



## PRESS RELEASE

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12:00 GENEVA TIME 12 APRIL 2018

### TRADE STATISTICS AND OUTLOOK

## Strong trade growth in 2018 rests on policy choices

World merchandise trade growth is expected to remain strong in 2018 and 2019 after posting its largest increase in six years in 2017, but continued expansion depends on robust global economic growth and governments pursuing appropriate monetary, fiscal and especially trade policies, WTO economists said.

The WTO anticipates merchandise trade volume growth of 4.4% in 2018, as measured by the average of exports and imports, roughly matching the 4.7% increase recorded for 2017. Growth is expected to moderate to 4.0% in 2019, below the average rate of 4.8% since 1990 but still firmly above the post-crisis average of 3.0%. However, there are signs that escalating trade tensions may already be affecting business confidence and investment decisions, which could compromise the current outlook.

"The strong trade growth that we are seeing today will be vital for continued economic growth and recovery and to support job creation. However this important progress could be quickly undermined if governments resort to restrictive trade policies, especially in a tit-for-tat process that could lead to an unmanageable escalation. A cycle of retaliation is the last thing the world economy needs. The pressing trade problems confronting WTO members is best tackled through collective action. I urge governments to show restraint and settle their differences through dialogue and serious engagement," said WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo.

#### MAIN POINTS

- **World merchandise trade volume is expected to grow 4.4% in 2018**, accompanied by GDP growth of 3.2% at market exchange rates.
- **Faster trade expansion is being driven by stronger economic growth** across regions, led by increased investment and fiscal expansion.
- **Trade growth in 2018 is likely to fall within a range from 3.1% to 5.5%** if current GDP forecasts come to pass, although a continued escalation of trade restrictive policies could lead to a significantly lower figure.
- **Trade growth should moderate to 4.0%** in 2019 even as global GDP growth slows slightly to 3.1%.
- **The ratio of trade growth to GDP growth** should remain at 1.4 in 2018, down slightly from 1.5 in 2017.
- **Risks are centred on trade and monetary policy**, where missteps could undermine economic growth and confidence.
- **An index of export orders has recently weakened**, possibly signalling an effect of greater uncertainty brought about by heightened trade tensions.

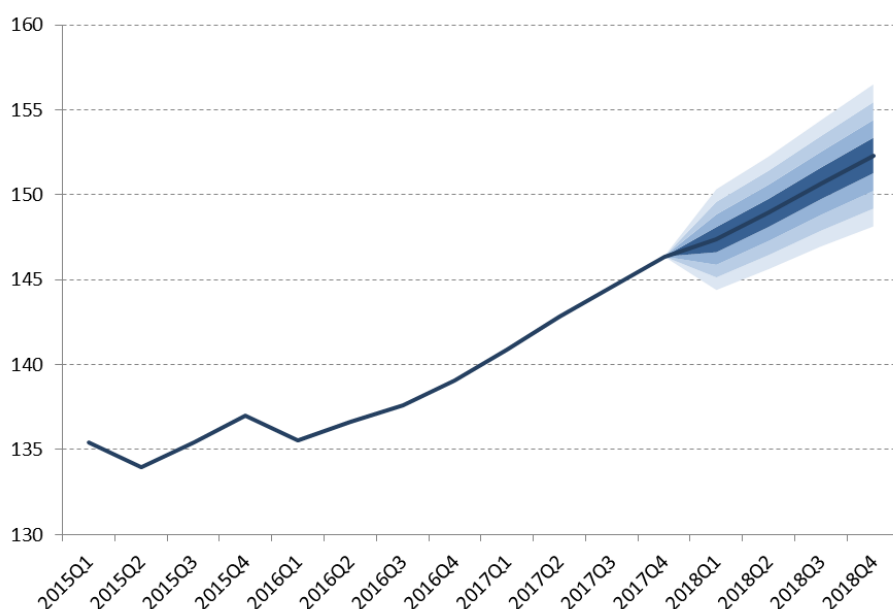
Trade volume growth in 2017, the strongest since 2011, was driven mainly by cyclical factors, particularly increased investment and consumption expenditure. Looking at the situation in value terms, growth rates in current US dollars in 2017 (10.7% for merchandise exports, 7.4% for commercial services exports) were even stronger, reflecting both increasing quantities and rising prices. Merchandise trade volume growth in 2017 may also have been inflated somewhat by the weakness of trade over the previous two years, which provided a lower base for the current expansion.

Until recently, risks to the forecast appeared to be more balanced than at any time since the financial crisis. However, in light of recent trade policy developments they must now be considered to be tilted to the downside. Increased use of restrictive trade policy measures and the uncertainty they bring to businesses and consumers could produce cycles of retaliation that would weigh heavily on global trade and output. Faster monetary tightening by central banks could trigger fluctuations in exchange rates and capital flows that could be equally disruptive to trade flows. Finally, worsening geopolitical tensions could be counted on to reduce trade flows, although the magnitude of their impact is unpredictable. Technological change means that conflicts could increasingly take the form of cyber-attacks, which could impact services trade as much as or more than goods trade.

On the other hand, there is some upside potential if structural reforms and more expansionary fiscal policy cause economic growth and trade to accelerate in the short run. The fact that all regions are experiencing upswings in trade and output at the same time could also make recovery more self-sustaining and increase the likelihood of positive outcomes.

#### Chart 1: Volume of world merchandise trade, 2015Q1-2018Q4

Seasonally adjusted volume index, 2005=100



Source: WTO and UNCTAD, WTO Secretariat estimates.

In recognition of the high degree of uncertainty associated with any forecast under the circumstances, Chart 1 uses shaded bands to illustrate a range of possible trade outcomes in the forecast period. Trade growth in 2018 is most likely to fall within a range from 3.1% to 5.5%. However, it should be noted that the above estimates depend on current forecasts of GDP. Further

escalation in trade restrictive policies or other shocks that negatively affect global economic activity could result in trade growth outside of this range.<sup>1</sup>

The WTO's trade forecasts are predicated on consensus estimates of global GDP, which have been revised upwards strongly in recent months. World real GDP at market exchange rates is projected to grow 3.2% in 2018 (up from 2.8% last September) and 3.1% in 2019. Brighter prospects reflect not only investment and employment gains but also improved business and consumer confidence as measured by OECD business cycle indicators, although these could be undermined by uncertainty going forward. The final figure of 3.0% for world GDP growth in 2017 was also stronger than the previous estimate (2.8% as of last September), which partly explains the fact that actual merchandise trade growth of 4.7% for the year exceeded even optimistic assessments (e.g. 3.6% in September, with a high end estimate of 3.9%).

Despite the improved outlook, some structural factors that weighed on trade in recent years are still present. This includes the rebalancing of the Chinese economy away from investment (which has very high import content) and toward consumption (which has lower import content compared to investment), as well as the reduced pace of global trade liberalization in recent decades. China's rebalancing might dampen imports slightly in the short-run but it should produce stronger, sustainable growth over the long term, which would support more trade. On the other hand, the lack of further substantive liberalization would be expected to produce subdued trade growth in both the short and long-run.

Historically, world merchandise trade volumes have grown around 1.5 times faster than world real GDP at market exchange rates. The ratio of trade growth to GDP growth (referred to as the "elasticity of trade with respect to income") rose above 2.0 in the 1990s, but fell back to 1.0 in the five years following the financial crisis (2011-2016). This elasticity measure rebounded from 0.8 in 2016 to 1.5 in 2017, which is close to the historical average. Stronger trade growth relative to GDP growth is expected to continue at least into 2018, barring major economic shocks (Chart 2).

