

Review of: "Impact of COVID-19 on imports of medical products: A panel data approach"

Muhammad Nadir Shabbir¹

¹ Central University of Finance and Economics

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

From the medical point of view specially the time period of COVID-19 and its impact has been analyzed in this research^[1]. If i discuss it part by part, its a well-organized and to the point questioned and answered by the author. The graphical analysis helped the reader even they have the knowledge of economics or not, but this type of data visualization helped the readers to understand and catch the main point of study. I start from the Objectives of the study.

- imports of each of the essential medical products by the 27 countries of the European Union (EU-27), for the period 2015-2020 (in the first 10 months of each year), such that the last year reflects the effect of COVID-19 on international purchases.
- (1) the separate analysis of trade determinants by type of product broadens the spectrum of potential action, by providing detailed information on the specific characteristics of each one
- (2) the period of time analyzed enables an assessment of the impact of the pandemic, identifying which products are most affected and why;
- (3) the composition of the sample used in the empirical analysis gives those responsible for setting EU trade policy a view of the individual patterns for each country, providing them with ex-ante information for the adoption of possible tariff measures.

According to the mentioned objective and econometric techniques author justify this research with valid results and conclusion that In a scenario where intra-EU trade generally exceeds extra-EU trade, a panel sample of 27 EU countries illuminates the variables that explain medical product import similarities and disparities. The wealth of the importing country and the population over 65 affect import volume. The number of beds solely affects hospital imports of vehicles, furniture, medical instruments, and disease-fighting protective gear. Most items are inelastic, essential, and have few replacements, making them immune to health sector price increases. The model's dummies show that the pandemic has driven product import trends (D2020) and that third-country trade barriers hurt European imports (Dextra).

But there are some flaws which i want to mention,

- First, if the topic is about the imports of the goods, author should include the variables which are linked with import, e.g. imports tariff. By including this author can get the more accurate results and minimize the chance of biasness.
- Secondly, Author used the sample of EU: 27 countries. But in my point of view, during pandemic most of the medical products are imported by the developing countries, some countries got the product free of cost as AID, some got by

Trade^[2]. So most of the part which has been imported by developing countries are not included, so i suggest the author to do research on this part of sample. or do comparison among the developed and developing countries.

Well, as a researcher, I would like to appreciate the author to conduct this research and elaborate this area in a organized manner. Some recent studies are also mentioned below^{[1],[3]}

References

1. ^{a, b} Kaelyn F. Burns, Jennifer A. Horney. (2023). *Measuring the impact of COVID-19*. doi:10.1016/b978-0-323-98810-0.00010-7.
2. [^] Senay Agca, John Birge, Jing Wu. (2022). *The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Global Sourcing of Medical Supplies*. MRAJ, vol. 10 (9). doi:10.18103/mra.v10i9.3068.
3. [^] Yuanjie Pu, Aidi Xu, Hang Wang, Fangbin Qian. (2023). *Impact of the COVID-19 epidemic on medical product imports from china from outbreak to stabilization: Monthly panel data regression and instrumental variable test*. Front. Public Health, vol. 11 . doi:10.3389/fpubh.2023.1115650.