

INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN SERVICES

International trade in services is growing in importance both among OECD countries and with the rest of the world. Traditional services – transport, insurance on merchandise trade, and travel – account for about half of total international trade in services, but trade in newer types of services, particularly those that can be conducted via the Internet, is growing rapidly.

Definition

International trade in services is defined according to the 5th edition of the *IMF Balance of Payments Manual* (BPM5). Services include transport (both freight and passengers), travel (mainly expenditure on goods and services by tourists and business travellers), communications services (postal, telephone, satellite, etc.), construction services, insurance and financial services, computer and information services, royalties and license fees, other business services (merchandising, operational leasing, technical and professional services, etc.), cultural and recreational services (rents for films, fees for actors and other performers, but excluding purchases of films, recorded music, books, etc.) and government services not included in the list above.

Overview

Between 1998 and 2008, growth of service imports among OECD countries was highest in Greece. This growth was also well above average in Poland, Ireland and Hungary. Imports of services grew relatively slowly in Japan.

In the same period, the growth rate of service exports for Ireland was well above the average and relatively high growth was also recorded for Luxembourg and Finland. Rather low relative growth occurred in Turkey, Mexico and Italy.

Averaged over the three years to 2008, trade in services was relatively balanced for most countries. However, large surpluses were recorded for United States and United Kingdom, and substantial deficits occurred in Germany and Japan.

For the OECD as a whole, the fastest growing categories of services in the period 2002-2008, both for imports and for exports, were financial services and computer and information services. The slowest growing categories were government services, among exports; and travel services, among imports.

Comparability

BPM5 was issued in 1993 and countries began to implement it in the next two or three years. Prior to that, services were defined according to BPM4. All OECD countries now report international trade in services broadly according to the BPM5 framework, and BPM4 is of interest principally for some historic series that have not been revised. The main difference between them is that BPM5 makes a clear distinction between transactions in services and payments of income. In BPM4, labour and non-financial property incomes were included with services. Countries have tried to preserve continuity by revising earlier figures in line with BPM5 but this has not always been possible.

Sources

- OECD (2010), *Main Economic Indicators*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2009), *Statistics on International Trade in Services*, OECD, Paris.

Further information

Analytical publications

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- OECD (2007), *Infrastructure to 2030 (Vol.2): Preparing the Future*, OECD, Paris.

Statistical publications

- OECD (2002), *Measuring Globalisation: The Role of Multinationals in OECD Economies, Volume II: Services 2001 Edition*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2009), *International Trade by Commodity Statistics*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2009), *Statistics on International Trade in Services*, OECD, Paris.

Methodological publications

- IMF (1993), *Balance of Payments Manual*, 5th edition, IMF, Washington, DC.

Web sites

- OECD International Trade in Services, www.oecd.org/std/trade-services.



INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN SERVICES

Services trade balance: exports of services minus imports of services

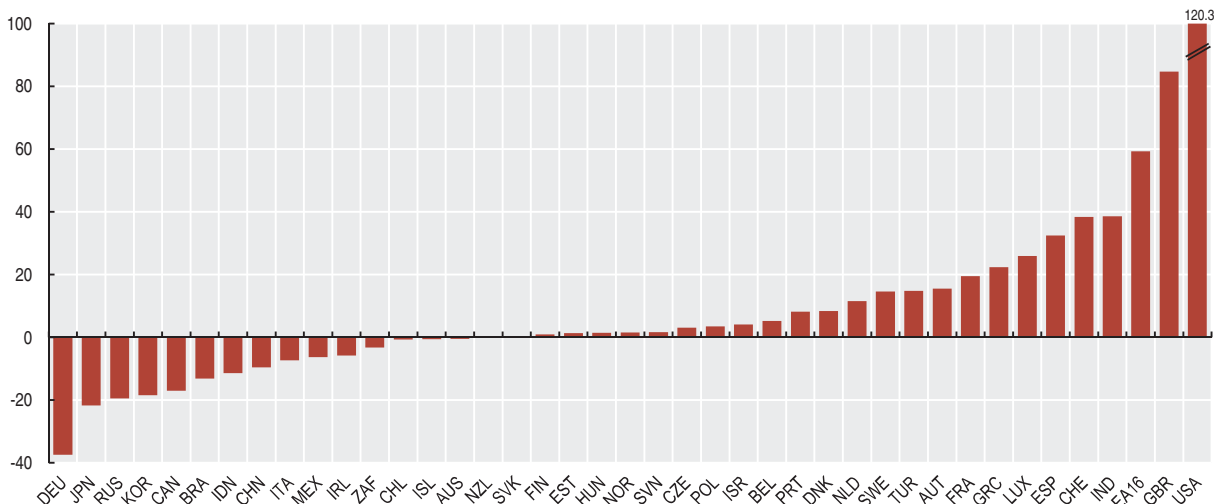
Billion US dollars

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Australia	-0.9	0.2	0.2	-0.9	0.1	0.9	0.7	1.2	1.8	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.6	-3.1
Austria	5.0	4.7	4.0	5.1	6.2	6.6	6.4	7.1	8.7	10.1	11.9	12.1	15.2	19.2
Belgium	-0.1	0.2	1.3	0.8	1.4	2.1	1.8	1.8	1.7	3.6	5.0	6.2	5.5	3.9
Canada	-7.4	-6.7	-6.4	-4.3	-4.5	-3.9	-5.0	-4.6	-8.2	-8.5	-9.9	-12.3	-17.7	-21.1
Czech Republic	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.2	1.4	1.5	0.7	0.5	0.6	1.5	2.1	2.4	4.8
Denmark	0.7	1.3	0.1	-0.3	2.0	2.4	3.4	2.0	3.5	3.3	6.2	7.1	7.9	10.0
Finland	-2.2	-1.7	-1.6	-1.1	-1.1	-1.4	-0.2	0.6	-0.7	0.6	-0.7	-1.1	1.0	2.7
France	14.3	15.1	16.7	17.3	18.6	19.8	17.8	17.1	15.8	16.5	16.6	16.8	20.5	21.1
Germany	-53.4	-51.7	-48.1	-51.6	-57.9	-55.0	-54.1	-43.2	-50.7	-51.1	-46.7	-34.1	-37.3	-40.9
Greece	..	..	7.2	7.0	7.6	8.2	7.9	9.7	13.0	19.2	19.5	19.3	22.7	25.1
Hungary	0.6	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.3	0.8	1.1	-	-1.2	0.1	1.4	1.6	1.4	1.3
Iceland	-	-	-	-	-0.1	-0.1	-	-	-0.1	-0.2	-0.5	-0.7	-0.7	-0.3
Ireland	-6.3	-7.7	-9.0	-9.9	-10.8	-12.8	-11.9	-13.0	-12.5	-12.7	-11.6	-8.5	-1.7	-7.2
Italy	6.3	7.2	7.8	4.9	1.2	1.1	-	-2.9	-2.7	1.5	-0.7	-1.6	-9.7	-10.7
Japan	-57.3	-62.3	-54.1	-49.3	-54.0	-47.6	-43.7	-42.0	-35.5	-39.0	-27.9	-20.1	-23.2	-22.0
Korea	-3.0	-6.2	-3.2	1.0	-0.7	-2.8	-3.9	-8.2	-7.4	-8.0	-13.7	-19.0	-19.8	-16.7
Luxembourg	3.2	3.5	4.0	4.2	5.4	6.8	6.4	8.1	9.9	13.0	16.3	20.8	27.4	29.5
Mexico	0.7	0.4	-0.7	-0.9	-1.8	-2.3	-3.6	-4.0	-4.6	-4.6	-4.7	-5.7	-6.3	-7.1
Netherlands	1.1	2.0	3.3	2.5	2.6	-2.1	-2.5	-1.0	-0.7	4.3	6.8	9.4	12.1	13.0