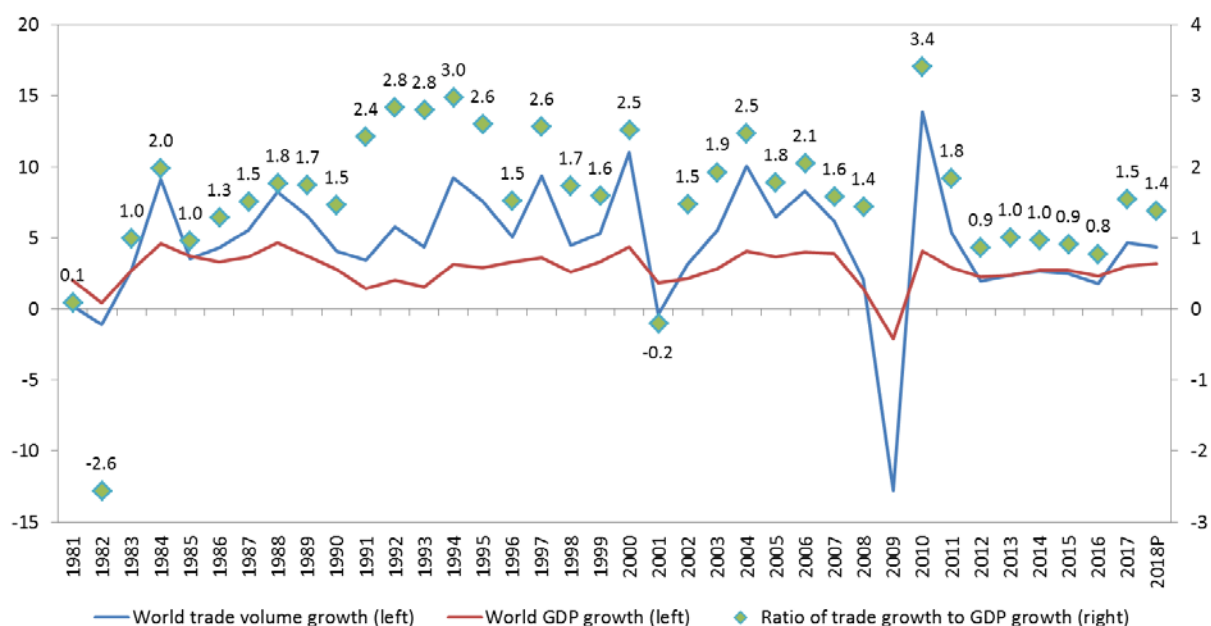
Preliminary data suggest that trade is off to a strong start in 2018. The WTO's most recent World Trade Outlook Indicator (February 2018) pointed to above-trend trade growth in the first quarter, while other indicators such as export orders and container shipping are also suggestive of an ongoing recovery. Tighter labour markets and modest increases in inflation in major economies will leave less room for error on the part of policy makers, but absent any missteps trade growth should remain strong over the next two years.

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<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that quarterly estimates do not match annual volumes and forecasts exactly but they tend to be of similar magnitude.

**Chart 2: Ratio of world merchandise trade volume growth to world real GDP growth, 1981-2018**

% change and ratio



Sources: WTO and UNCTAD for trade, consensus estimates for GDP.

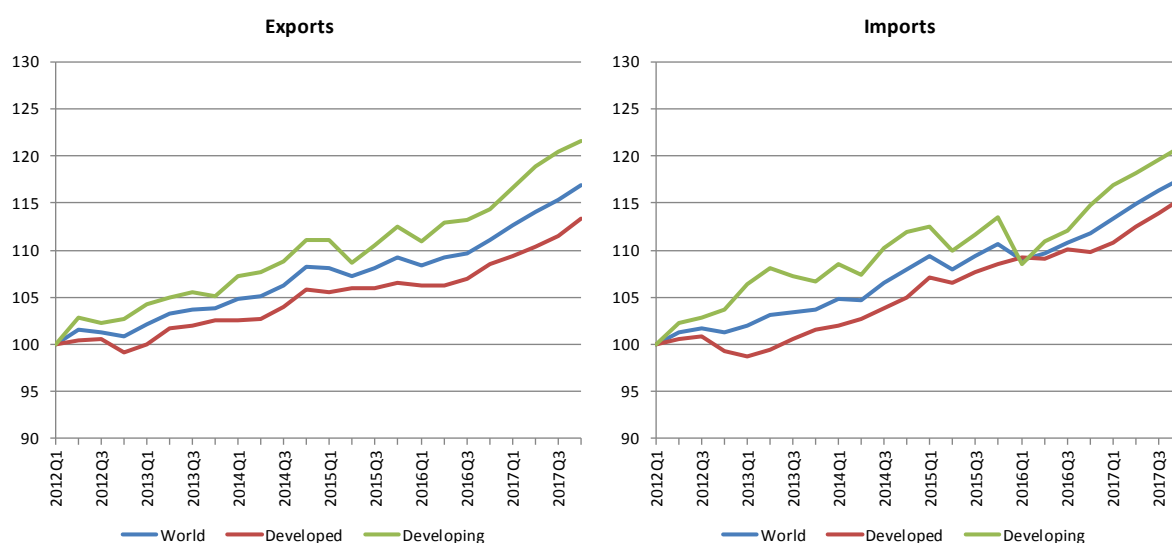
### Details on trade developments in 2017

The acceleration of world merchandise trade volume growth to 4.7% in 2017 from 1.8% in 2016 was broad based, driven by rising import demand across regions but most notably in Asia. The largest gains were recorded on the import side in developing economies, where trade growth surged to 7.2% in 2017 from 1.9% in 2016. Import demand also picked up in developed countries, albeit less dramatically, as merchandise trade growth in volume terms increased to 3.1% in 2017 from 2.0% in 2016. Meanwhile, merchandise exports grew 3.5% in developed countries and 5.7% in developing countries last year, up from 1.1% and 2.3% respectively in the previous year (Table 1).

Although merchandise trade volume growth was stronger in developing countries for the whole of 2017, exports and especially imports of developed countries strengthened over the course of the year while trade growth in developing economies was more stable. This is illustrated by Chart 3, which shows seasonally-adjusted quarterly merchandise export and import volumes by level of development. Year-on-year growth of imports was considerably stronger in developed countries in the second half of 2017 (4.3%) than in the first half (2.3%), while growth eased slightly in developing economies (6.0% in the second half, down from 7.2% the first half). Export volume growth in developed countries also increased from 3.4% to 4.3% between the first half and second half, while growth in developing countries picked up slightly from 5.2% to 6.4%.

**Chart 3: World merchandise exports and imports by level of development, 2012Q1-2017Q4**

(Volume index, 2012Q1=100)



Source: WTO and UNCTAD

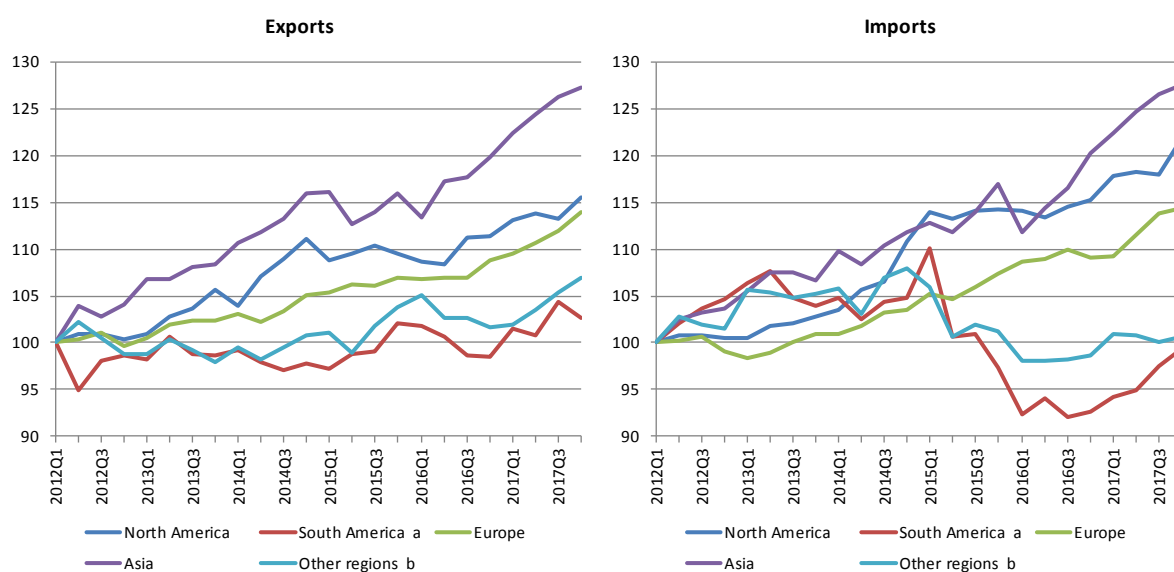
The recovery of merchandise trade volumes in 2017 was widely shared across regions but this was especially true on the export side, where North America, South and Central America and the Caribbean, Europe and Asia all recorded stronger growth. Asia and North America saw steady year-on-year growth in imports throughout 2017, whereas import growth accelerated over the course of the year in Europe (1.4% in the first half, 4.1% in the second half) and South and Central America and the Caribbean (1.5% in the first half, 6.6% in the second half, see Chart 4).

Asia had the fastest trade volume growth of any region in 2017 on both the export side (6.7%) and the import side (9.6%) following two years of tepid expansion (Table 1). North American exports and imports rebounded strongly in 2017 with growth of 4.2% and 4.0%, respectively, after stagnating in 2016. South and Central America and the Caribbean's import growth turned positive again in 2017 with an increase of 4.0%, following three years of steep declines. Meanwhile, European trade flows continued to expand at a moderate pace, with growth of 3.5% for exports and 2.5% for imports in 2017.

