ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS)
CONSOLIDATED COMPILATION
OF THE 2025 NATIONAL INVESTMENT REPORTS

As Submitted by Member States
During the Fifth Meeting of the Technical Committee
of the ECOWAS Common Investment Market (ECIM) Council
Abidjan, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire | 27–30 April 2026

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1.0 FOREWORD



The ECOWAS Common Investment Market (ECIM) is central to the Community's strategy to deepen economic integration, build a coherent and predictable investment environment, mobilize private capital and accelerate structural transformation across West Africa. The National Investment Reports that Member States submit each year give the Commission, the ECIM Council and its Technical Committee an evidence base to track the region's investment climate, Member States' compliance with the ECOWAS Investment Policy and Code, and the region's competitiveness in attracting cross-border investment.

This compilation presents the 2025 National Investment Reports submitted to the Fifth Meeting of the Technical Committee of the ECIM Council, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 27 to 30 April 2026. Ten Member States (Benin, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo) reported on their macroeconomic context, policy and regulatory reforms, foreign direct investment trends, investment promotion and facilitation, dispute settlement, and implementation of the ECOWAS Investment Code and the AfCFTA Investment Protocol. The Republic of Guinea and Guinea-Bissau did not submit reports for this cycle.

The reports show a resilient region. Member States are modernizing investment laws, digitizing facilitation services, strengthening aftercare and aligning national frameworks with regional instruments. They also point to persistent challenges: infrastructure gaps, foreign-exchange volatility in some markets, climate vulnerability and the need for more long-term productive investment.

This compilation serves two purposes. It gives investors, policymakers, researchers and the wider ECOWAS Common Market community reliable information on national and regional investment climates. It also works as a peer-review tool, encouraging reform by sharing what has worked in Member States.

I commend the Member States that submitted reports and encourage all Member States to take part in the next reporting cycle.

Dr. Kalilou SYLLA
Commissioner for Economic Affairs & Agriculture
ECOWAS Commission
April 2026

2.0 ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

English

ADR – Alternative Dispute Resolution
AfCFTA – African Continental Free Trade Area
AfDB – African Development Bank
BIT – Bilateral Investment Treaty
CBN – Central Bank of Nigeria
ECIM – ECOWAS Common Investment Market
ECOWIC – ECOWAS Common Investment Code
ETLS – ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme
FDI – Foreign Direct Investment
FPI – Foreign Portfolio Investment
ICSID – International Centre for Settlement of Investment
Disputes IPA – Investment Promotion Agency
NIPC – Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission
PIA – Petroleum Industry Act (Nigeria)
PPP – Public-Private Partnership
SEZ – Special Economic Zone
SME – Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
UNCTAD – United Nations Conference on Trade and
Development WTO – World Trade Organization

French

Agence de Développement des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises – ADPME
Autorité de la Concurrence – AdC
Autorité de Régulation des Marchés Publics – ARMP
Agence de Régulation Multissectorial da Economia – ARME
Agence Nationale Pour l'Emploi – ANPE
Agence Nationale chargée de la Promotion de l'Investissement et des Grands Travaux
– APIX

Agence de Promotion des Investissements et de la Zone Franche – API-ZF
Agence de Promotion des Investissements et des Exportations – APIEx
Banco Africano de Desenvolvimento – BAD
Banco de Cabo Verde – BCV
Banque Africaine de Développement – BAD
Banque Centrale des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest – BCEAO
Bâtiment et Travaux Publics – BTP
Cadre Référentiel Stratégique National de l'Investissement Privé – CARSNIP
Centre de Promotion des Investissements en Côte d'Ivoire – CEPICI
Centre International pour le Règlement des Différends relatifs aux Investissements –
CIRDI Centre National de Mediação e Arbitragem – CNMA
Código das Investissements – CI
Comitê de Concertação Estado–Secteur Privé – CCESP
Comité Interministériel de Promotion des Investissements – CIPI
Comité National de Reconhecimento da Origem Comunitária da CEDEAO

Comité de Suivi de la Dette Publique – CSDP
Comitê Nacional de Implementação da ZCLCA / Comité National de Mise en Œuvre de la ZLECAf – CNIZ / CN-ZLECAf
Communauté Économique des États de l'Afrique de l'Ouest – CEDEAO
Communauté des Pays de Langue Portugaise – CPLP
Compte Unique du Trésor – CUT
Comunidade dos Países de Língua Portuguesa – CPLP
Conseil National des Exportations de Côte d'Ivoire – CNE-CI
Conseil Présidentiel de l'Investissement – CPI
Conseil du Marché Commun d'Investissement de la CEDEAO – ECIM
Conselho Nacional de Implementação da ZLECAf – CNIZ
Conduta Empresarial Responsável / Conduite d'Entreprise Responsable – CER
Commission de Régulation du Secteur de l'Énergie – CRSE
Enseignement et Formation Techniques et Professionnels – EFTP
Fundo Climático e Ambiental – (no fixed acronym)
Guichet Unique de Développement des PME – GUDE-PME
Imposto sobre o Rendimento de Pessoas Coletivas – IRPC
Índice de Desenvolvimento Humano – IDH
Inspeção Geral das Atividades Económicas – IGAE
Institut National de la Statistique et de la Démographie – INStaD
Instituto de Gestão da Qualidade e da Propriedade Intelectual – IGQPI
Investissement de Portefeuille Étranger – IPE
Investissements Directs Étrangers / Investimento Direto Estrangeiro – IDE
Investissements Directs Nationaux – IDN
Investissement Direct – ID
Micro, Petites et Moyennes Entreprises – MPME
Ministère de la Promotion des Investissements et du Développement des Entreprises – MPIFE
Modes Alternatifs de Règlement des Différends – MARD
Organisation pour l'Harmonisation en Afrique du Droit des Affaires – OHADA
Organização Mundial da Saúde – OMS
Organização Mundial do Comércio – OMC
Organisation Mondiale des Douanes – OMA
Organisation Internationale du Travail – OIT
Orçamento do Estado – OE
Partenariat Public-Privé – PPP
Petites et Moyennes Entreprises – PME
Plan National de Développement – PND
Plano Estratégico de Desenvolvimento Sustentável – PEDS II
Plano Estratégico de Mobilização de Apoio Climático – PEMAC
Politique Nationale de Développement Industriel – PNDI
Politique Nationale de Sécurité et Santé au Travail – PNSST
Programme d'Action du Gouvernement – PAG
Programme d'Appui à l'Amélioration du Climat des Affaires en Côte d'Ivoire – PACA-CI
Programme National d'Alimentation Scolaire Intégrée – PNASI
Programme Spécial d'Insertion dans l'Emploi – PSIE

