

Standard SIMS Report:

Outward Foreign Affiliates Survey

Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS) Report

For

Outward Foreign Affiliates Survey

This documentation applies to the reporting period: **2021**

Last edited:

10/8/2023



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2. Introduction

Outward Foreign Affiliates Statistics are compiled by all 27 EU member states under an EU Regulation which was adopted in 2019. A statistical survey is carried out in Ireland to collect the data required under the required legislation. The objective of the survey is to meet the requirements as outlined in the EU Regulation. Contact

Outward Foreign Affiliates Statistics cover the activities of Irish multinationals abroad. The purpose of the data is to analyse the sectoral and geographical composition of foreign affiliates controlled by Irish multinationals. Irish companies have successfully expanded their operations to establish a physical presence abroad. Statistics on the structure and activity of foreign affiliates is a way of measuring the scale and type of operations by Irish controlled affiliates abroad. The data are useful in order to monitor the integration of the Irish economy with economies both within the EU (internal market) and outside the EU

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3. Metadata Update

3.1. Metadata last certified

01/25/2023

3.2. Metadata last posted

01/25/2023

3.3. Metadata last update

01/25/2023



4. Statistical Presentation

4.1. Data Description

The purpose of the data is to analyse the sectoral and geographical composition and activities abroad of foreign affiliates controlled by Irish multinationals.

The principal variables collected were principal activity, country of location, percentage ownership, turnover and employment in all foreign affiliates controlled by Irish multinationals. Respondents were asked to list all foreign affiliates under their control and provide specific information on the variables outlined above.

The following characteristics are disseminated to the public:

- Number of enterprises (ENT)
- Turnover (TUR)
- Number of persons employed (EMP)

4.2. Classification System

NACE Rev.2 is used to classify the companies by activity.

4.3. Sector Coverage

Enterprises in NACE Rev.2 sections B to S (excluding O)

4.4. Statistical Concepts and definitions

Institutional unit - An institutional unit is an elementary economic decision-making centre characterised by uniformity of behaviour and decision-making autonomy in the exercise of its principal function. A unit is regarded as constituting an institutional unit if it has decision-making autonomy in respect of its principal function and keeps a complete set of accounts.

Foreign Affiliate - A foreign affiliate is enterprise not resident in the compiling country over which an institutional unit resident in the compiling country has control (Outward FATS).

Control - The concept of control is used for the breakdown of the FATS variables. Control means the ability to determine the general policy of an enterprise by choosing appropriate directors, if necessary. In this context, enterprise A is deemed to be controlled by an institutional unit B when B controls, whether directly or indirectly, more than half of the shareholders' voting power or more than half of the shares.

Indirect control means that an institutional unit may have control through another affiliate which has control over enterprise A.

Therefore, control implies the ability to determine the strategy of an enterprise, to guide its activities and to appoint a majority of directors. In most cases, this ability can be exercised by a single investor holding a majority (more than 50 %) of the voting power or of the shares, directly or indirectly.

Ultimate controlling institution (UCI) - The ultimate controlling institution (UCI) of a foreign affiliate is an institutional unit, proceeding up a foreign affiliate's chain of control, which is not controlled by another institutional unit. FATS data are compiled according to the UCI concept. The crucial characteristic of a UCI is that it should effectively control and manage the group, i.e. take global strategic decisions.

Therefore, in the case of Ireland, Outward FATS describes the activities of affiliates abroad where the UCI is an Irish resident institutional unit.



Residency - The place of residency of an UCI is the country of registration of the UCI in the case of legal entities and the country of residence in the case of natural persons acting as UCI. Residency is often but not always the nationality of the UCI.

4.5. Statistical Unit

A foreign affiliate is an enterprise not resident in Ireland over which an institutional unit resident in Ireland has control. Results are published for foreign affiliates aggregated by the type of activity (NACE).

Even though the unit of observation is the foreign affiliate, the survey itself is directed to resident Irish multinationals or Ultimate Controlling Institutions (UCIs). The UCI of a foreign affiliate is an institutional unit, proceeding up a foreign affiliate's chain of control, which is not controlled by another institutional unit.

