



Federal Ministry
for Economic Affairs
and Climate Action

German companies – drivers of investment and well-paid jobs in the U.S.

*Facts and figures on German-American trade
and investment relations*

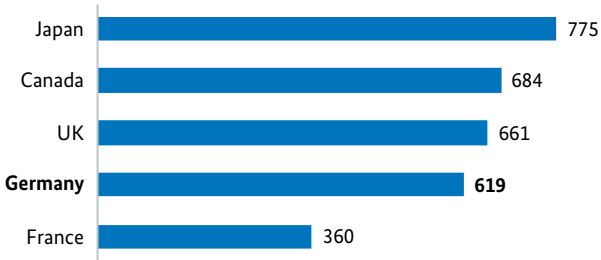


[bmwk.de](https://www.bmwk.de)

Germany is the fourth largest foreign investor in the U.S.

Around 5,800 German companies have invested a total of 619 billion USD in the U.S. This is about 12% of all foreign direct investment in the U.S.

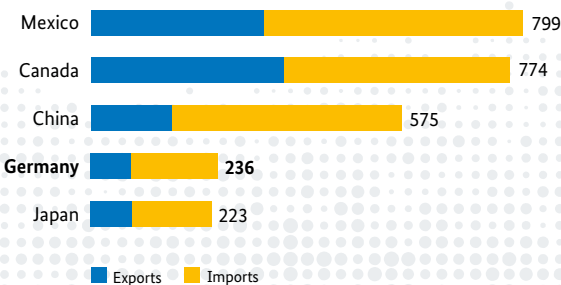
Foreign direct investment in the US (in billion USD)



Germany is the fourth-largest trading partner of the U.S.

With trade in goods of around 236 billion USD, Germany is the U.S.' fourth largest trade partner and the second most important one outside the USMCA region. The most important sectors are chemicals, automotives, mechanical engineering and electronics (together accounting for around 75% of trade). The U.S. market is also the number-one export market for German companies.

US trade volume (exports and imports) in billion USD

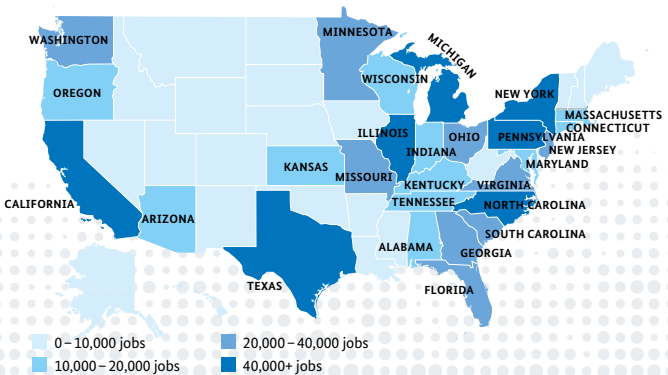


German companies are the third largest foreign employer in the U.S.

Overall, foreign companies created 7.9 million jobs in the United States. Of these, 923,600 are located at German subsidiaries. These jobs are very well paid: within the top-five group of the largest foreign employers, German companies are the ones that pay the second highest per-capita wages. These are considerably higher than the U.S. average wage (about 60,000 USD).

Country	Jobs	Average wage per employee (in USD)
UK	1,222,800	75,150
Japan	963,400	88,667
Germany	923,600	86,200
Canada	866,300	84,739
France	741,200	75,747

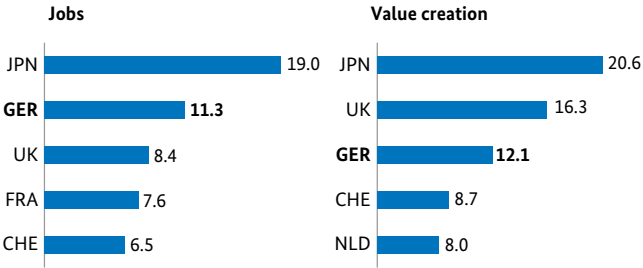
The jobs that have been created are spread across all of the regions of the U.S. In Iowa, Michigan, New Mexico, North and South Carolina and Puerto Rico, German companies are the largest foreign employer. In another nine states (Alabama, District of Columbia, Delaware, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Oregon) they are the second largest foreign employer.



German companies are the second-largest foreign employer in the manufacturing sector in the U.S.

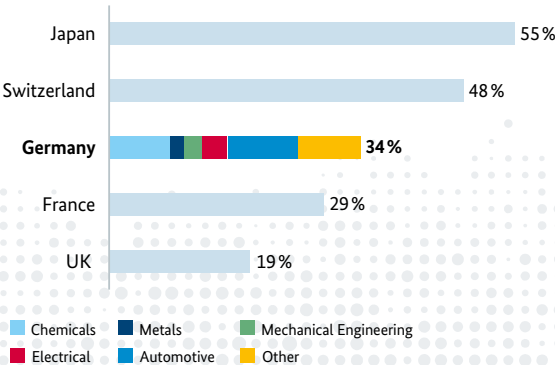
Among all foreign companies in the U.S. manufacturing sector, German subsidiaries make the third-largest contribution to value creation.

Jobs and value generated by foreign companies in the U.S. manufacturing sector per country and in %



German companies in the U.S. have created a total of 318,000 jobs in the manufacturing industry. Over a third of those employed by German subsidiaries work in the industrial sector. The dominant industries here are automotives/transportation, chemicals, electronics and mechanical engineering.

Share of employees in the industrial sector



In the field of research and development, German Companies are the largest foreign employer in the U.S.

Foreign subsidiaries in the U.S. account for nearly one-sixth of research and development expenditure in the U.S. About half of the amount is provided by Germany, Japan and Switzerland. German companies make the third highest annual contributions to the expenditure on research and development.

Country	Employees in R&D	R&D spending (USD billions)
Germany	34,200	11.2
UK	31,600	6.9
Japan	29,300	12.6
Switzerland	21,200	12.9
Netherlands	19,000	6.9

Information on sources:

The data used are mainly based on publications of the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA).

The data on foreign direct investments supplied by the BEA refers to the Ultimate Beneficial Owner (UBO). The UBO statistics look at the ultimate beneficial owner of a foreign company.

The data refer to the latest statistically recorded year at the time this flyer was published; The latest structural data (such as jobs, etc.) available are from 2021, while the latest data on direct investment are from 2022. Trade data is from 2023.

Contact

Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate
Action (BMWK), Scharnhorststraße 34-37,
10115 Berlin

Further information can be found at www.bmwk.de
and www.gtai.de.

Imprint

Publisher

Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs
and Climate Action (BMWK)
Public Relations
11019 Berlin
www.bmwk.de

Current as at

February 2024

This publication is available for download
only.

Design

PRpetuum GmbH, 80801 Munich

Picture Credits

iStock / Rawf8 / Title

