

GLOSSARY OF TRADE AND RELATED TERMS

Principal Supplier	The country that is the most important source of a particular product imported by another country. In negotiations conducted under GATT, a country offering to reduce import duties or other barriers on a particular item generally expects the principal supplier of the imported item to offer, in exchange, to reduce restrictions on an item. Both countries then automatically grant the same concessions to all other countries to which they have agreed to accord Most-Favoured-Nation treatment, including all contracting parties to GATT. (See Most-Favoured-Nation Treatment and Reciprocity).
Protectionism	The deliberate use or encouragement of restrictions on imports to enable relatively inefficient domestic producers to compete successfully with foreign producers.
Quantitative Restrictions (QRs)	Explicit limits or quotas, on the physical amounts of particular commodities that can be imported or exported during a specified time period, usually measured by volume but sometimes by value. The quota may be applied on a "selective" basis, with varying limits set according to the country of origin, or on a quantitative global basis that only specifies the total limit and thus tends to benefit more efficient suppliers. Quotas are frequently administered through a system of licensing. GATT Article XI generally prohibits the use of quantitative restrictions, except under conditions specified by other GATT articles. Article XIX permits quotas to safeguard certain industries from damage by rapidly rising imports. Article XII and Article XVIII provide that quotas may be imposed for balance of payments reasons under circumstances laid out in Article XV. Article XX permits special measures to apply to public health, gold stocks, items of archeological or historic interest and several other categories of goods. Article XXI recognizes the overriding importance of national security. Article XII provides that quantitative restrictions, whenever applied, should be non-discriminatory.
Quasi-judicial Procedures	Procedures through which law is made by regulatory agencies applying general statutes to specific cases. On trade, procedures administered by the U.S. International Trade Commission and the Department of Commerce determine the eligibility of petitioners for import relief under the escape clause, countervailing duty, anti-dumping, and other trade statutes.