Potentials for Inward Foreign Direct Investment in Japan[†]

Takeo Hoshi

Stanford University, National Bureau of Economic Research, and Asian Bureau of Finance and Economic Research

Kozo Kiyota

Keio University and Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry

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Abstract

Promotion of inward foreign direct investment (FDI) into Japan has been an important policy in the Abenomics growth strategy. This paper examines if we can observe positive impacts of the policy in the data. We first estimate a gravity model of bilateral FDIs using data for inward FDI stocks for 35 OECD countries by origins. In estimating the model, we handle zero values for inward FDI stock explicitly. The model includes country-specific effects as well as destination-country specific time trends. We take the predictions from the model as the reasonable counterfactuals and compare those to the actual inward FDI stock for Japan under the Abe administration. Although the actual inward FDI stock has been growing and is likely to achieve the goal of 35 trillion yen by 2020, the growth has been lower than the counterfactual suggested by the estimated model. We also estimate a model that allows time-varying destination-country specific effects. We find the part of Japan's destination-country specific effect that cannot be explained by Japan's size continues to be low even under Abenomics. These results cast a doubt on the effectiveness of the Abenomics policies to encourage inward FDI at least as of 2015.

Keywords: Inward foreign direct investment; Gravity model; Abenomics

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1. Introduction

An important motivation for corporations to expand into foreign countries is to use their advantage over the competitors in the host countries. Thus, foreign companies often have higher productivities than domestic companies.¹ From host country's point of view, allowing more foreign direct investment (FDI) may lead to higher economic growth through productivity spillovers from foreign companies, which would ultimately increase social welfare.²

The benefit of increasing inward FDI for Japan may be especially large because Japan has been known for the very low level of inward FDI compared with other advanced economies. Table 1 presents the inward FDI stock to gross domestic product (GDP) ratio for 35 Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries from 1985 to 2015.³ The table indicates that, in 2015, the inward FDI stock to GDP ratio for Japan is 4.2 percent, far below the OECD average of 50.4 percent and the smallest among all the OECD countries.

=== Table 1 ===

Recently Japan has been trying to promote inward FDI to enhance its potential growth. Promotion of inward FDI has been an important goal of the growth strategy under Abenomics. Since 2013, the Abe administration pursued the goal of increasing its inward FDI stock to 35 trillion yen (up from 19.2 trillion yen at the end of 2012) by 2020. Figure 1 plots the inward FDI stock for Japan from 1996 to 2016. By the end of 2016, Japan's inward FDI stock rose to 27.8 trillion yen. At this rate, the goal of 35 trillion yen will be easily reached by 2020. As Hoshi (2018) argues, however, Abenomics does not seem to have changed the long-run trend of Japan's inward FDI. The increase of inward FDI under Abenomics is almost exactly what the past trend would predict. Thus, Hoshi (2018) concludes that there is no evidence that the Abenomics policy to promote inward FDI has been effective.

=== Figure 1 ===

This paper also examines Japan's inward FDI under Abenomics, but goes beyond Hoshi (2018) by using more carefully constructed counterfactual than a simple extrapolation of the past data. We estimate two types of gravity model of FDI stock and use those to infer how Japan's inward FDI stock would have evolved in the absence of Abenomics policies.

¹ Several studies found that the productivity of foreign companies is, on average, higher than that of domestic companies. See, for example, Doms and Jensen (1998) for the case of the United States and Kimura and Kiyota (2007) for the case of Japan.

² A number of studies found that knowledge brought by multinational firms spills over to domestic industries and increase their productivity. See, for example, Javorcik (2004) for the case of Lithuania and Todo (2006) for the case of Japan.

³ The list of countries and their abbreviations are presented in Table 3. For Japan, year 1995 data are missing in the OECD International Direct Investment Statistics database. Tables A1 and A2 presents the inward FDI stocks and GDP to compute Table 1. Table A3 presents the inward FDI flows. Section 2 presents a more detailed description of the data.

⁴ Hoshi (2018) provided detailed explanations about various policies to promote inward FDI in Japan under Abenomics.

First, we estimate a model that assumes country fixed effects are constant. We start by estimating the gravity model of inward FDI stocks for OECD countries from 1985 to 2012, noting that Abenomics was started in December 2012. Then, we use the estimated model to predict inward FDI stock for Japan after 2013. We interpret the predicted values to be the inward FDI stocks that would have been observed if the Abenomics had not started promoting inward FDI. If the actual FDI from a country surpassed the predicted value, that would suggest the Abenomics worked at least for the country by presumably reducing some impediments to FDI from the country to Japan. If the actual FDI from a country fell short of the predicted values, we would infer that the impediments to FDI from the country to Japan actually grew bigger under the Abe administration. If the Abenomics policy of promoting inward FDI was effective overall, we would expect to find that the total inward FDI in Abenomics years exceeds the predicted values.

In the second type of gravity model, we drop the assumption of time invariant country fixed effects. This allows us to estimate the country fixed effects for each year. We then regress the estimated fixed effects on observable country characteristics that change over time. This is essentially the two-step approach discussed in Head and Mayer (2015). Finally, we examine how the residuals from the second regression evolved after 2013. If Abenomics was effective in raising Japan's inward FDI, we would expect to find an increase in the (host) country fixed effect for Japan that cannot be explained by regular country characteristics such as GDP.

Both of these analyses look for the changes in Japan's inward FDI after 2013 that cannot be explained by GDPs and other observables in the gravity model. These unexplained changes would certainly include the impacts of the Abenomics policy to promote inward FDI, but they may reflect some other factors that are not related to Abenomics. Thus, it is possible that we overestimate or underestimate the impacts of Abenomics policy, depending on what kind of factors that we are missing. This is a weakness of our approach.

Our paper contributes to the literature on inward FDI into Japan. Several studies examined the determinants of inward FDI to Japan. Kimino, Saal, and Driffield (2007) looked at FDI flows from 17 countries to Japan between 1989 and 2002. They found that source country characteristics such as political and economic stability were important determinants of inward FDI to Japan while exchange rates and labor costs were not.

Sato and Oki (2012) studied the distribution of US outward FDI from 1990 to 2009. They estimated a log-linear version of gravity model and found that the US FDI to Japan was low compared with other destination countries even after controlling for gravity variables such as the market sizes of the destination countries. They concluded that Japan was less attractive for the US investors than other countries, although they did not explore what made Japan less attractive.

2

⁵ The gravity model is used not only to explain the patters of bilateral trade but also those of bilateral FDI. See, Anderson (2011) and Head and Mayer (2015), for a literature review. Román, Bengoa, and Sánchez-Roble (2016) is a recent example of estimating the gravity model of FDI.

⁶ For the earlier literature on inward FDI in Japan, see Yoshitomi and Graham (1996).

Head and Ries (2005) also estimate the gravity model for Japan's FDI, but they put that on a solid theoretical ground. Based on the framework developed by Head and Ries (2008), they estimate a gravity model of FDI using the data for 181 countries from 1980 to 2002. Their results indicate that both inward and outward FDI shares of Japan is lower than the prediction of the model.

Our paper builds on these previous studies and asks if the low level of inward FDI stock in Japan is being corrected under Abenomics. The paper also introduces a methodological improvement on the previous studies, which estimated a log linear form of the gravity model. A problem is that many country pairs have no FDI between them. The previous studies responded to this problem by usually dropping the country pairs with zero FDI. Throwing away the observations with zero FDI, however, leads to inconsistent parameter estimates. To solve this problem, we employ Pseudo-Poisson Maximum Likelihood model proposed by Santos Silva and Tenreyro (2006). In addition to the explicit treatment of zero FDI, our study covers a longer and more recent period than the previous studies.

The paper is organized as follows. The next section provides a brief overview of the policies to promote inward FDI to Japan introduced under Abenomics. We argue that success of any of those policies is likely to show up as a structural shift of the relation between Japan's inward FDI and its standard determinants in a gravity model such as distances and sizes of the origin countries. Section 3 introduces the gravity models of FDI and the estimation method that we use in this paper. The section also describes the dataset we use and goes over two types of tests for the effectiveness of the FDI promotion under Abenomics. Section 4 reports the estimation results and discusses if the Abenomics FDI promotion policy was considered successful. Section 5 concludes.

2. Inward FDI Promotion under Abenomics

Promotion of inward FDI has been a prominent part of the growth strategy of the Abe administration (*aka* the third arrow of Abenomics) from the start.⁷ The original growth strategy published in June 2013 stated:

The government will develop an environment where all companies and human resources enjoy the benefits of global economy and facilitate full-fledged globalization in Japan in order to attract outstanding overseas manpower and technologies to Japan and to create employment and innovation. It will also aim to double inward FDI stocks to 35 trillion yen in 2020 (17.8 trillion yen at the end of 2012). (Headquarters for Japan's Economic Revitalization 2013, p.137)

The growth strategy has been revised every year since then, but the latest one that was published in June 2018 still includes promotion of inward FDI as one of the important policies. The Japanese government website dedicated for Abenomics

⁷ For more details on the policies attempted to promote inward FDI under the Abe administration up to the end of 2016, see Hoshi (2018, pp.159-162).

(https://www.japan.go.jp/abenomics/, accessed July 3, 2018) features "Improve business environment to drive inward FDI" as one of the four main goals of Abenomics.⁸

From the late 2013 to date, the Abe administration has been trying several policies that are explicitly geared toward boosting inward FDI into Japan. In early 2014, Expert Group on Foreign Direct Investment in Japan was created and completed a report that recommends several policies to remove the impediments to inward FDI to Japan (Expert Group on Foreign Direct Investment in Japan, 2014). First, the report identified three important policy areas to promote inward FDI. The first is a set of economic reforms to reduce the substantial differences between the Japanese system and the global system in several areas including (i) corporate tax system, (ii) employment system, (iii) corporate governance, (iv) system for corporate mergers, and (v) various regulations and administrative procedures. The second is establishing intergovernmental agreements including economic partnership agreements (EPAs), social security treaties, and tax treaties. The third is a set of policies to improve living conditions for foreigners in Japan. In addition to these three policy areas, the report also recommends expanding direct support for foreign firms entering Japan by government entities and expanding government efforts to promote the appealing aspects of Japan that are "not sufficiently understood."

