



## SLOVENIA – 2022

### Key findings

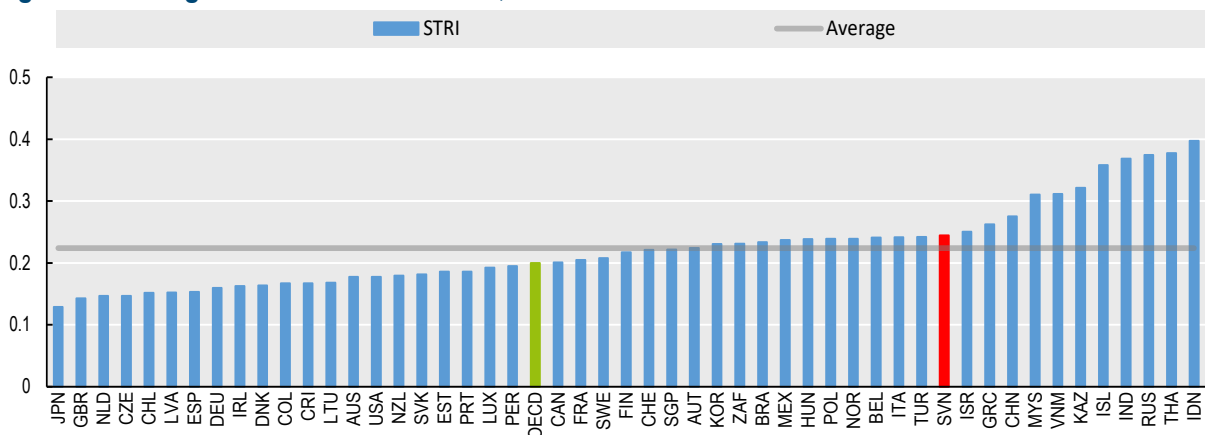
- The 2022 STRI of Slovenia is above the OECD average and slightly above the average of all the countries in the STRI sample.
- Conditions on the entry of natural persons seeking to provide services in the country on a temporary basis as intra-corporate transferees, contractual services suppliers or independent services suppliers remain more cumbersome than international best practice.
- Insurance services are the most open sector in Slovenia while engineering services is the most restricted.

### Recommendation

- Open and well-regulated services markets are essential to facilitate economic recovery, strengthen resilience to future shocks, and promote a more sustainable trading system. To ensure that the benefits of open markets and a rules-based international trading system are preserved, policy makers should focus on minimising barriers that increase trade costs for services providers, weaken the gains from digital transformation and undermine competitiveness.

The 2022 STRI of Slovenia is relatively high compared to the STRI sample average (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Average STRI across countries, 2022



Note: The STRI indices take values between zero and one, one being the most restrictive. The STRI database records measures on a Most Favoured Nation basis. Air transport and road freight cover only commercial establishment (with accompanying movement of people). The indices are based on laws and regulations in force on 31 October 2022. The STRI regulatory database covers the 38 OECD Members, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Peru, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand and Viet Nam. The statistical data for Israel are supplied by and under the responsibility of the relevant Israeli authorities. The use of such data by the OECD is without prejudice to the status of the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank under the terms of international law. Source: OECD (2022). STRI and TiVA databases.

A general regulation that contributes to the STRI in all sectors is the short duration of stay for non-EU nationals seeking to provide services on a temporary basis as contractual services suppliers or independent services suppliers as they can stay in Slovenia for up to three months on their first entry permit. As of 2018, Intra-corporate transferees can stay for up to three years but their entry is subject to wage parity requirements. Other general regulations include a restriction on the acquisition of real estate by foreigners and minimum capital requirements to register a company. Rights under the public procurement law are limited to partners in regional trade agreements and members of the WTO's Government Procurement Agreement. The standards for cross-border transfer of personal data are set at the EU level. Transfers to non-EEA economies can take place when these ensure an adequate level of data protection or, in the absence of this, appropriate safeguards (e.g. binding corporate rules or standard data protection clauses) are in place.

