



NEWS RELEASE



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William Zeile: (202) 606-9893

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Summary Estimates for Multinational Companies: Employment, Sales, and Capital Expenditures for 2007

The following are advance summary estimates of the employment, capital spending, and sales activity of U.S. multinational companies (comprising both their U.S. and foreign operations) and the corresponding activity of foreign multinational companies in the United States.

U.S. multinational companies: U.S. and foreign operations

Reflecting increases in both U.S. and foreign activity, worldwide employment by U.S. multinational companies (MNCs) increased 2.9 percent in 2007, to 32.0 million workers, following a 2.6-percent increase in 2006. Employment in the United States by U.S. parent companies increased 1.6 percent, to 22.0 million workers, following a 1.4-percent increase. On a comparable basis, total private-industry employment in the United States increased 1.0 percent in 2007, following a 1.9-percent increase. The employment by U.S. parents accounted for almost one-fifth of total U.S. employment in private industries. Abroad, employment by the majority-owned foreign affiliates of U.S. MNCs increased 5.8 percent, to 10.0 million workers, following a 5.6-percent increase.

Worldwide capital expenditures by U.S. MNCs increased 8.0 percent in 2007, to \$645.6 billion, following an increase of 18.7 percent in 2006. Capital expenditures in the United States by U.S. parent companies increased 7.2 percent, to \$477.4 billion, following an increase of 18.1 percent. Capital expenditures abroad by their majority-owned foreign affiliates increased 10.2 percent, to \$168.2 billion, following a 20.7-percent increase.

Sales by U.S. parent companies increased 4.0 percent in 2007, to \$8,571.8 billion, following a 7.0-percent increase in 2006. Sales by their majority-owned foreign affiliates increased 14.8 percent, to \$4,726.9 billion, following a 10.5-percent increase.

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Employment in the United States by U.S. parent companies accounted for 69 percent of the worldwide employment of U.S. MNCs in 2007, down from 70 percent in 2006. The U.S.-parent share of the worldwide capital expenditures of U.S. MNCs in 2007 was 74 percent, down from 75 percent in 2006.

The U.S.-parent share of MNC activity can change for a number of reasons, and the changes do not uniformly correspond to either additions to, or subtractions from, employment and capital expenditures in the United States. Examples of factors other than production shifting that might be associated with a change in the parent and affiliate shares of MNC activity include different rates of economic growth in the United States and in specific markets where investment is occurring abroad, or the creation of new market opportunities abroad that cannot be served by exports from the United States. Additional discussion of data and analytical considerations may be found in “A Note on Patterns of Production and Employment by U.S. Multinational Companies,” in the March 2004 issue of the *Survey of Current Business*.

Foreign multinational companies: U.S. operations

Largely reflecting selloffs of foreign ownership shares in U.S. companies, employment in the United States by majority-owned U.S. affiliates of foreign MNCs decreased 1.1 percent in 2007, to 5.3 million workers, following an increase of 2.1 percent in 2006. The employment by affiliates accounted for 4.4 percent of total U.S. employment in private industries. Capital expenditures by these affiliates increased 9.6 percent in 2007, to \$177.7 billion, following a 23.4-percent increase in 2006. Sales by U.S. affiliates increased 5.5 percent, to \$2,962.5 billion, following an 11.9-percent increase.

Changes in the measures of activity of majority-owned U.S. affiliates of foreign companies may reflect a variety of factors, including not only changes in the operations of given firms, but also entries and exits from the universe of majority-owned U.S. affiliates. For example, the decline in employment by U.S. affiliates in 2007 largely reflected changes in ownership that resulted in exits of companies from the universe of majority-owned U.S. affiliates.

Revisions

The MNC estimates for 2006 presented in this release supercede preliminary estimates that were released in the second half of 2008. For U.S. parent companies, employment was revised down 0.5 percent, capital expenditures were revised up 0.6 percent, and sales were revised down 0.4 percent. For majority-owned foreign affiliates, employment was revised down 0.7 percent, capital expenditures were revised down 0.4 percent, and sales were revised down 0.1 percent. For majority-owned U.S. affiliates of foreign MNCs, employment was revised down 0.3 percent, capital expenditures were revised up 1.1 percent, and sales were revised up 0.5 percent.

