

## COVID-19 disruptions send global FDI plunging 50%

- **Global FDI flows fell by 50%** in the first half of 2020 compared to the second half of 2019, to USD 364 billion, the lowest half-year level since 2013. They dropped by 41% in Q1 and by 39% in Q2 on a quarter-to-quarter basis.
- **Inflows to the OECD area dropped by 74%** in the same period, largely driven by lower flows to the United States and by disinvestments from Switzerland, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. **Outflows from the OECD area decreased by 43%.**
- **OECD area equity capital inflows dropped by 68%**, driven primarily by equity divestments in Switzerland and the Netherlands and partly by investors becoming more reluctant to explore new investment opportunities in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Large negative levels of intra-company debt flows further accentuated the drop in total FDI flows.
- **OECD area earnings on inward FDI decreased by 23% and companies reinvested a slightly lower share of those earnings** compared to the second half of 2019. This could be because some MNEs continued to distribute a constant amount of earnings while others might have decided to distribute a higher share of earnings to support other parts of their operation during the crisis.
- **FDI inflows to non-OECD G20 countries decreased by 30% and FDI outflows decreased by 60%**, largely driven by disinvestments from Brazil.
- **Completed cross-border M&A deals dropped by 11% in advanced economies and remained depressed in Q3. Announced greenfield projects in emerging markets and developing economies dropped by 46%**, driven primarily by the manufacturing sector.
- In the first stages of the pandemic, the most pessimistic **OECD scenario projected a 40% drop in global FDI flows** due to COVID-19. **Given developments since then, this percentage could drop even lower.**

### In this issue

- Recent developments
- FDI flows by instrument
- FDI income by component
- M&A and greenfield projects
- Tables of FDI statistics

### Find latest FDI data online

Detailed FDI statistics by partner country and by industry are available from **OECD's online FDI database** (see pre-defined queries). Find detailed information on inward and outward FDI flows, income and positions by main destination or source country, by industry sector, and for resident SPEs as well as information on inward FDI positions by ultimate investing country. Detailed data for 2019 will be available in December 2020.

## 1 Recent developments

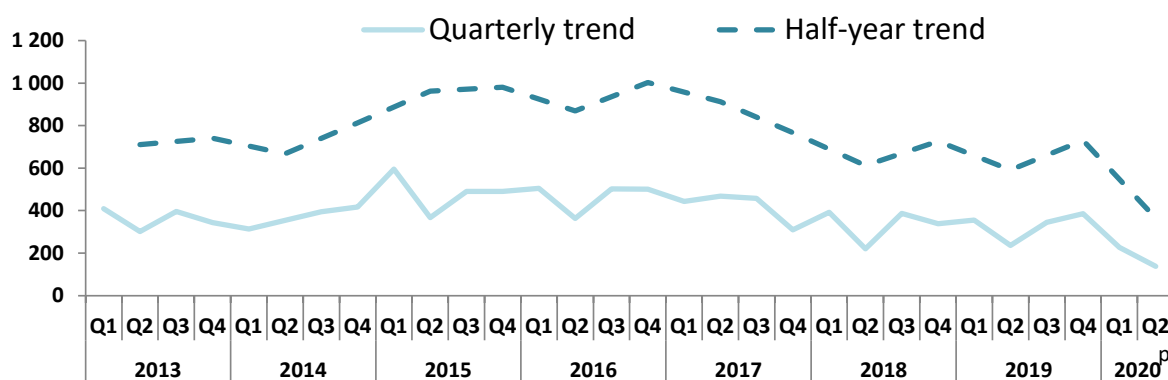
In the first half of 2020, global FDI flows<sup>1</sup> fell by 50% compared to the last half of 2019 to USD 364 billion as a consequence of the pandemic and the resulting supply disruptions, demand contractions, and pessimistic outlook of economic actors. FDI flows dropped by 41% to USD 227 billion in Q1 2020 and by 39% to USD 137 billion in Q2 2020. This means a drop of 38% in global FDI flows compared to the first half of 2019. The decrease was largely due to lower investments in the United States and in 18 other OECD countries, and to disinvestments from Switzerland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and, to a lesser extent, Norway. This decline is accentuating and accelerating the steady decline of FDI flows observed in the past five years. In the first stages of the pandemic, the OECD projected a 40% drop in global FDI flows due to COVID-19 under the most pessimistic scenario (see [FDI flows in times of COVID-19](#)). This percentage could drop even lower in view of the developments in the first half of the year, and considering that new investment projects and earnings of MNEs could remain depressed.

<sup>1</sup> By definition, inward and outward FDI worldwide should be equal, but in practice, there are statistical discrepancies between inward and outward FDI. Unless otherwise specified, references to 'global FDI flows' refer to the average of these two figures.

For example, the latest S&P 500 report from Refinitiv indicates that earnings dropped year-on-year by 13% and by 31% in Q1 and Q2 2020 respectively and they are estimated to decline by 19% in Q3. Finally, FDI figures may be revised as national compilers face challenges to produce Balance of Payments statistics in this period.

Figure 1 shows quarterly and half-year trends for global FDI flows from 2013 to Q2 2020.<sup>2</sup> In the first half of 2020, global FDI flows were 50% lower than in the second half of 2019 and 38% lower than in the first half of 2019. They were lower than any half-year level observed in 2013-2019. In Q2 2020, FDI flows dropped by 41% compared to Q1 2020, to USD 137 billion, their lowest level observed since Q1 2013.<sup>3</sup>

**Figure 1: Global FDI flows, Q1 2013-Q2 2020 (USD billion)**



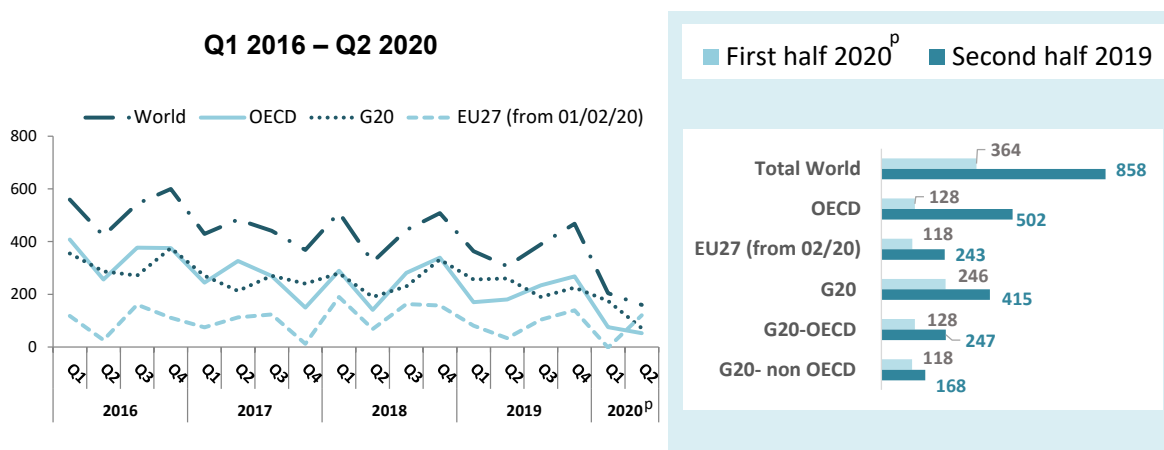
Notes: p: preliminary estimates.

