Economic Diversification & Infrastructure

Policy area nominated by Botswana

Twenty Women Entrepreneurs Graduate from Women in Tech Accelerator Programme

2025-02-27



Africa-Press – Botswana. **A total of 20 female entrepreneurs have completed the Women in Tech (WiT) Accelerator Programme, a Standard Chartered Botswana initiative aimed at fostering innovation and bridging gender disparities in the technology and business sectors.**

Women-Led Technology Accelerator: Is it good value?

- Policy example: Scale up a public-private accelerator supporting 40 women-led technology startups per year for five years through:
  - **Business training**
  - **Mentoring**
  - **Investor networking**
  - **Seed grants**
- Counterfactual: Some firms would survive and grow without the program
  - **Only additional businesses created by the accelerator are counted**
- PV Benefits P37.6m / PV Costs P28.2m = BCR 1.3 FAIR
  - **Estimated as a FAIR buy**
  - **But the result depends almost entirely on whether the accelerator creates businesses that would not otherwise have existed**

How were benefits estimated?

- Modelled benefits
  - **40 firms supported/year → 34 firms complete program**
  - **Firms completing program × (45% survival rate with program – 20% survival rate without program) = Incremental survived firms**
  - **8.5 incremental firms x Annual domestic value added P350,000 = P3.0m value added in first year**
  - **Benefits begin after a one-year lag and decay 10% per year as some firms exit over time and impact of training dissipates**
- PV Benefits P37.6 million

How were costs estimated?

- Unlike program evaluations, CBA should include both public costs and private resource costs
  - **Social CBA rather than a budget analysis**
- Costs per year P6.7m
  - **Seed grants (P2.4m)**
  - **Incubation & coaching (P1.6m)**
  - **Program management (P1.5m)**
  - **Partner/mentor time (P0.8m)**
  - **Participant opportunity cost (P0.4m)**
- PV over 5 years P28.2 million

Economic and Industrial Transformation

Policy area nominated by Zimbabwe

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Africa Wants Its Critical Minerals to Yield Jobs, Not Just Dollars

More countries are imposing export restrictions to help develop their own industries

By Nicholas Bariyo
July 8, 2025 11:00 pm ET

Aa | Listen (2 min)



Zimbabwe is Africa's top producer of lithium. AARON UFUMELI/EPA-EFE/SHUTTERSTOCK

Lithium Beneficiation Processing

- Main Question:
  - **Should Zimbabwe move from exporting spodumene concentrate to enabling domestic processing into lithium carbonate equivalent (LCE)?**
- Counterfactual:
  - **Mines continue exporting raw concentrate (current policy with export controls)**
- Policy Scenario:
  - **One plant-scale domestic processing facility (300,000 t concentrate/year) with supporting public measures**

Key Assumptions & Data Quality

- High certainty inputs:
  - **Lithium prices (USGS)**
  - **Concentrate volumes**
- Low certainty inputs:
  - **Conversion cost (US$ 4,000/t LCE)**
  - **Environmental & compliance cost**
  - **Public administration cost**
- Critical Gap: No detailed plant-level feasibility study yet

Main Drivers of Value (What Really Matters)

1. Lithium carbonate price
   BENEFIT DRIVER: Biggest sensitivity
2. Conversion yield / recovery rate
   BENEFIT DRIVER: Efficiency of the plant
3. Conversion operating cost
   COST DRIVER: Energy, reagents, labor
4. Concentrate feedstock opportunity cost
   COST DRIVER: Export revenue forgone
5. Capital cost
   COST DRIVER: Capex per ton of capacity

- → These five factors drive the result

Base Case Key Numbers

Metric	Value	Notes
Annual LCE Output	37,500 tonnes	300,000 t concentrate input
Annual Product Value	US$ 525 million	At US$ 14,000/t LCE
Annual Recurring Costs	US$ 444 million	Feedstock US$ 270m + conversion US$ 150m + other
Annualized Capex over 11 years	US$ 46 million	Capex US$ 300m + US$ 25m enabling investment
Total annual cost	US$ 490 million	
Social BCR	**1.07**	Base case
NPV	**US$ 264 million**	Over project life

