

## Contents

1. Introduction .....	1
2. Inter-temporal development of foreign ownership within five Member States .....	2
3. Was there a shift in location of ownership between 1996 and 1998? .....	4
4. Which activities became more attractive to foreign owners between 1996 and 1998? .....	6

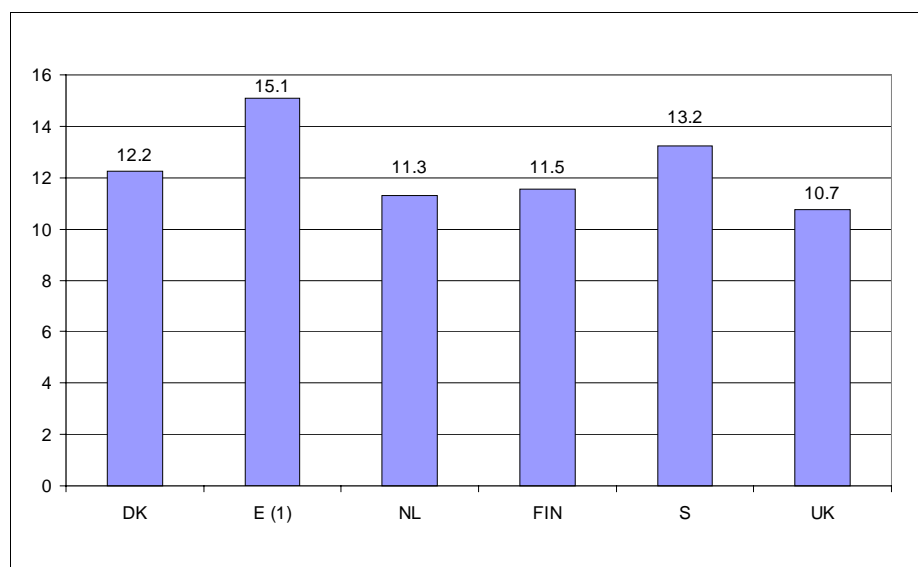


# Foreign owned enterprises

*In 1998 between 10.7% and 15.1% of value added in the service sector in DK, E, NL, FIN, S and the UK was generated by foreign owned enterprises*

*Bettina Knauth*

## 1. Introduction



(1) Selected service activities only; data are provisional.

Source: FATS

Figure 1: Contribution of foreign owned enterprises to value added within the service sector of six Member States, 1998 (%)

Main findings based on data for Denmark, Spain, the Netherlands, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom:

- The share of total value added generated by foreign owned enterprises in 1998 in the service sectors of Denmark, Spain, the Netherlands, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom varied between 10.7% in the United Kingdom and 15.1% in Spain.
- The share of the number of persons employed by foreign owned enterprises in the service sector varied between 6.9% in the United Kingdom and 10.9% in Sweden in 1998.
- Intra-EU owned foreign affiliates accounted for an increasing share of total value added generated by foreign owned enterprises in the service sector.
- Foreign affiliates owned by German enterprises reported a growing share of foreign ownership within the service sector of the countries studied.
- There was a trend towards concentration of foreign ownership amongst the most important foreign owners in services between 1996 and 1998.

The phenomenon of globalisation has received a large amount of attention in recent years. One area of official structural business statistics (SBS) that allow this process to be studied is data relating to foreign owned enterprises. Eurostat have recently released a publication with details of foreign owned enterprises in eight EU Member States that

concentrates on data for reference year 1997.

The data collection exercise concerning foreign owned enterprises began with the collection of data for reference year 1996. With the completion of the third round of collection, a short time series is now available from 1996 to 1998. This Statistics in Focus

reports for the first time on the results for 1998, whilst at the same time also giving a first insight into the evolution of the importance of foreign owned enterprises over time. The report presents results for Denmark, Spain, the Netherlands, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom - its main focus is the service sector.

## 2. Inter-temporal development of foreign ownership within five Member States

### Interpreting the data:

Inter-temporal comparisons of data on foreign owned enterprises need to be viewed with caution. Firstly, there are the usual problems of comparability that may be associated with time-series data. Two specific examples may be cited:

1. Changes that are caused by improvements in the way the survey is conducted;
2. Reclassification effects, which may occur as a result of a change in the principal activity of the foreign owned enterprise, causing the enterprise to be re-classified under another NACE heading.