Since October 2020, Slovenia has introduced a screening mechanism for foreign direct investment on the grounds of security or public order. In 2016, Slovenia adopted a new Collective Management of Copyright and Related Rights by which conditions for membership in a collective copyright management body are based on objective, transparent and non-discriminatory rules. The Slovenian regulatory framework for services trade tightened moderately in most sectors between 2014 and 2022 (Figure 2).

**Figure 2. Evolution of STRI indices by sector in Slovenia**

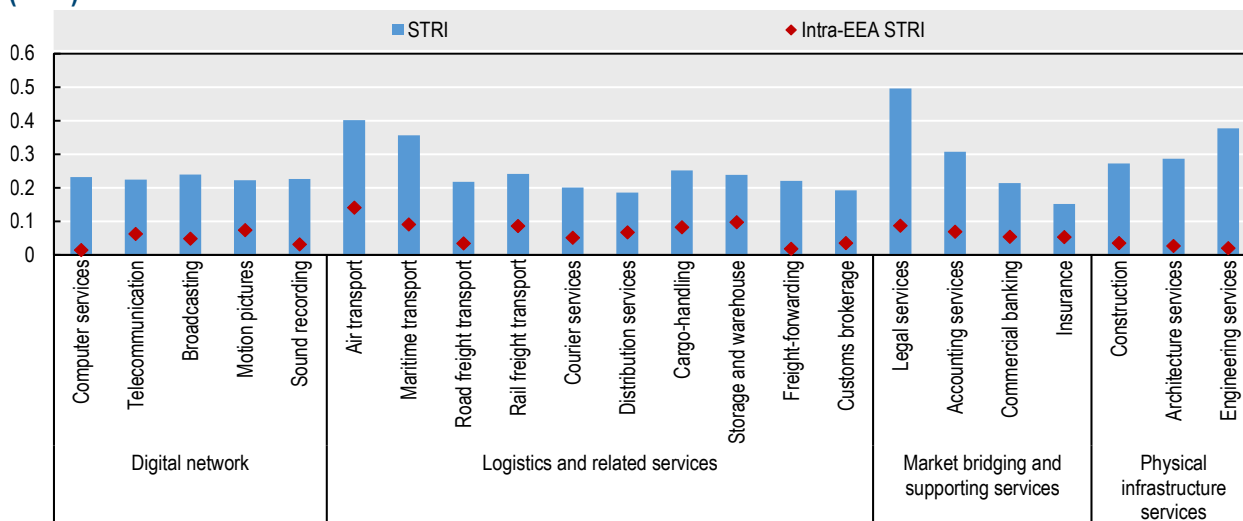
Services Trade Restrictiveness Index, percentage change over the period 2014-2018, 2018-2021 and 2021-2022



OECD (2022). STRI database.

Services trade barriers are significantly lower within the European Economic Area across all services sectors (Figure 2b). Slovenia maintains an open market for services suppliers from other EU Member States.

