



World Investment Report 2023
Investing in Sustainable Energy for All

Fact Sheet: Least developed countries

Foreign direct investment (FDI) overview, selected years

(Millions of dollars and per cent)

FDI flows	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2021-2022 Growth rate %	As a percentage of gross capital formation				
							2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Least developed countries											
Inward	21 605	22 572	22 965	26 397	22 043	-16.5	6.4	6.5	6.7	7.1	5.3
Outward	797	- 308	1 400	- 592	1 367	-	0.4	-0.2	0.6	-0.3	0.5
<i>Memorandum</i>											
LDCs: Africa											
Inward	10 442	12 928	14 530	17 337	12 798	-26.2	6.3	7.6	9.2	9.8	6.1
Outward	598	-1 121	527	- 811	1 161	-	0.6	-1.4	0.6	-1.0	0.9
LDCs: Asia											
Inward	11 034	9 536	8 398	8 980	9 164	2.0	6.6	5.5	4.5	4.7	4.6
Outward	190	809	870	215	203	-5.5	0.2	0.6	0.7	0.1	-
LDCs: LAC											
Inward	105	75	25	51	39	-23.4	3.4	2.5	1.0	1.4	1.2
Outward	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LDCs: Oceania											
Inward	24	33	12	29	42	44.1	9.0	9.9	3.0	8.4	9.7
Outward	9	4	4	5	3	-50.4	3.3	1.2	1.1	1.5	0.6
Developing economies*											
Inward	697 237	709 114	646 522	880 894	916 418	4.0	6.8	6.7	6.3	7.2	7.0
Outward	376 938	398 393	381 921	484 893	458 890	-5.4	3.7	3.8	3.8	4.1	3.5
World*											
Inward	1 375 437	1 707 830	961 983	1 478 137	1 294 738	-12.4	6.3	7.6	4.4	5.9	4.9
Outward	1 014 750	1 400 770	731 854	1 729 076	1 489 756	-13.8	4.7	6.3	3.4	7.0	5.7

FDI Stock	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2021-2022 Growth rate %	As a percentage of gross domestic product				
							2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Least developed countries											
Inward	353 510	372 299	395 194	421 212	438 732	4.2	32.0	32.4	34.1	33.8	31.2
Outward	23 332	21 965	22 759	22 941	23 391	2.0	3.0	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.3
<i>Memorandum</i>											
LDCs: Africa											
Inward	256 835	268 170	283 701	299 391	311 661	4.1	44.5	45.7	50.1	47.4	41.6
Outward	21 061	19 552	20 283	20 274	20 563	1.4	5.6	5.3	6.0	5.2	4.4
LDCs: Asia											
Inward	94 229	101 584	108 931	119 187	124 368	4.3	18.5	18.6	18.9	20.1	19.6
Outward	2 203	2 344	2 403	2 589	2 750	6.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	-	0.5
LDCs: LAC											
Inward	1 850	1 925	1 940	1 992	2 031	2.0	11.2	13.0	13.4	9.5	9.9
Outward	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LDCs: Oceania											
Inward	596	619	621	643	672	4.5	32.0	33.5	35.2	35.1	35.7
Outward	68	68	73	78	78	0.8	3.7	3.8	4.2	4.4	4.3
Developing economies*											
Inward	10 618 403	11 359 624	11 889 546	14 263 114	15 159 744	6.3	32.3	33.8	36.7	37.5	37.6
Outward	7 152 811	7 707 285	8 588 300	9 101 939	9 585 605	5.3	22.2	23.4	27.0	24.5	24.1
World*											
Inward	32 407 947	35 970 653	41 919 401	47 079 311	44 252 759	-6.0	37.7	41.2	49.4	48.9	44.3
Outward	31 185 120	34 740 652	40 143 530	42 667 167	39 852 940	-6.6	36.6	40.1	47.7	44.6	40.1

Cross-border merger and acquisition (M&A) overview, 2019–2022

(Millions of dollars)

Region/economy	Sales (net)					Purchases (net)				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2021-2022 Growth rate %	2019	2020	2021	2022	2021-2022 Growth rate %
Least developed countries	223	421	- 1 843	35	-	- 2	36	- 3	100	-
<i>Memorandum</i>										
LDCs: Africa	197	417	- 1 794	- 25	-	-	36	4	100	2 529.2
LDCs: Asia	27	-	- 48	60	-	- 2	-	- 7	-	-
LDCs: LAC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LDCs: Oceania	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Developing economies*	78 928	86 283	113 382	107 257	-5.4	12 976	68 402	40 083	58 226	45.3
World*	507 396	474 864	737 452	706 572	-4.2	507 396	474 864	737 452	706 572	-4.2

Announced greenfield investment project overview, 2019–2022

(Millions of dollars)

Region/economy	As destination					As source				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2021-2022 Growth rate %	2019	2020	2021	2022	2021-2022 Growth rate %
Least developed countries	33 375	18 125	13 777	26 351	91.3	692	508	274	939	243.1
<i>Memorandum</i>										
LDCs: Africa	20 871	11 010	12 187	24 522	101.2	381	378	169	857	408.4
LDCs: Asia	12 504	7 115	1 590	1 829	15.1	295	130	105	82	-22.2
LDCs: LAC	-	-	-	-	-	16	-	-	-	-
LDCs: Oceania	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Developing economies*	478 089	270 577	273 512	573 205	109.6	255 163	139 269	133 869	304 637	127.6
World*	908 193	603 933	738 636	1 212 651	64.2	908 193	603 933	738 636	1 212 651	64.2

Source: UNCTAD, *World Investment Report 2023* (<https://unctad.org/wir> or <https://unctad.org/fdistatistics>).

*Excluding Caribbean offshore financial centres and special-purpose entities in reporting countries.

This fact sheet and additional information on the *World Investment Report 2023* and the Report itself can be found at:

<https://unctad.org/wir>

The sources for all this information are the *World Investment Report 2023* and UNCTAD FDI/MNE database.

This database can be found at:

<https://unctad.org/fdistatistics>

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