

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Reinvigorating growth amid global trade uncertainties

Strategic options for RVCs

G24 Technical Group Meeting, Abuja, 20 February 2026



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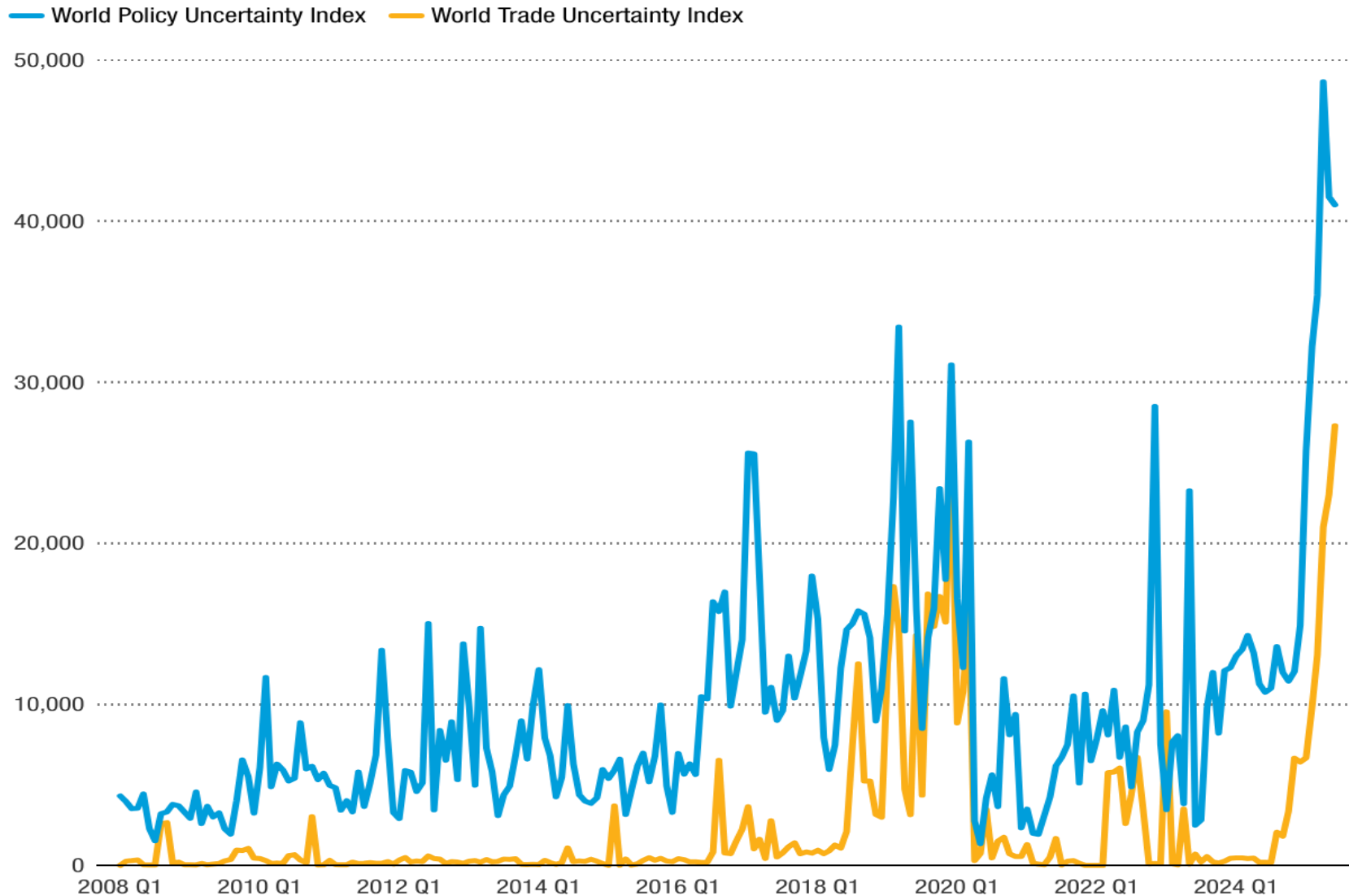


Overview

- 1. Trade, growth and global uncertainties**
- 2. Policy shift and GVC reconfiguration**
- 3. Strategic options for RVCs**

