



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

28–29 September 2026

Auditorium Halls 3 and 4



Session III. Trade Restrictions in Services Trade: Scenarios for Asia and the Pacific

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Restrictions in Services Trade

Tools for policy making and results for Asia and the Pacific

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

Manila, 28 September 2026

José Signoret(World Bank Group) & Joscelyn Magdeleine (WTO Secretariat)*

* Disclaimer: This presentation, including the findings and conclusions expressed, are not intended to represent the positions or opinions of the WTO or its Members and are without prejudice to Members' rights and obligations under the WTO.

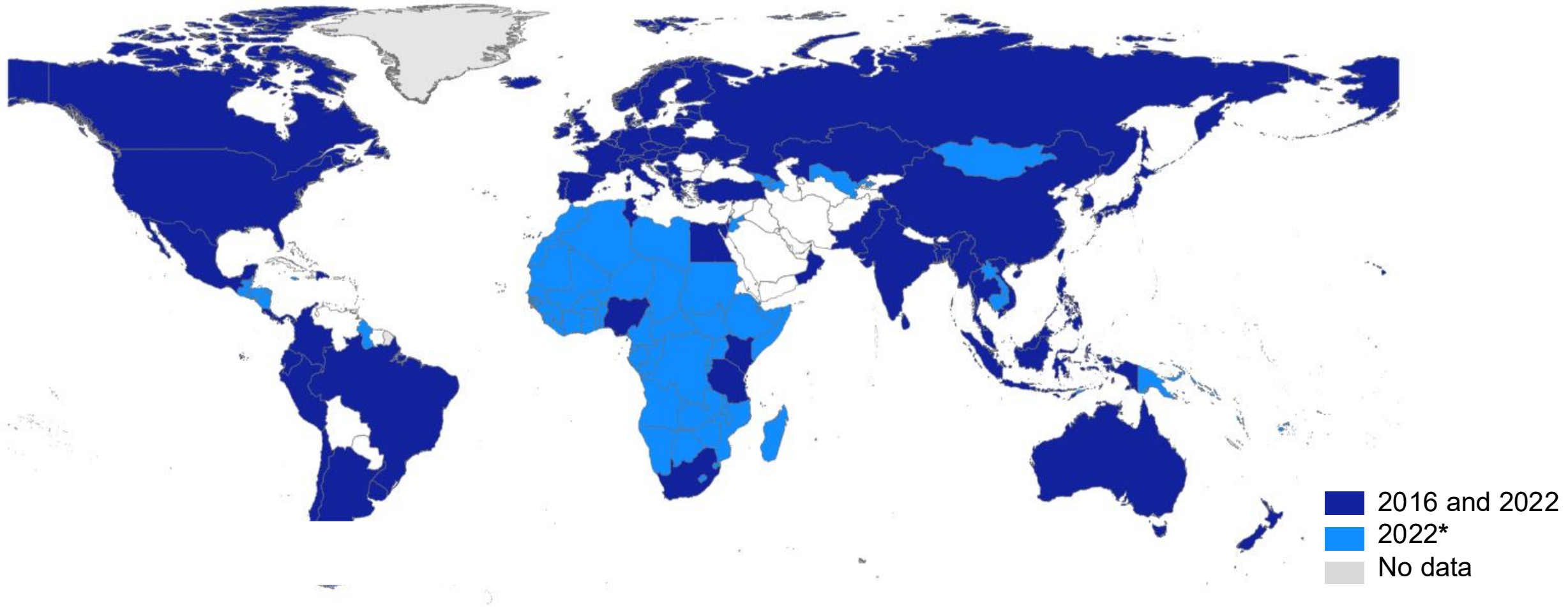
Mapping of national services regulatory regimes

34 subsector regulatory questionnaires (~ 120 questions/subsector)
+ Horizontal questionnaire (e.g., cross-border data flows)

Outputs:

1. Promoting trade policy **transparency** and **research**
 - a) Services Trade Policy Database (STPD) – detail regulatory data
 - b) Services Trade Restrictions Index (STRI)
2. Informing and supporting services **policy reforms** and trade **negotiations**