The report is very helpful in describing and understanding the FDI promotion policies in Abenomics, because it identifies almost all the issues that are taken up in the policy discussion and implementation that followed. In particular, we can compare a particular policy intervention implemented to the three policy areas identified by the report and see in which area the efforts progressed most rapidly and effectively.

The first comprehensive policy document for inward FDI promotion was "Five Promises for Attracting Foreign Businesses to Japan" published in March 2015. The Japanese government promised (1) to make it easier to live in Japan without Japanese language skills, (2) free public Wi-Fi access points everywhere in Japan, (3) business jet access to any regional airport in Japan with a short advance notice, (4) to enrich educational environment for children from overseas and ensure Japanese students can communicate in English, and (5) to establish "Investment Advisor Assignment System" that provides foreign business direct access to state ministers of Japan.

The Five Promises are mostly on the third policy area identified in the expert group report, which is improving living conditions for the foreigners. The Promises are silent on the other two policy areas, which are reforms to achieve harmonization to the global standard and promotion of inter-governmental agreements.

In May 2016, the government announced "Policy Package for Promoting Foreign Direct Investment into Japan to Make Japan a Global Hub," which now included policies to improve "regulations and administrative procedures." Thus, the Package addresses the first policy area that the expert group report emphasized, but that was only a small part of the package. The other measures continued to focus on improving the living environment for foreign nationals and government promotion and PR to attract foreign companies.

⁸ The other three are "Boost productivity", "Pursue regulatory reforms", and "Build on international opportunities".

The regulatory reform aspect of the inward FDI promotion policy finally started to receive emphasis by creation of the Working Group for Revising Regulations and Administrative Procedures in late 2016. The working group completed the final report in April 2017 and identified the regulatory and administrative issues that foreign companies face in Japan and proposed policies to mitigate those. The issues include (1) difficulty of incorporating and registering companies, (2) problems for foreign nationals to set up legal residency, (3) lack of one-stop administrative services, (4) paucity of business and administrative information in foreign languages, and (5) administrative burdens in following necessary procedures for imports.

3. Gravity Model of Foreign Direct Investment

Our approach uses a gravity model of FDI that is developed by Head and Ries (2008). They model FDI as a consequence of managers of one country bidding to acquire production units in another country. ¹⁰ In their model, managers in home country monitor managers at overseas subsidiaries by incurring monitoring cost. The monitoring cost is assumed to be proportional to the distance between the home country and the country where subsidiaries are located. Thus, the probability of winning bid falls as the distance between the manager's country and the target country increases. With additional assumptions (e.g., the numbers of managers and production units are both proportional to the economy's GDP), they derive a gravity model of FDI stock. ¹¹

Letting *i* and *j* denote the origin and the destination of FDI respectively, the gravity equation for FDI stock is:

$$FDI_{ij} = \exp(\mathbf{O}_i'\alpha + \mathbf{D}_j'\beta + \mathbf{w}_{ij}'\gamma) \times \varepsilon_{ij}, \tag{1}$$

Here $\exp(\bullet)$ denotes exponential function, \mathbf{O}_i and \mathbf{D}_j are the vectors of the origin- and destination-country dummies to capture the fixed effects. ¹² \mathbf{w}_{ij} is the vector of characteristics of the origin-destination pair (such as distance) and ε_{ij} is the disturbance term.

Note that the disturbance term is assumed to multiply the exponential function. Traditionally, researchers specified the gravity model by including the disturbance as an extra additive term in the argument for the exponential function. This allowed them to take the log of both sides of the equation and estimate a linear regression model. The problem of this approach is that country pairs with zero FDI stocks are dropped from the estimation because the log of zero is not defined. By specifying the disturbance multiplicatively and assuming Poisson distribution for the disturbance, we can estimate the gravity model directly by employing Pseudo-Poisson Maximum Likelihood (PPML) estimation proposed by Santos Silva and

⁹ The final report (English version) is available at http://www.invest-japan.go.jp/policy/simplify_regulations_and_procedures/compilation_report_en.pdf (accessed on July 3, 2018).

¹⁰ De Sousa and Lochard (2011) showed that the model can be applied also to greenfield investment by considering firms selecting the best investment projects across all potential host countries.

¹¹ Note that their gravity model explains the bilateral FDI stocks rather than FDI flows because the model is based on the ownership of assets.

¹² The origin and destination country fixed effects are analogous to the "multilateral resistance term" in the gravity model of trade (Anderson and van Wincoop, 2003).

Tenreyro (2006). Although the estimation can be done by non-linear least square, the PPML estimator is more efficient than non-linear least square estimator (Santos Silva and Tenreyro, 2006). ¹³

Since our dataset is a panel data, we introducing time dimension to get:

$$FDI_{ijt} = \exp(\mathbf{0}_{i}'\alpha + \mathbf{D}_{i}'\beta + \mathbf{w}_{ij}'\gamma + \mathbf{x}_{ijt}'\lambda + \mathbf{y}_{it}'\delta + \mathbf{z}_{it}'\zeta) \times \varepsilon_{ijt}, \tag{2}$$

where \mathbf{x}_{ijt} is the vector of time-variant country-pair specific factors; \mathbf{y}_{it} and \mathbf{z}_{jt} are the vectors of origin- and destination-country-year dummies respectively. In this paper, we estimate the equation (2) using the PPML estimation.

As we saw above, Japan's inward FDI relative to GDP has been very low compared with other OECD countries. This is partly expected because Japan has high labor costs, does not share a common language with any other country, and is located far away from other advanced countries such as the United States and the Western European countries. All of these are important factors that would lower the inward FDI according to the gravity model. The previous studies using the gravity model, however, found that Japan's inward FDI is abnormally low even when these standard gravity variables are taken into account. If this is also the case for our data, we expect to see the destination specific effect of Japan to be lower than many other countries. Thus, we expect to find the coefficient β_j for Japan to be low.

If Abenomics has been effective in increasing inward FDI to Japan drastically, that would show up as an increase in the destination specific effect for Japan in the gravity model. To check this, we consider two slightly different approaches.

The first approach starts by estimating the equation (2) using the data up to 2012. Then, we use the estimated model to predict Japan's inward FDI stock for 2013 and after. If Abenomics successfully increased the destination specific effect for Japan, the estimated model that has low Japan specific destination effect would under-predict the actual inward FDI. If this under-prediction is substantial, we can infer that Abenomics was effective in promoting inward FDI.

The second approach estimate a slightly different version of the equation (2) that allows the origin-country specific effects and the destination-country specific effects to vary over time.¹⁴ More specifically, we estimate the following equation:

$$FDI_{ijt} = \exp(\mathbf{O}'_{it}\alpha + \mathbf{D}'_{it}\beta + \mathbf{w}'_{ij}\gamma + \mathbf{x}'_{ijt}\lambda) \times \varepsilon_{ijt}, \tag{3}$$

¹³ Similarly, the use of negative binomial estimates depends on the units of the measurement for the dependent variable. For more detail, see Bosquet and Boulhol (2013).

¹⁴ With a similar motivation, Egger (2010) estimate the potential of inward FDI in Austria, based on the estimation of a gravity model with country-year fixed effect. However, the focus of his study is differences across origin countries (and industries), not the differences across destination countries. Therefore, his study focused on the inward FDI in Austria only. The scope of our study is different from his study and thus did not follow his approach.

where \mathbf{w}_{ij} and \mathbf{x}_{ijt} are the same as equation (2). ¹⁵ Our focus will be the destination-country specific effects $\hat{\beta}_{jt}$ for Japan.

Unlike the equation (2), the equation cannot accommodate other country-year specific variables such population and per capita GDP. The effects $\mathbf{y}'_{it}\delta$ and $\mathbf{z}'_{jt}\zeta$ are completely subsumed in α and β respectively.¹⁶ To remove the part of $\hat{\beta}_{jt}$ that are not directly related to FDI promotion policy like that in Abenomics, we estimate the following regression.

$$\hat{\beta}_{jt} = \eta_1 + \eta_2 \ln(POP_{jt}) + \eta_3 \ln(PGDP_{jt}) + Trend_t + \mu_{jt}, \tag{4}$$

where $Trend_t$ is the time trend common to all the (destination) countries.

The residual μ_{jt} can be considered as the destination-year specific factor that is not explained by the standard gravity variables. If $\mu_{jt} > 0$, country j has inward FDI more than expected by the gravity variables. If $\mu_{jt} < 0$, country j has inward FDI less than expected by the gravity variables. Japan is likely to have $\mu_{jt} < 0$, but if Abenomics policy to promote inward FDI has been successful, we woule expect to see μ_{jt} increase after 2013. Our second approach checks if this is indeed the case.

The data for estimation come from various sources. The data for inward FDI stock (FDI_{ijt}) from 1985 to 2015 are obtained from the OECD International Direct Investment Statistics database. In the database, the FDI stock is defined as the nominal value of foreign investors' equity in and net loans to enterprises resident in the reporting economy. In 2015, the dataset covers inward FDI from about 200 countries to 27 OECD countries. The data are available for 83,192 country-pair-year, among which 50,834 observations (61.1 percent of observations) report zero values. Appendix contains more detailed information about the FDI data.

