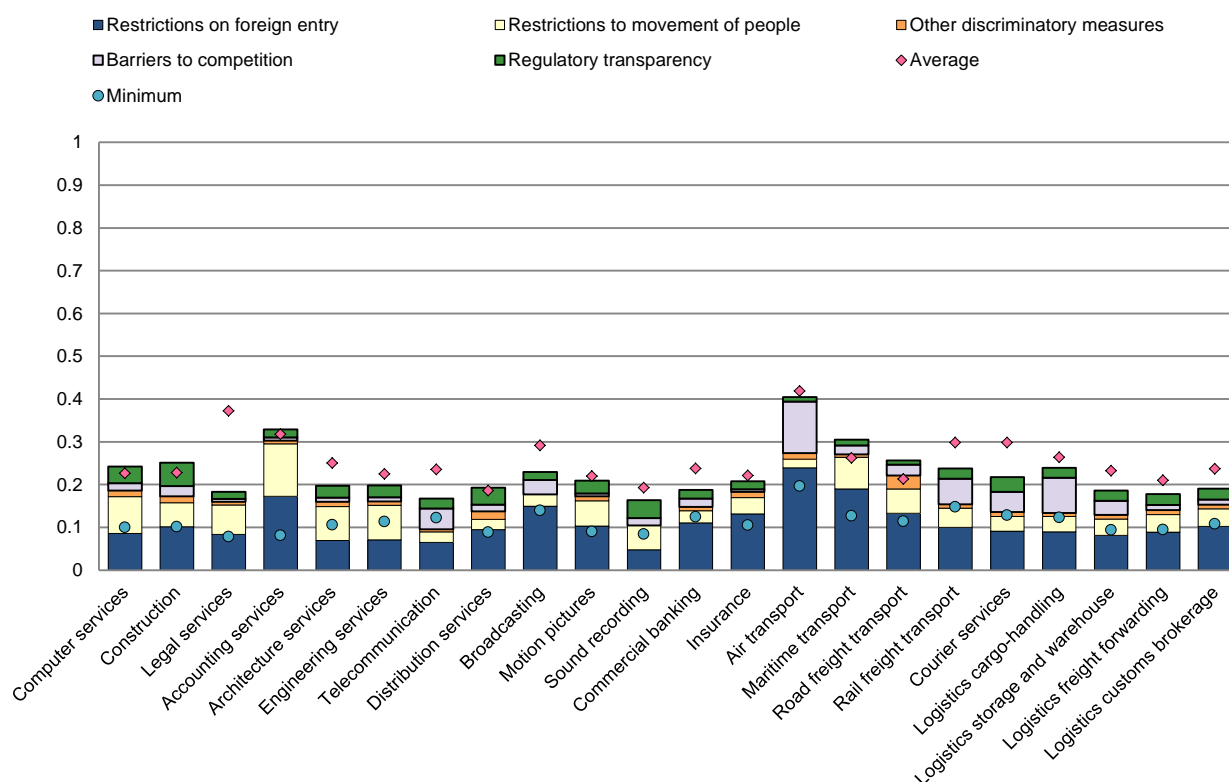


OECD Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI): Sweden

Sweden exported services worth USD 72 billion and its services imports amounted to USD 59 billion in 2015. Business services (miscellaneous business, professional and technical services) are the largest category of both exports and imports of services. Sweden's score on the STRI in the 22 sectors covered 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

Sweden has a lower score on the STRI than the average in 16 out of 22 sectors. A general regulation that contributes to the STRI in all sectors is a requirement that at least half of the board members and the manager (CEO) in corporations must be residents of Sweden or the European Economic Area (EEA), and there are limitations on the establishment of branches for non-EEA companies. Wage parity with local employees is required for natural persons 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 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. 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, 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, telecommunications and courier services are the three sectors with the lowest score relative to the average in Sweden. 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 few exceptions, advocates do not have exclusive rights to provide legal services. International law is subject to the horizontal regulations, but law firms providing international law may not hire Swedish advocates. The telecommunications sector is well regulated, but the Swedish state holds 37.5% of the equity in Telia, one of the largest suppliers of telecommunications in the country. Postal and courier services are fully liberalised with only minor regulatory measures that could impede competition.

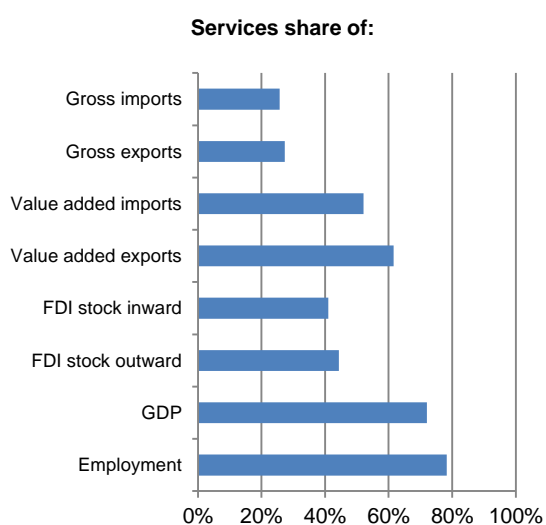
The sectors with the relatively highest STRI scores

Construction, maritime transport and road freight are the three sectors with the highest score relative to the average. The score in the construction sector is mainly driven by horizontal measures and a major state-owned enterprise in the sector. In maritime transport services cabotage is limited to the internal EEA market. Access to stevedoring in ports is restricted and certain shipping agreements such as pooling of vessels and joint operation or use of port terminals are exempt from anti-trust regulations. 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.

Recent policy changes

There are no policy changes that affect the score on the STRI during the period 2015-2016.

Efficient services sectors matter



Services account for almost 30% of Sweden’s gross exports, but more than 60% of value added exports, indicating that Sweden’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 Swedish industrial sector. It is noted that the services share of the inward FDI stock is relatively low at around 40%. Open, diversified and competitive services markets improve effectiveness and productivity both in the services sectors in question and downstream industries using services as inputs. Sweden could further improve the efficiency of its economy by prioritising reforms that enhance competition in services markets.

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