

Foreign Direct Investment in the United States

U.S. Department of Commerce



Bureau of Economic Analysis

The Bureau of Economic Analysis produces comprehensive data on foreign direct investment in the United States that are essential to the compilation of the U.S. economic accounts and for the analysis of multinational companies. The data, which are widely recognized to be the world's most comprehensive and accurate, are obtained from mandatory surveys.

Foreign direct investment in the United States is defined as the ownership by a foreign investor of 10 percent or more of a U.S. business. The direct investor is known as a foreign parent, and the foreign-owned U.S. business is known as a U.S. affiliate.

The Bureau collects and publishes three broad sets of data on foreign direct investment in the United States: (1) International transactions and direct investment position data, (2) financial and operating data of U.S. affiliates of foreign companies, and (3) new investment data.

International transactions and direct investment position data

International transactions data cover the U.S. affiliates' transactions with their foreign parents, so these data focus on the foreign parents' share, or interest, in their U.S. affiliates rather than on the affiliates' overall size or level of operations. These data are essential to the compilation of the U.S. international transactions accounts, the international investment position, and the national income and product accounts. The major data items include capital flows, which measure the funds that foreign parents provide to their U.S. affiliates, and income, which measures the return on those funds. The data also cover royalties and license fees and other service charges that affiliates pay to or receive from their parents. All of these items are flow data and provide measurement for a particular time frame, such as for a quarter or for a year.

Direct investment position data are stock data and are cumulative; they measure the total outstanding

level of foreign direct investment in the United States at yearend. Estimates are provided both at historical cost and in terms of current-period prices. Two alternative official measures of the position are presented in current-period prices—one with direct investment recorded at current cost, and the other with direct investment recorded at market value. For the historical-cost estimates, tables are published by country and by industry.

Financial and operating data of U.S. affiliates

Financial and operating data provide a picture of the overall activities of U.S. affiliates and contain a wide variety of indicators of their financial structure and operations. The data cover the entire operations of the U.S. affiliate, irrespective of the percentage of foreign ownership. These data cover items that are needed in analyzing the characteristics, performance, and economic impact of multinational companies, such as sales, gross product (value added), employment and compensation of employees, capital expenditures, exports and imports, and research and development expenditures. Tables are published by country, by industry, and (for selected items) by State. More detailed tables by industry and State on affiliate operations at the establishment level are available for selected years as a result of a special project that linked the Bureau's enterprise data for U.S. affiliates with the establishment data for all U.S. companies from the Bureau of the Census.

New investment data

These data cover the outlays by foreign direct investors to acquire or establish new U.S. affiliates. In addition, the new investment data contain selected data on the operations of the newly acquired or established affiliates, such as total assets, net income, and employment. These data cover the entire operations of the affiliate, regardless of the percentage of foreign ownership.

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Uses of the data

The data on foreign direct investment in the United States and the operations of U.S. affiliates can be used to measure the scale of foreign-controlled business activity in the United States and its impact on the U.S. economy. For example, the data can be used to measure:

- The current dollar value of, and returns on, foreign direct investment in the United States
- The shares of U.S. gross domestic product, employment, exports and imports of goods, and research and development accounted for by U.S. affiliates of foreign companies

Researchers have used the data to analyze:

- The effects of tax policies on foreign direct investment in the United States
- Differences between foreign- and domestically owned firms in terms of domestic content, profitability, and productivity
- The impact of foreign direct investment on U.S. wages
- Differences between foreign- and domestically owned establishments in terms of such characteristics as wage rates, plant size, capital intensity, and productivity
- The extent of foreign direct investment by individual State and industry, expressed both in absolute terms (such as in dollars or numbers of employees) and as percentages of the values for all U.S. establishments

Availability

For more information on these data, see the following articles that were published in the SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS, the monthly journal of the Bureau:

- “Foreign Direct Investment in the United States: Detail for Historical-Cost Position and Related Capital and Income Flows,” usually in the September issue of the SURVEY
- “Direct Investment Positions: Country and Industry Detail,” usually in the July issue of the SURVEY
- “U.S. Affiliates of Foreign Companies: Operations,” usually in the August issue of the SURVEY
- “Foreign Direct Investment in the United States: New Investment,” usually in the June issue of the SURVEY

The SURVEY articles referenced above are available on our Web site at <www.bea.gov>.