There are further points which also need to be borne in mind when interpreting the data presented in this report. These are more specific to the interpretation of data on foreign owned enterprises:

1. Changes in the structure and composition of large enterprise groups (that are often spread across several countries) may have significant effects on the data. For example, an enterprise may be classified as a foreign owned enterprise in one reference period, whilst being considered as a nationally owned enterprise in the next (even if the immediate owner remains the same).
2. Businesses that change (majority) ownership tend to display an increased incidence of restructuring, which can also play a role in "distorting" the data. As a result businesses may move in and out of the FATS data set within a relatively short period of time. Such cases become more exacerbated when the changes in ownership are driven by the motivation to acquire only certain parts of an enterprise (or enterprise group) and the new owner subsequently disinvests the remaining assets.

by Finland (0.8 points between 1996 and 1998) and Sweden (0.3 points, again between 1996 and 1998). It is unfortunately not possible to separate the changes in foreign ownership over time that result from internal growth of the affiliates already present in an activity from the effects of external growth as a result of new affiliates entering the activity.

A relatively large decrease in the contribution of foreign owned enterprises to the value added of the respective service sectors of Denmark<sup>2</sup> (down 5.7 points) and the United Kingdom (down 5.5 points) took place between 1996 and 1998 - please read the shaded box for possible explanations of this phenomenon. In the United Kingdom, foreign owned enterprises had the second highest share of services' value added (16.2%) in 1996, which fell to the lowest share (of six reporting Member States) in 1998 (10.7%).

Table 2 (on the next page) shows the inter-temporal developments of the contribution of foreign owned enterprises to both value added and employment in the business economies (NACE Rev. 1 Sections C to I and K) of five Member States, broken down into industry (NACE Rev. 1 Sections C to F) and services (NACE Rev. 1 Sections G to I and K) sub-totals.

The table shows there was an increase in the contribution of foreign owned enterprises to value added generated in the service sectors of the Netherlands, Finland and Sweden between 1996 and 1998<sup>1</sup>. The fastest growth was observed in the Netherlands, with an increase of 1.7 percentage points between 1997 and 1998, followed

<sup>1</sup> Please refer to the methodological notes on page 7 for an explanation how totals have been calculated.

<sup>2</sup> This report presents data for a limited number of economic activities within the service sector (principally distributive trades, hotels and restaurants). Looking at data for the whole Danish economy over the same period, foreign direct investment rose significantly from 12.4 billion ECU at the end of 1996 to 19.9 billion ECU at the end of 1998 (and to 28.7 billion ECU at the end of 1999).

The difference between the lowest and highest shares of value added in the service sector accounted for by foreign owned enterprises was equal to 7.2 percentage points in 1996 (ranging from 10.7% to 17.9%), whilst by 1998 this range contracted to just 2.5 percentage points difference (ranging from 10.7% to 13.2%)<sup>3</sup>.

In 1998 the share of value added of foreign owned enterprises in industrial activities was higher than equivalent shares in the service sector, with the exception of value added in Denmark. Most noticeable was the high share of value added generated by foreign affiliates in the industrial sector of the United Kingdom, compared with the relatively low shares reported in the service sector (there was a similar pattern observed in both the Netherlands and Sweden, although not as pronounced). In Finland and Denmark, the differences between the contribution of foreign owned enterprises to total value added in

industry and services were much smaller, with foreign owned enterprises in the Danish service sector accounting for a larger share of value added than their industrial counterparts.

Shifting the focus to the number of persons employed, in all countries that provided data, the share of persons employed by foreign owned enterprises in industrial activities was higher than the share of persons employed by foreign owned enterprises in services in 1997 and 1998. Finland was the only country to report an increase in the share of foreign affiliates in total services' employment between 1996 and 1998 (up 1.6 percentage points). There was little change in the relative share of foreign owned enterprises in total services' employment in the Netherlands (down 0.1 points between 1997 and 1998), whilst the largest reduction was recorded in the United Kingdom, where the share of foreign owned enterprises fell by 1.8

percentage points between 1996 and 1998 - again it is important to read the notes in the shaded box on page 2.

As for value added, the contribution of foreign owned enterprises to total services' employment in the United Kingdom moved from the second highest rate (8.7%) amongst those Member States studied in 1996 to being the lowest rate in 1998 (6.9%). In Spain, provisional data for a selection of service activities showed that foreign owned enterprises accounted for 10.1% of total employment in 1998.