New Zealand	-0.2	-0.2	-0.6	-0.7	-0.2	-0.1	0.1	0.6	1.1	1.0	0.4	0.2	0.2	-0.7
Norway	0.5	1.4	1.4	0.7	1.0	2.7	2.6	1.6	1.1	1.0	0.7	1.5	2.1	1.1
Poland	3.5	3.4	3.2	4.2	1.4	1.4	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.1	0.7	0.7	4.8	5.0
Portugal	..	1.4	1.5	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.6	3.1	4.0	5.0	4.8	6.2	8.8	9.5
Slovak Republic	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.8	0.5	-0.7
Spain	17.4	19.0	18.2	19.7	20.5	19.4	20.6	21.1	26.2	26.9	27.7	27.8	31.3	38.1
Sweden	-0.4	-0.9	-1.3	-1.6	-1.3	-1.5	-0.6	-0.8	2.0	5.8	7.8	10.0	16.3	17.6
Switzerland	14.3	14.0	14.9	15.9	16.7	17.9	17.3	18.0	21.5	24.4	26.9	31.3	37.7	46.0
Turkey	9.6	6.7	10.9	13.5	7.5	11.4	9.1	7.9	10.5	12.8	15.3	13.7	13.3	17.5
United Kingdom	17.6	22.3	27.5	24.8	25.2	22.9	24.8	29.1	36.9	52.1	46.9	63.6	89.4	100.9
United States	77.8	86.9	90.2	82.1	82.7	74.9	64.4	61.2	54.0	61.8	75.6	86.9	129.6	144.3
Euro area	..	..	5.0	0.7	-8.9	-8.1	-2.5	16.0	25.4	39.6	48.1	52.2	66.1	59.4
OECD total	..	..	95.1	90.5	74.7	77.3	70.8	83.8	98.0	151.3	193.3	259.6	343.5	396.1
Brazil	-7.5	-8.1	-9.3	-9.0	-7.0	-7.2	-7.8	-5.0	-4.9	-4.7	-8.3	-9.7	-13.2	-16.7
Chile	-0.3	-	-0.1	-0.5	-0.7	-0.7	-0.8	-0.7	-0.6	-0.7	-0.6	-0.6	-1.0	-0.6
China	-6.1	-2.0	-3.4	-2.8	-5.3	-5.6	-5.9	-6.8	-8.6	-9.7	-9.4	-9.0	-8.0	-11.8
Estonia	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.8
India	0.2	0.3	1.3	2.1	2.2	3.4	2.9	4.4	6.4	13.0	20.0	29.4	39.3	46.9
Indonesia	-8.1	-8.5	-9.7	-7.6	-7.8	-10.4	-10.4	-10.4	-12.1	-8.8	-9.1	-9.9	-11.8	-12.7
Israel	-0.4	-0.6	0.2	0.8	2.1	3.5	1.0	1.3	2.5	3.2	3.7	4.5	3.5	4.2
Russian Federation	-9.6	-5.4	-5.9	-4.1	-4.3	-6.7	-9.1	-9.9	-10.9	-12.7	-13.8	-13.6	-19.6	-25.1
Slovenia	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.4	2.4
South Africa	-1.4	-0.7	-0.6	-0.3	-0.5	-0.8	-0.4	-0.5	0.3	-0.6	-1.0	-2.3	-3.0	-4.4

