

October 2022

## Global FDI flows up overall by 20% in the first half of 2022, but this masks a 22% drop in the second quarter

- **Global FDI flows rebounded to USD 972 billion in the first half of 2022.** However, much of the increase came in the first quarter, whereas **global FDI flows dropped by 22% in Q2 2022**, compared to the previous quarter. This drop is not surprising given increasing inflation and interest rates, rising energy prices and Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.
- **FDI inflows to the OECD area increased to USD 488 billion**, up by 28% compared to the second half of 2021. Following an increase of 59% in Q1 2022, these flows dropped by 38% in Q2, mostly due to movements in intra-company debts, while equity inflows and reinvested earnings increased.
- **Outflows from the OECD area increased to USD 838 billion**, the highest half-year level since 2013. Nevertheless, much of the increase was driven by the first quarter (up by 26%), whereas FDI outflows from OECD countries dropped by 5% in Q2.
- **FDI flows into non-OECD G20 economies dropped by 19% in the first half of 2022** over the previous semester. Zooming in on the quarterly data, they increased by 17% in Q1 and dropped by 39% in Q2, largely due to lower inflows in China and negative inflows to Russia for the second consecutive quarter. Similarly, **in the first half of 2022, FDI outflows decreased by 38%**.
- **The United States was the leading FDI recipient worldwide**, followed by China and Brazil. **The United States was also the major investor worldwide**, followed by the Netherlands and Australia.
- **Completed cross-border M&A activity in advanced economies** continued on a downward trend. The value of completed deals dropped by 15% in advanced economies and by 16% in emerging markets and developing economies in the first half of 2022, and continued on this path in the third quarter.
- **Announced greenfield projects showed moderate signs of growth in the first semester of 2022**, mostly driven by large investment projects announced in emerging markets and developing economies in manufacturing sectors, especially in the renewable energy.

### 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 2021 will be available in December 2022.

## 1 Recent developments

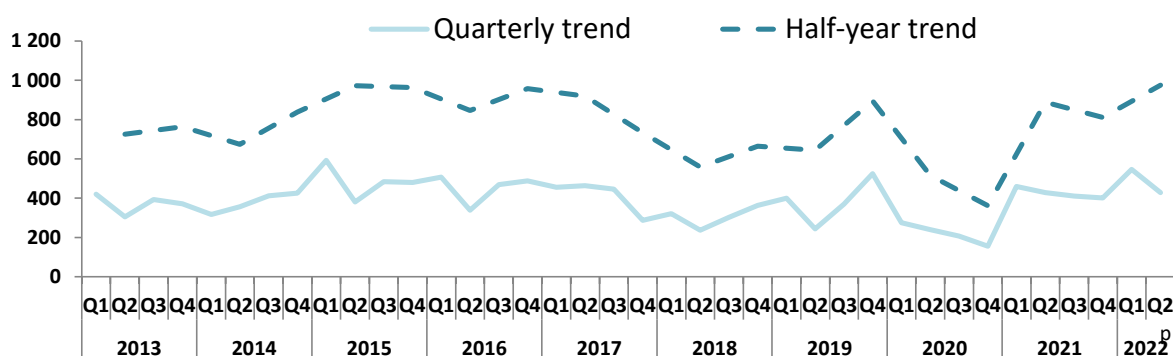
In the first half of 2022, global FDI flows<sup>1</sup> rebounded to USD 972 billion, recording the largest half-year levels since 2013. FDI surged in selected European countries following the negative inflows recorded in H2 2022. The latter was also driven by substantial growth in Australia, Germany, Mexico, Spain and Sweden, all of which had over USD 15 billion increases in their FDI inflows. The rebound was mostly observed in FDI equity flows, with OECD equity inflows doubling. Earnings on inward FDI increased more modestly, with a slightly lower share of those earnings were distributed to foreign parents, resulting in higher reinvested earnings (by 11%). However, movements in intra-company debt flows remained negative, partly driven by affiliates in the Netherlands reimbursing loans to their foreign parents. M&A activity was generally strong in the first three quarters of 2022 and remained above pre-pandemic levels. Announced greenfield projects showed the first signs of recovery from COVID-19 in emerging markets

<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.

and developing economies, with total capital expenditure growing by 49% compared with the second half of 2021.

