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The Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS)

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SUMMARY

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James K. Jackson
Specialist in International Trade and Finance

The Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS)

The Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) is an interagency body comprised of nine Cabinet members, two ex officio members, and other members as appointed by the President, that assists the President in reviewing the national security aspects of foreign direct investment in the U.S. economy. While the group often operated in relative obscurity, the perceived change in the nation's national security and economic concerns following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and the proposed acquisition of commercial operations at six U.S. ports by Dubai Ports World in 2006 placed CFIUS's review procedures under intense scrutiny by Members of Congress and the public. In 2018, prompted by concerns over Chinese and other foreign investment in U.S. companies with advanced technology, Members of Congress and the Trump Administration enacted the Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act of 2018 (FIRRMA), which became effective on November 11, 2018. This measure marked the most comprehensive revision of the foreign investment review process under CFIUS since the previous revision in 2007, the Foreign Investment and National Security Act (FINSA). On September 17, 2019, the Department of the Treasury proposed regulations for public notice and comment to implement key parts of FIRRMA concerning how certain real estate and noncontrolling investments will be scrutinized

Generally, efforts to amend CFIUS have been spurred by a specific foreign investment transaction that raised national security concerns. Despite various changes to the CFIUS statute, some Members and others question the nature and scope of CFIUS reviews. The CFIUS process is governed by statute that sets a legal standard for the President to suspend or block a transaction if no other laws apply and if there is "credible evidence" that the transaction threatens to impair the national security, which is interpreted as transactions that pose a national security risk.

The U.S. policy approach to international investment traditionally established and supported an open and rules-based trading system that is in line with U.S. economic and national security interests. Recent debate over CFIUS reflects long-standing concerns about the impact of foreign investment on the economy and the role of economics as a component of national security. Some Members question CFIUS's performance and the way the Committee reviews cases involving foreign governments, particularly with the emergence of state-owned enterprises, and acquisitions involving leading-edge or foundational technologies. Recent changes expand CFIUS's purview to include a broader focus on the economic implications of individual foreign investment transactions and the cumulative effect of foreign investment on certain sectors of the economy or by investors from individual countries.

Changes in U.S. foreign investment policy have potentially large economy-wide implications, since the United States is the largest recipient and the largest overseas investor of foreign direct investment. To date, five investments have been blocked, although proposed transactions may have been withdrawn by the firms involved in lieu of having a transaction blocked. President Obama used the FINSA authority in 2012 to block an American firm, Ralls Corporation, owned by Chinese nationals, from acquiring a U.S. wind farm energy firm located near a Department of Defense (DOD) facility and to block a Chinese investment firm in 2016 from acquiring Aixtron, a Germany-based firm with assets in the United States. In 2017, President Trump blocked the acquisition of Lattice Semiconductor Corp. by the Chinese investment firm Canyon Bridge Capital Partners; in 2018, he blocked the acquisition of Qualcomm by Broadcom; and in 2019, the Committee raised concerns over Beijing Kunlun Company's investment in Grindr LLC, an online dating site, over concerns of foreign access to personally identifiable information of U.S. citizens. Subsequently, the Chinese firm divested itself of Grindr. Given the number of regulatory changes mandated by FIRRMA, Congress may well conduct oversight hearings to determine the status of the changes and their implications.

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Background

The Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) is an interagency committee that serves the President in overseeing the national security implications of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the economy. Since its inception, CFIUS has operated at the nexus of shifting concepts of national security and major changes in technology, especially relative to various notions of national economic security, and a changing global economic order that is marked in part by emerging economies such as China that are playing a more active role in the global economy. As a basic premise, the U.S. historical approach to international investment has aimed to establish an open and rules-based international economic system that is consistent across countries and in line with U.S. economic and national security interests. This policy also has fundamentally maintained that FDI has positive net benefits for the U.S. and global economy, except in certain cases in which national security concerns outweigh other considerations and for prudential reasons. The Committee's annual report issued in December 2019 indicates that CFIUS has increased the average annual number of investigations it has conducted.[1]

Recently, some policymakers argued that certain foreign investment transactions, particularly by entities owned or controlled by a foreign government, investments with leading-edge or foundational technologies, or investments that may compromise personally identifiable information, are affecting U.S. national economic security. As a result, they supported greater CFIUS scrutiny of foreign investment transactions, including a mandatory approval process for some transactions. Some policymakers also argued that the CFIUS review process should have a more robust economic component, possibly even to the extent of an industrial policy-type approach that uses the CFIUS national security review process to protect and promote certain industrial sectors in the economy. Others argued, however, that the CFIUS review process should be expanded to include certain transactions that had not previously been reviewed, but that CFIUS' overall focus should remain fairly narrow.

The Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act of 2018 (FIRRMA)

In 2018, Congress and the Trump Administration adopted the Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act of 2018 (FIRRMA), Subtitle A of Title XVII of P.L. 115-232 (Aug. 13, 2018), which became effective on November 11, 2018.[2] The impetus for FIRRMA was based on concerns that "the national security landscape has shifted in recent years, and so has the nature of the investments that pose the greatest potential risk to national security ...."[3] As a result, FIRRMA provided for some programs to become effective upon passage, while a pilot program was developed to address immediate concerns relative to other provisions and allow time for additional resources to be directed at developing a more permanent response in these areas. Interim rules for the pilot program developed by the Treasury Department cover an expanded scope of transactions subject to a review by CFIUS to include *noncontrolling* investments by foreign persons in U.S. firms involved in critical technologies. A second part of the pilot program implements FIRRMA's mandatory declarations provision for all transactions that fall within the specific scope of the pilot program. The pilot program is to end no later than March 5, 2020. In

[1] *Annual Report to Congress, CY2016 and CY2017*, The Committee of Foreign Investment in the United States, December 2019.

[2] *Federal Register,* vol. 83 no. 197, October 11, 2018, p. 51322.

[3] Ibid, p. 51323.

addition, Treasury issued proposed regulations on September 17, 2019 concerning the review process for certain real estate and noncontrolling investments.

Upon enactment, FIRRMA: (1) expanded the scope and jurisdiction of CFIUS by redefining such terms as "covered transactions" and "critical technologies"; (2) refined CFIUS procedures, including timing for reviews and investigations; and (3) required actions by CFIUS to address national security risks related to mitigation agreements, among other areas. Treasury's interim rules updated and amended existing regulations in order to implement certain provisions immediately. FIRRMA also required CFIUS to take certain actions within prescribed deadlines for various programs, reporting, and other plans.

FIRRMA also broadened CFIUS' mandate by explicitly including for review certain real estate transactions in close proximity to a military installation or U.S. government facility or property of national security sensitivities. In addition, FIRRMA: provides for CFIUS to review any noncontrolling investment in U.S. businesses involved in critical technology, critical infrastructure, or collecting sensitive data on U.S. citizens; any change in foreign investor rights; transactions in which a foreign government has a direct or indirect substantial interest; and any transaction or arrangement designed to evade CFIUS. Through a "sense of Congress" provision in FIRRMA, CFIUS reviews potentially can discriminate among investors from certain countries that are determined to be a country of "special concern" (specified through additional regulations) that has a "demonstrated or declared strategic goal of acquiring a type of critical technology or critical infrastructure that would affect U.S. leadership in areas related to national security."[4]

Foreign Investment Data

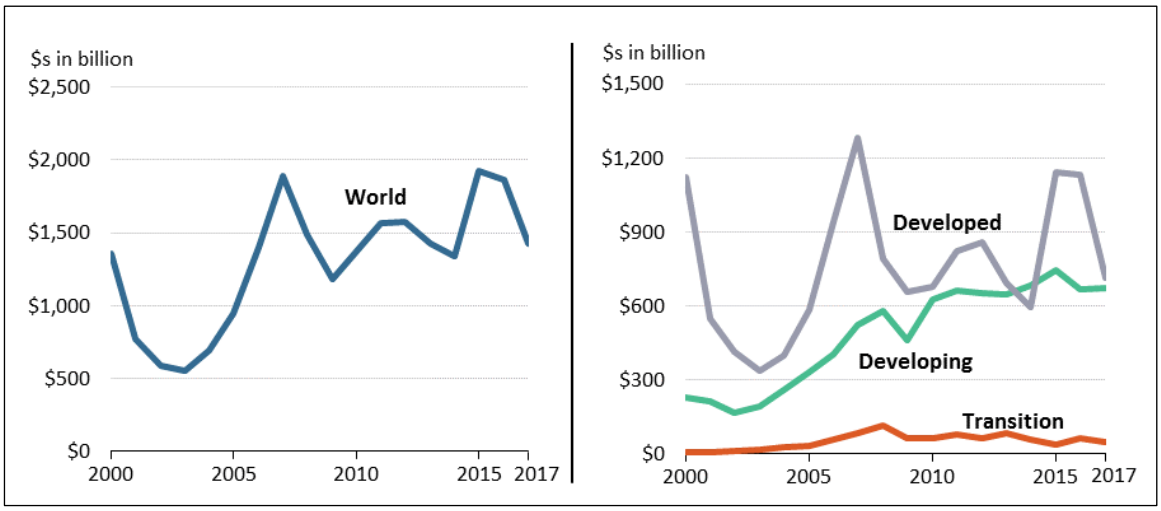
Information on international investment and production collected and published by the United Nations indicates that global annual inflows of FDI peaked in 2015, surpassing the previous record set in 2007, but has fallen since, as indicated in **Figure 1**. Similarly, from 2012 through 2014, international flows of FDI fell below the levels reached prior to the 2008-2009 financial crisis, but revived in 2015. Between 2015 and 2017, FDI inflows fell by nearly $500 million to $1.4 billion, largely reflecting lower inflows to developed economies as a result of a 22% decline in cross-border merger and acquisition activity (M&As).

FDI inflows to developing economies also declined, but at a slower rate than among flows to developed economies, while investment flows to economies in transition continued to increase at a steady pace. Other cross-border capital flows (portfolio investments and bank loans) continued at a strong pace in 2017, contrary to the trend in direct investment. Globally, the foreign affiliates of international firms employed 73 million people in 2017, as indicted in **Table 1**. Globally, the stock, or cumulative amount, of FDI in 2017 totaled about $31 trillion. Other measures of international production, sales, assets, value-added production, and exports generally indicate higher nominal values in 2017 than in the previous year, providing some indication that global economic growth was recovering.

[4] Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act of 2018 (FIRRMA), Subtitle A of Title XVII, Section 1702(c)(1).

Figure 1. Foreign Direct Investment, Annual Inflows, World and Major Country Groups

($ in billions)



Source: *World Investment Report*, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

According to the United Nations,[5] the global FDI position in the United States, or the cumulative amount of inward foreign direct investment, was recorded at around $7.8 trillion in 2017, with the U.S. outward FDI position of about $7.9 trillion. The next closest country in investment position to the United States was Hong Kong with inward and outward investment positions of about one-fourth that of the United States. In comparison, the 28 counties comprising the European Union (EU) had an inward investment position of $9.1 trillion in 2017 and an outward position of $10.6 trillion.

Table 1. Selected Indicators of International Investment and Production, 2011-2017

($ in billions)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
FDI inflows	$1,700	$1,403	$1,427	$1,277	$1,921	$1,868	$1,430
FDI outflows	1,712	1,284	1,311	1,318	1,622	1,473	1,430
FDI inward stock	21,117	22,073	24,533	25,113	25,665	27,663	31,524
FDI outward stock	21,913	22,527	24,665	24,810	25,514	26,826	30,838
Cross-border M&As (number)	556	328	263	432	735	887	694
Sales of foreign affiliates	28,516	31,687	31,865	34,149	27,559	29,057	30,823
Value-added (product) of foreign affiliates	6,262	7,105	7,030	7,419	6,457	6,950	7,317

[5] *World Investment Report 2018*, United Nations, 2018.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total assets of foreign affiliates	83,754	88,536	95,671	101,254	94,781	98,758	103,429
Exports of foreign affiliates	7,463	7,469	7,469	7,688	NA	NA	NA
GDP	71,314	73,457	75,887	77,807	74,407	75,463	79,841
Employment by foreign affiliates (thousands)	63,416	69,359	72,239	76,821	69,683	71,157	73,209

Source: *World Investment Report*, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, June 2018.

Origins of CFIUS

Established by an Executive Order of President Ford in 1975, CFIUS initially operated in relative obscurity.[6] According to a Treasury Department memorandum, the Committee was established in order to "dissuade Congress from enacting new restrictions" on foreign investment, as a result of growing concerns over the rapid increase in investments by Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) countries in American portfolio assets (Treasury securities, corporate stocks and bonds), and to respond to concerns of some that much of the OPEC investments were being driven by political, rather than by economic, motives.[7]

Thirty years later in 2006, public and congressional concerns about the proposed purchase of commercial port operations of the British-owned Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company (P&O)[8] in six U.S. ports by Dubai Ports World (DP World)[9] sparked a firestorm of criticism and congressional activity during the 109th Congress concerning CFIUS and the manner in which it operated. As a result of the attention by the public and Congress, DP World officials decided to sell off the U.S. port operations to an American owner.[10] On December 11, 2006, DP World officials announced that a unit of AIG Global Investment Group, a New York-based asset management company with large assets, but no experience in port operations, had acquired the U.S. port operations for an undisclosed amount.[11]

The DP World transaction revealed that the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks fundamentally altered the viewpoint of some Members of Congress regarding the role of foreign investment in the economy and the potential impact of such investment on U.S. national security. Some

[6] Executive Order 11858 (b), May 7, 1975, 40 F.R. 20263.

