

28 September 2023

**Statistics of Affiliates of Spanish Companies Abroad (FILEXT)  
Year 2021**

**Affiliates of Spanish companies abroad generated a turnover of 212,111 million euros and employed 746,521 persons in 2021**

**United States, United Kingdom and Germany were the countries where Spanish affiliate companies generated the highest turnover**

**The Manufacturing industry and Sale and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles and Wholesale trade were the activities with the highest turnover**

In 2021, there were 5,180 affiliates of Spanish companies abroad in the sectors of *Industry, Construction, Trade* and *Other Non-Financial Market Services*.

Turnover generated by these affiliates generated 212,111 million euros. As far as employment, they employed 746,521 people with a personnel cost of 43,191 millions. The gross intangible investment made by those affiliate companies was of 70,892 million euros.

**Results by activity sector <sup>1</sup>**

The *Services* sector accounted for the largest percentage of Spanish affiliate companies abroad (34.7%). It also registered as the busiest one of the sectors (42.0% of the total), the one with the largest personnel cost (44.7%) and the one that made the largest gross investment (51.4% of the total).

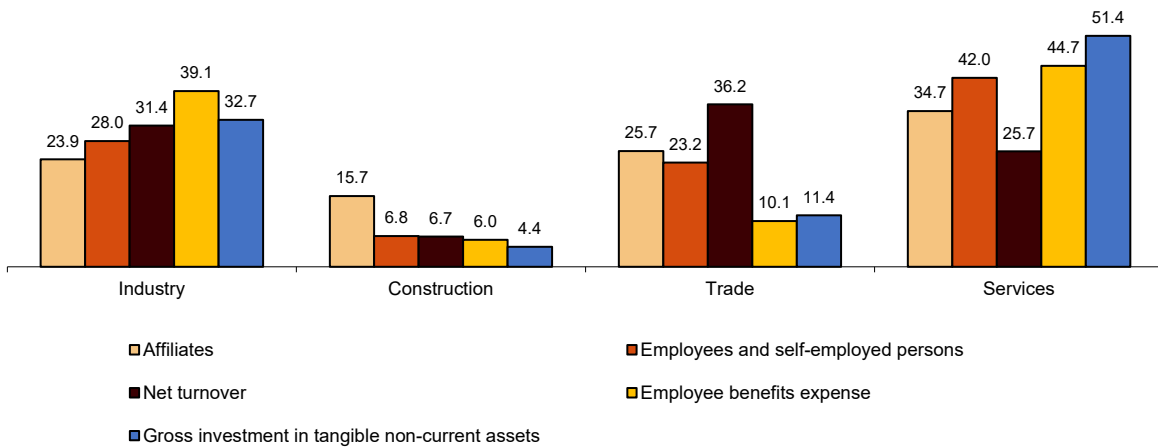
On the other hand, abroad affiliate companies that practised their activities in the *Trade* sector generated 36.2% of the total turnover.

**Main variables by activity. Year 2021**

Sector	Affiliates	Employees and self-employed persons	Net turnover	Employee benefits expense	Gross investment in tangible non-current assets
	Number	Number	Million euros	Million euros	Million euros
Industry	1,238	208,818	66,697	16,900	23,174
Construction	814	50,826	14,254	2,599	3,153
Trade	1,333	173,062	76,710	4,384	8,109
Services	1,795	313,815	54,449	19,309	36,456
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,180</b>	<b>746,521</b>	<b>212,111</b>	<b>43,191</b>	<b>70,892</b>

<sup>1</sup> The affiliates of Spanish companies abroad are classified according to their main activity. Likewise, all study variables referring to the affiliates are assigned to said activity

