



Conference on Trade in Services for Development in Asia and the Pacific

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Auditorium Halls 3 and 4



Session II. Building Competitive Services Sectors

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TS4D

Trade in Services
for Development

Services Trade Competitiveness Diagnostic Dashboard

Competitiveness Dashboard

- This data-driven tool is intended to help scan readiness and performance, gaps, and opportunities in services trade.
 - A strategic diagnostic tool designed to help map an economy's readiness to leverage trade in services for inclusive growth.
 - Offers government officials and users a set of tools and analytical metrics, both quantitative and qualitative, to assess a country's competitive performance in services trade and help make a case for service trade reforms to foster growth, job creation and enhanced trade performance.

Competitiveness Dashboard

- The diagnostics can help to:
 - (i) document the domestic policy priorities of countries;
 - (ii) assist countries in defining the key strategic orientations and overarching objectives of their national services trade policies;
 - (iii) help define key interests that might best be pursued through international trade and investment negotiations or cooperation as complements to domestic (unilateral) reform efforts; and
 - (iv) help identify and prioritize development and technical assistance needs in relation to services trade policies, under the coordination of trade and investment ministries.

Competitiveness Dashboard

- In assessing a country's performance in services, it is useful to identify comparator countries to situate a country relative to its peers. Peers can be:
 - *structural*, focusing on countries with similar economic characteristics and/or per capita income levels;
 - *regional*, which draws attention to a country's performance relative to that of neighboring countries; and
 - *aspirational*, measuring country's distance from top performing (typically high income/frontier) economies.
- Such diagnostic work may lay the basis for dialogue with development partners on deepened country engagement involving the supply of technical assistance, advice on policy design and implementation as well as lending operations

Part I – Scanning the Economic Landscape

- This section highlights different indicators that permit to seize the contribution of services to the domestic economy, e.g.,
 - Assessing the contribution of services to structural transformation by measuring the proportion of value added and employment in services and their evolution over time.
 - Cross-economy differences in employment composition (e.g., skill intensity), have important implications for economic output and productivity.
 - Productivity levels across services sectors and compared to industry/agriculture.
 - Inclusiveness
 - Linkages to other sectors, e.g., the degree to which services enable production in other sectors in the selected economy

Share of the services sector in total employment (%)

