

COSTA RICA

DIGITALLY DELIVERED SERVICES EXPORTS **Data for 2024**

Division of Data Analysis and Statistics
Organizational Data Analysis Department

December 2025





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1. RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF SERVICES



General issues: Exports as a percentage of GDP

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Exports	32.0	36.3	42.4	38.9	38.5
Exports of goods	19.3	22.8	24.0	21.8	21.6
Exports of services	12.7	13.5	18.4	17.1	16.9
Transport 	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5
Travel 	2.1	2.6	5.7	5.5	5.7
Other 	9.8	10.2	12.0	11.0	10.7
Of which: via ICT networks	6.8	7.2	8.0	7.6	7.5

Source: Central Bank of Costa Rica.

2. INFORMATION CAPTURE PROCESS



Survey “Digitally deliverable services exports” (annual).

Adapted to international methodological recommendations.

Administrative records (monthly and quarterly): Financial Sector and Public Sector.

Electronic vouchers
Registry of Economic Variables (REVEC)

Quantifying exports of services delivered remotely through digital platforms.



Services Exports: Modes of supply

Mode 1

Cross-border
supply

Mode 2

Consumption
abroad

Mode 3

Commercial
presence

Mode 4

Presence of
natural persons

Types of services included in the survey

Telecommunications



Computer (Software)

Advertising, market research,
and public opinion
polling services

Financial services



Health services

Research and
development services

Information services

Insurance and pension
servicesLegal services, accounting,
management consulting,
managerial services, and
public relations services

Trade-related services

Other business services
n.i.eAudio-visual and related
servicesCharges for the use of
intellectual property
n.i.e.Architectural, engineering,
scientific and other
technical servicesEducation and training
services