Contrary to the results for value added, the range between the lowest and highest shares of total services' employment accounted for by foreign owned enterprises rose somewhat from 3.7 percentage points (between 8.0% and 11.7%) in 1996 to 4.0 percentage points (6.9% to 10.9%) in 1998.

	1996		1997		1998	
	Value added	Employment	Value added	Employment	Value added	Employment
<b>Denmark</b>						
Business economy	:	:	:	:	11.3	7.8
Industry	:	:	:	:	10.3	8.4
Services	17.9	8.7	:	:	12.2	7.2
<b>The Netherlands</b>						
Business economy	:	:	14.6	9.8	15.7	9.5
Industry	:	:	21.7	13.7	21.7	13.6
Services	:	:	9.6	7.7	11.3	7.6
<b>Finland</b>						
Business economy	:	:	11.7	9.7	12.1	10.9
Industry	:	:	12.3	10.8	12.5	12.2
Services	10.7	8.0	11.0	8.6	11.5	9.6
<b>Sweden</b>						
Business economy	:	:	14.9	12.4	16.1	13.6
Industry	:	:	17.7	15.7	19.2	17.1
Services	12.9	11.7	12.0	9.8	13.2	10.9
<b>The United Kingdom</b>						
Business economy	:	:	16.6	11.6	15.7	:
Industry	:	:	22.3	15.3	25.2	:
Services	16.2	8.7	12.4	9.6	10.7	6.9

Source: FATS

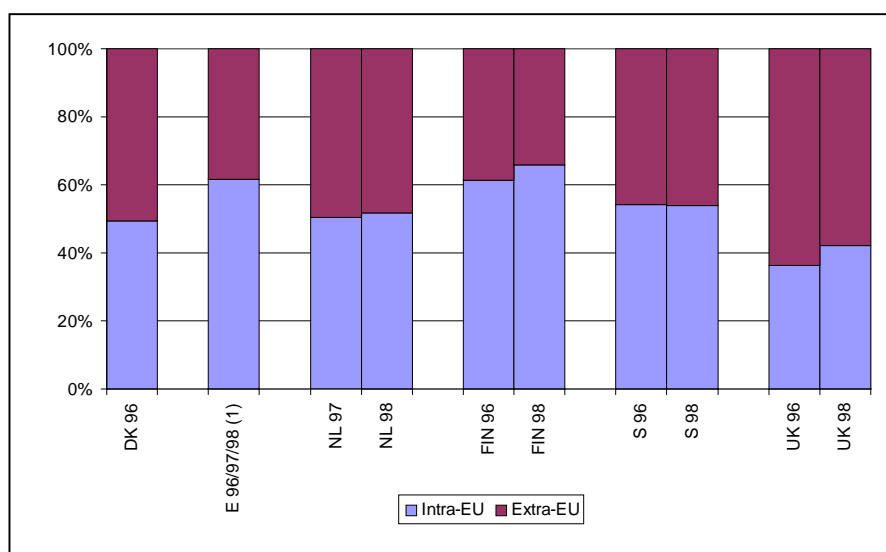
Table 2: Contribution of foreign owned enterprises to value added and employment in industry and services in five Member States (%)

<sup>3</sup> This comparison excludes Spain, where provisional data for a limited selection of activities indicates that around 15% of services' value added was generated by foreign owned enterprises in 1998. This is a higher share than in any of the other Member States considered - although it cannot be considered representative of the whole service sector.

### 3. Was there a shift in location of ownership between 1996 and 1998?

#### Shifts in location of ownership between intra and extra-EU ownership

Figure 3 shows the breakdown of foreign ownership in the service sector between intra and extra-EU partners (data availability precluded this breakdown from being calculated for 1998 for Denmark). Focusing on the four countries with data for more than one year, what is most noticeable is the general trend for intra-EU ownership to gain ground. Only in Sweden was there a slight decline in the relative share of intra-EU ownership, from 54.2% to 53.8%. The highest shares of intra-EU ownership were found in Finland (65.9%), followed by Spain (61.7%) and Sweden (53.8%) in 1998. The United Kingdom was the only Member State where extra-EU ownership accounted for the majority share of total foreign ownership in 1998. Nevertheless, intra-EU owned enterprises gained 5.9 percentage points of total foreign owned activity between 1996 and 1998 in the United Kingdom - the largest shift observed amongst the four countries able to provide data.