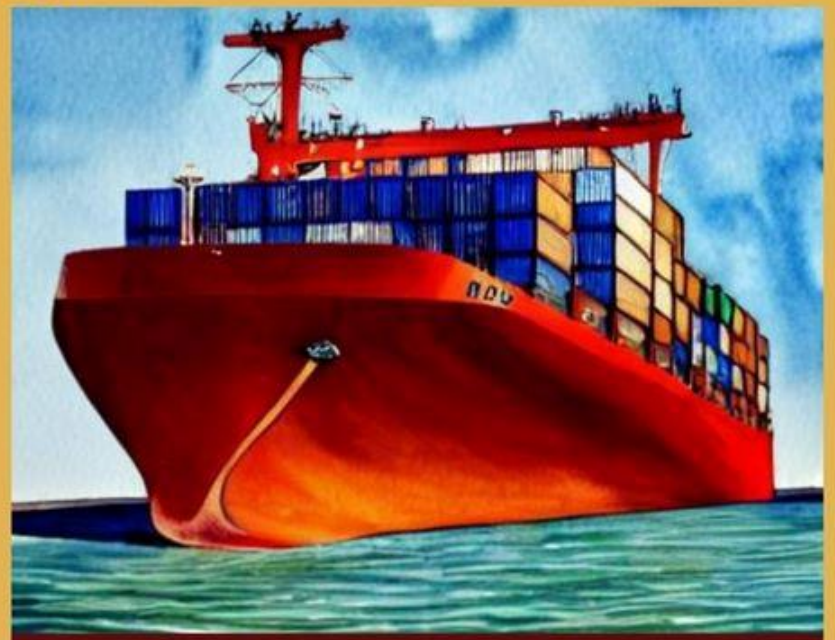
Scenario analysis

Scenario	BCR	NPV	Verdict	Key Driver
Low price + High cost	0.8	–US$ 820m	Poor buy	Weak lithium prices
Base Case	**1.1**	**US$ 264m**	**Fair buy**	Current assumptions
High price + Efficient ops	1.3	US$ 1.1 bn	Fair buy	Strong prices + lower costs

Trade

TRADE

HALFTIME
FOR THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS



BEST INVESTMENTS FOR THE SDGs

EXCELLENT BENEFIT COST RATIO: 95

Investment

Lower the cost of trade, for example reduction in tariff levels, reduction in effective distance, or increase in free trade agreement depth.

Authors

James Feyrer, Dartmouth
Vladimir Tyazhelnikov, University of Sydney
Benjamin Alemán Castilla, IPADE
Brad Wong, Copenhagen Consensus Center

