

## Foreign Direct Investment stocks at the end of 2014

# The EU, a net investor in the rest of the world

## Main FDI partner: by far the United States

At the end of 2014, the **European Union (EU)** held Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) stocks of €5 749 billion in the rest of the world (+7.6% compared with the end of 2013), while stocks held by the rest of the world in the **EU** amounted to €4 583 bn (+9.6%), meaning that the **EU** held a net investment position of €1 166 bn vis-a-vis the rest of the world.

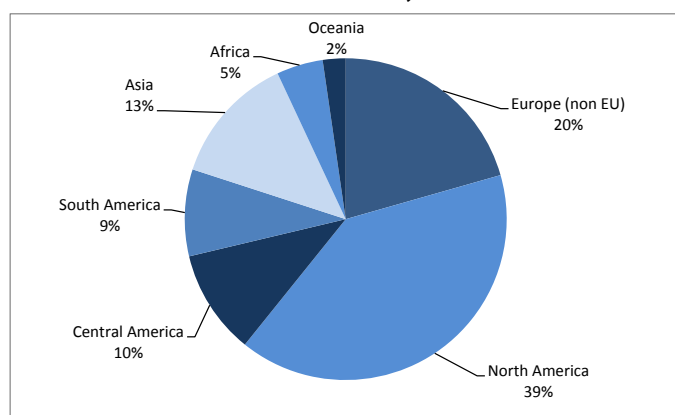
Special purpose entities (SPEs) resident in the EU played a significant role in both outward and inward FDI positions. At the end of 2014, they accounted for half (50%) of the FDI stocks held by the **EU** abroad and for 63% of the FDI stocks held by the rest of the world in the **EU**.

These data, subject to revision, are issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. The information on FDI stocks help to quantify the impact of globalisation and provide a measurement of longstanding economic links between countries. They provide an indication of the relative importance of a country's economic presence abroad, or that of foreign partners in the reporting entity, measured in terms of FDI capital.

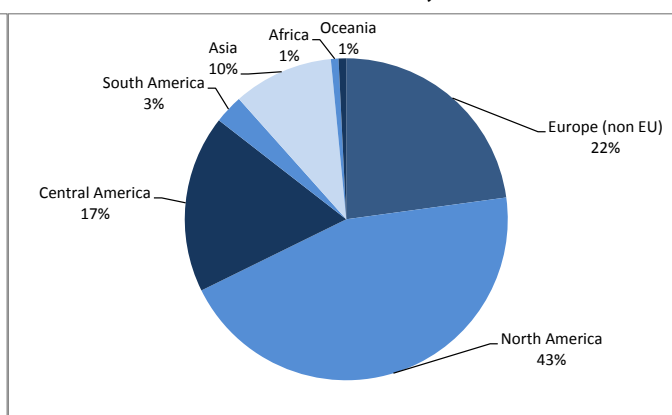
### More than a third of EU FDI stocks held in the USA

**North America**, and in particular the United States, represented the main partner of the **EU** for FDI. At the end of 2014, the **United States** (€1 985 bn, or 35% of total stocks held by the **EU** in the rest of the world) was the leading location of **EU** FDI stocks, followed by **Switzerland** (€632 bn or 11%), **Brazil** (€344 bn or 6%) and **Canada** (€275 bn or 5%). The **United States** was also by far the main investor in the EU (€1 811 bn, or 40% of total FDI stocks held by the rest of the world in the EU), ahead of **Switzerland** (€509 bn or 11%). Together, these two countries accounted for slightly over half of FDI stocks held by the rest of the world in the EU at the end of 2014.

