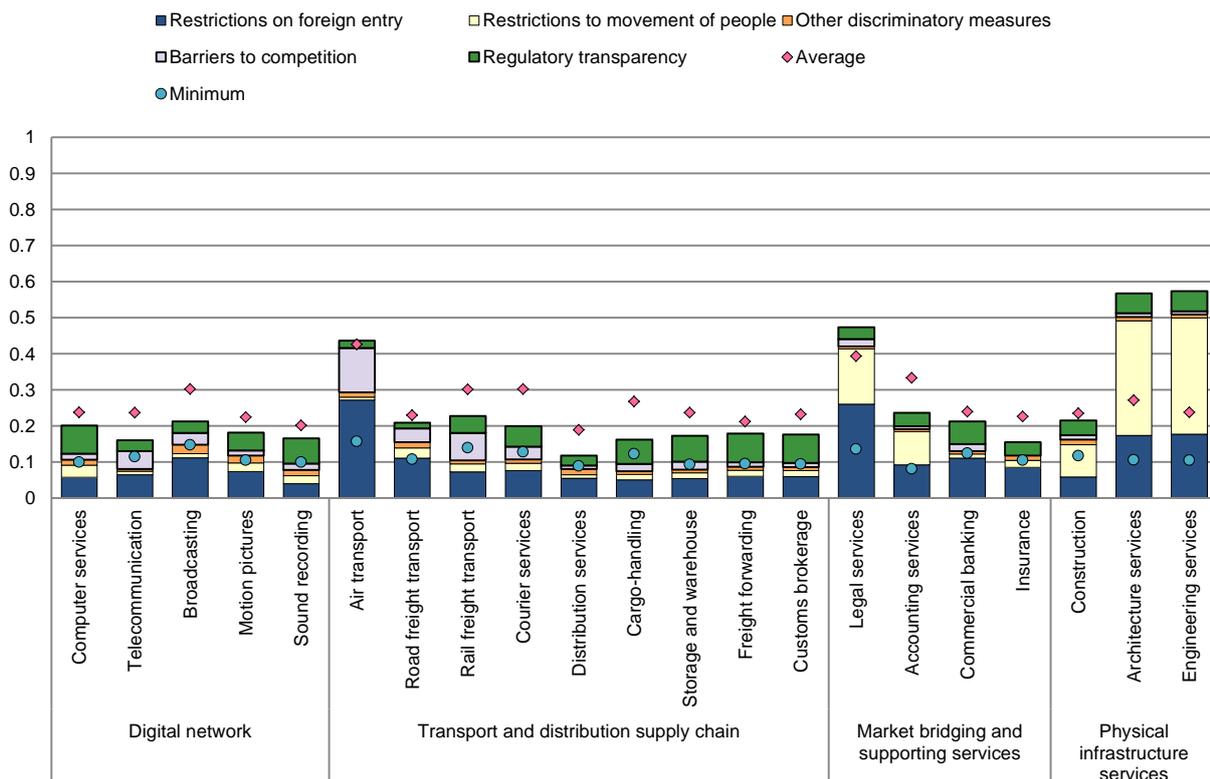


OECD Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI): Slovak Republic

The Slovak Republic exported services worth USD 8.3 billion and its services import value was USD 7.9 billion in 2016. Travel and transportation services are the largest services exporting and importing sectors. The Slovak Republic's score on the STRI in 21 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). Maritime transport services are not covered for landlocked countries.

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 Economic Area. 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

Logistics cargo-handling, distribution services and courier services are the three sectors with the lowest score relative to the average STRI across all countries. 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 courier are commercial presence in order to provide services and fees to obtain a licence.

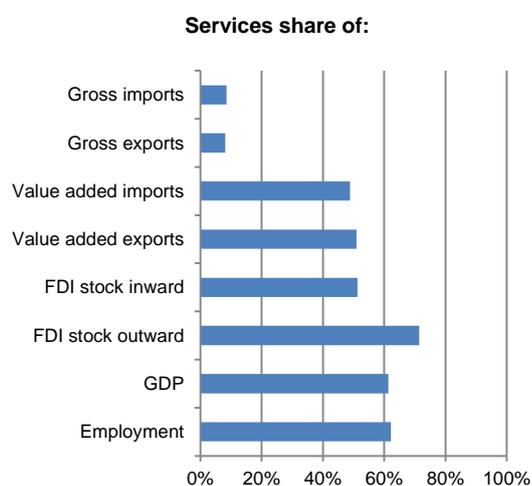
The sectors with the relatively highest STRI score

Engineering services, architecture services and legal services are the three sectors with the highest score relative to the average STRI across all countries. 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. 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.

Recent policy changes

In courier services, a pro-competitive dispute settlement mechanism, under the auspices of the regulatory authority, was introduced in 2016.

Efficient services sectors matter



Services account for 8% of the Slovak Republic's gross imports and exports, but for around 50% in value added terms. This indicates that the Slovak Republic's exports of goods rely intensively on services inputs. Services account for around 60% of GDP and employment, which implies that earnings and aggregate demand depends crucially on productivity in the services sectors.

The information and communication technology revolution opens new opportunities for inclusive growth in the Slovak Republic. 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, the Slovak Republic 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