



GLOBAL  
TRADE  
ALERT

# The Global Trade & Digital Policy Alerts: Implications for Sweden

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Policy intelligence for international business & policymakers

Professor Simon J. Evenett

26 November 2021

**St.Gallen  
Endowment**  
for Prosperity through Trade

# Transparency is a foundation of sound economic governance



- “Sunlight is said to the best of disinfectants; electric light the most efficient policeman”—U.S. Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis (1963)
- “Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not his own facts.”—U.S. Senator and former Harvard Professor Daniel Patrick Moynihan (1983)

# The woeful state of transparency in the world trading system

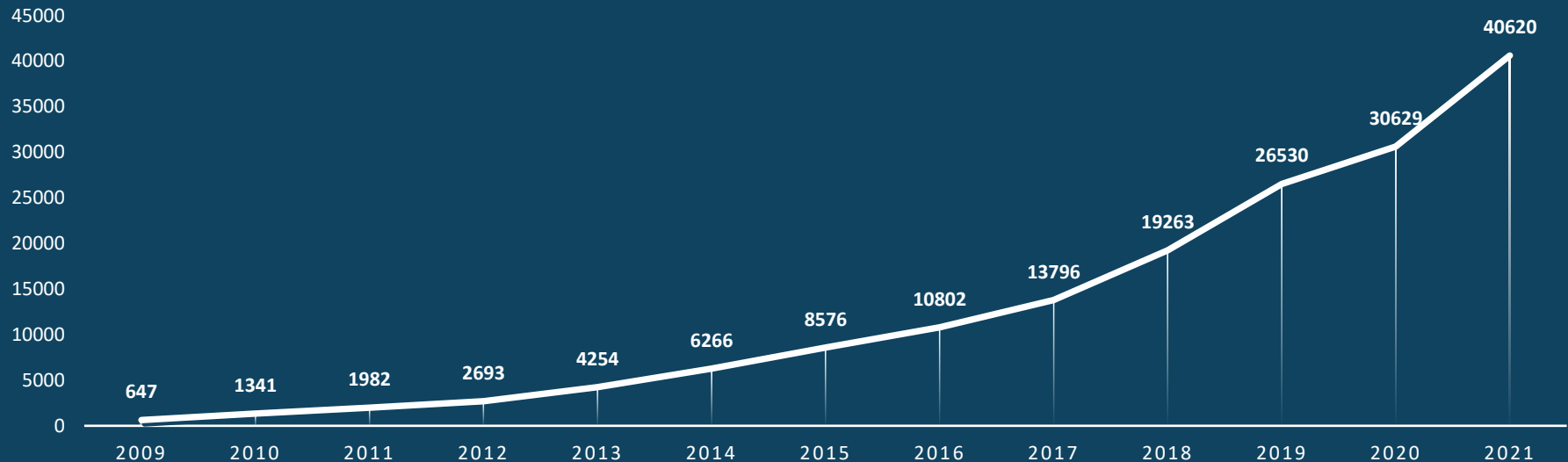


- Missing, incomplete, and late notifications by governments to the World Trade Organization on all manner of trade policies.
- G20 members starve WTO staff of information on trade policies.
- No international organisation has been given a mandate to systematically collect information on non-tariff barriers.
- No international organisation seeks to assemble comprehensive information on subsidies and related forms of state intervention.
- These outcomes are by design—they are not an accident.

