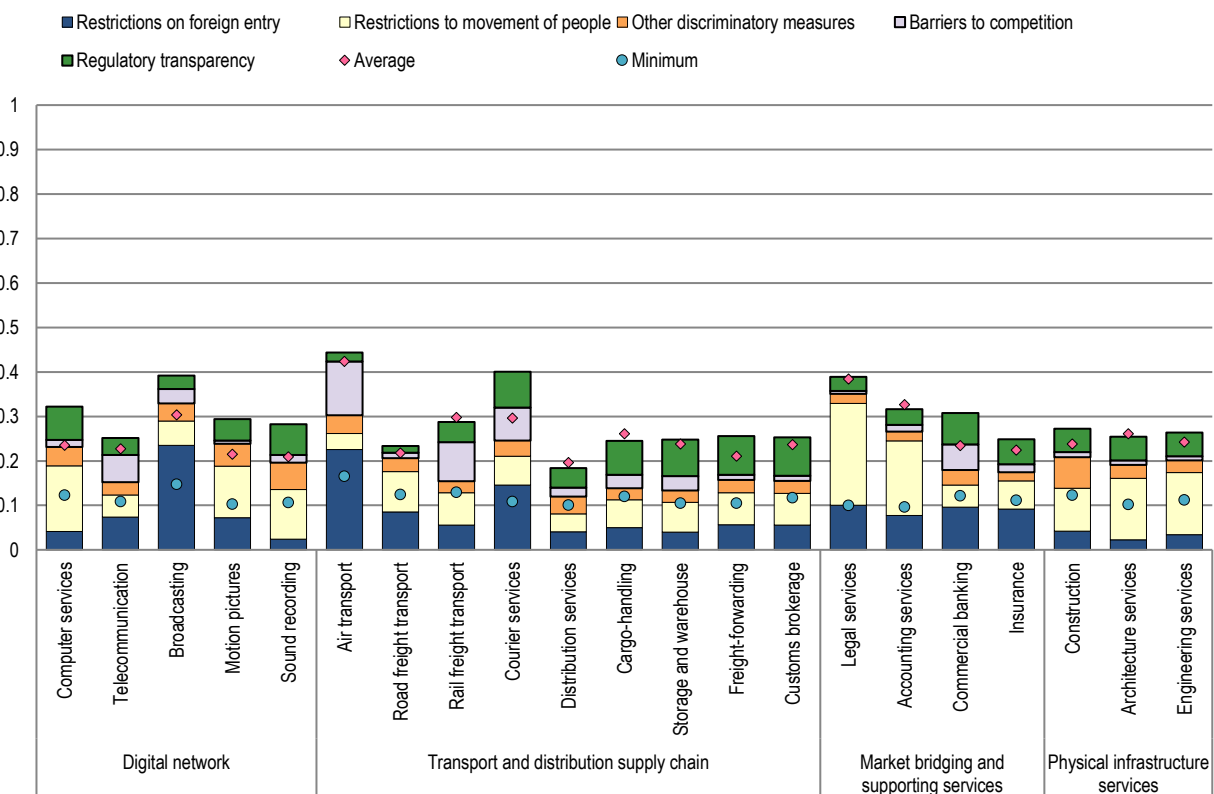


OECD Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI): Switzerland

Switzerland exported services worth USD 119 billion and its services import value was USD 101 billion in 2017. Business services and financial services are Switzerland's largest services exports and imports. Switzerland's score on the STRI in the 21 sectors is shown below, along with the average and the lowest score among the 45 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 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). Maritime transport services are not covered for landlocked countries.

Horizontal policy measures

Switzerland has a lower score on the STRI than the average in five out of 21 sectors. Switzerland applies quotas and labour market tests for workers seeking to provide services in the country on a temporary basis as intra-corporate transferees, contractual services suppliers or independent services suppliers. Workers in these categories may stay in the country for up to 12 months on their first short-term entry permit. Furthermore, the acquisition and use of land and real estate by foreigners is restricted. Switzerland also requires that at least one of the board members in corporations must be resident. Access to the public procurement market on equal terms is limited to firms from countries covered by a mutual agreement. Transfer of personal data can only take place to foreign countries that ensure an adequate level of protection or have substantially similar privacy protection laws. Finally, the state retains a prominent role in the economy with at least one major state-owned enterprise in commercial banking, broadcasting, courier services, logistics cargo handling and storage and warehouse at rail facilities, rail freight transport and telecommunication services.

The sectors with the relatively lowest STRI scores

Distribution services, logistics cargo-handling and rail freight transport are the three sectors with the lowest score relative to the average in Switzerland. In distribution services, regulation imposes an upper limit on shop opening hours. Apart from this, the sector is subject to the general horizontal regulatory framework. In the logistics sector, licenses for cargo handling at Switzerland's major airport are subject to a quota, and contracts for service provision are not awarded through competitive bidding. In rail freight transport services, the railway operator is not independent from the government, and certain types of rail transport agreements are exempt from anti-trust regulation in Switzerland. Moreover, access to bottleneck services is not mandated.

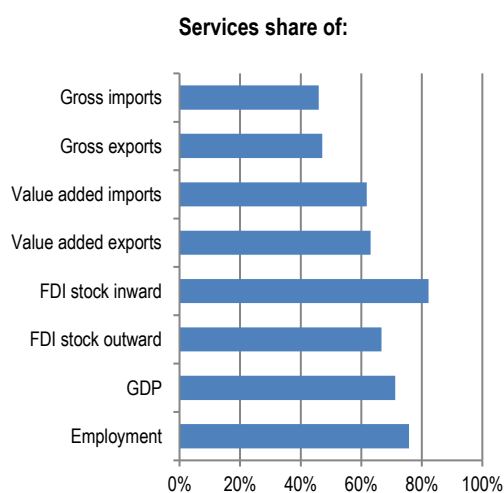
The sectors with the relatively highest STRI scores

Computer services, motion pictures, and sound recording, are the three sectors with the highest score relative to the average in Switzerland. The relatively higher score in computer services is entirely due to horizontal restrictions. In the motion pictures sector, commercial presence is mandatory and managers must be residents. In both motion pictures and sound recording, work permit requirements for artists are in place. In addition, sector-specific contributions to the score relate to foreign rights holders' access to collecting royalties or license fees through authorised collection societies, granted subject to reciprocity.

Recent policy changes

There are no policy changes that affect the score on the STRI during the period 2014-2018.

Efficient services sectors matter



Services account for 47% of Switzerland's gross exports, but for 63% of value-added exports, indicating that Switzerland's exports of goods rely intensively on services inputs. The services share of inward investment is relatively high in Switzerland. Services account for 76% of employment, which implies that earnings and aggregate demand depends crucially on productivity in the services sector. The information and communication technology revolution opens new opportunities for inclusive growth in a services economy like Switzerland. 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, Switzerland could benefit from more open markets for services trade through the temporary movement of natural persons.

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