STPD and STRI Coverage: 144 Economies



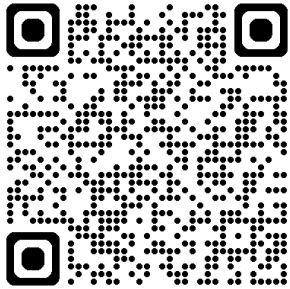
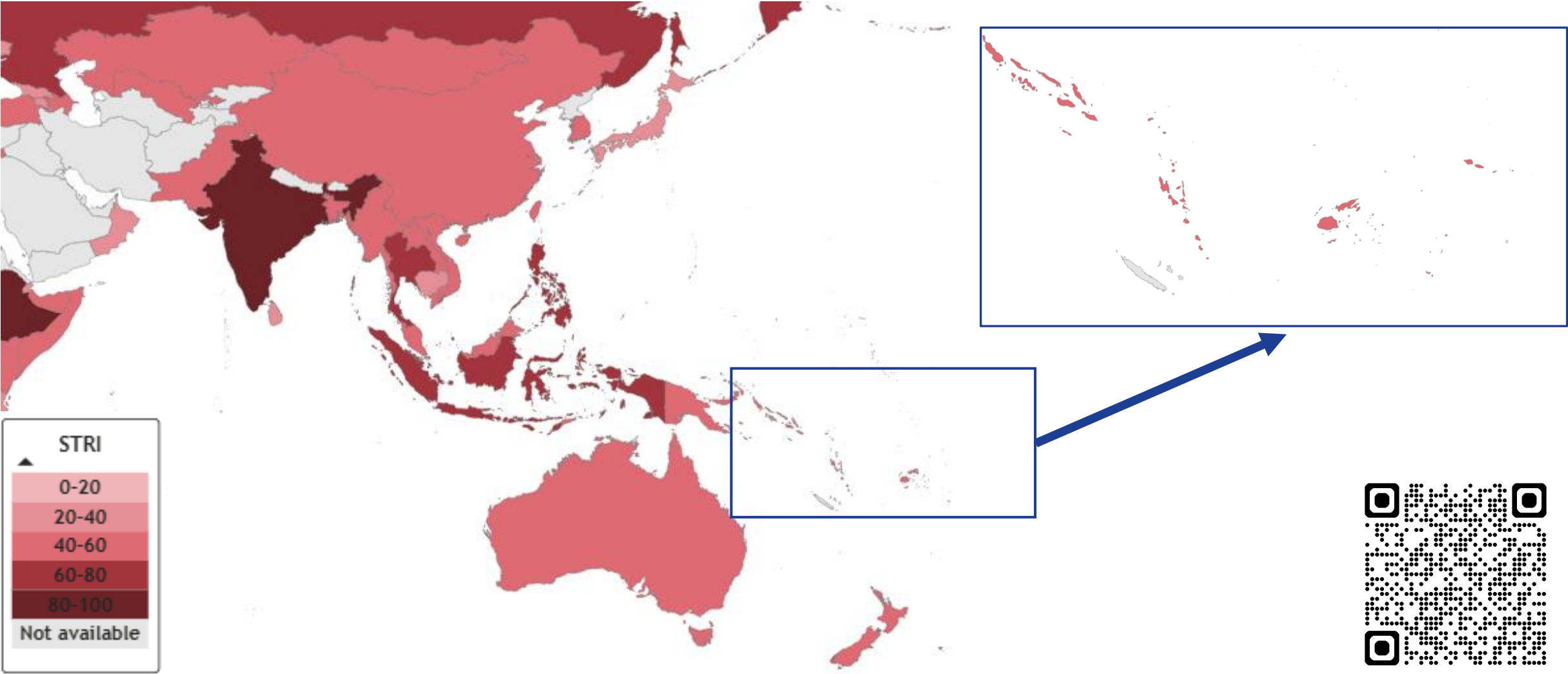
* Refers to 2020–21 for African and Pacific Island economies, 2023 for CEFTA parties, and 2024 for Armenia, Azerbaijan, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Lao PDR, Mongolia, and Nicaragua, and 2025 for Georgia and Guyana.

Note: Regulatory information was mainly sourced from the OECD STRI regulatory database for 49 countries, thanks to the cooperation of the OECD, which is gratefully acknowledged. Information for health, tourism, and domestic regulation was complemented through the WTO/WB survey.