"Other regions," encompassing Africa, the Middle East and the Commonwealth of Independent States, saw steady export growth of 2.3% in volume terms due to the fact that demand for oil and other natural resources tends to be quite stable in quantity terms. Meanwhile, imports of the combined regions increased slightly by 0.9%, partly as a result of higher primary commodity prices, which raise export revenue in resource exporting countries and allow more imports to be purchased. Energy prices more than doubled since January 2016, but even at nearly US\$70 per barrel oil prices still remain below the US\$100 level that prevailed before the middle of 2014.

**Chart 4: Merchandise exports and imports by region, 2012Q1-2017Q4**

Volume index, 2012Q1=100



a Refers to South and Central America and the Caribbean

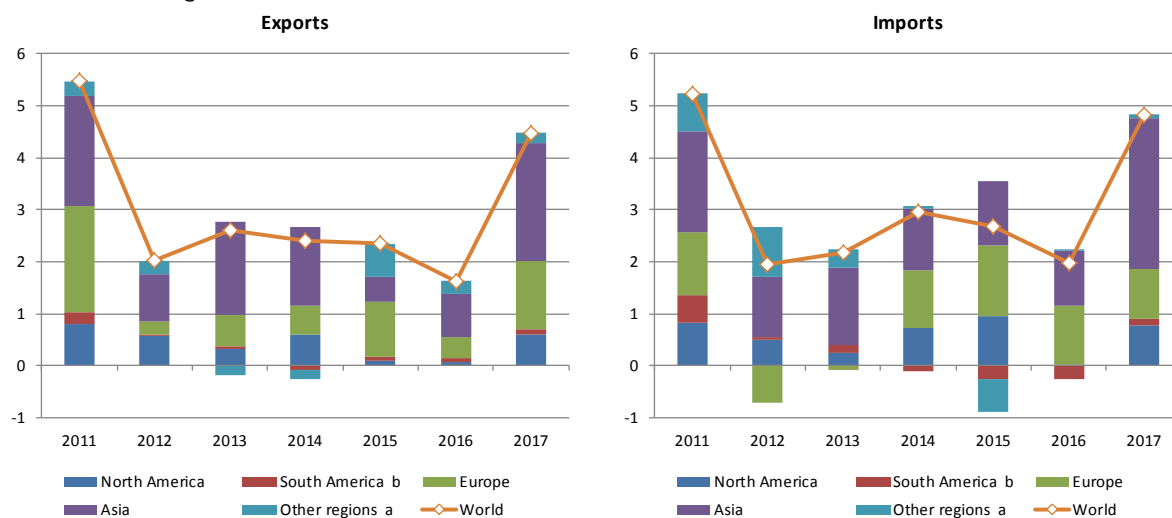
b Other regions comprise Africa, Middle East and the Commonwealth of Independent States, including associate and former member States.

Source: WTO and UNCTAD.

Asia was responsible for much of the recovery of world merchandise trade in 2017 on both the export and import sides. This is illustrated by Chart 5, which shows regional contributions to world trade volume growth. On the export side, Asia contributed 2.3 percentage points to global growth of 4.5% in the latest year, or 51% of the total increase. Asia also added 2.9 percentage points to world import growth of 4.8%, or 60% of the overall increase. North America made substantial positive contributions to exports and imports as well, after adding very little to trade growth in 2016 as internal and external demand faltered. Europe added less to merchandise import growth in 2017 than it did in 2016, but South and Central America and the Caribbean made a positive contribution for the first time since 2013 as Brazil exited its recession.

**Chart 5: Contributions to world trade volume growth by region, 2011-2017**

Annual % change



a Other regions comprise Africa, Middle East and the Commonwealth of Independent States, including associate and former member States.

b Refers to South and Central America and the Caribbean

Source: WTO and UNCTAD, WTO Secretariat calculations.

No single factor can explain the revival of world trade in 2017 but several contributed to it, including increased investment spending, which is highly correlated with trade, and higher commodity prices, which raise incomes in resource-based economies and encourage investment in the energy sector, e.g. shale oil in the United States. Appendix Chart 1, which shows GDP growth by expenditure component in selected economies, illustrates recent trends. Investment made a negative contribution to GDP growth in the United States in 2016 and negligible contributions to growth in Japan and the United Kingdom for the year, but all three saw investment rebound to varying degrees in 2017. Investment is important for trade because it is thought to be the most import intensive component of GDP, followed by exports, private consumption and government spending.<sup>2</sup>

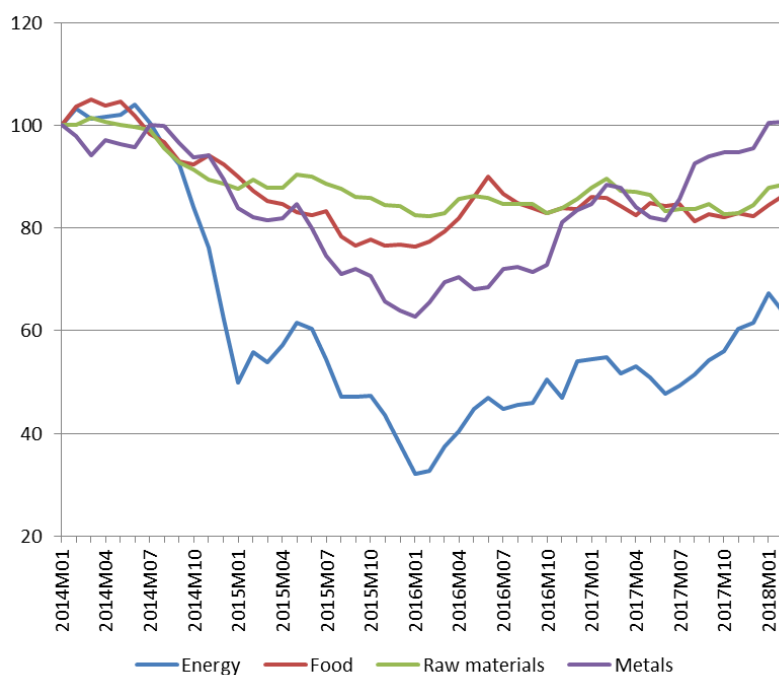
The fluctuations in the United Kingdom may have been partly due to the uncertainty introduced by the Brexit referendum, and the fact that this uncertainty was partly alleviated in 2017. However, the long-run impact of Brexit on trade and investment remains to be seen.

Appendix Chart 1 also shows that China's economic rebalancing away from investment and toward consumption is continuing, with investment accounting for roughly 32% of GDP growth in 2017, down from 55% in 2013. This development may add some drag to world trade growth as China imports fewer capital goods, but the process has so far been gradual and not very disruptive to global trade. Less investment could also help reduce overcapacity in sensitive sectors such as steel and aluminium, thereby alleviating trade tensions.

<sup>2</sup> Auboin M. and Borino F. (2017), "The falling elasticity of global trade to economic activity: Testing the demand channel, improving global trade forecasts", Voxeu.org, 12 June.

**Chart 6: Prices of primary commodities, Jan. 2014 - Feb. 2018**

Indices, January 2014=100



Source: World Bank Commodity Price Statistics.

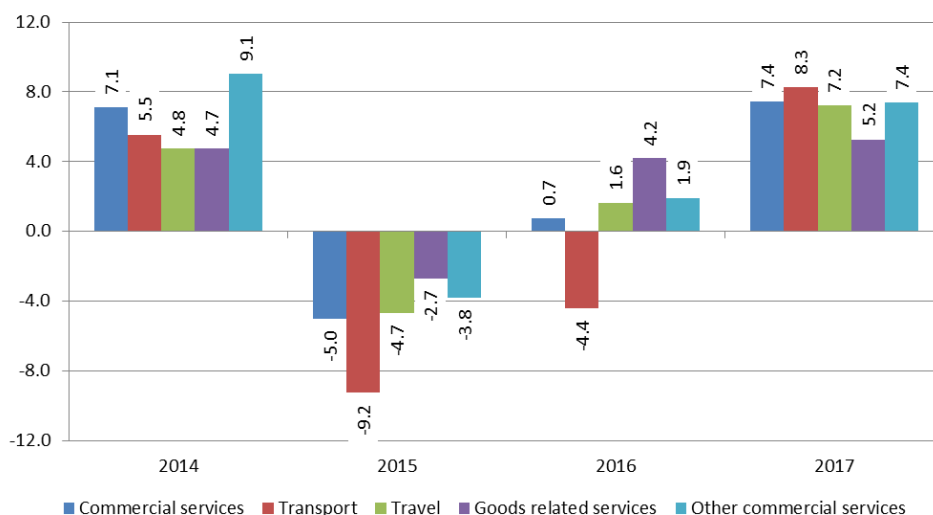
Dollar values of international trade flows are strongly influenced by exchange rates and commodity prices. Despite daily ups and downs, the nominal effective exchange rate of the US dollar against a broad basket of currencies was basically unchanged in 2017, while prices for energy, food, raw materials and metals rose between 7% and 24%. This partly explains why merchandise trade growth was stronger in value terms than in volume terms for the year. The dollar value of world merchandise exports was up 11% in 2017 to US\$17.20 trillion. World commercial services exports increased by 7% to US\$5.25 trillion in the same period.

