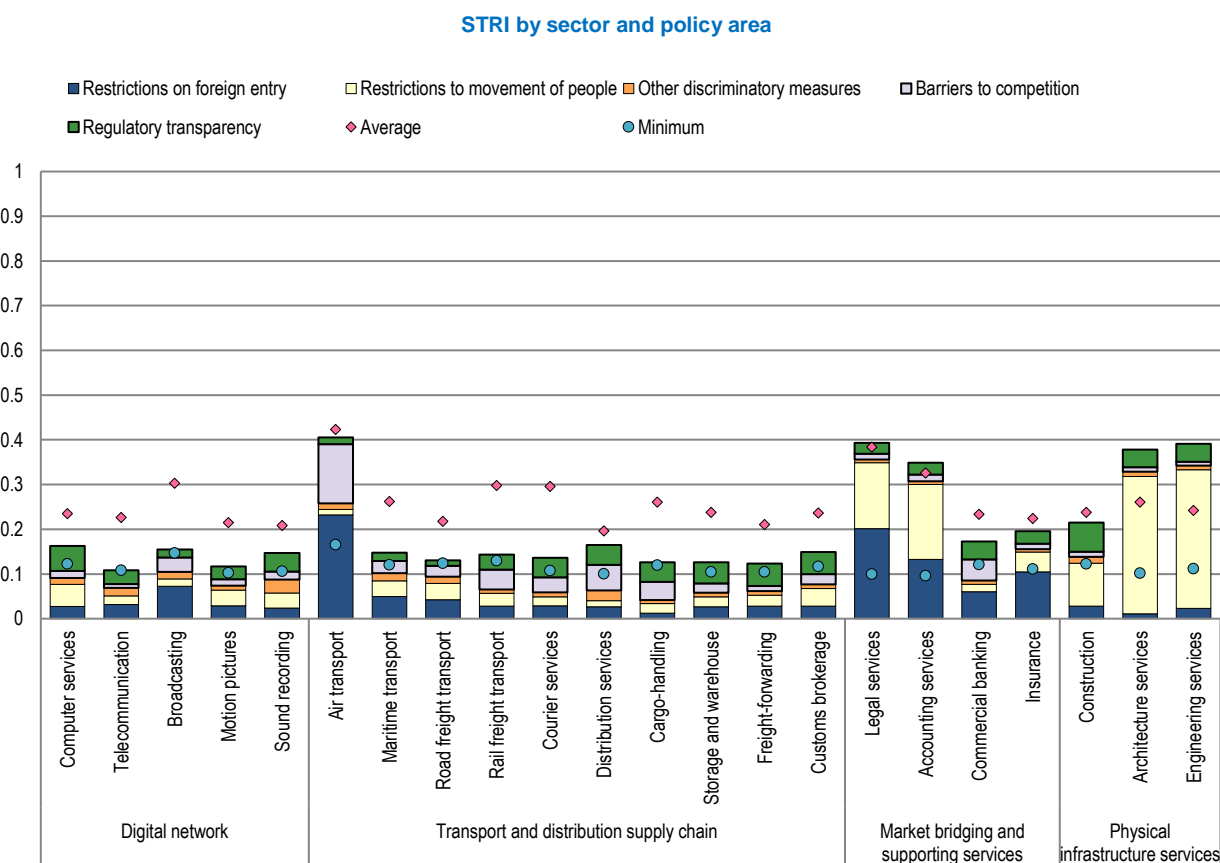


## OECD Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI): Portugal

Portugal exported services worth USD 34 billion and its services import value was USD 16 billion in 2017. Travel services are the largest services exporting and importing sectors. Portugal's score on the STRI in the 22 sectors is shown below, along with the average and the lowest score among the 45 countries included in the STRI database for each sector.



*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 36 OECD Members, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, 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

Portugal has a lower score on the STRI than the average in 18 out of 22 sectors. Portugal does not apply labour market tests for workers seeking to provide services in the country on a temporary basis as contractual services suppliers or independent services suppliers. Foreigners entering Portugal as service suppliers in these two categories may stay in the country for up to twelve months on their first entry permit. Conversely, labour market tests are applied to intra-corporate transferees; they can obtain visas for 36 months. The standards for cross-border transfers of personal data are set at the EU level. Transfers to non-EEA economies can take place when these ensure an adequate level of data protection or, in the absence of this, appropriate safeguards (e.g. binding corporate rules or standard data protection clauses) are in place. Rights under the Public Contracts Code 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, telecommunications, and rail freight transport are the three sectors in Portugal with the lowest STRI score, relative to the average STRI across all countries. Courier services are fully liberalised with only minor regulations that could impede competition. Regarding the telecommunications sector, commercial presence is a requirement for the provision of services. In the rail freight sector there are neither foreign equity restrictions nor a government owned supplier. Transit and traffic rights are allowed, and the sector is by and large regulated according to best practice principles. However, under EU law, certain rail transport agreements are exempt from anti-trust regulation.

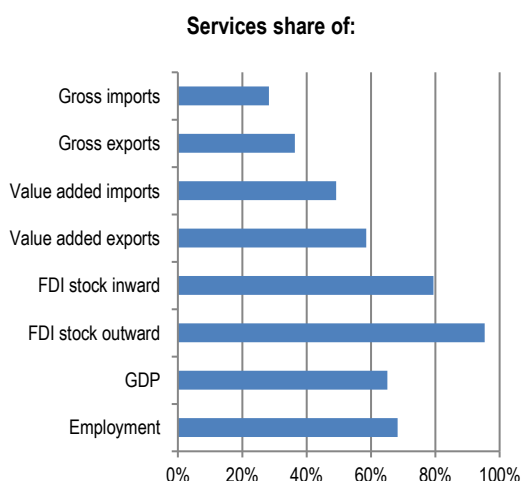
### The sectors with the relatively highest STRI scores

Engineering services, architecture and accounting services are the three sectors in Portugal with the highest scores relative to the average STRI across all countries. Citizenship of an EEA country or a country that has signed a reciprocal agreement with Portugal is a prerequisite to practice engineering services. In addition, commercial presence is a requirement in engineering and architecture services. Foreign architects wishing to practice in Portugal have to re-do their university degree, unless their country of origin has a bilateral agreement with Portugal. Accounting services cover also auditing. Both accounting and auditing services are regulated professions in Portugal. Regarding chartered accountants' firms, at least 51% of the equity shares must be held by licensed accountants, while statutory auditors must own at least 51% of the equity shares of an audit firm.

### Recent policy changes

A liberalisation in the architecture services sector in 2015 repealed a reciprocity requirement for admission to the Portuguese Order of Architects, which is a prerequisite to practice in Portugal. At the same time, such a reciprocity requirement was introduced for the Order of Portuguese Engineers and the Order of Portuguese Technical Engineers. A reform implemented in 2017 extended the duration of the visa for contractual services suppliers and independent services suppliers on their first entry permit from four to twelve months. The new EU General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation 2016/679) entered into force on 25 May 2018, providing a comprehensive update on the EU data protection regime.

### Efficient services sectors matter



Services account for 36% of Portugal's gross exports, but 658% in value added terms. This indicates that Portugal's exports of goods rely intensively on services inputs. Services also account for 65% of GDP and almost 70% of employment, which implies that earnings and aggregate demand depend significantly on productivity in services sectors.

The information and communication technology revolution opens new opportunities for inclusive growth in a services economy like Portugal. 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, Portugal 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](mailto:stri.contact@oecd.org)