Plot

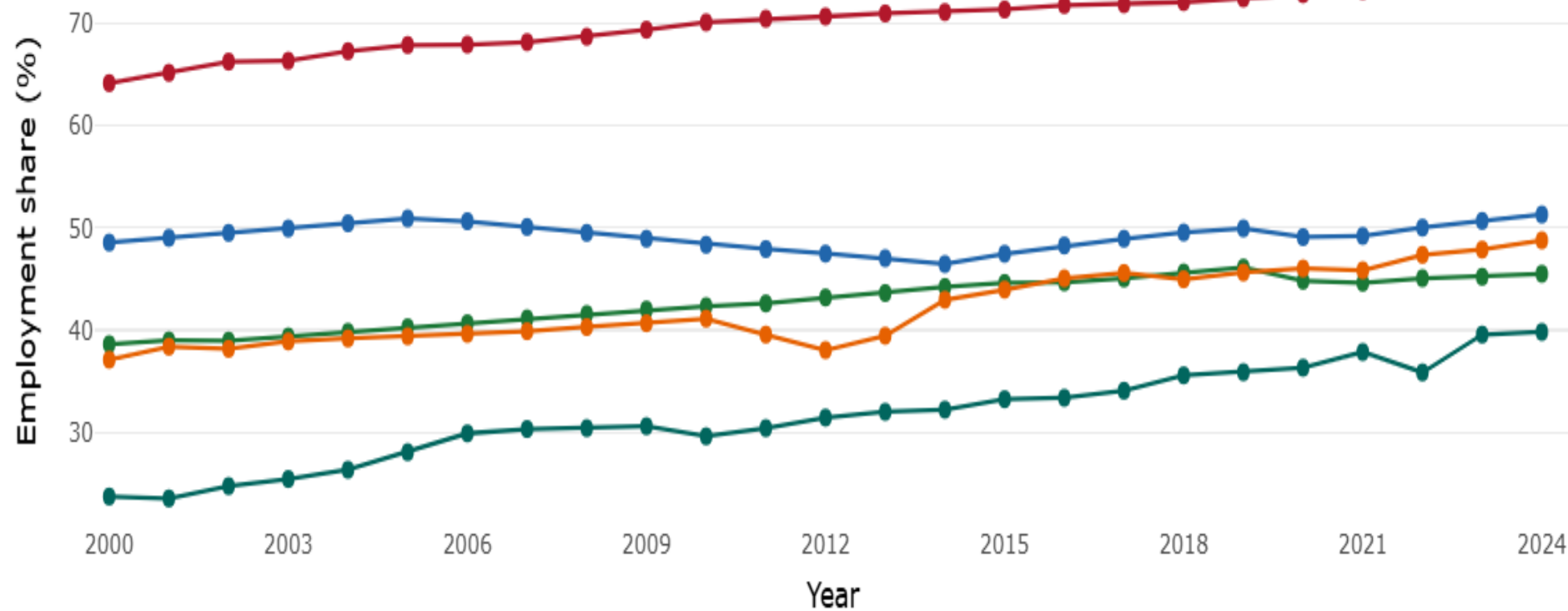
Time

Years

2000

2024

2000 2006 2012 2018 2024



Country — FJI — JPN — NPL — THA — VNM

Share of the services sector in total value added (%)