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Services trade balance: exports of services minus imports of services

Billion US dollars, average 2006-2008



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INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN SERVICES

Imports of services

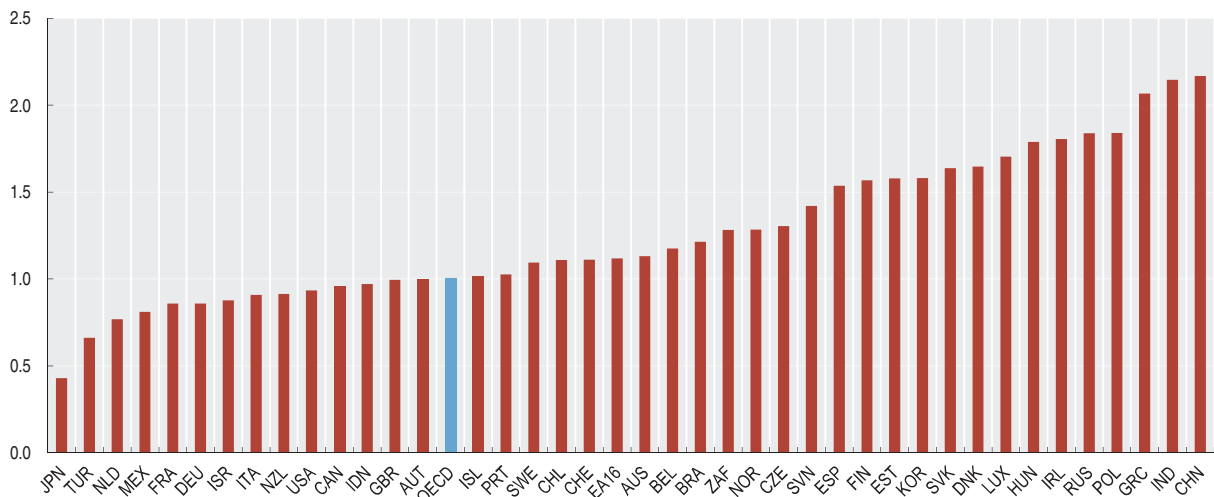
Billion US dollars

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Australia	17.4	18.9	19.2	18.0	18.8	18.9	17.3	18.3	21.8	27.9	30.4	32.2	39.7	47.5
Austria	19.3	19.9	17.9	18.1	17.3	16.5	17.6	18.8	23.8	27.8	30.6	33.6	39.1	42.8
Belgium	29.7	29.0	27.8	30.0	31.2	32.3	33.6	35.9	42.9	49.1	51.1	53.3	69.0	82.1
Canada	33.5	35.9	38.0	38.1	40.6	44.1	43.8	45.0	52.3	58.7	65.7	72.8	82.5	87.1
Czech Republic	4.9	6.3	5.4	5.7	5.9	5.4	5.6	6.4	7.3	9.0	10.2	11.8	14.4	17.3
Denmark	13.2	13.9	14.2	15.6	18.4	22.1	23.5	25.1	27.9	33.3	37.3	45.1	53.9	62.2
Finland	9.6	8.8	8.2	7.8	7.6	9.1	9.4	9.8	12.1	14.6	17.7	18.6	22.3	29.2
France	64.5	66.8	64.2	67.5	63.1	60.8	62.4	68.7	82.9	98.4	105.7	111.8	129.2	142.1
Germany	133.4	135.3	130.7	135.6	141.9	138.2	142.7	145.5	173.8	196.9	210.2	224.0	259.2	285.7
Greece	..	..	4.1	4.5	9.7	11.5	11.6	9.6	11.2	14.0	14.7	16.4	20.2	24.8
Hungary	3.6	3.5	4.1	4.2	4.4	4.8	5.6	6.8	9.2	10.2	11.5	12.1	15.8	18.7
Iceland	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.8	2.5	2.6	3.0	2.4
Ireland	11.3	13.4	15.2	23.9	27.7	32.8	37.5	42.8	54.5	65.4	71.5	80.2	94.7	107.8
Italy	51.1	53.4	54.2	59.1	57.7	55.6	57.8	63.0	74.3	83.3	90.0	100.4	121.7	129.8
Japan	122.8	130.0	123.4	111.7	114.9	116.8	108.2	107.8	108.8	133.7	134.0	134.5	149.3	163.3
Korea	25.8	29.6	29.5	24.5	27.2	33.4	32.9	36.6	40.4	49.9	58.8	68.9	83.1	92.7
Luxembourg	7.5	8.5	8.7	9.9	11.5	13.2	13.3	12.4	15.5	21.0	24.6	29.9	38.0	41.3
Mexico	9.0	10.2	11.8	12.4	13.5	16.0	16.2	16.7	17.1	18.6	20.8	22.0	23.8	25.1
Netherlands	44.8	45.3	45.8	47.2	49.5	51.4	53.8	57.0	63.9	69.5	73.3	75.3	84.2	92.2
New Zealand	4.7	4.9	4.8	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.8	5.7	7.2	8.3	7.9	9.2	9.7