Figure 1 shows quarterly and half-year trends for global FDI flows from Q1 2013 to Q2 2022.<sup>2</sup> In the first half of 2022, global FDI flows were 9% and 20% higher than in the first and second halves of 2021 respectively. These levels are higher than any half-year level observed since 2013. On a quarterly basis, FDI flows were up by 36% in the first quarter of 2022, amounting to USD 545 billion, before dropping by 22% in the following quarter.<sup>3</sup>

**Figure 1: Global FDI flows, Q1 2013-Q2 2022 (USD billion)**



Notes: p: preliminary estimates.

Source: OECD International Direct Investment Statistics database.

## Inflows

**In the OECD area, FDI inflows increased by 28%, to USD 488 billion, largely as a result of a sharp increase in FDI in selected European countries following negative inflows in H2 2021 (Figure 2). However, much of the increase took place in Q1 (up by 59%) with FDI flows into the OECD countries dropping by 38% in Q2 2022. This drop was mostly due to movements in intra-company debt while equity flows continued to increase. In the first half of 2022, the United States was the major FDI recipient worldwide, followed by China and Brazil (Figure 3).<sup>4</sup>**

The surge was also driven by significant increases in Australia, Germany, Mexico, Spain and Sweden, each recording more than a USD 15 billion rise in their FDI inflows over the previous semester. In contrast, FDI inflows decreased by USD 100 billion in the United States (as a result of a large decline in cross-border M&A activity) and they dropped to negative levels in Belgium and Ireland. While increases in Mexico can be attributed to higher reinvested earnings (section 3), the rebound in Australia reflects equity inflows (section 2) and movements in intra-company debt. Intra-company debts also largely influenced the increased inflows in Germany and Spain. FDI flows into **European** countries grew from extremely low levels recorded in the second half of 2021, mainly due to disinvestments from the Netherlands and the United Kingdom (Figure 3).

FDI inflows to **G20** economies decreased by 7% in H1 2022 compared to the previous half-year. While they were up by 3% in OECD G20 economies, they dropped by 19% in non-OECD G20 economies, driven by decreases in South Africa, Russia and to a lesser extent China. The drop in South Africa results from record high inflows at the end of 2021 due to a share exchange between two major technology companies (see [FDI in Figures –April 2022](#)), while FDI flows in Russia were negative in both

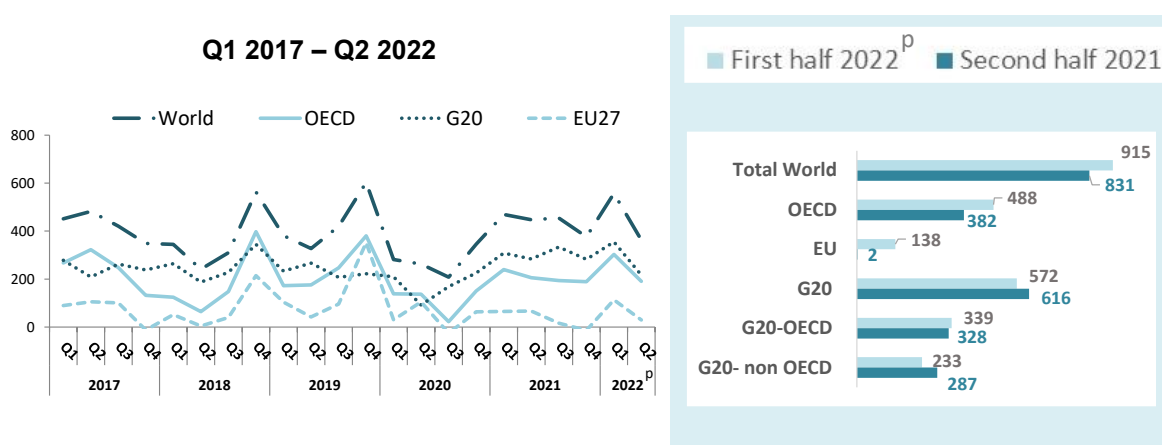
<sup>2</sup> The measure was constructed using official FDI statistics on a directional basis whenever available, supplemented by measures on an asset/liability basis when needed. See Notes to tables 1 and 2 on page 12 for details. Data are as of 11 October 2022.

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

<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.

