

F.3. R&D investments and multinationals

■ Multinational firms play an important role in investments in research and development (R&D) across the world. While they fund a large share of cross-border investments and are as such important vehicles for the international transfer of technology, they are themselves important investors in R&D.

■ R&D budgets of the largest multinational companies are larger than the R&D investments of several countries. The largest investor in R&D worldwide is the Japanese company Toyota with an R&D budget of USD 11 billion, this places it among the top ten countries investing in R&D.

■ Aggregate spending by the world's top eight multinational groups in 2008 was larger than the R&D

investments of all individual countries except the United States and Japan.

Sources

- 2009 EU R&D Scoreboard.
- OECD, *Main Science and Technology Indicators Database (MSTI)*, January 2010.

For further reading

- OECD (2005), *Measuring Globalisation: OECD Handbook on Economic Globalisation Indicators*, OECD, Paris, www.oecd.org/sti/measuring-globalisation.
- OECD (2008), *Recent Trends in the Internationalisation of R&D in the Enterprise Sector*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2008), *The Internationalisation of Business R&D: Evidence, Impacts and Implications*, OECD, Paris.

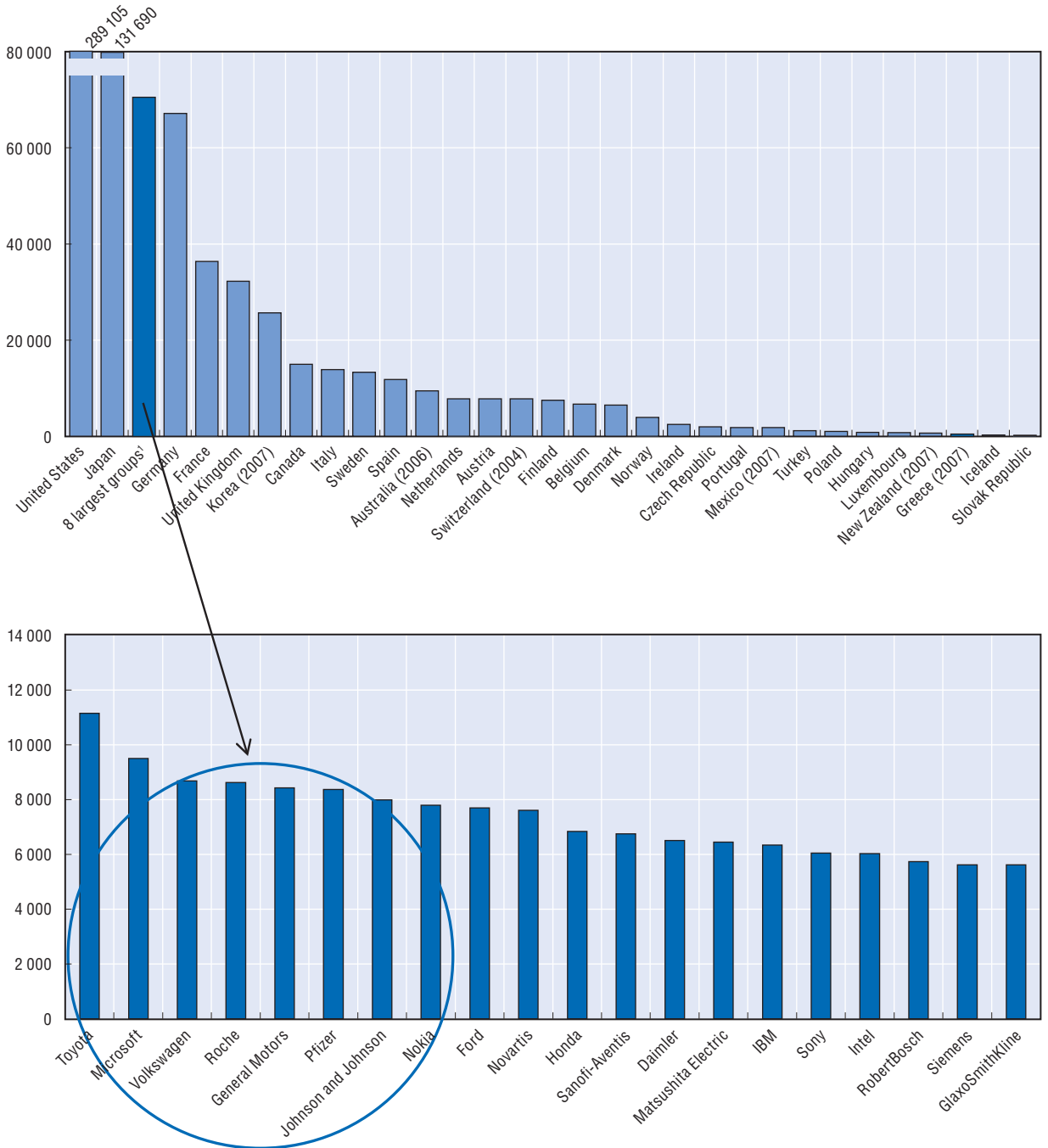
R&D data by enterprise group at the world level

This is R&D performed by a group of business enterprises located in different countries and over which majority control is exercised either directly or indirectly by a company that is controlled by no other firm (ultimate control). Such group data have three main limitations: they are consolidated at the global level and are not broken down by country; in some cases the main activity accounts for a low percentage of aggregate turnover; and R&D data are not exhaustive.


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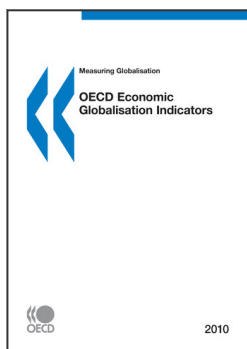
Figure F.3.1. Comparison between industrial R&D expenditures (BERD) of OECD countries and those of the eight largest multinational groups, 2008

USD million



1. Toyota, Microsoft, Volkswagen, Roche, General Motors, Pfizer, Johnson and Johnson, Nokia.

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