

TRADE IN MEDICAL GOODS IN THE CONTEXT OF TACKLING COVID-19: DEVELOPMENTS IN 2020

INFORMATION NOTE¹

KEY POINTS:

- Imports and exports of medical goods were valued at US\$ 2,343 billion in 2020. This represents growth of 16 per cent compared to the previous year. In contrast, the total value of world merchandise trade contracted by 7.6 per cent in 2020.
- Trade in test kits and diagnostic reagents increased sharply in March 2020 when COVID-19 became a global pandemic. In December 2020, the monthly year-on-year increase reached 90 per cent for exports and 126 per cent for imports. Singapore and Lithuania are among the top ten exporters of these products.
- The share of medical goods in world trade grew from 5.3 per cent in 2019 to 6.6 per cent in 2020.
- Global trade in goods critical for fighting the pandemic, such as face masks, ventilators, sterilizers and ultrasonic scanners, grew by 31 per cent in 2020.
- China became the largest exporter of COVID-19-critical medical products in 2020. It exported products with a value of US\$ 105 billion, about 2.8 times its exports in 2019. Malaysia, which was among the top 10 exporters in 2020, registered a 52 per cent year-on-year increase.
- The world's top 10 exporting economies supplied about three-quarters of world trade of COVID-19-critical products, while the top 10 importers accounted for 62 per cent of world imports.
- Diagnostic reagents and test kits account for around 10 per cent of per capita import expenses on COVID-19-critical goods in the economies with the highest incidences of COVID-19.

1 INTRODUCTION

This report provides a full update on trade in medical goods in 2020, following on from the previous update for the first half of 2020.² It presents the 2020 trade statistics for medical goods from around 100 economies, as well as comparisons with 2019. The report includes a special case study on diagnostic reagents and test kits, which are critical products for monitoring the prevalence of the virus and constitute a crucial barometer for governments to determine policies to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

¹ This document has been prepared under the WTO Secretariat's own responsibility and is without prejudice to the positions of WTO members or to their rights and obligations under the WTO.

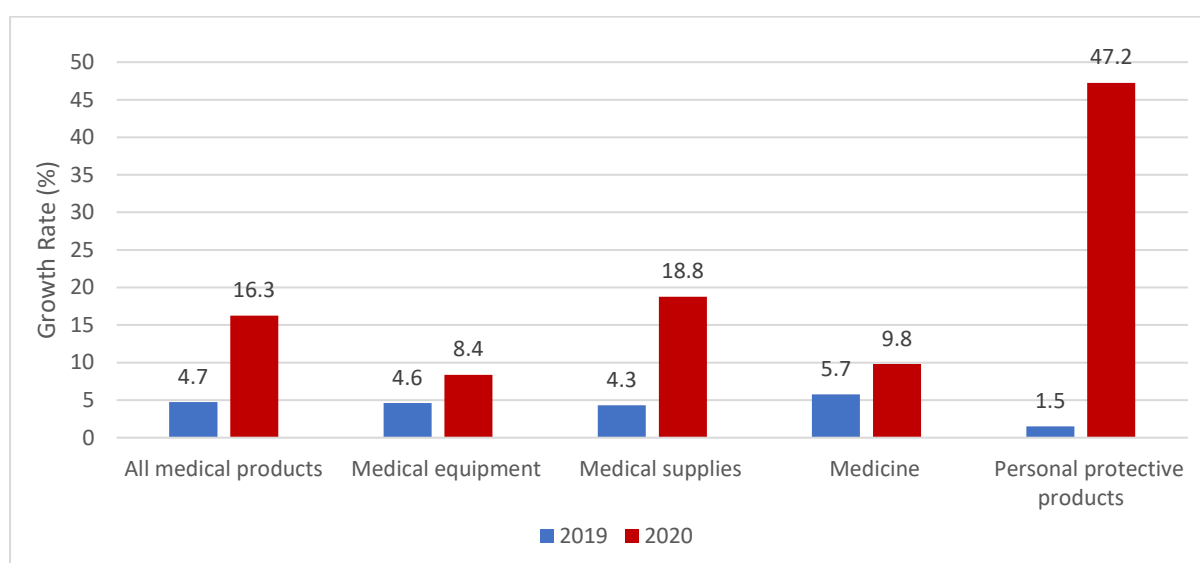
² "[Trade in medical goods in the context of tackling COVID-19: Developments in the first half of 2020](#)", issued on 22 December 2020. The original report previous to the present update and that of December 2020 was "[Trade in medical goods in the context of tackling COVID-19](#)", issued on 3 April 2020.

2 DESPITE THE OVERALL TRADE DOWNTURN, MEDICAL GOODS TRADE EXPERIENCED PHENOMENAL GROWTH IN 2020

The 14 per cent year-on-year nominal decline in world trade in goods in the first half of 2020³ was mitigated by a much lower contraction of 1.5 per cent during the second half. The overall decrease in world merchandise trade in 2020 was 7.6 per cent.⁴

Trade in medical goods⁵ continued to register phenomenal growth of 16.3 per cent in 2020 compared to the 4.7 per cent growth of the same sector in 2019 (Chart 1). Preliminary 2020 figures for 100 economies registered US\$ 2,343 billion in trade (i.e., exports plus imports) of medical products (Table 1). These figures correspond to a 6.6 per cent share of world trade in 2020, compared to a share of 5.3 per cent in 2019. This increase of 1.3 percentage points in the share of world trade is for a relatively small group of products (92 Harmonized System (HS) subheadings).