Appendix Chart 2 shows year-on-year growth in monthly merchandise exports and imports of selected major traders through February 2018. Trade values have been growing at stable rates in most countries since 2017. China and the European Union (28) show an uptick in growth in the early months of 2018 while India and Korea appear to be losing momentum. However, these figures should be used with caution as they may be strongly influenced by fluctuations in prices and exchange rates.

Appendix Tables 1, 3 and 4 provide detailed breakdowns of annual merchandise trade in current US dollar terms by region and selected economies. Resource exporting regions such as Africa and the Middle East recorded stronger export growth than import growth, while industrialized regions such as North America, Europe and Asia had import growth that was as strong as or stronger than export growth. There were few major changes in rankings of merchandise exporters and importers with some exceptions. Counting individual EU members separately, Korea jumped from the 8<sup>th</sup> position to 6<sup>th</sup> on the export side while the United Arab Emirates rose from 19<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> place, the latter reflecting higher petroleum prices. Meanwhile, Japan overtook the United Kingdom as the world's 4<sup>th</sup> largest merchandise importer while Canada fell from 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> place in import rankings. China remained the largest exporter and the United States remained the largest importer regardless of whether the European Union was treated as 28 separate countries or as a single trader, excluding intra-EU trade.



**Chart 7: Growth in the value of commercial services exports by category, 2014-17**  
% change in US\$ values



Source: WTO, UNCTAD and ITC.

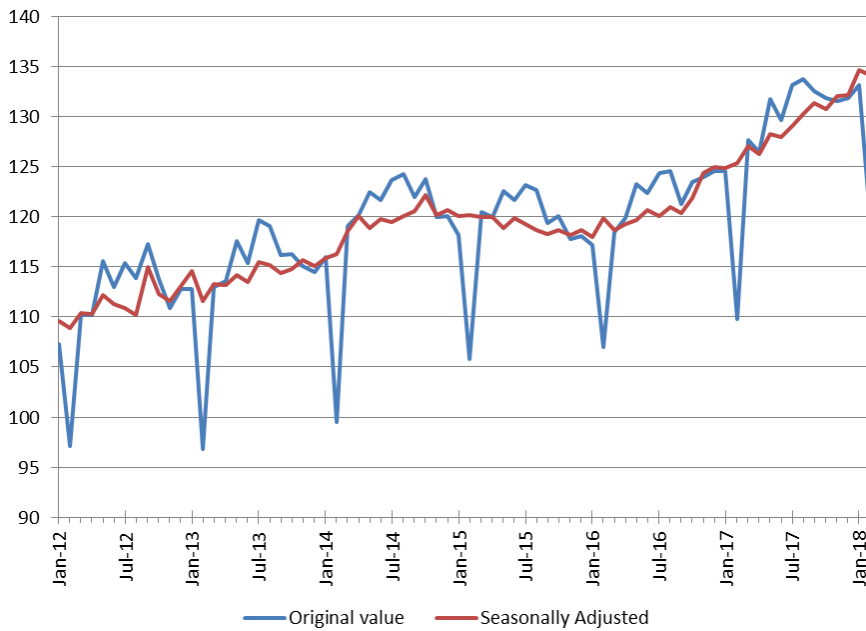
World commercial services trade recorded a strong expansion in 2017 following two years of weak-to-negative growth. This is illustrated by Chart 7, which shows growth in the dollar value of commercial services exports since 2014 by major services categories. Total commercial services exports increased by more than 7% in the latest period, with transport services growing faster than the world average at 8%. The weakest category of services exports was goods related services, which still posted a 5% increase.

Detailed breakdowns of commercial services trade by region and country are shown in Appendix Tables 2, 5 and 6. There were no changes in rank among the top 5 exporters of commercial services when EU member countries are counted separately, whereas the United Kingdom rose to 5<sup>th</sup> place among importers from 6<sup>th</sup> previously. There were no changes in rank on either the export or import side with the EU treated as a single entity and intra-EU trade excluded. The United Arab Emirates placed much higher in the global export rankings (12<sup>th</sup> in 2017, excluding intra-EU trade) than in previous press releases, but this was due to data revisions rather than increased exports. UAE imports were also considerably larger. As a result, ranks of countries in commercial services trade are not fully comparable to previous years.

### Outlook for trade in 2018 and 2019

Some leading and coincident indicators of merchandise trade continued to point in a generally positive direction in the first quarter of 2018 while others have taken a negative turn. An index of container port throughput was close to its highest level ever recorded in February (Chart 8), suggesting strong trade growth. However, a measure of global export orders derived from purchasing managers' indices dipped in March, falling to 51.8, its lowest level since December 2017. A value above 50 still indicates expansion, but the recent weakening could be attributed to rising anti-trade rhetoric (Chart 9).

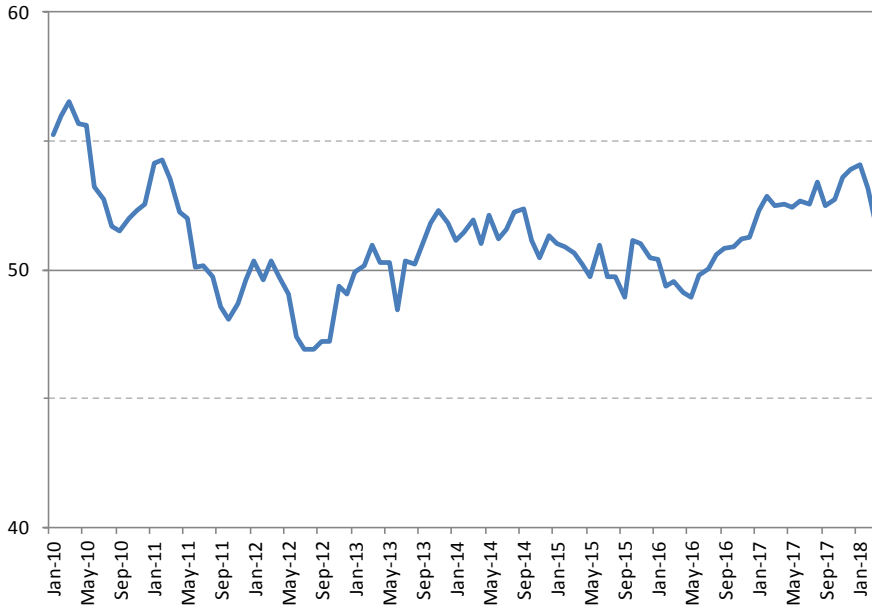
**Chart 8: RWI/ISL container throughput index, January 2012 - February 2018**  
Indices, 2010=100



Source: Leibniz Institute for Economic Research and the Institute of Shipping Economics and Logistics.

Balanced against these broadly positive signs is a rising tide of anti-trade sentiment and the increased willingness of governments to employ restrictive trade measures. Recent measures have been applied to widely traded goods supplied by a large number of countries, with counter actions promised if these go into effect. An escalating cycle of retaliation may yet be avoided if negotiations manage to diffuse tensions, but this is not guaranteed. As always, the WTO stands ready to help members reach mutually beneficial outcomes.

**Chart 9: Global PMI new export orders index, Jan. 2010 - Mar. 2018**  
Index, base=50

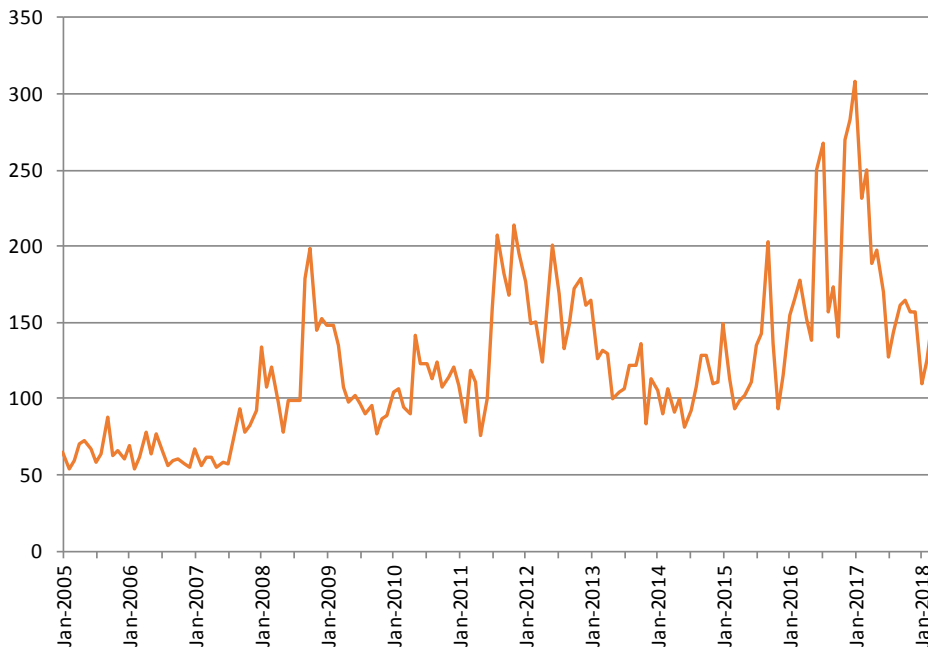


Note: Values greater than 50 indicate expansion while values less than 50 denote contraction.  
Source: IHS Markit.

