

Foreign Direct Investment stocks at the end of 2017

The net investment position of the EU down at €1 100 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 €7 412 bn at the end of 2017, down by 4.8% compared with the end of 2016. Meanwhile, investment stocks held by the rest of the world in the **EU** remained almost stable at €6 295 bn at the end of 2017 (-0.3%). In other words, the **EU**'s net investment position vis-a-vis the rest of the world decreased from €1 469 bn at the end of 2016 to €1 117 bn at the end of 2017.

Special Purpose Entities (SPEs) resident in the EU maintained their strong role in FDI, accounting for 48.7% of the total **EU** FDI stocks held abroad and for 59.7% of the FDI stocks held by the rest of the world in the **EU**, compared with 49.9% and 60.0% respectively in 2016.

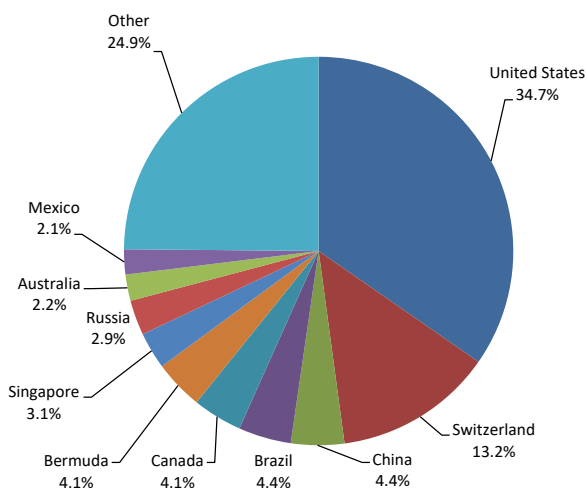
These data, subject to revision, are issued by **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. FDI stocks help to quantify the impact of globalisation and measure longstanding economic links between countries (according to immediate counterpart criteria). They provide an indication of the 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

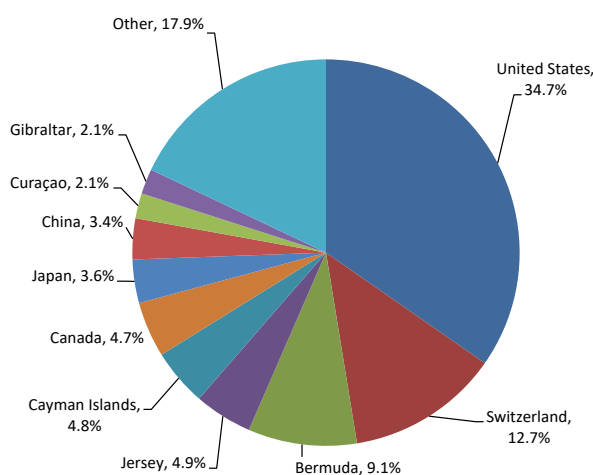
At the end of 2017, the **United States** absorbed 34.7% of the total FDI stocks held by the EU in the rest of the world (€2 569 bn), far ahead of **Switzerland** (€979 bn or 13.2%), **China** (€328 bn or 4.4%), **Brazil** (€324 bn or 4.4%), **Canada** (€305 bn or 4.1%), and **Bermuda** (€304 bn or 4.1%).

In the reverse direction, **United States**' direct investors accounted for 34.7% (€2 184 bn) of the total FDI stocks held by the rest of the world in the EU at the end of 2017. They were followed by those from **Switzerland** (€802 bn or 12.7%), the offshore financial centres of **Bermuda** (€572 bn or 9.1%), **Jersey** (€306 bn or 4.9%) and **Cayman Islands** (€300 bn, or 4.8%), as well as **Canada** (€293 bn or 4.7%).

Share of FDI stocks held by the EU in the rest of the world, end of 2017



Share of FDI stocks held by the rest of the world in the EU, end of 2017



Foreign Direct Investment stocks by partner, end of 2017

	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	7 412	100.0%	3 607	48.7%	6 295	100.0%	3 761	59.7%
Europe (non EU), of which	979	13.2%	914	93.3%	1 542	24.5%	689	44.7%
Switzerland	979	13.2%	622	63.5%	802	12.7%	297	37.0%
Norway	90	1.2%	29	32.0%	94	1.5%	37	39.4%
Guernsey	20	0.3%	:	:	47	0.7%	:	:
Gibraltar	65	0.9%	:	:	132	2.1%	:	:
Isle of Man	34	0.5%	:	:	9	0.2%	:	:
Jersey	55	0.7%	:	:	306	4.9%	:	:
Russia	216	2.9%	133	61.5%	84	1.3%	32	38.6%
Turkey	69	0.9%	16	23.3%	19	0.3%	11	58.6%
Africa, of which	260	3.5%	66	25.5%	26	0.4%	5	19.8%
Egypt	39	0.5%	3	8.1%	1	0.0%	0	52.8%
<i>Maghreb countries</i>	37	0.5%	:	:	3	0.0%	:	:
Nigeria	37	0.5%	11	29.2%	2	0.0%	2	86.2%
South Africa	60	0.8%	16	26.5%	12	0.2%	2	18.4%
America, of which	4 192	56.6%	2 189	52.2%	3 857	61.3%	2 610	67.7%
Canada	305	4.1%	185	60.6%	293	4.7%	258	88.1%
United States	2 569	34.7%	1 302	50.7%	2 184	34.7%	1 361	62.3%
Barbados	41	0.6%	:	:	64	1.0%	:	:
Bermuda	304	4.1%	:	:	572	9.1%	:	:
Bahamas	54	0.7%	:	:	73	1.2%	:	:
Curaçao	85	1.1%	:	:	132	2.1%	:	:
Cayman Islands	42	0.6%	:	:	300	4.8%	:	:
Mexico	154	2.1%	51	32.7%	48	0.8%	10	21.1%
Virgin Islands, British	97	1.3%	:	:	93	1.5%	:	:
Argentina	45	0.6%	17	36.8%	2	0.0%	1	26.9%
Brazil	324	4.4%	126	39.0%	45	0.7%	48	107.9%
Chile	52	0.7%	14	27.8%	2	0.0%	0	-1.9%
Asia, of which	1 131	15.3%	358	31.6%	803	12.7%	429	53.5%
Israel	30	0.4%	:	:	58	0.9%	:	:
<i>Gulf Arabian countries</i>	98	1.3%	14	14.3%	92	1.5%	59	64.6%
China (incl. Hong Kong)	328	4.4%	57	17.4%	216	3.4%	135	62.5%
Japan	99	1.3%	36	36.2%	229	3.6%	88	38.5%
India	77	1.0%	11	14.8%	11	0.2%	8	75.7%
Singapore	227	3.1%	131	57.8%	117	1.9%	103	87.5%
South Korea	51	0.7%	12	23.5%	28	0.4%	2	6.1%
Indonesia	33	0.4%	16	49.2%	1	0.0%	0	-82.4%
Kazakhstan	61	0.8%	:	:	11	0.2%	:	:
<i>NICs2 Asia</i>	59	0.8%	:	:	20	0.3%	:	:
Oceania, of which	185	2.5%	66	35.7%	36	0.6%	19	54.0%
Australia	162	2.2%	52	32.0%	26	0.4%	11	43.7%
Offshore Financial Centres	1 258	17.0%	767	61.0%	2 094	33.3%	1 460	69.7%

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, Czechia, 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.

NICs2 Asia (Asian NICs of the second wave of industrialisation) include Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand.

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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