

README

"The China Syndrome: A misdiagnosis?"

Alessandro Barattieri and Aaditya Mattoo (2026)

World Bank Policy Research Working Paper Series

Overview:

This replication package consists of the codes to produce the original figures in the paper: Figure 1, Figure 3, Figure 6b, Figure 8b. All other Figures are reproduced from other sources.

Please follow the instructions below to replicate the figures of the paper. The whole replication process should take less than 20 minutes in most cases. Replication requires Stata.

Folder Structure and Main Files:

README.rtf this readme file

1_DATASETS: original datasets are saved here and described below

1_DATASETS/Temp: a series of intermediate datasets that are produced by the do files and stored

2_CODES: contains the codes needed to reproduce the Figures, named with the Number of the Figures.

3_RESULTS: Figures are saved here

3_RESULTS/temp: some auxiliary intermediate results figures are stored here.

Data Files:

1_DATASETS contains the following files:

- a) BACI_HS12_YXXXX_V202401 with X=2012...2022: trade data from CEPII BACI
- b) robot_wrk_industry_by_country_250522: robots per workers data
- c) table_skill_payroll_share_isic44d_rev: a sector level measure of skill intensity.
- d) GDP_PC_WDI and GDP_WDI: GDP and GDP per capita from World Development Indicators
- e) TiVA_2025: from OECD
- f) EXGR_DVA_W from OECD
- g) HS6_ISIC4.txt a conversion table from HS 6 to ISIC Rev4
- h) New_Comprehensive_January_22_2026: Contains the data from the World Bank Enterprise Survey to analyze firm size.
- i) A few auxiliary files:
 1. WB classification (Classification-economies-23): classification of economies
 2. Regions (Regions_TOMerge): just contains world bank regions
 3. Income levels (Income_TOMerge): just contains income groups
 4. BACI_ISO_CODES: conversion of numeric country code to alphabetical country codes.

Data Availability Statement:

1. International Trade Data

Trade data are from the CEPII BACI

Source: UN Comtrade

Year: 2025

URL: https://www.cepii.fr/DATA_DOWNLOAD/baci/doc/baci_webpage.html

Access Type: Open

Access Date (Month-Year): January 2024

Datafiles: BACI_HS12_YXXXX_V202401 with X=2012...2022

2. International Federation of Robotics Data

The robot data is sourced from the International Federation of Robotics

Source: International Federation of Robotics

Year: 2025

URL: <https://ifr.org/>

Access Type: Restricted

Access procedure: You can purchase [International Federation of Robotics \(IFR\) Statistics & World Robotics Reports](#) data directly through the VDMA online shop or via the IFR World Robotics Info Page.

Access Date (Month-Year): May 2025

Note: To convert the robot stock into robots per 1,000 workers, we use 1995 employment data by industry from Trade in employment (TiM) 2023 edition. URL: [OECD Data Explorer • Trade in employment \(TiM\) 2023 edition](#)

Datafiles: robot_wrk_industry_by_country_250522

3. TRADE IN VALUE ADDED DATA

The trade in value added data is sourced from OECD TiVA

Source: OECD

Year: 1995-2022

URL: <https://data-explorer.oecd.org/?pg=0&bp=true&snb=15&tm=TIVA>

Access Type: Open

Access Date (Month-Year): September 2025

Datafiles: EXGR_DVA_W, TiVA_2025

4. GDP and GDP PER CAPITA DATA

Source: World Development Indicators (WDI)

Year: 2016 (GDP) 1995-2022 (GDP per capita)

URL: <https://databank.worldbank.org/source/world-development-indicators>

Access Date (Month-Year): September 2026 for GDP, May 2025 for GDP per capita

Access Type: Open

World Bank, 2026. World Development Indicators. [dataset].

<https://databank.worldbank.org/source/world-development-indicators>.

