



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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**2009/SOM2/IEG-EC/SEM/009**

Session 3

## **FDI Regimes and Liberalization**

Submitted by: National University of Singapore



**Capacity Building for Sharing Success Factors  
for Improvement of Investment Environment**

**Singapore  
27 July 2009**

# FDI Regimes and Liberalization

Charles Adams

## Introduction

- How important is the liberalization of the FDI regime in attracting foreign direct investment?
- Question is a complex one and it is useful to consider it a number of steps.

## Introduction

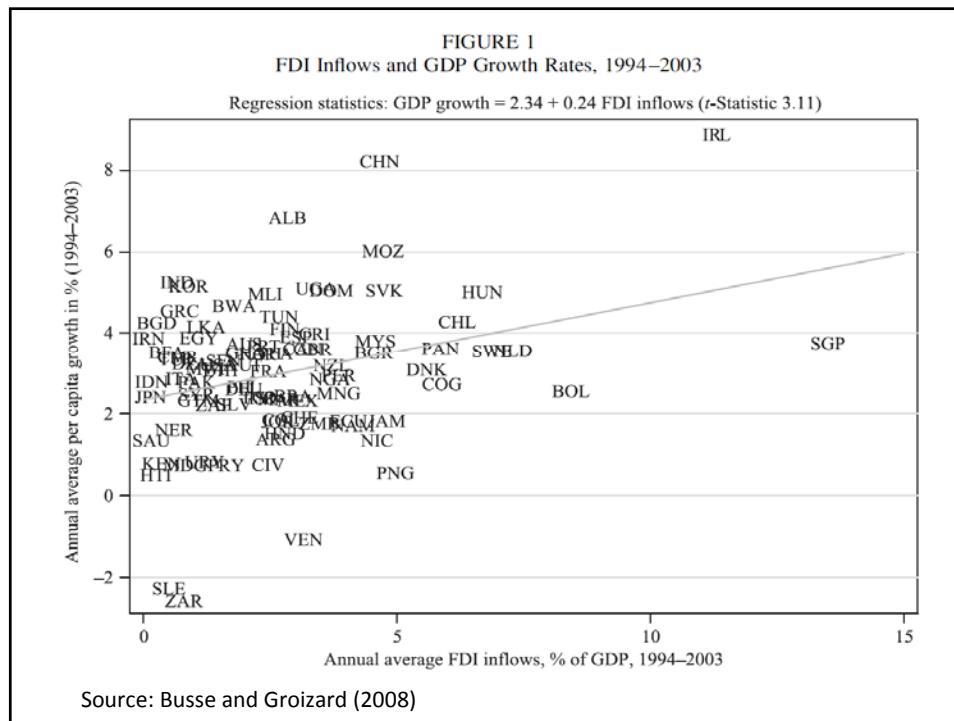
- (1) Why is FDI important vis-à-vis other cross border capital flows?
- (2) What have been the main drivers of FDI?
- (3) What are the key lessons on FDI liberalization?
- (4) Looking forward, what are some the ongoing changes in the sources and types of FDI and what are the implications?

## Importance of FDI

- The impact of (inward) FDI will depend on many factors such as: its sectoral allocation, whether it is directed towards exports or the home market, how it is financed, whether it is greenfield or M&A, and the source country and investors.
- As result, care is needed in generalizing about the benefits (and costs) of FDI.

