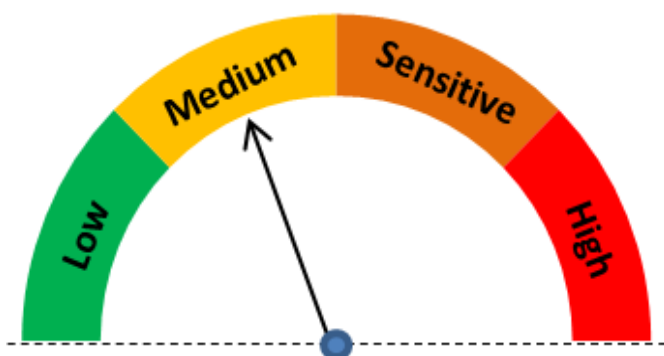


## Sector Risk Rating



## What to Watch?

- Global economic growth and trends in trade flows impacting the sector's revenues
- The ability to benefit from low oil prices is dependent to a large extent on clients (companies or consumers)
- Increasing environmental constraints calling the need for higher investments and thus weighing on firms' margins
- Development of service-related activities to improve profitability levels

## Transportation and low oil price level: What sub sectors take advantage of it?

World trade is the main driver for transportation of goods across oceans, roads, and more marginally for air transportation. World trade has now slowed to approximately +3% against +8/9% before the financial crisis of 2008-2009. At that period, companies massively invested in increasing capacities in order to cope with increasing demand.

But the *new normal* has incurred a dramatic fall in freight rates. The Baltic dry index, for example, fell by -50% over the last 12 months. This situation heavily weighs on firms' margins and their ability to generate cash, and despite lower oil prices, puts risk on finances.

Apart from trade, another important driver is the increasing mobility of people, especially through air travel. This business is expanding at an annual rate of +6% thanks to higher demand for business travel and tourism. Transport companies around the world are taking advantage of this trend and with the slump in oil prices, net profits could double between 2014 and 2016. This should take place mainly in the United States, although European competition remains fierce.

World Trade Evolution,  
(rolling 12-months average change in %)



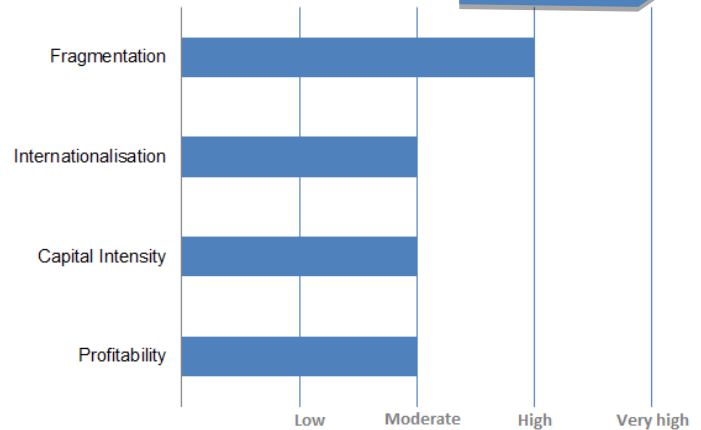
Sources: CPB, Euler Hermes

Sector Value:  
**2,503bn**  
 USD

## Key Players

Country	Role	Sector Risk
<b>United States</b>	#1 producer	●
<b>Japan</b>	#2 producer	●
<b>Germany</b>	#3 producer	●

## ID Card



## Strengths

- Steady increase in business and tourism travel leading to a structural rise in demand for air travel
- Completed and successful restructuring of US air transportation industry

## Weaknesses

- Substantial overcapacities due to crisis in maritime transportation
- On-going restructuring in the European air transportation industry
- Highly competitive market

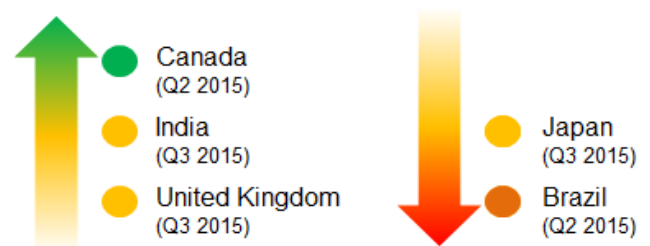
## Subsectors Insights

**Road transportation:** Numerous, small players with weak pricing power.

**Maritime transportation:** Overcapacities and low freight rate undermine activity.

**Air transportation:** The biggest beneficiary of the low oil price. Good fundamentals (except in Europe and South America) but strong competition from Gulf-based companies.

## Recent Sector Risk Changes



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