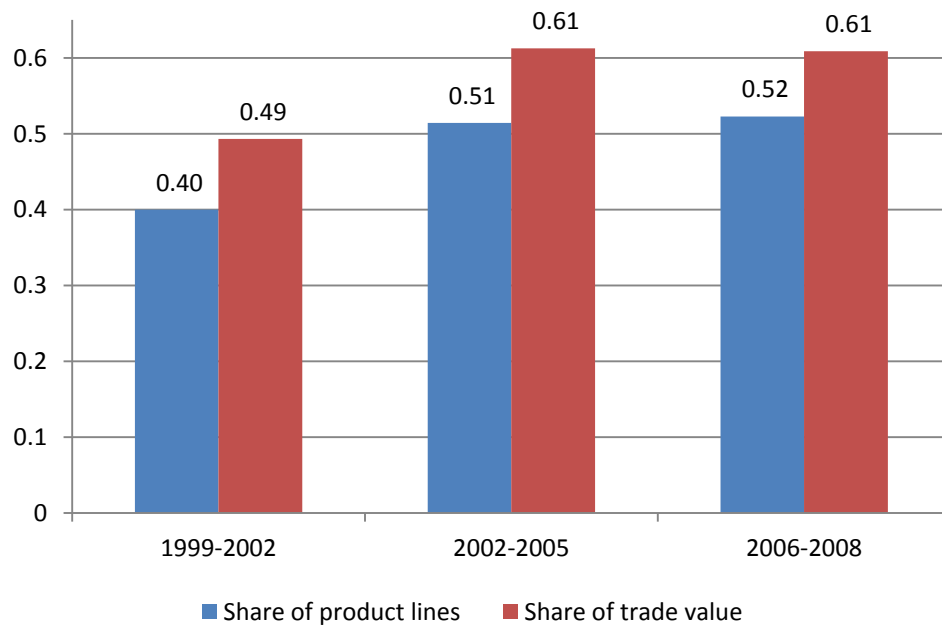


NTMs inventory, 1996-2008

a) All available countries

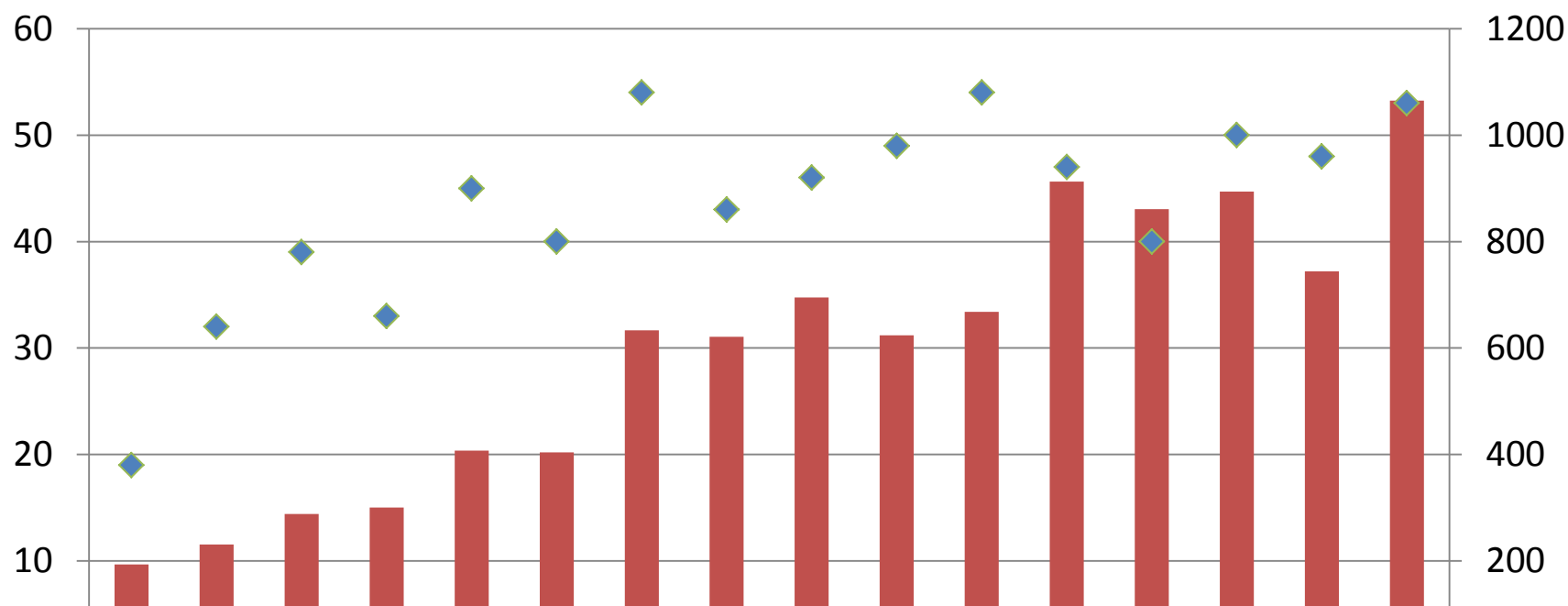


b) Selected Latin American countries





SPS notifications, 1994-2010



预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_7485

