

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.

Long-term trends

Between 1997 and 2007, growth among OECD member countries of service imports was highest in Ireland and was also well above average in Greece, Luxembourg and Poland. Imports of services grew relatively slowly in Japan.

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

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

The fastest growing services in OECD exports are now insurance and computer and information services, and for imports insurance and government services not included elsewhere. The slowest growing export category has been construction services.

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 (2008), *Main Economic Indicators*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2008), *Statistics on International Trade in Services*, OECD, Paris.

Further information

Analytical publications

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- OECD (2005), *Trade and Structural Adjustment: Embracing Globalisation*, OECD, Paris.
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- OECD (2007), *Infrastructure to 2030 (Vol. 2): Preparing the Future*, OECD, Paris.
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Statistical publications

- OECD (2002), *Measuring Globalisation: The Role of Multinationals in OECD Economies, Volume II: Services 2001 Edition*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2008), *International Trade by Commodity Statistics*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2008), *Statistics on International Trade in Services*, OECD, Paris.

Methodological publications

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


Websites

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

Services trade balance: exports of services minus imports of services

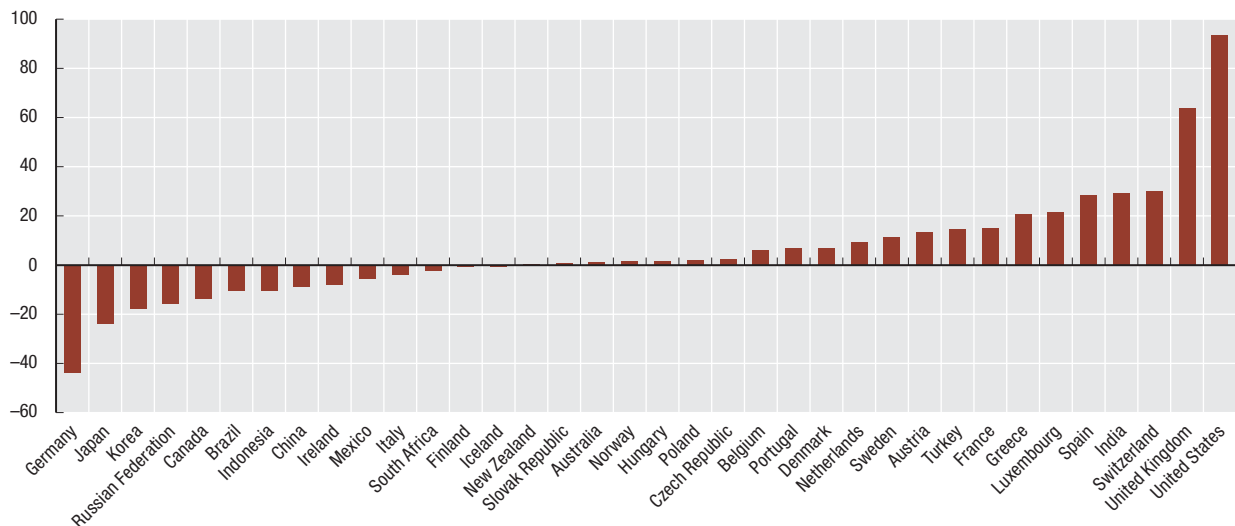

Billion US dollars

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Australia	-1.0	-0.9	0.2	0.2	-0.9	0.1	0.9	0.7	1.2	1.8	0.5	0.5	0.9	1.2
Austria	..	5.0	4.7	4.0	5.1	6.2	6.6	6.4	7.1	8.7	10.0	11.8	12.1	16.3
Belgium	..	-0.1	0.2	1.3	0.8	1.4	2.1	1.8	1.8	1.7	3.6	5.0	6.4	6.3
Canada	-8.5	-7.4	-6.7	-6.4	-4.3	-4.5	-3.9	-5.0	-4.6	-8.2	-8.5	-10.0	-13.0	-17.9
Czech Republic	0.5	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.2	1.4	1.5	0.7	0.5	0.6	1.5	2.1	2.8
Denmark	0.5	0.7	1.3	0.1	-0.3	2.0	2.4	3.4	2.0	3.5	3.3	6.2	6.6	7.4
Finland	-1.8	-2.2	-1.7	-1.6	-1.1	-1.1	-1.4	-0.2	0.6	-0.7	0.6	-0.7	-1.1	-0.2
