

The Law and Politics of Antitrust in Open Economies

PTA Dataset: Antitrust/Competition Policy Provisions in a Sample of 182 Trade Agreements, 1945-2010

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Codebook & Notes

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The coding of the antitrust provisions of this sample of 182 PTAs was supported by the U.S. National Science Foundation under the Law and Social Sciences Program Grant 1228483. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations that might be implied by the encoding or expressed in papers based on this dataset, are those of the PIs and the coders/authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

Background Information on the PTA Dataset *

This dataset, created as part of the research project on the Law and Politics of Antitrust in Open Economies, carried out under the leadership of principal investigator (PI) Prof. Tim Büthe at Duke University and co-PI Prof. Anu Bradford at Columbia Law School with the help of a grant from the Law and Social Sciences Program of the U.S. National Science Foundation, provides detailed information about the competition provisions – if any – in a random sample of 182 preferential trade agreements (PTAs).

The goal of the larger project (about which additional information can be found at <http://www.competitionpolicy.net>) is to advance our understanding of the international and comparative dimension of antitrust/competition law and enforcement by collecting systematically comparable data to enable better, more comprehensive empirical analyses. A special focus of the project is the relationship between institutionalized trade openness and competition regulation, which has been the subject of extensive and intensive debates going back at least to the interwar period under the League of Nations, and to the nature, conditions, and limits of international/transgovernmental cooperation among competition agencies.

The sample of 182 PTAs was randomly selected from the list of 587 PTAs signed between 1945 and 2010, identified and kindly shared with us by Baccini, Dür, Elsig, and Milewicz, the PIs of the Design of International Trade Agreements ("DESTA") project (for further information, see <https://www.designoftradeagreements.org>).

The coding was done using an online survey, which we created as a coding instrument (also referenced below as the "coding survey"). We coded, *inter alia*:

- whether the PTA includes any provisions regarding antitrust/competition law and policy;
- the extent and status of any such provisions, incl. types of competition issues covered;
- whether the agreement entails an obligation to maintain competition law and an enforcement agency;
- whether it specifies legitimate goals for antitrust enforcement (and if so, which ones: consumer or aggregate welfare, protection of small and medium-sized enterprises, industrial policy goals, etc.);
- whether there are exemptions for export cartels, state-owned enterprises, or particular industries;
- whether the PTA institutionalizes regulatory cooperation and, if so, how and how extensively; and
- whether the PTA contains a dispute settlement procedure applicable to competition issues/provisions.

When using this dataset, please cite:

Anu Bradford and Tim Büthe, "Competition Policy and Free Trade: Antitrust Provisions in PTAs." In *Trade Cooperation: The Purpose, Design, and Effects of Preferential Trade Agreements*, edited by Andreas Dür and Manfred Elsig. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015: 246-274.

* Text in Geneva font indicates the name(s) of variables in the dataset generated by the coding survey. If a variable name appears in [brackets], it signifies that this variable is generated by the survey (Qualtrics software) but not retained for the final dataset (usually because the information contained in such temporary variables is separated into several other variables during post-survey processing). *Variable names in italics and highlighting* indicate variables that are generated only during post-survey processing. They are contained in the survey dataset, but in the raw data generated by Qualtrics, the information they hold is bundled with other information in a temporary variable.

Section 1 of the coding survey covered identifying questions and general questions about the competition provisions in the PTA. It was preceded by the section title at the top of the first page:

Q1	Coding PTAs for Their Competition/Antitrust Law & Policy Provisions Starting Page
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pta_number

PTA#: Please enter numerical code of the PTA (only)

pta_number is a text string variable holding the content of the write-in field for this question.

[pta_name]

pta_name is selected from a drop-down menu, in which the sampled PTAs were listed in alphabetical order with their DESTA PTA number. The names of the Parties to the PTA were then separated into three separate fields (all PTAs in the parties were bilateral or trilateral).

PTA Name:

party1	[Name of the alphabetically 1 st Party to the PTA]
party2	[Name of the alphabetically 2 nd Party to the PTA]
party3	[Name of the alphabetically third Party to the PTA (left blank for bilateral PTAs)]
year	[Year, when the PTA was signed]

C1: chapter

Does the PTA have a separate CHAPTER devoted to competition law/policy? Please select "Yes" even if the chapter does not use the word "competition" but instead refers to "antitrust" or "merger" review/control/regulation.

0	No
1	Yes

C1a: ch_spcfd

If yes, please specify the chapter.