[7] U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Government Operations. Subcommittee on Commerce, Consumer, and Monetary Affairs. *The Operations of Federal Agencies in Monitoring, Reporting on, and Analyzing Foreign Investments in the United States*. Hearings. 96th Cong., 1st sess., Part 3, July 30, 1979. Washington: GPO, 1979. pp. 334-335. (Hereinafter cited as, *The Operations of Federal Agencies*, part 3.)

[8] Peninsular and Oriental Steam Company is a leading ports operator and transport company with operations in ports, ferries, and property development. It operates container terminals and logistics operations in over 100 ports and has a presence in 18 countries.

[9] Dubai Ports World was created in November 2005 by integrating Dubai Ports Authority and Dubai Ports International. It is one of the largest commercial port operators in the world with operations in the Middle East, India, Europe, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, and North America.

[10] Weisman, Jonathan, and Bradley Graham, "Dubai Firm to Sell U.S. Port Operations," *The Washington Post*, March 10, 2006. p. A1.

[11] King, Neil Jr., and Greg Hitt, "Dubai Ports World Sells U.S. Assets—AIG Buys Operations that Ignited Controversy As Democrats Plan Changes," *The Wall Street Journal*, December 12, 2006. p. A1.

Members argued that this change in perspective required a reassessment of the role of foreign investment in the economy and of the implications of corporate ownership on activities that fall under the rubric of critical infrastructure. The emergence of state-owned enterprises as commercial economic actors has raised additional concerns about whose interests and whose objectives such firms are pursuing in their foreign investment activities.

More than 25 bills were introduced in the second session of the 109th Congress that addressed various aspects of foreign investment following the proposed DP World transaction. In the first session of the 110th Congress, Congress passed, and President Bush signed, the Foreign Investment and National Security Act of 2007 (FINSA) (P.L. 110-49), which altered the CFIUS process in order to enable greater oversight by Congress and increased transparency and reporting by the Committee on its decisions. In addition, the act broadened the definition of national security and required greater scrutiny by CFIUS of certain types of foreign direct investment. Not all Members were satisfied with the law: some Members argued that the law remained deficient in reviewing investment by foreign governments through sovereign wealth funds (SWFs). Also left unresolved were issues concerning the role of foreign investment in the nation's overall security framework and the methods that are used to assess the impact of foreign investment on the nation's defense industrial base, critical infrastructure, and homeland security.

Establishment of CFIUS

President Ford's 1975 Executive Order established the basic structure of CFIUS, and directed that the "representative"[12] of the Secretary of the Treasury be the chairman of the Committee. The Executive Order also stipulated that the Committee would have "the primary continuing responsibility within the executive branch for monitoring the impact of foreign investment in the United States, both direct and portfolio, and for coordinating the implementation of United States policy on such investment." In particular, CFIUS was directed to (1) arrange for the preparation of analyses of trends and significant developments in foreign investment in the United States; (2) provide guidance on arrangements with foreign governments for advance consultations on prospective major foreign governmental investment in the United States; (3) review investment in the United States which, in the judgment of the Committee, might have major implications for U.S. national interests; and (4) consider proposals for new legislation or regulations relating to foreign investment as may appear necessary.[13]

President Ford's Executive Order also stipulated that information submitted "in confidence shall not be publicly disclosed" and that information submitted to CFIUS be used "only for the purpose of carrying out the functions and activities" of the order. In addition, the Secretary of Commerce was directed to perform a number of activities, including

> (1) Obtaining, consolidating, and analyzing information on foreign investment in the United States;
>
> (2) Improving the procedures for the collection and dissemination of information on such foreign investment;
>
> (3) Observing foreign investment in the United States;
>
> (4) Preparing reports and analyses of trends and of significant developments in appropriate categories of such investment;

[12] The term "representative" was dropped by Executive Order 12661, December 27, 1988, 54 FR 780.

[13] Executive Order 11858 (b), May 7, 1975, 40 F.R. 20263.

(5) Compiling data and preparing evaluation of significant transactions; and

(6) Submitting to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States appropriate reports, analyses, data, and recommendations as to how information on foreign investment can be kept current.

The Executive Order, however, raised questions among various observers and government officials who doubted that federal agencies had the legal authority to collect the types of data that were required by the order. As a result, Congress and the President sought to clarify this issue, and in the following year President Ford signed the International Investment Survey Act of 1976.[14] The act gave the President "clear and unambiguous authority" to collect information on "international investment." In addition, the act authorized "the collection and use of information on direct investments owned or controlled directly or indirectly by foreign governments or persons, and to provide analyses of such information to the Congress, the executive agencies, and the general public."[15]

CFIUS Legislative History

1975 CFIUS established by Executive Order.

1988 "Exon-Florio" amendment to Defense Production Act. Codified the process CFIUS used to review foreign investment transactions.

1992 "Byrd Amendment" to Defense Production Act. Required reviews in cases where foreign acquirer was acting on or in behalf of a foreign government.

2007 Foreign Investment and National Security Act of 2007 replaced Executive Order and codified CFIUS.

2018 Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act of 2018 provided a comprehensive reform of the CFIUS process.

By 1980, some Members of Congress raised concerns that CFIUS was not fulfilling its mandate. Between 1975 and 1980, for instance, the Committee met only 10 times and seemed unable to decide whether it should respond to the political or the economic aspects of foreign direct investment in the United States.[16] One critic of the Committee argued in a congressional hearing in 1979 that, "the Committee has been reduced over the last four years to a body that only responds to the political aspects or the political questions that foreign investment in the United States poses and not with what we really want to know about foreign investments in the United States, that is: Is it good for the economy?"[17]

From 1980 to 1987, CFIUS investigated a number of foreign investment transactions, mostly at the request of the Department of Defense. In 1983, for instance, a Japanese firm sought to acquire a U.S. specialty steel producer. The Department of Defense subsequently classified the metals produced by the firm because they were used in the production of military aircraft, which caused the Japanese firm to withdraw its offer. Another Japanese company attempted to acquire a U.S. firm in 1985 that manufactured specialized ball bearings for the military. The acquisition was completed after the Japanese firm agreed that production would be maintained in the United States. In a similar case in 1987, the Defense Department objected to a proposed acquisition of the computer division of a U.S. multinational company by a French firm because of classified work conducted by the computer division. The acquisition proceeded after the classified contracts were reassigned to the U.S. parent company.[18]

[14] P.L. 94-472, October 11, 1976; 22 U.S.C. 3101.

[15] P.L. 94-472, October 11, 1976; 22 U.S.C. Section 3101(b).

[16] U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Government Operations. *The Adequacy of the Federal Response to Foreign Investment in the United States*. Report by the Committee on Government Operations. H.Rept. 96-1216, 96th Cong., 2nd sess., Washington: GPO, 1980. 166-184.

[17] *The Operations of Federal Agencies*, part 3, p. 5.

[18] U.S. Congress. House. Committee on Energy and Commerce. Subcommittee on Commerce, Consumer Protection,

The "Exon-Florio" Provision

In 1988, amid concerns over foreign acquisition of certain types of U.S. firms, particularly by Japanese firms, Congress approved the Exon-Florio amendment to the Defense Production Act, which specified the basic review process of foreign investments.[19] The statute granted the President the authority to block proposed or pending foreign "mergers, acquisitions, or takeovers" of "persons engaged in interstate commerce in the United States" that threatened to impair the national security. Congress directed, however, that the President could invoke this authority only after he had concluded that (1) other U.S. laws were inadequate or inappropriate to protect the national security; and (2) "credible evidence" existed that the foreign interest exercising control might take action that threatened to impair U.S. national security. This same standard was maintained in an update to the Exon-Florio provision in 2007, the Foreign Investment and National Security Act of 2007, and in FIRRMA.

After three years of often contentious negotiations between Congress and the Reagan Administration, Congress passed and President Reagan signed the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988.[20] During consideration of the Exon-Florio proposal as an amendment to the omnibus trade bill, debate focused on three controversial issues: (1) what constitutes foreign control of a U.S. firm?; (2) how should national security be defined?; and (3) which types of economic activities should be targeted for a CFIUS review? Of these issues, the most controversial and far-reaching was the lack of a definition of national security. As originally drafted, the provision would have considered investments which affected the "national security and essential commerce" of the United States. The term "essential commerce" was the focus of intense debate between Congress and the Reagan Administration.

The Treasury Department, headed by Secretary James Baker, objected to the Exon-Florio amendment, and the Administration vetoed the first version of the omnibus trade legislation, in part due to its objections to the language in the measure regarding "national security and essential commerce." The Reagan Administration argued that the language would broaden the definition of national security beyond the traditional concept of military/defense to one which included a strong economic component. Administration witnesses argued against this aspect of the proposal and eventually succeeded in prodding Congress to remove the term "essential commerce" from the measure and narrow substantially the factors the President must consider in his determination.

The final Exon-Florio provision was included as Section 5021 of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988. The provision originated in bills reported by the Commerce Committee in the Senate and the Energy and Commerce Committee in the House, but the measure was transferred to the Senate Banking Committee as a result of a dispute over jurisdictional responsibilities.[21] Through Executive Order 12661, President Reagan implemented provisions of the Omnibus Trade Act. In the Executive Order, President Reagan delegated his authority to administer the Exon-Florio provision to CFIUS,[22] particularly to conduct reviews, undertake investigations, and make recommendations, although the statute itself does not specifically mention CFIUS. As a result of President Reagan's action, CFIUS was transformed from an administrative body with limited authority to review and analyze data on foreign

and Competitiveness. *Foreign Takeovers and National Security*. Hearings on Section 905 of H.R. 3. 100th Cong., 1st sess., October 20, 1987. Testimony of David C. Mulford. Washington: GPO, 1988. pp. 21-22.

[19] P.L. 100-418, Title V, Section 5021, August 23, 1988; 50 U.S.C. Appendix §2170.

[20] P.L. 100-418.

[21] Testimony of Patrick A. Mulloy before the Committee on Banking, Housing, & Urban Affairs, October 20, 2005.

[22] Executive Order 12661 of December 27, 1988, 54 F.R. 779.

investment to an important component of U.S. foreign investment policy with a broad mandate and significant authority to advise the President on foreign investment transactions and to recommend that some transactions be suspended or blocked.

In 1990, President Bush directed the China National Aero-Technology Import and Export Corporation (CATIC) to divest its acquisition of MAMCO Manufacturing, a Seattle-based firm producing metal parts and assemblies for aircraft, because of concerns that CATIC might gain access to technology through MAMCO that it would otherwise have to obtain under an export license.[23]

Part of Congress's motivation in adopting the Exon-Florio provision apparently arose from concerns that foreign takeovers of U.S. firms could not be stopped unless the President declared a national emergency or regulators invoked federal antitrust, environmental, or securities laws. Through the Exon-Florio provision, Congress attempted to strengthen the President's hand in conducting foreign investment policy, while limiting its own role as a means of emphasizing that, as much as possible, the commercial nature of investment transactions should be free from political considerations. Congress also attempted to balance public concerns about the economic impact of certain types of foreign investment with the nation's long-standing international commitment to maintaining an open and receptive environment for foreign investment.

Furthermore, Congress did not intend to have the Exon-Florio provision alter the generally open foreign investment climate of the country or to have it inhibit foreign direct investment in industries that could not be considered to be of national security interest. At the time, some analysts believed the provision could potentially widen the scope of industries that fell under the national security rubric. CFIUS, however, is not free to establish an independent approach to reviewing foreign investment transactions, but operates under the authority of the President and reflects his attitudes and policies. As a result, the discretion CFIUS uses to review and to investigate foreign investment cases reflects policy guidance from the President. Foreign investors also are constrained by legislation that bars foreign direct investment in such industries as maritime, aircraft, banking, resources, and power. Generally, these sectors were closed to foreign investors prior to passage of the Exon-Florio provision in order to prevent public services and public interest activities from falling under foreign control, primarily for national defense purposes.

Treasury Department Regulations

After extensive public comment, the Treasury Department issued its final regulations in November 1991 implementing the Exon-Florio provision.[24] Although these procedures were amended through FINSA, they continued to serve as the basis for the Exon-Florio review and investigation until new regulations were released on November 21, 2008.[25] These regulations created an essentially voluntary system of notification by the parties to an acquisition, and they allowed for notices of acquisitions by agencies that are members of CFIUS. Despite the voluntary nature of the notification, firms largely complied with the provision, because the regulations stipulate that foreign acquisitions that are governed by the Exon-Florio review process that do not notify the Committee remain subject indefinitely to possible divestment or other appropriate actions by the President. Under most circumstances, notice of a proposed acquisition that is given to the Committee by a third party, including shareholders, is not considered by the Committee to

[23] Auerbach, Stuart. "President Tells China to Sell Seattle Firm," *The Washington Post*, February 8, 1990, p. A1; and Benham, Barbara. "Blocked Takeover Fuels Foreign Policy Flap," *Investor's Daily*, February 8, 1990, p. 1.

[24] Regulations Pertaining to Mergers, Acquisitions, and Takeovers by Foreign Persons. 31 C.F.R. Part 800.

[25] 31 C.F.R. Part 800, November 21, 2008.

constitute an official notification. The regulations also indicated that notifications provided to the Committee would be considered confidential and the information would not be released by the Committee to the press or commented on publicly.