Source: OECD International Direct Investment Statistics database.

## Inflows

**By region, FDI flows to the OECD area decreased by 74% in the first half of 2020, to USD 128 billion (Figure 2).** The decrease was mostly driven by large decreases in the United States as FDI flows were halved compared to the second half of 2019, and to disinvestments from the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and to a lesser extent Norway (Figure 3). Eighteen other OECD countries also recorded decreased inflows. In contrast, FDI inflows increased by more than USD 10 billion in France, Germany, Spain and Sweden.

**Figure 2: FDI inflows for selected areas, Q1 2016-Q2 2020 (USD billion)**



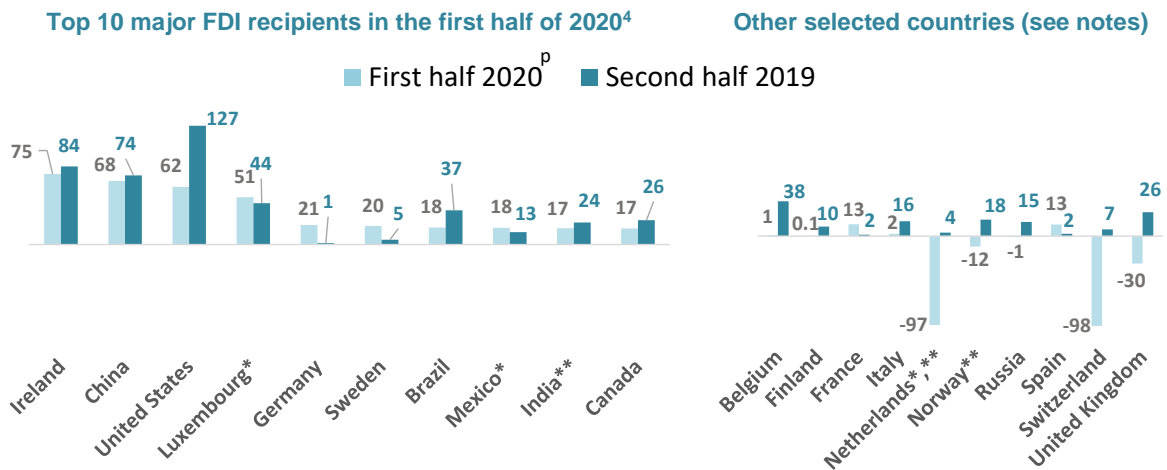
Notes: p: preliminary estimates

Source: OECD International Direct Investment Statistics database.

<sup>2</sup> The measure was constructed using FDI statistics on a directional basis whenever available, supplemented by measures on an asset/liability basis when needed. See Notes for tables 1 and 2 on page 12 for details. Data are as of 8 October 2019.

<sup>3</sup> Quarterly FDI flows data are typically more volatile as they are often affected by few large transactions during the quarter.

**Figure 3: FDI inflows for selected countries, Q3 2019 – Q2 2020 (USD billion)**



Notes: p: preliminary estimates. ‘Other selected countries’ recorded increases or decreases of more than USD 10 billion in their FDI inflows. \* Data exclude resident SPEs. \*\*Asset/liability basis.  
Source: OECD International Direct Investment Statistics database.

FDI flows into **EU27** countries declined by 51%, mostly due to disinvestments in the Netherlands already mentioned and to decreases surpassing USD 10 billion in Belgium, Italy and Finland (Figure 3).

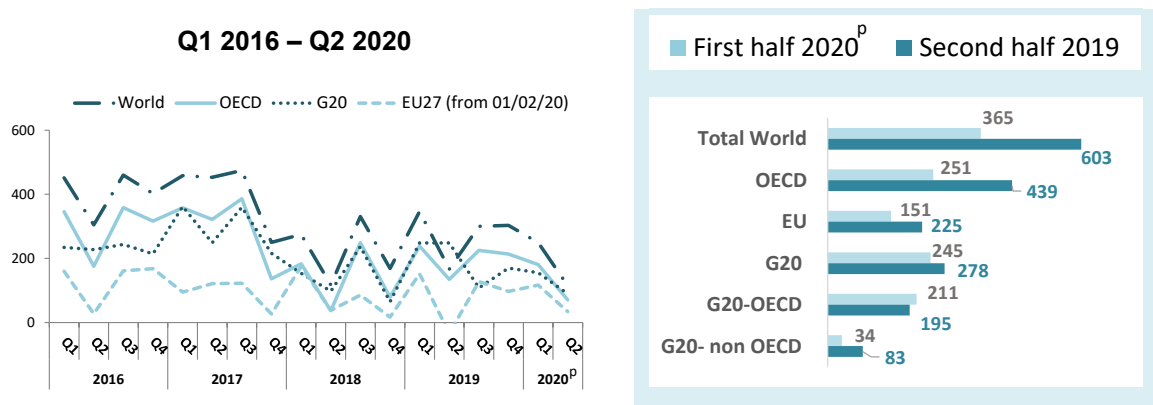
FDI inflows to **G20** economies decreased by 41%. They dropped by 48% in OECD G20 economies and by 30% in non-OECD G20 economies. Decreases were widespread across all non-OECD G20 countries, except in South Africa where FDI inflows increased by 48%.

In the first half of 2020, Ireland was the major FDI recipient worldwide, followed by China, the United States and Luxembourg.<sup>4</sup>

### Outflows

**By region, FDI outflows from the OECD area decreased by 43%** in the first half of 2020 from the last half of 2019 (Figure 4) to USD 251 billion. This was mostly due to decreases from Japan, Canada and Italy, and to disinvestments from the Netherlands, Switzerland and Ireland. Partly offsetting this were large increases from Luxembourg, Germany, Sweden and to a lesser extent Spain, France and the United States (Figure 5).