Please enter the number or alphanumeric identifier, only.

ch_spcfd is a text string variable holding the content of the write-in field for this question.

C2: article

Does the PTA have a separate ARTICLE or articles devoted to competition law/policy?

Please select "Yes" even if the article does not use the word "competition" but instead refers to "antitrust" or "merger" review/control/regulation

0	No
1	Yes

chapter_or_article

The variable chapter OR article is derived from the dummy variables for chapter and article.

0	No [i.e., C1 = 0 AND C2 = 0]
1	Yes

C2a: art_spcfd

If yes, please specify the article.

Please enter the number or alphanumeric identifier, only.

art_spcfd is a text string variable holding the content of the write-in field for this question.

C2b: art_title

Does the article include the word "competition" (or its translation in the language of the treaty or its direct negation: "anticompetitive") in the title of the article or, if the article does not have a title (only), does the text of the article include the word "competition"?

0	No
1	Yes

C3: comp_any

Does the PTA contain any mention of competition, any mention of antitrust, or any mention of the regulation of cartels, monopolies, or mergers/acquisitions?

Be sure here also to consider all parts of the agreement, incl. the preamble. References to "monopolies" *unrelated to antitrust/competition law or policy*, such as in a general commitment to liberalize or privatize state monopolies, do *not* count.

0	No
1	Yes

C3a: c_anyspcfd

If yes, in which parts of the treaty? Please specify article number(s)

c_anyspcfd is a text string variable holding the content of the write-in field for this question.

C3b: c_distinct

If yes, is antitrust/competition recognized as a (trade-related but) distinct issue, i.e. not just as a characteristic of trade in the sense that trade inherently entails foreign goods competing with domestic ones? If the only mention of competition is something like a call for good "conditions of competition for trade," please select "No."

0	No
1	Yes

C4: cov_spcfd

Is there anything unusual about the coverage of antitrust/competition in this PTA that should be noted at the outset? For example, if the PTA refers to an Annex that is supposed to deal with competition issues (solely or inter alia) but the annex is missing, please note here.

cov_spcfd is a text string variable holding the content of the write-in field for this question.

C5: sep_compa

Does the treaty refer to a separate agreement on antitrust/competition cooperation among the parties?

0	No
1	Yes

C5a: compa_prec

What is the relationship between the separate competition agreement and this trade agreement? Does the antitrust/competition agreement take precedence?

0	No
1	Yes

C6: law_req

Does the PTA contain an obligation for each party to have or adopt an antitrust or competition law?

0	No
1	Yes

C6a: lreq_spcfd

If yes, is there anything noteworthy about this obligation? For example, does the PTA clearly but only implicitly assume the existence of antitrust/competition laws (e.g. by creating obligations that could not be complied with if such laws were repealed) instead of explicitly calling for them to be adopted or maintained?

lreq_spcfd is a text string variable holding the content of the write-in field for this question.

C7: agency_req

Does the PTA contain an obligation for each party to have or maintain an enforcement agency for antitrust and/or merger regulation?

0	No
1	Yes

C7a: areq_spcfd

If yes, is there anything noteworthy about this obligation? For example, is the obligation imposed only on one/some Parties or does the PTA clearly but only implicitly assume the existence of an antitrust/competition enforcement agency, e.g. by creating obligations regarding their enforcement practices that could not be complied with if a Party had no such agency?

areq_spcfd is a text string variable holding the content of the write-in field for this question.

C8: transparency

Does the PTA contain an obligation for "transparency" in Parties' antitrust enforcement policies and practices? We are looking for a specific mention of the term "transparency." Please select "Yes" also if the reference to transparency is linked to a general mention to "competition" law or policies.

0	No
1	Yes

C9: goals

Are any goals of antitrust/competition law and/or policy specified in the treaty?

0	No
1	Yes

[C9a: goal]

Which goals are specified? Please check all that apply.

[MD] ... if option was left unchecked

1 ... if checkbox was checked

C9a_consumerwelfare consumer welfare

C9a_totalwelfare "total" welfare

C9a_efficiency efficiency

C9a_sme_protection protection of small and medium-sized enterprises

C9a_exports promotion of exports

C9a_industrialpolicy industrial policy goals

C9a_socialpolicy social policy goals (incl. equality or preferences for regions, gender, racial or religious groups)

C9a_other other (if any goals are mentioned as *not* permissible, note so here)

C9a_other_spcfd

C9a_other_spcfd is a text string variable holding the content of the write-in field for the "other" goal(s) option.

