

III. Trade in commercial services

Exports of commercial services grew by 11% in 2011.

Key developments in 2011: a snapshot

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Trade data

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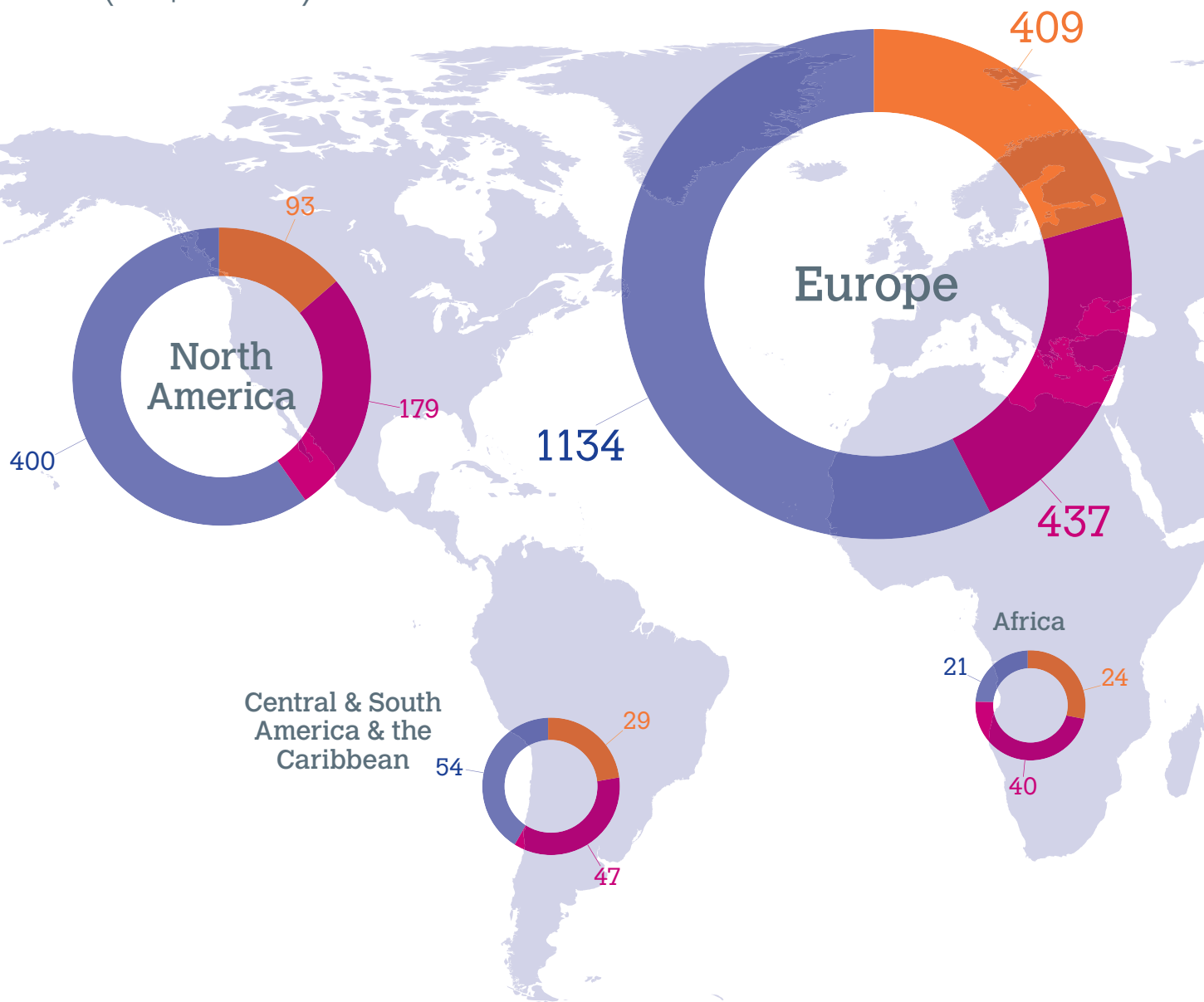