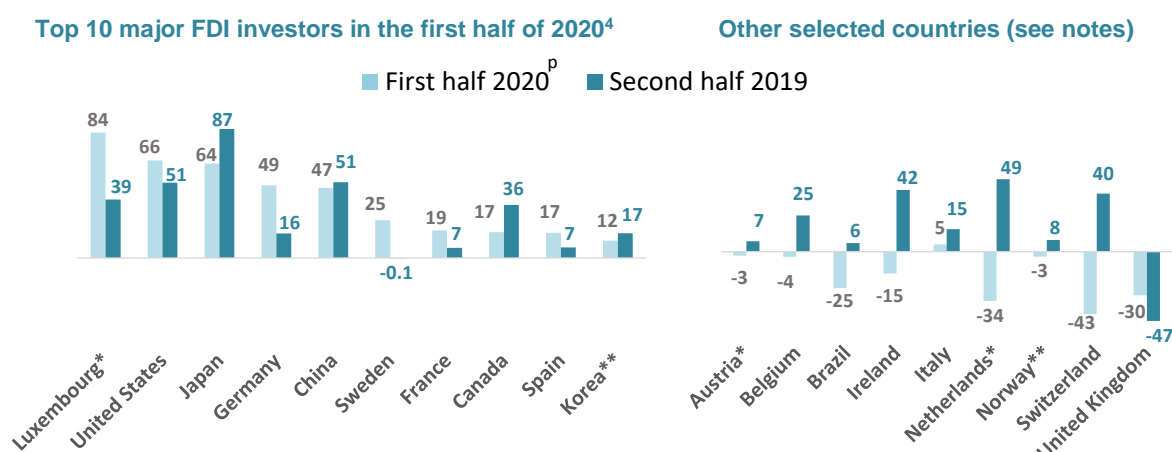
**Figure 4: FDI outflows from selected areas, Q1 2016-Q2 2020 (USD billion)**



Notes: p: preliminary estimates.  
Source: OECD International Direct Investment Statistics database.

<sup>4</sup> Hong-Kong, China and Singapore are not listed as major FDI sources and recipients because they are not the ultimate sources or destinations of a significant share of their flows; instead these flows pass through on the way to and from other economies.

**Figure 5: FDI outflows from selected countries, Q3 2019-Q2 2020 (USD billion)**



Notes: p: preliminary estimates. 'Other selected countries' displayed in this chart recorded more than USD 10 billion increase or decrease in their FDI outflows. \* Data exclude resident SPEs. \*\*Asset/liability basis.  
Source: OECD International Direct Investment Statistics database.

**EU27** outflows declined by 33%, driven by the large decreases mentioned earlier as well as disinvestments from Belgium and Austria.

FDI outflows from **G20** economies dropped by 12%: while they increased by 8% from OECD G20 economies, they decreased by 60% from non-OECD G20 economies, largely as a result of disinvestments from Brazil and widespread decreases in the other countries.

In the first half of 2020, major sources of FDI worldwide were Luxembourg, the United States, Japan, Germany and China.<sup>4</sup> The United States recorded negative outflows in Q1 2020 but returned to its position as the major source of FDI worldwide in Q2.

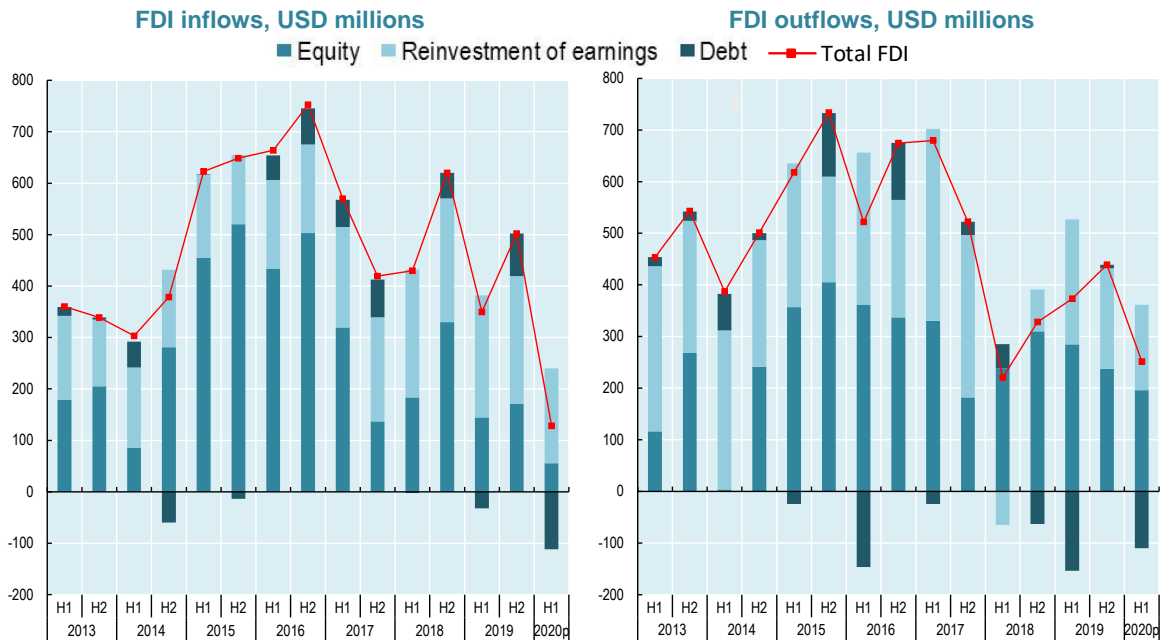
## 2 Equity capital FDI flows in OECD countries<sup>5</sup>

In the first half of 2020, **FDI equity inflows dropped by 68% and were below any half-year level observed in 2013-2019** (Figure 6). Equity inflows dropped to negative levels in the first quarter of the year while they surged in the second quarter. The drop in the first half of 2020 was mostly due to equity divestments in Switzerland and the Netherlands, and to decreases in the United States, the United Kingdom, and, to a lesser extent, Australia and Canada (figure 7). In contrast, Ireland received large amounts of equity flows, in particular in the second quarter of the year involving various M&A transactions. Equity inflows also increased by more than USD 5 billion in Germany, Luxembourg and Israel, indicating that investors were not reluctant to explore new investment opportunities in some sectors in the face of the pandemic. Ireland was the most important recipient of FDI equity flows in the first half of 2020, followed by Luxembourg and the United States.