[C10: oblig]

Does the PTA establish any of the following obligations for the governments of the member countries in their implementation of antitrust/competition law? Please check all that apply.

[MD] ... if option was left unchecked

1 ... if checkbox was checked

C10_proceduralrights to provide for procedural rights for the defendant in antitrust proceedings, such as opportunities to present evidence, to be heard, to cross-examine witnesses

C10_resources to devote resources (funds/staff) to enforcement

C10_legalreasoning to provide the legal reasoning behind any decisions

C10_judicialreview to provide for judicial review (appeal) of an antitrust enforcement or merger review decision

C10_decisionpublic to make decisions public

C10_other other (please specify; use only if above really do not capture the stated obligations):

C10_other_spcfd

C10_other_spcfd is a text string variable holding the content of the write-in field for the "other" obligations option.

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[Antitrust Block]

Section 2 of the coding instrument (block 2 of the coding survey) asked questions about whether and how specific antitrust issues (in the narrow sense of Sherman Act Section 1 and 2 type issues) have been covered.

AT1: antitrust_cartels

Does the PTA contain antitrust provisions concerning cartels or cartel-like agreements or practices?
The PTA might refer to them as collusion; collusive or restrictive agreements or practices, anti-competitive horizontal agreements/cooperation among firms, companies, or "undertakings."

0	No
1	Yes

AT1a: hardcartels_only

Does the PTA ban (or require the Parties to ban) only "hard-core cartels"? The text may refer to them as "naked cartels" or "price-fixing agreements"

0	No
1	Yes

AT2: antitrust_vertical

Does the PTA contain antitrust provisions concerning anti-competitive vertical agreements or vertical cooperation among firms? It might refer to them as anti-competitive distribution agreements, "non-horizontal agreements," or "supply agreements."

0	No
1	Yes

AT3: antitrust_dominance

Does the PTA contain any antitrust provisions concerning monopolies, dominance, or [abuse of] dominant position? Note that the mere mention of monopolies, unrelated to antitrust/competition law or policy, does not count.

0	No
1	Yes

[AT4]

Are any of the following *categorically* excluded from the application of the antitrust provisions in the PTA? Please check all that apply.

[MD]	... if option was left unchecked
1	... if checkbox was checked

AT4_exportcartels	export cartels
AT4_soe	state-owned enterprises
AT4_tradingcompanies	state-operated or -designated trading companies (for exports)
AT4_designatedmonopolies	"designated monopolies" (= gov-appointed and regulated monopolies)
AT4_other	other (please specify; exclusions of sectors, industries, or types of products should be noted in AT6, not here):

AT4_other_spcfd

AT4_other_spcfd is a text string variable holding the content of the write-in field for the "other" categorical exclusions option.

[AT5]

Are any of the following partially or conditionally (i.e., explicitly but less than categorically) excluded from the application of the antitrust provisions in the PTA? Please check all that apply.

[MD] ... if option was left unchecked

1 ... if checkbox was checked

AT5_exportcartels	export cartels
AT5_soe	state-owned enterprises
AT5_tradingcompanies	state-operated or -designated trading companies (for exports)
AT5_designatedmonopolies	"designated monopolies" (= gov-appointed and regulated monopolies)
AT5_other	other (please specify; exclusions of sectors, industries, or types of products should be noted in AT6, not here):

AT5_other_spcfd

AT5_other_spcfd is a text string variable holding the content of the write-in field for the "other" conditional exclusions option.

AT6: at_exempt_ind

Are any industries or economic sectors or types of economic activities (other than export) excluded specifically from the application of the antitrust provisions in the PTA? This may be phrased in terms of "immunities" or "exemptions."

0 No
1 Yes

AT6a: at_exempt_spcfd

Which industries or economic sectors are specified as exempted from the antitrust provisions?

at_exempt_spcfd is a text string variable holding the content of the write-in field for this question.

AT6b: pta_exempt

Are any industries or economic sectors or types of economic activities *categorically excluded from the application of the PTA* and thus in effect also from its antitrust provisions?

0 No
1 Yes

AT6c: pta_ex_spcfd

Which industries or economic sectors are specified as exempted from the application of the PTA?

pta_ex_spcfd is a text string variable holding the content of the write-in field for this question.

