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|  | *xWH EU Exit Data Strategy* | | | | | | | |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |
|  |  | |  | **Title** | Foreign direct investment involving UK companies | | | |  |
|  |  | **Producer** | ONS | | | |  |
|  |  | **Category** | Foreign direct investment | | | |  |
|  | ***[***[***LINK TO SOURCE***](https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/nationalaccounts/balanceofpayments/bulletins/foreigndirectinvestmentinvolvingukcompanies/previousReleases)***]*** | |  | **Frequency** *(+lag)* | Annual (t + 11 months, statistics for the previous calendar year are published in the following December) | | | |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |
|  | **Description** | | |  | |  | **Key Info** |  |  |
|  | * Investment of UK companies abroad (outward) and foreign companies into the UK (inward), including investment flows, positions and earnings, by country, component and industry. * Detailed inward and outward statistical tables are published with this bulletin. * These statistics are presented using the directional principle, as opposed to the asset and liability principle. Further information on the differences between these principles can be found [here](https://www.slideshare.net/statisticsONS/foreign-direct-investment-measurement-principles-explained). * Estimates are net values from the perspective of the parent company (ie. the value of loans provided to the subsidiary by the parent, minus the value of loans provided to the parent by the subsidiary). * Statistics also report on the immediate investment rather than the ultimate controlling parent company or ultimate host country. | | | | |  | Access | Open |  |
|  |  | Group | Inward/Outward FDI earnings, flows and positions |  |
|  |  | Aggregation | Industry, geography and components |  |
|  |  | Classification | Compiled according to [OECD Benchmark Definition of Foreign Direct Investment](https://www.oecd.org/daf/inv/investmentstatisticsandanalysis/40193734.pdf) |  |
|  |  | Reporting Unit | £ million, current prices |  |
|  |  | Source | Mainly Annual Foreign Direct Investment Survey (inward and outward) |  |
|  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Recommended Usage** | | |  |  |  | **Contacts** |  |  |
|  | * Directional FDI statistics show the cross-border transactions of UK companies with their overseas affiliates (outward) or between UK-based affiliates and their overseas parent company (inward). * These statistics should be used when transactions with the parent company are of interest. * Directional FDI statistics are more useful for studying the nature and motivations of foreign direction investment. For example, for investigating the source countries of direct investment in a particular country or for assessing the access to specific foreign markets by direct investors in that country (further information from the OECD is available [here](https://www.oecd.org/daf/inv/FDI-statistics-asset-liability-vs-directional-presentation.pdf)). Whereas asset/liability-based statistics are more appropriate for macroeconomic analyses. | | | | |  | Key department | ONS  fdi@ons.gov.uk |  |
|  |  | Key individuals | **Andrew Jowett**  Andrew.jowett@ons.gov.uk  **Lee Mallett**  Lee.mallett@ons.gov.uk |  |
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|  | **Quality Indicators** | | |  |  |  | **Related Datasets** |  |  |
|  | **Status** | National Statistics | | | |  | * An [ad hoc data](https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/nationalaccounts/balanceofpayments/adhocs/009763foreigndirectinvestmentfditotalsforinwardandoutwardflowspositionsandearnings2016to2017) request provides more detail on FDI by country for 2016 and 2017 * These statistics have been used in some of our ongoing analysis of FDI statistics: [UK Foreign direct investment, trends and analysis](https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/nationalaccounts/balanceofpayments/articles/ukforeigndirectinvestmenttrendsandanalysis/previousReleases) * Equivalent tables using the [asset and liability principle](https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/nationalaccounts/balanceofpayments/bulletins/foreigndirectinvestmentinvolvingukcompaniesassetandliability/previousReleases) are available in a separate statistical bulletin. * We have also completed some [international comparisons of FDI results](https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/nationalaccounts/balanceofpayments/articles/internationalperspectiveonukforeigndirectinvestmentfdi/previousReleases) using [OECD statistics](https://stats.oecd.org/). * The asset and liability and directional measurement principles use the same FDI data to calculate those statistics; [an explanation of these calculations](https://www.slideshare.net/statisticsONS/foreign-direct-investment-measurement-principles-explained) is available. | |  |
|  | **Strengths +** | * Provides information on the country and industry of FDI involving UK companies. * Components for FDI flows, earning and positions are also available * Provides detail on cross-border investments involving UK companies. | | | |  |  |
|  | **Weaknesses -** | * These statistics are not comparable with Balance of Payments or our separate mergers and acquisitions (M&A) bulletins * Some values are suppressed to mitigate disclosure. | | | |  |  |
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