The International Investment Position of the United States in 1996

By Russell B. Scholl

Harlan W. King directed the preparation of the estimates: Christopher A. Gohrband prepared several of the accounts with the assistance of Dena A. Holland: Douglas B. Weinberg prepared the direct investment accounts at current cost.

The Net international investment position of the United States at yearend 1996 was -\$870.5 billion with direct investment valued at the current cost of tangible assets, and it was -\$831.3 billion with direct investment valued at the current stock-market value of owners' equity (table A, chart 1). For both measures, the value of foreign assets in the United States continued to exceed the value of U.S. assets abroad. However, for the direct investment component of the position valued on either basis, U.S. assets abroad continue to exceed foreign assets in the United States

The net position on both bases became more negative as a result of large net capital inflows to the United States in 1996; valuation changes nearly offset each other (table B). A negative adjustment for net exchange rate changes mainly represented translation losses in U.S. assets denominated in Western European currencies and the Japanese yen, as these currencies declined against the U.S. dollar. A positive price change reflected a larger price appreciation in U.S. portfolio and direct investments in foreign stocks

Table A.—Summary Components of the U.S. Net Position
[Billions of dollars]

	1995	1996
Net position: At current cost At market value	-687.7 -637.5	-870.5 -831.3
U.S. Government and foreign official assets	-420.5	-561.8
Direct investment: At current cost At market value U.S. and foreign securities and U.S. currency Bank– and nonbank–reported claims and liabilities	229.8 280.0 -526.8 29.8	241.7 281.0 –692.3 141.8

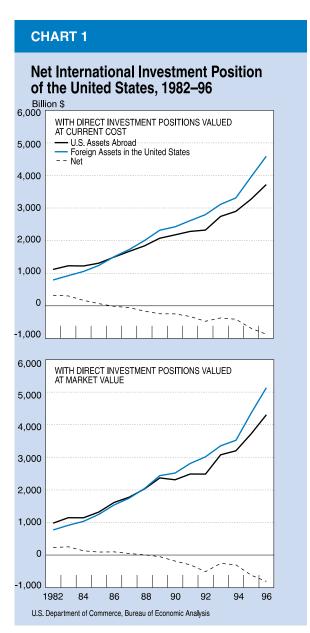
Table B.—Changes in the Net International Investment Position, 1996

[Billions of dollars]

	At current cost	At market value
Total change Capital flows Price changes Exchange rate changes Other valuation changes	- 182.8 -195.1 32.0 -22.2 2.4	- 193.8 -195.1 39.1 -46.3 8.6

than in corresponding foreign investments in U.S. stocks. Stock prices in all the major world markets except Japan's advanced strongly.

In 1996, U.S. assets abroad increased strongly, as large private capital outflows were augmented by substantial price appreciation in foreign



stocks. U.S. banks and nonbanking concerns lent heavily to overseas banks and international bond mutual funds, especially during a surge in overseas demand for dollar loans in the second half of the year. U.S. direct investment abroad on a current-cost basis was boosted by record capital outflows, including record reinvested earnings from widespread growth in overseas affiliates' earnings. On a market-value basis, the directinvestment increase was augmented by a large increase in owners' equity as a result of widespread advances in overseas stock prices; partly offsetting were currency translation losses, primarily in European affiliates. The market value of U.S. portfolio holdings of foreign securities rose not only because of the advance in stock prices overseas, but also because of strong U.S. net purchases of foreign stocks and bonds.

Foreign assets in the United States increased mainly as a result of record capital inflows that included large net foreign purchases of U.S. Treasury, corporate, and federally-sponsored agency bonds, a large increase in foreign direct investment, and a large increase in foreign official assets. Foreign demand for U.S. bonds accelerated through the year; demand

was buoyed by a substantial widening in the differential between U.S. and foreign long-term interest rates, a second-half recovery in U.S. bond prices, and widespread strength of the U.S. dollar in exchange markets throughout the year. The foreign direct investment buildup reflected continued growth in foreign acquisitions of U.S. businesses and record reinvested earnings, as the sustained U.S. economic growth further strengthened affiliates' earnings. On a marketvalue basis, the direct-investment buildup also reflected the strong rise in U.S. stock prices. Foreign portfolio holdings of U.S. stocks also benefited from the rising U.S. stock market. These substantial increases in foreign private assets in the United States were augmented for the second straight year by a record buildup of foreign official assets, largely of U.S. Treasury securities.

This article presents the major changes in U.S. assets abroad and in foreign assets in the United States, including direct investment valued both at current cost and at market value. Tables 1, 2, and 3 at the end of the article present detailed estimates of the yearend position, showing a breakdown of the changes by account from 1995

Data Improvements

As is customary each July, the estimates of the U.S. international investment position incorporate new source data and methodological improvements that relate to the changes incorporated in the annual revision of the U.S. international transactions accounts. This year, the following changes are introduced:

• The estimates of U.S. holdings of foreign bonds and stocks are revised to incorporate the results of the U.S. Treasury Department's new benchmark survey of U.S. portfolio investment abroad as of March 1994. This survey is the first such survey in more than 50 years, and its completion represents a major milestone in the multi-year program for statistical improvement developed jointly by BEA, the Treasury Department, and the Federal Reserve Board.

Based on the survey results, BEA's previous estimates of holdings of foreign securities at yearend 1993 are raised by \$302.9 billion, to \$853.6 billion. Holdings of foreign stocks are raised by \$241.1 billion, to \$543.9 billion: The understatement was widespread and was especially large for British stocks; the only overstatement was in Asian stocks other than Japanese stocks. Holdings of foreign bonds increased \$62.0 billion, to \$309.7 billion: The understatement was widespread; the only overstatement was in Canadian bonds.

• Estimates of foreign holdings of U.S. currency appear for the first time in the international position accounts of the United States. With this addition, BEA closes what had grown into a sizable gap in coverage in the international investment position and international transactions accounts. Currency flows do not appear in the international accounts of most countries because of the difficulties of accurate measurement. The estimates were developed by the Federal Reserve Board.

The new estimates added \$209.6 billion to foreign assets in the United States. These holdings of U.S. currency are classified as unallocated in the area breakdown in table 2, in as much as no country detail is available.