Where to find more online:

you can access and download the Excel files for the tables via www.wto.org/statistics

Services sectors vary in importance across regions

Exports of commercial services
2011 (US\$ billion)



60% North America's share in exports of "other commercial services"

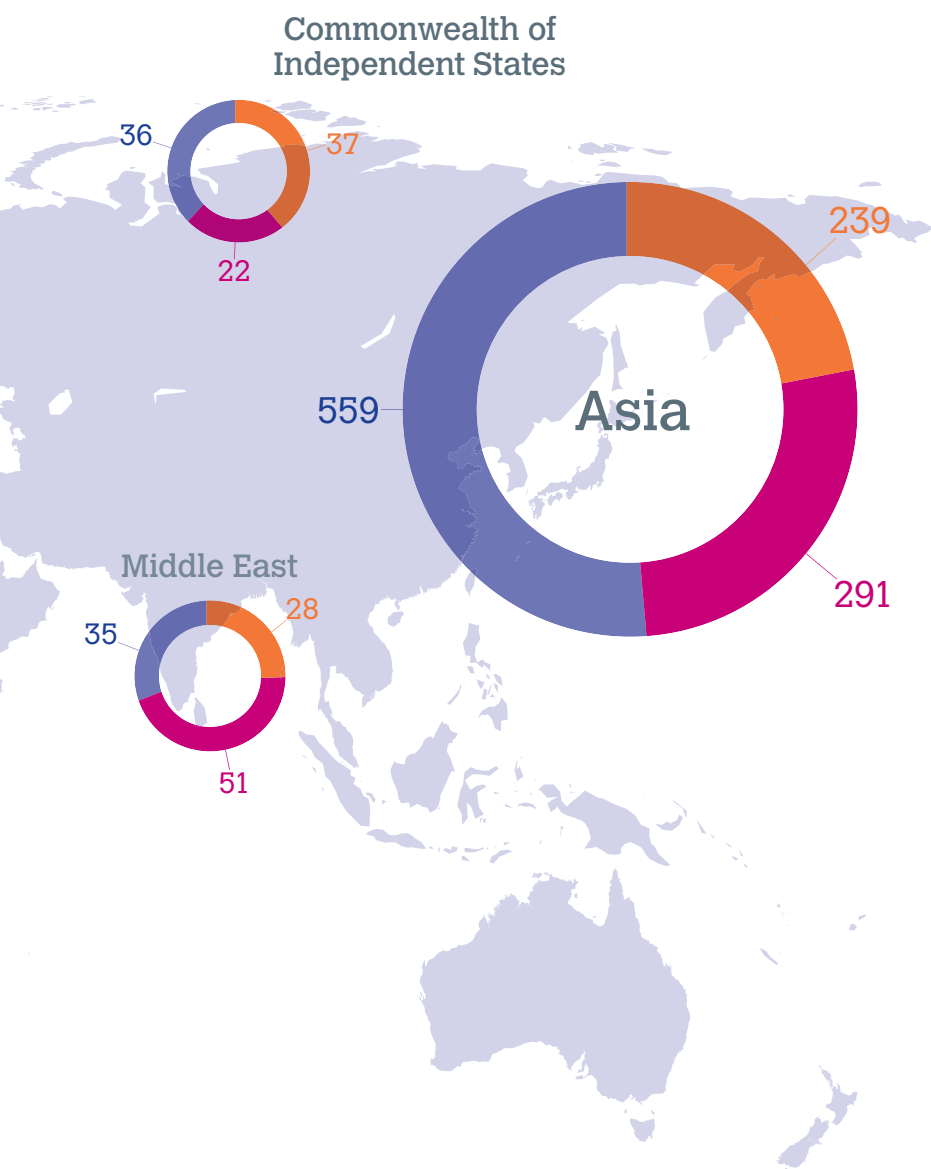


Where to find more:
Tables III.3, III.6 and III.9



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World Trade Organization
International Trade Statistics 2012



- In North America, Europe and Asia, the largest category for services exports is “other commercial services”¹ which accounted for more than half of their services exports in 2011. North America had the biggest share (59.5 per cent) of “other commercial services”. The largest contributors to this were “other business services”² and “royalties and licence fees”.
- Travel represented 47.3 per cent of services trade in Africa, 44.3 per cent in the Middle East and 36.3 per cent in South and Central America in 2011. In the Middle East, the share has risen from 36.1 per cent in 2005 due to rapid growth in tourism.
- For the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), transportation services is the most important services export, representing 38.8 per cent of the region's exports of commercial services in 2011.

