

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**  
**Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy**

**SPP/Economics 541**

**Paper #1 Assignment**  
**Due Monday, September 29, 2008**

Choose a country (other than the United States) and describe its international trade and trade policies. You should include data from the most recent year available on the levels of its overall exports and imports (and thus its trade deficit or surplus), as well as the commodity composition and geographic distribution of the country's trade. And for both exports and imports, you should cover both goods and services. Regarding trade policies, you should give some indication of the level of its tariffs and which sectors are most protected; what other protective measures besides tariffs it uses; and to what extent it is involved in trade disputes with other countries.

This paper is purely descriptive. There is no need to explain anything. But do your best to make your descriptions as easy to understand as possible, using clearly formatted tables and/or graphs as you think appropriate.

In selecting the country that you will focus on, you may want to look ahead to the assignment for paper #4. There you will be asked to quantify the effects of an actual trade policy for a particular country, and you may wish to use the same country that you select here. With that in mind, it will be helpful if you pick a country for which you have access to data, especially on trade policies themselves and volumes of trade and production.

**Structure of Assignment:**

1. See "Format Instructions for Papers" and be sure to follow all of the guidelines.
2. The paper should be between 3 and 5 pages long – definitely **no longer** than 5 pages including any tables and graphs.
3. The text of the paper should explain what the reader should learn from any accompanying tables and graphs. Do not just provide the data and leave it at that. Write clear paragraphs stating the most important patterns that you've found in the data, such as what the major exports and imports of the country are, who its largest trading partners are, and so forth. There need not be a lot of text, but what there is should be informative.
4. Organize the material clearly, dividing the paper into short, labeled sections on the different topics that you deal with.
5. The paper should include the following elements:
  - A cover sheet (unnumbered, and does not count as part of the page limit)
  - Introduction – a short paragraph stating the purpose of the paper
  - Sections presenting your findings
  - Conclusion – another paragraph summarizing what you found
  - List of sources (not everything you may have looked at, but only what you actually took information from, each of which should also be credited along with that information, such as in footnotes to tables)
6. Tables and graphs may either be presented along with the text or on separate pages at the end, as you prefer or find more convenient.