

# Austria | The investment control “powerhouse”

On 25 July 2020, the Austrian Investment Control Act (Investitionskontrollgesetz – ICA) entered into force and started a new era of foreign direct investment (FDI) screening in Austria.

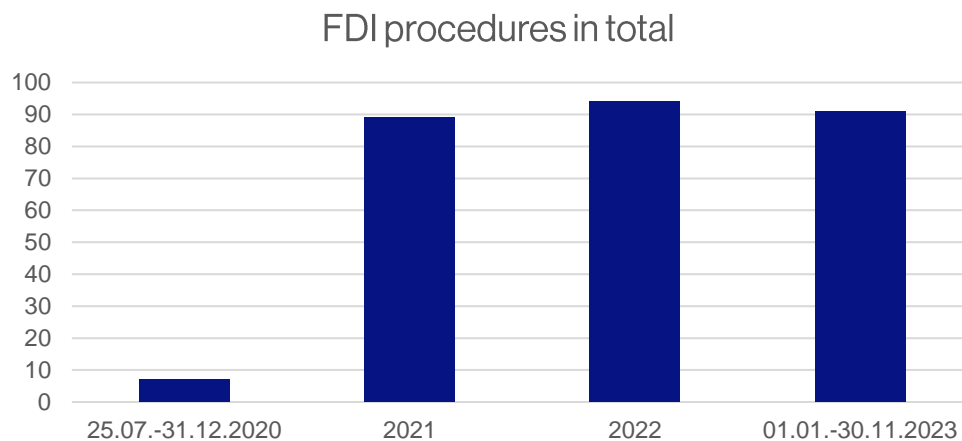
This report aims at providing some key data around the operation of FDI screening in our country. In this exercise, we refrain from recycling the information collected by the European Commission and published in their three annual reports on the screening of foreign direct investments in the Union. We just wanted to stress again what the European Commission concluded in its latest annual report for the year 2022: Six Member States are responsible for the vast majority of notifications to the EU cooperation mechanism.

- 4 of them are large Member States (France, Germany, Italy and Spain),
- the remaining 2 (Denmark and Austria) are certainly smaller, but “grand” in FDI terms.

The first and (for the moment) only Activity Report on Investment Control of the Austrian FDI authority is already historic, covering the first 12 months of the new FDI screening regime in Austria. But thanks to a parliamentary question and a responsive Federal Minister of Labour and Economy, we now have a highly topical dataset for the period 25 July 2020 – 30 November 2023.

## What the data show

Close to 100 national FDI procedures are concluded each year (2021–2023).



## Sectors

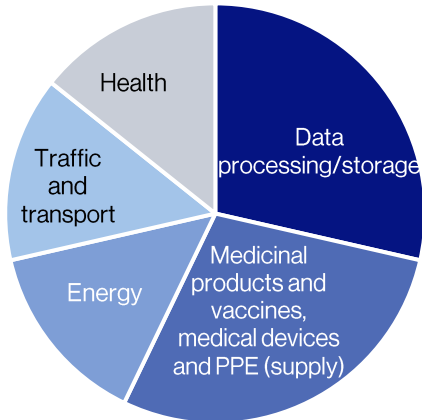
The sectors with the highest number of transactions were:

## Origin of Investors

Of all cases concluded in the reporting period, the main countries of origin of investors were:

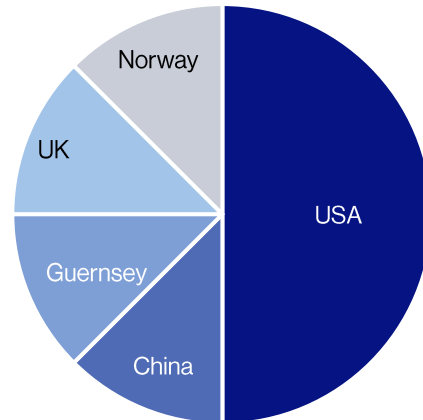
2020

Sectors in 2020\*



\*25.07.-31.12.2020

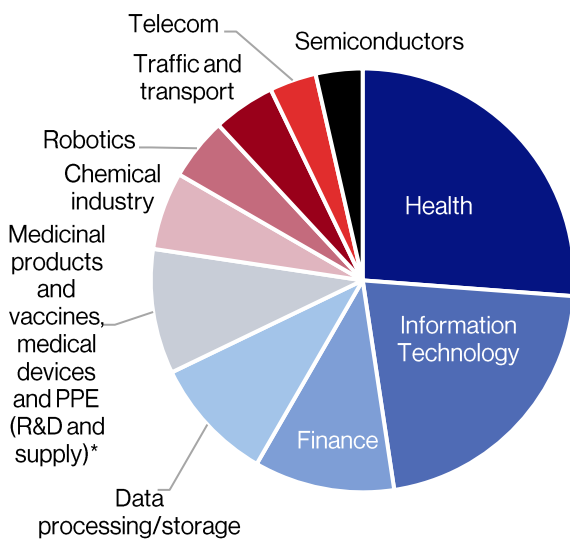
Origin of Investors in 2020\*



\*25.07.-31.12.2020

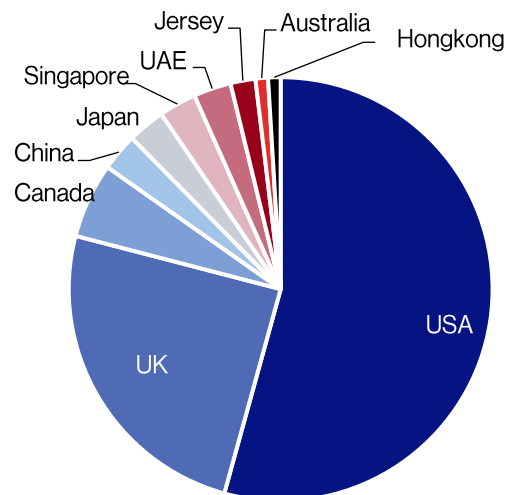
2021

Sectors in 2021 (Top 10)