	Transport
	Travel
	Other commercial services

All figures are in US\$ billion

47% Share of travel in Africa's exports of commercial services in 2011

¹ “Other commercial services” covers communications services (e.g. telecoms), construction, insurance services, financial services, computer and information services, royalties and licence fees, other business services, and personal cultural and recreational services (e.g. audio-visual services).

² “Other business services” covers trade-related services, operational leasing (rentals), and miscellaneous business, professional and technical services such as legal, accounting, management consulting, public relations services, advertising and market research.

Personal, cultural & recreational services grow fastest in 2011

- Personal, cultural and recreational services was the fastest growing sector in 2011 (16 per cent). This was mainly driven by the EU where exports increased by 22 per cent.
- Computer and information services was the second fastest growing services sector in 2011, expanding by 15 per cent. This was boosted in particular by 19 per cent growth in Asia. Asian economies accounted for 29 per cent of world exports of computer and information services in 2011, compared with 21 per cent in 2005.
- World travel exports rose by 12 per cent in 2011, driven by strong growth in Europe's travel exports (13 per cent) and in Asian travel receipts (17 per cent).
- Global exports of transportation services increased by 9 per cent in 2011 but remained below 2008 levels. World exports of communications services and other business services also rose by 9 per cent.

Exports of commercial services by category, 2010-11

15%

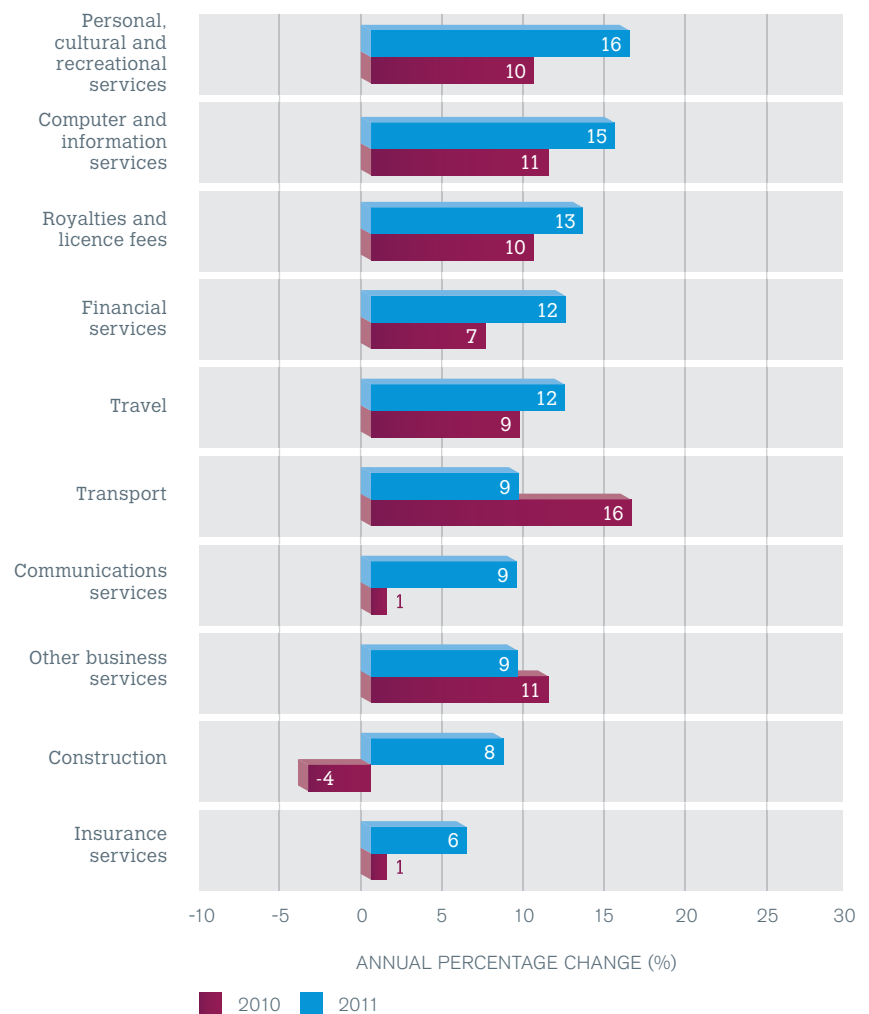
growth in world exports of computer and information services in 2011

