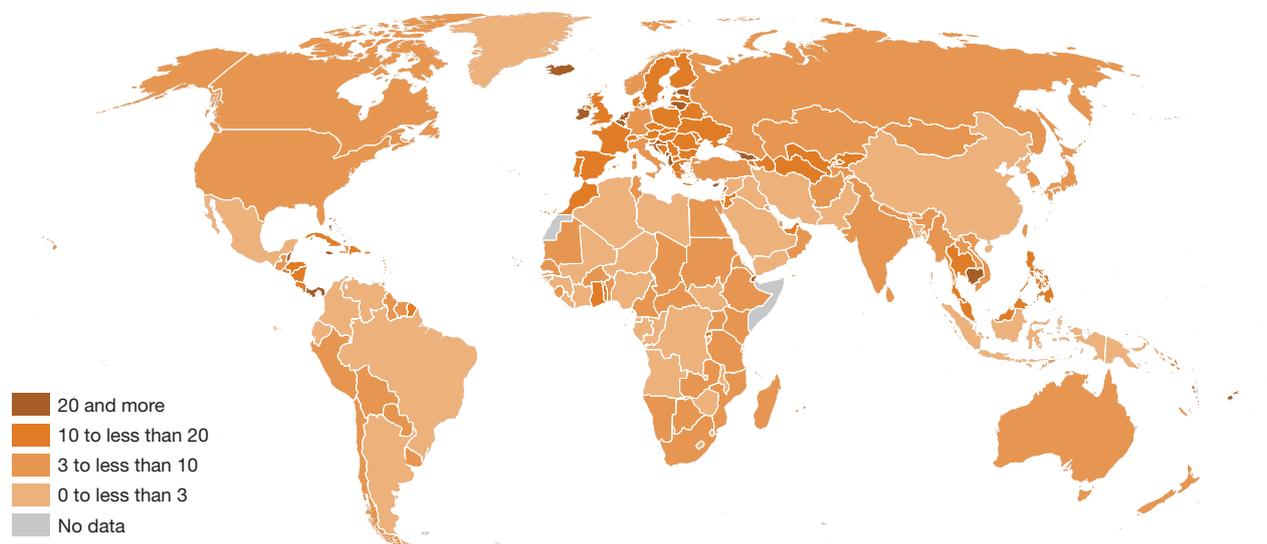




Fact sheet #5: Total trade in services

Map 1 Exports of services as a ratio to gross domestic product, 2018
(Percentage)



Concepts and definitions

In this chapter, in accordance with the concepts of the balance of payments (International Monetary Fund, 2009) and of the national accounts (United Nations et al., 2009), services are understood as the result of a production activity that changes the conditions of the consuming units, or facilitates the exchange of products or financial assets.

International trade in services takes place when a service is supplied in any of the following modes: from one economy to another (services cross the border); within an economy to a service consumer of another economy (consumer crosses the border); or through the presence of natural persons of one economy in another economy (supplier crosses the border) (United Nations et al., 2012).

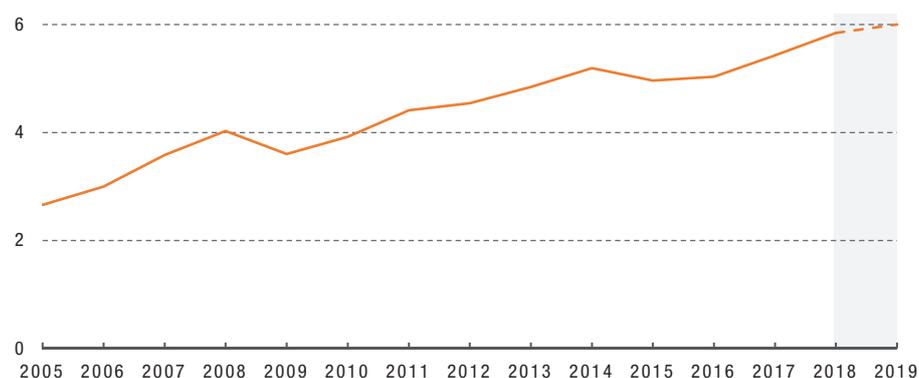
Trade-in-services figures up to 2018 are jointly compiled by UNCTAD, WTO and the International Trade Centre (ITC).

Growth in world services trade slowing down

After a strong increase of 7.9 per cent in 2017 and 7.7 per cent in 2018, slower growth of 2.7 per cent is nowcast for global services trade in 2019. In 2018, global services trade was valued at US\$5.8 trillion, one quarter of the value of total exports and 7 per cent of world GDP. In 2019, it is nowcast to reach US\$6.0 trillion.

In 2018, in many economies of Europe, Central America, the Caribbean and South-Eastern Asia, internationally sold services accounted for more than 10 per cent of GDP. Some smaller European economies, such as Luxembourg, Malta or Ireland, and several island economies, such as Aruba, Antigua and Barbuda or the Seychelles, relied to a particularly great extent on services exports. By contrast, in large parts of South America, Western and Central Africa as well as Western and Eastern Asia, services exports amounted to less than 3 per cent of GDP.