AT7: at_efficiencydefense

Does the PTA allow for an "efficiency defense" or an exemption of anti-competitive behavior from antitrust enforcement based on efficiency gains from such behavior?

0	No
1	Yes

AT8: at_privateaction

Does the PTA allow for (or oblige member states to allow for) private rights of action on antitrust matters? This entails, for instance, allowing those who believe to have been hurt by others' anti-competitive behavior to seek/obtain remedies.

0	No
1	Yes

AT9: at_natltreatment

Does the PTA require national treatment (non-discrimination) in the enforcement of anti-trust laws against foreign firms? Also select "Yes" if the agreement contains a general "non-discrimination" clause with regard to antitrust law without explicit reference to "national treatment."

0	No
1	Yes

AT10: at_mfn

Does the PTA require "most favored nation" treatment of signatories' firms in the enforcement of anti-trust laws?

0	No
1	Yes

=====

[Merger Block]

Section 3 of the coding instrument (block 3 of the coding survey) asked questions about provisions concerning mergers (in the sense in which the term is customarily used in antitrust law, including acquisitions and joint ventures).

M1: mergers

Does the PTA contain any provisions referring to mergers, acquisitions, and/or joint ventures? This may be put as "concentrations" or "agreements that increase concentration."

0	No
1	Yes

[note_m] Please note: In the questions below, "mergers" refers to any and all of merger, acquisitions, and joint ventures.

M2: merger_exempt

Are any industries or economic sectors or types of economic activities excluded from merger regulation, according to the PTA?

0	No
1	Yes

M2a: m_exempt_spcfd

Which industries or economic sectors are specified as exempted?

m_exempt_spcfd is a text string var holding the content of the write-in field for this question.

M3: merger_efficiencydefense

Does the PTA allow for an exemption from normal merger regulation rules based on (expected) efficiency gains from the merger? The treaty text may refer to such an exemption as the "efficiency defense."

0	No
1	Yes

M4: mergers_natltreatment

Does the PTA prohibit discrimination against foreign firms in the review or regulation of mergers? This may be put in terms of "national treatment" [of foreign firms].

0	No
1	Yes

M5: mergers_mfn

Does the PTA require "most favored nation" treatment of signatories' firms in the review or regulation of mergers?

0	No
1	Yes

=====

[Subsidies Block]

Section 4 of the coding instrument (block 4 of the coding survey) asked questions about the treatment of government subsidies in the PTA.

GS1: govsubs

Does the PTA contain any provisions referring to state government subsidies or "state aid" to producers/firms? This may be put as "domestic support" e.g. for agricultural goods.	
--	--

0	No
1	Yes

GS2: govsubs_restr

Does the PTA restrict or prohibit such subsidies/aid? Note that such a restriction may take the form of deferring to the GATT/WTO rules on subsidies (and countervailing measures).	
--	--

0	No
1	Yes

=====

[International Cooperation Block]
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Section 5 of the coding instrument (block 5 of the coding survey) asked about PTA provisions allowing, establishing or restricting various forms of cooperation among competition agencies.

IC1: advance_consult

Does the PTA establish an obligation to consult with the competition authority or the government of another party before launching enforcement actions (or deciding on merger proposals) involving a company from that country?	
--	--

0	No
1	Yes

[IC2]

Does the PTA establish an obligation to cooperate on antitrust or competition matters in any of following ways? Please check all that apply.

[MD] ... if option was left unchecked

1 ... if checkbox was checked

IC2_harmony	[The Parties commit] to pursue convergence/harmonization/uniformity or to avoid discrepancies in their antitrust/competition policies (without necessarily committing to any particular way of pursuing this goal);
IC2_notification	once an enforcement action (or merger review) has been launched involving one or more firms from another party, notify that firm's home governments/competition agency;
IC2_infxchange	to exchange information about enforcement actions or merger reviews;
IC2_techassistance	for one or more Parties to provide technical assistance or resource transfer to another Party to help it finance its enforcement activity or build its competition-regulatory capacity;
IC2_neg_comity	an explicit "negative comity" obligation (i.e., each Party undertakes to take into consideration the acts and important interests of the others before taking action that might affect those other Parties);
IC2_pos_comity	an explicit "positive comity" obligation (i.e., each Party can request that another take affirmative action to assist it in enforcing its laws).
IC2_other	other (please specify):

IC2_other_spcfd

IC2_other_spcfd is a text string variable holding the content of the write-in field for the "other" obligation-to-cooperate option.