(1) Data are provisional.

Source: FATS

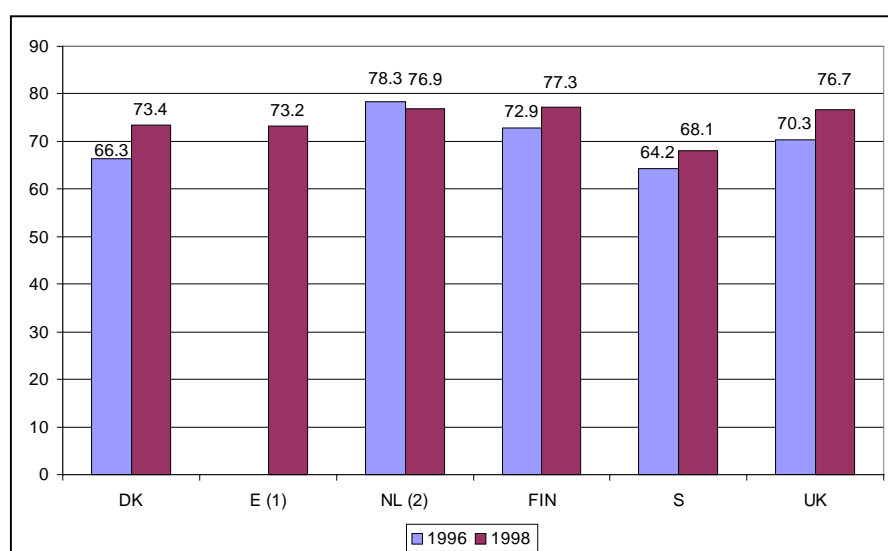
Figure 3: Breakdown of value added generated by foreign owned enterprises within the service sector of six Member States (%)

#### Shift in the structure of foreign ownership as German owned enterprises play an increasingly important role

Table 5 (on the next page) lists the five most important partner countries in terms of the contribution of foreign owned enterprises to total value added in the service sector.

Indication is provided as to whether or not the relative share of these foreign owners in total value added increased between 1996 (or 1997) and 1998.

The table was constructed using all available data, including confidential data and hence the actual shares cannot be published. The share of the top five partners accounted for between 68.1% and 77.3% of total value added in 1998 according to which host country is being studied, see figure 4. Other than in the Netherlands, the share of the five most important foreign owners increased over time - or in other words - there was a trend towards increasing concentration of foreign ownership amongst the most important foreign owners.



(1) Selected service activities only; data are provisional.

(2) 1997-1998.

Source: FATS

Figure 4: Aggregated share of value added in the service sector generated by the top 5 foreign owners (%)

Denmark				Spain		
Rank	1996	1998	Increase or decrease?	Rank	1996/97/98	
1	USA	USA	USA ↑	1	USA	
2	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden ↑	2	France	
3	United Kingdom	Germany	Germany ↑	3	Germany	
4	Norway	Norway	Norway ↓	4	Netherlands	
5	Kuwait	Netherlands	Netherlands ↓	5	United Kingdom	

The Netherlands				Finland			
Rank	1997	1998	Increase or decrease?	Rank	1996	1998	Increase or decrease?
1	USA	USA	USA ↓	1	Sweden	Sweden	Sweden ↑
2	United Kingdom	United Kingdom	United Kingdom ↑	2	USA	USA	USA ↑
3	Germany	Germany	Germany ↓	3	Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands ↑
4	France	France	France ↑	4	Germany	Germany	Germany ↑
5	Japan	Japan	Japan ↓	5	Japan	Japan	Japan ↓

Sweden				The United Kingdom			
Rank	1996	1998	Increase or decrease?	Rank	1996	1998	Increase or decrease?
1	USA	USA	USA ↑	1	USA	USA	USA ↓
2	United Kingdom	United Kingdom	United Kingdom ↓	2	France	France	France ↑
3	Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands ↓	3	Germany	Germany	Germany ↑
4	France	Denmark	Denmark ↑	4	Japan	Japan	Japan ↑
5	Norway	Germany	Germany ↑	5	Netherlands	Netherlands	Netherlands ↑

*In bold the foreign owners with a growing importance; data for Spain are provisional.*

*Source: FATS*

*Table 5: Growing or declining importance of foreign owners in the service sector, based on the value added generated by foreign owned enterprises*

The USA was by far the most important foreign owner, occupying first or second place in all Member States. In the Nordic countries, the American share of foreign ownership rose between 1996 and 1998, whilst in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom the importance of the USA as a foreign owner decreased (whilst remaining the most important foreign owner in both of these countries).