Outward Foreign Affiliates Statistics are compiled according to the UCI concept. The crucial characteristic of a UCI is that it should effectively control and manage the group, i.e. take global strategic decisions. Therefore, in the case of Ireland, Outward Foreign Affiliates Statistics describes the activities of affiliates abroad where the UCI is an Irish resident institutional unit. The Irish multinational group heads or UCIs reported data on behalf of the affiliates that they control abroad.

4.6. Statistical Population

The target population for outward FATS comprises all foreign-based affiliates that are controlled by an institutional unit resident in the compiling country. The units that complete the CSO outward FATS survey, however, are resident institutional units i.e., Irish multinationals. This provides a difficulty for the outward FATS survey as it requires the CSO to survey domestic-based Irish multinationals and request information about their foreign-based affiliates. This information may not be easily accessible for the domestic-based multinationals.

The survey was a census of all Irish Ultimate Controlling Institutions (UCIs) in the business economy (NACE Rev. 2 sectors B to S excluding O) with affiliates abroad:

- B Mining and quarrying
- C Manufacturing
- D Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply
- E Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities
- F Construction
- G Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles
- H Transportation and storage
- I Accommodation and food service activities
- J Information and communication
- K Financial and insurance activities
- L Real estate activities
- M Professional, scientific and technical activities
- N Administrative and support service activities
- P Education
- Q Human health and social work activities
- R Arts, entertainment and recreation
- S Other service activities

The list of Irish UCIs is maintained on a local register which is updated annually using various sources.

4.7. Reference Area

Ireland.



4.8. Time Coverage

2010-2021

4.9. Base period

Not applicable.

5. Unit of Measure

Units for number of persons engaged and number of enterprises Millions of EUR for turnover.

6. Reference Period

2021

7. Institutional Mandate

7.1. Legal Acts and other agreements

At national level the statistics are collected under the Statistics (Outward Foreign Affiliates) Order 2022, S.I. No. 566 of 2022, which requires the reporting units to provide the CSO with the data to meet the legal requirements contained within Regulation (EC) No 2019/2152

At European level, data from reference year 2019 onwards are collected according to Regulation (EC) No 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and the Council (EC) on the structure and activity of foreign affiliates. The main objective of this Regulation is to establish statistical quality standards and a common framework for the systematic production of comparable statistics on foreign affiliates in the EU.

7.2. Data Sharing

Not applicable.

8. Confidentiality

8.1. Confidentiality - policy

All information supplied to the CSO is treated as strictly confidential. The Statistics Act, 1993 sets stringent confidentiality standards: Information collected may be used only for statistical purposes, and no details that might be related to an identifiable person or business undertaking may be divulged to any other government department or body.

These national statistical confidentiality provisions are reinforced by the following EU legislation: Council Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics for data collected for EU statistical purposes. Further details are outlined in the CSO's Code of Practice on Statistical Confidentiality.

For more information on the CSO confidentiality policy please visit: <u>https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/statisticalconfidentiality/</u>

8.2. Confidentiality – data treatment

One of the most important aspects of producing any set of statistics is to maintain the confidentiality of the respondents. The confidentiality rules applied to Inward and Outward FATS are the same rules that apply across the Structural Business Statistics (SBS) area. If a figure meets one of the criteria listed below,



then that figure is deemed directly confidential and will not be published. The confidentiality rules are as follows:

- Too few enterprises i.e., fewer than 3 enterprises in a data cell
- *P*-percent rule: a cell is suppressed if the total minus the two largest contributions is smaller than 7% of the largest contribution.
- A cell is also suppressed if publishing that data cell would allow another confidential cell to be indirectly deduced.

Due to the very detailed data requirements in the FATS statistics, there is a high rate of incidence of confidential cells that may not be published. The data published throughout this report meet the above confidentiality rules.

9. Release Policy

9.1. Release Calendar

The date of dissemination of all statistics released by CSO can be found in the Release Calendar published in CSO.ie. This calendar is regularly updated.