# Importance of FDI

- Traditionally, inward FDI is seen as producing benefits that go beyond the provision of new capital.
- Key direct and indirect benefits include: Access to technological and managerial resources; Positive spillovers to local firms and markets; Possible improved access to foreign markets; and increased government revenue.
- From an economic stability perspective, FDI is also seen as desirable because it can be longer-term in nature and more stable than other capital flows

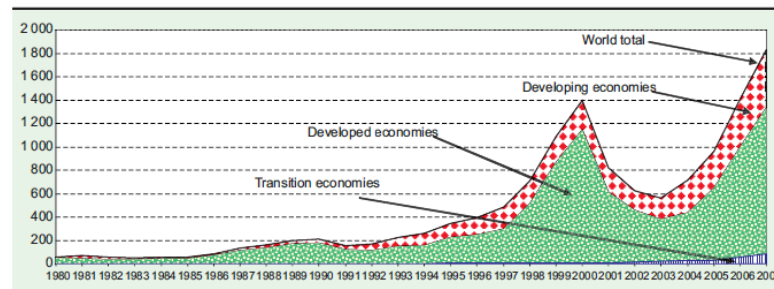


## Importance of FDI

- Not the intention to quibble with these points but should be noted that even though FDI brings positive benefits to recipient countries:
  - (a) Middle-income countries appear better able to reap those benefits than lower income countries (UNCTAD)
  - (b) Benefits appear to differ across different types of FDI and across different sectoral allocations (Wong and Adams).
  - (c) FDI tends to be relatively unevenly distributed across recipient countries (UNCTAD)

## FDI Inflows

Figure I.1. FDI inflows: global and by groups of economies, 1980–2007  
(Billions of dollars)



Source: UNCTAD FDI/TNC database ([www.unctad.org/fdistatistics](http://www.unctad.org/fdistatistics)) and annex table B.1.

#### BREAKDOWN BY DESTINATION WORLD REGION, 2008

DESTINATION REGION	TOTAL PROJECTS	CAPEX (\$BN)	NEW JOBS CREATED
Asia-Pacific	5066	473	1,494,798
Western Europe	3921	215	464,893
Rest of Europe	2525	215	923,334
North America	1144	108	152,557
Latin America & Caribbean	1106	124	416,606
Middle East	969	154	237,068
Africa	820	220	303,215
<b>Total</b>	<b>15551</b>	<b>1509</b>	<b>3,992,471</b>

Source: I/DI Markets

#### TOP FIVE GLOBAL DESTINATION COUNTRIES, 2008

DESTINATION COUNTRY	TOTAL PROJECTS	DESTINATION COUNTRY	CAPEX (\$BN)	DESTINATION COUNTRY	NEW JOBS CREATED
China	1483	China	124	China	483,241
India	958	US	90	India	345,073
US	931	India	78	Russia	255,619
UK	845	Russia	62	Romania	213,690
France	668	Vietnam	60	Vietnam	171,410

Source: I/DI Markets

#### TOP FIVE GLOBAL DESTINATION CITIES, 2008

DESTINATION CITY	TOTAL PROJECTS	DESTINATION CITY	CAPEX (\$BN)	DESTINATION CITY	NEW JOBS CREATED
Dubai	342	Dubai	21	Bucharest	86,173
London	287	London	17	Dubai	58,161
Shanghai	264	Shanghai	16	Shanghai	48,605
Beijing	206	Tunis	15	Moscow	44,985
Paris	190	Bucharest	13	St Petersburg	44,558