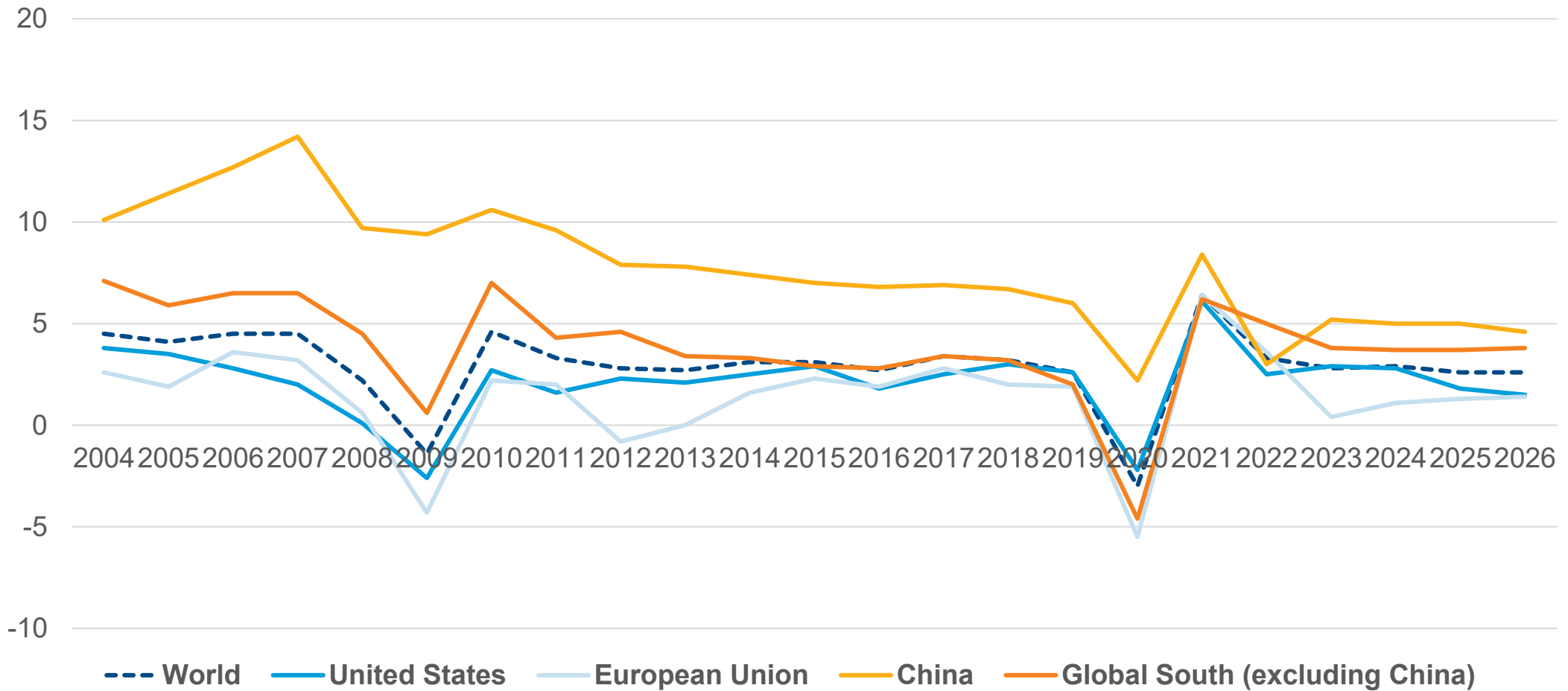


Trade policy uncertainties rose disrupting international trade