12%

growth in world exports of travel in 2011



Where to find more:
Tables III.3, III.6, III.12, III.16, III.19, III.22, III.25, III.30, III.33 and III.37



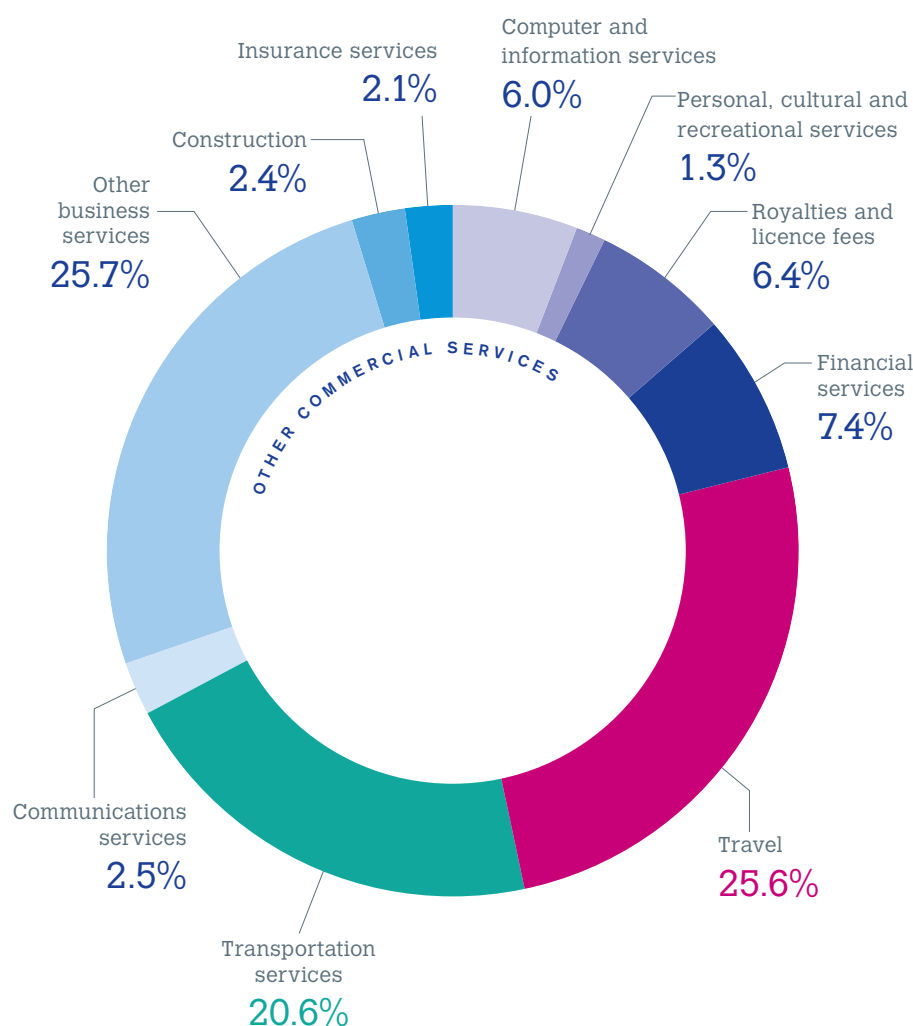
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Travel, other business services exceed 50% of services exports