Chinese Duty-Free Access for African Products

Copenhagen Consensus Center
Bjorn Lomborg

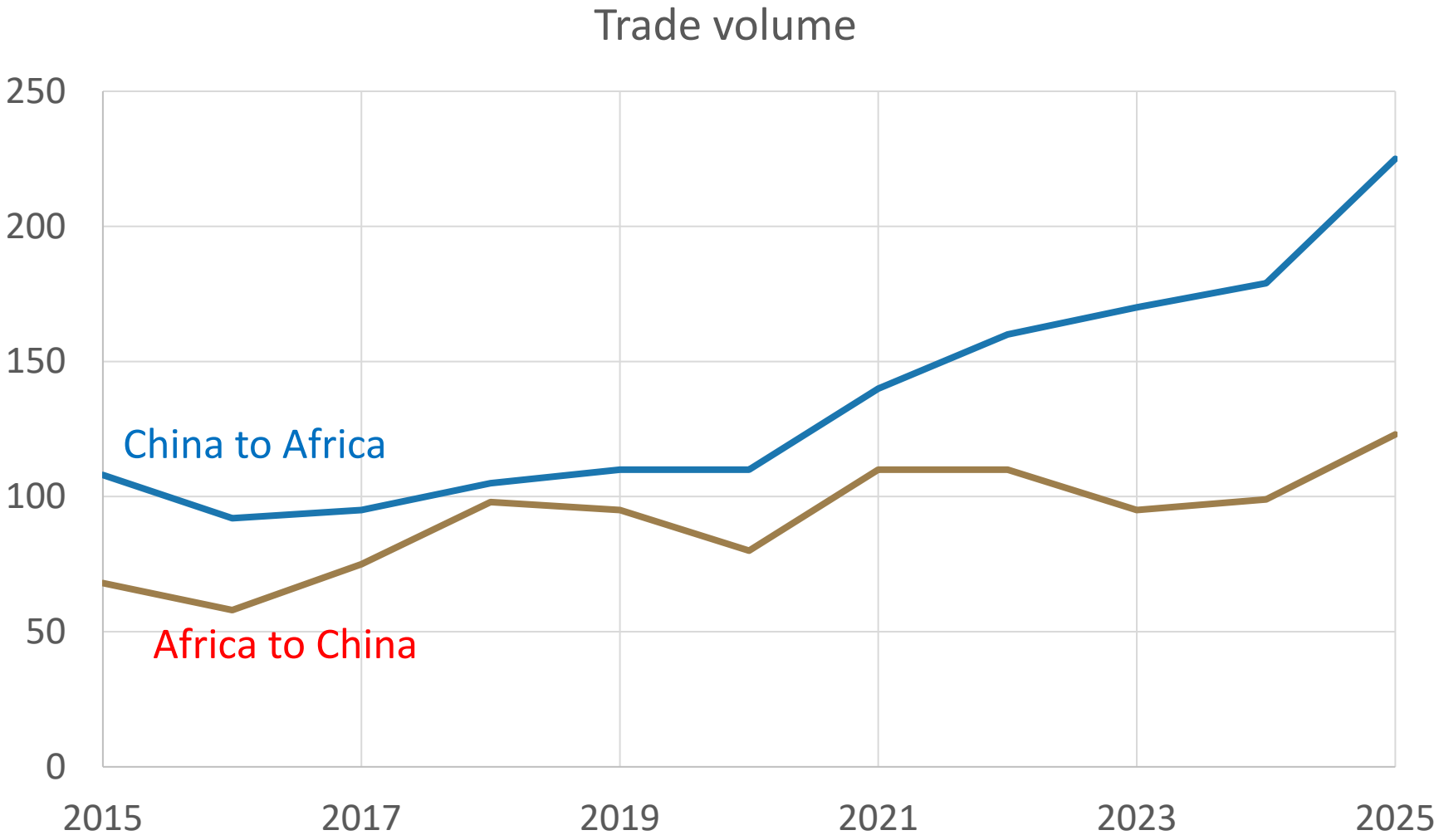
Trade is Good

But

Upside

- May 1, 2026, zero tariffs on all products from 53 nations
- Big potential upside to increase earnings from
  - **agriculture, processed foods, light manufactures, textiles, and minerals**
- Potential to move up the value chain
  - **E.g. exporting processed cocoa, coffee, or garments instead of raw beans or cotton**

Trade volume between Africa and China



(Johns Hopkins China-Africa Research Initiative)

Caveats

- For non-LCDs, so far only valid until April 2028
- Most African exports to China are still raw commodities
- Strict Chinese standards and compliance
  - **Meeting quality, safety, labeling, and phytosanitary rules**
  - **Requires organizational capacity, with investments in testing labs, packaging, and supply-chain upgrades**
  - **Zimbabwe blueberry export to China in July 2026, after phytosanitary protocol signed in September 2025**

