



Brazilian multinationals positive after the global crisis

Report dated December 7, 2010

São Paulo and New York, December 7, 2010:

Sociedade Brasileira de Estudos e Empresas Transnacionais e da Globalização Econômica (**SOBEET**), a Brazilian think tank dedicated to research into the internationalization of the Brazilian economy; and the **Vale Columbia Center** on Sustainable International Investment (VCC), a joint undertaking of the Columbia Law School and The Earth Institute at Columbia University in New York, are releasing the results of a survey of *outward* investors from Brazil today.¹

The survey, conducted in 2010, covers the year 2009. The broader context of the present report is a long-term study of outward investment from emerging markets, led by the VCC, that currently includes 15 countries.

Highlights

 The 30 listed Brazilian multinationals together had about USD 87 billion in foreign assets, nearly USD 61 billion in foreign sales (*not* including exports), and almost 179,000 foreign employees in 2009 (annex table 1).

- Vale, a mining firm, was first in the ranking by foreign assets, with nearly USD 35 billion. It alone accounted for 40% of the total foreign assets on the list. The next two firms, Petrobras and Gerdau, between them accounted for a further USD 30 billion in foreign assets, i.e., just over 34% of the total foreign assets of the top 30.
- The highest foreign sales were recorded by JBS-Friboi, a food products firm (nearly USD 17 billion), which also had about 45% of the total foreign employees (80,000). It came fifth in the ranking by foreign assets, with USD 5.3 billion in assets held abroad.

¹ The survey was carried out under the direction of Luís Afonso Lima, President of SOBEET. Research and other assistance was provided by Antonio Félix and William Volpato of Valor Econômico and Pedro A. Godeguez da Silva of SOBEET. SOBEET wishes to acknowledge the important cooperation of Valor in the implementation of the survey.

- Only six other firms had foreign assets exceeding USD 1 billion. Eleven firms at the bottom of the list had less than USD 100 million each.
- The leading industry on the list (well over half the firms) is manufacturing, although the top two firms are in natural resources (mining and oil & gas). Services accounted for only four firms.

Table 1. Ranking of the top 30 Brazilian multinationals $^{\rm a}$ investing abroad, 2009 (USD million) $^{\rm b}$

Rank by foreig n assets	Company	Industry	Status	Foreig n assets
1	Vale	Mining of metal ores	Listed	34,934
2	Petrobras	Extraction of crude petroleum and natural gas	Listed	15,937
3	Gerdau	Manufacture of basic metals	Listed	13,916
4	Votorantim	Conglomerate	Unliste d	7,809
5	JBS-Friboi	Crop and animal production	Listed	5,296
6	Camargo Corrêa	Conglomerate	Unliste d	2,161
7	Marfrig	Crop and animal production	Listed	1,529
8	Ultrapar	Extraction of crude petroleum and natural gas	Listed	1,514
9	Embraer	Other manufacturing	Listed	1,378
10	Weg	Manufacture of electrical equipment	Listed	509
11	Brasil Foods	Manufacture os food products	Listed	346
12	Magnesita	Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products	Listed	300
13	Minerva	Manufacture of food products	Listed	233
14	Telemar	Telecommunications	Listed	210
15	Suzano Papele Celulose	Manufacture of paper and paper products	Listed	171
16	Metalfrio	Manufacture of machinery and equipment	Listed	169
17	Coteminas	Manufacture of textiles	Listed	143
18	Itautec	Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products	Listed	131
19	Natura	Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products	Listed	100
20	Tupy	Manufacture of fabricated metal products	Listed	79
21	Sabó	Manufacture of other transport equipment	Unliste d	56
22	Duratex	Specialized construction activities	Listed	46
23	lochpe	Manufacture of other transport equipment	Listed	38
24	Artecola	Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products	Unliste d	34
25	Marcopolo	Manufacture of other transport equipment	Listed	30
26	Indústrias Romi	Manufacture of machinery and equipment	Listed	20
27	Klabin	Manufacture of paper and paper products	Listed	18
28	Totvs	Computer programming, consultancy and related activities	Listed	14
29	Stefanini IT Solutions	Computer programming, consultancy and related activities	Unliste d	14

30	G Brasil	Conglomerate	Unliste d	14
Total				87,148

Profile of the top 30

The role of the private sector

The internationalization of Brazilian companies is dominated by the private sector, although state-owned enterprises also play a role. Just one company in our list of the top 30, Petrobras, is state-controlled.

