



# Greenfield Foreign Direct Investment into Asia-Pacific 2022

Date: July 2023

Report code: GDFDI-TR-S002

# Table of contents

Foreword	3
Overview	4
Executive Summary	5
Global FDI Trends	6
Regional FDI Trends – Asia-Pacific	8
Top Investment Destinations in Asia-Pacific – Countries	9
Top Investment Destinations – Cities	11
Top FDI Sectors in Asia-Pacific	12
Top FDI Subsectors in Asia-Pacific	13
Top Themes	15
Alternative Insights – Top Investment Destinations by FDI per Capita	16
Alternative Insights – Top Investment Destinations by Inward FDI Performance Index	17
Top Investors in Asia-Pacific	18
Top Investments in Asia-Pacific	19
By project value	20
By job creation	21
About the report	22
About Investment Monitor	23
About GlobalData	24



# Glenn Barklie

Chief economist,  
Investment Monitor

## Greenfield FDI numbers up significantly amid global economic woes

*The number of greenfield foreign direct investment (FDI) projects into Asia-Pacific finally surpassed pre-Covid levels in 2022. Several countries saw strong annual growth, with India the star performer.*

**I**nbound greenfield FDI projects into Asia-Pacific totalled 4,863 in 2022. The region was the hardest hit during the Covid-19 crisis, with greenfield project numbers declining by 36% in 2020. Although inflows grew in 2021, they were still 20% lower than the volumes achieved in 2019. Investments into Asia-Pacific grew by more than any other region in 2022, with project numbers finally surpassing pre-Covid levels. In fact, the annual growth in project numbers in the region (+34%) was more than double the global growth in FDI (+15%).

### India is the region's leading destination

India became the third-largest recipient of FDI globally in 2022 (behind the US and Germany). India saw a massive 72% annual increase in inbound projects, meaning it was accounting for one in every four projects in Asia-Pacific. India's large domestic market, rising middle class, available talent, competitive costs and improved business environment have enticed many companies to establish operations. Although it did see strong project growth in traditional sectors such as software and business services, there were notable increases in electronics, logistics, machinery and pharmaceutical sectors. Given the size of the country, investments were spread across more than 100 cities – five of which were in the top ten regional recipients ranking.

### China's woes continue

In contrast to India, China continued its descent. In 2019, China was the leading greenfield destination in the region; however, it has now slipped to fourth behind India, Australia and Singapore. The country's zero-Covid policy had several negative economic implications, with growth slowing. Additionally, the emerging trend of 'China plus one', where investors are looking to diversify their reliance on China, is in full effect. Our report showcases some primary beneficiaries, namely India, Malaysia, Vietnam, the Philippines and Taiwan.

### Strategic sectors driving regional investment growth

Investments into the region were primarily in software-related activities. All software subsectors experienced annual growth in project numbers. Software as a service (SaaS) operations and computer programming were the largest tech-based sectors in terms of inward investment. However, computer games saw the largest growth in projects, albeit from a low base.

The electronics sector became the third-largest FDI sector in Asia-Pacific. Growth in the sector was driven by investments in semiconductors and electronic components. Inbound renewables and automotive FDI grew by 45% and 50%, respectively, with offshore wind power, green hydrogen and electric vehicle (EV) investments rising sharply. Additionally, there were notable rises in pharmaceutical products FDI and education support services.

### Challenges remain

Perhaps surprisingly, greenfield investments increased in 2022 amid an array of economic challenges. The war in Ukraine sent food and energy price levels rocketing, with several countries continuing to experience problems in bringing inflation rates back in line. Other geopolitical challenges and lingering supply chain issues also remain. Additionally, there is the potential impact of regulating emerging tech areas such as artificial intelligence (AI) as well as increased FDI screening. Lastly, other protectionist measures are in full flight. Government incentive programmes, particularly in strategically sensitive sectors, could lead to a distortion of normal market conditions. Our provisional 2023 data shows greenfield FDI project numbers are down by around 20% compared with 2022 (half-year comparison). This was somewhat predicted, as macroeconomic problems often have lagged impacts on FDI flows. However, there is optimism for a stronger performance in H2 2023.

# Overview

# \$13,000,000,000

Largest project (by value): AES \$13bn offshore wind farm in Vietnam

**Top FDI sector:**  
Software and IT services  
1213 projects

**Top destination city:**  
Singapore  
418 projects

**Top FDI subsector:**  
SaaS, operating systems and apps  
573 projects

**Top country**  
Inward FDI Performance Index:  
Georgia  
11.32



**Top source market:**  
United States  
1,449 projects



**Top FDI theme:**  
Digitalisation  
531 projects



**Top destination country:**  
India  
1290 projects

**Top country FDI per million population:**  
Singapore  
78.37



**Top investor:**  
Accor  
52 projects

# 60,000

New jobs created by Capegemini's in India.  
Making it the largest project (by job creation)

# Executive Summary

**Greenfield FDI globally and in the Asia-Pacific region showed strong resilience in 2022. Despite a range of macroeconomic headwinds, investors' sentiment remained strong. However, it is anticipated that the impact of these factors will be more heavily felt in H1 2023.**

The number of inbound FDI projects into the Asia-Pacific region grew by 34.3%, far outpacing the global growth rate of 15.3%. This growth helped FDI flows in the region exceed pre-Covid levels for the first time, with project numbers 8.6% higher in 2022 than in 2019.

## **India received the highest number of FDI projects in Asia-Pacific region**

In 2022, India emerged as the leading investment destination in the Asia-Pacific region. The country attracted 1,290 inbound investment projects, reflecting a 72.2% increase compared with 2021. Moreover, India has overtaken both France and the UK to become the third-largest FDI destination globally. The country accounted for more than one-quarter (26.5%) of total inbound FDI into the Asia-Pacific region. The country attracted the two largest job creating projects with Apple and Capgemini announcing plans to expand their operations in India, creating 60,000 jobs each.

Further demonstrating its strength as a major player in outbound FDI, India ranked as the third-largest source market within Asia-Pacific in 2022, behind Japan and China.

## **Malaysia, Vietnam and Philippines witness strong FDI growth as interest in China subsides**

In 2022, the South East Asian region witnessed a 61.3% year-on-year increase in FDI levels. Key contributors to this rise were Malaysia, Vietnam and Philippines. The three countries together attracted almost double the number of FDI projects in 2022 compared with 2021.

Amid the economic slowdown in China and escalating geopolitical tensions, investors are broadening their reach to other Asian countries. South East Asian countries, in particular, are seizing the opportunity to establish themselves as regional FDI hubs.

## **Singapore retained its top position as the leading FDI city within Asia-Pacific**

City-state Singapore was the leading destination city for greenfield FDI projects in 2022. Foreign investors announced 418 FDI projects in 2022, a 19.8% increase from 2021. Singapore surpassed London to become the second most preferred FDI city globally behind Dubai.

Singapore has a strong reputation for having a stable economy and a business-friendly environment; two enticing attributes when it comes to attracting FDI, particularly in light of current macroeconomic concerns.

## **US and western Europe are key source markets for Asia-Pacific FDI**

The US and western European countries were the dominant source markets for FDI into Asia-Pacific in 2022. US-based companies created a total of 1,449 FDI projects in the region in 2022. The UK and Germany were the next most important source markets. In fact, both North America and western Europe-based companies accounted for a larger share of FDI into Asia than inter-Asian FDI.

Singapore, Japan and China were the biggest sources of inter-Asian FDI.