IC2a: confid_info_exception

Does the obligation to cooperate entail an exception for (not) sharing confidential business/commercial information?

- | | |
|----------|-----|
| 0 | No |
| 1 | Yes |

IC3: common_studygroup

Does the PTA establish a working group, study group, or committee of representatives of the Parties (or their domestic competition authorities) to discuss antitrust or competition issue?

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 2 | Yes, a specialized body devoted exclusively to competition policy matters |
| 1 | Yes, a general body that may inter alia discuss competition policy |
| 0 | No |

IC4: common_comp_auth

Does the PTA establish (or refer to an existing) common authority to handle antitrust enforcement and/or merger review? Such an authority may be referred to as an "agency" or some other type of institution/organization; the key is that there is a joint body to make *decisions* on competition matters arising under the PTA.

- | | |
|----------|-----|
| 0 | No |
| 1 | Yes |

IC4a: common_complaw_spcfd

Which body of competition law is the common authority supposed to apply?

common_complaw_spcfd is a text string variable holding the content of the write-in field for this question.

=====

[Dispute Settlement Block]

Section 6 of the coding instrument (block 6 of the coding survey) asked about dispute settlement provisions in the PTA and about their applicability to the competition law and policy provisions (if any).

DSM1: dsm_pta

Does the PTA contain provisions for dispute settlement (for the PTA as a whole)? Select 'Yes' only if the agreement establishes or defers to a specific institution/body/committee or procedure/mechanism for resolving conflicts, which allows for an authoritative decision regarding the dispute. The crucial question is whether decision-making authority is granted, not what it is called: a DSM body or procedure might be called a "review mechanism" or "consultation process" rather than a "dispute settlement mechanism." By contrast, if the PTA contains only a declamatory commitment to consult, negotiate, or seek consensus, select 'No' for the DSM questions.

2	Yes, third-party dispute settlement
1	Yes, dispute settlement between the Parties
0	No

DSM1a: dsm_pta_comp

Does it apply to the agreement's antitrust/competition provisions? Here, we interpret the lack of an explicit exclusion as an indication that it applies.

0	No
1	Yes

DSM1b: dsm_pta_excl_spcfd

The following specific parts of the PTA's antitrust/competition provisions are excluded from the application of the DSM provisions (if all of antitrust/competition policy is excluded, then just select "No" above and leave this field blank):

dsm_pta_excl_spcfd is a text string var holding the content of the write-in field for this question.

DSM2: dsm_comp

Does the PTA establish a separate/distinct dispute settlement mechanism for antitrust/competition matters?

0	No
1	Yes

DSM2a: dsm_comp_excl_spcfd

Does the separate DSM apply only to specific antitrust/competition matters? If so, please specify; otherwise leave blank:

dsm_comp_excl_spcfd is a text string variable holding the content of the write-in field for this question.

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[Miscellaneous Block]

Section 7 of the coding instrument (block 7 of the coding survey) asked about a variety of PTA characteristics and provisions, related or potentially related to competition law and policy: length (in words), references and/or similarity to other jurisdictions' competition law, and intellectual property rights provisions.

C11: length_comp

What is the total length of the antitrust or competition-related parts of the PTA? Please use the number of words as the measure of length, counting all words of each sentence that contains any competition- or antitrust-related provisions. If entire paragraphs, articles, or even entire chapters are substantively about competition issues, we count the entire paragraph or chapter, respective (including their titles), plus of course additional sentences on competition issues elsewhere, if any. Include any provisions for monopolies *if* they are discussed as an antitrust or competition policy matter. For purposes of this question, please do not count clauses concerning state aid/subsidies.

All treaty texts should allow highlighting words, sentences, or entire sections as warranted, as well as copying text into a word document, which should allow an easy word count. Please record the number of words, only; do not use commas to indicate a number above one thousand.

length_comp is a text string variable holding the content of the write-in field for this question.

C12: length_pta

What is the total length of the PTA including preamble, appendices etc. (in # of words)? Please include all substantive provisions, including preamble and appendices or annexes, except tariff schedules; record the number of words, only, without any commas.

length_pta is a text string variable holding the content of the write-in field for this question.

LAW1: comp_law_ref

Is there an explicit reference to the antitrust or competition laws of one jurisdiction (whether or not that jurisdiction is a Party to the PTA)?

0	No
1	Yes

LAW1a: comp_law_ref_spcfd

Which jurisdiction? Please specify United States (of America) as "US," the European Union as EU; spell out all others.

comp_law_ref_spcfd is a text string var holding the content of the write-in field for this question.