Norway	13.1	13.4	14.3	14.8	15.4	15.0	15.8	17.8	20.6	24.3	29.2	31.7	38.9	44.2
Poland	7.1	6.3	5.7	6.6	7.0	9.0	9.0	9.2	10.6	13.4	15.5	19.9	24.2	30.6
Portugal	..	6.5	6.2	6.9	7.3	7.1	6.8	7.2	8.3	9.8	10.4	12.2	14.4	16.7
Slovak Republic	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.3	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.3	3.1	3.5	4.1	4.7	6.5	9.1
Spain	22.9	25.5	25.6	28.6	32.0	33.2	35.2	38.8	48.0	59.2	67.1	78.6	96.4	104.5
Sweden	16.8	18.4	19.7	21.3	23.2	24.6	24.2	24.8	28.7	33.2	35.3	39.6	48.2	54.5
Switzerland	12.1	12.7	11.2	12.3	13.1	12.8	12.3	12.9	14.8	19.5	22.8	23.5	28.0	31.9
Turkey	5.3	6.4	8.3	9.7	8.9	8.1	6.1	6.1	7.4	10.1	11.4	11.7	15.3	17.3
United Kingdom	66.9	74.3	79.8	89.9	98.6	101.1	101.6	112.0	130.3	154.8	169.7	183.5	212.0	212.0
United States	141.4	152.6	165.9	180.7	199.2	223.7	221.8	231.1	250.4	291.2	313.5	349.0	375.2	405.3
Euro area	..	..	241.4	262.8	274.2	276.5	285.5	294.5	347.2	412.8	455.6	501.6	607.1	686.1
OECD total	..	..	901.7	953.0	1 008.7	1 051.9	1 061.6	1 116.3	1 283.7	1 505.4	1 630.1	1 776.0	2 043.6	2 257.7
Brazil	13.6	12.7	15.3	16.7	14.2	16.7	17.1	14.5	15.4	17.3	24.4	29.1	37.2	47.1
Chile	3.7	3.6	4.0	4.4	4.6	4.8	5.0	5.1	5.7	6.8	7.8	8.5	9.9	11.4
China	25.2	22.6	28.0	26.7	31.6	36.0	39.3	46.5	55.3	72.1	83.8	101.0	130.0	158.9
Estonia	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.7	2.2	2.5	3.1	3.4
India	6.7	7.1	7.8	9.6	12.3	13.3	14.5	15.0	17.5	25.2	32.6	40.3	47.7	56.2
Indonesia	13.5	15.1	16.6	12.1	12.4	15.6	15.9	17.0	17.4	20.9	22.0	21.4	24.3	28.0
Israel	8.3	8.9	9.0	9.3	10.3	11.9	11.8	10.9	11.2	12.8	13.7	14.7	17.6	19.9
Russian Federation	20.2	18.7	20.0	16.5	13.4	16.2	20.6	23.5	27.1	33.3	38.7	44.7	59.1	76.4
Slovenia	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.7	2.2	2.6	2.8	3.3	4.3	5.0
South Africa	6.0	5.7	6.0	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.2	5.5	8.0	10.3	12.2	14.3	16.6	17.0

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Relative annual growth of imports of services

