



**European
Investment
Bank**

The EU bank



Finland

EIBIS 2016

EIB Group Survey on
Investment and
Investment Finance 2016

Country Overview

EIB Group Survey on Investment and Investment Finance Country Overview: Finland

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About the EIB Investment Survey (EIBIS)

The EIB Group Survey on Investment and Investment Finance is a unique, EU-wide, annual survey of 12,500 firms. It collects data on firm characteristics and performance, past investment activities and future plans, sources of finance, financing issues and other challenges that businesses face. Using a stratified sampling methodology, EIBIS is representative across all 28 member States of the EU, as well as for firm size classes (micro to large) and 4 main sectors. It is designed to build a panel of observations to support time series analysis, observations that can also be linked to firm balance sheet and profit and loss data. EIBIS has been developed and is managed by the Economics Department of the EIB, with support to development and implementation by Ipsos MORI. For more information see: <http://www.eib.org/eibis>.

About this publication

This Country Overview is one of a series covering each of the 28 EU Member States, plus an EU-wide overview. These are intended to provide an accessible snapshot of the data. For the purpose of these publications, data is weighted by value-added to better reflect the contribution of different firms to economic output. Contact: eibis@eib.org.

About the Economics Department of the EIB

The mission of the EIB Economics Department is to provide economic analyses and studies to support the Bank in its operations and in the definition of its positioning, strategy and policy. The Department, a team of 30 economists, is headed by Debora Revoltella, Director of Economics.

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Disclaimer

The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of the EIB.

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Ipsos Public Affairs works closely with national governments, local public services and the not-for-profit sector, as well as international and supranational organizations. Its c.200 research staff in London and Brussels focus on public service and policy issues. Each has expertise in a particular part of the public sector, ensuring we have a detailed understanding of specific sectors and policy challenges. This, combined with our methodological and communications expertise, helps ensure that our research makes a difference for decision makers and communities.

EIBIS 2016 – COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Finland

The annual EIB Group Survey on Investment and Investment Finance (EIBIS) is an EU-wide survey of 12 500 firms that gathers quantitative information on investment activities by both SMEs and larger corporates, their financing requirements and the difficulties they face.

As the EU bank, the EIB Group responds to the need to accelerate investment to strengthen job creation and long-term competitiveness and

sustainability across all 28 EU member States. EIBIS helps the EIB to contribute to a policy response that properly addresses the needs of businesses, promoting investment.

This country overview presents selected findings based on telephone interviews with 477 firms in Finland in 2016 (July-October). **Note:** The results are weighted by value-added, reflecting firms' contribution to the economy.

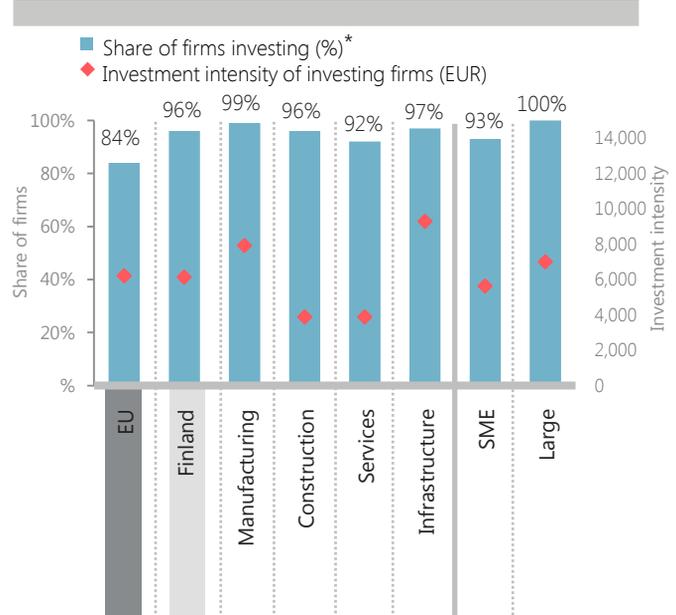
Key results

Investment outlook:	Firms' investment outlook in Finland is in line with the EU average. Among firms in Finland, large firms are somewhat more positive.
Investment activity:	96% invested in the last year. Intensity of investment (investment per employee) is in line with the EU average.
Investment gap:	81% report investment was the right amount. 13% say it was too little over the last three years which is in line with the EU (15%). Technological sophistication of firms is below the EU average, with a lower percentage of state-of-the-art equipment. The share of stock of buildings with high energy efficiency standards is also below the EU average.
Investment barriers:	Political and regulatory climate and overall economic climate perceived to be the main barriers to implementing investment. The results are in line with the EU, but firms in Finland are more negative about the economic climate and demand for products and services. Uncertainty about the future, demand for products or services and availability of staff with the right skills are seen as the main barriers to investment in the long term.
External finance:	4% of firms consider themselves finance constrained: the proportion of firms either dissatisfied with the amount of finance they received, had their application rejected, thought borrowing costs would be too high or were discouraged from applying, below the EU average. Across sectors, a significantly higher percentage of constrained firms is observed in construction (11%). Firms would like to be less reliant on leasing and overdrafts.
Firm performance:	Firms in Finland have higher productivity. This applies across all sectors compared to the EU, with much higher productivity observed in construction and services.

INVESTMENT DYNAMICS

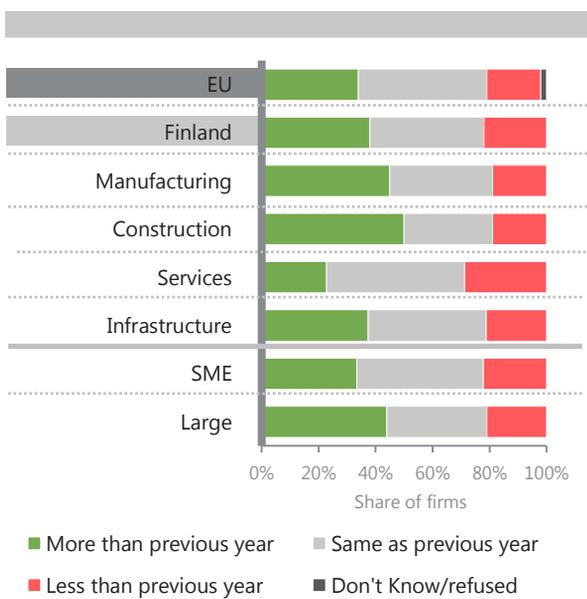
- Overall 96% of firms in Finland invested in the last financial year – higher than the EU average (84%).
- All large companies report having invested in the last financial year.
- The intensity of investment (investment per employee) in Finland is in line with the EU average.