Another major risk is an unanticipated hike in inflation in one or more countries, which could cause monetary authorities to raise interest rates precipitously and cause economic growth to slow, with negative consequences for trade. The United States Federal Reserve is already in the process of raising interest rates closer to historical norms while the European Central Bank is moving closer to phasing out its own stimulus measures. Economic forecasters generally expect monetary authorities to manage these challenges successfully, but with less room to manoeuvre some financial volatility could come to the fore if conditions change.

The increased level of policy uncertainty is illustrated by Chart 10, which shows an index based on the frequency of phrases linked to economic uncertainty in press accounts.

**Chart 10: Global economic policy uncertainty, Jan. 2005 - Mar. 2018**  
Index, mean of 1997-2015=100



Source: PolicyUncertainty.com

Assuming current forecasts for GDP growth come to pass, the WTO expects world merchandise trade volumes to increase by 4.4% in 2018, with stronger growth in developing economies in both exports (5.4%) and imports (4.8%). Developed countries should also see fairly strong growth on both the export side (3.8%) and the import side (4.1%). In 2019 global trade growth is projected to moderate to 4.0%, with developing economies still outpacing developed countries in both exports (5.1% compared to 3.1%) and imports (4.4% compared to 3.3%) (Table 1). However, economic activity would also be expected to take a hit from escalating trade restrictions, which could result in more negative scenarios being realized.

**Table 1: Merchandise trade volume and real GDP, 2014-2019 a**

Annual % change

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018P	2019P
<b>Volume of world merchandise trade b</b>	2.7	2.5	1.8	4.7	4.4	4.0
<b>Exports</b>						
Developed economies	2.1	2.3	1.1	3.5	3.8	3.1
Developing economies c	2.7	2.4	2.3	5.7	5.4	5.1
North America	4.6	0.8	0.6	4.2	4.5	4.5
South and Central America and the Caribbean	-2.1	1.8	1.9	2.9	2.8	2.6
Europe	1.6	2.9	1.1	3.5	3.6	2.9
Asia	4.5	1.5	2.3	6.7	5.7	5.0
Other regions d	-1.0	5.5	2.6	2.3	4.7	4.4
<b>Imports</b>						
Developed economies	3.4	4.3	2.0	3.1	4.1	3.3
Developing economies c	2.4	0.6	1.9	7.2	4.8	4.4
North America	4.3	5.4	0.1	4.0	5.7	5.0
South and Central America and the Caribbean	-2.7	-6.4	-6.8	4.0	3.9	5.7
Europe	3.0	3.7	3.1	2.5	3.5	2.8
Asia	3.7	4.0	3.5	9.6	5.9	4.7
Other regions d	0.5	-5.6	0.2	0.9	0.4	1.8
<b>Real GDP at market exchange rates</b>	2.7	2.7	2.3	3.0	3.2	3.1
Developed economies	2.0	2.3	1.6	2.3	2.4	2.2
Developing economies c	4.3	3.7	3.6	4.3	4.6	4.6
North America	2.6	2.7	1.5	2.4	2.8	2.7
South and Central America and the Caribbean	0.9	-0.9	-2.1	1.0	2.3	2.8
Europe	2.0	2.3	1.9	2.6	2.4	2.1
Asia	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.5	4.5	4.4
Other regions d	2.5	1.1	2.2	2.0	2.8	2.9

a Figures for 2018 and 2019 are projections.

b Average of exports and imports.

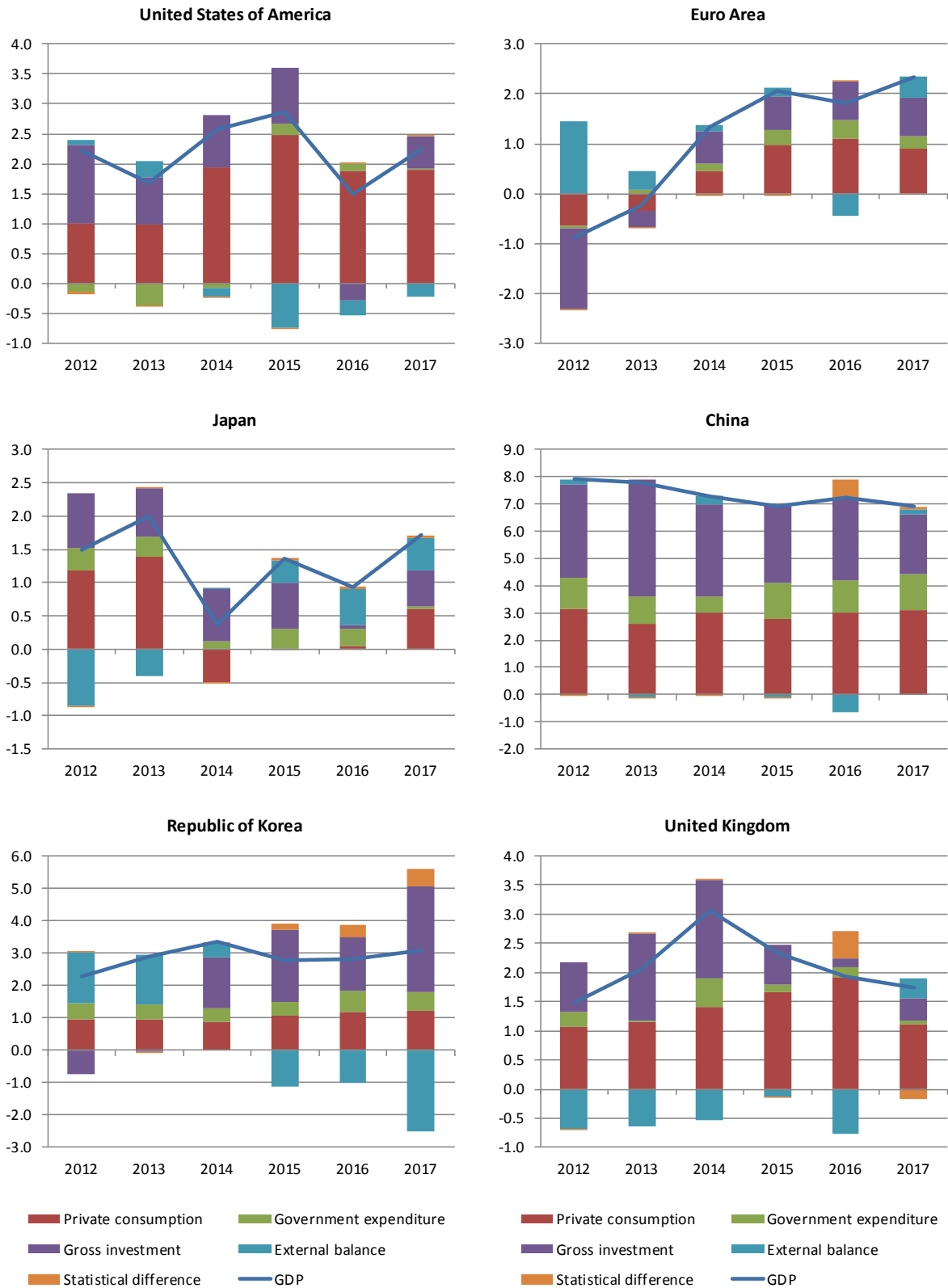
c Includes the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), including associate and former member States.

d Other regions comprise Africa, Middle East and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Sources: WTO and UNCTAD for trade, consensus estimates for GDP.