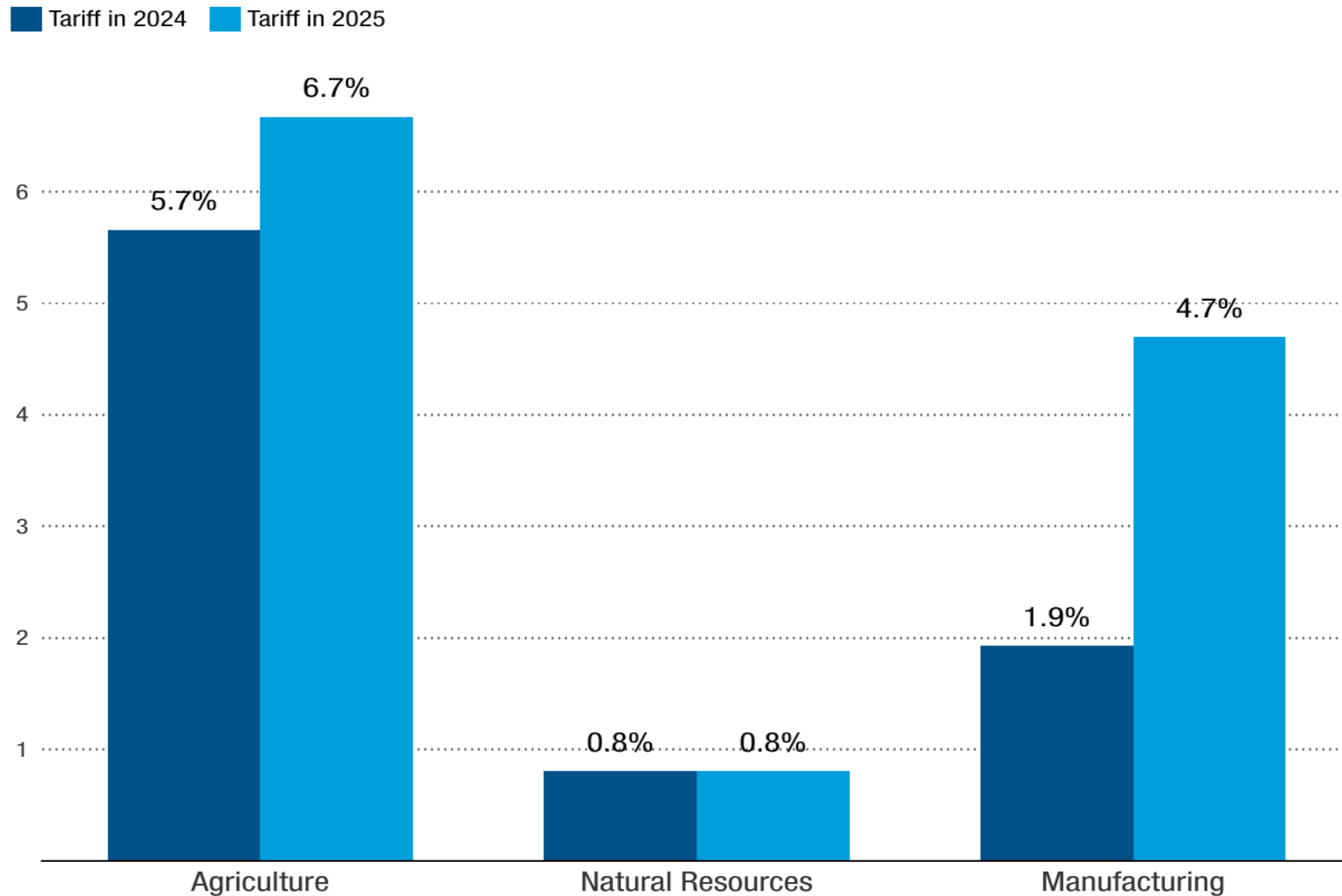




Slower growth limits final demand & financial resources