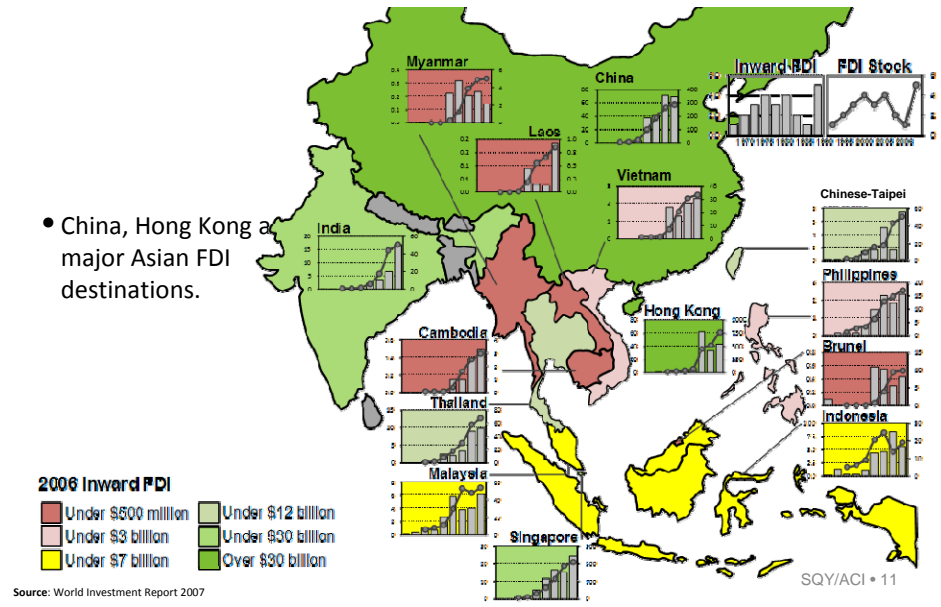
Source: I/DI Markets

## Drivers of Inward FDI

- (1) Compelling Economic Motivators (Low labor costs based on comparative advantage; good infrastructure; location; ability to link in with global production networks; local market size)
- (2) Economic and Political Stability/Predictability
- (3) Tax and other incentives
- (4) Sectoral “needs” in areas such as financial services, infrastructure
- (5) FDI friendly investment regimes (Rule of law, contracts, dispute settlement mechanisms; labor laws, transparency)

## Asia - Foreign Direct Investment Comparisons

- China, Hong Kong and India are major Asian FDI destinations.



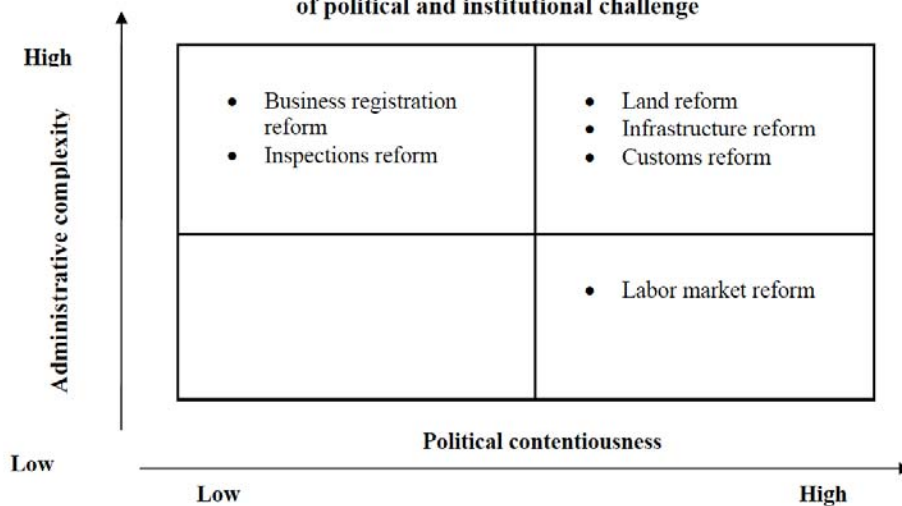
## FDI Liberalization Experience

- A key lesson from experience is the importance of countries integrating their policies to attract FDI into their broader development strategies if they are to maximize the benefits of FDI.
- Factors to consider include: seeking to strengthen backward linkages; encouraging development of subsidiaries of foreign firms; facilitating natural clusters; development of local human capital; links between local universities and foreign firms

## FDI Liberalization Experience

- Not all reforms have the same payoffs and can imply different degrees of institutional and political challenges.
- Reforms can also differ in their administrative complexity.

**Figure 1. Different reforms, different levels of political and institutional challenge**



Source: World Bank



## FDI Liberalization Lessons

- Key lessons from the reform experience (IMF, World Bank, UNCTAD)
- Lesson I. Open, stable and transparent FDI regimes can both encourage FDI and help maximize the spillovers and benefits to the broader economy.

