

## III. Trade in commercial services

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Exports of commercial services grew by 2 per cent in 2012.

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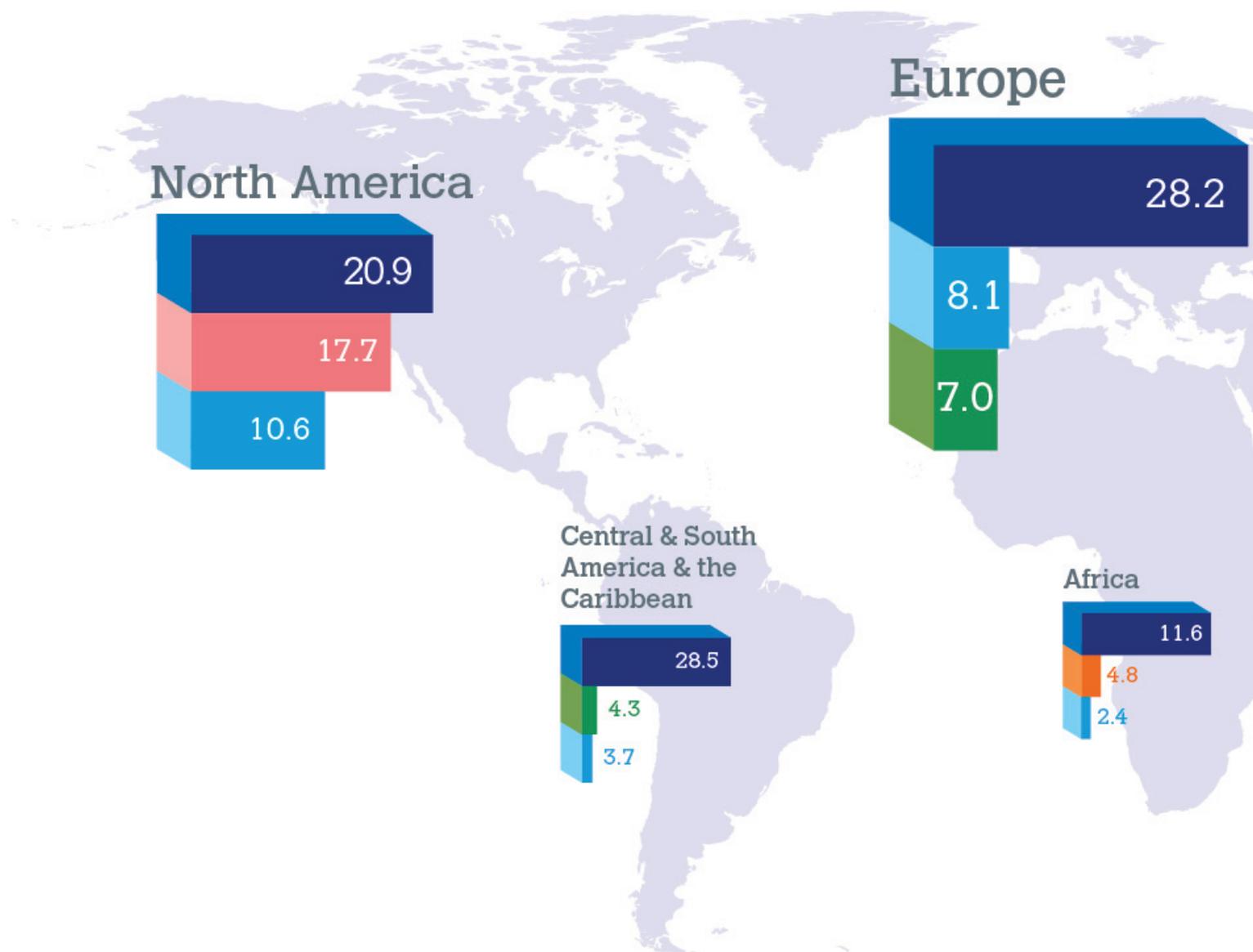


**Where to find more online:**

you can access and download the Excel files for the tables via [www.wto.org/statistics](http://www.wto.org/statistics)

# Exports of commercial services vary significantly from region to region

Share of “other commercial services” in regional commercial services exports, 2012\*



