

GLOSSARY OF TRADE AND RELATED TERMS

Specific Duty or Tariff	An import tax set at a fixed amount per unit or per unit of measure regardless of the value of the item imported. (See Ad Valorem Tariff).
Standards	As defined by the MTN Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (Standards Code), a standard is a technical specification contained in a document that lays down characteristics of a product such as levels of quality, performance, safety, or dimensions. It may include, or deal exclusively with terminology, symbols, testing and test methods, packaging, marking or labelling requirements as they apply to a product.
State-Trading Nations	Countries such as the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China and nations of Eastern Europe, that rely heavily on government entities, instead of the private sector, to conduct trade with other countries. Some of these countries (e.g. Czechoslovakia and Cuba) have long been Contracting Parties to GATT, whereas others (e.g. Poland, Hungary, and Romania) became Contracting Parties later under special Protocols of Accession. The different terms and conditions under which these countries acceded to GATT were designed in each case to ensure steady expansion of the country's trade with other GATT countries, taking into account the relative insignificance of tariffs on imports into state trading nations.
Structural Change	Alternations in the relative significance of the productive components of a national or international economy that take place over time. Expansion in the economy as a whole, or temporary shifts in the relationship of its components as a result of cyclical developments, would not be considered structural changes. Since the Industrial Revolution, structural change in most countries has resulted principally from changes in comparative advantage associated with technological advance, but also to a lesser degree from changes in consumer preference. It has involved shifts from subsistence agriculture to commercial agriculture, reduction in the percentage of the labor force engaged in agriculture, and increase in the relative significance of manufacturing, and, at a later stage, a further shift toward service industries. Other major structural changes involve shifts in the economic importance between various industries, shifts between regions of large national economies, and changes in the composition of exports and imports. (See also Comparative Advantage).