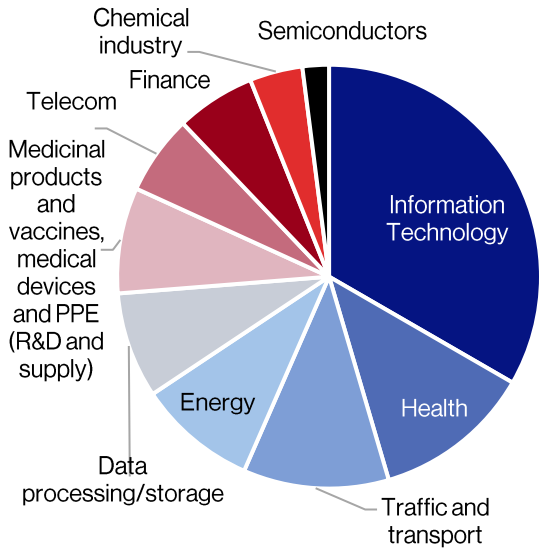
\*Combined for better comparability with 2022 and 2023 figures.

Origin of Investors in 2021 (Top 10)

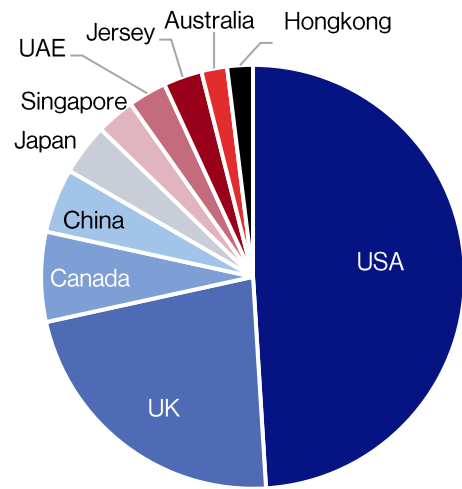


## 2022

Sectors in 2022 (Top 10)

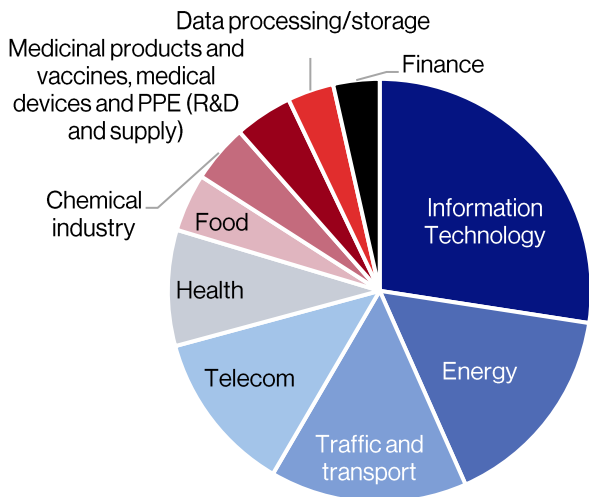


Origin of Investors in 2022 (Top 10)



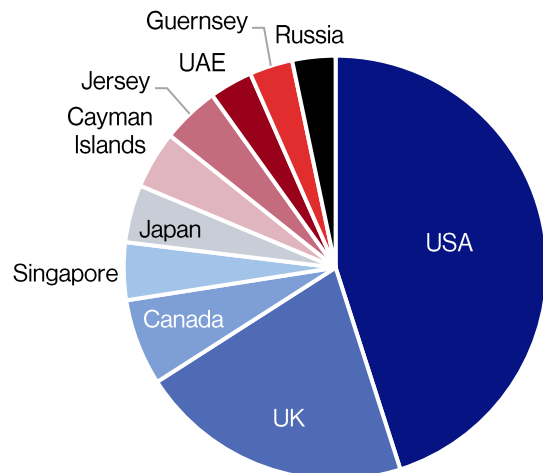
## 2023

Sectors in 2023\* (Top 10)



\*01.01.-30.11.2023

Origin of Investors in 2023\* (Top 10)



\*01.01.-30.11.2023

## What we expect in the future

The Austrian Government will closely study the Proposal of the European Commission on a revised FDI Screening Regulation and the legislative developments in other EU Member States, and foremost in Germany. But we do not expect a reform of the Austrian FDI legislation in the short term.

Case numbers will stay at high levels keeping our FDI authority busy and most likely Austria securely in the Top 6 EU-jurisdictions.

Investors and their legal advisors should thus keep Austria on their “pocket list” of FDI jurisdictions to watch out for.

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## Publications