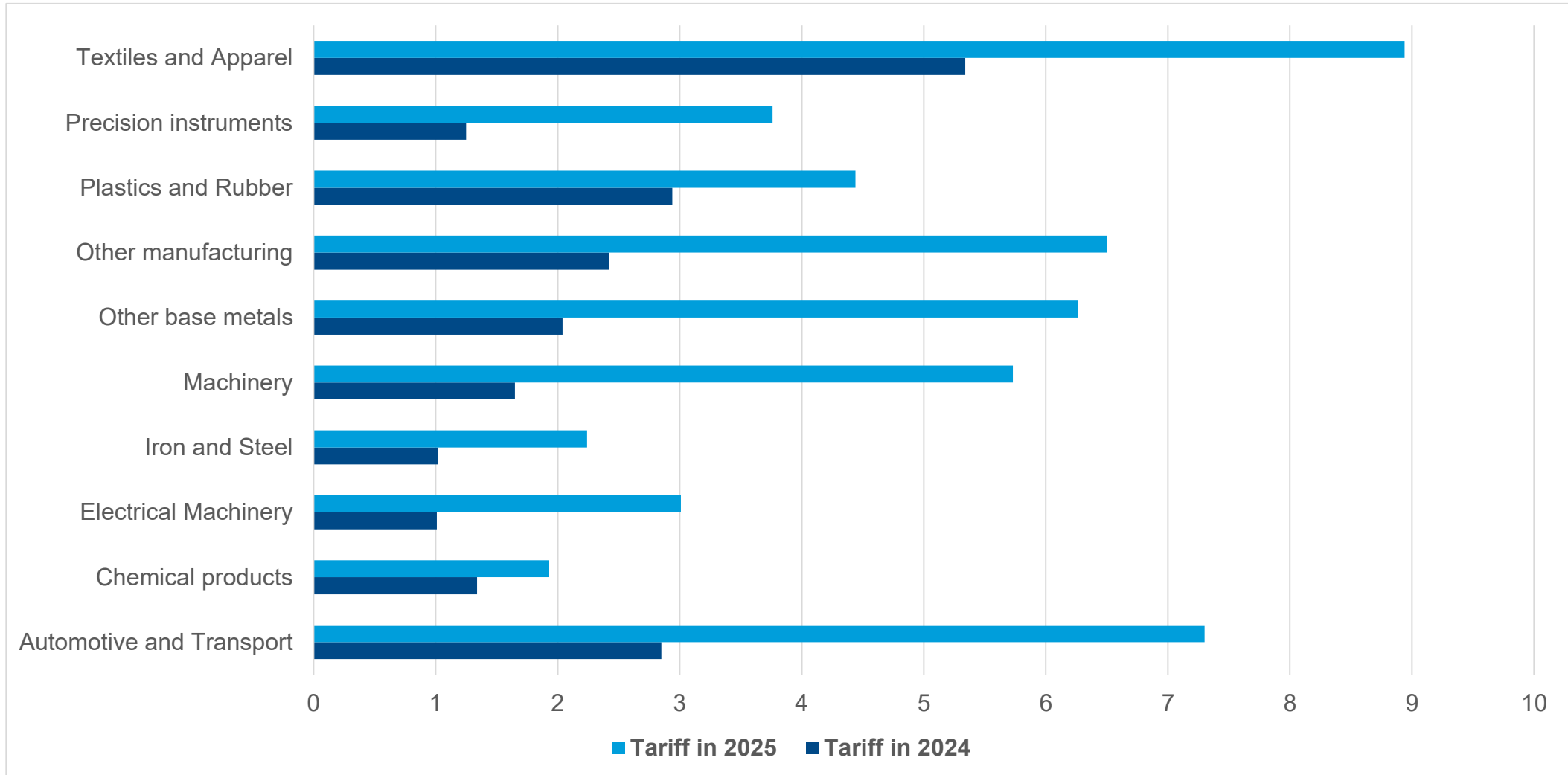


Tariff spikes aggravate uncertainties

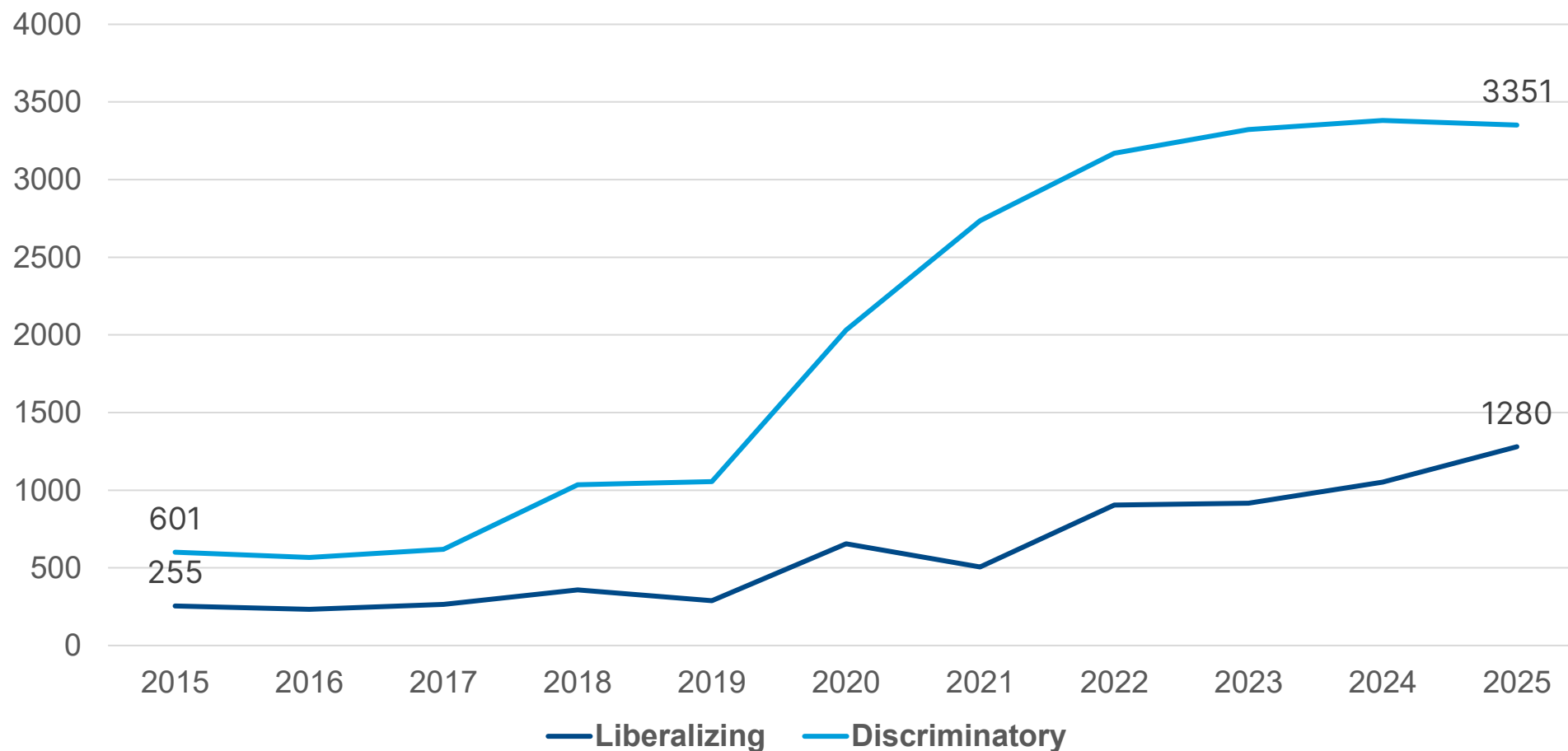