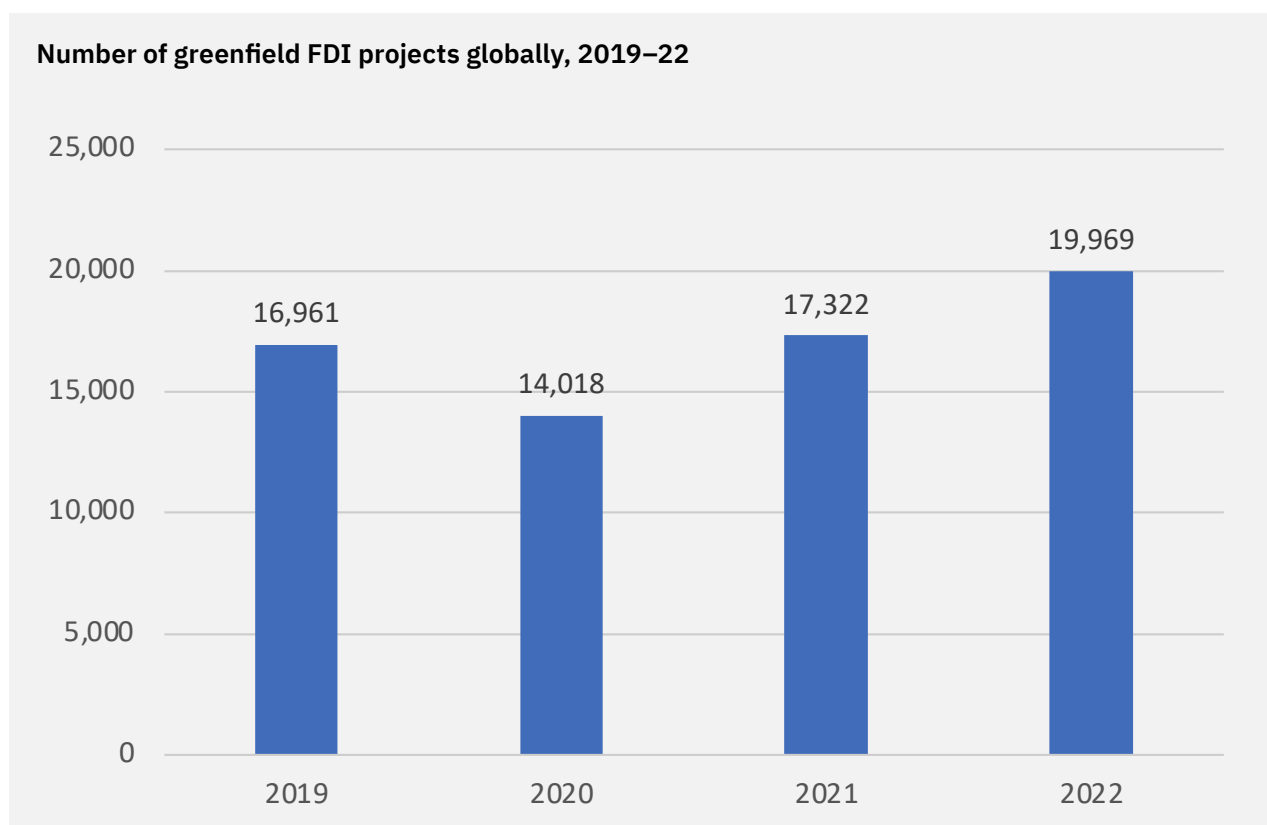
# Global FDI Trends

*Global greenfield FDI grew by 15.3% year-on-year in 2022. A total of 19,969 greenfield FDI projects were announced in 2022, surpassing pre-Covid levels. This was the highest level of greenfield FDI since 2011.*

**D**espite facing a range of macroeconomic challenges in 2022, such as persistent high inflation, energy, and food crises, escalating geopolitical tensions and ongoing supply chain issues, investor sentiment remained bullish.

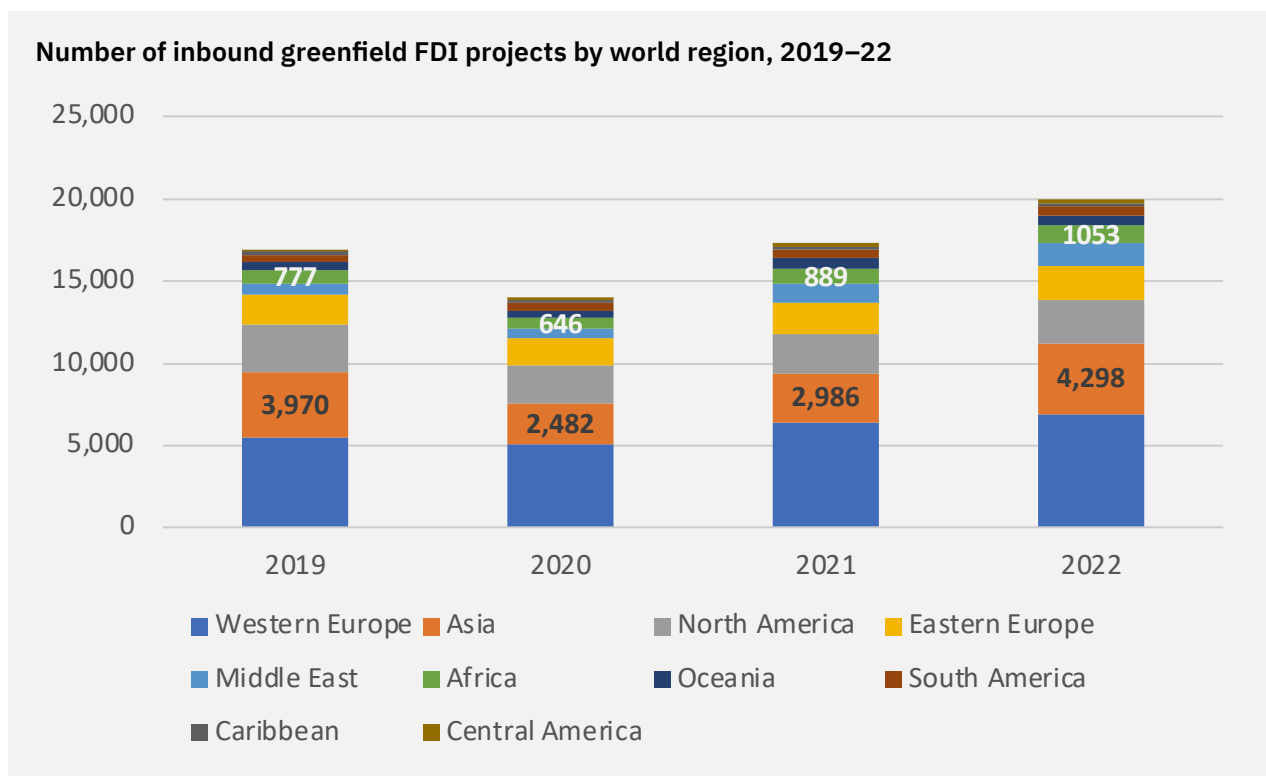
Although the Covid-19 pandemic caused a substantial dip in FDI projects in 2020 (-17.4%), we witnessed a swift recovery, with project numbers rising by 23.6% and 15.3% in 2021 and 2022, respectively. The Covid-19 pandemic revealed how susceptible western economies are to disruptions in supply chains – particularly those originating from China. This sparked a surge in mega investment projects as numerous companies pledged substantial financial resources to relocate part(s) of their production bases. Additionally, the recent conflict in Ukraine has exacerbated this trend. Businesses are actively looking to diversify their supply chains and reduce the risks of being overly dependent on both China and Russia. However, in this complex business environment, investors have exhibited a positive and optimistic outlook, transforming challenges into opportunities.

On a regional front, western Europe, Asia and North America maintained their positions as the leading regional markets for inward investment. Together, these regions accounted for almost two-thirds (63.3%) of total inbound FDI projects in 2022. However, western Europe has lost market share – down by 2.4 percentage points, while North America witnessed flat annual growth.