# We've published over 40,000 reports on trade policy interventions



## TOTAL NUMBER OF TRADE POLICY INTERVENTIONS PUBLISHED ON THE GLOBAL TRADE ALERT (GTA) WEBSITE





# Traditional Commercial Policy and Sweden's Interests

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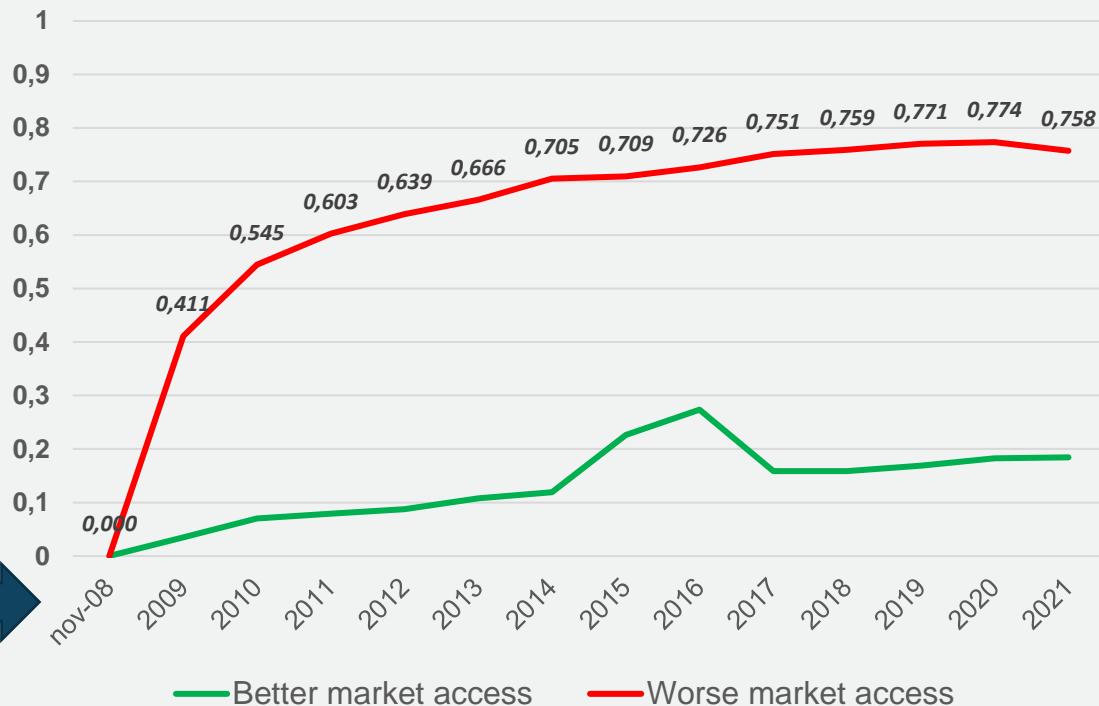
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# Goods trade: Trading conditions facing Swedish exports have worsened since the GFC

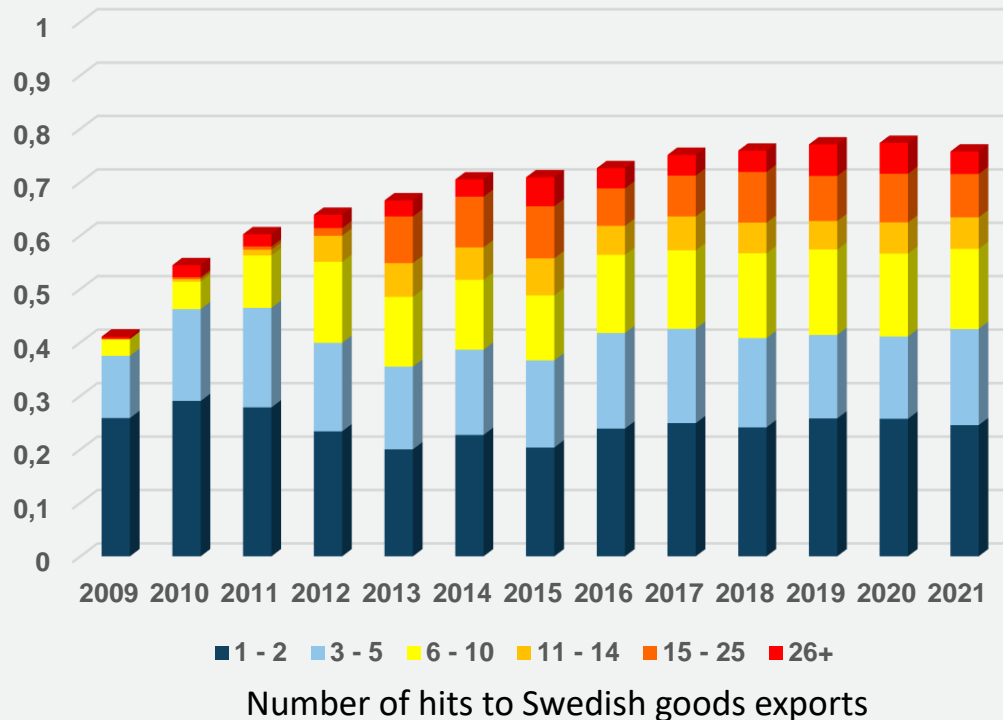
Share of Swedish goods trade facing trade distortions in force in the year in question



