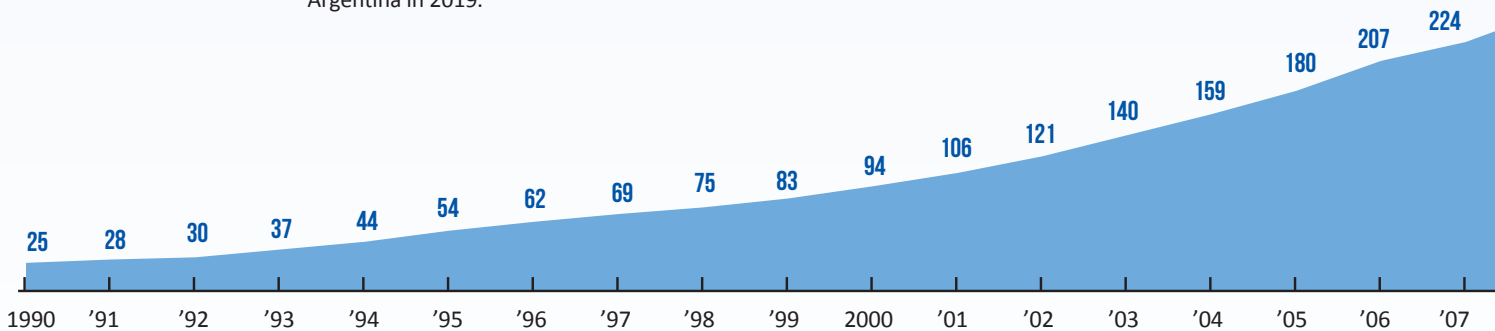
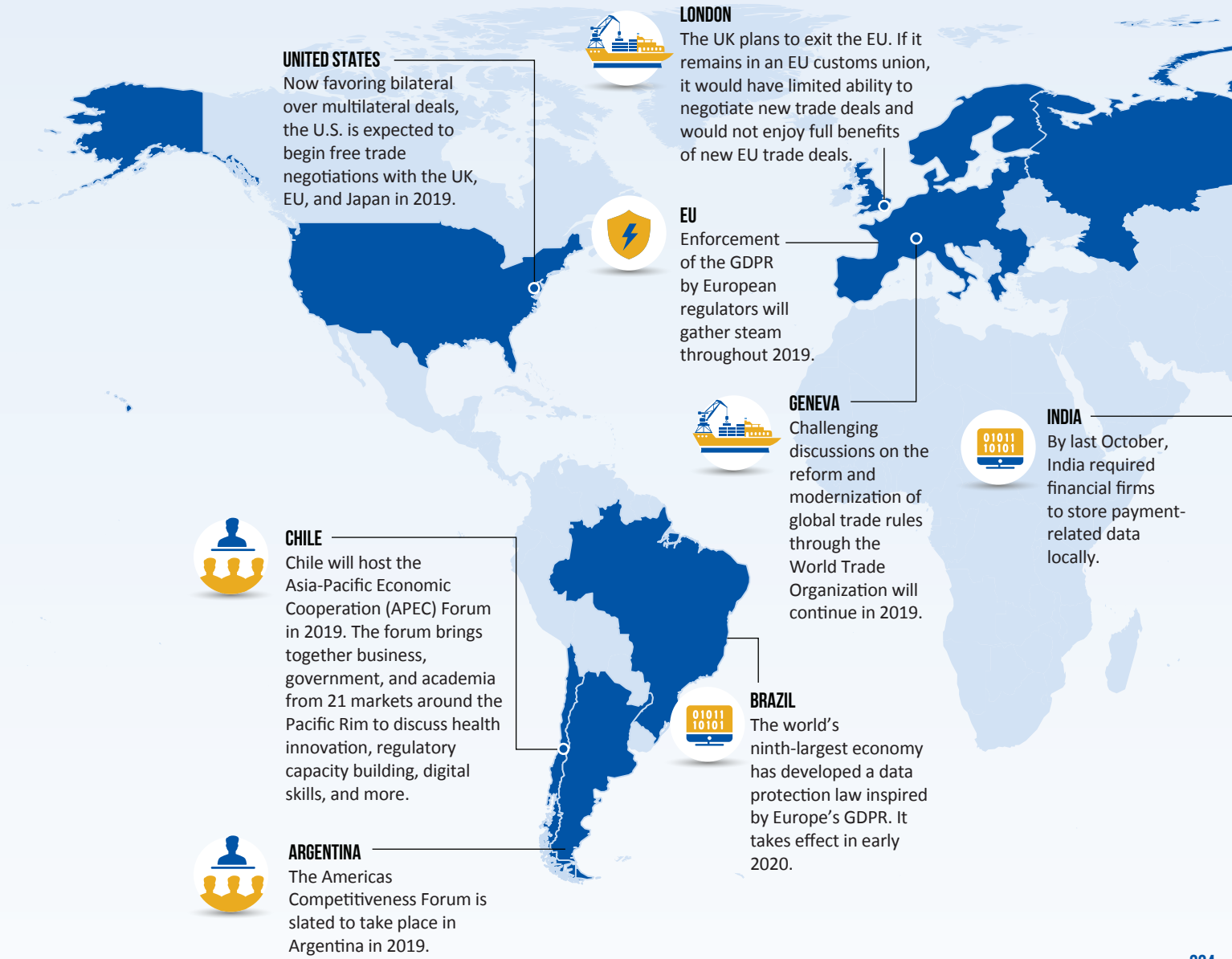