Projet d'Autonomisation des Femmes et Dividende Démographique au Sahel – SWEDD
Recenseamento Geral da População e Habitação / Recensement Général de la Population et de l'Habitat – RGPH Rendimento Social de Inclusão – RSI
Responsabilidade Social Empresarial / Responsabilité Sociétale des Entreprises – RSE
Salaire Minimum Interprofessionnel Garanti – SMIG
Sistema Harmonizado / Système Harmonisé – SH
Société de Garantie des Crédits aux Petites et Moyennes Entreprises – (no fixed acronym)
Société de Gestion des Déchets et de la Salubrité – SGDS
Stratégie Nationale de Développement du Secteur Privé et de Promotion de l'Investissement – SNDSPI
Tratados Bilaterais de Investimento / Traités Bilatéraux d'Investissement – TBI
União Africana – UA
Union Économique et Monétaire Ouest Africaine – UEMOA
Zona de Comércio Livre Continental Africana / Zone de Libre-Échange Continentale Africaine – ZLECAf (ZCLCA) Zona Económica Especial / Zone Économique Spéciale – ZES
Zona Económica Especial da Ilha de Maio – ZEEIM
Zona Económica Especial Marítima de São Vicente – ZEEMSV
Zona Económica Especial para a Tecnologia – ZEET
Zona Económica Exclusiva / Zone Économique Exclusive – ZEE
Zone Franche (Industrielle) – ZF
Zone Franche dans le secteur du Textile et de l'Habillement – ZFTH
Zones de Développement Touristique Intégral – ZDTI

3.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Regional Investment Climate and Policy Harmonization: Insights from the Fifth Meeting of the Technical Committee of the ECOWAS Common Investment Market (ECIM) Council

The Fifth Meeting of the Technical Committee of the ECOWAS Common Investment Market (ECIM) Council, convened in Abidjan, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, from 27 to 30 April 2026, provided a comprehensive assessment of the investment landscape across West Africa on the basis of the 2025 National Investment Reports. Ten Member States; Benin, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo, submitted detailed reports covering macroeconomic performance, policy and regulatory reforms, foreign direct investment (FDI) trends, investment promotion and facilitation, dispute settlement, and the implementation of the ECOWAS Investment Code. The Republic of Guinea and Guinea-Bissau did not submit National Investment Reports for the 2025 reporting cycle and are accordingly not reflected in this compilation.

The reports paint a picture of a region that continues to attract capital and deepen structural reforms despite a challenging global environment. Côte d'Ivoire recorded a historic FDI peak of USD 3.8 billion in 2024 and projected total investment of approximately 13 653 billion FCFA (≈ USD 21.8 billion) in 2025, underpinned by the National Development Plan (NDP) 2026–2030 targeting average annual growth rate of 7.2 %.

Nigeria's FDI inflows stabilized at USD 0.92 billion in 2025 after earlier declines, while portfolio investment surged, highlighting both renewed interest in Nigerian financial assets and continued vulnerability to short-term capital flows. Cabo Verde reported net FDI recovery to EUR 79 million (≈ USD 92.31 million) by the third quarter of 2025, concentrated in tourism and real estate. The Gambia sustained an upward FDI trajectory, reaching USD 490 million in 2024. Benin recorded net FDI inflows of 232 015.8 million FCFA (≈ USD 403.86 million) in 2024, while Togo approved 47 investment projects under its Investment Code and Free Zone regimes for a total planned investment of 355.5 billion FCFA (≈ USD 618.8 million), expected to generate 5 193 permanent national jobs.

Cross-cutting reform priorities are clearly visible. Digitalization of business registration, licensing, tax compliance and investment facilitation services features prominently in Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Cabo Verde and The Gambia. Several Member States have updated or are updating their investment legislation (Benin's Law No. 2024-30 and implementing decrees; Côte d'Ivoire's Ordinance No. 2024-857 amending the Investment Code; Nigeria's Tax Act 2026 and BIT model review). Strengthening of one-stop shops, aftercare mechanisms and SME support instruments is widespread. Alignment with the AfCFTA Protocol on Investment and the ECOWAS Investment Code is explicitly addressed in most submissions, although the depth of implementation varies.

Infrastructure development, agricultural modernization, energy transition (including gas and renewables), digital economy and tourism remain the dominant sectoral priorities. At the same time, Member States candidly identify remaining constraints to include foreign-exchange volatility (particularly in Nigeria), infrastructure and logistics aps that hinder intra-ECOWAS investment, climate vulnerability (especially for Cabo Verde and coastal economies), and the need to convert short-term capital inflows into longer-term productive investment.

This compilation synthesizes the national reports into a single reference document. It highlights both the progress achieved and the collective agenda that lies ahead if the ECOWAS Common Investment Market is to deliver its full potential for inclusive and sustainable growth.

Note: Figures originally reported in West African CFA Francs (FCFA/XOF) have been converted to United States Dollars (USD) for ease of comprehension, using the prevailing OANDA exchange rate of USD 1 = XOF 574.50 (www.oanda.com, as at 21 August 2026). The USD equivalents shown in parentheses

are approximate and are provided for indicative purposes only; the original FCFA figures, as officially reported by the Member States, remain the authoritative values. Figures originally reported in Euros (EUR) have similarly been converted to United States Dollars using the prevailing OANDA exchange rate of EUR 1 = USD 1.1685 (www.oanda.com, as at 21 August 2026).

4.0 INTRODUCTION

4.1 The ECOWAS Common Investment Market

The ECOWAS Common Investment Market (ECIM) is a central pillar of the Community's economic integration architecture. It seeks to create a coherent, predictable, transparent and competitive space for attraction, establishment, treatment and operation of cross-border investment within the region. To this end, the ECIM aligns the economies of Member States into a single investment policy space with harmonized investment policies and regulations coordinated investment promotion and facilitation as well as cooperative investment governance framework and mechanism. In the ECIM, the region guarantees free movement of capital, investment protection and balances the rights and obligations of investors, while affording regulatory space for Member States to pursue their respective development objectives.

The legal and institutional foundation of the ECIM is the ECOWAS Investment Code (ECOWIC). The Code provides the basis for implementation of the ECOWAS Investment Policy in which Member States agreed to cooperate and deploy joint measures and actions to make the region an attractive and a friendly destination for investment that support sustainable development. Since their adoption in 2018, the Policy and Code have inspired progressive alignment of national investment frameworks in the region, re-enforced by the continental instruments, notably the AfCFTA Protocol on Investment which, in most of its provisions aligns with the ECOWIC.

The Annual National Investment Reports submitted by Member States to the ECIM Council (the apex governance body of the ECIM) constitute the primary monitoring and peer-review and peer-learning mechanism of the ECIM Technical Committee. They enable the Commission and Member States to track reform progress, identify emerging challenges, share good practices, and formulate collective responses.