First GFC G20 Leaders Summit

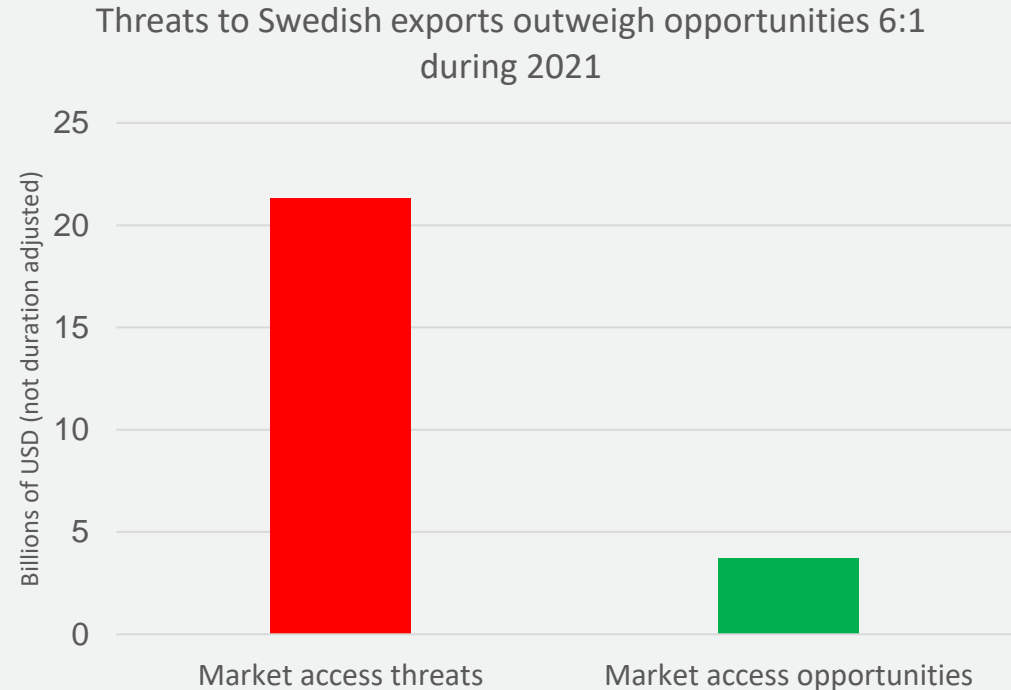
# A third of Swedish goods exports faces 6 or more trade distortions in foreign markets

Share of Swedish goods trade facing trade distortions in force in the year in question