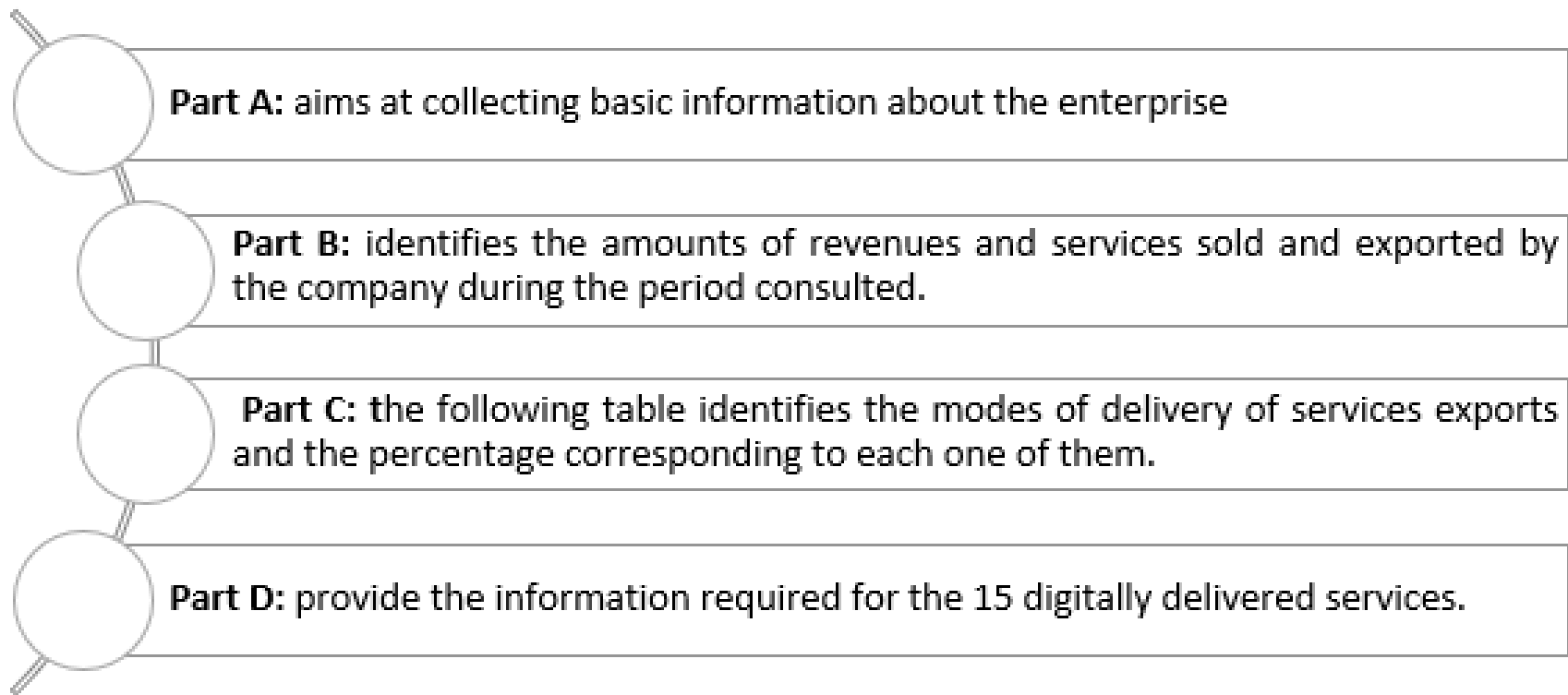


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Information capture process: Survey

Structure of the form

The form collects selected annual information on the company's international service transactions.



Exports of services

Has your company exported any of the following services digitally during the period January 2024 to December 2024?

Mark with an X the corresponding entries:	Value of exports	Proportion delivered through ICT (%)	Name(s) of major partner(s) country(ies)	Proportion delivered to major partner(s) country(ies)
Telecommunications			1°	1°
			2°	2°
			3°	3°
Computer services (including software)			1°	1°
			2°	2°
			3°	3°
Advertising, market research, and public opinion polling services.			1°	1°
			2°	2°
			3°	3°
Information services			1°	1°
			2°	2°
			3°	3°

3. MAIN RESULTS



3

Main results: By size of the enterprises

In 2024, size 4 (large) enterprises accounted for 95.7% of total exports of digitally deliverable services

Exports of digitally deliverable services by size and total sales

Size	Number of enterprises 2017-2024	Sales 2017-2024 <i>USD mil</i>	Number of enterprises 2024	Sales <i>USD mill</i> 2024
1. Micro	533	67	428	59
2. Small	85	43	77	60
3. Medium	81	145	101	189
4. Large	320	4,669	413	6,841
Total	1,019	4,924	1,019	7,149

Response percentage

69.2%

Average number of
ISIC's

47

Source: Central Bank of Costa Rica.