- Half of world exports of commercial services consisted of travel receipts and other business services in 2011. Transportation services accounted for 20.6 per cent, down from 22.7 per cent in 2005.
- Exports of financial services represented 7.4 per cent of global exports of commercial services in 2011, followed by royalties and licence fees with 6.4 per cent. Computer and information services accounted for 6.0 per cent of world exports of commercial services, up from 4.0 per cent in 2005.
- Other sectors had a much smaller share in commercial services exports. Insurance services, construction and communications services accounted for between 2.1 per cent and 2.5 per cent in 2011. Personal cultural and recreational services, which include audio-visual services, had the smallest share with 1.3 per cent of global commercial services exports.

Share in total exports of commercial services, 2011



Share in total exports of commercial services in 2011

25.7%

Other business services

7.4%

Financial services



Where to find more:

Tables III.3, III.6, III.12, III.16, III.19, III.22, III.25, III.30, III.33 and III.37



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Asian exporters see slowdown in exports of transport services

- Several exporters of transportation services in Asia saw a slowdown in 2011 after strong growth in 2010. China's exports rose by only 4 per cent compared with 45 per cent in 2010. This was its lowest level in a decade, excluding the crisis year of 2009. In the Republic of Korea, exports of transportation services contracted by 5 per cent due to a decline in sea freight services. However, exports grew by 13 per cent in Singapore and by 32 per cent in India.
- EU exports of transportation services rose by 9 per cent in 2011, similar to the rise in 2010, while Norway continued to see a downward trend, with exports dropping by 4 per cent.
- US exports of transportation services went up by 12 per cent in 2011. This was largely due to higher air transportation services receipts.

Exports of transportation services, 2010-11

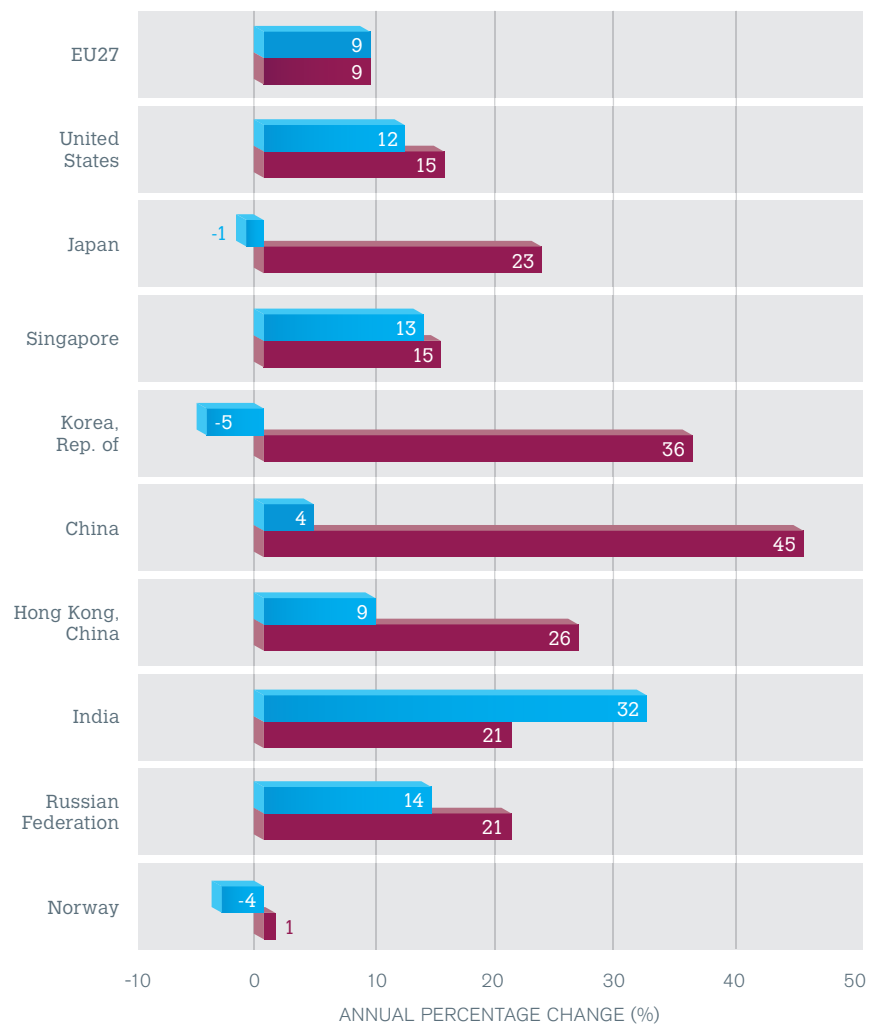
Growth in exports of transportation services in 2011