**18%** Share of royalties and licence fees in North America’s exports

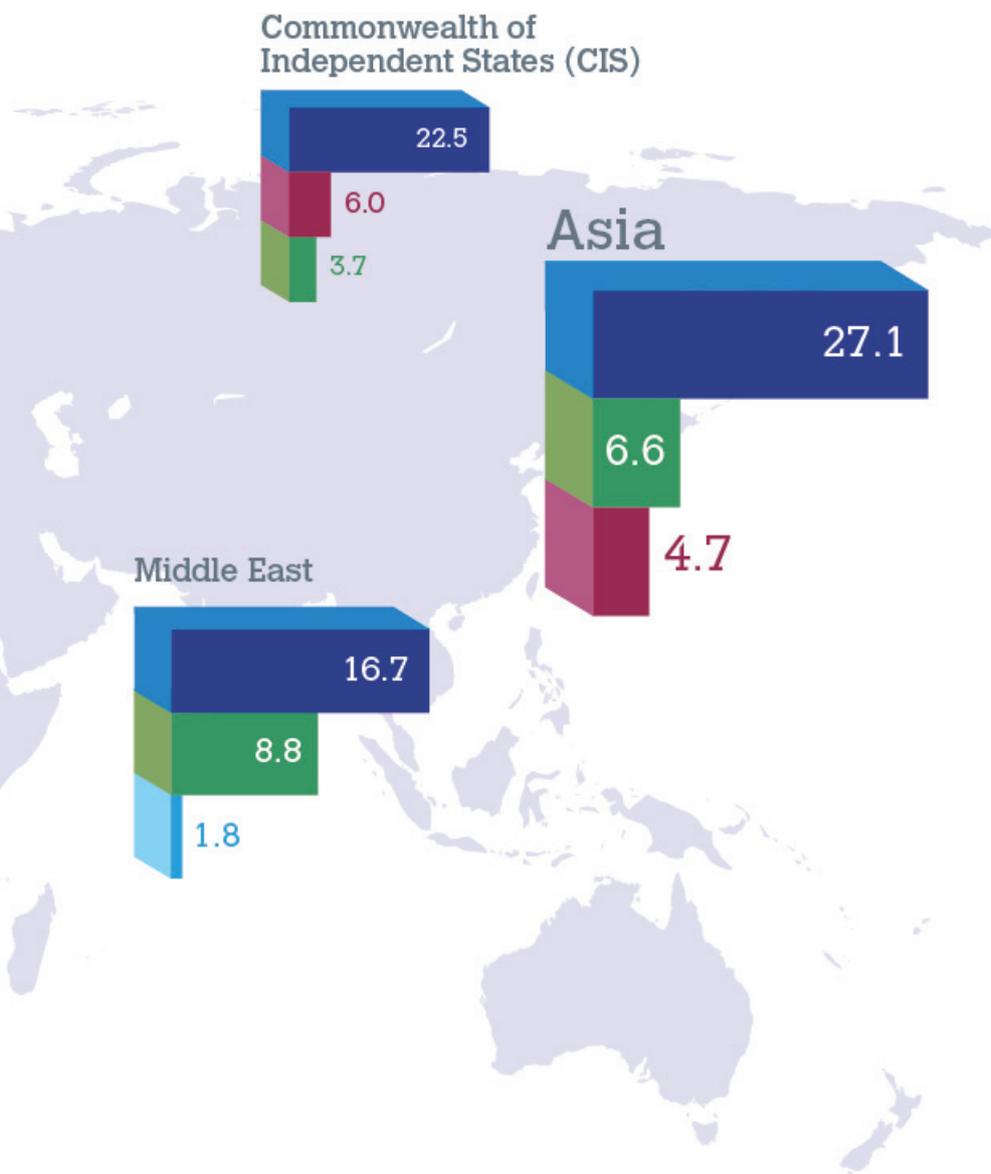
**6%** Share of construction in exports of Commonwealth of Independent States



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



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Charts of regions sized according to share in world total exports of other commercial services

