

Foreign Direct Investment at \$18.4Bln

By The Moscow Times

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Russian foreign direct investment soared to \$18.4 billion last year, a 33 percent increase from 2010, with finance and manufacturing receiving the most capital.

Total foreign investment, including loans and flows into securities markets, surged 66 percent last year to \$190.6 billion, the State Statistics Service said Tuesday in an e-mailed statement.

The Kremlin set up the Russian Direct Investment Fund to co-finance international investment and in October won \$1 billion in backing from China's sovereign wealth fund, the first foreign commitment to the private-equity vehicle. The government expects inflows to reach between \$60 billion and \$70 billion soon, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin said last year.

The financial industry received the largest amount of investments in 2011, attracting \$86.9 billion, followed by the manufacturing and mining industries. Cyprus was the largest foreign investor in the period, followed by the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Germany.

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