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While tariffs grab the headlines, NTMs are where the action is

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Purpose of this presentation

In this presentation, I will:

- Contrast the amount affected by the trade war tariff hikes with that of pervasive NTMs.
- Investigate particularly large cases of protectionism over the past decade.
- Dissect these cases by policy instrument (MAST chapters).

... drawing upon a database of over 20'000 public policy announcements over the past decade.



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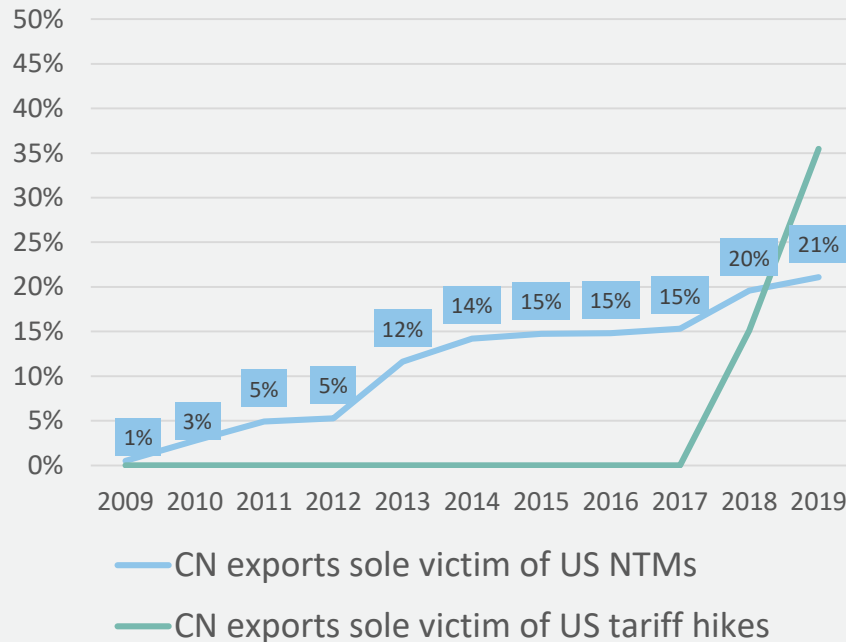
The NTM build-up before and during the Sino-US trade war

Sino-US trade measures since the financial crisis

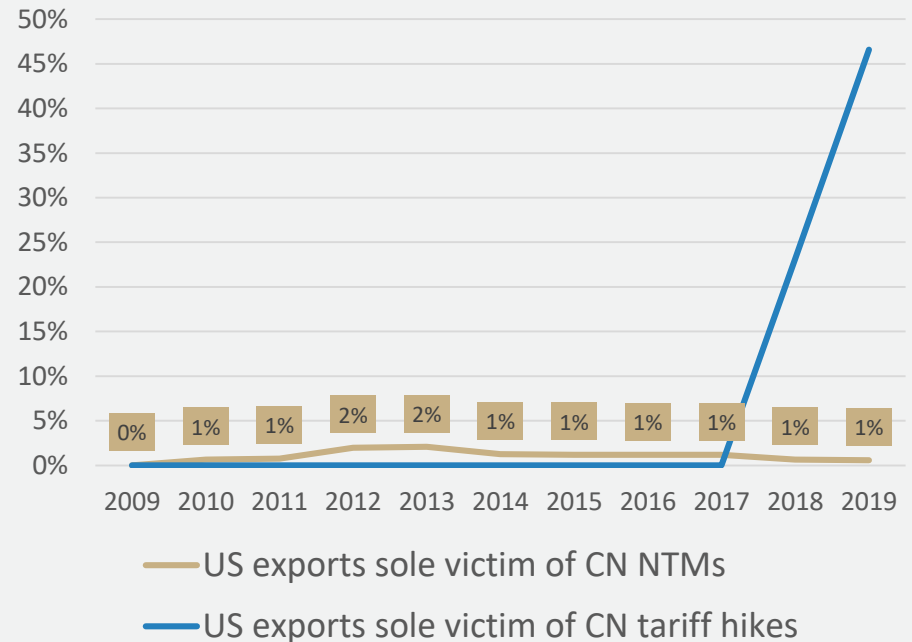
– NTMs preceded tariffs



Affected Chinese exports to the US (in %)