Coverage: 34 subsectors and horizontal policies

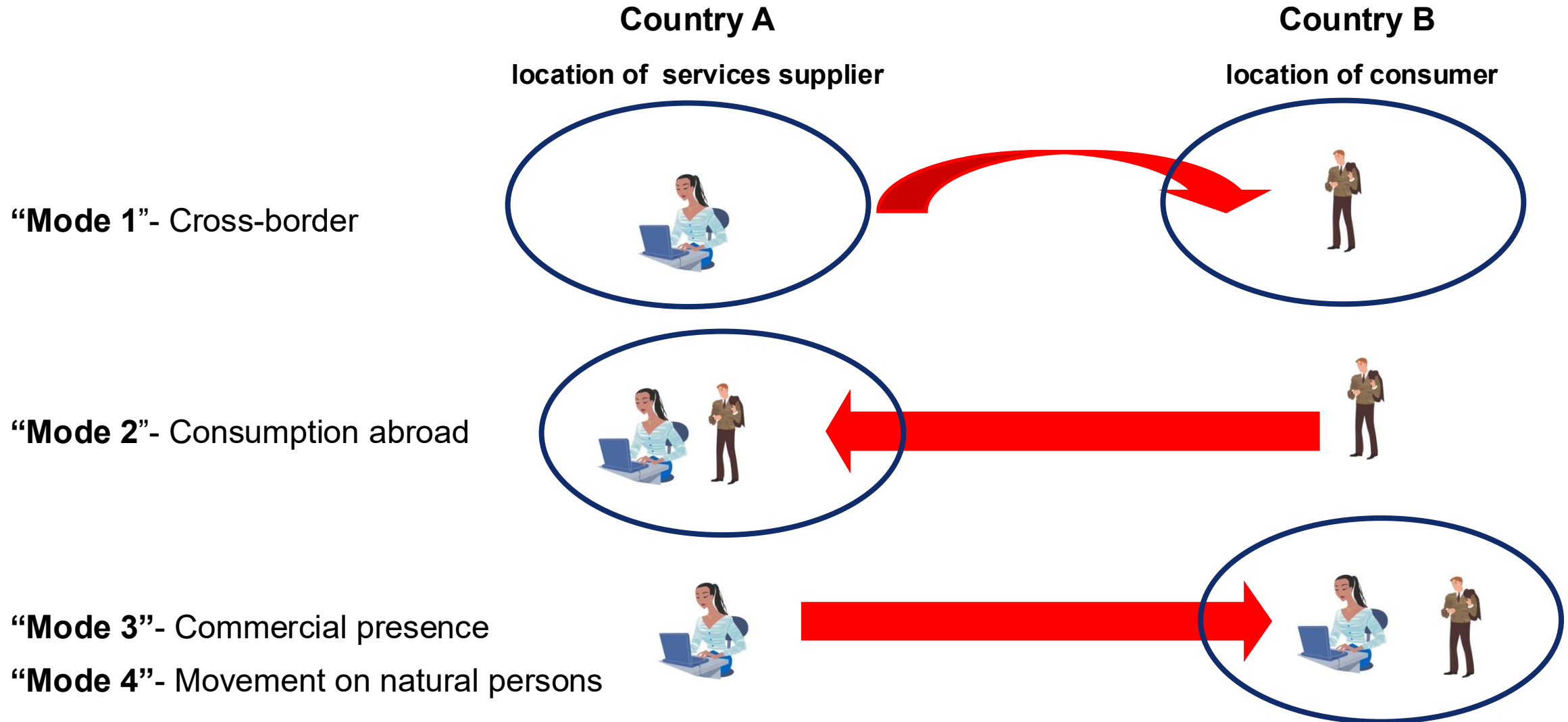
Sector	Subsector
HORIZONTAL	Policies applying to all (sub)sectors
Business	Legal (host country law representation/advice, foreign/international law) Accounting/Auditing Architecture/Engineering Computer
Professional	
Computer	
Communications	Postal/courier Telecommunication (fixed, mobile) Audiovisual (television, motion picture, sound recording)
Construction	Construction
Distribution	Wholesale, Retail
Finance	Commercial banking Insurance (life, non-life, reinsurance)
Health	Health (including professionals)
Tourism	Hotels, Travel agents, Guides
Transport	Maritime, Air (*4), Rail and Road transport Maritime intermediation and auxiliary services