Investment activity in last financial year



Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)
 *The blue bars indicate the proportion of firms who have invested in the last financial year.
 A firm is considered to have invested if it spent more than EUR 500 per employee on investment activities.
 Investment intensity is the median investment per employee of investing firms.

Investment activity in last financial year compared to previous

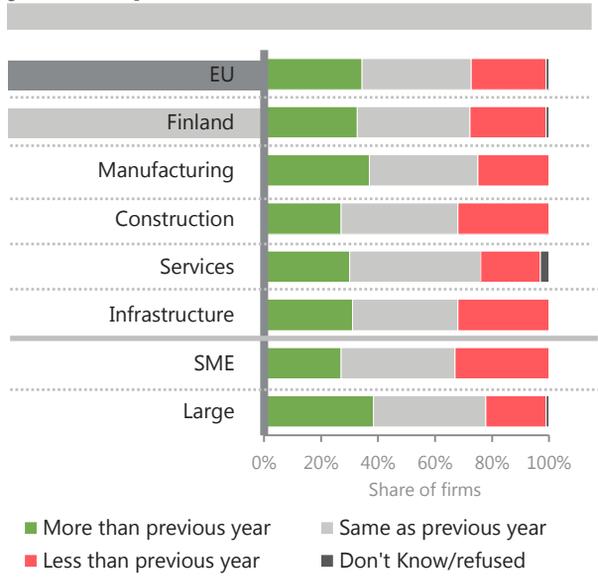


Base: All firms who invested in the last financial year
 Q. Overall was this more, less or about the same amount of investment as in the previous year?

- Compared to 2014, 38% of firms in Finland increased their investment in 2015, while one in five invested less in 2015.
- Overall, investment activity of Finnish firms is very similar to the EU average.

- Firms' investment outlook is broadly in line with the EU average.
- While 33% of firms expect to increase investment activities during the current financial year, 27% expect a contraction.
- Large firms are more likely than SMEs to expect to increase investment.

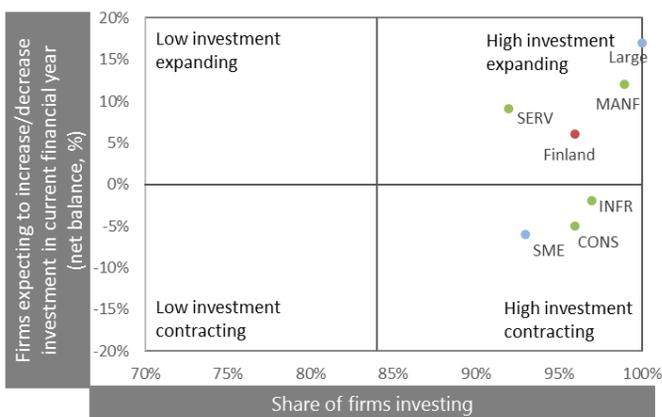
Expected investment in current financial year compared to last one



Base: All firms

Data is derived from two questions: firms who had invested in the last financial year were asked if they expect to invest more, around the same amount or less than last year; firms who had not invested in the last financial year were asked if they had already invested, or expect to invest in the current year

Investment cycle



Base: All firms

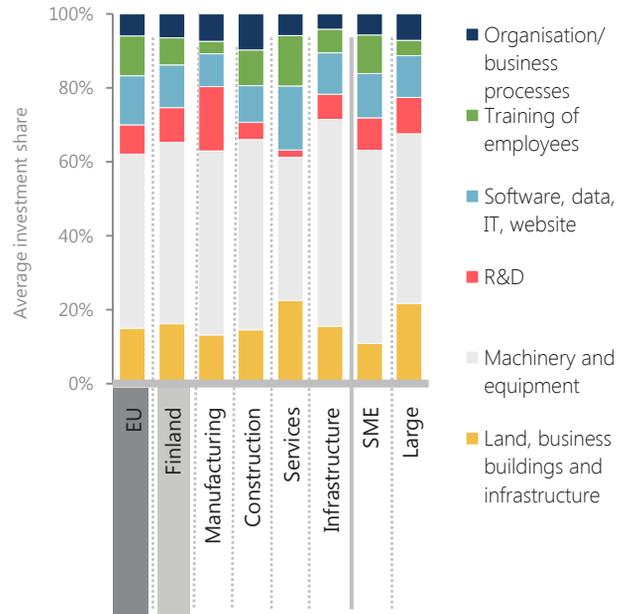
Share of firms investing shows the percentage of firms with investment per employee greater than EUR 500.

- Large firms and firms in manufacturing and services are somewhat more positive about their investment outlook, in line with the trend observed in the EU.
- This is an encouraging sign: manufacturing investment has shown a negative trend over the last years as the sector went through restructuring.
- SMEs and firms in infrastructure and construction, on the other hand, expect a contraction, but they still show relatively high levels of investment activity.

INVESTMENT ACTIVITY

- Around half of all investment activities in Finland is in machinery and equipment (49%). This rises to 56% for firms in infrastructure.
- Firms in manufacturing are the ones investing more in R&D (17%), compared to firms in other sectors.
- Larger companies invest significantly more in land, business buildings and infrastructure than the average firm, but less in training.