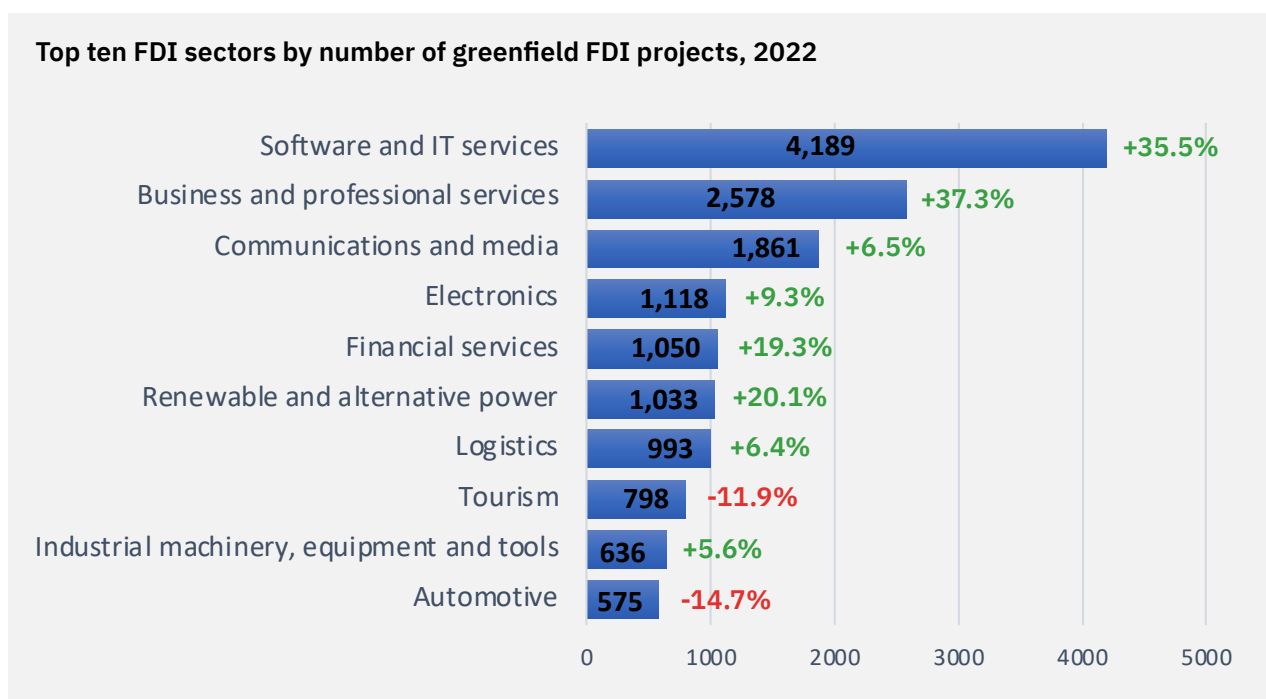


Source: GlobalData's FDI Projects Database

In contrast, Asia exhibited the largest gain in market share (+4.3 percentage points) and continued to maintain its position as the second-largest regional inbound market. Asia's increase in FDI was more of a continued recovery, as it finally passed pre-Covid FDI levels.



Of the 34 global FDI sectors, 26 witnessed annual growth in 2022. Software and IT services emerged as the leading FDI sector in terms of number of projects. Business and professional services (BPS) placed second, followed by communication and media, which ranked third. Notably, renewable and alternative power, which was the largest growth sector in 2021, continued its upward trajectory, increasing by an additional 44.6% in 2022.



Source: GlobalData's FDI Projects Database

# Regional FDI Trends Asia-Pacific

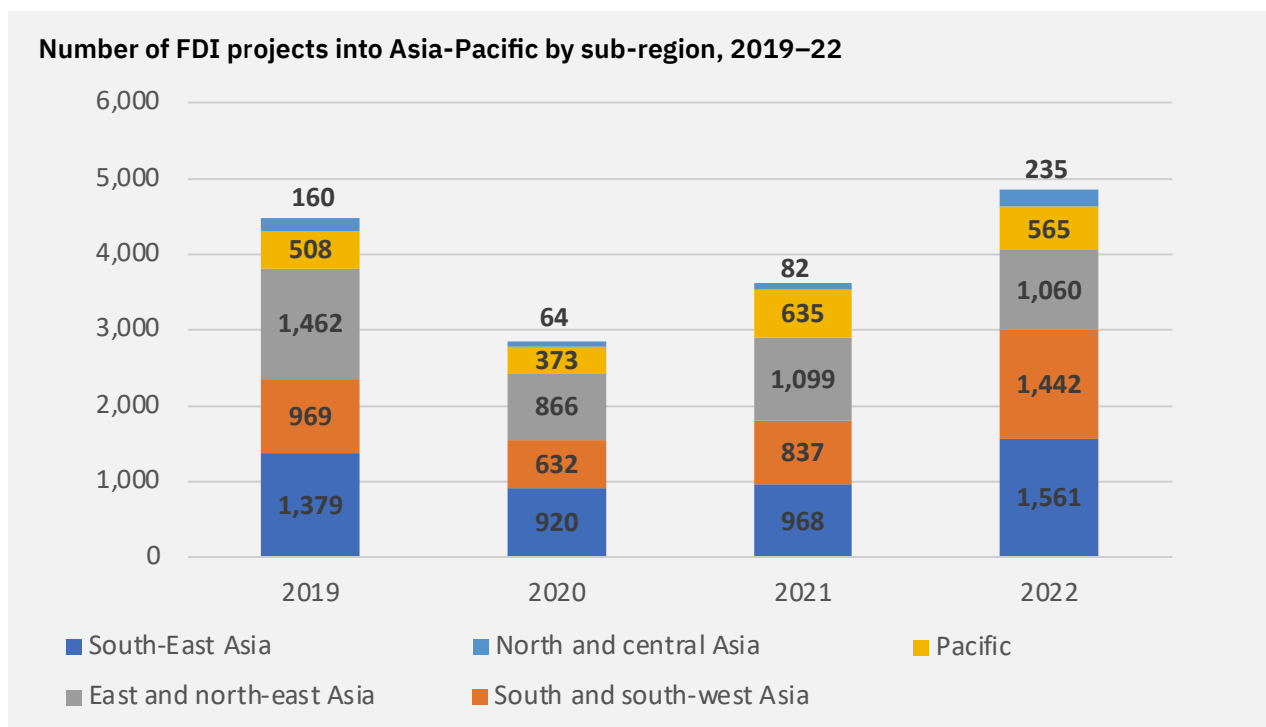
*In 2022, Asia-Pacific received 4,863 inbound greenfield FDI projects. Foreign investment projects in the Asia-Pacific region grew at more than double the rate of global FDI growth.*

**I**nvestments into Asia-Pacific were up 34.3% year-on-year, surpassing the global growth rate of 15.3%. The substantial expansion in Southeast Asia, south-west Asia, and north and central Asia played a significant role in driving this upward trend. Several factors have contributed to the region’s positive outlook, including its robust economic recovery from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, promising growth prospects and a dynamic business environment.

South-east Asia was the largest sub-region for FDI into Asia-Pacific with a total of 1,561 FDI projects. South and south-west Asia was the second-largest sub-region, with 1,442 FDI projects, and east and north-east Asia placed third (1,060 projects). North and central Asia was the region with the largest annual growth, recording a 186% increase in FDI projects. It was driven by triple-digit FDI project growth in countries such as Uzbekistan, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, and Kazakhstan. The war in Ukraine has also led to an increase in FDI in the Asia-Pacific region as several companies relocated their operations from Russia to other nearby countries in the region.

Additionally, global rebalancing is also driving FDI activity in Asia. As the US-China relationship continues to deteriorate, US companies are increasingly looking elsewhere in Asia as an alternative market for growth. This has led to record FDI levels in several Asian nations including India, Malaysia, and Vietnam.

However, there were also some regions that experienced a decline in FDI project volumes in 2022. The Pacific region saw the largest drop, with an 11% decline. This was due to a fall in FDI inflows in Australia and New Zealand. East and north-east Asia was the other Asian region to experience a slight decline, of 3.5%. The fall is mainly attributed to a decline in inbound FDI levels in China and Hong Kong.