Growth over the period 1998-2008, OECD total = 1.0



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Exports of services

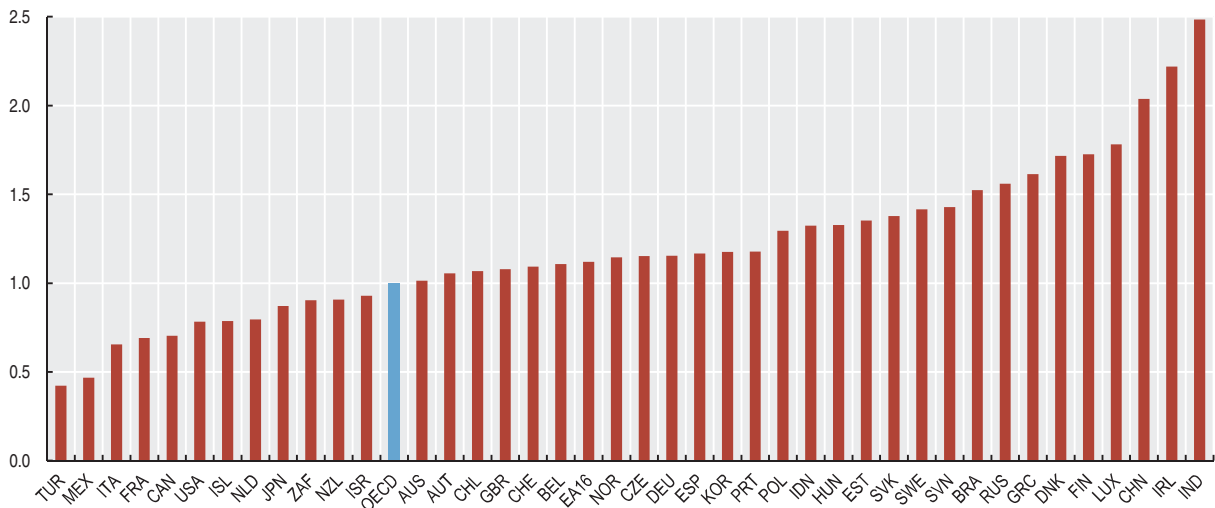
Billion US dollars

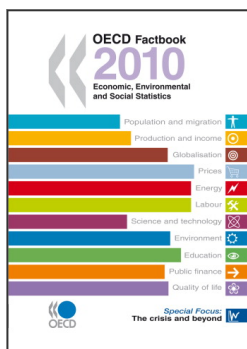
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Australia	16.5	19.1	19.3	17.2	18.9	19.9	18.1	19.6	23.6	28.5	31.0	33.1	40.3	44.3
Austria	24.3	24.6	21.9	23.2	23.5	23.1	24.0	25.9	32.5	37.9	42.4	45.6	54.3	62.0
Belgium	29.6	29.3	29.1	30.8	32.6	34.3	35.4	37.7	44.6	52.7	56.1	59.5	74.4	86.1
Canada	26.1	29.2	31.6	33.9	36.1	40.2	38.8	40.4	44.1	50.3	55.8	60.5	64.8	66.0
Czech Republic	6.7	8.2	7.2	7.6	7.1	6.9	7.1	7.1	7.8	9.6	11.8	13.9	16.8	22.1
Denmark	13.9	15.1	14.3	15.3	20.4	24.5	26.9	27.1	31.4	36.6	43.5	52.2	61.8	72.2
Finland	7.4	7.1	6.7	6.7	6.5	7.7	9.2	10.4	11.5	15.2	17.0	17.5	23.3	31.9
France	78.9	81.9	80.9	84.8	81.7	80.6	80.2	85.8	98.7	114.8	122.3	128.6	149.8	163.2
Germany	79.9	83.6	82.6	84.0	84.0	83.2	88.6	102.3	123.1	145.8	163.5	189.9	221.9	244.8
Greece	..	..	11.2	11.5	17.4	19.6	19.5	19.2	24.2	33.2	34.3	35.6	42.9	49.8
Hungary	4.3	5.0	5.7	5.9	5.6	5.6	6.6	6.9	8.0	10.3	12.9	13.7	17.3	20.0
Iceland	0.7	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.6	2.0	1.9	2.3	2.1
Ireland	5.0	5.7	6.2	14.1	16.9	20.0	25.6	29.8	42.0	52.7	59.9	71.6	93.0	100.6
Italy	57.5	60.6	62.0	64.0	58.9	56.7	57.9	60.1	71.6	84.7	89.4	98.8	111.9	119.1
Japan	65.5	67.7	69.3	62.4	60.9	69.2	64.5	65.7	73.3	94.7	106.1	114.4	126.2	141.3
Korea	22.8	23.4	26.3	25.6	26.5	30.5	29.1	28.4	33.0	41.9	45.1	49.9	63.3	76.0
Luxembourg	10.7	12.0	12.7	14.2	16.9	20.0	19.8	20.5	25.4	33.9	40.9	50.7	65.4	70.8
Mexico	9.7	10.6	11.1	11.5	11.7	13.7	12.7	12.5	14.0	16.1	16.2	16.2	17.5	18.0
Netherlands	45.9	47.2	49.0	49.7	52.1	49.3	51.3	56.0	63.2	73.7	80.1	84.7	96.4	105.2
New Zealand	4.5	4.7	4.2	3.8	4.3	4.4	4.4	5.4	6.8	8.2	8.7	8.1	9.4	8.9
Norway	13.7	14.8	15.7	15.5	16.4	17.8	18.4	19.4	21.7	25.2	29.9	33.2	40.4	44.8
Poland	10.7	9.7	8.9	10.8	8.4	10.4	9.8	10.0	11.2	13.5	16.3	20.6	28.9	35.6
Portugal	..	7.9	7.7	8.8	9.3	9.0	9.4	10.3	12.3	14.7	15.2	18.4	23.2	26.2