STRI – Visualization tool, Example: Financial services

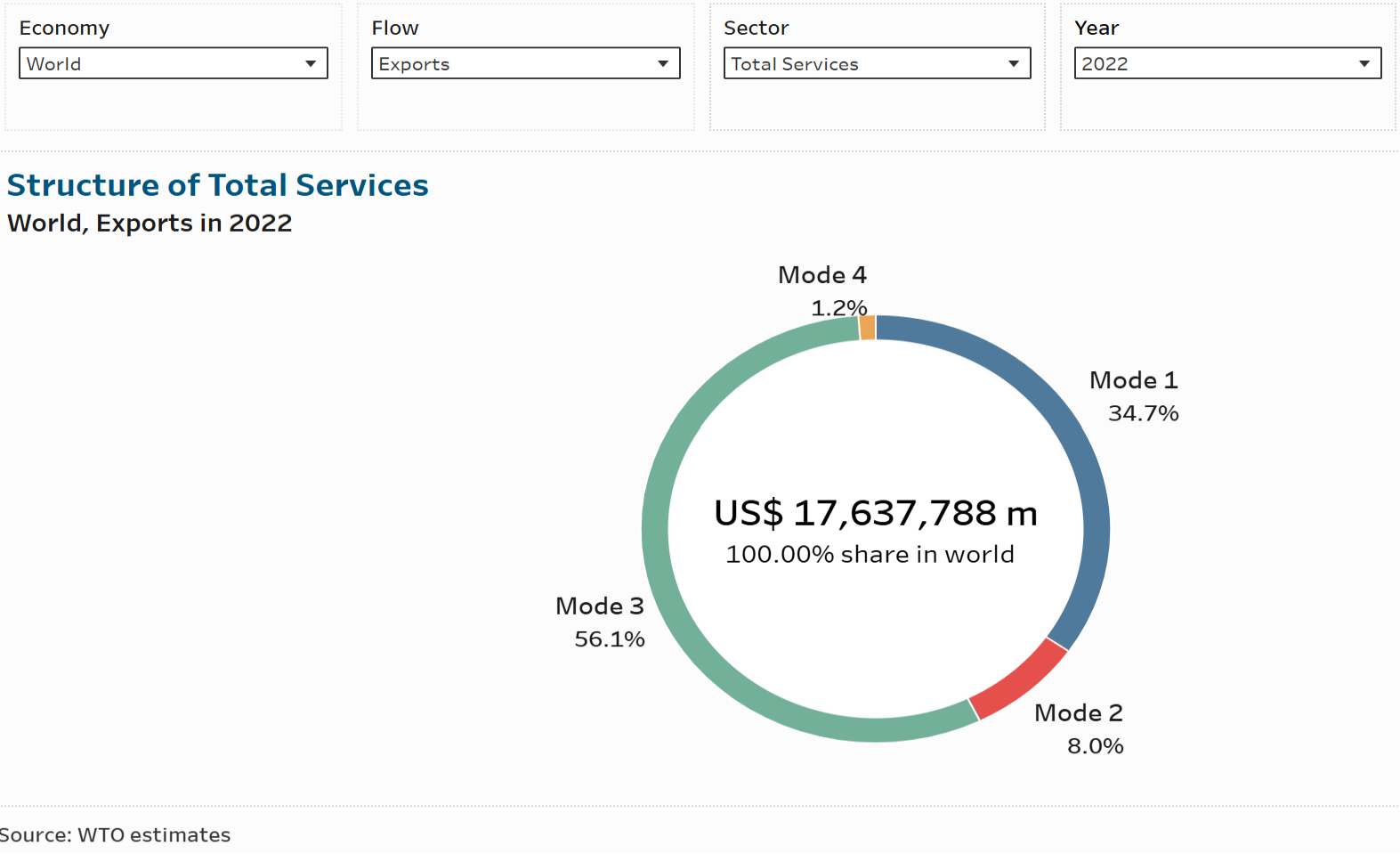


Source: World Trade Organization and World Bank, Services Trade Policy Database and Services Trade Restrictions Index (2024).
Note: The World Bank-WTO STRI is a measure of the restrictiveness of an economy's regulatory and policy framework with respect to trade in services. The STRI ranges from 0 to 100, where 0 indicates that none of the restrictions underlying the index is applied, and 100 that the sector/mode is virtually closed.

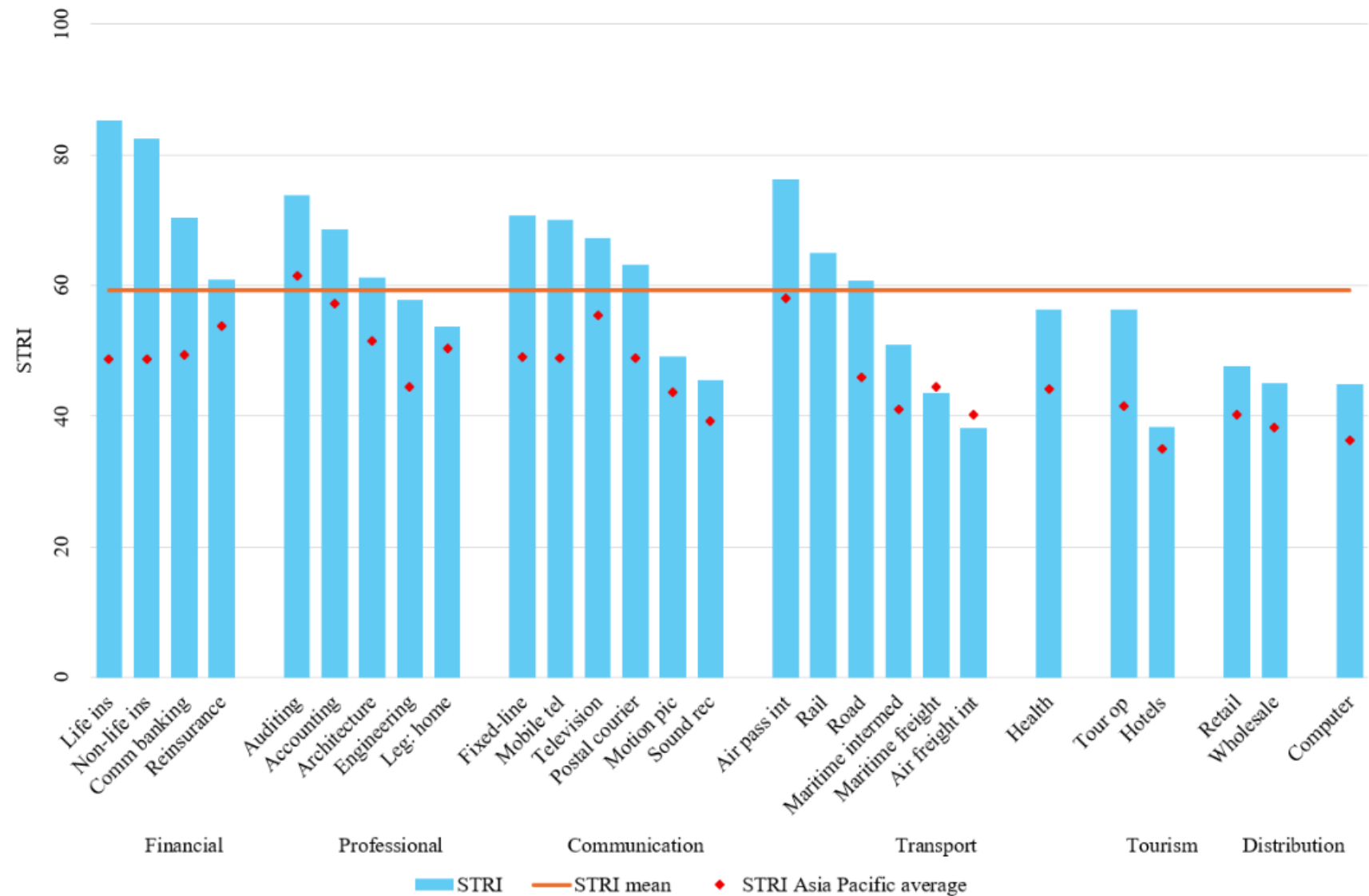
General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) framework classifies services trade by mode of supply