• Estimates of the foreign direct investment position in the United States for 1992 (on both the current-cost and market-value bases) have been revised to incorporate data collected in BEA's 1992 benchmark survey of foreign direct investment in the United States. For years after 1992, the estimates have been revised by extrapolating the 1992 universe data on the basis of data collected in BEA's quarterly sample surveys for 1993–96 and by incorporating new or adjusted data from those surveys.

For yearend 1992, the incorporation of the data from the benchmark survey increased the position \$1.1 billion on the current-cost basis and \$2.0 billion on the market-value basis. No area breakdown for either basis is available; however, for the position at historical cost, small upward revisions were made to investments by Latin America and the Middle East, and small downward revisions were made to investments by the United Kingdom and Japan.

• Currency translation gains and losses have been removed from certain banking transactions in the international transactions accounts to provide a more accurate measure of U.S. banks' international activity; they are now classified more appropriately as valuation adjustments in the investment position accounts.

For a further explanation of these changes, see "U.S. International Transactions, Revised Estimates for 1974–96" in this issue.

to 1996, aggregate estimates by area for 1995–96, and historical estimates for 1982–96, respectively.

This issue also contains a companion article, "Direct Investment Positions for 1996: Country and Industry Detail." The detailed estimates presented in that article are available only on a historical-cost basis.

Changes in U.S. Assets Abroad

Bank claims

U.S. banks' claims increased \$96.0 billion, to \$864.1 billion, in 1996 (table C). The increase in claims was especially strong in the second half of the year, reflecting a surge in demand for dollar credits in the overseas interbank market and the step-up in foreign demand for U.S. securities. Most of the increase was accounted for by claims payable in dollars, which were augmented by a large increase in U.S. banks' customers' claims.

U.S. banks' own claims payable in dollars increased \$68.3 billion, to \$600.7 billion, mostly reflecting an increase in claims on their own foreign offices and unaffiliated banks. bank lending was particularly strong to banks in Europe, where in the second half of the year, general credit demands were swelled by financing demands for mergers and acquisitions and for purchases of U.S. securities. Lending to banks in Canada and in Asia excluding Japan occurred mostly in the first half of the year. Stepped-up bank lending to Latin America reflected the improved credit standing of several countries. A substantial increase in claims on the Caribbean reflected increased lending to international bond mutual funds by U.S. securities dealers during the bond rally in the fourth quarter. Claims on Japan, though large, changed little, as moderate economic activity and the continued financial difficulties of Japanese banks limited demand.

U.S. banks' customers' claims payable in dollars increased \$26.8 billion, to \$182.3 billion, as the customers' deposits at foreign banks increased to accommodate the rising overseas demand for dollar loans. In addition, customers continued

Table C.—U.S. Claims Reported by U.S. Banks at Yearend [Billions of dollars]

	1995	1996
Total bank-reported claims Bank own claims, payable in dollars On unaffiliated foreign banks	768.1 532.4 101.6	864. 600. 113.
On own foreign offices On other foreigners Bank customer claims, payable in dollars Total claims payable in foreign currencies	307.4 123.4 155.5 80.2	342. 144. 182. 81.

to invest strongly in foreign commercial paper placed in the U.S. market.

U.S. banks' foreign currency claims declined until the fourth quarter, when lending resumed and brought yearend total outstandings to \$81.1 billion, marginally higher than at the end of 1995.

Foreign securities

Between yearend 1995 and yearend 1996, U.S. holdings of foreign securities increased \$219.1 billion, to \$1,273.4 billion, as a result of strong net purchases and of large, widespread price appreciation in foreign stocks (table D). Partly offsetting these increases were exchange rate losses, mostly in securities denominated in Continental European currencies and the Japanese yen. These estimates incorporate the results of the new U.S. Treasury Department's Benchmark Survey of U.S. Ownership of Foreign Long-term Securities as of March 31, 1994. Based on this survey, a ranking by country of issue of U.S. foreign portfolio holdings is presented in table E.

In 1996, U.S. holdings of foreign stocks increased \$176.4 billion, to \$875.5 billion, as

Table D.—Changes in U.S. Holdings of Foreign Securities, 1996

[Billions of dollars]

Total change Net U.S. purchases Price changes Exchange rate changes	219.1 108.2 118.6 -7.7
--	--

Table E.—U.S. Holdings of Foreign Securities Ranked by Largest Holdings, as of March 31, 1994

[Billions of dollars]

	Investments in Foreign Stocks	
1 2 3 4 5	Total holdings United Kingdom Japan Canada Netherlands Mexico	566.7 99.7 99.4 39.7 38.1 34.7
6 7 8 9 10	France Germany Switzerland Hong Kong Australia Investments in Foreign Bonds	25.6 25.6 21.0 17.5 16.9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Total holdings Canada Japan Germany United Kingdom Italy Mexico France Spain Sweden Australia	303.6 68.5 31.8 22.1 19.8 17.8 16.8 16.7 10.7 10.2 9.7

Source: The Treasury Department's Benchmark Survey of U.S. Ownership of Foreign Longerm Securities.

^{1.} For more information, see "U.S. International Transactions, Revised Estimates for 1974–96," page 46.

near-record U.S. net purchases of \$58.8 billion were augmented by \$117.8 billion in price appreciation (table F). During the year, stock prices in most foreign markets rose strongly in response to widespread economic growth and to declining short-term interest rates. Additional factors contributing to the increase in the U.S. position in foreign stocks were U.S. investor participation in the privatization issues of several countries, the recovery of stock prices in emerging countries, and the efforts of U.S. institutional investors to further diversify their portfolio investments. Investments, mostly in Japanese stocks, slowed in the second half of the year.