Plot

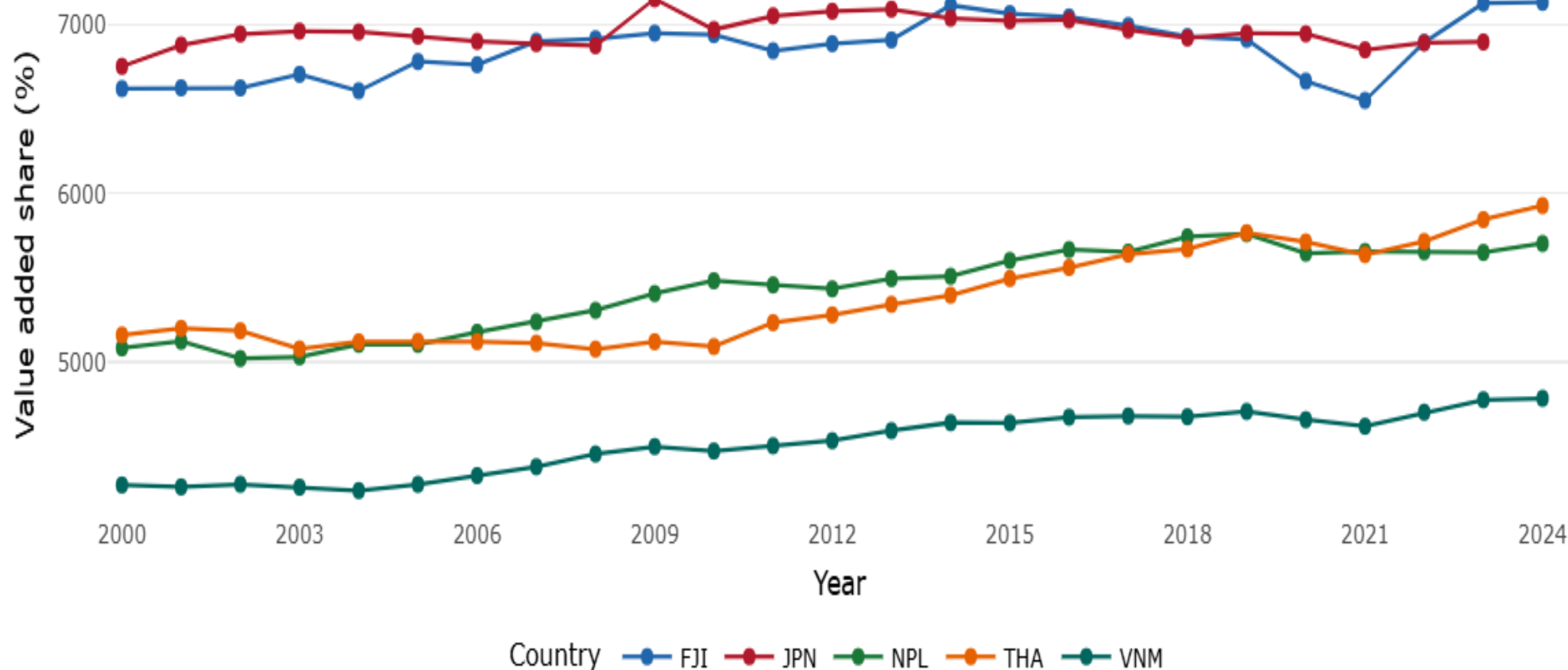
Time

Years

2000

2024

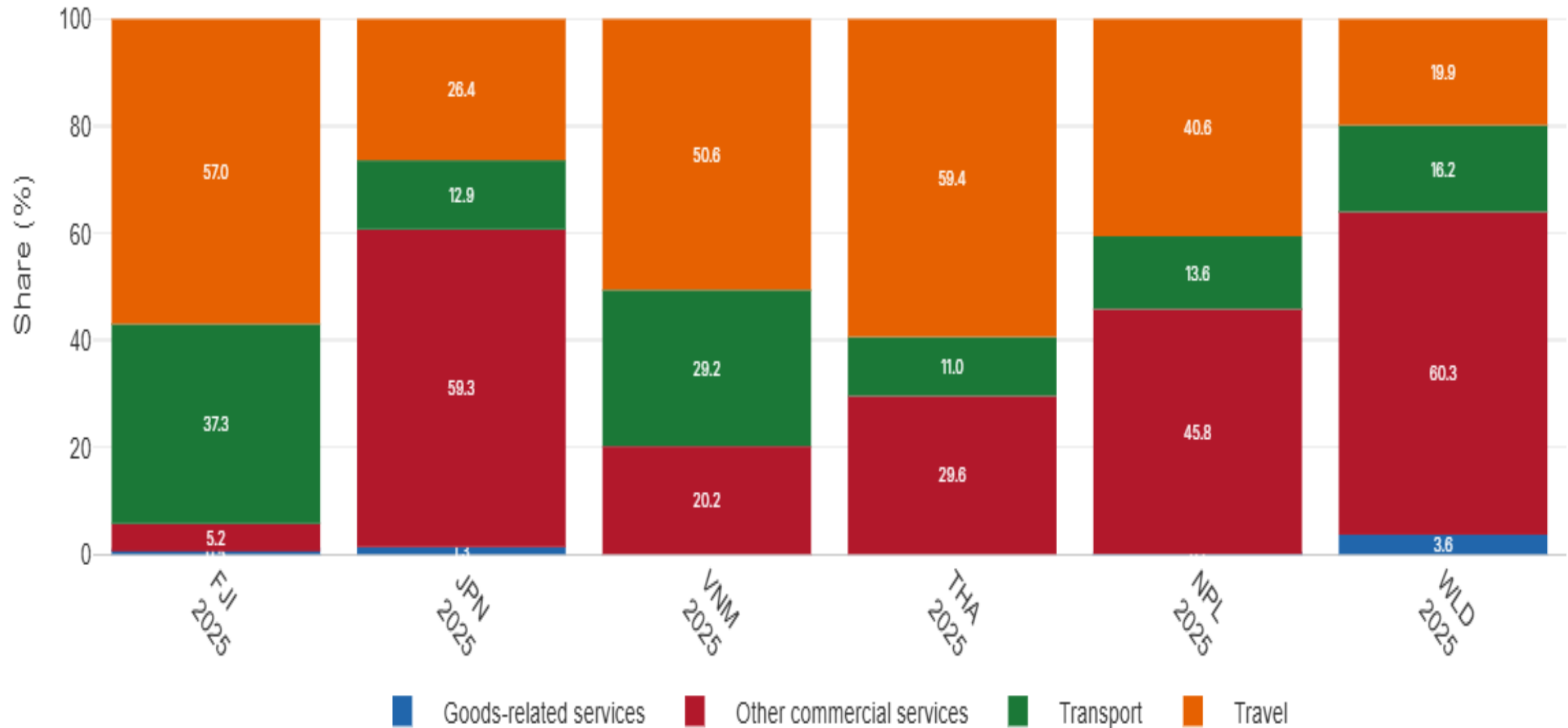
2000 2006 2012 2018 2024



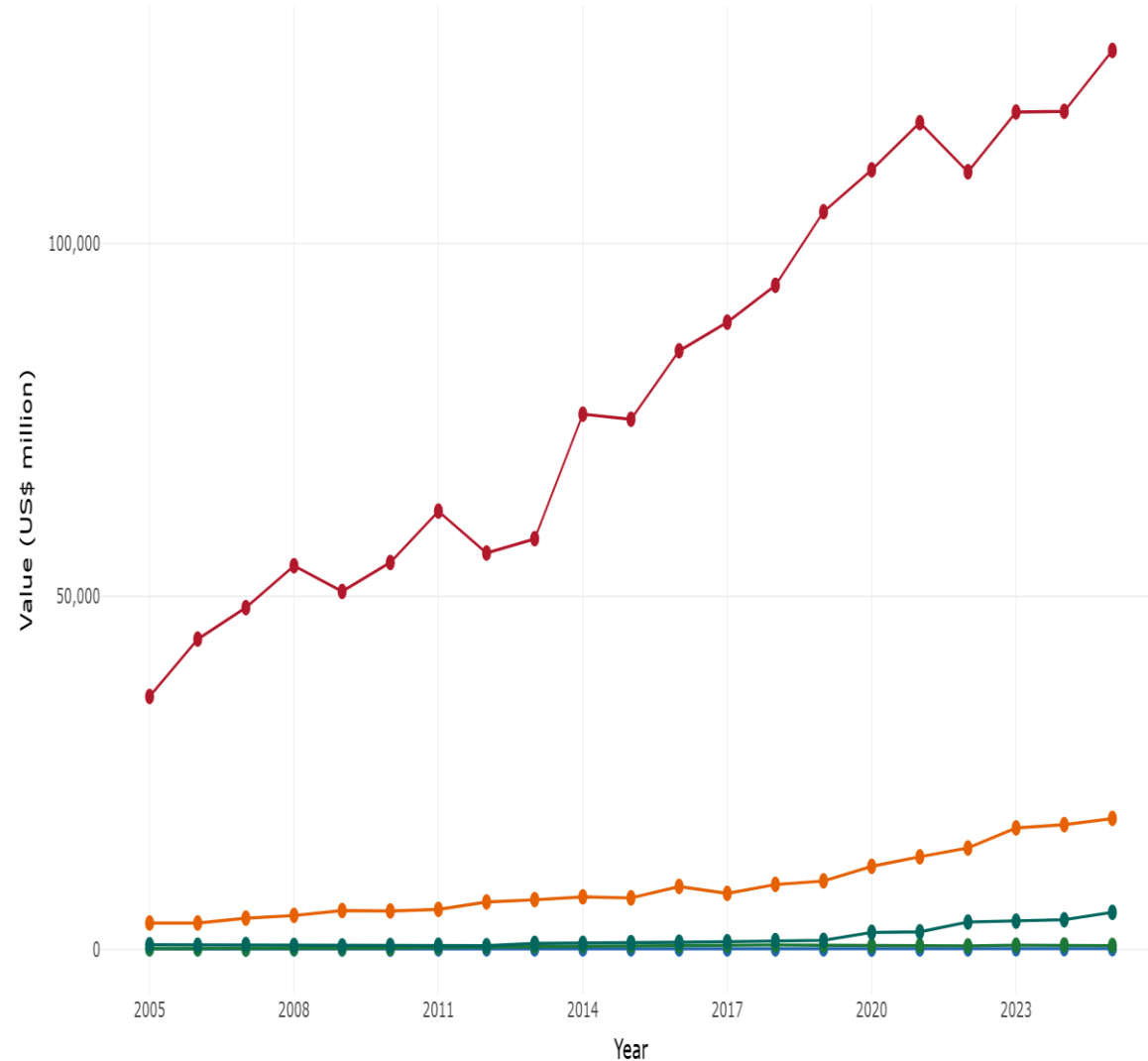
Part II – Scanning the Trade Landscape

- Commercial services trade (BoP)
 - growth, value, share of GDP and of total trade, by sector.
- Digitally Delivered Services
- Bilateral trade (BaTiS)
- Trade by Mode of Supply (TiSMoS)
- Services Valued Added in International Trade
- Revealed Comparative Advantage
- Export Diversification/Concentration
- Export Sophistication

