



UNCTAD/GDS/DSI/MISC/2020/7

INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN SERVICES 2020 QUARTER 2

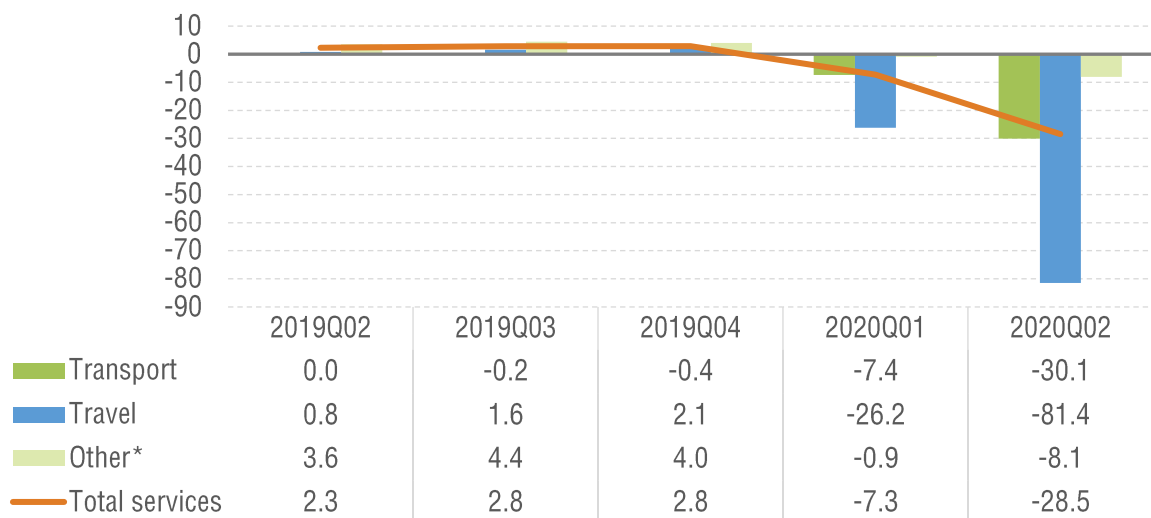
In Q2 2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, global services trade suffered a sharp downturn, dropping by 28.5% year-on-year. The fall is steeper than the one observed in the 2009 financial crisis. The hardest hit sector was travel that plunged by 81.4%, year-on-year. Trade in transport decreased by 30.1%. Other services, many of which can be traded remotely, showed higher resistance, but still dropped by 8.1%, year-on-year. In seasonally adjusted terms, the quarter-on-quarter total services trade decline is estimated at 22.7%.

Global services exports
-28.5% YoY

-22.7% QoQ
 (seasonally adjusted)

Figure 1. Global services exports growth rate

○ **Percentage, Y-o-Y**



○ **Percentage, Q-o-Q, seasonally adjusted**

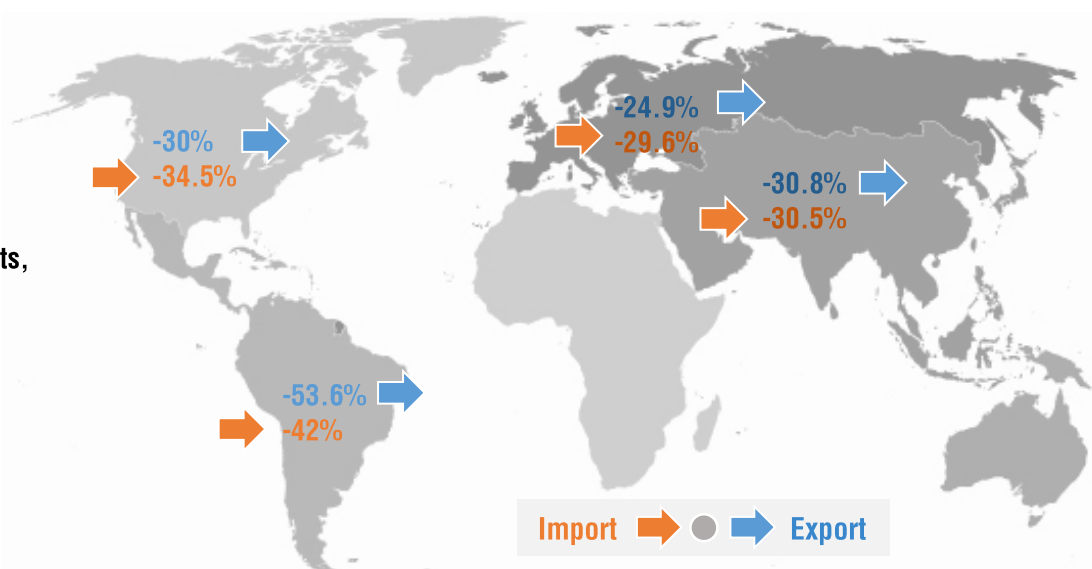
	2019Q02	2019Q03	2019Q04	2020Q01	2020Q02
Transport	0.1	0.0	0.4	-7.6	-24.9
Travel	1.2	0.6	0.0	-24.7	-75.3
Other*	1.4	0.9	0.1	-3.4	-5.7
Total services	0.1	0.4	1.3	-9.1	-22.7