Distribution by industry

The 30 companies on our list are from 20 different industries. Within manufacturing, we have the following: transport equipment, food products, basic metals, chemicals products, textiles, and electrical equipment. Within services, there are telecommunications, computer programming and consultancy, and specialized construction. In the primary sector, there are crop and animal production, and petroleum and natural gas extraction. Note that the pattern of industry distribution in our list may *not* necessarily be the pattern of distribution of Brazil's outward investment in general, since Central Bank data show current Brazilian FDI abroad as concentrated in the services sector. Caution is in order about these figures, though, as it is difficult in Brazilian outflows to separate authentic FDI from purely financial investment under the guise of FDI. Moreover, since much of Brazil's investment abroad goes into tax havens in the first instance, it is also not easy to know where and in what activity this investment ultimately ends up.

Head office locations

The head offices of 19 of the companies on the list are located in the state of São Paulo, while the rest are based in the states of Rio Grande do Sul (3), Rio de Janeiro (3), Santa Catarina (3) and Minas Gerais (2) (annex figure 4).

Major outward M&A and greenfield transactions

Annex tables 2 and 3 show the top 10 M&As and the top 10 greenfield transactions, respectively, undertaken abroad by Brazilian firms over the past three years. Note that the total greenfield value is significantly larger than the total M&A value (USD 17.3 billion as against USD 10.2 billion). Both lists are dominated by Vale (three transactions of each kind). Natural resources figure prominently in both lists – four out of the 10 M&As and five out of the 10 greenfield transactions. Most transactions in both lists were undertaken by firms on our list. That 2009 was a problematic year

^a Note that financial firms (banks, insurance companies, etc.) are not included in the ranking and not covered by this report, except where it is explicitly indicated otherwise.

^b The survey questionnaire on which this ranking is based was sent to 160 leading Brazilian multinationals, of whom 60 responded. In the case of companies that appeared among the top 20 published in 2009 but did not respond to the present survey, the rankings are based on the companies' financial statements for fiscal 2009.

can be seen in both tables. Only two of the top 10 M&As over the past three years were in 2009, one of them in the financial industry, and only two of the top 10 greenfield investments over the past three years were in 2009, both by a firm not on our list.

Impact of the global recovery in 2010²

Respondents reported a very positive impact, with 38% noting a recovery in foreign demand and 30% new business opportunities abroad (annex figure 4). Other responses included recovery in product prices abroad (13%) and greater access to foreign credit (6%). Annex figure 5 indicates the specific business decisions taken in response to the recovery. Nearly 40% of respondents have modified their product mix, while nearly 30% have changed investment destinations and about 15% have acquired foreign assets.

Outward investment plans in 2010-2011, compared to 2009

Nearly half the respondents (49%) declared their intention to increase their investment abroad in 2010-2011. Some 12% of these 49% plan an increase of more than 30%, while the remaining 37% plan a smaller increase. A further 46% of respondents planned to maintain their outward investment at current levels, thus leaving only 5% who intend actually to reduce their investment (annex figure 6). It is interesting to note in this context that Argentina still remains the preferred destination for outward investment from Brazil. Other destinations cited by the respondents were China. South Africa and India.

Drivers of outward investment

The reason most often mentioned for expansion abroad was the company's international competitive position (26% of respondents). The second most mentioned (with 20% of respondents) was growing world demand. Other motivations include the search for economies of scale (15%) and the desire to reduce dependence on the domestic market and establish export platforms abroad (annex figure 7).

Operations abroad

One-third of respondents said they had plants manufacturing various goods or establishments providing various services. Almost as many (29%) said their foreign operations consisted of sales offices for exporting goods manufactured in Brazil (annex figure 8).

Most important factors influencing choice of overseas locations

Some 32% of respondents mentioned market size, while 29% cited access to international or regional markets (annex figure 9). Local market growth was cited by 18% of respondents.

² Note that from this point onwards most of what is said in the 'Profile of the top 30' section is not strictly about the top 30 but about the 60 multinationals that responded to the survey.