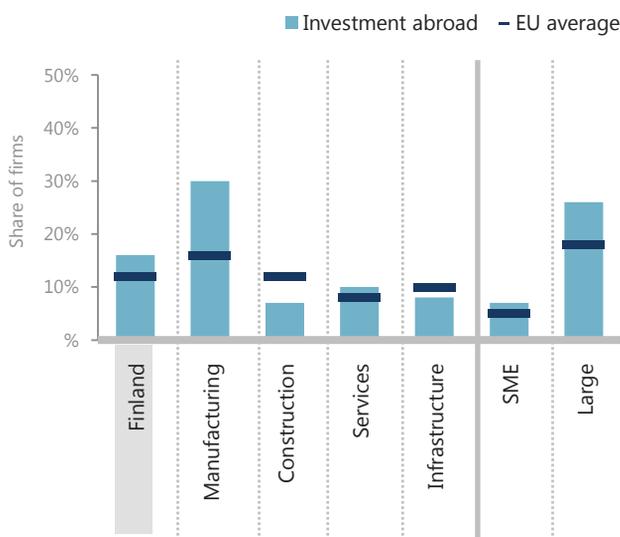
Investment areas



Base: All firms who have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses)

Q. In the last financial year, how much did your business invest in each of the following with the intention of maintaining or increasing your company's future earnings?

Investment abroad

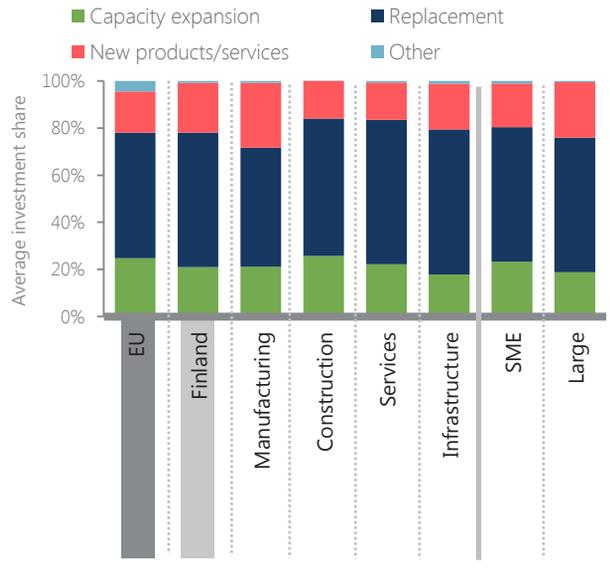


Base: All firms who invested in the last financial year
Q. In the last financial year, has your company invested in another country?

- Sixteen per cent of firms in Finland have invested in another country, above the EU average.
- Around a quarter (26%) of large firms in Finland have invested abroad which is higher than the overall.
- Firms in manufacturing are more likely to have invested abroad (30%) compared to firms in other sectors.

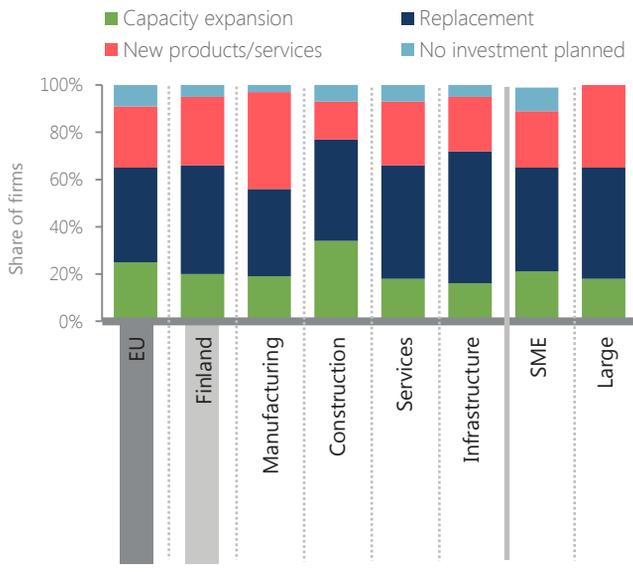
- Most investment in Finland is driven by the need to replace existing buildings, machinery, equipment and IT (57%), in line with the pattern across the EU.
- The share of investment going into capacity expansion is below the EU average and among the lowest in western Europe, showing that new industries are growing slowly.
- However, firms in manufacturing are the ones investing more in new products and services, an indicator of higher innovative capacity.

Purpose of investment in last financial year



Base: All firms who invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses)
Q. What proportion of total investment was for (a) replacing existing buildings, machinery, equipment, IT (b) expanding capacity for existing products/services (c) developing or introducing new products, processes, services?

Future investment priorities



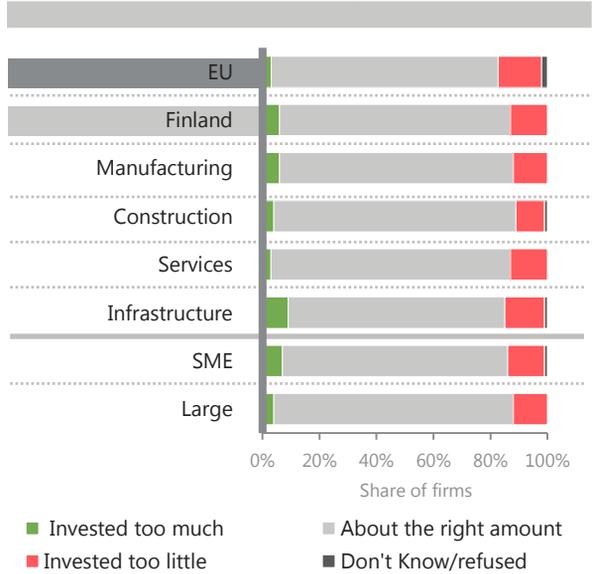
Base: All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses)
Q. Looking ahead to the next 3 years, which of the following is your investment priority (a) replacing existing buildings, machinery, equipment, IT (b) expanding capacity for existing products/services (c) developing or introducing new products, processes, services?

- For nearly half of the firms planning to invest in the next three years, the priority is replacing existing buildings, machinery, equipment and IT (46%). This rises to 56% of infrastructure companies.
- Instead, manufacturing firms consider investment in new products and services as the main future investment priority (41%).