Global trade in services by mode of supply



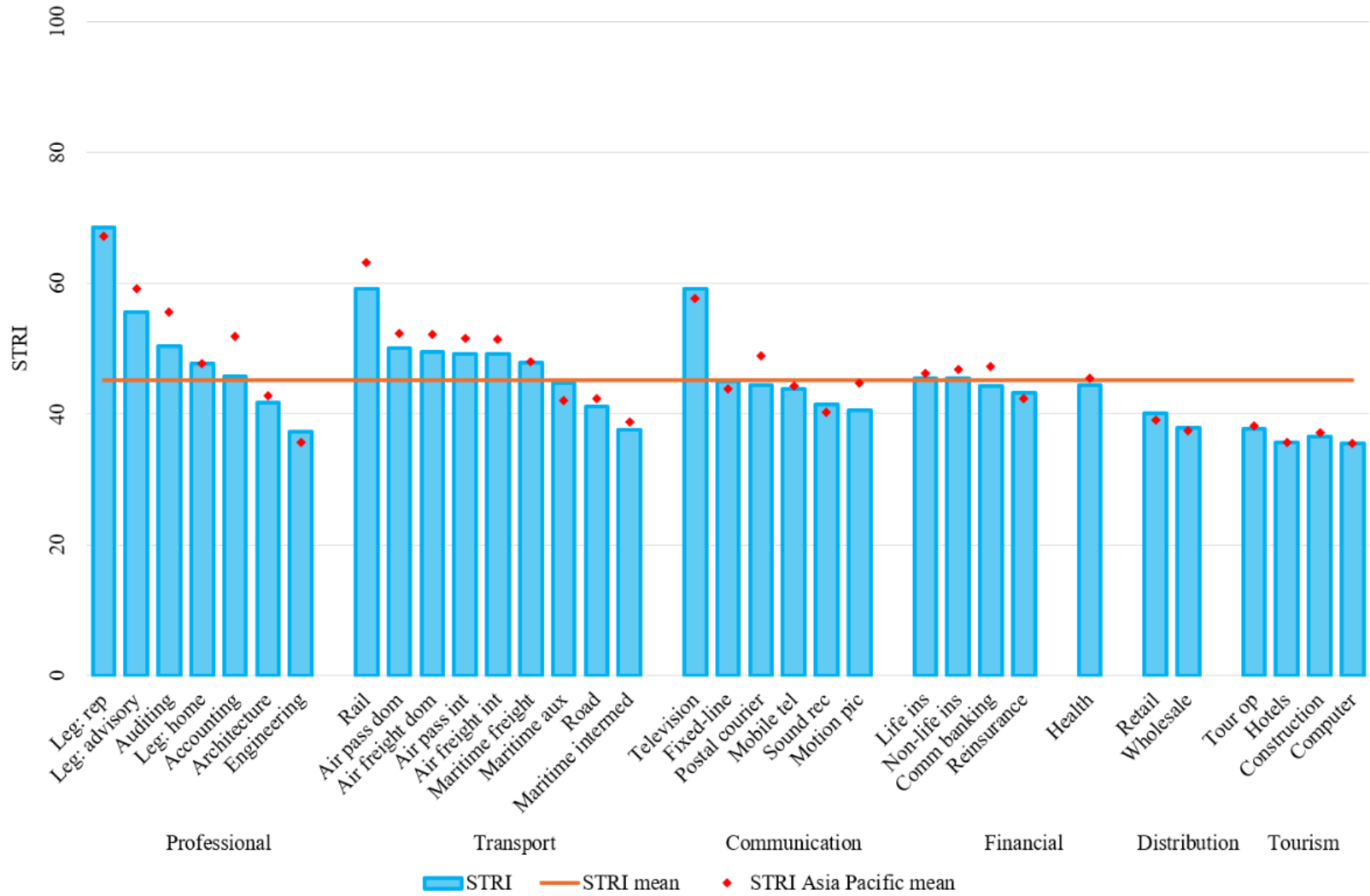
Patterns across sectors: Mode 1



Relatively high policy restrictiveness towards cross-border supply by foreign services suppliers is accompanied by substantial variation across subsectors

Source: World Trade Organization and World Bank, Services Trade Policy Database and Services Trade Restrictions Index (2024).
Note: The World Bank-WTO STRI is a measure of the restrictiveness of an economy's regulatory and policy framework with respect to trade in services. The STRI ranges from 0 to 100, where 0 indicates that none of the restrictions underlying the index is applied, and 100 that the sector/mode is virtually closed.