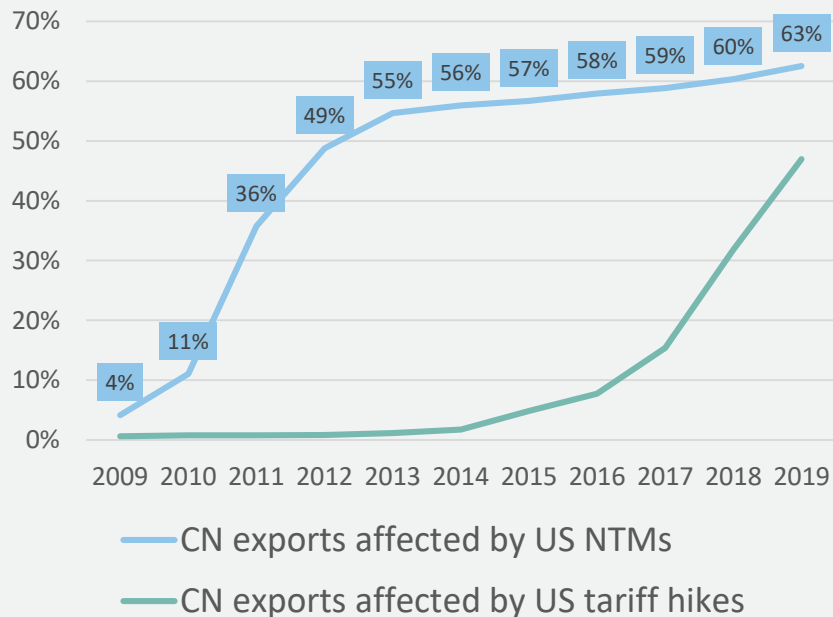


Affected US exports to China (in %)

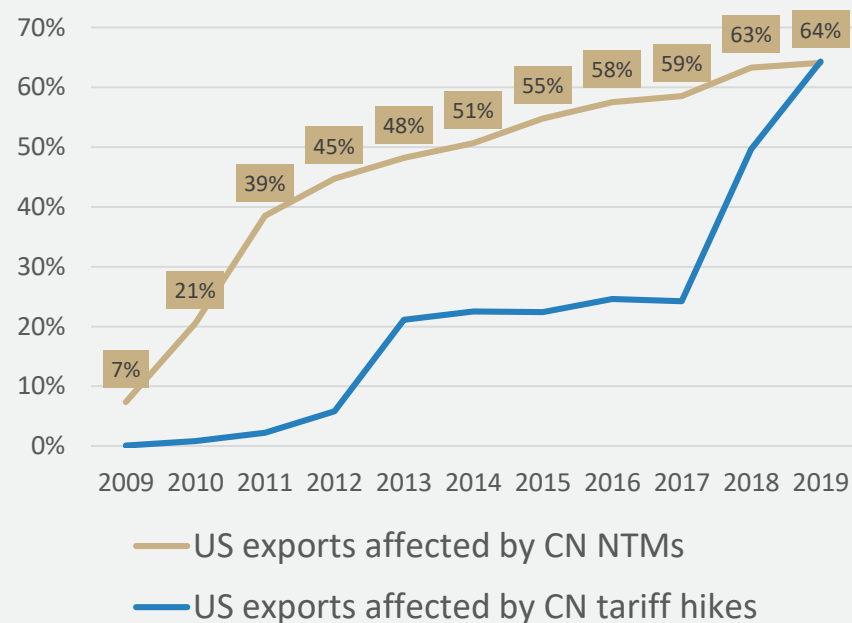


When all NTMs are taken into account, much more bilateral trade is affected.