4.2 Objectives of the April 2026 Technical Meeting

The Fifth Meeting of the Technical Committee of the ECIM Council, held in Abidjan from 27 to 30 April 2026, pursued the following objectives:

- To receive and examine the 2025 National Investment Reports of Member States;
- To assess progress in the implementation of the ECOWAS Investment Code and the AfCFTA Protocol on Investment;
- To identify cross-cutting challenges and opportunities for regional policy harmonization;
- To formulate concrete recommendations for the consideration of the ECIM Council and the ECOWAS Commission; and
- To strengthen peer learning and technical cooperation among Investment Promotion Agencies and relevant national authorities.

4.3 Overview of Participating Member States

Ten Member States submitted comprehensive reports for the 2025 cycle: the Republic of Benin, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo. These reports form the exclusive empirical basis of the present compilation. The Republic of Guinea and Guinea-Bissau did not submit National Investment Reports for the 2025 reporting cycle and are accordingly not reflected in this compilation.

5.0 COUNTRY INVESTMENT REPORTS

5.1 REPUBLIC OF BENIN

2025 INVESTMENT REPORT

1. COUNTRY CONTEXT

Benin is a country on the Gulf of Guinea with an area of 114,763 km². Its population is estimated at approximately 14,000,000 inhabitants in 2025, with an annual growth rate of 2.4% and a density of 112.5 inhabitants per km². In 2025, the estimated crude death rate is 6.2‰, the crude birth rate is projected at 38.1‰, and the total fertility rate is estimated at 5.3 children per woman. Life expectancy at birth is estimated at 66.0 years in 2025 (INStaD, demographic projections from 2014 to 2063 and social-demand outlook from 2014 to 2030 in Benin, November 2022).

The growth rate thus stood at 7.5% in 2024, well above the 6.7% forecast made at the start of the year, compared with 6.4% achieved in 2023. This favorable trend in the Beninese economy was driven by:

(i) the strong performance of the primary sector, boosted by improved cotton production as well as food-crop production;

(ii) the expansion of industrial activities supported by investment-promotion mechanisms, notably the law on special economic zones and the Investment Code, along with construction and public-works activities; and

(iii) the strong progression of the market services sector, favored by the momentum of activities in the primary and secondary sectors, while growth in the non-market tertiary sector was also robust, driven by the rise in current expenditure.

2. Review of the Investment Climate (Reforms)

a. Transparency

Several reforms aimed at improving the business climate have been undertaken. These include regulatory texts and specific measures to facilitate investment and exports.

In addition to the Glo-Djigbé special economic zone, the following can be cited:

- Decree No. 2024–1065 of 31 July 2024 establishing the “African Logistics Zone” special economic zone at the Port of Cotonou;
- Decree No. 2025–196 of 23 April 2025 establishing the Sèmè-Kpodji special economic zone;
- Decree No. 2025-422 of 23 July 2025 on the delimitation and declaration of public utility of the perimeter of the Kétou special economic zone (ZES);
- Decree No. 2025-684 of 5 November 2025 on the creation, organization and operation of regional economic hubs for light industry and agro-industry.

b. Investment Policy and Regulation

To support the strategy of local processing and export of high-value-added products, Decree No. 2022–568 of 12 October 2022, prohibiting the export of raw soybeans and setting the conditions for

implementing the ban on exports of raw cashew nuts and soybeans from the Republic of Benin, was issued and put into effect.

As part of bringing the country into line with Community law, notably Directive No. 01/2022/CM/UEMOA of 30 September 2022, the legal framework for Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) was reformed through the adoption of Law No. 2024-30 of 12 July 2024, together with its three implementing decrees, namely Decree No. 2024-1060 of 24 July 2024, Decree No. 2024-1061 of 24 July 2024, and Decree No. 2024-1112 of 18 September 2024. This reform establishes a more secure framework for PPP contracts by offering the possibility of negotiating the applicable tax regime for projects. Among other reforms are:

- the reduction of the Council of Ministers' predominant role in favor of technical structures;
- the removal of the requirement for Council of Ministers approval, as follows:
  - special-status municipalities: contract amount below 500 million FCFA (≈ USD 870.32 thousand), municipal council;
  - ordinary-status municipalities: contract amount below 250 million FCFA (≈ USD 435.16 thousand), municipal council;
  - administrative public establishments, industrial and commercial public establishments: contract amount before tax below 100 million FCFA (≈ USD 174.06 thousand), Minister of Economy and Finance.
- streamlining of timeframes and introduction of provisions relating to digitalization;
- setting the customs and tax regime for PPPs;
- clarification of the mechanism for handling unsolicited proposals;

Integration of the obligation for monitoring and oversight.

c. Investment Facilitation and Promotion

As part of investment facilitation, APIEx has also digitalized, through www.guichet.investbenin.bj, the submission and review of:

- applications for approval under the Investment Code;
- applications for approval within Special Economic Zones (ZES);
- applications for support for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to obtain customs exemptions on new artisanal equipment;
- requests for technical and financial support from exporters.

Measures to Promote Exports

As part of the promotion of export-related activities, several structuring reforms and actions have been undertaken to improve the export environment and support businesses.

Measures to Strengthen and Develop Exports

The following key measures have been implemented:

- the ongoing development of the National Export Strategy (sectoral strategies and cross-cutting functions);
- the implementation of the project to operationalize the Export Hub (ProPex) of the Directorate for Export Promotion (DPE);
- the development of a standardized operating procedures manual for the production and export of Benin's sugar-loaf pineapple to the People's Republic of China, in accordance with the memorandum of understanding signed in 2023 between the two countries;
- the creation of the exportbenin.bj website, whose launch is scheduled for the first half of 2026;
- the strengthening of capacities of trade-support institutions and businesses, through the training of twelve (12) trainers in the use of digital tools of the International Trade Centre (ITC), fifteen (15) APIEx staff in Results-Based Management (RBM), as well as the development of skills of Export Hub stakeholders and the private sector in international prospecting and trade promotion.

Export-Facilitation Infrastructure

Several structuring actions have been implemented to strengthen export infrastructure. These actions relate mainly to:

- the creation of a fruit terminal with a capacity of 18,000 tons, intended to support exporters of fresh pineapple and other fresh produce from Benin;
- the establishment of a fruit fumigation facility, to facilitate access to the Chinese, American, Japanese markets, as well as any other market requiring fumigation of fresh fruits and vegetables;
- the construction of an Agri-food Technical Center dedicated to physio-biological analysis, packaging improvement and information monitoring. The objective is to support businesses in the sector in improving the quality of their products, adding value, and gaining access to strategic information. Its operationalization is planned for the first half of 2027.

d. Investment-Related Issues

Industrial Policy

The 2026-2035 National Industrial Development Policy (PNDI) is based on a staged transformational approach, whereby the initial modernization of production units generates, through a knock-on effect, sustainable and inclusive industrialization.

By 2035, Benin aims to establish itself as an emerging industrial nation, with a diversified, technologically advanced and competitive sector, acting as the primary driver of inclusive growth that creates decent jobs and respects the environment.

