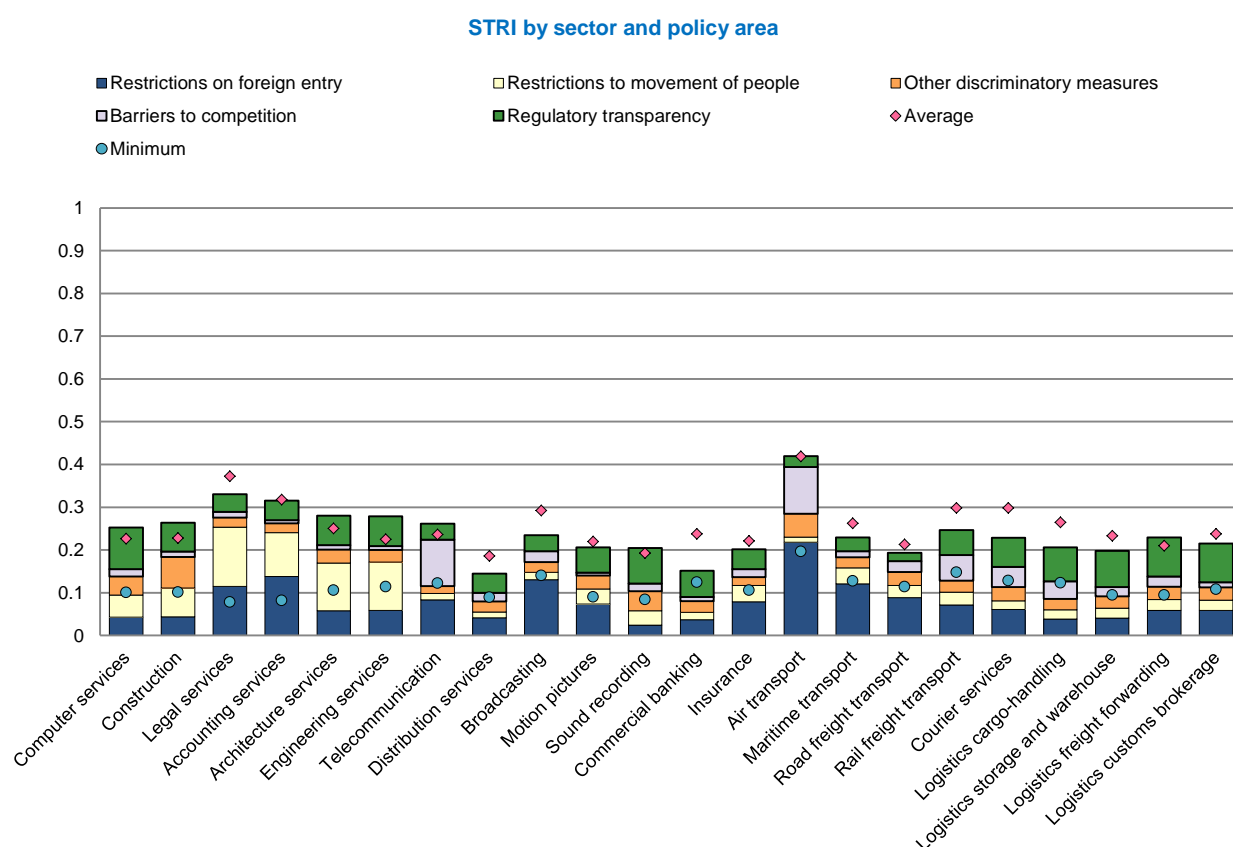


## OECD Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI): Spain

Spain exported services worth USD 117.9 billion and its services import value was USD 64.7 billion in 2015. Travel and other business services are the largest services exporting importing sectors.

Spain's score on the STRI in the 22 sectors is shown below, along with the average and the lowest score among the 44 countries included in the STRI database for each sector.