Chart 1: Yearly trade growth in medical goods, by product group, 2019 and 2020



Source: WTO Secretariat

Table 1: Trade in medical products, 2018-20

Product category	Value (US\$ million)			Annual change (%)	
	2018	2019	2020	2019	2020
EXPORTS					
All medical products	957,679	999,123	1,159,674	4.3	16.1
Medical equipment	134,517	140,894	150,985	4.7	7.2
<i>Ventilators</i>	7,373	8,037	13,944	9.0	73.5
Medical supplies	164,968	172,511	204,391	4.6	18.5
<i>Test kits & diagnostic reagents</i> ⁶	27,274	28,159	39,249	3.2	39.4
Medicine	520,175	546,253	603,226	5.0	10.4
Personal protective products	138,019	139,465	201,071	1.0	44.2
<i>Face masks</i>	75,505	77,159	136,257	2.2	76.6

³ Data sources for all figures cited in this information note are the [Trade Data Monitor](#), the [WTO Integrated Database](#) and the [WTO Data Portal](#). See the annex for a full list of medical products and their HS subheadings.

⁴ WTO Secretariat calculations based on data from the [WTO Data Portal](#).

⁵ The list of medical goods and categorization can be consulted in Annex 1 and can also be found in the earliest version of this information note, "[Trade in medical goods in the context of tackling COVID-19](#)", issued on 3 April 2020.

⁶ HS subheading 3822.00 only.

Product category	Value (US\$ million)			Annual change (%)	
	2018	2019	2020	2019	2020
<i>Hand sanitizers</i>	37,068	35,941	35,062	-3.0	-2.4
<i>Hand soaps</i>	22,040	22,914	25,923	4.0	13.1
<i>Other protective covers</i>	3,406	3,452	3,830	1.3	10.9
COVID-19-critical products	294,717	303,915	394,824	3.1	29.9
IMPORTS					
All medical products	966,146	1,015,992	1,183,170	5.2	16.5
Medical equipment	135,849	141,954	155,545	4.5	9.6
<i>Ventilators</i>	7,872	8,325	14,919	5.8	79.2
Medical supplies	162,613	169,279	201,548	4.1	19.1
<i>Test kits & diagnostic reagents</i> ⁶	28,504	28,540	41,160	0.1	44.2
Medicine	533,285	567,733	620,049	6.5	9.2
Personal protective products	134,400	137,027	206,027	2.0	50.4
<i>Face masks</i>	76,065	78,156	141,409	2.7	80.9
<i>Hand sanitizers</i>	34,674	34,060	35,581	-1.8	4.5
<i>Hand soaps</i>	20,627	21,650	24,915	5.0	15.1
<i>Other protective covers</i>	3,033	3,162	4,123	4.2	30.4
COVID-19-critical products	288,850	299,858	398,996	3.8	33.1

Source: WTO Secretariat

All medical product groups showed significant increases in trade in 2020 (Chart 2). Medicines have remained the largest category by trade value, with more than 50 per cent of the total share of medical goods both in 2019 and in 2020. However, even if trade in medicines increased in absolute US dollar values, with growth rates close to 10 per cent in 2020 compared to 5.7 per cent in 2019, its relative share decreased slightly from 55.3 per cent in 2019 to 52.2 per cent in 2020 because of the even more substantial increase in other categories.

The highest share increase was for personal protective products, which accounted for only 13.7 per cent in 2019 but increased to 17.4 per cent in 2020. This product group also registered the highest trade growth – 47.2 per cent in 2020 compared to 1.5 per cent in 2019. In terms of value, trade in personal protective products grew by US\$ 130.6 billion in 2020. This can be attributed to a more than 80 per cent increase in trade of face masks. The total trade value of face masks in 2020 reached US\$ 277.7 billion. Among different types of face masks, trade of textile masks increased almost five-fold.

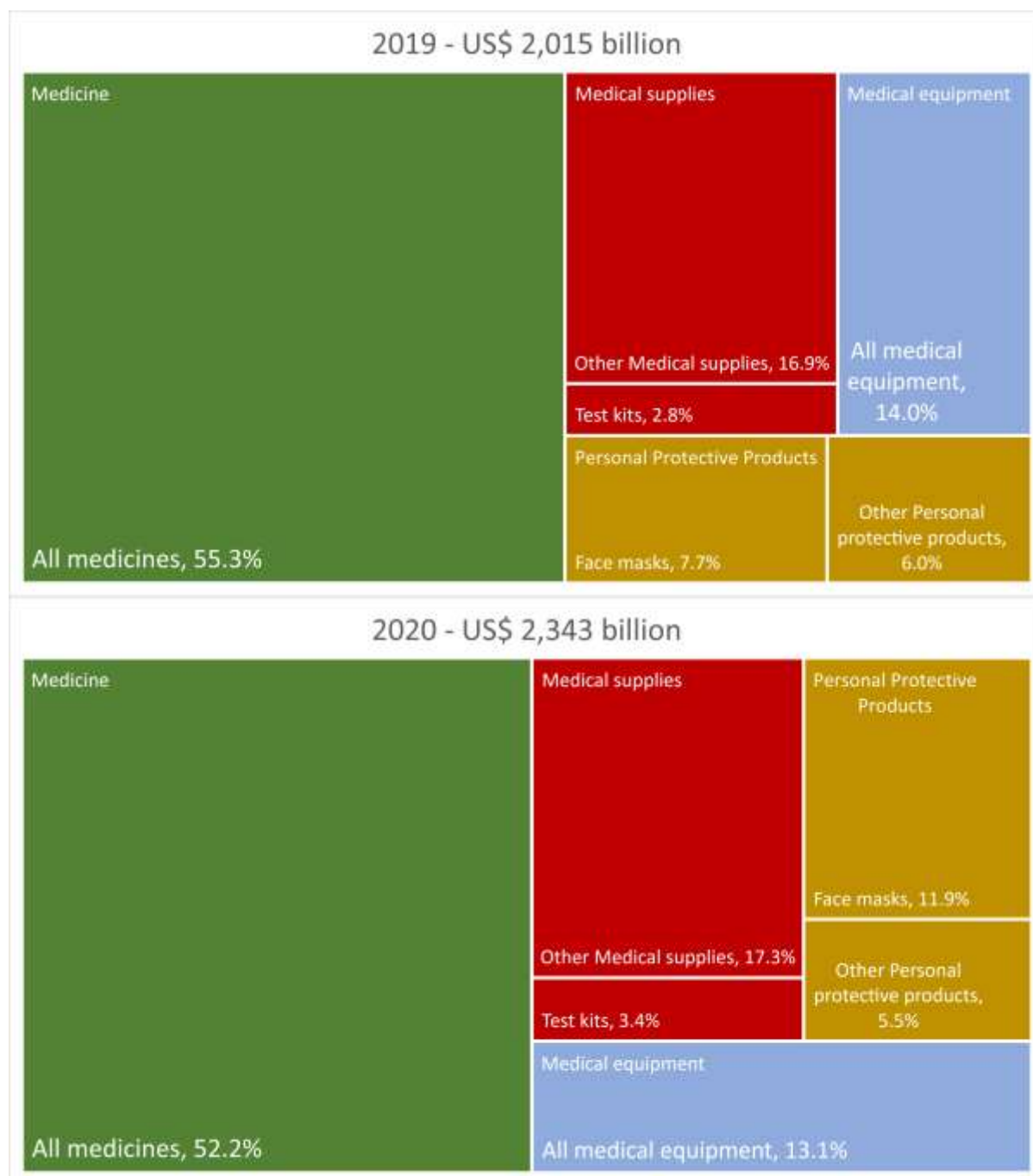
Diagnostic reagents and test kits, used to determine the incidence rate of COVID-19, accounted for around 20 per cent of trade in medical supplies. These products, classified under HS subheading 3822.00,⁷ represented 3.4 per cent of trade of all medical products. The value of imports for 2018 and 2019 increased only by 0.1 per cent. However, in 2020, imports grew by 44 per cent, from US\$ 28.8 billion to US\$ 41.2 billion.