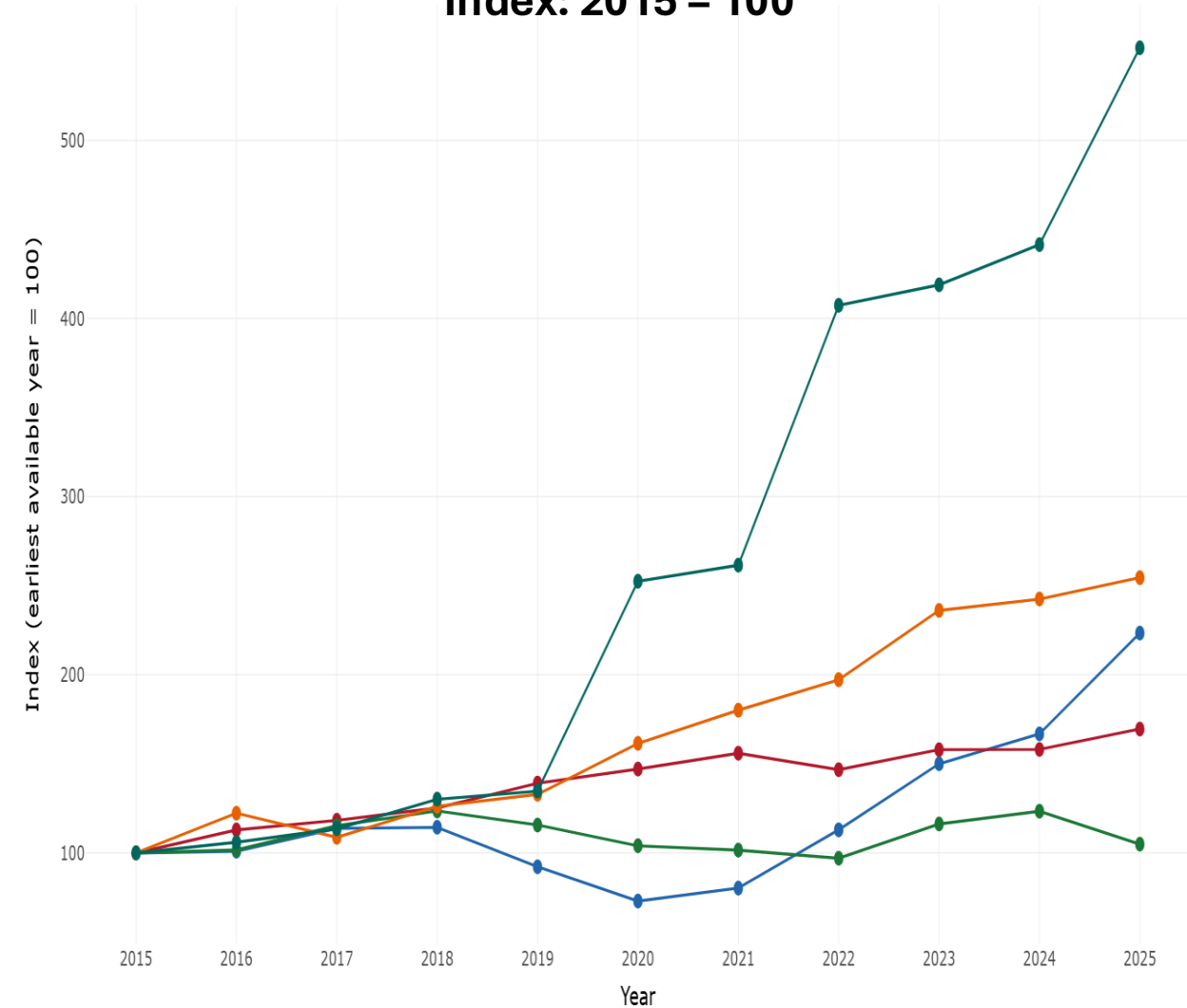
Main services sectors as a share of total exports of commercial services



Value of exports of digitally delivered services (DDS)



