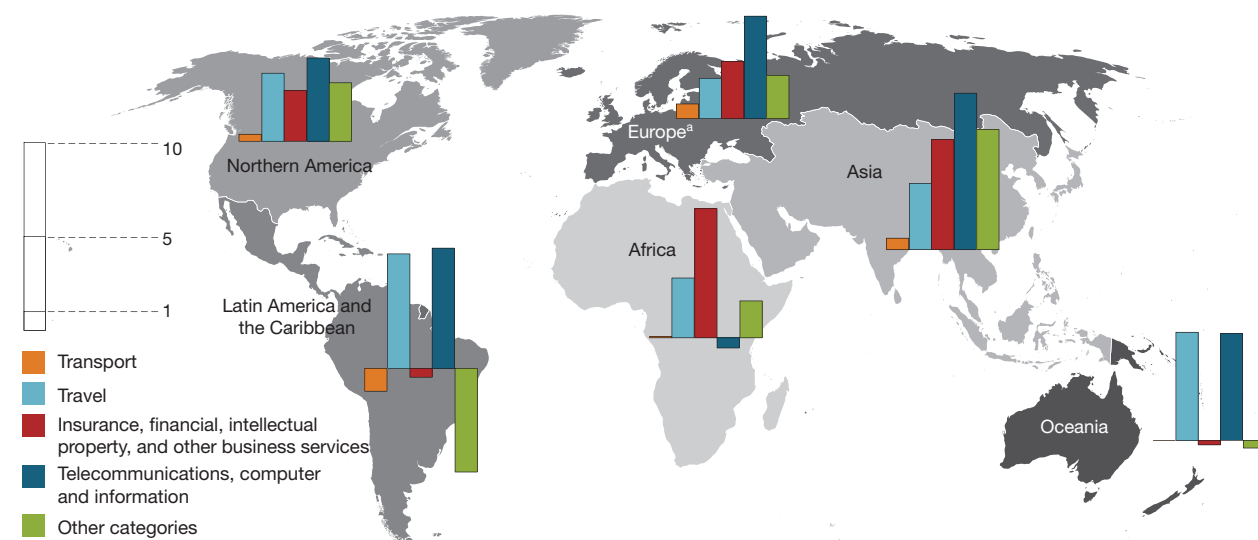




Fact sheet #6: Trade in services by category

Map 1 | Changes in services exports by category, 2013–2018
(Average annual growth rate, percentage)

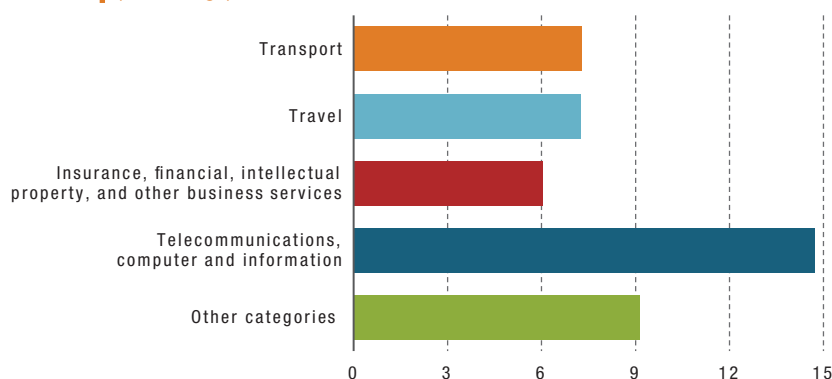


^a Including the Russian Federation and the French overseas departments.

Regional trends over five years

Between 2013 and 2018, exports of all categories of services, except transport, recorded ample growth in most regions of the world. Exports of telecommunications, computer and information services increased in Asia on average by 9.5 per cent each year, in Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and Oceania between 6 and 7 per cent, while they stagnated in Africa. Africa, in turn, together with Asia, saw comparatively strong growth in exports of insurance, financial, intellectual property and other business services, increasing at annual rates between 6 and 7 per cent. This is noteworthy, given the small size of that sector of Africa, both in relation to the world market and to Africa's total services exports. Exports of travel grew on all continents – most notably in Latin America and the Caribbean, where an annual increase of 6.3 per cent was recorded.

Figure 1 | Annual growth rate of services exports, 2018
(Percentage)



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 2019, annex 6.2.

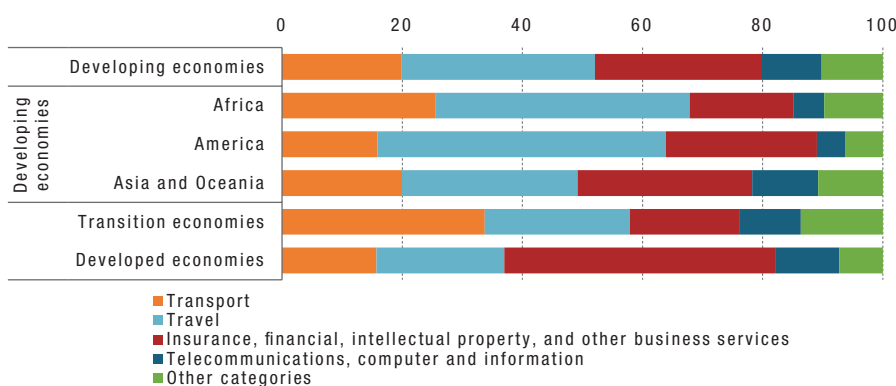
The presented trade-in-services figures are jointly compiled by UNCTAD, WTO and ITC.



