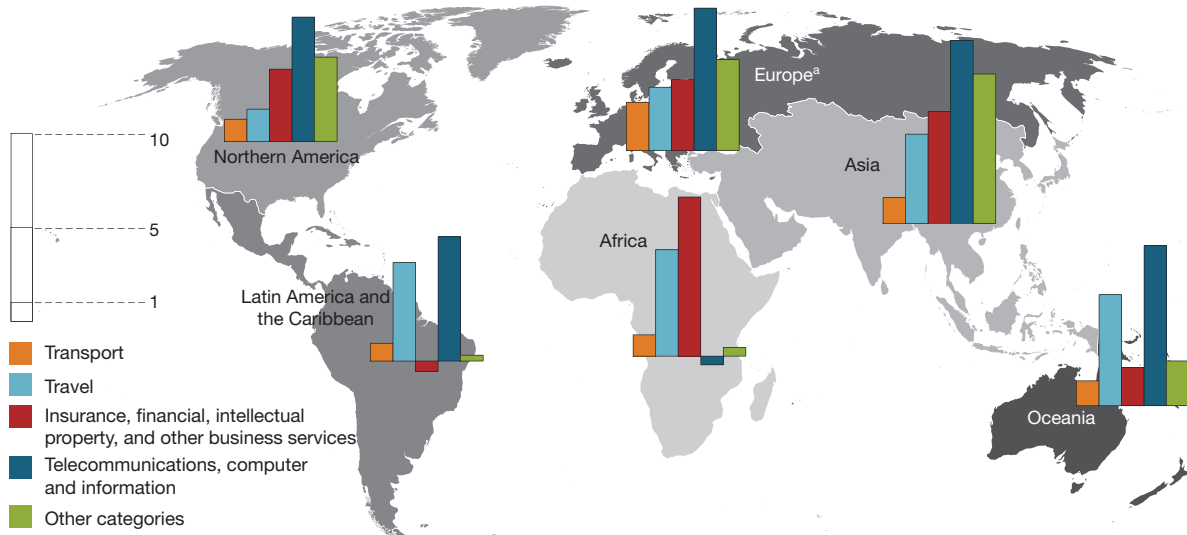




# Fact sheet #6: Trade in services by category

**Map 1** | Changes in services exports by category, 2014–2019  
(Average annual growth rate, percentage)



<sup>a</sup> Including the Russian Federation and the French overseas departments.

## Concepts and definitions

The breakdown by service category in this section has been built from the division of services in the balance of payments statistics, known as the 2010 Extended Balance of Payments Services Classification (EBOPS 2010) (United Nations et al., 2012). For the correspondence to the EBOPS 2010 categories and to the main groups presented in UNCTADstat, see UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics 2020, annex 6.2.

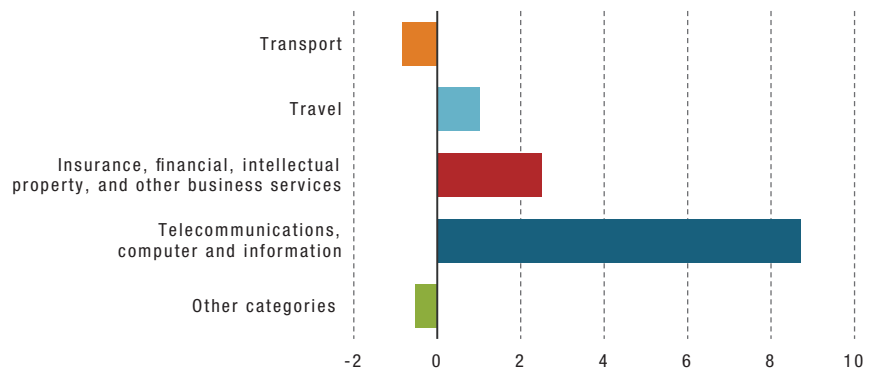
The presented trade-in-services figures are jointly compiled by UNCTAD and WTO, in cooperation with ITC and UNSD.

## Regional trends over five years

Between 2014 and 2019, exports of services increased in all main service categories in Northern America, Europe, Asia and Oceania. Asian exports grew particularly fast. In telecommunications, computer and information services the annual average increase was 9.7 per cent. This sector showed the most dynamic development over the five-year period across the world, except in Africa, where those services exports declined. Travel exports grew across all regions, though less in Northern America and Europe than elsewhere.

Latin America and the Caribbean lost market share in insurance, financial, intellectual property and other business services, between 2014 and 2019. Exports of transport showed slow growth compared to other service categories, especially in the main transport-supplying regions, Northern America, Europe and Asia.