INVESTMENT NEEDS

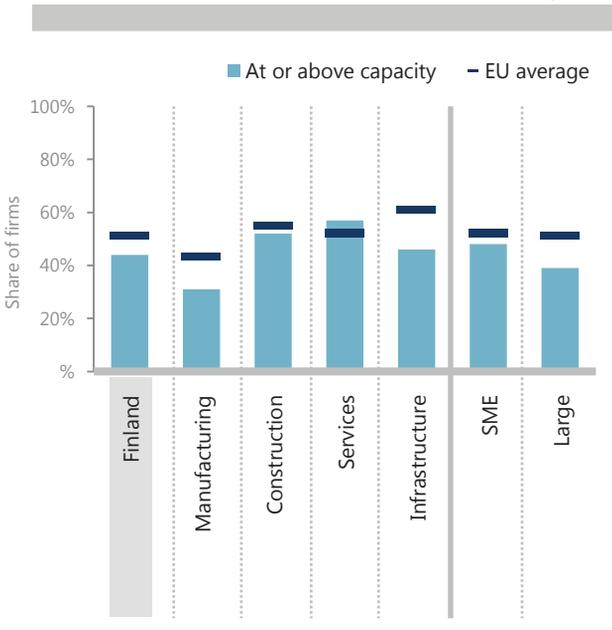
- Around eight in ten firms (81%) in Finland believe their investment over the last three years was about the right amount.
- 13% of firms report investing too little, with similar rates among different sectors and firm sizes.
- This is in line with the patterns across the EU as a whole where 15% say they have invested too little.

Perceived investment gap



Base: All firms (excluding 'Company didn't exist three years ago' responses)
Q. Looking back at your investment over the last 3 years, was it too much, too little, or about the right amount to ensure the success of your business going forward?

Share of firms at or above full capacity



Base: All firms (data not shown for those operating somewhat or substantially below full capacity)

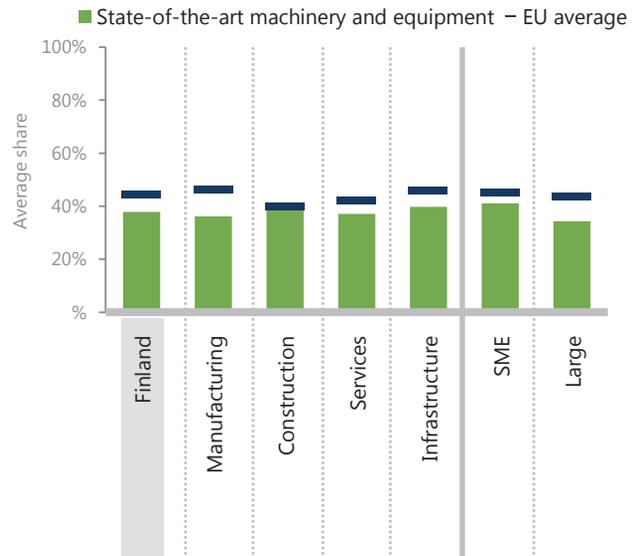
Full capacity is the maximum capacity attainable under normal conditions e.g., company's general practices regarding the utilization of machines and equipment, overtime, work shifts, holidays etc.

Q. In the last financial year, was your company operating above or at maximum capacity attainable under normal circumstances?

- Only 44% of firms in Finland report operating at or above full capacity, below the EU average.
- The share of firms operating at full capacity in manufacturing is much lower than in other sectors. On the other hand, firms in the services sector are more likely to operate at full capacity compared to firms in other sectors.

- Technological sophistication of Finnish firms is below the EU average. The share of state-of-the-art machinery and equipment is 38% (versus 44% for the EU).

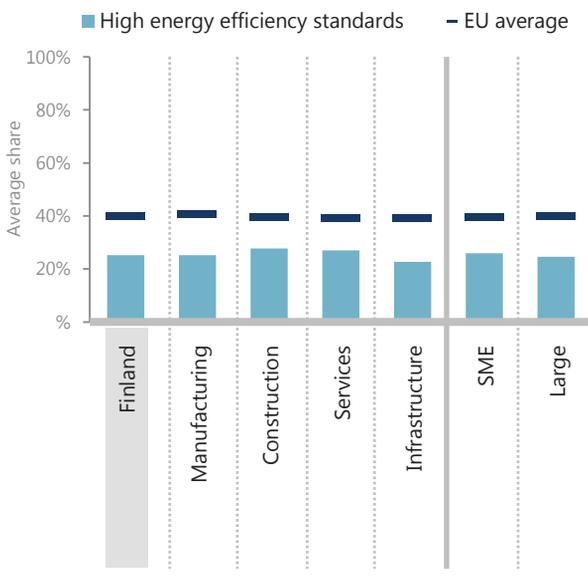
Average share of state-of-the-art machinery and equipment



Base: All firms

Q. What proportion, if any, of your machinery and equipment, including ICT, would you say is state-of-the-art?

Average share of building stock meeting high energy efficiency standards



Base: All firms

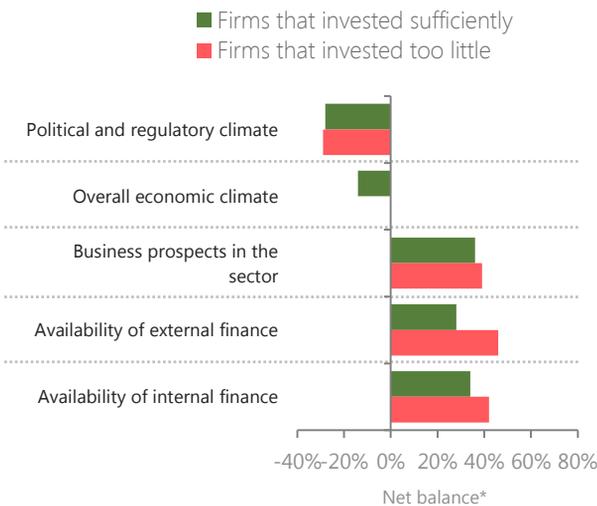
Q. What proportion, if any, of your commercial building stock satisfies high or highest energy efficiency standards?

- On average, firms in Finland consider 25% of their building stock to satisfy high energy efficiency standard – lower than across the EU as a whole (40%).