Special Economic Zones

In 2025, ten (10) projects were approved, compared with eight (08) in 2024, for respective amounts of 75.9 billion FCFA (≈ USD 132.11 million) and 12.3 billion FCFA (≈ USD 21.41 million), representing respective increases of 25% and 517.8%.

Within the GDIZ, three (03) new companies entered the operational phase in 2025, as was also the case in 2024.

As for investments realized, they amounted to 67.2 billion FCFA (≈ USD 116.97 million) and 140.1 billion FCFA (≈ USD 243.86 million) respectively, a decrease of 52%. This result is mainly linked to the significant investments made by an integrated textile unit that entered operation in 2024.

Regarding the number of jobs created, 4,131 positions were generated in 2025, compared with 5,233 in 2024, a decrease of 21.1%. This decline is explained by the exceptional volume of jobs created when an integrated textile unit began operations in 2024.

Cumulatively, the GDIZ counted eleven (11) industries in operation in 2025, representing total investment of 233.7 billion FCFA (≈ USD 406.79 million) and generating 11,452 new jobs. This performance is mainly driven by the textile and agri-food industries and reflects an execution rate of 57.9% in terms of companies established, 58.8% for expected jobs, and 53.7% for planned investments.

Investment Code

The implementation of this investment-promotion mechanism made it possible to support, in 2025, twenty (20) companies for an investment amount of 248 billion FCFA (≈ USD 431.68 million), compared with twenty-four (24) companies in 2024 for 371.2 billion FCFA (≈ USD 646.13 million) — representing respective decreases of 20% in the number of approved companies and 33.2% in the investment amount. This result is mainly explained by the decrease in investments by companies approved in 2025 compared

with 2024 in the telecommunications and digital sectors (130.7 billion FCFA (≈ USD 227.5 million) in 2025 compared with 153.9 billion FCFA (≈ USD 267.89 million) in 2024), as well as in transport and warehousing (no approval requests recorded in 2025, compared with 117.9 billion FCFA (≈ USD 205.22 million) in 2024). Among the approved companies, six (06) were processed entirely through the digital platform for approval applications and business support, launched in the second half of 2025.

Table 3: Trend in the number of approved projects and investment amounts over the 2021–2025 period

Approvals granted	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of approved companies	09	27	11	24	20
Announced investment (billion FCFA)	24.7 (≈ USD 42.99 million)	126 (≈ USD 219.32 million)	79.1 (≈ USD 137.68 million)	371.2 (≈ USD 646.13 million)	248 (≈ USD 431.68 million)

Source: APIEx, February 2025

In terms of achievements, over the 2021-2025 period, the Investment Code enabled the installation and start-up of forty (40) production units, representing an investment volume of 200.3 billion FCFA (≈ USD 348.65 million) and the creation of 2,987 jobs. These achievements reflect an execution rate of 54% in terms of companies established, 55.8% for planned investments, and 64.4% for expected jobs.

Agri-food industries contributed more than half of the investments realized between 2022 and 2023, i.e., 62.2%, followed by the metallurgy industry (18.3%). In terms of jobs created, however, the metallurgy industry ranks first with 545 jobs, representing 39.7% of jobs created over the period, ahead of agri-food industries, which generated 479 jobs, or 34.9%.

The table below presents the details of achievements over the 2022–2025 period.

Table 4: Status of Investment Code implementation achievements between 2022 and 2025

Year	Sector	Numbe r of	Number of	Amount invested (billion
2022	Agri-food industry	3	298	80.9 (≈ USD 140.82 million)
2022	Packaging industry	1	41	2.7 (≈ USD 4.7 million)
Total 2022		**4**	**339**	**83.5 (≈ USD 145.34 million)**
2023	Agri-food industry	3	338	9.0 (≈ USD 15.67 million)
2023	Rubber and plastics industry	1	18	1.0 (≈ USD 1.74 million)
2023	Petroleum products industry	1	29	1.0 (≈ USD 1.74 million)
2023	Packaging industry	1	15	0.8 (≈ USD 1.39 million)
2023	Metallurgy industry	2	587	14.1 (≈ USD 24.54 million)
2023	Mineral materials industry	1	58	2.3 (≈ USD 4 million)

2023	Cotton ginning industry	1	205	3.1 (≈ USD 5.4 million)
Total 2023		**10**	**1250**	**31.3 (≈ USD 54.48 million)**
2024	Agri-food industry	4	146	7.5 (≈ USD 13.05 million)
2024	Packaging industry	1	15	1.6 (≈ USD 2.79 million)
2024	Metallurgy industry	1	15	2.6 (≈ USD 4.53 million)
2024	Mineral materials industry	1	25	3.6 (≈ USD 6.27 million)
2024	Cotton ginning industry	5	395	21.7 (≈ USD 37.77 million)
Total 2024		**12**	**596**	**37.0 (≈ USD 64.4 million)**
2025	Other services	1	150	2.3 (≈ USD 4 million)
2025	Agri-food industry	7	298	20.9 (≈ USD 36.38 million)
2025	Packaging industry	1	25	0.3 (≈ USD 522.19 thousand)
2025	Extractive industry	1	46	4.5 (≈ USD 7.83 million)
2025	Health and social action	1	70	4.9 (≈ USD 8.53 million)
2025	Metallurgy industry	1	47	9.5 (≈ USD 16.54 million)
2025	Poultry and fish-farming industry	1	150	4.0 (≈ USD 6.96 million)
2025	Mineral materials industry	1	16	2.2 (≈ USD 3.83 million)
Total 2025		**14**	**802**	**48.5 (≈ USD 84.42 million)**
Totals		**40**	**2987**	**200.3 (≈ USD 348.65 million)**

Source: APIEx, February 2025

Competition

In Benin, 2025 marks a decisive turning point in the modernization of market regulation. The major

innovation lies in the shift from classic administrative regulation to a more autonomous, technical and digitalized approach to competition governance, through the operationalization of the National Competition Authority.

The establishment of this National Authority was made possible by the passage of Law No. 2025-02 of 5 February 2025 on the organization of competition in the Republic of Benin.

Infrastructure (Physical, Financial and Intangible)

•Development of the Glo-Djigbé industrial zone
•Development of land and agricultural infrastructure for plantations and large-scale crops
•Modernization of the Port of Cotonou
•Construction of a new, modern Maritime Affairs Center bringing together all industry stakeholders
•Complete automation of customs and port procedures to streamline the flow of goods to the hinterland (Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso)
•Fourteen (14) approved banks, including twelve (12) subsidiaries of banking groups and two (02) branches

Health / Security

In healthcare, Benin has undertaken, through its Government Action Programme (PAG 2021-2026), a structural transformation of its health system. This momentum is reflected in the completion of flagship projects and the modernization of territorial coverage.