Figure 1 World services exports
(Trillions of United States dollars)



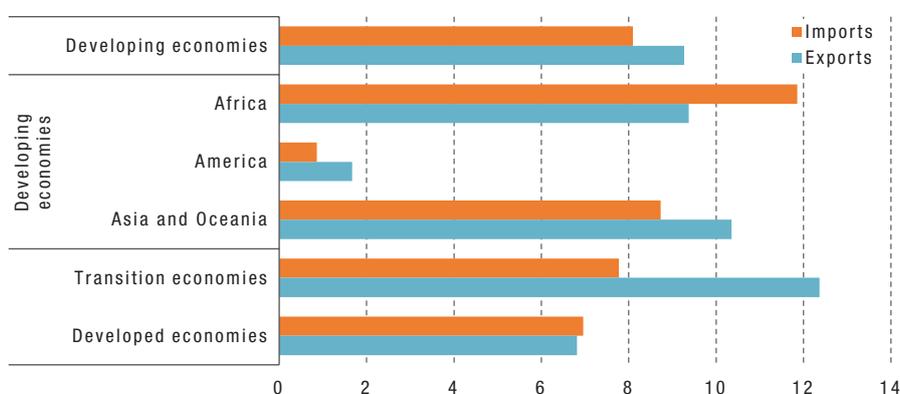
Note: The shaded area indicates UNCTAD nowcasts. For the methodology, see UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics 2019, annex 6.3.



American developing economies exhibit slower growth

Looking at the trends by development status and region, transition economies and developing economies in Asia and Oceania recorded strong growth in services exports; more than 10 per cent, exceeding their growth in imports. Africa saw a strong increase in imports (11.9 per cent) combined with slower growth of exports. In the developing economies of America, exports and imports increased at much lower rates, by less than 2 per cent. Exports and imports of developed economies rose at about equal pace as the world total.

Figure 2 | **Services trade annual growth rates, 2018**
(Percentage)

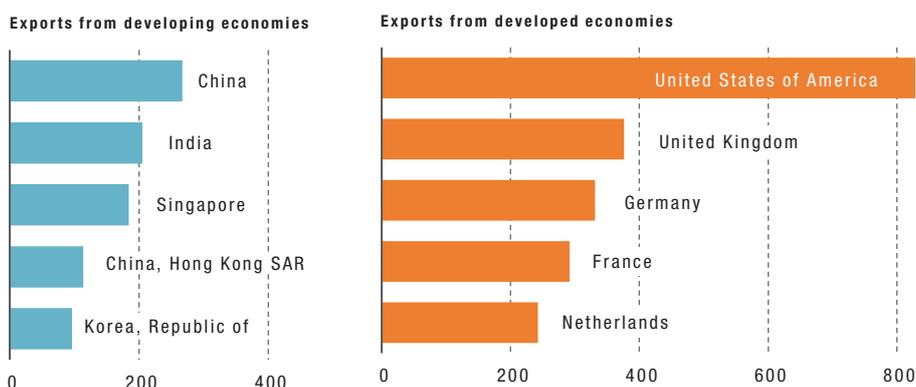


Leading services exporters

The world's top services exporter in 2018 was the United States of America, with US\$828 billion worth of services sold internationally, representing 14 per cent of global services exports. They were followed, at some distance, by three European countries that jointly captured 17 per cent of the world market. China, the leading exporter among developing economies, ranked fifth.

The top five exporting developing economies were Asian, comprising China, India, Singapore, Hong Kong SAR and the Republic of Korea. They held a world market share of almost 15 per cent, the same as all other developing economies combined.

Figure 3 | **Top 5 services exporters, 2018**
(Billions of United States dollars)



International trade in services accounts for **7%** of world GDP



Africa's services imports grew faster than exports:



Sluggish services trade in American developing economies



Exports: +1.7%



Five Asian developing economies hold **15%** of the world market


Table 1 Trade in services by group of economies

Group of economies	Exports				Imports			
	Value		Share in world	Annual growth rate	Value		Share in world	Annual growth rate
	(Billions of US\$)		(Percentage)	(Percentage)	(Billions of US\$)		(Percentage)	(Percentage)
	2013	2018	2018	2018	2013	2018	2018	2018
World	4 841	5 845	100.0	7.7	4 726	5 604	100.0	7.4
Developing economies	1 394	1 738	29.7	9.3	1 745	2 118	37.8	8.1
Developing economies: Africa	99	118	2.0	9.4	177	178	3.2	11.9
Developing economies: America	170	190	3.3	1.7	236	222	4.0	0.9
Developing economies: Asia and Oceania	1 125	1 430	24.5	10.4	1 333	1 718	30.7	8.7
Transition economies	137	137	2.3	12.4	194	158	2.8	7.8
Developed economies	3 310	3 970	67.9	6.8	2 787	3 327	59.4	7.0
Selected groups								
Developing economies excluding China	1 187	1 471	25.2	8.0	1 415	1 593	28.4	6.8
Developing economies excluding LDCs	1 358	1 692	29.0	9.0	1 666	2 041	36.4	8.1
LDCs	36	46	0.8	18.5	79	77	1.4	8.6
LLDCs	39	48	0.8	14.8	65	68	1.2	13.2
SIDS (UNCTAD)	19	25	0.4	9.8	14	16	0.3	2.9
HIPCs (IMF)	29	38	0.7	11.0	55	64	1.1	13.9
BRICS	481	587	10.0	12.6	688	881	15.7	10.7
G20	3 787	4 543	77.7	7.7	3 564	4 311	76.9	7.7