As time invariant country-pair specific variables (\mathbf{w}_{ij}), we use a standard set of gravity variables such as distance, common language dummy, common religion dummy, and colonial relationship dummy. These variables are obtained from the CEPII (Centre d'Etudes Prospectives et d'Informations Internationales) gravity data.

The time variant country-pair variables (\mathbf{x}_{ijt}) are the RTA (Regional Trade Agreement) dummy, the WTO membership, and the common currency dummy. We use the Mario Larch's Regional Trade Agreements Database (Egger and Larch, 2008) to judge if a country pair belongs

¹⁵ Due to the large number of dummy variables, the estimation is performed by the stata command **poi2hdfe** by Guimaraes and Portugal (2010). In this command, all the origin- and destination-country-year dummies are included while constant term is excluded. For more detail, see Guimaraes and Portugal (2010).

¹⁶ One may argue that we employ three-way fixed effect model: origin-country-year, destination-country-year, and country-pair fixed effects (e.g., Egger and Pfaffermayr, 2003; Baltagi, Egger, and Pfaffermayr, 2015; Yotov, Piermartini, Monteiro, and Larch, 2016). While the three-way fixed effects model has strong theoretical backgrounds, some of the results are difficult to interpret because the most of the effects are captured by dummies. Following Head and Ries (2008) and de Sousa and Lorchard (2011), this paper includes geographic and cultural distance variables explicitly rather than including country-pair fixed effects.

to common RTA. The RTA in this database includes customs union (e.g., European Union), free trade agreement and economic integration agreement (e.g., North America Free Trade Agreement and Japan-Singapore economic partnership agreement), and partial scope agreement (e.g., South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement). The WTO and common currency dummies take 1 if both countries are members of the GATT/WTO and a common currency union respectively. Both data come from the CEPII gravity data.

We also include a dummy variable that takes 1 if the two countries have bilateral investment treaties (BIT) (Egger and Pfaffermayr, 2004; Neumayer and Spess, 2005; Busse, Königer, and Nunnenkamp, 2010). The BIT data are obtained from the World Bank Database of Bilateral Investment Treaties. The database reports the signature date and entry into force date. We use the entry into force date to identify the effects of the BIT. ¹⁷

Population (POP_{it} and POP_{jt}) and per-capita GDP ($PGDP_{it}$ and $PGDP_{jt}$) are the destination and origin country-specific characteristics (\mathbf{y}_{it} and \mathbf{z}_{jt}). GDP is measured in current thousand US dollars and the population is measured in thousand. These variables are also obtained from the CEPII gravity data.

Data on FDI often include outliers, which are presumably caused by the lumpiness of FDI. For example, Table 1 indicates that the inward FDI stock to Ireland increased by 88 percent from 2014 to 2015. To prevent estimation results to be driven by outliers, we drop the observations with the changes in inward FDI stock from the previous year falling in the top 1 percent or the bottom 1 percent of all observations in the estimations below.

4. Has Abenomics been successful in promoting Japan's inward FDI?

Table 2 shows the estimation results of the gravity model (equation (2)) for the period from 1985 to 2012. We consider three types of the gravity model that differ in consideration for country-fixed effects and country specific time trends. The model in column 1 does not include origin- and destination-country fixed effects, but the model in column 2 does include those fixed effects. For country fixed effects, we set the United States as a reference country. The model in column 3 includes the destination-country specific time trends in addition to the country fixed effects.

=== Table 2 ===

To select the best model out of these three to use for our inference, we perform the HPC test proposed by Santos Silva, Tenreyro, and Windmeijer (2015) for selection between alternative models for non-negative observations with many zeros such as the dataset that we examine. The HPC test is built on the tests of non-nested hypotheses developed by Davidson and MacKinnon (1981). The HPC test basically examines whether the prediction of the

¹⁷ The World Bank Database of Bilateral Investment Treaties (BIT) sometimes report the signature and entry into force dates more than once because the database lists treaties concluded on a multilateral basis or as chapters in a free trade agreement separately. We define the first entry into force date as the beginning of the BIT. Thus, the BIT dummy takes unity after the first entry into force date and zero for otherwise.

dependent variable generated by a model can be improved by using the predictions from an alternative model. If that is found to be the case, it is considered to be an evidence against the original model. We test each model taking each of the other models as the alternative. The *p*-value for the null hypothesis (the null model is better than the alternative model) for each alternative is presented at the bottom of each column. The HPC tests clearly reject model (1) against model (2), model (1) against model (3), and model (2) against model (3). This suggests that the model (3) is the most preferred model. Including both country fixed effects and destination-country specific time trend seem important.

The model (3) is also attractive in that most of the estimated coefficients take the values that are considered *a priori* plausible. Having RTA, common language, common religion, and colonial relationship has significantly positive effects on inward FDI whereas distance has significantly negative effects. The per-capita GDP of both origin and destination countries has significantly positive effects on inward FDI. This implies that inward FDI is more likely to be observed between high-income countries. The size of the destination country, measured by population, also matters as the coefficient of population is significantly positive. Somewhat surprisingly, the coefficients of BIT, GATT-WTO membership, and common currency dummies are statistically insignificant. This may be due to the fact that destination countries in our sample are all OECD countries, which do not have much variations.

Compared with the model (3), some of the results in columns (1) and (2) are difficult to explain. For example, model (1) has significantly negative coefficient on the GATT-WTO dummy. Model (2) neither per capita GDP nor population enters the model significantly. Because Model (3) is preferred in terms of the coefficients as well as the specification test, we use this model as our baseline model to generate the counterfactual.¹⁸

Japan's inward FDI in Japan relative to GDP has been very low compared with other OECD countries. Our estimation result confirms that the standard gravity factors alone cannot explain the low inward FDI into Japan. We can see this by comparing the estimated coefficients on destination-country dummies ($\hat{\beta}_j$ in equation (2)). Table 3 provides such comparison.¹⁹ A negative coefficient on a destination-country dummy shows that some factor specific to the host country tends to reduce its inward FDI compared with the reference country (the U.S. in this case). The table shows that the coefficient estimate for Japan is significantly negative and the magnitude is one of the largest in the sample.

=== Table 3 ===

Now we are ready to ask the central question of the paper. Has Abenomics been successful in promoting inward FDI in Japan? We answer this by looking at the amount of inward FDI for Japan after 2012, noting Abenomics was started in December 2012. When we

¹⁸ As we report below, the model (3) is rejected against the model that allows the country effects to change over time, although the rejection is not as overwhelming at those in the comparison of three models here. Since using the model with time-varying country effects would force us to drop any variable that takes the same value for all the observations with the same origin (or destination) country in the same year, such as GDP or population, we use the model (3) as the baseline model.

¹⁹ The coefficient on Latvia is not available because Latvia has been a member of the OECD since 2013.

use our model estimated using the sample before Abenomics to predict the FDI into Japan after 2012, we would under-predict the increase, if Abenomics policy for FDI promotion has been effective.

Figure 2 presents the result of out-of-sample prediction. The black line indicates the actual inward FDI in Japan while the dotted line is the prediction from the estimated model. To remove unwanted effects of exchange rate fluctuations, we plot the level of inward FDI stock divided by GDP in current prices. Figure 2 clearly shows that, although inward FDI stock increased under the Abe administration, the actual values are lower than the predicted.

One may be concerned that the global financial crisis in 2008 distorts the estimation of the gravity model. Table 1 indicates that the inward FDI stock relative to GDP declined significantly in many European countries. Because majority of OECD countries are European countries, our results may be sensitive to whether or not the estimation period includes the financial crisis. To address this concern, we estimate the gravity model using only the data before the financial crisis (1985-2007) and use the estimated model for prediction.

The results are presented as the dashed line in Figure 2. The dashed line indicates that the values predicted by the model using 1985-2007 data only are smaller than those predicted by the model that is estimated for 1985-2012. Nonetheless, the predicted values are still greater than the actual values. These results suggest that the growth of the inward FDI in Japan under Abenomics has been driven mainly by explanatory variables other than the destination specific effects for Japan. In fact, given the increases in GDPs and populations for many countries and the past trend, the model predicts higher than actual level of inward FDI stock for Japan after 2013. Thus, there is no clear evidence that the Abenomics policies to promote inward FDI have been effective.

Note that the inward FDI in Japan was dominated by some OECD countries. Figure 3 presents the share of Japan's inward FDI Stock in 2016 by origin country. The major origin country of inward FDI to Japan is the United States (25.2 percent), followed by the Netherlands (13.6 percent), France (12.0 percent), the United Kingdom (8.1 percent), Singapore (7.9 percent), and Switzerland (4.6 percent). These six countries together account for more than 70 percent of inward FDI stock in Japan in 2015. How are the actual and predicted values different for inward FDI from each of the six origin countries?

Figure 4 presents the actual and predicted inward FDI stocks from the six countries, relative to Japan's GDP. Figure 4 clearly indicates that actual values exceed predicted values only for France and Singapore. For the United States, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland, the actual values are lower than predicted values. To the extent that the impacts of Abenomics FDI promotion policy may differ among origin countries, the result may suggest that the policy may have been successful with France and Singapore. For the U.S., UK, and Switzerland, we do not see obvious impacts of the FDI promotion policy.

=== Figure 4 ===

As we discussed in the last section, our second approach estimate the gravity equation (3), which allows the origin-country specific effects and the destination-country specific effects to vary over time. Table 4 presents the estimation results. Column 1 shows the results for the period between 1985 and 2015 while column 2 presents the estimation results of the model of time-invariant origin- and destination-country specific effects for the same period. The signs and statistical significance of the coefficients are almost the same between Columns 1 and 2 except for common currency dummy. Its coefficient is insignificant in Column 2 whereas it becomes significantly negative in column 1.