Other than the USA, the rankings by foreign owner were dominated by EU countries. Germany entered the top five in Denmark and Sweden, and as a result of this, was present in the top five of every host country reporting data. Furthermore, the German share of value added rose in every country (other than the Netherlands). The Netherlands was also present in every host economy, reporting an increasing share of total foreign ownership in Finland and the

United Kingdom, whilst its relative share in Denmark and Sweden decreased. France was an important partner country for neighbouring Spain, in second place behind the USA. French shares of total foreign ownership increased in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom too. However, after dropping out of the Swedish top five, France was no longer represented in any of the rankings for the three Nordic countries.

#### 4. Which activities became more attractive to foreign owners between 1996 and 1998?

Table 6 details the evolution of foreign ownership within industrial and service activities. The change in foreign ownership within industrial activities can only be shown between 1997 and 1998 as data were not collected in 1996.

The sectors that attracted most foreign ownership in 1998 were manufacturing (Section D), distributive trades (Section G) and mining and quarrying (Section C). The least attractive activities were electricity, gas and water supply (Section E) and construction (Section F). In mining and quarrying (Section C) the already substantial share of value added accounted for by foreign owned enterprises in the United Kingdom went up from 41.8% to 47.0%. In manufacturing (Section D) the most important gains were again recorded in the United Kingdom, as well as in Sweden, where foreign owned enterprises

saw their share of total value added go up by 5.1 percentage points and 2.1 percentage points respectively. Electricity, gas and water supply industries (Section E) and construction (Section F) both recorded relatively low levels of foreign activity in 1998.

In distributive trades (Section G), the most important service activity in absolute terms, the share of foreign owned enterprises in total value added rose in Sweden, Finland and (most significantly) the Netherlands. In hotels and restaurants (Section H), the share of total value added accounted for by foreign owned enterprises in Finland grew from 1.8% in 1996 to 7.4% in 1998, to reach a level that was more comparable with those observed in other countries. In Spain, the share of value added generated by foreign owned enterprises in hotels and restaurants was equal to 4.3% of the

total, whilst the equivalent share for employment was 2.8%. Transport and communications (Section I), which is a relatively small activity in absolute terms, did not see major changes in the relative contribution of foreign owned enterprises to the value added generated, other than in the United Kingdom, where the share of foreign owned enterprises fell from 12.6% to 8.7% between 1996 and 1998. Within business activities (Section K), Denmark and the United Kingdom reported the highest contributions to total value added by foreign owned enterprises in 1996. However, the relative importance of foreign owned enterprises in this activity declined in both of these countries between 1996 and 1998, such that by 1998 they displayed shares that were at comparable levels to those displayed in the other Member States.

NACE	DK		NL		FIN		S		UK	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1996	1998
<b>Industry</b>										
C	:	:	19.4	15.4	:	12.5	10.1	10.7	41.8	47.0
D	:	12.0	27.9	28.8	14.1	14.0	21.4	23.5	25.0	30.1
E	:	:	0.0	0.0	1.6	2.5	5.0	5.5	:	4.1
F	:	3.8	3.2	3.1	6.8	9.0	5.0	4.9	:	4.5
<b>Services</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1998</b>
G	21.8	14.5	11.9	15.1	17.0	19.1	19.3	20.9	16.3	13.6
H	9.0	5.6	10.3	13.5	1.8	7.4	12.3	12.9	:	6.4
I	3.7	:	4.6	5.0	3.7	3.4	8.3	7.9	12.6	8.7
K	11.8	9.5	9.4	10.2	9.7	9.8	9.1	9.8	17.3	9.5

Source: FATS

Table 6: Share of foreign owned enterprises in total value added at the Section level of NACE Rev. 1 (%)

## ➤ ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – METHODOLOGICAL NOTES

In late 1998, Eurostat launched a pilot study to collect data for reference year 1996 from a limited number of Member States to look closer at foreign affiliate market services' statistics. For the collection of data for reference year 1997, the activity coverage was extended to include industry too. Eurostat has released a publication which reports in detail on the results for reference year 1997 which is entitled "Foreign Owned Enterprises in the EU - results for 8 Member States".

