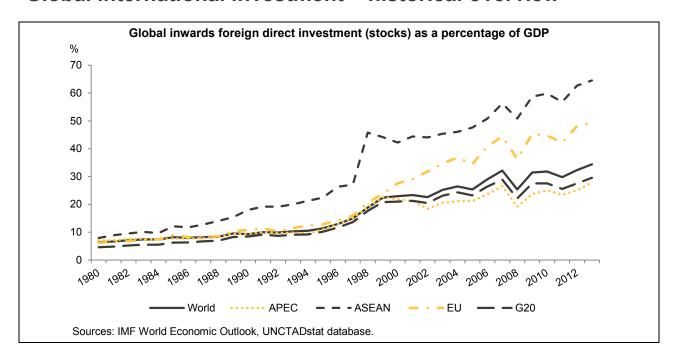


Global international investment – historical overview

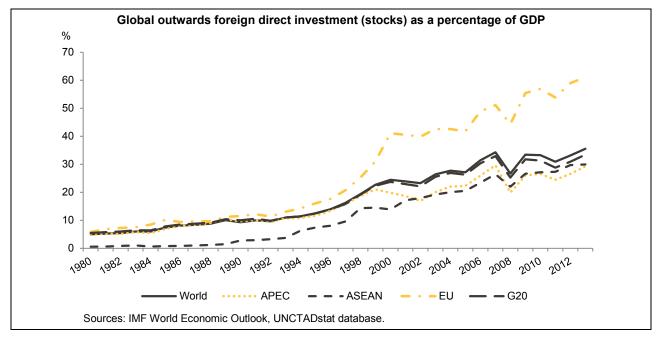


World inwards foreign direct investment as a proportion of GDP was 6.4 per cent in 1980, and increased slowly through to the mid-1990s. It has since grown strongly, increasing from 11.4 per cent in 1995 to a high of 32.1 per cent in 2007. The impact of the GFC saw a decline to 25.4 per cent in 2008, increasing to a high of 34.4 per cent in 2013.

APEC, EU, and G20 inwards foreign direct investment has tracked pretty closely with the overall global growth through the time series, although the EU has shown stronger growth particularly since 1999 compared to the other groups.

ASEAN inwards foreign direct investment has tracked higher than the other groups. The significant increase from 27.1 per cent of GDP in 1997 to 45.8 per cent in 1998 was largely a result of the decline in GDP in the period around the Asian financial crisis.

Significantly, 2013 saw new record highs for inwards foreign direct investment as a proportion of GDP across all country groups.



Outwards foreign direct investment as a proportion of GDP shows a similar pattern to inwards foreign direct investment in the previous chart, with similar impact from the GFC for the respective groups.

World outwards foreign direct investment as a proportion of GDP has grown strongly since the mid-1990s, increasing from 12.5 per cent in 1995 to 34.3 per cent in 2007. The impact of the GFC saw a decline to 26.7 per cent in 2008, increasing to a high of 35.6 per cent in 2013.

APEC, ASEAN, and G20 foreign direct investment abroad has tracked pretty closely with the overall global growth through the time series, although APEC showed a more significant decline in the period from 1999 to 2003.

EU foreign direct investment abroad as a proportion of GDP shows a steeper increase in the period 1994 to 2000, almost tripling from 14.3 per cent in 1994 to 41.1 per cent in 2000, compared to other groups roughly doubling over the same period.

Similar to the pattern for inwards foreign direct investment, 2013 saw new record highs for outwards foreign direct investment as a proportion of GDP across all country groups (with the exception of APEC where 2007 remains the record year).

Author: Economic Diplomacy, Trade Advocacy and Statistics Section

Economic Advocacy & Analysis Branch

Trade Investment & Economic Diplomacy Divsion

statssection@dfat.gov.au

Published: September 2014