Patterns across sectors: Mode 3



Services trade via mode 3 is on average more open than mode 1, and with substantially less variation across services subsectors

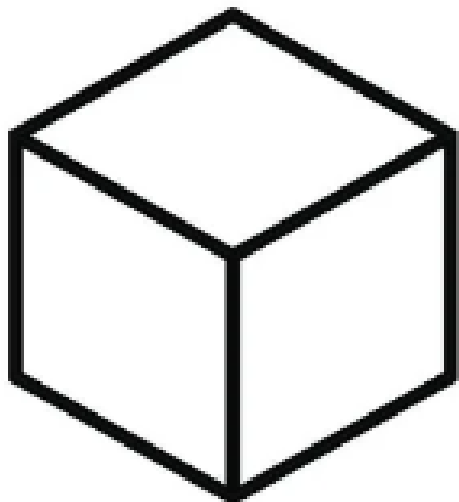
Source: World Trade Organization and World Bank, Services Trade Policy Database and Services Trade Restrictions Index (2024).
Note: The World Bank-WTO STRI is a measure of the restrictiveness of an economy's regulatory and policy framework with respect to trade in services. The STRI ranges from 0 to 100, where 0 indicates that none of the restrictions underlying the index is applied, and 100 that the sector/mode is virtually closed.

The use of the STPD/STRI for policy making is multidimensional

Domestic Competitiveness & Development Agenda

Enable governments to analyze rationale, impact & convenience of existing measures or need for reforms

- Impacts on services exports,
- Impacts on competitiveness of tangible products
- Estimate level of protection through ad-valorem equivalents and assessment of their cost and potential benefits of liberalization
- Identify interest groups behind restrictions



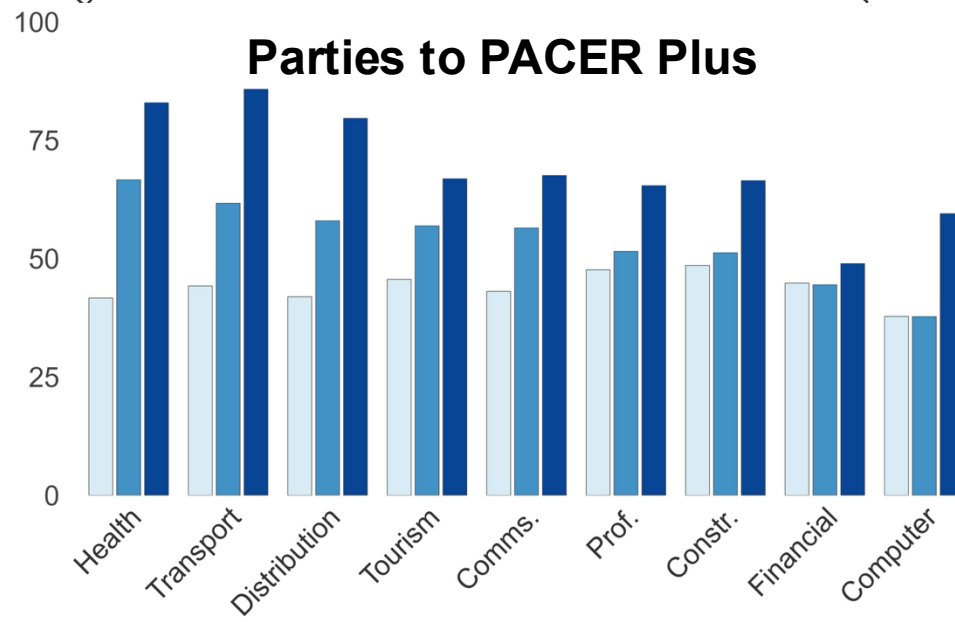
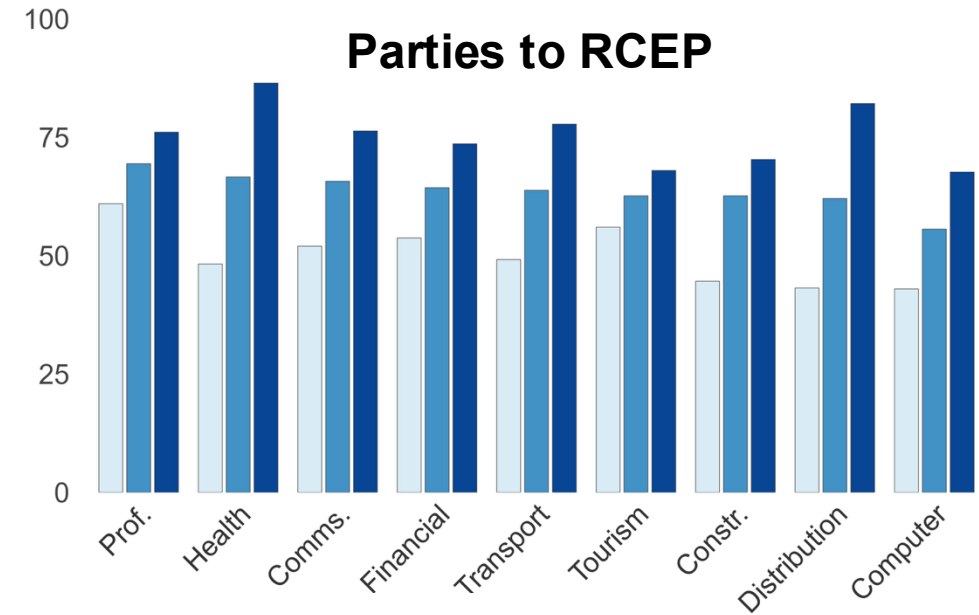
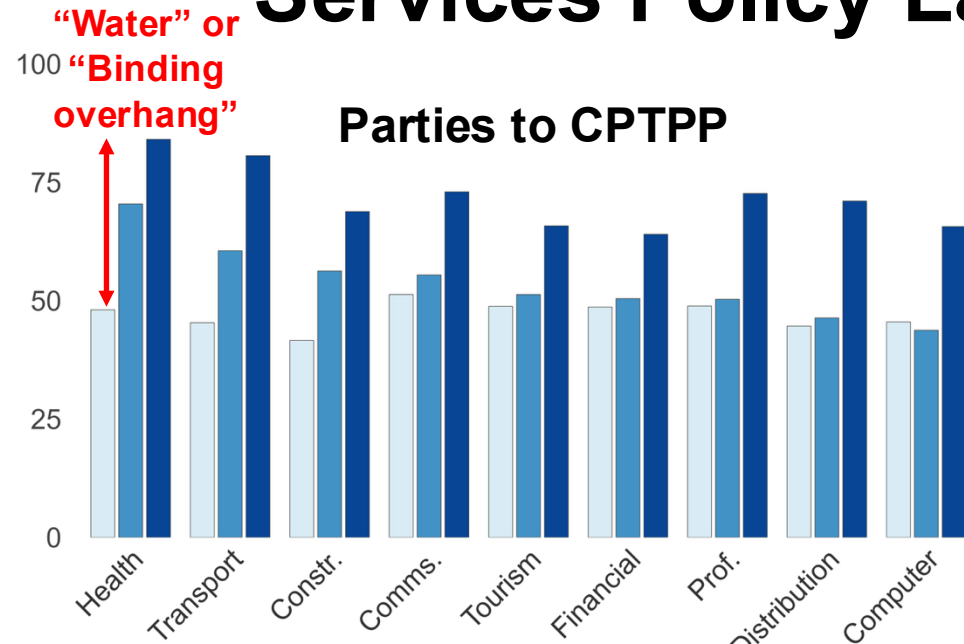
International negotiations