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TECHNICAL NOTE

For the sixth consecutive year, the Bureau of Economic Analysis is releasing advance summary estimates of employment, sales, and capital expenditures by U.S. parent companies, by their foreign affiliates, and by U.S. affiliates of foreign MNCs. Estimates based on more complete source data, including country and industry detail, will be released later this year.

The estimates presented in this release were constructed from data collected by BEA in two distinct surveys of MNC operations: (1) a survey of U.S. MNCs that covers the operations of both U.S. parent companies and their foreign affiliates, and (2) a survey of the operations of U.S. affiliates of foreign MNCs. Because a U.S. parent company may itself be foreign-owned, there is some overlap between the data on U.S. parent companies and on U.S. affiliates; thus, to avoid duplication, data on U.S. parents and U.S. affiliates should not be added together to produce U.S. totals.

The statistics presented here pertain to nonbank U.S. parent companies and their majority-owned nonbank foreign affiliates, and to majority-owned nonbank U.S. affiliates of foreign MNCs. Statistics on all nonbank U.S. and foreign affiliates, including affiliates that are not majority-owned, will be released by BEA later this year. (In these series, "affiliates" are defined as businesses in which an investor of another country holds at least 10-percent ownership.) The most recent data show that nonbank foreign affiliates that were not majority-owned employed 1.4 million workers, and nonbank U.S. affiliates that were not majority-owned employed 0.5 million workers, in 2006.

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Data on bank parents and affiliates are currently only available from benchmark surveys, which are conducted once every five years. To close this gap in coverage, BEA has extended the coverage of its annual surveys of MNC operations to include banks, with an annual time series set to begin with data for 2007 that will be released later this year.

Based on data from the 2004 Benchmark Survey of U.S. Direct Investment Abroad, U.S. bank parents employed 1.3 million workers, and foreign affiliates of U.S. bank parents, plus bank affiliates of U.S. nonbank parents, together employed 0.4 million workers in 2004. The most recent data on U.S. affiliates in banking are for the benchmark-survey year 2002: These data show that U.S. affiliates that were banks employed 0.1 million workers in 2002. For both U.S. bank affiliates of foreign companies and foreign bank affiliates of U.S. companies, almost all of the employment was by majority-owned affiliates.

For both U.S. MNCs and U.S. affiliates of foreign MNCs, the estimates of employment cover the total number of full-time and part-time employees on the payroll at the end of the year. The estimates of sales cover gross sales minus returns, allowances and discounts, or gross operating revenues. The estimates of capital expenditures cover total expenditures on property, plant, and equipment (that is, expenditures for land and depreciable structures and equipment); they are gross of any sales, retirements, or transfers of previously owned tangible assets. Capital expenditures include spending for equipment that is leased or rented to others, which in some industries—such as automotive equipment rental and leasing—can be very large (the value of sales, retirements, or transfers in these industries also can be very large).

In addition to presenting data collected directly in its surveys of MNC operations, BEA uses data collected on costs incurred and profits earned in production to estimate the value added of U.S. parent companies, of majority-owned foreign affiliates, and of majority-owned U.S. affiliates of foreign companies. Value added estimates indicate the contribution of parents or affiliates to gross domestic product in the United States or in foreign host countries. The latest estimates of the value added of U.S. parent companies and majority-owned foreign affiliates, which are for the year 2006, are presented in "Operations of U.S. Multinational Companies in 2006" in the November 2008 issue of the *Survey of Current Business*. The latest estimates of the value added of majority-owned U.S. affiliates of foreign companies, which also are for 2006, are presented in "U.S. Affiliates of Foreign Companies: Operations in 2006," in the August 2008 issue of the *Survey*.

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Summary BEA estimates are available on recorded messages at the time of public release at the following telephone numbers

(202) 606-5306 Gross domestic product
(202) 606-5303 Personal income and outlays

BEA's national, regional, international, and industry estimates, the *Survey of Current Business*, and BEA news releases are available on BEA's Web site at www.bea.gov. By visiting the site, you can also subscribe to receive free e-mail summaries of BEA releases and announcements.