9.2. Release calendar access

The release calendar can be accessed via the CSO website, www.cso.ie, or directly from this link: <u>https://www.cso.ie/en/csolatestnews/releasecalendar/</u>

9.3. User access

In accordance with Principle 6 of the European Statistics Code of Practice all users of CSO statistics have equal access via the CSO website at the same time of 11 am. Any privileged pre-release access to any outside user is limited, controlled and publicised. In the event that leaks occur, pre-release arrangements are revised so as to ensure impartiality.

The CSO recognises that in very limited circumstances a business need for pre-release access may be substantiated. Any form of pre-release access is a privilege and a strict CSO pre-release access policy is adhered to for these special requests. The full pre-release access policy can be accessed at https://www.cso.ie/en/aboutus/lgdp/csodatapolicies/csopolicyonpre-releaseaccess/

The various results are published nationally in statistical release format as well as on the CSO website (www.cso.ie). Selected extracts from the results are posted on the CSO's data dissemination database, PxStat.

10. Frequency of Dissemination

Annual

11. Accessibility and clarity

11.1. News release

Not applicable.



11.2. Publications

The published release can be found in the CSO website or directly from this link <u>https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/internationalenterprises/outwardforeignaffiliatesstatisticsofats/</u>

11.3. On-line database

The tables associated with this release can be found in our online dissemination database, PxStat through the following link https://data.cso.ie/product/OFATS

11.3.1. AC 1. Data tables - consultations

During the time period 1st January 2021 up to 2nd Nov 2021 the OFATS release received a total of 468 hits, out of which 229 where unique.

11.4. Micro-data Access

Not applicable.

11.5. Other

Data is published in the annual "Business in Ireland" report which is released at end-October every year. The latest version of this report can be found here <u>https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/enterprisestatistics/businessinireland/</u>

Outward Foreign Affiliates Survey published by Eurostat can be found here <u>https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/explore/all/icts?lang=en&subtheme=sbs.fats_out&display=list&sort=category</u>

11.5.1. AC2. Metadata consultations

Not calculated.

11.6. Documentation on Methodology

Documentation on methodology can be found on the methods page of the latest Outwards Foreign Affiliates Survey <u>https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/multisectoral/outwardforeignaffiliatessurvey/</u>

11.6.1. AC3 – Metadata completeness – rate

Not calculated

11.7. Quality Documentation

Further information on the documentation associated with this output can be found in the Methods page in cso.ie <u>https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/multisectoral/outwardforeignaffiliatessurvey/</u>

12. Quality Management

12.1. Quality Assurance

Quality Management Framework

The CSO avails of an office wide Quality Management Framework (QMF). This framework allows all CSO processes and outputs to meet the required standard as set out in the European Statistics Code of Practice (ESCOP). The QMF foundations are based on establishing the UNECE's Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) as the operating statistical production model to achieve a standardised approach to



Quality Management. All and any changes implemented to CSO processes and outputs require adherence to the QMF.

Year-on-year checks were carried out at 1) affiliate level and 2) UCI level in 2019. These checks resulted in queries being sent to respondents to ensure data was correct. In some cases, errors were found and relevant data was corrected, with revisions to previous years if required

12.2. Quality Assessment

The CSO conducts self-assessment reviews on all their published processes on an annual basis.

13. Relevance

13.1. User Needs

Globalisation is one of the most important economic phenomena of recent decades and presents challenges for data providers and policymakers in understanding the flows of global business transactions.

Enterprise groups are increasingly operating across national borders and are engaged in activities on a global scale. Ireland has become an important destination for foreign companies and their affiliates, and Irish companies have also expanded their operations to establish a physical presence abroad.

Statistics on the structure and activity of foreign affiliates can be used to assess the impact of foreigncontrolled enterprises on the Irish economy and to measure the scale and type of operations by Irish controlled affiliates abroad. The data are useful for monitoring the integration of the Irish economy with other economies both within the EU (internal market) and outside of the EU.

FATS data measure the extent to which there is a foreign-owned commercial presence in the territory of a country. Establishing a foreign-based affiliate, however, is only one of the modes of delivery of economic activities abroad. Enterprises may also engage in direct trade with other economies or take a minority stake in enterprises in other countries.

13.1.1. Main National Users

Academics & Government

13.1.2. Principal External Users

The European Commission (via Eurostat)

13.2. User Satisfaction

Not measured.

