

Statistical Conventions

- BEA's direct investment statistics are primarily based on data reported in the Quarterly Survey of U.S. Direct Investment Abroad (BE-577) and the Quarterly Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States (BE-605). Both surveys are conducted by BEA.
- The countries identified in this article reflect the location of the immediate counterpart, unless otherwise noted. The countries identified for the U.S. direct investment abroad position may not reflect the ultimate destination of the funds. Likewise, the countries identified for the foreign direct investment position in the United States may not reflect the ultimate source of the funds, which is often the ultimate beneficial owner.
- The direct investment positions in this article are valued at historical cost. Positions reflect the book value of direct investors' equity in, and net outstanding loans to, their affiliates. This valuation is derived principally from the accounting records of affiliates, which are primarily compiled under U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles or International Financial Reporting Standards. This differs from the market value measure featured in the U.S. International Investment Position Accounts.
- This article presents statistics on a directional basis rather than the on the asset/liability basis featured in the U.S. International Transactions Accounts and the U.S. International Investment Position Accounts. On a directional basis, direct investment claims and liabilities are classified according to whether the direct investor is a U.S. resident or a foreign resident. U.S. direct investment abroad occurs between a U.S. parent and its foreign affiliates. Foreign direct investment in the United States occurs between a foreign parent and its U.S. affiliates. On an asset/liability basis, direct investment statistics are organized according to whether the investment relates to an asset or liability for U.S. parents or for U.S. affiliates of foreign parents.