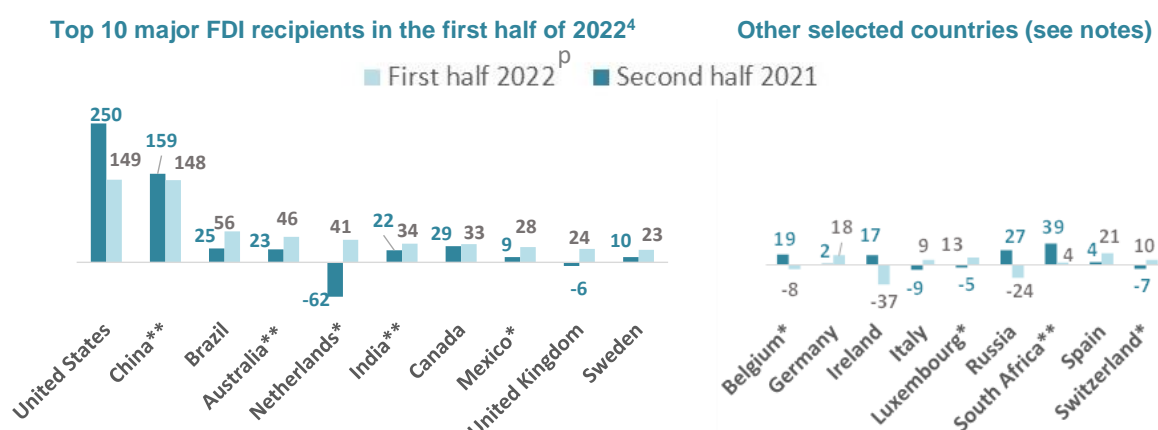
quarters of 2022, reflecting the response to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.<sup>5</sup> Lower inflows in China largely contributed to the overall decrease of 39% in FDI inflows in non-OECD G20 economies in Q2 2022.

**Figure 2: FDI inflows for selected areas, Q1 2017-Q2 2022 (USD billion)**



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

**Figure 3: FDI inflows for selected countries, Q3 2021 – Q2 2022 (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.

## Outflows

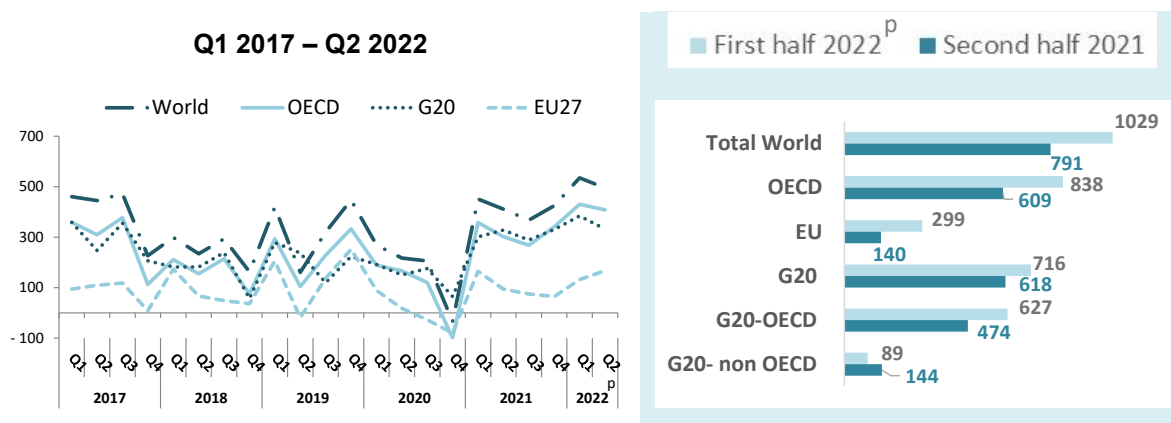
**Compared to the last half of 2021, FDI outflows from the OECD area increased by 38% to USD 838 billion (Figure 4). On a quarterly basis, OECD FDI outflows increased by 26% in Q1 2022 but dropped by 5% in Q2. In the first half of 2022, the United States was by far the major source of FDI worldwide, followed by the Netherlands and Australia (Figure 5).<sup>4</sup>**

Increases in the Netherlands and the United States as well as record-level outflows from Australia and higher outflows from the United States, contributed to this positive outlook for outward FDI flows in the first semester of 2022. Record-level outflows from Australia were due to a number of mergers and acquisitions and global corporate restructuring, particularly in the technology sector. However, partly offsetting this expansion were decreases (of more than USD 25 bn) in Canada, Ireland and Japan (Figure 5).

<sup>5</sup> Separate details on equity flows and reinvested earnings for Q1-Q2 2022 are not published by the Central Bank of Russia, hence, it is not possible to provide more insights on the negative levels of FDI inflows and outflows.