- Holdings of European stocks increased 30 percent, primarily as a result of U.S. net purchases of \$31.2 billion and price appreciation of \$75.5 billion. Exchange rate changes were offsetting: Substantial appreciation in holdings of British stocks due to the rise of the pound over the U.S. dollar was offset by the effects of depreciation in the holdings of Continental European stocks as a result of the depreciation of these currencies against the dollar. U.S. purchases of stocks were strongest from Britain, Germany, France, Switzerland, and Italy, where market prices advanced 6 to 26 percent (according to Morgan Stanley's international stock market indexes). U.S. purchases were spurred by merger and acquisition activity, the prospects of the European monetary union, and strong corporate profits.
- Holdings of Japanese stocks, which account for 14 percent of total U.S. holdings of foreign stocks, declined \$2.1 billion mostly as a result of the depreciation of the Japanese yen against the U.S. dollar. Net purchases of \$9.6 billion, mostly in the first half of the year

Table F.—U.S. Holdings of Foreign Stocks by Major Area at Yearend

[Billions of dollars]

	1994	1995	1996
Total holdings	586.6	699.1	875.5
Western Europe	288.2	362.0	469.5
Of which: United Kingdom	108.8	137.6	185.4
France	26.7	31.3	42.8
Germany	27.3	31.7	40.4
Netherlands	41.8	52.9	64.8
Spain	13.0	17.7	22.8
Sweden	15.6	23.6	34.2
Switzerland	20.7	30.4	33.9
Canada	40.6	46.9	66.5
Japan	108.1	128.5	126.4
Latin America	37.9	32.0	40.7
Of which: Mexico	23.7	18.8	22.0
Other countries	111.8	129.7	172.4
Of which: Australia	19.3	21.8	26.1
Hong Kong	18.6	24.3	37.3

when Japanese stock prices rose, partly offset the exchange rate depreciation. In the second half, stock prices and U.S. purchases fell, reflecting growing concerns about the strength and sustainability of Japan's economic recovery and the continuing problems in its finance industry.

- Holdings of Canadian stocks increased \$19.7 billion, or 42 percent. The increase consisted of \$14.5 billion in price appreciation, \$3.5 billion in net purchases, and \$1.7 billion in exchange rate appreciation. Market prices in Canada rose 30 percent.
- Holdings of other countries' stocks, mostly emerging countries' stocks, increased as stock prices and investor confidence recovered from concerns arising from the Mexican financial crisis in 1994. Holdings of Latin American stocks increased \$8.7 billion, reflecting \$2.0 billion in price appreciation, \$3.6 billion in net purchases, and \$3.1 billion in exchange rate appreciation. investments were boosted by privatization sales in Brazil. All other stock holdings increased \$26.4 billion in price appreciation, \$5.4 billion in exchange rate appreciation, and \$10.9 billion in net purchases. of these increases occurred in the stocks of Asian emerging countries, particularly those of Hong Kong where prices advanced 30 percent.

U.S. holdings of foreign bonds increased \$42.7 billion, to \$398.0 billion, reflecting \$49.4 billion in net purchases that was partly offset by \$7.5 billion in exchange rate depreciation of European and Japanese bonds (table G). U.S. institutional investors in search of high-yielding assets absorbed a large volume of newly issued foreign dollar bonds in the U.S. market, including many noninvestment grade foreign issues. Foreign

Table G.—U.S. Holdings of Foreign Bonds by Major Area at Yearend

[Billions of dollars]

	-		
	1994	1995	1996
Total holdings	303.1	355.3	398.0
Western Europe	127.4	155.8	167.1
Of which: United Kingdom	21.8	28.6	29.6
France	22.3	27.4	28.0
Germany	17.1	20.9	24.5
Italy	17.1	17.2	17.1
Netherlands	11.1	13.5	15.1
Spain	11.6	14.2	15.0
Sweden	10.0	12.3	13.1
Canada	65.0	73.8	79.2
Japan	28.0	32.7	34.0
Latin America	41.5	44.2	40.7
Of which: Mexico	16.4	17.7	20.3
Other countries	41.2	48.8	77.0
Of which: Australia	9.2	11.1	12.6

new issues, at \$52.4 billion, approached the 1993 record. Emerging countries in Latin America and Asia accounted for over 60 percent of the new issues, more than double their new issues in 1995. Europeans and Canadians continued as large borrowers, though not as large as in 1995, as longterm interest-rate differentials against borrowing dollars increased in most of these countries. Net U.S. trading in other foreign bonds amounted to net sales of \$3.0 billion. The widening interestrate differential in favor of U.S. bonds slowed U.S. diversification into most foreign bonds, with the notable exception of British gilt-edged bonds. Net U.S. purchases from the United Kingdom became large in the second half of the year, when U.S. interest rates fell more than British rates.

U.S. direct investment abroad and other private assets

U.S. direct investment abroad at current cost increased \$86.5 billion, to \$970.8 billion; at market value, it increased \$222.6 billion, to \$1,534.6 billion (table H). Net capital outflows exceeded the strong outflows of 1995. By account, reinvested earnings increased to a record high, reflecting record profits of foreign affiliates and a continued high rate of reinvestment; net equity outflows slowed but remained strong due to numerous mergers and acquisitions; and net intercompany debt shifted to an outflow, as U.S.-parent firms cut back borrowing from their finance affiliates The strong outflows reflected widespread economic growth, especially in Europe and emerging Asian countries, and economic recovery in several Latin American countries.

At current cost, the direct investment position increased mostly as a result of capital outflows; valuation adjustments were small and offsetting. At market value, the increase in the position due to capital outflows was augmented by a substantial increase in U.S. owners' equity as a result of the worldwide rise in stock prices. In Europe, where 50 percent of U.S. investments are located, the rise in stock prices averaged 20 per-

Table H.—Changes in U.S. Direct Investment Abroad, 1996
[Billions of dollars]

	At current cost	At market value
Total change Capital outflows Equity capital Intercompany debt Reinvested earnings Price changes	86.5 87.8 21.6 8.3 57.9 7.4	222.6 87.8 21.6 8.3 57.9 153.9
Exchange rate changes Other valuation changes	-4.7 -4.0	-28.4 9.4

cent, ranging from 6 percent in Italy to 40 percent in Sweden (according to Morgan Stanley's international indexes); in several of the emerging countries, stock prices recovered substantially. These increases were partly offset by negative exchange rate changes, mostly in Continental Europe.

U.S. claims on unaffiliated foreigners reported by U.S. nonbanking concerns increased \$61.1 billion, to \$369.1 billion, as these U.S. firms sharply accelerated their overseas deposits in the second half of the year. The acceleration, mostly in dollar deposits in European and Caribbean banks, represented funding to meet the surge in overseas demand for bank credit.

