

The Dutch economy is amongst the most open in the world. Since January 2007, the Dutch taxation environment for international companies has become even more attractive. The company taxation rate has dropped well below the European Union average.

The Key Sectors of the National Economy are: Agro industries, metal and engineering products, electrical machinery and equipment, chemicals, petroleum, construction, microelectronics and fishing.

High Potential Sectors: Computer software, computer services, automotive parts and accessories, seaport & airport security equipment and systems, transport and distribution services, aircraft parts and associated equipment, medical equipment and supplies and pollution control equipment.

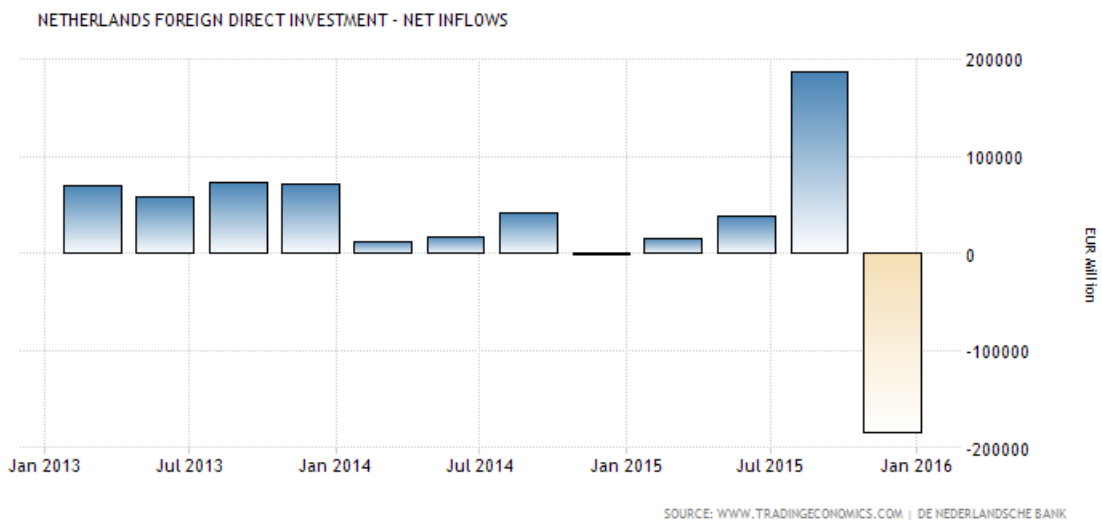


Fig. 1. Netherlands – Foreign direct investment, net outflows (% of GDP)

Foreign direct investment, net outflows (% of GDP) in Netherlands was 4.90 as of 2013. Its highest value over the past 8 years was 18.88 in 2005, while its lowest value was -0.63 in 2012. The latest value for Foreign direct investment, net (Bop, current US\$) in Netherlands was \$9,709,468,000.00 as of 2013. Over the past 8 years, the value for this indicator has fluctuated between \$82,596,600,000.00 in 2005 and (\$71,020,680,000.00) in 2007.

ELIZABETH OPOKU AWUAH

FINLAND ON GLOBAL ECONOMIC ARENA

Foreign Direct Investment in Finland increased by 77342 EUR Million in 2014. Foreign Direct Investment in Finland averaged 40921.05 EUR Million from 1994 until 2014, reaching an all-time high of 77342 EUR Million in 2014 and a record low of 5356 EUR Million in 1994.



Fig. 1. Foreign direct investment – net inflows (% of GDP) in Finland

Foreign direct investment; net inflows (% of GDP) in Finland was last measured at -2.06 in 2013, according to the World Bank. Foreign direct investment are the net inflows of investment to acquire a lasting management interest (10 percent or more of voting stock) in an enterprise operating in an economy other than that of the investor. It is the sum of equity capital, reinvestment of earnings, other long-term capital, and short-term capital as shown in the balance of payments. This series shows net inflows (new investment inflows less disinvestment) in the reporting economy from foreign investors, and is divided by GDP. This page has the latest recorded value, an historical data chart and related indicators for foreign direct investment – net inflows (% of GDP) in Finland.