- Prepare negotiations/offers
- Data enables to assess gap between level of “bindings” offered and regulatory status quo

Trade and investment facilitation

- Investors and traders need transparency, certainty and predictability to do and expand business operations
- Regulatory information should be as accessible as possible to private sector

Comparing “Binding Overhang” in Different Services Policy Layers - Sectors

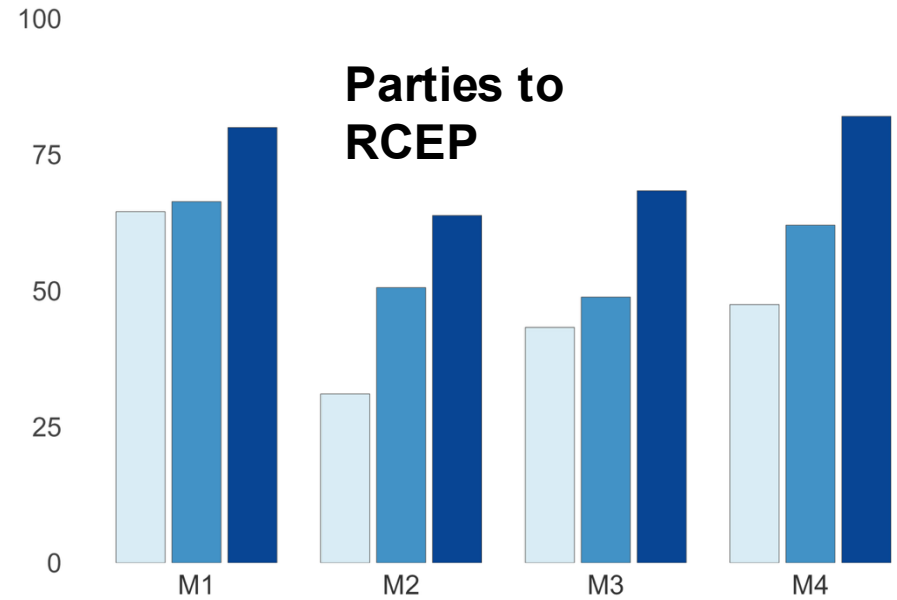
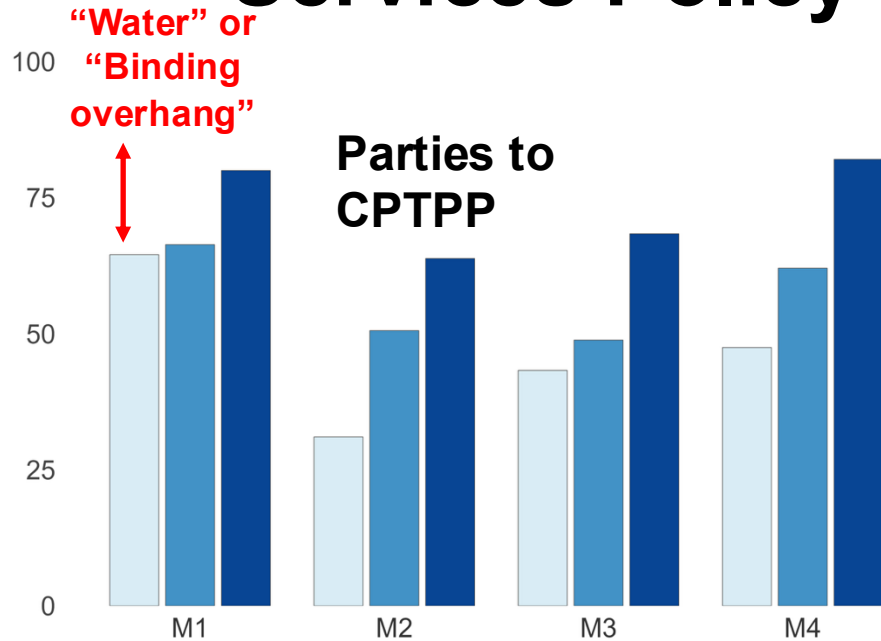