- •the Calavi International Hospital Center (CHIC) is now operational. It marks the end of near-systematic reliance on costly medical evacuations abroad;
- •the modernization and expansion of the national network (departmental and zone hospitals);
- •the improvement of technical facilities and the development of logistics through the installation of scanners and dialysis units in departmental centers, as well as the deployment of 200 ambulances across the entire national territory;
- •the progressive digitalization of the Hospital Information System (HIS) and telemedicine to improve patient monitoring.

In security matters, Benin has strengthened its strategic partnerships:

•**Accra Initiative:** Active participation in this intelligence-sharing platform with neighboring countries (Togo, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire).

•**Bilateral Partnerships:** Strengthened technical cooperation with countries such as France, the United States, and Belgium for the training of elite units and demining.

Education and Human Capital Development

Investment in human capital is the first pillar of the Government Action Programme (PAG). For Benin, the challenge is to turn its demographic structure into a lever for sustainable economic growth.

a. The Transformation of Technical and Vocational Education (TVET)

This is the most emblematic undertaking. The government is investing heavily to reverse the trend: moving from a system where 80% of students are in general education to one where 70% are directed toward technical trades.

•**Construction of Technical High Schools:** A vast program to build and rehabilitate 30 agricultural technical high schools and industrial high schools is underway.

•**International Partnerships:** Collaboration with experts (notably French and German) to align diplomas with international standards and the needs of the Glo-Djigbé Industrial Zone (GDIZ).

b. The National Integrated School Feeding Programme (PNASI)

Considered one of the most successful models in sub-Saharan Africa, this investment aims to improve school enrollment and nutrition rates.

•**Coverage:** More than 75% of public primary schools now have a school canteen.

•**Impact:** This has significantly increased retention rates, particularly in rural areas such as the north, and has boosted the local economy through the purchase of local agricultural products.

c. Higher Education and Research Reforms

The State is investing to make universities hubs of development rather than factories producing unemployed graduates.

•**Sèmè City:** Creation of the International City of Innovation and Knowledge, a strategic investment to foster start-ups, applied research, and high-level technology training.

•**Excellence Scholarships:** Redefinition of scholarship-award criteria to prioritize scientific, technological, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

d. Promotion of Gender and Equity

Human capital development requires the empowerment of girls.

•**SWEDD Project:** Major investments to keep girls in school, combat early marriage, and provide school kits to the most vulnerable.

•**Free Education:** Extension of free-tuition measures for girls at the lower-secondary level.

Employment and Labor Policy

Benin's strategy is based on aligning "Training and Employment." Emphasis is placed on technical and vocational education (Technical High Schools) to ensure that major infrastructure and industrial projects benefit from a qualified workforce.

Modernization of the Legal Framework and Workplace Safety

The government has taken crucial steps to secure career paths:
•**National Occupational Safety and Health Policy (PNSST):** Adopted for the 2024-2028 period, this policy aims to reduce workplace accidents and occupational diseases, particularly in the construction and industrial sectors.

•**Labor Code Reform:** Recent adjustments facilitate apprenticeship and internship contracts, while offering greater flexibility to businesses, offset by strengthened Labor Inspectorate controls.

Promotion of Youth Employment and Integration
The National Employment Agency (ANPE) has modernized its tools to reach populations furthest from the labor market:
•**AZOLI Programme:** This scheme targets youth with little or no schooling, offering them short-term training and direct placement in partner companies or major State construction projects.

•**Special Employment Integration Programme (PSIE):** Continuation of the scheme whereby the State covers part of the salary of recent graduates recruited by the private sector, facilitating their first professional experience.

Social Dialogue
Strengthened dialogue between the government, employers (CNP-Bénin), and trade unions has led to

regular agreements on raising the minimum wage (SMIG) and improving workers' living conditions, ensuring the stability essential to investment.

The GDIZ: Driver of Industrial Employment

The Glo-Djigbé Industrial Zone (GDIZ) has become the country's leading private employer.

•**Local Processing:** By mandating the local processing of cotton, soybeans, and cashew nuts, thousands of jobs have been created for workers, technicians, and logistics staff.

•**Integrated Training Centers:** Textile and agri-food processing training units enable young people to become operational immediately, reducing the gap between qualifications and skills.

Environmental Issues

The government reached a historic milestone by allocating nearly 740 billion FCFA (approximately USD 1.3 billion) to climate investments in the 2025 Finance Act.

Improved waste management by the Waste Management and Sanitation Company (SGDS).

Benin's startup ecosystem is becoming greener with concrete solutions:

•**ILEDA 2025 Programme:** A new incubator dedicated to eco-responsible female entrepreneurship, targeting waste management, sustainable agriculture, and eco-friendly cosmetics.

•**Smart Agriculture:** Use of sensors and precise data to help farmers adapt planting schedules to rainfall forecasts.

•**Sustainable Mobility:** Expansion of low-carbon transport solutions in urban areas to reduce air pollution. Ecosystem restoration: Launch of integrated projects to rehabilitate degraded forests (such as the Lama forest) for carbon sequestration.

Combating land degradation: Implementation of innovative soil conservation techniques to sustain agriculture without recourse to chemical products.

SME Promotion

The creation and operationalization of the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency (ADPME) to support MSMEs on technical and financial matters.

Support for SMEs in obtaining customs exemptions on new artisanal equipment.

Free connection of SMEs to water and electricity.

The annual reservation of a proportion of public procurement contracts, by number, for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), through the Finance Act, and the granting of a 5% preferential margin to any bid submitted by MSMEs (cumulative with the 15% UEMOA Community preferential margin).

Taxation / Incentives

- The Investment Code
- The Law on Special Economic Zones
- A provision granting customs facilities to SMEs for the import of artisanal equipment.

Sustainability

Review of the Investment Climate and Investment Policy Reforms Adopted in 2025

In 2025, several decrees were adopted to improve the business climate, resulting in investment facilitation. These include:

•Decree No. 2025–196 of 23 April 2025 establishing the Sèmè-Kpodji special economic zone;

•Decree No. 2025-422 of 23 July 2025 on the delimitation and declaration of public utility of the perimeter of the Kétou special economic zone (ZES);

•Decree No. 2025-684 of 5 November 2025 on the creation, organization and operation of regional economic hubs for light industry and agro-industry.

3. Corporate Social Responsibility and Responsible Business Conduct
In Benin, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has evolved from a philanthropic concept (donations and charity) into a strategic lever for performance and compliance. Although the legislative framework is not yet fully binding, it is indirectly structured around the following pillars:
The Labor Code: Which sets standards on health, workplace safety, and the rejection of child labor.

The Framework Law on the Environment: Which requires environmental and social impact assessments (ESIAs) for any large-scale industrial or agricultural project.

The Investment Code: Which encourages investors to adopt sustainable practices and contribute to local development.

The National CSR Platform: An initiative bringing together public and private actors to promote good practices.