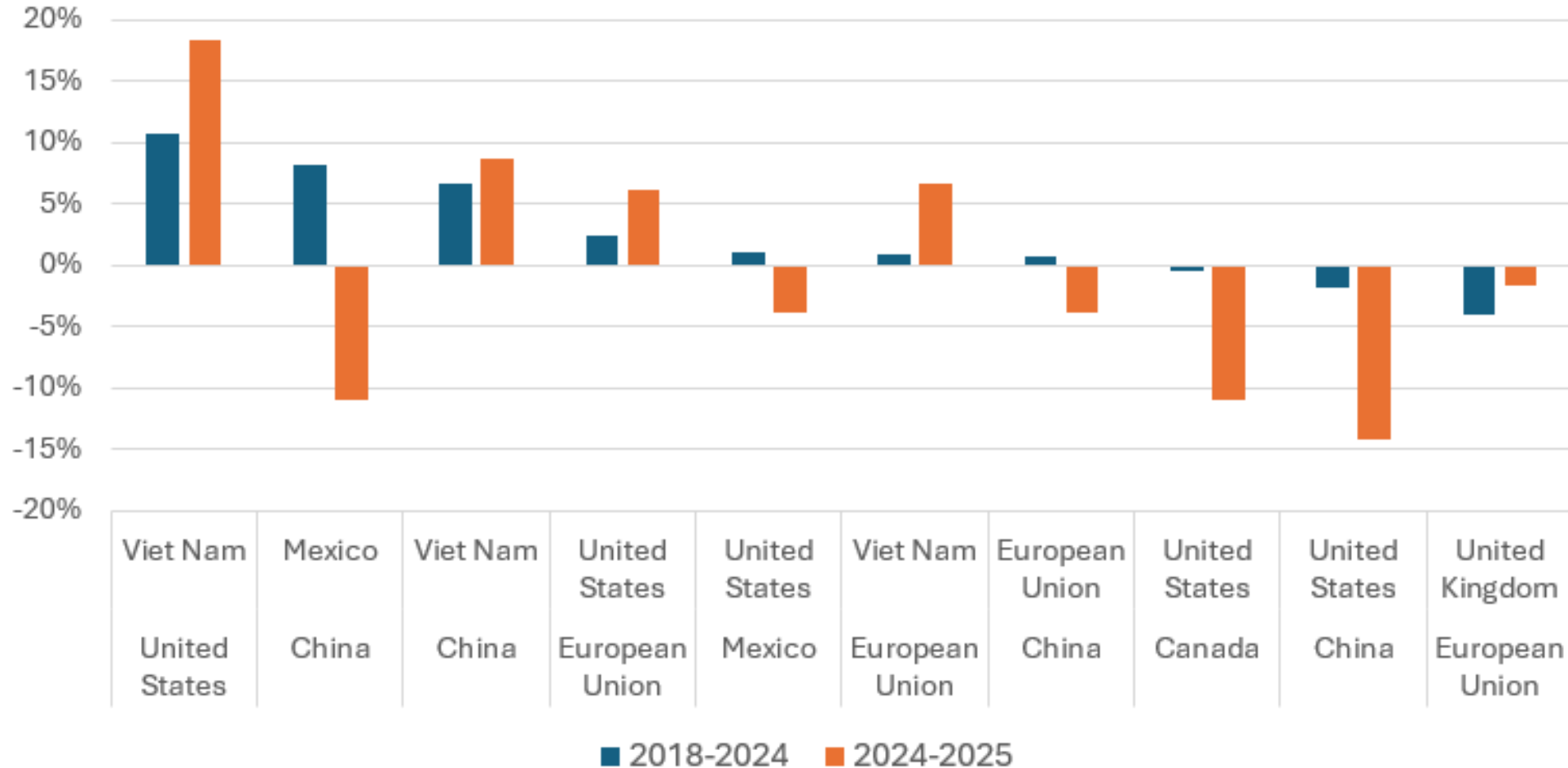
Manufacturing – Key sector in GVC trade most affected