France	..	14.3	15.1	16.7	17.3	18.6	19.8	17.8	17.1	15.8	16.5	16.6	12.4	15.0
Germany	-46.1	-53.4	-51.7	-48.1	-51.6	-57.9	-55.0	-54.1	-43.2	-50.7	-51.1	-47.1	-39.3	-45.2
Greece	..	..	..	7.2	7.0	7.6	8.2	7.9	9.7	13.0	19.2	19.5	19.3	22.7
Hungary	0.2	0.6	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.3	0.8	1.1	0.0	-1.2	0.1	1.4	1.6	1.4
Iceland	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.2	-0.5	-0.7	-0.7
Ireland	-4.1	-6.3	-7.7	-9.0	-9.9	-10.8	-12.8	-11.9	-13.0	-12.5	-12.7	-11.6	-8.5	-3.9
Italy	5.2	6.3	7.2	7.8	4.9	1.2	1.1	-	-2.9	-2.7	1.5	-0.7	-1.6	-9.6
Japan	-47.9	-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
Korea	-1.8	-3.0	-6.2	-3.2	1.0	-0.7	-2.8	-3.9	-8.2	-7.4	-8.0	-13.7	-19.0	-20.6
Luxembourg	..	3.2	3.5	4.0	4.2	5.4	6.8	6.4	8.1	9.9	13.0	16.3	20.6	26.9
Mexico	-2.0	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
Netherlands	0.2	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
New Zealand	-0.3	-0.2	-0.2	-0.6	-0.7	-0.2	-0.1	0.1	0.6	1.1	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.2
Norway	0.2	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
Poland	2.8	3.5	3.4	3.2	4.2	1.4	1.4	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.1	0.7	0.7	4.7
Portugal	..	..	1.4	1.5	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.6	3.1	4.0	5.0	4.8	6.0	9.2
Slovak Republic	0.8	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
Spain	14.8	17.4	19.0	18.2	19.7	20.5	19.4	20.6	21.1	26.2	26.9	27.7	27.9	30.0
Sweden	0.2	-0.4	-0.9	-1.3	-1.6	-1.3	-1.5	-0.6	-0.8	2.0	5.8	7.8	10.0	15.4
Switzerland	11.9	13.3	13.1	13.7	14.3	15.2	15.9	14.2	15.3	18.3	20.6	22.7	30.2	36.7
Turkey	7.1	9.6	6.7	10.9	13.5	7.5	11.4	9.1	7.9	10.5	12.8	15.3	13.8	13.9
United Kingdom	12.4	17.6	22.3	27.5	24.8	25.2	22.9	24.8	29.1	36.9	51.6	47.2	60.5	83.3
United States	67.3	77.8	86.9	90.2	82.1	82.7	74.9	64.4	61.2	54.0	61.8	75.6	85.0	119.1
Euro area	..	..	..	5.0	0.7	-9.8	-8.9	-2.5	17.3	26.9	41.2	47.4	55.4	72.8
EU27 total	..	25.4	38.1	51.5	43.1	41.9	35.5	37.8	62.7	70.5	106.6	114.2	146.8	196.4
OECD total	..	..	..	93.9	88.7	73.1	75.3	67.6	81.2	94.8	146.9	188.9	242.7	315.0
Brazil	-5.3	-7.5	-8.1	-9.3	-9.0	-7.0	-7.2	-7.8	-5.0	-4.9	-4.7	-8.3	-9.7	-13.4
China	0.3	-6.1	-2.0	-3.4	-2.8	-5.3	-5.6	-5.9	-6.8	-8.6	-9.7	-9.4	-8.8	-7.9
India	0.6	0.2	0.3	1.3	2.1	2.2	3.4	2.9	4.4	6.4	13.0	20.0	31.0	36.9
Indonesia	-6.6	-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
Russian Federation	-7.0	-9.6	-5.4	-5.9	-4.1	-4.3	-6.7	-9.1	-9.9	-10.9	-12.7	-13.9	-13.7	-19.8
South Africa	-1.3	-1.4	-0.7	-0.6	-0.3	-0.5	-0.8	-0.4	-0.5	0.3	-0.6	-1.0	-2.3	-3.1

