26%

Global services trade returned to positive growth in the second quarter of 2021, rising 26% year-on-year. The increase largely reflected the rebound from second quarter 2020, the quarter in which the strongest impact due to COVID-19 was felt.

In the second quarter of 2021, services trade grew positively year-on-year in all regions, although most regions have not yet returned to pre-COVID-19 services trade in value terms. Europe and Other regions had the strongest year-on-year growth for exports, up 28% and 43% respectively. North America and Other regions had the strongest growth of imports, up 30% and 33%.

Year-on-year growth, %

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Exports</th>
<th>Imports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2020Q3</td>
<td>2020Q4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td>-23</td>
<td>-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>-28</td>
<td>-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>-19</td>
<td>-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>-25</td>
<td>-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>-41</td>
<td>-27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

SECTORAL PERFORMANCE

Transport services reported steady growth from the lowest point in second quarter 2020, bolstered by increased demand for goods, shipping undercapacity and higher freight costs. Travel services, though still significantly below pre-COVID-19 levels, reflected a strong year-on-year growth from the low in second quarter 2020. Other sectors also showed positive growth in second quarter 2021.
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 stats.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