Principal sources of FDI financing

This question showed the greatest concentration of responses. 58% of respondents indicated their own capital as the main source of funding. It is interesting to note that the answers did not mention domestic commercial bank loans, although 13% of respondents did mention loans from *overseas* banks. The Brazilian Development Bank BNDES (Banco Nacional de Desenvolvimento Economico e Social) was mentioned as a source by 10% of respondents (annex figure 10).

Barriers to internationalization

A diverse range of factors was mentioned when it came to barriers to outward investment. The barriers were both internal and external. The top-ranking *internal* factor (19% of respondents) was the tax burden in Brazil. Nearly as many mentioned currency fluctuations. Among other internal barriers mentioned were the cost of credit and high logistics costs (annex figure 11). Among *external* barriers, the top candidate was tough competition in mature markets, with 31% of the respondents mentioning it. In a rather distant second place (14% of respondents) came the regulatory environment of host countries. Other issues, like the lack of double taxation treaties and the lack of access to foreign credit were also mentioned (annex figure 12).

Changes over 2008-2009

Table 2 below provides a picture of the changes in assets, sales and employment between 2008 and 2009. (Data on 2007 were not available.) Foreign assets as well as foreign sales increased in 2009, by nearly 55% and 28% respectively. However, these increases are to some extent a function of the exchange rates used to calculate these figures³. The Brazilian real appreciated significantly in 2009. It was BRL 2.3 to the US dollar in December 2008 and BRL 1.7 to the US dollar in December 2009. Thus, if the real had not appreciated by December 2009, there would actually have been a fall in foreign sales from BRL 109,441 to BRL 103,246 over 2008-2009. Employment, as we can see, fell significantly in 2009, total employment by nearly 18% and foreign employment by nearly 13%. This is in keeping with what is known about the activity of Brazilian multinationals in 2009. Incidentally, both outward FDI flows and (even) outward FDI stock declined in 2009, with flows going from over USD 20 billion in 2008 to *minus* USD 10 billion in 2009 (annex figures 2 and 3).

Table 2. Snapshot of the top 30 Brazilian multinationals, 2008-2009 (USD million and number of employees)

	2008	2009	Percentage change, 2008-2009
Assets			
Foreign	56,601	87,148	54.5
Total	257,100	478,593	86.2
Share of foreign	22.0%	18.2%	

³ These were the IMF rates of December 31st for each year.

in total			
Sales			
Foreign	47,583	60,733	27.6
Total	247,145	270,228	9.3
Share of foreign in total	19.3%	22.5%	
Employment			
Foreign	204,301	178,787	-12.5
Total	961,505	792,221	-17.6
Share of foreign in total	21.2%	22.6%	

The big picture

The internationalization of Brazilian companies is a relatively recent phenomenon. From 2000 to 2003, outward FDI from Brazil averaged less than USD 1billion a year. Over the four-year period 2004–2008, this average jumped to nearly USD 14 billion. In 2008, when global FDI inflows were estimated to have fallen by 15%, outward investment from Brazil almost tripled, increasing from just over USD 7 billion in 2007 to well over USD 20 billion in 2008. (As shown in annex table 3, *six* of the top 10 greenfield investments overseas took place in 2008, including the largest and the 4th and 5th largest.) In 2009, however, as noted above, net outward investment was *minus* USD 10 billion. UNCTAD data put the outward stock of Brazilian FDI at USD 158 billion in 2009 (annex figure 3), a *decrease* of 3% in comparison to 2008.

In 2009, Brazil was the 7th largest outward investor among emerging markets in terms of FDI stock. In terms of FDI outward stock as a percentage of gross domestic product, the ratio in Brazil, of 10%, is almost twice as high as it was 15 years ago.

Despite its relative novelty, the internationalization of Brazilian companies has achieved a wide geographic spread. Brazilian outward investment can today be found in 86 countries. Admittedly, some destinations matter more than others. The main destinations of outward investment from Brazil today are the United States and Spain, with USD 10.6 billion and USD 5.2 billion, respectively. Among emerging markets, Argentina leads, with USD 3.5 billion, followed by Uruguay, with USD 2.5 billion.

