



Facts on Global Reform

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U.S. Seeks to Expand Trade in Services

Services Negotiations in the WTO

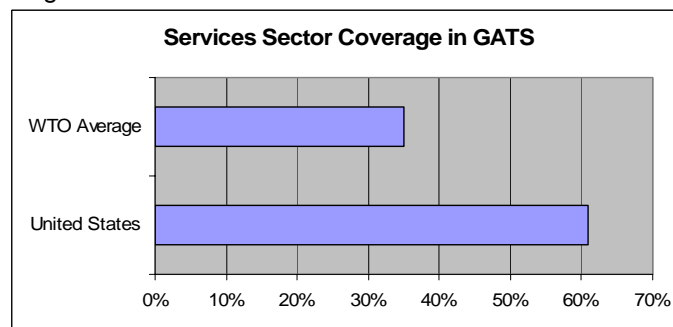
The WTO's General Agreement on Trade in Service (GATS) negotiations cover all forms of services trade and all services sectors. There are four major elements of the negotiations:

1. Market access: Members are negotiating to expand market access beyond existing GATS commitments, which cover roughly one-third of services sub-sectors. In addition, members are seeking to improve the quality of commitments by removing limitations and expanding coverage of modes of supply.
2. Domestic regulations: Negotiations focused on clarifying and enhancing existing provisions on licensing, qualifications, technical standards and transparency.
3. Rules: There is currently a discussion of proposals to develop as appropriate new disciplines on subsidies, procurement, and emergency safeguards.
4. Development: Members are seeking to increase participation of developing countries in trade, particularly Least Developed Countries.

U.S. Position

Market access negotiations will require the greatest commitment of time and resources by members in order to fulfill the mandate of achieving progressive liberalization. In pursuit of this goal, WTO members must come forward with new and improved commitments that substantially increase sectoral coverage, provide truly meaningful market access and nondiscriminatory treatment, and provide effective coverage of those sectors of greatest importance, particularly to developing countries.

Currently, the United States covers more than 60 percent of services sectors while WTO members average 35 percent coverage



The primary market access objective of the United States is to achieve meaningful liberalization across a broad range of service sectors, with a particular focus on key infrastructure services that will create meaningful new commercial opportunities and significantly expand global services trade. **These key services include, but are not limited to, financial, telecommunications, computer, express delivery, distribution and energy services.**

Benefits: Please see fact sheet entitled "Opening Services for Development" on USTR website.