



*World Investment Report 2022*  
*INTERNATIONAL TAX REFORMS AND SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT*

## Fact Sheet: Least developed countries

### Foreign direct investment (FDI) overview, selected years

(Millions of dollars and per cent)

FDI flows	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2020-2021 Growth rate %	As a percentage of gross capital formation				
							2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Least developed countries</b>											
<b>Inward</b>	20 873	22 539	22 839	22 975	25 978	13.1	6.9	7.1	7.0	7.1	7.7
<b>Outward</b>	2 211	900	- 1 004	1 508	- 142	-	1.3	0.4	-0.6	0.8	-0.1
<i>Memorandum</i>											
LDCs: Africa											
Inward	9 446	11 380	13 016	13 664	16 055	17.5	5.7	6.9	7.7	8.6	9.8
Outward	1 921	701	-1 168	634	- 347	-	2.3	0.7	-1.4	0.7	-0.5
LDCs: Asia											
Inward	11 008	11 030	9 716	9 276	9 822	5.9	8.1	7.5	6.3	5.8	5.8
Outward	283	190	159	869	215	-75.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.8	-
LDCs: LAC											
Inward	375	105	75	23	50	117.4	12.3	3.4	2.5	0.9	1.3
Outward	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LDCs: Oceania											
Inward	44	24	33	12	51	332.2	17.3	13.9	18.5	8.9	26.6
Outward	7	9	4	4	- 11	-	2.9	5.0	2.3	3.3	-5.8
Developing economies*											
Inward	694 955	694 956	716 170	643 949	836 571	29.9	7.4	6.7	6.8	6.2	6.9
Outward	447 866	376 093	387 054	372 284	438 382	17.8	4.8	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.7
World*											
Inward	1 632 639	1 448 276	1 480 626	963 139	1 582 310	64.3	8.1	6.6	6.6	4.4	6.4
Outward	1 610 113	941 293	1 123 894	780 480	1 707 594	118.8	8.0	4.3	5.0	3.6	6.9
<b>As a percentage of gross domestic product</b>											
FDI Stock	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2020-2021 Growth rate %	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Least developed countries</b>											
<b>Inward</b>	333 605	353 804	372 308	393 012	414 411	5.4	32.6	33.4	33.8	35.4	34.9
<b>Outward</b>	22 162	22 845	21 941	23 246	22 434	-3.5	3.1	3.1	2.9	3.1	2.6
<i>Memorandum</i>											
LDCs: Africa											
Inward	247 284	257 130	268 450	281 622	293 367	4.2	42.8	44.4	45.6	49.4	46.3
Outward	19 996	20 527	19 481	19 956	19 078	-4.4	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.9	4.5
LDCs: Asia											
Inward	83 961	94 229	101 313	108 819	118 371	8.8	19.6	20.5	20.4	20.7	22.1
Outward	2 105	2 250	2 391	3 218	3 294	2.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	-	0.7
LDCs: LAC											
Inward	1 745	1 850	1 925	1 950	2 001	2.6	11.6	11.2	13.0	13.4	9.5
Outward	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LDCs: Oceania											
Inward	616	596	619	621	673	8.2	35.9	32.7	34.4	34.9	35.7
Outward	61	68	68	73	62	-14.8	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.2	3.4
Developing economies*											
Inward	10 262 836	10 547 330	11 284 329	11 760 250	12 329 543	4.8	33.3	32.0	33.4	35.6	31.9
Outward	6 950 241	7 122 070	7 620 531	8 432 781	8 789 815	4.2	23.0	22.0	23.0	26.1	23.2
World*											
Inward	33 099 585	32 842 774	36 529 518	41 727 577	45 448 812	8.9	40.9	38.2	41.8	49.0	47.1
Outward	33 067 148	31 393 003	34 496 304	39 545 669	41 798 485	5.7	41.2	36.8	39.7	46.8	43.7

## Cross-border merger and acquisition (M&A) overview, 2018–2021

(Millions of dollars)

Region/economy	Sales (net)					Purchases (net)				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2020-2021 Growth rate %	2018	2019	2020	2021	2020-2021 Growth rate %
<b>Least developed countries</b>	1 342	223	421	- 1 883	-	130	- 2	36	4	-89.5
<i>Memorandum</i>										
LDCs: Africa	123	197	417	- 1 836	-	-	-	36	4	-89.5
LDCs: Asia	1 219	27	-	- 48	-	130	- 2	-	-	-
LDCs: LAC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LDCs: Oceania	-	-	4	2	-56.2	-	-	-	-	-
Developing economies*	123 607	78 928	86 283	112 797	30.7	92 216	12 976	68 402	42 030	-38.6
<b>World*</b>	815 726	507 396	474 864	727 880	53.3	815 726	507 396	474 864	727 880	53.3

## Announced greenfield investment project overview, 2018–2021

(Millions of dollars)

Region/economy	As destination					As source				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2020-2021 Growth rate %	2018	2019	2020	2021	2020-2021 Growth rate %
<b>Least developed countries</b>	40 369	35 384	17 743	11 614	-34.5	1 836	693	497	264	-46.8
<i>Memorandum</i>										
LDCs: Africa	23 501	23 058	10 629	10 069	-5.3	601	369	371	159	-57.1
LDCs: Asia	16 867	12 326	7 114	1 545	-78.3	1 235	308	126	105	-16.9
LDCs: LAC	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	-
LDCs: Oceania	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Developing economies*	563 034	464 256	258 584	258 861	0.1	300 376	241 744	135 847	130 581	-3.9
<b>World*</b>	982 455	845 921	575 069	659 426	14.7	982 455	845 921	575 069	659 426	14.7

Source: UNCTAD, *World Investment Report 2022* (<https://unctad.org/wir> or <https://unctad.org/fdistatistics>).

\*Excluding Caribbean offshore financial centres.

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This fact sheet and additional information on the *World Investment Report 2022* and the Report itself can be found at:

<https://unctad.org/wir>

The sources for all this information are the *World Investment Report 2022* and UNCTAD FDI/MNE database.

This database can be found at:

<https://unctad.org/fdistatistics>

The *World Investment Report 2022 (WIR22)* (Sales No.E.22.II.D.20, ISBN: 978-92-1-113049-2 and eISBN: 978-92-1-001543-1) may be obtained from UN Sales Offices or from UN sales agents in many countries. Price: US\$ 85.00 (50% discount for residents in developing economies and 75% discount for residents in least developed countries). Customers who would like to buy the book, or obtain quotations for large quantities, should enquire from the sales offices.

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