



There is currently a trend towards more protectionist policies being implemented countries across the globe. Protectionism is on the rise. [Recent research](#) has revealed that the world's top 60 economies have adopted more than [7,000 protectionist trade measures on a net basis since the financial crisis. These have been made in order to shore up key industries, protect jobs, maintain strategic advantages, and for political reasons. Imposed trade tariffs are now estimated to equate to £300bn.](#)

Importantly, in terms of future implications, with the EU closing its borders to those outside its membership since 2009, [it is argued that it has become harder for those non-member countries to trade within it](#) - which could be bad news for those seeking a post-Brexit deal between the EU and the UK. Many countries in the EU are highly dependent on trade, with Germany seeing its trade equate to 87pc of its GDP. Because of this, the UK a relatively high risk of being affected by protectionism implemented by other countries, [having a 57% dependency on trade as a percentage of GDP.](#) The UK has been classified as the world's eighth biggest victim of protectionist trading measures since 2009, but it is not blameless for the rise of protectionism, with many of its protectionist policies.

Many have called for the UK to strike a trade deal with the US. However, the US currently has a significant protectionist stance - and with Donald Trump at the helm, more protectionist measures are expected. [Since 2009, the US has passed 1,297 economic or trade measures deemed to be 'harmful' to global trade, compared to just 206 regarded as liberalising.](#) This can be seen in the recent move by US authorities to consider imposing duties of 300% on Bombardier's C Series jets.

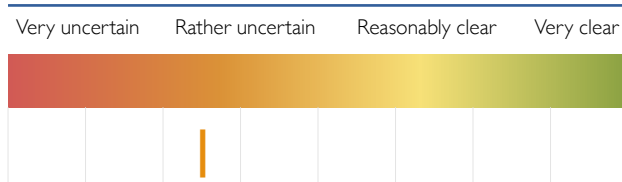
There have been sector-specific trade spats in recent years. For example, the EU has increased barriers to non-EU digital trade, taking measures that were seen by the US as discriminating against non-European service providers, such as fining Google \$2.7bn for undermining competition. There is [a danger of a trade-war escalating between the US and the EU](#) in the medium-term.

It is not certain whether these protectionist tendencies will continue over the longer-term, or are a product of the fall-out of the financial crisis. However, given the particular uncertainty in the UK of the post-BREXIT trading relationships, protectionism is a significant concern for UK businesses.

Implications for Gwent

In some respects, there is little that partners in Gwent can do about protectionist policies being implemented. There are geopolitical factors at play on a global scale. Much will depend on the shape of the UK's trading relationships post-BREXIT. Gwent may have some important businesses that currently trade within the EU and may be susceptible to additional costs if a 'hard BREXIT' is the outcome.

How might the issue impact on Gwent in the future



How might Gwent public services respond?