## Distribution of the main variables by sector of activity. Year 2021. Percentage

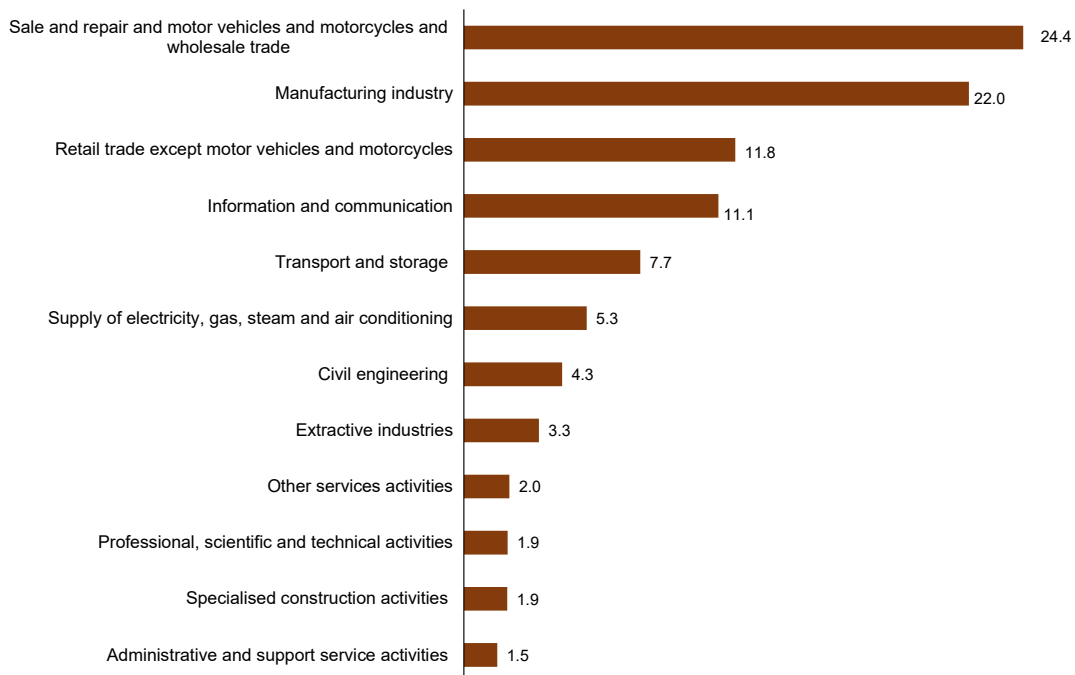


## Results by activity branch

The activity branches with the highest number of affiliates were *Sale and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles and Wholesale trade* (with 21.3% of the total number of subsidiaries) and *Manufacturing* (17.7%).

With regard to turnover, the branches that contributed the highest percentage to the total were the *Sale and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles and Wholesale trade* (24.4%) and *Manufacturing* (22%).

## Main branches of activity according to turnover generated by affiliates abroad. Year 2021. Percentage



*Manufacturing* was the largest employer (24.9% of the total). This was followed by *Retail trade except for motor vehicles and motorcycles* (16.8%).

*Information and communications* was the branch that spent the most in personnel (31.5% on the total), followed by *Extractive industries* (15.8%).

Lastly, the branches *Information and communication* and *Supply of electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning* were the ones with the largest gross intangible investment, with the 36.9% and the 12.5% respectively.

## Main results by branch of activity. Year 2021

Branch of activity	Affiliates		Employees and self-employed persons		Net turnover		Employee benefits expense		Gross investment in tangible non-current assets	
	Number	%	Number	%	Million euros	%	Million euros	%	Million euros	%
<b>Industry</b>	<b>1,238</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>208,818</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>66,697</b>	<b>31.4</b>	<b>16,900</b>	<b>39.1</b>	<b>23,174</b>	<b>32.7</b>
- Extractive industries	56	1.1	7,559	1.0	6930	3.3	6845	15.8	6904	9.7
- Manufacturing industry	915	17.7	186,170	24.9	46639	22.0	6464	15.0	7280	10.3
- Supply of electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning	179	3.5	8,412	1.1	11337	5.3	3510	8.1	8883	12.5
- Supply of water, sewage activities, management of waste and decontamination	88	1.7	6,677	0.9	1792	0.8	81	0.2	107	0.2
<b>Construction</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>50,826</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>14,254</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>2,599</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>3,153</b>	<b>4.4</b>
- Construction of buildings	238	4.6	2,676	0.4	1,176	0.6	1,122	2.6	1,842	2.6
- Civil engineering	311	6.0	21,372	2.9	9,074	4.3	728	1.7	547	0.8
- Specialised construction activities	265	5.1	26,778	3.6	4,004	1.9	750	1.7	764	1.1
<b>Trade</b>	<b>1,333</b>	<b>25.7</b>	<b>173,062</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>76,710</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>4,384</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>8,109</b>	<b>11.4</b>
- Sale and repair and motor vehicles and motorcycles and wholesale trade	1,104	21.3	47,542	6.4	51,653	24.4	2,630	6.1	5,374	7.6
- Retail trade except motor vehicles and motorcycles	229	4.4	125,520	16.8	25,057	11.8	1,754	4.1	2,735	3.9
<b>Services</b>	<b>1,795</b>	<b>34.7</b>	<b>313,815</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>54,449</b>	<b>25.7</b>	<b>19,309</b>	<b>44.7</b>	<b>36,456</b>	<b>51.4</b>
- Transport and storage	189	3.6	62,836	8.4	16,295	7.7	2,694	6.2	4,733	6.7
- Accommodation	152	2.9	50,068	6.7	2,170	1.0	755	1.7	1,963	2.8
- Information and communication	447	8.6	78,448	10.5	23,495	11.1	13,594	31.5	26,132	36.9
- Real estate activities	369	7.1	5,521	0.7	1,168	0.6	676	1.6	2,157	3.0
- Professional, scientific and technical activities	354	6.8	26,506	3.6	4,038	1.9	424	1.0	314	0.4
- Administrative and support service activities	202	3.9	61,776	8.3	3,077	1.5	452	1.0	385	0.5
- Other services activities	82	1.6	28,660	3.8	4,205	2.0	712	1.6	772	1.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,180</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>746,521</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>212,111</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>43,191</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>70,892</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## Results by country of the affiliate company

