



UNCTAD/GDS/DSI/MISC/2020/2

INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN SERVICES 2019 QUARTER 4

Global services trade grew by 2% in 2019, according to preliminary estimates.

The development of trade in services was most dynamic in quarter 4, recording a 3% increase, year-on-year. Services other than transport and travel saw an expansion over the whole year. International travel growth was sluggish, and transport was on the decline, in all 4 quarters.

**Global services exports
Year 2019
(estimates) +2.0%**

Q4 2019 +3.0%

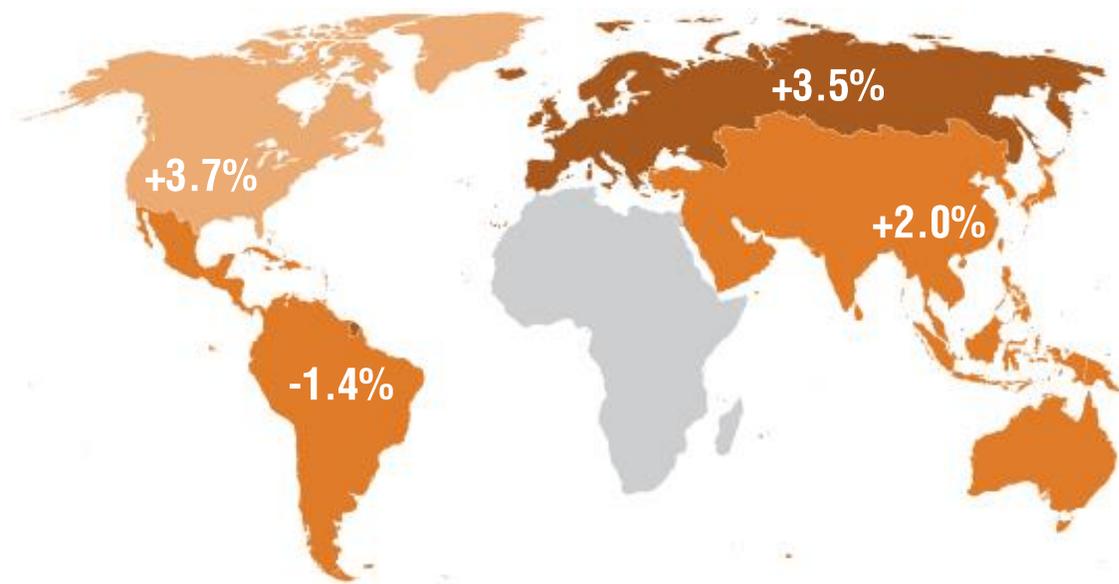
Figure 1. Global services exports growth rate
(Percentage, y-o-y, current US\$)



Regional developments

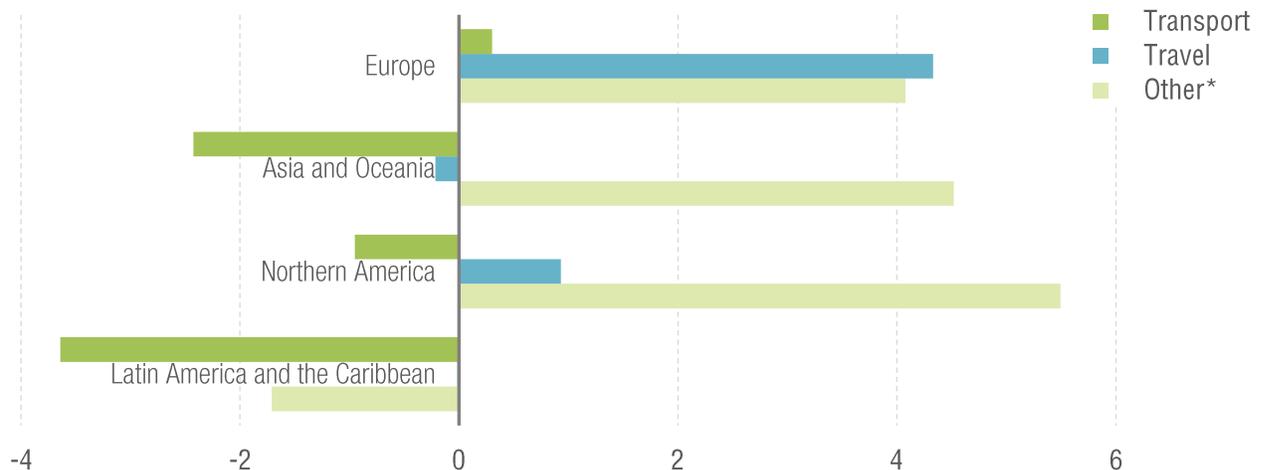


Figure 2. Growth rate of total services exports by region, Q4 2019
(Percentage, y-o-y, current US\$)



In quarter 4 of 2019, services trade increased in all world regions, except Latin America and the Caribbean. The highest overall growth rate was recorded for Northern America, closely followed by Europe. Northern America recorded an especially strong rise in international sales of other services, while Europe's exports of both travel and other services were solid. Asia and Oceania observed an increase in other services offsetting the downturn in transport and travel. Transport services exports declined everywhere, except in Europe, where they exhibited only a modest rise.

Figure 3. Growth rate of services exports by region, Q4 2019
(Percentage, y-o-y, current US\$)



Note: Regions with insufficient data coverage are not presented.

Leading exporters in Q4 2019



Developing economies	Billions of US\$	% change y-o-y
China	76	5.4
India	55	0.1
Singapore	53	5.4
Korea, Republic of	27	-1.6
China, Hong Kong SAR	22	-25.3
Thailand	22	10.1
Turkey	16	6.0
China, Taiwan Province of	13	-1.5
China, Macao SAR	11	-5.3
Philippines	11	7.8

Developed economies	Billions of US\$	% change y-o-y
United States of America	214	3.7
United Kingdom	117	10.9
Germany	89	-2.1
Netherlands	71	8.3
France	69	-5.1
Ireland	67	15.5
Japan	50	6.4
Spain	37	3.8
Belgium	33	1.0
Switzerland, Liechtenstein	30	-1.0

Leading importers in Q4 2019



Developing economies	Billions of US\$	% change y-o-y
China	122	-2.7
Singapore	52	1.4
India	45	-3.8
Korea, Republic of	33	-1.3
China, Hong Kong SAR	20	-4.5
Brazil	18	-4.8
Thailand	15	2.8
China, Taiwan Province of	15	2.1
Malaysia	11	1.3
Indonesia	10	8.1

Developed economies	Billions of US\$	% change y-o-y
United States of America	150	3.7
Ireland	109	71.3
Germany	92	-1.7
United Kingdom	81	25.5
Netherlands	64	2.7
France	64	-2.5
Japan	49	-1.0
Italy	33	-0.4
Belgium	32	-1.8
Canada	28	1.6

Notes



Quarterly estimates are based on the statistics available in national and international sources for some 150 economies, representing at least 90% of total international services trade.

* *Other* represents a heterogeneous group of products dominated by various business services, telecommunications and computer services, intellectual-property, insurance and financial services. They are further comprised of construction, personal, cultural and recreational services, and government goods and services (n.i.e.). For this presentation, manufacturing, processing and repair services are also included under *other*.

Source: UNCTAD-WTO-ITC dataset on trade in services.

Disclaimer: The publication has not been formally edited.