13.3. Data Completeness

Not calculated.

13.3.1. Data Completeness rate

Not calculated.



14. Accuracy and reliability

14.1. Overall accuracy

The main issues affecting the overall accuracy of the OFATS publication refer to 1) response rates and 2) coverage of the register of Irish multinationals. These are dealt with under non-sampling effects.

A problem that is encountered when carrying out the outward FATS survey is that some multinationals report data on their foreign affiliates on a consolidated basis. For example, all affiliates in the UK might be consolidated into one section on the form and reported as a single affiliate. In reality, the reported data represents more than one affiliate. This leads to the outcome that the data on the number of foreign affiliates controlled by Irish multinationals is underestimated. The problem of consolidation does not affect data on the number of persons engaged and turnover to the same extent as the consolidation generally occurs on a country basis within a particular business activity which is how CSO aggregates the data in any case.

CSO do not publish the data on the number of foreign affiliates due to this underestimation. If this data becomes more reliable in the future, the CSO may publish the information at that point.

14.2. Sampling Error

The OFATS consists of a census of UCIs therefore there are no specific sampling errors in the survey.

14.2.1. A1. Sampling error indicator

Not calculated.

14.3. Non-sampling Error

The main source of non-sampling error in the survey arises from coverage issues, as the register of Irish multinationals is constantly under development, as the process of locating foreign affiliates is ongoing. The EuroGroups Register set up by Eurostat aims at having a comprehensive list of multinationals and their affiliates in Europe and will aid toward the completeness of coverage in in the future.

14.3.1. Coverage error

As the register of Irish multinationals or UCIs is continually being developed there may be errors in terms of the coverage of the register itself. Every year the register is being updated and maintained with new data sources. Every effort is made to ensure that the register stays as current as possible.

A key aspect of the Outward Foreign Affiliates Survey was the need to accumulate as much information as possible on all Irish-resident multinationals. This is not a straightforward exercise as the list of Irish multinationals needs to be updated annually in order to capture enterprises expanding abroad. The various sources used by the CSO to date are as follows:

- CSO Balance of Payments registers of enterprises
- Revenue Commissioners data on income earned abroad
- Euro Groups Register (EGR)
- The CSO Business Register

It is important that a list of Irish multinationals which is as comprehensive as possible is prepared prior to the survey. Any enterprises that are overlooked in drawing up this list of Irish-resident institutional units with affiliates based abroad will not be included in the final compiled results. The Irish multinationals surveyed since 2010 are thought to be very close to a full target population and the survey can be regarded as a census of Irish UCIs with affiliates abroad.

14.3.1.1. A2. Over coverage rate

Not calculated

14.3.1.2. A3. Common units - proportion

Not calculated

14.3.2. Measurement error

Measurement errors were not formally calculated for the survey. However, all measures were taken to prevent their occurrence

- a) All efforts were made to make the questionnaire form as clear as possible. Detailed instructions on how to fill it are also provided.
- b) Queries were dealt with by phone or e-mail on a day-to-day basis.
- c) Individual companies' data are confidential under the Statistics Act, 1993, and can only be used for statistical purposes. All efforts are made to make this fact known to the respondents.

14.3.3. Non-Response Error

The response rates from institutional units surveyed for the outward FATS survey has generally been steady at between 70% and 80%, but the response rate has fallen in recent years. A significant effort is made to ensure a high response rate, particularly among the large Irish multinationals. This is important because if a survey form is not received from an enterprise there is the possibility that CSO might miss affiliates abroad and these affiliates would not be included in the final compiled results. Due to the high response rate among the largest Irish multinationals, it is felt that the issue of non-response does not overly affect the final results.

Both unit and item non-response are treated by contacting the respondent and trying to obtain the missing data

14.3.3.1. Unit non-response rate

A response rate 47.5% was achieved for the 2021 survey. 56% was achieved for 2020 survey. Previous response rates were 55.6% in 2020, 67.4% in 2019, 62.3% in 2018, 62.2% in 2017 ,76.3% in 2016 ,76.3% in 2015, 78.6% in 2014, 76% in 2013, 78.6% in 2012, 78% in 2011, 76% in 2010 and 81% in 2009.