4%

China

Republic of Korea

-5%



2010 2011



Where to find more:
Tables III.3, III.4 and III.5



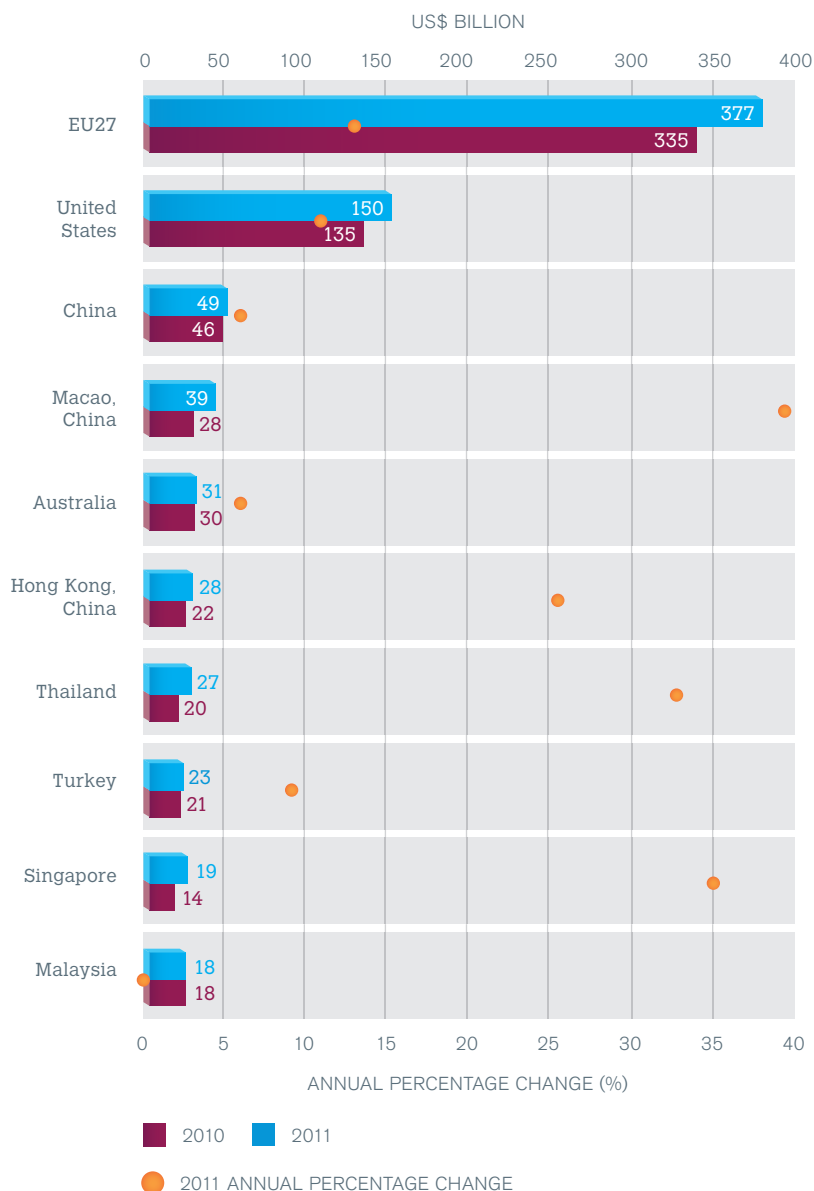
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World Trade Organization
International Trade Statistics 2012