**Figure 1** | Annual growth rate of services exports, 2019  
(Percentage)



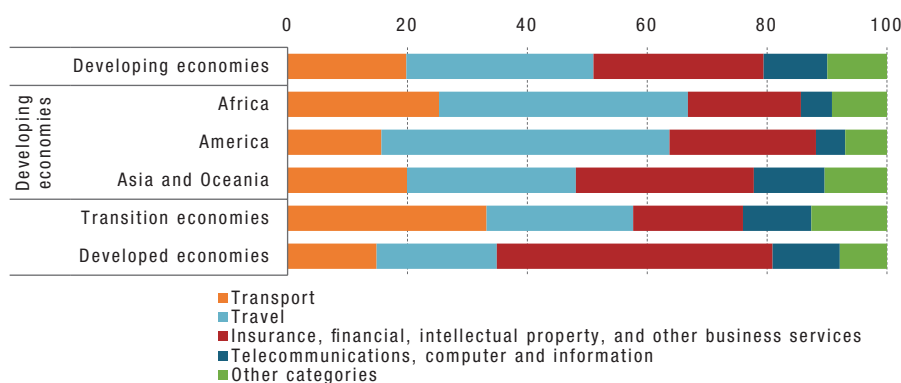


### Global trends in 2019

As in 2018, in 2019 telecommunications, computer and information services were the service category in which trade grew fastest. These exports rose by 8.7 per cent in 2019. Business, intellectual property, financial and insurance services exports grew modestly (+2.5 per cent). International travel increased by 1 per cent, while exports of transport and other services slightly declined.

Transport and travel dominate the exports from developing and transition economies. Developed economies export mainly insurance, financial, intellectual property and other business services.

**Figure 2** | Structure of services exports, 2019  
(Percentage)



In **Asia**, exports of **telecommunication, computer and information services** grew by **9.7%** over the last 5 years



**Insurance, financial, intellectual property and other business services** losing ground in Latin America and the Caribbean

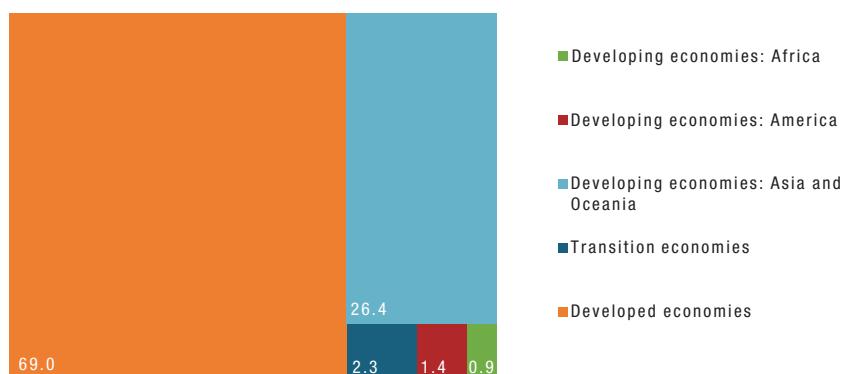


### Predominance of developed economies

In 2019, 68 per cent of all internationally traded services were supplied by developed economies. In transport and travel, this share was a bit lower: 60 and 58 per cent, respectively. In other services – many of them relying on technologically advanced products and networks – the share of the developed world stood at 69 per cent.

It remains difficult for developing economies to compete in technology-intensive services markets, except for certain Asian economies. In the fastest growing main service category – telecommunications, computer and information – developing economies outside of Asia and Oceania captured just 2.4 per cent of the global market in 2019.

**Figure 3** | Exports of telecommunications, computer and information services, by group of economies, 2019  
(Percentage)



International **transport services** down by **1%** in 2019



**African and American** developing economies accounted for **only 2.4%** of global exports of **telecommunication, computer and information services**



For references, see UNCTAD Handbook of Statistics 2020, annex 6.4.