4. Investment Flow Trends: 5-Year Trend in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)
i.Structure
Net inflows of direct investment stood at 232,015.8 million FCFA (≈ USD 403.86 million) in 2024, compared with 260,831.4 million FCFA (≈ USD 454.01 million) in 2023, a decrease of 28,815.6 million FCFA (≈ USD 50.16 million). This decline is explained by a decrease in net inflows of debt instruments, notably loans granted by non-resident companies to their subsidiaries or branches established in Benin.
ii. Orientation

The main sectors benefiting from direct investment are “Financial intermediation, insurance and pensions” (38.7%), transport and warehousing (34.1%), construction (8.9%), manufacturing industry (6.1%), “Real estate, rental, and business services” (4.5%), “Electricity and gas production and distribution” (4.2%), and “Wholesale and retail trade” (2.4%).

China (41.5%), Senegal (15.2%), the United Arab Emirates (6.1%), Côte d’Ivoire (5.9%), Nigeria (5.7%), Gabon (5.6%), France (5.1%), Mauritius (2.8%), Togo (2.4%), Equatorial Guinea (2.0%), and Germany (1.1%) are the main sources of net direct investment flows to Benin in 2024. Conversely, declines in direct investment were noted from Niger (-1.4%), the Netherlands (-1.3%), and Mali (-0.6%).

iii. Flow Statistics (Inflows and Outflows) [1] (provisional data)

Table 1: Trend in FDI from 2020 to 2024 (in millions of FCFA)

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Foreign direct investment	87,576.1 (≈ USD 152.44 million)	168,092.3 (≈ USD 292.59 million)	205,199.3 (≈ USD 357.18 million)	260,831.4 (≈ USD 454.01 million)	232,013.8 (≈ USD 403.85 million)

Source: BCEAO (January 2026)

iv. Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI)

Net financial flows received under portfolio investment are estimated at 130,102.7 million FCFA (≈ USD 226.46 million) in 2024, compared with 52,640.1 million FCFA (≈ USD 91.63 million) the previous year. Indeed, holdings of Beninese securities by non-residents (liabilities) stood at 209,811.7 million FCFA (≈ USD 365.21 million) at end-2024, compared with 100,411.3 million FCFA (≈ USD 174.78 million) at end-2023, an increase of 109,400.5 million FCFA (≈ USD 190.43 million). At the same time, residents’ portfolios of foreign securities (assets) stood at 79,709.0 million FCFA (≈ USD 138.74 million), up from

47,771.1 million FCFA (≈ USD 83.15 million) at end-2023, an increase of 31,937.9 million FCFA (≈ USD 55.59 million).

The favorable trend in portfolio investment recorded in 2024 mainly results from securities issuances by the Public Administration, which translated, vis-à-vis non-resident investors, into net mobilization through bonds (+216,418.4 million in 2024, compared with +95,528.3 million in 2023), linked to the February 2024 issuance on the dollar segment of the international bond market of a USD 750 million Eurobond, and a net repayment through treasury bills (-9,511.0 million in 2024, compared with +4,621 million in 2023).

Operations of other sectors outside deposit-taking institutions resulted in a net outflow of resources estimated at 76,804.7 million FCFA (≈ USD 133.69 million), up 29,295.6 million FCFA (≈ USD 50.99 million) compared with 2023, when they stood at 47,509.2 million FCFA (≈ USD 82.7 million).

Table 2: Trend in net portfolio-investment liabilities from 2021 to 2024 (in millions of FCFA)

Item	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Direct investment	-76,436.5 (≈ -USD 133.05 million)	-503,763.7 (≈ -USD 876.87 million)	-176,949.9 (≈ -USD 308.01 million)	-52,640.1 (≈ -USD 91.63 million)	-130,102.7 (≈ -USD 226.46 million)

Source: BCEAO (January 2026)

[1] Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO)

5. Intra-ECOWAS Flow Issues

Intra-ECOWAS trade flows are a vital issue for Benin, whose economy has historically been oriented toward regional trade. However, in 2025, trade integration remains hampered by several structural and cyclical issues, such as:

Non-tariff barriers (proliferation of checkpoints, notably along the Abidjan-Lagos corridor).

Informal fees (repeated stops generate illegal costs that raise the final price of goods).
The absence of a single currency (Benin uses the CFA franc, while major neighbors such as Nigeria and Ghana have their own currencies. Exchange-rate volatility, particularly of the naira, complicates transactions and forecasting for economic operators).

6. Investment Agreements

Benin has signed several types of agreements to secure and promote investment on its territory. These commitments fall mainly into bilateral agreements (BITs), regional frameworks, and multilateral conventions.

a. Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs)

Benin has concluded Bilateral Investment Treaties (often referred to as Agreements for the Promotion and Equitable Protection of Investments) with several countries.

Europe: Germany, Belgium-Luxembourg, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Switzerland.

Americas: Canada (major agreement signed in 2014, entered into force in 2016).

Asia: China.

Middle East: Kuwait.

2. Multilateral Agreements and Guarantees

Benin is a member of international organizations that provide additional guarantees to foreign investors:

MIGA (Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency): A member of the World Bank Group, it protects investors against non-commercial risks (expropriation, war, etc.).

ICSID (International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes): Benin is a signatory to the Washington Convention, allowing disputes between the State and a foreign investor to be settled through international arbitration.

OHADA (Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa): Provides a secure and uniform legal framework for contract and corporate law.

7. Dispute Resolution

Investment dispute resolution in Benin relies on a dual system: recourse to State courts (commercial courts) and, preferred by investors, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) methods such as arbitration and mediation.

In the event of a dispute between an investor and the Beninese State, the procedure generally follows this order:

a. Amicable Settlement: This is often a mandatory step before any contentious action. The parties attempt to reach an agreement through negotiation or conciliation.

b. National Recourse: If the amicable settlement fails, the dispute may be brought before the Commercial Courts (Cotonou or Porto-Novo), which specialize in business matters.

c. Arbitration (National or International): This is the preferred route in investment contracts to guarantee neutrality and speed.

8. Obstacles to Attracting Investment

In terms of attracting investment, Benin does not face structural obstacles, but rather challenges similar to those encountered by other developing countries. These mainly concern energy, the organization of value chains, the availability of a qualified workforce, and the optimization of logistics chains, in a context marked by still-limited national and sub-regional connectivity.

9. Impact of Direct Investment

i. GDP

Direct investment, whether public or foreign (FDI), has become the main driver of Benin's economic transformation in recent years. In 2024 and 2025, its impact was reflected in record performances, propelling the country among the most dynamic economies in Africa.

Investment has acted as a growth accelerator, enabling Benin to maintain rates well above the regional average.

Record growth: In 2024, Benin recorded a GDP growth rate of 7.5% (the highest level since 1990), largely driven by an 11% surge in total investment.

Structural transformation: Direct investment has enabled the economy to shift from dependence on re-export trade to a processing economy. The secondary sector (industry) thus saw its value added rise by 13.9% by the end of 2024.