INVESTMENT CONSTRAINTS

- The political and regulatory climate, followed by the overall economic climate, are cited as the main barriers to implementing planned investment.
- In the EU, instead, overall economic climate is seen as supportive.
- Availability of internal and external finance, and business prospects in the sector, are seen as factors facilitating investment.

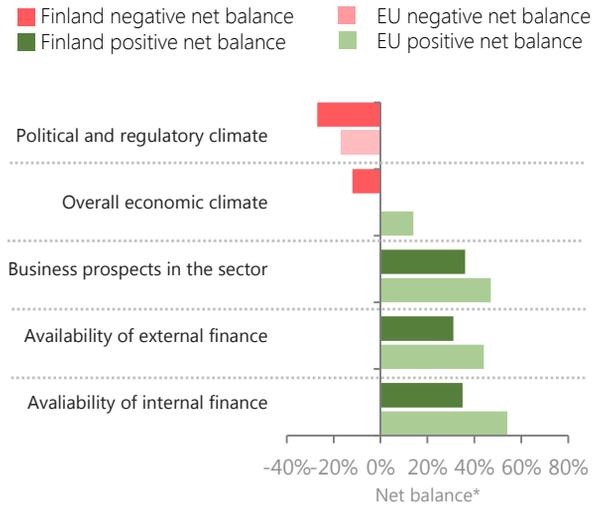
Short term influences by investment performance



Base: All firms who have planned to invest in the current financial year and who invested too much, about the right amount or too little in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused/company didn't exist three years ago responses)

Q. How do each of the following affect your ability to carry out your planned investment. Does it affect it positively or negatively, or make no difference at all?

Short term influences on investment



Base: All firms who have planned to invest in the current financial year

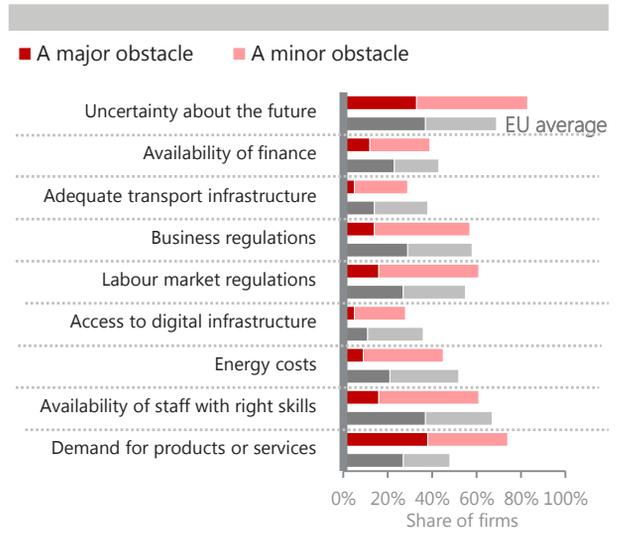
Q. How do each of the following affect your ability to carry out your planned investment. Does it affect it positively or negatively, or make no difference at all?

*Net balance is the share of firms seeing a positive effect minus the share of firms seeing a negative effect

- A larger proportion of firms that have invested too little finds that the availability of finance (internal and external) facilitate their investment activities.
- The economic climate is seen as a constraint in particular by firms that invested sufficiently.

- Firms consider uncertainty about the future, demand for products or services and availability of staff with the right skills as the main structural barriers to investment in Finland over the longer-term.
- Instead, transport and digital infrastructure are not considered major obstacles.

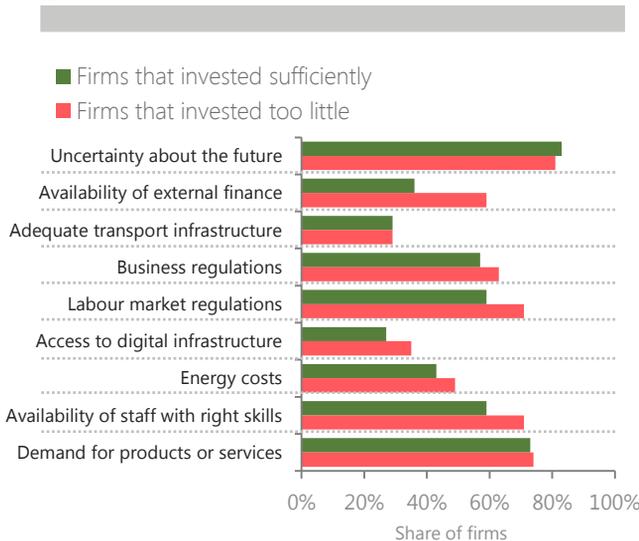
Long term barriers to investment



Base: All firms (data not shown for those who said not an obstacle at all/don't know/refused)

Q. Thinking about your investment activities in Finland, to what extent is each of the following an obstacle? Is a major obstacle, a minor obstacle or not an obstacle at all?

Long term barriers by investment performance



Base: All firms who invested too much, about the right amount or too little in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused/company didn't exist three years ago responses), data shown for firms who said each was a major or minor obstacle

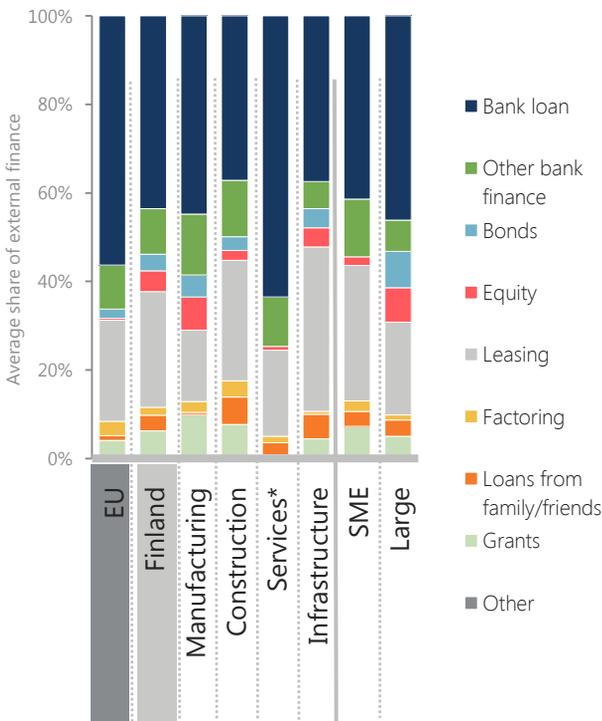
Q. Thinking about your investment activities in Finland, to what extent is each of the following an obstacle? Is a major obstacle, a minor obstacle or not an obstacle at all?

