

Global Groups Register User Guide

June 2022

What is the Global Groups Register?

The United Nations Statistical Commission at its 46th session in 2015 endorsed the creation of a Global Enterprise Group Register (GGR), a global register of multinational enterprise (MNE) groups and their worldwide affiliates to improve the understanding and the measurement of international trade and globalization statistics. (E/2015/24, Decision 46/107, Item d(i).)

The concepts and methods for the profiling of the MNEs will continue to be improved under the guidance of the UN Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics and with the inputs of countries. UNSD plans to update the GGR annually based on updated data sources and to expand the scope of profiled MNE groups. The information in the GGR is presented as it was found available in publicly available sources as indicated below. The United Nations does not take responsibility for the validity of the information from these sources.

Glossary of Terms

The GGR uses the following terminology:

- **MNE Group Head** – the ultimate controlling unit over which no other company has ownership or control
- **Ultimate Parent** – the highest-level legal entity preparing consolidated financial statements, based on the accounting definition of consolidation applying to this parent. Under IFRS accounting standards, accounting consolidation generally applies when there is control.¹ In the GGR, a parent is only identified as an Ultimate Parent if the source for the relationship is the Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation (GLEIF), the company's Annual Report, its annual financial filing with a financial regulator (e.g., 10-K), on the company's website.
- **Parent** – a company that has some control or influence over another company.
- **Affiliate** – a company over which a parent company owns some percentage greater than zero. This term as used in the GGR includes Subsidiaries, Non-subsidiary Affiliates Unknown and Joint ventures.
- The relationship of a company with its parent can be as:
 - **Subsidiary**: when the parent controls the child company (i.e., when the parent controls or owns 50% or more of the child company).² The GGR indicates the exact

¹ According to IFRS standard 10. <https://www.ifrs.org/issued-standards/list-of-standards/ifrs-10-consolidated-financial-statements/>

² Generally, control implies that the parent company owns more than 50% of the child entity. However, in many cases, a company's Annual Report or consolidated financial statements identifies subsidiaries in which the parent owns exactly 50% of the child company. In these cases, the parent may have other power or rights that grant it control. Therefore, if the Annual Reports or financial statements identify an entity as a subsidiary, it is included in the GGR as a subsidiary.

percentage ownership when available (generally from the company’s annual reports).

- **Non-subsidiary Affiliate:** when a parent partially owns (or has a non-controlling interest in) the child company (i.e., generally holding less than 50% ownership or interest). The GGR indicates the exact percentage of ownership and/or interest, when available (generally from the company’s annual reports).
- **Unknown:** when from available sources there seems to be a relationship with the parent company, but the exact type of relationship is not known.
- **Joint Venture:** business arrangement in which companies pool their resources in a commercial enterprise but otherwise retain their distinct identities. The GGR does not attempt to identify the ultimate parent in joint ventures, which are typically based on legal arrangements not publicly available or easily accessible.

GGR Fields

The GGR contains the following fields:

Field name	Description
ENTITY_TYPE	Indicates whether the company is an MNE Head or an Affiliate
FAMILY_HEAD	Name of the MNE Head that the affiliate is related to
NAME	Legal company name (either as reported by the company itself or in GLEIF)
NAME_SHORT	Common abbreviation for company name, if used by the company itself
NAME_ORIGINAL	Company name in original language, if not English, or other names in GLEIF
GGR_ID	A unique ID# to identify every entity in the GGR
LEI	LEI from GLEIF
COUNTRY/AREA	Country or Area of legal jurisdiction, in UN M49 alpha-3
CITY	City of legal jurisdiction
STATE	State of legal jurisdiction
COUNTRY/AREA_OTHER	Country or area of headquarters, if different from legal jurisdiction, in UN M49 alpha-3
CITY_OTHER	City of headquarters, if different from legal jurisdiction
STATE_OTHER	State of headquarters, if different from legal jurisdiction
INDUSTRY_NAME	Description of the industry sector based on company description in its Annual Report
SOURCE	The primary source for identification of the company. It may include Company Website; Annual Report; 10-K; 20-F; GLEIF; PermID; Other
SOURCE_OTHER	The secondary source for identification of the company
URL	URL of company website

