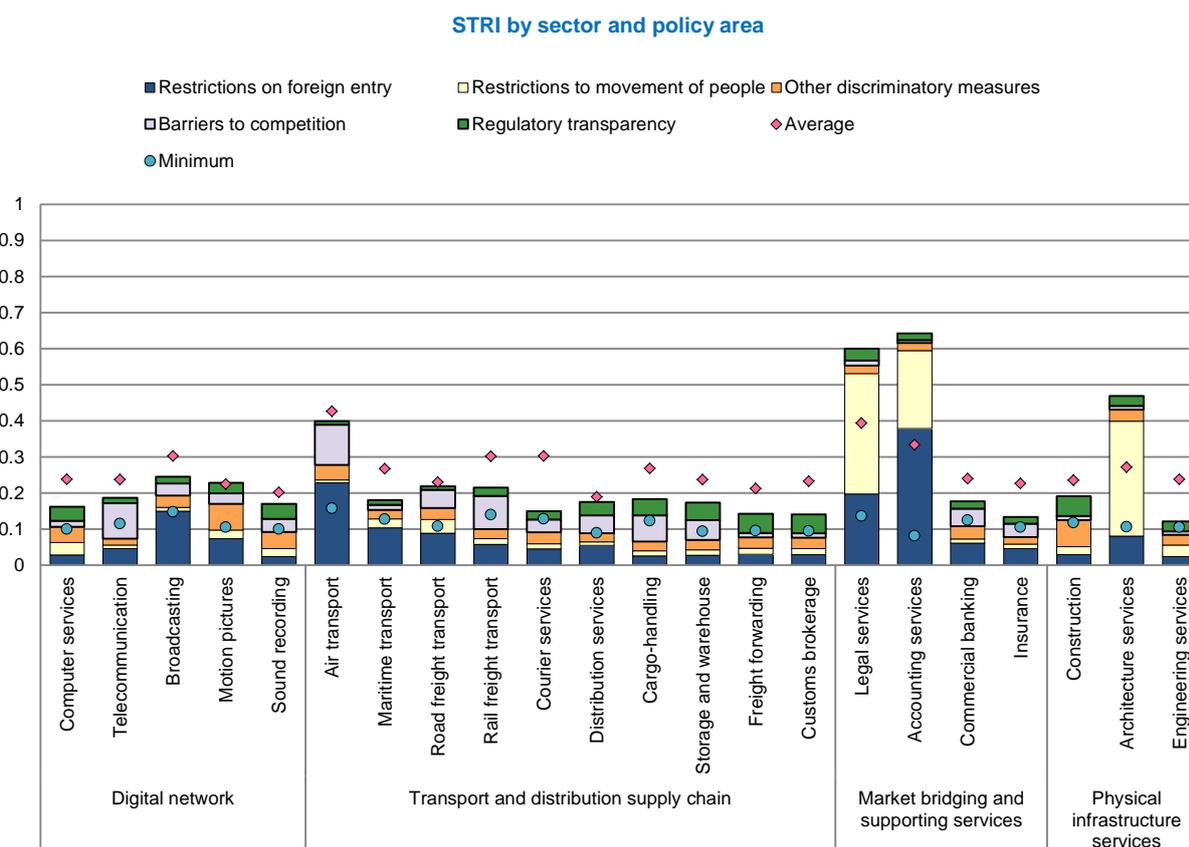


OECD Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI): France

France exported services worth USD 237 billion and its services imports amounted to USD 236 billion in 2016. 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.



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's scores on the STRIs are below the average in 18 out of the 22 sectors. 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, engineering services and insurance are the three sectors with the lowest score relative to the average in France. La Poste, the major postal service company in France, is owned by the French government. 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 not a regulated profession in France. Commercial presence is required in order to provide insurance services; a license is required for providers of brokerage services and actuaries. State owned companies are established in life, non-life insurance and reinsurance market segments.

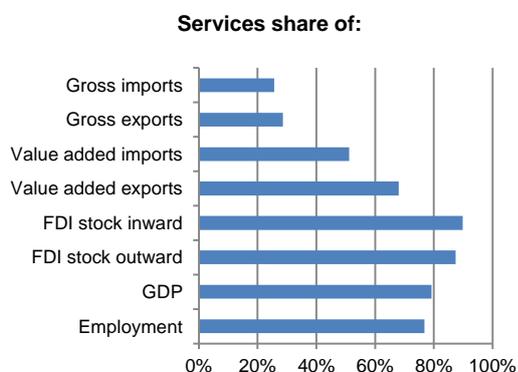
The sectors with the relatively highest STRI scores

Legal services, accounting services, and architecture services are the three sectors with the highest score relative to the average in France. With regard to legal services, the recognition of foreign qualifications is accorded on the basis of reciprocity. The majority of shares of domestic law firms must be owned by locally-licensed lawyers. Ownership limitations are accompanied by a requirement that the majority of board members and managers of law firms must be locally licensed lawyers. Accounting services cover also auditing. The regulatory framework is similar to legal services although ownership of auditing firms is limited entirely for licenced auditors. In architecture services, majority of shares in an architectural firm must be owned by licensed architects.

Recent policy changes

In 2016, the labour market test for intra-corporate transferees was removed. Furthermore, a transport company established outside of France and seeking to provide cross-border transport services to France, must submit a notification to the labour inspectorate where the service will be provided (déclaration préalable de détachement transnational). Moreover, as of 2016, only licensed professionals can hold shares in auditing firms.

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. 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 information and communication technology revolution opens new opportunities for inclusive growth in a services economy like France. Innovation and adoption of technology relies on access to knowledge and to the networks, people, goods and services that carry the knowledge around the world. In this context, France could benefit from more open markets for services trade through the temporary movement of natural persons in some sectors.

More information

- » Access all of the country notes, sector notes and interactive STRI tools on the OECD website at <http://oe.cd/stri>
- » Read more about services trade policies and their impacts in this publication: [Services Trade Policies and the Global Economy](#)
- » Contact the OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorate with your questions at stri.contact@oecd.org