# “We are drowning in information but starved for knowledge”

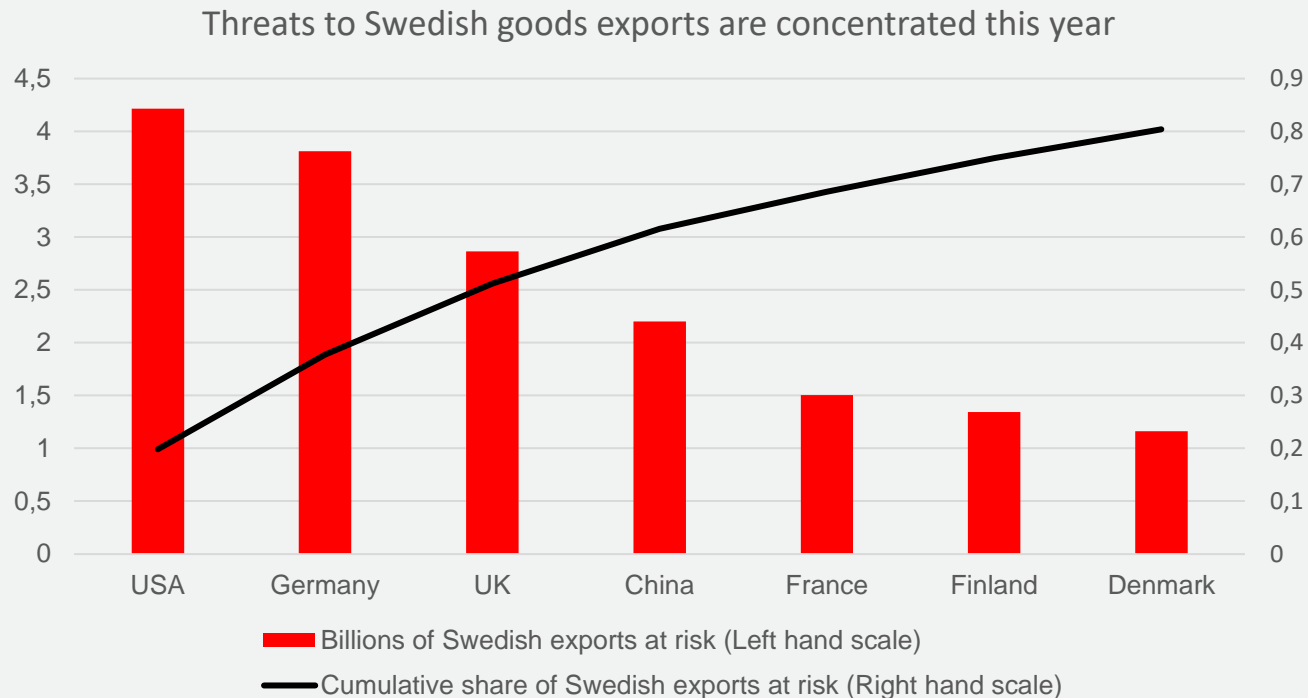
- Effective diplomacy and successful business strategies rely on up-to-date, easy-to-interpret information.
- Most trade ministries have weak trade policy management information systems.
- They miss opportunities to gain from the world trading system and overlook nascent threats.





# Breaking market access threat down by trading partner

This information can be broken down by sector and product





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# Rising Fragmentation Risk in the Digital Economy & Swedish Prosperity

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# Digital Policy Alert

[digitalpolicyalert.org](https://digitalpolicyalert.org)



- Create a timely public inventory for policy & regulation
  - Comprehensive description of the rapidly changing landscape
  - Independent factual base based on official sources
  - Interactive, portable and free
- Data product 1: Activity tracker + notification service
  - Country scope: G20 and EU members
  - Current status: launched publicly on 15 April 2021
- Data product 2: Detailed policy mapping
  - Country scope: G20
  - Current status: Rollout on own website in Q1/2022

The screenshot displays the 'Digital Policy Alert' website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'GLOBAL DYNAMICS', 'DIGITAL POLICY', 'COUNTRIES', 'SECTORS & PRODUCTS', 'LATEST STATE ACTS', 'REPORTS', 'DATA & METHODS', and 'ABOUT'. Below this is a search bar and a 'Digital Policy Alert' title. A main heading reads 'POLICY & REGULATORY ACTIVITY AFFECTING DIGITAL COMMERCE'. A world map is shown with a blue overlay indicating active jurisdictions. To the right of the map is a table titled 'Most active policy domains' and 'Most targeted economic activities'. Below the map and table are filters for 'Jurisdictions', 'Policy area', 'Policy or regulatory instrument', 'Current status', 'Economic activity', 'Branch', 'Body', and 'Event type'. A search bar is also present. The bottom section shows a list of policy entries with columns for 'Implementer', 'Policy area', 'Policy or regulatory instrument', and 'Economic activity'.