The trade in products considered critical in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic grew by 31 per cent in 2020, valued at US\$ 794 billion (i.e., exports plus imports).⁸ This is a significant increase compared to the 4 per cent growth in 2019 for the same group of products.

⁷ See the annex for a full list of medical products and their HS subheadings.

⁸ COVID-19-critical medical products include: disinfectants/ sterilization products; face masks; gloves; hand soap and hand sanitizer; patient monitors and pulse oximeters; protective spectacles and visors; sterilizers; syringes; thermometers; ultrasonic scanning apparatus; ventilators, oxygen masks; X-ray equipment; and other devices such as computer tomography apparatus.

Chart 2: Trade in medical goods in 2019 and 2020, by product category (percentage share)



Source: WTO Secretariat

3. CHINA, GERMANY AND THE UNITED STATES ARE THE WORLD'S TOP TRADERS OF COVID-19-CRITICAL PRODUCTS

The world's top three merchandise traders – China, the United States and Germany – are also the top three traders for COVID-19-critical products. While the share of these three economies in total world merchandise trade was around 31 per cent in 2020, their share for COVID-19-critical products is even higher, at 41 per cent (Table 2 and Chart 3). The top 10 economies accounted for around 72 per cent of world supplies – although the shares of the economies ranked fifth (Mexico – 3.3 per cent) to 10th (Ireland – 2.3. per cent) were relatively small.

Chinese exports of products considered critical to combat COVID-19 almost tripled from US\$ 38 billion in 2019 to US\$ 105 billion in 2020. The share of these products more than doubled, from 12.6 per cent in 2019 to around 26.7 per cent in 2020. The surge of exports pushed China to the position of top exporter in 2020. Another economy that saw a big jump in exports in 2020 was Malaysia, which registered a 52 per cent annual increase.

In terms of exports, even if the United States remained a top exporter, the value of US exports shrank by 0.7 per cent, possibly as a result of increased domestic demand. Another leading exporter that registered negative growth was Ireland, at -5.8 per cent.

Growth was more moderate for the other top ten exporters – mostly less than 10 per cent. Nonetheless, even if these suppliers saw an increase in the value of exports compared to 2019, their relative shares of world exports decreased due to the even faster growth of China.

Table 2: Top 10 exporters and importers of goods critical to combatting COVID-19

Economy (descending order of 2020 value)	Value (US\$ million)		Annual percentage change (%) 2020	Share of all COVID-19- critical goods (%)	
	2019	2020		2019	2020
Exports					
1. China	38,195	105,457	176.1	12.6	26.7
2. United States	46,775	46,470	-0.7	15.4	11.8
3. Germany	34,082	36,863	8.2	11.2	9.3
4. Netherlands	21,736	24,285	11.7	7.2	6.2
5. Mexico	12,137	13,163	8.5	4.0	3.3
6. Japan	12,182	12,340	1.3	4.0	3.1
7. Malaysia	7,901	12,014	52.1	2.6	3.0
8. Belgium	11,260	11,913	5.8	3.7	3.0
9. France	10,940	11,354	3.8	3.6	2.9
10. Ireland	9,439	8,892	-5.8	3.1	2.3
Total share of top 10 exporters				67.3	71.6
Imports					
1. United States	54,744	78,327	43.1	18.3	19.6
2. Germany	23,681	32,479	37.2	7.9	8.1
3. China	21,595	24,644	14.1	7.2	6.2
4. France	12,402	19,643	58.4	4.1	4.9
5. Japan	14,199	19,185	35.1	4.7	4.8
6. United Kingdom	10,628	19,153	80.2	3.5	4.8
7. Netherlands	16,031	18,200	13.5	5.3	4.6
8. Canada	8,013	11,993	49.7	2.7	3.0
9. Italy	7,727	11,724	51.7	2.6	2.9
10. Belgium	9,438	11,003	16.6	3.1	2.8
Total share of top 10 importers				59.5	61.7