## FDI Liberalization Lessons

- Lesson II. Impact of FDI liberalization policies depends importantly on their being integrated with a coherent overall national development strategy.
- Lesson III. FDI liberalization policies should be seen as only one component of a liberalization strategy and will need to be supported by reforms to liberalize local markets in order to help maximize the benefits of FDI.

## FDI Liberalization Lessons

- Lesson IV. Foreign Investment friendly regimes include many elements (Ease of Doing Business Considerations) with approaches varying across countries as regards facilitators and incentives including the use of generous tax incentives, special economic zones etc. What ever their potential to attract FDI, special economic zones may lessen positive spillovers to the local economy.

## FDI Liberalization Lessons

- Lesson V. Importance of the (stable) rule of law and contracts to encourage FDI and deal with a range of potential disputes with local suppliers, labor groups and government. Protection of Intellectual property rights.

## Forward Looking FDI Issues

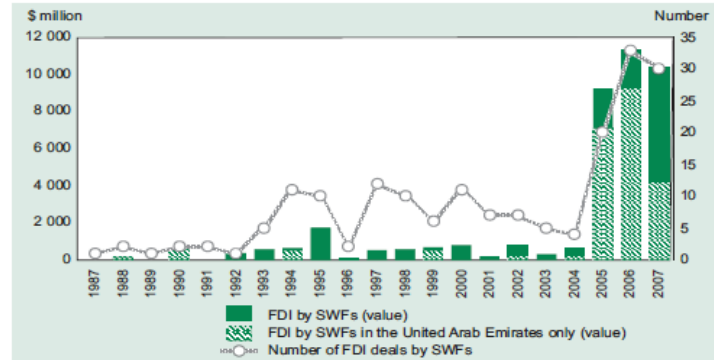
- Behavior of FDI during the global crisis has been a little mixed. Traditionally, FDI is based on longer-term considerations and tends to hold up relatively well during temporary slowdowns.
- On balance, FDI seems likely to pick up after the crisis but uncertainty remains high.

## Forward Looking FDI Issues

- Will depend on the success of governments in forestalling protectionist pressures and avoiding pressures to investment at home.
- Assuming that government are successful, FDI should continue to be a major driver of trade and growth.
- Looking forward, however, the sources and structure of FDI may evolve as Asian countries seek to rebalance their economies and reduce their current high net savings rates.

## FDI and SWFs

Figure 2. FDI flows<sup>a</sup> by sovereign wealth funds, 1987–2007



Source: UNCTAD, *World Investment Report 2008: Transnational Corporations and the Infrastructure Challenge*.

\* Cross-border M&As only; greenfield investments by SWFs are assumed to be extremely limited.

## Forward Looking FDI Issues

- SWFs may become a more important source of FDI (thus far mainly M & A). China may also become a larger FDI source.
- FDI in construction and services may become more important, along with FDI in commodities and FDI serving the local market.

# FDI Sectors

03

**Table II.9. FDI inflows by sector/industry in ASEAN, 2003–2007<sup>a</sup>**  
(Millions of dollars)

Sector/industry	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>Primary</b>	4 700	780	2 453	1 717	4 988
Agriculture, fisheries and forestry	185	223	187	341	2 672
Mining	4 514	558	2 266	1 376	2 316
<b>Manufacturing</b>	6 782	14 138	17 137	16 147	20 116
<b>Services</b>	10 613	17 507	15 966	28 913	32 175
Construction	91	- 55	21	523	466
Trade and commerce	3 239	3 995	4 770	6 836	10 043
Financial intermediation and services	5 407	10 039	4 606	12 361	9 366
Real estate	812	1 106	2 432	4 154	6 094
Not elsewhere classified	1 899	2 754	3 602	4 544	2 018
<b>Total</b>	<b>23 993</b>	<b>35 179</b>	<b>39 158</b>	<b>51 322</b>	<b>59 296</b>

Source: Based on ASEAN Secretariat, *Statistics of Foreign Direct Investment in ASEAN, 2008* (forthcoming).

