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Foreign Direct Investment stocks at the end of 2016

The net investment position of the EU slightly up at over €1 300 billion

The United States: by far the main FDI partner

Net foreign direct investment (FDI) stocks held in the rest of the world by investors resident in the **European Union** (EU) amounted to €7 600 bn at the end of 2016, up by 4.6% compared with the end of 2015. Meanwhile, investment stocks held by the rest of the world in the **EU** rose at almost the same pace to €6 270 bn at the end of 2016 (+4.5%). In other words, the **EU** slightly consolidated a net investment position of €1 330 bn vis-a-vis the rest of the world.

Special Purpose Entities (SPEs) resident in the EU reinforced their major role in FDI, accounting for 54.5% of the total **EU** FDI stocks held abroad and for 63.9% of the FDI stocks held by the rest of the world in the **EU**.

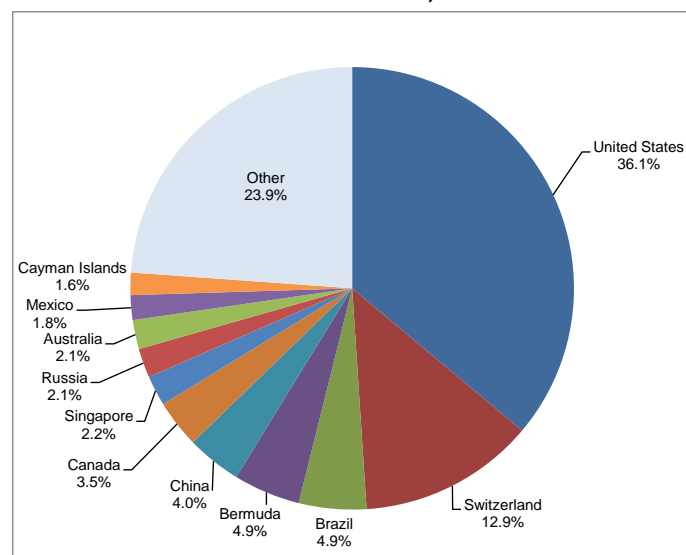
These data, subject to revision, are issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. FDI stocks help to quantify the impact of globalisation and measure longstanding economic links between countries (according to immediate counterpart criteria). They provide an indication of the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

EU and US markets remain highly interconnected

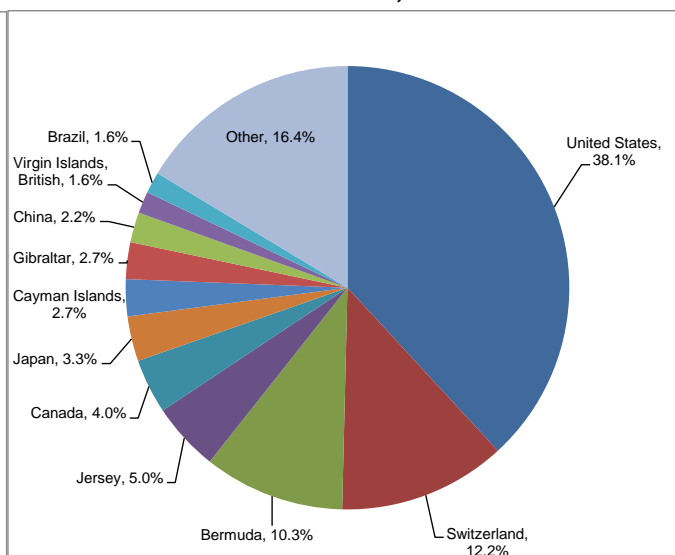
At the end of 2016, the **United States** absorbed 36.1% of the total FDI stocks held by the EU in the rest of the world (€2 744 bn), far ahead of **Switzerland** (€977 bn or 12.9%), **Brazil** (€373 bn or 4.9%), **Bermuda** (€370 bn or 4.9%), **China** (€304 bn or 4.0%) and **Canada** (€265 bn or 3.5%).