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Services trade balance: exports of services minus imports of services

Billion US dollars, average 2005-2007

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TRADE IN SERVICES

Imports of services

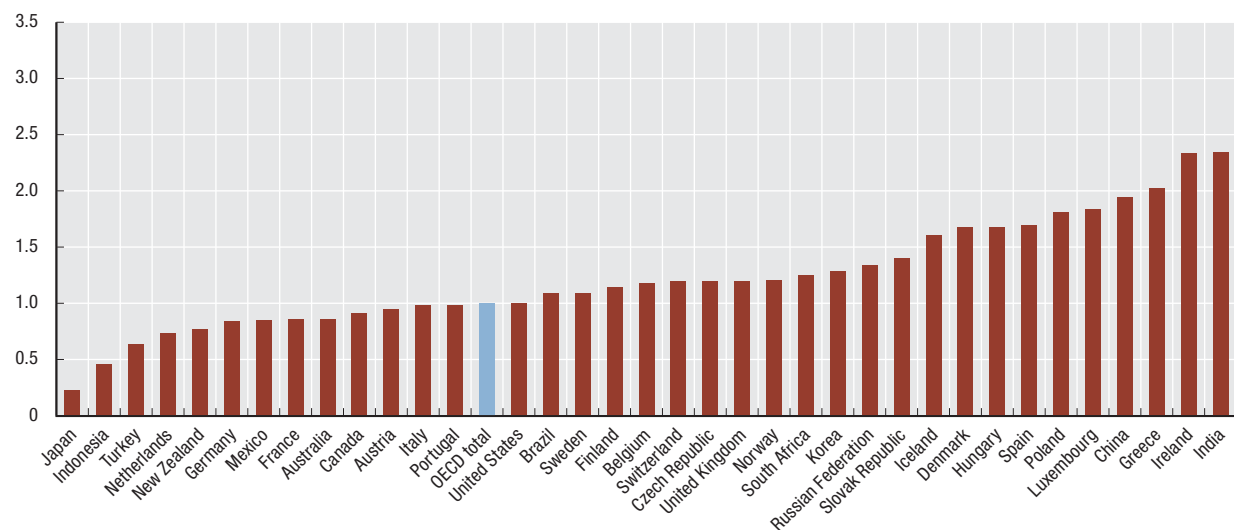
Billion US dollars

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Australia	15.5	17.4	18.9	19.2	18.0	18.8	18.9	17.3	18.3	21.8	27.9	30.4	32.2	39.1
Austria	..	19.3	19.9	17.9	18.1	17.3	16.5	17.6	18.8	23.8	28.0	30.7	33.6	39.0
Belgium	..	29.7	29.0	27.8	30.0	31.2	32.3	33.6	35.9	42.9	49.1	51.1	53.2	72.6
Canada	32.5	33.5	35.9	38.0	38.1	40.6	44.1	43.8	45.0	52.3	58.7	65.4	72.3	80.5
Czech Republic	4.7	4.9	6.3	5.4	5.7	5.9	5.4	5.6	6.4	7.3	9.0	10.2	11.8	14.3
Denmark	11.8	13.2	13.9	14.2	15.6	18.4	22.1	23.5	25.1	27.9	33.3	37.3	45.7	54.1
Finland	7.3	9.6	8.8	8.2	7.8	7.6	9.1	9.4	9.8	12.1	14.6	17.7	18.6	20.8
France	..	64.5	66.8	64.2	67.5	63.1	60.8	62.4	68.7	82.9	98.4	105.7	113.6	130.5
Germany	111.6	133.4	135.3	130.7	135.6	141.9	138.2	142.7	145.5	173.8	196.9	210.3	226.4	261.0
Greece	..	..	..	4.1	4.5	9.7	11.5	11.6	9.6	11.2	14.0	14.7	16.4	20.2
Hungary	3.0	3.6	3.5	4.1	4.2	4.4	4.8	5.6	6.8	9.2	10.2	11.5	11.8	15.7
Iceland	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.8	2.6	2.6	2.9
Ireland	8.4	11.3	13.4	15.2	23.9	27.7	32.8	37.5	42.8	54.5	65.4	71.5	80.2	93.8
Italy	45.7	51.1	53.4	54.2	59.1	57.7	55.6	57.8	63.0	74.3	83.3	90.0	100.4	121.3
Japan	106.2	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
Korea	18.6	25.8	29.6	29.5	24.5	27.2	33.4	32.9	36.6	40.4	49.9	58.8	68.9	83.6
Luxembourg	..	7.5	8.5	8.7	9.9	11.5	13.2	13.3	12.4	15.5	21.0	24.6	30.2	37.5
Mexico	12.3	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