The "Byrd Amendment"

In 1992, Congress amended the Exon-Florio statute through Section 837(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1993 (P.L. 102-484). Known as the "Byrd" amendment after the amendment's sponsor, Senator Byrd, the provision requires CFIUS to investigate proposed mergers, acquisitions, or takeovers in cases where two criteria are met:

> (1) the acquirer is controlled by or acting on behalf of a foreign government; and
>
> (2) the acquisition results in control of a person engaged in interstate commerce in the United States that could affect the national security of the United States.[26]

This amendment came under scrutiny by the 109th Congress as a result of the DP World transaction. Many Members of Congress and others believed that this amendment required CFIUS to undertake a full 45-day investigation of the transaction because DP World was "controlled by or acting on behalf of a foreign government." The DP World acquisition, however, exposed a sharp rift between what some Members apparently believed the amendment directed CFIUS to do and how the members of CFIUS interpreted the amendment. In particular, some Members of Congress apparently interpreted the amendment to direct CFIUS to conduct a mandatory 45-day investigation if the foreign firm involved in a transaction is owned or controlled by a foreign government.

Representatives of CFIUS argued they interpreted the amendment to mean that a 45-day investigation was discretionary and not mandatory. In the case of the DP World acquisition, CFIUS representatives argued they had concluded as a result of an extensive review of the proposed acquisition prior to the case being formally filed with CFIUS and during the then-existing 30-day review that the DP World case did not warrant a full 45-day investigation. They conceded that the case met the first criterion under the Byrd amendment, because DP World was controlled by a foreign government, but that it did not meet the second part of the requirement, because CFIUS had concluded during the 30-day review that the transaction "could not affect the national security."[27]

The intense public and congressional reaction that arose from the proposed Dubai Ports World acquisition spurred the Bush Administration in late 2006 to make an important administrative change in the way CFIUS reviewed foreign investment transactions. CFIUS and President Bush approved the acquisition of Lucent Technologies, Inc. by the French-based Alcatel SA, which was completed on December 1, 2006. Before the transaction was approved by CFIUS, however, Alcatel-Lucent was required to agree to a national security arrangement, known as a Special Security Arrangement, or SSA, that restricts Alcatel's access to sensitive work done by Lucent's research arm, Bell Labs, and the communications infrastructure in the United States.

The most controversial feature of this arrangement was that it allowed CFIUS to reopen a review of a transaction and to overturn its approval at any time if CFIUS believed the companies "materially fail to comply" with the terms of the arrangement. This marked a significant change in the CFIUS process. Prior to this transaction, CFIUS reviews and investigations were portrayed and considered to be final. As a result, firms were willing to subject themselves voluntarily to a

[26] P.L. 102-484, October 23, 1992.

[27] Briefing on the Dubai Ports World Deal before the Senate Armed Services Committee, February 23, 2006.

CFIUS review, because they believed that once an investment transaction was scrutinized and approved by the members of CFIUS the firms could be assured that the investment transaction would be exempt from any future reviews or actions. This administrative change, however, meant that a CFIUS determination may no longer be a final decision, and it added a new level of uncertainty to foreign investors seeking to acquire U.S. firms. A broad range of U.S. and international business groups objected to this change in the Bush Administration's policy.[28]

Recent Legislative Reforms

CFIUS Risk Assessment

In assessing the risk posed to national security by a foreign investment transaction, CFIUS considers three issues:

1. What is the threat posed by the foreign investment in terms of intent and capabilities?
2. What aspects of the business activity pose vulnerabilities to national security?
3. What are the national security consequences if the vulnerabilities are exploited?

In the first session of the 110th Congress, Representative Maloney introduced H.R. 556, the National Security Foreign Investment Reform and Strengthened Transparency Act of 2007, on January 18, 2007. The House Financial Services Committee approved it on February 13, 2007, with amendments, and the full House amended and approved it on February 28, 2007, by a vote of 423 to 0. On June 13, 2007, Senator Dodd introduced S1610, the Foreign Investment and National Security Act of 2007 (FINSA). On June 29, 2007, the Senate adopted S. 1610 in lieu of H.R. 556 by unanimous consent. On July 11, 2007, the House accepted the Senate's version of H.R. 556 by a vote of 370-45 and sent the measure to President Bush, who signed it on July 26, 2007.[29] On January 23, 2008, President Bush issued Executive Order 13456 implementing the law.

FINSA made a number of major changes, including:

Codified the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), giving it statutory authority.

Made CFIUS membership permanent and added the Secretary of Energy, the Director of National Intelligence (DNI), and Secretary of Labor as ex officio members with the DNI providing intelligence analysis; also granted authority to the President to add members on a case-by-case basis.

Required the Secretary of the Treasury to designate an agency with lead responsibility for reviewing a covered transaction.

Increased the number of factors the President could consider in making his determination.

Required that an individual no lower than an Assistant Secretary level for each CFIUS member must certify to Congress that a reviewed transaction has no unresolved national security issues; for investigated transactions, the certification must be at the Secretary or Deputy Secretary level.

Provided Congress with confidential briefings upon request on cleared transactions and annual classified and unclassified reports.

[28] Kirchgaessner, Stephanie, "US Threat to Reopen Terms of Lucent and Alcatel Deal Mergers," *Financial Times*, December 1, 2006, p. 19; Pelofsky, Jeremy, "Businesses Object to US Move on Foreign Investment," *Reuters News*, December 5, 2006.

[29] The law is designated as P.L. 110-49.

FIRRMA Legislation: Key Provisions

During the 115th Congress, many Members expressed concerns over China's growing investment in the United States, particularly in the technology sector. On November 8, 2017, Senators John Cornyn and Dianne Feinstein and Representative Robert Pittenger introduced companion measures in the Senate (S. 2098) and the House (H.R. 4311), respectively, identified as the Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act of 2018 (FIRRMA) to provide comprehensive revision of the CFIUS process. On May 22, 2018, the Senate Banking and House Financial Services Committees held their respective markup sessions and approved different versions of the legislation. The Senate version of FIRRMA was added as Subtitle A of Title 17 of the Senate version of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (S. 2987, incorporated into the Senate amendments to H.R. 5515), which passed the Senate on June 18, 2018. The House version of FIRRMA, H.R. 5841 was passed as a standalone bill under suspension vote on June 26, 2018. On August 13, 2018, President Trump signed FIRRMA, identified as P.L. 115-232.

Similar to previous measures, FIRRMA grants the President the authority to block or suspend proposed or pending foreign "mergers, acquisitions, or takeovers" by or with any foreign person that could result in foreign control of any United States business, including such a merger, acquisition, or takeover carried out through a joint venture that threaten to impair the national security.[30] Congress directed, however, that before this authority can be invoked the President must conclude that (1) other U.S. laws are inadequate or inappropriate to protect the national security; and (2) he/she must have "credible evidence" that the foreign interest exercising control might take action that threatens to impair the national security. According to CFIUS, it has interpreted this last provision to mean an investment that poses a risk to the national security. In assessing the national security risk, CFIUS looks at (1) the threat, which involves an assessment of the intent and capabilities of the acquirer; (2) the vulnerability, which involves an assessment of the aspects of the U.S. business that could impact national security; and (3) the potential national security consequences if the vulnerabilities were to be exploited.[31]

In general, FIRRMA:

- **Broadens the scope of transactions under CFIUS' purview by including for review** real estate transactions in close proximity to a military installation or U.S. Government facility or property of national security sensitivities; any nonpassive investment in a critical industry or critical technologies; any change in foreign investor rights regarding a U.S. business; transactions in which a foreign government has a direct or indirect substantial interest; any transaction or arrangement designed to evade CFIUS regulations; and transactions that may result in compromising personally identifiable information of U.S. citizens.
- **Mandates various deadlines**, including: a report on Chinese investment in the United States, a plan for CFIUS members to recuse themselves in cases that pose a conflict of interest, an assessment of CFIUS resources and plans for additional staff and resources, a feasibility study of assessing a fee on transactions reviewed unofficially prior to submission of a written notification, and a report assessing the national security risks related to investments by state-owned or state-controlled entities in the manufacture or assembly of rolling stock or other assets

[30] The statute previously defined a person, or entity, as one engaged in interstate commerce, and did not include joint ventures.

[31] See the CFIIUS website at https://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl0401.aspx.

used in freight rail, public transportation rail systems, or intercity passenger rail system in the United States.

- **Allows CFIUS to discriminate among foreign investors by country of origin** in reviewing investment transactions by labeling some countries as "a country of special concern"—a country that has a demonstrated or declared strategic goal of acquiring a type of critical technology or critical infrastructure that would affect United States leadership in areas related to national security.
- **Shifts the filing process for foreign firms from voluntary to mandatory in certain cases** and provides for a two-track method for reviewing investment transactions, with some transactions requiring a declaration to CFIUS and receiving an expedited process, while transactions involving investors from countries of special concern would require a written notification of a proposed transaction and would receive greater scrutiny.
- **Provides for additional factors for consideration** that CFIUS and the President may use to determine if a transaction threatens to impair U.S. national security, as well as formalizes CFIUS' use of risk-based analysis to assess the national security risks of a transaction by assessing the threat, vulnerabilities, and consequences to national security related to the transaction.
- **Lengthens most time periods for CFIUS reviews and investigations** and for a national security analysis by the Director of National Intelligence.
- **Provides for more staff to handle an expected increased workload and provides for additional funding for CFIUS** through a filing fee structure for firms involved in a transaction and a $20 million annual appropriation.
- **Modifies CFIUS' annual reporting requirements**, including its annual classified report to specified Members of Congress and nonclassified reports to the public to provide for more information on foreign investment transactions.
- **Mandates separate reforms related to export controls**, with requirements to establish an interagency process to identify so-called "emerging and foundational technologies"—such items are to also fall under CFIUS review of critical technologies—and establish controls on the export or transfer of such technologies.

CFIUS: Major Provisions

As indicated in **Figure 2** below, the CFIUS foreign investment review process is comprised of an informal step and three formal steps: a Declaration or written notice; a National Security Review; and a National Security Investigation. Depending on the outcome of the reviews, CFIUS may forward a transaction to the President for a Presidential Determination. FIRRMA increases the allowable time for reviews and investigations: (1) 30 days to review a declaration or written notification to determine of the transaction involves a foreign person in which a foreign government has a substantial interest; (2) a 45-day national security review (from 30 days), including an expanded time limit for analysis by the Director of National Intelligence (from 20 to 30 days); (3) a 45-day national security investigation, with an option for a 15 day extension for "extraordinary circumstances;" and a 15-day Presidential determination (unchanged).

Similar to CFIUS' establishing legislation and subsequent amendments, CFIUS retains indefinitely the authority to review transactions of firms that do not voluntarily notify CFIUS of an investment transaction. In 2019, for instance, CFIUS reviewed the acquisition of Grindr LLC,

an online dating service, by the Chinese firm, Beijing Kunlun Tech. Co. Ltd., despite previous investments in Grindr by the Chinese firm, reportedly over concerns of foreign access to personally identifiable information of U.S. citizens. As a result of the Committee's expressed concerns, the Chinese company reportedly decided to divest itself of Grindr, although the transaction was not elevated to the Presidential decision-making level.[32]

Neither Congress nor the Administration has attempted to define the term "national security." Treasury Department officials have indicated, however, that during a review or investigation each CFIUS member is expected to apply that definition of national security that is consistent with the representative agency's specific legislative mandate.[33] The concept of national security was broadened by P.L. 110-49 to include, "those issues relating to 'homeland security,' including its application to critical infrastructure." As presently construed, national security includes "those issues relating to 'homeland security,' including its application to critical infrastructure," and "critical technologies."

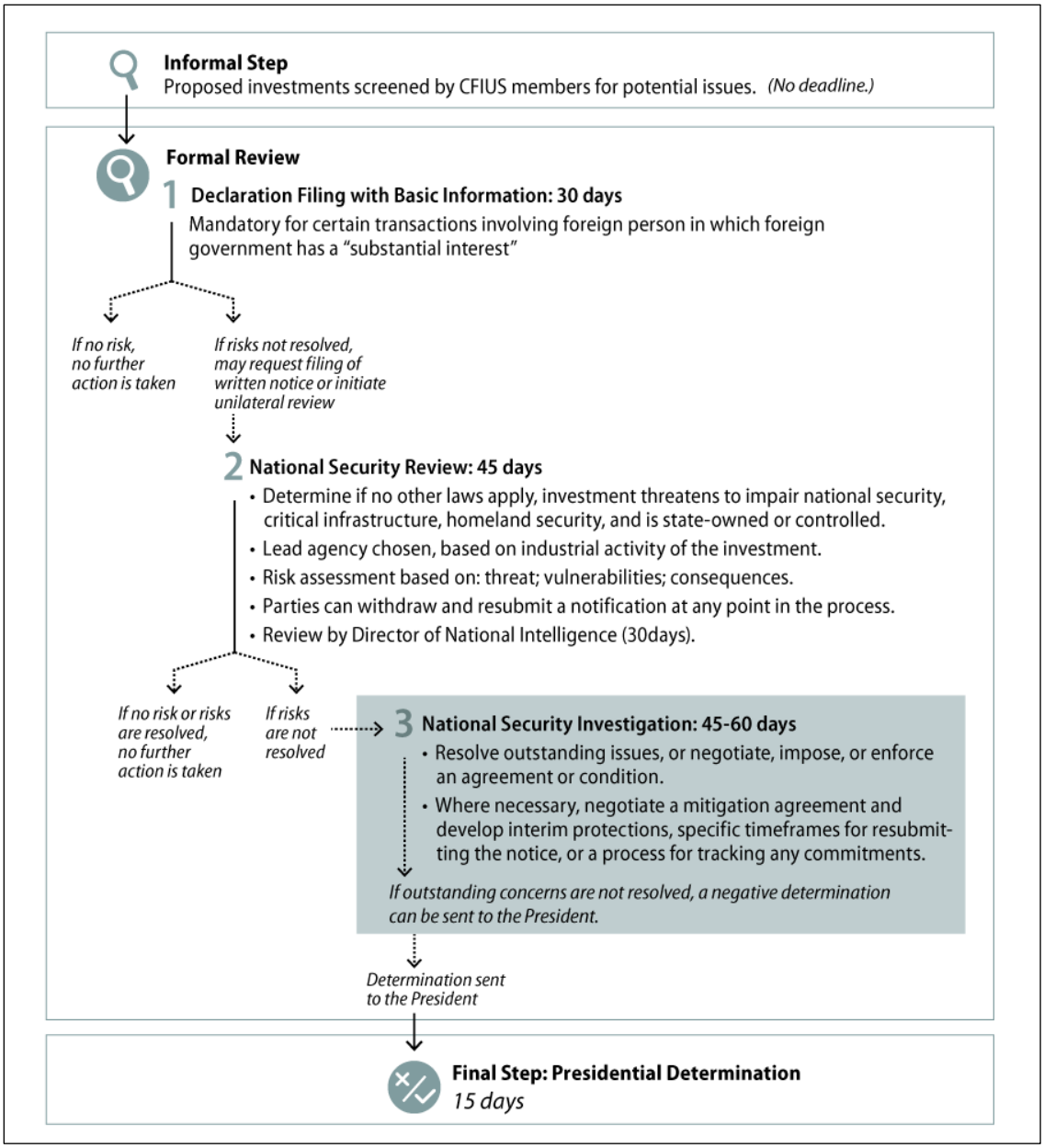
FIRRMA broadens CFIUS' role by explicitly including for review certain real estate transactions in close proximity to a military installation or U.S. government facility or property of national security sensitivities; any noncontrolling investment in U.S. businesses involved in critical technology, critical infrastructure, or collecting sensitive data on U.S. citizens; any change in foreign investor rights; transactions in which a foreign government has a direct or indirect substantial interest; and any transaction or arrangement designed to evade CFIUS.

