



Introduction to the GATS

*Structure of the agreement, key concepts
and obligations*

Seminar on Trade in Services
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Trade in Services Division
WTO

Issues covered

- Why is trade in services so important?
- How is the GATS structured, and what is its scope and coverage?
- What are the key obligations of the GATS?
- What other GATS provisions should I know about?

Past: Few services are traded

- **Technology** is limited
 - Services = simultaneous production and consumption = not tradable over distance
- **Regulations** prevent competition
 - Services = government monopolies = no access opportunities
- Liberalization policy options seen as limited
 - Services = intangible = no scope for GATT-type trade policies (tariffs)
- Economic role of services was neglected

Now: More services traded

- **Technological change**
 - Faster transport and telecoms means remote supply more feasible; less need for supplier to be in same time and place as consumer
- **Regulatory reform**
 - Introduction of competition in previously closed sectors (telecom, banking etc)
- **Expansion of goods trade**
 - Requires supporting services (transport, logistics etc.)
- **Rise in trade of 'intermediates'**
 - Supply chains of unbundled goods and services increasingly cross borders

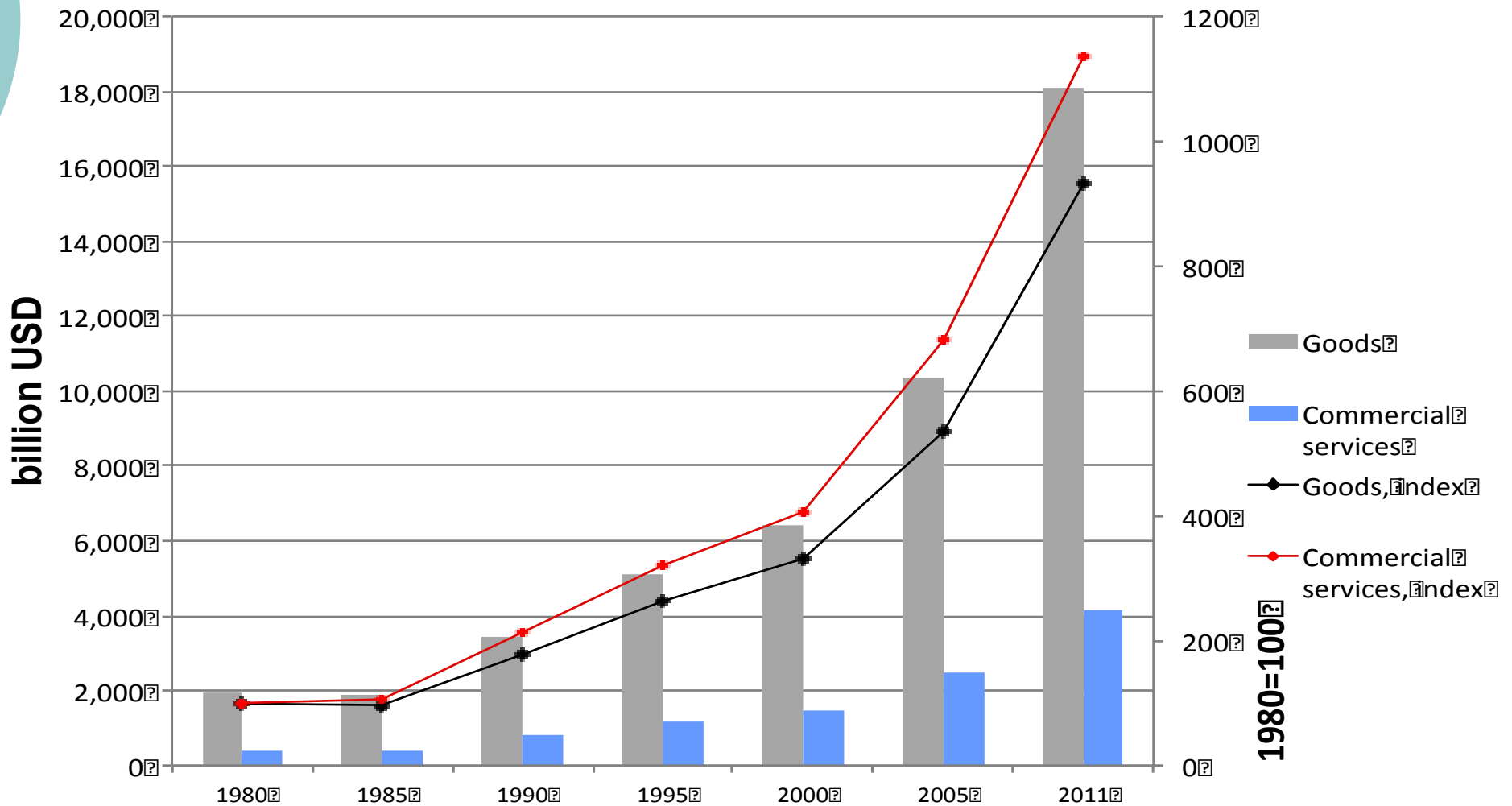
Services joins the multilateral trading system in 1995

Year	Round	Members
1947	Geneva	23
1949	Annecy	23
1951	Torquay	35
1960-61	Dillon	42
1964-67	Kennedy Round	75
1973-79	Tokyo Round	85
1986-94	Uruguay Round	128
2001 -	Doha Round	160

Why is services so important to an economy?

- An major part of GDP, trade and FDI:
 - 60-70% of world production and employment
 - 2/3 of FDI flows
- A key production input into virtually all other goods and services:
 - 10-20% of production costs in manufacturing and agriculture;
 - 20-25% of costs in ready-made garments
- Faster growth in services exports than goods exports (since 2000)

Trade in services now grows faster than trade in goods



In terms of value-added, services trade is even more significant

- Value-added calculations deduct any “double-counting” of re-exported components
- On this basis, services account for **50%** of world trade cross-border. (Escaith, 2008)
- Remember also: about 60 % of world foreign investment stocks are in services

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_5374