In the reverse direction, **United States'** direct investors slightly decreased (-2.5%) their presence in the EU to €2 391 bn of FDI stocks at the end of 2016 (or 38.1% of total FDI stocks held by the rest of the world in the EU). They were followed by those from **Switzerland** (€767 bn or 12.2%), the offshore financial centres of **Bermuda** (€644 bn or 10.3%) and **Jersey** (€314 bn or 5.0%), **Canada** (€250 bn or 4.0%) and **Japan** (€206 bn, or 3.3%).

Share of FDI stocks held by the EU in the rest of the world, end of 2016



Share of FDI stocks held by the rest of the world in the EU, end of 2016



Foreign Direct Investment stocks by partner, end of 2016

	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	
	€ bn	Share	€ bn	SPEs/ Total	€ bn	Share	€ bn	SPEs/ Tot
Total extra EU	7 599	100.0%	4 143	54.5%	6 268	100.0%	4 007	63.9%
Europe (non EU), of which	1 537	20.2%	951	61.9%	1 491	23.8%	774	51.9%
Switzerland	977	12.9%	697	71.4%	767	12.2%	327	42.7%
Norway	94	1.2%	24	25.4%	75	1.2%	28	37.0%
Guernsey	17	0.2%	:	:	35	0.6%	:	:
Gibraltar	77	1.0%	:	:	168	2.7%	:	:
Jersey	73	1.0%	:	:	314	5.0%	:	:
Russia	162	2.1%	83	51.4%	85	1.4%	39	45.9%
Turkey	72	1.0%	20	28.3%	9	0.2%	3	30.3%
Africa, of which	291	3.8%	111	38.1%	21	0.3%	0	<1%
Egypt	43	0.6%	14	33.4%	0	0.0%	0	27.9%
<i>Maghreb countries</i>	35	0.5%			3	0.0%	:	:
Angola	35	0.5%			0	0.0%	:	:
Nigeria	40	0.5%	17	44.1%	1	0.0%	0	19.1%
South Africa	71	0.9%	28	39.4%	13	0.2%	3	19.6%
America, of which	4 456	58.6%	2 624	58.9%	3 894	62.1%	2 717	69.8%
Canada	265	3.5%	177	67.0%	250	4.0%	216	86.5%
United States	2744	36.1%	1 561	56.9%	2 391	38.1%	1 505	62.9%
Barbados	55	0.7%	:	:	6	0.1%	:	:
Bermuda	370	4.9%	:	:	644	10.3%	:	:
Bahamas	59	0.8%	:	:	72	1.1%	:	:
Curaçao	77	1.0%	:	:	86	1.4%	:	:
Cayman Islands	124	1.6%	:	:	169	2.7%	:	:
Mexico	137	1.8%	75	54.5%	42	0.7%	24	56.1%
Virgin Islands, British	47	0.6%	:	:	99	1.6%	:	:
Argentina	40	0.5%	10	23.8%	1	0.0%	0	16.3%
Brazil	373	4.9%	166	44.3%	97	1.6%	89	91.4%
Chile	47	0.6%	11	23.6%	1	0.0%	0	27.1%
Asia, of which	1 014	13.4%	311	30.7%	629	10.0%	341	54.3%
Israel	25	0.3%	:	:	62	1.0%	:	:
<i>Gulf Arabian countries</i>	103	1.4%	:	:	71	1.1%	:	:
China (incl. Hong Kong)	304	4.0%	52	17.0%	136	2.2%	70	51.5%
Japan	83	1.1%	20	23.8%	206	3.3%	70	33.9%
India	73	1.0%	13	17.7%	5	0.1%	2	44.9%
Singapore	168	2.2%	85	50.5%	88	1.4%	80	91.3%
South Korea	50	0.7%	17	32.9%	19	0.3%	1	5.1%
Indonesia	34	0.4%	19	55.1%	0	0.0%	:	:
Kazakhstan	64	0.8%	:	:	2	0.0%	:	:
Oceania, of which	187	2.5%	68	36.6%	28	0.4%	15	54.7%
<i>Australia</i>	161	2.1%	51	31.8%	19	0.3%	9	45.5%
Offshore Financial Centres	1 276	16.8%	845	66.2%	1 838	29.3%	1 382	75.2%

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

: Data not available

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.

Maghreb countries include Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.

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

Eurostat Statistics Explained article on FDI statistics methodology

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