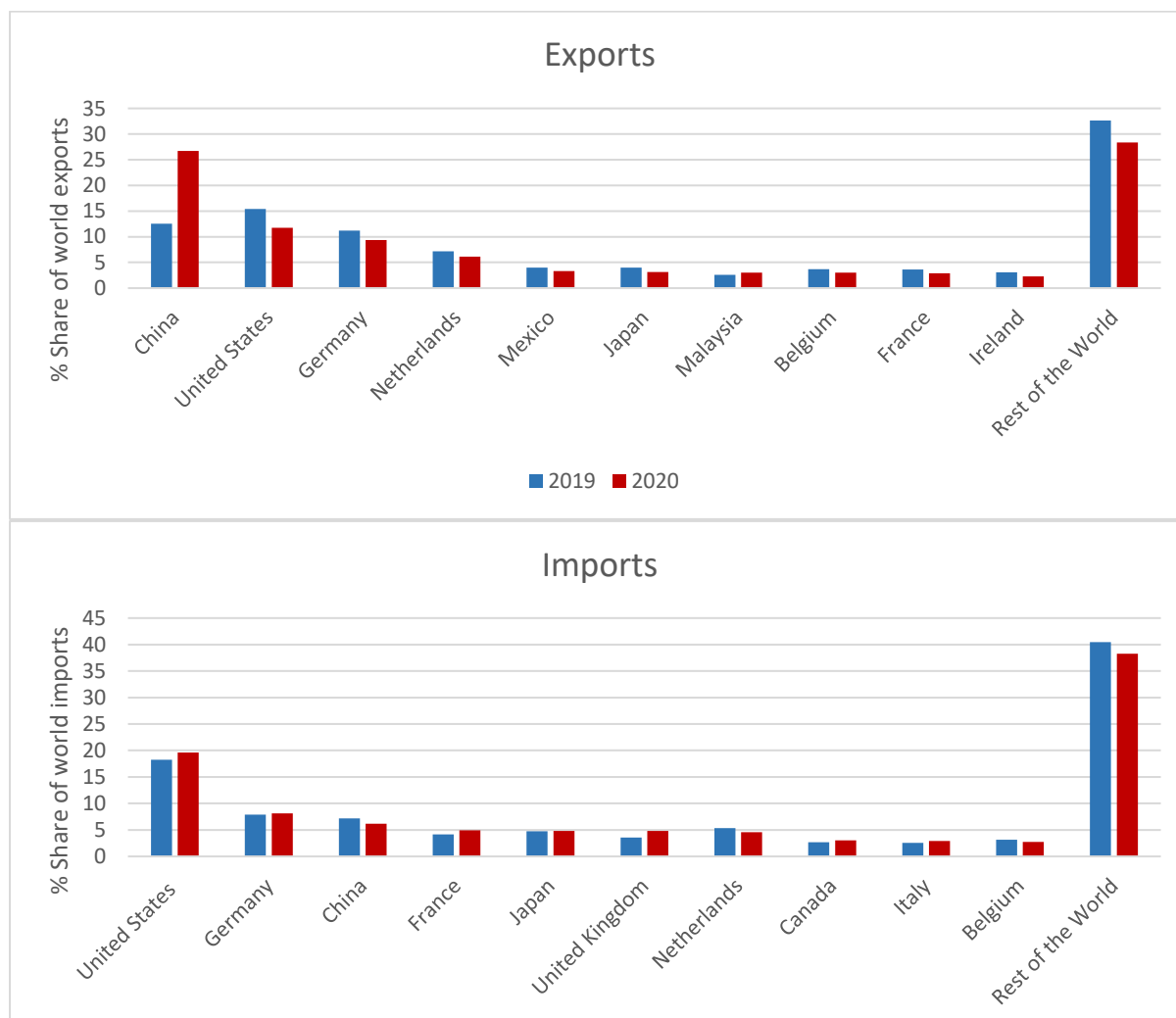
Source: WTO Secretariat

In 2020, the United States remained the top importer of COVID-19-critical medical goods, followed by Germany and China. The United States sourced US\$ 78 billion worth of products abroad and accounted for almost one-fifth of world imports. The shares of the other top importers were all less than 10 per cent. Imports of these 10 economies account for 61.7 per cent of total world imports of these products, a share lower than the 71.6 per cent share for the top 10 exporters.

These comparative statistics show that exports of COVID-19-critical products are concentrated in a relatively small number of economies with production capacity. Among the shares of the top

importers of these products, the United Kingdom showed the highest increase compared with the previous year (80.2 per cent) followed by France (58.4 per cent), and Italy (51.7 per cent). Despite these three economies reporting high incidence rates of COVID-19, their respective shares of world imports in 2020 were each less than 5 per cent. All top importers showed double-digit increases in their shares of imports of COVID-19-critical products.

Chart 3: Comparison of shares of exports and imports of COVID-19-critical goods, 2019 and 2020 (percentage share of world)



Source: WTO Secretariat

4 THE TOP THREE IMPORTERS ARE ALSO THE TOP SUPPLIERS OF COVID-19-CRITICAL PRODUCTS FOR EACH OTHER

The bilateral trade patterns among the top three economies during the first half of 2020 persisted throughout the year. The United States and Germany, the top importers for COVID-19-critical products, sourced a large proportion of their imports from China, the world's top supplier (Table 3). China had a 40.2 per cent share in the US market and more than a quarter of the share (26.5 per cent) of Germany's market.

On this set of medical goods, the imports of the United States from China grew by 158 per cent, amounting to an additional US\$ 19 billion worth of critical products purchased from China in 2020. Mexico's share in the US market decreased from 18.5 per cent in 2019 to 14.0 per cent in 2020, although the value of this share increased by 8.4 per cent. Germany's share in the US market, as

well as the actual value of its exports to the US in 2020, decreased compared to 2019. China and Mexico supplied more than half of the COVID-19-critical products exported to the United States in 2020, an increase of 13 percentage points in their cumulative share, which was about 41 per cent in 2019.

The growth in Germany's imports from China was as much as 310.5 per cent, which in US dollar terms represents an additional US\$ 6.5 billion compared to 2019. Germany's reliance on foreign supplies is shown by the double-digit growth of its imports from its other two top partners, the Netherlands and the United States. Furthermore, the spread of its imports was less diverse in 2020, with its top three partners making up 46 per cent of the share of total German imports in 2020, compared to a share of only 32 per cent in 2019.