**28%** Share of “other business services” in Europe’s exports

- “Other commercial services”, ranging from construction to financial services and from computer and information services to insurance services, constitutes over half of commercial services exports. Its largest sub-category is “other business services”, which accounts for more than a quarter of commercial services exports in Asia, Europe and Central and South America.\*
- Construction exports accounted for 6 per cent of the exports of the Commonwealth of Independent States in 2012, double the world’s average. Receipts from royalties and licence fees represented 18 per cent of North America’s commercial services exports in 2012. In Europe, exports of financial services accounted for 8 per cent of its services exports. The highest share of communications services was held by Africa (4.8 per cent). Computer and information services accounted for 8.8 per cent of the services exports of the Middle East, and 7 per cent of Europe’s services exports.



All figures are in US\$ billion

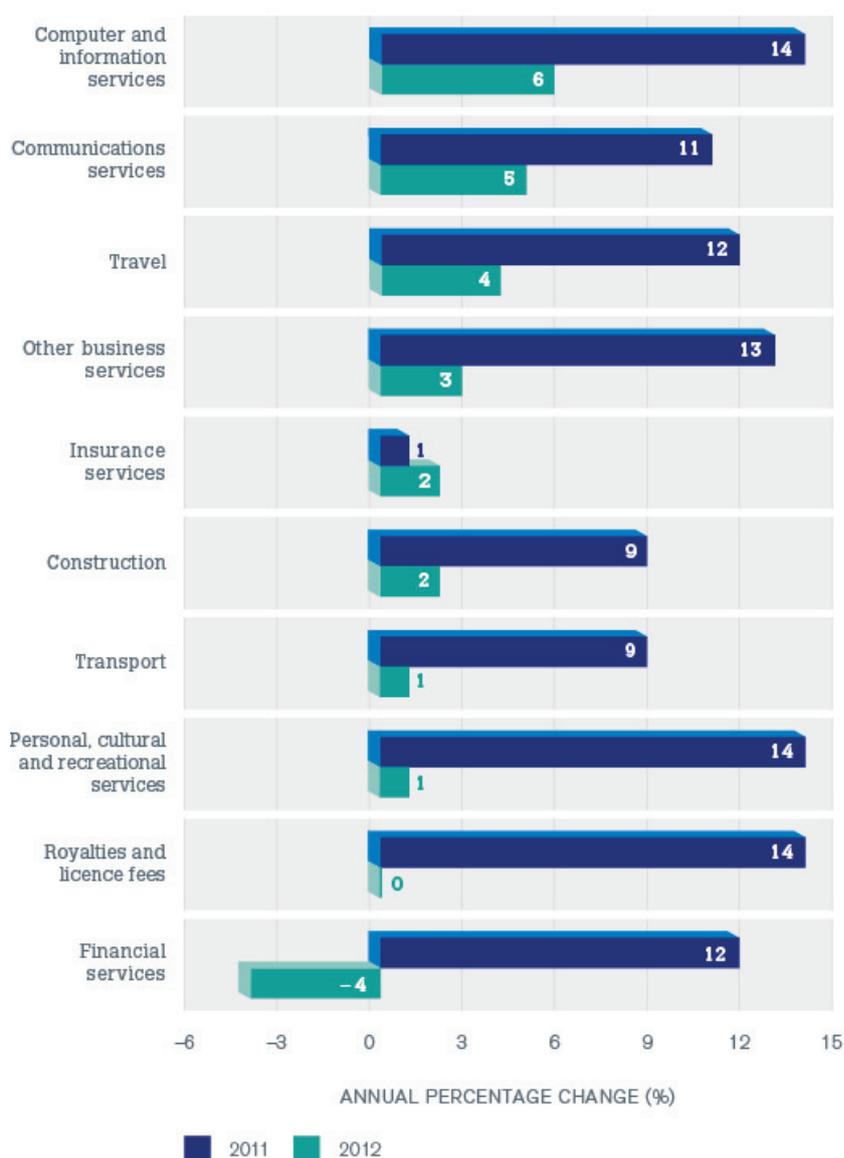
\*“Other commercial services” comprises communications services (e.g. telecoms), construction, insurance services, financial services, computer and information services, royalties and licence fees, other business services, and personal cultural and recreational services (e.g. audio-visual services).

