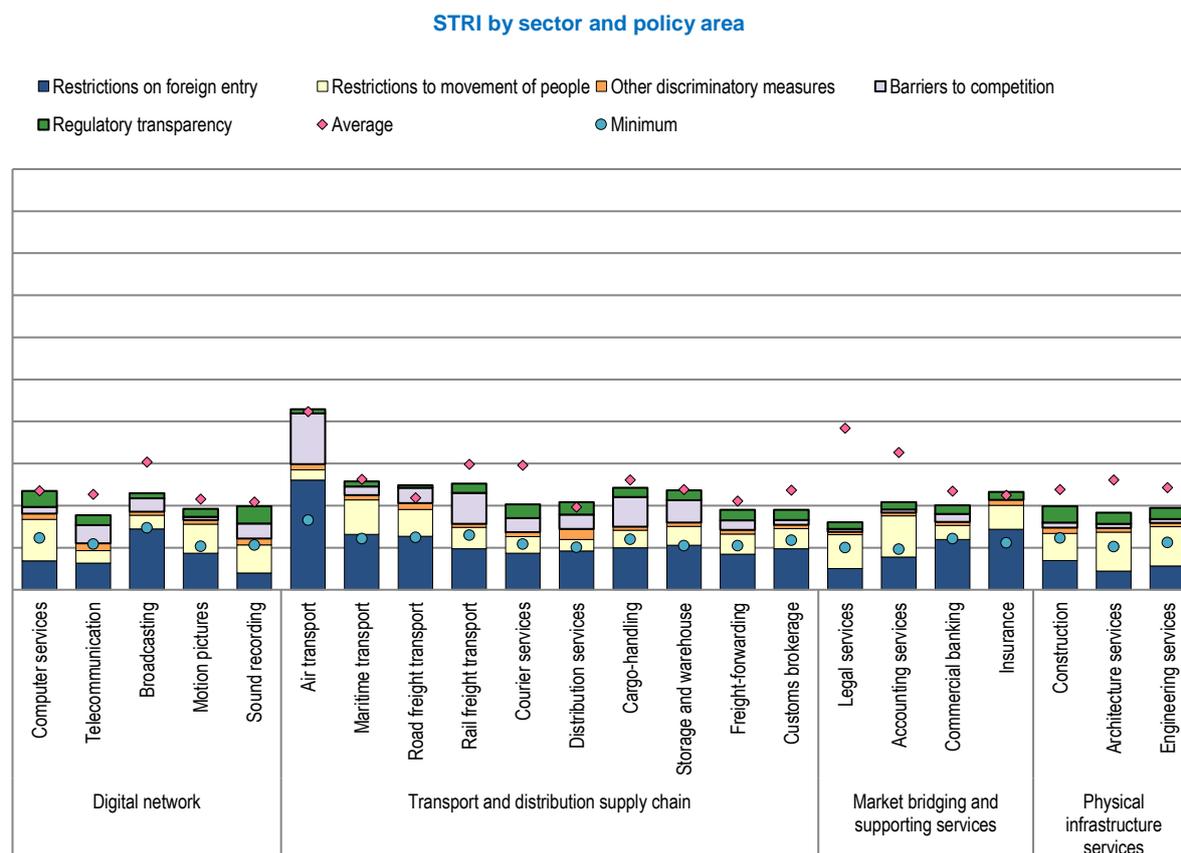


## OECD Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI): Finland

Finland exported services worth USD 29 billion and its services imports amounted to USD 31 billion in 2017. Other business services are the largest category of both services exports and imports. Finland's score on the STRI index 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

Finland has a lower score on the STRI than the average in 18 out of 22 sectors. Finland applies 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. These categories may stay in the country for up to 12 months on their first entry permit. At least one board member and the manager (CEO) in corporations must be residents of Finland or the European Economic Area. Furthermore, 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 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. Finally, Finland has a restriction on the establishment of foreign branches and 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, accounting services and courier services are the three sectors with the lowest score relative to the average across all countries. Finland applies one of the most open regulatory regimes for legal services in the sample. 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 very few exceptions, advocates do not have exclusive rights to provide legal services. Accounting covers auditing and accounting. While auditing is a regulated profession in Finland, accounting is not. A majority of board members and the manager of auditing firms must be licenced auditors, and a license requires a local exam and local practice of at least three years. In courier services, the state owns the postal services.

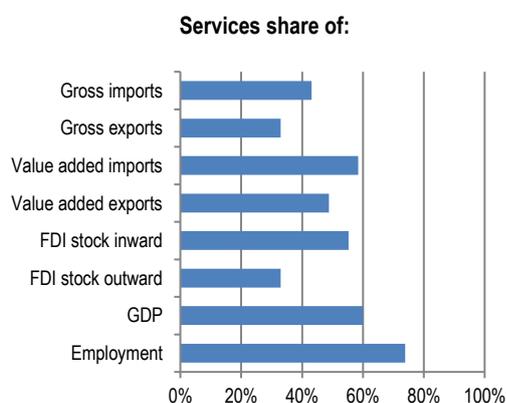
### The sectors with the relatively highest STRI scores

Road freight transport, distribution services, and insurance are the three sectors with the highest score relative to the average across all countries. Distribution and road freight are among the least restricted sectors in the STRI database. Road freight transport is subject to EU regulation that requires EEA residence for the manager of a road transport operator and partly exempts road carrier agreements from anti-trust regulation. The major sector-specific regulation in distribution services is a state monopoly for retail sale of alcoholic beverages. In addition, regulations on large format retailers and on seasonal sales contribute to the index. In the insurance sector, foreign branches are obliged to deposit at least half of the initial capital base in a Finnish finance institution. Commercial presence is required for cross-border trade and insurance brokers must be resident in Finland.

### Recent policy changes

A major state owned construction enterprise, Destia, was privatised in 2014. In the distribution sector, shop opening hours were deregulated in 2015 and labelling standards were reformed in 2016. 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. As of 2016, revised conditions, including on economic needs, apply for authorisations for the operation of storage facilities for the customs warehousing of goods pursuant to Regulation (EU) No 952/2013.

### Efficient services sectors matter



Services account for around 37% of Finland’s gross trade, and over half of its value added trade, indicating that Finland’s exports and imports of goods rely intensively on services inputs. Services account for 60% of GDP and an even higher share of 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 a services economy like Finland. 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, Finland 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](mailto:stri.contact@oecd.org)