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Tariff rate differential database: A user guide

Veronika Movchan, David Saha

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German Economic Team Georgia

c/o Berlin Economics

Schillerstr. 59

D-10627 Berlin

Tel: +49 30 / 20 61 34 64 0

Fax: +49 30 / 20 61 34 64 9

E-Mail: info@get-georgia.de

www.get-georgia.de

Tariff rate differential database: A user guide

Executive Summary

The EU-Georgia DCFTA creates new opportunities to attract more FDIs by offering investors to use Georgia as an “export-platform” for production and exports to the EU benefiting from duty-free access to the market.

In the Policy Study “FDI-attraction from non-EU countries: The role of the EU-Georgia DCFTA and tariff rate differentials” (PS/01/2016) we studied the rationale behind this type of investments and identified both products and source countries with the best potential for export-platform FDI.

A database was developed when preparing the policy study. The final database contains information about 1394 specific products at HS 6-digit level featuring the average EU tariff above 5 per cent threshold and lenient rules of origin, for which Georgia enjoys unrestricted duty-free access to the EU market.

Usage of this database will contribute to a better targeting of Georgia’s FDI attraction activities by enabling the relevant authorities to use precise data on EU tariff lines as well as on export structures and non-tariff barriers for 8 potential source countries of FDI (Azerbaijan, China, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Russia, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates).

Using filtering techniques introduced here, products of relevance for a potential source country, a specific industry or investor can be identified that feature attractive tariff rate differentials and further characteristics for export onto EU markets if they are produced in Georgia.

Authors

| | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Veronika Movchan | movchan@berlin-economics.com | +380 50 95 18 49 6 |
| David Saha | saha@berlin-economics.com | + 49 30 20 61 34 64 0 |

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1. Introduction

The EU-Georgia DCFTAs creates new opportunities to attract more FDIs by allowing investors to use Georgia as an “export-platform” for production and exports to the EU benefiting from duty-free access to the market.

In the Policy Study “FDI-attraction from non-EU countries: The role of the EU-Georgia DCFTA and tariff rate differentials” (PS/01/2016), the rationale behind this type of investments was studied and product categories and source countries with the best potential for export-platform FDI were identified.

A database of attractive products for export-platform investments in Georgia was developed when preparing the policy study. This database contains information about fourteen hundred specific products at HS (Harmonised System) 6-digit level that, under EU most favoured nation customs rates, feature an average tariff level above 5 percent, as well as sufficiently lenient rules of origin regulations and unrestricted duty-free access to the EU market for Georgia. For each specific product category, the database contains data on:

- EU import tariffs
- EU and world market exports of 8 preselected potential source countries of FDI to Georgia
- Selected export barriers applied in source countries
- Selected EU import regulations

Usage of this database will contribute to the targeting of Georgia’s FDI attraction efforts. It permits, through application of multiple filtering techniques, the identification of relevant products for a specific investor, a specific industry or a specific country.

The rest of the note is structured as follows. Chapter 2 reviews the structure of the database, provides a definition of variables, data sources and explains how the variables were obtained. Chapter 3 describes the functionality of the database, and Chapter 4 uses examples in order to provide a practical introduction to use of the database.

2. Database structure and data

The database contains information on products at HS 6-digit level that meet specific criteria for being relevant for export-platform investment. These criteria are: MFN (Most favoured nation¹) tariffs above the 5% threshold set in PS/01/2016, lenient rules of origin² and unrestricted duty-free access to the EU market for Georgia. This qualifies **1394** *specific* categories (out of 5205 in total) at HS 6-digit level within **14** *broad* categories (out of 21) at HS-1d level for this database.

¹ MFN tariffs are the highest tariff levels set by the EU. All high-potential source countries for export platform trade with the EU under WTO MFN tariffs.

² Permissible rules of origin are “wholly obtained” or, where “sufficient transformation” in Georgia is required, any rules of origin except those requiring a maximum value component for “non originating” inputs. Please see PS_01_2016 for reference.

The database is developed in Excel to facilitate its usage. Each level of the disaggregation is presented as a separate sheet in the file. The database contains information at different levels of aggregations:

- HS-6d level (sub-headings)
- HS-4d level (headings)
- HS-2d level (chapters)
- HS-1d level (sections)

The HS-6d level of aggregation is a baseline. Although the structure of each level of the aggregation is almost identical, some peculiarities exist. Most importantly, at each level of aggregation, entries for the presence or absence of non-tariff barriers (NTBs) (“yes” for most of NTBs and “no” for the non-existence of EU authorization of animal-product imports) indicates that the specific non-tariff barrier is applied for at least one product within the aggregated product category.