Netherlands	41.1	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
New Zealand	4.0	4.7	4.9	4.8	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.8	5.7	7.2	8.3	7.9	9.1
Norway	12.0	13.1	13.4	14.3	14.8	15.4	15.0	15.8	17.8	20.6	24.3	29.2	31.7	38.2
Poland	3.9	7.1	6.3	5.7	6.6	7.0	9.0	9.0	9.2	10.6	13.4	15.5	19.9	24.1
Portugal	..	..	6.5	6.2	6.9	7.3	7.1	6.8	7.2	8.3	9.8	10.4	11.8	13.9
Slovak Republic	1.6	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.3	1.8	1.8	2.0	2.3	3.0	3.4	4.1	4.6	6.5
Spain	18.9	22.9	25.5	25.6	28.6	32.0	33.2	35.2	38.8	48.0	59.2	67.1	78.5	98.9
Sweden	14.0	16.8	18.4	19.7	21.4	23.0	24.2	23.6	24.0	28.7	33.1	35.3	39.6	48.0
Switzerland	10.3	12.1	12.7	11.2	12.3	13.1	12.8	13.5	14.2	16.3	21.3	24.5	25.0	29.6
Turkey	4.0	5.3	6.7	8.8	10.2	9.3	9.0	6.9	6.9	8.5	11.3	11.4	11.4	14.9
United Kingdom	61.2	66.9	74.3	79.8	89.9	98.6	101.1	101.6	112.0	130.3	154.6	169.9	183.8	212.1
United States	133.1	141.4	152.6	165.9	180.7	199.2	223.7	221.8	231.1	250.4	291.2	313.5	348.9	378.1
Euro area	..	..	..	241.4	262.8	275.0	277.1	285.4	293.0	345.6	409.4	454.4	495.4	595.6
EU27 total	..	543.6	571.9	567.2	614.9	649.9	663.3	687.4	729.0	875.5	1 028.7	1 127.3	1 247.8	1 470.4
OECD total	..	..	..	902.2	953.5	1 009.2	1 052.8	1 063.7	1 118.3	1 286.5	1 508.2	1 631.9	1 781.2	2 049.9
Brazil	10.3	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
China	16.3	25.2	22.6	28.0	26.7	31.6	36.0	39.3	46.5	55.3	72.1	83.8	100.8	130.1
India	5.5	6.7	7.1	7.8	9.6	12.3	13.3	14.5	15.0	17.5	25.2	32.6	40.2	48.6
Indonesia	11.4	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
Russian Federation	15.4	20.2	18.7	20.0	16.5	13.4	16.2	20.6	23.9	27.1	33.3	38.9	44.8	59.2
South Africa	5.1	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

