

**China: measures to
respond to the international economic crisis
and their
role in world trade**

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Abstract

The aim of this paper is to review to what extent an economic crisis such as that initiated in 2008 has changed the position of China in the world order and, in particular, how it has influenced the pattern of trade policy measures adopted by China and by the rest of the countries towards Chinese imports.

In 2010 China became the second economy in the world and its enhanced trade performance enabled it to become the first exporter and the second importer worldwide. In macroeconomic terms, the response of China—as that of the rest of the countries—to the crisis was based on expansive monetary and fiscal policies, and on the implementation of a set of economic incentives aimed at boosting domestic demand.

Generally speaking, China did not significantly resort to protectionist trade policies to reduce the impact of the crisis; and neither did most WTO members. China's trade partners do not seem to have made greater use of discriminatory trade policies against Chinese products either.

Lastly, no evidence has been found that the crisis has led China to increase its participation in controversies or in specific trade concerns in terms of technical barriers to trade and sanitary and phytosanitary issues within the WTO.

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