**Share of stocks held by the EU in the rest of the world, end of 2014**



**Share of stocks held by the rest of the world in the EU, end of 2014**



## Foreign Direct Investment stocks by partner, end of 2014

	Stocks held by the EU in the rest of the world				Stocks held by the rest of the world in the EU			
	Total		of which held by resident SPEs		Total		of which held in resident SPEs	
	in € bn	Share	in € bn	SPEs/ Total	in € bn	Share	in € bn	SPEs/ Total
<b>Total extra EU</b>	<b>5748.6</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2861.6</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>4582.5</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2902.7</b>	<b>63%</b>
<b>Europe (non EU), of which</b>	<b>1157.6</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>637.4</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>1006.2</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>500.1</b>	<b>50%</b>
Switzerland	632.3	11%	386.4	61%	509.4	11%	225.0	44%
Norway	71.7	1%	20.7	29%	70.0	2%	16.7	24%
Russia	171.5	3%	101.7	59%	74.4	2%	33.5	45%
Turkey	64.9	1%	15.7	24%	8.3	0%	2.0	24%
Ukraine	16.4	0%	:	:	0.9	0%	:	:
<b>Africa, of which</b>	<b>262.2</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>107.5</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>45%</b>
Egypt	54.0	1%	25.9	48%	8.5	0%	8.2	96%
Morocco	14.5	0%	0.9	6%	1.2	0%	0.0	0%
Nigeria	29.1	1%	13.2	45%	3.8	0%	2.3	60%
South Africa	56.5	1%	28.8	51%	8.4	0%	1.1	14%
<b>North America, of which</b>	<b>2260.1</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>1203.3</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>1977.0</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>1337.4</b>	<b>68%</b>
Canada	274.7	5%	173.3	63%	165.9	4%	124.5	75%
United States	1985.3	35%	1030.0	52%	1810.8	40%	1212.9	67%
<b>Central America, of which</b>	<b>591.1</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>334.1</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>785.5</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>584.9</b>	<b>74%</b>
Mexico	119.2	2%	53.3	45%	28.3	1%	19.2	68%
<b>South America, of which</b>	<b>490.6</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>260.1</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>127.4</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>105.1</b>	<b>82%</b>
Argentina	35.2	1%	10.5	30%	1.3	0%	0.7	51%
Brazil	343.6	6%	213.8	62%	113.6	2%	100.6	89%
Chile	39.8	1%	11.4	29%	1.0	0%	0.9	90%
Venezuela	28.6	0%	7.1	25%	2.1	0%	1.0	48%
<b>Asia, of which</b>	<b>733.2</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>169.1</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>442.5</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>183.6</b>	<b>41%</b>
<i>Israel</i>	13.6	0%	:	:	39.0	1%	:	:
<i>Gulf Arabian countries</i>	52.4	1%	2.9	6%	60.9	1%	28.7	47%
<i>China*</i>	144.2	3%	15.1	11%	20.7	0%	11.5	55%
<i>Hong Kong</i>	106.3	2%	16.9	16%	71.2	2%	41.8	59%
<i>Japan</i>	73.0	1%	21.6	30%	166.3	4%	34.1	21%
<i>India</i>	38.5	1%	6.0	16%	6.7	0%	1.4	20%
<i>Singapore</i>	102.9	2%	12.4	12%	43.8	1%	29.1	66%
<i>South Korea</i>	43.7	1%	19.2	44%	20.3	0%	0.5	3%
<b>Oceania, of which</b>	<b>129.0</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>23%</b>
<i>Australia</i>	115.3	2%	34.6	30%	26.4	1%	2.7	10%
<i>New Zealand</i>	7.2	0%	2.7	37%	3.3	0%	2.2	65%
<b>Offshore Financial Centres</b>	<b>853.8</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>406.8</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>1226.3</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>865.4</b>	<b>71%</b>

\* Excluding Hong Kong

The sum of continents does not always equal total extra-EU due to rounding and because of not allocated stocks.

The source dataset can be found [here](#).

## Geographical information

The **European Union (EU)** includes Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

**Gulf Arabian countries** include Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen

**Offshore Financial Centres (OFC)** is an aggregate which includes 40 countries. As examples, the aggregate contains European financial centres, such as Liechtenstein, Guernsey, Jersey, the Isle of Man, Andorra and Gibraltar; Central American OFC such as Panama and Caribbean islands like Bermuda, the Bahamas, the Cayman Islands and the Virgin Islands; and Asian OFC such as Bahrain, Hong Kong, Singapore and Philippines. Therefore, the countries included in the OFC aggregate are also included in the corresponding continental aggregate.

## Methods and definitions

The main methodological reference used for the production of statistics on foreign direct investment stocks is the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s sixth balance of payments manual (BPM6).

**Foreign direct investment (FDI) stocks** denote the value of the investment at the end of the period. **FDI** are the category of international investment that reflects the objective of obtaining a lasting interest by an investor in one economy in an enterprise resident in another economy. The lasting interest implies that a long-term relationship exists between the investor and the enterprise, and that the investor has a significant influence on the way the enterprise is managed. Such an interest is formally deemed to exist when a direct investor owns 10% or more of the voting power on the board of directors (for an incorporated enterprise) or the equivalent (for an unincorporated enterprise).

**Special Purpose Entities (SPEs)** are mainly financial holding companies, foreign-owned, and principally engaged in cross-border financial transactions, with no or negligible local activity in the Member State of residence. Data on FDI held abroad by resident SPEs and by the rest of the world in resident SPEs are only available for some selected partner countries, for the Offshore Financial Centres aggregate and for the Total Extra-EU aggregate.

## Revisions and time table

The figures presented in this news release correspond to the latest annual FDI data transmission by the EU Member States. Data for the EU aggregate take into account confidential data and estimates for Member States missing data. This ensures adherence to international standards and exhaustiveness of the EU aggregates. The annual data covered in this News Release will be updated in one year's time when revised data will be transmitted by Member States.

## For more information

Eurostat website section dedicated to foreign direct investment statistics

Eurostat database on balance of payments and EU direct investments

Issued by: **Eurostat Press Office:**

**Vincent BOURGEAIS**  
Tel: +352-4301-33 444  
[eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu](mailto:eurostat-pressoffice@ec.europa.eu)


 [ec.europa.eu/eurostat/](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/)

 [@EU Eurostat](https://twitter.com/EU_Eurostat)

Production of data:

**Jean-François YATTIEN-AMIGUET**  
Tel: +352-4301-33 977  
[jean-francois.yattien-amiguette@ec.europa.eu](mailto:jean-francois.yattien-amiguette@ec.europa.eu)

**Radoslav ISTATKOV**  
Tel: +352-4301-30 101  
[radoslav.istatkov@ec.europa.eu](mailto:radoslav.istatkov@ec.europa.eu)

 **Media requests:** Eurostat media support / Tel: +352-4301-33 408 / [eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu](mailto:eurostat-mediasupport@ec.europa.eu)