The countries where the largest amount of affiliate companies were located in 2021 were Portugal (12.9% of the total), the UK (8.1%) and the United States (7.2%).

On the other hand, the countries in which the affiliates made the highest turnover were the United States (11.8% of the total), the UK (9.5%) and Germany (7.6%).

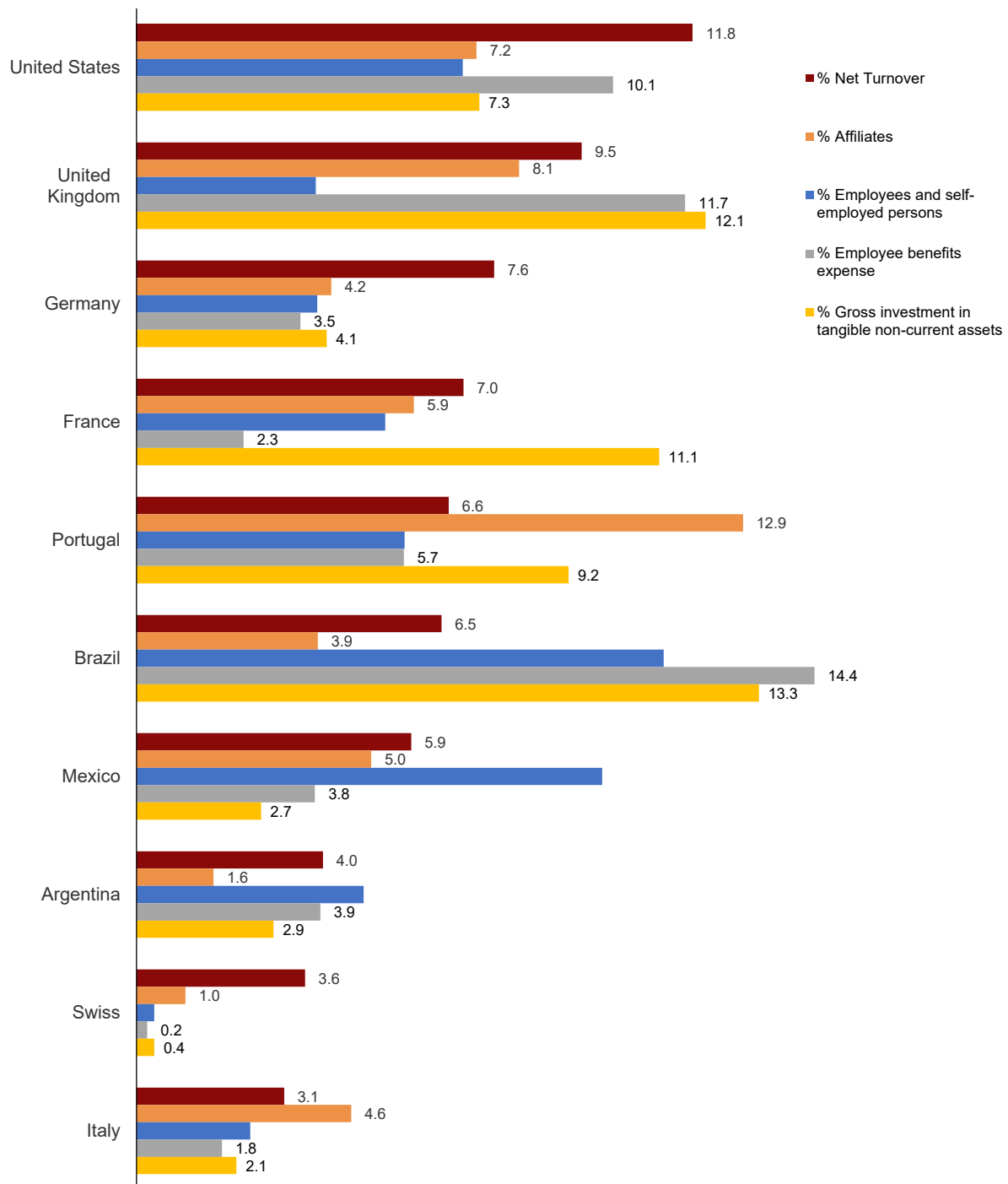
With regard to the number of persons employed, Brazil employed 11.2% of the total, Mexico the 9.9% and the United States the 6.9%.