Trade is good — but even more so within SADC

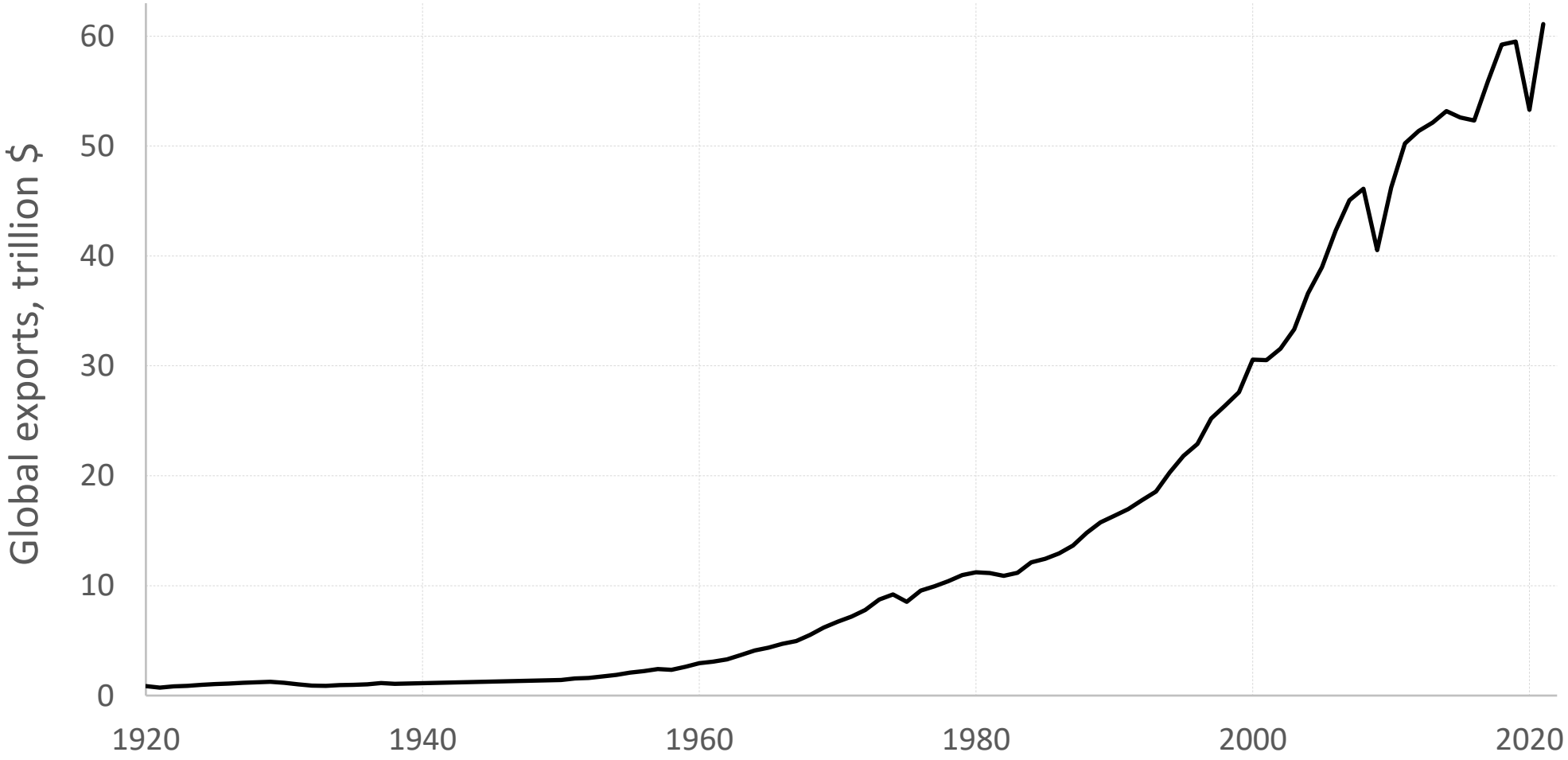
- Gravity model
  - **Most trade between close countries**

James Feyrer, Dartmouth
Vladimir Tyazhelnikov, University of Sydney
Benjamin Alemán Castilla, IPADE
Brad Wong, Copenhagen Consensus Center