U.S. official reserve assets and other U.S. Government assets

U.S. official reserve assets declined \$15.3 billion, to \$160.7 billion. Foreign-currency holdings decreased \$10.8 billion; holdings of pesos declined as Mexico repaid \$8.3 billion in short-term and medium-term swap arrangements with U.S. authorities, and holdings of Japanese yen and German marks decreased as these currencies depreciated against the dollar.

Other U.S. Government assets increased \$0.7 billion, to \$82.6 billion; long-term credits extended exceeded repayments.

Changes in Foreign Assets in the United States

Foreign official assets

Foreign official assets in the United States increased \$126.7 billion, to \$805.1 billion; record capital inflows accounted for most of the increase. These inflows represented acquisitions of dollars through exchange market intervention and investment of the unused proceeds of funds borrowed by governments in the international markets during the year. Dollar placements were mainly in U.S. Treasury securities: Industrial countries accounted for \$65.5 billion, and developing countries, mainly in Latin America and Asia, for \$56.9 billion.

Bank liabilities

U.S. banks' liabilities to private foreigners and international financial institutions increased \$6.5 billion, to \$819.9 billion, reflecting a further reduction in U.S. banks' use of foreign funds

(table I). U.S. banks borrowed little from overseas until a surge in domestic and foreign demand for bank credit late in the year. Through much of the year, the growth in domestic deposits provided banks with ample funding and enabled banks to pay down their liability positions with their own foreign offices. Late in the year, banks in the United States, especially foreignowned banks, financed strong growth in loans by supplementing domestic funds with large-scale borrowing from their overseas offices. Japanese-owned banks in the United States, which made large loan repayments, were the exception.

Foreign-owned banks in the United States, which accounted for much of the increase in interbank liabilities, borrowed heavily from their home offices in Europe and Canada and affiliated offices in the Caribbean, particularly in the fourth quarter, to fund their heavy domestic and foreign lending. This borrowing was partly offset by Japanese banks' large net repayments to their offices abroad throughout much of the year. U.S.-owned banks also borrowed in the fourth quarter, mostly from their own foreign offices in the United Kingdom and the Caribbean; however, this borrowing was not enough to keep net repayments to those offices earlier in the year from resulting in a decline in their interbank liabilities.

Liabilities to nonbank foreigners increased \$14.5 billion, to \$116.5 billion, reflecting a widening of the short-term interest-rate differentials that favored dollar deposits and the strong exchange value of the dollar in the second half of the year. Large inflows came from the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, and international financial institutions.

U.S. banks' foreign-currency liabilities declined \$5.9 billion, to \$103.8 billion, mostly because of repayments to Western Europe and Japan. This cutback in funding coincided with a sharp reduction in foreign-currency lending by U.S. banks.

Custody liabilities reported by U.S. banks increased \$2.7 billion, to \$36.6 billion. Repayments by U.S. nonbank customers early in the year were

Table I.—U.S. Liabilities Reported by U.S. Banks at Yearend
[Billions of dollars]

	1995	1996
Total liabilities Bank own liabilities, payable in dollars To unaffiliated foreign banks To own foreign offices To other foreigners Bank custody liabilities Total liabilities payable in foreign currencies	813.4 669.8 171.5 396.3 102.0 33.9 109.7	819.9 679.5 161.5 401.5 116.5 36.6 103.8

more than offset by a surge in their borrowing in the second half, mainly from banks in the Caribbean and the United Kingdom.

U.S. Treasury securities

Foreign holdings of U.S. Treasury securities by both private foreigners and international financial institutions increased \$141.2 billion, to \$530.6 billion (table J). Net purchases of U.S. Treasury bonds reached a record that was two-thirds higher than the previous record in 1995. A negative price adjustment reflected a drop in bond prices in the first half of the year that was not fully offset by a recovery in prices in the second half. Foreign purchases of Treasury bonds accelerated throughout the year, as the U.S. interest-rate differential in favor of Treasury bonds widened substantially and as the dollar remained strong. The U.S.-Japanese long-term interest-rate differential reached a 7-year high of over 400 basis points, which induced heavy demand from Japan and other countries in Asia. Purchases from the United Kingdom and international bond funds in the Caribbean were especially strong during the second half, when U.S. bond prices rallied.

By country, Japan and the United Kingdom are the largest investors in foreign official and private holdings of U.S. Treasury securities (table K).

U.S. currency

Foreign holdings of U.S. currency increased \$17.3 billion, to \$209.6 billion, or 53 percent of U.S. currency outstanding at yearend 1996. These newly introduced estimates of foreign holdings indicate that overseas demand for U.S. currency has strengthened considerably in the 1990's,

Table J.—Changes in Foreign Holdings of U.S. Treasury Securities, 1996

[Billions of dollars]

Total change Net foreign purchases	141.2 155.6
Price changes	-14.4
Exchange rate changes	0

Table K.—Foreign Official and Private Holdings of U.S. Treasury Securities by Country, as of December 31, 1996

[Billions of dollars]

	Total holdings	1.109.5
1	Japan	276.0
2	United Kingdom	188.5
3	Germany	72.1
4	Netherlands Antilles	63.2
5	Peoples Republic of China	46.6
6	Spain	45.5
7	Singapore	38.5
8	Hong Kong	33.2
9	Taiwan	31.7
10	Middle Eastern oil-exporters	31.5

mostly as a result of economic and political upheavals in several areas. No country detail of these currency holdings is available.²

Other U.S. securities

Foreign holdings of U.S. securities, other than U.S. Treasury securities, increased \$226.0 billion, to \$1,225.5 billion. The increase reflected the record net purchases of U.S. corporate and agency bonds and the large price appreciation of U.S. stocks (table L). Despite the swing in U.S. long-term interest rates—rising steeply early in the year and falling in the second half—the change in the differential against most major foreign bond markets increased in favor of U.S. investments. This yield advantage was augmented by the dollars' strength against most major currencies during the year.