Affected Chinese exports to the US (in %)



Affected US exports to China (in %)



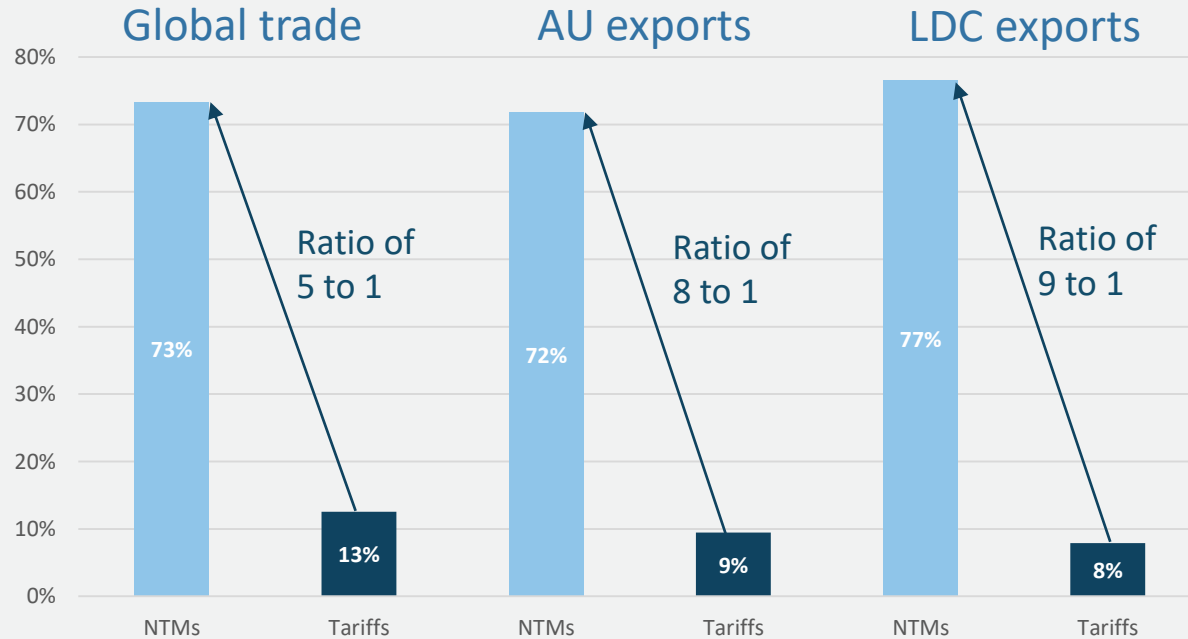


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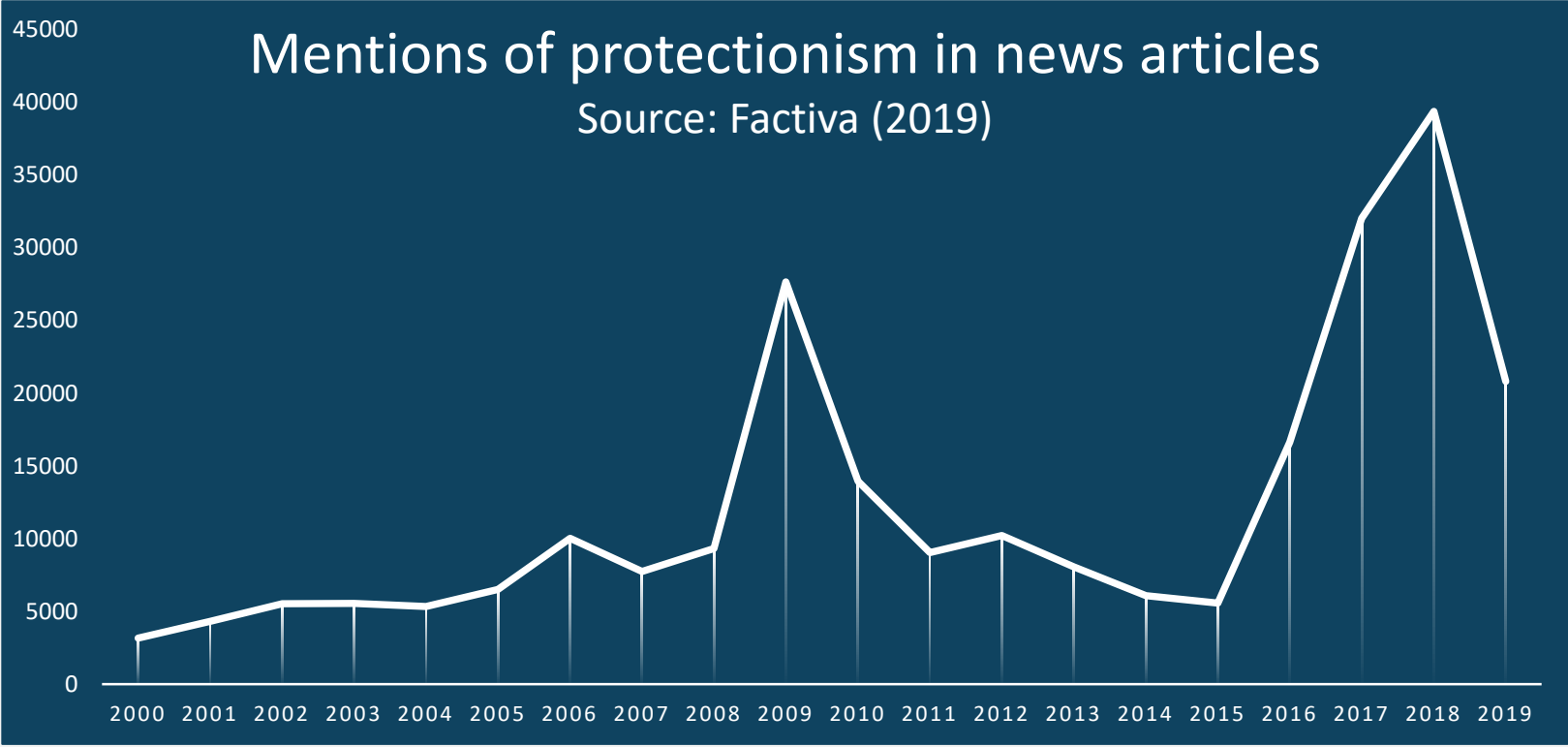
Global NTM dynamics