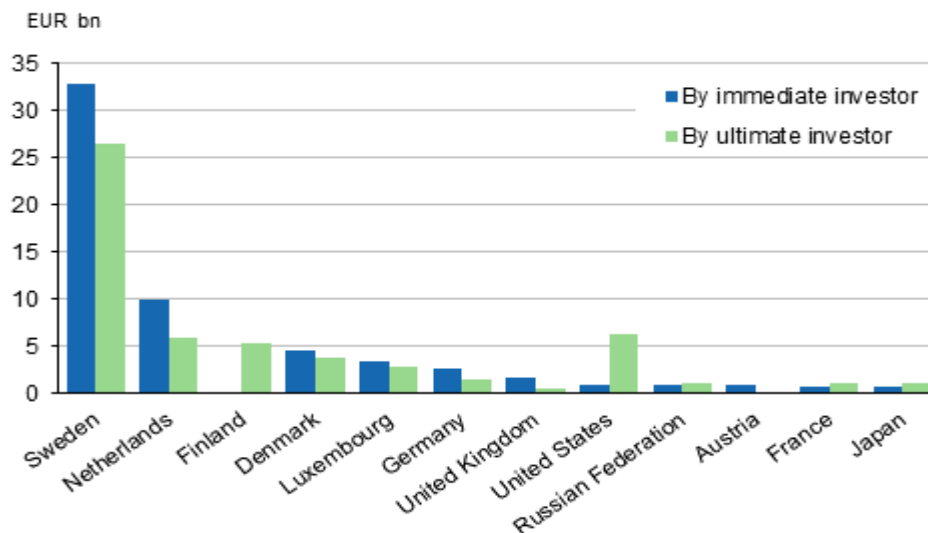


Fig 2. Finland FDI

The share of Sweden and the Netherlands in direct investments to Finland gains emphasis when the figures are examined by the immediate investing country.

When the figures are compared with those according to the ultimate direct investor, these countries turn out to be transit countries of capital, that is, more capital is immediately invested from them to Finland than what is actually managed there. Correspondingly, a larger share of direct investments to Finland is managed in the United States than actually immediately invested. Examined by the ultimate direct investor, the share of Finland is also significant. This is caused by domestic enterprises recycling capital through their foreign affiliates back to Finland.

At the end of 2013, the value of direct investments to Finland totalled EUR 63.2 billion. Returns from these investments amounted to EUR 2.7 billion, which corresponds to a rate of return of 4.3 per cent relative to the value of investments at the end of 2013. Examined by the immediate country, direct investments are made to Finland particularly from Sweden (52% of the investment stock), the Netherlands (16%) and Denmark (7%). Investments to Finland especially concern financing and insurance activities and the industry of other services.

At the end of 2013, the value of direct investments from Finland was EUR 106.9 billion. Returns from these investments totaled EUR 6.2 billion, which corresponds to a rate of return of 5.8 per cent. Direct investments have been made from Finland especially to Sweden (31% of the investment stock) and to the Benelux countries (27%). Investors are particularly metal industry and service enterprises.

Finland has a highly industrialized, mixed economy with a per capita output equal to that of other western economies such as France, Germany, Sweden or the United Kingdom. The largest sector of the economy is services at 65.7 percent, followed by manufacturing and refining at 31.4 percent. Primary production is 2.9 percent. With respect to foreign trade, the key economic sector is manufacturing. The largest industries are electronics (21.6 percent), machinery, vehicles and other engineered metal products (21.1 percent), forest industry (13.1 percent), and chemicals (10.9 percent). Finland has timber and several mineral and freshwater resources. Forestry, paper factories, and the agricultural sector (on which taxpayers spend around 2 billion euro annually) are politically sensitive to rural residents. The Greater Helsinki area generates around a third of GDP.

The economy of Finland tops the ranking of Global Information Technology 2014 report by the World Economic Forum for concerted output between business sector, scholarly production and the governmental assistance on Information and communications technology. Finland is highly integrated in the global economy, and international trade is a third of GDP. The European Union makes 60 percent of the total trade. The largest trade flows are with Germany, Russia, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States, Netherlands and China. Trade policy is managed by the European Union, where Finland has traditionally been among the free trade supporters, except for agriculture. Finland is the only Nordic country to have joined the Eurozone; Denmark and Sweden have retained their traditional currencies, whereas Iceland and Norway are not members of the EU at all.