Internationalization through Brazilian direct investment overseas is not one of the priorities of public policy in Brazil. Among the few initiatives in this area, one might mention the creation by BNDES of a specific facility intended to help companies expand abroad. Furthermore, at the end of 2009, the Foreign Trade Chamber, Câmara de Comércio Exterior or CAMEX, and the Department of Foreign Trade, Secretaria de Comércio Exterior or SECEX, of the Ministry of Development, Industry and Trade (MDIC) launched the *Termo De Referência: Internacionalização De*

*Empresas Brasileiras*⁴, which explores the possible public policies for encouraging the internationalization of Brazilian companies.

According to the survey of the internationalization of Brazilian companies undertaken by SOBEET, the tax burden in Brazil is one of the major internal barriers to be overcome by companies seeking to internationalize. Other factors, like exchange-rate volatility and the cost of credit in Brazil also feature among the difficulties encountered (as noted earlier). Along with public policies that overcome internal barriers, it is also important for the Brazilian government to move to increase the number of bilateral investment treaties, of which not even one was signed in the last ten years and none of those signed has been ratified.

Conclusion

As noted above, Brazilian multinationals actually repatriated USD 10 billion in 2009, the highest such reversal of outflows since 1947. The negative outflow picture is consistent with the results of the SOBEET-Valor-VCC survey of Brazilian multinationals, which found that nearly half of the Brazilian multinationals surveyed (over 47%) opted to reduce the operational costs of their foreign affiliates last year. The results also indicate, however, that the 2009 downturn may have come to an end. The cautious optimism of our respondents is confirmed by the latest data on outward investment: Brazilian direct investment abroad reached USD 15.6 billion for the first eight months of 2010, again the highest level for any comparable period since 1947. Corporate resilience, a strong currency and increasing foreign demand have all played their part in this recovery.

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⁴ Available at: http://www.mdic.gov.br/arquivos/dwnl 1260377495.pdf.

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Emerging Markets Global Players Project

This report on Korean multinationals was prepared in the framework of the Emerging Markets Global Players (EMGP) project, a collaborative effort led by the Vale Columbia Center. It brings together researchers on FDI from leading institutions in emerging markets to generate annual reports on the leading multinationals in each participating country. Nine country reports were published in 2009: on Argentina, Brazil, China, India, Israel, Mexico, Russia, Slovenia and Turkey. Up to 15 countries are expected to be covered in 2010. For more information, visit: www.vcc.columbia.edu/content/emerging-market-global-players.

SOBEET

SOBEET (Sociedade Brasileira de Estudos de Empresas Transnacionais e da Globalização Econômica) is a non-party- affiliated, not-for-profit, think tank, intended to establish a forum for debate, research and reflection on the question of the internationalization different economies, in particular the developing ones. For more information, visit: www.sobeet.org.br/.

Vale Columbia Center on Sustainable International Investment

The Vale Columbia Center on Sustainable International Investment, headed by Karl P. Sauvant, is a joint Columbia Law School – Earth Institute venture at Columbia University. It seeks to be a leader on issues related to FDI in the global economy, paying special attention to the sustainability aspect of this investment. The Center focuses on the analysis and teaching of the implications of FDI for public policy and international investment law. Its objectives are to analyze important topical policy-oriented issues related to FDI, develop and disseminate practical approaches and solutions, and provide students with a challenging learning environment. For more information, see http://www.vcc.columbia.edu.

Annex figure 1. Brazil: The top 30 multinationals: Key variables, 2009 (USD million and numbers of employees)