Trade policy environment became increasingly more restrictive

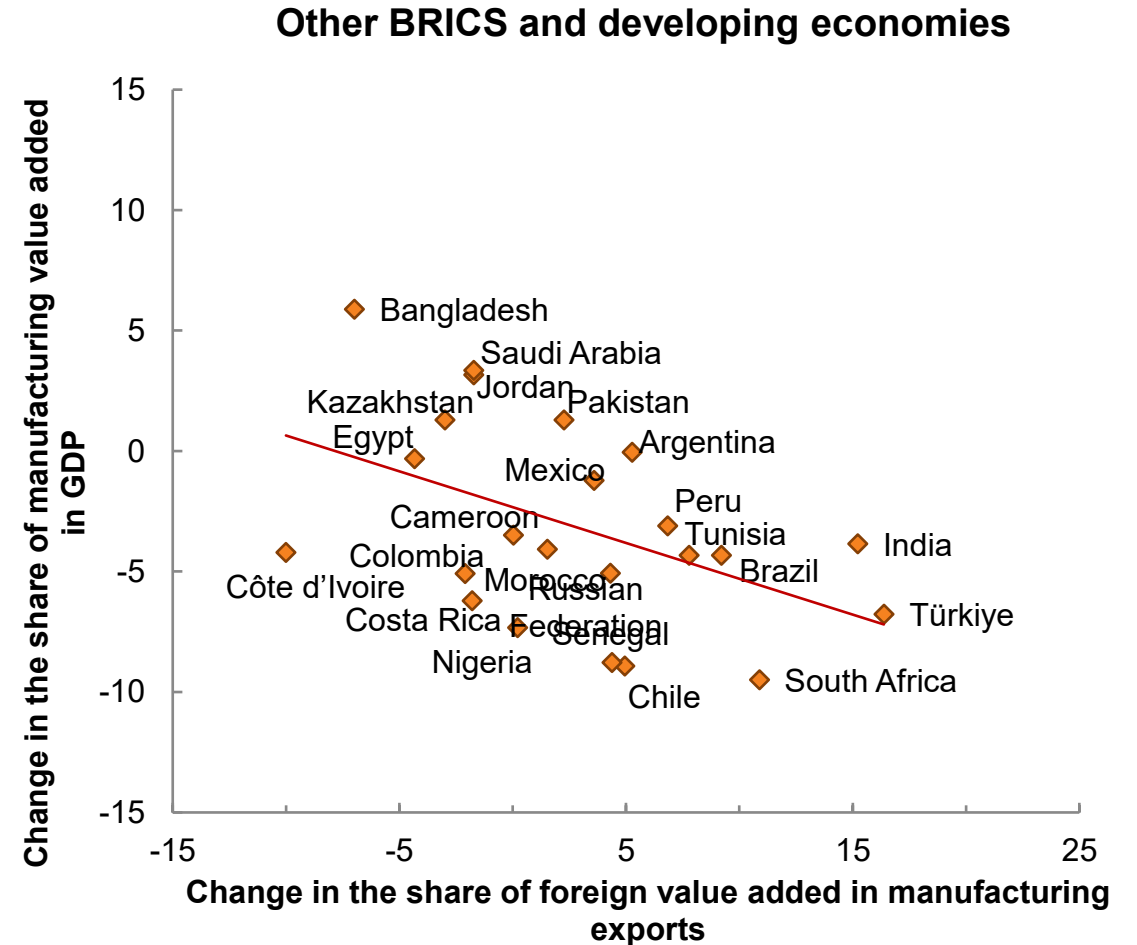
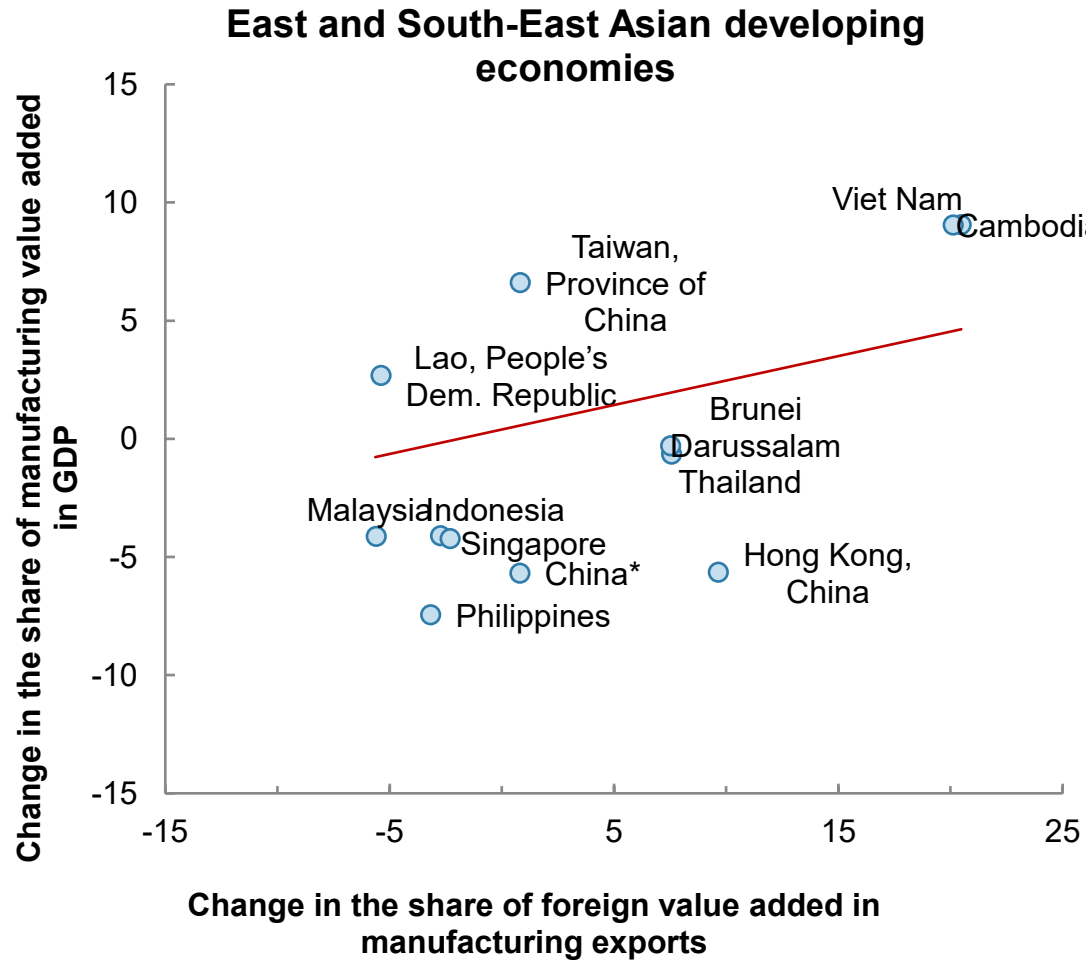