**FDI equity outflows from the OECD area decreased by 17%**, largely driven by divestments in equity outflows from the Netherlands and from Switzerland, and to decreases in FDI outflows from Ireland. France, Austria, Belgium and Denmark also recorded outward equity divestments in the first half of 2020. Partly offsetting this were increases from Luxembourg, the United States, Germany, and Spain. Overall, the major source of outward FDI equity flows in the first six months of 2020 was Luxembourg, Japan, Germany and the United States.

<sup>5</sup> Financial flows consist of three components: equity capital, reinvestment of earnings, and intracompany debt (see notes on page 12 for a description of each component of FDI flows). Equity capital is of particular interest because it often drives much of the volatility in FDI flows and because it is often associated with new investments, such as greenfield or M&As (discussed in section 4). OECD FDI equity, reinvestment of earnings and debt flows are estimated using FDI instruments reported by OECD countries. See notes to Figure 6 for more detail.

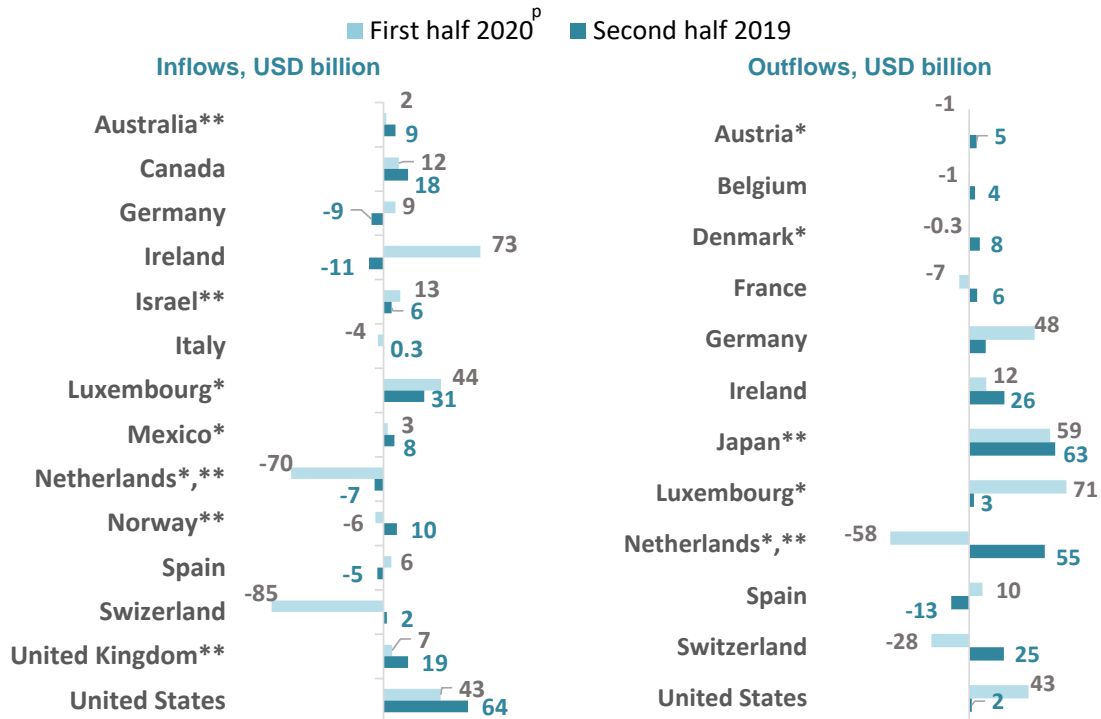
**Figure 6: OECD area FDI flows by instrument, Q1 2013-Q2 2020**



Notes: p: preliminary estimates. OECD FDI equity, reinvestment of earnings and debt flows are estimated using FDI instruments reported by OECD countries, on directional basis or asset/liability basis in accordance with FDI flows shown in Table 1. For countries that did not report FDI aggregates by instrument on directional basis, they were estimated using equity and reinvestment of earnings reported on asset/liability.

Source: OECD International Direct Investment statistics database.

**Figure 7: FDI equity flows for selected OECD countries, Q3 2019-Q2 2020**



Notes: p: preliminary estimates. Countries displayed in this chart either recorded more than USD 10 billion equity flows in the first half of 2020; or they recorded more than USD 5 billion increase or decrease in FDI equity flows. \* Data exclude resident SPEs. \*\*Asset/liability basis

Source: OECD International Direct Investment Statistics database.

