

OECD Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI)

SLOVENIA – 2020

Key findings

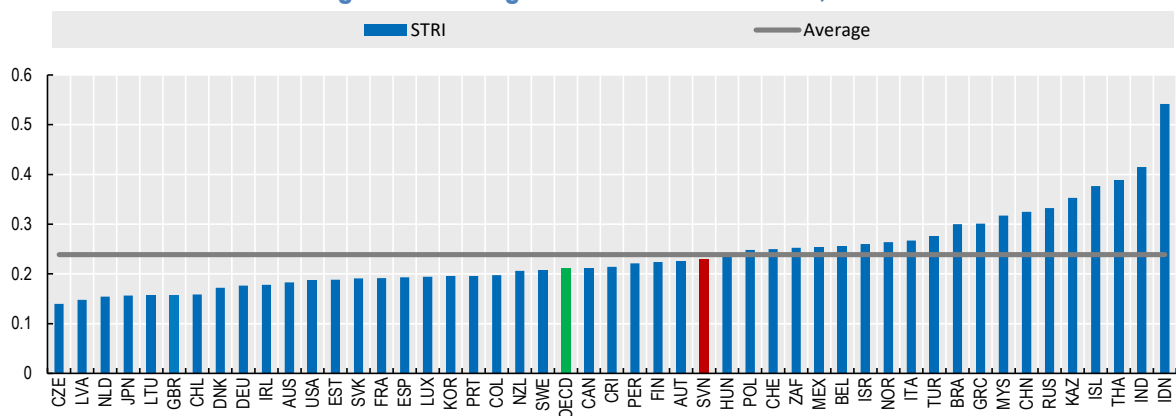
- The 2020 STRI of Slovenia is above the OECD average and slightly below the average of all the countries in the STRI sample. The indicator remained unchanged compared to 2019.
- Courier services are the most open sector in Slovenia while engineering services is the most restricted.
- Conditions on the entry of natural persons seeking to provide services in the country on a temporary basis as intra-corporate transferees, contractual services suppliers or independent services suppliers remain more cumbersome than international best practice.

Recommendation

- 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, Slovenia could benefit from more open markets for services trade.

The 2020 STRI of Slovenia is above the OECD average and slightly below the average of all the countries in the STRI sample, unchanged compared to 2019 (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Average STRI across countries, 2020



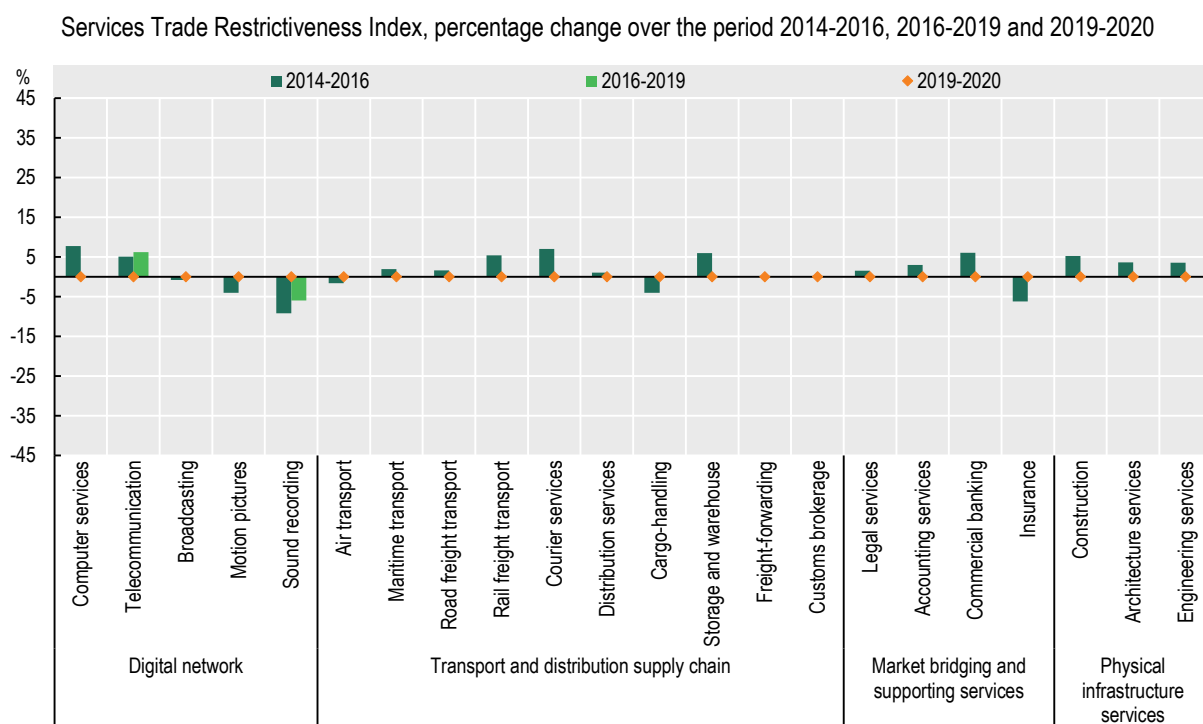
Note: The STRI indices take values between zero and one, one being the most restrictive. The STRI database records measures on a Most Favoured Nations basis. Air transport and road freight cover only commercial establishment (with accompanying movement of people). The indices are based on laws and regulations in force on 31 October 2020. The STRI regulatory database covers the 37 OECD countries, Brazil, China, Costa Rica, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Peru, Russia, South Africa, and Thailand.