# HOT SPOTS FOR 2019

It could be an unpredictable year. Here's what businesses should watch out for around the world in some key areas.

- ACTIVITIES** 
- CONFERENCES** 
- TRADE** 
- ENFORCEMENT** 
- IP** 
- DATA** 





### RUSSIA

Enforcement of sanctions violations is expected to increase in countries such as Russia. Unique among nations, Russian companies are subject to “sectoral” sanctions that apply only to particular lines of business.



### TOKYO

In June, Osaka will host the G20 summit, one of the primary platforms for global economic coordination.



The EU-Japan free trade agreement, entered into force Feb. 1, formed the world’s largest trade bloc.



### BEIJING

Trade and broader geopolitical tensions between the U.S. and China could worsen in 2019, as the U.S. continues to implement Section 301 tariffs on Chinese imports and China maintains retaliatory measures.



### GUANGZHOU

Guangzhou hosts one of China’s three U.S. Patent Office IP attachés. (The other two are in Shanghai and Beijing.) The attaché provides advice and advocacy on IP rights.



Expect a rise in U.S. enforcement of anti-money laundering and sanctions laws against companies in Asia, many of which have lagged in compliance investments.



China says it expects negotiations of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership to finalize in 2019. The agreement’s 16 countries account for about half the global population.



## REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS

The number of regional trade agreements has increased rapidly since 1990.

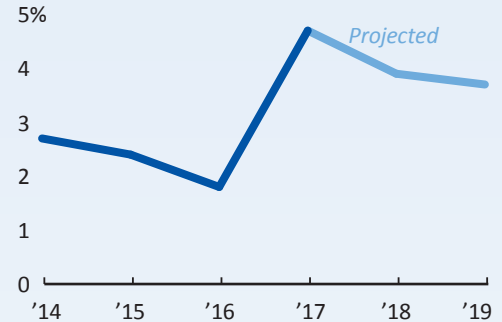
Source: World Trade Organization

## SLOWDOWN AHEAD

A trade slowdown is expected in 2019 along with a slowdown in global GDP growth.

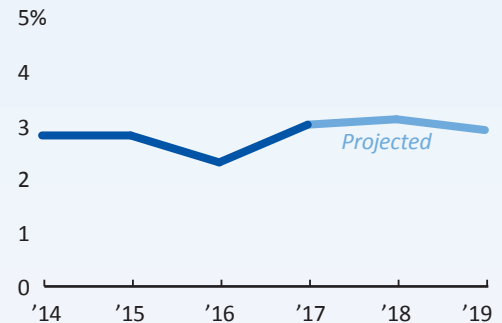
### VOLUME OF WORLD MERCHANDISE TRADE

Percent change



### REAL GDP AT MARKET EXCHANGE RATES

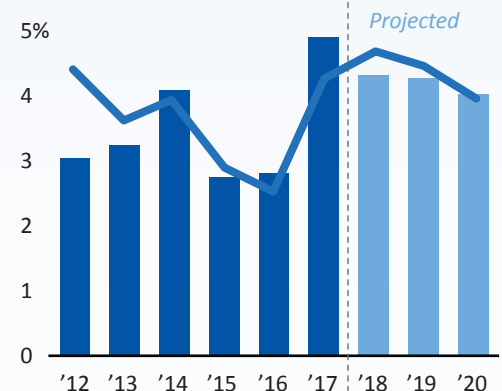
Percent change



Source: World Trade Organization

### GLOBAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT VOLUME THROUGH 2020

Trade Investment



Source: World Bank