2.1 Main variables

The database contains several key types of variables:

EU import tariffs

The database contains a simple average of the MFN EU import duties for each level of aggregation (import duties are identified at HS 10-digit level) and the maximum tariff rate applied within the aggregate product category. The initial tariff database is provided at the level of national tariff lines (HS-10d) by UNCTAD Trade Analysis Information System (TRAINS) tariff database, access to which is provided by the World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS).

All rates are expressed as a percentage of a product value. For specific and compound tariff rates, their ad-valorem equivalents (AVEs) are estimated by the UNCTAD using an average value of goods in a certain year. As the AVEs depend on a product price, they should be considered as indicative estimates.

Exports

For the selected source countries, the following information is provided:

- Value of exports in USD
- Exports to non-EU markets as a per cent of total exports of the country, for each product category
- Exports of a product category to non-EU markets as a per cent of total exports to non-EU markets
- Marker (dummy variable) equal to 1 if the source country exports products within the aggregated category to non-EU markets only, and 0 otherwise. A minimum threshold of USD 100 000 is applied in order for the marker to switch to 1.

Data source for export values is UN ComTrade.

Export barriers in source countries and EU import regulations

The study considers both trade barriers applied by potential source countries *and* by the EU for potential source countries. The database contains information about NTBs even if the country does not presently export the products subject to these trade restrictions. For the source countries, the following trade restrictions are taken into account:

- Export duties
- Export quotas, including bans
- Export licensing
- Export permits

For the EU, the following measures are considered:

- Global tariff rate quotas (TRQs)
- Trade remedies, namely anti-dumping and anti-subsidy measures
- EU authorization for animal origin products exporters

Information about these measures is taken from the WTO Trade Policy Reviews, the EC, the EAEU, as well as other open sources.

2.2 Database description

The database contains five sheets. The first four sheets contain variables at different levels of aggregations:

- *Database_6d* presents information at HS 6-digit level;
- *Database_4d* presents information at HS 4-digit level;
- *Database_2d* presents information at HS 2-digit level;
- *Database_1d* presents information at HS 1-digit level.

These four sheets have almost identical structure presented in Table 1. In addition, *Database_10d* contains EU import duties at the level of national tariff lines as provided by TRAINS.

Table 1

Database: description

| Name of column | Description of Variable |
|----------------|--|
| HS-1d | Code of HS section (at all level of aggregation) |
| HS-2d | Code of HS chapter (at the following levels of aggregation: HS-2d, HS-4d, HS-6d) |
| HS-4d | Code of HS heading (at the following levels of aggregation: HS-4d, HS-6d) |
| HS-6d | Code of HS subheading |

| Name of column | Description of Variable |
|--|---|
| HS description | Description of HS for a highest level of aggregation considered within the sheet (e.g. description of sections at HS-1d, description of chapters at HS-2d, etc.) |
| count of HS-6d subheadings | Number of HS-6d subheadings included in the category having a higher level of aggregations. Total = 1394 subheadings |
| sector label | Label allowing aggregation by two sectors: agriculture (HS 01-24) and industry (HS 25-97) |
| average EU tariff | EU simple average ad valorem tariff, % of product value, estimated for the specific level of aggregation |
| maximum EU tariff | EU maximum ad valorem tariff, % of product value, shows maximum of all tariff rates to national tariff lines (HS-10d) within the HS-6d level of aggregation |
| EU global TRQs | “Yes” means that at least of tariff line within the category is subject to the EU global tariff rate quota. It doesn’t mean that the source country used or uses this TRQ |
| AZ total exports, USD | Azerbaijan total exports value, in USD |
| marker for AZ exports exclusively to non-EU markets (1 - yes, 0 - no) | Marker equal to 1 if Azerbaijan exports products within the aggregated category to non-EU markets only, and 0 otherwise. |
| share of AZ exports to non-EU markets in total AZ exports, % | Azerbaijan exports to non-EU markets as a per cent of total exports of Azerbaijan, for each product category, % |
| share of product in AZ exports to non-EU markets, % | Azerbaijan exports of product category to non-EU markets as a per cent of total Azerbaijan exports to non-EU markets, % |
| EU authorization regarding animal product imports from AZ | “No” means that the EU did not authorized Azerbaijan exporters to supply an animal-origin product (at least one within the aggregated category) to the EU market |
| AZ export duty | “Yes” means that Azerbaijan applies export duty to at least one tariff line within the aggregated category |
| CH total exports, USD | China total exports value, in USD |
| marker for CH exports exclusively to non-EU markets (1 - yes, 0 - no) | Marker equal 1 if China exports products within the aggregated category to non-EU markets only, and 0 otherwise |