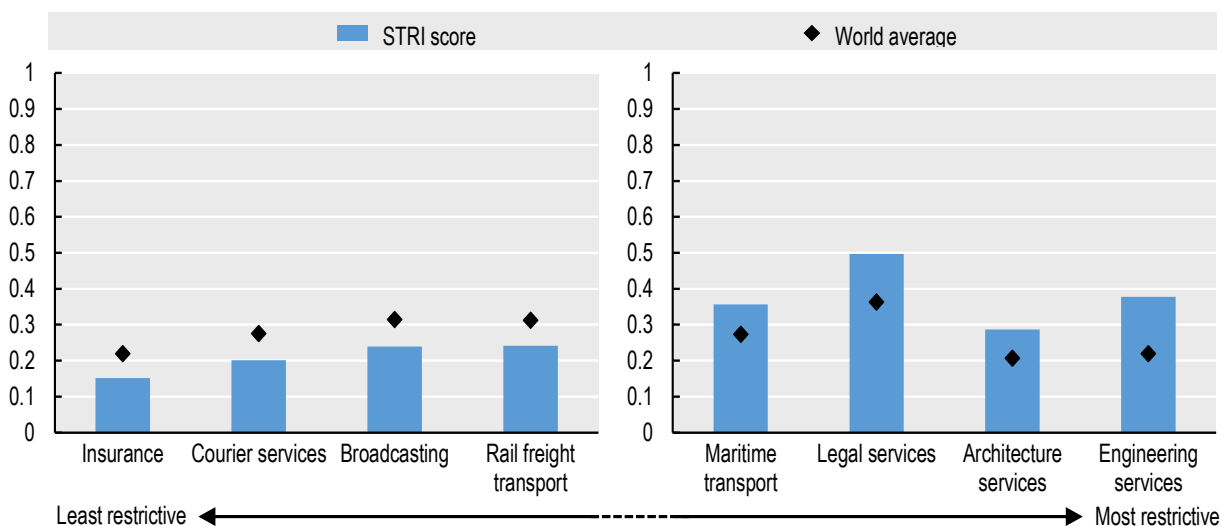
**Figure 2b. Regulatory barriers affecting services trade within the European Economic Area (EEA)**



Note: The traditional STRI indicates the level of restrictiveness on a Most-Favoured Nation basis towards third countries, and the intra-EEA STRI indicates the level of restrictiveness towards EEA members. Intra-EEA STRI covers 24 countries (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden).  
Source: OECD (2022). STRI database.

Insurance, courier services, broadcasting and rail freight transport are the sectors with the lowest score relative to the average STRI across all countries (Figure 3). Maritime transport, legal services, architecture services and engineering services are the sectors with the highest score relative to the average STRI across all countries.