Source: OECD STRI and TiVA databases (2020).

A general regulation that contributes to the STRI in all sectors is the relatively short duration of stay for non-EU nationals seeking to provide services on a temporary basis as contractual services suppliers or independent services suppliers as they can stay in Slovenia up to three months on their first entry permit. Intra-corporate transferees can stay up to three years but their entry is subject to wage parity requirements. Other general regulations include a restriction on the acquisition of real estate by foreigners and minimum capital requirements to register a company. Rights under the public procurement law are limited to partners in regional trade agreements 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.

The Slovenian regulatory framework for services trade has been stable since 2016 after a slight tightening observed in most sectors, except four between 2014 and 2016 (Figure 2).

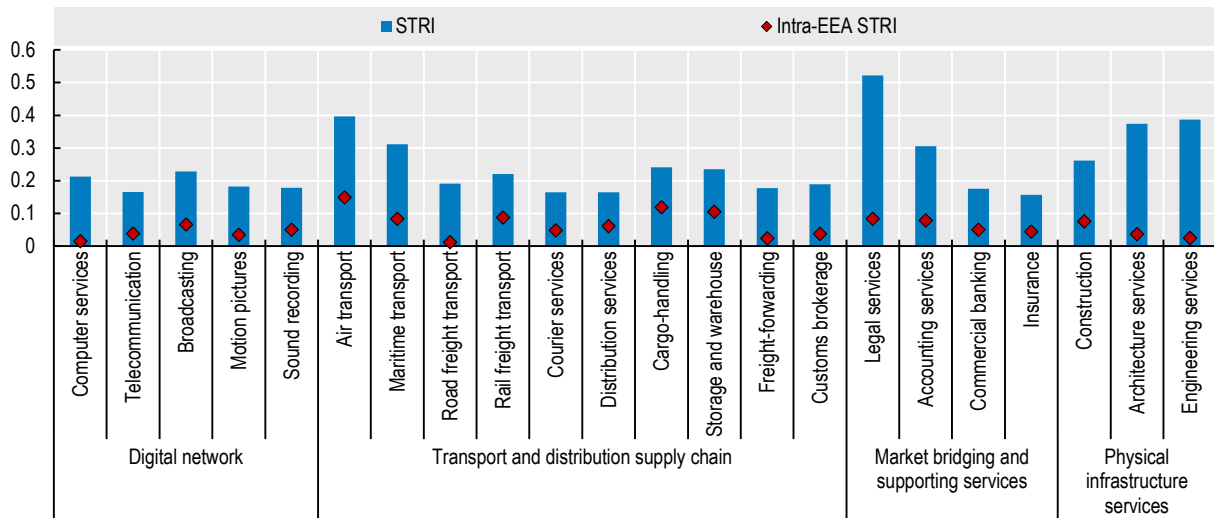
Figure 2. Evolution of STRI scores by sector in Slovenia



Source: OECD STRI database (2020).

Services trade barriers are significantly lower within the European Economic Area across all services sectors (Figure 2b). Slovenia maintains an open market for services suppliers from other EU Member States.

