Preface

Even though trade costs are currently of great interest, little is known about the magnitude, determinants, and consequences of trade costs.

Jacks et al., 2009, p. 3

This book is about measuring and explaining the size of trade costs, which is a separate question from theorizing about or estimating the consequences of trade costs, although the two literatures obviously overlap. Chapters 2 and 3 primarily report our own published work, drawing conceptually on the seminal paper by David Hummels (2007) advocating the cif–fob measure of trade costs and utilizing the relatively scarce appropriate national trade statistics. We are grateful to the School of Economics at the University of Adelaide for purchasing the data on which our cif–fob calculations are based. Patricia Sourdin also contributed to companion papers written for various research projects at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), coordinated by Jane Korinek; at the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), coordinated by Misa Okabe and So Umezaki; and for Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), coordinated by Christopher Findlay.

Papers developing the methodology and presenting our results have been presented at workshops and conferences organized by the International Economics Association in Istanbul (2008), the American Committee on Asian Economic Studies in Rimini (2008), the Forum for Research in Empirical International Trade in Melbourne (2009), the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia in Jakarta (2010), and the European Trade Study Group in Lausanne (2010), as well as in seminars at the Universities of Adelaide, South Australia and Western Australia, Curtin University, Monash University, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Sciences Po Paris, Università di Trento and the Australian National University. We are grateful for comments received from participants.

Some parts of this book draw on our past work published in the following articles:

- ‘Have Asian trade agreements reduced trade costs?’ *Journal of Asian Economics*, **20** (3), May 2009, 255–68.
- ‘Trade facilitation and the measurement of trade costs’, *Journal of International Commerce, Economics and Policy*, **1** (1), April 2010, 145–63.
- ‘Why do Trade Costs Vary?’ *Review of World Economics (Weltwirtschaftliches Archiv)*, **146** (4), December 2010, 709–30.

We are grateful to the publishers for permission to use this material and to reprint some of the figures.