- Availability of external finance, labour market regulations and availability of staff with right skills are more often considered barriers by firms that report investing too little.

INVESTMENT FINANCE

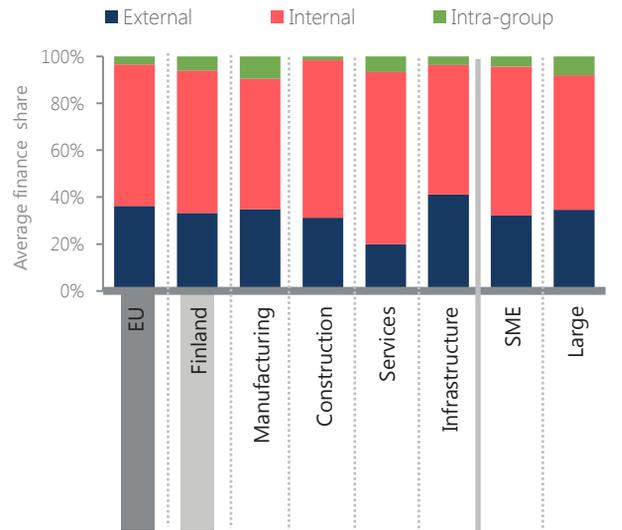
- A similar proportion of firms in Finland rely on internal funds to finance their investment as do across the EU.
- Bank loans are the most common source of external finance. In infrastructure, leasing has a more prominent role.
- Firms that used external finance are largely satisfied with all aspects, with some dissatisfaction for the cost of finance.

Type of external finance used for investment activities



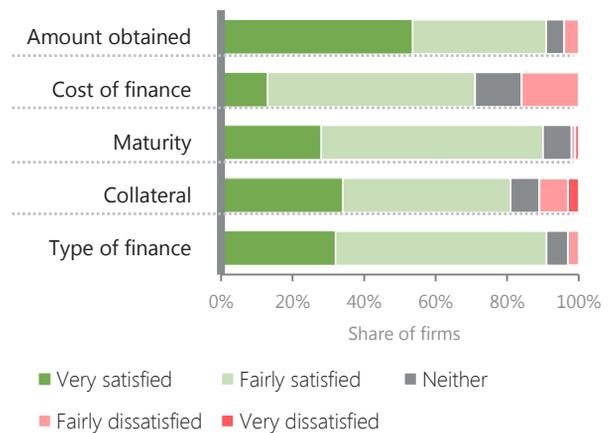
Base: All firms who used external finance in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses)
* Caution very small base size less than 30
Q. Approximately what proportion of your external finance does each of the following represent?

Source of investment finance



Base: All firms who invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses)
Q. Approximately what proportion of your investment in the last financial year was financed by each of the following?

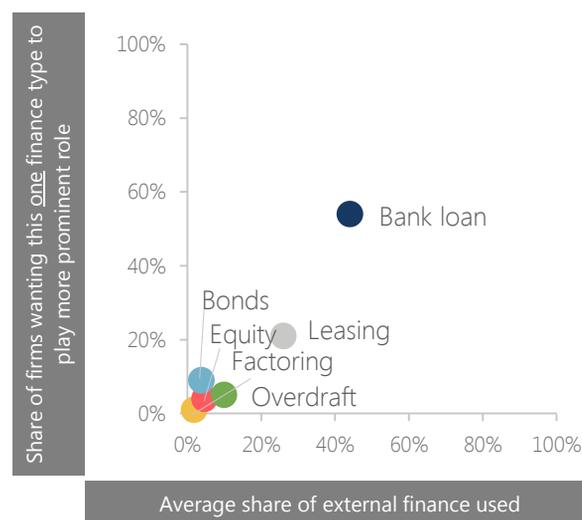
Satisfaction with external finance



Base: All firms who used external finance in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses)
Q. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with ...?

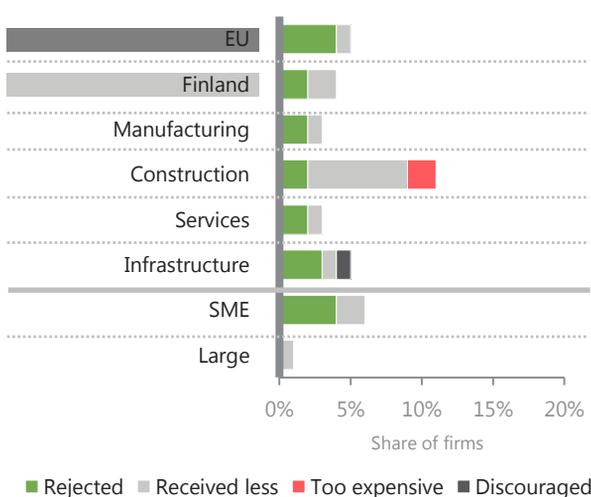
- Firms in Finland want more of the type of external finance they are already using: bank loans.
- Fewer firms want to use overdrafts and leasing in the future than currently do.