# A comprehensive factual base

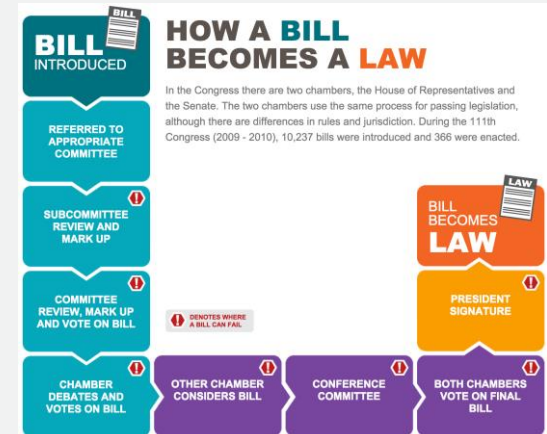
## broad policy spectrum

1. Data governance
2. Content moderation
3. Competition
4. Taxation
5. Subsidies & industrial policy
6. Public procurement
7. International trade
8. Foreign direct investment
9. Registration & licensing

## all government branches



## complete process

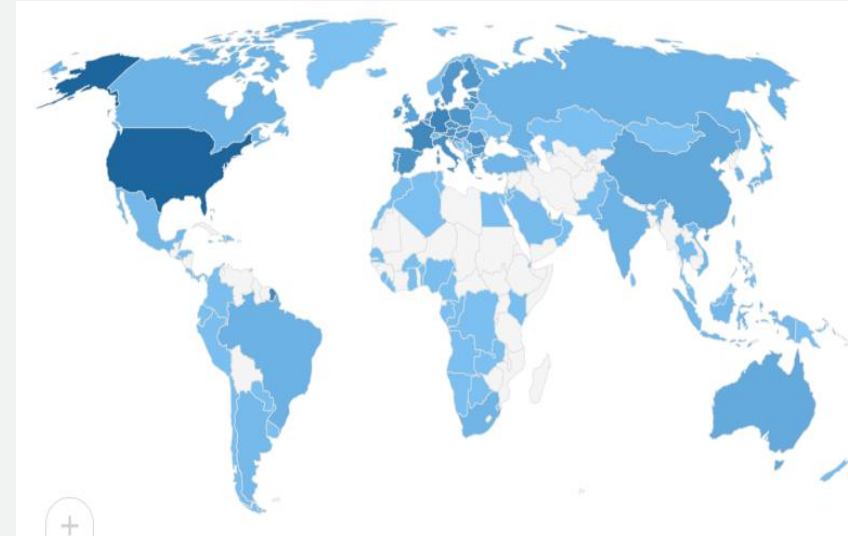
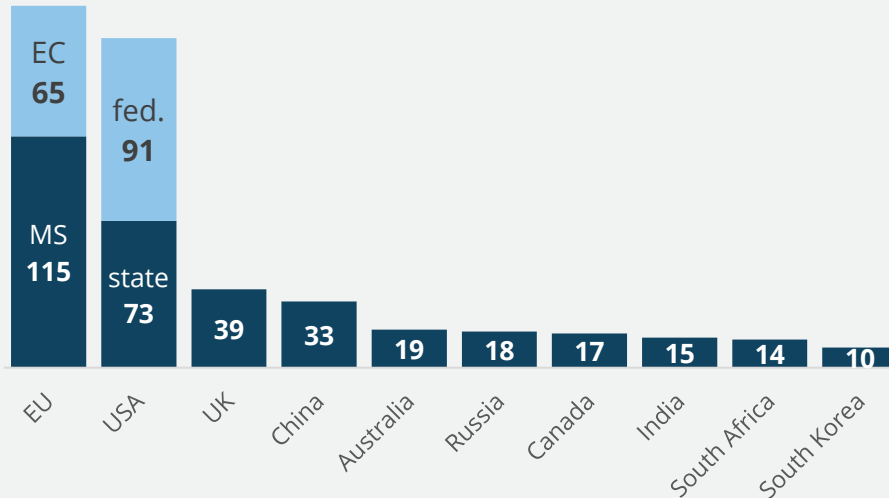