Macao, China becomes 4th largest exporter of travel

- Macao, China became the fourth-largest exporter of travel in 2011, recording growth of 39 per cent and overtaking Australia. The economy's travel receipts, mainly resulting from gaming activities, reached US\$ 39 billion.
- Other Asian economies continue to record double-digit growth rates. Exports of travel rose by 33 per cent in Thailand, 35 per cent in Singapore and 25 per cent in Hong Kong, China in 2011.
- The European Union's and Turkey's exports of travel rose by 13 per cent and 9 per cent respectively in 2011 following two years of negative growth. International tourists to European countries increased by 6 per cent in 2011, according to the United Nations World Tourism Organization.

Exports of travel, 2010-11



13%

growth in exports of EU travel in 2011

39%

increase in exports of travel in Macao, China in 2011



Where to find more:
Tables III.6 and III.7



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Average annual
growth of exports
of computer
services, 2005-11

69%

Philippines

59%

Ukraine

35%

Costa Rica



Where to find more:
Tables III.26 and III.28

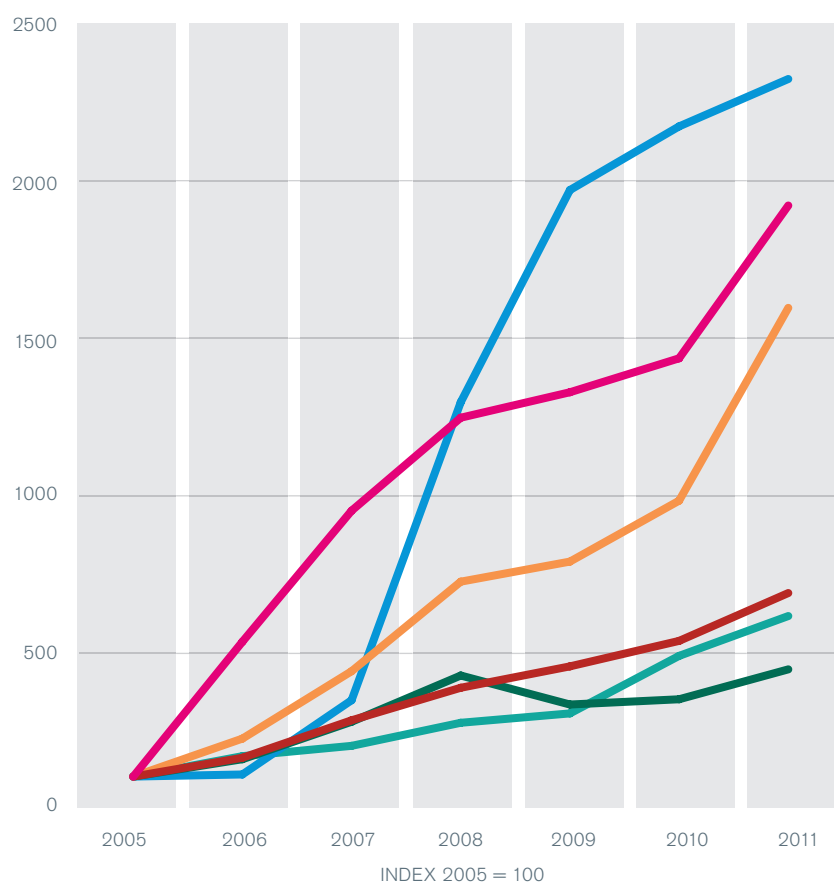


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Exports of computer services rise steeply in some developing economies

- Following the path of India, many developing economies have recently emerged as computer services exporters. Thanks to outsourcing, their exports have grown rapidly.
- Between 2005 and 2011, the Philippines' exports of computer services rose by an annual average of 69 per cent while Sri Lanka saw a 28 per cent increase. In Argentina and Costa Rica, exports of computer services expanded by an annual average of 37 per cent and 35 per cent respectively. Ukraine's exports of computer services recorded average growth of 59 per cent while in the Russian Federation they rose by 27 per cent.
- Even if in most cases the export values are relatively low, the average annual growth of computer services in these economies is well above the average in large exporters such as the European Union, India and the United States.