Source: GlobalData’s FDI Projects Database



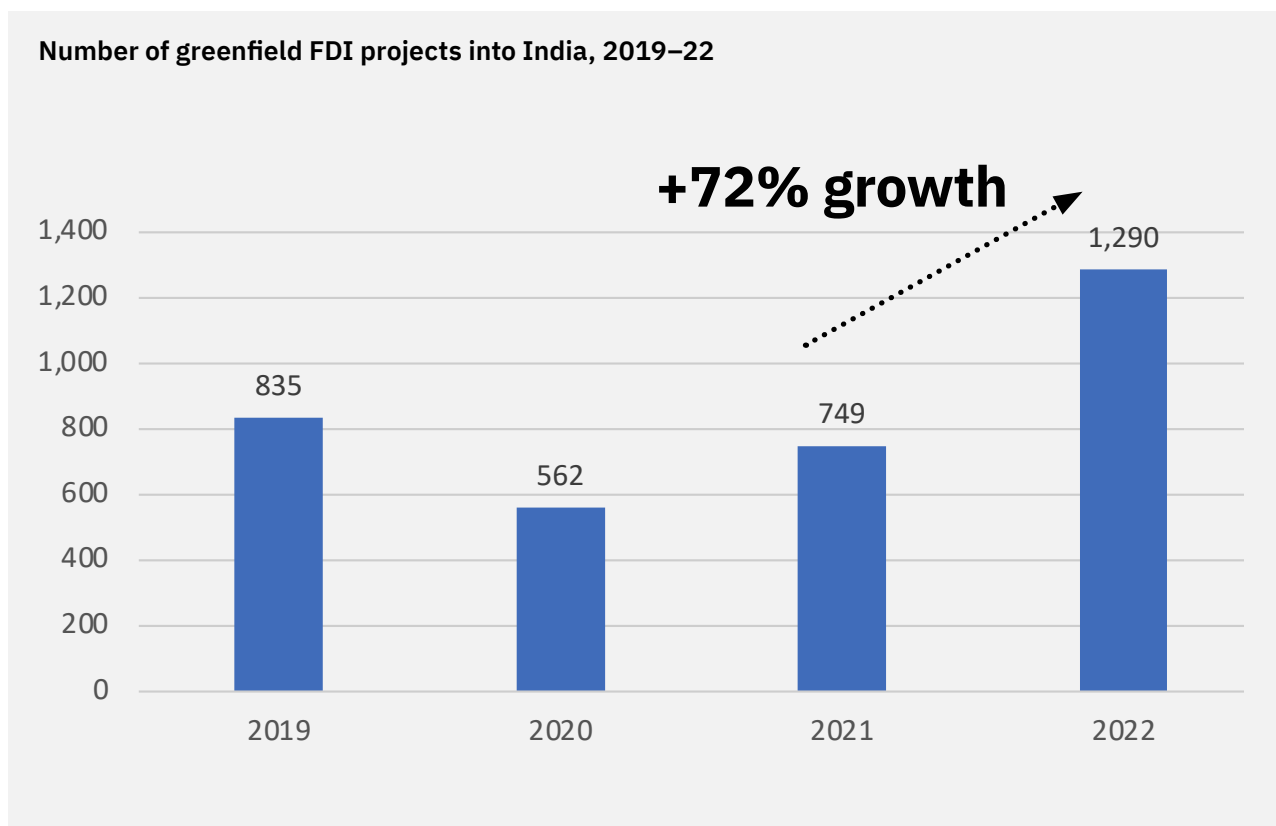
# Top Investment Destinations in Asia-Pacific – Countries

*In 2022, India emerged as the leading destination for greenfield FDI in the Asia-Pacific region, surpassing other countries by a significant margin.*

**I**ndia also improved its international standing, ranking as the third-largest recipient of FDI globally in 2022 based on the number of projects. This marked a notable advancement compared with its fifth position in 2021.

India accounted for more than one-quarter (26.5%) of the total inward FDI in the Asia-Pacific region. Although India experienced a 32.6% decline in investment levels in 2020 due to the Covid-19 crisis, the country rebounded strongly in 2021. However, it fell slightly short of pre-pandemic FDI levels. Benefitting from substantial inflows of FDI in 2022, India's FDI project receipt is now 54.5% higher than it was in 2019 (pre-Covid-19).

Maharashtra, the third-largest Indian state by area, and home to major industrial and financial hub Mumbai, was the country's leading state for inward investment in 2022. It attracted 242 FDI projects, with Karnataka in south-western India close behind with 227 projects. Tamil Nadu, the southernmost state of India, ranked third with 158.



Source: GlobalData's FDI Projects Database


At the city level, Bengaluru maintained its top position as the leading destination city within India with 212 FDI projects in 2022. It also ranked as the second-largest destination city in Asia-Pacific, behind city-state Singapore. Hyderabad and Chennai ranked second and third within India, attracting 147 and 115 FDI projects, respectively.

The US was the leading source market by far for FDI projects into India in 2022. US companies announced 613 projects, primarily focused on software, BPS, communications and electronics. The UK ranked second with 106 projects, while Germany placed third with 105. Of the top ten source countries for India-destined FDI, five were western Europe-based (UK, Germany, France, Switzerland and the Netherlands). Moreover, 909 unique companies announced 1,290 investment projects into India in 2022.

Although Australia witnessed negative annual growth of -10.4% in inward FDI in 2022, it maintained its ranking as the second-largest recipient of FDI in the region. Notably, Australia experienced a surge in FDI in 2021, which could suggest that the decline in 2022 was more of a smoothing. The country primarily attracted inward investment in the software, BPS and communication sectors. Its top three sectors accounted for almost half (49.3%) of its total inward FDI.

China's inbound greenfield projects experienced a significant decline, falling to 406 projects, which is 18.5% lower than the level recorded in 2021. Consequently, China's regional ranking dropped to fourth, falling behind India, Australia and Singapore. This downward trend can be attributed to various factors including escalating labor costs, a sluggish Chinese economy, the stringent zero-Covid policy, trade tensions with the US and the resulting disruptions in the supply chain. These circumstances prompted numerous companies to reduce their investments in China, with many relocating to other countries in the region. In contrast, South East Asian nations such as Malaysia, Vietnam and Philippines attracted almost double the number of FDI projects in 2022 compared with 2021. This FDI growth in the region comes as investors reassess their strategies and diversify their portfolios, seeking alternative markets outside of China. The aforementioned issues in China have prompted investors to explore opportunities in other Asian countries.

**Top ten FDI destination countries by number of greenfield FDI projects, Asia-Pacific, 2022\***

Asia-Pacific Rank	Change	Country	Projects	YoY change	Share of Asia-Pacific	Global Rank
1 (0)	↔	 India	1,290	+72.2%	26.5%	3 (+2)
2 (0)	↔	 Australia	474	-10.4%	9.7%	9 (-1)
3 (+1)	↑	 Singapore	418	+19.8%	8.6%	12 (0)
4 (-1)	↓	 China	406	-18.5%	8.3%	13 (-4)
5 (0)	↔	 Japan	330	-0.9%	6.8%	16 (-3)
6 (0)	↔	 Vietnam	278	+77.1%	5.7%	21 (+5)
7 (0)	↔	 Malaysia	262	+111.3%	5.4%	23 (+8)
8 (+4)	↑	 Philippines	234	+157.1%	4.8%	28 (+15)
9 (0)	↔	 Indonesia	188	+66.4%	3.9%	29 (+6)
10 (0)	↔	 Thailand	135	+26.2%	2.8%	36 (+1)

Source: GlobalData's FDI Projects Database \*Change in rank from previous year indicated in brackets

# Top Investment Destinations in Asia-Pacific – Cities

*Singapore remained the leading investment destination in Asia-Pacific in 2022, attracting a total of 418 projects, an increase of 9.1% from the previous year. The city-state received high volumes of investments in sectors such as software, BPS and financial services. These top sectors collectively contributed to 60.4% of the overall inward investment in the city.*

**Five of the top ten destination cities in Asia-Pacific were Indian. Combined, these five cities accounted for more than half the number of projects in India. Bengaluru is the top recipient city with a 16.4% share of the country total, followed by Hyderabad (11.8%) and Chennai (8.9%).**

In 2022, most leading Asia-Pacific cities experienced increases in FDI. However, Sydney, Melbourne and Shanghai were the only cities in the top ten to witness a drop in the number of inbound FDI projects compared with 2021. It is important to note that decline in Sydney and Melbourne is more due to an exceptionally strong performance in 2021. In fact, FDI into both cities in 2022 was still higher than in 2019 and 2020. In contrast, inward FDI into Shanghai was half the level it was in 2019.

This decline can be mainly attributed to an overall slowdown in the Chinese economy (caused by the now-lifted zero-Covid policy) and ongoing housing crisis in Shanghai.

Outside the top ten cities, notable increases in FDI projects in 2022 were observed in Cebu City (Philippines), Dhaka (Bangladesh) and Yerevan (Armenia). Cebu City and Yerevan attracted substantial volumes of investment in the software sector while Dhaka’s increase was due to an inflow of FDI in its clothing and apparel segment.