EU outflows more than doubled in the first half of 2022, driven by increases in the Netherlands, which moved from large disinvestments in H2 2021 to positive levels. FDI outflows from **G20** economies went up by 16%; while they increased by 32% in OECD G20 economies, they dropped by 38% in non-OECD G20 economies. In particular, non-OECD G20 FDI outflows decreased by 46% in Q1 2022, due to negative outflows from Russia, and stagnated in Q2, with FDI outflows from Russia remaining negative.<sup>5</sup>

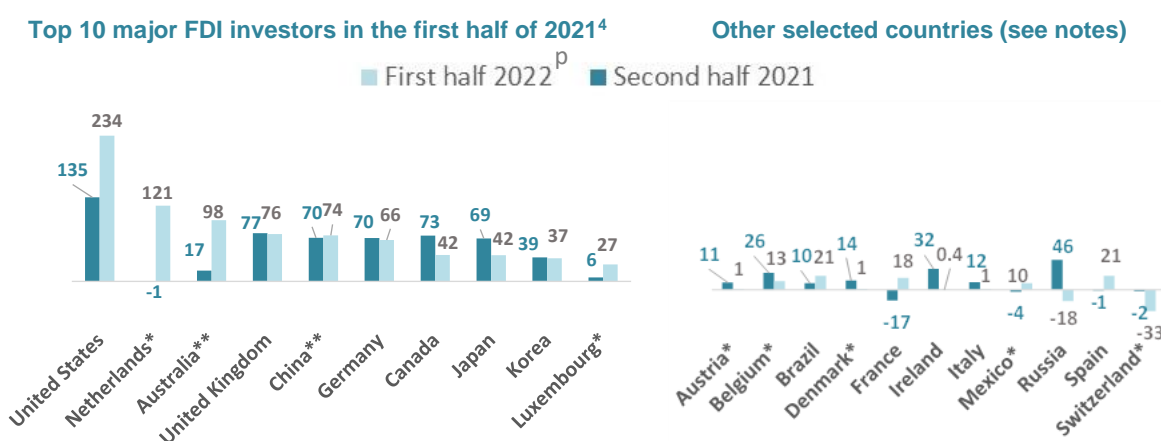
**Figure 4: FDI outflows from selected areas, Q1 2017-Q2 2022 (USD billion)**



Notes: p: preliminary estimates.

Source: OECD International Direct Investment Statistics database.

**Figure 5: FDI outflows from selected countries, Q3 2021-Q2 2022 (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.

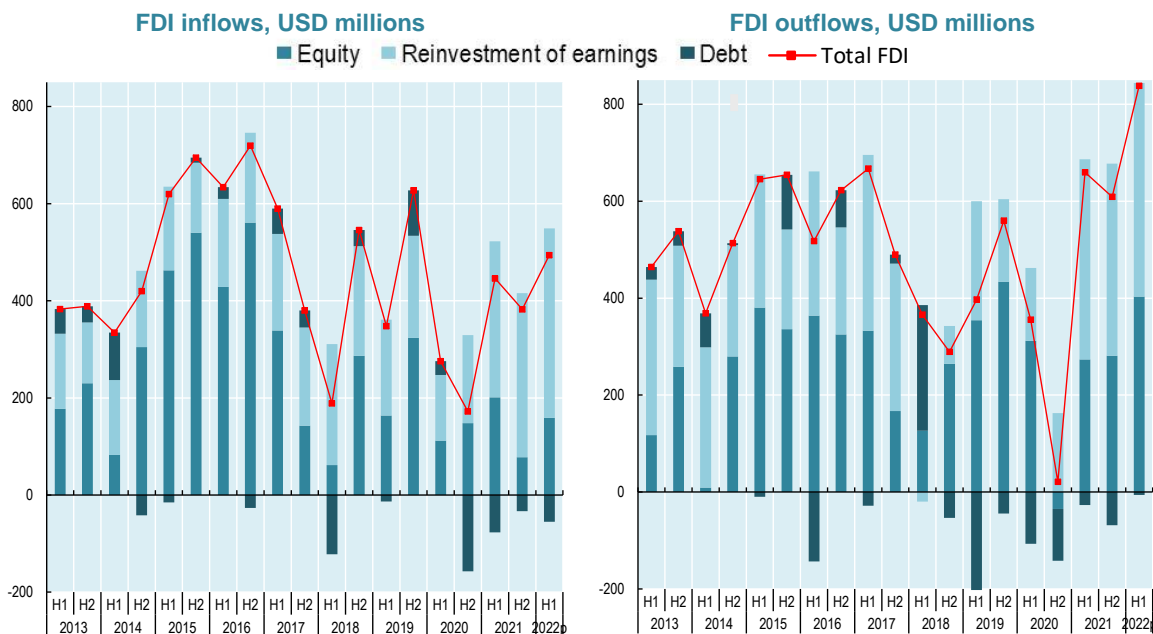
## 2 Equity capital FDI flows in OECD countries<sup>6</sup>