While specific countries are not singled out, FIRRMA allows CFIUS to potentially discriminate among foreign investors by country of origin in reviewing certain investment transactions. Greater scrutiny could be directed on transactions tied to certain countries, pending specific criteria defined by regulations.

[32] Danzman, Sarah Bauerle, and Geoffrey Gertz, Why is the U.S. Forcing a Chinese Company to Sell the Gay Dating App Grindr?, The Washington Post, April 3, 2019. https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/04/03/why-is-us-is-forcing-chinese-company-sell-gay-dating-app-grindr/?utm_term=.799ee5be1f32.

[33] Senate Armed Services Committee, Briefing on the Dubai Ports World Ports Deal, February 23, 2006.

Figure 2. Steps of a CFIUS Foreign Investment National Security Review



Source: Chart developed by CRS.

FIRRMA provides a "sense of Congress" concerning six additional factors that CFIUS and the President may consider to determine if a proposed transaction threatens to impair U.S. national security. These include:

1. Covered transactions that involve a country of "special concern" that has a demonstrated or declared strategic goal of acquiring a type of critical technology or critical infrastructure that would affect U.S. leadership in areas related to national security;
2. The potential effects of the cumulative control of, or pattern of recent transactions involving, any one type of critical infrastructure, energy asset, critical material, or critical technology by a foreign government or person;

3. Whether any foreign person engaged in a transaction has a history of complying with U.S. laws and regulations;
4. Control of U.S. industries and commercial activity that affect U.S. capability and capacity to meet the requirements of national security, including the availability of human resources, products, technology, materials, and other supplies and services;
5. The extent to which a transaction is likely to expose personally identifiable information, genetic information, or other sensitive data of U.S. citizens to access by a foreign government or person that may exploit that information to threaten national security; and
6. Whether a transaction is likely to exacerbate or create new cybersecurity vulnerabilities or is likely to result in a foreign government gaining a significant new capability to engage in malicious cyber-enabled activities.

National Security Reviews

Informal Actions

Over time, the three-step CFIUS process has evolved to include an informal stage of unspecified length of time that consists of an unofficial CFIUS determination prior to the formal filing with CFIUS. This type of informal review likely developed because it serves the interests of both CFIUS and the firms that are involved in an investment transaction. According to Treasury Department officials, this informal contact enabled "CFIUS staff to identify potential issues before the review process formally begins."[34] FIRMMA directed CFIUS to analyze the feasibility and potential impact of charging a fee for conducting such informal reviews.

Firms that are party to an investment transaction apparently benefit from this informal review in a number of ways. For one, it allows firms additional time to work out any national security concerns privately with individual CFIUS members. Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, it provides a process for firms to avoid risking potential negative publicity that could arise if a transaction were blocked or otherwise labeled as impairing U.S. national security interests. For some firms, public knowledge of a CFIUS investigation has had a negative effect on the value of the firm's stock price.

For CFIUS members, the informal process is beneficial because it gives them as much time as they deem necessary to review a transaction without facing the time constraints that arise under the formal CFIUS review process. This informal review likely also gives CFIUS members added time to negotiate with firms involved in a transaction to restructure the transaction in ways that can address any potential security concerns or to develop other types of conditions that members feel are appropriate in order to remove security concerns.

According to anecdotal evidence, some firms believe the CFIUS process is not market neutral, but adds to market uncertainty that can negatively affect a firm's stock price and lead to economic behavior by some firms that is not optimal for the economy as a whole. Such behavior might involve firms expending resources to avoid a CFIUS investigation, or terminating a transaction that potentially could improve the optimal performance of the economy to avoid a CFIUS investigation. While such anecdotal accounts generally are not a basis for developing public policy, they raise concerns about the possible impact a CFIUS review may have on financial

[34] Testimony of Robert Kimmett, Briefing on the Dubai Ports World Deal Before the Senate Armed Services Committee, February 23, 2006.

markets and the potential costs of redefining the concept of national security relative to foreign investment.

Formal Actions

FIRRMA shifts the filing requirement for foreign firms from voluntary to mandatory in certain cases and provides a two-track method for reviewing transactions. Some firms are permitted to file a declaration with CFIUS and could receive an expedited review process, while transactions involving a foreign person in which a foreign government has, directly or indirectly, a substantial interest (to be defined by regulations, but not including stakes of less than 10% voting interest) would be required to file a written notification and receive greater scrutiny. Mandatory declarations may be subject to other criteria as defined by regulations.

The chief executive officer of any party to a merger, acquisition, or takeover must certify in writing that the information contained in a written notification to CFIUS fully complies with the CFIUS requirements and that the information is accurate and complete. This written notification would also include any mitigation agreement or condition that was part of a CFIUS approval.

The mandatory filing and review process (via a declaration) are required for foreign investments in certain U.S. businesses that produce, design, test, manufacture, fabricate, or develop one or more critical technologies in 28 specified activities.[35] This requirement applies to critical technologies that are used either in connection with the U.S. business's activity in one or more of the sectors specified under the pilot program, or designed by the U.S. business specifically for use in one or more of the specified sectors. The shift also expands CFIUS reviews of transactions beyond those that give foreign investors a controlling interest to include investments in which foreign investors *do not* have a controlling interest in a U.S. firm as a result of the foreign investment. Specifically, such noncontrolling investments are covered, or subject to a review, if they would grant the foreign investor access to "material nonpublic technical information" in possession of the U.S. business; membership or observer rights on the board of directors; or any involvement in substantive decisionmaking regarding critical technology.

Prior to this change, a controlling interest was determined to be at least 10% of the voting shares of a publicly traded company, or at least 10% of the total assets of a nonpublicly traded U.S. company. This shift was precipitated by concerns that investments in which foreign firms have a noncontrolling interest could nevertheless "affect certain decisions made by, or obtain certain information from, a U.S. business with respect to the use, development, acquisition, or release of

[35] The 28 activities are: (1) Internet protocol or telecommunications service; (2) Certain internet exchange points; (3) Submarine cable systems; (4) Submarine cable landing systems; (5) Data center at a submarine landing facility; (6) Satellite or satellite systems servicing the /Department of Defense; (7) Industrial resources manufactured or operated for a Major Defense Acquisition Program; (8) Any industrial resource manufactured pursuant to a "DX" priority rated contract; (9) Any facility that manufactures certain specialty metals, chemical weapons, carbon. alloy and steel plates, and other specified materials; (10) Any industrial resource that had been funded by the Defense Production Act, Industrial Base Fund, Rapid Innovation Fund, Manufacturing Technology Program, Defense Logistics Warstopper Program, or the Defense Logistics Agency Surge and Sustainment program; (11) Electric energy storage systems; (12) Any electric storage system linked to the bulk electric system;(13) Electric energy generation, transmission or distribution for military installations; (14) Any industrial control system used by bulk-power systems, or a facility directly supporting a military installation; (15) Certain refineries; (16) Certain crude oil storage facilities; (17) Certain LNG import or export terminals or certain natural gas underground storage facilities; (18) Systemically important financial market utilities; (19) Certain financial market exchanges; (20) Technology providers in the Significant Service Provider Program; (21) Any rail line designated as part of the DoD Strategic Rail Corridor Network; (22) Certain interstate oil pipelines; (23) Certain interstate natural gas pipelines; (24) Any industrial control system utilized by interstate oil or natural gas pipelines; (25) Certain airports; (26) Certain maritime ports or terminals; (27) Public water systems; (28) Any industrial control system utilized by public water systems or treatment works.

critical technology." New authorities granted by FIRRMA for CFIUS to review noncontrolling investments were not immediately effective upon passage of the Act, but were included as part of the Treasury Department's pilot program.

The Treasury Department's pilot program also includes provisions for declarations and written notices. The program indicates that declarations and written notices are distinguished according to three criteria: the length of the submission, the time for CFIUS' consideration of the submission, and the Committee's options for disposition of the submission. Declarations are described as short notices that do not exceed five pages. The parties to a transaction could voluntarily stipulate that a transaction is a covered transaction, whether the transaction could result in control of a U.S. business by a foreign person, and whether the transaction is a foreign-government controlled transaction. CFIUS would be required to respond within 30 days to the filing of a declaration, whereas CFIUS would have 45 days to respond to a written notification.

CFIUS would also be required to respond in one of four ways to a declaration: (1) request that the parties file a written notice; (2) inform the parties that CFIUS cannot complete the review on the basis of the declaration and that they can file a notice to seek a written notification from the Committee that it has completed all the action relevant to the transaction; (3) initiate a unilateral review of the transaction through an agency notice; or (4) notify the parties that CFIUS has completed its action under the statute.

At any point during the CFIUS process, parties can withdraw and refile their notice, for instance, to allow additional time to discuss CFIUS's proposed resolution of outstanding issues. Under FINSA and FIRRMA, the President retains his authority as the only officer capable of suspending or prohibiting mergers, acquisitions, and takeovers, and the measures place additional requirements on firms that resubmitted a filing after previously withdrawing a filing before a full review was completed.

Proposed Regulations

On September 17, 2019, the Treasury Department proposed regulations for public notice and comment to implement key parts of FIRRMA.[36] The proposed regulations expand and clarify new authority for CFIUS to review certain real estate and other *noncontrolling* foreign investments on the basis of threats, vulnerabilities, and consequences to national security. Reviews of noncontrolling investments are limited to U.S. businesses (referred to as "TID businesses" for Technology, Infrastructure, and Data) that: (1) produce, design, test, manufacture, fabricate, or develop one or more **critical technologies**; or (2) own, operate, manufacture, supply, or service **critical infrastructure** (28 subsectors specified); or (3) maintain or collect **sensitive personal data**. One major aim of the proposed regulations is to "provide clarity to the business and investment communities with respect to the types of U.S. businesses that are covered under FIRRMA's other investment authority." The regulations would limit the application of the expanded review process to certain categories of foreign persons, introducing new terms such as "excepted investor" and "excepted foreign state" for noncontrolling transactions.

Parties involved in these new covered transactions can choose between providing voluntarily, a short (not to exceed five pages) written declaration to receive expedited consideration or potential approval by CFIUS, or the traditional longer written notification. A declaration is mandatory however, where a foreign government has a "substantial interest" (see below). The proposed regulations specify the content and filing processes for declarations and notices; misstatements or

[36] CRS InFocus CRS In Focus IF11334, *CFIUS: New Foreign Investment Review Regulations*, by Cathleen D. Cimino-Isaacs and James K. Jackson.

omissions are subject to a fine of $250,000 per violation. FIRRMA also authorizes CFIUS to impose fees and to create a mandatory filing process: those areas are expected to be covered in future proposed regulations.

Some stakeholders expressed concern over the potential impact of CFIUS's expanded jurisdiction on smaller U.S. businesses that rely on foreign investment. Treasury indicated that it could not project the economic impact of reviewing certain real estate transactions, but it estimated that the change was not expected to have a "significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities." Similarly, regarding noncontrolling equity investments, Treasury concluded that less than 1% of U.S. small businesses likely would be subject to a review.

Real Estate

CFIUS's expanded jurisdiction over certain real estate (land and structures) transactions includes the purchase or lease by, or a concession to, a foreign person of certain private or public real estate located in the United States.[37] Real estate transactions are defined as those that accord the investor certain fundamental property rights. In particular, the provision focuses on real estate that is in proximity of certain airports, maritime ports, and other facilities and properties of the U.S. Government that are sensitive for national security reasons (military installations include 190 facilities located across 40 States and Guam). CFIUS additionally retains the authority to review any transaction that raises national security concerns on the basis of proximity to sensitive sites and activities.