**Appendix Tables and Charts**

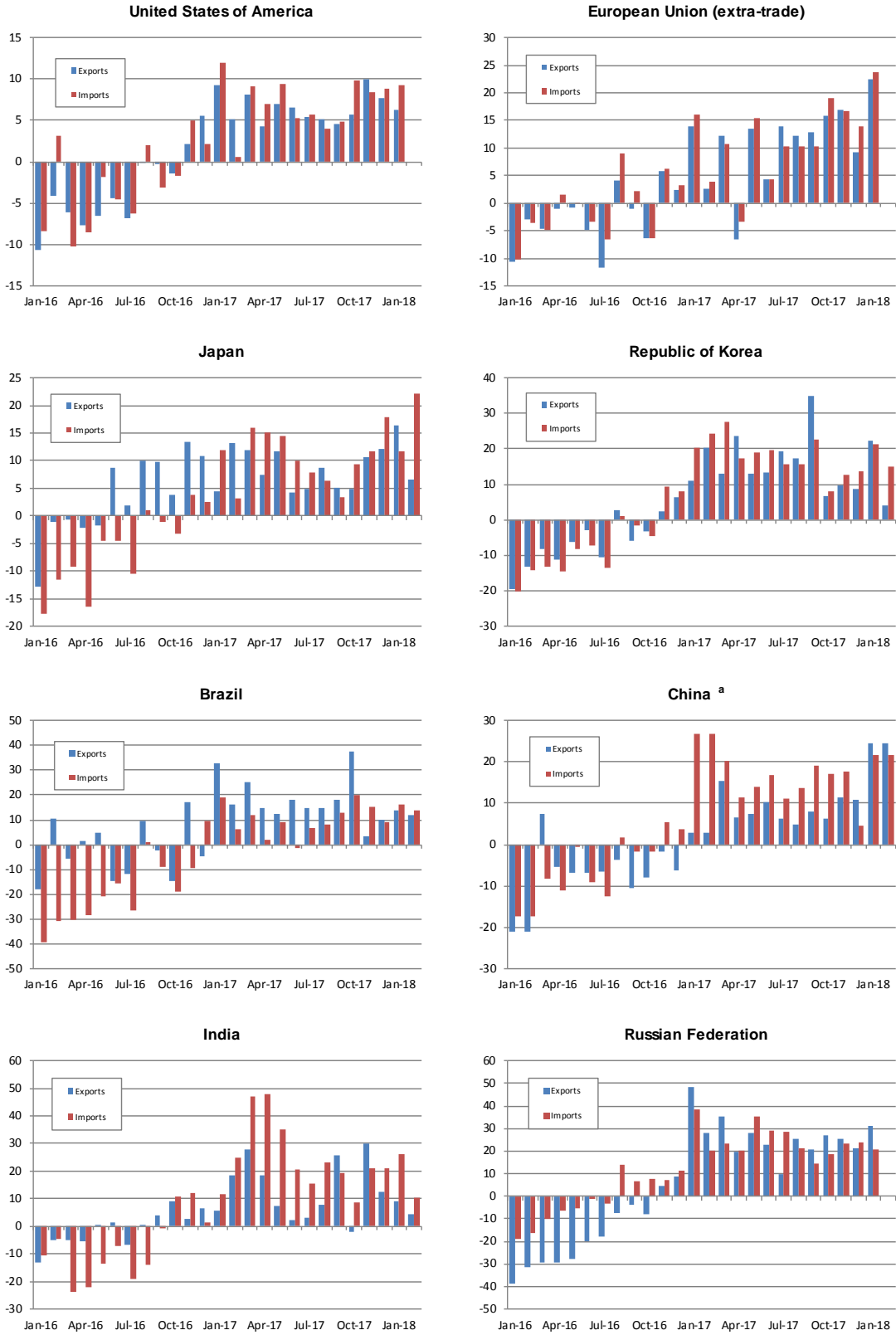
**Appendix Chart 1: Contributions to GDP growth of selected economies, 2012-17**  
 % change and percentage points



Sources: OECD Quarterly National Accounts for all countries except China, which was sourced from UN National Accounts Statistics through 2016 and the Economist Intelligence Unit for 2017.

**Appendix Chart 2: Merchandise exports and imports of selected economies, January 2016-February 2018**

Year-on-year percentage change in current dollar values



<sup>a</sup> January and February averaged to minimize distortions due to lunar new year.

Sources: IMF International Financial Statistics, Global Trade Information Services GTA database, national statistics.



**Appendix Table 1: World merchandise trade by region and selected economies, 2017**  
\$bn and %

	Exports					Imports				
	Value	Annual percentage change				Value	Annual percentage change			
	2017	2010-17	2015	2016	2017	2017	2010-17	2015	2016	2017
World	17198	2.1	-13.2	-3.0	10.7	17572	2.1	-12.5	-2.9	10.7
North America	2377	2.8	-8.0	-3.4	7.3	3285	2.9	-4.5	-2.8	7.3
United States of America	1547	2.8	-7.3	-3.4	6.6	2409	2.9	-4.0	-2.8	7.1
Canada	421	1.2	-13.9	-4.8	7.8	442	1.3	-9.6	-3.7	7.0
Mexico	409	4.6	-4.1	-1.7	9.5	432	4.9	-1.5	-1.9	8.7
South and Central America and the Caribbean	583	-0.2	-21.0	-4.9	13.0	579	-0.2	-16.3	-14.2	7.8
Brazil	218	1.1	-15.1	-3.1	17.5	157	-2.8	-25.2	-19.8	9.7
Other South and Central America and the Caribbean	365	-1.0	-23.9	-5.8	10.5	421	1.0	-12.0	-11.9	7.0
Europe	6501	2.0	-12.5	-0.2	9.3	6521	1.4	-13.2	0.4	9.9
European Union (28)	5904	1.9	-12.5	-0.2	9.7	5878	1.2	-13.3	0.4	10.0
Germany	1448	2.0	-11.2	0.6	8.5	1167	1.5	-12.9	0.4	10.5
Netherlands	652	1.8	-15.2	0.1	14.1	574	1.5	-13.1	-1.4	13.7
France	535	0.3	-12.9	-0.9	6.7	625	0.3	-15.5	-0.2	9.2
United Kingdom	445	1.0	-8.9	-11.0	8.6	644	1.2	-9.3	1.6	1.2
Italy	506	1.8	-13.7	1.0	9.6	453	-1.0	-13.3	-1.0	11.2
Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), including associate and former member States	518	-1.8	-32.3	-16.5	24.4	402	-0.5	-32.4	-2.5	20.8
Russian Federation a	353	-1.8	-31.3	-17.4	25.3	238	-0.6	-37.3	-0.7	24.1
Africa	417	-3.2	-29.3	-9.6	18.3	534	1.6	-13.9	-10.7	7.8
South Africa b	89	-0.4	-11.7	-7.6	18.4	101	0.7	-14.2	-12.5	10.6
Africa less South Africa	328	-3.8	-32.8	-10.1	18.2	432	1.8	-13.8	-10.3	7.1
Oil exporters c	154	-8.5	-44.1	-23.2	29.0	144	-0.5	-19.2	-17.9	6.4
Non oil exporters	173	2.8	-15.4	3.3	10.1	289	3.1	-10.4	-6.0	7.5
Middle East	961	0.8	-30.3	-7.0	18.0	712	2.9	-7.4	-4.5	1.1
Asia	5842	3.2	-7.9	-3.4	10.7	5541	2.9	-14.4	-4.4	15.3
China	2263	5.3	-2.9	-7.7	7.9	1842	4.0	-14.3	-5.5	16.0
Japan	698	-1.4	-9.5	3.2	8.3	672	-0.5	-20.2	-6.2	10.6
India	298	4.0	-17.1	-1.2	13.0	447	3.6	-15.1	-8.1	23.8
Newly industrialized economies (4) d	1283	2.1	-11.1	-2.8	12.6	1203	1.3	-16.6	-4.2	13.7
Memorandum										
EU (28) extra-trade	2122	2.4	-12.2	-2.8	9.9	2097	0.5	-14.6	-1.3	10.6
Least developed countries (LDCs)	164	1.1	-22.1	-0.8	13.5	247	6.0	-7.6	-6.0	11.6

a Imports are valued f.o.b.

b Secretariat estimates.

c Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Libya, Nigeria, Sudan.

d Hong Kong, China; Korea, Republic of; Singapore and Chinese Taipei.

Source: WTO and UNCTAD.