Detailed tables on the operations of U.S. affiliates are available in annual data publications and in compressed files that can be downloaded free of charge from our Web site. For information on these and other data products, see the International Investment Division Product Guide under the “International” section of our Web site.

For more information

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Foreign Direct Investment in the United States

**Table 1. Foreign Direct Investment in the United States
Selected Items, by Country of Foreign Parent and by Industry of U.S. Affiliate, 1999–2001**

[Millions of dollars]

	Direct investment position on a historical-cost basis			Capital inflows (outflows (-))			Income		
	1999	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001	1999	2000	2001
All countries, all industries.....	955,726	1,214,254	1,321,063	283,376	300,912	124,435	46,385	52,465	15,965
By country									
Canada.....	90,559	114,599	108,600	26,367	26,036	4,627	2,215	1,057	-7,736
Europe.....	639,923	835,137	946,758	223,406	238,740	118,059	36,753	41,511	26,043
<i>Of which:</i>									
France.....	89,945	131,484	147,207	29,834	49,436	14,676	2,954	3,930	7,663
Germany.....	112,126	124,839	152,760	23,478	14,290	28,015	6,123	2,390	-6,273
Luxembourg.....	35,644	53,794	40,232	6,887	25,230	-13,801	2,241	4,672	3,172
Netherlands.....	125,010	146,493	158,020	41,689	32,599	15,171	7,299	8,990	4,368
Switzerland.....	52,973	69,240	125,521	2,503	16,697	51,959	2,844	4,113	1,816
United Kingdom.....	153,797	213,820	217,746	108,566	75,654	14,226	11,899	14,046	11,823
Latin America and Other Western Hemisphere.....	40,771	54,463	58,881	16,929	12,253	954	2,397	2,407	-1,399
<i>Of which:</i>									
Bermuda.....	14,798	18,502	15,748	10,338	2,523	-3,223	41	-457	-1,602
Mexico.....	1,999	7,832	7,418	1,273	5,266	-84	175	-68	-1,070
Panama.....	5,275	3,726	4,199	-226	-1,477	449	752	647	480
United Kingdom Islands, Caribbean.....	11,573	15,353	18,244	4,137	3,865	3,966	1,527	1,829	118
Africa.....	1,361	2,756	3,264	423	652	407	-66	6	-193
Middle East.....	4,362	6,189	6,039	376	2,142	-159	156	259	311
Asia and Pacific.....	178,749	201,110	197,522	15,876	21,088	547	4,931	7,225	-1,060
<i>Of which:</i>									
Australia.....	15,616	20,701	23,488	4,193	5,963	3,649	643	1,074	-918
Japan.....	153,815	163,577	158,988	11,555	7,773	-1,550	4,006	5,825	169
By industry									
Petroleum.....	51,231	87,055	95,922	4,778	44,869	10,308	4,510	11,435	8,971
Manufacturing.....	385,253	479,851	508,535	69,851	100,693	29,246	24,674	23,860	3,177
Food and kindred products.....	18,864	23,975	23,847	-1,460	5,293	-233	1,570	1,792	1,051
Chemicals and allied products.....	97,009	122,446	127,139	7,562	26,196	3,062	6,317	5,906	4,472
Primary and fabricated metals.....	19,778	24,741	25,683	1,839	9,057	-965	1,083	1,320	802
Machinery.....	92,038	151,237	166,198	39,483	40,040	14,695	2,181	6,847	-6,444
Other manufacturing.....	157,564	157,453	165,668	22,428	20,107	12,687	13,524	7,996	3,297
Wholesale trade.....	100,251	110,286	112,997	16,195	11,320	1,855	5,813	7,016	5,549
Retail trade.....	24,199	29,666	35,811	4,156	5,243	7,245	1,641	1,677	816
Depository institutions.....	61,756	68,128	78,094	19,326	9,672	8,427	2,994	3,948	3,370
Finance, except depository institutions.....	65,453	84,383	85,990	17,964	19,957	6,414	816	399	-5,921
Insurance.....	83,760	112,482	120,400	23,026	34,562	8,496	2,963	4,767	3,183
Real estate.....	40,209	42,682	44,163	2,492	998	1,873	1,075	2,291	1,095
Services.....	64,335	109,504	125,660	21,675	60,539	14,718	1,873	-920	-1,853
Other industries.....	79,281	90,219	113,491	103,913	13,058	35,853	25	-2,008	-2,422

NOTE: In this table, unlike in the international transactions accounts, income and capital inflows are shown without a current-cost adjustment, and income is shown net of withholding taxes. In addition, unlike in the international investment position, the direct investment position is valued at historical cost.

