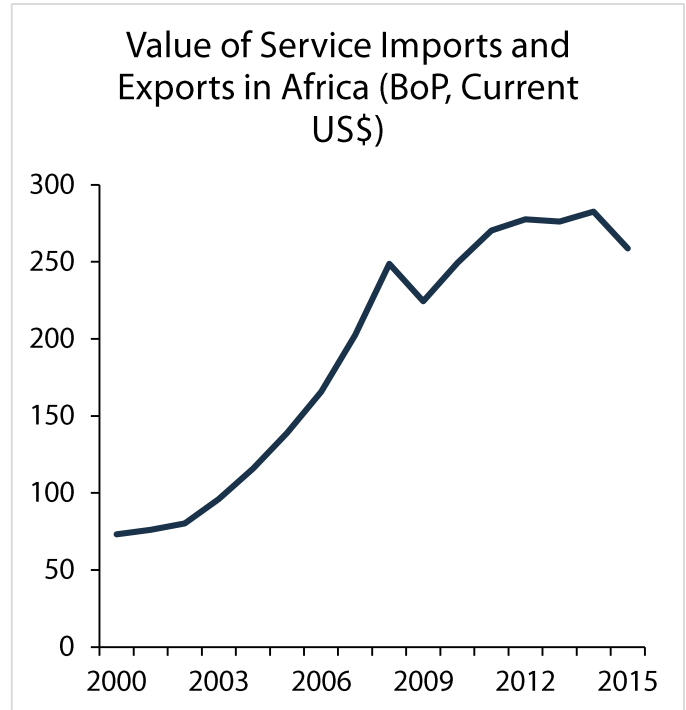


Africa's service sector has more than tripled between 2000 and 2015 reaching US\$259 billion

The total value of services (imports and exports) in Africa expanded from about US\$73 billion in 2000 to nearly US\$259 billion in 2015; more than tripling over the 15-year period. The continent's growing, youthful and increasingly skilled population - with quality education and training - presents opportunities for growth in the service sector, especially exports, a time when the rest of the world faces a rapidly ageing population. By 2050, it is projected that 34% of population aged between 15-24 years will be African.



The service sector's share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in Africa rose from an estimated 44% (2000-2010) to 47% (2010-2014) with the highest contributing service sub-sectors being: trade, transportation and business services (including real estate). The service sector has been a key contributor to Africa's GDP accounting for an estimated 49% of the region's GDP in 2016. The sector also absorbs a large proportion of youth employment, improves gender parity, and offers promising opportunities for export diversification.