3 Main results: Origin of the capital

Origin of the capital of companies exporting digitally delivered services

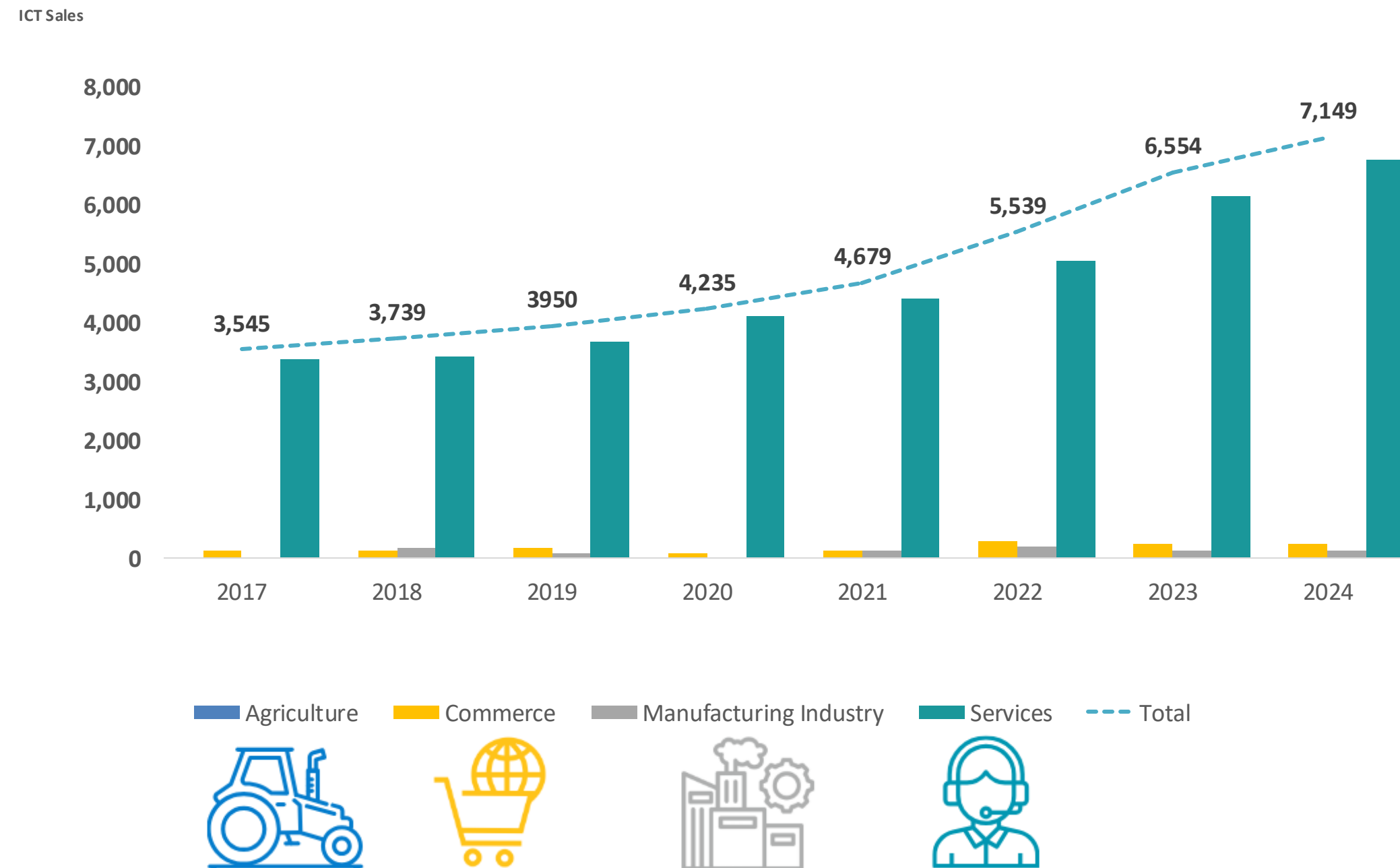


Source: Central Bank of Costa Rica.

Main results: Economic activity

In 2024, services economic activity accounted for 92.5% of digitally deliverable services

Digitally deliverable services exports by economic activity *USD mill*



Source: Central Bank of Costa Rica.

Main results: By type of service

Digitally deliverable services exports by type of service consulted *USD mill*

Service	2023	2024
1. Insurance and pension services	-	-
2. Financial services	87	100
3. Charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e	6	5
4. Telecommunications, computer and information services	1,501	1,634
4.1 Telecommunications	30	31
4.2 Computer	1,454	1,581
4.3 Information	17	22
5. Research and development services	324	442
6. Professional and management consulting services	4,618	4,949
6.1 Legal services, accounting, management consulting, managerial services, and public relations services	4,475	4,810
6.2 Advertising, market research, and public opinion polling services	143	139
7. Architectural, engineering, scientific and other technical services	5	6
8. Trade-related services	-	-
9. Other business services n.i.e	-	-
10. Heritage and recreational services	13	13
10.1 Audio-visual and related services	-	-
10.2 Other heritage and recreational services	13	13
10.2.1 Health services	3	4
10.2.2 Education services	10	9
Total	6,554	7,149

Source: Central Bank of Costa Rica.

