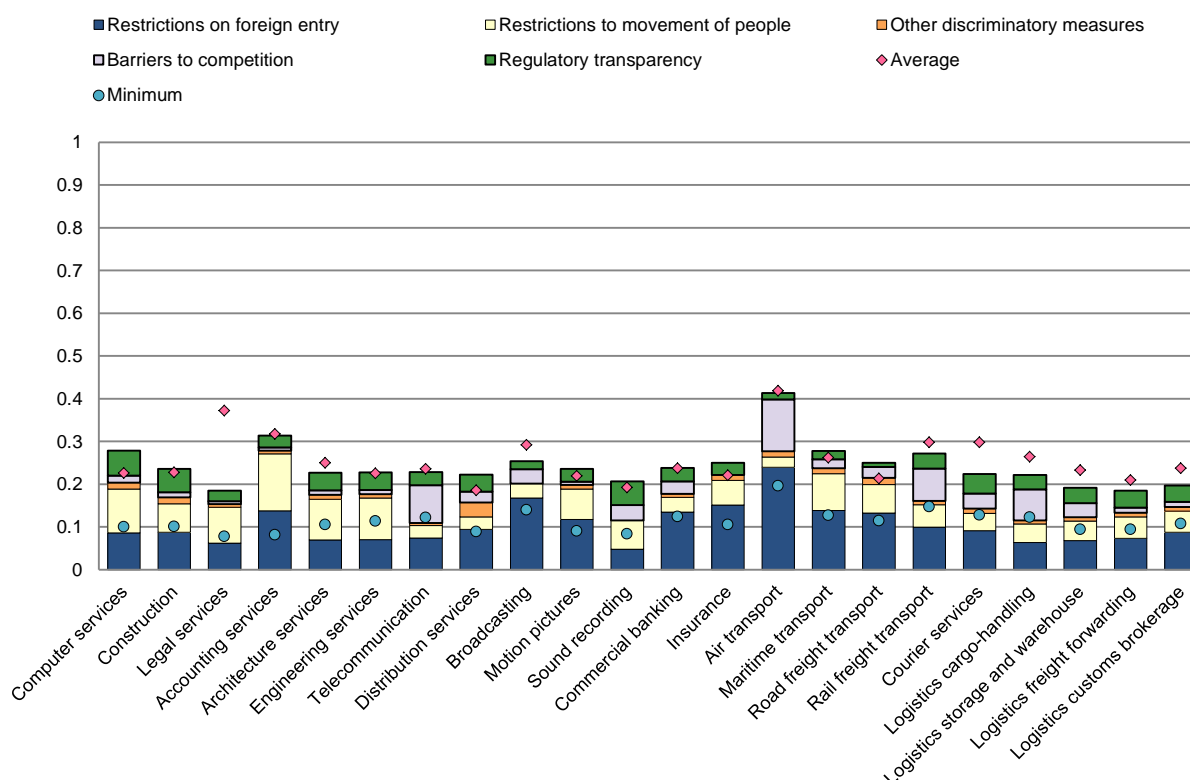


## OECD Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI): Finland

Finland exported services worth USD 24.3 billion and its services imports amounted to USD 25.8 billion in 2015. Transport services are the largest category of both services exports and imports. Finland's score on the STRI index 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.

STRI by sector and policy area



*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

Finland's scores on the STRIs are below the average in 12 out of 22 sectors. Finland applies labour market tests for workers seeking to provide services in the country on a temporary basis as intra-corporate transferees, contractual services suppliers or independent services suppliers. These categories may stay in the country for up to 12 months on their first entry permit. At least one board member and the manager (CEO) in corporations must be residents of Finland or the European Economic Area. Furthermore, rights of access to public procurement are limited to regional trade agreement partners and members of the WTO's Government Procurement Agreement. The standards for 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. Finally, Finland has a

restriction on the establishment of foreign branches and a minimum amount of capital must be deposited in a bank or with a notary in order to register a business.

### The sectors with the relatively lowest STRI scores

Legal services, courier and logistics storage and warehouse are the three sectors with the lowest score relative to the STRI average. Finland holds one of the most open regulatory regimes for legal services in the sample. The title “advocate” is protected and membership of the bar association is subject to similar qualifications and practice requirements as in most other countries, but with very few exceptions, advocates do not have exclusive rights to provide legal services. In courier services the state owns the postal services while there are no sector-specific restrictions in the logistics sector.

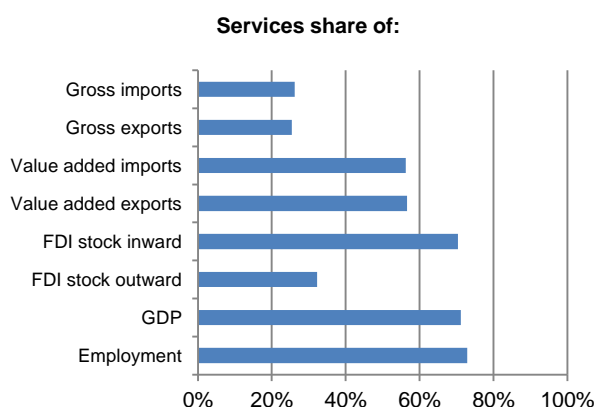
### The sectors with the relatively highest STRI scores

Road freight, distribution and computer services are the three sectors with the highest score relative to the average. Road freight and distribution are among the least restricted sectors in the STRI database. Road freight transport is subject to EU regulation that requires EU residence for the manager of a road transport operator and partly exempts road carrier agreements from anti-trust regulation. The major sector-specific regulation in distribution services is a state monopoly for retail sale of alcoholic beverages. In addition regulations on large format retailers and on seasonal sales contribute to the index. Regulation on opening hours was lifted in 2015. Computer services are not subject to any sector-specific trade restriction in Finland, which is also the case for the other countries covered by the STRI database. Therefore, relatively numerous horizontal restrictive measures explain the above average score.

### Recent policy changes

A major state owned construction enterprise, Destia, was privatised in 2014. In the distribution sector, shop opening hours were deregulated in 2015.

### Efficient services sectors matter



Services account for around 25% of Finland’s gross trade, and over half of its value added trade, indicating that Finland’s exports and imports of goods rely intensively on services inputs. Cost-effective, state of the art services are therefore of utmost importance for the competitiveness of the Finnish industrial sector. Finland has one of the most liberal regulatory regimes in the STRI database for professional services, but could further improve the efficiency of its economy by prioritising reforms that enhance competition particularly in the network sectors.

### 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)