Types of finance used versus the one type of finance firms want to use more



Base: All firms who used external finance in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses)
Data is derived from two questions: firms were first asked about the types of external finance used in the last financial year and then which one type of external finance they would want to have a more prominent role over the next 3 years

Share of finance constrained firms

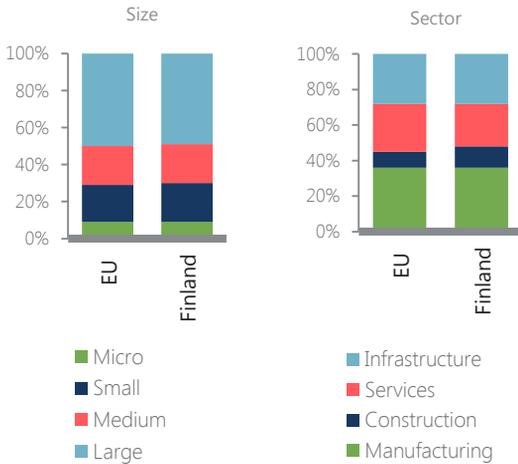


Base: All firms
Finance constrained firms include: those dissatisfied with the amount of finance obtained (received less), firms that sought external finance but did not receive it (rejected) and those who did not seek external finance because they thought borrowing costs would be too high (too expensive) or they would be turned down (discouraged)

- Four per cent of firms in Finland can be considered external finance constrained – below the EU figure.
- A significantly higher percentage of construction firms (11%) is finance constrained. This is probably due to Banks' decisions to tighten standards and reduce relative exposure to the housing sector.
- No large firms reported rejections.

PROFILE OF FIRMS

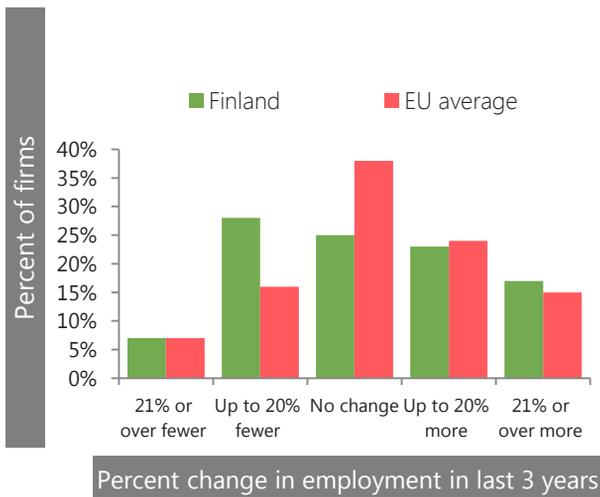
Contribution to Value-Added



Base: All firms

The charts reflect the relative contribution to value-added by firms belonging to a particular size class / sector in the population of firms considered. That is, all firms with 5 or more employees active in the sectors covered by the survey. Micro: 5-9 employees; Small: 10-49; Medium: 50-249; Large: 250+.

Employment dynamics in last 3 years

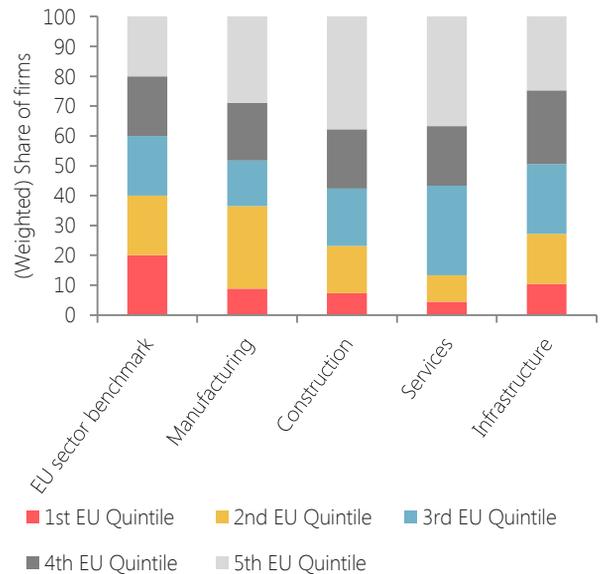


Base: All firms (excluding don't know, refused and missing responses)

Q. Thinking about the number of people employed by your company, by how much has it changed in the last 3 years?

- The distribution of surveyed firms in Finland is almost identical to the EU distribution.
- The profile of firms in Finland in terms of sector is also close to the EU profile.
- Firms in Finland are more likely to have shrunk in terms of number employees compared to the EU overall.
- Firms in Finland have higher productivity compared to the EU average: a relatively high share of firms in Finland fall into the highest productivity class.
- This is observed in all sectors, but most notably in construction and services, where more than a third of firms fall into the top (sector specific) EU productivity quintile.

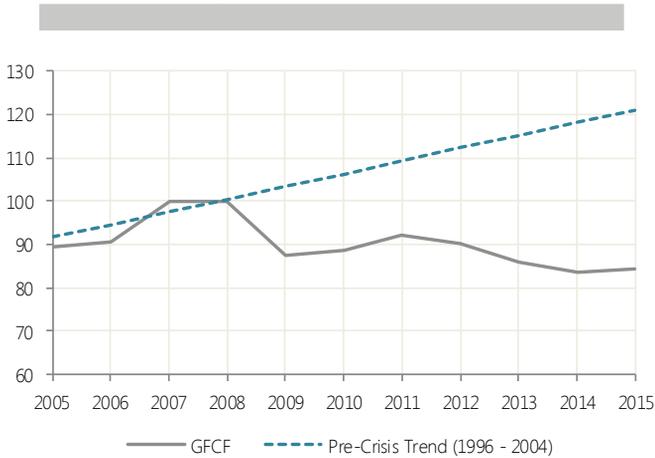
Distribution of firms by productivity class



Share of firms by productivity class (Total Factor Productivity). Productivity classes are sector specific; they are defined on the basis of the entire EU sample (for a particular sector).

MACROECONOMIC INVESTMENT CONTEXT

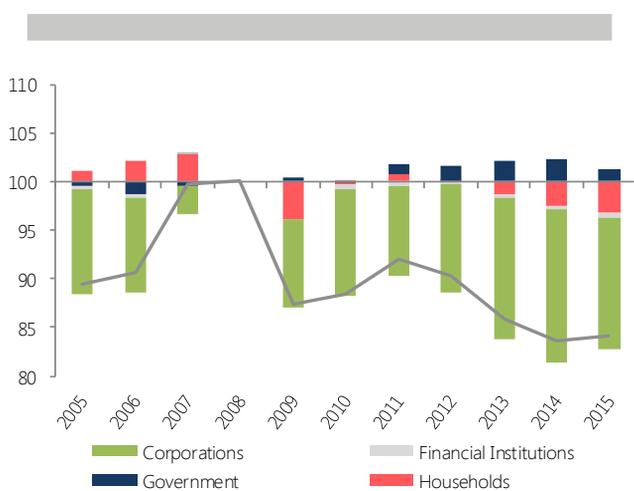
Investment Dynamics over time



The graph shows the evolution of total Gross Fixed Capital Formation. (in real terms); against the series 'pre-crisis trend'. The data has been indexed to equal 100 in 2008. Source: Eurostat .

