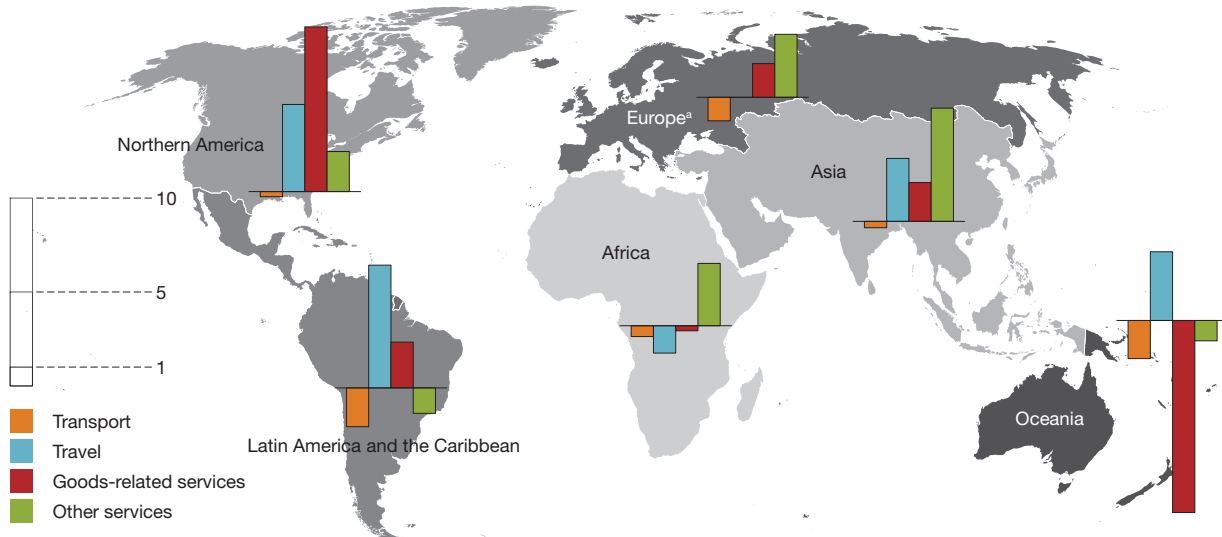




Fact sheet #6: Trade in services by category

Map 1 | Changes in services exports by category, 2012–2017
(Average annual growth rate, percentage)



^a 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:

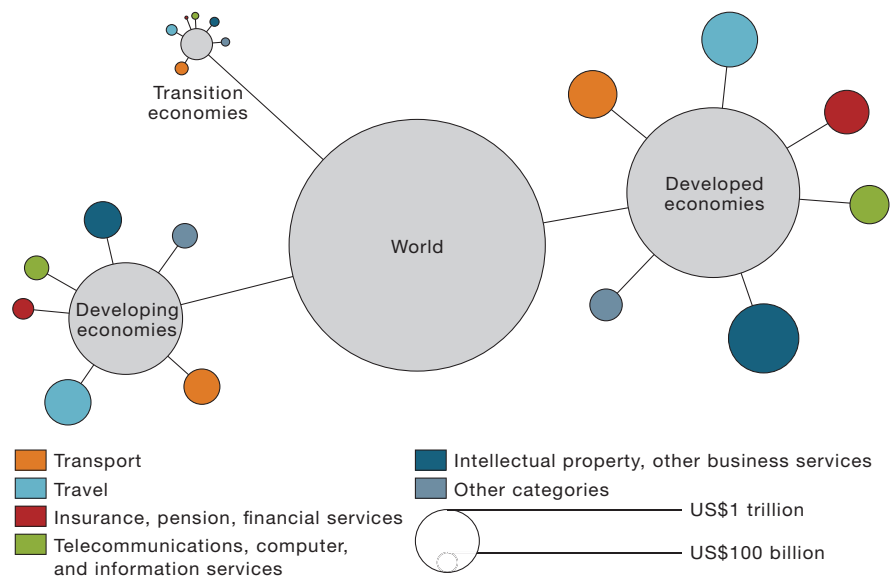
- **Transport:** covers international transport of goods and passengers.
- **Travel:** includes all goods and services consumed by travelers outside their country of residence; does not include international transport of passengers.
- **Goods-related services:** comprise processing and packaging of goods 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 2018, annex 6.2.