**Top ten FDI destination cities by number of greenfield FDI projects, Asia-Pacific, 2022**

Rank	City	Projects	YoY change	Share of Country
1	Singapore (city)	418	19.8%	100.0%
2	Bengaluru	212	91.0%	16.4%
3	Hyderabad	166	-13.1%	35.0%
4	Tokyo	147	98.6%	11.4%
5	Melbourne	126	7.7%	38.2%
6	Chennai	116	-8.7%	24.5%
7	Pune	115	91.7%	8.9%
8	Tel Aviv	110	155.8%	8.5%
9	Shanghai	107	-7.0%	26.4%
10	Mumbai	105	59.1%	8.1%

Source: GlobalData’s FDI Projects Database

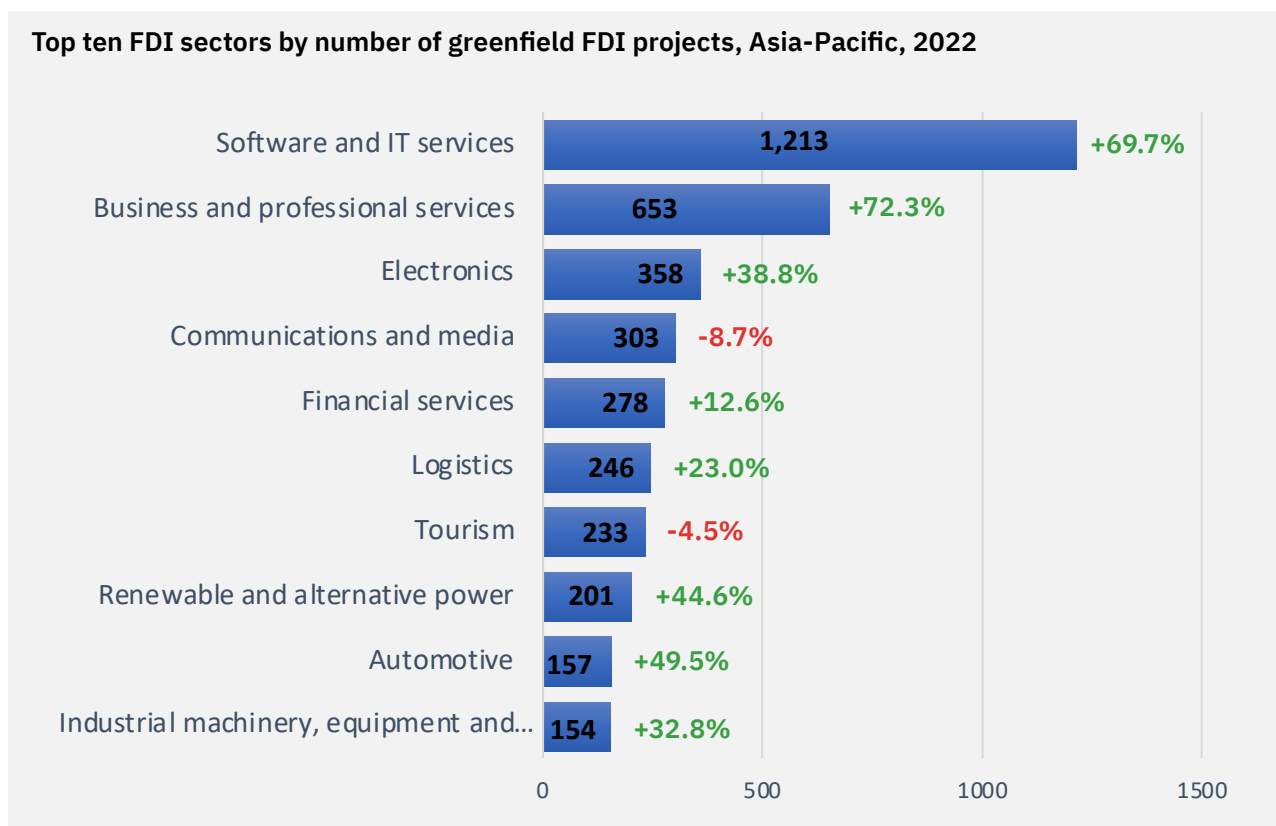
# Top FDI Sectors in Asia-Pacific

Software and IT services (1,212 projects) was the largest FDI sector in Asia-Pacific in 2022. BPS ranked second with 653 projects. Both sectors experienced strong growth, increasing by 69.7% and 72.3%, respectively.

**T**he growth in software and IT services projects was driven by investments in SaaS, computer programming and fintech. The increase in BPS investments were primarily in consultancy, employment activities and trade and development subsectors.

Eight of the top ten FDI sectors saw positive annual growth in project numbers in 2022. The only two sectors to witness a decline were communication and media and tourism, each falling by 8.7% and 4.5%, respectively. The communication and media sector witnessed a significant upturn in 2021 due to a high number of investments in technology infrastructure projects related to 5G, points of presence (PoP) and internet exchange points. Although the momentum sustained for 5G investments in 2022, PoP investments witnessed a significant decline of 84.1%. On the other hand, tourism investments have experienced a gradual decline, slipping to the seventh-largest FDI sector in the region in 2022, having ranked second in 2019.

Since 2019, education and renewable and alternative power have been the fastest-growing FDI sectors in Asia-Pacific. These sectors demonstrated impressive growth with an annual CAGR of 145% and 174%, respectively. Indeed, renewable and alternative power rose to become the eighth-largest FDI sector in the region in 2022, having been the 14th-largest in 2019. Similarly, the education sector experienced a notable ascent, rising by nine positions to rank as the 13th-largest sector in 2022.



Source: GlobalData's FDI Projects Database

# Top FDI Subsectors in Asia-Pacific

*In 2022, the top 15 FDI subsectors into Asia-Pacific spanned seven sectors. The largest FDI subsectors were SaaS and computer programming, both within the software and IT services sector.*

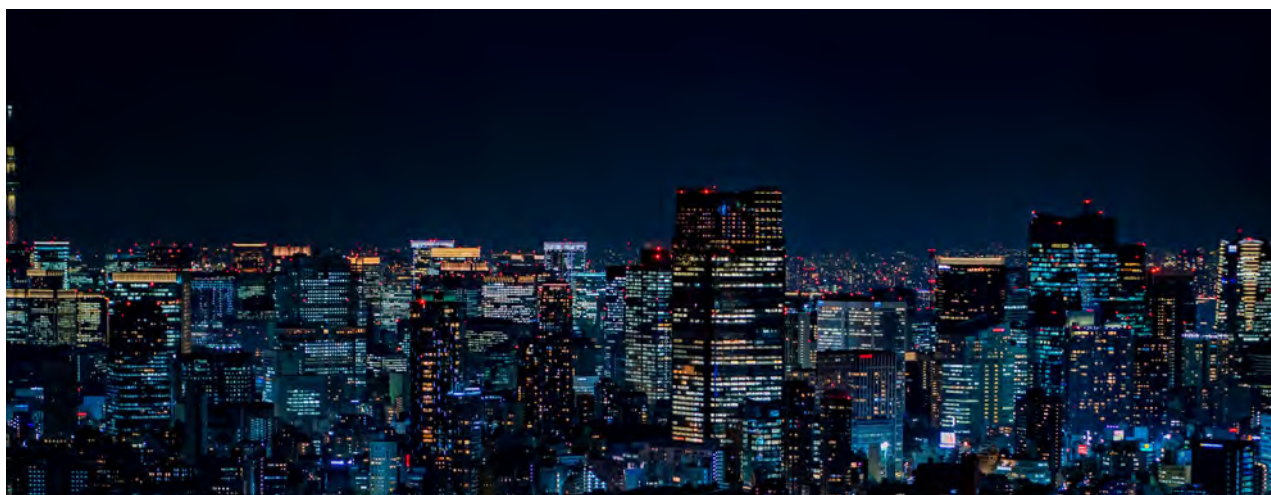
**T**hese subsectors accounted for a combined 18.4% of total FDI into Asia-Pacific in 2022 and saw a 55.4% annual increase in project numbers. In fact, computer programming recorded the highest annual growth in project numbers within the top 15 subsectors. Another tech subsector in the top 15 was fintech, which ranked sixth, accounting for 2.9% of projects into the region.

Hotel accommodation was the third-largest subsector for FDI into Asia-Pacific in 2022. It was the only subsector in the top 15 to have experienced a decline in annual FDI project numbers, with a 6.2% drop. In fact, hotel FDI project levels were half of what they were in 2019, when it was ranked the leading subsector. Due to the prolonged conflict in Ukraine, inflationary pressures and extensive travel restrictions put in place by various nations during the first half of the year – including China, which extended travel restrictions to second half as well – the global tourist sector’s rebound in 2022 was muted according to a report by the World Travel and Tourism Council <sup>1</sup>. However, Japan, Thailand and Vietnam experienced a notable increase in FDI inflows, demonstrating resilience amidst these challenging global conditions.

