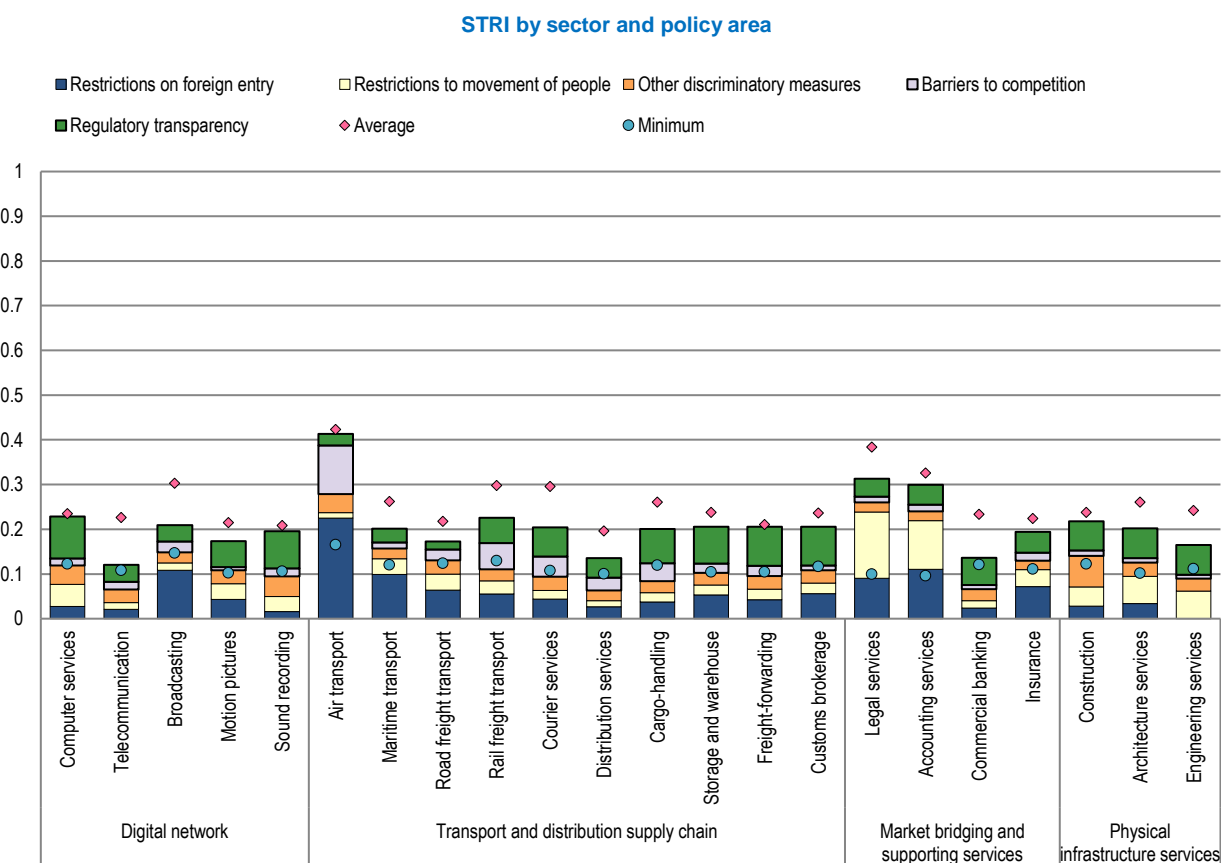


OECD Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI): Spain

Spain exported services worth USD 138 billion and its services import value was USD 75 billion in 2017. Travel and other business services are the largest services exporting and importing sectors. Spain'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

Spain has a lower score on the STRI than the average in all sectors. The duration of stay in the country is limited to 12 months on their first entry permit for contractual services suppliers and to 24 months for independent services suppliers. 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. Moreover, there are restrictions on the acquisition of land by foreigners in certain parts of Spain. Public procurement regulations rely on the principle of non-discrimination, but foreign suppliers are required to present documentation showing that their country of origin grants reciprocity to Spanish companies. There is also at least one major state-owned enterprise in banking, courier services, logistics cargo-handling and rail freight transport. In banking, public ownership stems from recapitalisations during the financial crisis.

The sectors with the relatively lowest STRI scores

Telecommunication, commercial banking and broadcasting are the three sectors with the lowest score relative to the average STRI across all countries. In telecommunication, foreign suppliers do not have non-discriminatory access to regulated rates and conditions for international roaming services. In the banking sector, the Government maintains majority ownership in Bankia, one of the largest Spanish banks, but there are no limits to ownership by foreign investors. Regarding broadcasting services, Spain applies a quota-based regulation of broadcasting time and there are restrictions on advertising.

The sectors with the relatively highest STRI scores

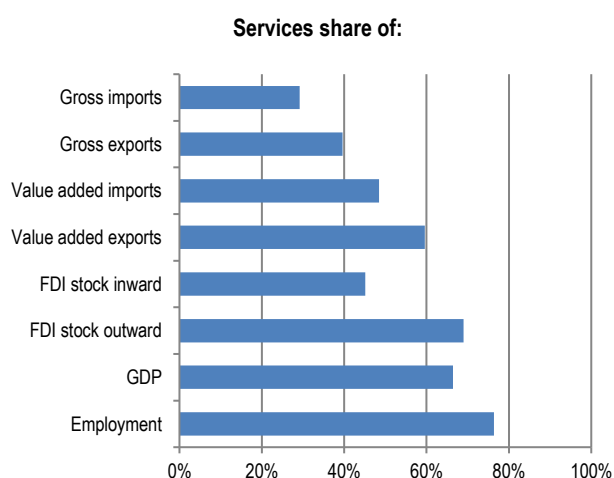
Air transport, logistics freight forwarding, and computer services and are the three sectors with the highest score relative to the average STRI across all countries included in the dataset. In the air transport services sector, Spain has foreign equity restrictions as a result of common European Union (EU) regulation of air services. Pursuant to this EU regulation, non-EU nationals cannot own more than 49% in local airlines. Lease of foreign aircrafts with crew from outside the EU can be refused on grounds of reciprocity or conditioned on approval granted on the basis of economic needs. An EU-wide exemption of certain airline arrangements from competition law, and regulations on airport slot allocation and slot trading further contribute to the score in this sector.

Freight forwarding services and computer services are primarily affected by horizontal restrictions.

Recent policy changes

In 2014 the duration of stay for intra-corporate transferees and independent services suppliers was shortened from 60 months to 36 months and 24 months, respectively. Parts of the telecommunications market were deregulated in 2017. On 25 May 2018 the new EU General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation 2016/679) entered into force, providing a comprehensive update of the EU data protection regime.

Efficient services sectors matter



Services account for 40% of Spain's gross exports, but 60% in value added terms. This indicates that Spain's exports of goods rely intensively on services inputs. Services also account for two-thirds of GDP and three-quarters 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 Spain. 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, Spain 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