China's imports were dominated by three partners which made up almost half of its COVID-19 supplies: the United States, Japan and Germany. However, the situation did not significantly change from that of the end of 2019, when COVID-19 was first detected. Japan increased its supplies to China by 13.8 per cent, but its share in the Chinese market remained constant at 19.0 per cent. The United States remained China's main supplier, despite the fact that the value of its exports barely grew, and the United States lost a few percentage points in terms of market share, from 22.0 per cent in 2019 to 19.3 per cent in 2020. Although China's imports from Germany grew by 6.4 per cent, Germany's share in the Chinese market for these products fell slightly, from 12.6 per cent to 11.8 per cent.

Table 3: Bilateral import statistics on COVID-19-critical products for 2019 and 2020

Importer	Partner	Value of imports from partner (US\$ million)		Partner's share of total COVID-19-critical goods (%)		Annual percentage change (%) 2020
		2019	2020	2019	2020	
1. United States	1. China	12,216	31,499	22.3	40.2	157.9
	2. Mexico	10,107	10,953	18.5	14.0	8.4
	3. Germany	4,489	4,292	8.2	5.5	-4.4
2. Germany	1. China	2,094	8,597	8.8	26.5	310.5
	2. Netherlands	3,347	3,821	14.1	11.8	14.2
	3. United States	2,062	2,663	8.7	8.2	29.1
3. China	1. United States	4,751	4,763	22.0	19.3	0.2
	2. Japan	4,108	4,676	19.0	19.0	13.8
	3. Germany	2,725	2,900	12.6	11.8	6.4

Source: WTO Secretariat

5 CASE STUDY: TEST KITS DETERMINE COVID-19 INCIDENCE RATE, WHICH IN TURN AFFECT GOVERNMENT POLICIES RELATED TO THE PANDEMIC

COVID-19 was first detected in December 2019. By April 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) had reported over 1 million cases of COVID-19 worldwide.⁹ The total number of cases reached 153 million worldwide in May 2021. The data on incidence and prevalence have been essential for governments when calibrating policy responses to combat the pandemic. These data can only be collected from the administration of massive numbers of reliable viral tests.

According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a case of COVID-19 infection or death due to COVID-19 are defined by meeting confirmatory laboratory evidence for COVID-19.¹⁰ Thus, the laboratory test is essential for diagnosis and treatment, as well as for collecting reliable statistics to support policy responses. As the current vaccine production is insufficient for global needs, proactive and reliable testing remains one of the most effective means to identify high

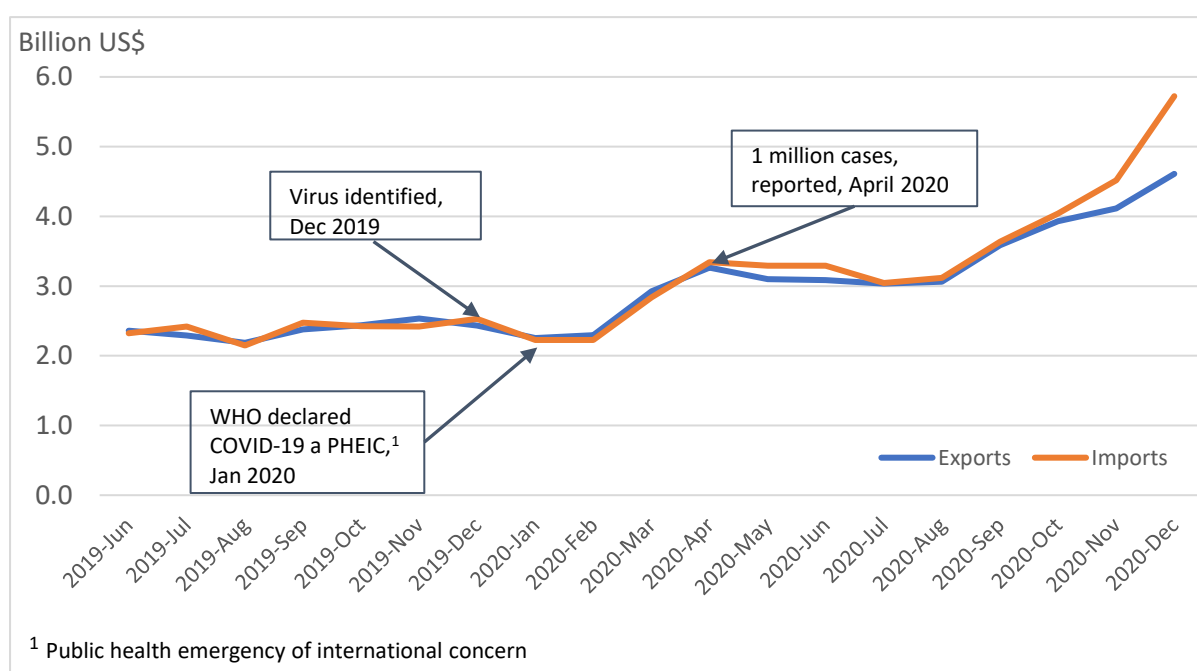
⁹ <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/interactive-timeline#!>

¹⁰ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/about-us-cases-deaths.html>

incidence areas and implement the necessary public health protocols to limit the spread of this highly contagious disease.

Diagnostic reagents and test kits, including reagents based on polymerase chain reaction (PCR) for COVID-19 tests, are classified under HS subheading 3822.00.¹¹ Since the beginning of the pandemic, many economies have relied on an international supply of diagnostic reagents and test kits to perform tests. Chart 4 represents the trends for the monthly trade of diagnostic reagents and test kits, and shows how different the trade pattern was for the pre-pandemic months, when the trend was mostly flat, from the trend after the pandemic began, towards the end of 2019. The volume of trade rapidly increased as more cases were reported. In December 2020, the monthly year-on-year increase (compared to the same month of the previous year) of exports of diagnostic reagents and test kits was 90 per cent, while imports had increased by 126 per cent.

Chart 4: Monthly trend of exports and imports of diagnostic reagents and test kits, June 2019 to December 2020



Source: WTO Secretariat

In 2020, the United States, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom were both the top four exporters and the top four importers of diagnostic reagents and test kits and were ranked in the same order (Table 4). The United States supplied more than a quarter of these products in 2019, but its share shrank to 22 per cent in 2020.

