

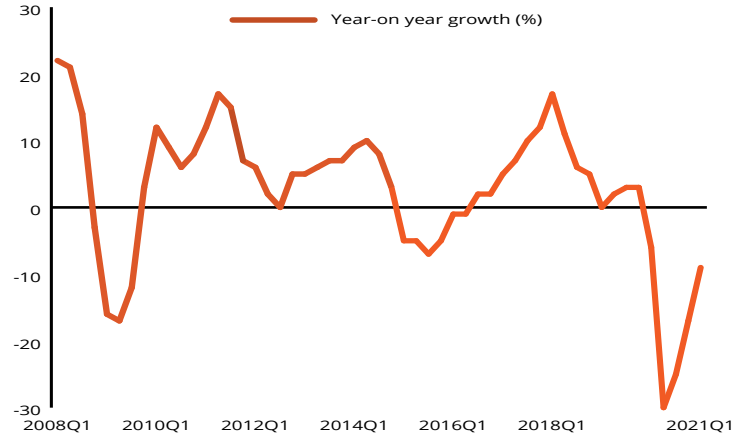
## GLOBAL AND REGIONAL PERFORMANCE

UPDATED ON 23 JULY 2021

# -9%

Global services trade remained sluggish in the first quarter of 2021, falling 9% year-on-year after posting a 21% decline for the full year of 2020 driven by continued weakness in travel services.

1. Average of exports and imports.  
Source: WTO-UNCTAD-ITC



In the first quarter of 2021, services trade continued to show negative year-on-year growth in all regions, with variations across regions due to the uneven distribution of vaccines and differing rollback of pandemic restrictions. Commercial services exports contracted by 7% and imports fell by 10% year-on-year.

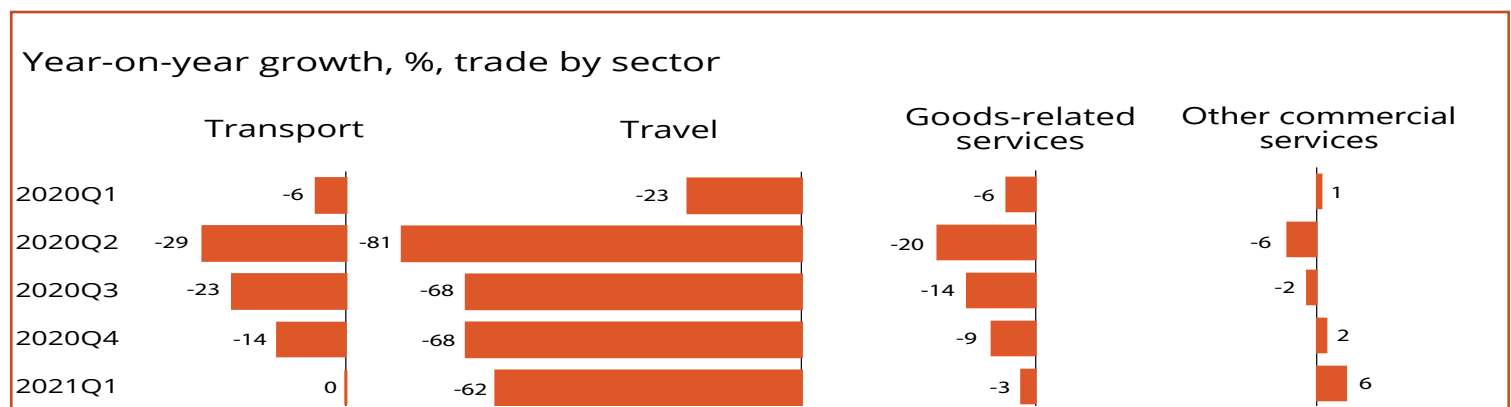
Year-on-year growth, %

	Exports				Imports			
	2020Q2	2020Q3	2020Q4	2021Q1	2020Q2	2020Q3	2020Q4	2021Q1
World	-29	-25	-16	-7	-30	-25	-18	-10
North America	-28	-28	-20	-13	-36	-32	-20	-14
Europe	-28	-21	-11	-5	-26	-20	-12	-6
Asia	-30	-27	-22	-4	-29	-27	-21	-10
Other	-46	-46	-32	-25	-41	-39	-31	-21

Color key: - [Color gradient from dark red to light red] +

## SECTORAL PERFORMANCE

New COVID-19 variants have further delayed the recovery of international travel, down 62% in the first quarter of 2021. However, other services sectors are starting to bounce back, such as transport which returned to its 2020 value in the first quarter of 2021. Recovery of transport services was boosted by a high demand for goods coupled with surging freight rates.



Source: WTO-UNCTAD-ITC

## NOTES

Annualized short-term statistics may differ from the annual statistics disseminated through the WTO's online databases, publications or press releases. Data for the latest period are provisional.

1. Data can be downloaded at [data.wto.org](https://data.wto.org) by selecting the following indicators:

- Commercial services exports by main sector - quarterly
- Commercial services imports by main sector - quarterly

2. The publication is updated with the same frequency as the data release.

Q1 around the 25th of July

Q2 around the 25th of October

Q3 around the 25th of January

Q4 April, along with the release of preliminary annual data.

3. For more information on the methodology, please refer to the [metadata](#).

Questions? Comments?

Contact us at [statistics@wto.org](mailto:statistics@wto.org)