With regard to personnel cost, Brazil with a 14.4% was the country that spent the most, followed by the UK (11.7%) and the United States (10.1%).

Brazil (13.3%), the UK (12.1%) and Portugal (11.1%) were the countries in which the Spanish affiliates made the largest intangible investment.

It is worth noting that the top 10 countries with the highest turnover accounted for 65.6% of the total, 54.5% of the total number of affiliates of Spanish companies abroad and 54.4% of the total number of persons employed by these affiliates.

## Main countries by economic figures, number of affiliates of Spanish companies abroad. Year 2021. Percentage



### Results by geographical area of the affiliate

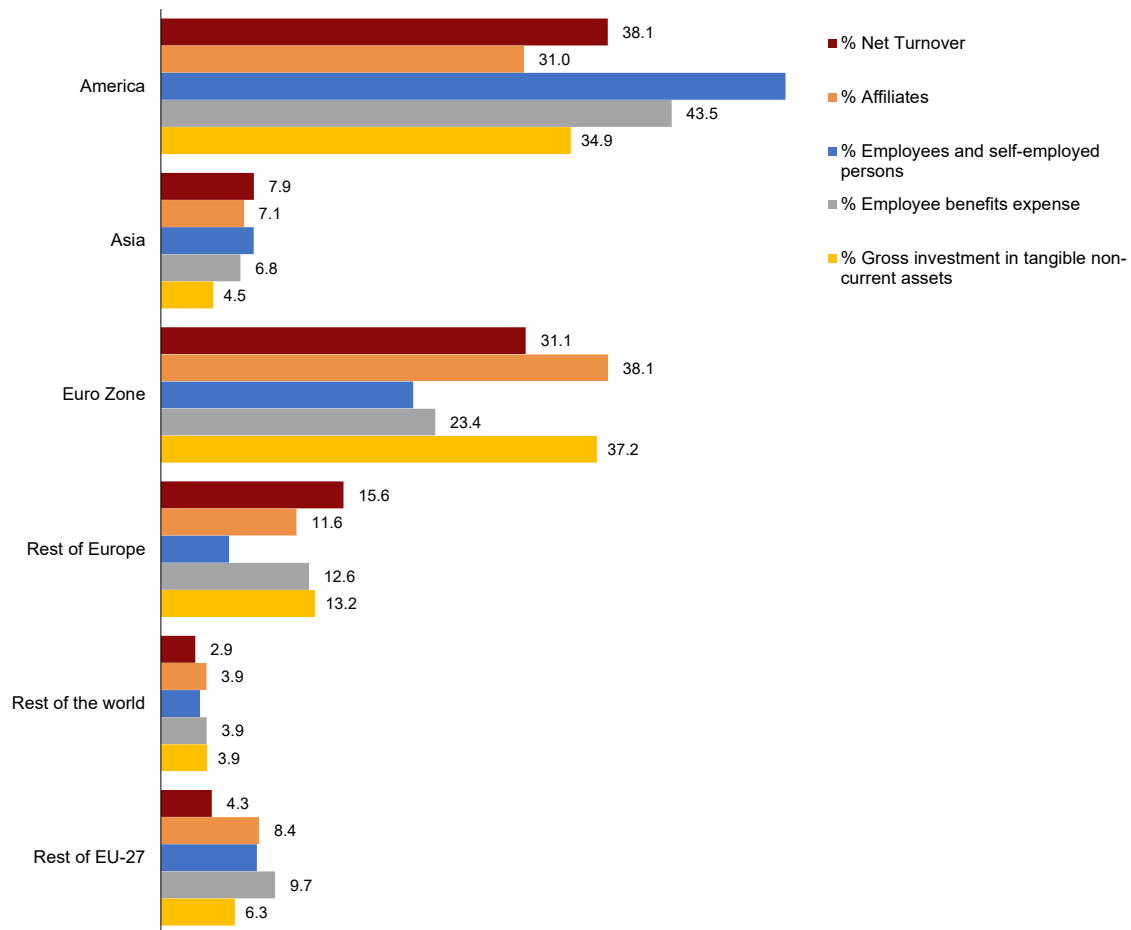
Most affiliates of Spanish companies abroad were located in the euro zone of the European Union (38.1% of the total) and in America (31%).