Similar patterns noticeable for global, African Union and LDC exports

Share of trade affected in 2019



Protectionism seems to have been forgotten between the crisis and the current trade war



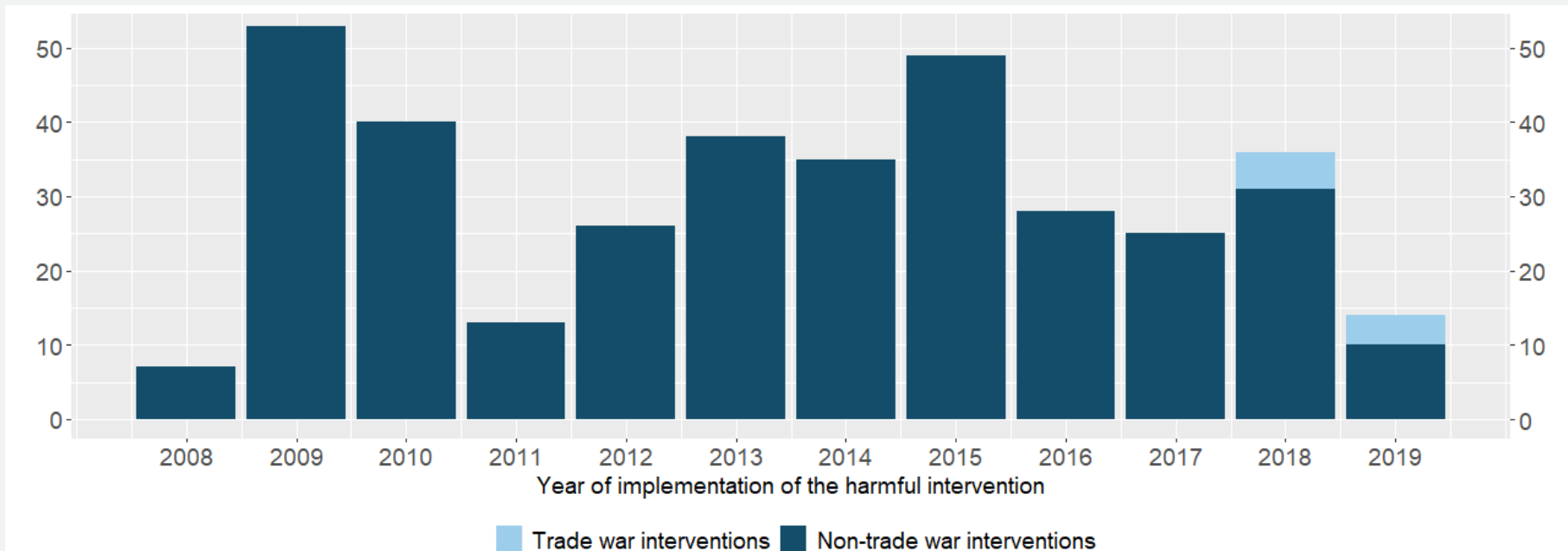


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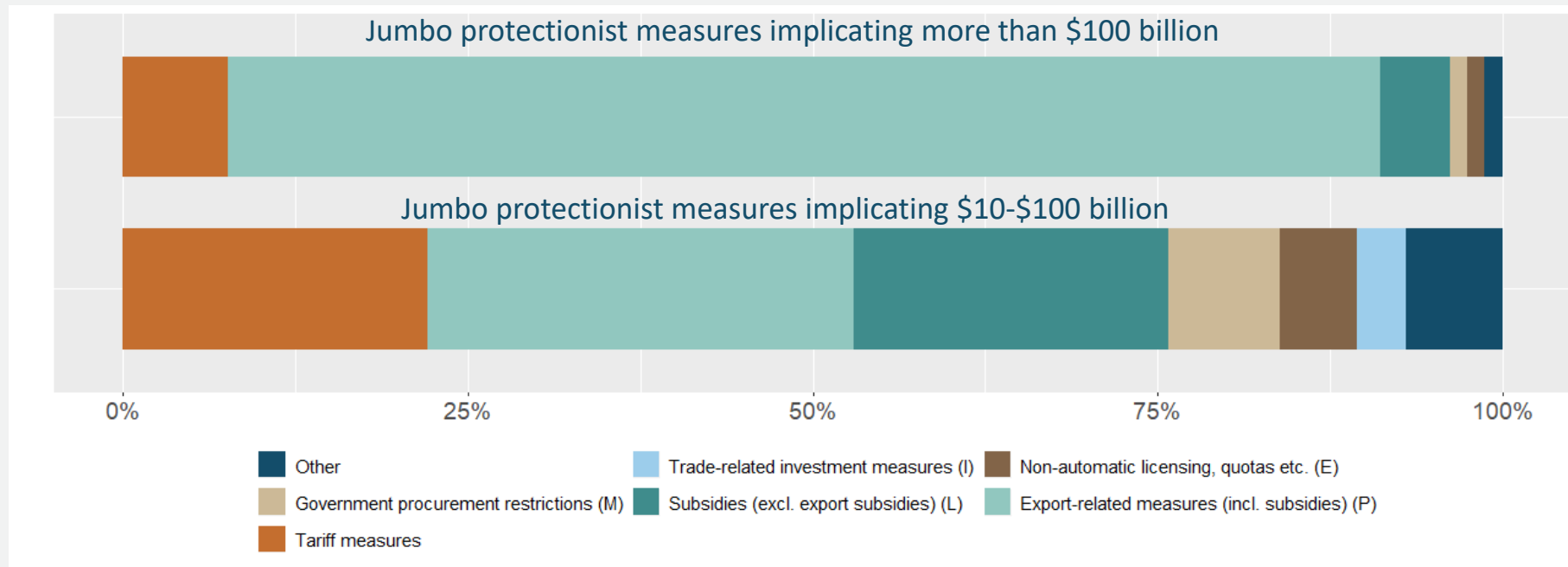
**Which NTMs affect the most trade?
Cases of jumbo protectionism.**

Most jumbo protectionism is not related to the trade war

Number of jumbo protectionist measures implemented



In general, large export incentives and domestic subsidies more prevalent than tariff increases



Key takeaways

1. NTM build-up preceded tariff hikes: covert protectionism became overt
 2. Out of 364 jumbo protectionist measures, only 9 are trade war-related
 3. 295 of them were NTMs, incl. 154 export incentives and 69 domestic subsidies
- ▶ What to do about this? Explore critical-mass plurilaterals inside or outside the WTO framework.

For more information



- ▶ The Global Trade Alert is a non-profit independent trade monitoring initiative at the University of St.Gallen that promotes the global public good of transparency in trade policy.
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