



GLOBAL
TRADE
ALERT

Pandemic-Era Trade Policy Measures Affecting Essential Goods

UN ESCAP Pilot Course Programme
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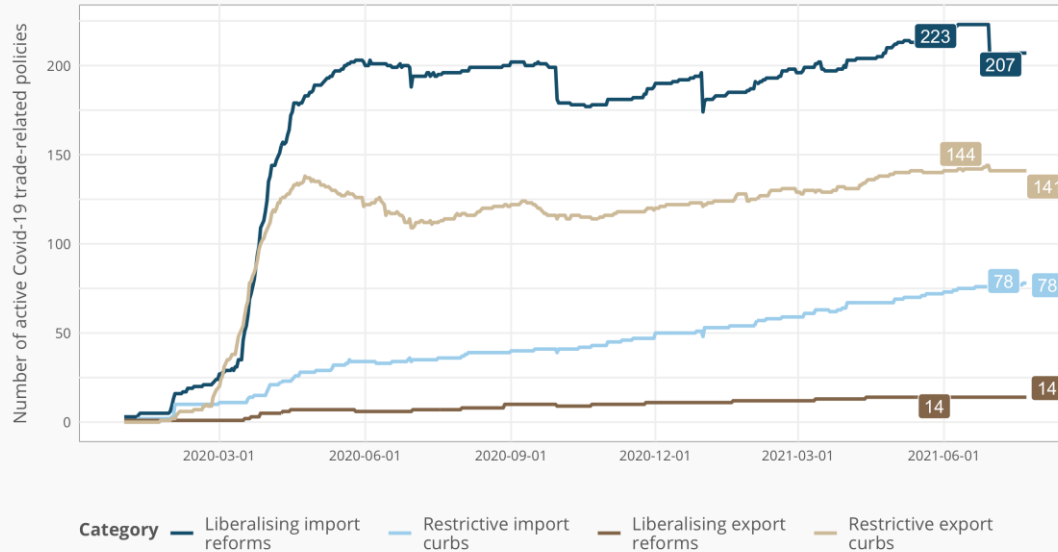
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Purpose of this presentation

- To provide an overview of the trade policy responses relating to essential goods undertaken during the COVID-19 pandemic era.
 - Taken to start on 1 January 2020.
- To interpret those policy developments from an economic point of view.

Although less salient now, there is still plenty of trade policy intervention in medical goods

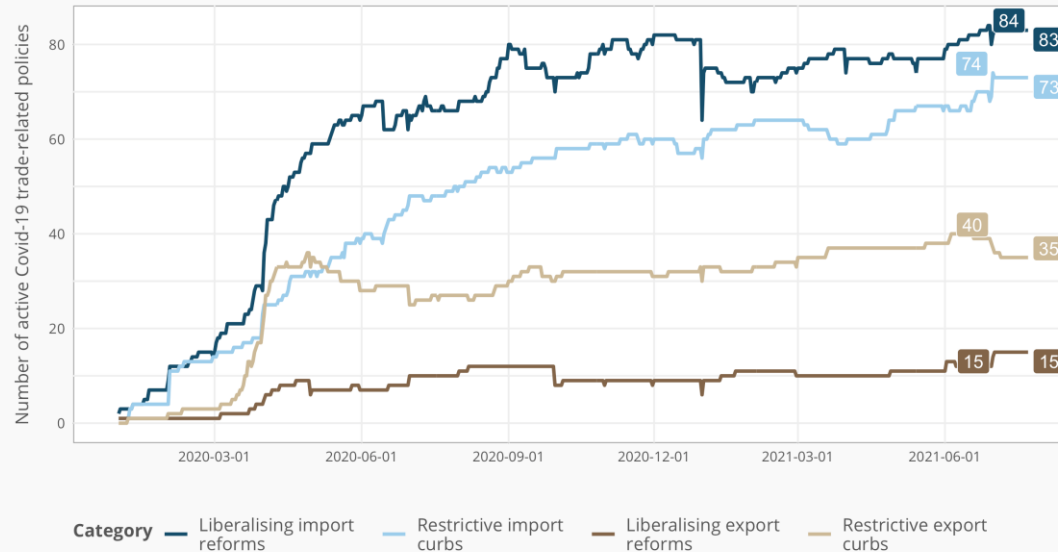
Build-up of new trade policies in force in COVID-19 medical goods sectors since 1 January 2020



Source: Global Trade Alert, August 2021 release

Fewer trade policy developments in food— overall more action on import policy

Build-up of new trade policies in force in COVID-19 food sectors since 1 January 2020



Source: Global Trade Alert, August 2021 release

Serious risk of permanent scarring unless active measures taken to unwind policy

Duration of currently active COVID-19 policies

Status as of 23 July 2021

	Up to			
	30 days	90 days	365 days	More
Medical sector				
Export curbs	2	7	47	85
Export reforms	0	0	8	6
Import curbs	2	9	37	30
Import reforms	7	22	59	119
Food sector				
Export curbs	0	2	11	22
Export reforms	3	2	6	4
Import curbs	6	10	19	38
Import reforms	7	9	36	31

Source: Global Trade Alert, August 2021 release

Implications for understanding trade policy and reform dynamics



- Impact of export curbs on supply chains.
- Potential for copycat behaviour during medical emergencies that affect many nations (key: trade policy dynamics when nations face simultaneous adverse shocks).
- Implications for designing policies to cope with demand surges created by medical emergencies.
- Implications of export curbs for willingness of importing nations to lower trade barriers as part of regional or multilateral trade deals.

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