By turnover, affiliates of Spanish companies in America generated 38.1% of the total during 2021, and those established in the Euro Zone, 31.1%.

With regard to the number of persons employed, affiliates of Spanish companies in America employed 53.3% of the total, and those established in the Euro Zone, 21.5%.

America was the geographical area with the largest personnel cost, with a 43.5% of the total. And the euro zone was the one that made the largest gross intangible investment, with the 37.2%.

## Distribution by geographical area of the affiliate <sup>2</sup>. Year 2021. Percentage



In the *Industry* and *Trade* sectors, the affiliates of Spanish parent companies had the greatest presence in the Euro Zone of the European Union, with 31.5%, and 54.5%, respectively.

For its part, in *Construction* and *Services*, the largest implementation was in America (35% and 39.9%, respectively).

<sup>2</sup> Rest of Europe contains the UK as of 2021.

## Number of affiliates of Spanish companies abroad by geographic area and sector. Year 2021

Geo zone	Industry		Construction		Trade		Services	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Euro zone	390	31.5	250	30.7	726	54.5	609	33.9
Rest of EU-27	107	8.6	132	16.2	100	7.5	95	5.3
Rest of Europe	148	12.0	60	7.4	126	9.5	265	14.8
America	383	30.9	285	35.0	219	16.4	717	39.9
Asia	136	11.0	40	4.9	123	9.2	68	3.8
Rest of the world	74	6.0	47	5.8	39	2.9	41	2.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,238</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,333</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,795</b>	<b>100.0</b>

With regard to the turnover, the highest percentages were generated by affiliates located in America for the *Industry* (36.0%), *Construction* (65.3%) and *Services* (53.7%), while *Trade* stood out in the Euro Zone (32.6%).

## Net turnover of Spanish companies abroad by geographic area and sector. Year 2021

Geo zone	Industry		Construction		Trade		Services	
	Millions of euros	%	Millions of euros	%	Millions of euros	%	Millions of euros	%
Euro zone	18,836	28.2	1,681	11.8	24,988	32.6	20,483	37.6
Rest of EU-27	4,965	7.4	682	4.8	2,474	3.2	1,100	2.0
Rest of Europe	8,695	13.0	913	6.4	21,446	28.0	1,972	3.6
America	23,994	36.0	9,310	65.3	18,254	23.8	29,247	53.7
Asia	6,134	9.2	731	5.1	8,553	11.1	1,406	2.6
Rest of the world	4,073	6.1	938	6.6	995	1.3	240	0.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>66,697</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>14,254</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>76,710</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>54,449</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Affiliates in America lead the percentage of persons employed in three out of the four activity sectors, *Industry* (38.3%), *Construction* (72.2%) and *Services* (77.3%). The euro zone accounted for the largest percentage of people in the *Trade* sector (41.9%).

## Number of employees and self-employed persons of Spanish companies abroad by geographic area and sector. Year 2021

Geo zone	Industry		Construction		Trade		Services	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Euro zone	40,841	19.6	6,079	12.0	72,564	41.9	41,071	13.1
Rest of EU-27	24,483	11.7	2,452	4.8	13,221	7.6	3,260	1.0
Rest of Europe	25,942	12.4	1,494	2.9	26,595	15.4	7,084	2.3
America	79,986	38.3	36,711	72.2	38,115	22.0	242,712	77.3
Asia	25,372	12.2	2,214	4.4	16,640	9.6	14,806	4.7
Rest of the world	12,194	5.8	1,876	3.7	5,927	3.4	4,882	1.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>208,818</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>50,826</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>173,062</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>313,815</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Personnel costs in *Industry* (33.4%) and *Trade* (39.6%) were higher on the euro zone than the other geographical areas. Meanwhile, the biggest personnel cost for *Construction* (80.9%) and *Services* (53.3%) was in America.