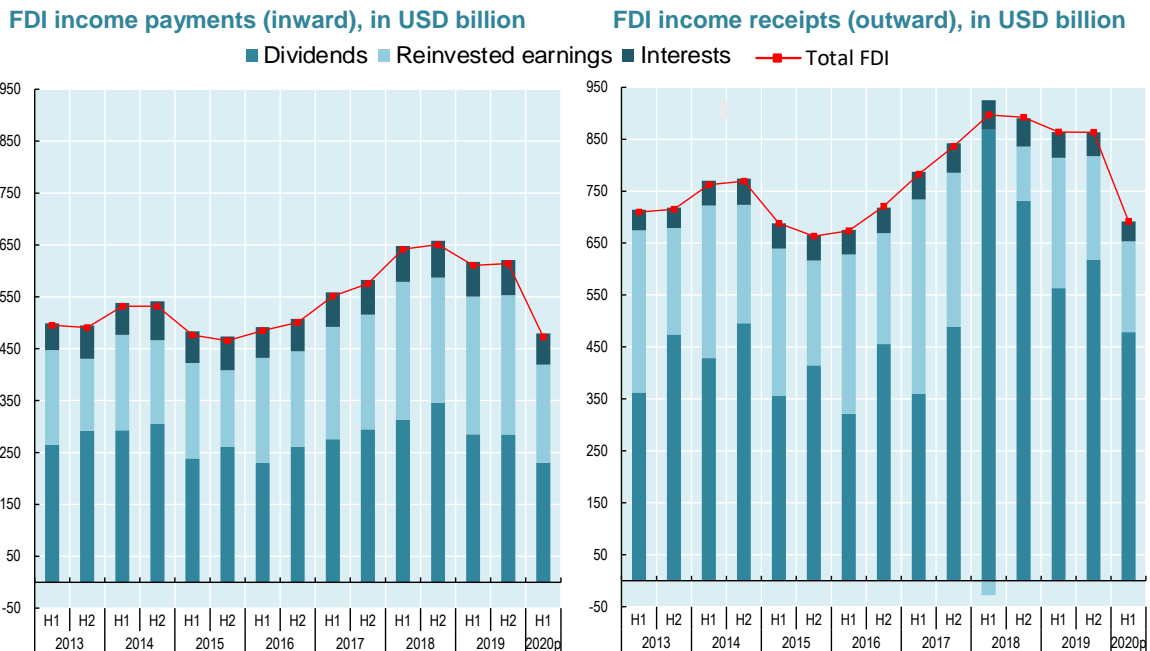
# 3

## FDI income in OECD countries<sup>6</sup>

In the first half of 2020, **OECD area FDI income payments decreased by 23% compared to the last half of 2019** (Figure 10), **below half-year levels recorded in 2016-2019**. They dropped by 20% in Q1 2020 and then decreased a further 9% in Q2. **OECD area FDI income receipts also decreased by 20%, below half-year levels observed in 2017-2019**.

In the first half of 2020, **earnings on inward FDI decreased by 24%, and a slightly lower share of these earnings was reinvested compared to the last half of 2019**. This could be because some companies continued to distribute a constant amount of earnings while others might have decided to distribute a higher share of earnings to support other parts of their MNE during the crisis. **Dividend payments decreased by 19% and reinvested earnings decreased by 29%**. These developments were largely driven by Switzerland and the United States (Figure 11). Earnings on inward FDI also decreased in Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Israel, Japan, the Netherlands and Spain. Partly offsetting this were increases in earnings on inward FDI in France and Mexico.

**Figure 10: OECD area FDI income by component, Q1 2013-Q2 2020**



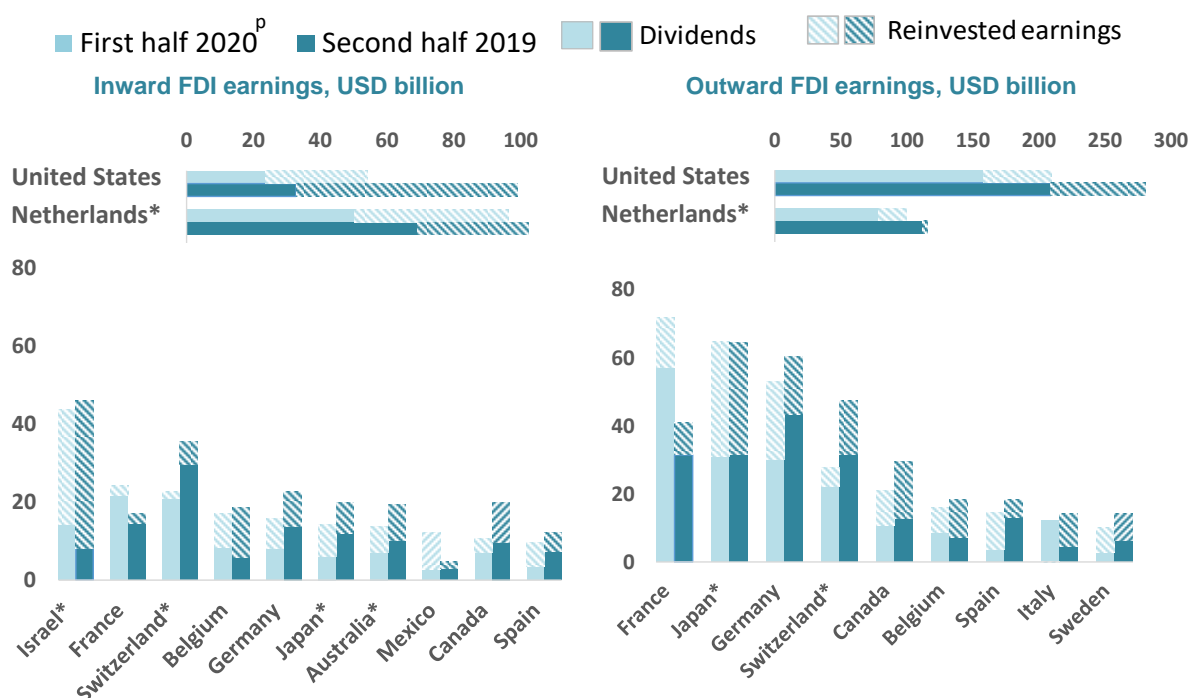
Notes: p: preliminary estimates. For countries that reported income components, dividends, reinvested earnings and interest are on directional basis or asset/liability basis according to total income shown in Table 3. For countries who did not report income by component, they were estimated either using dividends and reinvested earnings reported on asset/liability, or using reinvested earnings reported for FDI flows and by distributing dividends and interest equally, or by distributing total income equally among the three components. Total reinvested earnings differ from Figure 6 due to the inclusion of resident SPEs in FDI income figures for the Netherlands.

Source: OECD International Direct Investment statistics database.

**Earnings on outward FDI decreased by 20%, and a slightly larger share of these earnings was reinvested rather than distributed.** Dividends dropped by 23%, and reinvested earnings declined by 12%. Decreases in earnings on outward FDI of the United States and, to a lesser extent, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain, and Switzerland were partly offset by increases for France.

<sup>6</sup> FDI income consists of the foreign investor's share in the earnings of its affiliates and net interest from intercompany debt. Changes in earnings reflect changes in profitability of the investment. Earnings are further broken down into dividends and reinvested earnings. OECD FDI income and its components are estimated using FDI income and its components reported by OECD countries. See notes to Figure 10 for more detail. Interest is not discussed separately since it tends to be a small share of total income.

**Figure 11: FDI earnings of selected countries, Q3 2019-Q2 2020**



Notes: p: preliminary estimates. Countries displayed in this chart recorded more than USD 10 billion of income on inward and outward equity in the first half of 2020. Countries who do not report FDI income on equity to the OECD for Q1-Q2 2020 could not be displayed. \*Asset/liability basis. FDI income earnings include resident SPEs for the Netherlands.  
Source: OECD International Direct Investment Statistics database.

National compilers face challenges to produce Balance of Payments statistics in this period and there could be important revisions to FDI income amounts in particular<sup>7</sup>. Therefore, total FDI flows could drop further if reinvested earnings figures are revised downward.