**Appendix Table 2: World commercial services trade by region and selected economies, 2017**

\$bn and %

	Exports					Imports				
	Value	Annual % change				Value	Annual % change			
	2017	2010-2017	2015	2016	2017	2017	2010-2017	2015	2016	2017
World	5252	4.5	-5.0	0.7	7.4	5072	4.4	-5.4	0.9	6.5
North America	876	4.7	0.6	0.5	4.2	659	4.0	0.4	2.0	6.9
United States of America	762	4.9	1.5	0.2	3.8	516	4.6	3.0	2.8	6.8
South and Central America and the Caribbean	155	4.2	-4.1	1.0	6.8	180	3.3	-11.5	-6.6	8.5
Brazil	34	2.0	-15.5	-1.3	3.4	66	2.0	-19.8	-10.8	7.9
Europe	2499	3.9	-8.4	0.5	8.5	2139	3.6	-6.2	2.0	5.9
European Union (28)	2226	4.1	-8.5	1.6	8.5	1915	3.5	-7.1	3.4	5.4
Germany	296	4.1	-8.3	3.2	7.0	319	2.9	-11.5	3.9	5.2
United Kingdom	354	4.1	-4.4	-2.2	4.9	218	2.9	-1.2	-2.0	4.2
France	249	3.1	-12.1	-2.1	5.5	244	4.3	-8.0	1.7	3.4
Netherlands	216	3.7	-5.2	-6.0	15.6	211	3.6	4.5	-10.8	14.7
Ireland	182	10.3	0.2	9.0	19.6	196	8.6	14.8	19.5	-3.4
Asia	1321	5.2	-2.7	1.3	7.1	1514	6.3	-2.7	2.3	5.5
China a	226	...	-0.2	-4.3	8.7	464	...	0.5	3.7	3.3
Japan	180	4.5	-0.6	6.6	6.7	189	2.1	-7.3	3.4	3.5
Singapore	165	7.3	-0.4	1.8	4.3	171	7.8	-0.9	-2.6	5.2
India b	179	6.3	-0.6	3.5	11.0	150	4.0	-3.7	8.3	13.1
Korea, Republic of	86	0.7	-12.9	-2.8	-8.0	120	3.2	-3.0	0.0	8.1
Hong Kong, China	104	3.7	-2.2	-5.3	5.3	77	1.3	0.1	0.6	3.7
Australia	65	5.0	-6.9	5.7	13.5	66	3.9	-10.5	-2.1	8.5
Other regions	401	5.3	-3.6	0.5	9.8	580	4.0	-12.5	-5.1	10.3
Russian Federation	58	2.5	-21.5	-2.3	15.9	87	2.4	-26.8	-16.3	18.8
Egypt	19	-2.8	-10.7	-22.6	38.2	16	3.3	-0.8	-2.9	1.3
South Africa	15	-0.4	-10.9	-4.7	9.3	16	-2.9	-9.1	-3.7	7.5
Morocco	15	1.1	-10.8	4.1	5.4	8	5.8	-11.6	5.3	14.3
United Arab Emirates c	70	...	4.2	8.0	7.5	84	...	-3.5	2.5	1.9
Israel	44	8.5	2.8	8.6	11.1	29	6.5	0.8	6.1	11.9
Memorandum										
Extra-EU(28) trade	979	4.3	-8.4	0.9	7.9	793	3.6	-4.7	3.7	3.3
Least developed countries (LDCs)	34	7.1	-4.3	-4.2	6.2	69	3.4	-15.5	-8.5	6.3

a China revised its methodology to compile travel transactions. As a result, its trade in services statistics were revised downward starting in 2014 on both the credit and the debit side.

b Imports adjusted to f.o.b. valuation.

c Preliminary annual estimates. Quarterly data not available.

... indicates unavailable or non-comparable figures.

Note: Preliminary estimates based on quarterly statistics. Figures for a number of countries and territories have been estimated by the Secretariat. More data available at [https://www.wto.org/english/res\\_e/statis\\_e/short\\_term\\_stats\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/statis_e/short_term_stats_e.htm).

Source: WTO, UNCTAD and ITC.

**Appendix Table 3: Leading merchandise exporters and importers, 2017**

\$bn and %

Rank	Exporters	Value	Share	Annual % change	Rank	Importers	Value	Share	Annual % change
1	China	2263	12.8	7.9	1	United States of America	2409	13.4	7.1
2	United States of America	1547	8.7	6.6	2	China	1842	10.2	16.0
3	Germany	1448	8.2	8.5	3	Germany	1167	6.5	10.5
4	Japan	698	3.9	8.3	4	Japan	672	3.7	10.6
5	Netherlands	652	3.7	14.1	5	United Kingdom	644	3.6	1.2
6	Korea, Republic of	574	3.2	15.8	6	France	625	3.5	9.2
7	Hong Kong, China	550	3.1	6.5	7	Hong Kong, China	590	3.3	7.8
	Domestic exports	18	...	-27.9		Retained imports a	138	...	6.2
	Re-exports	532	...	8.3					
8	France	535	3.0	6.7	8	Netherlands	574	3.2	13.7
9	Italy	506	2.9	9.6	9	Korea, Republic of	478	2.7	17.8
10	United Kingdom	445	2.5	8.6	10	Italy	453	2.5	11.2
11	Belgium	430	2.4	7.9	11	India	447	2.5	23.8
12	Canada	421	2.4	7.8	12	Canada	442	2.5	7.0
13	Mexico	409	2.3	9.5	13	Mexico	432	2.4	8.7
14	Singapore	373	2.1	10.4	14	Belgium	403	2.2	8.2
	Domestic exports	188	...	15.9					
	Re-exports	185	...	5.4					
15	United Arab Emirates a	360	2.0	20.4	15	Spain	351	1.9	12.7
16	Russian Federation	353	2.0	25.3	16	Singapore	328	1.8	12.3
						Retained imports c	142	...	22.7
17	Spain	321	1.8	10.5	17	Switzerland b	269	1.5	-0.5
18	Chinese Taipei	317	1.8	13.2	18	United Arab Emirates a	268	1.5	-1.1
19	Switzerland b	300	1.7	-1.1	19	Chinese Taipei	259	1.4	12.5
20	India	298	1.7	13.0	20	Russian Federation d	238	1.3	24.1
21	Thailand	237	1.3	9.9	21	Turkey	234	1.3	17.7
22	Poland	231	1.3	14.0	22	Poland	230	1.3	16.8
23	Australia	231	1.3	19.9	23	Australia a	229	1.3	16.6
24	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of a	218	1.2	18.8	24	Thailand	223	1.2	14.7
25	Malaysia	218	1.2	14.9	25	Viet Nam	212	1.2	21.0
26	Brazil	218	1.2	17.5	26	Malaysia	195	1.1	15.9
27	Viet Nam	214	1.2	21.4	27	Austria	176	1.0	11.5
28	Czech Republic	180	1.0	10.7	28	Czech Republic	162	0.9	13.2
29	Indonesia	169	1.0	16.5	29	Brazil	157	0.9	9.7
30	Austria	168	0.9	10.5	30	Indonesia	157	0.9	15.7
	<b>Total of above e</b>	<b>14884</b>	<b>83.9</b>	<b>-</b>		<b>Total of above e</b>	<b>14866</b>	<b>82.5</b>	<b>-</b>
	<b>World e</b>	<b>17730</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10.6</b>		<b>World e</b>	<b>18024</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10.7</b>

a Secretariat estimates.

b Includes gold.

c Singapore's retained imports are defined as imports less re-exports.

d Imports are valued f.o.b.

e Includes significant re-exports or imports for re-export.

Source: WTO and UNCTAD.

**Appendix Table 4: Leading merchandise exporters and importers excluding intra-EU (28) trade, 2017**

\$bn and %

Rank	Exporters	Value	Share	Annual % change	Rank	Importers	Value	Share	Annual % change
1	China	2263	16.2	7.9	1	United States of America	2409	16.9	7.1
2	Extra-EU(28) exports	2122	15.2	9.9	2	Extra-EU(28) imports	2097	14.7	10.6
3	United States of America	1547	11.1	6.6	3	China	1842	12.9	16.0
4	Japan	698	5.0	8.3	4	Japan	672	4.7	10.6
5	Korea, Republic of	574	4.1	15.8	5	Hong Kong, China	590	4.1	7.8
						Retained imports a	138	...	6.2
6	Hong Kong, China	550	3.9	6.5	6	Korea, Republic of	478	3.4	17.8
	Domestic exports	18	...	-27.9					
	Re-exports	532	...	8.3					
7	Canada	421	3.0	7.8	7	India	447	3.1	23.8
8	Mexico	409	2.9	9.5	8	Canada	442	3.1	7.0
9	Singapore	373	2.7	10.4	9	Mexico	432	3.0	8.7
	Domestic exports	188	...	15.9					
	Re-exports	185	...	5.4					
10	United Arab Emirates a	360	2.6	20.4	10	Singapore	328	2.3	12.3
						Retained imports c	142	...	22.7
11	Russian Federation	353	2.5	25.3	11	Switzerland b	269	1.9	-0.5
12	Chinese Taipei	317	2.3	13.2	12	United Arab Emirates a	268	1.9	-1.1
13	Switzerland b	300	2.1	-1.1	13	Chinese Taipei	259	1.8	12.5
14	India	298	2.1	13.0	14	Russian Federation d	238	1.7	24.1
15	Thailand	237	1.7	9.9	15	Turkey	234	1.6	17.7
16	Australia	231	1.7	19.9	16	Australia a	229	1.6	16.6
17	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of a	218	1.6	18.8	17	Thailand	223	1.6	14.7
18	Malaysia	218	1.6	14.9	18	Viet Nam	212	1.5	21.0
19	Brazil	218	1.6	17.5	19	Malaysia	195	1.4	15.9
20	Viet Nam	214	1.5	21.4	20	Brazil	157	1.1	9.7
21	Indonesia	169	1.2	16.5	21	Indonesia	157	1.1	15.7
22	Turkey	157	1.1	10.2	22	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of a	131	0.9	-6.7
23	Norway	102	0.7	14.0	23	South Africa a	101	0.7	10.6
24	Iran a	92	0.7	26.0	24	Philippines	98	0.7	10.1
25	South Africa	89	0.6	18.4	25	Norway	83	0.6	13.9
26	Chile	68	0.5	12.7	26	Israel	72	0.5	4.4
27	Qatar a	67	0.5	17.5	27	Argentina	67	0.5	19.7
28	Philippines	63	0.5	10.2	28	Chile	65	0.5	10.8
29	Israel	61	0.4	1.1	29	Egypt	62	0.4	10.5
30	Argentina	58	0.4	0.9	30	Pakistan	58	0.4	23.3
	<b>Total of above e</b>	<b>12849</b>	<b>92.1</b>	<b>-</b>		<b>Total of above e</b>	<b>12914</b>	<b>90.7</b>	<b>-</b>
	<b>World (excl. Intra-EU(28)) e</b>	<b>13949</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10.9</b>		<b>World (excl. Intra-EU(28)) e</b>	<b>14243</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10.9</b>

a Secretariat estimates.