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Relative annual growth in imports of services

Growth over the period 1997-2007, OECD total = 1

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Exports of services

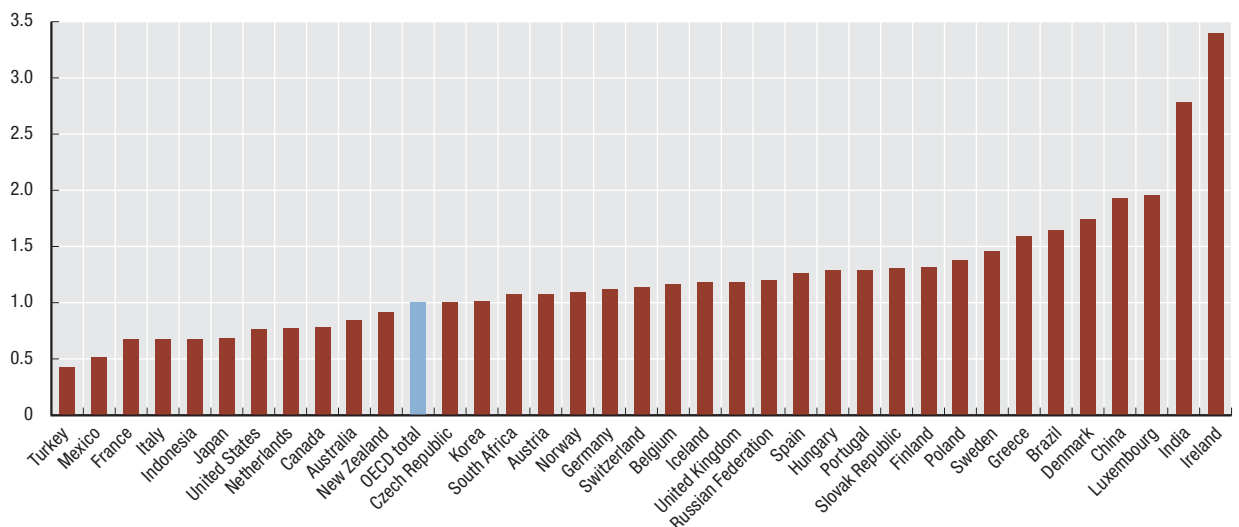

Billion US dollars

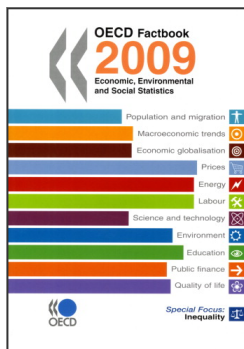
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Australia	14.5	16.5	19.1	19.3	17.2	18.9	19.9	18.1	19.6	23.6	28.5	31.0	33.1	40.3
Austria	..	24.3	24.6	21.9	23.2	23.5	23.1	24.0	25.9	32.5	38.0	42.6	45.6	55.3
Belgium	..	29.6	29.3	29.1	30.8	32.6	34.3	35.4	37.7	44.6	52.7	56.1	59.5	78.9
Canada	24.0	26.1	29.2	31.6	33.9	36.1	40.2	38.8	40.4	44.1	50.3	55.4	59.3	62.6
Czech Republic	5.2	6.7	8.2	7.2	7.6	7.1	6.9	7.1	7.1	7.8	9.6	11.8	13.9	17.1
Denmark	12.3	13.9	15.1	14.3	15.3	20.4	24.5	26.9	27.1	31.4	36.6	43.5	52.3	61.5
Finland	5.5	7.4	7.1	6.7	6.7	6.5	7.7	9.2	10.4	11.5	15.2	17.0	17.5	20.6
France	..	78.9	81.9	80.9	84.8	81.7	80.6	80.2	85.8	98.7	114.8	122.3	126.1	145.5
Germany	65.5	79.9	83.6	82.6	84.0	84.0	83.2	88.6	102.3	123.1	145.8	163.2	187.1	215.7
Greece	..	..	..	11.2	11.5	17.4	19.6	19.5	19.2	24.2	33.2	34.3	35.6	42.9
Hungary	3.1	4.3	5.0	5.7	5.9	5.6	5.6	6.6	6.9	8.0	10.3	12.9	13.4	17.1
Iceland	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.6	2.0	1.8	2.2
Ireland	4.3	5.0	5.7	6.2	14.1	16.9	20.0	25.6	29.8	42.0	52.7	59.9	71.6	89.9
Italy	50.9	57.5	60.6	62.0	64.0	58.9	56.7	57.9	60.1	71.6	84.7	89.4	98.8	111.7
Japan	58.3	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
Korea	16.8	22.8	23.4	26.3	25.6	26.5	30.5	29.1	28.4	33.0	41.9	45.1	49.9	63.0
Luxembourg	..	10.7	12.0	12.7	14.2	16.9	20.0	19.8	20.5	25.4	33.9	40.9	50.9	64.4
Mexico	10.3	9.7	10.6	11.1	11.5	11.7	13.7	12.7	12.7	12.5	14.0	16.1	16.2	17.5
Netherlands	41.4	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
New Zealand	3.7	4.5	4.7	4.2	3.8	4.3	4.4	4.4	5.4	6.8	8.1	8.6	8.1	9.3
