



World Investment Report 2021
INVESTING IN SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY

Country Fact Sheet: Least developed countries

Foreign direct investment (FDI) overview, selected years

(Millions of dollars and per cent)

FDI flows	2005–2007 <i>(Pre-crisis annual average)</i>	2017	2018	2019	2020	As a percentage of gross capital formation				
						2005–2007 <i>(Pre-crisis annual average)</i>	2017	2018	2019	2020
Least developed countries										
Inward	9 182	20 808	23 163	23 294	23 610	8.7	6.7	7.3	7.2	7.6
Outward	988	2 211	888	-979	2 801	1.1	1.2	0.4	-0.6	1.5
<i>Memorandum</i>										
LDCs: Africa										
Inward	6 383	9 446	11 381	13 398	14 366	9.2	5.6	6.8	8.0	9.3
Outward	935	1 921	688	-1142	1 928	2.0	2.2	0.7	-1.4	-
LDCs: LAC										
Inward	87	375	105	75	30	9.9	20.9	4.7	3.2	1.3
Outward	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LDCs: Asia										
Inward	2 661	10 943	11 653	9 789	9 204	7.7	7.8	7.8	6.4	6.0
Outward	46	283	191	159	869	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.9
LDCs: Oceania										
Inward	51	44	24	33	9	73.5	16.4	13.0	16.5	6.8
Outward	6	7	9	4	4	9.1	2.7	4.7	2.0	2.5
Developing and Transitional Economies*										
Inward	477 961	752 991	729 083	781 228	686 722	11.2	7.0	6.3	6.6	6.0
Outward	227 879	517 288	440 132	439 942	392 710	5.6	4.9	3.8	3.7	3.4
World*										
Inward	1 425 287	1 647 312	1 436 732	1 530 228	998 891	10.9	7.9	6.4	6.7	4.5
Outward	1 463 539	1 604 697	870 715	1 220 432	739 872	11.4	7.8	3.9	5.3	3.4
As a percentage of gross domestic product										
FDI Stock	2005	2017	2018	2019	2020	2005	2017	2018	2019	2020
Least developed countries										
Inward	71 017	333 675	353 765	371 462	395 392	20.3	32.8	33.3	33.7	35.4
Outward	4 909	22 070	22 753	21 458	24 108	2.3	3.1	3.1	2.8	3.2
<i>Memorandum</i>										
LDCs: Africa										
Inward	56 031	247 748	256 865	267 370	283 780	25.7	43.2	44.1	45.4	49.9
Outward	4 370	19 905	20 436	18 998	20 818	3.8	5.5	5.4	5.1	-
LDCs: LAC										
Inward	150	1 745	1 850	1 925	1 955	2.1	12.3	11.6	13.4	13.7
Outward	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LDCs: Asia										
Inward	14 711	83 567	94 454	101 548	109 039	11.8	19.5	20.5	20.4	20.4
Outward	538	2 105	2 250	2 391	3 218	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.8
LDCs: Oceania										
Inward	124	616	596	619	619	20.4	36.5	32.9	34.0	34.1
Outward	1	61	68	68	73	0.7	3.7	3.8	3.8	4.1
Developing and Transitional Economies*										
Inward	2 902 509	11 175 147	11 420 451	12 252 051	12 674 019	23.5	32.7	31.3	32.8	35.3
Outward	1 337 796	7 750 177	7 967 365	8 505 609	9 111 573	11.1	23.1	22.2	23.2	25.9
World*										
Inward	11 525 332	33 162 200	32 784 110	36 377 437	41 354 249	24.2	41.1	38.2	41.7	49.0
Outward	12 000 476	32 851 106	31 218 577	34 350 816	39 247 013	25.4	41.0	36.6	39.6	46.8

Cross-border merger and acquisition (M&A) overview, 2005–2007 average, 2018–2020

(Millions of dollars)

Region/economy	Sales (net)				Purchases (net)			
	2005–2007 <i>(Pre-crisis annual average)</i>	2018	2019	2020	2005–2007 <i>(Pre-crisis annual average)</i>	2018	2019	2020
Least developed countries	1 339	1 342	223	421	- 266	130	- 2	36
<i>Memorandum</i>								
LDCs: Africa	937	123	197	417	71	-	-	36
LDCs: LAC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LDCs: Asia	397	1 219	27	-	- 337	130	- 2	-
LDCs: Oceania	5	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
Developing and Transitional Economies*	94 283	126 867	83 857	95 976	114 806	98 297	15 782	75 556
World*	729 178	815 726	507 396	474 864	729 178	815 726	507 396	474 864

Announced greenfield investment project overview, 2005–2007 average, 2018–2020

(Millions of dollars)

Region/economy	As destination				As source			
	2005–2007 <i>(Pre-crisis annual average)</i>	2018	2019	2020	2005–2007 <i>(Pre-crisis annual average)</i>	2018	2019	2020
Least developed countries	17 271	40 369	35 384	16 703	136	1 836	693	459
<i>Memorandum</i>								
LDCs: Africa	13 591	23 501	23 058	9 690	78	601	369	339
LDCs: LAC	64	-	-	-	-	-	15	-
LDCs: Asia	3 616	16 867	12 326	7 013	57	1 235	308	120
LDCs: Oceania	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Developing and Transitional Economies*	466 163	605 169	500 181	274 809	186 315	343 934	280 563	146 187
World*	744 467	982 455	845 921	563 857	744 467	982 455	845 921	563 857

Source: UNCTAD, *World Investment Report 2021* (<https://unctad.org/wir> or <https://unctad.org/fdistatistics>).

*Excluding Caribbean offshore financial centres.

This fact sheet and additional information on the *World Investment Report 2021* and the Report itself can be found at:

<https://unctad.org/wir>

The sources for all this information are the *World Investment Report 2021* and UNCTAD FDI/MNE database.

This database can be found at:

<https://unctad.org/fdistatistics>

The *World Investment Report 2021 (WIR21)* (Sales No.E.21.II.D.13, ISBN: 9789211130171 and eISBN: 9789210054638) 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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