=== Table 4 ===

The signs and statistical significance of the coefficients are also almost the same as our baseline model in Table 2 Column 3 except for the GATT-WTO dummy, which enters the model significantly negatively in Table 4. Here, we apply HPC test for each model taking the other model as the alternative. The p-values for the test is reported in the last row of each column. The HPC test rejects the model in Column 2 against the model in Column 1, although the rejection is not as decisive as the HPC tests applied to the three models in Table 2. Thus, we use $\hat{\beta}_{it}$ in the model in Column 1 below.

Table 5 presents the estimation results of the equation (4) for 1985 to 2015. Figure 5 plots $\hat{\beta}_{jt}$ and $\hat{\mu}_{jt}$, based on the model in column 1 in Table 4 and column 1 in Table 5, respectively. There are three notable findings in this figure. First, the coefficient of destination-country-year specific effect is greater than zero between 2008 and 2011. This may be due to the fact that inward FDI stock in Japan increased even after the financial crisis while it declined in many European countries especially from 2008 to 2009.

=== Table 5 & Figure 5 ===

Second, the estimated residuals are negative throughout the sample period. This is again consistent with the unusually low level of Japan's inward FDI stock.

Finally, $\hat{\mu}_{jt}$ shows little change after 2012. This result suggests that the inward FDI in Japan continued to be abnormally low even after Abenomics policy to promote inward FDI started. Thus, our second approach points to the same conclusion: we have no evidence that Abenomics has changed the Japan specific reasons for low inward FDI (yet).

Increasing inward FDI to Japan has been touted as one of the most important policy goals of Abenomics, and the amount of inward FDI stock has been rising toward the goal of 35 trillion yen by 2020. Yet, our analysis using the gravity model of inward FDI suggests that the increase in Japan's inward FDI actually has been smaller than the predictions of the model. We do not find obvious impacts of the FDI promotion policies of the Abe administration. Why has Abenomics's achievement been disappointing so far?

One reason may be the very slow progress of deregulation aspects of the FDI promotion policies. As we discussed in Section 2, the implementation of FDI promotion has been skewed to the measures to make it easier for foreigners to live or stay in Japan. The deregulation measures to make it easier to foreign (and domestic) businesses to do business in Japan has been slow.

Improving Japan's rank in the World Bank Doing Business Ranking to one of the top three among OECD has been another goal of Abenomics growth strategy, but there has been no progress as Haider and Hoshi (2015) point out. The lack of progress in improving the condition for doing business may be related to no visible impacts of Abenomics on Japan's inward FDI stock. This can be checked by examining the correlation between the World Bank's doing business indices (measured as distance to frontier) and country-year specific factors estimated above ($\hat{\beta}_{it}$).

=== Table 6 ===

Table 6 reports the estimation results of the equation (4) augmented by the doing business indices. Since the doing business indices are available only after 2005 for many categories (e.g., paying taxes) and only after 2009 for overall index, the sample size here is smaller. The results in Columns (3)-(5) indicate the coefficients on doing business indices are significantly positive, suggesting the destination country specific effect becomes larger (more FDI) as the country comes closer to the frontier. Noting that Japan is fairly small values for the indices, implying large distances to the frontiers. For example, Japan is behind the United States in overall, starting business, paying taxes, and enforcing contracts (Table 6). Thus, if Abenomics can improve the conditions of doing business in Japan, it may also lead to increased inward FDI in Japan. If that happens, Japan's inward FDI stock will not only exceed the goal of 35 trillion yen in 2020 but also may move above the trend predicted by the gravity model.

5. Conclusion

Promotion of inward foreign direct investment (FDI) into Japan has been an important policy in the Abenomics growth strategy. This paper examined if we can observe positive effects of the inward FDI promotion policy in the data for inward FDI stocks in Japan. We have tried two approaches applying a gravity model of bilateral FDIs to data from 35 OECD countries by origins of inward FDIs. In the first approach, we estimated the model assuming origin-country and destination-country fixed effects as well as destination-country specific time trends for 1985-2012. The destination-country fixed effect for Japan was estimated to be the second lowest of the 35 countries in our sample, reflecting unusually low level of Japan's inward FDI, which is well known in the literature. We then compared the predicted levels of Japan's inward FDI stocks for 2013-2015 to the actual levels. Although the actual inward FDI stock has been growing and is likely to achieve the goal of 35 trillion yen by 2020, we find that the growth has been lower than the estimated model suggests.

In the second approach, we allowed the destination-country effect to vary over time. If the Abenomics policies to promote inward FDI was effective, we would expect to find the part of Japan's destination-country effect that cannot be explained by the standard country-size variables in the gravity model rise under the Abe administration. We failed to find such a rise, suggesting that Japan's inward FDI stock continued to be unusually low even after 2013.

Thus, our results suggest that Abenomics policies to encourage inward FDI have not had visible impacts. Since our dataset ends in 2015 and Abenomics promotion of inward FDI seemed to have stepped up after 2016 especially in regulatory and administrative reforms, it is possible that those efforts will show up in more recent and future data.

In fact, there is an optimistic interpretation of the results. Japan's inward FDI stock has recently been rising although the unusually low destination-country effect for Japan is still there. This means Japan's potential for inward FDI is much higher than what Abenomics targeted. If Japan can remove the impediments that make the inward FDI unusually low, Japan will be able to achieve the potential. The result in Table 6 suggests that high cost of doing business in Japan is one of those impediments.

Notes on FDI stock data:

Our data for inward FDI stocks (FDI positions) are obtained from the OECD International Direct Investment Statistics database and cover 1985 to 2015. In the database, the FDI stock is defined as the value of foreign investors' equity in and net loans to enterprises that reside in the reporting economy.

In the OECD database, zeros and missing values are distinguished, so we follow the distinction of the database. For a small number of countries, inward FDI stocks are negative. This can happen if foreign parent companies' borrowings from their subsidiaries in the country are higher than their investments and loans to the subsidiaries. For the analyses of this paper, we replace them by missing values.

There are two types of source countries (i.e., investing countries) reported in the OECD database: immediate counterpart and ultimate counterpart. Although only immediate counterpart is available in many countries, we use ultimate counterpart as a source country when available. If ultimate counterpart is not available, we use immediate counterpart as source country.

The OECD database changed the benchmark definition from the 3rd to the 4th edition in 2013. In the 4th edition, more detailed classifications of the type of entity is available. The database distinguishes the difference between special purpose entities (SPEs) and non-SPEs. SPEs are used by multi-national enterprises to channel investments through several countries before reaching their final destinations. We exclude these types of investments through SPEs when the data allow.

Our final dataset covers FDI from approximately 180 countries to 35 OECD countries, although there are some missing data for some countries in some years as indicated in Table A1.

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Figure 1. Inward FDI Stock for Japan, 1996-2016

5.0

0.0

9661

1998

1997

Source: Ministry of Finance (2018) International Investment Position (Historical Data).

2002

2003

2004

2005

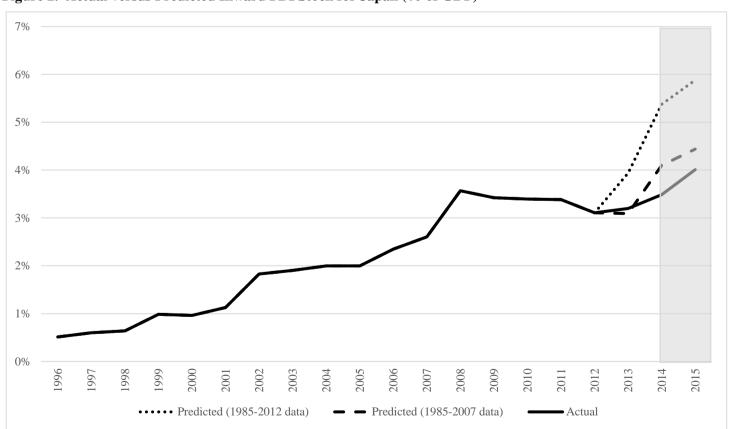


Figure 2. Actual versus Predicted Inward FDI Stock for Japan (% of GDP)

Notes: Shaded area indicates the period of Abenomics.

Others 20.2% **United States** 25.2% Hong Kong 3.9% Cayman Islands 4.3% Netherlands Switzerland 13.6% 4.6% Singapore 12.0% Kingdom 8.1%

Figure 3. Share of Japan's Inward FDI Stock by Country (2016)

Source: Ministry of Finance (2018) International Investment Position.