Datafiles: GDP_PC_WDI and GDP_WDI

5. Firm Size

Source: World Bank Enterprise Survey

URL: <https://login.enterprisesurveys.org/en/signin>

Countries downloaded (year): Afghanistan (2025), Albania (2025), Angola (2024), Armenia (2024), Austria (2025), Azerbaijan (2024), Bahrain (2024), Barbados (2023), Belgium (2024), Benin (2024), Bhutan (2024), Bolivia (2025), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2023), Botswana (2023), Brunei Darussalam (2025), Bulgaria (2023), Burkina Faso (2024), Burundi (2025), Cabo Verde (2024), Cambodia (2023), Cameroon (2024), Canada (2024), Central African Republic (2023), Chad (2023), China (2024), Colombia (2023), Comoros (2025), Congo (2024), Costa Rica (2023), Croatia (2023), Cyprus (2024), Czechia (2024), Côte d'Ivoire (2023), DRC (2024), Ecuador (2024), El Salvador (2023), Equatorial Guinea (2024), Estonia (2023), Eswatini (2024), Ethiopia (2025), Federal Republic of Somalia (2025), Gambia (2023), Georgia (2023), Ghana (2023), Greece (2023), Guinea-Bissau (2025), Guinea (2025), Hong Kong SAR China (2023), Hungary (2023), Iceland (2024), Indonesia (2023), Ireland (2024), Israel (2024), Italy (2024), Jamaica (2024), Jordan (2024), Kazakhstan (2024), Kenya (2025), Kiribati (2025), Korea Republic (2024), Kuwait (2025), Kyrgyz Republic (2023), Lao PDR (2024), Latvia (2024), Lesotho (2023), Liberia (2025), Malawi (2025), Malaysia (2024), Mali (2024), Malta (2024), Mauritius (2023), Mexico (2023), Moldova (2024), Mongolia (2025), Montenegro (2023), Morocco (2023), Mozambique (2025), Namibia (2024), Nepal (2023), New Zealand (2023), Niger (2025), Nigeria (2025), North Macedonia (2023), Papua New Guinea (2024), Paraguay (2023), Peru (2023), Philippines (2023), Poland (2025), Portugal (2023), Romania (2023), Rwanda (2023), Samoa (2023), Sao Tome and Principe (2025), Senegal (2024), Serbia (2024), Seychelles (2023), Sierra Leone (2023), Singapore (2023), Slovak Republic (2023), Slovenia (2024), South Sudan (2024), Spain (2024), Sweden (2024), Taiwan China (2024), Tajikistan (2024), Tanzania (2023), Togo (2023), Tonga (2024), Trinidad and Tobago (2025), Tunisia (2024), Türkiye (2024), Turkmenistan (2024), Uganda (2025), United Kingdom (2024), United States (2024), Uruguay (2024), Uzbekistan (2024), Vanuatu (2023), Viet Nam (2023), West Bank And Gaza (2023)

Access Date (Month-Year): July 2026

Access Type: Restricted – requires registration.

Instruction: Once obtained the access, download each file and then append them, this is the starting point for the do-file we shared.

Datafiles: New_Comprehensive_January_22_2026

6 Sector level skill intensity

Source: Hannes Malmberg (2025) “Skill Bias and Development: Evidence from Trade and Industry Data” mimeo

Access Date (Month-Year): February 2026

Access Type: Restricted – ask author for permission.

Datafiles: table_skill_payroll_share_isic44d_rev

7 Classifications WB (auxiliary files)

Source: <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519>

Access Date (Month-Year): January 2023

Access Type: open

Datafiles: Classification-economies-23.dta (INCOME_TOMERGE, REGIONS_TOMERGE are coming from the same file, just renaming variables to make the merge easier).

8 BACI country codes (auxiliary file)

Source: http://www.cepii.fr/CEPII/en/bdd_modele/bdd_modele_item.asp?id=37.

Access Date (Month-Year): January 2024

Access Type: open

Datafiles: BACI_ISO_CODES

9 Conversion table HS6 – ISIC Rev4

Source: (<https://observatory.huzaifazoom.org/blog/2022/04/18/hs-isic-correspondence-table/>)

Access Date (Month-Year): January 2026

Access Type: Public

Datafiles: HS6_ISIC4.txt

Statement about Rights:

We certify that the authors of the manuscript have legitimate access to and permission to use the data used in this manuscript.

Instructions for Replicators:

To replicate all figures in one go, run Main_replication_file.do. If interested in a particular figure, run the do files corresponding to the figure you desire to replicate: figure_1.do, figure_3.do, Figure_8b.do. For Figure 6b first run “Figure_6b_data_claning.do” and then “Figure_6b_data_analysis.do”.

Software Requirements

Stata 18

Time required: 15 minutes.