ULTIMATEPARENT_NAME	GGR_NAME of Ultimate Parent ONLY when reported as an ultimate parent in the company's annual report, its annual financial filing with a financial regulator (e.g., 10-K), the company's website or GLEIF
ULTIMATEPARENT_GGRID	GGR ID of Ultimate Parent
ULTIMATEPARENT_LEI	LEI of Ultimate Parent
ULTPARENT_OWNERSHIP_PERCENT	Ultimate Parent's % ownership control, if known; otherwise, blank
ULTPARENT_OWNERSHIP_DETAIL	Text description of ownership type, based on % control. Either "Wholly-Owned" (100%) or "Majority-owned" (less than 100% but greater than 50%), if known; otherwise, blank.
PARENT_n	GGR_NAME of direct parent company (can either be a controlling parent or non-controlling parent – any type of parent). The GGR allows for the inclusion of up to 5 direct parents
PARENTn_GGRID	GGR ID of parent company
PARENTn_LEI	LEI of parent (can be a controlling parent or non-controlling parent – any type of parent).
PARENTn_RELATIONSHIP	" Subsidiary " if it is known that the parent controls the child company; " Non-subsidiary Affiliate " if it is known the parent owns (or has a non-controlling interest in) the child company; " Unknown " if the exact type of relationship is not known; " Joint Venture " if reported as a joint venture in Annual Report or company website
PARENTn_OWNERSHIP_PERCENT	Parent's % ownership (based on control), if known
PARENTn_OWNERSHIP_DETAIL	Wholly-owned (100%), Majority-owned (less than 100% but greater than 50%), or Minority-Owned (less than 50%), if known; otherwise, blank
PARENTn_INTEREST	Parent's % interest, if known; otherwise, blank

Example Searches

- To see a listing of all the MNE Heads included in the GGR, filter the column "Entity Type" to only display "MNE Heads"
- To see a listing of every company in the GGR in a particular Country or Area, filter the column "Country or Area" to display the Country or Area of interest
- To see a listing of all affiliates related to a large MNE Head, filter the column "Family Head" to display the MNE Head(s) of interest. To further filter this list by specific Countries or Areas, filter the "Country or Area" column to the areas of interest.

Sources

- **Latest available Company Annual Reports from company websites**

MNEs issue Annual Reports with detailed financial information, often including lists of their major subsidiaries, their country/area of jurisdiction, and percent control and/or

interest. The detail presented in Annual Reports vary by company, and sometimes by country, due to national regulation. The Annual Reports cover information for the preceding annual year (e.g., the 2021 edition of the GGR is based on Annual Reports covering information for the year ending December 2020). UNSD compiles the information in companies' Annual Reports as published on their corporate website.

- **Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation (<https://www.gleif.org/en/>)**

GLEIF provides legal entity identifiers (LEIs), addresses and relationships of some of the top MNEs. GLEIF is an initiative launched in 2011 by the Financial Stability Board (FSB), mandated by the Group of 20 (G-20). Its purpose is to facilitate coordination within the regulatory community through the creation of a global Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) in the form of a reference code that uniquely identifies legally distinct entities engaged in financial transactions and allows for mapping out relationships (who owns whom). Local Operating Units (LOUs) located in the country/area of jurisdiction provide registration and maintenance of the LEIs and are accredited with GLEIF.

As of April 2022, GLEIF contained more than 2.1 million LEI records and 327,010 relationship records on “who owns whom”,³ or data on direct and ultimate consolidating parents based on the parents' consolidated financial statement.⁴ GLEIF is constantly expanding its coverage.

- **Company financial filings (e.g., forms 10-K and 20-F)**

Many of the largest MNEs operate in the United States and file financial filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the financial regulator in the United States. Exhibit 21 of the annual 10-K filing required by the SEC contains a list of a company's major subsidiaries by country/area of jurisdiction. In addition, form 20-F is filed to the SEC certain non-U.S. private issuers to provide information in cases where 50% or less of the total amount of voting shares are held by U.S. citizens, but its shares can be traded on a U.S. exchange. UNSD compiles the information in these financial filings accessible on the SEC's online database, EDGAR.⁵

- **Refinitiv PermID (<https://permid.org>)**

PermID provides addresses and legal entity identifiers (LEIs) of subsidiaries of some of the top MNEs. PermID is an initiative by Refinitiv that provides open, permanent and universal identifiers and metadata for businesses and organizations.⁶ Data on the address of the companies are taken from PermID when available.

³ <https://www.gleif.org/en/lei-data/gleif-concatenated-file/download-the-concatenated-file>

⁴ Consolidated financial statements aggregate the financial position of a parent company and its subsidiaries.

⁵ <https://www.sec.gov/edgar/searchedgar/companysearch.html>

⁶ <https://permid.org>

Data from these different sources are merged to provide the best available information for all the companies related to the MNE head. Data sources are prioritized as follows: 1) Annual Reports; 2) GLEIF; 3) financial filings; 4) corporate websites; and 5) PermID. Data are not available for all fields for all companies.

Disclaimers

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The designations employed and the presentation of material in the GGR do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitations of its frontiers or boundaries. Where the designation “country or area” appears on this internet site, it covers countries, territories or areas.

For questions and comments, please send an email to business_stat@un.org.