LAW2: comp_law_eu

Do the specific antitrust provisions resemble EU competition laws by containing any of the following phrases?

- "[agreements that have as their] object or effect the prevention, restriction or distortion of competition" or
- "abuse by one or more undertakings of a dominant position" or
- "concentration is incompatible" or
- "significantly impede effective competition" or
- "creation or strengthening of a dominant position"

Please look for exact or close approximation of the phrases. For instance, code "Yes" if "significantly impede effective competition" appears with "impedes" in a different tense or conjugated or as "significantly impede competition" or "impede effective competition."

0	No
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1	Yes
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LAW3: comp_law_us

Do the specific antitrust provisions resemble U.S. competition laws by containing any of the following phrases?

- "substantially lessen competition" or
- "every contract, combination" or
- "every person who shall monopolize"

0	No
----------	----

1	Yes
----------	-----

IP1: ip_rights

Does the PTA include provisions calling for the protection of intellectual property (IP) rights? IP rights may be discussed in terms of the protection of patent (rights) or prohibitions against mandatory licensing.

0	No
----------	----

1	Yes
----------	-----

IP2: ip_exception

Does the PTA specify an antitrust exception to the IP rights provisions? That is, does the treaty specify that intellectual property rights may be violated (or IP protections voided) if they are used to restrict competition monopolistically or through other antitrust violations? The U.S.-Jordan PTA, for instance, specifies (in Art.4 Par.20(a)) that "neither Party shall permit the use of the subject matter of a patent without the authorization of the right holder except in the following circumstances: (a) to remedy a practice determined after judicial or administrative process to be anti-competitive [...]."

1	Yes, anti-competitive practices allow violating/voiding IP rights protections
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0	No, no such exception
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[Non-Tariff Barriers Block]

Section 8 of the coding instrument (block 8 of the coding survey) asked about PTA provisions concerning non-tariff barriers.

NTB1: ntb_general

Does the PTA explicitly refer to non-tariff barriers? We are literally looking whether "non-tariff barriers" (with or without hyphen or space, or "NTBs," or close synonyms or translations, such as "non-customs" or "behind the border" barriers) are explicitly recognized as trade issues, regardless of how they are dealt with.

0	No
1	Yes

NTB2: ntb_specific

Does the PTA refer to any of the following specific non-tariff barriers without using the term "non-tariff barriers" or the acronym "NTB"? Please check all that apply.

- technical barriers to trade, incl. product, process, or labeling standards or regulations;
- health and safety standards or regulations, including "sanitary" or "phytosanitary"
- customs procedures or administrative delays
- licensing requirements or import licenses
- standards or specified conditions for the environment, labor, or human rights
- voluntary export restraints
- any other specific NTBs not specified above.

0	No
1	Yes

NTB2a: ntbs_spcfd

If you answered yes to the question above based on "other" NTBs, please specify them here:

ntbs_spcfd is a text string variable holding the content of the write-in field for this question.

NTB3: at_as_ntb

Are anticompetitive practices (or government regulation thereof) recognized as non-tariff barriers (explicitly as an NTB or discussed in the context of specific ones?

0	No
1	Yes

MISC1: antidumping

Does the PTA include provisions on antidumping?

0	No
1	Yes

MISC2: infantindustries

Does the PTA include provisions concerning the protection of infant industries?

0	No
1	Yes

MISC3: govprocurement

Does the PTA include provisions concerning government procurement?

0	No
1	Yes

Please *NOTE*: The three *MISC* variables are based on questions that only ask *whether* the issue is in some way addressed in the PTA, *not how* it is addressed. The purpose of encoding these variables was to help us and other users of this dataset identify the PTAs that contain provisions concerning these competition-related issue, not to ascertain the relationship between those provisions and the competition provisions.

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[Final Block]

Section 9 of the coding instrument (block 9 of the coding survey) provided two opportunities to note coding difficulties, leave comments about special aspects or features of the PTA that seemed very pertinent to a coder but were not covered by the specific questions, and/or provide other feedback based on the experience of coding a given PTA.

F1: coding_problems

Did you encounter any difficulties in coding the antitrust/competition provisions (and related issues) in this PTA?

coding_problems is a text string var holding the content of the write-in field for this question.

F2: info_general

Any additional noteworthy information about the PTA in general?

info_general is a text string variable holding the content of the write-in field for this question.