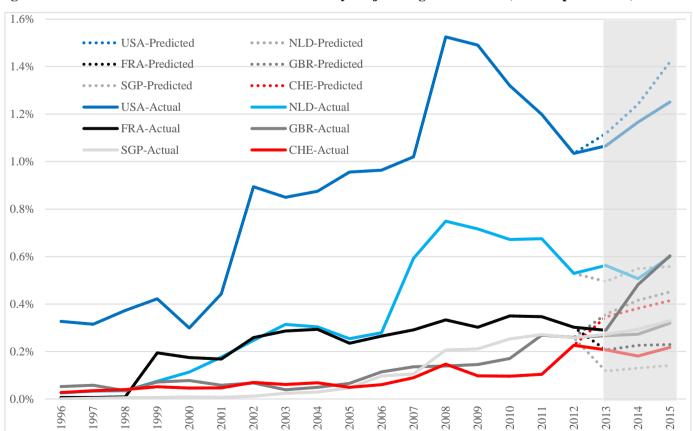
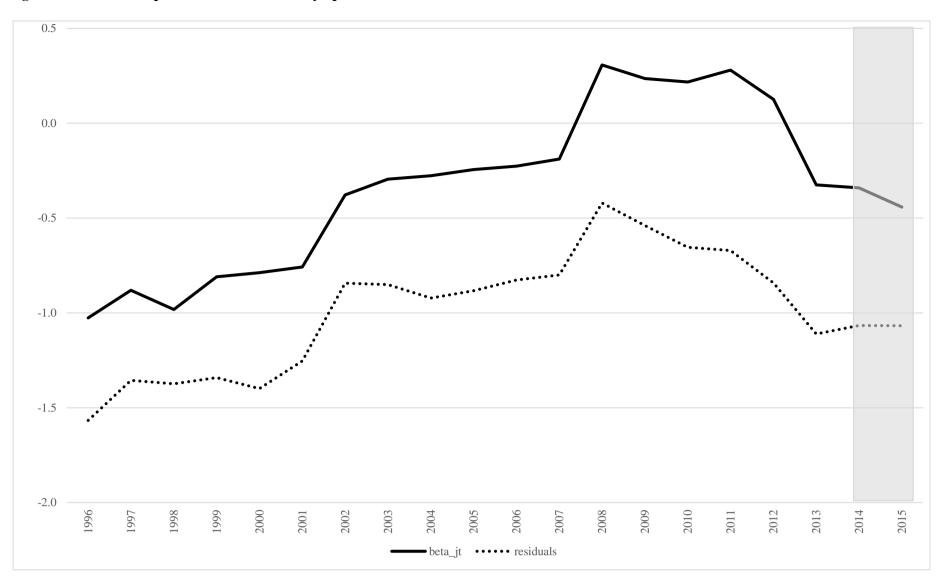


Figure 4. Actual versus Predicted Inward FDI Stock by Major Origin Countries (% of Japan's GDP)

Notes: Vertical axis indicates the share of actual and predicted inward FDI stock relative to GDP. Shaded area indicates the period of Abenomics.

Figure 5. Estimated Japan's Destination-Country Specific Effects and Residuals



Notes: Shaded area indicates the period of Abenomics.

Table 1. Ratio of Inward FDI Stock to GDP for OECD Countries, 1985-2015

OECD	AUS	AUT	BEL CA	N CHI	E CHI	L CZE	E DEU	DNK	ESP	EST	FIN	FRA	GBR	GRC	HUN	IRL	_ ISL	ITA	JPN	KOR	LUX	LVA MEX	NLD	NOR	NZL	POL	PRT	SVK	SVN SWE	TUR USA
1985 0.076	0.124		. 0.17	1			. 0.047											0.033	0.004			. 0.037	0.150							. 0.037
1986 0.072	0.132	0.046	. 0.18	[. 0.045											0.032	0.003			. 0.056	0.146						. 0.033	. 0.043
1987 0.086	0.180	0.049	. 0.18	1			. 0.047						0.138					0.031	0.003			. 0.062	0.157	0.093					. 0.042	. 0.050
1988 0.083	0.219	0.046	. 0.18	5			. 0.042						0.136				. 0.015	0.034	0.004			. 0.078	0.143	0.086					. 0.040	. 0.056
1989 0.088	0.194	0.067	. 0.18	5			. 0.062	•			•	0.048	0.157				. 0.019	0.046	0.005			. 0.069	0.173	0.094				•	. 0.045	. 0.061
1990 0.088	0.208	0.064	. 0.18	3			. 0.065					0.060	0.182				. 0.022	0.043	0.005	0.018		. 0.076	0.187	0.104					. 0.039	. 0.062
1991 0.095	0.210	0.074	. 0.19)			. 0.068	0.116				0.070	0.178			,	. 0.024	0.042	0.006	0.019		. 0.086	0.189	0.123					. 0.060	. 0.067
1992 0.084	0.191	0.066	. 0.18	[. 0.058				0.029	0.090	0.143		0.111		. 0.017	0.032	0.006	0.019		. 0.099	0.174	0.096					. 0.048	. 0.064
1993 0.106	0.212	0.071	. 0.18	0.141			. 0.060				0.043	0.100	0.165		0.150		. 0.019	0.043	0.006	0.019		. 0.077	0.180	0.101	0.321				. 0.060	. 0.066
1994 0.116	0.257	0.074	. 0.189	0.158	}		. 0.069	0.124			0.060	0.115	0.160		0.162		. 0.020	0.046	0.006	0.018		. 0.067	0.216	0.121	0.393	0.025			. 0.091	. 0.070
1995 0.157	0.232	0.084	. 0.199	0.159)		. 0.071				0.060	0.118	0.154				. 0.021	0.050		0.017	0.771	. 0.114	0.215	0.117	0.394	0.054	0.121		. 0.110	. 0.074
1996 0.158	0.249	0.082	. 0.20	6 0.147	'		. 0.152				0.064	0.122	0.167				. 0.026	0.051	0.005	0.019	0.696	. 0.109	0.232	0.114	0.465	0.068	0.153		. 0.113	. 0.079
1997 0.163	0.202	0.097	. 0.20	0.185	i	. 0.145	0.083				0.072	0.133	0.166				. 0.044	0.052	0.006	0.025	0.814	. 0.105	0.248	0.118	0.414	0.088	0.168		. 0.137	. 0.074
1998 0.202	0.222	0.111	. 0.219	0.225	i	. 0.210	0.108	0.162			0.120	0.162	0.186		0.330		. 0.054	0.065	0.006	0.051	0.948	. 0.120	0.314	0.164	0.497	0.122	0.202		. 0.180	. 0.079
1999 0.218	0.264	0.103	. 0.25	0.243	}	. 0.253	0.122	0.191			0.133	0.162	0.235		0.361		. 0.048	0.068	0.010	0.059	0.845	. 0.129	0.434	0.167	0.485	0.148	0.175		. 0.263	. 0.091
2000 0.233	0.237	0.153	. 0.27	0.311		. 0.329	0.164	0.337	0.001	0.006	0.191	0.189	0.260		0.365		. 0.044	0.083	0.010	0.066	1.020	. 0.133	0.587	0.165	0.478	0.191	0.230	0.150	. 0.351	0.072 0.111
2001 0.290	0.240	0.168	. 0.29	0.310)	. 0.375	0.163	0.319			0.183	0.213	0.315	0.108	0.360	1.086	0.069	0.077	0.011	0.077	1.161		0.661	0.169	0.266	0.208	0.246	0.179	. 0.362	0.100 0.108
2002 0.323	0.274	0.200	. 0.30	0.404		. 0.048	0.256	0.357	0.156		0.244	0.254	0.295	0.108	0.393	1.459	0.064	0.083	0.018	0.073	1.395		0.750	0.198	0.303	0.229	0.307	0.235	. 0.425	0.081 0.120
2003 0.330	0.337	0.211	. 0.31	0.448	3	. 0.454	0.273	0.359	0.329	0.638	0.286	0.290	0.304	0.119	0.458	1.309	0.055	0.113	0.019	0.071	0.298		0.732	0.189	0.305	0.264	0.342	0.336	. 0.474	0.110 0.121
2004 0.379	0.343	0.220	. 0.309	0.491		. 0.476	0.253	0.453	0.319	0.753	0.285	0.310	0.295	0.107	0.485	1.011	0.129	0.120	0.021	0.073	1.358		0.721	0.283	0.407	0.336	0.315	0.378	. 0.510	0.098 0.122
2005 0.343	0.240	0.248	. 0.30	5 0.402		. 0.444	0.222	0.436	0.329	0.787	0.264	0.169	0.333	0.106	0.428	0.837	0.231	0.119	0.021	0.069	1.077		0.646	0.232	•	0.293	0.291	0.375	. 0.437	0.147 0.123
2006 0.396	0.276	0.315	. 0.27	0.548	0.483	0.513	0.261	0.463	0.360	0.713	0.318	0.214	0.419	0.133	0.667	0.712	0.415	0.150	0.023	0.066	1.151		0.748	0.259	0.475	0.359		0.475	0.225 0.546	0.178 0.129
2007 0.448	0.329	0.399	. 0.34	0.70ϵ	0.537	0.593	0.276	0.497	0.391	0.705	0.351	0.235	0.404	0.157	0.681	0.784	0.757	0.170	0.028	0.061	1.258		0.910	0.279	0.441	0.404	0.436	0.494	0.297 0.601	0.237 0.137
2008 0.418	0.208	0.338	1.603 0.27	0.761	0.518	0.480	0.243	0.426	0.356	0.638	0.289	0.194	0.321	0.104	0.545	0.746	0.524	0.136	0.039	0.070	1.126		0.651	0.226	0.324	0.301	0.350	0.509	0.280 0.544	0.110 0.138
2009 0.517	0.352	0.402	1.994 0.38	0.895	0.333	0.610	0.268	0.479	0.416	0.804	0.333	0.242	0.446	0.119	0.788	1.084	0.673	0.165	0.038	0.130	1.448	. 0.380	0.699	0.353	0.433	0.414	0.434	0.592	0.222 0.743	0.233 0.143
2010 0.521	0.341	0.399	1.923 0.35	0.955	0.324	0.621	0.265	0.439	0.431	0.798	0.340	0.241	0.453	0.131	0.696	1.271	0.889	0.154	0.037	0.123	1.278	. 0.368	0.687		0.412	0.444	0.431	0.568	0.218 0.693	0.255 0.151
2011 0.478	0.290	0.351	1.884 0.31	0.842	0.372	0.537	0.251	0.415	0.408	0.709	0.323	0.239	0.451	0.101	0.587	1.193	0.862	0.155	0.037	0.111	1.163	. 0.328	0.651	0.336	0.392	0.380	0.404	0.534	0.219 0.608	0.176 0.159
2012 0.538	0.313	0.385	1.836 0.33	0.913	0.392	0.652	0.280	0.450	0.444	0.824	0.370	0.255	0.536	0.110	0.749	1.663	0.733	0.178	0.033	0.127	1.308	. 0.383	0.690	0.391	0.509	0.465	0.478	0.603	0.258 0.690	0.240 0.163
2013 0.475	0.275	0.397	1.022 0.35	0.981	0.470	0.639	0.253	0.279	0.426	0.878	0.315	0.271	0.422	0.125	0.723	1.694	0.472	0.150	0.034	0.127		0.447 0.381	0.855	0.340	0.396	0.395	0.546	0.597	0.251 0.647	0.336 0.166
2014 0.436	0.308	0.361	0.856 0.34	0.943	0.547	0.582	0.216	0.275	0.403	0.757	0.319	0.238	0.377	0.117	0.678	1.553	0.446	0.127	0.037	0.120		0.462 0.374	0.764	0.321	0.369	0.340	0.481	0.497	0.247 0.526	0.225 0.171
2015 0.504	0.323	0.386	. 0.35	1.057	0.649	0.602		0.305	0.419	0.810	0.336	0.270	0.388	0.134	0.686	2.924	0.455	0.152	0.042	0.123		0.529 0.444	0.901	0.337	0.365	0.338	0.537	•	0.291 0.581	0.205 0.177

Sources: Inward FDI stock data are obtained from the OECD International Direct Investment Database. GDP data are obtained from the CEPII gravity data.

