



The import market in Colombia and the firms that import

Download Keep in mind

The series Working Papers on Economics is published by the Office for Economic Studies at the *Banco de la República* (Central Bank of *Colombia*). It contributes to the dissemination and promotion of the work by researchers from the institution. This series is indexed at Research Papers in Economics (RePEc).

On multiple occasions, these works have been the result of collaborative work with individuals from other national or international institutions. The works published are provisional, and their authors are fully responsible for the opinions expressed in them, as well as for possible mistakes. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Banco de la República or its Board of Directors.

AUTHOR OR EDITOR García-García, Jorge Montes-Uribe, Enrique Silva-Rodríguez, Juan Sebastián Zárate-Solano, Héctor Manuel

The series Borradores de Economía (Working Papers on Economics) contributes to the dissemination and promotion of the work by researchers from the institution. On multiple occasions, these works have been the result of collaborative work with individuals from other national or international institutions. This series is indexed at Research Papers in Economics (RePEc). The opinions contained in this document are the sole responsibility of the author and do not commit Banco de la República or its Board of Directors.

Publication Date: Friday, 30 of September 2022 Abstract

Numerous studies exist about exports at the firm level in Colombia, but only a few exist about the market for imports and the importing firms. This study seeks to fill that gap by looking at the dynamics of imports, the market for imports and the role of importing firms in Colombia between 1995 and 2019. The study uses the information in the import declaration (Form DIAN 500) that importers have to present to Dirección de Impuestos y Aduanas Nacionales (DIAN) to clear imports from customs. The study finds that the import market in Colombia is quite heterogenous; few economic agents account for a large share of the imported value; a large number of small importers purchase small amounts of foreign goods; firms have a high rate of entry and exit in the import market; a small share of firms imported every year; and commodities not imported have a larger number of tariff measures than the imported ones.