➤ GVCs reconfigure creating new hubs & trade routes

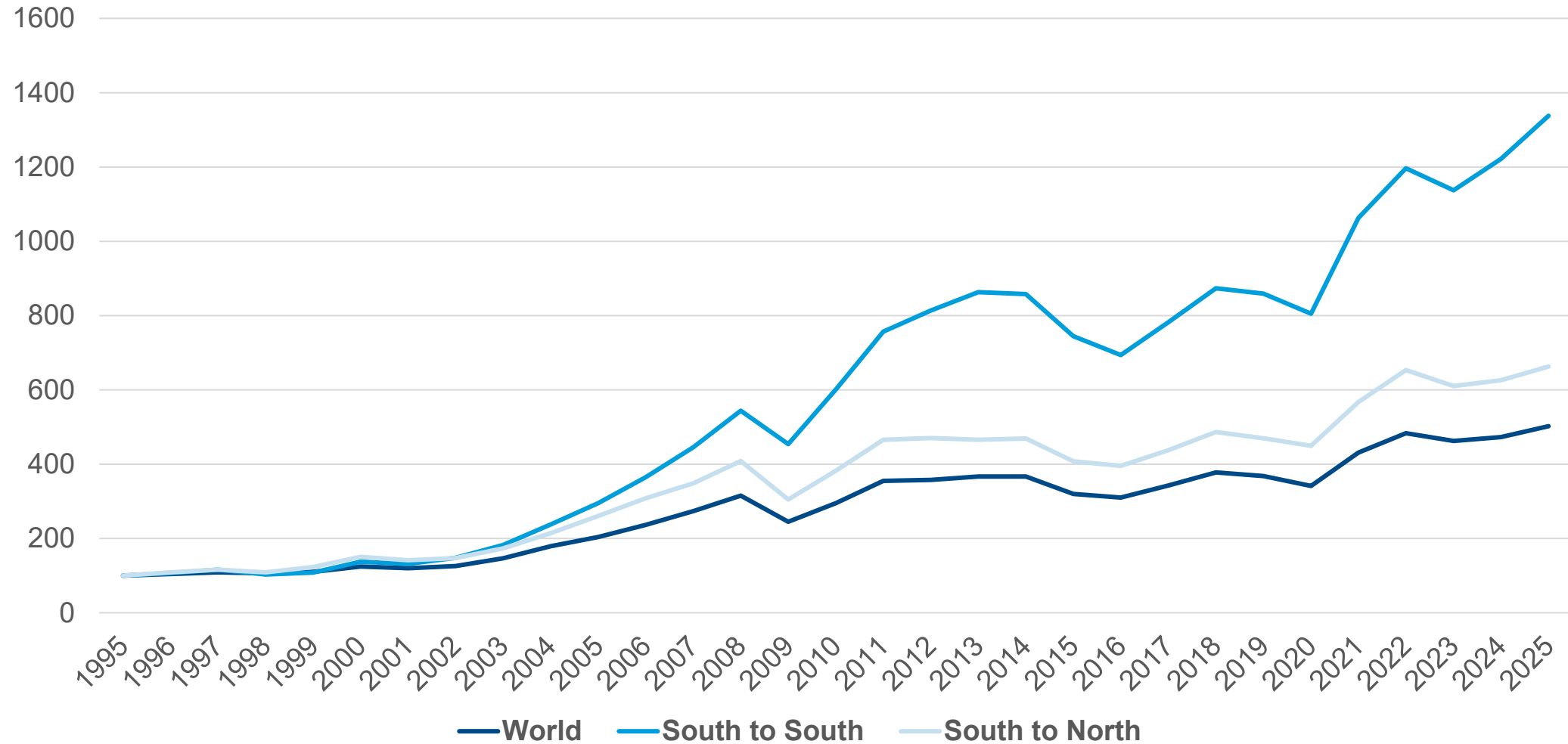




GVC participation vs productive capacities



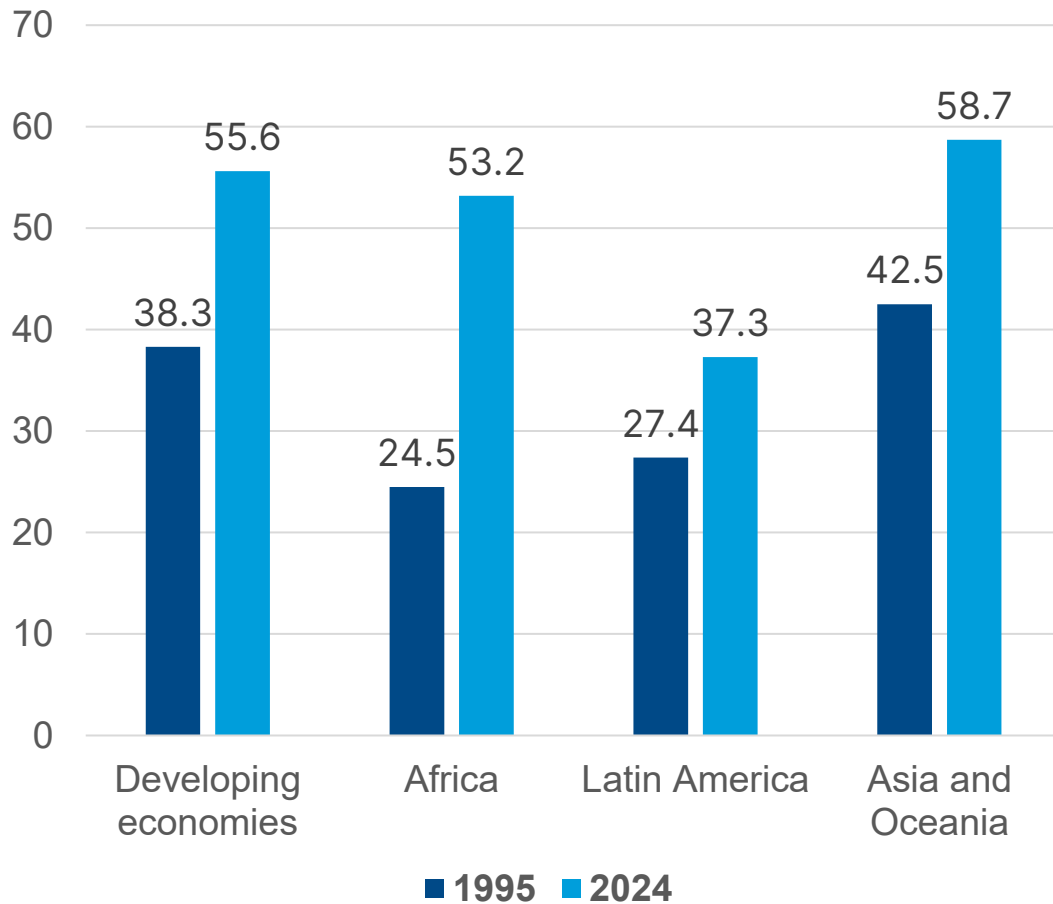
➤ Dynamic South-South trade: Opportunities for diversification and resilience