The data in this table are from tables 16 and 17 in "Foreign Direct Investment in the United States: Detail for Historical-Cost Position and Related Capital and Income Flows, 2001" in the September 2002 issue of the SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS.

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Table 2. Selected Financial and Operating Data of Nonbank U.S. Affiliates and Majority-Owned Nonbank U.S. Affiliates of Foreign Companies by Country of Ultimate Beneficial Owner and by Industry of Affiliate, 2000

	All nonbank affiliates					Majority-owned nonbank affiliates								
	Millions of dollars				Thousands of employees	Millions of dollars		Millions of dollars				Thousands of employees	Millions of dollars	
	Total assets	Sales	Net income	Gross product		U.S. exports of goods shipped by affiliates	U.S. imports of goods shipped to affiliates	Total assets	Sales	Net income	Gross product		U.S. exports of goods shipped by affiliates	U.S. imports of goods shipped to affiliates
All countries, all industries	4,847,267	2,334,692	30,641	522,238	6,429.2	165,321	366,647	4,180,503	2,053,022	22,086	449,396	5,562.6	151,521	348,741
By country														
Canada	434,177	168,457	-3,670	40,514	643.0	9,019	19,509	416,420	159,257	-3,792	36,272	555.2	8,859	19,365
Europe	3,274,267	1,420,093	27,465	349,863	4,361.9	89,063	145,037	3,020,496	1,247,041	22,226	301,085	3,815.7	81,543	139,222
<i>Of which:</i>														
France	469,643	193,135	2,516	57,762	648.8	15,194	16,294	390,343	144,432	2,765	38,854	401.0	(D)	(D)
Germany	572,565	320,249	3,186	57,995	729.8	32,770	53,080	558,092	308,197	2,730	54,033	691.4	32,167	52,740
Netherlands	582,054	254,092	4,965	46,620	561.4	7,498	21,895	560,755	(D)	(D)	42,641	546.9	7,214	21,827
Sweden	66,738	42,435	-214	11,096	234.2	4,003	(D)	66,068	41,520	-186	10,724	225.5	3,982	4,696
Switzerland	695,092	132,392	2,513	39,924	554.0	6,004	8,540	671,046	120,011	2,154	34,015	459.0	5,917	8,373
United Kingdom	734,634	363,251	14,877	111,871	1,189.9	16,970	25,105	637,335	331,175	12,270	100,143	1,102.8	16,303	24,701
Latin America and Other Western Hemisphere	146,009	105,033	-599	26,597	275.8	9,272	20,978	136,603	95,183	-813	25,073	262.1	8,998	17,488
<i>Of which:</i>														
Bermuda	60,491	35,792	-762	11,872	135.7	(D)	1,597	58,264	35,179	-715	11,796	132.2	(D)	1,592
Mexico	19,507	16,278	46	2,952	57.2	(D)	3,291	18,080	14,977	110	2,759	53.8	(D)	(D)
Panama	1,679	1,238	18	524	6.8	126	109	1,563	1,170	6	498	6.7	126	109
United Kingdom Islands, Caribbean	39,199	9,576	-360	1,673	34.1	(D)	1,947	38,679	9,298	-348	1,584	32.3	(D)	1,947
Venezuela	13,297	29,800	656	6,480	8.3	403	10,590	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	H	(D)	(D)
Africa	11,758	6,449	181	1,322	14.2	474	269	(D)	(D)	(D)	1,283	14.0	(D)	266
Middle East	29,912	16,011	568	3,150	50.9	802	1,846	27,434	14,301	489	2,434	38.1	789	1,758
Asia and Pacific	705,084	576,943	1,072	89,282	1,019.5	54,686	177,721	557,549	513,157	3,868	77,928	848.2	48,943	169,450
<i>Of which:</i>														
Australia	69,095	31,948	-643	9,319	83.3	1,428	1,438	60,519	25,605	-741	7,909	69.6	(D)	(D)