“Other business services” comprises 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.

## All services sectors see slowdown

- Virtually all commercial services sectors saw a slowdown in 2012. Transport exports rose by only 1 per cent as a result of reduced merchandise trade. In Europe, transport exports fell by 2 per cent. Travel receipts, which represent more than a quarter of global services exports, grew by only 4 per cent compared with 12 per cent in 2011.
- Exports of financial services experienced the steepest decline, contracting by 4 per cent in 2012, compared with 12 per cent growth in 2011. Europe's exports of financial services dropped by 7 per cent while in North America the decline was 2 per cent. Global receipts of royalties and licence fees stagnated for the first time since 2001, with Europe's receipts declining by 5 per cent.
- Computer services recorded the highest growth in 2012, with world exports up by 6 per cent. This was sustained by Asia's rapidly expanding exports.

### Growth in exports of commercial services, 2011–2012



**-4%**

Decrease in world exports of financial services in 2012

**0%**

Growth in world receipts of royalties and licence fees in 2012



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

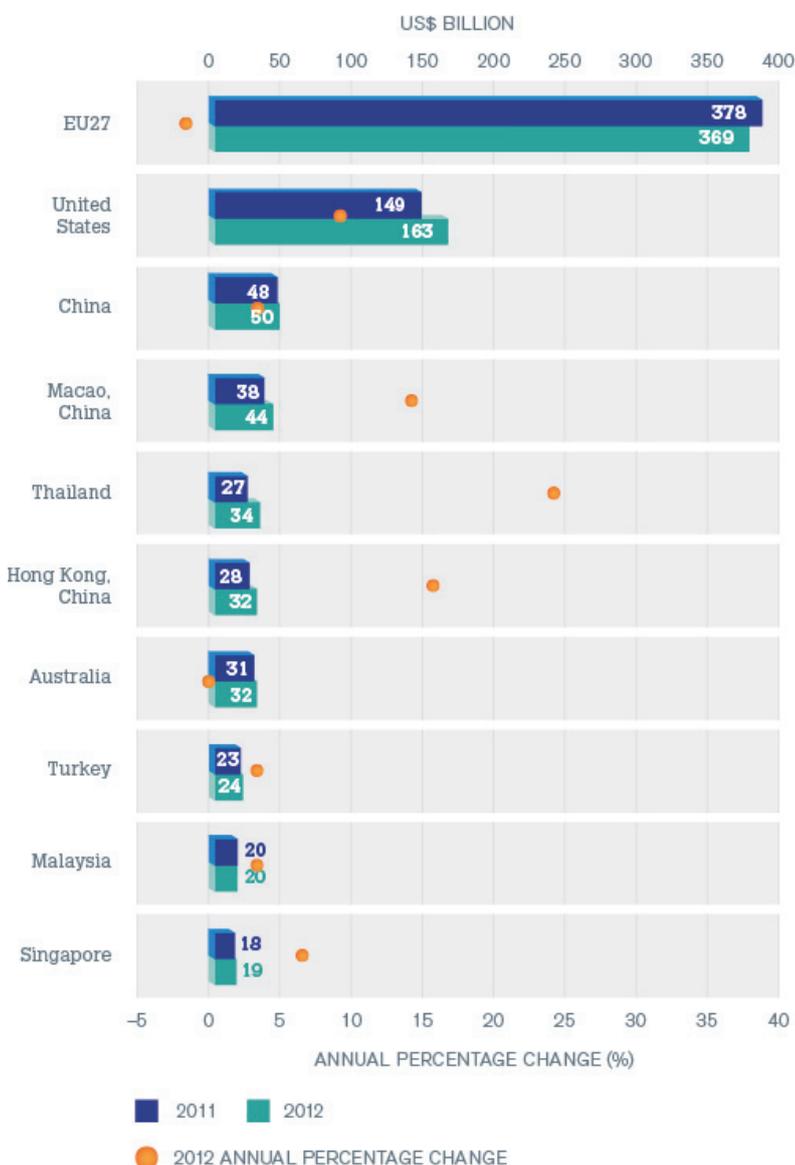


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# EU travel exports slump

- The European Union's travel receipts declined by 2 per cent in 2012 despite a modest increase in the number of international tourist arrivals. This was due in particular to lower travel exports within the European Union, which fell by 4 per cent. Receipts from travel within the European Union constitute two-thirds of EU travel receipts. In the United States, the second leading travel exporter, exports expanded by 9 per cent.
- Among the ten leading travel exporters, the most rapid growth rates were recorded in Asia in 2012. Thailand's exports rose by 24 per cent, followed by Hong Kong, China (+16 per cent). Macao, China's travel receipts grew by 14 per cent, significantly lower than in 2011.
- International tourist arrivals will rise between 3 and 4 per cent in 2013, according to the United Nations World Tourism Organization. Asia and Africa are projected to record the highest growth rates.

## Ten leading travel exporters, 2011–2012



### Growth in travel exports in 2012

-2%

European Union

24%

Thailand

9%

United States



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



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[www.wto.org/statistics](http://www.wto.org/statistics)

## Transport exports expand in Asia but shrink in Europe

- Exports of transportation services expanded in several leading Asian traders in 2012. In the Republic of Korea, exports increased by 10 per cent following a 5 per cent drop in 2011. China's exports rose by 9 per cent. In Singapore, which overtook Japan as the third largest exporter of transport services, exports rose by 7 per cent. However, India's exports declined by 2 per cent.
- US exports of transportation services grew by 4 per cent in 2012. Among the leading economies, Russia was the only country to record double-digit growth for two consecutive years.
- EU exports of transportation services declined by 3 per cent in 2012, reflecting the decline in merchandise exports. Elsewhere in Europe, Norway's exports expanded by only 3 per cent.

### Change in exports of transportation services in 2012

**-3%**

European Union (27)