| Name of column | Description of Variable |
|---|---|
| share of CH exports to non-EU markets in total CH exports, % | China exports to non-EU markets as a per cent of total exports of China, for each product category, % |
| share of product in CH exports to non-EU markets, % | China exports of product category to non-EU markets as a per cent of total China exports to non-EU markets, % |
| EU authorization regarding animal product imports from CH | “No” means that the EU did not authorized China exporters to supply an animal-origin product (at least one within the aggregated category) to the EU market |
| EU trade remedy measures applied to CH | “Yes” means that China is subject to the EU anti-dumping / anti-subsidy measures applied to at least one tariff line within the aggregated category |
| CH export duty | “Yes” means that China applies export duty to at least one tariff line within the aggregated category |
| CH export license | “Yes” means that China applies export license to at least one tariff line within the aggregated category |
| CH export quotas | “Yes” means that China applies export quota to at least one tariff line within the aggregated category |
| IR total exports, USD | Iran total exports value, in USD |
| marker for IR exports exclusively to non-EU markets (1 - yes, 0 - no) | Marker equal to 1 if Iran exports products within the aggregated category to non-EU markets only, and 0 otherwise |
| share of IR exports to non-EU markets in total IR exports, % | Iran exports to non-EU markets as a per cent of total exports of Iran, for each product category, % |
| share of product in IR exports to non-EU markets, % | Iran exports of product category to non-EU markets as a per cent of total Iran exports to non-EU markets, % |
| EU authorization regarding animal product imports from IR | “No” means that the EU did not authorized Iran exporters to supply an animal-origin product (at least one within the aggregated category) to the EU market |
| KAZ total exports, USD | Kazakhstan total exports value, in USD |
| marker for KAZ exports exclusively to non-EU markets (1 - yes, 0 - no) | Marker equal to 1 if Kazakhstan exports products within the aggregated category to non-EU markets only, and 0 otherwise. |
| share of KAZ exports to non-EU | Kazakhstan exports to non-EU markets as a per cent of total |

| Name of column | Description of Variable |
|---|--|
| markets in total KAZ exports, % | exports of Kazakhstan, for each product category, % |
| share of product in KAZ exports to non-EU markets, % | Kazakhstan exports of product category to non-EU markets as a per cent of total Kazakhstan exports to non-EU markets, % |
| EU authorization regarding animal product imports from KAZ | “No” means that the EU did not authorized Iran exporters to supply an animal-origin product (at least one within the aggregated category) to the EU market |
| KAZ export license | “Yes” means that Kazakhstan applies export license to at least one tariff line within the aggregated category |
| KAZ export permits | “Yes” means that Kazakhstan applies export permit to at least one tariff line within the aggregated category |
| KUW total exports, USD | Kuwait total exports value, in USD |
| marker for KUW exports exclusively to non-EU markets (1 - yes, 0 - no) | Marker equal to 1 if Kuwait exports products within the aggregated category to non-EU markets only, and 0 otherwise. |
| share of KUW exports to non-EU markets in total KUW exports, % | Kuwait exports to non-EU markets as a per cent of total exports of Kuwait, for each product category, % |
| share of product in KUW exports to non-EU markets, % | Kuwait exports of product category to non-EU markets as a per cent of total Kuwait exports to non-EU markets, % |
| EU authorization regarding animal product imports from KUW | “No” means that the EU did not authorized Kuwait exporters to supply an animal-origin product (at least one within the aggregated category) to the EU market |
| KUW export licenses | “Yes” means that Kuwait applies export license to at least one tariff line within the aggregated category |
| SA total exports, USD | Saudi Arabia total exports value, in USD |
| marker for SA exports exclusively to non-EU markets (1 - yes, 0 - no) | Marker equal to 1 if Saudi Arabia exports products within the aggregated category to non-EU markets only, and 0 otherwise. |
| share of SA exports to non-EU markets in total SA exports, % | Saudi Arabia exports to non-EU markets as a per cent of total exports of Saudi Arabia, for each product category, % |
| share of product in SA exports to non-EU markets, % | Saudi Arabia exports of product category to non-EU markets as a per cent of total Saudi Arabia exports to non-EU markets, % |