Several BPS subsectors were among the top 15. Consultancy projects, trade and development, employment activities, and professional, scientific and technical activities combined accounted for 6.2% of total projects in the Asia-Pacific region.

Two electronics subsectors ranked in the top 15. Semiconductors ranked seventh and electronic instruments ranked tenth in 2022. The total number of projects in these subsectors (212) was nearly double the number recorded in 2021. In terms of semiconductor FDI inflow, China, India and Taiwan were the primary beneficiaries, collectively capturing close to half the total number of projects in the region.

Asia-Pacific was also the largest recipient of billion-dollar-plus investments in 2022. Basic iron and steel an of ferro-alloys, semiconductors and pharmaceuticals were the major industries attracting mega investments. India was the major hotspot for mega investment projects, followed by Indonesia, Vietnam and Australia. Several companies including AES (US), Hon Hai Precision (Taiwan) and Canadian Solar (Canada), among others, announced multi-billion-dollar investment projects in Asia-Pacific.



<sup>1</sup> World Travel and Tourism Council: Travel & Tourism Economic Impact 2022

# Software and IT services

Saas, operating systems and apps  
11.78%

Computer programming activities  
6.58%

Fintech  
2.90%

## BPS

Business and mgt consultancy  
1.89%

Trade and development  
1.56%

Employment activities  
1.44%

Professional, scientific and technical  
1.32%

## Tourism

Hotels  
4.52%

## Electronics

Semiconductors and components  
2.86%

Electronic instruments  
1.50%

## Comms and media

Data centres, processing, hosting  
3.45%

Pharmaceuticals  
1.46%

Education support  
1.32%

## Logistics

Multi-modal transportation  
3.80%

Renewable and alternative power  
1.23%

# Top Themes

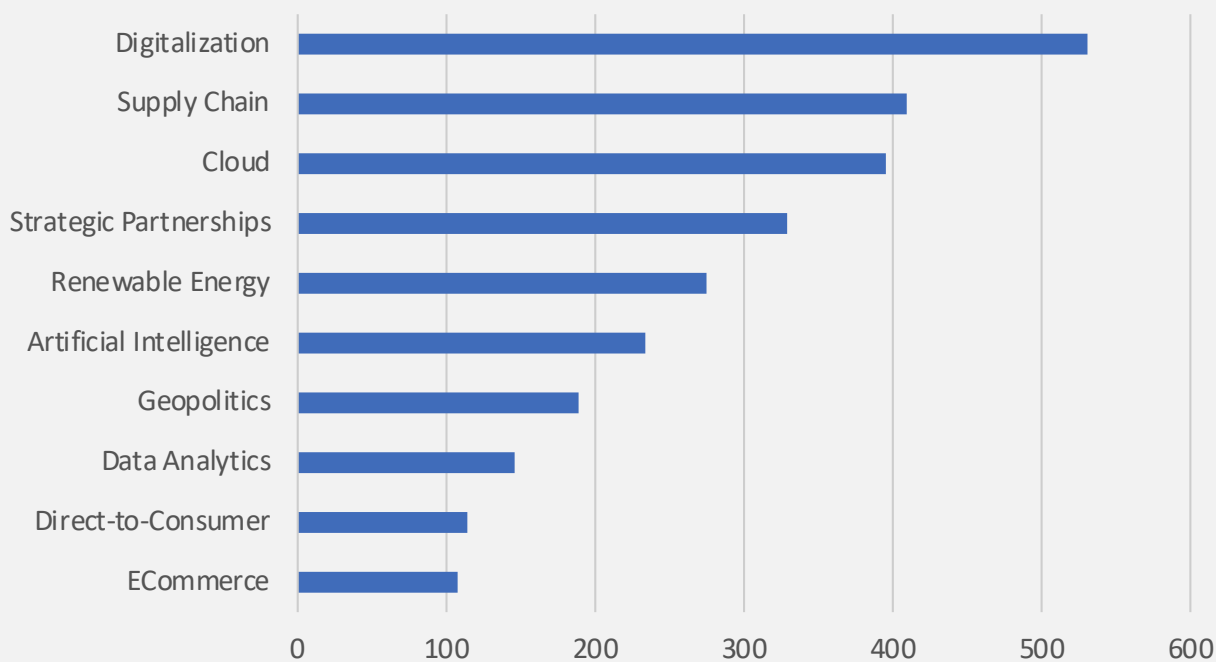
FDI is still largely classified by sector and subsector, but themes are becoming increasingly important. Themes are often cross-sectoral and emerging areas that are difficult to classify using traditional systems such as NAICS, NACE, and SIC codes. Themes can generally be grouped into three categories: macro, technology, and industry related.

**I**n 2022, digitalization emerged as the dominant theme for foreign direct investment (FDI) both globally and in Asia-Pacific. Alongside digitalization, cloud computing and AI were also crucial regional factors influencing FDI. These technology-driven themes are becoming a more prominent factor in the investment decision-making process.

Apart from tech themes, macroeconomic issues such as supply chain challenges and geopolitics are ranked among the top ten most prominent themes affecting FDI in Asia-Pacific. Although geopolitics and supply chain challenges pose risks to FDI, they can also create new opportunities. By comprehending the geopolitical landscape and its influence on supply chains, companies can identify and seize new investment prospects in regions that align with their strategic goals.

Additionally, emission reduction was one of the top five themes under investors' consideration while making decisions about where to expand their businesses. This is due to the growing demand for clean energy and the increasing availability of government subsidies for energy transition projects.

Top ten FDI themes by number of greenfield FDI projects, Asia-Pacific, 2022



Source: GlobalData's FDI Projects Database

# Top Source Markets

*In 2022, Asia-Pacific received 4,863 FDI projects from 100 different source markets. Of these, 29 projects came from other Asia-Pacific countries, which means that the majority of FDI into Asia-Pacific in 2022 came from outside the region.*











**T**he US and western European countries were the leading source markets for FDI into Asia-Pacific in 2022. US companies created more than 1,449 FDI projects in the region, primarily in the software, communication and BPS sectors.

The UK and Germany were the second and third-largest source markets. UK companies were most active in the BPS, software and financial services sectors, while German companies were heavily focused on software and logistics investments.

Together, north American and western European companies accounted for a larger share of FDI into Asia than inter-Asian FDI.

Singapore, Japan and China were the biggest sources of inter-Asian FDI. Only a small proportion (6.6%) of FDI into the Asia-Pacific region came from other world regions. However, outbound FDI from companies based in the Middle East increased by more than one-third in 2022.

**Top ten source markets for FDI into Asia-Pacific by number of greenfield FDI projects, 2022**

Rank	Source market	Projects	Proportion of total FDI into Asia-Pacific
1	 United States	1,449	29.8%
2	 United Kingdom	459	9.4%
3	 Germany	317	6.5%
4	 Singapore	255	5.2%
5	 Japan	252	5.2%
6	 France	214	4.4%
7	 China	174	3.6%
8	 Australia	158	3.3%
9	 India	131	2.7%
10	 Hong Kong	116	2.4%
-	Other	1338	27.5%

Source: GlobalData's FDI Projects Database



# Alternative Insights

## Top Investment Destinations by FDI per Capita

*Foreign direct investment analysis is often criticized for being unfair to smaller countries, which tend to receive less FDI than larger countries due to their smaller landscapes, without appreciation for the country's competitiveness. This is because nominal FDI volumes do not consider population size.*











**To address this issue, GlobalData has analyzed FDI projects on a per capita basis. This analysis shows that Singapore is the leading investment destination in Asia-Pacific, with 78 projects per million people. This ranks Singapore second globally behind Finland.**

With a population of 391,000, Maldives, the smallest country in the Asia-Pacific region, secures the second position in terms of project density. The country received ten FDI projects in 2022, which equates to 25 projects per million population.

Other countries that rank in the top ten Asia-Pacific destinations by number of projects and also rank in the top ten by number of projects per million population include Australia (18.2 projects per million people) and Malaysia (8).

Fiji and Tonga have much smaller populations than other Asia-Pacific countries, with around 910,000 and 100,000 people, respectively. Fiji attracted 18 FDI projects while Tonga received one project in 2022.