Source: World Bank-WTO Services Trade Restrictions Index (STRI), Bound STRI & Preferential STRI (PSTRI)

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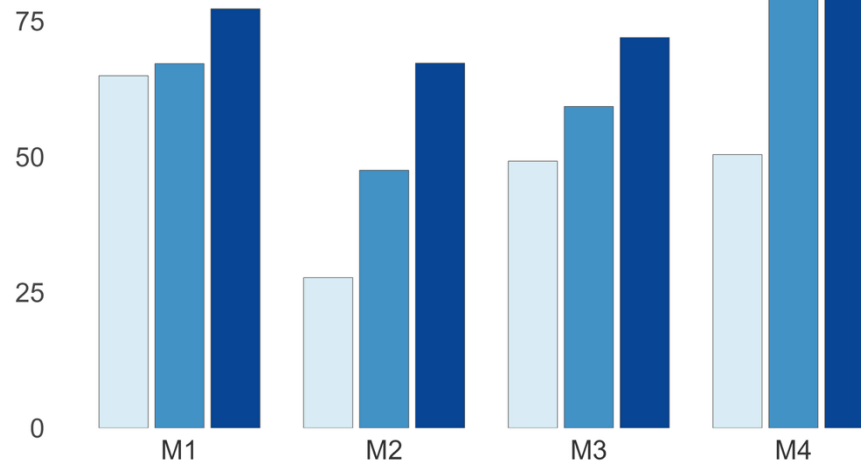
on.

Comparing “Binding Overhang” in Different Services Policy Layers - Modes



100

Parties to PACER Plus



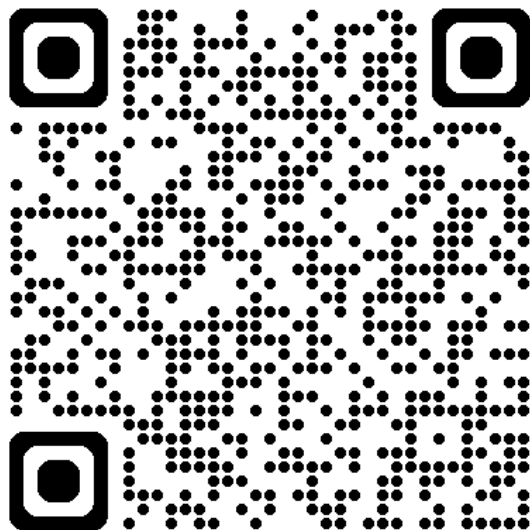
- STRI (applied MFN)
- PSTRI (preferential)
- BSTRI (bound MFN)

Note: Mode 2 is only available for health related services

<https://itip-services-worldbank.wto.org>



I-TIP Services is a joint initiative of the World Trade Organization and the World Bank. It provides comprehensive information on services trade policies. The information is organized in different modules:



GATS

GATS: WTO Members' GATS commitments, MFN exemptions, and preferences under the LDC Services Waiver [as notified by Members](#) (the latter developed in cooperation with the ITC).
[Go To GATS](#)

RTAs

RTAs: Services commitments and reservations in bilateral and regional free trade agreements. Information on the design and architecture of agreements covering services trade may be found in the [Deep Trade Agreements Database](#)
[Go To RTAs](#)

STPD & STRI

Services Trade Policy Database (STPD) and Services Trade Restrictions Index (STRI): Information on current services trade policies and regulations applied by [144 economies in 34 service sectors](#), and the respective Services Trade Restrictions Indices (STRI), jointly developed by the WTO and the World Bank. The regulatory and policy information for 102 of those economies was collected through surveys conducted by the World Bank and the WTO (information for CEFTA parties was collected in cooperation with the CEFTA Secretariat; information for several African economies was collected in cooperation with ITC, GIZ and the EU). Information for other economies was mainly sourced from the OECD STRI regulatory database thanks to the cooperation of the OECD, which is gratefully acknowledged.
[Go To STPD & STRI](#)

STRI Dashboard

STRI Dashboard: Visualization tool of STRI results by economy, sector and mode of supply.
[Go To STRI Dashboard](#)

PSTRI & BSTRI Dashboard

PSTRI & BSTRI Dashboard: Visualization tool of Preferential STRI (PSTRI) and Bound STRI (BSTRI) results by economy, sector and mode of supply.
[Go To PSTRI & BSTRI Dashboard](#)

Thank you!