

Unveiling Petitioners in Antidumping Cases¹

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Abstract

A number of recent papers have started to analyze trade policy at the firm level (Tybout, 2001) and this has proven to be a very promising line of research. A number of newly available datasets make it now possible to identify firms that are involved in the demand for protection. In this paper we use the Global Antidumping Database (2006) to retrieve European firms that petition for antidumping protection in cases initiated by the EU between 1993 and 2003. We match these petitioners with firm-level variables from a pan-European firm level database (AMADEUS) which allow us to characterize about 400 different petitioning firms. Since this is the first attempt to identify such a large number of petitioners, the purpose of this paper is in first instance to document a number of descriptive statistics on petitioning firms or put differently to “unveil” petitioners. This is likely to generate new insights on who becomes a petitioner and on the effectiveness of protection.

In particular three sets of research questions will be addressed. A first set of questions relate to the nature of petitioners across EU countries: is there a sector and/or country bias in the distribution of petitioners? What is the size of petitioners compared to other firms in the industry? Are petitioners more or less diversified than other firms in the industry? etc. A second set of questions relate to a comparison of petitioners to non-petitioners in the same industry: Are petitioning firms less productive than non-petitioners in the industry before filing for protection? Do petitioners benefit more from protection than non-petitioners, i.e. does their markup increase more?

And finally in a last set of research questions we compare petitioners across cases to see whether performance measures differ for firms in antidumping cases with affirmative rulings versus those involved in negative rulings.

Keywords: Petitioners, Antidumping cases, Bown data, markups

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