The top ten exporters accounted for a little less than three-quarters of world supplies. The major suppliers from Asia were the Republic of Korea, China, Singapore and Hong Kong, China, which have a collective share of around 16 per cent. Three-digit growth rates were registered in the Republic of Korea, China, Lithuania and Hong Kong, China. The Republic of Korea, which had less than a 1 per cent share of world exports for diagnostic reagents and test kits in 2019, increased its share of exports almost sixfold and ranked as the fifth highest exporter, with a 5.3 per cent share of world exports of these products. On the other hand, exports from Singapore decreased by 7.9 per cent compared to 2019.

¹¹ The HS description of subheading 3822.0 is "Diagnostic or laboratory reagents on a backing, prepared diagnostic or laboratory reagents whether or not on a backing, other than those of heading 30.02 or 30.06; certified reference materials".

Notable among the top ten importers are high-income economies which have also reported a high incidence of COVID-19. The United Kingdom, Italy, Spain and Belgium registered the four highest increases in imports of test reagents and kits. China was a net importer in 2019 and its imports decreased by close to 7 per cent in 2020. It was the only economy among the top ten importers which slowed its imports but ramped up its manufacturing capacity, so that its export growth increased by 508.1 per cent and it became a net exporter. Only around 42 per cent of test kits imports were shared among the rest of the world.

Table 4: Top 10 exporters and importers of COVID-19 diagnostic reagents and test kits

Economy	Value million US\$		Annual change (%) 2020	Percentage share in world (%)	
	2019	2020		2019	2020
EXPORTS					
WORLD	28,159	39,249	39.4	100	100
1. United States	7,491	9,203	22.9	26.2	22.4
2. Germany	4,270	5,406	26.6	15.0	13.1
3. Netherlands	2,504	4,048	61.7	8.8	9.8
4. United Kingdom	1,985	2,777	39.9	7.0	6.7
5. Korea, Republic of	253	2,171	757.2	0.9	5.3
6. China	314	1,910	508.1	1.1	4.6
7. France	1,251	1,426	14.0	4.4	3.5
8. Singapore	1,493	1,376	-7.9	5.2	3.3
9. Lithuania	388	1,051	170.7	1.4	2.6
10. Hong Kong, China	309	999	223.7	1.1	2.4
Rest of the world	7,900	8,882	12.4	29.0	26.2
IMPORTS					
WORLD	28,540	41,160	44.2	100	100
1. United States	3,996	5,361	34.2	14.0	13.0
2. Germany	2,866	4,567	59.4	10.0	11.1
3. Netherlands	1,755	2,685	53.0	6.1	6.5
4. United Kingdom	1,317	2,434	84.8	4.6	5.9
5. Italy	1,200	1,944	61.9	4.2	4.7
6. France	1,344	1,871	39.2	4.7	4.5
7. China	1,929	1,796	-6.9	6.8	4.4
8. Spain	765	1,355	77.3	2.7	3.3
9. Canada	740	1,094	47.8	2.6	2.7
10. Belgium	584	980	67.7	2.0	2.4
Rest of the world	12,044	17,073	41.7	42.2	41.5

Source: WTO Secretariat

Diagnostic reagents and test kits account for around 10 per cent of per capita import expenses on COVID-19-critical goods in economies with the highest incidences of COVID-19.

The WHO reported more than 153 million COVID-19 cases worldwide as of the start of May 2021, with the top 10 economies listed in Table 5 accounting for around 64 per cent of the total. Of these 10 economies, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain and Germany have the highest per capita import expense on diagnostic reagents and test kits. Based on import values, Germany spent

almost US\$ 55 per person on test kits alone and almost US\$ 388 per person on COVID-19-critical medical goods more generally.

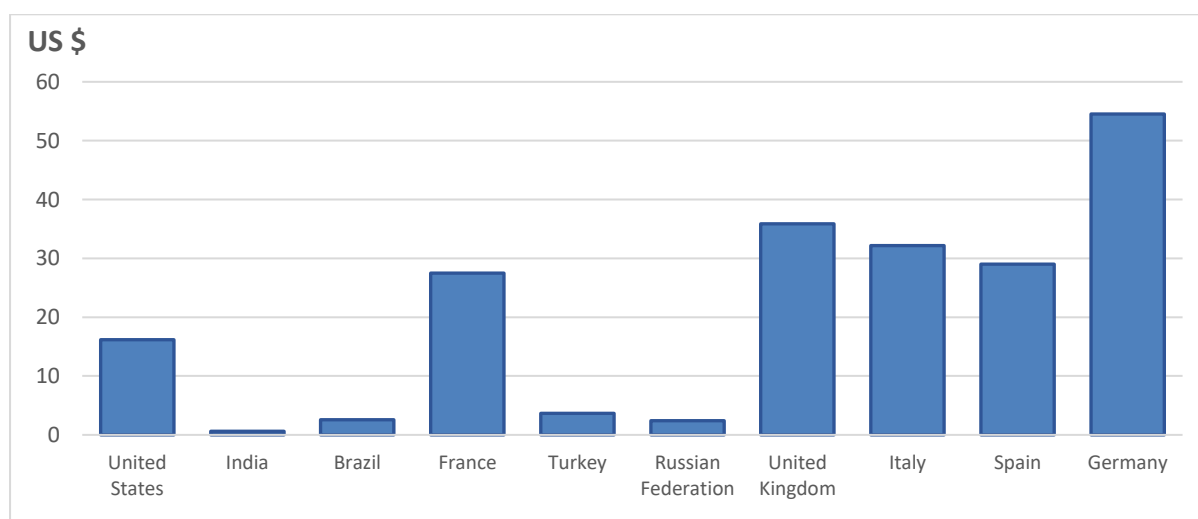
Table 5: Per capita imports spending on diagnostic reagents and test kits and on all COVID-19-critical goods for the 10 economies with the highest current incidences of COVID-19 cases