After Member States supplied data for reference year 1998, three years of data are now available and this information provides the basis of the results in this report. The tables and graphics relate to an extraction made on 23/02/2001. The following countries have been involved in the project: Denmark, Spain, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Ireland and Italy have provided data for previous reference years, however they were not in a position to supply data for 1998.

The data was collected according to the concept of the ultimate beneficial owner (UBO), as opposed to the so-called "first shot" method. First shot data means that ownership is allocated to the first country in the chain of ownership, whilst UBO data relates to the country identified as being the residence of the ultimate owner.

Data was collected for the following variables: number of enterprises; turnover; production value; value added at factor cost; total purchases of goods and services; personnel costs; gross investment in tangible goods; number of persons employed and number of employees.

The results presented are based on non-confidential data - other than the section on partner countries where the full data set was used.

### Calculation of ad-hoc aggregates

Most of the data in this report is presented at an aggregated level to provide global figures. In some cases, aggregates have been calculated despite the fact that one or more constituent parts of the aggregate are

confidential or not available. As a result, missing data for individual activities in just one reporting country are footnoted in the table below, rather than the aggregate being considered as not available. As the statistics available for foreign owned enterprises do not always comprehensively cover all economic activities, it was decided not to publish data on the absolute levels of foreign ownership within this report, but only data on shares.

Note that in some cases different aggregations have been used to construct the ad-hoc aggregates across different years. As such, even results for one country can represent different activity coverage. The impact of this was tested, and the conclusion was that the difference in coverage did not have any major effect on the outcome of this study. Again, only shares of foreign owned enterprises are compared, but caution still needs to be observed when making comparisons over time. The activity coverage for the ad-hoc aggregations may be summarised as follows:

	1996	1997	1998
DK	52 excludes 52.11, 52.26, 52.33, 52.41, 52.42, 52.44, 52.45 and 52.46; 63 excludes Group 63.3; I excludes 64; 74 excludes 74.1, 74.5, 74.7 and 74.8; K excludes 71 and 73		Industry excludes C and E; 63 excludes 63.3; K excludes 73; Services excludes 60, 61, 62 and 64; no special aggregates for intra-EU and extra-EU were calculated
E			Services excludes 50, 52, 60, 61, 63.1, 63.2, 63.4, 64.1, 70, 71, 73, 74.11, 74.12, 74.14, 74.15, 74.6 and 74.7; 74.8 is 1996 data; 74.2 and 74.3 are 1997 data; data are provisional
NL		E excludes 40; G excludes 52.1, 52.3, 52.5, 52.6 and 52.7; K excludes 70 and 73	E excludes 40; K excludes 70 and 73
FIN	52 excludes 52.25, 52.26, 52.27, 52.61 and 52.71; H excludes 55.3, 55.4 and 55.5	Industry excludes C; H excludes 55.3, 55.4 and 55.5	Industry excludes C; Section H excludes 55.3, 55.4 and 55.5
S	I excludes 60.1, 60.3, 64.1		
UK	50 excludes 50.3, 50.4 and 50.5; 51 excludes 51.31, 51.33, 51.35, 51.36, 51.37, 51.42, 51.52, 51.53, 51.70; 52 excludes 52.11, 52.25, 52.26, 52.27, 52.61, 52.63 and 52.7; I excludes 63, 64.11 and 64.2; 74 excludes 74.1, 74.2 and 74.3; K excludes 70 and 72; services excludes H	Industry: employees replaces persons employed; 64 excludes 64.11; K excludes 70	I excludes 62 and 64.11

The full NACE Rev. 1 activity classification is available at:

[http://forum.europa.eu.int/irc/dsis/bmethods/info/data/new/classifications/nace\\_en.pdf](http://forum.europa.eu.int/irc/dsis/bmethods/info/data/new/classifications/nace_en.pdf)

# Further information:

## ➤ Reference publications

Title Foreign owned enterprises in the EU - Results for eight Member States  
 Catalogue No KS-33-00-615-EN-C-EN Price EUR 14.50

## ➤ Databases

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