**Top ten Asia-Pacific countries by number of FDI projects per million population, 2022**

Asia-Pacific Rank	Country	FDI Projects per million population	Global Rank
1	 Singapore	78.37	2
2	 Maldives	25.58	18
3	 Australia	18.25	24
4	 New Zealand	15.59	30
5	 Armenia	14.51	34
6	 Georgia	11.83	43
7	 Tonga	10.00	48
8	 Hong Kong	9.98	49
9	 Fiji	9.89	50
10	 Malaysia	7.91	54

Source: Author Calculations based on GlobalData's FDI Projects Database and IMF World Economic Outlook April 2023

# Alternative Insights

## Top Investment Destinations by Inward FDI Performance Index

Another way to analyze FDI performance is to look at a country's inbound receipt of FDI in relation to global FDI and compare it with its proportion of global GDP (does a country receive the level of FDI one might expect given its economic power?).











$$FDIPI = \left( \frac{FDI_c}{FDI_w} \right) / \left( \frac{GDP_c}{GDP_w} \right)$$

**O**ur Inward FDI Performance Index examines what proportion of global FDI each country accounts for ( $FDI_c/FDI_w$ ), where  $c$  denotes the country and  $w$  denotes world. It then divides this value by the proportion of each country's contribution to global output (gross domestic product or GDP) ( $GDP_c/GDP_w$ ).

If the resulting value is a number greater than one, that means the country is receiving a higher proportion of inbound greenfield FDI than one might expect given its economic contributions to the global economy. A score of less than one means the country is a smaller player in FDI terms compared with its levels of GDP. Georgia topped the Asia-Pacific Inward FDI Performance Index in 2022, receiving 11-times its fair share of FDI projects given its level of GDP. The country witnessed a record year for inward investment, announcing 44 projects, up from 15 in 2021. Although the country recorded FDI projects across 11 sectors, software and BPS were key sectors, accounting for 68.2% of total inward investment.

Most of the countries in the top ten (table below) including Singapore, India, Vietnam, Malaysia and the Philippines received high volumes of inbound FDI. Their high FDI performance rankings indicate that they are still punching above their weight when it comes to attracting FDI. China ranked 22nd in the Asia-Pacific Inward FDI Performance ranking. China's inbound receipt of greenfield FDI has been in decline for several years, while its GDP's share in the world economy has risen from 3.5% in 2000 to 18.7% in 2022. This suggests that China's low ranking is not only due to it becoming a bigger economic powerhouse but also to falling FDI levels.

**Top ten Asia-Pacific countries by Inward FDI Performance Index score, 2022**

Asia-Pacific Rank	Country	Score	Global Rank
1	 Georgia	11.32	2
2	 Cambodia	5.14	12
3	 Singapore	5.06	14
4	 Uzbekistan	4.31	20
5	 Vietnam	3.65	26
6	 Malaysia	3.38	31
7	 Philippines	2.86	33
8	 India	1.95	44
9	 Mexico	1.72	52
10	 New Zealand	1.55	56

Source: Author calculations based on GlobalData's FDI Projects Database and IMF World Economic Outlook April 2023

# Top Investors in Asia-Pacific

*In 2022, the Asia-Pacific region attracted 4,863 FDI projects from 2,989 ultimate foreign parent companies.*
















**F**rance-based hospitality multinational Accor was the leading FDI investor in the region, with 52 projects, up significantly from ten in 2021. Accor's investments were primarily in hotel projects, with Thailand, Uzbekistan and Indonesia key destinations.

Hotel announcements were the most popular tourism subsector in 2022. In fact, six of the top 15 investors in the Asia-Pacific region were large hotel brands. In addition to Accor, Marriott International (US), Hyatt Hotels (US), InterContinental Hotels (UK) and Jin Jiang International (China) also invested heavily in Asia-Pacific.

In 2022, US-based Amazon was the second-largest foreign investor in Asia-Pacific, having previously been the largest investor. The company created 44 investment projects during the year, a decrease from 56 projects undertaken in 2021. Amazon's investments focus predominantly on technology infrastructure, particularly data centers, as well as logistics and warehousing initiatives. Notably, India emerged as the preferred destination for Amazon's investments.

The largest intra-Asian investor was Australia-based Idp Education. The company invested in several countries across Asia including India, the Philippines and Vietnam. In India, IDP Education opened 23 offices to provide education support services.

**Top 15 investors by number of greenfield FDI projects, Asia-Pacific, 2022**

Rank	Company	HQ	Primary sector	Projects (Asia-Pacific)
1	Accor		Tourism	52
2	Amazon		Consumer goods	44
3	Marriott International		Tourism	35
4	Deutsche Post		Logistics	32
5	Idp Education		Education	30
6	InterContinental Hotels		Tourism	27
=7	Jin Jiang International		Tourism	17
=7	Hyatt Hotels		Tourism	17
=7	Cloudflare		Comms and media	17
10	JPMorgan Chase		Financial services	14
=11	Hilton		Tourism	13
=11	BP		Renewable energy	13
=11	ESR Group		Construction and real estate	13
=11	Trilogy International Partners		Comms and media	13
15	Porsche		Automotive	12

Source: GlobalData's FDI Projects Database

# Top Investments in Asia-Pacific

## By project value

*Several investments into Asia-Pacific were multi-billion-dollar commitments. Some of the largest investments were linked to the renewable energy sector.*

### **AES to invest \$13bn to develop offshore wind farm in Vietnam**

AES, the US-based utility and power generation company, announced plans to invest \$13bn to develop a major 4,000MW offshore wind farm in Binh Thuan, Vietnam.

### **Vedanta to invest \$11.9bn to open new display fab unit in India**

Vedanta, an India-based mining company and a subsidiary of Bahamas-based Conclave PTC, announced plans to open a new \$11.9bn display fab unit plant in Gujarat, India. The decision was taken following a joint venture deal with Taiwan Foxconn Technology Group signed in early 2022.

### **Canadian Solar to build a \$8.9bn solar PV manufacturing plant in China**

Canadian Solar, a Canada-based manufacturer of solar photovoltaic modules, announced its intention to invest \$8.9bn to build an integrated PV manufacturing plant at Haidong Zero-Carbon Industrial Park in China. The factory is expected to produce 250,000 tonnes (t) of industrial silicon, 200,000t of high-purity polysilicon, 50GW of monocrystalline silicon rods, 50GW of crucibles, 10GW of monocrystalline silicon slices, 10GW of photovoltaic cells, 10GW of photovoltaic modules and 10GW of supporting new materials per year. The facility is expected to commence production in mid-2024.

### **Foxconn plans to invest \$8bn to build a battery manufacturing plant in Indonesia**

Foxconn, a Taiwan-based electronics contract manufacturer, will build a \$8bn battery manufacturing plant in Central Java province, Indonesia, following a partnership with Taiwan-based electric scooter start-up Gogoro. The plant will produce batteries and other EV-related products.

### **EDP Renovaveis to spend \$7.4bn to open a new clean energy hub in Singapore**

EDP Renovaveis, a Spain-based renewable energy company and subsidiary of Portugal-based EDP Group, announced its intention to build a new \$7.4bn clean energy hub in Singapore.

**Top five FDI projects by project value announcements\*, Asia-Pacific, 2022**

Rank	Investor	HQ Country	Destination Country	Investment (\$bn)
1	AES	United States	Vietnam	13
2	Vedanta/Foxconn	Taiwan	India	11.9
3	Canadian Solar	Canada	China	8.9
4	Foxconn	Taiwan	Indonesia	8
5	EDP Group	Portugal	Singapore	7.4

Source: GlobalData's FDI Projects Database

\* Where capex information was provided

## By job creation

*India emerged as the leading destination for FDI job-creating projects in 2022, with seven out of the top ten largest projects being located there. This achievement highlights the demographic advantage of India, which is characterized by its young, educated and dynamic workforce.*

### **Capgemini to create 60,000 jobs in India**

Capgemini, a France-based technology services and consulting company, outlined plans to expand its workforce by hiring around 60,000 new employees in India throughout 2022. The expansion aims to employ the skills needed to meet the rising demand for digital solutions among its client base.

### **Apple to open iPhone manufacturing facility in India, creating 60,000 new jobs**

US-based multinational technology company Apple will open an iPhone manufacturing facility in Hosur, India. The company will create 60,000 new jobs.