In the first half of 2022, **FDI equity inflows more than doubled compared to H2 2021**, when they dropped to very low levels partly as a result of major disinvestments in the Netherlands and other selected European economies (Figure 6). Also contributing to the increase in H1 2022 were large inbound equity flows in Luxembourg, Sweden, Australia and France (Figure 7). A series of large mergers and acquisitions might explain these rebounds, such as the merger of Gores Guggenheim with Polestar, a Swedish manufacturer of automobiles; or the acquisition of Lundin Energy AB, a Stockholm-

<sup>6</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.

based producer of crude petroleum and natural gas by the Norwegian Aker. In contrast, equity flows to the United States fell by 59%, and Ireland and Switzerland recorded equity divestments. Despite the drop, the United States was the largest recipient of FDI equity flows in the first half of 2022, followed by the United Kingdom and Australia.

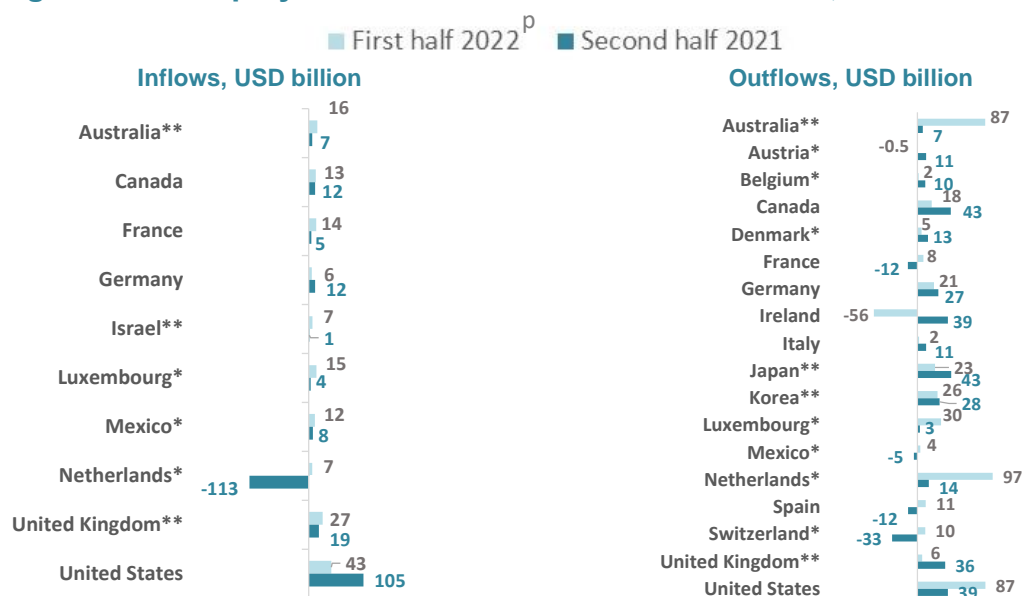
**Figure 6: OECD area FDI flows by instrument, Q1 2013-Q2 2022**



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 2021-Q2 2022**



Notes: p: preliminary estimates. Countries displayed in this chart either recorded more than USD 10 billion equity flows in the first half of 2022; or they recorded more than USD 5 billion increase or decrease in FDI equity flows. Sweden recorded a more than USD 10 billion increase but corresponding data are confidential. \* Data exclude resident SPEs. \*\*Asset/liability basis

Source: OECD International Direct Investment Statistics database.