Rank by	Company	Industry	Ass	ets	Emplo	yment	Sal	es ^a	TNI (%)
foreign assets	mustry	Foreign	Total	Foreign	Total	Foreign	Total		
1	Vale	Mining of metal ores	34,934	100,907	14,426	60,036	8,440	23,615	31.5
2	Petrobras	Extraction of crude petroleum and natural gas	15,937	198,413	7,967	76,919	12,173	104,904	10.0
3	Gerdau	Manufacture of basic metals	13,916	25,599	18,400	40,000	8,098	15,239	51.2
4	Votorantim	Conglomerate	7,809	35,140	7,479	61,676	2,354	14,642	14.7
5	JBS-Friboi	Crop and animal production	5,296	24,397	80,007	125,000	16,745	19,701	56.9
6	Camargo Corrêa	Conglomerate	2,161	14,811	12,235	57,864	1,669	9,054	18.1
7	Marfrig	Crop and animal production	1,529	6,575	16,904	46,984	2,931	5,524	37.4
8	Ultrapar	Extraction of crude petroleum and natural gas	1,514	6,368	400	9,400	1,103	20,737	11.1
9	Embraer	Other manufacturing	1,378	3,388	901	16,853	1,129	7,614	20.3
10	Weg	Manufacture of electrical equipment	509	3,085	2,091	18,670	999	2,934	20.6
11	Brasil Foods	Manufacture os food products	346	8,767	662	130,166	1,401	15,426	4.5
12	Magnesita	Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products	300	522	1,394	6,938	491	1,259	38.9
13	Minerva	Manufacture of food products	233	1,190	474	7,774	87	505	14.3
14	Telemar	Telecommunications	210	35,177	37	28,261	114	17,224	0.5
15	Suzano Papel e Celulose	Manufacture of paper and paper products	171	3,997	162	4,024	n.a.	n.a.	4.2
16	Metalfrio	Manufacture of machinery and equipment	169	413	1,402	2,607	153	369	45.3

17	Coteminas	Manufacture of textiles	143	908	2,820	14,800	1,382	1,531	41.7
18	Itautec	Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products	131	743	398	6,218	274	1,199	15.6
19	Natura	Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products	100	1,566	1,439	6,260	164	2,430	9.5
20	Tupy	Manufacture of fabricated metal products	79	1,327	28	7,481	170	703	10.2
21	Sabó	Manufacture of other transport equipment	56	297	1,190	3,510	142	314	32.8
22	Duratex	Specialized construction activities	46	2,488	151	8,832	75	1,289	3.1
23	lochpe	Manufacture of other transport equipment	38	799	922	7,365	33	757	7.2
24	Artecola	Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products	34	114	330	1,553	49	161	27.1
25	Marcopolo	Manufacture of other transport equipment	30	60	4,019	13,715	373	1,182	36.9
26	Indústrias Romi	Manufacture of machinery and equipment	20	30	305	2,601	36	273	30.8
27	Klabin	Manufacture of paper and paper products	18	373	110	7,527	n.a.	n.a.	3.2
28	Totvs	Computer programming, consultancy and related activities	14	694	300	4,300	11	620	3.6
29	Stefanini IT Solutions	Computer programming, consultancy and related activities	14	85	1,671	8,755	43	364	15.6
30	G Brasil	Conglomerate	14	359	163	6,132	96	658	7.0
Total			87,148	478,593	178,787	792,221	60,733	270,228	
Averag	Average								20.8

^a 'n.a.' indicates the non-availability of data.

Annex table 2. Brazil: The top 10 outward M&A transactions, 2007-2009 (USD million)

Date	Acquirer's name	Target name	Target industry	Target country	% of shares acquired	Value of transaction
01/05/2007	Vale	Inco Ltd	Ferroalloy ores, except vanadium	Canada	13.43	2,316.06
04/23/2008	Gerdau SA	Quanex Corp	Steel works, blast furnaces, and rolling mills	United States	100.00	1,749.21
07/11/2007	J&F Participacoes SA	Swift & Co	Sausages and other prepared meat products	United States	100.00	1,458.00
11/11/2008	Magnesita SA	LWB Refractories GmbH	Brick and structural clay tile	Germany	100.00	943.69
02/05/2009	Vale	Rio Tinto Ltd-Potash Assets	Potash, soda, and borate minerals	Argentina	100.00	850.00
02/26/2007	Vale	AMCI Holdings Australia Pty	Coal mining	Australia	100.00	662.57
03/16/2007	Banco Itau Holding Financeira	BankBoston Uruguay	Banking	Uruguay	100.00	650.00
10/23/2008	JBS SA	Smithfield Beef Group Inc	Beef cattle, except feedlots	United States	100.00	565.00
03/31/2009	Banco Itau Holding Financeira	Banco Itau Europa SA	Security and commodity services	Portugal	89.32	497.80
03/17/2007	Grupo Votorantim	Acerias Paz del Rio SA	Steel works, blast furnaces, and rolling mills	Colombia	51.89	488.59
Total						10,180.92

Source: Adapted from Thomson ONE Banker. Thomson Reuters.