The regulations specify various definitions, such as:

- **Stipulated airports**: As defined by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), major passenger and cargo airports based on volume and "joint use airports" that serve civilian and military aircraft;
- **Close proximity**: Areas within one mile of a relevant military installation or other facility or property of the U.S. Government;
- **Extended range**: Areas between one and 100 miles;
- **Facilities located within designated counties**, according to Appendix A of the proposed regulations; and
- **Off-shore ranges**: Within 12 nautical miles of the U.S.

Excepted real estate transactions include: (1) certain real estate investors, defined as those with a substantial connection to certain foreign countries and who have not violated U.S. laws; (2) housing units; (3) urbanized areas and urban clusters (both defined by the Census Bureau); (4) commercial office space (with some exceptions); (5) retail trade, accommodation, or food service establishments; (6) lands held by Native Americans and some Alaskan Natives; and (7) certain lending and contingent equity transactions. Requirements for filing a voluntary declaration or written notice are similar to those for other investment transactions. The regulations define an excepted foreign investor through various criteria, including holding the right to 5% or more of the profit of the investing foreign firm, or the ability to exercise control.

[37] 31 C.F.R. Part 802, *Provisions Pertaining to Certain Transactions by Foreign Persons Involving Real Estate in the United States*, Department of the Treasury.

Noncontrolling Equity Investments

CFIUS's expanded authority under FIRRMA directs it to review investment transactions whether or not the investment conveys a controlling equity interest in certain cases.[38] In particular, this review occurs where a foreign person has: (1) access to information, certain rights, or involvement in the decisionmaking of certain U.S. businesses involved in critical technologies, critical infrastructure, or sensitive personal data (i.e., TID businesses); (2) any change in a foreign person's rights, if such change could result in foreign control of a U.S. business or a covered investment in certain U.S. businesses; and (3) any other transaction, transfer, agreement, or arrangement, designed or intended to evade or circumvent the CFIUS review process.

In the first category, CFIUS can review *noncontrolling* investments if they afford a foreign investor:

1. Access to any "material non-public technical information" in the business' possession;
2. Membership or observer rights on the board of directors (or equivalent body); or
3. Involvement other than through voting of shares, in "substantive decisionmaking" regarding the business.

The proposed regulations further define the terms "material non-public technical information" and "substantive decisionmaking." The regulations also clarify circumstances under which CFIUS can review an indirect investment through investment funds. As indicated, this new authority is limited to "TID U.S. businesses."

The proposed FIRRMA regulations elaborate a number of definitions that define and constrain the scope of CFIUS's reviews. The term, **"critical technologies"** reflects the definition provided in FIRRMA that covers various items, including "emerging and foundational technologies," which are or may be subject to export controls, pursuant to the Export Control Reform Act of 2018. Regarding **"critical infrastructure,"** the application of CFIUS's new jurisdiction is limited to 28 subsectors listed in an appendix (such as telecommunications, energy, and transportation), and specific business functions.

"Sensitive personal data" that may be exploited to threaten national security includes 10 categories of data maintained or collected by U.S. businesses that (1) "target or tailor" products or services to "sensitive populations," like U.S. government personnel; (2) maintain or collect data on more than 1 million individuals; or (3) have a *demonstrated objective* to maintain or collect data on more than 1 million individuals as part of its primary product or service. Notably, genetic information is included in the definition, regardless of these parameters. Other types of data include financial, geolocation, health, and others. Treasury emphasized that these parameters were drafted to provide as much clarity and specificity as possible to businesses. These specifications do not constrain CFIUS's traditional review of any transaction resulting in foreign control of a U.S. business.

The regulations do not target any particular country for greater scrutiny by CFIUS—a major topic of congressional debate during consideration of FIRRMA. FIRRMA did however, mandate criteria that exempts certain categories of foreign investors from CFIUS's expanded jurisdiction. These criteria include the principal place of business and incorporation, as well as ties to certain eligible countries. Treasury is to publish a list of criteria for determining a limited number of "excepted foreign states"—a status to be determined by the Treasury Secretary and a

[38] 31 C.F.R. Part 800, *Provisions Pertaining to Certain Investments in the United States by Foreign Persons*, Department of the Treasury.

supermajority of CFIUS member agencies. One major factor is whether that country is "utilizing a robust process to assess foreign investments for national security risks and to facilitate coordination with the United States on matters relating to investment security." Treasury is to delay implementation of this requirement to allow countries to enhance their review processes. "Excepted investors," however, would not be exempt from CFIUS's review of controlling transactions.

Under FIRRMA, the process of notifying a transaction to CFIUS remains largely voluntary, but FIRRMA provided new authority to require a declaration, an abbreviated filing, with basic information on the transaction. A declaration is mandatory for transactions in which a foreign person has a "substantial interest" in a U.S. business, and a foreign government holds a "substantial interest" in the foreign entity making the investment. Notably, the regulations specify a voting interest (direct or indirect) threshold for "substantial interest" of 25% between a foreign person and U.S. business and 49% or greater between a foreign government and foreign person. (Any voting interest of a parent entity in a subsidiary is deemed to be a 100% voting interest.) The proposed rule also implements FIRRMA's mandate that CFIUS take certain actions in response to a declaration.

National Security Review

After a transaction is filed with CFIUS and depending on an initial assessment, the transaction can be subject to a 45-day national security review. During a review, CFIUS members are required to consider the 12 factors mandated by Congress through FINSA and six new factors in FIRRMA that reflect the "sense of Congress" in assessing the impact of an investment. If during the 45-day review period all members conclude that the investment does not threaten to impair the national security, the review is terminated.

During the 45-day review stage, the Director of National Intelligence (DNI), an ex officio member of CFIUS, is required to carry out a thorough analysis of "any threat to the national security of the United States" of any merger, acquisition, or takeover. This analysis is required to be completed "within 30 days" (modified by FIRRMA from 20 to 30 days) of the receipt of a notification by CFIUS. This analysis could include a request for information from the Department of the Treasury's Director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control and the Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network. In addition, the Director of National Intelligence is required to seek and to incorporate the views of "all affected or appropriate" intelligence agencies. CFIUS also is required to review "covered" investment transactions in which the foreign entity is owned or controlled by a foreign government, but the law provides an exception to this requirement. If the Secretary of the Treasury and certain other specified officials determine that the transaction in question will not impair the national security, the investment is not subject to a formal review.

National Security Investigation

If a national security review indicates that at least one of three conditions exists, the President, acting through CFIUS, is required to conduct a National Security Investigation and to take any "necessary" actions as part of an additional 45-day investigation, with a possible 15-day extension. The three conditions are: (1) CFIUS determines that the transaction threatens to impair the national security of the United States and that the threat has not been mitigated during or prior to a review of the transaction; (2) the foreign person is controlled by a foreign government; or (3) the transaction would result in the control of any critical infrastructure by a foreign person, the transaction could impair the national security, and such impairment has not been mitigated. At the conclusion of the investigation or 45-day review period, whichever comes first, the Committee

can decide to offer no recommendation or it can recommend to the President that he/she suspend or prohibit the investment.

During a review or an investigation, CFIUS and a designated lead agency have the authority to negotiate, impose, or enforce any agreement or condition with the parties to a transaction in order to mitigate any threat to U.S. national security. Such agreements are based on a "risk-based analysis" of the threat posed by the transaction. Also, if a notification of a transaction is withdrawn before any review or investigation by CFIUS is completed, the amended law grants the Committee the authority to take a number of actions. In particular, the Committee could develop (1) interim protections to address specific concerns about the transaction pending a resubmission of a notice by the parties; (2) specific time frames for resubmitting the notice; and (3) a process for tracking any actions taken by any parties to the transaction.

Transactions Blocked by Presidents

Since the creation of CFIUS, presidential action blocked five transactions based on CFIUS recommendations:

1. In 1990, President Bush directed the China National Aero-Technology Import and Export Corporation (CATIC) to divest its acquisition of MAMCO Manufacturing.
2. In 2012, President Obama directed the Ralls Corporation to divest itself of an Oregon wind farm project.
3. In 2016, President Obama blocked the Chinese firm Fujian Grand Chip Investment Fund from acquiring Aixtron, a German-based semiconductor firm with U.S. assets.
4. In 2017, President Trump blocked the acquisition of Lattice Semiconductor Corp. of Portland, OR, for $1.3 billion by Canyon Bridge Capital Partners, a Chinese investment firm.
5. In 2018, President Trump blocked the acquisition of semiconductor chip maker Qualcomm by Singapore-based Broadcom for $117 billion.

Presidential Determination

As noted above, CFIUS authorities allow the President to block or suspend proposed or pending foreign "mergers, acquisitions, or takeovers" that threaten to impair the national security. The President, however, is under no obligation to follow the recommendation of the Committee to suspend or prohibit an investment. Congress directed that before this authority can be invoked (1) the President must conclude that other U.S. laws are inadequate or inappropriate to protect the national security; and (2) the President must have "credible evidence" that the foreign investment will impair the national security. As a result, if CFIUS determines, as was the case in the Dubai Ports transaction, that it does not have credible evidence that an investment will impair the national security, then it may argue that it is not required to undertake a full 45-day investigation, even if the foreign entity is owned or controlled by a foreign government. After considering the two conditions listed above (other laws are inadequate or inappropriate, and he has credible evidence that a foreign transaction will impair national security), the President is granted almost unlimited authority to take "*such action for such time as the President considers appropriate to suspend or prohibit any covered transaction that threatens to impair the national security of the United States*." In addition, such determinations by the President are not subject to judicial review, although the process by which the disposition of a transaction is determined may be subject to judicial review to ensure that the constitutional rights of the parties involved are upheld, as was emphasized in the ruling by the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in the case of *Ralls vs. the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States*.

Committee Membership

President Bush's January 23, 2008, Executive Order 13456 implementing FINSA made various changes to the law. The Committee consists of nine Cabinet members, including the Secretaries

of State, the Treasury, Defense, Homeland Security, Commerce, and Energy; the Attorney General; the United States Trade Representative; and the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.[39] The Secretary of Labor and the Director of National Intelligence serve as ex officio members of the Committee.[40] The Executive Order added five executive office members to CFIUS in order to "observe and, as appropriate, participate in and report to the President:" the Director of the Office of Management and Budget; the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors; the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs; the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy; and the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism. The President can also appoint members on a temporary basis to the Committee as he determines.

FIRRMA did not alter the membership of the Committee, but added two new positions within the Treasury Department. Both of the new positions are designated to be at the level of Assistant Secretary, with one of the positions an Assistant Secretary for Investment Security, whose primary responsibilities will be with CFIUS, under the direction of the Treasury Secretary.

Covered Transactions

The statute requires CFIUS to review all "covered" foreign investment transactions to determine whether a transaction threatens to impair the national security, or the foreign entity is controlled by a foreign government, or it would result in control of any "critical infrastructure that could impair the national security." A covered foreign investment transaction is defined as any merger, acquisition, or takeover "that could result in foreign control of any United States business, including such a merger, acquisition, or takeover carried out through a joint venture." The term 'national security' is defined to include those issues relating to 'homeland security,' including its application to critical infrastructure and critical technologies. In addition, in reviewing a covered transaction, Congress directed that CFIUS and the President "may" consider the following:

- the control of United States industries and commercial activity by foreign persons as it affects the capability and capacity of the United States to meet the requirements of national security, including the availability of human resources, products, technology, materials, and other supplies and services, and in considering ''the availability of human resources,'' should construe that term to include potential losses of such availability resulting from reductions in the employment of United States persons whose knowledge or skills are critical to national security, including the continued production in the United States of items that are likely to be acquired by the Department of Defense or other Federal departments or agencies for the advancement of the national security of the United States; and

[39] The United States Trade Representative and the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy were added through E.O. 13456, issued January 23, 2008.

[40] Executive Order 11858 of May 7, 1975, 40 F.R. 20263 established the Committee with six members: the Secretaries of State, the Treasury, Defense, Commerce, and the Assistant to the President for Economic Affairs, and the Executive Director of the Council on International Economic Policy. Executive Order 12188, January 2, 1980, 45 F.R. 969, added the United States Trade Representative and substituted the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors for the Executive Director of the Council on International Economic Policy. Executive Order 12661, December 27, 1988, 54 F.R. 779, added the Attorney General and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. Executive Order 12860, September 3, 1993, 58 F.R. 47201, added the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, and the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy. Executive Order 13286, Section 57, February 28, 2003, added the Secretary of Homeland Security. P.L. 110-49 reduced the membership of CFIUS to six Cabinet members and the Attorney General, it added the Secretary of Labor and the Director of National Security as ex officio members, and removed seven White House appointees.