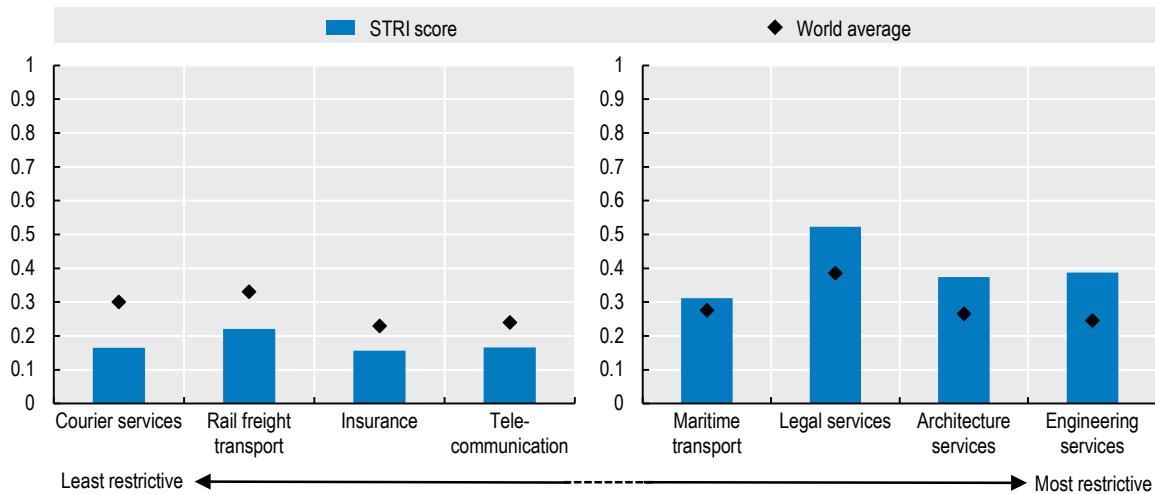
Figure 2b. Regulatory barriers affecting services trade within the European Economic Area (EEA)



Note: The traditional STRI indicates the level of restrictiveness on Most-Favoured Nation basis towards third countries, and the intra-EEA STRI indicates the level of restrictiveness towards EEA members. Intra-EEA STRI covers 24 countries (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden).
Source: OECD STRI database (2020).

Courier services, rail freight transport, insurance and telecommunications are the sectors with the lowest score relative to the average STRI across all countries (Figure 3). Maritime transport, legal services, architecture services and engineering services are the sectors with the highest score relative to the average STRI across all countries.

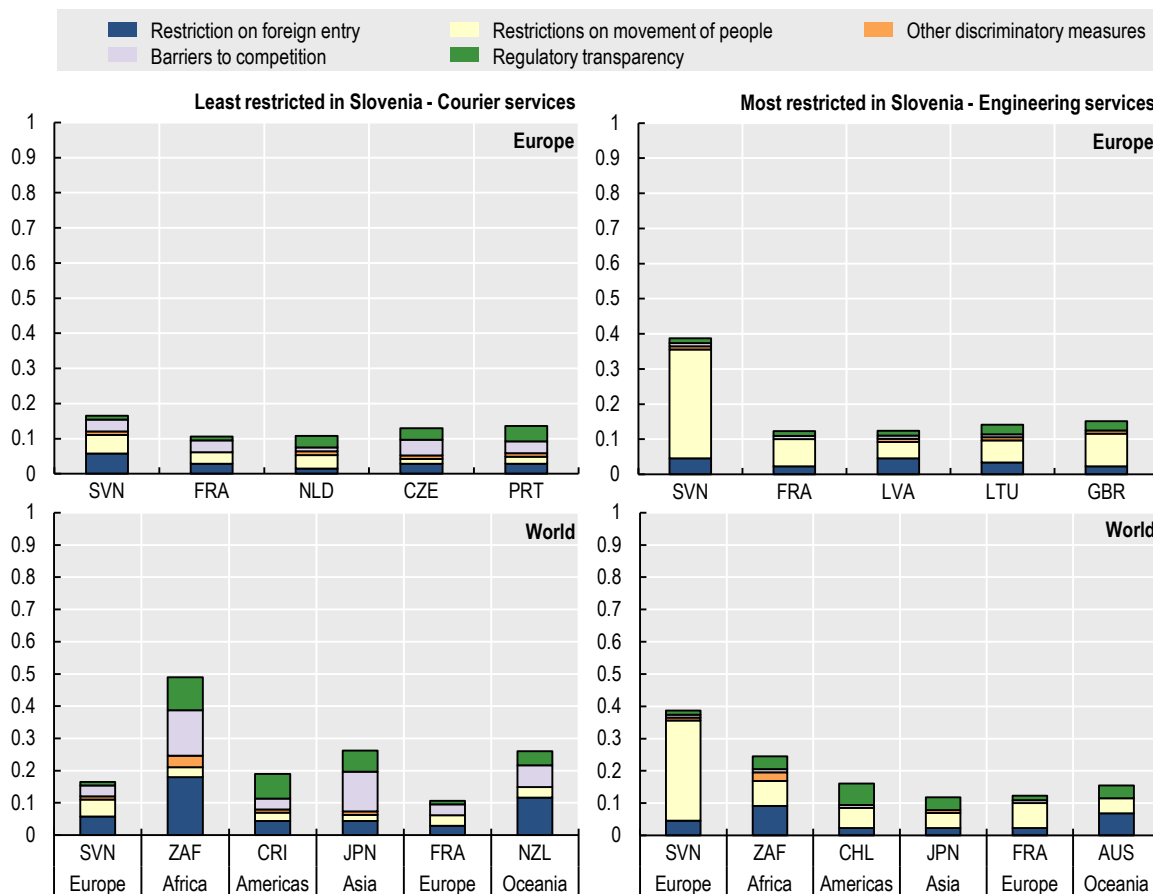
Figure 3. Sectoral breakdown – The least and most restricted sectors in Slovenia