**Figure 3. Sectoral breakdown - The least and most restricted sectors in Slovenia**

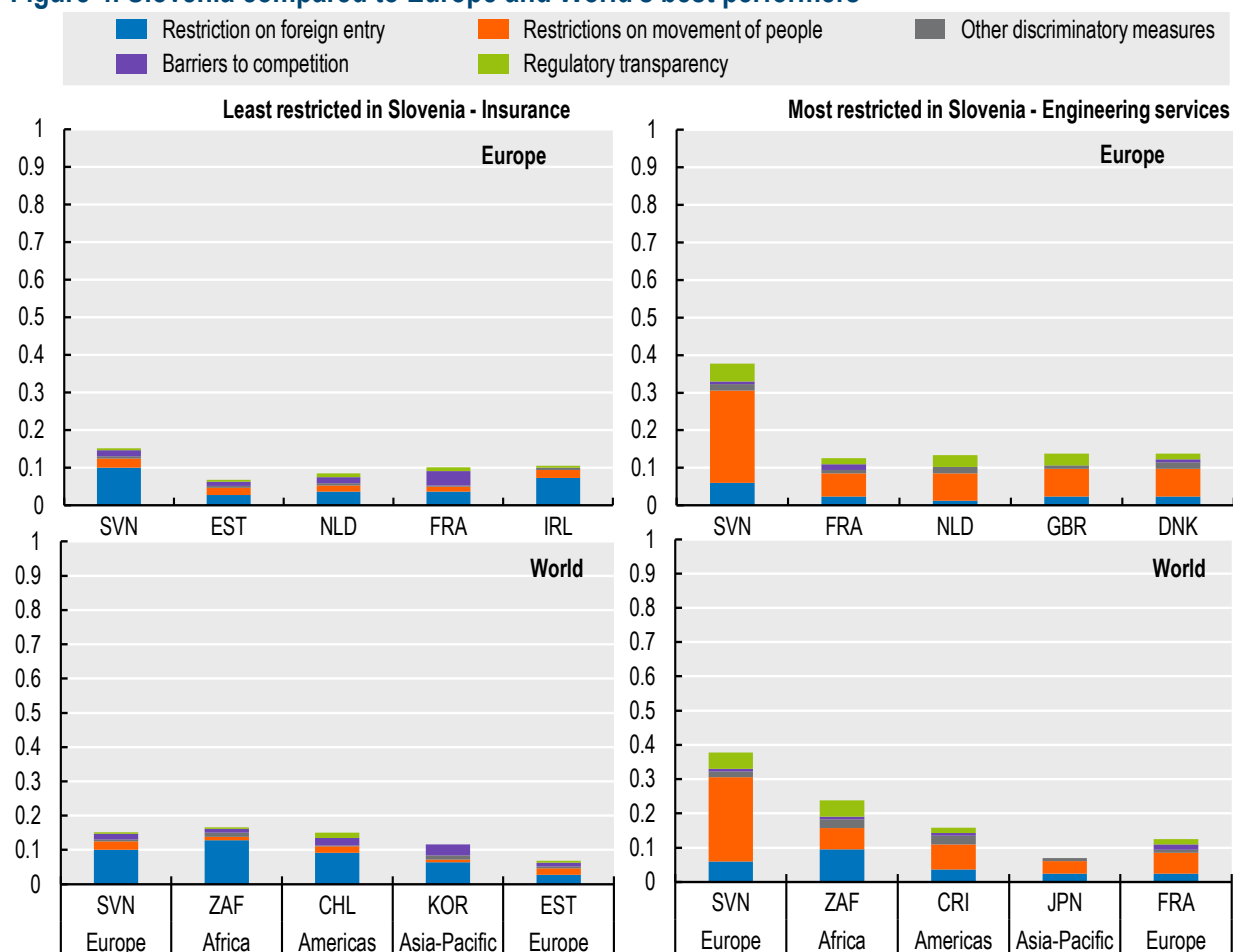


Note: Selection was made based on how far the sectors' score were from the world average score, as a percentage difference i.e.  $(STRI_{country, sector} - STRI_{world average, sector}) / STRI_{world average, sector}$   
Source: OECD (2022). STRI database.

Insurance services are the least restricted in Slovenia compared to Europe. The composition of the scores suggests that restrictions on foreign entry and barriers to competition have had an impact compared to other countries. The measures that contributed to this score include restrictions on the acquisition of real estate, screening of investment and the existence of state-owned major firms. Engineering services are the most restricted services sector in Slovenia. The restrictions to movement of people are significant compared to best performers. Some of the measures that contribute the most

to the score include limitations of duration of stay for services suppliers and recognition of foreign qualifications (Figure 4).

**Figure 4. Slovenia compared to Europe and World's best performers**



Source: OECD (2022). STRI database.

## Recent policy changes

Recent changes affecting Slovenia were due to changes in EU law. From the 1st of July 2021, the EU abolished the VAT de minimis regime for goods valued under 22 EUR. Regulation 2019/452 allows EU Member States to maintain, amend or adopt mechanisms to screen foreign direct investments in their territory on grounds of security or public order. New screening mechanisms apply in Slovenia since October 2020 in all sectors. In maritime transport, Regulation 2020/436 extended the existing block exemption to liner shipping consortia from competition law until April 2024. In March 2019, EU-wide requirements on accounting separation entered into force for port authorities in receipt of public funds. In August 2022, EU Regulation 2022/1031 entered into force aiming to regulate access of third-country (non-EU) goods and services to the EU's public procurement and concession markets. No relevant measure has been adopted by the European Union at this stage. It applies to public procurement and concessions where the EU has not undertaken market access commitments in an international agreement.

### More information

- » Access all country notes, sector notes, and interactive STRI tools at <http://oe.cd/stri>
- » Read more about services trade policies and their impacts in [Services Trade Policies and the Global Economy](#).
- » Contact the OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorate with your questions at [stri.contact@oecd.org](mailto:stri.contact@oecd.org)