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The Numbers Brad Pitt Should Remember

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Sebastian Mallaby concluded his Nov. 21 op-ed column about Brad Pitt boning up on world trade ["Trade and Aid: Stars Are Aligned"] with the advice that there are always winners and losers from trade, but that the World Bank says developing countries would be net winners from complete trade liberalization, gaining \$135 billion a year. "If Pitt and his friends feel fuzzy about trade, that's the number to remember," Mr. Mallaby wrote.

Not so, according to the World Bank. The bank's new projections, which Mr. Mallaby quoted selectively, include the following numbers on the effects of what its authors call a "likely Doha reform scenario":

Developing country income gains are \$16 billion, not \$135 billion; that is less than a penny a day per person in the developing world.

Benefits to those in rich countries are 25 times as great per capita.

The impact on global poverty is negligible, affecting just 2.5 million people worldwide, less than 1 percent of the world's poor.

Among the countries and regions that come out as net losers are Bangladesh, the Middle East and Africa.

The only thing fuzzy was Mr. Mallaby's selective use of World Bank research.

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