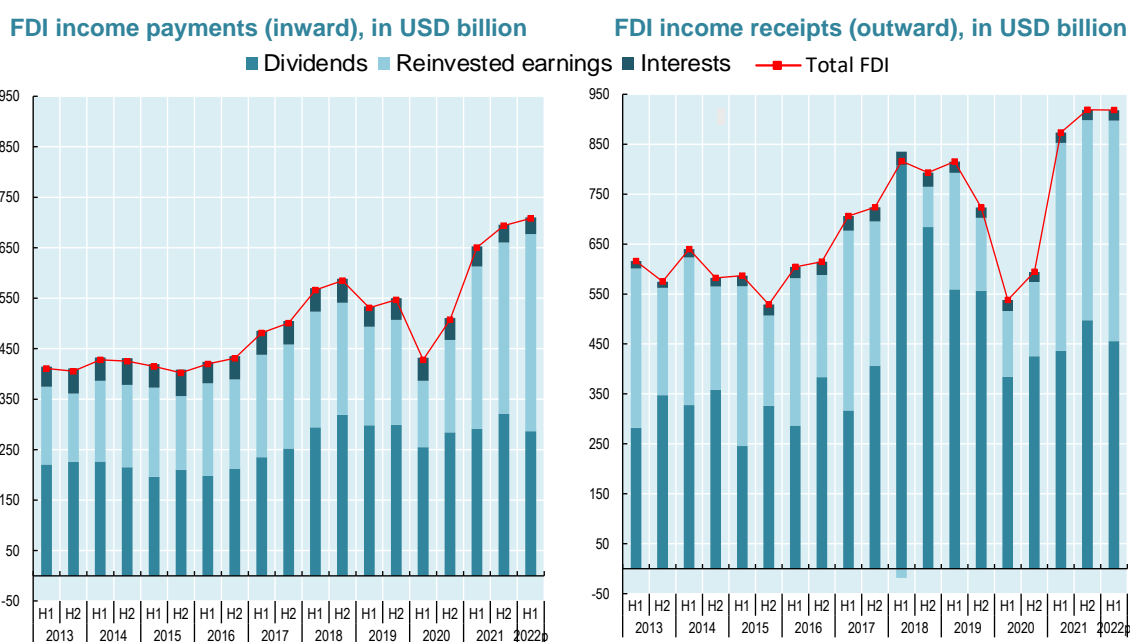
**FDI equity outflows from the OECD area rose by 43%**, surpassing most half-year levels recorded since 2013, largely driven by increases from Australia, the Netherlands, the United States and Luxembourg. Equity outflows from Australia reached very high levels, due to a number of mergers and acquisitions, and global corporate restructuring that took place in the first quarter of 2022, particularly in the technology sector. France, Spain and Switzerland returned to positive levels following equity divestments in H2 2021, further contributing to the increase of overall FDI equity outflows. In contrast, Canada, Japan and the United Kingdom recorded decreases of more than USD 20 billion, and Ireland recorded major equity divestments. Overall, the Netherlands, the United States and Australia were the major sources of outward FDI equity flows in the first six months of 2022.

## 3 FDI income in OECD countries

FDI income consists of a 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. FDI income and its components are estimated using data reported by OECD countries.<sup>7</sup>

In the first half of 2022, **FDI income payments in the OECD area increased by 2%** compared to H2 2021 and were 9% higher than payments in H1 2021 (Figure 8). **FDI income receipts in the OECD area remained stable** compared to H2 2021, and were 5% higher than receipts in H1 2021. Both inward and outward FDI income have overtaken all half-year levels since 2013.

**Figure 8: OECD area FDI income by component, Q1 2013-Q2 2022**



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 either estimated 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.

Source: OECD International Direct Investment statistics database.