Economy (Top 10 total cases)	Numbers of COVID-19 cases (% of world)	Per capita imports (US\$)		Per capita imports spending on diagnostic reagents and test kits (% of spending on all COVID-19-critical products)
		Diagnostic reagents and test kits	COVID-19-critical goods	
1. United States	21.0	16.2	236.6	6.8
2. India	13.2	0.6	2.8	21.0
3. Brazil	9.6	2.6	16.9	15.2
4. France	3.6	27.5	288.2	9.5
5. Turkey	3.2	3.7	38.0	9.6
6. Russian Federation	3.2	2.4	46.6	5.1
7. United Kingdom	2.9	35.9	282.1	12.7
8. Italy	2.6	32.1	193.9	16.6
9. Spain	2.3	29.0	201.3	14.4
10. Germany	2.2	54.5	387.6	14.1

Source: WTO Secretariat

As the top exporter of diagnostic reagents and test kits, the United States does not need to rely heavily on imports, and its per capita imports of diagnostic reagents and test kits were only just over US\$ 16, amounting to around 7 per cent of its overall spending on imports of COVID-19-critical products (Chart 5). For these 10 economies, the average import expense on diagnostic reagents and test kits as a share of the total import cost of COVID-19-critical goods was 12.5 per cent. Thus, for every US dollar spent on imported critical goods related to the pandemic, 12.5 cents were spent on test kits.

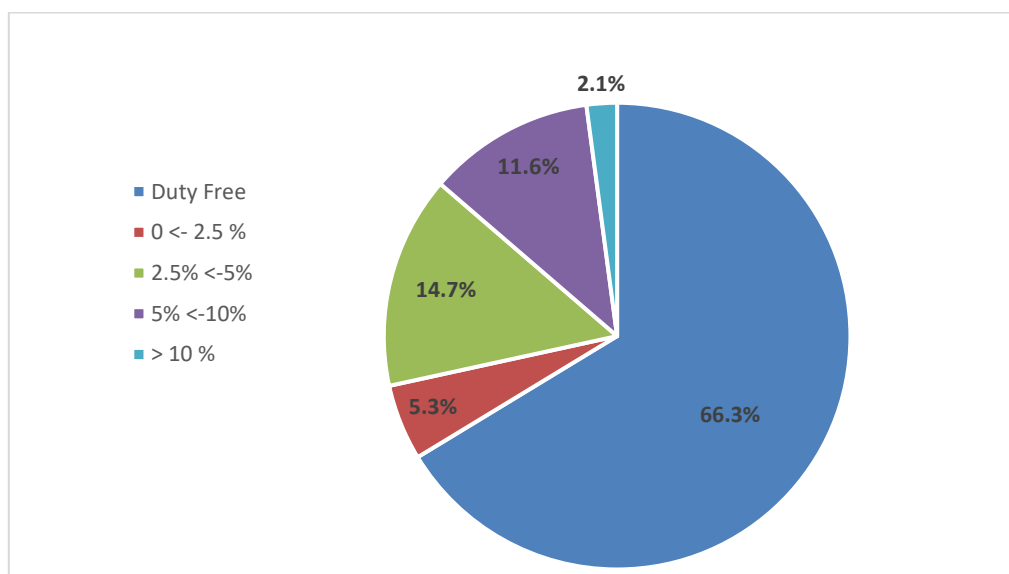
Chart 5: Comparison of per capita spending on imports of COVID-19 diagnostic reagents and test kits among the top 10 economies with highest incidence of COVID-19 cases



6 THE AVERAGE WORLD APPLIED MOST-FAVOURED-NATION TARIFF ON TEST KITS WAS RELATIVELY LOW

The applied most-favoured-nation (MFN) tariff for HS subheading 382200, which includes "Diagnostic reagents based on polymerase chain reaction (PCR) nucleic acid test", was relatively low at 2.1 per cent, based on the latest available data. Of the top 10 economies currently showing the highest incidence of COVID-19 cases, India imposes the highest import duty at 10 per cent. The other two economies for which this product is dutiable are Brazil (8 per cent) and the Russian Federation (5 per cent). For the other economies listed in Table 5, test kits and diagnostic reagents are duty-free. In fact, globally, more than two-thirds of economies do not impose any tariffs on this product and 20 per cent of economies apply tariffs of 5 per cent or less (Chart 6).

Chart 6: Latest applied MFN tariff on test kits, by duty range (percentage of reporting economies)



ANNEX: LIST OF MEDICAL PRODUCTS¹²

Medicines (pharmaceuticals)

HS 2017	HS short product description	ITA-E	Pharma	WCO
300213	Immunological products, unmixed, ... not for retail sale		X	
300214	Immunological products, mixed, ... not for retail sale		X	
300215	Immunological products, ... for retail sale		X	X
300219	Immunological products, n.e.s. ¹³		X	
300220	Vaccines for human medicine		X	
300310	Medicaments containing penicillins ... not for retail sale		X	
300320	Medicaments containing antibiotics, ... not for retail sale		X	
300331	Medicaments containing insulin, ... not for retail sale		X	
300339	Medicaments containing hormones ... not for retail sale		X	
300341	Medicaments containing ephedrine ... not for retail sale		X	
300342	Medicaments containing pseudoephedrine "INN" or its salts, ... not for retail sale		X	
300343	Medicaments containing norephedrine or its salts, ... not for retail sale		X	
300349	Medicaments containing alkaloids or derivatives thereof, ... not for retail sale		X	
300360	Medicaments containing any of the following antimalarial active principles: ... not put up for retail sale		X	
300390	Medicaments consisting of two or more constituents mixed together for therapeutic or prophylactic uses, not for retail sale		X	
300410	Medicaments containing penicillins or derivatives thereof ... for retail sale		X	
300420	Medicaments containing antibiotics, ... for retail sale		X	
300431	Medicaments containing insulin but not antibiotics, ... for retail sale		X	
300432	Medicaments containing corticosteroid hormones, ... for retail sale		X	
300439	Medicaments containing hormones or steroids ... for retail sale		X	
300441	Medicaments containing ephedrine or its salts, ... for retail sale		X	
300442	Medicaments containing pseudoephedrine "INN" or its salts, ... for retail sale		X	
300443	Medicaments containing norephedrine or its salts, ... for retail sale		X	
300449	Medicaments containing alkaloids or derivatives thereof... for retail sale		X	
300450	Medicaments containing provitamins, vitamins,... for retail sale		X	
300460	Medicaments containing any of the following antimalarial active principles ... for retail sale		X	
300490	Medicaments consisting of mixed or unmixed products ... for retail sale		X	X