Foreign holdings of U.S. bonds increased \$120.0 billion, to \$654.1 billion, as foreign buying outpaced the record buying in 1995 by 50 percent. In response to this strong foreign demand, U.S. corporations issued a near-record \$53.4 billion in new bonds overseas; issues of fixed-rate bonds slowed, but issues of floating-rate bonds and of asset-backed bonds accelerated. Foreigners accelerated investments in U.S. federally-sponsored agency bonds to a record \$44.6 billion; some of these bonds were newly issued abroad by U.S. corporations that have sought to diversify their sources of funds in the past 2 years. Foreign investments in other outstanding U.S. corporate bonds also accelerated to \$23.2 billion, following small net sales in the past 2 years.

Foreign holdings of U.S. stocks increased \$105.9 billion, to \$571.3 billion, reflecting \$93.3 billion in price appreciation and \$12.6 billion in net foreign purchases. Foreign purchases in the last 2 years have been moderate in comparison with the very strong rises in U.S. stock market prices—34 percent in 1995 and 20 percent in 1996 (according to Standard and Poor's combined index of 500

Table L.—Changes in Foreign Holdings of Other U.S. Securities, 1996

[Billions of dollars]

Total change	226.0
Net foreign purchases Price changes	133.8 94.0
Exchange rate changes	-1.9

stocks). Notwithstanding the moderate pace of foreigners' purchases in those 2 years, the gains in foreign holdings were considerable, adding over 60 percent to the value of their investments. Western Europeans, who accounted for half of the 1996 net purchases, slowed their purchases from those in 1995. Net purchases by financial centers in the Caribbean and in Asia excluding Japan also slowed.

Foreign direct investment in the United States and other liabilities

Foreign direct investment in the United States at current cost increased \$74.6 billion, to \$729.1 billion; at market value, it increased \$221.7 billion, to \$1,253.6 billion (table M). At current cost, net capital inflows more than accounted for the total change. At market value, capital inflows were augmented by substantial price appreciation in owners' equity as a result of the steep rise in U.S. stock prices. These estimates incorporate the results of BEA's 1992 benchmark survey of foreign direct investment in the United States.3 In 1996, net capital inflows reached a record high. By account, net equity inflows approached their 1990 peak, reflecting continued growth in acquisitions of U.S. businesses, and record reinvested earnings reflected the favorable effect on U.S. affiliates' earnings of the sustained economic growth in the United States; in contrast, net intercompany debt inflows were slightly lower than in 1995.

Liabilities to unaffiliated foreigners reported by U.S. nonbanking concerns increased \$38.6 billion, to \$271.5 billion, principally reflecting U.S. corporations' borrowing from banks in the Caribbean and the United Kingdom after midyear.

Tables 1 through 3 follow.

Table M.—Changes in Foreign Direct Investment in the United States, 1996

[Billions of dollars]

	At current cost	At market value
Total change	74.6	221.7
Capital inflows	77.0	77.0
Equity capital	53.0	53.0
Intercompany debt	11.8	11.8
Reinvested earnings	12.2	12.2
Price changes	5.4	144.8
Exchange rate changes	4	0
Other valuation changes	-7.4	1

^{2.} For more information about the new estimates, see "U.S. International Transactions, Revised Estimates for 1974-96," page 48.

^{3.} For more information, see "U.S. International Transactions, Revised Estimates for 1974-96," page 50.

Table 1.—International Investment Position of the United States at Yearend, 1995 and 1996 [Millions of dollars]

	[IVIIIIOTIS OF G	olidiəj							
			Cha	e (-))					
Line		Position 1995 ^r		Attribut	able to:			1	
	Type of investment			Valua	ation adjustr	Tatal	Position 1996 P		
			Capital flows	Price changes	Exchange rate changes ¹	Other changes 2	Total		
			(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(a+b+c+d)		
1 2	Net international investment position of the United States: With direct investment positions at current cost (line 3 less line 24) With direct investment positions at market value (line 4 less line 25)	-687,702 -637,480	-195,111 -195,111	32,038 39,063	-22,195 -46,339	2,446 8,564	-182,822 -193,823	-870,524 -831,303	
3	U.S. assets abroad: With direct investment positions at current cost (lines 5+10+15) With direct investment positions at market value (lines 5+10+16)	3,272,731 3,700,432	352,444 352,444	121,367 267,858	-21,849 -45,567	-3,964 9,373	447,998 584,108	3,720,729 4,284,540	
5 6	U.S. official reserve assets	176,061	-6,668	-4,581 ³ -4,581	-4,073		-15,322 96,698	160,739	
7 8 9	Gold Special drawing rights Reserve position in the International Monetary Fund Foreign currencies	101,279 11,037 14,649 49,096	-370 1,280 -7,578			-4,581 	-725 786 -10,802	10,312 15,435 38,294	
10 11 12 13	U.S. Government assets, other than official reserve assets	81,897 79,958 79,178 780			-34 -1 	1 1 –12 13	657 796 834 –38	82,554 80,754 80,012 742	
14	Other ⁵ . U.S. foreign currency holdings and U.S. short-term assets	1,939			-33		-36 -139	1,800	
15 16	U.S. private assets: With direct investment at current cost (lines 17+19+22+23) With direct investment at market value (lines 18+19+22+23)	3,014,773 3,442,474	358,422 358,422	125,948 272,439	-17,742 -41,460	-3,965 9,372	462,663 598,773	3,477,436 4,041,247	
17 18 19 20 21 22	Direct investment abroad: At current cost At market value Foreign securities Bonds Corporate stocks U.S. claims on unaffiliated foreigners reported by U.S. nonbanking	884,290 1,311,991 1,054,352 355,284 699,068 307,982	87,813 87,813 108,189 49,403 58,786 64,234	7,375 153,866 118,573 806 117,767	-7,521 -154	-3,954 9,383	86,508 222,618 219,087 42,688 176,399 61,073	970,798 1,534,609 1,273,439 397,972 875,467 369,055	
23	concerns. U.S. claims reported by U.S. banks, not included elsewhere	768,149	98,186		-2,180	-11	95,995	864,144	
24 25	Foreign assets in the United States: With direct investment at current cost (lines 26+33) With direct investment at market value (lines 26+34)	3,960,433 4,337,912	547,555 547,555	89,329 228,795	346 772	-6,410 809	630,820 777,931	4,591,253 5,115,843	
26 27 28 29 30 31 32	Foreign official assets in the United States U.S. Government securities U.S. Treasury securities Other Other U.S. Government liabilities 7 U.S. liabilities reported by U.S. banks, not included elsewhere Other foreign official assets	678,451 498,906 471,508 27,398 25,225 107,394 46,926	122,354 115,634 111,253 4,381 720 4,722 1,278				126,698 111,301 107,451 3,850 719 4,722 9,956	805,149 610,207 578,959 31,248 25,944 112,116 56,882	
33 34	Other foreign assets: With direct investment at current cost (lines 35+37+38+39+42+43) With direct investment at market value (lines 36+37+38+39+42+43)	3,281,982 3,659,461	425,201 425,201	84,984 224,450	346 772	-6,409 810	504,122 651,233	3,786,104 4,310,694	
35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42	Direct investment in the United States: At current cost At market value U.S. Treasury securities U.S.currency U.S. securities other than U.S. Treasury securities Corporate and other bonds Corporate stocks U.S. liabilities to unaffiliated foreigners reported by U.S. nonbanking concerns.	654,502 1,031,981 389,383 192,300 999,537 534,116 465,421 232,891	76,955 76,955 155,578 17,300 133,798 121,194 12,604 31,786	5,356 144,822 -14,411 	-426 	-7,335 -116 	74,550 221,661 141,167 17,300 225,950 120,028 105,922 38,644	729,052 1,253,642 530,550 209,600 1,225,487 654,144 571,343 271,535	
43	U.S. liabilities reported by U.S. banks, not included elsewhere	813,369	9,784		-3,2/3		6,511	819,880	