- the extent to which a covered transaction is likely to expose, either directly or indirectly, personally identifiable information, genetic information, or other sensitive data of United States citizens to access by a foreign government or foreign person that may exploit that information in a manner that threatens national security**.**

FIRRMA also expanded CFIUS reviews to include unaffiliated businesses that may be affected by a foreign investment transaction if the business: (1) owns, operates, manufactures, supplies, or services critical infrastructure; (2) produces, designs, tests, manufactures, fabricates, or develops one or more critical technologies; or (3) maintains or collects sensitive personal data of United States citizens that may be exploited in a manner that threatens national security. FIRRMA also amended the existing CFIUS statute by mandating certain changes be adopted through new regulations. Seven of 15 changes mandated through regulations concern the definition of a covered transaction and broadening the scope of a CFIUS review. No deadlines were specified for these regulatory changes. The regulatory changes mandated by FIRRMA include:

- **Definition of a foreign investment transaction.**
  - **Real Estate.** CFIUS can prescribe criteria for the definition of a covered transaction beyond those specified in the statute that include certain real estate transactions that are located in the United States. In order to qualify under this provision, the real estate must:
    - be located within, or function as part of, an air or maritime port;
    - be in "close proximity" to a U.S. military installation or another facility or property of the U.S. government that is sensitive for reasons relating to national security;
    - reasonably provide the foreign person the ability to collect intelligence on activities being conducted at such an installation, facility, or property; or
    - otherwise expose national security activities at such an installation, facility, or property to the risk of foreign surveillance.
    - CFIUS is also directed to develop regulations concerning the definition of "close proximity" in describing real estate transactions subject to review.
  - **Unaffiliated business**. CFIUS can promulgate regulations governing foreign investments in an unaffiliated U.S. business that: owns, operates, manufactures, supplies, or services critical infrastructure; produces, designs, tests, manufactures, fabricates, or develops one or more critical technologies; or maintains or collects sensitive personal data of U.S. citizens that may be exploited in a manner that threatens national security.
  - **Changes in investor rights and other structures**. Covered transactions also entail any change in the rights that a foreign person has with respect to a U.S. business in which the foreign person has an investment if that change could result in foreign control of the U.S. business. It also includes any other transaction, transfer, agreement, or arrangement that is designed or intended to evade or circumvent the application of the statute, subject to regulations prescribed by CFIUS.
  - **Real estate exceptions**. Changes by FIRRMA that broaden the scope of a CFIUS review of certain real estate transactions do not include reviews of

single housing units or real estate in "urbanized areas," subject to regulations by CFIUS in consultation with the Secretary of Defense.

- **Material nonpublic technical information**. CFIUS is directed to develop regulations concerning the term "material nonpublic technical information," which is defined as "information that provides knowledge, know-how, or understanding, not available in the public domain, of the design, location, or operation of critical infrastructure; or is not available in the public domain, and is necessary to design, fabricate, develop, test, produce, or manufacture critical technologies, including processes, techniques, or methods."
- **Critical infrastructure**. CFIUS is directed to prescribe regulations concerning investments in U.S. businesses that own, manufacture, supply, or service critical infrastructure that limit the designation to critical infrastructure that is likely to be of importance to U.S. national security (i.e., "systems and assets, whether physical or virtual, so vital to the United States that the incapacity or destruction of such systems or assets would have a debilitating impact on national security").[41]
- **Indirect investment**. CFIUS is directed to develop regulations concerning an indirect investment by a foreign person in a U.S. business and exceptions for "extraordinary circumstances." CFIUS is also directed to develop regulations concerning waivers for an investment fund that does constitute control of investment decisions of the fund or decisions relating to entities in which the fund is invested.
- **Foreign person.** CFIUS is directed to define further the term "foreign person" by specifying criteria to limit the application of the term to investments by foreign persons that are in certain categories. The categories can consider how a foreign person is connected to a foreign country or foreign government, and whether the connection may affect U.S. national security.
- **Substantial interest**. Regarding covered transactions with foreign government interests, CFIUS is directed to define the term "substantial interest." In defining the term, CFIUS is directed to consider the means by which a foreign government could influence the actions of a foreign person, including through board membership, ownership interest, or shareholder rights. An interest that is excluded under indirect investment or less than 10% is not considered a substantial interest.

- **Other provisions required by regulation.**
  - **Transfer of assets pursuant to bankruptcy**. CFIUS is required to prescribe regulations for covered transactions that include any transaction that arises pursuant to a bankruptcy proceeding or other form of default on debt.
  - **Information required for a declaration**. CFIUS is required to develop regulations concerning the type and extent of information parties to an investment transaction are required to provide when submitting a declaration that should not exceed five pages. CFIUS also is required to develop regulations specifying the types of transactions that are required to submit a mandatory declaration.

[41] Ibid.

- **Other declarations**. CFIUS may develop regulations that require parties with respect to any investment transaction to submit a declaration.
- **Cooperation with allies and partners.** The CFIUS chairperson, in consultation with other members of the Committee, is directed to establish a formal process for exchanging information with governments of countries that are allies or partners of the United States to protect U.S. national security and that of the allies and partners. The process is required to be designed to facilitate the "harmonization" of trends in investment and technology that could pose risks to the national security of the United States and its allies and partners; provide for sharing information on specific technologies and entities acquiring technologies to ensure national security; and include consultation with representatives of allied and partner governments on a recurring basis.
- **Additional compliance measures**. CFIUS is required to develop methods for evaluating compliance with any mitigation agreement or condition entered into or agreed relative to an investment transaction that allows CFIUS to adequately ensure compliance without unnecessarily diverting resources from assessing new transactions.
- **Filing fees**. CFIUS is granted the authority to determine in regulations the amounts of fees and to collect fees on each covered foreign investment transaction for which a written notice was submitted to CFIUS; the amount of fees collected are limited to the costs of administering CFIUS's reviews. CFIUIS can also periodically reconsider and adjust the amount of the fees to ensure that the amount of fees does not exceed the costs of administering the program.

Since the review process involves numerous federal government agencies with varying missions, CFIUS seeks consensus among the member agencies on every transaction. Any agency that has a different assessment of the national security risks posed by a transaction has the ability to push that assessment to a higher level within CFIUS and, ultimately, to the President. As a matter of practice, before CFIUS clears a transaction to proceed, each member agency confirms to Treasury, at politically accountable levels, that it has no unresolved national security concerns with the transaction. CFIUS is represented through the review process by Treasury and by one or more other agencies that Treasury designates as a lead agency based on the subject matter of the transaction. At the end of a review or investigation, CFIUS provides a written certification to Congress that it has no unresolved national security concerns. This certification is executed by Senate-confirmed officials at these agencies at either the Assistant Secretary or Deputy Secretary level, depending on the stage of the process at which the transaction is cleared.[42]

According to Treasury Department regulations, investment transactions that are *not* considered to be covered transactions and, therefore, not subject to a CFIUS review are those that are undertaken "solely for the purpose of investment," or an investment in which the foreign investor has "no intention of determining or directing the basic business decisions of the issuer." In addition, investments that are solely for investment purposes are defined as those (1) in which the transaction does not involve owning more than 10% of the voting securities of the firm; or (2) those investments that are undertaken directly by a bank, trust company, insurance company,

[42] https://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl0401.aspx.

investment company, pension fund, employee benefit plan, mutual fund, finance company, or brokerage company "in the ordinary course of business for its own account."[43]

Other transactions not covered include (1) stock splits or a pro rata stock dividend that does not involve a change in control; (2) an acquisition of any part of an entity or of assets that do not constitute a U.S. business; (3) an acquisition of securities by a person acting as a securities underwriter, in the ordinary course of business and in the process of underwriting; and (4) an acquisition pursuant to a condition in a contract of insurance relating to fidelity, surety, or casualty obligations if the contract was made by an insurer in the ordinary course of business. In addition, Treasury regulations stipulate that the extension of a loan or a similar financing arrangement by a foreign person to a U.S. business will not be considered a covered transaction and will not be investigated, unless the loan conveys a right to the profits of the U.S. business or involves a transfer of management decisions.

Critical Infrastructure / Critical Technologies

An element of the CFIUS process added by FINSA and reinforced by FIRRMA is the addition of "critical industries" and "homeland security" as broad categories of economic activity that could be subject to a CFIUS national security review, ostensibly broadening CFIUS's mandate. The precedent for this action was set in the Patriot Act of 2001 and the Homeland Security Act of 2002, which define critical industries and homeland security and assign responsibilities for those industries to various federal government agencies. FINSA references those two acts and borrows language from them on critical industries and homeland security. After the September 11th terrorist attacks, Congress passed and President Bush signed the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001 (Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism).[44] In this act, Congress provided for special support for "critical industries," which it defined as

> systems and assets, whether physical or virtual, so vital to the United States that the incapacity or destruction of such systems and assets would have a debilitating impact on security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination of those matters.[45]

This broad definition is enhanced to some degree by other provisions of the act, which identify certain sectors of the economy that are likely candidates for consideration as components of the national critical infrastructure. These sectors include telecommunications, energy, financial services, water, transportation sectors,[46] and the "cyber and physical infrastructure services critical to maintaining the national defense, continuity of government, economic prosperity, and quality of life in the United States."[47] The following year, Congress adopted the language in the Patriot Act on critical infrastructure into The Homeland Security Act of 2002.[48]

In addition, the Homeland Security Act added key resources to the list of critical infrastructure (CI/KR) and defined those resources as "publicly or privately controlled resources essential to the

[43] 31 C.F.R. 800.302.

[44] P.L. 107-56, Title X, §1014, October 26, 2001; 42 U.S.C. §5195c(e).

[45] Ibid.

[46] 42 U.S.C. §5195c(b)(2).

[47] 42 U.S.C. §5195c(b)(3).

[48] 6 U.S.C. §101(4).

minimal operations of the economy and government."[49] Through a series of directives, the Department of Homeland Security identified 17 sectors[50] of the economy as falling within the definition of critical infrastructure/key resources and assigned primary responsibility for those sectors to various federal departments and agencies, which are designated as Sector-Specific Agencies (SSAs).[51] On March 3, 2008, Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff signed an internal DHS memo designating Critical Manufacturing as the 18th sector on the CI/KR list.

In 2013, the list of critical industries was altered through a Presidential Policy Directive (PPD-21).[52] The directive listed three "strategic imperatives" as drivers of the Federal approach to strengthening "critical infrastructure security and resilience:"

1. Refine and clarify functional relationships across the Federal Government to advance the national unity of effort to strengthen critical infrastructure security and resilience;
2. Enable effective information exchange by identifying baseline data and systems requirements for the Federal Government; and
3. Implement an integration and analysis function to inform planning and operations decisions regarding critical infrastructure.

The directive assigns the main responsibility to the Department of Homeland Security for identifying critical industries and coordinating efforts among the various government agencies, among a number of responsibilities. The directive also assigns roles to other agencies and designated 16 sectors as critical to the U.S. infrastructure. The sectors are (1) chemical; (2) commercial facilities; (3) communications; (4) critical manufacturing; (5) dams; (6) defense industrial base; (7) emergency services; (8) energy; (9) financial services; (10) food and agriculture; (11) government facilities; (12) health care and public health; (13) information technology; (14) nuclear reactors, materials, and waste; (15) transportation systems; and (16) water and wastewater systems.[53]

FIRRMA added language on critical technologies, which are defined as:

- Defense articles or defense services included on the United States Munitions List set forth in the International Traffic in Arms Regulations under subchapter M of chapter I of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations.
- Items included on the Commerce Control List set forth in Supplement No. 1 to part 774 of the Export Administration Regulations under subchapter C of chapter VII of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, and controlled—
    - pursuant to multilateral regimes, including for reasons relating to national security, chemical and biological weapons proliferation, nuclear nonproliferation, or missile technology;

[49] 6 U.S.C. §101(9).

[50] The sectors include (1) Agriculture and Food; (2) Defense Industrial Base; (3) Energy; (4) Public Health and Healthcare; (5) National Monuments and Icons; (6) Banking and Finance; (7) Drinking Water and Water Treatment Systems; (8) Chemical; (9) Commercial Facilities; (10) Dams; (11) Emergency Services; (12) Commercial Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste; (13) Information Technology; (14) Telecommunications; (15) Postal and Shipping; (16) Transportation Systems; and (17) Government Facilities.

[51] Sector-Specific Agencies include the Departments of: Agriculture, Defense, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Interior, Treasury, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

[52] Presidential Policy Directive—Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience, The While House, February 12, 2013.

[53] See http://www.dhs.gov/critical-infrastructure-sectors.

  - for reasons relating to regional stability or surreptitious listening.
- Specially designed and prepared nuclear equipment, parts and components, materials, software, and technology covered by part 810 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (relating to assistance to foreign atomic energy activities).
- Nuclear facilities, equipment, and material covered by part 110 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (relating to export and import of nuclear equipment and material).
- Select agents and toxins covered by part 331 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, part 121 of title 9 of such Code, or part 73 of title 42 of such Code.
- Emerging and foundational technologies controlled pursuant to Section 1758 of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018.

Foreign Ownership Control

The CFIUS statute itself does not provide a definition of the term "control," but such a definition is included in the Treasury Department's regulations and enhanced through FIRRMA to include reviews of transactions that do not involve a controlling interest. According to those regulations, control is not defined as a numerical benchmark,[54] but instead focuses on a functional definition of control, or a definition that is governed by the influence the level of ownership permits the foreign entity to affect certain decisions by the firm. According to the Treasury Department's regulations:

> The term control means the power, direct or indirect, whether or not exercised, and whether or not exercised or exercisable through the ownership of a majority or a dominant minority of the total outstanding voting securities of an issuer, or by proxy voting, contractual arrangements or other means, to determine, direct or decide matters affecting an entity; in particular, but without limitation, to determine, direct, take, reach or cause decisions regarding:
>
> (1) The sale, lease, mortgage, pledge or other transfer of any or all of the principal assets of the entity, whether or not in the ordinary course of business;
>
> (2) The reorganization, merger, or dissolution of the entity;
>
> (3) The closing, relocation, or substantial alternation of the production operational, or research and development facilities of the entity;
>
> (4) Major expenditures or investments, issuances of equity or debt, or dividend payments by this entity, or approval of the operating budget of the entity;
>
> (5) The selection of new business lines or ventures that the entity will pursue;
>
> (6) The entry into termination or nonfulfillment by the entity of significant contracts;

[54] There are other statutes that do use numerical benchmarks. According to Section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. Section 78m(d) any person who acquires 5% or more of the publicly traded securities of a U.S. firm must report the acquisition of the shares to the Securities and Exchange Commission. For statistical purposes, the United States defines foreign direct investment as the ownership or control, directly or indirectly, by one foreign person (individual, branch, partnership, association, government, etc.) of 10% or more of the voting securities of an incorporated U.S. business enterprise or an equivalent interest in an unincorporated U.S. business enterprise 15 C.F.R. §806.15 (a)(1). This level of ownership requires foreign owners to file quarterly and longer annual reports with the Department of Commerce as part of the quarterly and annual reports on the balance of payments and gross domestic product (GDP).