## Cross-border M&As and announced greenfield projects

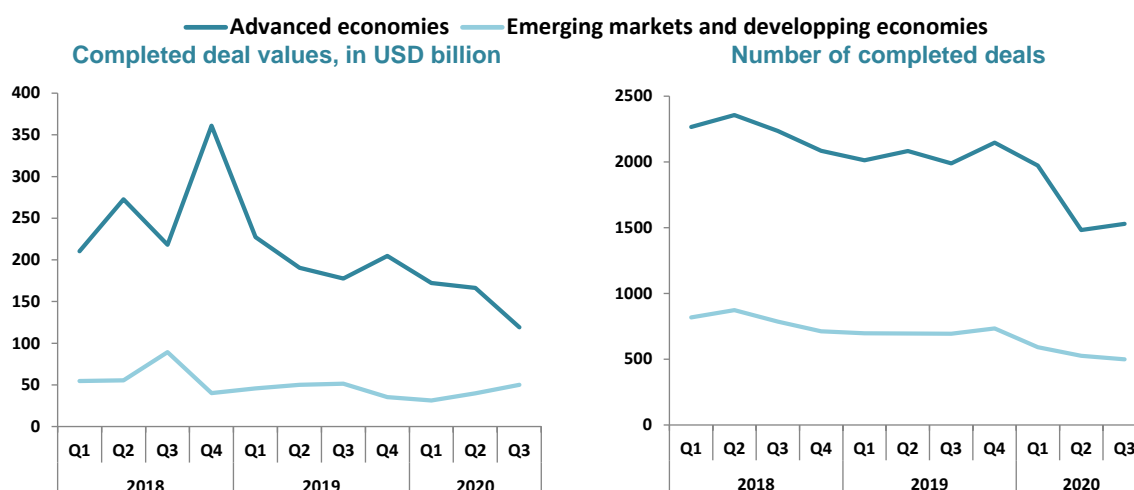
# 4

Equity capital flows are closely tied to new investments, regardless of the mode of entry (M&As and greenfield investments) and divestments by direct investors. Data on cross-border M&As from the Refinitiv database show a **12% drop in completed deal values in advanced economies** in the first half of 2020 compared to the last half of 2019 and the number of completed deals decreased by 16% (Figure 12). The number of M&A deals dropped in almost all sectors and particularly in real estate operations, the manufacturing of machinery, equipment and components, as well as in hotels and entertainments services. **Completed M&A deal values in emerging markets and developing economies (EMDE) dropped by 18%** and the number of completed deals decreased by 22%. Investment banking, hotels and entertainment, healthcare, as well as mining and the food manufacturing sectors recorded the largest drop in number of deals.

Preliminary data for Q3 2020 show that completed cross-border M&A deals remain depressed particularly in advanced economies, which should impact FDI equity flows and maintain low levels of global FDI flows in the third quarter of the year. The number of announced, but still pending deals in advanced economies, however, increased in the third quarter of the year, indicating some sort of activity recovery but many of these might be put on hold in view of the second covid-19 outbreak in some European markets.

<sup>7</sup> In May 2020, the European Central Bank (ECB) published a [note](#) on the possible impact of the COVID19 crisis on Balance of Payment statistics. The note indicates that the compilation of FDI income is particularly challenging because of the low frequency and timeliness of the underlying (typically survey) data sources and the need to calibrate estimation models to appropriately account for complete inactivity or sudden drop in activity.

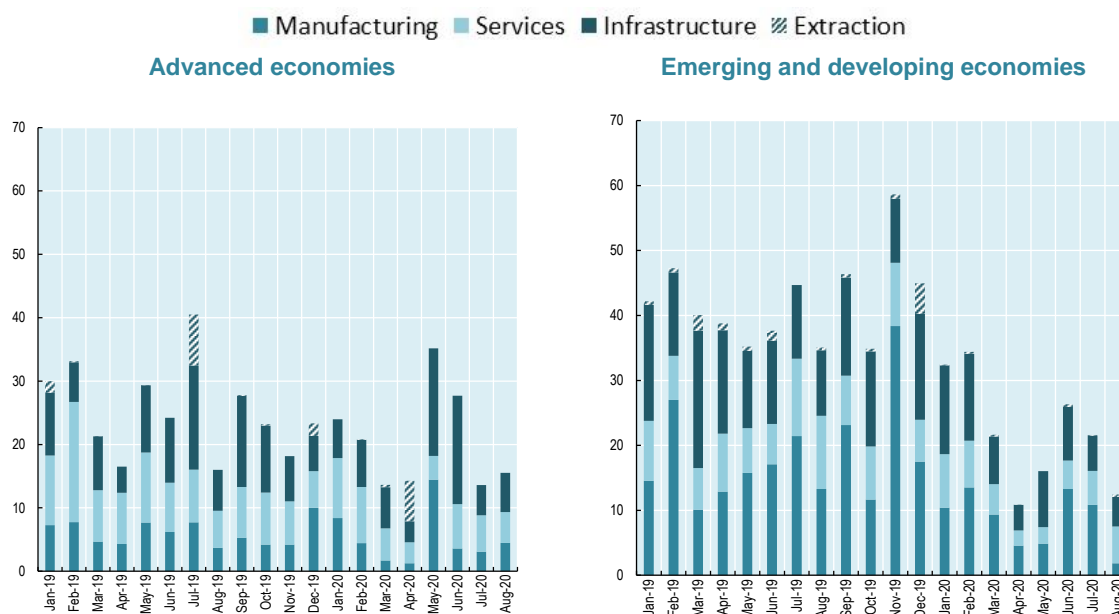
**Figure 12. Cross-border M&A deals, 2018–2020 (USD billion)**



Note: 'Advanced economies' and 'Emerging and developing economies' are defined as per the IMF definition. Source: Refinitive database, OECD calculations.

The latest data on announced greenfield FDI projects from the FT FDI Markets database show that the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic for greenfield investment affected investments in emerging markets and developing economies more intensively than in advanced economies. In the first half of 2020, capital expenditures dropped by 9% in advanced economies as compared to the last half of 2019, while they plunged by 46% in emerging markets and developing economies. Although capital expenditures surged in both groups in May and June, they slowed down again in July and August, remaining below the levels recorded in the same period a year ago. The sectoral breakdown shows that manufacturing suffered the largest decline in emerging markets and developing economies (Figure 13).