**10%**

Korea, Republic of

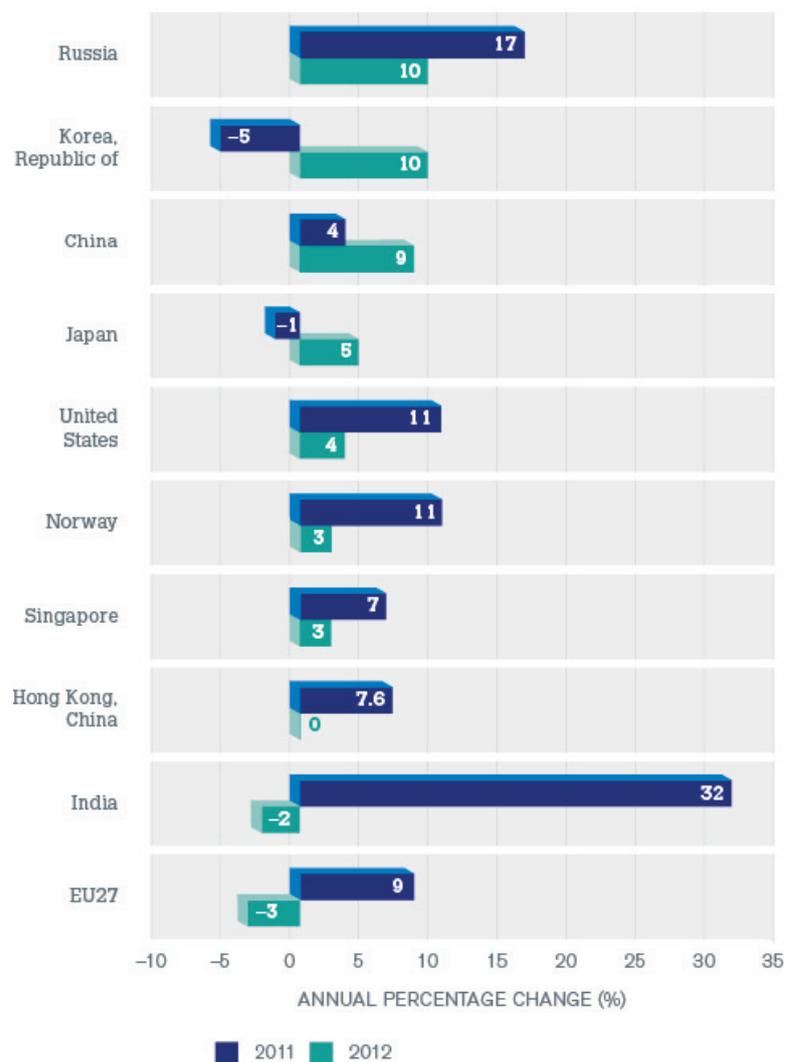
**10%**

Russia



Where to find more:  
Table III.3

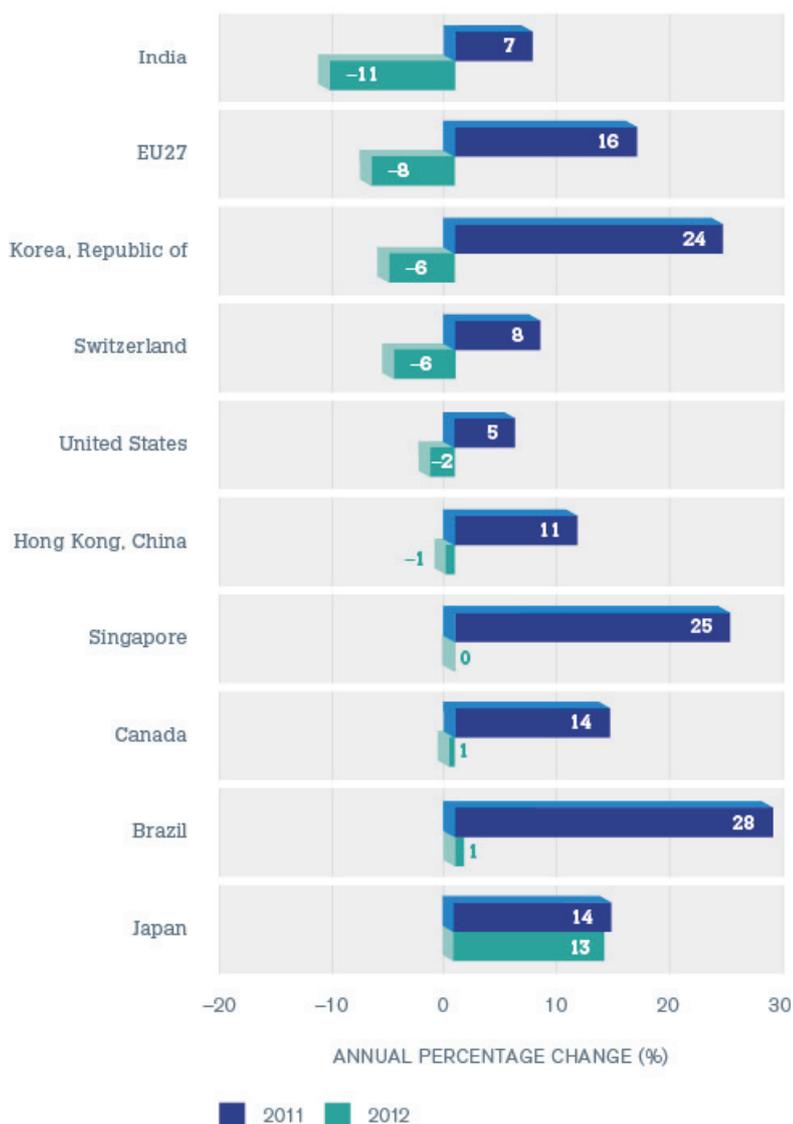
### Growth in exports of transportation services, 2011–2012



# Financial services experience another difficult year

- Several leading exporters of financial services saw their exports decline in 2012. The European Union, the world's largest exporter of financial services, saw its exports drop by 8 per cent, reflecting instability in the euro area, after recovering in 2011. Switzerland, the third-largest global supplier of financial services, was also affected with exports contracting by 6 per cent.
- In North America, US exports of financial services shrunk by 2 per cent in 2012, while Canada's rose by only around 1 per cent.
- Asia was not spared by the new crisis in the financial markets. In India, exports of financial services dropped by 11 per cent in 2012. In the Republic of Korea, exports fell by 6 per cent while in Hong Kong, China, the decrease was a more modest 1 per cent. Singapore's exports stagnated. In contrast, Japan continued to record positive export growth.