Annex table 3. Brazil: The top 10 outward greenfield investments, 2007-2009 (USD million)

Date	Company	Destination	Industry	Value
Feb-08	Vale	New Caledonia	Minerals	3,200.00
Nov-09	Braskem	Mexico	Plastics	2,500.00
Jun-09	Braskem	Peru	Plastics	2,500.00
Sep-08	Votorantim Group	Colombia	Metals	1,500.00
Sep-08	Gerdau	Peru	Metals	1,400.00
Feb-07	Braskem	Bolivia	Chemicals	1,400.00
May-08	Vale	Oman	Minerals	1,365.00
Jul-08	Petrobras	Nigeria	Coal, oil and natural gas	1,262.90 ^a
Mar-07	Vale	Mozambique	Coal, oil and natural gas	1,200.00
Apr-08	Petrobras	Japan	Coal, oil and natural gas	976.00
Total	17,303.90			

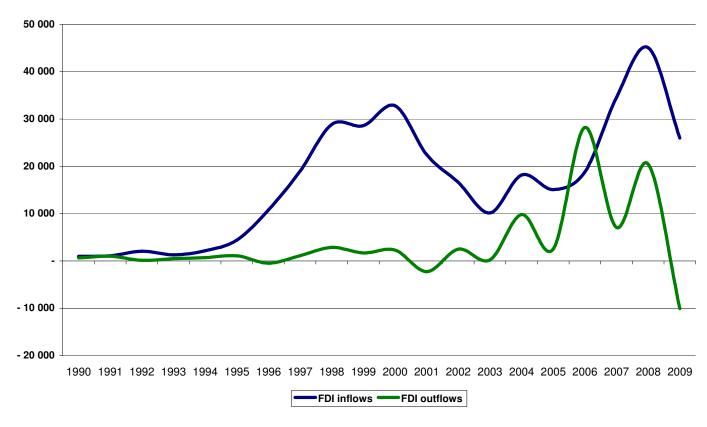
Source: Adapted from fdiIntelligence, a service from the Financial Times Ltd.

^a This amount is an estimate.

Annex figure 1. Brazil: Head office locations of the top 30 multinationals, 2009

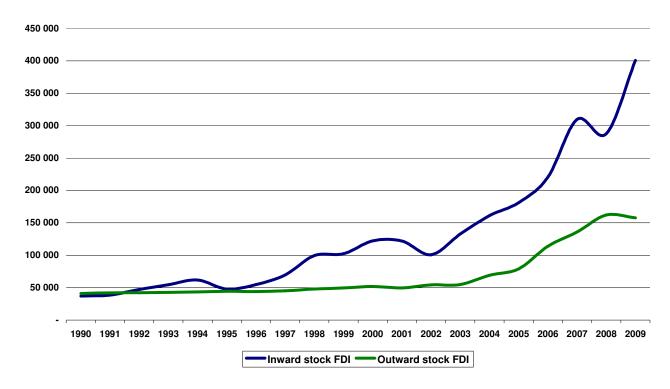


Annex figure 2. Brazil: Inward and outward FDI flows, 1990-2009 (USD million)



Source: Adapted from UNCTAD, Annex tables to World Investment Report 2010, http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Page.asp?intltemID=5545&lang=1.

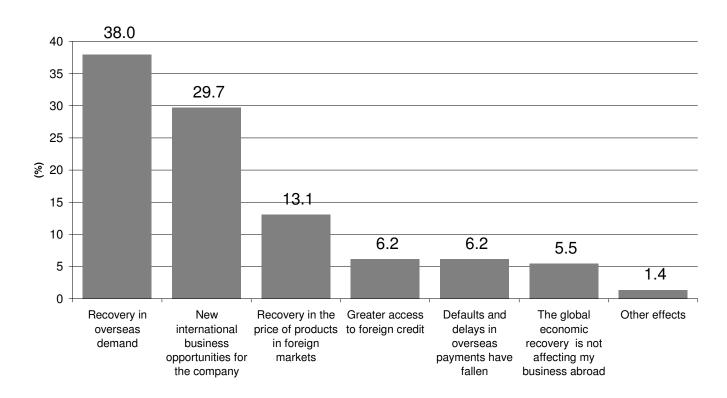
Annex figure 3. Brazil: Inward and outward FDI stock, 1990-2009 (USD million)



Source: Adapted from UNCTAD, Annex tables to World Investment Report 2010, http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Page.asp?intItemID=5545&lang=1.