^p Preliminary.

Revised.

<sup>Revised.

Revised.

Represents gains or losses on foreign-currency-denominated assets due to their revaluation at current exchange rates.

Includes changes in coverage, statistical discrepancies, and other adjustments to the value of assets.

Reflects changes in the value of the official gold stock due to fluctuations in the market price of gold.</sup>

^{4.} Also includes paid-in capital subscriptions to international financial institutions and outstanding amounts of miscellaneous claims that have been settled through international agreements to be payable to the U.S. Government over periods in excess of 1 year. Excludes World War I debts that are not being serviced.

that are not being serviceu.

5. Includes indebtedness that the borrower may contractually, or at its option, repay with its currency, with a third country's currency, or by delivery of materials or transfer of services.

6. Primarily U.S. Government liabilities associated with military sales contracts and other transactions arranged with or through foreign official agencies.

Table 2.—U.S. Assets Abroad and Foreign Assets in the United States by Area

[Millions of dollars]

		Amounts outstanding, by area											
Line	Type of investment	Western	Europe	Canada		Japan		Latin America and Other Western Hemisphere		Other co interna organiz and unall	itional ations,		
		1995 ^r	1996 <i>p</i>	1995 ^r	1996 <i>p</i>	1995 ^r	1996 <i>P</i>	1995 ^r	1996 <i>P</i>	1995 ^r	1996 <i>p</i>		
	U.S. assets abroad:												
1	U.S. official reserve assets Gold	21,089				16,207	14,533	11,800	3,500	126,965 101,279	122,445 96,698		
3 4 5	Reserve position in the International Monetary Fund					16,207	14,533	11.800	3,500	11,037 14,649	-,		
6	U.S. Government assets, other than official reserve assets	21,089 7,186	6,859	6	-1	76	38	16,212	15,811	58,417	59,847		
7 8	U.S. credits and other long-term assets ²	7,261 7,216	6,892 6,858 34 -33					16,169 16,034	15,728 15,612 116 83	56,528 55,928 600 1,889	58,134 57,542 592 1,713		
9 10	Other ³ U.S. foreign currency holdings and U.S. short-term assets	45 -75		6	_1	76	38	135 43					
11 12 13 14 15 16	U.S. private assets: Direct investment abroad Foreign securities Bonds Corporate stocks U.S. claims on unaffiliated foreigners reported by U.S. nonbanking concerns U.S. claims reported by U.S. banks, not included elsewhere	(4) 517,842 155,826 362,016 116,905 241,812	(4) 636,599 167,094 469,505 144,006 282,417	(4) 120,665 73,793 46,872 11,711 41,251	(4) 145,696 79,235 66,461 13,015 52,292	(4) 161,139 32,683 128,456 2,741 100,584	(4) 160,391 34,004 126,387 3,100 95,102	(4) 114,180 55,490 58,690 159,313 297,369	(4) 144,764 69,095 75,669 190,243 326,204	(4) 140,526 37,492 103,034 17,312 87,133	(4) 185,989 48,544 137,445 18,691 108,129		
	Foreign assets in the United States:												
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Foreign official assets in the United States U.S. Government securities U.S. Treasury securities Other Other U.S. Government liabilities 7 U.S. liabilities reported by U.S. banks, not included elsewhere Other foreign official assets	208,174 (6) (6) (6) (7) 5,159 (6) (6)	236,847 (6) (6) (6) (7) 5,845 (6) (6)	23,078 (6) (6) (6) 238 (6) (6)	26,224 (6) (6) (6) 197 (6) (6)	(5) (5) (5) (5) (5) 2,500 (5) (5)	(5) (5) (5) (5) (5) 2,573 (5) (5)	67,425 (6) (6) (6) 570 (6) (6)	82,151 (6) (6) (6) 460 (6) (6)	(5) (5) (5) (5) (5) 16,758 (5) (5)	(5) (5) (5) (5) 16,869 (5) (5)		
24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Other foreign assets in the United States: Direct investment in the United States U.S. Treasury securities U.S. currency U.S. securities other than U.S. Treasury securities Corporate and other bonds Corporate stocks U.S. liabilities to unaffiliated for- eigners reported by U.S. nonbanking concerns U.S. liabilities reported by U.S. banks, not included elsewhere	(4) (5) 	(4) (5) 734,381 421,429 312,952 82,140 (5)	(4) (5) 92,461 20,023 72,438 2,119 (5)	(4) (5) 112,977 23,947 89,030 2,770 (5)	(4) (5) 111,398 67,909 43,489 8,905 (5)	(4) (5) 132,280 80,634 51,646 10,539 (5)	(4) (5) 110,946 59,538 51,408 148,469 (5)	(4) (5) 148,030 80,540 67,490 148,490 (5)	(4) (5) 192,300 82,439 39,776 42,663 25,609 (5)	(4) (5) 209,600 97,819 47,594 50,225 27,596 (5)		
1 2	Addenda: U.S. Treasury securities, foreign official plus private holdings (lines 19 + 25, above) U.S. liabilities reported by U.S. banks, foreign official plus private (lines 22 + 31, above)	309,497 335,480	413,923 350,312	25,220 28,370	25,813 38,074	223,750 86,840	276,044 59,164	91,574 346,252	123,521 363,544	210,850 123,821	270,208 120,902		

^p Preliminary.