## Growth in exports of financial services, 2011–2012



### Growth in exports of financial services in 2012

**-8%**

European Union

**-6%**

Switzerland



Where to find more:  
Tables III.23



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## Exports of computer and information services soar

- Computer and information services was the most dynamic services sector between 2005 and 2012, with an average annual growth in exports of 14 per cent. It was also the most resilient sector during the 2009 economic crisis. Insurance services and construction were the next most dynamic, each recording an average of 11 per cent growth.
- World exports of communications services (largely telecommunications), other business services, and royalties and licence fees increased by an annual average of 9 per cent between 2005 and 2012. Global exports of financial services grew by an annual average of 8 per cent.
- The slowest growth was recorded by personal, cultural and recreational services, which includes audio-visual and related services. This sector grew by an annual average of 7 per cent between 2005 and 2012.

Average annual growth in exports of commercial services, 2005–2012

14%

Computer and information services

11%

Insurance services

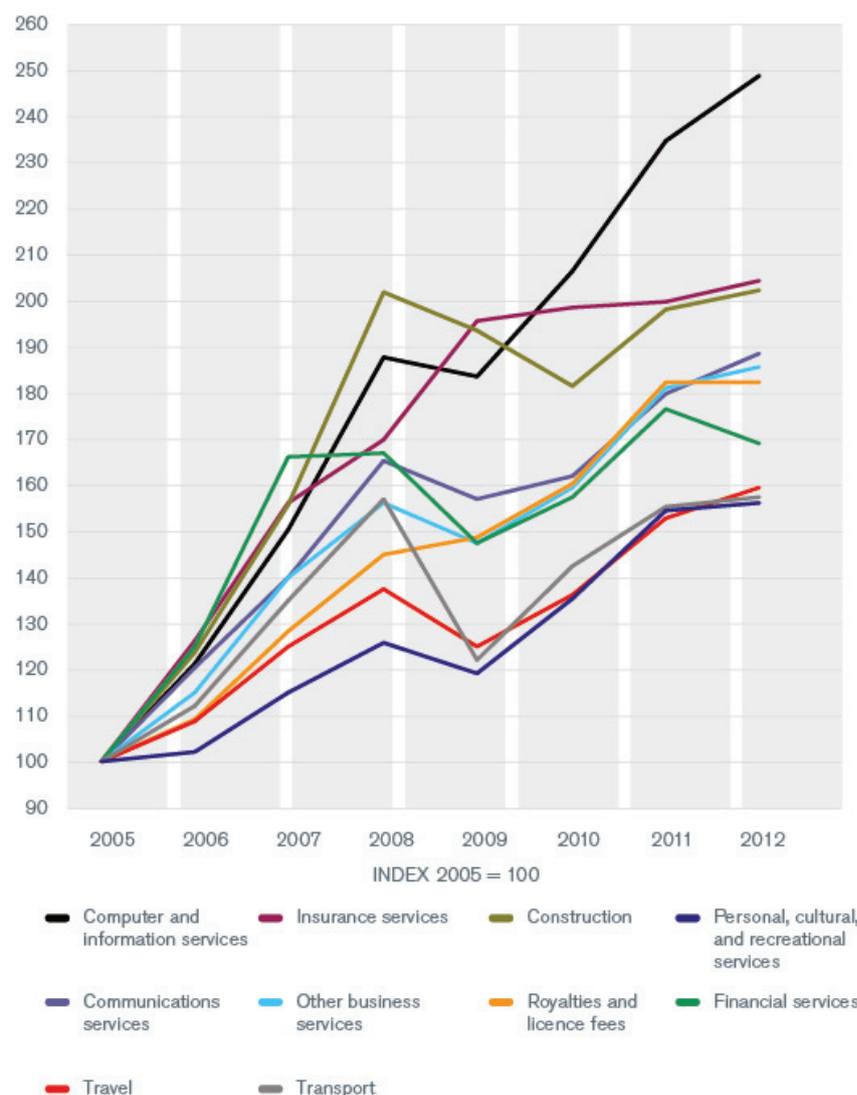
11%

Construction



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

Growth in exports of commercial services, 2005–2012



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