Main regional trends from 2012 to 2017

Between 2012 and 2017, exports of different service categories have displayed a variety of trends across world regions. Travel exports increased strongly in Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern America, Asia, and Oceania; they remained static in Europe and declined in Africa. Exports of transport services decreased in all regions, while exports of other services rose in most parts of the world, except Latin America and the Caribbean and Oceania.

Figure 1 | Structure of services exports, 2017



Note: For the grouping of service categories, see UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics 2018, annex 6.2.

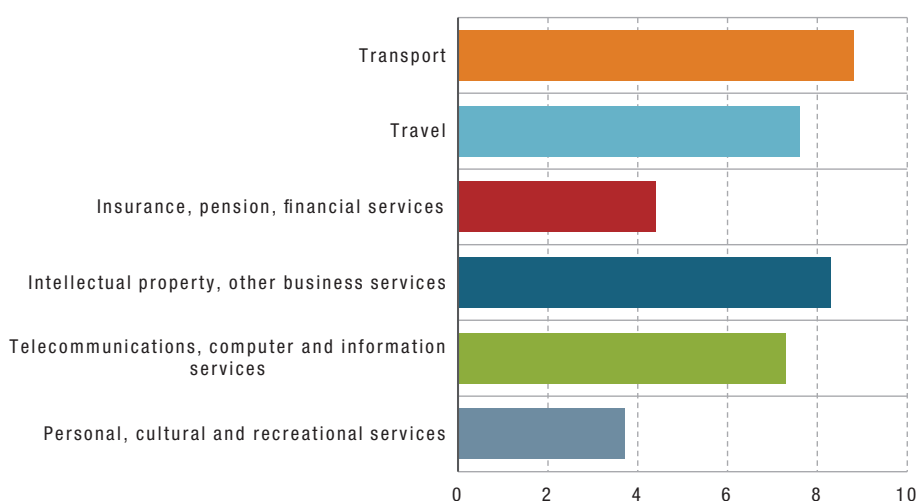


Structure of exports by group of economies and category

In 2017, developing economies exported services worth US\$1.6 trillion, while exports from developed economies were valued at US\$3.6 trillion, and those from transition economies US\$122 billion.

Travel remains the top category in developing economies' services exports, amounting to US\$521 billion in 2017 and capturing 40 per cent of the global market (US\$1.3 trillion). Transport ranks second, with a value of US\$317 billion in 2017. Transport (US\$42 billion) and travel (US\$29 billion) are also the main categories of services exported by transition economies. Developed economies lead world services trade in all categories. Their services exports consist mainly of business services (US\$1.2 trillion), followed by travel (US\$760 billion) and transport (US\$573 billion).

Figure 2 Annual growth rate of services exports*, 2017
(Percentage)



* Selected categories.

Note: For the grouping of service categories, see UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics 2018, annex 6.2.

Global trends in 2017

The surge of world service exports in 2017 (see UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics 2018, chapter 2.1) was driven by all main service categories, though to different degrees. Transport showed the strongest increase: almost 9 per cent globally. This affirms the sector's revival, related directly, as usual, to notable pick-up in international merchandise trade (see UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics 2018, chapter 1.1).

Strong growth was recorded also for travel, intellectual property and other business services, as well as telecommunications, computer and information services. Exports in these service categories increased at rates of around 7 and 8 per cent. Insurance, pension and financial services as well as personal, cultural and recreational services recorded smaller, yet sizeable growth, with rates near 4 per cent.

For references, see UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics 2018, annex 6.4.

Developing economies' services exports:



US\$1.6 trillion

Developing and transition economies export mainly transport and travel services



Developed economies have a strong focus on business services



Exports of transport services grow by almost 9%