<sup>a</sup> Data are preliminary.

Note: Data do not include the sectoral distribution of reinvested earnings and intra-company loans of the Philippines. The data reported by the Philippines were on an aggregate basis.

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**World Investment Report 2008**  
*Transnational Corporations and the Infrastructure Challenge*

Country fact sheet: **China**

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Foreign direct investment (FDI) overview, selected years  
(Millions of dollars and percentages)

FDI Stock	1990-2000					as a percentage of gross domestic product	
	1990	2000	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007
<b>China</b>							
Inward	30 198	69 800	72 494	72 716	88 425	118.0	7.7
Outward	2 195	5 488	12 281	21 190	22 489	1.0	1.3
<b>Manufacturing</b>							
Inward	9 258	19 828	13 930	24 743	26 137	36.2	13.7
Outward	4 787	10 803	6 043	12 247	12 300	17.3	20.6
<b>United States</b>							
Inward	109 813	136 826	106 773	236 791	232 839	7.0	6.3
Outward	62 010	204 806	16 360	221 084	293 707	8.2	6.6
<b>East Asia</b>							
Inward	48 834	104 331	116 177	131 879	166 706	8.8	9.0
Outward	29 472	62 804	49 836	62 307	102 896	6.6	3.9
<b>Asia and Oceania</b>							
Inward	78 754	171 178	210 872	274 291	322 489	7.9	10.0
Outward	27 628	62 931	78 031	141 147	196 766	3.6	6.7
<b>Developing economies</b>							
Inward	130 759	283 641	318 444	412 890	489 747	8.2	11.4
Outward	82 828	120 588	117 979	212 289	351 148	3.8	4.3
<b>World</b>							
Inward	452 608	719 685	888 687	1 411 518	1 833 324	7.7	8.7
Outward	492 638	820 181	800 809	1 223 180	1 908 814	7.9	8.0
<b>FDI stocks</b>							
<b>China</b>							
Inward	30 881	161 888	189 548	282 649	327 887	6.1	16.2
Outward	4 455	17 788	27 749	73 330	83 799	1.1	2.3
<b>Manufacturing</b>							
Inward	30 488	65 644	112 633	226 530	249 667	12.6	12.1
Outward	7 808	36 060	69 709	137 220	149 628	21.2	61.2
<b>United States</b>							
Inward	396 911	638 053	1 256 907	1 840 880	2 093 049	6.8	12.8
Outward	452 621	698 016	1 316 047	2 468 474	2 793 209	7.4	11.4
<b>East Asia</b>							
Inward	240 640	367 419	710 476	1 213 092	1 691 139	26.9	32.1
Outward	49 007	146 444	809 037	2 027 609	1 948 900	1.4	23.2
<b>Asia and Oceania</b>							
Inward	338 088	678 714	1 082 341	2 022 764	2 713 303	16.0	26.6
Outward	68 904	209 727	813 018	1 208 621	1 722 100	3.2	14.8
<b>Developing economies</b>							
Inward	528 539	861 834	1 738 255	3 303 169	4 246 739	13.6	23.2
Outward	146 902	328 400	661 842	1 702 384	2 288 073	4.0	12.0
<b>World</b>							
Inward	1 941 222	2 914 306	5 796 700	12 470 046	16 210 960	9.1	16.1
Outward	1 768 287	2 941 195	6 140 211	12 788 140	16 822 339	8.6	18.4

Source: UNCTAD, *World Investment Report 2008* (www.unctad.org/wir) and www.unctad.org/statistics. For details, see "Definitions and sources" in annex 6 and annex tables B.1-6.3 and B.10-10.02.



