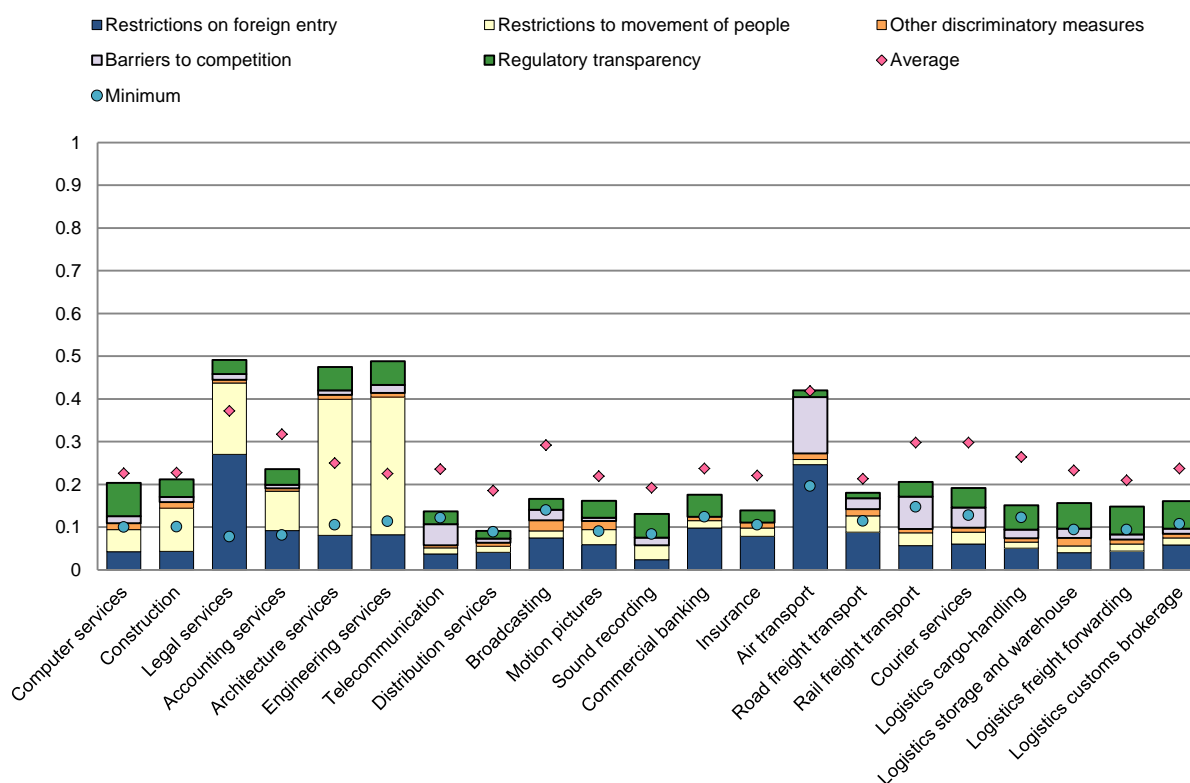


## OECD Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI): Slovak Republic

The Slovak Republic exported services worth USD 8 billion and its services import value was USD 7.9 billion in 2015. Travel and transportation services are the largest services exporting and importing sectors.

The Slovak Republic's score on the STRI in 21 of 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. The Slovak Republic is not scored on maritime transport since this sector is excluded for landlocked countries.

### 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

The Slovak Republic has a lower score on the STRI than the average in 17 out of 21 sectors. The country requires that the manager of a company is resident in the European Union. The Slovak Republic applies labour market tests for workers seeking to provide services in the country on a temporary basis as contractual services suppliers. Labour market tests are not applied to intra-corporate transferees or independent services suppliers, but for these two categories the duration of stay in the country is limited to 24 months on their first entry permit. Rights of access to public procurement are limited to regional trade agreement partners and members of the WTO's Government Procurement Agreement. A minimum amount of capital must be deposited in a bank or with a notary in order to register a business. 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. Finally, the number of official procedures and the number of days required to register a company are significantly above best practice.

### The sectors with the relatively lowest STRI scores

Distribution services, broadcasting and logistics cargo-handling are the three sectors with the lowest score relative to the average in the Slovak Republic. Distribution and cargo-handling sectors are subject to the general regulatory framework and no sector-specific trade restricting policy measures are imposed in them. Sector-specific regulations in broadcasting are a requirement that broadcasting programs must be offered in a Slovak language version either by dubbing or sub-titling and broadcast time is regulated by quotas. One major TV channel is owned by the state.

### The sectors with the relatively highest STRI score

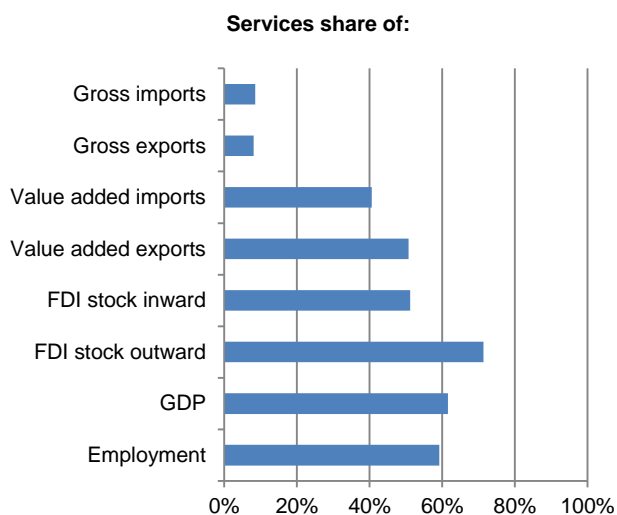
Legal services, architecture services and engineering services are the three sectors with the highest score relative to the average in the Slovak Republic. Practicing both domestic law and international law requires a license in the Slovak Republic. All the shares in law firms must be owned by locally licensed lawyers and the entire board of law firms must also be locally licensed lawyers. Foreign lawyers may not have their qualifications recognised if obtained outside the EU and a temporary license is not available. International law can be provided by individuals only.

In architecture and engineering services, two sectors regulated by the same law, the Slovak Republic imposes residency and nationality requirements as preconditions for obtaining a license to practice. The majority of shares in architecture and engineering firms must be owned by licensed professionals and at least half of the board members must also be licensed professionals. A temporary license is not available.

### Recent policy changes

There are no policy changes that affect the score on the STRI during the period 2014-2016.

### Efficient services sectors matter



Services account for 8% of the Slovak Republic's gross imports and exports, but for more than 40% in value added terms. This indicates that the Slovak Republic'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 Slovak industrial sector. Open, diversified and competitive services markets contribute to productivity both in the services sectors and in downstream sectors using services inputs. The Slovak Republic can further improve the efficiency of its economy by prioritising reforms that enhance competition in services markets, particularly by focusing on the horizontal measures that affect all types of services and by introducing more pro-competitive regulations in the 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)