Growth of exports of digitally delivered services (DDS) Index: 2015 = 100

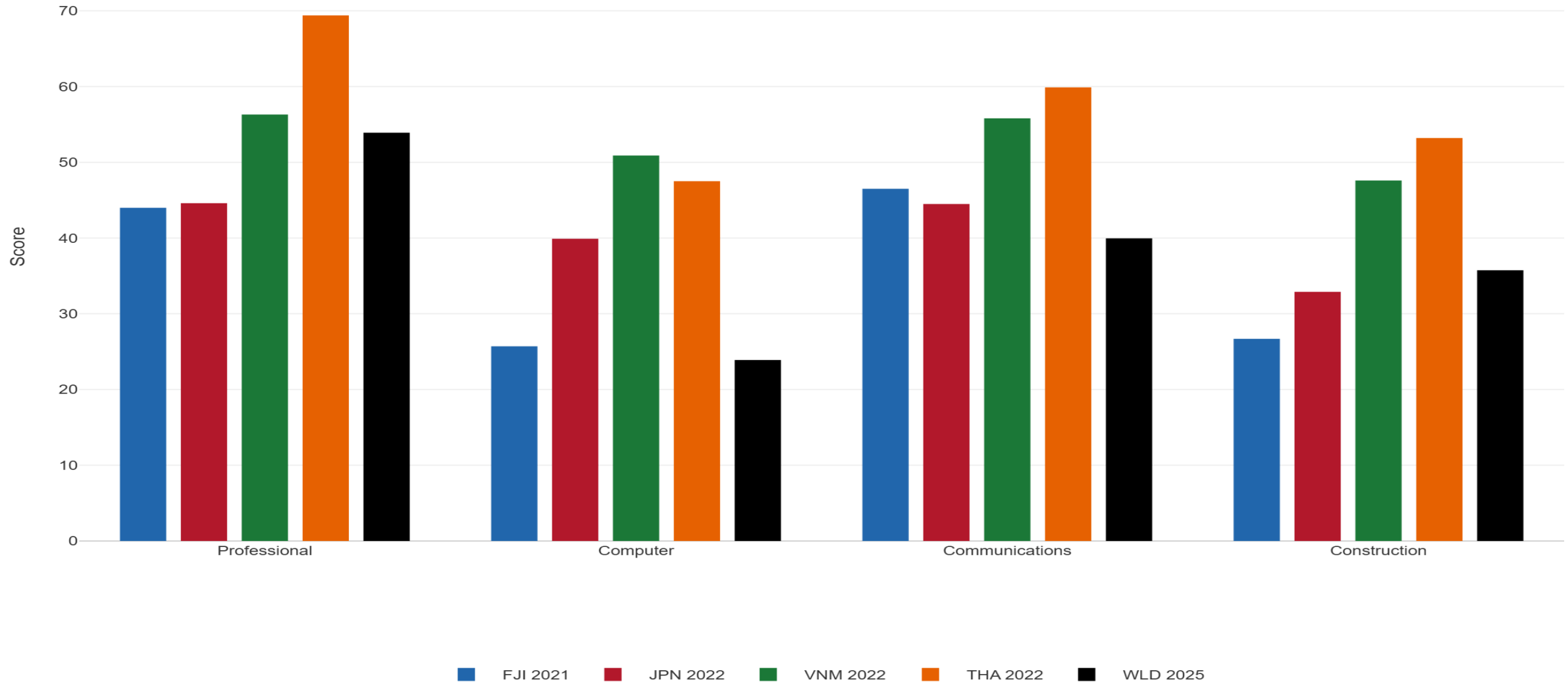


FJI JPN NPL THA VNM

Part III: Scanning the Trade Policy Landscape

- Barriers to trade and investment in services remain high overall, inflating trade costs with potentially damaging economy-wide consequences.
- Higher services trade restrictions are associated with lower shares of services value-added within global value chains (GVCs). Such restrictions can also adversely affect the productivity of manufactured, agricultural and natural resource exports, hindering efforts at moving up the value chain.
- Visualizing STRI scores helps identify where economies face relatively higher restrictions that may hinder efficiency, investment, and participation in global value chains.
- In the broader context of assessing services trade competitiveness, these comparisons are crucial: lower STRI values typically indicate more open and predictable policy frameworks that attract foreign investment, foster competition, and enhance the capacity of domestic firms to export services.

Services Trade Restrictions Index (STRI) by broad sectors (Professionals, Computer, Communications, Construction)



Part IV: Complementary policies

- Institutions and Governance
- Competition Policy
- Physical Connectivity
- Digital Connectivity
- Worker Skills and Firm Capabilities

Logistics performance index (WBG)