**Figure 13. Announced greenfield projects by sector, 2019 – 2020 (USD billion)**



Notes: This chart represents capital expenditures by sector, in USD billion. 'Advanced economies' and 'Emerging and developing economies' are defined as per the IMF definition.

Source: FT FDI Markets database, OECD calculations.







## Income on outward FDI (receipts)

## Income on inward FDI (payments)

Table 3	2 019					2020 <sup>P</sup>			2 019					2020 <sup>P</sup>	
	In USD millions	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Y	Q1	Q2	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Y	Q1	Q2
<b>OECD<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>407 224</b>	<b>456 677</b>	<b>434 676</b>	<b>429 005</b>	<b>1 727 585</b>	<b>354 970</b>	<b>338 046</b>	<b>291 739</b>	<b>319 367</b>	<b>305 115</b>	<b>309 268</b>	<b>1 225 492</b>	<b>248 480</b>	<b>227 141</b>	
Australia <sup>2</sup>	4 608	4 118	4 086	4 417	17 229	4 022	2 961	11 100	10 680	10 981	9 994	42 755	8 265	6 476	
Austria*	3 786	3 846	3 927	4 059	15 622	95	114	3 234	3 283	3 284	3 312	13 114	68	105	
Belgium	9 272	9 045	8 925	8 767	36 009	8 384	7 300	9 198	8 853	9 504	9 027	36 579	8 697	8 380	
Canada	15 138	16 288	15 540	17 086	64 052	13 448	10 178	10 179	11 016	10 529	10 711	42 435	6 955	4 994	
Chile*	1 102	1 127	1 005	939	4 173	897 (A)	849 (A)	3 827	3 848	3 733	3 805	15 212	3 329 (A)	3 289 (A)	
Colombia <sup>2</sup>	1 199	1 187	1 095	1 121	4 601	524	679	2 558	2 575	2 354	2 210	9 697	1 177	445	
Czech Republic	1 079	1 145	1 547	1 386	4 608	1 066	793	3 714	5 300	6 964	4 914	20 753	2 300	3 169	
Denmark*	3 930	3 975	3 899	3 818	15 622	3 390	3 404	1 738	1 823	1 709	1 773	7 043	1 551	1 565	
Estonia	165	183	188	155	691	116	128	502	522	481	449	1 955	410	314	
Finland	3 403	3 422	3 400	3 428	13 653	3 128	3 013	2 144	2 086	2 078	2 016	8 324	1 851	1 762	
France	12 499	34 549	17 800	25 030	89 877	15 940	58 160	4 089	14 488	8 219	9 713	36 509	5 365	19 474	
Germany	30 655	31 052	29 947	30 248	121 903	28 242	24 175	13 796	12 517	13 577	13 162	53 052	11 319	8 333	
Greece	135	161	288	350	935	193	281	264	341	651	612	1 868	447	453	
Hungary*	494	480	506	604	2 083	357	337	1 995	2 333	2 331	2 745	9 404	1 619	1 485	
Iceland*	98	115	79	56	347	59	62	- 75	- 35	- 65	- 44	- 219	- 102	- 100	
Ireland	4 489	3 964	5 006	2 900	16 360	5 573	1 628	24 261	23 925	25 329	23 616	97 130	24 685	21 751	
Israel <sup>5</sup>	1 554	1 869	1 581	1 921	6 925	689	1 101	1 538	1 737	2 082	1 936	7 292	2 071	1 926	
Italy	7 145	7 076	7 083	7 324	28 628	6 381	5 911	4 598	4 289	4 583	4 353	17 824	3 281	2 544	
Japan <sup>2</sup>	31 520	34 938	37 545	28 229	132 230	32 581	33 564	6 446	8 036	9 303	11 015	34 800	7 640	7 249	
Korea <sup>2</sup>	2 819	5 006	5 131	4 650	17 607	2 614	2 970	4 275	5 086	2 149	2 246	13 755	2 474	4 505	
Latvia	11	24	16	60	113	2	32	345	368	428	447	1 590	252	195	
Lithuania	52	64	54	59	228	19	24	441	701	643	512	2 297	159	430	
Luxembourg*	1 477	2 442	1 500	1 745	7 163	1 576	1 865	2 426	4 808	1 958	2 121	11 313	2 366	4 829	
Mexico*	1 812	1 292	1 475	1 529	6 107	920	1 582	14 739	5 217	2 173	2 752	24 881	10 816	1 505	
Netherlands <sup>2</sup>	71 772	70 980	72 989	67 002	282 743	64 967	56 185	59 364	61 421	60 885	58 186	239 857	58 398	52 974	
New Zealand	124	144	164	173	605	34	57	1 688	1 620	1 346	1 237	5 891	1 254	928	
Norway <sup>2</sup>	1 372	3 455	1 677	2 712	9 216	1 096	942	2 268	4 375	1 096	3 471	11 211	2 386	1 312	
Poland*	346	641	394	659	2 040	- 7	150	5 298	6 602	5 321	5 599	22 820	3 766	3 410	
Portugal*	463	1 549	404	644	3 059	626	1 222	704	3 231	1 436	1 956	7 328	931	1 487	
Slovak Republic	89	89	96	91	366	85	85	1 160	1 159	1 158	1 178	4 655	951	927	
Slovenia	57	149	79	90	374	79	81	192	528	373	507	1 601	349	349	
Spain	8 870	9 118	9 053	8 938	35 978	7 192	6 766	6 548	6 899	6 907	6 505	26 860	5 431	5 215	
Sweden	7 737	7 762	7 797	7 722	31 019	5 519	5 575	5 578	5 554	5 568	5 571	22 270	3 985	3 955	
Switzerland <sup>2</sup>	16 350	26 963	23 143	29 147	95 603	16 666	16 645	11 954	19 512	16 107	23 413	70 985	12 168	14 532	
Turkey	258	160	100	292	810	330	87	695	914	779	850	3 237	496	427	
United Kingdom	28 014	27 568	26 068	19 294	100 944	14 090	- 9 822	14 176	14 446	21 760	20 253	70 634	14 030	4 695	
United States	133 468	140 869	141 229	142 497	558 063	114 079	98 962	54 817	59 346	57 435	57 182	228 781	37 340	31 854	
<b>*Data excludes SPEs. Corresponding data below including SPEs<sup>4</sup>:</b>															
Austria	4 345	4 415	4 534	4 495	17 788	185	98	3 417	3 452	3 439	3 431	13 740	45	34	
Chile	1 114	1 138	1 016	948	4 217	897 (A)	849 (A)	3 829	3 850	3 736	3 805	15 220	3 329 (A)	3 289 (A)	
Denmark	3 975	4 023	3 954	3 872	15 824	3 529	3 543	1 782	1 864	1 755	1 824	7 225	1 689	1 704	
Hungary	1 149	1 160	1 243	1 406	4 957	1 094	1 043	2 743	2 986	3 061	3 395	12 184	2 387	2 172	
Iceland	98	115	80	56	349	59	62	- 75	- 35	- 64	- 44	- 218	- 102	- 100	
Luxembourg	35 052	39 915	35 088	34 552	144 607	27 228	31 643	30 512	32 382	28 269	27 152	118 315	24 245	28 596	
Portugal	523	1 612	461	682	3 277	661	1 259	720	3 290	1 446	2 163	7 619	942	1 505	