**Table 1** Trade in services by service category and by group of economies

## Developing economies

Service category	Exports			Imports			Balance	
	Value		Annual growth rate	Value		Annual growth rate	Balance	
	(Billions of US\$)		(Percentage)	(Billions of US\$)		(Percentage)	(Billions of US\$)	
	2014	2019	2019	2014	2019	2019	2014	2019
<b>Total services</b>	<b>1 512</b>	<b>1 833</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1 949</b>	<b>2 108</b>	<b>-1.8</b>	<b>-437</b>	<b>-275</b>
Transport	343	363	-0.1	560	571	-2.0	-217	-207
Travel	486	572	2.3	551	636	-2.9	-65	-64
Others	683	898	3.7	838	901	-0.9	-155	-3

## Developing economies: Africa

Service category	Exports			Imports			Balance	
	Value		Annual growth rate	Value		Annual growth rate	Balance	
	(Billions of US\$)		(Percentage)	(Billions of US\$)		(Percentage)	(Billions of US\$)	
	2014	2019	2019	2014	2019	2019	2014	2019
<b>Total services</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>-81</b>	<b>-60</b>
Transport	30	31	1.6	71	61	-2.3	-41	-31
Travel	43	51	1.6	25	35	16.3	18	15
Others	33	40	3.8	91	85	1.6	-58	-45

## Developing economies: America

Service category	Exports			Imports			Balance	
	Value		Annual growth rate	Value		Annual growth rate	Balance	
	(Billions of US\$)		(Percentage)	(Billions of US\$)		(Percentage)	(Billions of US\$)	
	2014	2019	2019	2014	2019	2019	2014	2019
<b>Total services</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>-4.0</b>	<b>-63</b>	<b>-22</b>
Transport	31	31	0.2	69	61	-4.4	-38	-30
Travel	74	95	3.5	61	58	-6.7	14	37
Others	73	72	-1.9	112	101	-2.1	-39	-29

## Developing economies: Asia and Oceania

Service category	Exports			Imports			Balance	
	Value		Annual growth rate	Value		Annual growth rate	Balance	
	(Billions of US\$)		(Percentage)	(Billions of US\$)		(Percentage)	(Billions of US\$)	
	2014	2019	2019	2014	2019	2019	2014	2019
<b>Total services</b>	<b>1 227</b>	<b>1 513</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>1 521</b>	<b>1 706</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>-294</b>	<b>-193</b>
Transport	282	302	-0.4	421	448	-1.6	-138	-147
Travel	369	426	2.1	465	543	-3.5	-96	-117
Others	576	785	4.3	635	715	-1.0	-59	71



## Transition economies

Service category	Exports			Imports			Balance	
	Value		Annual growth rate	Value		Annual growth rate	Balance	
	(Billions of US\$)		(Percentage)	(Billions of US\$)		(Percentage)	(Billions of US\$)	
	2014	2019	2019	2014	2019	2019	2014	2019
<b>Total services</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>-60</b>	<b>-35</b>
Transport	44	45	-0.7	32	35	5.6	12	10
Travel	29	34	0.8	71	62	5.5	-42	-28
Others	54	58	3.8	85	75	4.9	-31	-17

## Developed economies

Service category	Exports			Imports			Balance	
	Value		Annual growth rate	Value		Annual growth rate	Balance	
	(Billions of US\$)		(Percentage)	(Billions of US\$)		(Percentage)	(Billions of US\$)	
	2014	2019	2019	2014	2019	2019	2014	2019
<b>Total services</b>	<b>3 606</b>	<b>4 174</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>3 005</b>	<b>3 546</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>628</b>
Transport	612	620	-1.2	589	601	-2.0	22	19
Travel	734	837	0.2	624	692	1.6	110	145
Others	2 261	2 717	2.9	1 792	2 253	7.2	468	464

**Table 2** Exports of selected services, by region, 2019  
(Millions of United States dollars)

Group of economies	Insurance and pension services	Financial services	Charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e.	Telecommunications, computer, and information services	Other business services
<b>World</b>	<b>137 031</b>	<b>520 441</b>	<b>409 173</b>	<b>678 222</b>	<b>1 399 853</b>
Northern America	18 141	145 055	122 787	64 616	217 033
Latin America and the Caribbean	5 926	4 694	1 233	9 658	36 452
Europe	79 654	273 847	203 667	390 440	735 961
Sub-Saharan Africa	1 344	2 605	314	3 469	12 462
Western Asia and Northern Africa	10 628	6 039	6 484	37 287	38 820
Central and Southern Asia	2 921	5 575	945	68 640	78 344
Eastern and South-Eastern Asia	17 839	78 449	72 362	99 728	270 779
Oceania	578	4 177	1 382	4 386	10 002
<b>Selected groups</b>					
Developing economies excluding China	31 232	78 567	25 420	140 924	296 814
Developing economies excluding LDCs	35 707	81 813	31 964	192 240	365 391
LDCs	297	658	99	2 468	4 670
LLDCs	406	510	140	2 451	3 928
SIDS (UNCTAD)	186	205	37	513	1 720
HIPCs (IMF)	360	579	61	2 012	9 611
BRICS	8 792	11 679	9 279	127 353	177 472
G20	106 390	426 848	365 835	576 090	1 173 310