



About Global Trade Alert

Global Trade Alert provides information in real time on state measures taken during the current global economic downturn that are likely to discriminate against foreign commerce.

Global Trade Alert is:

- **Independent:** GTA is co-ordinated by the [Centre for Economic Policy Research](#) [1], an independent academic and policy research think-tank based in London, UK. GTA draws upon expertise and analysis from 7 independent research institutions around the world.
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- **Comprehensive:** GTA complements and goes beyond the WTO and World Bank's monitoring initiatives by identifying those trading partners likely to be harmed by state measures.
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- **Accessible:** The GTA website allows policy-makers, exporters, the media, and analysts to search the posted government measures by implementing country, by trading partners harmed, and by sector. Third parties will be able to report suspicious state measures and governments will be given the right to reply to any of their measures listed on the website.
- **Transparent:** The GTA website allows policymakers, government officials, exporters, the media, and analysts to report discriminatory measures, but also will provide data for all stakeholders on the posted government measures by implementing country, by trading partners harmed, and by sector.
- **Timely:** The up-to-date information and informed commentary provided by Global Trade Alert will help ensure that the G20 pledge not to "repeat the historic mistakes of protectionism of previous eras" is met, by maintaining confidence in the world trading system, deterring beggar-thy-neighbour acts, and preserving the contribution that exports could play in the future recovery of the world economy.

Motivation: As many economies witness the sharpest falls in their exports in decades and with unemployment rising to levels not seen since the early 1980s, fears are growing that governments may be tempted to renege on this pledge. Even though the world has not seen a return to the across-the-board tariff increases of the early 1930s, today governments have resorted to massive stimulus packages, bailouts, and subsidies, many of which include nationalistic provisions that effectively harm trading partners' exporters, investors, and workers.

Mission: Global Trade Alert provides information in real time on [state measures](#) [2] taken during the current global economic downturn that are likely to discriminate against foreign commerce. Global Trade Alert draws upon expertise from independent research institutes in seven regions (its [regional nodes](#) [3]).

Global Trade Alert complements and goes beyond the WTO and World Bank's monitoring initiatives by identifying those trading partners likely to be harmed by state measures. Its website allows policy-makers, exporters, the media, and analysts to search the posted government measures by implementing country, by trading partners harmed, and by sector. Third parties will be able to report suspicious state measures and governments will be given the right to reply to any of their measures listed on the website.

The G20 leaders, at their meeting in London on 2 April 2009, pledged "We will not repeat the historic mistakes of protectionism of previous eras". The up-to-date information and informed commentary provided by Global Trade Alert will help ensure that the G20 pledge is met, by maintaining confidence in the world trading system, deterring beggar-thy-neighbour acts, and preserving the contribution that exports could play in the future recovery of the world economy. Further information on the objectives of Global Trade Alert can be found in the [attached document](#). [4]

Funders: GTA is supported by a mix of forward-thinking governmental and non-governmental organisations. Full details can be found on the [funders page](#) [5].

Implementation: The Regional Nodes are responsible for monitoring state measures introduced in their own region (and elsewhere). Global Trade Alert also encourages third parties to submit measures for scrutiny, and welcomes dialogue with Implementing Jurisdictions concerning the measures they have introduced. The Evaluation Group is responsible for assessing this information and deciding whether to publish it on the website. Further information on the implementation of Global Trade Alert can be found in the [attached document](#) [6] and in section two of an October 2009 paper available at www.globaltradealert.org/sites/default/files/CEPR_DP7494_0.pdf [7]

Management: The [Centre for Economic Policy Research](#) [1] coordinates the initiative, under the direction of [Professor Simon Evenett](#) [8], Co-Director of CEPR's international trade programme.

Governance: A Group of Eminent Persons provides advice on the implementation of Global Trade Alert and ensures its independence. The Group is chaired by [Professor Richard Baldwin](#) [9], the CEPR's Policy Director and one of Europe's leading trade economists.

Platform: Like [VoxEU](#) [10] and other CEPR sites, GTA is powered by the open source content management system [Drupal](#) [11]. CEPR worked with [Neil Cameron](#) [12] to design and develop this site.

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