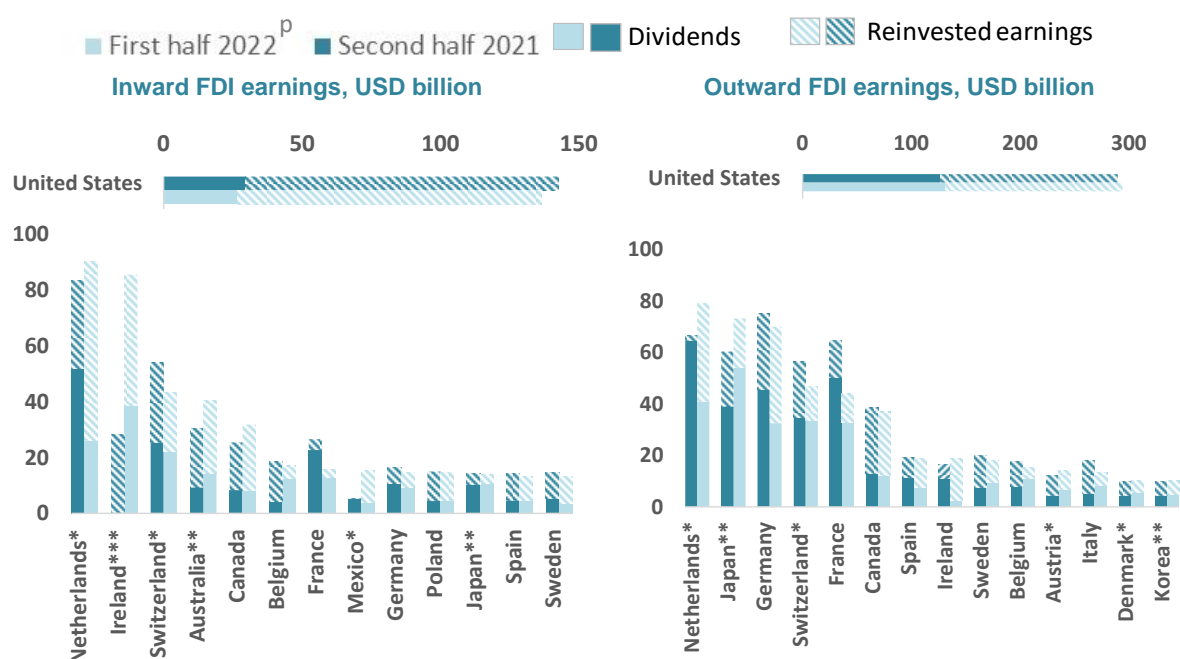
**Earnings on inward FDI increased by 3%** compared to H2 2021, and by 10% compared to H1 2021. **42% of the earnings of the parents were distributed to their affiliates**, slightly less than in the past year (50% in H1 and H2 2021). As a result, dividend payments decreased by 11% and reinvested earnings increased by 15% compared to H2 2021, with the latter reaching their highest levels since

<sup>7</sup> See notes to Figure 8 for more detail. Interest is not discussed separately since it tends to be a small share of total income.

2013. Trends in OECD earnings on inward FDI differ across countries (Figure 9). In the United States OECD earnings on inward FDI decreased by 4% compared to H2 2021. They also increased by more than USD 10 billion in Ireland and Mexico, while France and Switzerland recorded more than USD 10 billion decreases compared to H2 2021.

**Earnings on outward FDI remained stable compared to H2 2021 and were 5% higher than in H1 2021. Around 51% of these earnings were distributed to their parents, slightly less than 55% in H2 2021 and the same as in H1 2021.** As a result, in the first half of 2022, dividend receipts decreased by 8% and reinvested earnings increased by 10% compared to H2 2021. Also trends in OECD earnings on outward FDI differ across countries (Figure 9). In the United States, the major recipient of OECD earnings on outward FDI, they remained almost stable compared to H2 2021 and were up by 5% compared to H1 2021. They increased by more than USD 10 billion in the Netherlands and Japan, while France recorded more than a USD 20 billion decrease compared to H2 2021.

**Figure 9: FDI earnings of selected countries, Q3 2021-Q2 2022**



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 2022. Countries who do not report FDI income on equity to the OECD for Q1-Q2 2022 could not be displayed. \*Data exclude resident SPEs \*\*Asset/liability basis. \*\*\*Total earnings on inward FDI and dividends are confidential for H2 2021.

Source: OECD International Direct Investment Statistics database.