Regional developments



Figure 2. Growth rate of total services trade by region, Q2 2020

- Exports and imports, percentage, Y-o-Y



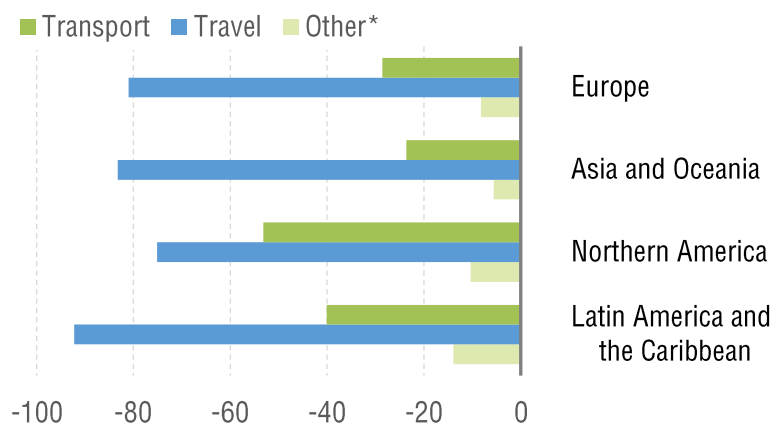
- Exports, percentage, Q-o-Q, seasonally adjusted

	2019Q02	2019Q03	2019Q04	2020Q01	2020Q02
Northern America	1.9	-0.3	1.4	-7.7	-25.0
Latin America and the Caribbean	-0.9	1.5	-2.1	-9.1	-45.5
Europe	0.3	-0.3	1.4	-5.8	-21.1
Asia and Oceania	1.8	0.0	-1.1	-13.5	-19.0

Trade in services plunged all across the globe in Q2 2020. The sharpest fall in both exports and imports was recorded in Latin America and the Caribbean, mainly owing to its relatively high dependence on travel. Northern American exports, like those from Asia and Oceania, dropped by 30% year-on-year. Europe exported 25% less services than in Q2 2019.

Unsurprisingly, none of the world regions was spared the acute loss of travel receipts. The best performing, Northern America, recorded a 75% year-on-year decline, whereas in all other regions the decrease exceeded 80%. Northern American transport exports fell by 53%, while those from Europe and Asia and Oceania dropped by 29% and 23%, respectively. The highest loss of exports in other services was observed in Latin America and the Caribbean (-14%, year-on-year).

Figure 3. Services exports growth rates by region, Q2 2020 (Percentage, Y-o-Y)



Note: Regions with insufficient data coverage are not presented.

Leading exporters in Q2 2020



Developing economies	Billions of US\$	% change y-o-y	% change q-o-q (SA)
China	66	-3.9	3.5
India	47	-10.3	-5.1
Singapore	39	-23.0	-18.2
Korea, Republic of	20	-28.0	-20.9
China, Hong Kong SAR	14	-46.9	-14.1
China, Taiwan Province of	9	-29.4	-15.4
Brazil	6	-16.6	-14.6
Philippines	6	-37.5	-24.3
Turkey	5	-67.5	-63.8
Thailand	5	-72.2	-37.6

Developed economies	Billions of US\$	% change y-o-y	% change q-o-q (SA)
United States of America	154	-30.2	-24.2
United Kingdom	83	-21.1	-20.1
Germany	67	-22.3	-19.2
Netherlands	58	-14.1	-12.6
Ireland	57	-7.4	-6.7
France	56	-24.2	-12.4
Japan	37	-29.9	-14.4
Luxembourg	26	-6.1	-1.5
Belgium	26	-8.6	-4.9
Switzerland, Liechtenstein	23	-23.8	-14.5

Leading importers in Q2 2020



Developing economies	Billions of US\$	% change y-o-y	% change q-o-q (SA)
China	85	-31.4	-17.1
Singapore	37	-26.7	-21.1
India	33	-27.7	-20.7
Korea, Republic of	23	-27.8	-16.8
Saudi Arabia	14	-26.2	-4.9
China, Hong Kong SAR	11	-44.0	-24.9
Brazil	10	-40.6	-33.8
Thailand	9	-37.6	-31.6
Qatar	9	-7.5	1.9
China, Taiwan Province of	8	-40.7	-28.1

Developed economies	Billions of US\$	% change y-o-y	% change q-o-q (SA)
United States of America	101	-34.1	-29.4
Germany	63	-30.5	-26.5
Ireland	58	-45.1	-39.2
France	55	-18.5	-14.0
Netherlands	53	-18.6	-14.6
United Kingdom	47	-32.0	-27.7
Japan	45	-16.1	-9.6
Belgium	25	-14.2	-7.4
Italy	20	-32.8	-25.8
Luxembourg	20	-7.1	-1.1



The trade in services statistics included follow the IMF Balance of Payments Manual 6 (BPM6, 2009) classification.

Quarterly estimates are based on the statistics available in national and international sources for some 150 economies, representing over 85% 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*.

The seasonally adjusted figures are UNCTAD secretariat's estimates compiled for a selection of main services items, using the X-11 seasonal adjustment method. Each series was adjusted based on its values in current US\$. Consequently, the seasonally adjusted total services do not represent the exact sum of relevant seasonally adjusted sub-categories. In the same way, the seasonally adjusted series for groups of economies do not represent the exact sum of the seasonally adjusted country-level series.

Due to the confinement measures in response to the outbreak of COVID-19, several data providers and compilers declared they could not apply the usual level of diligence in the compilation of the data for 2020. This should be considered in the analysis and interpretation of these data.

Source: UNCTAD-WTO-ITC data set on international trade in services.

Source, seasonal adjustment: UNCTAD

Find the underlying data on [UNCTADstat](#)