Table 2. Gravity Model Estimation: 1985-2012

	(1)	(2)	(3)
	Tuo diti on al	Origin/	Origin/
	Traditional	destination fixed	destination fixed
	gravity variables	effect	effect
RTA dummy	0.331**	0.870***	0.869***
	[0.149]	[0.148]	[0.139]
Bilateral investment treaties dummy	-0.614***	0.015	-0.022
	[0.121]	[0.137]	[0.139]
GATT-WTO member dummy	-0.157	0.051	0.108
	[0.250]	[0.173]	[0.161]
Common currency dummy	0.04	-0.043	-0.128
	[0.167]	[0.156]	[0.163]
Distance	-0.362***	-0.172**	-0.194**
	[0.071]	[0.083]	[0.081]
Common official language dummy	0.729***	0.532***	0.526***
	[0.138]	[0.111]	[0.112]
Common religion dummy	0.736***	1.583***	1.667***
	[0.249]	[0.239]	[0.239]
Colonial relationship dummy	0.718***	0.582***	0.584***
	[0.184]	[0.103]	[0.102]
Origin country			
Population	0.613***	1.233**	0.297
	[0.041]	[0.502]	[0.469]
Per-capita GDP	1.869***	0.906***	0.632***
	[0.084]	[0.146]	[0.126]
Destination country			
Population	0.753***	-0.176	3.626***
	[0.053]	[0.668]	[0.740]
Per-capita GDP	0.647***	0.952***	0.270**
	[0.084]	[0.128]	[0.119]
Number of observations	61,413	61,413	61,413
Country-specific time trend	No	No	Yes
Fixed effects			
Origin and destination	No	Yes	Yes
HPC test p -values			
Column 1 as Alternative		1.000	1.000
Column 2 as Alternative	0.000		0.992
Column 3 as Alternative	0.000	0.005	

Notes: ***, **, and * indicate statistically significant at 1%, 5%, and 10%, respectively. Standard errors, which are clustered by pairs, are reported in brackets. Observations with the changes in inward FDI stock from the previous year falling in the top 1 percent or the bottom 1 percent of all observations are dropped. All the models are estimated by PPML.

Table 3. Destination-Country Specific Effects for OECD Countries

Country name	Abbreviations	Coefficient	Standard Errors
Australia	AUS	8.265***	[2.166]
Austria	AUT	4.929*	[2.727]
Belgium	BEL	9.132***	[2.904]
Canada	CAN	5.911***	[1.774]
Chile	CHL	9.490***	[3.019]
Czech Republic	CZE	3.016	[2.516]
Denmark	DNK	8.270***	[3.009]
Estonia	EST	9.700**	[4.407]
Finland	FIN	5.583*	[2.967]
France	FRA	1.898	[1.285]
Germany	DEU	0.527	[0.988]
Greece	GRC	6.910***	[2.532]
Hungary	HUN	3.004	[2.318]
Iceland	ISL	9.570	[5.954]
Ireland	IRL	14.746***	[3.918]
Israel	ISR	17.846***	[5.330]
Italy	ITA	0.887	[1.305]
Japan	JPN	-2.551***	[0.826]
Korea	KOR	0.264	[1.562]
Latvia	LVA	not a	vailable
Luxembourg	LUX	18.384***	[5.337]
Mexico	MEX	0.838	[1.080]
Netherlands	NLD	6.463***	[2.173]
New Zealand	NZL	12.964***	[3.508]
Norway	NOR	8.582***	[3.195]
Poland	POL	-2.918*	[1.515]
Portugal	PRT	4.243*	[2.518]
Slovakia	SVK	2.023	[3.292]
Slovenia	SVN	15.200***	[4.261]
Spain	ESP	5.281**	[2.142]
Sweden	SWE	5.542**	[2.632]
Switzerland	CHE	5.619*	[3.120]
Turkey	TUR	-3.286*	[1.974]
United Kingdom	GBR	2.733**	[1.236]
United States	USA	reference	ce country

Notes: Coefficients and standard errors are obtained from the model in column 3 of Table 2. ***, **, and * indicate the coefficient estimate is statistically significant at 1%, 5%, and 10% respectively. Standard errors, which are clustered by pairs, are reported in brackets. Coefficients on Latvia is not available because Latvia has been a member of the OECD since 2013.

Table 4. Gravity Model with Time-Vayring Destination-Country Effects

	(1)	(2)
	Origin-year/	Origin/
	destination-year	destination fixed
	fixed effect	effect
RTA dummy	0.861***	0.862***
	[0.117]	[0.133]
Bilateral investment treaties dummy	-0.105	-0.08
	[0.152]	[0.150]
GATT-WTO member dummy	-22.240***	0.557***
	[0.241]	[0.187]
Common currency dummy	-0.387**	-0.282
	[0.172]	[0.180]
Distance	-0.237***	-0.191**
	[0.067]	[0.080]
Common official language dummy	0.534***	0.554***
	[0.110]	[0.116]
Common religion dummy	1.673***	1.683***
	[0.229]	[0.238]
Colonial relationship dummy	0.576***	0.587***
	[0.095]	[0.099]
Number of observations	67,741	72,772
Country-specific time trend	No	No
Fixed effects		
Origin-year and destination-year	Yes	No
HPC test p -values		
The other column as Alternative	0.153	0.000

Notes: ***, **, and * indicate statistically significant at 1%, 5%, and 10%, respectively. Standard errors, which are clustered by pairs, are reported in brackets. Observations with the changes in inward FDI stock from the previous year falling in the top 1 percent or the bottom 1 percent of all observations are dropped.

Table 5. Gravity Model with Ease of Doing Business as Additional Explanatory Variables

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)											
	coeffic	-	oendent varia		effect											
	All years	After	2005	After	2010											
Destination country	0.869*** 0.796*** 0.829*** 0.794*** 0.792***															
Population	0.869***	0.796***	0.829***	0.794***	0.792***											
	[0.023]	[0.017]	[0.015]	[0.023]	[0.021]											
Per-capita GDP	0.998***	0.949***	0.753***	0.970***	0.834***											
	[0.087]	[0.033]	[0.035]	[0.043]	[0.057]											
Distance to frontier																
Starting business			*** 0.753*** 0.970*** 0.834*** 3] [0.035] [0.043] [0.057] 0.011*** [0.003]													
			0.753*** 0.970*** 0.834*** [0.035] [0.043] [0.057] 0.011*** [0.003] 0.007**													
Paying taxes			0.007**	[0.043] [0.057]												
			[0.003]													
Enforcing contracts			0.016***													
			[0.003]													
Overall					0.021***											
					[0.006]											
Number of observations	752	327	326	199	199											
Adjusted R-squared	0.650	0.880	0.900	0.870	0.880											
Trend	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes											

Notes: ***, **, and * indicate statistically significant at 1%, 5%, and 10%, respectively. Robust standard errors are reported in brackets. Trend is common across countries. Distance to frontier is available from 2005 for each item and from 2010 for overall.

Source: See main text.

Table 6. Ease of Doing Business Index: Distance to Frontier for Selected Countries