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Country fact sheet: **Viet Nam**

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Foreign direct investment (FDI) overview, selected years

FDI flows	1996-2000					2004			2005			2006			2007			2008			2009		
	1996-2000 (annual average)	2004	2005	2006	2007	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2004	2005	2006	2007		
<b>Viet Nam</b>																							
Inward	1 023	1 010	2 021	3 360	6 739	29.4	11.6	11.6	25.4														
Outward	-	-	85	85	150	-	0.4	0.4	0.8														
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>																							
Inward	155	131	381	453	807	36.0	30.1	34.3	63.3														
Outward	12	10	0	0	1	-	0.0	0.0	0.1														
<b>China</b>																							
Inward	30 104	60 030	72 406	72 710	83 321	11.0	7.7	6.4	5.9														
Outward	2 700	6 400	12 281	27 180	23 490	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0														
<b>South-East Asia</b>																							
Inward	22 199	35 245	39 081	51 243	65 514	14.0	10.7	20.2	19.6														
Outward	7 407	18 079	17 790	22 232	23 490	4.0	6.7	8.0	11.0														
<b>Asia and Oceania</b>																							
Inward	70 754	171 176	210 072	274 291	320 499	7.9	10.0	11.0	10.6														
Outward	27 828	80 031	79 031	101 147	104 794	3.0	3.8	4.0	4.0														
<b>Developing economies</b>																							
Inward	130 758	263 641	316 444	412 940	499 747	9.2	11.4	12.0	12.6														
Outward	52 429	120 009	117 579	212 259	232 148	3.0	4.3	5.0	5.4														
<b>World</b>																							
Inward	402 000	717 036	800 001	1 411 016	1 823 024	7.7	9.7	10.0	10.0														
Outward	402 000	202 101	800 000	1 202 016	1 600 014	7.0	8.0	12.2	10.2														
<b>FDI stocks</b>																							
1996	1996	2000	2004	2005	2006	2007	1996	2000	2004	2005	2006	2007											
<b>Viet Nam</b>																							
Inward	1 028	7 188	29 096	25 496	40 230	35.5	45.1	50.6	54.3														
Outward	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-														
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>																							
Inward	30	306	1 100	2 954	3 023	3.3	43.1	40.4	44.3														
Outward	-	130	103	271	264	-	8.3	3.7	3.3														
<b>China</b>																							
Inward	20 041	101 036	133 348	202 039	307 087	5.1	10.2	10.0	10.1														
Outward	4 400	17 788	27 788	73 230	60 799	1.1	2.3	2.0	2.0														
<b>South-East Asia</b>																							
Inward	64 303	102 476	209 048	470 930	600 962	10.2	10.9	11.1	11.0														
Outward	8 471	20 127	24 442	190 288	242 727	2.8	10.1	10.0	10.0														
<b>Asia and Oceania</b>																							
Inward	359 208	876 774	1 002 741	2 022 754	2 713 303	10.0	20.6	24.9	28.6														
Outward	80 004	200 127	812 018	1 202 016	1 702 016	3.2	10.0	10.0	10.0														
<b>Developing economies</b>																							
Inward	528 036	1 011 034	1 739 236	3 303 169	4 249 739	13.6	20.2	20.7	20.9														
Outward	144 802	329 400	801 842	1 702 304	2 289 073	4.0	12.0	14.2	15.0														
<b>World</b>																							
Inward	1 961 232	2 914 206	3 769 732	12 410 000	18 232 000	8.1	10.1	20.0	21.0														
Outward	1 793 207	2 047 128	6 148 211	12 702 140	16 022 010	8.0	8.4	20.0	20.0														

Source: UNCTAD, World Investment Report 2008, www.unctad.org/wir08 or www.unctad.org/statistics  
For details, see "Methodology and sources" in annex B and annex tables B.1 to B.10 (WIR08)