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

# 4

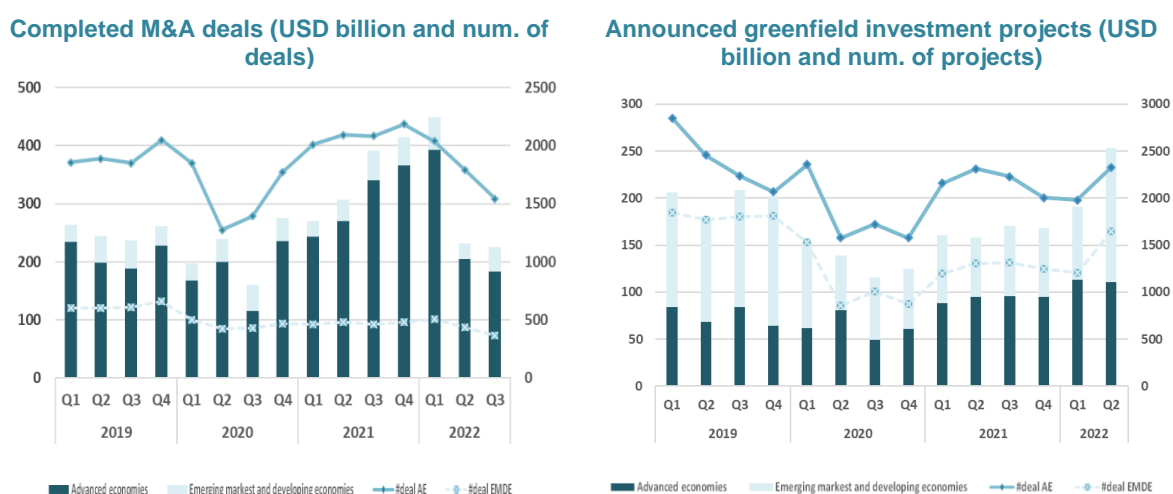
Equity capital flows are closely tied to new investment activity, regardless of the mode of entry (i.e. through M&A or Greenfield investment) and divestments by direct investors. In the first semester of 2022, cross-border M&A activity in advanced economies declined by 16% in value terms, and 9% in number of deals, compared to H2 2021, and continued to drop further in the third quarter of 2022 in response to strong headwinds from increasing inflation and interest rates and on-going geopolitical uncertainty (Figure 10).

Half-year values of cross-border deal making remained higher than pre-pandemic levels (H1 2019) due to intensified M&A activity in advanced economies driven by large deals in Australia, United States and Canada. Yet the second and third quarters of 2022 started on a downward trend with drops of 48% and 11% over previous quarters. A similar slowdown in cross-border M&A deals was also observed for

emerging markets and developing economies, where the overall value of completed deals fell by 16% in H1 2022 over the previous semester. Much of the drop came in the second quarter, where total deal value was half the size of the first quarter. Some signs of improvements were observed in the third quarter of 2022, with rather large deals in energy and telecommunications targeting some developing economies.

The relapse in M&A activity in advanced economies in the first half of 2022 over the previous semester was most felt in healthcare (with a decrease in overall deal value of close to 60% over the previous semester), industrials and technology (each close to 30%). But deals involving basic materials more than tripled in value. Much of the decline in the value of M&A deals targeting emerging markets and developing economies occurred in the financial sector (-44%) and industrials (-40%), followed by technology (-37%).

**Figure 10. Recent cross-border investment activity, H1 2019– H2 2022\***



Note: \*Cross-border M&A deals are available until Q3 2022. 'Advanced economies' and 'Emerging and developing economies' are defined as per the IMF definition.

Source: Refinitiv and FT fDI Market databases, OECD calculations.

The data on announced greenfield investment projects shows moderate growth in the first six months of 2022 over the last semester: the number of announced projects grew by 5%, whereas announced capital expenditure increased by over 30%. Much of this increase came from new investment projects announced in Q2 2022 and mostly taking place in emerging markets and developing economies, driven by large projects in renewable energy announcing the construction of green hydrogen production complexes in North Africa.

On a sectoral level, the largest increase in capital expenditure in advanced economies was observed in manufacturing and services (which grew by 49% and 13%, respectively, in the first semester of 2022 over the previous one). Nevertheless, in the first half of 2022, the value of new announced investment projects in infrastructure (mainly coal, oil and gas) dropped by 10% compared to the previous semester. In emerging markets and developing economies, the largest increases were also recorded in manufacturing and services (particularly in healthcare and, software and IT services), where the value of announced capital expenditure grew by 76% and 43% in H1 of 2022 over H2 2021, respectively.









## Notes for tables 1 to 3

Data are updated as of 11 October 2022.

p: preliminary data c: confidential  
(A): asset/liability figure used for 2022 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 2021 include positions at end-2021 or at-end 2020 when 2021 data are not available.

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

- 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), and for the following non-OECD countries: Argentina, China, 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 2022 were estimated using the overall growth rate observed between, respectively, Q4 2021 and Q1 2022 and Q1 2022 and Q2 2022. 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 is not yet available separately for Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Japan and Mexico. The information is available separately for Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Korea, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. However, the information is not displayed in the tables for all countries, due to limited availability of historical data; due to differences in data vintages or due to confidentiality of information on resident SPEs for selected years and quarters. Resident SPEs are not present or not significant in Australia, Colombia, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, New Zealand, Poland, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Türkiye.
- 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.

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