14.3.3.2. Item non-response rate

Not calculated.

14.3.4. Processing error

All possible measures were taken to avoid processing errors. The data were verified during the scanning process. Once the data is loaded to the CSO's Data Management System, the data is checked against the hardcopy survey form for errors.

15. Timeliness and punctuality

15.1. Timeliness

Final 2021 results will be produced and sent to Eurostat before the established deadlines. The national release was published on the 16 August, 2023, with the data also sent to Eurostat 30 August, 2023.

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15.1.1. TP1. Time lag – First results

Not applicable.

15.1.2. TP2. Time lag – Final results

Not applicable.

15.2. Punctuality

The CSO statistical release was published on 16August 2023, 11am as specified in the CSO's release calendar.

15.2.1. TP3. Punctuality - Punctuality - delivery and publication

0 days. The release was delivered on time according to the release calendar.

16. Comparability

16.1. Comparability - Geographical

Not applicable at national level, however Eurostat highlight an analysis of geographical comparability in their published quality report. See <u>https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/fats_out_esms.htm</u>

16.1.1. CC1. Asymmetry for mirror flow statistics

Not calculated.

16.2. Comparability over time

The Outward Foreign Affiliates Statistics 2021 is directly comparable with the results from the 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011 and 2010 surveys. However, starting in 2020, the EU27 was used for European aggregates, excluding the UK, which had been part of the EU28, which had been used for European aggregates since 2013.

16.2.1. Length of Comparable Time series

11 Years

16.3. Coherence – cross domain

The Outward Foreign Affiliates Survey measures a phenomenon that is not measured elsewhere therefore there are no consistency issues with other statistical outputs.

16.3.1. Coherence - Sub annual and annual statistics

Not applicable.

16.3.2. Coherence with National Accounts

Not applicable.

16.4. Coherence – internal

Not applicable.

Z

17. Cost and Burden

Estimates of Cost and Burden can be obtained from the Response Burden Barometer <u>https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/multisectoral/responseburdenbarometer/</u>

Survey specific information is available via CSO's dissemination database PxStat. <u>https://data.cso.ie/product/RBB</u>

18. Data Revision

18.1. Data Revision Policy

Published statistics are subject to correction and revision for a variety of reasons. The most common reasons include the receipt of additional information (for example, late survey responses) and updated seasonal factors. Occasional revisions also occur as a result of changes to definitions, methodology, classifications and general updating of statistical series.

It is recognised internationally that the existence of a sound revisions policy maintains credibility in official statistics. The CSO General Revisions Policy, which details how revisions should be managed and communicated to users, outlines the three main types of revisions:

- •Planned Routine Revisions
- Planned Major Revisions
- • Unplanned Revisions.

One reason for unplanned revisions occurring can be when errors are detected after publication. The 'CSO Error Correction Policy – How to deal with Publication Errors' outlines the steps taken when these errors are detected. As required under Principle 6.3 of the European Statistics Code of Practice, errors detected in published statistics are corrected at the earliest possible date and users are informed. An important step in the process is the documentation and analysis of errors that have occurred and their causes. This allows the CSO to take measures preventing similar errors from occurring in the future and uniformity in dealing with them when they do.

The data revision policy that CSO statistics adheres to can be found via the following link: <u>https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/quality/treatmentofrevisions/</u>

18.2. Data Revision Practice

As a result of the ongoing development of the survey and register of Irish multinationals, new information becomes available every year. Consequently, revisions may be made to Outward Foreign Affiliates Statistics for previous years.

18.2.1. Data Revision – Average size

Not calculated.

19. Statistical processing

19.1. Source Data

The only data source used was the responses on the survey forms.

19.1.1. Population and sampling frame

The Euro Groups Register (EGR) is an EU-wide statistical register on multinational enterprise groups and their constituent units. The objective of the EGR is to cover all multinational enterprise groups operating in the EU. The EGR operates as a network of statistical business register units (including the CSO Business



Register) coordinated by Eurostat. The contributing institutions use the information available to them to check and to complete the data obtained by Eurostat from commercial and statistical sources.

One benefit of the EGR is to coordinate the country code of the UCI to which the enterprises belong. This would reduce duplication across the EU in terms of the statistics on foreign affiliates.