**World Investment Report 2008**  
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Country fact sheet: **Thailand**

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<b>Thailand</b>																							
Inward	8 188	8 802	8 848	8 610	8 476	8.4	10.7	10.3	14.4														
Outward	270	78	803	1 032	1 798	0.7	1.0	1.0	2.7														
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>																							
Inward	30 104	60 030	72 406	72 710	83 321	11.0	7.7	6.4	5.9														
Outward	2 700	6 400	12 281	27 180	23 490	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0														
<b>China</b>																							
Inward	1 034	1 036	3 337	4 914	6 328	2.3	10.3	10.0	6.4														
Outward	602	3 468	3 368	3 703	4 740	1.0	4.0	3.1	4.0														
<b>South-East Asia</b>																							
Inward	22 199	35 245	39 081	51 243	65 514	14.0	10.7	20.2	19.6														
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Outward	52 429	120 009	117 579	212 259	232 148	3.0	4.3	5.0	5.4														
<b>World</b>																							
Inward	402 000	717 036	800 001	1 411 016	1 823 024	7.7	9.7	10.0	10.0														
Outward	402 000	202 101	800 000	1 202 016	1 600 014	7.0	8.0	12.2	10.2														
<b>FDI stocks</b>																							
1996	1996	2000	2004	2005	2006	2007	1996	2000	2004	2005	2006	2007											
<b>Thailand</b>																							
Inward	8 242	17 084	28 616	78 176	85 798	8.7	24.4	28.8	34.9														
Outward	419	2 279	2 293	9 209	7 628	0.5	1.0	1.0	2.0														
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>																							
Inward	20 041	101 036	133 348	202 039	307 087	5.1	10.2	10.0	10.1														
Outward	4 400	17 788	27 788	73 2																			



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Country fact sheet: **Indonesia**

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	1990-2000		2004		2005		2006		2007		1990-2000		2004		2005		2006		2007		1990-2000		2004		2005		2006		2007		1990-2000		2004		2005		2006		2007											
<b>Indonesia</b>	1 884		1 886		8 307		4 914		6 928		2.3		12.5		6.8		6.4		18.8		18.8		27.0		18.8		18.8		18.8		18.8		18.8		18.8		18.8													
<b>Indonesia</b>	822		808		3 969		2 705		4 790		1.8		6.5		4.1		4.5		11.5		11.5		17.0		11.5		11.5		11.5		11.5		11.5		11.5		11.5													
<b>Indonesia</b>	10 104		40 630		72 406		72 715		83 521		11.0		7.7		6.4		5.9		11.0		11.0		11.0		11.0		11.0		11.0		11.0		11.0		11.0		11.0													
<b>Indonesia</b>	2 198		6 490		12 281		21 180		22 450		1.0		1.3		1.9		1.8		1.0		1.0		1.0		1.0		1.0		1.0		1.0		1.0		1.0		1.0													
<b>Malaysia</b>	4 722		4 624		3 987		6 548		8 423		18.3		14.0		19.8		20.6		18.3		18.3		18.3		18.3		18.3		18.3		18.3		18.3		18.3		18.3													
<b>Malaysia</b>	9 800		2 891		2 871		5 041		10 480		8.2		10.8		10.8		10.8		8.2		8.2		8.2		8.2		8.2		8.2		8.2		8.2		8.2		8.2													
<b>Malaysia</b>	22 198		35 245		39 091		51 243		65 514		14.2		18.7		20.2		19.6		14.2		14.2		14.2		14.2		14.2		14.2		14.2		14.2		14.2		14.2													
<b>Malaysia</b>	7 497		16 878		13 790		22 232		33 498		4.6		8.7		8.9		11.0		7.4		7.4		7.4		7.4		7.4		7.4		7.4		7.4		7.4		7.4													
<b>Malaysia</b>	76 754		171 178		210 872		274 291		320 488		7.9		10.0		11.0		10.6		7.9		7.9		7.9		7.9		7.9		7.9		7.9		7.9		7.9		7.9													
<b>Malaysia</b>	37 628		89 831		79 831		141 147		194 754		3.8		3.8		6.7		6.6		3.8		3.8		3.8		3.8		3.8		3.8		3.8		3.8		3.8		3.8													
<b>Malaysia</b>	130 755		283 641		316 444		412 990		498 747		9.2		11.4		12.6		12.6		9.2		9.2		9.2		9.2		9.2		9.2		9.2		9.2		9.2		9.2													
<b>Malaysia</b>	62 828		120 000		117 879		212 288		283 148		3.8		4.3		6.6		6.4		6.2		6.2		6.2		6.2		6.2		6.2		6.2		6.2		6.2		6.2													
<b>World</b>	452 828		717 696		888 687		1 411 018		1 833 324		7.7		9.7		12.9		14.8		7.7		7.7		7.7		7.7		7.7		7.7		7.7		7.7		7.7		7.7													
<b>World</b>	492 828		820 181		600 900		1 323 180		1 908 814		7.8		8.0		12.2		16.2		7.8		7.8		7.8		7.8		7.8		7.8		7.8		7.8		7.8		7.8													