_		Over	all			Starting a	business	
year	Japan	United States	China	Singapore	Japan	United States	China	Singapore
2006					71.6	91.2	51.0	91.2
2007					83.1	91.2	59.2	91.2
2008	•			•	83.1	91.2	60.8	92.9
2009					83.1	91.4	59.8	94.7
2010	78.4	85.7	56.5	89.8	83.1	91.4	62.7	96.5
2011	78.0	85.7	59.5	90.4	83.1	91.3	63.5	96.5
2012	78.9	85.7	58.6	90.4	85.9	91.3	64.7	96.5
2013	78.8	84.9	59.9	90.4	85.9	91.3	68.6	96.5
2014	78.4	82.1	61.1	91.2	86.0	91.1	68.7	96.5
2015	75.2	82.0	63.1	85.1	86.1	91.2	77.4	96.5
		Paying	taxes			Enforcing	contracts	
	Ionon	United	C1 ·	Singapore	Iomon	United	Chino	G :
year	Japan	States	China	Singapore	Japan	States	China	Singapore
2006	68.3	States 72.6	15.9	98.9	70.0	States 77.2	71.4	Singapore 93.4
2006	68.3	72.6	15.9	98.9	70.0	77.2	71.4	93.4
2006 2007	68.3 66.5	72.6 71.8	15.9 15.1	98.9 98.9	70.0 70.0	77.2 78.3	71.4 69.9	93.4 93.4
2006 2007 2008	68.3 66.5 66.5	72.6 71.8 72.5	15.9 15.1 14.4	98.9 98.9 98.9	70.0 70.0 70.0	77.2 78.3 76.8	71.4 69.9 69.9	93.4 93.4 93.4
2006 2007 2008 2009	68.3 66.5 66.5 64.7	72.6 71.8 72.5 79.3	15.9 15.1 14.4 42.4	98.9 98.9 98.9 97.1	70.0 70.0 70.0 70.0	77.2 78.3 76.8 76.8	71.4 69.9 69.9 69.9	93.4 93.4 93.4 89.5
2006 2007 2008 2009 2010	68.3 66.5 66.5 64.7 65.1	72.6 71.8 72.5 79.3 79.4	15.9 15.1 14.4 42.4 44.8	98.9 98.9 98.9 97.1 96.5	70.0 70.0 70.0 70.0 70.0	77.2 78.3 76.8 76.8 76.8	71.4 69.9 69.9 69.9 69.9	93.4 93.4 93.4 89.5 89.5
2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011	68.3 66.5 66.5 64.7 65.1 68.3	72.6 71.8 72.5 79.3 79.4 78.7	15.9 15.1 14.4 42.4 44.8 60.3	98.9 98.9 98.9 97.1 96.5	70.0 70.0 70.0 70.0 70.0 70.0	77.2 78.3 76.8 76.8 76.8	71.4 69.9 69.9 69.9 69.9	93.4 93.4 93.4 89.5 89.5
2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012	68.3 66.5 66.5 64.7 65.1 68.3 75.2	72.6 71.8 72.5 79.3 79.4 78.7 78.7	15.9 15.1 14.4 42.4 44.8 60.3 60.3	98.9 98.9 98.9 97.1 96.5 96.5	70.0 70.0 70.0 70.0 70.0 70.0 70.0	77.2 78.3 76.8 76.8 76.8 76.8	71.4 69.9 69.9 69.9 69.9 69.9	93.4 93.4 93.4 89.5 89.5 89.5

Source: The World Bank Database of Bilateral Investment Treaties.

Table A1. Inward FDI Stocks

	AUS	AUT	BEL	CAN	CHE	CHL	CZE	DEU	DNK	ESP	EST	FIN	FRA	GBR	GRC	HUN	IRL	ISL	ISR	ITA	JPN	KOR	LUX	LVA	MEX	NLD	NOR	NZL	POL	PRT	SVK	SVN	SWE	TUR USA
1985	22			63	•	•		35		•						•	•		•	15	6	•	•		7	21		•	•		•	•	•	. 161
1986	24	5		68	•			47		•				•			•		•	21	7	•	•		7	29		•	•		•		5	. 198
1987	34	6		79	•			61		•				101			•		•	25	8	•	•		9	38	9	•	•		•		8	. 245
1988	52	6		94	•			58		•				121			•	0	•	31	11	•	•		14	37	9	•	•		•		8	. 296
1989	58	9		105	•			87		•			50	141			•	0	•	43	14	•			15	44	9	•	•		•		10	. 345
1990	65	11		111	٠	•	•	115		•		•	77	194		•	•	0	•	51	16	5	•		20	58	12	•	•		•	•	10	. 368
1991	68	13		116	•			126	16	•			89	199			•	0	•	53	20	6			27	61	15	•	•		•		16	. 414
1992	62	13		107	•			124				3	126	166		4	•	0	•	43	23	7	•		36	62	12						13	. 420
1993	66	13		105	37	•		124				4	133	172		6	•	0	•	45	26	7	•		39	63	12	15	•		•	•	13	. 453
1994	83	15		109	46			152	19			6	162	180		7	•	0	•	50	30	8	•		35	80	15	21	3				21	. 514
1995	85	20	·	120	54	•	•	183	•	•	•	8	190	190	•	•	•	0	•	58	•	9	17	•	39	96	17	25	8	14	•	•	29	. 569
1996	100	20	ē	129	48		•	379	•	•	•	8	198	217		·	•	0	•	66	24	11	15		43	103	18	32	11	19		•	32	. 641
1997	88	21	ē	130	53		9	183	•	•	•	9	195	239		·	•	0	•	65	26	14	16		50	102	19	27	14	20		•	36	. 634
1998	89	24	ē	138	66		14	242	29	•	•	16	245	285		16	•	0	•	83	25	19	19		60	136	25	28	21	25		•	48	. 718
1999	103	22	•	170	71	•	16	269	34			18	243	366	•	18		0	•	85	44	29	19		75	191	26	28	25	22		•	71	. 882
2000	98	30	•	207	84	•	20	318	55	1	0	24	258	402	•	17	•	0	•	95	46	37	22		91	243	28	25	33	27	4	•	91	19 1147
2001	91	33		213	86	•	25	317	53			24	294	482	15	19	118	1	•	90	47	41	24			282	29	14	40	30	6	•	87	20 1148
2002	108	43		225	122	•	4	532	64	110		34	382	495	16	26	186	1	•	105	73	44	32		•	348	38	20	46	41	8	•	112	19 1318
2003	157	55		281	158		45	683	78	298	6	49	536	592	24	39	214	1		177	82	48	9			418	42	27	57	56	16		157	33 1391
2004	210	66		315	193		57	713	114	342	9	56	658	678	26	50	195	2		217	96	56	46			466	74	42	85	60	22		195	38 1492
2005	166	78		356	164	•	60	635	115	380	11	54	373	803	26	48	176	4	•	220	97	62	40		•	434	71	•	89	57	24	•	170	71 1604
2006	206	105		364	235	75	80	782	131	455	12	69	498	1083	36	76	164	7	•	291	102	67	48		•	538	88	52	123	•	33	9	229	95 1792
2007	281	154	•	501	337	93	112	948	159	579	16	90	626	1198	50	94	211	16	•	374	124	69	62	•	•	758	110	60	173	105	43	14	293	154 1982
2008	219	144	834	425	420	93	113	910	150	581	15	82	566	895	37	85	204	9	49	325	190	70	62		•	606	103	42	160	92	51	16	280	80 2035
2009	326	160	969	529	483	57	125	914	153	624	16	84	652	1030	39	102	253	9	36	361	189	118	73		340	600	134	52	181	106	53	11	319	143 2063
2010	389	156	931	567	555	70	128	904	140	616	16	84	637	1090	39	90	278	12	40	327	205	134	67	•	387	575	•	59	211	103	51	10	339	187 2266
2011	402	151	995	559	586	93	122	941	142	610	16	88	683	1170	29	82	284	13	41	354	218	134	69	•	384	582	165	64	199	99	52	11	342	136 2471
2012	480	157	916	605	608	104	135	989	145	602	19	95		1402	27	95	369	10	44	372	199	155	74		454	568	195	87	231	104	56	12	375	189 2632
2013		170	536	647	673	130	133	943	94	594	22	84		1130	30	96	393	7	54	322	168	166	•	14	480	729	175	74	208	124	58	12	375	276 2779
2014	448	158	455	619	663	142	121	838	95	556	20	87		1132	28	94	398	8	48	272	169	169	•	14	486	672	160	74	185	111	50	12	302	180 2967
2015	433	146	•	544	709	156	111	•	90	502	18	78	653	1109	26	84	830	8		277	174	169	•	14	508	676	130	63	161	107	٠	12	288	147 3195

Notes: Figures are reported in the billions of US dollars.

Sources: Inward FDI stock data are obtained from the OECD International Direct Investment Database.