Revenue diversification: Thanks to investments in value chains (cotton, soybeans, pineapple), the current account deficit narrowed from 8.2% to 7% of GDP in 2024, owing to the rise in exports.

ii. Employment

The shift from subsistence agriculture to local industrial processing has generated new momentum in the labor market.

Massive job creation: In 2025 alone, more than 14,000 jobs were created, mainly owing to the expansion of industrial activities.

The driving role of the GDIZ: The Glo-Djigbé Industrial Zone (GDIZ) is the main catalyst. It concentrates thousands of direct jobs in textiles and the processing of cashew nuts and soybeans.

Inclusion and gender: There has been remarkable progress in female employment, with the number of women placed in companies in 2024 up 2.5 times compared with 2022.

Training and employability: Investment has driven a skills upgrade: between 2023 and mid-2025, the number of people trained in vocational programs increased by 96.8%, meeting the demand of new investors.

10. Implementation of the ECOWAS Investment Policy and Code

i. Regional Level

The ECOWAS investment policy and code are implemented in Benin through the Investment Code and the industrial development policy.

ii. AfCFTA (African Continental Free Trade Area)

Benin is not a State Party to the AfCFTA.

11. Investment Governance

Investment governance in Benin is structured to centralize decision-making, simplify procedures, and offer high-level guarantees to investors. It relies on a "vertical" institutional framework in which the Presidency of the Republic plays a major driving role. The pillars of this governance are as follows:

a. Steering and Implementation Bodies

The system is designed to reduce bureaucratic barriers through dedicated structures: APIEx (Investment and Export Promotion Agency): This is the operational arm and one-stop shop. It centralizes business creation (in under 3 hours), the granting of approvals under the Investment Code, and the management of industrial zones.

The APIEx Supervisory Board: Placed under the direct authority of the Presidency, it ensures that investment strategy is aligned with the Government Action Programme (PAG).

The Interministerial Committee for Investment Promotion (CIPI): It facilitates dialogue among the various ministries (Finance, Industry, and Planning) to remove administrative bottlenecks that investors might encounter.

12. Conclusion

In 2025, the Beninese economy recorded notable performance compared with 2024, supported in particular by investment momentum. This trajectory contributes to job creation and to improved wealth-redistribution mechanisms, in a context of industrialization reinforced by public investment in transport, health, and education infrastructure. In addition, the Government has deployed structuring instruments in favor of the private sector, notably special economic zones, SME facilitation mechanisms, and the establishment of the SME Development Agency (ADPME), in order to improve the business climate and stimulate investment. In this same regard, several regulatory frameworks have been adopted concerning investment in order to

secure investments. To this end, several regulatory frameworks have been adopted to strengthen investment security.

13. Way Forward

The establishment of the national ECIM committee to facilitate the drafting of this report and the monitoring of the implementation of the ECOWAS investment code and policy in Benin.

The ECOWAS Commission is invited to provide financial and technical support to Benin for the establishment and operation of said committee.

Note: Figures originally reported in West African CFA Francs (FCFA/XOF) have been converted to United States Dollars (USD) for ease of comprehension, using the prevailing OANDA exchange rate of USD 1 = XOF 574.50 (www.oanda.com, as at 21 August 2026). The USD equivalents shown in parentheses are approximate and are provided for indicative purposes only; the original FCFA figures, as officially reported by the Member State, remain the authoritative values.

5.2 CABO VERDE

Fifth Meeting of the Technical Committee of the ECOWAS (CEDEAO) Common Investment Market Council – Abidjan, 27 to 30 April 2026

2025 INVESTMENT REPORT

1. Country Context

The Republic of Cabo Verde is an island country made up of ten (10) islands (nine of which are inhabited) and eight (08) islets, located 500 kilometers off the west coast of Africa, covering an area of 4,030 km² and an exclusive economic zone (ZEE) of more than 730,000 km². Current available statistics estimate its population at 498,063 inhabitants, of whom 250,262 are male and 247,801 are female, 29.4% of whom live in the country's capital (Cidade da Praia).

Cabo Verde was recently declared an Upper Middle-Income Country (PRMA), and is a member of the African Union (UA), the Economic Community of West African States (CEDEAO), the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP), the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group – European Union (ACP-EU), and Macaronesia.

According to the Bank of Cabo Verde (BCV), the Cabo Verdean economy has grown at an accelerated pace over the past four years. The authorities maintained macroeconomic stability and promoted reforms, although climate risks, pressures on state-owned enterprises and global uncertainties persist. Economic growth was 6.3% in 2025, compared with 7.2% in 2024, both driven by tourism and resilient consumption. In 2025 inflation stood at around 2%, following an average of 1.0% in 2024.

2. Analysis of the Investment Climate

a) Transparency

The Government of Cabo Verde has developed several initiatives aimed at greater transparency in the investment climate, namely: the creation in 2025 of the digital platform “Transparency Portal”, which provides budgetary and financial data in real time (it became operational in 2026), and transparency in the management of privatizations and concessions (public-private partnerships). These initiatives guarantee a safe and transparent destination for investment.

b) Investment Policy and Regulation

Cabo Verde's investment policy is focused on attracting private capital, both domestic and foreign, through a liberalized legal framework, tax exemptions and administrative facilitation. The main pillars of regulation and investment are:

General Framework: The Investment Law (Law No. 13/VIII/2012, amended by Decree-Law No. 34/2013), which guarantees equal treatment between domestic and foreign investors, and freedom to set up and repatriate capital.

Immigrant Investor Status: Facilitates diaspora investment, offering tax and customs benefits (Regulatory Decree of 16 January 2023).

Tax Incentives: Include benefits on taxes such as IRPC (Corporate Income Tax) and customs exemptions/reductions, detailed in the Tax Benefits Code and sectoral laws.

Regulation and Competition: Authorities such as ARME (Multisectoral Economic Regulation Agency) and IGAE (General Inspectorate of Economic Activities) ensure compliance with economic rules.

Sustainability: Creation of the Climate and Environmental Fund to finance environmental-impact projects and support the transition to a green and blue economy.

Financing: Support mechanisms that provide credit lines with subsidized interest rates to boost entrepreneurship.

c) Investment Facilitation and Promotion

Cabo Verde TradeInvest is the government entity responsible for the promotion, attraction, facilitation, monitoring and retention of private domestic and foreign investment, across all sectors. The promotional plan aims to strengthen Cabo Verde's image as a strategic and competitive investment destination, focusing on emerging opportunities in priority sectors, and has as its goals:

- Strengthening Cabo Verde's international recognition as a preferred destination for direct investment (ID).
- Increasing the attractiveness of strategic sectors, such as tourism, agriculture, industry, and the green, blue and digital economies.
- Establishing strategic partnerships with international investors and trade agents, promoting Cabo Verde as a regional hub for business in West Africa.