Exports of computer services in selected developing economies, 2005-11



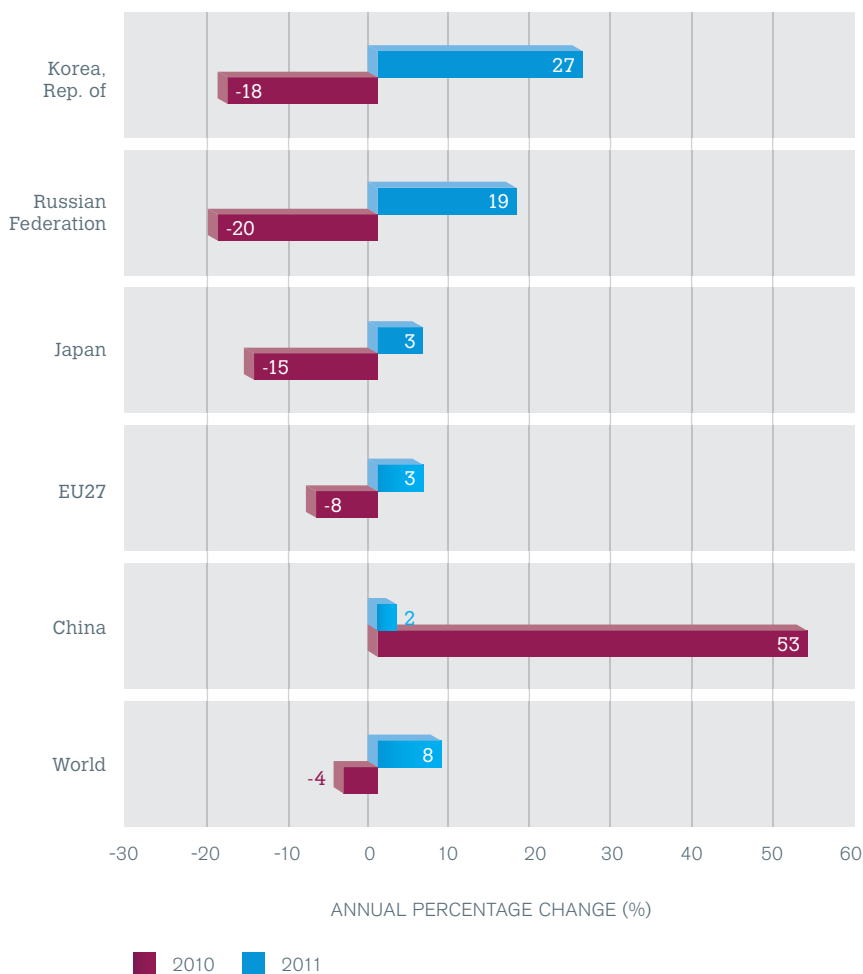
Costa Rica Philippines Russian Federation
Ukraine Argentina Sri Lanka



Construction bounces back

- World exports of construction bounced back in 2011, rising by 8 per cent following a 4 per cent decline in 2010.
- In the Republic of Korea, exports of construction rose by 27 per cent after the sharp fall recorded in 2010. Similarly, construction exports resumed an upward trend in the Russian Federation, growing by 19 per cent. For the European Union, exports increased by 3 per cent, following an 8 per cent contraction in 2010. China's construction exports slowed to 2 per cent in 2011 after soaring in 2010.
- The five major exporters of construction services represented 82 per cent of global construction exports in 2011.

Exports of construction, 2010-11



Growth in exports of construction in 2011

27%

Republic of Korea

2%

China



Where to find more:
Tables III.16 and III.17



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