Table 2 Leading services exporters and importers by group of economies, 2018

Developing economies: Africa

Exporter (Ranked by value)	Value	Share in world total	Annual growth rate	Importer (Ranked by value)	Value	Share in world total	Annual growth rate
	(Billions of US\$)	(Percentage)	(Percentage)		(Billions of US\$)	(Percentage)	(Percentage)
Egypt	(e) 24	(e) 0.40	(e) 20.6	Nigeria	(e) 31	(e) 0.55	(e) 69.1
Morocco	19	0.32	7.0	Egypt	(e) 19	(e) 0.33	(e) 4.9
South Africa	16	0.27	1.3	South Africa	16	0.29	2.0
Ghana	(e) 8	(e) 0.13	(e) 14.7	Algeria	(e) 11	(e) 0.19	(e) -3.6
Kenya	(e) 5	(e) 0.09	(e) 14.4	Morocco	11	0.19	7.5
Developing Africa	118	2.02	9.4	Developing Africa	178	3.18	11.9

Developing economies: America

Exporter (Ranked by value)	Value	Share in world total	Annual growth rate	Importer (Ranked by value)	Value	Share in world total	Annual growth rate
	(Billions of US\$)	(Percentage)	(Percentage)		(Billions of US\$)	(Percentage)	(Percentage)
Brazil	34	0.58	-1.3	Brazil	68	1.21	-0.5
Mexico	(e) 29	(e) 0.49	(e) 5.1	Mexico	(e) 37	(e) 0.66	(e) 0.7
Argentina	14	0.24	-4.2	Argentina	24	0.43	-4.3
Panama	14	0.24	2.7	Chile	(e) 14	(e) 0.25	(e) 5.3
Cuba	(e) 11	(e) 0.18	(e) -5.6	Colombia	(e) 13	(e) 0.24	(e) 7.1
Developing America	190	3.26	1.7	Developing America	222	3.96	0.9



Developing economies: Asia and Oceania

Exporter (Ranked by value)	Value (Billions of US\$)	Share in world total (Percentage)	Annual growth rate (Percentage)
China	267	4.57	17.0
India	(e) 205	(e) 3.51	(e) 10.7
Singapore	184	3.15	6.6
China, Hong Kong SAR	(e) 114	(e) 1.95	(e) 9.3
Korea, Republic of	(e) 97	(e) 1.65	(e) 10.4
Developing Asia and Oceania	1 430	24.46	10.4

Importer (Ranked by value)	Value (Billions of US\$)	Share in world total (Percentage)	Annual growth rate (Percentage)
China	525	9.37	12.3
Singapore	187	3.34	3.0
India	(e) 177	(e) 3.15	(e) 14.2
Korea, Republic of	(e) 124	(e) 2.22	(e) 1.9
Saudi Arabia	86	1.54	10.0
Developing Asia and Oceania	1 718	30.66	8.7

Transition economies

Exporter (Ranked by value)	Value (Billions of US\$)	Share in world total (Percentage)	Annual growth rate (Percentage)
Russian Federation	(e) 65	(e) 1.11	(e) 12.3
Ukraine	16	0.27	11.3
Belarus	9	0.15	11.2
Serbia	9	0.15	16.4
Kazakhstan	7	0.12	11.8
Transition economies	137	2.35	12.4

Importer (Ranked by value)	Value (Billions of US\$)	Share in world total (Percentage)	Annual growth rate (Percentage)
Russian Federation	(e) 95	(e) 1.69	(e) 6.6
Ukraine	14	0.26	9.3
Kazakhstan	12	0.21	17.7
Azerbaijan	7	0.12	-16.3
Serbia	7	0.12	19.6
Transition economies	158	2.82	7.8

Developed economies

Exporter (Ranked by value)	Value (Billions of US\$)	Share in world total (Percentage)	Annual growth rate (Percentage)
United States of America	(e) 828	(e) 14.17	(e) 3.9
United Kingdom	(e) 376	(e) 6.44	(e) 5.5
Germany	(e) 331	(e) 5.67	(e) 7.7
France	(e) 291	(e) 4.99	(e) 5.9
Netherlands	(e) 242	(e) 4.15	(e) 11.4
Developed economies	3 970	67.92	6.8

Importer (Ranked by value)	Value (Billions of US\$)	Share in world total (Percentage)	Annual growth rate (Percentage)
United States of America	(e) 559	(e) 9.98	(e) 3.1
Germany	(e) 351	(e) 6.27	(e) 6.2
France	(e) 257	(e) 4.58	(e) 4.7
United Kingdom	(e) 235	(e) 4.20	(e) 10.5
Netherlands	(e) 229	(e) 4.08	(e) 10.9
Developed economies	3 327	59.38	7.0