The Finnish electronics and electro-technics industry relies on heavy investment in R&D, and has been accelerated by the liberalization of global markets. Electrical engineering started in the late 19th century with generators and electric motors built by Gottfried Stromberg, now part of the ABB Group. Other Finnish

companies – such as Instru, Vaisala and Neles (now part of Metso) – have succeeded in areas such as industrial automation, medical and meteorological technology. Nokia was once a world leader in mobile telecommunications.

Finland has transformed its economy in a matter of decades to become one of the richest countries and most stable societies in the world. In the 1950s the Finnish economy was still largely based on primary production and an agrarian workforce. Today Finland is leading or near the top of most international comparisons in terms of growth and development in the economic, technological and social spheres.

The largest sector of the Finnish economy is services at 65%, followed by manufacturing and refining at 31%. Primary production is at 3%. Finland’s main industrial products are paper and board, electronics and metal products. Engineering and high technology industries are the leading branches of manufacturing.

Finland has developed world-class expertise in sectors like clean-tech, forestry, metal and machinery manufacturing, ICT industry and services, and health and wellbeing. International investors and companies can benefit from the clusters and centers of expertise in these business sectors that aim to maximize the benefits of research, networking and international cooperation. Corporation tax was lowered to 20% at the beginning of 2014 (from 24,5%) and is uniform for all types of corporate income, including sales profits, interest income, dividends, royalties and rental income.

KIBANZE MWADI FRANCE

SWITZERLAND IN EUROPEAN INVESTMENT SYSTEM

Foreign direct investment; net inflows (BoP; US dollar) in Switzerland was last measured at 22741199962.97 in 2014, according to the World Bank. This series shows net inflows (new investment inflows less disinvestment) in the reporting economy from foreign investors. Data are in current U.S. dollars.

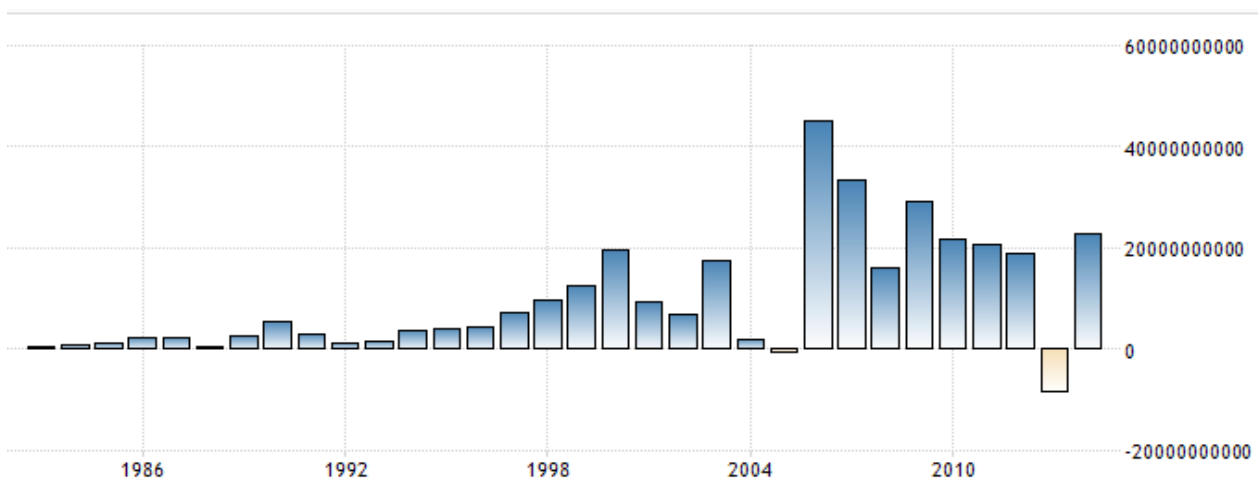


Fig. 1. Net inflows of FDI Switzerland