

## [Development Research Group](#)

*The [Trade and International Integration Research Program](#) aims to improve understanding of the role of global economic integration in development and poverty reduction. We are also developing databases and analytic tools to analyze the impact of policy reforms.*

### **FEATURED RESEARCH (2013–present)**

#### **[Eighth IMF-WB-WTO Trade Research Conference](#)**

October 4-5, 2021

The annual International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank (WB), World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Research Conference brings together experts on trade from the three institutions to share and disseminate their latest research findings. This year the event will include sessions on global value chains, growth and market structure, institutional quality, and technology, as well as a concluding policy panel with senior representatives from each institution on the role of trade in a post-covid world.

[Agenda, Papers, Presentations, Selected Recordings](#)

#### **[Migration and Development Conference](#)**

September 9-11, 2021

The 14th International Conference on “Migration and Development” will investigate international migration and its effects on economic and social change in developing countries.

[Program](#) | [Recordings from the 13th Annual Migration and Development Conference \(2020\)](#)

#### **[The Economics of Deep Trade Agreements](#)**

eBook, June 2021

While multilateral trade negotiations have stagnated and tensions between major players have surged, bilateral and regional agreements seem to have run away with the trade agenda. Many of these agreements have extended their reach well beyond tariffs, covering policy areas such as environment, intellectual property rights, state-owned enterprises. They aim to achieve integration beyond trade, or “deep” integration. This e-book is the result of a World Bank research project on the economics of deep trade agreements. It covers the determinants and consequences of deep trade agreements and discusses how they may shape world trade in a post-COVID-19 world.

[eBook 2021](#) | [VoxEU Blog](#) | [Launch Event, July 19, 2021](#) | [Seminar Series, October 2020](#) | [Handbook of Deep Trade Agreements, 2020](#) | [Project Website](#) | [More research by Ana Fernandes](#)

#### **[Developing a Plan to Vaccinate the World](#)**

June 2, 2021

In this talk, World Bank economist Tristan Reed explored new research on vaccine demand and supply that offers a path to reaching higher vaccination coverage against COVID-19, including challenges and opportunities around closing global vaccination gaps, examining vaccine need given age structures, available vaccines and COVID-19 dynamics, organized demand and financing for vaccine purchasing, vaccine supply chains and production capacity of manufacturers, and what the international community should do next.

[Recording](#) | [Presentation](#) | [Event Information](#) | [Working Paper](#) | [Coverage in The Economist](#) | [More research by Tristan Reed](#)

### **Trade, Robots, and Industrial Development**

March 23, 2021

In this talk, World Bank economist Paulo Bastos drew on several recent studies to identify key drivers of firm-level upgrading and industrial development, including entrepreneurial ability, exports, foreign ownership, training, and learning by working. This evidence provides insights on the implications of robotization for trade between developed and developing countries and policy options for promoting industrial development and trade-led growth.

[Presentation](#) | [Video](#) | [Event Information](#) | [More research by Paulo Bastos](#)

### **Who on Earth Can Work from Home? A global comparison sheds light on the importance of ICT infrastructure**

October 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic is expected to inflict severe pain in labor markets across the globe, and policy makers will need to target support to workers who are hit hardest. To inform such efforts, a recent working paper Who on Earth Can Work from Home presents an estimate of jobs that can be done from home across the globe.

[Story](#) | [Working Paper](#) | [COVID-19 eSeminar Video](#) | [More research by Çağlar Özden](#)

### **The Economics of Deep Trade Agreements Seminar Series**

October 2020

This series of webinars brought together leading trade experts to present ongoing research on the determinants and consequences of regional trade agreements and to advance our understanding of key issues in trade agreements and regional integration.

[Watch the replays](#)

### **Migration and Development Conference**

September 24-25, 2020

The 13th Annual Migration and Development Conference brought together leading researchers and policymakers to present and discuss their work on the economics of international mobility and its linkages to development.

[Recording links by session](#)

### **Elite Capture of Foreign Aid: Evidence from Offshore Bank Accounts**

February 2020

In this seminar World Bank economist Bob Rijkers presented the results of a Policy Research Working Paper on "Elite Capture of Foreign Aid: Evidence from Offshore Bank Accounts."

[Video, Presentation, Working Paper](#) | [More research by Bob Rijkers](#)

## **Development Policy and COVID-19 eSeminar Series – Talks on Trade**

April-July 2020

This seminar series brings leading economists, public health experts, and other social scientists together with World Bank Group researchers to discuss emerging research on COVID-19 and its implications for development policy. Talks on Trade include the following topics (video, presentations, papers).

- [Trade and Global Value Chains in the Age of COVID-19 \(April 22, 2020\)](#)
- [Labor Mobility, Migration, and COVID-19 \(Part 1-May 7, 2020\)](#)
- [Labor Mobility, Migration, and COVID-19 \(Part 2-May 14, 2020\)](#)
- [The Labor Market Impacts of COVID-19 \(July 6, 2020\)](#)

## **World Development Report 2020: Trading for Development in the Age of Global Value Chains**

October 2019

This report examines whether there is still a path to development through GVCs and trade. It concludes that technological change is at this stage more a boon than a curse. GVCs can continue to boost growth, create better jobs, and reduce poverty provided that developing countries implement deeper reforms to promote GVC participation, industrial countries pursue open, predictable policies, and all countries revive multilateral cooperation.