b Includes gold.

c Singapore's retained imports are defined as imports less re-exports.

d Imports are valued f.o.b.

e Includes significant re-exports or imports for re-export.

Source: WTO and UNCTAD.

**Appendix Table 5: Leading exporters and importers of commercial services, 2017**  
\$bn and %

Rank	Exporters	Value	Share	Annual % change	Rank	Importers	Value	Share	Annual % change
1	United States of America	762	14.5	3.8	1	United States of America	516	10.2	6.8
2	United Kingdom	354	6.7	4.9	2	China a	464	9.2	3.3
3	Germany	296	5.6	7.0	3	Germany	319	6.3	5.2
4	France	249	4.7	5.5	4	France	244	4.8	3.4
5	China a	226	4.3	8.7	5	United Kingdom	218	4.3	4.2
6	Netherlands	216	4.1	15.6	6	Netherlands	211	4.2	14.7
7	Ireland	182	3.5	19.6	7	Ireland	196	3.9	-3.4
8	Japan	180	3.4	6.7	8	Japan	189	3.7	3.5
9	India	179	3.4	11.0	9	Singapore	171	3.4	5.2
10	Singapore	165	3.1	4.3	10	India b	150	3.0	13.1
11	Spain	137	2.6	8.0	11	Korea, Republic of	120	2.4	8.1
12	Switzerland	122	2.3	4.0	12	Belgium	116	2.3	7.3
13	Belgium	113	2.2	1.8	13	Italy	111	2.2	8.8
14	Italy	110	2.1	10.4	14	Canada	105	2.1	6.5
15	Hong Kong, China	104	2.0	5.3	15	Switzerland	104	2.1	4.9
16	Luxembourg	102	1.9	6.5	16	Russian Federation	87	1.7	18.8
17	Korea, Republic of	86	1.6	-8.0	17	United Arab Emirates c	84	1.7	1.9
18	Canada	86	1.6	5.8	18	Hong Kong, China	77	1.5	3.7
19	Thailand	75	1.4	11.7	19	Luxembourg	75	1.5	4.5
20	Sweden	73	1.4	2.4	20	Spain	74	1.5	6.2
21	United Arab Emirates c	70	1.3	7.5	21	Sweden	68	1.3	11.5
22	Australia	65	1.2	13.5	22	Australia	66	1.3	8.5
23	Denmark	64	1.2	7.0	23	Brazil	66	1.3	7.9
24	Austria	64	1.2	5.0	24	Denmark	62	1.2	6.0
25	Russian Federation	58	1.1	15.9	25	Austria	53	1.1	9.3
26	Poland	57	1.1	14.8	26	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	53	1.0	5.6
27	Chinese Taipei	45	0.9	9.0	27	Chinese Taipei	53	1.0	3.4
28	Israel	44	0.8	11.1	28	Norway	49	1.0	1.7
29	Turkey	44	0.8	17.4	29	Thailand	46	0.9	5.5
30	Macao, China d	38	0.7	16.2	30	Malaysia	42	0.8	5.2
	<b>Total of above</b>	<b>4365</b>	<b>83.1</b>	<b>-</b>		<b>Total of above</b>	<b>4189</b>	<b>82.6</b>	<b>-</b>
	<b>World</b>	<b>5252</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7.4</b>		<b>World</b>	<b>5072</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6.5</b>

a China revised its methodology to compile travel transactions. As a result, its trade in services statistics were revised downward starting in 2014 on both the credit and the debit side.

b Imports adjusted to f.o.b valuation.

c Preliminary annual estimates. Quarterly data not available.

d Follows BPM5 services classification.

... indicates unavailable or non-comparable figures.

- indicates non-applicable.

Note: Preliminary estimates based on quarterly statistics. Figures for a number of countries and territories have been estimated by the Secretariat.

Source: WTO, UNCTAD and ITC.

**Appendix Table 6: Leading exporters and importers of commercial services excluding intra-EU(28) trade, 2017**

\$bn and %

Rank	Exporters	Value	Share	Annual % change	Rank	Importers	Value	Share	Annual % change
1	Extra-EU(28) exports	979	24.4	7.9	1	Extra-EU(28) imports	793	20.1	3.3
2	United States of America	762	19.0	3.8	2	United States of America	516	13.1	6.8
3	China a	226	5.7	8.7	3	China a	464	11.7	3.3
4	Japan	180	4.5	6.7	4	Japan	189	4.8	3.5
5	India	179	4.5	11.0	5	Singapore	171	4.3	5.2
6	Singapore	165	4.1	4.3	6	India b	150	3.8	13.1
7	Switzerland	122	3.0	4.0	7	Korea, Republic of	120	3.0	8.1
8	Hong Kong, China	104	2.6	5.3	8	Canada	105	2.7	6.5
9	Korea, Republic of	86	2.2	-8.0	9	Switzerland	104	2.6	4.9
10	Canada	86	2.1	5.8	10	Russian Federation	87	2.2	18.8
11	Thailand	75	1.9	11.7	11	United Arab Emirates c	84	2.1	1.9
12	United Arab Emirates c	70	1.7	7.5	12	Hong Kong, China	77	2.0	3.7
13	Australia	65	1.6	13.5	13	Australia	66	1.7	8.5
14	Russian Federation	58	1.4	15.9	14	Brazil	66	1.7	7.9
15	Chinese Taipei	45	1.1	9.0	15	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	53	1.3	5.6
16	Israel	44	1.1	11.1	16	Chinese Taipei	53	1.3	3.4
17	Turkey	44	1.1	17.4	17	Norway	49	1.2	1.7
18	Macao, China d	38	1.0	16.2	18	Thailand	46	1.2	5.5
19	Norway	38	0.9	0.6	19	Malaysia	42	1.1	5.2
20	Malaysia	37	0.9	4.1	20	Mexico	37	0.9	9.9
21	Philippines	36	0.9	14.2	21	Indonesia	32	0.8	6.8
22	Brazil	34	0.8	3.4	22	Qatar	30	0.8	0.4
23	Mexico	27	0.7	10.1	23	Israel	29	0.7	11.9
24	Indonesia	24	0.6	5.7	24	Kuwait, the State of	28	0.7	8.0
25	Egypt	19	0.5	38.2	25	Philippines	26	0.7	9.1
26	Qatar	17	0.4	19.9	26	Argentina	24	0.6	14.4
27	Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of	17	0.4	4.0	27	Turkey	23	0.6	9.5
28	New Zealand	16	0.4	8.5	28	Viet Nam	17	0.4	-3.3
29	Morocco	15	0.4	5.4	29	Nigeria	17	0.4	45.6
30	South Africa	15	0.4	9.3	30	Egypt	16	0.4	1.3
	<b>Total of above</b>	<b>3622</b>	<b>90.4</b>	<b>-</b>		<b>Total of above</b>	<b>3512</b>	<b>88.9</b>	<b>-</b>
	<b>World (excl. intra-EU(28))</b>	<b>4005</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7.0</b>		<b>World (excl. intra-EU(28))</b>	<b>3950</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6.4</b>

a China revised its methodology to compile travel transactions. As a result, its trade in services statistics were revised downward starting in 2014 on both the credit and the debit side.

b Imports adjusted to f.o.b valuation.

c Preliminary annual estimates. Quarterly data not available.

d Follows BPM5 services classification.

... indicates unavailable or non-comparable figures.

- indicates non-applicable.

Note: Preliminary estimates based on quarterly statistics. Figures for a number of countries and territories have been estimated by the Secretariat.

Source: WTO, UNCTAD and ITC.

**END**