Slovak Republic	2.5	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.1	2.2	2.5	2.8	3.3	3.7	4.4	5.4	7.0	8.5
Spain	40.3	44.5	43.9	48.4	52.5	52.6	55.8	59.9	74.2	86.2	94.8	106.4	127.6	142.6
Sweden	16.4	17.5	18.4	19.7	21.7	22.7	23.0	23.3	30.7	38.9	43.1	49.7	64.5	72.1
Switzerland	26.4	26.7	26.2	28.2	29.7	30.7	29.6	30.9	36.3	43.9	49.7	54.8	65.7	77.9
Turkey	14.9	13.1	19.2	23.2	16.4	19.5	15.2	14.0	18.0	22.9	26.8	25.4	28.6	34.8
United Kingdom	84.5	96.5	107.4	114.7	123.8	124.0	126.4	141.0	167.2	206.9	216.7	247.1	301.4	312.9
United States	219.2	239.5	256.1	262.8	281.9	298.6	286.2	292.3	304.3	353.1	389.1	435.9	504.8	549.6
Euro area	..	..	246.4	263.5	265.3	268.3	283.0	310.5	372.6	452.5	503.7	553.8	673.2	745.5
OECD total	..	..	996.8	1 043.4	1 083.4	1 129.1	1 132.4	1 200.1	1 381.8	1 656.7	1 823.4	2 035.7	2 386.4	2 652.9
Brazil	6.1	4.7	6.0	7.6	7.2	9.5	9.3	9.6	10.4	12.6	16.0	19.5	24.0	30.5
Chile	3.3	3.6	3.9	4.0	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.4	5.1	6.0	7.1	7.8	8.8	10.8
China	19.1	20.6	24.6	23.9	26.2	30.4	33.3	39.7	46.7	62.4	74.4	92.0	122.0	147.1
Estonia	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.7	2.2	2.8	3.2	3.5	4.4	5.2
India	6.9	7.5	9.1	11.7	14.5	16.7	17.3	19.5	23.9	38.3	52.6	69.7	86.9	103.1
Indonesia	5.5	6.6	6.9	4.5	4.6	5.2	5.5	6.7	5.3	12.0	12.9	11.5	12.5	15.2
Israel	8.0	8.3	9.2	10.1	12.3	15.4	12.9	12.2	13.7	16.0	17.4	19.2	21.1	24.1
Russian Federation	10.6	13.3	14.1	12.4	9.1	9.6	11.4	13.6	16.2	20.6	25.0	31.1	39.4	51.3
Slovenia	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.3	2.8	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.7	7.4
South Africa	4.6	5.1	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.0	4.8	5.0	8.3	9.7	11.2	12.0	13.6	12.6

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/824477670776>

Relative annual growth of exports of services

Growth over the period 1998-2008, OECD total = 1.0

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787818537802643>



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