## Employee benefits expense of Spanish companies abroad by geographic area and sector. Year 2021

Geo zone	Industry		Construction		Trade		Services	
	Millions of euros	%	Millions of euros	%	Millions of euros	%	Millions of euros	%
Euro zone	5,648	33.4	177	6.8	1,734	39.6	2,541	13.2
Rest of EU-27	1,353	8.0	53	2.0	204	4.7	2,596	13.4
Rest of Europe	529	3.1	33	1.3	1,249	28.5	3,644	18.9
America	5,481	32.4	2,102	80.9	930	21.2	10,297	53.3
Asia	2,599	15.4	71	2.7	185	4.2	79	0.4
Rest of the world	1,290	7.6	164	6.3	82	1.9	152	0.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16,900</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,599</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,384</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>19,309</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Finally, the euro zone made the largest gross intangible investment in the *Industry* (44.1% of the total) and *Trade* (51.1%) sectors, while America made it in the *Construction* (79.2%) and *Services* (41.8%).

## Gross investment in tangible non-current assets of Spanish companies abroad by geographic area and sector. Year 2021

Geo zone	Industry		Construction		Trade		Services	
	Millions of euros	%	Millions of euros	%	Millions of euros	%	Millions of euros	%
Euro zone	10,220	44.1	211	6.7	4,143	51.1	11,785	32.3
Rest of EU-27	1,284	5.5	66	2.1	236	2.9	2,887	7.9
Rest of Europe	932	4.0	168	5.3	1,915	23.6	6,307	17.3
America	6,652	28.7	2,496	79.2	390	4.8	15,237	41.8
Asia	2,475	10.7	72	2.3	545	6.7	75	0.2
Rest of the world	1,611	7.0	140	4.4	881	10.9	165	0.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,174</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3,153</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8,109</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>36,456</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## Data reviews and updates

The data published today are final. The results are available at INEBase.

## Methodological note

The principle objective of the **Statistics on Subsidiaries of Spanish Companies Overseas (FILEXT)** is to provide annual information on the main variables that determine the structure and activity of subsidiaries overseas that are ultimately controlled by Spanish parent companies, in the industrial sector as well as construction, business and other non-financial market services.

Information is provided on the main variables, broken down by activity, size and country or geographic area of the subsidiary company.

The results of these statistics are prepared using administrative information from the Register of Foreign Investments of the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Tourism. This Ministry supplies primary data to the INE by virtue of a collaboration agreement between both organisms.

The Statistics on Subsidiaries of Spanish Companies Overseas (FILEXT) complements the information, which in the scope of economic globalisation statistics, provides the Statistics on Subsidiaries of Foreign Companies in Spain (FLINT), whose results are contained from reference year 2021 in the Statistics according to Group membership.

**Type of survey:** annual continuous operation.

**Population scope:** affiliates of Spanish companies located abroad whose main activity is included in sections B to E (Industry), F (Construction), G (Trade) and H to S (Services), except K (financial) and O (Gen. Government) of the CNAE-2009.

**Geographical scope:** the statistics refer to affiliates located outside of Spain, both within the European Union and outside of it.

**Reference period:** annual.

**Collection method:** administrative registry completed with estimation methods.

For further information, the methodology can be accessed at:

[http://www.ine.es/dynngs/INEbase/es/operacion.htm?c=Estadistica\\_C&cid=1254736162975&menu=metodologia&idp=1254735576550](http://www.ine.es/dynngs/INEbase/es/operacion.htm?c=Estadistica_C&cid=1254736162975&menu=metodologia&idp=1254735576550)

The standardised methodological report at:

<http://www.ine.es/dynt3/metadatos/es/RespuestaDatos.html?oe=30082>

**INE statistics are produced in accordance with the Code of Good Practice for European Statistics, which is the basis for the institution's quality policy and strategy. For more, see the section on [Calidad en el INE y Código de Buenas Prácticas](#) on the INE website.**

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