| Name of column | Description of Variable |
|---|--|
| EU authorization regarding animal product imports from SA | “No” means that the EU did not authorized Saudi Arabia exporters to supply an animal-origin product (at least one within the aggregated category) to the EU market |
| SA export license | “Yes” means that Saudi Arabia applies export license to at least one tariff line within the aggregated category |
| RU total exports, USD | Russia total exports value, in USD |
| marker for RU exports exclusively to non-EU markets (1 - yes, 0 - no) | Marker equal to 1 if Russia exports products within the aggregated category to non-EU markets only, and 0 otherwise. |
| share of RU exports to non-EU markets in total RU exports, % | Russia exports to non-EU markets as a per cent of total exports of Russia, for each product category, % |
| share of product in RU exports to non-EU markets, % | Russia exports of product category to non-EU markets as a per cent of total Russia exports to non-EU markets, % |
| EU authorization regarding animal product imports from RU | “No” means that the EU did not authorized Russia exporters to supply an animal-origin product (at least one within the aggregated category) to the EU market |
| EU trade remedy measures applied to RU | “Yes” means that Russia is subject to the EU anti-dumping measures applied to at least one tariff line within the aggregated category |
| RU export duties | “Yes” means that Russia applies export duty to at least one tariff line within the aggregated category |
| RU export license | “Yes” means that Russia applies export license to at least one tariff line within the aggregated category |
| RU export permits | “Yes” means that Russia applies export permit to at least one tariff line within the aggregated category |
| UAE total exports, USD | UAE total exports value, in USD |
| marker for UAE exports exclusively to non-EU markets (1 - yes, 0 - no) | Marker equal to 1 if the UAE exports products within the aggregated category to non-EU markets only, and 0 otherwise. |
| share of UAE exports to non-EU markets in total UAE exports, % | UAE exports to non-EU markets as a per cent of total exports of UAE, for each product category, % |
| share of product in UAE exports | UAE exports of product category to non-EU markets as a per |

| Name of column | Description of Variable |
|--|---|
| to non-EU markets, % | cent of total UAE exports to non-EU markets, % |
| EU authorization regarding animal product imports from UAE | “No” means that the EU did not authorized the UAE exporters to supply an animal-origin product (at least one within the aggregated category) to the EU market |

3. Database functionality

The database should be operating by setting one or multiple filters in order to narrow down the list of products to those satisfying specific criteria. The list of filters includes:

Average EU tariff above or within a certain threshold

A database contains product categories, the simple average tariff for which is equal or more than 5 per cent. Higher thresholds or single-point values could be applies, e.g. more than 20 per cent, between 5 and 10 per cent, 100 per cent etc. Higher tariffs means higher tariff differential for the source countries with the EU market as compared to Georgia’s duty-free access.

Selection of specific category(ies) at HS-1d to HS-6d level

The database allows selecting a specific product category or several categories for a further analysis. It could be done at various levels of aggregation depending on the purpose of the study.

Export structure of source countries

The database allows easily filtering out zero exports for each source country or set a specific export share threshold for the country or for the product. In addition, it is possible to consider products exported exclusively to non-EU countries or products featuring both EU and non-EU exports from the source countries.

Existence of other trade barriers

The database allows identifying products subject to export barriers in home countries or non-tariff barriers on imports in the EU.

All filters can be applied at any one of four levels of aggregation.

Analysis by source country

Furthermore, it is possible to narrow down the output (which includes country-specific data on each product) to information on only one potential source country. This requires copying information about a desired source country into a separate sheet before starting the analysis, as this only requires the deletion of variable not applying to the country in question.

4. Examples

Three examples below illustrate how the database can be used to obtain information for specific objectives.

Products with very high tariff rates

In this example, the simple aim of the analysis is to find out, which products exhibit very high EU MFN tariffs. For this, we use as filtering criterion the average tariff level.

