

“My Administration is committed to ensuring that the United States continues to be the most attractive place for businesses to locate, invest, grow, and create jobs. We encourage and support business investment from sources both at home and abroad.”

– Barack Obama, President of the United States
June 20, 2011

Investing in the United States has many advantages. With more than 310 million people and the largest economy in the world, the United States is the most important market for any company. The American workforce ranks as one of the best educated, most productive and most innovative in the world. As a place to do business, the United States offers a predictable and transparent legal system, outstanding infrastructure, and access to the world’s most lucrative consumer market.

- **Economic Competitiveness:** The United States has the largest economy in the world, with a per capita GDP of approximately \$47,200.¹ The systems of regulation and taxation in the United States give foreign investors ample operational freedom. Furthermore, the United States consistently ranks at or near the top of most major indicators as having an attractive business and investment climate.
- **Accessible Suppliers and Consumers:** Global companies operate in the United States to be closer to their suppliers and customers in a dynamic market. The United States has the largest global consumer goods market in the world.² U.S. citizens have a per capita disposable income of approximately \$36,000.³ In addition, the United States maintains free trade agreements with 17 partner countries, with a combined GDP of approximately \$5 trillion, giving foreign investors in the United States unparalleled access to diverse markets.⁴ It is no coincidence that U.S. subsidiaries of foreign owned firms account for nearly one-fifth (18%) of all U.S. exports.
- **Research and Development:** The United States is the center for global innovation; the United States is responsible for 34 percent of total research and development expenditures in the world.⁵ The United States is also the most attractive place for venture capital and private equity investments in the world.⁶ Furthermore, the United States is home to nearly three-fourths of the living Nobel laureates, publishes over 60 percent of the world’s “highly cited publications”, and is responsible for nearly 40 percent of the “patented new technology” created within the OECD.⁷
- **Technology:** American companies are leaders in technological advances and innovation. U.S. markets are open to products, ideas, and above all, innovation. Among *Business Week’s* Top 100 Information Technology companies, 43 are U.S. firms.⁸ *The Economist* ranked the United States as the one of the most e-ready countries in the world in 2009.⁹ In the 2010-2011 Global Competitiveness Index, the World Economic Forum ranked the United States 1st in innovation.¹⁰
- **Intellectual Property Rights Protection:** Investors from around the world come to the United States to invest in research and development and to commercialize the results of their creativity. The United States provides a strong regime of intellectual property rights protection and enforcement. Out of more than 240,000 patents granted by the U.S. Patent Office in 2010, over half of the applications originated in a foreign country.¹¹
- **Education:** Fifteen of the top twenty universities and six of the top ten full-time MBA programs in the world are in the United States.¹² There are more than 4,000 universities and colleges in the United States. Furthermore, more than 690,000 international students were enrolled in American institutions in the 2009-2010 academic year.¹³ Many community colleges have tailored training programs to investors who locate facilities in their area. Federal, state and local governments also spend billions of dollars on workforce training each year.
- **Productive Workforce:** Investors in the U.S. gain access to a highly productive and adaptable workforce. The U.S. leads the world in labor productivity per person employed, valued at \$63,885 per year.¹⁴ According to the International Labor Organization, the “productivity gap between the U.S. and most other developed economies continued to widen.”¹⁵
- **Transportation/Infrastructure:** The United States has the largest paved roadway system, and air and railway networks in the world.¹⁶ Three of the top ten airports by air cargo volume are in the United States, including the busiest cargo airport in the world.¹⁷ The United States is also home to some of the world’s busiest international bulk cargo and container ports.
- **Hospitable Society:** The United States is a friendly and hospitable country, where many foreigners live and invest. As a nation of immigrants, the United States boasts some of the largest cultural centers in the world. The United States is committed to affording all foreign investors fair and equitable treatment.

To learn more, call +1-202-482-6800 or visit 

¹ CIA World Fact Book, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/us.html>; ² 2007 Credit Suisse Survey; ³ BEA, http://www.bea.gov/scb/pdf/2011/03%20March/D%20Pages/0311dpe_b.pdf; ⁴ Office of the US Trade Representative, <http://www.ustr.gov/trade-agreements> and International Monetary Fund, <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2010/01/weodata/index.aspx>; ⁵ 2011 Global R&D Funding Forecast, <http://www.battelle.org/aboutus/rd/2011.pdf>; ⁶ The Global Venture Capital and Private Equity Country Attractiveness Index 2011, <http://blog.iese.edu/vcpeindex/>; ⁷ RAND Corporation’s National Defense Research Institute, <http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG674.html>; ⁸ *BusinessWeek’s* Tech 100, http://www.businessweek.com/technology/special_reports/20100520tech_100.htm; ⁹ *The Economist*, 2009 Technology Ratings; ¹⁰ Global Competitiveness Report 2010-11, http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GlobalCompetitivenessReport_2010-11.pdf; ¹¹ U.S. Patent Office, http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/ac/ido/oaip/tal/cast_all.pdf; ¹² The Times Higher Education World University Ranking 2010-11, <http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/world-university-rankings> and The Economist’s Global Full Time MBA Rankings 2010, <http://www.economist.com/whichmba/>; ¹³ Institute for International Education, <http://www.iie.org/en/Who-We-Are/News-and-Events/Press-Center/Press-Releases/2010/20101115-Open-Ports-International-Students-In-The-US>; ¹⁴ International Labor Organization (ILO), http://www ilo.org/global/About_the_ILO/Media_and_public_information/Press_releases/lang-en/WCMS_083976/index.html; ¹⁵ Ibid; ¹⁶ CIA World Fact Book; ¹⁷ Airports Council International, http://www.airports.org/cia/aci_common/display/main/aci_content/07_c1sp?zn=aci&p=1-5-54-4819_666_2