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Table 1. Employment, Capital Expenditures, and Sales by Nonbank U.S. Multinational Companies, 1988-2007

	Thousands of employees			Millions of dollars				
	U.S. multinational companies	U.S. parents	Majority-owned foreign affiliates	Capital expenditures			Sales ^{1/}	
				U.S. multinational companies	U.S. parents	Majority-owned foreign affiliates	U.S. parents	Majority-owned foreign affiliates
1988	22,498.1	17,737.6	4,760.5	223,814	177,203	46,611	2,828,209	927,886
1989	23,879.4	18,765.4	5,114.0	260,488	201,808	58,680	3,136,837	1,019,966
1990	23,785.7	18,429.7	5,356.0	274,614	213,079	61,535	3,243,721	1,208,349
1991	23,345.4	17,958.9	5,386.5	269,221	206,290	62,931	3,252,534	1,242,635
1992	22,812.0	17,529.6	5,282.4	272,049	208,834	63,215	3,330,886	1,291,649
1993	22,760.2	17,536.9	5,223.3	271,661	207,437	64,224	3,480,778	1,275,775
1994	24,272.5	18,565.4	5,707.1	303,364	231,917	71,447	3,990,013	1,435,901
1995	24,499.7	18,576.2	5,923.5	323,616	248,017	75,599	4,235,578	1,693,836
1996	24,867.0	18,790.0	6,077.0	340,510	260,048	80,462	4,478,970	1,868,588
1997	26,358.0	19,878.0	6,480.0	398,037	309,247	88,790	4,886,330	1,972,515
1998	26,592.9	19,819.8	6,773.1	411,155	317,184	93,971	4,970,138	1,971,909
1999/2/	30,772.6	23,006.8	7,765.8	483,032	405,895	113,304	5,975,478	2,218,945
2000	32,056.6	23,885.2	8,171.4	506,950	437,575	110,637	6,695,166	2,507,433
2001	30,929.2	22,735.1	8,194.1	524,215	450,021	110,758	6,800,777	2,524,459
2002	30,373.2	22,117.6	8,255.6	443,388	367,434	110,275	6,337,779	2,515,641
2003	29,347.0	21,104.8	8,242.2	425,068	334,751	109,588	6,543,937	2,865,226
2004	29,843.2	21,176.5	8,666.7	433,770	339,419	123,479	7,058,957	3,312,531
2005	30,270.4	21,341.9	8,928.5	503,678	377,182	126,496	7,704,133	3,728,619
2006/3/	31,063.3	21,630.5	9,432.8	597,956	445,333	152,623	8,243,541	4,119,200
2007/4/	31,964.4	21,981.3	9,983.1	645,592	477,390	168,202	8,571,810	4,726,882
Percent change at annual rates:								
1988-2004	1.8	1.1	3.8	4.2	4.1	6.3	5.9	8.3
2004-2005	1.4	0.8	3.0	16.1	11.1	2.4	9.1	12.6
2005-2006	2.6	1.4	5.6	18.7	18.1	20.7	7.0	10.5
2006-2007	2.9	1.6	5.8	8.0	7.2	10.2	4.0	14.8

1. An MNC-wide total for sales is not provided because transactions among and within MNCs would be duplicated.

2. Break-in-series. (For details, see the technical note on page 121 of the December 2002 issue of the *Survey of Current Business* and the revisions box on page 26 of the November 2008 issue of the *Survey*.)

3. These estimates update those published in the November 2008 issue of the *Survey of Current Business*. (Those estimates, in turn, updated the advance summary estimates released on April 17, 2008.) Revised estimates based on more complete source data will be released later this year.

4. Advance estimates. Preliminary estimates based on more complete source data will be released later this year.

NOTE: The statistics presented in this table cover nonbank U.S. MNCs only.