*Note:* The STRI indices take values between zero and one, one being the most restrictive. They are calculated on the basis of the STRI regulatory database which contains information on regulation for the 35 OECD Members, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, India, Indonesia, Lithuania, Russia and South Africa. The STRI database records measures on a Most Favoured Nations basis. Preferential trade agreements are not taken into account. Air transport and road freight cover only commercial establishment (with accompanying movement of people).

### Horizontal policy measures

Spain has a lower STRI score than the sample average in 14 out of 22 sectors. Spain has a liberal regime on the mobility of people, although the duration of stay in the country is limited to 24 months on their first entry permit, and wage parity with local employees is required for intra-corporate transferees. The standards for the cross-border transfer of personal data are set at the EU level. Transfers to non-EEA economies can only take place when these ensure an adequate level of protection that is substantially similar to that required in the EU or when private data processors, both senders and receivers, establish various safeguards approved by the data protection authorities. Public procurement regulations rely on the principle of non-discrimination, but foreign suppliers are required to present documentation showing that their country of origin grants reciprocity to Spanish companies. There is also at least one major state-owned enterprise in banking, broadcasting, courier services, and rail freight transport. In banking, public ownership stems from recapitalisations during the financial crisis.

### The sectors with the relatively lowest STRI scores

Cargo-handling, commercial banking and courier services are the three sectors with the lowest score relative to average in Spain. Cargo-handling and courier services are fully liberalised with only minor regulations that could impede competition. In cargo-handling, LogiRail, a subsidiary of Renfe, is owned by the Government. In banking, the Government maintains majority ownership in BFA-Bankia, Spain's fourth largest bank, but there are no limits to ownership by foreign investors. There are almost no other limitations in the sector.

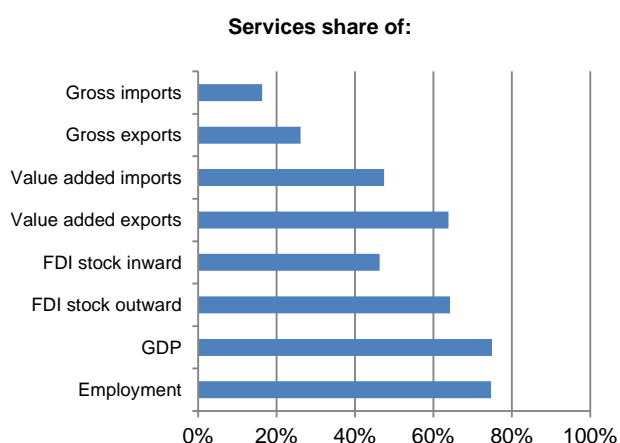
### The sectors with the relatively highest STRI scores

Construction, architecture and engineering services are the three sectors with the highest score relative to the average in Spain. At least one engineer must be licensed for the issuance of construction permits, otherwise the score for construction services is mainly driven by horizontal measures. For both architecture and engineering services a license is required to practice and the two professions are regulated very similarly. Domicile, local practice and a local exam are required to obtain the license, and the majority of capital of architecture and engineering firms must be owned by licensed professionals. The majority of equity partners of such firms must also be licensed architects or engineers.

### Recent policy changes

No significant policy changes are recorded for the period 2015-16.

### Efficient services sectors matter



Services account for 26% of Spain's gross exports, but 64% in value added terms. This indicates that Spain's exports of goods rely intensively on services inputs. Cost effective state of the art services are therefore of utmost importance for the competitiveness of the Spanish industrial sector. Services also account for three-quarter of GDP and employment, which implies that earnings and aggregate demand depend significantly on productivity in services sectors. Spain could further increase the efficiency of its economy by prioritising reforms that enhance competition in services markets. The STRI suggests that this may be particularly the case for business services and construction, both of which are essential inputs in downstream industries.

### More information

- » Access all of the country notes, sector notes and interactive STRI tools on the OECD website at <http://oe.cd/stri>
- » Contact the OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorate with your questions at [stri.contact@oecd.org](mailto:stri.contact@oecd.org)