P Preliminary.
Revised.
1. Includes U.S. gold stock valued at market price.
2. Also includes paid-in capital subscription to international financial institutions and outstanding amounts of miscellaneous claims that have been settled through international agreements to be payable to the U.S. Government over periods in excess of 1 year. Excludes World War I debts that are not being serviced.
3. Includes indebtedness that the borrower may contractually, or at its option, repay with its currency, with a third country's currency, or by delivery of materials or transfer of services.

^{4.} Positions at current costs or market value are not available by area; country detail are available only at historical costs in the article "Direct Investment Positions on a Historical Cost Basis, 1996; Country and Industry Detail," elsewhere in this issue of the SURVEY.

 ^{5.} Details are not shown separately.
 6. Details not shown separately are included in totals in line 17.
 7. Primarily U.S. Government liabilities associated with military sales contracts and other transactions arranged with or through foreign official agencies.

Table 3.—International Investment Position of the United States at Yearend, 1982-96

[Millions of dollars]

Line	Type of investment	1982 r	1983 ^r	1984 ^r	1985 ^r	1986 r	1987 ^r	1988 r	1989 r	1990 r	1991 r	1992 "	1993 r	1994 r	1995 r	1996 p
1	Net international investment position of the United States: With direct investment positions at current cost (line 3 less line 24).	324,713	303,420		69,060	-13,354	-54,820	-161,845	-243,759	-246,392			-370,122	-411,689	-687,702	
2	With direct investment positions at market value (line 4 less line 25).	210,791	232,531	109,211	71,982	78,112	27,581	-12,570	-70,525	-206,950	-319,929	-529,460	-274,867	-321,469	-637,480	-831,303
3 4	U.S. assets abroad: With direct investment at current cost (lines 5+10+15) With direct investment at market value (lines 5+10+16)	1,119,158 958,794	1,229,600 1,127,635	1,222,423 1,125,158	1,309,080 1,300,672	1,493,840 1,592,439	1,671,760 1,756,910	1,840,953 2,006,590	2,076,030 2,348,081	2,180,003 2,291,734	2,285,121 2,468,351	2,324,992 2,464,196	2,742,525 3,055,316	2,899,047 3,178,023	3,272,731 3,700,432	3,720,729 4,284,540
5 6 7 8 9	U.S. official reserve assets	143,445 120,635 5,250 7,348 10,212	123,110 100,484 5,025 11,312 6,289	105,040 81,202 5,641 11,541 6,656	117,930 85,834 7,293 11,947 12,856	139,875 102,428 8,395 11,730 17,322	162,370 127,648 10,283 11,349 13,090	144,179 107,434 9,637 9,745 17,363	168,714 105,164 9,951 9,048 44,551	102,406 10,989	159,223 92,561 11,240 9,488 45,934	147,435 87,168 8,503 11,759 40,005	164,945 102,556 9,039 11,818 41,532	163,394 100,110 10,039 12,030 41,215	176,061 101,279 11,037 14,649 49,096	160,739 96,698 10,312 15,435 38,294
10 11 12 13 14	U.S. Government assets, other than official reserve assets U.S. credits and other long-term assets ² Repayable in dollars Other ³ U.S. foreign currency holdings and U.S. short-term assets	74,682 72,884 70,948 1,936 1,798	79,626 77,814 75,991 1,823 1,812	81,103 1,780	87,752 85,814 84,087 1,727 1,938	89,637 88,710 87,112 1,598 927	88,880 88,099 86,486 1,613 781		84,489 83,903 82,421 1,482 586	81,365 80,040 1,325	77,498 76,272	80,722 79,087 77,987 1,100 1,635	81,029 79,106 78,100 1,006 1,923	79,272	81,897 79,958 79,178 780 1,939	82,554 80,754 80,012 742 1,800
15	U.S. private assets: With direct investment at current cost (lines	901,031	1,026,864	1,032,412	1,103,398	1,264,328	1,420,510	1,610,657	1,822,827	1,923,346	2,046,754	2,096,835	2,496,551	2,654,291	3,014,773	3,477,436
16	17+19+22+23). With direct investment at market value (lines 18+19+22+23).	740,667	924,899	935,147	1,094,990	1,362,927	1,505,660	1,776,294	2,094,878	2,035,077	2,229,984	2,236,039	2,809,342	2,933,267	3,442,474	4,041,247
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	Direct investment abroad: At current cost ^{4.5} At market value ⁶ Foreign securities ⁷ Bonds ⁷ Corporate stocks ⁷ U.S. claims on unaffiliated foreigners reported by U.S. nonbanking concerns ⁸ . U.S. claims reported by U.S. banks, not included elsewhere ⁹ .	387,002 226,638 74,046 56,604 17,442 35,405 404,578	376,307 274,342 84,723 58,569 26,154 131,329 434,505	88,804 62,810 25,994 130,138	394,760 386,352 119,403 75,020 44,383 141,872 447,363	431,475 530,074 158,123 85,724 72,399 167,392 507,338	505,096 590,246 188,589 93,889 94,700 177,368 549,457	692,461	560,409 832,460 314,294 116,949 197,345 234,307 713,817	731,762 342,313 144,717 197,596 265,315	455,750 176,774 278,976	200,817 314,266 254,303	1,027,547	1,076,757 889,706 303,079 586,627 273,686	699,068 307,982	397,972 875,467 369,055
24 25	Foreign assets in the United States: With direct investment at current cost (lines 26+33) With direct investment at market value (lines 26+34)	794,445 748,003	926,180 895,104	1,054,771 1,015,947	1,240,020 1,228,690	1,507,194 1,514,327	1,726,580 1,729,329	2,002,798 2,019,160	2,319,789 2,418,606	2,426,395 2,498,684	2,611,085 2,788,280	2,798,021 2,993,656	3,112,647 3,330,183	3,310,736 3,499,492	3,960,433 4,337,912	4,591,253 5,115,843
26 27 28 29 30 31	Foreign official assets in the United States U.S. Government securities U.S. Treasury securities Other 10 Other U.S. Government liabilities U.S. liabilities reported by U.S. banks, not included elsewhere.	189,109 132,587 124,929 7,658 13,639 24,989	194,468 136,987 129,716 7,271 14,231 25,534	144,665 138,168 6,497 14,959 26,090	202,482 145,063 138,438 6,625 15,803 26,734	241,226 178,916 173,310 5,606 17,993 27,920	283,058 220,548 213,713 6,835 15,667 31,838	252,962 7,972 15,200 31,520	341,859 263,725 257,314 6,411 15,374 36,495	295,005 287,885 7,120 17,243 39,880	315,932 307,096 8,836 18,610 38,396	322,968 12,727 20,801 54,967	17,149 22,113 69,721	415,006 393,437 21,569 24,481 73,386	678,451 498,906 471,508 27,398 25,225 107,394	578,959 31,248 25,944 112,116
32	Other foreign official assets 10	17,894	17,716	,	14,882	16,397	15,005	14,382	26,265	,	28,740	31,290	36,056	32,871	46,926	
33 34	With direct investment at current cost (lines 35+37+38+39+42+43). With direct investment at market value (lines 36+37+38+39+42+43).	605,336 558,894	731,712 700,636			1,265,968 1,273,101		l				2,355,268 2,550,903				
35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43	Direct investment in the United States: At current cost ⁵ 12 At market value ¹² U.S. Treasury securities ¹⁰ U.S. currency U.S. securities other than U.S. Treasury securities ¹⁰ Corporate and other bonds ¹⁰ Corporate stocks ¹⁰ U.S. liabilities to unaffiliated foreigners reported by U.S. nonbanking concerns ¹³ U.S. liabilities reported by U.S. banks, not included elsewhere ¹⁴	176,870 130,428 25,758 54,200 92,988 16,709 76,279 27,532 227,988	184,394 153,318 33,846 59,600 113,811 17,454 96,357 61,731 278,330	172,377 62,121 63,700 128,477 32,421 96,056 77,415	231,326 219,996 87,954 68,900 207,868 82,290 125,578 86,993 354,497	265,833 272,966 96,078 73,000 309,803 140,863 168,940 90,703 430,551	313,451 316,200 82,588 78,400 341,732 166,089 175,643 110,187 517,164	375,168 391,530 100,877 84,200 392,292 191,314 200,978 144,548 583,677	435,917 534,734 166,489 90,100 482,864 231,673 251,191 167,093 635,467	539,601 162,404 108,900 467,437 245,696 221,741 213,406	669,137 189,506 124,300 559,180 287,308 271,872	696,177 225,110 137,700 620,219 319,823 300,396	550,862 768,398 253,903 156,600 730,569 389,942 340,627 229,038 675,473	773,726	1,031,981	1,253,642 530,550 209,600 1,225,487 654,144 571,343 271,535
2 D.	reliminary		1			and Asia	. haaliaa i	antoro DIS			l for the N	etherlands	in 1000 as			l. in 1000