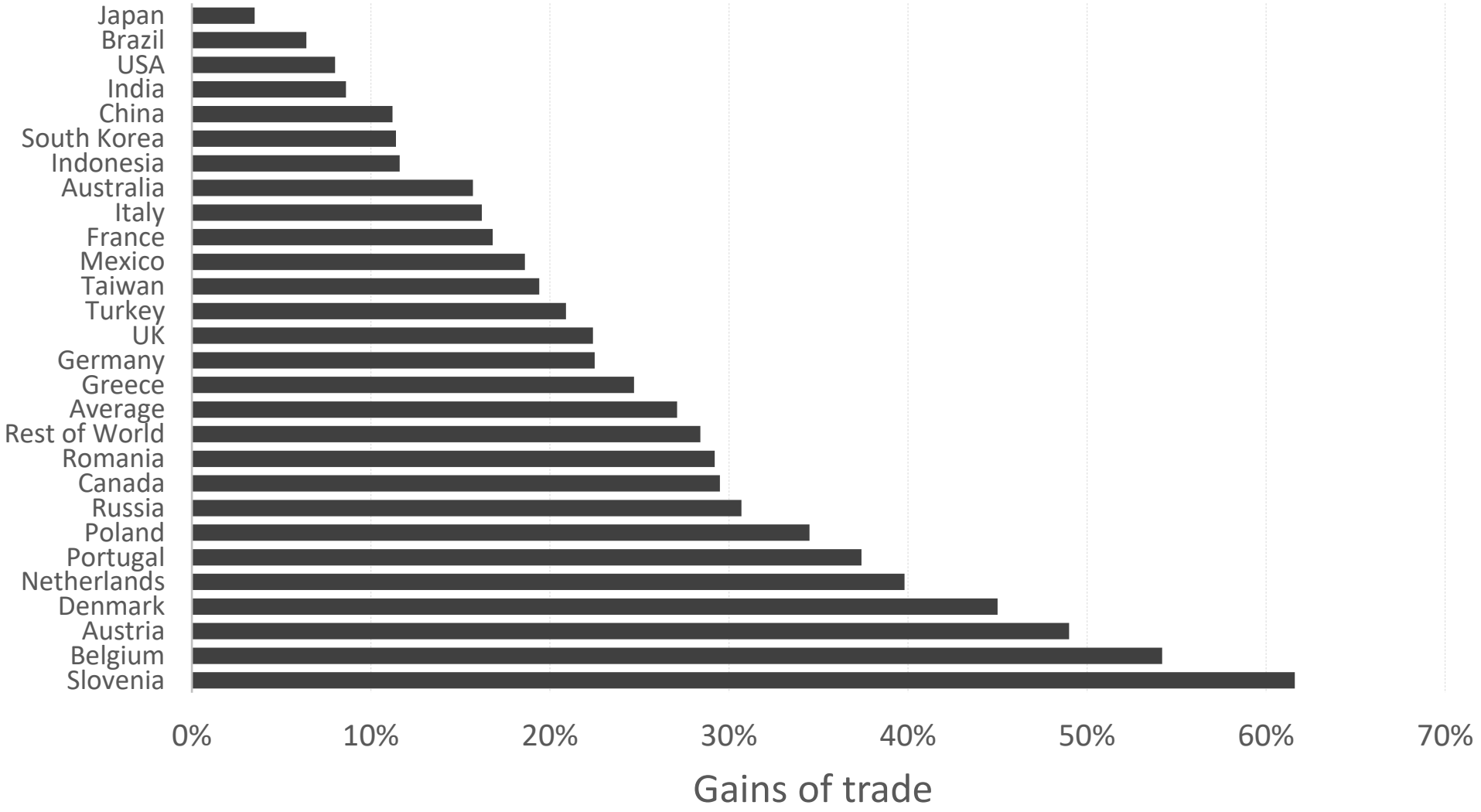
Trade

- Trading makes us better off
  - **Different nations doing what they do best**

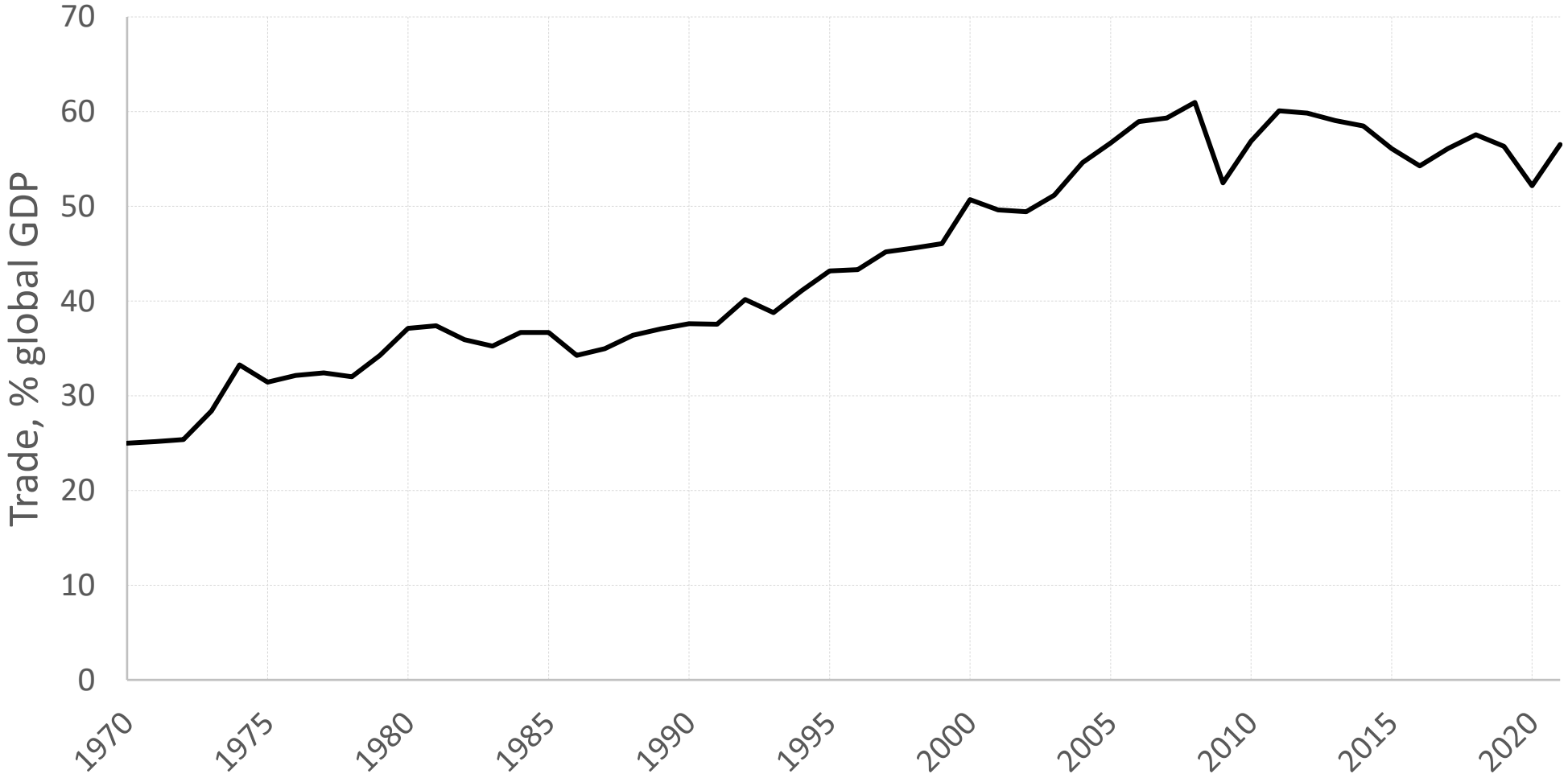
Global trade 1920–2021



Gains of trade



Global trade in percent of global GDP, 1970–2021.



5% more trade

- Estimating impact from 5% trade increase
  - **From lower trade constraints**
  - **Tariffs**
  - **Better trade agreements or**
  - **Cheaper transportation**
- In the past just looked at GDP increase
  - **But clearly, trade has losers**

Trade – winners and losers

- Negative impacts for trade-exposed industries
  - **Reduced wages, losing jobs and retirement**
  - **Estimates per import-exposed worker and every $1,000 increased imports**
    - 0.09% reduction in wage
    - 0.38% unemployment
    - 0.31% retirement
  - **Total 0.78% (worst case)**

Trade – winners and losers

- First year
  - **Global benefits: $800 billion ($500bn for rich world)**
  - **Global costs: $120 billion ($110bn for rich world)**
- Next years
  - **Benefits continue to accrue**
  - **Costs continue for 15 years**

5% more trade from 2023–2072, costs and benefits in billion dollars.

	Benefits	Costs	BCR
Low and lower-middle Income	$1,729	$18	95
Upper-middle income	$4,515	$101	45
High-income	$8,397	$1,155	7
World	$14,641	$1,274	11

Note: Costs and benefits are discounted at 8% per year.