FDI Data

European Stocks at the Top

Germany ranks among the top ten in the world as a recipient of foreign direct investment (FDI), according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

According to official Bundesbank (“German Central Bank”) statistics for 2017, around sixty percent (or EUR 315 billion) of all FDI stocks in Germany originate from within the European Union, with a further nine percent stemming from the remaining European non-EU countries. Investments from outside the EU continue to grow. North America accounts for nineteen percent of FDI stock, while Asia holds an eleven percent share. Especially Asian countries increased their FDI stocks in Germany in recent years. Germany is the world’s largest recipient of new Chinese FDI projects.

Foreign Direct Investment

Ranking of Inward FDI Stocks (2018, in EUR bn)

Ongoing Interest in Greenfield Investments

Between 2010 and 2018, FDI Markets recorded more than 9000 investment projects in Germany by some 7,100 foreign companies. In 2018 almost 1,100 projects were noted down, making it one of the highest numbers ever recorded. Germany is placed fourth worldwide in terms of FDI projects attracted. FDI results are based on greenfield project announcements (including expansions and joint ventures) collected in the Financial Times Group’s FDI Markets database. The most important countries as sources for new investment projects are the USA (20 percent of all investment projects since 2010), Switzerland (eleven percent) as well as the UK (nine percent) and China (seven percent). The ICT & software industry, and business & financial services are leading sectors in attracting new projects. The industrial ma-
Machinery & equipment, textiles, consumer goods, and chemical industries are likewise attractive foreign investment sectors in Germany. Most new projects open sales and marketing & support offices. One in seven investment projects is a manufacturing site or R&D-facility – making Germany a very important business location.

Foreign Direct Investment

FDI-Projects in Germany by Sector (2010-2018)

Note: FDI results are based on greenfield (incl. expansion and joint venture) investment project announcements
Source: FDI Markets 2019
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Foreign Direct Investment

FDI Projects in Germany by Business Activity (2010-2018)

- Sales, Marketing & Support: 41%
- Business Services: 17%
- Manufacturing + R&D: 15%
- Retail: 12%
- Logistics, Distribution & Transportation: 5%
- Headquarters: 4%
- Other Activities: 6%

Source: FM Markets 2019
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