[Report](#) | [Website](#) | [Blogs](#)

## **A Trade Data Revolution Is Uncovering Hidden Patterns in Global Export Markets**

September 2018

Competition in export markets is brutal: only 43 percent of new exporters survive beyond one year. A trade data revolution is uncovering hidden patterns that can help countries and companies succeed in the global marketplace

[Story](#) | [Presentation](#) | [Video](#) | [More research by Ana Fernandes »](#)

## **Moving for Prosperity: Global Migration and Labor Markets**

June 2018

Global labor mobility is a potent tool to end poverty, with migrants tripling their wages or more. Better labor market policies to manage short-run economic tensions can ensure that destination countries and migrants share the benefits of global labor mobility for generations to come.

[Report](#) | [Presentation](#) | [Video](#) | [More research by Çağlar Özden](#)

## **Global Trade Watch 2018: Trade Amid Tensions**

May 2019

Global trade growth slowed in 2018 amid a weakening of economic growth in China and the Euro Area and rising trade protectionism. The volume of trade grew by 3.8 percent, down from 5.4 percent in 2017, but has shown signs of reviving in the first quarter of 2019.

[Report](#)

## **Global Trade Watch 2017: Trade Defies Policy Uncertainty - Will It Last?**

May 2018

World trade rebounded in 2017, with trade volume growing at 4.3 percent in 2017—the fastest rate in 6 years. The recovery of trade is not limited to a few regions but is widespread, suggesting that we may be at a turning point.

[Report](#) | [Charts](#)

### **Global Trade Watch: Trade Developments in 2016 (2017)**

February 2017

World trade in 2016 posted its weakest performance since the Global Financial Crisis in 2008. Slow trade occurred in both high-income and developing countries, but growth in services trade has shown more resilience since the crisis.

[Report](#) | [Story](#) | [Press Release](#) | [Data](#)

### **Fifth IMF-World Bank-WTO Trade Research Workshop**

November 2016

Trade experts reflected on long-standing questions in trade (e.g. global value chains; preferential trade agreements) as well as questions made more urgent by recent developments around the world (trade and wage inequality; migration).

[Roundup of papers](#) | [Papers & Presentations](#)

### **Revvig the Engine of Services Trade**

April 2016

Trade in services has been steadily growing since 2010. In this talk, Aaditya Mattoo unveiled research and data that is advancing knowledge about services trade policies, and how best to reform them.

[Story](#) | [Video](#) | [Presentation](#)

### **Counting the Costs of Tariff Evasion in Tunisia**

June 2015

When Tunisia’s former president, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, fell from power during the Arab Spring in 2011, the authorities found themselves in possession of a rare archive of financial mischief, a unique paper trail of people (in power) using their clout to make more money than they should.

[Story](#)

### **Seeing More Development, Less Fear in Migration**

June 2015

“...when people move, many other wonderful things happen. People’s movements are closely related to education and gender issues, transfer of cultural norms, environment and crime, and almost every issue you can think of related to development.” [Caglar Ozden](#), Conference Organizer.

[Blog](#) | [Conference Website](#)

### **Trade, Poverty, and Shared Prosperity**

January 2015

Trade integration is a critical catalyst for development, but can generate unequal gains. Trade can help achieve the twin goals provided that policy makers manage its distributional impact—ideally through

appropriate domestic policies.

[Story](#) | [Conference Website](#)

### **[Third IMF-World Bank-WTO Joint Trade Research Workshop](#)**

November 2014

Participants discussed cutting-edge research in the field. Researchers presented new work on topics ranging from the quality of exported goods to trade finance and global value chains.

[Story](#)

### **[Bringing opportunity, good jobs and greater wealth to all Tunisians](#)**

May 2014

Tunisia meets of all the prerequisites to become a “Tiger of the Mediterranean”, yet this economic potential never seems to materialize. This report suggests possible solutions.

[Story](#) | [Report](#)

### **[Pushing the Limits of International Trade Policy](#)**

April 2014

Tariffs in nearly all emerging economies have dropped. The average tariff rate applied by a given country has fallen below 10 percent. Despite this clear downward trend, non-tariff barriers have increased, partially offsetting the benefits of reduced tariffs.

[Story](#)

### **[Debunking the Myths of Global Migration](#)**

November 2013

Migrants make up less than 3 percent of the world’s population | South-North migration has grown the most of all corridors between 1960 and 2000 | The difference in real wages can vary between 4 and 10 times between developed and developing countries.

[Story](#)

### **[Institutional Lessons on Trade Reform](#)**

August 2013

This book draws useful lessons from the Peruvian and Argentine experience for governments that want to maintain an open trade regime. Peru has continued its liberalization whereas Argentina has imposed a number of new trade restrictions.

[Report](#)

### **[Trade in Value Added: Developing New Measures of Cross-Border Trade](#)**

June 2013

In this edited volume top experts present cutting-edge research on developing better measures of trade in a world of increasingly fragmented production and deepening international integration.

[Report](#) | [More](#)

## [A New Approach to Cooperation on Climate Change](#)

February 2013

This book argues that global negotiations on climate change have been hampered as much by a neglect of scientific facts as a lack of objective analysis.

[Learn more](#)

China, India and the Climate Change, *Economist*, February 4, 2013