Source: UNCTAD, World Investment Report 2008: www.unctad.org/wir or www.unctad.org/statistics  
For details, see "Definitions and sources" in annex B and annex tables B.1-8.3 in WIR08.



**World Investment Report 2008**  
*Transnational Corporations  
and the Infrastructure Challenge*

Country fact sheet: **Malaysia**

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17.00 hrs GMT on 24 September 2008

Foreign direct investment (FDI) overview, selected years

FDI flows	1990-2000 (Actual average)					2004					2005					2006					2007					1990-2000 (Actual average)					2004					2005					2006					2007				
	1990-2000		2004		2005		2006		2007		1990-2000		2004		2005		2006		2007		1990-2000		2004		2005		2006		2007		1990-2000		2004		2005		2006		2007											
<b>Malaysia</b>	4 722		4 624		3 987		6 548		8 423		18.3		14.0		19.8		20.6		18.3		18.3		18.3		18.3		18.3		18.3		18.3		18.3		18.3		18.3													
<b>Malaysia</b>	9 800		2 891		2 871		5 041		10 480		8.2		10.8		10.8		10.8		8.2		8.2		8.2		8.2		8.2		8.2		8.2		8.2		8.2		8.2													
<b>Malaysia</b>	22 198		35 245		39 091		51 243		65 514		14.2		18.7		20.2		19.6		14.2		14.2		14.2		14.2		14.2		14.2		14.2		14.2		14.2		14.2													
<b>Malaysia</b>	7 497		16 878		13 790		22 232		33 498		4.6		8.7		8.9		11.0		7.4		7.4		7.4		7.4		7.4		7.4		7.4		7.4		7.4		7.4													
<b>Malaysia</b>	76 754		171 178		210 872		274 291		320 488		7.9		10.0		11.0		10.6		7.9		7.9		7.9		7.9		7.9		7.9		7.9		7.9		7.9		7.9													
<b>Malaysia</b>	37 628		89 831		79 831		141 147		194 754		3.8		3.8		6.7		6.6		3.8		3.8		3.8		3.8		3.8		3.8		3.8		3.8		3.8		3.8													
<b>Malaysia</b>	130 755		283 641		316 444		412 990		498 747		9.2		11.4		12.6		12.6		9.2		9.2		9.2		9.2		9.2		9.2		9.2		9.2		9.2		9.2													
<b>Malaysia</b>	62 828		120 000		117 879		212 288		283 148		3.8		4.3		6.6		6.4		6.2		6.2		6.2		6.2		6.2		6.2		6.2		6.2		6.2		6.2													
<b>World</b>	452 828		717 696		888 687		1 411 018		1 833 324		7.7		9.7		12.9		14.8		7.7		7.7		7.7		7.7		7.7		7.7		7.7		7.7		7.7		7.7													
<b>World</b>	492 828		820 181		600 900		1 323 180		1 908 814		7.8		8.0		12.2		16.2		7.8		7.8		7.8		7.8		7.8		7.8		7.8		7.8		7.8		7.8													

Source: UNCTAD, World Investment Report 2008: www.unctad.org/wir or www.unctad.org/statistics  
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