Japan	558,934	477,831	4,316	72,041	826.8	44,130	151,368	445,551	429,732	5,015	62,241	699.9	40,894	147,125
United States	246,060	41,707	5,625	11,510	63.9	2,004	1,287	(D)	(D)	(D)	5,320	29.4	(D)	1,192
By industry ¹														
Manufacturing	1,108,046	979,597	11,796	237,032	2,658.3	101,248	149,875	1,000,442	852,164	10,985	217,358	2,441.9	91,048	134,932
<i>Of which:</i>														
Food	45,143	47,388	302	11,018	147.6	2,467	4,398	44,099	45,567	296	10,631	140.8	2,374	4,377
Chemicals	257,094	160,496	3,887	44,832	386.8	15,528	16,388	238,314	145,362	3,195	40,821	356.7	14,295	16,099
Primary and fabricated metals	65,699	66,282	1,244	17,282	219.2	4,930	7,719	57,252	57,196	669	15,069	204.9	4,125	6,830
Machinery	66,528	54,207	-885	15,506	230.6	6,735	7,849	64,744	52,612	-36	15,323	223.6	6,545	7,375
Computers and electronic products	173,303	129,225	-4,847	28,705	337.4	19,329	37,731	137,673	117,587	-3,755	27,229	305.3	14,645	30,463
Electrical equipment, appliances, and components	66,099	60,221	280	19,878	284.4	8,717	4,284	65,680	59,765	254	19,737	282.7	8,583	4,231
Transportation equipment	199,695	205,220	3,890	35,016	390.8	30,731	46,806	192,444	193,099	3,519	32,278	358.3	29,213	(D)
Wholesale trade	407,715	637,978	14,530	86,444	574.4	57,844	207,041	398,811	616,015	13,683	82,849	543.7	54,431	204,816
Retail trade	74,259	114,977	-279	24,676	674.4	1,535	(D)	60,826	102,648	163	22,346	603.5	(D)	(D)
Information	318,489	121,684	-4,387	41,878	408.9	709	240	169,464	69,125	-4,050	19,959	242.8	687	161
<i>Of which:</i>														
Publishing industries	71,021	35,582	98	13,764	139.2	(D)	127	(D)	30,415	-385	10,695	122.8	(D)	(D)
Broadcasting and telecommunications	165,541	59,205	-3,848	21,895	178.4	5	(D)	38,335	13,517	-3,692	2,837	35.1	(*)	1
Finance (except depository institutions) and insurance	2,472,481	243,337	10,543	41,433	291.8	(*)	5	2,162,327	211,823	3,396	33,260	252.0	(*)	5
Real estate and rental and leasing	122,797	25,691	1,331	10,936	49.5	(D)	649	110,543	22,589	1,069	9,418	38.7	(D)	649
Professional, scientific, and technical services	51,405	32,241	-1,135	9,672	148.9	366	336	46,919	29,665	-634	9,038	133.4	356	336
Other industries	292,075	179,186	-1,759	70,167	1,623.1	(D)	(D)	231,172	148,994	-2,527	55,169	1,306.7	3,242	(D)

D Suppressed to avoid disclosure of data of individual companies.

* Less than \$500,000.

1. The industry classification system used to classify the data for U.S. affiliates is based on the North American Industry Classification System. Prior to 1997, the affiliate data were classified using an industry classification system based on the Standard Industrial Classification system.

NOTES: The data in this table are from BEA's annual survey of the operations of U.S. affiliates of foreign companies; see "U.S. Affiliates of Foreign Companies: Operations in 2000," in the August 2002 issue of the SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS.

Size ranges are given in employment cells that are suppressed. The size ranges are: A—1 to 499; F—500 to 999; G—1,000 to 2,499; H—2,500 to 4,999; I—5,000 to 9,999; J—10,000 to 24,999; K—25,000 to 49,999; L—50,000 to 99,999; M—100,000 or more.