

Taking Account...

Summary estimates of 2011 MNC activity released

Employment by U.S. multinational companies (MNCs) worldwide increased 1.5 percent in 2011 to 34.5 million workers, primarily reflecting increases abroad. In the United States, employment by U.S. parent companies increased 0.1 percent to 22.9 million workers, compared with a 1.8 percent increase in total private-industry employment in the United States.

In April, as is customary, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) released advance summary statistics on employment, capital spending, and sales by U.S. parent companies, their foreign affiliates, and U.S. affiliates of foreign MNCs. Statistics based on more complete source data, including country and industry detail, will be released later this year.

For both U.S. MNCs and U.S. affiliates of foreign MNCs, employment covers the total number of full-time and part-time employees at the end of the fiscal year. Sales are defined as gross operating revenues—gross sales minus returns, allowances, and discounts. Capital expenditures are defined as total expenditures on property, plant, and equipment.

The statistics were constructed from data collected in two surveys: (1) a survey of U.S. MNCs that covers the operations of both U.S. parent companies and their foreign affiliates

and (2) a survey of the operations of U.S. affiliates of foreign MNCs.

Additional details for U.S. MNCs:

- The total employment by U.S. parents accounted for roughly one-fifth of total U.S. employment in private industries. Abroad, employment by majority-owned foreign affiliates of U.S. MNCs increased 4.4 percent to 11.7 million workers.
- The U.S. parent share of worldwide employment of U.S. MNCs fell nearly 1 percentage point in 2011 to 66 percent.
- Worldwide capital expenditures by U.S. MNCs increased 16.7 percent in 2011 to \$706 billion. Capital expenditures in the United States by U.S. parent companies increased 17.1 percent to \$514 billion. Capital expenditures abroad by majority-owned foreign affiliates increased 15.4 percent to \$192 billion.
- The U.S. parent share of worldwide capital expenditures of U.S. MNCs in 2011 was 73 percent, little changed from 2010.
- Sales by U.S. parent companies increased 9.4 percent in 2011 to \$10,696 billion. Sales by their majority-owned foreign affiliates increased 15.8 percent to \$5,985 billion.

Details regarding U.S. operations of foreign MNCs:

- Employment in the United States by majority-owned

affiliates of foreign MNCs rose 3.3 percent to 5.6 million workers in 2011. U.S. affiliates accounted for 5.0 percent of U.S. private-industry employment in 2011, about 0.1 percentage point higher than in 2010.

- Capital expenditures by U.S. affiliates rose 12.3 percent in 2011 to \$173 billion.
- Sales by U.S. affiliates rose 11.9 percent in 2011 to \$3,491 billion.

For more information, please see the news release on the BEA Web site at www.bea.gov/newsreleases/international/mnc/2013/mnc2011.htm.

BEA offers new multimedia tools for users

BEA has launched a new multimedia tool that provides an array of videos and TV clips to help users navigate the Bureau's vast interactive statistical database, learn how to use the eFile system to submit information for economic surveys, learn about the BE-12 benchmark survey of foreign direct investment in the United States, and simply find information relevant to specific needs.

The multimedia content is organized on the BEA Web site as follows:

- TV shows featuring BEA data
- Help finding economic data
- Using BEA's interactive data system
- Help with filing BEA surveys

To access the new tool, visit www.bea.gov/video/index.htm.