Annex figure 4. Brazil: Impact of global economic recovery on overseas business (percentages)^a

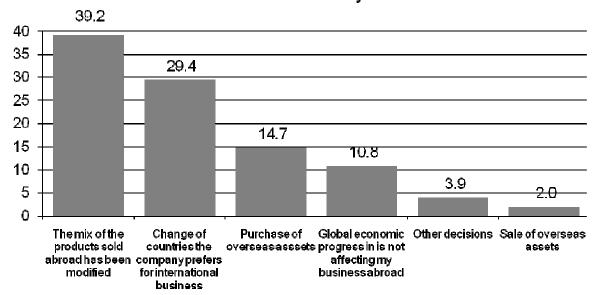
How is the economic recovery in 2010 over 2009 affecting your overseas business?



^a The figure shows the percentage of 60 respondents offering a specific answer.

Annex figure 5. Brazil: Response to improvement in global economy in 2010 (percentages)^a

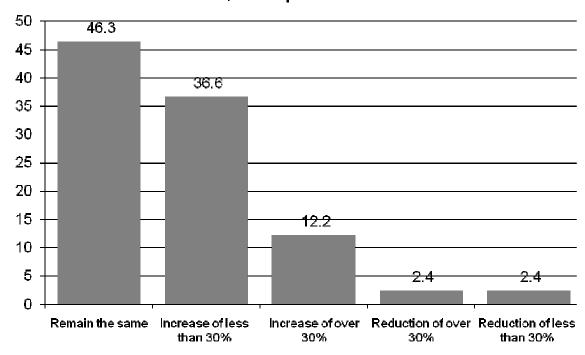
Given the progress of the global economy in 2010 over 2009, what business decisions have been taken regarding your overseas business this year?



^a The figure shows the percentage of 60 respondents offering a specific answer.

Annex figure 6. Brazil: Plans for investment abroad in 2010-2011, as compared to 2009 (percentages)^a

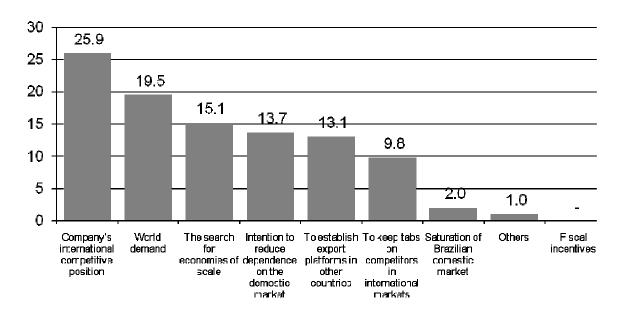
What are your company's plans for investment abroad in 2010-11, as compared to 2009?



^a The figure shows the percentage of 60 respondents offering a specific answer.

Annex figure 7. Brazil: Drivers of foreign expansion (percentages)^a

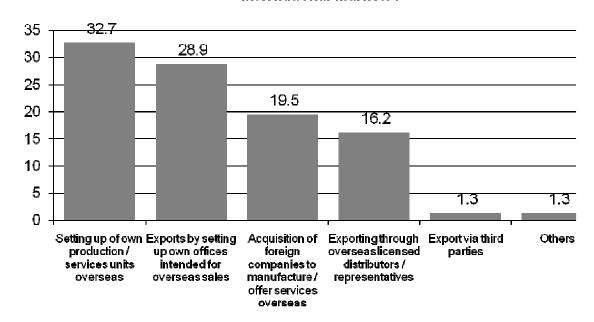
What are the major reasons that led your company to internationalize?



^a The figure shows the percentage of 60 respondents offering a specific answer.