Table 2. U.S.-Parent Share of Selected Measures of the Operations of Nonbank U.S. Multinational Companies, 1988-2007

[Percent]

	Employment	Capital expenditures
1988	78.8	79.2
1989	78.6	77.5
1990	77.5	77.6
1991	76.9	76.6
1992	76.8	76.8
1993	77.1	76.4
1994	76.5	76.4
1995	75.8	76.6
1996	75.6	76.4
1997	75.4	77.7
1998	74.5	77.1
1999	74.8	84.0
2000	74.5	86.3
2001	73.5	85.8
2002	72.8	82.9
2003	71.9	78.8
2004	71.0	78.2
2005	70.5	74.9
2006/1/	69.6	74.5
2007/2/	68.8	73.9

1. These estimates update those published in the November 2008 issue of the *Survey of Current Business*.

(Those estimates, in turn, updated the advance summary estimates released on April 17, 2008.) Revised estimates based on more complete source data will be released later this year.

2. Advance estimates. Preliminary estimates based on more complete source data will be released later this year.

NOTE: A U.S.-parent share for sales is not provided because an MNC-wide total for sales would contain duplication resulting from transactions among and within MNCs.

Table 3. Employment, Capital Expenditures, and Sales by Majority-Owned Nonbank U.S. Affiliates of Foreign Companies, 1988-2007

	Thousands of employees	Millions of dollars	
		Capital Expenditures	Sales
1988	3,119.0	42,355	739,128
1989	3,573.4	51,490	863,538
1990	3,841.7	61,812	995,013
1991	3,991.3	60,097	1,008,388
1992	3,903.9	52,787	1,049,942
1993	3,851.7	53,371	1,112,693
1994	3,954.0	60,317	1,210,837
1995	4,022.6	64,778	1,311,210
1996	4,155.6	77,890	1,423,715
1997	4,269.1	88,313	1,478,221
1998	4,669.5	109,365	1,622,946
1999	5,064.3	114,767	1,792,520
2000	5,656.5	112,986	2,051,878
2001	5,594.3	121,665	2,070,234
2002	5,425.4	111,373	2,030,962
2003	5,244.4	109,126	2,122,683
2004	5,131.5	112,369	2,292,931
2005	5,201.6	131,378	2,509,575
2006 /1/.....	5,312.4	162,082	2,808,122
2007 /2/.....	5,254.6	177,671	2,962,524
Percent change at annual rates:			
1988-2004	3.2	6.3	7.3
2004-2005	1.4	16.9	9.4
2005-2006	2.1	23.4	11.9
2006-2007	-1.1	9.6	5.5

1. These estimates update those published in the August 2008 issue of the *Survey of Current Business*. (Those estimates, in turn, updated the advance summary estimates released on April 17, 2008.) Final estimates for 2006 will be released later this year.

2. Advance estimates. Preliminary estimates based on more complete source data will be released later this year.

NOTES: The statistics presented in this table cover nonbank affiliates only.

In contrast to the presentation in Table 1 for U.S. multinational companies (which includes statistics for U.S. parent companies), this table does not include statistics on foreign parent companies or totals for foreign multinational companies, because they are not covered in BEA's surveys.

Chart 1. U.S.-Parent Share of Employment by Nonbank U.S. Multinational Companies, 1988-2007

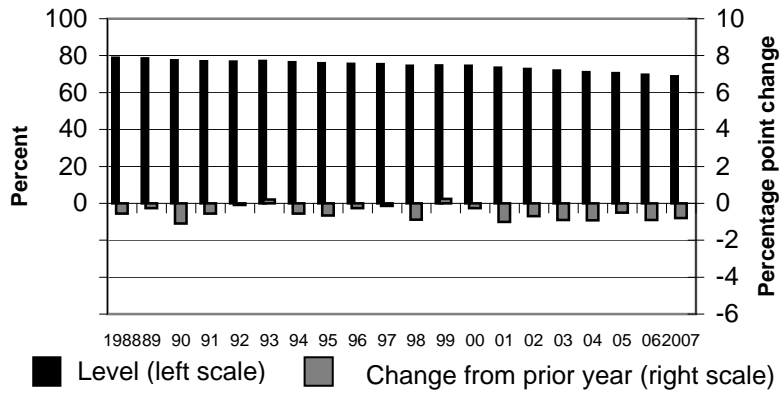


Chart 2. U.S.-Parent Share of Capital Expenditures by Nonbank U.S. Multinational Companies, 1988-2007

