

data. Comparison to actions against other countries would provide further context. Adding weights related to the value of trade affected would allow for comparison to the total value of trade.

If there are fewer disputes, affecting less of the total value of trade, then it would be indicative of more "market access". Extension of the information back into the early 1980s would also be helpful in signaling whether the access is improved only with respect to recent years, or represents a better environment than at the beginning of the decade.

With the "deepening" of trade between the two countries it is conceivable that the number of disputes might actually increase, particularly in areas that are "new" to each. The distribution by industry or commodity group may help to distinguish the nature of the increase.

For disputes that do take place, a systematic tracking of the time period required for resolution would be an interesting dimension for regular publication. Again this can be disaggregated by type of dispute, by industry, and with both the historical context and treatment of other countries indicated. A reduction in the time for resolution would be another indicator of improved "market access".

The resolution of the disputes can take many forms. Nevertheless, it is expected that the FTA will result in a more balanced process, implying that Canada will "lose" a smaller proportion of disputes.