

American Owned! (?)

BUY AMERICAN! We hear that all the time, but almost all of us realize just how difficult that has become over the years. Here are some facts...

Foreign-owned companies employed 6.8 million workers in the United States in 2015, up 22% from 2007, according to preliminary data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. The increase is notably larger than overall U.S. private employment growth, which was 3.6% over the same span.

Among foreign enterprises, British-owned companies employed the highest number of U.S. workers in 2015 (around 1.1 million), followed by companies with majority ownership in Japan (around 856,000) and France, Germany and Canada (each over 600,000). These five countries alone accounted for a majority (58%) of U.S. employment by foreign-owned enterprises in 2015 and have made up the top five since at least 2007, the earliest year for which comparable data are available.

Overall, foreign-owned companies accounted for 5.5% of all U.S. private sector employment in 2015, up from 4.7% in 2007. This analysis counts full- and part-time employees of foreign multinational enterprises' U.S. affiliates (such as corporate branches) that were majority-owned by their foreign parents in 2015, the most recent year available. The BEA provides country-level data for 41 countries and territories, as well as broader regional and global totals. [<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/12/14/number-of-u-s-workers-employed-by-foreign-owned-companies-is-on-the-rise/>]

According to the data, the value of foreign-owned American assets climbed to \$32.5 trillion in the second quarter (2016), while total foreign assets held by Americans reached \$24.5 trillion, leaving the U.S. with an investment deficit of \$8 trillion.

But though the percentage of U.S. assets owned by foreigners has ballooned over the past few decades, the perception that American assets are largely owned by foreign interests is inaccurate, according to an analysis of available data by Jay Bryson, a global economist at Wells Fargo, and Harry Pershing, an economic analyst at the San Francisco-based bank.

Here are some classic American brands that are no longer American-owned:

- Budweiser
- Lucky Strike
- Vaseline
- Good Humor
- Hellmann's
- Purina
- French's
- Frigidare
- Popsicle
- 7-Eleven
- Burger King
- Ben & Jerrys
- Trader Joe's
- Holiday Inn



N. Loop 287 & Hwy. 59N
Lufkin, Texas 75801

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