3 Main results: Destination of exports

Destination of exports of digitally deliverable services in 2024



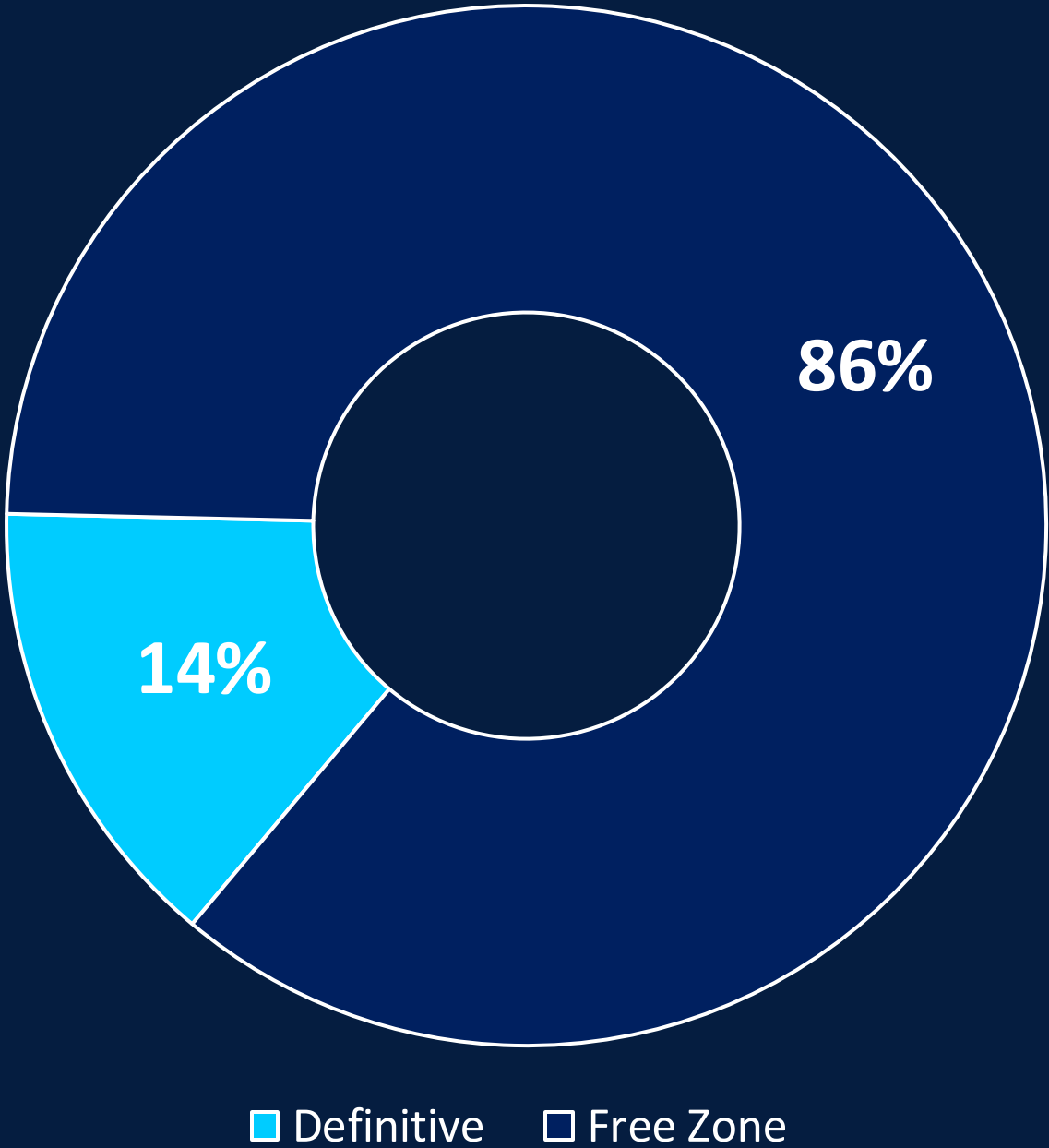
Source: Central Bank of Costa Rica.

3

Main results: Employment opportunities

Digitally deliverable services exports by regime

Service	Regime		Total
	Definitive	Free Zone	
Professional and management consulting services	433	4,516	4,949
Telecommunications, computer and information services	415	1,220	1,634
Research and development services	58	384	442
Others	113	10	124
Total	1,019	6,130	7,149



Source: Central Bank of Costa Rica.

3 Main results: Employment opportunities

Enterprises of digitally deliverable services exports created 227.8 thousand jobs in 2024 (197.5 in 2023). Of these, 38% are occupied by women.

