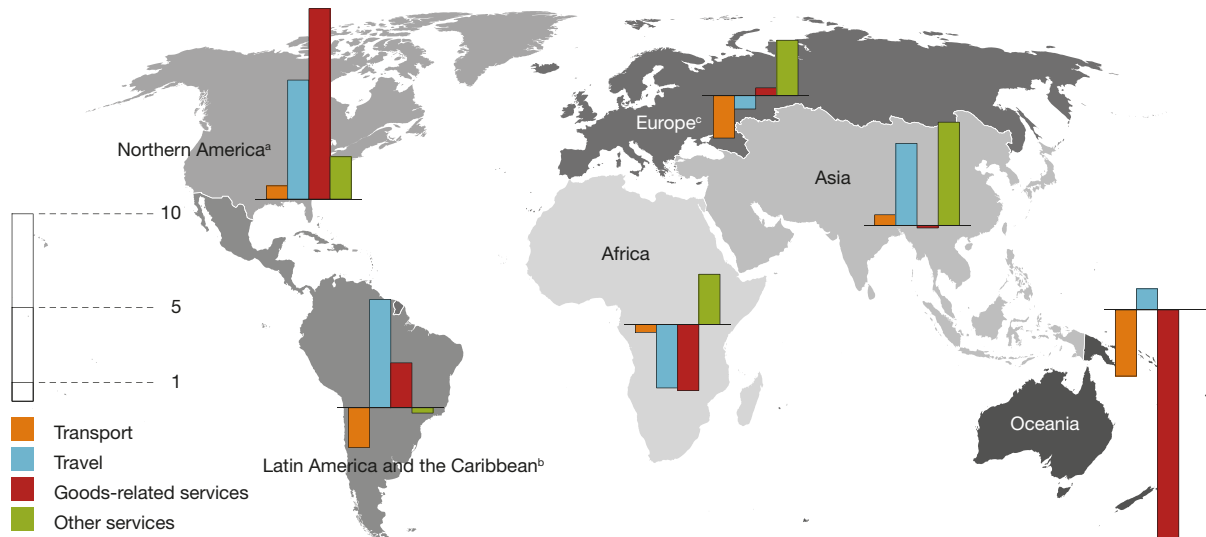




Fact sheet #6: Trade in services by category

Map 1 | Changes in services exports by category, 2011–2016
(Average annual growth rate, percentage)



^a Equivalent to the group 'Developed economies: America' on UNCTADstat.
^b Equivalent to the group 'Developing economies: America' on UNCTADstat.
^c Incl. the Russian Federation and the French overseas departments.

Concepts and definitions

The breakdown by service category in this section corresponds to the division of services in the balance of payments statistics (United Nations et al., 2012). The concepts of selected main categories are outlined below:

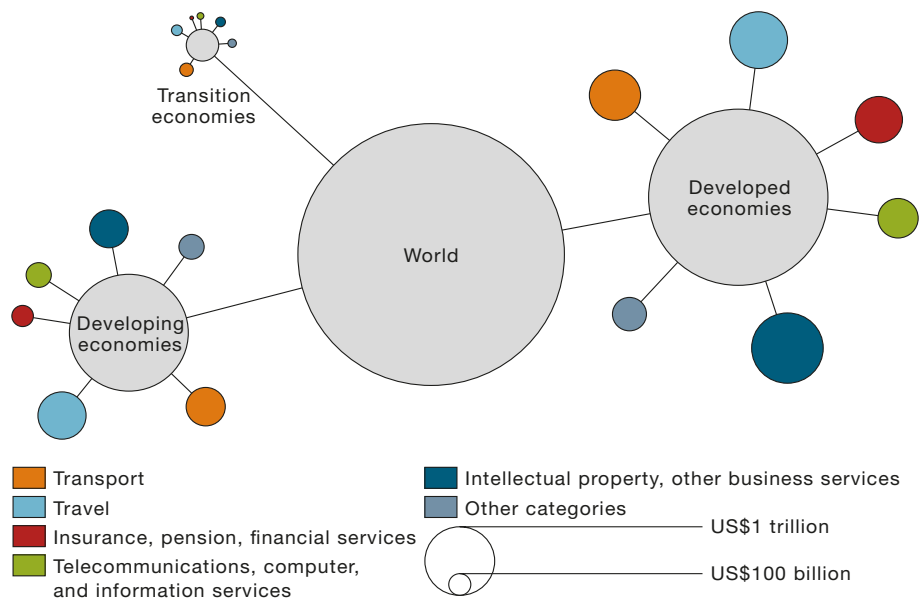
- **Transport:** covers international transport of goods and passengers.
- **Travel:** includes all goods and services consumed by travelers outside their country of residence; does not include international transport of passengers.
- **Goods-related services:** comprise processing and packaging of goods and their repair and maintenance.
- **Other services:** is a heterogeneous group encompassing, among other categories, construction, insurance and financial services, telecommunications and computer services, various business, professional, and technical services, and intellectual property charges.