Norway	12.2	13.7	14.8	15.7	15.5	16.4	17.8	18.4	19.4	21.7	25.2	29.9	33.2	40.3
Poland	6.7	10.7	9.7	8.9	10.8	8.4	10.4	9.8	10.0	11.2	13.5	16.3	20.6	28.8
Portugal	..	..	7.9	7.7	8.8	9.3	9.0	9.4	10.3	12.3	14.7	15.2	17.8	23.1
Slovak Republic	2.3	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
Spain	33.6	40.3	44.5	43.9	48.4	52.5	52.6	55.8	59.9	74.2	86.2	94.8	106.4	128.9
Sweden	14.2	16.4	17.5	18.4	19.7	21.7	22.7	23.0	23.3	30.7	38.9	43.1	49.6	63.4
Switzerland	22.2	25.5	25.8	25.0	26.5	28.2	28.7	27.7	29.6	34.6	41.9	47.2	55.3	66.3
Turkey	11.1	14.9	13.4	19.7	23.7	16.8	20.4	16.0	14.8	19.0	24.0	26.6	25.3	28.7
United Kingdom	73.6	84.5	96.5	107.4	114.7	123.8	124.0	126.4	141.0	167.2	206.2	217.1	244.3	295.4
United States	200.4	219.2	239.5	256.1	262.8	281.9	298.6	286.2	292.3	304.3	353.1	389.1	433.9	497.2
Euro area	..	..	..	246.4	263.5	265.2	268.3	282.9	310.3	372.5	450.6	501.8	550.8	668.4
EU27 total	..	569.0	610.0	618.7	658.0	691.8	698.7	725.1	791.7	946.0	1 135.3	1 241.5	1 394.6	1 666.7
OECD total	..	..	..	996.1	1 042.2	1 082.3	1 128.1	1 131.3	1 199.5	1 381.3	1 655.1	1 820.8	2 023.9	2 364.9
Brazil	4.9	6.1	4.7	6.0	7.6	7.2	9.5	9.3	9.6	10.4	12.6	16.0	19.5	23.9
China	16.6	19.1	20.6	24.6	23.9	26.2	30.4	33.3	39.7	46.7	62.4	74.4	92.0	122.2
India	6.1	6.9	7.5	9.1	11.7	14.5	16.7	17.3	19.5	23.9	38.3	52.6	71.1	85.5
Indonesia	4.8	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
Russian Federation	8.4	10.6	13.3	14.1	12.4	9.1	9.6	11.4	14.0	16.2	20.6	25.0	31.1	39.4
South Africa	3.8	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

StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/541572063070>

Relative annual growth in exports of services

Growth over the period 1997-2007, OECD total = 1

StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/535623280863>



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