Employment opportunities offered by enterprises of digitally delivered services exports, according to gender

62%

Male

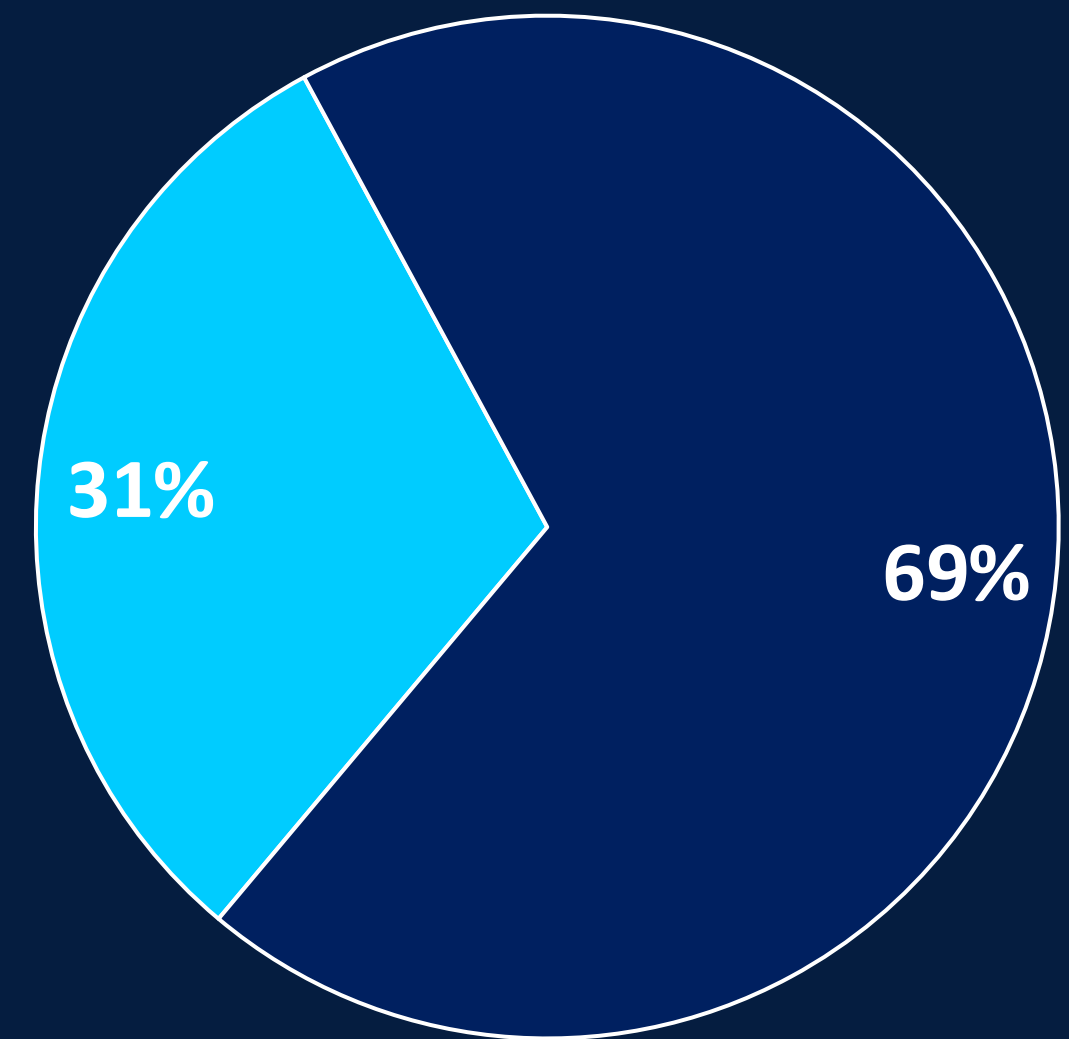


38%

Female



Employment opportunities offered by enterprises of digitally delivered services exports, by regime





Definitive

Free Zone

Source: Central Bank of Costa Rica.