Annex figure 8. Brazil: Types of operations abroad (percentages)^a

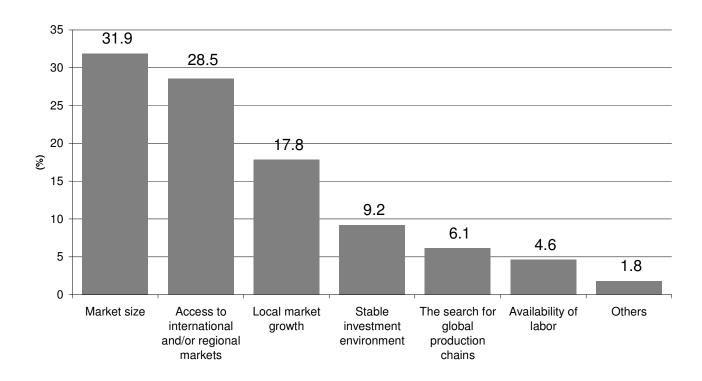
What are the major types of operations of your company on international markets?



^a The figure shows the percentage of 60 respondents offering a specific answer.

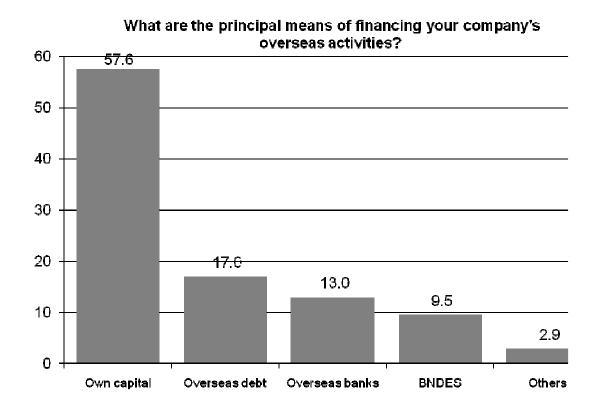
Annex figure 9. Brazil: Most influential factor in choice of foreign location (percentages)^a

Which factors most influenced the location of your company overseas?



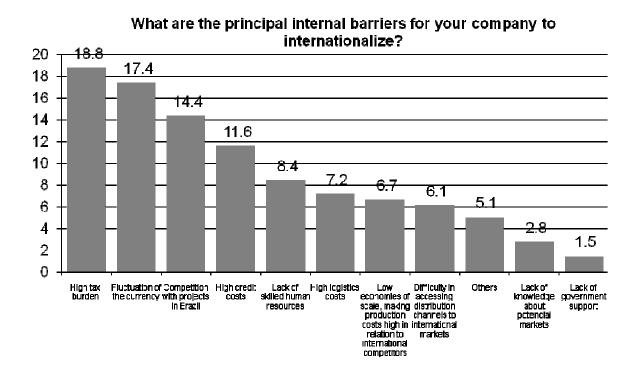
^a The figure shows the percentage of 60 respondents offering a specific answer.

Annex figure 10. Brazil: Means of financing outward investment (percentages)^a



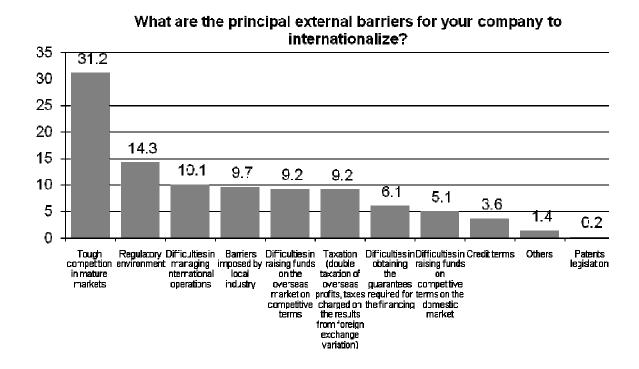
^a The figure shows the percentage of 60 respondents offering a specific answer.

Annex figure 11. Brazil: Internal barriers to outward investment (percentages)^a



^a The figure shows the percentage of 60 respondents offering a specific answer.

Annex figure 12. Brazil: External barriers to outward investment (percentages)^a



^a The figure shows the percentage of 60 respondents offering a specific answer.