Source: WTO Secretariat

¹² Columns "ITA-E", "Pharma", and "WCO" indicate if the HS codes are also part of the 2015 WTO Information Technology Agreement Expansion ("ITA-E"), the 1995 WTO Pharmaceutical Agreement ("Pharma") and its four reviews, or whether they are included in the WCO's HS classification reference for COVID-19 medical supplies.

¹³ N.e.s. is "not elsewhere specified".

Medical supplies

HS 2017	HS short product description	ITA-E	Pharma	WCO
220710	Undenatured ethyl alcohol, of actual alcoholic strength of $\geq 80\%$			X
284700	Hydrogen peroxide, whether or not solidified with urea			X
300120	Extracts of glands or other organs or of their secretions, for organo-therapeutic uses		X	
300190	Dried glands and other organs for organo-therapeutic uses; heparin and its salts, ...		X	
300212	Antisera and other blood fractions		X	
300290	Human blood; animal blood ...; toxins, cultures of micro-organisms and similar products		X	
300510	Adhesive dressings and other articles ... put up for retail sale for medical, surgical, dental or veterinary purposes		X	
300590	Wadding, gauze, bandages and the like put up for retail sale for medical, surgical, dental or veterinary purposes		X	X
300610	Sterile surgical catgut, similar sterile suture materials, ...		X	
300620	Reagents for determining blood groups or blood factors		X	
300630	Opacifying preparations for x-ray examinations; diagnostic reagents for administration to patients		X	
300650	First-aid boxes and kits		X	
300670	Gel preparations designed to be used in human or veterinary medicine ...		X	
340212	Cationic organic surface-active agents			
340213	Non-ionic organic surface-active agents			
350400	Peptones and their derivatives; other protein substances and their derivatives, n.e.s.; ...			
350790	Enzymes and prepared enzymes, n.e.s.			
370110	Photographic plates and film in the flat, sensitised, unexposed, for X-ray			
370210	Photographic film in rolls, unexposed, for X-ray			
380894	Disinfectants, put up in forms or packings for retail sale			X
382100	Prepared culture media for the development or maintenance of micro-organisms			
382200	Diagnostic or laboratory reagents on a backing, prepared diagnostic or laboratory reagents and certified reference materials			X
392620	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories produced by the stitching or sticking together of plastic sheeting			X
401490	Hygienic or pharmaceutical articles			
401511	Surgical gloves of vulcanised rubber ...			X
401519	Gloves, mittens and mitts, of vulcanised rubber			X
701710	Laboratory, hygienic or pharmaceutical glassware, of fused quartz or other fused silica			
701720	Laboratory, hygienic or pharmaceutical glassware having a linear coefficient of expansion $\leq 5 \times 10^{-6}$ per kelvin within a temperature range of 0°C to 300°C			
701790	Laboratory, hygienic or pharmaceutical glassware n.e.s			
901831	Syringes, with or without needles, used in medical, surgical, dental or veterinary sciences			X
901832	Tubular metal needles and needles for sutures, used in medical, surgical, dental or veterinary sciences			X
901839	Needles, catheters, cannulae and the like, used in medical, surgical, dental or veterinary sciences			X

Source: WTO Secretariat

Medical equipment

HS 2017	HS short product description	ITA-E	Pharma	WCO
841920	Medical, surgical or laboratory sterilizers			X
901050	Apparatus and equipment; negatoscopes	X		
901110	Stereoscopic optical microscopes	X		
901180	Optical microscopes	X		
901811	Electro-cardiographs	X		
901812	Ultrasonic scanning apparatus	X		
901813	Magnetic resonance imaging apparatus	X		
901814	Scintigraphic apparatus			
901819	Other electro-diagnostic apparatus	X		X
901820	Ultraviolet or infra-red ray apparatus used in medical, surgical, dental or veterinary sciences	X		
901890	Instruments and appliances used in medical, surgical or veterinary sciences, n.e.s.	X		X
901920	Ozone therapy, oxygen therapy, aerosol therapy, artificial respiration or other therapeutic respiration apparatus			X
902150	Pacemakers for stimulating heart muscles	X		
902212	Computer tomography apparatus	X		X
902214	Apparatus based on the use of X-rays, for medical, surgical or veterinary uses	X		
902219	Apparatus based on the use of X-rays	X		
902221	Apparatus based on the use of alpha, beta or gamma radiations, for medical, surgical, dental or veterinary uses	X		
902229	Apparatus based on the use of alpha, beta or gamma radiations, n.e.s	X		
902230	X-ray tubes	X		
902290	X-ray generators, high tension generators, control panels and desks, screens, ...	X		
902511	Thermometers, liquid-filled, for direct reading, not combined with other instruments			X
902519	Thermometers and pyrometers, not combined with other instruments	X		X
902780	Instruments and apparatus for physical or chemical analysis, or for measuring or checking viscosity ...	X		X
903020	Oscilloscopes and oscillographs	X		
940290	Operating tables, examination tables, and other medical, dental, surgical or veterinary furniture			

Source: WTO Secretariat

Personal protective products

HS 2017	HS short product description	ITA-E	Pharma	WCO
340111	Hand soap			
340130	Hand soap			
340220	Other cleaning products			
382499	Hand sanitizer			
392690	Face masks			
630790	Face masks			X
900490	Protective spectacles and visors			X
902000	Face masks			X

Source: WTO Secretariat