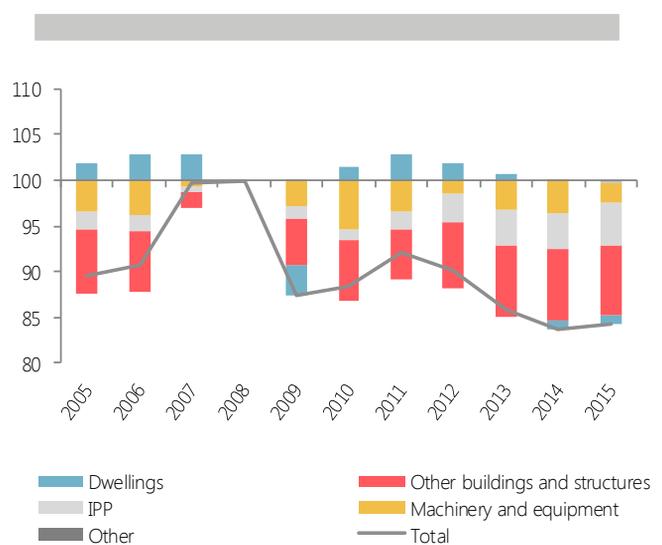
- In 2015, aggregate investment is still some 15% below its 2008 levels.
- The gap is bigger when compared to the pre-crisis trend; even though slowing potential growth make this a difficult benchmark to reach.
- The corporate sector and investments in 'other buildings and structures' are lagging the most compared to 2008.

Investment Dynamics by Institutional Sector



The graph shows the evolution of total Gross Fixed Capital Formation. (in real terms); by institutional sector. The data has been indexed to equal 100 in 2008. Source: Eurostat.

Investment Dynamics by Asset Class



The graph shows the evolution of total Gross Fixed Capital Formation. (in real terms); by asset class. The data has been indexed to equal 100 in 2008. Source: Eurostat.

EIBIS 2016 – COUNTRY TECHNICAL DETAILS

The final data are based on a sample, rather than the entire population of firms in Finland, so the percentage results are subject to sampling tolerances. These vary with the size of the sample and the percentage figure concerned.

Approximate sampling tolerances applicable to percentages at or near these levels

	EU	Finland	Manu- facturing	Cons- truction	Services	Infras- tructure	SME	Large	EU vs Country	Manufacturing vs Construction	SME vs Large
	(12483)	(477)	(125)	(116)	(109)	(124)	(392)	(84)	(12483 vs 477)	(125 vs 116)	(392 vs 84)
10% or 90%	1.0%	3.0%	5.5%	5.6%	5.9%	5.7%	2.6%	5.5%	3.1%	7.8%	6.0%
30% or 70%	1.5%	4.6%	8.4%	8.5%	9.1%	8.6%	4.0%	8.3%	4.8%	11.9%	9.2%
50%	1.7%	5.0%	9.2%	9.3%	9.9%	9.4%	4.3%	9.1%	5.2%	13.0%	10.0%

Glossary

Investment	A firm is considered to have invested if it spent more than EUR 500 per employee on investment activities with the intention of maintaining or increasing the company's future earnings.
Investment cycle	Based on the expected investment in current financial year compared to last one, and the proportion of firms with a share of investment greater than EUR 500 per employee.
Productivity	Total factor productivity is a measure of how efficiently a firm is converting inputs (capital and labor) into output (value-added). It is estimated by means of an industry-by-industry regression analysis (with country dummies).
Manufacturing sector	Based on the NACE classification of economic activities, firms in group C (manufacturing).
Construction sector	Based on the NACE classification of economic activities, firms in group F (construction).
Services sector	Based on the NACE classification of economic activities, firms in group G (wholesale and retail trade) and group I (accommodation and food services activities).
Infrastructure sector	Based on the NACE classification of economic activities, firms in groups D and E (utilities), group H (transportation and storage) and group J (information and communication).
SME	Firms with between 5 and 249 employees.
Large firms	Firms with at least 250 employees.

EIBIS 2016 – COUNTRY TECHNICAL DETAILS

Base sizes

Base definition and page reference	EU	Finland	Manufacturing	Construction	Services	Infrastructure	SME	Large
All firms, p. 3, p. 6, p. 7, p. 9, p. 11, p. 12, p. 13	12483	477	125	116	109	124	392	84
All firms (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 2	11838	475	124	116	109	123	392	82
All firms (excluding those who have no investment planned/don't know/refused responses), p. 5	12159	468	122	115	106	122	384	83
All firms (excluding 'Company didn't exist three years ago' responses), p. 6	12453	476	125	116	109	123	392	83
All firms (excluding don't know, refused and missing responses), p. 13	12162	472	124	115	109	121	390	81
All firms who invested in the last financial year, p. 2	12281	477	125	116	109	124	392	84
All firms who invested in the last financial year, p. 4	10881	464	124	113	103	121	379	84
All firms who have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 4	10060	458	122	113	102	118	376	81
All firms who have invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 5	9682	439	120	109	99	108	356	82
All firms who invested in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 10	9093	380	90	100	78	109	323	56
All firms who have planned to invest in the current financial year and who invested too much, about the right amount or too little in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused/company didn't exist three years ago responses), p. 8	10536	428	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
All firms who used external finance in the last financial year (excluding don't know/refused responses), p. 10, p. 11	4344	197	49	50	26	70	166	31

Percentage rounding

Percentage with value of less than 0.5 but greater than zero has not been displayed in the charts.



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The EU bank

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