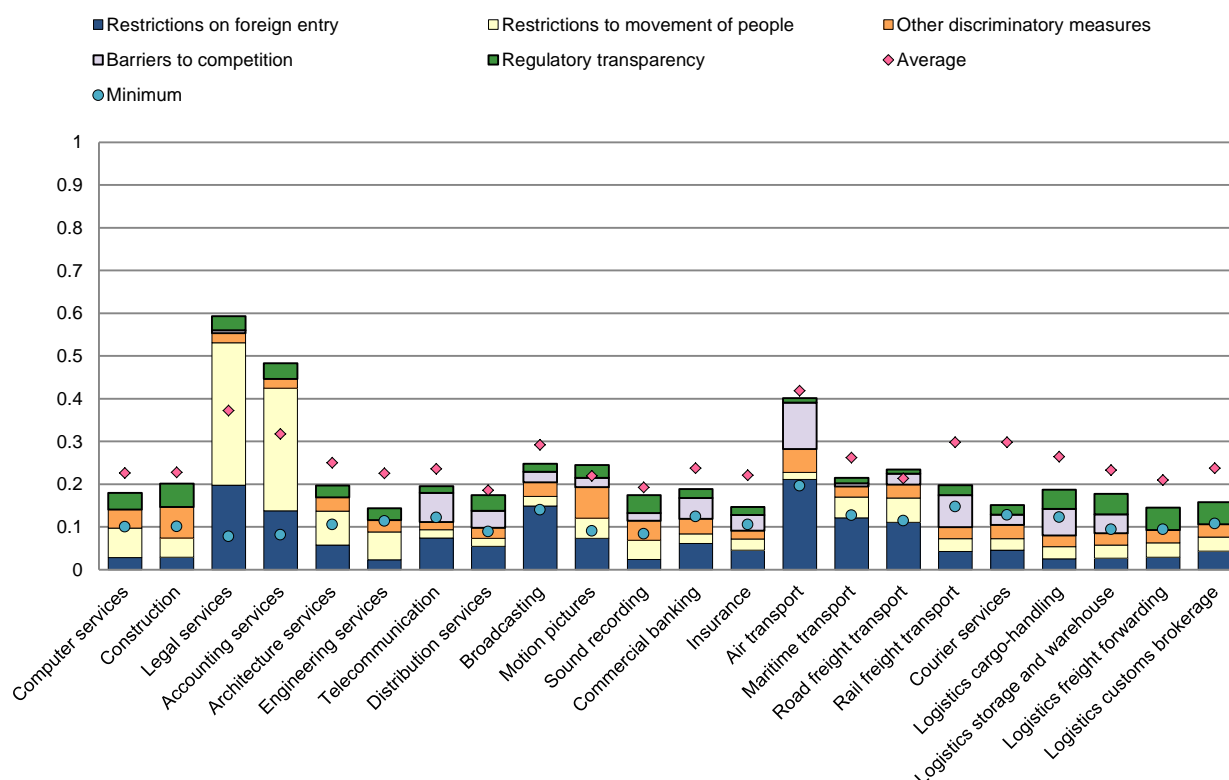


## OECD Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI): France

France exported services worth USD 240.7 billion and its services imports amounted to USD 227.8 billion in 2015. Other business services are the largest services exporting and importing sector. France's score on the STRI index in the 22 sectors is shown below, along with the average and lowest scores among the 44 countries included in the STRI database.

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

France has a below average score on the STRI index in 18 out of the 22 sectors covered. France applies labour market tests for workers seeking to provide services in the country on a temporary basis as contractual services suppliers or independent services suppliers. Intra-corporate transferees and independent services suppliers face a limitation on duration of stay in the country for up to 12 months on their first entry permit. 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. Rights under the Ordinance on Public Procurement are limited to partners in regional trade agreements and members of the WTO's Government Procurement Agreement.

### The sectors with the relatively lowest STRI scores

Courier services, rail freight transport and engineering services are the three sectors with the lowest score relative to the average in France. There are no foreign equity restrictions in the rail freight sector and transit and traffic rights are granted. The French National Railway Company SNCF Mobilités (Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer français), is a state-owned group part of the SNCF holding, and the major railway operator in France; otherwise the sector is by and large regulated according to best practice principles. La Poste, the major postal service company in France, is owned by the French government which is the majority shareholder. Other than that postal and courier services are not affected by sector-specific restrictions. The same is observed in the case of engineering services which is a profession not regulated in France.

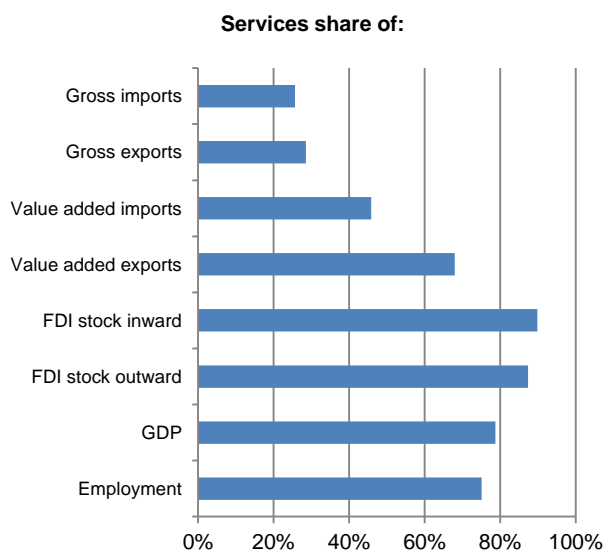
### The sectors with the relatively highest STRI scores

Motion pictures, accounting and legal services are the sectors with the highest score relative to the average in France. With regard to accounting services, the fact that foreign providers have to completely re-do the university degree, practice and exam in France creates a very restrictive regime both for auditing and accounting. In addition majority ownership and board membership by licensed professionals in auditing and accounting firms are required. Legal services are subject to a similar regulatory framework as accounting and auditing. In motion pictures, French cinemas are mandated to promote European films by reserving them a significant part of their programming, a requirement which is extended to videos on demand. Other sector-specific contributions to the score include import duties on films, tax breaks for film productions made in the EU, and local content obligations to perform dubbing.

### Recent policy changes

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

### Efficient services sectors matter



While services account for 29% of France's gross exports, they account for 68% of exports in value-added terms, indicating that France's exports of goods rely intensively on services inputs. Cost-effective state-of-the-art services are therefore of utmost importance to the competitiveness of the French industrial sector. In the case of France, the difference between the share of services in employment and that in GDP is very small, however, indicating that productivity in the services sector is close to that in other activities. The STRI profile suggests that France could further improve the efficiency of its economy by prioritising reforms that enhance competition in services markets, particularly by focusing on the remaining horizontal measures that affect all types of services and the few sectors where a higher STRI is observed.

### 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)