### **Foxconn to quadruple its workforce in India, adding 53,000 jobs**

Taiwan-based electronics contract manufacturer Foxconn announced plans to expand its workforce in India by creating 53,000 new jobs. The company already employs 17,000 people at its plant.

### **Up to 50,000 jobs to be created by Logos warehousing and logistics park**

Logos, an Australia-based logistics property group and subsidiary of Singapore-based ARA Logistics, announced plans to invest \$1bn to develop a new 204,386m<sup>2</sup> warehousing and logistics park in Kolkata, India. The warehousing project is expected to generate 50,000 jobs.

### **Foxconn to build new factory in Vietnam, creating 30,000 new jobs**

Foxconn, a Taiwan-based electronics contract manufacturer announced plans to invest \$300m to build a new factory in Bac Giang Province, Vietnam. The company plans to hire 30,000 employees. The new factory will produce iPads and AirPods.

**Top five FDI projects by job creation announcements\* Asia-Pacific, 2022**

Rank	Investor	HQ Country	Destination Country	Jobs created
1	Capgemini	France	India	60,000
2	Apple	US	India	60,000
3	Foxconn	Taiwan	India	53,000
4	Logos	Australia	India	50,000
5	Foxconn	Taiwan	Vietnam	30,000

Source: GlobalData's FDI Projects Database  
\*Where job creation information was provided

# Authors



**Deepti Aggarwal, lead reporter**  
**[deepti.aggarwal@globaldata.com](mailto:deepti.aggarwal@globaldata.com)**

Deepti Aggarwal is the production manager of GlobalData's FDI team. She has spent more than nine years delivering client-centric and value-driven solutions in the financial and market research domain and has provided leadership experience in the research services life cycle that includes consulting, project execution and operations. She is a certified chartered financial analyst and has diverse experience of working internationally and delivering assignments involving financial and market research.



**Glenn Barklie, editor**  
**[glenn.barklie@globaldata.com](mailto:glenn.barklie@globaldata.com)**

Glenn is chief economist at Investment Monitor and head of FDI services at GlobalData. With 15 years' experience in FDI and economic development, he has worked with many government agencies and corporates. Glenn specialises in building FDI and company databases, lead generation, location benchmarking, rankings and investment trends. He has a degree in economics from Queen's University Belfast.

# Methodology

GlobalData's foreign direct investment (FDI) research team scans thousands of company press releases and national, regional and global publications on a daily basis, in a variety of languages, to identify greenfield FDI projects. Each identified project is then classified into a proprietary taxonomy, which allows for aggregations and analysis. All projects are quality-controlled by experienced FDI experts and only then included in GlobalData's FDI Projects Database. Greenfield FDI is tracked in real time from 2019.

Greenfield FDI is defined as a company expanding its operations in a foreign country. The company must create a physical presence, which involves some form of capital investment and/or job creation. Our greenfield FDI excludes retail investments. Other forms of non-greenfield FDI such as mergers and acquisitions, equity transfers, retail investments and venture capital are also excluded.

# Disclaimer

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publisher, GlobalData. The facts of this report are believed to be correct at the time of publication but cannot be guaranteed. Please note that the findings, conclusions and recommendations that GlobalData delivers will be based on information gathered in good faith from both primary and secondary sources, whose accuracy we are not always in a position to guarantee. As such, GlobalData can accept no liability whatsoever for actions taken based on any information that may subsequently prove to be incorrect.

# About Investment Monitor

**I**nvestment Monitor ([investmentmonitor.ai](https://investmentmonitor.ai)) is a digital publication providing in-depth information on corporate cross-border expansion.

Powered by data and created by the industry's leading business journalists and FDI experts, *Investment Monitor* is essential reading for executives involved in shaping their companies' global strategies, corporate advisers and other key players in the global FDI ecosystem.

Our mission is to explain how the world is changing for decision makers in need of data-driven answers.

## Network Effect

**Investmentmonitor.ai** is one of a network of 30+ proprietary B2B websites, with an unrivalled global audience of active decision makers, influencers, and opinion leaders across the world with a combined readership of 55 million industry professionals each year.

## Targeting Technology

Combined with our award-winning targeting technology built into our network of websites, we offer a unique end-to-end marketing solution combining insight, creativity, and cutting-edge AI-technology. Our marketing solution allows clients to identify, target and engage with prospects using access and ownership of our 30+ B2B media websites and their large sector specific audiences.

## Unique Data

As part of GlobalData, we have access to over 1bn data points including companies, deals, projects and forecasts and trends. Leading data informs and supports our industry-leading content. With expertise spanning more than 80 markets globally and driven by 800+ award-winning journalists, researchers, and analysts, we connect you with the information that makes and breaks businesses every day.

## Marketing Campaigns

With more reach, data targeting and first-party data than any other partner, we produce world-class campaigns for our clients. For more details on our technology-driven marketing solution visit [www.verdictmediastrategies.com](https://www.verdictmediastrategies.com)



# About GlobalData

**G**lobalData is a leading provider of data, analytics, and insights on the world's largest industries.

In an increasingly fast moving, complex, and uncertain world, it has never been harder for organizations and decision makers to predict and navigate the future. This is why GlobalData's mission is to help our clients to decode the future and profit from faster, more informed decisions. As a leading information services company, thousands of clients rely on GlobalData for trusted, timely, and actionable intelligence. Our solutions are designed to provide a daily edge to professionals within corporations, financial institutions, professional services, and government agencies.

## Unique Data

We continuously update and enrich 50+ terabytes of unique data to provide an unbiased, authoritative view of the sectors, markets, and companies offering growth opportunities across the world's largest industries.

## Expert Analysis

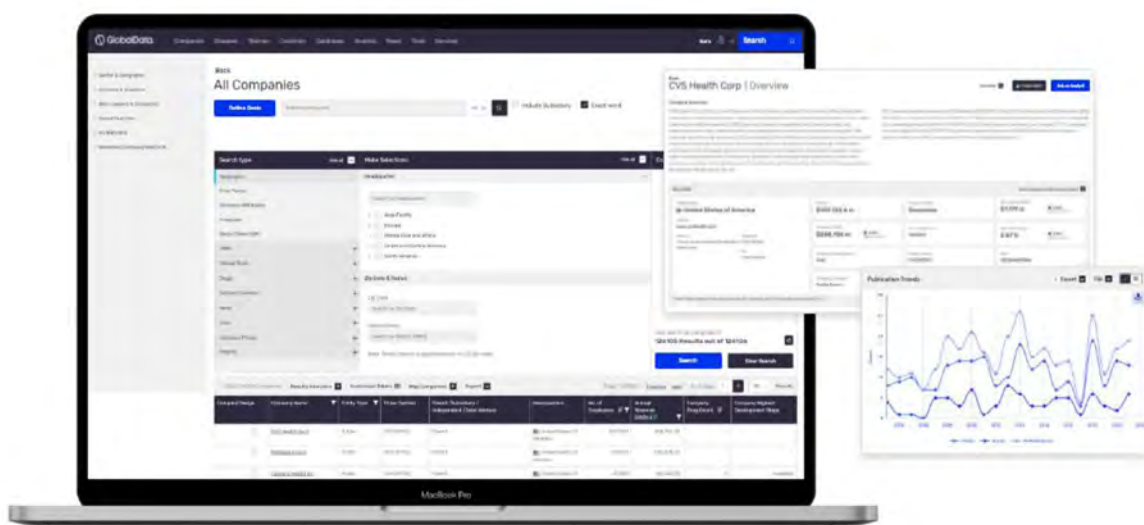
We leverage the collective expertise of over 2,000 in-house industry analysts, data scientists, and journalists, as well as a global community of industry professionals, to provide decision-makers with timely, actionable insight.

## Innovative Solutions

We help you work smarter and faster by giving you access to powerful analytics and customizable workflow tools tailored to your role, alongside direct access to our expert community of analysts.

## One Platform

We have a single taxonomy across all of our data assets and integrate our capabilities into a single platform - giving you easy access to a complete, dynamic, and comparable view of the world's largest industries.





An aerial night view of a city skyline, likely Hong Kong, with numerous illuminated skyscrapers and a harbor in the foreground. A semi-transparent blue rectangular box is overlaid on the upper right portion of the image, containing white text.

## Contact us

**For enquiries or further information please contact:**  
[glenn.barklie@globaldata.com](mailto:glenn.barklie@globaldata.com)