Global trends in 2018

At world level, from 2017 to 2018, telecommunications, computer, and information services were the category for which world services trade expanded fastest, recording an annual growth of 14.7 per cent; about double the rate of transport, travel, insurance, financial, intellectual property and other business services. Exports of other types of services – mainly comprising goods-related services, construction, personal, cultural and recreational services and certain government goods and services – increased by 9.1 per cent between 2017 and 2018.

Figure 2 | Structure of services exports, 2018
(Percentage)

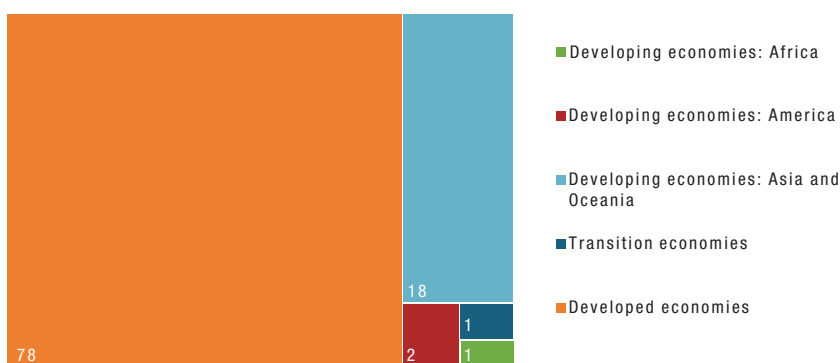


The structure of services exports today

In 2018, developing economies relied more on travel and transport and less on insurance, financial, intellectual property and other business services than developed economies for their exports. Those in America and Africa stood out with their relatively small share of telecommunications, computer and information services.

More than three quarters (78 per cent) of internationally traded insurance, financial, intellectual property and other business services were supplied by developed economies. Developing economies in Asia and Oceania accounted for slightly less than one fifth.

Figure 3 | Exports of insurance, financial, intellectual property, and other business services, by group of economies, 2018
(Percentage)



Africa's exports of insurance, financial, IP, and other business services grew on average 6.4% each year from 2013 to 2018

International trade in telecommunications, computer, and information services up by almost 15% from 2017 to 2018

Transport and travel services dominate services exports of developing countries

78% of insurance, financial, IP, and other business services exports came from developed economies in 2018


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\$)	
	2013	2018	2018	2013	2018	2018	2013	2018
Total services	1 394	1 738	9.3	1 745	2 118	8.1	-352	-380
Transport	306	346	8.4	573	579	9.6	-267	-232
Travel	473	559	7.2	423	648	6.7	50	-89
Others	615	833	11.1	749	892	8.1	-135	-59

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\$)	
	2013	2018	2018	2013	2018	2018	2013	2018
Total services	99	118	9.4	177	178	11.9	-77	-60
Transport	28	30	8.2	69	66	12.7	-41	-36
Travel	40	50	12.5	25	29	19.6	15	21
Others	31	38	6.4	82	82	8.7	-52	-44

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\$)	
	2013	2018	2018	2013	2018	2018	2013	2018
Total services	170	190	1.7	236	222	0.9	-67	-32
Transport	32	30	3.1	70	63	5.1	-38	-33
Travel	67	91	3.8	59	61	-0.5	9	30
Others	71	69	-1.6	108	98	-0.9	-37	-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\$)	
	2013	2018	2018	2013	2018	2018	2013	2018
Total services	1 125	1 430	10.4	1 333	1 718	8.7	-207	-288
Transport	246	286	9.0	434	449	9.8	-188	-164
Travel	365	418	7.3	339	557	7.0	26	-140
Others	514	726	12.7	559	711	9.4	-46	15



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\$)	
	2013	2018	2018	2013	2018	2018	2013	2018
Total services	137	137	12.4	194	158	7.8	-57	-21
Transport	45	46	11.1	34	31	10.6	11	16
Travel	32	33	14.7	73	56	9.2	-41	-23
Others	60	58	12.1	87	71	5.5	-26	-14

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\$)	
	2013	2018	2018	2013	2018	2018	2013	2018
Total services	3 310	3 970	6.8	2 787	3 327	7.0	523	642
Transport	590	624	6.4	571	606	8.1	19	18
Travel	693	844	7.0	605	701	7.7	89	144
Others	2 026	2 501	6.8	1 612	2 021	6.4	415	480

Table 2 Developing economies' exports of selected services by region, 2018
(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
World	143 940	489 890	403 520	606 060	1 265 370
Northern America	20 900	121 610	135 250	53 060	187 830
Latin America and the Caribbean	5 940	(e) 4 670	1 410	8 880	35 730
Europe	83 490	269 350	188 290	356 430	673 450
Sub-Saharan Africa	1 030	2 580	270	3 190	11 160
Western Asia and Northern Africa	10 770	5 670	5 710	30 680	28 450
Central and Southern Asia	3 010	6 340	960	62 360	70 150
Eastern and South-Eastern Asia	18 070	75 360	70 300	87 440	249 240
Oceania	720	4 300	1 330	4 010	9 350
Selected groups					
Developing economies excluding China	31 330	78 390	25 470	125 460	264 220
Developing economies excluding LDCs	36 000	81 410	30 950	169 950	330 040
LDCs	250	460	80	2 570	4 070
LLDCs	410	-	-	2 840	-
SIDS (UNCTAD)	490	230	30	530	1 610
HIPCs (IMF)	340	430	-	2 130	7 970
BRICS	8 730	12 140	8 170	113 690	165 720
G20	112 520	394 990	358 900	511 070	1 060 870