Level of aggregation: HS-6d

Original sheet: database_6d

Additional sheet: not necessary

Filter: average tariff above 100%

Result:

| HS-6d | HS description | sector label | average EU tariff | maximum EU tariff |
|--------|---|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 020629 | Frozen edible bovine offal (excl. tongues and livers) | agro | 137.5 | 137.5 |
| 040291 | Milk and cream, concentrated but unsweetened (excl. in solid forms) | agro | 114.2 | 189.7 |
| 040410 | Whey and modified whey, whether or not concentrated or containing added sugar or other sweetening matter | agro | 146.8 | 190.2 |
| 071151 | Mushrooms of the genus "Agaricus", provisionally preserved, e.g., by sulphur dioxide gas, in brine, in sulphur water or in other preservative solutions, but unsuitable in that state for immediate consumption | agro | 125.2 | 125.2 |
| 121291 | Sugar beet, fresh, chilled, frozen or dried, whether or not ground | agro | 233.7 | 362.0 |
| 152200 | Degras; residues resulting from the treatment of fatty substances or animal or vegetable waxes | agro | 107.5 | 132.2 |
| 200310 | Mushrooms of the genus "Agaricus", prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid | agro | 143.0 | 152.4 |
| 230310 | Residues of starch manufacture and similar residues | agro | 129.9 | 129.9 |

Conclusion: there are 8 products, on which the average EU tariff above 100% is applied. Most likely, these are ad valorem equivalents so they tariff rate will vary although remain much higher than the sector average. All of them are agricultural products, including several animal-origin products, vegetables and starch residuals.

Products with high tariff rates that presently are not exported to the EU by source countries

In this example, the analysis is refined to look at whether the products in the previous list are exported by the potential source countries, but not to the EU. This follows the reasoning that the products are all the more interesting for Georgian FDI attraction, if the very high MFN rates inhibit potential source countries from exporting these goods to the EU.

Level of aggregation: HS-6d

Original sheet: database_6d

Additional sheet: recommended

Filters: (a) average tariff above 100%; (b) marker for the country exclusive exports to non-EU countries is equal to 1 for at least one product

Result:

| HS-6d | average EU tariff | marker for IR exports exclusively to non-EU markets (1 - yes, 0 - no) | marker for KAZ exports exclusively to non-EU markets (1 - yes, 0 - no) | marker for KUW exports exclusively to non-EU markets (1 - yes, 0 - no) | marker for SA exports exclusively to non-EU markets (1 - yes, 0 - no) | marker for RU exports exclusively to non-EU markets (1 - yes, 0 - no) | marker for UAE exports exclusively to non-EU markets (1 - yes, 0 - no) |
|--------|-------------------|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| 020629 | 137.5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 040291 | 114.2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 040410 | 146.8 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 071151 | 125.2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 152200 | 107.5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 200310 | 143.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 230310 | 129.9 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

Conclusion: out of eight source countries in the database, six countries supply at least one product with tariff differential over 100% exclusively to non-EU markets. In particular:

- Iran supplied three products (frozen bovine offal, whey and degreas)
- Kazakhstan supplies two products (degras and starch residuals)
- Kuwait supplies two products (milk and whey);
- Saudi Arabia supplies two products (milk and mushrooms);
- Russia supplies six products (frozen bovine offal, milk, whey, degreas, prepared mushrooms and starch residuals); and
- UAE supplied three products (milk, whey and degreas).

One of selected products (sugar beet) is not exported by the source countries to non-EU markets.

Analysis of a specific product for one source country

This example analyses the information for one specific product and one specific source country. This may happen, when FDI attraction is dealing with a specific investor or industry in a source country. It will then be important to know details about tariff rates and NTBs applying to the products as well as details about the source country's export structure in this good.

Level of aggregation: HS-4d

Original sheet: database_4d

Additional sheet: recommended

Filters: (a) product code 8712; (b) country – China

| HS-4d | HS description | average EU tariff | maximum EU tariff | CH total exports, USD bn | marker for CH exports exclusively to non-EU markets (1 - yes, 0 - no) | share of CH exports to non-EU markets in total CH exports, % | share of product in CH exports to non-EU markets, % | EU trade remedy measures applied to CH |
|-------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| 8712 | Bicycles and other cycles (including delivery tricycles), not motorised. | 14.6 | 15.0 | 3.58 | 0 | 97 | 1.002539 | yes |

Conclusion: Bicycles are extensively exported by China, mostly to non-EU markets, as the EU applies trade remedy measures against Chinese producers. Bicycles are the only vehicles that are subject to average tariff above 5 per cent (about 15 per cent) and lenient rules of origin.

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