

World Investment Report 2024

Investment Facilitation and Digital Government

Fact Sheet:

Least developed countries

Foreign direct investment (FDI) overview, selected years

(Millions of dollars and per cent)

FDI flows	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2022-2023 Growth rate %	As a percentage of gross capital formation				
							2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Least developed countries											
Inward	22 494	23 996	28 694	26 668	31 299	17.4	6.5	6.8	7.6	6.3	7.5
Outward	- 966	681	- 393	1 377	1 160	-15.7	-0.5	0.3	-0.2	0.5	0.4
<i>Memorandum</i>											
LDCs: Africa											
Inward	12 986	15 469	19 298	17 978	21 001	16.8	8.0	9.5	10.9	8.6	10.5
Outward	-1 126	527	- 587	1 205	989	-18.0	-1.5	0.6	-0.8	1.0	0.8
LDCs: Asia											
Inward	9 400	8 490	9 315	8 603	10 239	19.0	5.3	4.5	4.7	4.1	4.7
Outward	156	150	189	169	164	-2.9	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	-
LDCs: LAC											
Inward	75	25	51	39	32	-18.6	2.5	1.0	1.4	1.2	1.1
Outward	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LDCs: Oceania											
Inward	33	12	29	47	28	-40.8	9.9	3.0	9.9	11.5	5.5
Outward	4	4	5	2	8	206.8	1.2	1.1	1.8	0.6	1.6
Developing economies*											
Inward	704 489	646 983	889 965	929 551	867 417	-6.7	6.7	6.3	7.3	7.3	6.6
Outward	398 849	383 471	505 827	551 567	491 261	-10.9	3.8	3.8	4.2	4.3	3.8
World*											
Inward	1 729 239	984 578	1 621 808	1 355 749	1 331 813	-1.8	7.7	4.5	6.4	5.2	4.9
Outward	1 444 809	779 507	1 881 922	1 574 724	1 550 584	-1.5	6.4	3.5	7.5	6.0	5.7
							As a percentage of gross domestic product				
FDI Stock	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2022-2023 Growth rate %	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Least developed countries											
Inward	362 120	382 377	411 253	429 955	459 109	6.8	31.2	32.7	32.3	30.3	32.0
Outward	21 714	22 563	22 779	22 890	23 988	4.8	2.7	2.8	2.5	2.2	2.4
<i>Memorandum</i>											
LDCs: Africa											
Inward	258 617	271 334	290 375	304 062	326 382	7.3	43.8	47.5	45.6	41.1	42.0
Outward	19 301	20 003	20 152	20 136	21 114	4.9	5.2	5.9	5.1	4.3	4.5
LDCs: Asia											
Inward	100 958	108 481	118 246	123 190	129 961	5.5	18.3	18.7	19.3	18.7	20.4
Outward	2 344	2 486	2 550	2 676	2 795	4.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	-	0.5
LDCs: LAC											
Inward	1 925	1 940	1 992	2 031	2 063	1.6	13.0	13.4	9.5	10.2	9.6
Outward	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LDCs: Oceania											
Inward	619	621	640	672	703	4.6	32.8	34.3	34.8	35.5	35.6
Outward	68	73	78	78	78	0.3	3.7	4.1	4.4	4.3	4.1
Developing economies*											
Inward	11 343 075	11 886 195	14 300 663	14 783 189	15 696 192	6.2	33.7	36.6	37.6	36.9	38.1
Outward	7 695 457	8 621 643	9 195 310	9 391 648	9 976 074	6.2	23.3	27.1	24.6	23.7	24.6
World*											
Inward	36 150 805	41 892 770	47 156 148	44 375 102	49 130 846	10.7	41.4	49.2	48.7	44.2	47.0
Outward	35 009 321	40 717 981	43 385 944	40 569 644	44 380 560	9.4	40.3	48.2	45.1	40.6	42.7

Cross-border merger and acquisition (M&A) overview, 2020–2023

(Millions of dollars)

Region/economy	Sales (net)					Purchases (net)				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2022-2023 Growth rate %	2020	2021	2022	2023	2022-2023 Growth rate %
Least developed countries	421	- 1 843	35	83	134.7	36	- 3	100	39	-61.0
<i>Memorandum</i>										
LDCs: Africa	417	- 1 794	- 25	68	-	36	4	100	39	-61.0
LDCs: Asia	-	- 48	60	15	-75.1	-	- 7	-	-	-
LDCs: LAC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LDCs: Oceania	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Developing economies*	86 283	113 382	107 257	76 434	-28.7	68 402	40 083	58 226	72 595	24.7
World*	474 864	737 452	706 572	378 370	-46.4	474 864	737 452	706 572	378 370	-46.4

Announced greenfield investment project overview, 2020–2023

(Millions of dollars)

Region/economy	As destination					As source				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2022-2023 Growth rate %	2020	2021	2022	2023	2022-2023 Growth rate %
Least developed countries	32 374	15 966	27 735	75 978	173.9	530	289	1 032	858	-16.9
<i>Memorandum</i>										
LDCs: Africa	25 369	12 606	24 936	66 975	168.6	389	184	951	345	-63.8
LDCs: Asia	7 005	3 360	2 799	9 003	221.7	141	105	82	513	529.6
LDCs: LAC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LDCs: Oceania	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Developing economies*	296 731	292 835	622 048	749 412	20.5	159 087	147 205	344 596	466 243	35.3
World*	640 585	829 693	1 309 067	1 380 401	5.4	640 585	829 693	1 309 067	1 380 401	5.4

Source: UNCTAD, *World Investment Report 2024* (<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 2024* and the Report itself can be found at:

<https://unctad.org/wir>

The sources for all this information are the *World Investment Report 2024* and UNCTAD FDI/MNE database.

This database can be found at:

<https://unctad.org/fdistatistics>

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