Table A2. GDP

	AUS	AUT	BEL	CAN	CHE	CHL	CZE	DEU	DNK	ESP	EST	FIN	FRA	GBR	GRC	HUN	IRL	ISL	ISR	ITA	JPN	KOR	LUX	LVA	MEX	NLD	NOR	NZL	POL	PRT	SVK	SVN	SWE	TUR USA
1985	180	69	87	363	107	16	28	730	62	180	•	56	555	486	48	21	21	3	24	451	1385	104	5		184	141	64	24	71	27			113	67 4347
1986	182	99	120	376	154	18	32	1042	88	251	•	74	775	597	57	24	29	4	30	639	2051	120	7		129	198	77	30	74	39			148	76 4590
1987	189	124	150	429	193	21	36	1293	109	318		92	938	733	66	26	34	6	35	803	2485	151	9	6	140	241	92	40	64	48			180	87 4870
1988	236	133	163	506	209	25	36	1396	115	375		109	1024	891	77	29	38	6	44	889	3015	202	10	7	183	258	100	45	69	56			204	91 5253
1989	299	133	165	564	202	28	35	1394	112	414		119	1030	899	79	29	39	6	45	926	3017	249	10	8	223	254	101	44	82	61			215	107 5658
1990	311	166	206	592	257	32	40	1765	138	535		142	1275	1067	98	33	49	7	52	1178	3104	285	13	7	263	313	118	45	65	79	13		258	151 5980
1991	326	173	211	608	260	36	30	1862	139	576	7	128	1276	1116	106	35	50	7	59	1243	3537	332	14	7	314	322	120	42	84	89	14		270	151 6174
1992	325	195	236	590	271	44	34	2123	153	629		113	1409	1158	117	39	56	7	66	1316	3853	356	16	5	364	357	128	41	93	108	15		280	159 6539
1993	312	190	226	575	264	48	40	2069	143	524		89	1330	1043	109	40	52	6	66	1062	4415	392	17	4	504	348	118	46	94	95	16		210	180 6879
1994	323	203	246	576	292	55	47	2206	156	529	•	103	1402	1130	117	43	57	6	75	1096	4850	459	18	5	527	373	125	55	109	100	20		226	131 7309
1995	368	240	289	602	342	71	60	2591	185	613	4	134	1610	1236	137	46	69	7	99	1171	5334	559	22	5	344	445	149	63	139	118	26	21	264	169 7664
1996	401	237	281	627	330	76	67	2502	188	641	5	132	1614	1305	147	46	76	8	109	1309	4706	603	22	6	397	443	160	70	157	123	28	21	288	181 8100
1997	436	212	254	651	287	83	62	2216	174	589	5	127	1461	1439	143	47	83	8	113	1240	4324	560	19	6	481	410	158	65	158	117	28	21	264	190 8609
1998	399	218	260	631	295	79	66	2240	177	617	6	134	1511	1529	145	49	90	8	115	1267	3915	376	20	7	502	431	151	56	173	124	30	22	267	269 9089
1999	389	217	260	674	290	73	65	2197	178	633	6	135	1500	1558	143	49	99	9	116	1249	4433	486	22	7	579	440	159	58	168	127	30	23	271	250 9661
2000	415	196	237	739	272	79	61	1947	164	595	6	126	1368	1549	131	47	99	9	131	1142	4731	562	21	8	684	413	168	52	172	118	29	20	260	267 10285
2001	378	197	237	733	279	72	67	1948	165	626	6	129	1382	1529	136	54	108	8	130	1163	4160	533	21	8	725	426	171	53	191	122	31	21	240	196 10622
2002	394	213	258	753	301	71	82	2076	179	705	7	140	1500	1674	153	67	127	9	120	1267	3981	609	23	9	742	464	192	66	199	134	35	24	264	233 10978
2003	466	261	319	888	352	78	99	2502	218	907	10	171	1848	1944	202	85	163	11	125	1570	4303	681	29	11	713	571	225	87	218	165	47	30	331	303 11511
2004	613	300	370	1018	394	101	119	2816	251	1070	12	197	2124	2298	240	103	193	14	134	1799	4656	765	34	14	770	646	260	103	254	189	57	34	382	392 12275
2005	693	315	387	1164	408	124	136	2858	265	1157	14	204	2204	2412	248	112	210	17	141	1853	4572	898	37	16	866	672	304	114	304	197	63	36	389	483 13094
2006	747	334	411	1311	429	155	155	2998	283	1264	17	217	2325	2583	273	114	231	17	152	1943	4357	1012	42	20	967	719	340	110	343	209	70	40	420	531 13856
2007	853	386	472	1458	477	173	189	3436	320	1479	22	255	2663	2963	319	139	269	21	177	2204	4356	1123	49	29	1043	833	393	135	429	240	86	48	488	647 14478
2008	1055	428	520	1543	552	180	235	3747	353	1635	24	284	2924	2792	355	157	274	18	214	2392	4849	1002	55	34	1099	931	454	130	530	262	100	56	514	730 14719
2009	926	398	486	1371	540	172	206	3413	320	1499	20	251	2694	2309	330	129	234	13	206	2186	5035	902	50	26	895	858	379	119	436	244	89	50	430	615 14419
2010	1141	390	484	1614	581	218	207	3412	320	1432	19	248	2647	2408	300	130	218	13	233	2127	5495	1094	52	24	1052	836	421	143	477	238	89	48	488	731 14964
2011	1388	429	528	1779	696	251	227	3752	341	1495	23	274	2863	2592	289	139	238	15	258	2278	5906	1202	59	28	1170	894	491	164	524	245	98	51	563	775 15518
2012	1534	408	499	1821	666	266	207	3533	322	1356	23	256	2687	2615	250	127	222	14	257	2092	5954	1223	56	28	1186	823	500	171	496	218	93	46	544	789 16163
2013	1560	428	525	1827	685	277	209	3730	336	1393	25	267	2806	2678	242	133	232	15	291	2149	4920	1305	60	31	1261	854	513	186	526	227	98	48	580	822 16768
2014	1455	438	532	1784	703	259	208	3879	346	1381	26	272	2839	2999	236	139	256	17	309	2150	4596	1411	65	31	1298	880	498	200	545	230	101	50	574	799 17393
2015	1339	377	455	1551	671	241	185	3363	295	1199	22	232	2419	2858	195	122	284	17	299	1821	4123	1378	58	27	1144	750	387	174	477	199	87	43	496	718 18037

Notes: Figures are reported in the trillions of US dollars. Negative values are treated as missing values.

Sources: GDP data are obtained from the CEPII gravity data.

Table A3. Inward FDI Inflows

	AUS	AUT	BEL	CAN	CHE	CHL	CZE	DEU	DNK	ESP	EST	FIN	FRA	GBR	GRC	HUN	IRL	ISL	ISR	ITA	JPN	KOR	LUX	LVA	MEX	NLD	NOR	NZL	POL	PRT	SVK	SVN	SWE	TUR	USA
1985	2 .		•	1 .	•			1	0	1.		0	2	5 .			0 .			1	1	0 .			3	1 .		0 .		0 .			0 .		19
1986	2 .		•	2	0 .			2	0	2 .		0	2	7.			0.			1	1	0.			4	2	1	0.		0.			1.		35
1987	1 .	•	•	6	1.	•		3	0	4 .		0	4	13	1.		0.			3	2	1.			3	2	1	0.		0.			0.		62
1988	5	•		5	0 .			4	1	5.		0	7	20	1.		0	0.		4	3	1.			3	3	1	0.		1.			1.		57
1989	8	•		3	0 .			7	1	7.		0	9	27	1.		0	0.		5	3	1.			4	4	1	0.		1.			1.		65
1990	5	•	•	5	3.	•		5	1	12 .		1	8	28	1.		0	0.		6	2	1.			3	7	2	2 .		2 .			2 .		44
1991	5	•	•	2	1 .			6	1	10 .		0	10	15	1.		0	0 .		1	4	1.	•		5	3	1	2 .		2 .			6.		32
1992	4		•	3	1.			3	1	10 .		0	14	15	3.		0	0 .		2	3	1.	•		8	5	1	2 .		2 .			3	1	20
1993	4		-	4	0 .		1	5	2	12 .		1	10	14 .			0	0.		3	3	1.			7	7	2	2	1	1.			3	1	50
1994	4	0	•	8	4 .		1	8	5	13 .		2	10	9.			0	0 .		2	4	1.	•		12	5	2	3	1	1.			6	1	42
1995	3	0	•	6	3 .		2	14	4	11 .		1	22	23 .			0	0.		4	4	1.	•		8	10	2	3	4	1.	•		12	1	55
1996	9	0	•	8	3.		1	13	1	12 .		2	22	25 .	•		1	0.		3	6	2 .			8	12	5	4	4	2 .			5	1	87
1997	7	•	•	10	6 .		1	14	3	12 .		2	21	32 .	•		1	0.		2	5	3.			11	12	5	2	5	2 .			9	1	91
1998	6	•	•	18	9 .		3	29	6	10 .		13	25	67 .				0.		3	10	5 .			7	31	4	3	6	2 .			17	1	164
1999	6	3	•	25	13 .		5	66	11	19 .		5	34	91 .		3		0.		6	18	10 .			14	42	6	3	7	2 .			19	1	260
2000	7	10	•	18	19 .		5	199	32	39 .		9	41	112 .	•			0.		13	27	9.	•		21	64	7	2	9	7	2 .		17	2	269
2001	4	6	•	32	10 .		6	46	13	28 .		4	52	52	1	4	16	0.		12	15	4 .			30	53	2	1	6	6	1.		13	3	162
2002	14	2	21	19	8 .		1	56	8	41 .		8	50	28	0	2	23	0.		14	15	3	116 .		24	28	1	2	5	2	4 .		13	1	81
2003	14	8	44	5	16 .		4	53	3	28	1	4	42	19	1	4	29	0.		16	14	4	89 .		19	28	2	5	5	10	2 .		11	1	76
2004	43	4	53	6	8 .		5	32	6	31	1	4	42	46	2	4	21	1.		18	37	8	86 .		25	15	6	7	13	4	3.		13	2	149
2005	14	11	32	18	21 .		12	79	15	28	3	6	35	188	2	8	13	3.		22	6	7	118 .		24	47	3	3	10	6	3.		14	9	121
2006	20	10	62	41	32	7	7	62	12	33	2	8	34	152	6	9	18	4 .		40	6	6	131 .		22	25	7	7	20	11	5	1	31	18	236
2007	35	44	101	70	40	13	12	89	16	68	3	13	71	175	3	10	44	9.		41	22	5	227 .		32	140	7	2	23	6	4	2	20	20	240
2008	47	16	200	29	33	14	9	56	10	88	2	9	58	95	6	11	27	1.		41	28	9	217 .		29	44	15	2	16	5	5	2	50	17	319
2009	39	11	81	14	72	11	6	38	7	35	2	6	45	94	3	13	52	1.		33	14	7	213 .		18	50	46	1	15	6	3	0	16	7	162
2010	36	10	85	17	24	13	10	70	4	55	2	10	39	63	2	10	58	0	3	21	16	9	162 .		27	26	28	2	14	5	3	1	12	7	230
2011	63	27	139	22	28	23	7	84	17	48	2	6	42	74	3	11	19	1	5	42	8	10	315 .		26	40 .		5	32	10	4	1	27	15	237
2012	55	9	30	24	26	28	11	48	8	31	2	8	34	58	3	19	48	1	4	27	11	13	476 .		21	24 .		5	15	11	3	1	28	11	216
2013	56	13	30	40	37	20	9	62	6	22	1.		51	40	3	6	51	1	8	28	6	7.		1	49	134 .		4	10	5.		0	20	11	222
2014	46	11	25	20	36	22	10	49	5	27	1.		30	52	3	10	59	1	3	31	17	11 .		1	27	81 .		4	19	7	2	2	24 .		264
2015	31	6	76	35	49	16	5	39	6	15	1.		54	66	2	15	151	1 .		27	12	5 .		1	33	86 .		2	15	10 .		2	28 .		363

Notes: Figures are reported in the billions of US dollars. Negative values are treated as missing values.

Sources: Inward FDI flow data are obtained from the OECD International Direct Investment Database.