> (7) The policies or procedures of the entity governing the treatment of nonpublic technical, financial, or other proprietary information of the entity;
>
> (8) The appointment or dismissal of officers or senior managers;
>
> (9) The appointment or dismissal of employees with access to sensitive technology or classified U.S. Government information; or
>
> (10) The amendment of the Articles of Incorporation, constituent agreement, or other organizational documents of the entity with respect to the matters described at paragraph (a) (1) through (9) of this section.

Treasury Department regulations also provide some guidance to firms that are deciding whether they should notify CFIUS of a proposed or pending merger, acquisition, or takeover. The guidance states that proposed acquisitions that need to notify CFIUS are those that involve "products or key technologies essential to the U.S. defense industrial base." This notice is not intended for firms that produce goods or services with no special relation to national security, especially toys and games, food products (separate from food production), hotels and restaurants, or legal services. CFIUS has indicated that in order to ensure an unimpeded inflow of foreign investment it would implement the statute "only insofar as necessary to protect the national security," and "in a manner fully consistent with the international obligations of the United States."[55]

FIRRMA defines the term control to mean: "the power, direct or indirect, whether exercised or not exercised, to determine, direct, or decide important matters affecting an entity, subject to regulations prescribed by the Committee." Also, Congress added six additional factors through FIRRMA that CFIUS and the President "may" consider in reviewing investment transactions, including the fourth factor, as indicated in the section below on factors for consideration.

Factors for Consideration

The CFIUS statute includes a list of 12 factors the President must consider in deciding to block a foreign acquisition, although the President is not required to block a transaction based on these factors. Additionally, CFIUS members can consider the factors as part of their own review process to determine if a particular transaction threatens to impair the national security. This list includes the following elements:

> (1) domestic production needed for projected national defense requirements;
>
> (2) capability and capacity of domestic industries to meet national defense requirements, including the availability of human resources, products, technology, materials, and other supplies and services;
>
> (3) control of domestic industries and commercial activity by foreign citizens as it affects the capability and capacity of the U.S. to meet the requirements of national security;
>
> (4) potential effects of the transactions on the sales of military goods, equipment, or technology to a country that supports terrorism or proliferates missile technology or chemical and biological weapons; and transactions identified by the Secretary of Defense as "posing a regional military threat" to the interests of the United States;
>
> (5) potential effects of the transaction on U.S. technological leadership in areas affecting U.S. national security;

[55] Ibid.

> (6) whether the transaction has a security-related impact on critical infrastructure in the United States;
>
> (7) potential effects on United States critical infrastructure, including major energy assets;
>
> (8) potential effects on United States critical technologies;
>
> (9) whether the transaction is a foreign government-controlled transaction;
>
> (10) in cases involving a government-controlled transaction, a review of (A) the adherence of the foreign country to nonproliferation control regimes, (B) the foreign country's record on cooperating in counter-terrorism efforts, (C) the potential for transshipment or diversion of technologies with military applications;
>
> (11) long-term projection of the United States requirements for sources of energy and other critical resources and materials; and
>
> (12) such other factors as the President or the Committee determine to be appropriate.[56]

Factors 6-12 were added through the FINSA Act potentially broadening the scope of CFIUS's reviews and investigations. As previously indicated, instead of adding new factors to this section of the statute, FIRRMA offered six new elements CFIUS and the President "may" consider as part of their deliberations through a sense of Congress provision. Previously, CFIUS had been directed by Treasury Department regulations to focus its activities primarily on investments that had an impact on U.S. national defense security. The additional factors, however, incorporate economic considerations into the CFIUS review process in a way that was specifically rejected when the original Exon-Florio amendment was adopted and refocuses CFIUS's reviews and investigations on considering the broader rubric of economic security, although the term is not specifically mentioned. In particular, CFIUS is required to consider the impact of an investment on critical infrastructure and critical technologies as factors for considering a recommendation to the President that a transaction be blocked or postponed. As previously indicated, critical infrastructure is defined in broad terms as "any systems and assets, whether physical or cyber-based, so vital to the United States that the degradation or destruction of such systems or assets would have a debilitating impact on national security, including national economic security and national public health or safety."

The six factors added by FIRRMA through a sense of Congress that CFIUS and the President may consider in evaluating the national security implications of an investment are:

1. a transaction involves a country of special concern that has a demonstrated or declared strategic goal of acquiring a type of critical technology or critical infrastructure that would affect United States leadership in areas related to national security;
2. the potential national security-related effects of the cumulative control of, or pattern of recent transactions involving, any one type of critical infrastructure, energy asset, critical material, or critical technology by a foreign government or foreign person;
3. whether any foreign person engaging in a covered transaction with a United States business has a history of complying with United States laws and regulations;
4. control of United States industries and commercial activity by foreign persons as it affects the capability and capacity of the United States to meet the requirements of national security, including the availability of human resources, products,

[56] The last requirement under factor 4 and factors 6-12 were added by P.L. 110-49.

technology, materials, and other supplies and services, and in considering ''the availability of human resources'', should construe that term to include potential losses of such availability resulting from reductions in the employment of United States persons whose knowledge or skills are critical to national security, including the continued production in the United States of items that are likely to be acquired by the Department of Defense or other Federal departments or agencies for the advancement of the national security of the United States**;**

5. the extent to which a covered transaction is likely to expose, either directly or indirectly, personally identifiable information, genetic information, or other sensitive data of United States citizens to access by a foreign government or foreign person that may exploit that information in a manner that threatens national security; and
6. a transaction that is likely to have the effect of exacerbating or creating new cybersecurity vulnerabilities in the United States or is likely to result in a foreign government gaining a significant new capability to engage in malicious cyber-enabled activities against the United States, including such activities designed to affect the outcome of any election for Federal office. [57]

As originally drafted, the Exon-Florio provision also would have applied to joint ventures and licensing agreements in addition to mergers, acquisitions, and takeovers. Joint ventures and licensing agreements subsequently were dropped from the proposal because the Reagan Administration and various industry groups argued at the time that such business practices were deemed to be beneficial arrangements for U.S. companies. In addition, they argued that any potential threat to national security could be addressed by the Export Administration Act[58] and the Arms Control Export Act.[59] FIRRMA added joint ventures as a matter for consideration during a CFIUS review or investigation.

Confidentiality Requirements

FINSA codified, and FIRRMA maintains, confidentiality requirements that are similar to those that appeared in the Exon-Florio amendment and Executive Order 11858 by stating that any information or documentary material filed under the provision may not be made public "except as may be relevant to any administrative or judicial action or proceeding."[60] The provision does state, however, that this confidentiality provision "shall not be construed to prevent disclosure to either House of Congress or to any duly authorized committee or subcommittee of the Congress." The provision provides for the release of proprietary information "which can be associated with a particular party" to committees only with assurances that the information will remain confidential. Members of Congress and their staff members are accountable under current provisions of law governing the release of certain types of information. Current statute requires the President to provide a written report to the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House detailing his decision and his actions relevant to any transaction that was subject to a 45-day investigation.[61]

[57] Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act, Section 1702.

[58] 50 U.S.C. App. Section 2401, as amended.

[59] 22 U.S.C. App. 2778 et seq.

[60] 50 U.S.C. Appendix Section 2170(c).

[61] 50 U.S.C. Appendix Section 2170(g).

Mitigation and Tracking

Since the implementation of the Exon-Florio provision in the 1980s, CFIUS had developed several informal practices that likely were not envisioned when the statute was drafted. In particular, members of CFIUS on occasion negotiated conditions with firms to mitigate or to remove business arrangements that raised national security concerns among the CFIUS members. Such agreements often were informal arrangements that had an uncertain basis in statute and had not been tested in court. These arrangements often were negotiated during the formal review period, or even during an informal process prior to the formal filing of a notice of an investment transaction.

FINSA required CFIUS to designate a lead agency to negotiate, modify, monitor, and enforce agreements in order to mitigate any threat to national security. Such agreements are required to be based on a "risk-based analysis" of the threat posed by the transaction. CFIUS is also required to develop a method for evaluating the compliance of firms that have entered into a mitigation agreement or condition that was imposed as a requirement for approval of the investment transaction. Such measures, however, are required to be developed in such a way that they allow CFIUS to determine that compliance is taking place without also (1) "unnecessarily diverting" CFIUS resources from assessing any new covered transaction for which a written notice had been filed; and (2) placing "unnecessary" burdens on a party to an investment transaction.

If a notification of a transaction is withdrawn before any review or investigation by CFIUS is completed, CFIUS can take a number of actions, including (1) interim protections to address specific concerns about the transaction pending a resubmission of a notice by the parties; (2) specific time frames for resubmitting the notice; and (3) a process for tracking any actions taken by any party to the transaction. Also, any federal entity or entities that are involved in any mitigation agreement are to report to CFIUS if there is any modification that is made to any agreement or condition that had been imposed and to ensure that "any significant" modification is reported to the Director of National Intelligence and to any other federal department or agency that "may have a material interest in such modification." Such reports are required to be filed with the Attorney General.

FIRRMA further authorizes CFIUS to:

- conduct periodic reviews of mitigation agreements to determine if the agreements should be phased out or modified if a threat no longer requires mitigation;
- negotiate, enter into or impose, and enforce any agreement or condition with any party to an investment transaction during and after consideration of a transaction to mitigate any risk to the national security of the United States as a result of the transaction; and
- review periodically the appropriateness of an agreement or condition and terminate, phase out, or otherwise amend the agreement or condition if a threat no longer requires mitigation through the agreement or condition.

In agreeing to a mitigation agreement, CFIUS must determine that the agreement will resolve the national security concerns posed by the transaction, taking into consideration whether the agreement or condition is reasonably calculated to: be effective, verifiable, monitored, and enforceable.

Funding and Staff Requirements

FIRRMA established a fund within Treasury and appropriates $20 million to CFIUS for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023. FIRRMA also authorizes CFIUS to develop a fee schedule, determined through regulation, for each transaction, in addition to an expedited process for hiring additional staff. The fee is restricted to be 1% of the value of the transaction, or three hundred thousand dollars. In developing regulations, CFIUS is also required to consider the impact on small businesses, the expenses to CFIUS associated with conducting reviews, and the impact on foreign investment. Also, the total amount of fees collected are limited to not exceed the costs of administering the fees. FIRRMA also directs CFIUS to study the feasibility of establishing a fee or a fee structure to prioritize a response to informal notices prior to the submission of a formal written notice of an impending or proposed transaction.

FIRRMA also requires the President to determine whether and to what extent the expansion of CFIUS' responsibilities as a result of the additional duties designated by FIRRMA requires additional resources. If additional resources are necessary, the President is required to make such a request in the Administration's annual budget.

Congressional Oversight

Both FINSA and FIRRMA increased the types and number of reports that CFIUS is required to send to certain specified Members of Congress. In particular, CFIUS is required to brief certain congressional leaders if they request such a briefing and to report annually to Congress on any reviews or investigations it has conducted during the prior year. CFIUS provides a classified report to Congress each year and a less extensive report for public release. Each report is required to include a list of all concluded reviews and investigations, information on the nature of the business activities of the parties involved in an investment transaction, information about the status of the review or investigation, and information on any transactions that were withdrawn from the process, any roll call votes by the Committee, any extension of time for any investigation, and any presidential decision or action. In the classified report, FIRRMA imposed new reporting requirements on CFIUS concerning:

- the outcome of each review or investigation, including whether a mitigation agreement or condition was entered into and any action by the President;
- basic information concerning the parties involved;
- the nature of the business activities or products;
- statistics on compliance plans and cumulative and trend information on declarations and actions taken;
- methods used by the Committee to identify nonnotified and nondeclared transactions;
- a summary of the hiring practices and policies of the Committee;
- in cases where the Committee has recommended that the President suspend or prohibit a transaction because it threatens to impair the national security, CFIUS is required to notify Congress of the recommendation and, upon request, provide a classified briefing on the recommendation;
- not later than two years after enactment of FIRRMA, and every two years thereafter through 2026, the Secretary of Commerce is required to submit to Congress and CFIUS a report on foreign direct investment transactions made by entities of the People's Republic of China in the United States.

In addition, CFIUS is required to report on trend information on the numbers of filings, investigations, withdrawals, and presidential decisions or actions that were taken. The report must include cumulative information on the business sectors involved in filings and the countries from which the investments originated; information on the status of the investments of companies that withdrew notices and the types of security arrangements and conditions CFIUS used to mitigate national security concerns; the methods the Committee used to determine that firms were complying with mitigation agreements or conditions; and a detailed discussion of all perceived adverse effects of investment transactions on the national security or critical infrastructure of the United States.