4. CONCLUSIONS



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- 01** Exports of services have continued to show strong dynamism in recent years, particularly those delivered through digital platforms. This sustained growth highlights the increasing relevance of knowledge- and technology-based activities in Costa Rica's external sector.
 - 02** Digitally deliverable services exports represented 19.4%, 44.0% and 7.5% of total exports, services exports and GDP in 2024, respectively. These sales are mainly destined for the United States and European markets.
 - 03** In these activities, the contribution of the enterprises attached to the special free trade zone regime stood out (85,7% of the total).
 - 04** In terms of export value, large enterprises channeled 95.8%, although many micro, small and medium-sized enterprises also participate in these activities.
 - 05** Sales to the rest of the world are concentrated in two types of services: Administration and auxiliary offices and IT and software (together 93.7% of the total).
 - 06** These activities have provided significant employment opportunities for both sexes in the last seven years. Specifically, in 2024, 10.4% of the country's occupied population (227.8 thousand jobs).
 - 07** In short, these results confirm the strong performance of digitally deliverable services in 2024 and their contribution to a national economy that increasingly relies on knowledge- and technology-intensive activities.

5. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS



Convenience of alliances with public-private institutions to encourage the participation of the non-financial private sector in this type of exercise.

Contrast and validate the information obtained with other statistical records. For example, the Registry of Economic Variables (REVEC) administered by Banco Central de Costa Rica and other administrative sources.

Communicate the results to the business sector and citizens in general, as a retribution for the support provided in the process.

Reiterate the commitment to the responsible use of the data provided from a strictly statistical perspective. The issue of data management under a strict commitment to **confidentiality** is more than fundamental.

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6. ANNEXES



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Annex: Size of the enterprises (MEIC)

The classification of enterprises by size is based on the methodology used by the Ministerio de Economía, Industria y Comercio (MEIC), which includes the income, number of workers and net fixed assets, as detailed below:

Criteria for defining the size of enterprises

Size of enterprise		P value
Micro		$P \leq 10$
Small		$10 < P \leq 35$
Medium		$35 < P \leq 100$
Large		$P > 100$

Industry	Commerce and service	Information and Communication Technologies
$P = [(0,6 \times pe/100) + (0,3 \times van/\text{¢}1,738,000,000) + (0,1 \times afe/\text{¢}1,086,000,000)] \times 100$	$P = [(0,6 \times pe/30) + (0,3 \times van/\text{¢}2,979,000,000) + (0,1 \times afe/\text{¢}931,000,000)] \times 100$	$P = [(0,6 \times pe/50) + (0,3 \times van/\text{¢}2,979,000,000) + (0,1 \times afe/\text{¢}931,000,000)] \times 100$

Where P is the size assigned to the company by its characteristics. This will depend on the economic activity in which the enterprise is.

Where;

pe: Average personnel employed by the company during the last fiscal period.

van: Value of the company's net annual sales in the last fiscal period.

afe: Value of the company's net fixed assets in the last fiscal period.

Adjusted definition of company size based on MEIC methodology

Since the BCCR does not have the value of the company's fixed assets, the formula is adjusted to consider only the number of workers and income, as follows:

$$P = \left[\left(F_{pe} * \frac{pe}{D_{pe}} + F_{inpf} * \frac{inpf}{D_{inpf}} \right) \right] * \left(\frac{100}{90} \right)$$

Where:

P: Score obtained by the company.

F_{pe}: Factor for the number of workers employed.

Pe: Average workers employed by the company during the last fiscal period.

D_{pe}: Parameter for the number of workers in the respective sector.

F_{inpf}: Factor for the net income of the last fiscal period, discounting returns and discounts.

inpf: Value of the company's annual net income in the last fiscal period.

D_{inpf}: Monetary reference parameter for the net income of the respective sector.

Adjusted definition of company size based on MEIC methodology

In cases where only one variable is recorded, the following criteria apply.

Variable	Criterion ^{1/}	Classification
Number of workers	$W \leq 5$	Micro
	$5 < W \leq 30$	Small
	$30 < W \leq 100$	Medium
	$W > 100$	Large
Income	$I \leq \text{USD } 175.000$	Micro
	$\text{USD } 175.000 < I \leq \text{USD } 600.000$	Small
	$\text{USD } 600.000 < I \leq \text{USD } 1.500.000$	Medium
	$I > \text{USD } 1.500.000$	Large

^{1/} W: Workers; I: Income

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