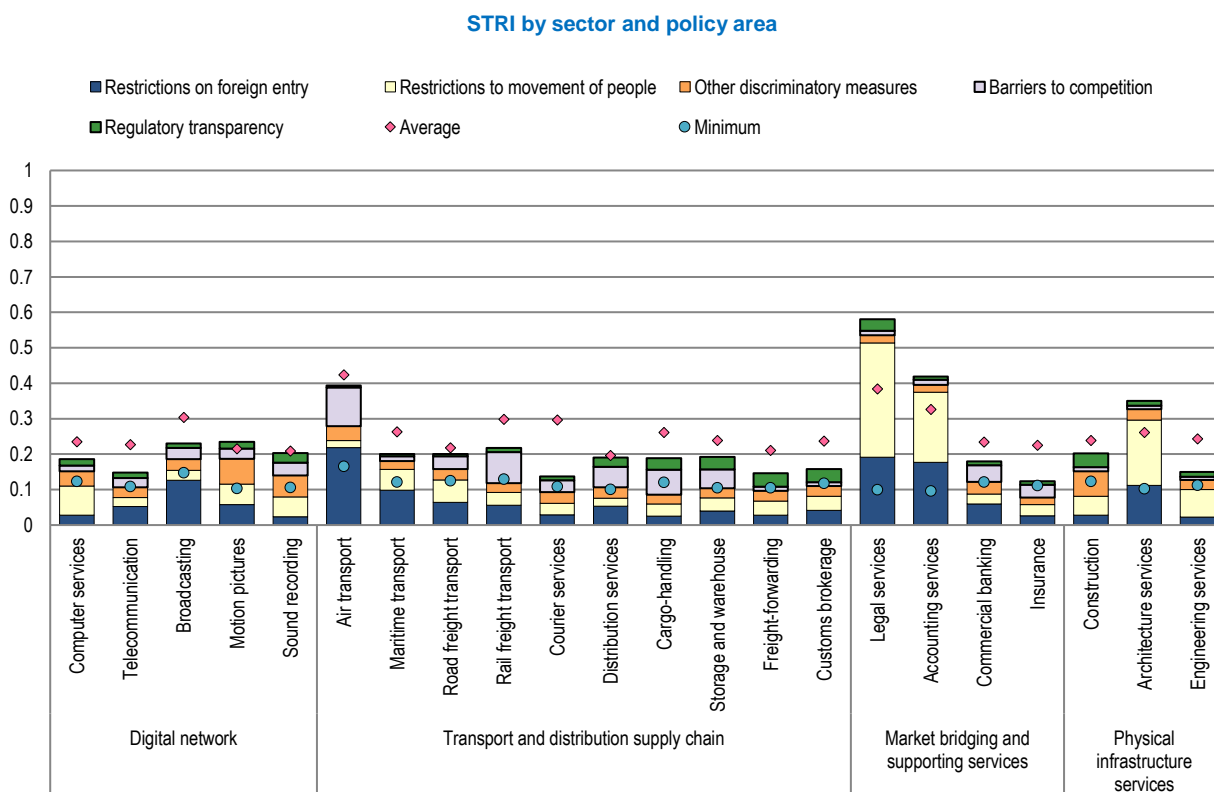


OECD Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI): France

France exported services worth USD 248 billion and its services imports amounted to USD 240 billion in 2017. Other business services are the largest services exporting and importing sector. France's score on the STRI index in the 22 sectors is shown below, along with the average and lowest scores among the 45 countries included in the STRI database.



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

France has a lower score on the STRI than the average in 18 out of the 22 sectors. Intra-corporate transferees and independent services suppliers face a limitation on duration of stay in the country for up to 12 months on their first entry permit. 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. Rights under the Ordinance on Public Procurement are limited to partners in regional trade agreements and members of the WTO's Government Procurement Agreement. Minimum capital requirement is mandatory for joint stock companies and companies established in France are required to have a taxable representative in France accredited to the tax office.

The sectors with the relatively lowest STRI scores

Courier services, engineering services and insurance are the three sectors with the lowest score relative to the average in France. La Poste, the major postal service company in France, is owned by the French government. Other than that, postal and courier services are not affected by sector-specific restrictions. The same is observed in the case of engineering services which is not a regulated profession in France. Commercial presence is required in order to provide insurance services; a license is required for providers of brokerage services and actuaries. State owned companies are present in life, non-life and reinsurance market segments.

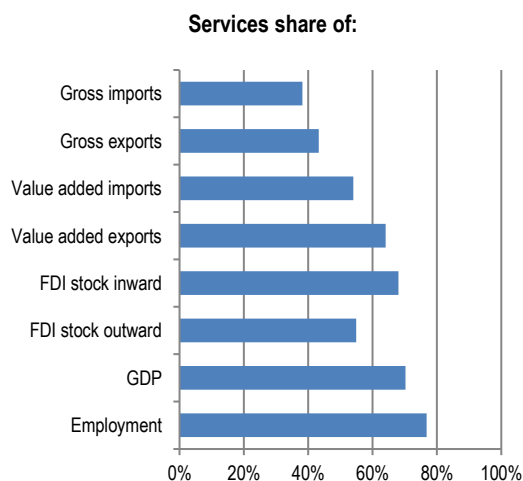
The sectors with the relatively highest STRI scores

Legal services, accounting services, and architecture services are the three sectors with the highest score relative to the average in France. With regard to legal services, the recognition of non-EU foreign qualifications is accorded on the basis of reciprocity. The majority of shares of domestic law firms must be owned by locally-licensed lawyers. Ownership limitations are accompanied by a requirement that the majority of board members and managers of law firms must be locally licensed lawyers. Accounting services cover also auditing. The regulatory framework is similar to legal services. In architecture services, majority of shares in an architectural firm must be owned by licensed architects.

Recent policy changes

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. Since 2015, a transport company established outside of France and seeking to provide cross-border transport services to France, must submit a notification to the labour inspectorate where the service will be provided (déclaration préalable de détachement transnational). Credit registry with equal access of all lending institutions was recently revoked.

Efficient services sectors matter



While services account for 43% of France's gross exports, they account for 64% of exports in value-added terms, indicating that France's exports of goods rely intensively on services inputs. Services account for 70% 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 France. 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, France 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