

FACT SHEET: Insulin Tariffs and Taxes Profile

The *Insulin Tariffs and Taxes Profile*, published in April 2016, describes tariffs on insulin (both bulk and retail) and identifies countries that continue to maintain high import tariffs on insulin. In addition, it gives an overview of countries with value added tax (VAT) on retail insulin. Data was collected for 2004 – 2013 from various databases (COMTRADE, TRAINS, etc.). The profile is the result of the mapping work completed in phase one of the Addressing the Challenge and Constraints of Insulin Sources and Supply (ACCISS) Study and is one of several profiles on

the global insulin market to be published.

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All profiles and fact sheets can be accessed on the ACCISS Study section of HAI's website: <http://haiweb.org/what-we-do/acciss/>

Access to Insulin in the Spotlight



Please note, all references in this fact sheet come directly from the *Insulin Tariffs and Taxes Profile*.

Import Tariffs on Insulin

- The majority of countries have no import tariffs on retail insulin, and the number of countries without tariffs has increased since 2004 (52 to 77 percent, as shown in Figure 1).
- The global weighted average import tariff on bulk insulin has dropped since 2004, and was around two percent in 2013.
- The global weighted average import tariff for retail insulin has decreased from slightly less than 3.5 percent in 2004 to about 1.9 percent in 2013.
- In 2012 and 2013, most of countries with the highest import tariffs on retail insulin were from Latin America, particularly Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay, all of whom exceeded 10 percent.
- Import tariffs on insulin play, for most countries, an increasingly insignificant role as revenue generator.
- Where import tariffs on bulk and retail insulin were recorded, only a few countries (Chile, Ghana, South Korea, Myanmar, Serbia, and Yemen) generate any revenue from insulin tariffs. In 2013, this revenue represented between 0.3 and 0.5 percent of the total import value of retail and bulk insulin, respectively.

VAT on Insulin

- VAT on medicines (including insulin) ranged from 0 - 24 percent on all or some medicines (2012).
- No relationship was found between VAT and country income levels. Average VAT levels were: 8.3 per cent in OECD countries; 4.6 percent in high-income non-OECD; 7.0 percent in both upper- and lower-middle income countries; and 7.0 percent in low-income countries.

Tariffs and taxes on insulin drive up patient prices, and particularly disadvantage the poor who have to pay for medicines out-of-pocket. Eliminating import tariffs, VAT and any other taxes on insulin will improve access.

Figure 1

Country import tariffs on retail insulin over time