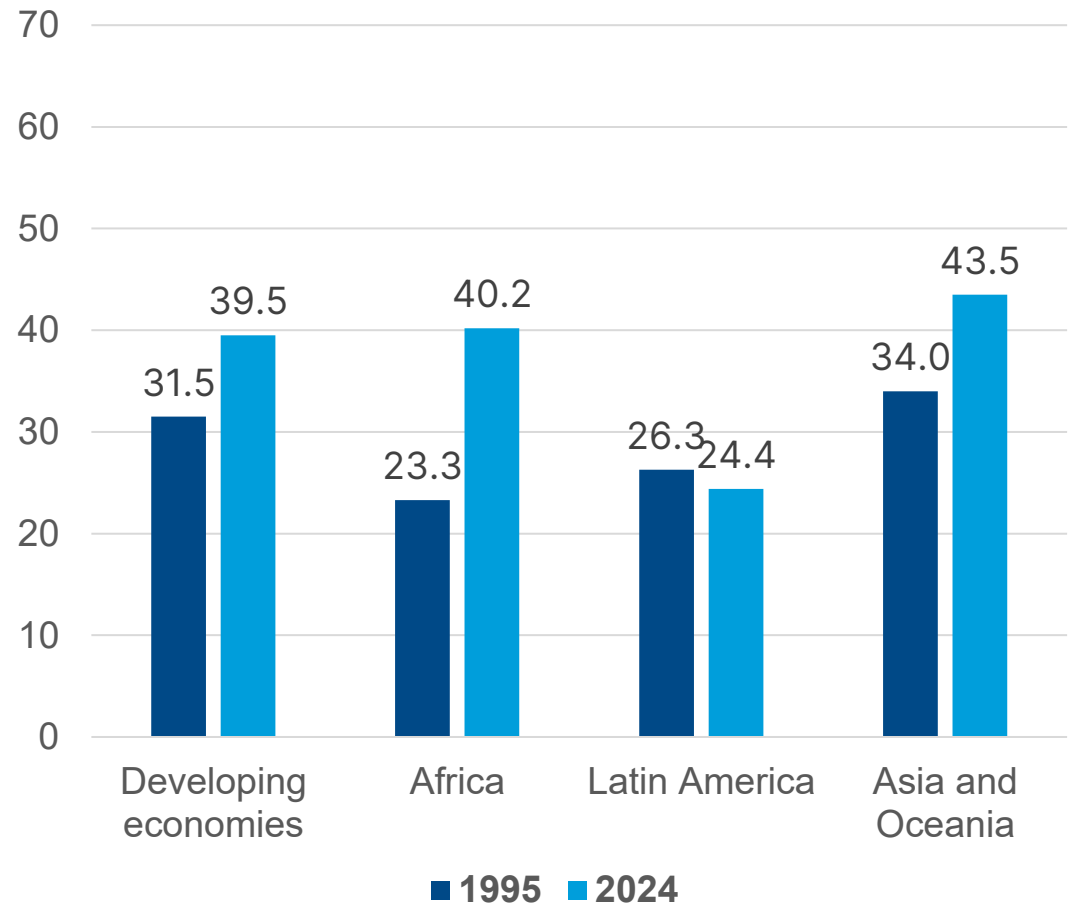


South-South trade grow, even without China

Share of developing countries in merchandise exports by region (per cent)



Share of developing countries (excluding China) in merchandise exports by region (per cent)



➤ Opportunities for RVCs (1): Infrastructure, logistics & finance

- Enabling infrastructure – Logistics, transport corridors
- Trade finance and credit
- SMEs development
- FDI promotion and facilitation
- Payment system & digital platform
- Other services activities as enablers

➤ Opportunities for RVCs (2): Trade, industrial & investment policies

- Regional integration (tariffs, NTMs)
- Regulatory harmonization, cooperation & infrastructure development
- Industrial policies (for greater value addition – CETMs)
- MTS as a cornerstone of the rules-based system (MFN) + WTO reform at MC14
- SS cooperation – Intra & inter-regional (GSTP)

UNCTAD Global Trade Update

Explore UNCTAD's Global Trade Update from January 2026:
<https://ow.ly/fZF350XY7Fh>



JANUARY 2026

UN trade & development | Global trade update

Policy Insights
Top trends redefining global trade in 2026

KEY TRENDS

- 1 **Global economic and trade growth slows** – developing countries will face headwinds.
- 2 **Updating the rules** – WTO reform at a crossroads for global trade in 2026.
- 3 **Tariffs on the rise** – increased protectionism may trigger greater policy uncertainty.
- 4 **Value chains continue to reconfigure** – geopolitics redraws trade and investment maps.
- 5 **Servicification of trade** – exports of services continue to grow faster than goods.
- 6 **South-South trade surge** – developing countries drive global export growth.
- 7 **Sustainable trade** – environment will continue to be part of global trade initiatives.
- 8 **Critical minerals** – oversupply and geopolitics may destabilize trade and global value chains.
- 9 **Feeding the future** – agricultural trade will remain fundamental to food security.
- 10 **Trade regulations tighten** – national policies reshape global commerce.

Thank you