# Activity tracker findings for digital policy

## Europe and the US as the centres of activity

- Policy & regulatory activity in the G20

700+ changes in 2021, proposed or adopted

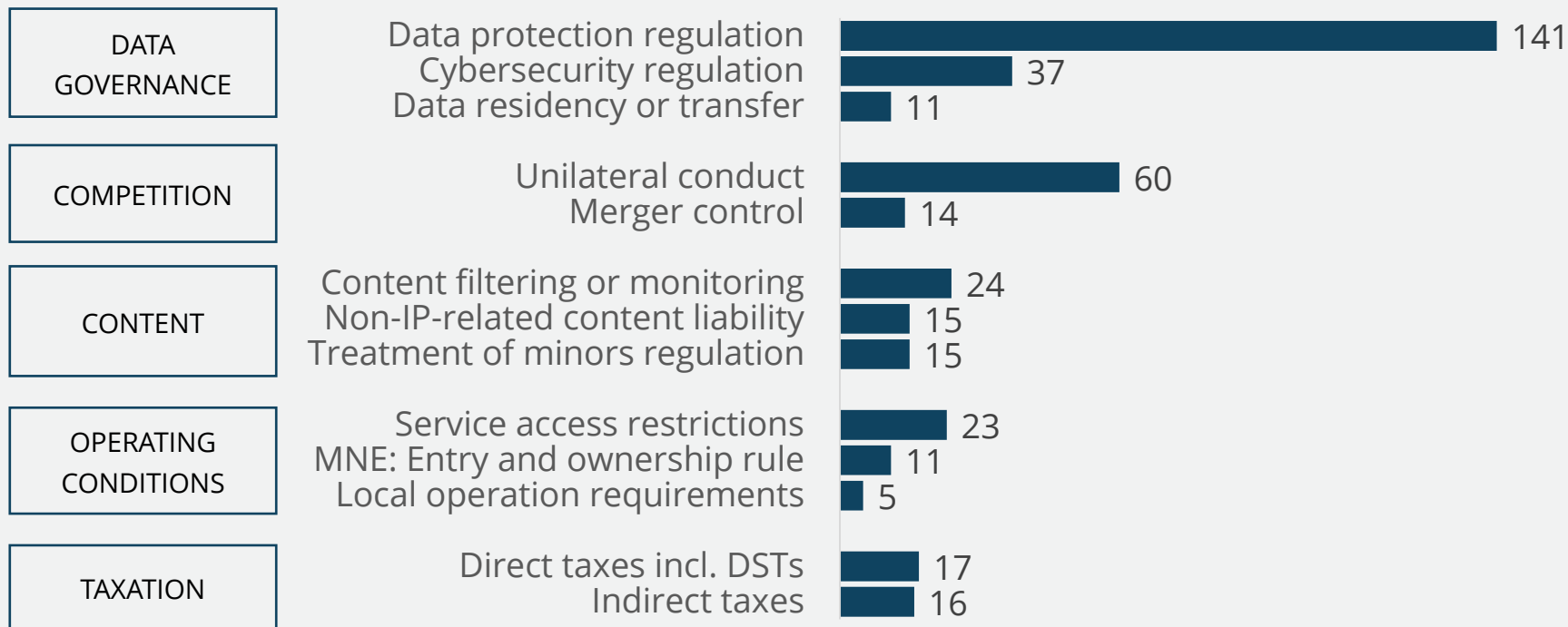


darker shading = higher recorded activity

Source: [digitalpolicyalert.org](https://digitalpolicyalert.org)

# Current areas of policy & regulatory activity

number of changes for selected instruments in 2021



Source: [digitalpolicyalert.org](https://digitalpolicyalert.org)

## Want to learn more?



- See the Global Trade Alert website: <https://www.globaltradealert.org/>
- Subscribe to our policy intelligence alerts.
- Read our policy analysis: <https://www.globaltradealert.org/reports>
- For information of the St Gallen Endowment for Prosperity Through Trade: <http://www.max-schmidheiny.foundation/page/en/aktivitaeten/global-trade-alert/>
- **Contact me at** [simon.evenett@sgept.org](mailto:simon.evenett@sgept.org)