Note: Selection was made based on how far the sectors' score were from the world average score, as a percentage difference
i.e. $(STRI_{country, sector} - STRI_{world average, sector}) / STRI_{world average, sector}$
Source: OECD STRI database (2020).

Courier services are the least restricted services sector in Slovenia compared to Europe and the other best performers elsewhere while engineering services are the most restricted (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Slovenia compared to Europe and World's best performers

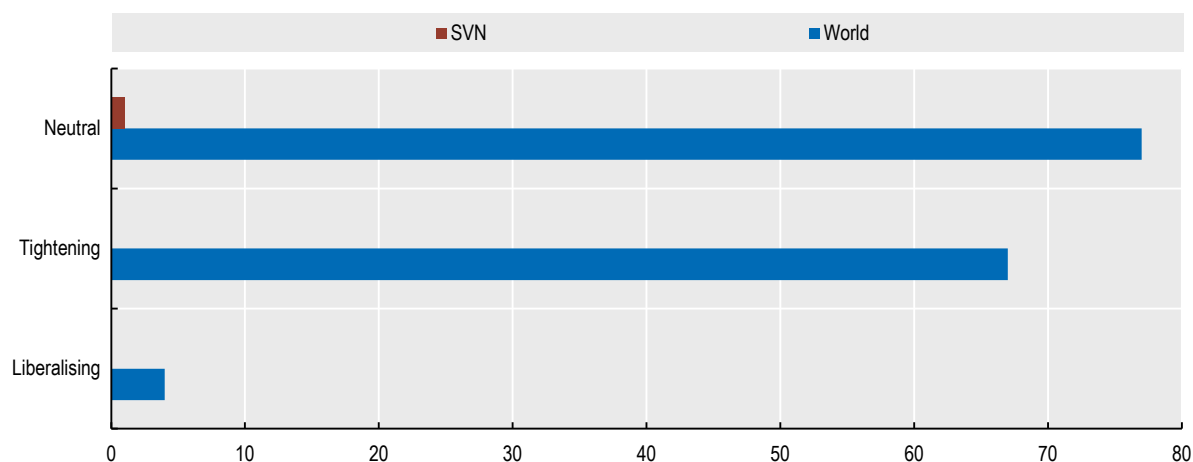


Source: OECD STRI database (2020).

Special focus: Impact of COVID-19-related measures on the stringency of services regulations

While Slovenia has adopted several measures in response to the COVID-19 crisis, these were either temporary in nature or not directly relevant for the measures considered in the STRI database. This includes the extension of partial exemption of certain anti-competitive agreements from competition law in the maritime transport sector, following a 2020 EU regulation. Many countries have tightened their regulatory framework following the COVID-19 shock, by tightening their investment screening process or their visas requirements (Figure 5).

Figure 5. COVID-19 related measures in Slovenia and in the world



Source: OECD STRI database (2020).

Key reforms

Recent changes affecting Slovenia were due to changes in EU law. Regulation 2019/452 allows EU Member States to maintain, amend or adopt mechanisms to screen foreign direct investments in their territory on grounds of security or public order. It applies from 11 October 2020. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, Regulation 2020/459 waived the 80/20 grandfathering rule for airport slot allocations between 1 March 2020 and 27 March 2021. Accordingly, airport coordinators are required to consider slots allocated for this period as having been operated by the air carrier to which they were initially allocated. In maritime transport, Regulation 2020/436 extended the existing block exemption to liner shipping consortia from competition law until April 2024. In March 2019, EU-wide requirements on accounting separation entered into force for port authorities in receipt of public funds. In October 2018, a new law was introduced to strengthen the protection on trade secrets. 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.

More information

- » Access all country and sector notes, and interactive STRI tools on the OECD website at <http://oe.cd/stri>
- » Read more about services trade policies and their impact in [Services Trade Policies and the Global Economy](#)
- » Contact the OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorate with your questions at stri.contact@oecd.org