and Asian banking centers. BIS data was introduced for the Netherlands in 1986, and for France and Italy in 1989. BIS coverage for Switzerland was also improved in 1989. BIS coverage for Austria, Switzerland and Asian financial centers was adjusted in 1991. BEA methodology for estimating positions vis-a-vis Canada and Germany was adjusted beginning in 1993, and vis-a-vis Asian financial centers in 1994.

9. Breaks in the series reflect the following: in 1982, an increase in reporters' exemption levels; in 1988, the introduction of data on holdings of foreign commercial paper.

10. Estimates include results of 1978, 1984, and 1989 portfolio benchmark surveys conducted by the U.S. Department of the Toropular Processing States.

10. Estimates include results of 1970, 1904, and 1905 peritable 30 ment of the Treasury.

11. Primarily U.S. Government liabilities associated with military sales contracts and other transactions arranged with or through foreign official agencies.

12. Estimates for 1982 forward are linked to both the 1987 and 1992 benchmark surveys of foreign direct investigations are linked States.

12. Estimates for 1962 forward are linked to both the 1967 and 1992 benchmark surveys of foleigh direct investment in the United States.

13. Breaks in series reflect the following: In 1982, an increase in reporters' exemption levels; in 1983, the introduction of data from the United Kingdom and BIS-source data for Caribbean and Asian banking centers.

14. A break in series in 1982 reflects an increase in reporters' exemption levels.

NOTE.—Revised area tables for 1982-96 are available upon request from the Balance of Payments Division (BE-58), Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230.

<sup>P Preliminary.
Revised.

1. U.S. official gold stock valued at market price.

2. Also includes paid-in capital subscriptions to international financial institutions and outstanding amounts of miscellaneous claims that have been settled through international agreements to be payable to the U.S. Government over periods in excess of 1 year. Excludes World War I debts that are not being serviced.

3. Includes indebtedness that the borrower may contractually, or at its option, repay with its currency, with a third country's currency, or by delivery of materials or transfer of services.

4. Estimates for 1982 forward are linked to both the 1982 and 1989 benchmark surveys of U.S. direct investment ahmad</sup>

abroad

abroad.

5. Estimates for 1982 forward reflect new 1992 base-year price indexes for tangible assets, which replace the 1987 base-year price indexes previously used in the national income and product accounts.

6. Estimates are linked to both the 1982 and 1989 benchmark surveys of U.S. direct investment abroad.

7. Estimates include results of the Benchmark Survey of U.S. Ownership of Foreign Long-term Securities as of March 31, 1994, conducted by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

8. Breaks in series reflect the following: In 1982, an increase in reporters' exemption levels; in 1983, the introduction of data from the United Kingdom and from the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) for Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Caribbean banking centers,