Empirical Trade Data Analysis

Hanna Adam & Mario Larch

VWL VI: Chair of Empirical Economics

July 15, 2025

1 General Issues

The seminar "Empirical Trade Data Analysis" addresses Bachelor's students of Business Administration, Economics, Internationale Wirtschaft und Entwicklung, and Philosophy & Economics.

The course will focus on empirical international trade. The aim is to introduce datasets relevant for international trade along with some empirical methods which are used to analyse the data and evaluate the determinants of trade flows and the effects of trade policy.

The course consists of the following parts:

1. One **compulsory seminar session** on **31 October 2025, 9:00-18:00** will introduce basic trade data and methods to analyse trade flows and trade policies. We will discuss some contents of Bacchetta, Beverelli, Cadot, Fugazza, Grether, Helble, Nicita, and Piermartini (2012), some contents of the recent World Trade Report and Global Trade Outlook[1], and Adam, Larch, and Nower (2025). Additionally, we will do hands-on computer programming and implementation of methods. We will allocate topics for your presentations and term papers.

---

[1] See https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/reser_e/wtr_e.htm and https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/trade_outlook25_e.htm

2. To practice the learned methods, you will investigate one dataset and employ suitable methods to analyse it. You will write a **term paper** about your topic and **present** it during a second **compulsory seminar session** on **9 January and 10 January 2026** (exact number of days and times depending on number of participants).

For further questions concerning course details please contact Hanna Adam (hanna.adam@uni-bayreuth.de or Mario Larch (mario.larch@uni-bayreuth.de.

2 Requirements and Assessed Course Work

Requirements

In order to participate in the course, interest in and knowledge of empirical economics is expected. Ideally, this includes knowledge of R, the program to be used in this course. Further, interest in and knowledge of international economics is helpful.

Assessed Course Work

The course work consists of:

- Active course participation during the compulsory seminar sessions.

- The presentation of your allocated topic (of about 45 minutes).

- A term paper about your allocated topic, investigating one specific empirical trade dataset. The term paper should consist of about 20,000 characters (including spaces, excluding references and figures). The specific topics for the term papers will be discussed in the first seminar session. It is necessary for you to register your term paper via cmlife (course "examination") by 14 November 2025. The date of submission of the term paper will be 31 March 2026 (of course an earlier submission is possible at any time)

Language and Formal Requirements

The language of the course is English. All the literature is also in English. Your term paper can be written in German or in English, even though we suggest to write it in English. For more details concerning the formal requirements of the written assignments please see the documents available in German (Hinweis zur Formatierung von Seminar- und Abschlussarbeiten) and in English (Formal requirements for term papers and Bachelor's/Master's theses).

3 Target Group

The course addresses students from the following degree courses:

- Business Administration (Bachelor's): as "Spezialisierung" (please check with the Chair responsible for the chosen "Spezialisierung").

- Economics (Bachelor's): as "Empirisches Seminar".

- Internationale Wirtschaft und Entwicklung (Bachelor's): as "Vertiefung Empirie und Theorie".

- Philosophy and Economics (Bachelor's): as "Empirisches Seminar" or "E6: Economics Seminar".

- Please contact us for help if you have difficulties to find the proper module to get credits for the course.

4 Reading List

As useful background for preparation, as well as a starting point for your presentations and term papers, we provide the following reading list:

- Bacchetta, Beverelli, Cadot, Fugazza, Grether, Helble, Nicita, and Piermartini (2012), which can be freely downloaded from https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/practical_guide12_e.htm.

- The World Trade Organisation's World Trade Report, which can be freely downloaded from https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/reser_e/wtr_e.htm.

- The World Trade Organisation's Global Trade Outlook, which can be freely downloaded from https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/trade_outlook25_e.htm.

- Porto (2020)

- Adam, Larch, and Nower (2025)

5   Overview of Important Dates

- 31 October 2025, 9:00–18:00: first (introductory and compulsory) seminar session.

- 14 November 2025: registration deadline for seminar "examination" on cmlife (necessary for definitive participation).

- 9 and 10 January 2026: student presentations (compulsory).

- 31 March 2026: submission deadline for term papers.

References

ADAM, H., M. LARCH, AND M. NOWER (2025): "High-Dimensional Variance Decomposition with an Application to Trade Flows (ANOVA-HDFE)," .

BACCHETTA, M., C. BEVERELLI, O. CADOT, M. FUGAZZA, J.-M. GRETHER, M. HELBLE, A. NICITA, AND R. PIERMARTINI (2012): *A Practical Guide to Trade Policy Analysis.* World Trade Organization, Geneva.

PORTO, M. (2020): *Using R for Trade Policy Analysis: R Codes for the UNCTAD and WTO Practical Guide.* Springer.