The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretaries of State and Commerce, is directed by FINSA to conduct a study on investment in the United States, particularly in critical infrastructure and industries affecting national security, by (1) foreign governments, entities controlled by or acting on behalf of a foreign government, or persons of foreign countries which comply with any boycott of Israel; or (2) foreign governments, entities controlled by or acting on behalf of a foreign government, or persons of foreign countries which do not ban organizations designated by the Secretary of State as foreign terrorist organizations. In addition, CFIUS is required to provide an annual evaluation of any credible evidence of a coordinated strategy by one or more countries or companies to acquire U.S. companies involved in research, development, or production of critical technologies in which the United States is a leading producer. The report must include an evaluation of possible industrial espionage activities directed or directly assisted by foreign governments against private U.S. companies aimed at obtaining commercial secrets related to critical technologies.

Recent CFIUS Reviews

According to the annual report released by CFIUS in 2019,[62] the number of foreign investment notices and investigations conducted by CFIUS increased sharply in 2017, as indicated in **Table 2**. During the nine-year period 2009-2017, foreign investors sent 1,179 notices to CFIUS of plans to acquire, take over, or merge with a U.S. firm. In comparison, the Commerce Department reports there were about 2,600 foreign investment transactions in 2017 and just over 2,000 transactions in 2018. In both years, foreign acquisitions of existing U.S. businesses accounted for about 40% of the total number of transactions, while greenfield investments, comprised of new businesses establishments and expansions of existing facilities, accounted for the majority of transactions. By value, however, acquisitions accounted for 96% of the total annual value of foreign direct investments.[63] Of the investment transactions notified during the 2009-2017 period, about 4% were withdrawn during the initial 30-day review; about 47% of the total notified transactions required a 45-day investigation. Also, of the transactions investigated, about 12% were withdrawn before a final determination was reached. As noted earlier in this report, but not in the 2017 CFIUS report, a presidential decision was made in five cases to date.

[62] *Annual Report to Congress*, Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, December 2019.

[63] Anderson, Thomas, New Foreign Direct Investment in the United States in 2018, *Survey of Current Business*, August 2019, p. 2.

Table 2. Foreign Investment Transactions Reviewed by CFIUS, 2009-2017

Year	Number of Notices	Notices Withdrawn During Review	Number of Investigations	Notices Withdrawn During Investigation	Presidential Decisions
2009	65	5	25	2	0
2010	93	6	35	6	0
2011	111	1	40	5	0
2012	114	2	45	20	1
2013	97	3	48	5	0
2014	147	3	51	9	0
2015	143	3	66	10	0
2016	172	6	79	21	1
2017	237	7	172	67	1
Total	**1,179**	**36**	**561**	**145**	**3**

Source: *Annual Report to Congress*, Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, CY 2016 and CY 2017, December 2019.

Note: Two additional foreign investment transactions have been blocked by presidential order.

The CFIUS report indicates that 40% of foreign investment transactions notified to CFIUS from 2009 to 2017 were in the manufacturing sector. Investments in the finance, information, and services sectors accounted for another 36% of the total notified transactions, as indicated in **Table 3**. Within the manufacturing sector, 39% of all investment transactions notified to CFIUS between 2013 and 2017 were in the computer and electronic products sectors, a share that rose to 49% in 2015, but dropped to 33% in 2017. The next three sectors with the highest number of transactions were the machinery manufacturing sector, which fell from 13% in the 2013-2017 period to 10% in 2017, and the chemical manufacturing sector, which rose from 13% in the 2013-2017 period to 20% in 2017. In 2017 the transportation equipment sector accounted for 11% of transactions, on par with the average over the 2013-2017 period. Within the finance, information, and services sector, professional services accounted for 35% of transactions over the 2013-2017 period, which rose to 37% in 2017. Notified transactions in mining, utilities, and construction (16%), and wholesale trade, retail trade, and transportation (9%) comprised the next most active sectors.

Table 4 shows foreign investment transactions by the home country of the foreign investor and the industry composition of the investment transactions. According to data based on notices provided to CFIUS by foreign investors, Chinese investors were the most active in acquisitions, takeovers, or mergers during the 2015-2017 period, accounting for 26% of the total number of transactions. The Canada and Japan join China as the top three countries of origin for investors providing notifications to CFIUS. Chinese investments were concentrated primarily in the manufacturing and finance sectors, while Canadian investments were concentrated in the mining and finance sectors. The ranking of countries in **Table 4** differs in a number of important ways from data published by the Bureau of Economic Analysis on the cumulative amount, or the total book value, of foreign direct investment in the United States, which places the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany, and Switzerland as the most active countries of origin for foreign investment in the United States.

Table 3. Industry Composition of Foreign Investment Transactions Reviewed by CFIUS, 2009-2017

Year	Manufacturing	Finance, Information, and Services	Mining, Utilities, and Construction	Wholesale and Retail Trade	Total
2009	21	22	19	3	65
2010	36	35	13	9	93
2011	49	38	16	8	111
2012	47	36	23	8	114
2013	35	32	20	10	97
2014	69	38	25	15	147
2015	68	42	21	12	143
2016	67	68	18	19	172
2017	82	108	28	19	237
Total	**474**	**419**	**183**	**103**	**1,179**

Source: *Annual Report to Congress*, Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, CY 2016 and CY 2017, December 2019.

Table 4. Country of Foreign Investor and Industry Reviewed by CFIUS, 2015-2017

Country	Manufacturing	Finance, Information, and Services	Mining, Utilities, and Construction	Wholesale Trade and Retail Trade	Total
China	71	50	9	13	143
Canada	17	22	22	5	66
Japan	20	20	4	2	46
United Kingdom	15	22	0	8	44
France	13	11	3	3	30
Cayman Islands	9	8	1	2	20
Netherlands	8	4	3	0	15
Germany	3	10	0	1	14
Australia	6	2	3	2	13
South Korea	5	4	2	2	13
Br. Vir. Islands	5	2	3	0	10
Israel	4	6	0	0	10
Sweden	8	1	0	1	10
Luxembourg	5	3	1	0	9
Switzerland	2	4	3	0	9
Total	**217**	**218**	**67**	**50**	**552**

Source: *Annual Report to Congress*, Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, CY 2016 and CY 2017, December 2019.

Table 5 provides information on notified foreign investment transactions by in critical technology classified by types of foreign investment. According to CFIUS, the Committee reviewed 178 transactions in 2016 and 2017 involving acquirers from 36 countries to determine if it could detect a coordinated strategy. According to CFIUS, the largest number of transactions in critical technology occurred in the Professional Services and Computer and Electronics sectors.

Table 5. Home Country of Foreign Acquirer of U.S. Critical Technology, 2016-2017

Country	2016	2017	Total
China	17	21	38
Japan	8	10	18
Canada	8	7	15
United Kingdom	3	12	15
France	5	9	14
Germany	3	4	7
Israel	3	3	6
Netherlands	2	4	6
Cayman Islands	2	3	5
Luxembourg	3	2	5
India	1	3	4
Singapore	0	4	4
Sweden	1	3	4
Total	**73**	**105**	**178**

Source: *Annual Report to Congress*, Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, December 2019.

The CFIUS annual report also provides some general information on the total number of cases in which it applied legally binding mitigation measures. The report did not list any specific cases or measures, but it did indicate that CFIUS applied mitigation measures to 18 cases in 2016 and 29 cases in 2017.[64] These mitigation measures have included a number of different approaches, including

- Ensuring that only authorized persons have access to certain technologies and information.
- Establishing a Corporate Security Committee and other mechanisms to ensure compliance with all required actions, including the appointment of a U.S. government-approved security officer or member of the board of directors and requirements for security policies, annual reports, and independent audits.
- Establishing guidelines and terms for handling existing or future U.S. government contracts, U.S. government customer information, and other sensitive information.
- Ensuring only U.S. citizens handle certain products and services, and ensuring that certain activities and products are located only in the United States.

[64] *Annual Report to Congress*, December 2019.

- Notifying security officers or relevant U.S. government parties in advance of foreign national visits to the U.S. business for approval.
- Security protocols to ensure the integrity of goods or software sold to the U.S. Government.
- Notifying customers regarding the change of ownership.
- Assurances of continuity of supply for defined periods, and notification and consultation prior to taking certain business decisions, with certain rights in the event that the company decides to exit a business line. Established meetings to discuss business plans that might affect U.S. Government or national security considerations.
- Exclusion of certain sensitive assets from the transaction.
- Providing the U.S. Government with the right to review certain business decisions and object if they raise national security concerns.

CFIUS also implemented procedures to evaluate and ensure that parties to an investment transaction remain in compliance with any risk mitigation measures that were adopted to gain approval of the investment. These procedures include the following:

- Periodic reporting to U.S. Government agencies by the companies.
- On-site compliance reviews by U.S. Government agencies.
- Third party audits when provided for by the terms of the mitigation measures.
- Investigations and remedial actions if anomalies or breaches are discovered or suspected.
- Assigning staff responsibilities to monitor compliance.
- Designating tracking systems to monitor required reports.
- Instituting internal instructions and procedures to ensure that in-house expertise is drawn upon to analyze compliance with measures.[65]

Issues for Congress

The U.S. policy approach to international investment generally aimed to establish an open and rules-based system that is consistent across countries and in line with U.S. interests as the largest global foreign direct investor and largest recipient of foreign direct investment. In addition, U.S. foreign direct investment policy has been founded on the concept that the net benefits of such investment are positive and benefit both the United States and the foreign investor, except in certain circumstances concerning risks to national security and for prudential reasons. Even in these cases, however, the U.S. approach generally has been to limit any market distorting impact of the national security review process. Under the CFIUS statute, Congress set a legal standard for the President to meet before he could block or suspend investment transactions: no other laws apply, and he determines that there is "credible evidence" that the action does not simply affect national security, but that it "threatens to impair the national security," or that it poses a risk to national security

In 2018, Congress and the Trump Administration amended the CFIUS statute through the Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act (FIRRMA) to address a broader range of issues concerning foreign direct investment in the U.S. economy. In part, the motivation for the change

[65] Ibid., pp. 21-22.

in the CFIS statute reflects differing views of the role CFIUS should play in overseeing foreign investment transactions and the concept of national security, particularly as it relates to national economic interests. In some ways, current discussions regarding the role of CFIUS mirror previous debates over a working set of parameters that establish a functional definition of the national economic security implications of foreign direct investment and expose differing assessments of the economic impact of foreign investment on the U.S. economy and differing political and philosophical convictions.

Previous congressional efforts to amend the CFIUS statute were driven in large part by national security concerns related to a particular foreign investment transaction, such as the Dubai Ports transaction. More recently, concerns have arisen from a combination of issues, including (1) an increase in foreign investment activity by Chinese state-owned firms; (2) the perception that such investment is part of a government-coordinated approach that serves official strategic purposes, rather than purely commercial interests; and (3) that investments by Chinese firms are receiving government support through subsidized financing or other types of government support that give Chinese firms an "unfair" competitive advantage over other private investors.

While Members of Congress and others have expressed concerns over investments by Chinese entities, the broader issue of the role of foreign investment in the economy and the interaction between foreign investment and national security predate the creation of CFIUS. Such concerns arguably are heightened by a changing global economic order that is marked by rising emerging economies such as China and India that are more active internationally and changing notions of national economic interests.[66] Changes to CFIUIS through FIRRMA broaden CFIUS' mandate beyond the original narrow focus on the national security implications of individual investment transactions to a more comprehensive assessment of the impact of a combination of transactions. In addition, CFIUS is now required to analyze the impact of certain types of real estate transactions and the potential impact of foreign investment in start-up companies with potentially foundational technologies. These issues and others raise questions for Congress to consider, including:

- Through FIRRMA, Congress expanded the role of CFIUS in protecting U.S. national security interests. What rubric should CFIUS use to weigh national security interests against economic interests, particularly at the state and local levels that seek foreign investment to support local jobs and tax revenues?
- The United States is the single largest recipient of foreign investment and the largest overseas direct investor in the world. How should Congress assess the role of CFIUS in protecting U.S. national security interests while supporting the stated policy of the United States to support international efforts to maintain policies that accommodate foreign direct investment?
- In any year, the level of foreign investment activity is driven in large part by broad economic fundamentals, including merger and acquisition (M&A) activity. As a result, CFIUS' activities could vary substantially from year to year, depending on forces outside its control. How should Congress evaluate CFIUS' activities given these circumstances?

[66] For instance, China's One Belt, One Road initiative. Denyer, Simon, As U.S. Retreats in Asia Pacific, China Fills the Void With an Ambitious Global Plan, *The Washington Post*, May 12, 2017. https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/as-us-retreats-in-the-asia-pacific-china-fills-the-void-with-an-ambitious-global-plan/2017/05/11/54771c0c-3593-11e7-ab03-aa29f656f13e_story.html?hpid=hp_hp-more-top-stories_chinabelt-505am%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&utm_term=.34b36c806ad1.

- Congress has expressed its concerns through FIRRMA about foreign access to critical technologies through investments and acquisitions developed by U.S. firms. How can CFIUS satisfy congressional concerns about the potential loss of leading-edge technologies while avoiding potential conflicts that inhibit the development of new technologies by start-up firms?
- In response to FIRRMA, Treasury Department regulations identify 27 industries as critical industries for consideration by CFIUS and the President in deciding to block or suspend a foreign investment transaction. How should CFIUS weigh concerns over foreign investments concentrated in certain industries relative to capital needs and requirements in fast-growing industries that may rely on foreign funds in order to expand? What rubric is CFIUS using to determine how much foreign investment in an industry is considered too concentrated?
- Without providing a definition of national security, Congress has directed CFIUS to protect the United States against investments that threaten to impair the national security. What rubric should CFIUS use to evaluate the national security implications of such items as personally identifiable information?

Author Information

James K. Jackson
Specialist in International Trade and Finance

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