For further details, see UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics 2017, annex 6.2.

Regional trends

Over the last five years, exports of transport, travel, goods-related and other services developed differently in the various regions of the world. For example, exports of travel increased strongly in Northern America, in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Asia, whereas they fell in Africa and Europe. Exports of the group 'other services' increased in most regions of the world, particularly in Asia.

Figure 1 | Structure of services exports, 2016



Note: For the grouping of service categories, see UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics 2017, annex 6.2.

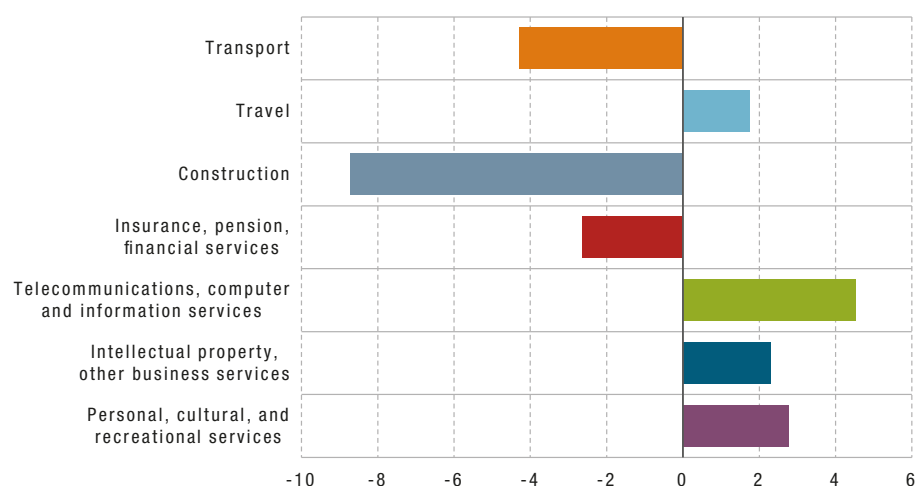


Structure by group of economies and category in 2016

In 2016, travel constituted an important category of services exported by developing economies, accounting on average for one third of their total services exports. Developing economies exported travel services to non-residents worth almost half a trillion United States dollars. That segment was thereby of equal size as exports of insurance, pension and financial services by developed economies. Travel has been growing over recent years, driven in particular by trends in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Asia.

The services exports of developed economies were dominated by business services such as research and development, consulting, technical and trade-related services and charges on intellectual property, jointly accounting for around US\$1 trillion, while exports of travel came second (US\$700 billion).

Figure 2 Annual growth rate of services exports*, 2016
(Percentage)



* Selected categories.

Note: For the grouping of service categories, see UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics 2017, annex 6.2.

Global trends in 2016

The stagnation of global trade in total services in 2016 (see UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics 2017, section 2.1) masks notable changes at the level of individual service categories. Telecommunications, computer and information services showed a relatively strong increase (4.5 per cent). Exports of intellectual property and other business services as well as of personal, cultural and recreational services recorded positive growth rates, ranging between 2 and 3 per cent. Travel receipts increased by modest 1.8 per cent. Meanwhile, trade in international transport (-4.3 per cent) and in insurance, pension and financial services (-2.6 per cent), two service groups strongly linked with merchandise trade, declined. 2016 was a particularly unfavorable year for trade in construction, recording a drop of 8.7 per cent.

Average annual growth of Africa's international travel receipts over the last 5 years: **-3.5%**



Developing economies exported travel services worth **US\$477 billion**



Global exports of telecommunications, computer and information services increased by **4.5%**



Falling exports of transport services: **-4.3%**