As the EGR moves towards full coverage of enterprise groups in the EU, it will become more important as a source of the frame for selection/sampling in the area of Outward FATS.

19.1.2. Sampling design

All Irish UCIs in the population were included in the sampling frame.

19.1.3. Survey size

Approximately 1500 Enterprises were surveyed.

19.1.4. Survey technique

A letter was posted to each UCI in the sampling (census) frame outlining the details on how to complete the CSO form. Three reminders were sent after the initial launch of the survey. The reminders consisted of letters and survey forms. The issuing of the survey and reminders was managed using the CSO's Data Management System (DMS).

On receiving the survey forms from respondents, the forms were first visually scrutinised. The forms were scanned and verified, and the data was transferred to a CSV file. The data was then transferred to the CSO's Data Management System (DMS) using SAS

19.2. Frequency of data collection

Annual

19.3. Data Collection

19.3.1. Type of Survey/Process

The Outward Foreign Affiliates Survey was an online survey. An e-form was emailed to the list of respondents which is maintained on a local register. Respondents were asked to complete the form and submit it to the CSO. In the case of large respondents, there was the option to provide data by spreadsheet to reduce burden and due to limitations of the e-form. Reminders were issued in the case of non-response. In some cases, companies were be contacted separately and asked to complete the form.

19.3.2. Questionnaire (including explanations)

On the survey form respondents are required to complete a list of foreign affiliates that are under the control of the Irish multinational.

The required variables for each foreign affiliate are as follows:

- Name of foreign affiliate
- Country in which foreign affiliate is located
- Description of the activity of the foreign affiliate (which is coded to NACE Rev. 2 activity codes)
- Shares in registered capital of foreign affiliate (only a shareholding of 51% or greater in a foreign
- affiliate is taken for compilation purposes).
- Turnover
- Number of persons engaged



The Survey form can be accessed here: <u>https://www.cso.ie/en/methods/surveyforms/outwardforeignaffiliatessurvey/</u>

19.3.3. Survey Participation

The Outward Foreign Affiliate Survey was statutory therefore participation was on a mandatory basis.

19.3.4. Data Capture

Data were captured by uploaded from the e-form to the CSO's Data Management System using SAS programs. Verification was done on received data, including follow-up queries with enterprises.

19.4. Data Validation

The data was edited using automatic edits on the CSO's Data Management System. Direct contact was also made with respondents where data was required to be verified or checked.

Year-on-year checks were carried out at 1) affiliate level and 2) UCI level in 2021. These checks resulted in queries being sent to respondents to ensure data was correct. In some cases, errors were found and relevant data was corrected, with revisions to previous years if required.

19.5. Data Compilation

Every foreign affiliate was coded according to its primary activity (NACE Rev. 2). County codes are used to breakdown the foreign affiliate data by location. These are the only types of coding used.

Collected and edited data for all foreign affiliates were aggregated in a SAS dataset. All affiliates where the percentage ownership was less than 50 per cent were eliminated. All inactive affiliates (zero employment and zero turnover) were eliminated. In the case of non-response an estimate was put into the main SAS dataset where data was received from UCIs in a previous year. All effort is made to ensure that these estimates are as accurate as possible. No estimates were made for non-response for those UCI who have never responded to the CSO survey. Appropriate revisions are made to previous years where new information is collected on multinationals that were not on the Outward Foreign Affiliates Survey previously.

All statistical outputs were calculated by summing the affiliate data received from Irish UCIs

19.5.1. Imputation (for Non-Response or Incomplete Data Sets)

Imputations were used in the case of non-response. An estimate was created using data received from UCIs in a previous year. All effort is made to ensure that these estimates are as accurate as possible.

19.5.1.1. A7. Imputation rate

Not calculated.

19.5.2. Grossing and Weighting

Grossing was not used for the Outward Foreign Affiliates Statistics.

19.6. Adjustment

Not applicable.

19.6.1. Seasonal Adjustment

Not applicable.



20. Comment

Additional information can be obtained from the Eurostat website <u>https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Foreign-controlled_enterprises_statistics_-outward_FATS</u>