For notes to this table refer to page 12

Source: OECD and IMF

OECD Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs - Investment Division

## Notes for tables 1 to 3

Data are updated as of 15 October 2020.

**p:** preliminary data

**(A):** asset/liability figure used for 2020 only

Tables 1, 2 and 3 show FDI statistics at the aggregate level on a directional basis except for selected countries for which the asset/liability series is used (see note 2). For more information on the two presentations for FDI, see [Asset/liability versus directional presentation](#). FDI terms are defined in the [FDI Glossary](#).

Financial flows consist of three components: equity capital, reinvestment of earnings, and intracompany debt. Equity capital is often associated with new investments, such as greenfield or M&As, even though it can also reflect extensions of capital or financial restructuring. Nevertheless, equity capital flows are often taken as a sign of the amount of new investments related to FDI. Reinvestment of earnings is the portion of earnings that the parent decides to reinvest in the affiliate rather than receive as a dividend and can be an important source of financing for affiliates. This component of financial flows tends to be the least volatile. Changes in the reinvestment of earnings reflect both changes in the earnings of affiliates and in the amount of earnings that parents choose to distribute. The reinvestment ratio is the share of earnings that the parent reinvests. It can be an indication of the parent's perception of investment opportunities available to the affiliate: if the parent sees the opportunity to make profitable investments in its affiliates, the parent might choose to reinvest more money in them. However, many other factors can influence the share of earnings reinvested. For example, if the parent is in need of cash, they might pay higher dividends. The third component of financial flows—intracompany debt—is the most volatile component of financial flows and is often driven by the short term financing needs within a company rather than larger overall macroeconomic phenomena. As such, intracompany debt is often the most difficult aspect of financial flows to explain.

For data going back to 2005 in Tables 1, 2 and 3 (in Excel format), see [www.oecd.org/investment/statistics.htm](http://www.oecd.org/investment/statistics.htm).

### 1. OECD, European Union (EU28), World, G20 aggregates:

FDI outward and inward flows (Table 1) were compiled using directional figures when available. Missing quarterly directional figures were approximated using the ratio between annual asset liability and directional figures; or by distributing annual directional figures equally among the four quarters; or using unrevised historical data. When directional figures were not available and could not be approximated, asset liability figures were used.

FDI outward and inward stocks (Table 2) and Income on inward and outward FDI (Table 3) were compiled using directional figures when available. Missing directional figures were approximated using unrevised historical data. When directional figures were not available and could not be approximated, asset liability figures were used. FDI positions for 2018 include positions at end-2018 or at-end 2017 when 2018 data are not available.

Resident SPEs from Austria, Belgium (FDI positions only), Chile, Denmark, Hungary, Iceland, Korea (FDI positions only), Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands (FDI flows and positions only), Norway (FDI positions only), Poland (FDI positions and income only), Portugal, Spain (FDI positions only), Sweden (FDI positions only) and Switzerland (FDI positions only) are excluded.

The European Union aggregate corresponds to member country composition of the reporting period: EU15 for data up to and including 2003, EU25 for data between 2004 and 2006, EU27 for data between 2007 and 2012, EU28 for data between 2013 and 2019 and EU27 (excluding the United Kingdom) starting from Q1 2020. FDI positions (Table 2): the present publication presents time series which end before the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union on 1 February 2020. The EU aggregate presented here therefore refers to the EU including the UK. In future publications, as soon as the time series presented in Table 2 extends to periods beyond the UK withdrawal (2020 for annual data), the "European Union" aggregate will change to reflect the new EU country composition. Interested readers may refer to the Eurostat website for further information on Eurostat's plans for disseminating EU aggregates and to the Eurostat database for the actual series

- Data series on asset/liability basis:** The data series is on an asset/liability basis as opposed to directional basis for Australia (Tables 1 and 3 only), Colombia, Israel, Japan (Table 3 only), Korea (Tables 1 and 3 only), Norway (Tables 1 and 3 only), Switzerland (Table 3 only) and for the following non-OECD countries: Argentina, India, Saudi Arabia and South Africa.
- World aggregate:** is based on available data at the time of update as reported to the OECD and IMF. Missing data for countries for Q1 and Q2 2020 were estimated using the overall growth rate observed between, respectively, Q4 2019 and Q1 2020 and Q1 2020 and Q2 2020. Growth rates were calculated from data for OECD countries, for non-OECD G20 countries, and for 50 non-OECD and non-G20 countries in Q1 and 15 non-OECD and non-G20 countries in Q2. World totals for FDI positions are based on available FDI data at the time of update as reported to OECD and IMF for the year ended or the latest available year. By definition, inward and outward FDI worldwide should be equal. However, in practice, there are statistical discrepancies between inward and outward FDI. Unless otherwise specified, references to "global FDI flows" refer to the average of these two figures.
- Special purpose entities (SPEs):** Information on resident SPEs for Estonia, Lithuania and Sweden (FDI flows only) is confidential. This information is not yet available separately for Canada, Japan and Mexico. The information is available separately for Austria, Chile, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Korea, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. However, the information is not displayed in the tables for all countries, due to limited availability of historical data or to differences in data vintages. Resident SPEs are not present or not significant in Australia, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, New Zealand, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Turkey, and the United States.
- The statistical data for Israel are supplied by and under the responsibility of the relevant Israeli authorities. The use of such data by the OECD is without prejudice to the status of the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank under the terms of international law.

FDI in Figures is published twice yearly. For queries, please contact [investment@oecd.org](mailto:investment@oecd.org). Find data and more detailed FDI statistics at [www.oecd.org/investment/statistics.htm](http://www.oecd.org/investment/statistics.htm).

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