In order to create conditions conducive to investment, the Government, under the "Digital Cabo Verde Project", launched in 2025 the initiative to create an investment portal called the Digital Investment Ecosystem, a digital platform aimed at debureaucratizing the process of recognizing and licensing investments. This platform provides investors with all the information on doing business in Cabo Verde, allowing investors to submit and track online all the services provided by the public administration that are necessary for carrying out their investment projects.

In 2025, Cabo Verde TradeInvest organized the following promotional events:

- Portugal-Cabo Verde Economic Forum (Portugal – January 2025), co-organized with the Portuguese Investment Promotion Agency;
- Cabo Verde Investment Forum (Cabo Verde, June 2025);
- 2nd Diaspora Salon, Investment Opportunities Presentation (Marseille-France, December 2025)

During 2025, Cabo Verde TradeInvest held sessions presenting business opportunities to the Cabo Verdean diaspora community, namely in the USA, Spain, Portugal, France and Switzerland.

It also took part in the following promotional events:

- Expo 2025 OSAKA (Osaka, Japan, April to October 2025)
- MIF Macau and C-PLPEX 2025 (Macau, October 2025)
- Cabo Verde Agribusiness Investment Forum (FIACV) 2025 (Praia, November 2025)
- AU-EU Business Forum 2025 (Luanda, Angola, November 2025)

d) Investment-Related Issues

i. Intellectual Property

In 2025 the only development recorded was the approval of the new Industrial Property Code, which updated the rules on trademarks, patents and industrial designs.

IGQPI – the Institute for Quality and Intellectual Property Management – remains the central body for the management and registration of intellectual property.

ii. Industrial Policy

In December 2025, the Government approved a new Industrial Property Code, aimed at modernizing the 2007 regime, aligning it with international standards and fostering local innovation. This Code establishes the industrial property regime and the principles and rules to which it is subject, and applies to all fields of economic activity, including industry and commerce proper, the fishing, agricultural, forestry, livestock and extractive industries, as well as all natural or manufactured products and services.

iii. Trade Policy

In 2025, Resolution No. 12/2025 of 19 February approved the new proposal to revise the NATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION, with the objective of fulfilling the commitments made by Cabo Verde under the ZCLCA (African Continental Free Trade Area), strengthening the national institutional framework, integrating the National Committee for the Recognition of CEDEAO Community Origin, and revising the composition of the National Trade Facilitation Committee.

Likewise, as part of the implementation of the ZCLCA and the revision of the trade framework, the National Committee for the Implementation of the ZCLCA (CNIZ) was created and put into operation, holding its first meeting on 24 June 2025.

Cabo Verde, as a Member State of the World Trade Organization, was subject to its second review in May 2025.

iv. Special Economic Zones

In 2025 no new special economic zone was created, and the existing ones remain in place, namely: the São Vicente Maritime Special Economic Zone (ZEEMSV), the Technology Special Economic Zone (ZEET) covering the islands of Santiago and São Vicente, and the Maio Island Special Economic Zone (ZEEIM).

v. Competition

Cabo Verde has a Competition Authority (AdC), created in 2022, which has the power to resolve disputes relating to conduct that restricts competition among economic operators, in accordance with the legal regime applicable to Independent Regulatory Authorities. However, under its statutes, the AdC is subject to administrative jurisdiction, and its decisions, taken in the course of dispute resolution, may be challenged before the courts or arbitration tribunals.

vi. Infrastructure (Physical, Financial and Institutional)

Cabo Verde has the following infrastructure available to serve economic activities:

1. Physical infrastructure:

2. Cabo Verde has 7 (seven) airports, of which 4 (four) are international; 9 (nine) ports, including 2 (two) deep-water ports; 15 (fifteen) ZDTI – Integrated Tourism Development Zones, three of which were created in 2025; 2 (two) Special Tourism Zones; 2 (two) Industrial Zones;

3. Financial infrastructure: There are currently 8 (eight) commercial banks, 2 credit guarantee companies, 2 financial management companies, 1 venture capital company, 2 exchange bureaus and 1 payment institution. All these entities operate under the supervision of the Central Bank of Cabo Verde (BCV).

In 2025, no new banking financial institutions were created in Cabo Verde. However, notable was the reinforcement and expansion of instruments focused on digital development and the digital economy, namely:

- Youth and Women's Bank: an initiative promoted by Pró Empresa, focused on providing financial and technical support to entrepreneurs;

●Focus on Green Financing: The African Development Bank (BAD) is supporting the country with structuring investments between 2025 and 2027, including infrastructure financing, with a focus on "green finance" and the transition to a low-carbon economy.

●Evolution of Microfinance: the microfinance sector has continued to be strengthened, with a focus on credit for women and small businesses.

4. Institutional infrastructure:

●National Infrastructure Plan (2025-2040/2065): Launch of the country's first long-term strategic plan for the next 20 to 40 years, aimed at investment in modern, green and resilient infrastructure, with support from the World Bank and ECOWAS.

●Cabo Verde Infrastructure (ICV, S.A.): Consolidation of this publicly owned corporation for the management of public works and the promotion of public-private partnerships.

●Connectivity and Urban Infrastructure Improvement Project: approval of additional financing of 40 million dollars from the World Bank.

vii. Health/Security

In 2025, the Government of Cabo Verde moved forward with significant investments in health and security, focusing on modernizing the system, building resilience and increasing national coverage. Investments were made to strengthen primary care and improve the country's health security against risks and emergencies, included in the National Health Promotion Plan 2023-2027, along with the strengthening of food security.

A plan was also signed with the World Health Organization (OMS) for 2026-2027 (planning began in 2025) worth 2.4 million dollars, focused on the development of the health sector.

viii. Education and Human Capital Development

Human capital development is a central priority of the Government of Cabo Verde, supported by the Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development (PEDS II), with a focus on creating educational excellence and improving basic social services to promote inclusive and resilient growth.

With financing from the World Bank, the country continues to implement the "Human Capital Project", which aims to improve access to basic services and market-relevant vocational training. In 2025, additional financing of 3.75 million dollars was approved.

There is also ongoing government investment in vocational training to integrate young people into the labor market and meet the needs of key sectors of the economy.

Despite the investments, the country faces challenges. Recent reports point to a slight decline in the Human Development Index (IDH) and the need for improvements in the quality of secondary education. In 2025, the strategy sought to mitigate structural vulnerabilities through education and training more closely aligned with market needs.

ix. Employment and Labor Policy

In 2025, the unemployment rate fell to around 7.5% in the first half of 2025, and employment grew by 7.3%. This growth was driven by tourism and exports, with GDP projected to grow by 5.2%.

However, challenges persist in professional qualification and the creation of quality net employment.

Labor Policy and Reforms:

●Formalization and Entrepreneurship – launch of programs to encourage the formalization of micro and small businesses, including tax relief and support for job creation;

- Youth and Training – focus on the productive integration of young people through vocational qualification and entrepreneurship, with a new professional card for various activities.
- Public Administration – continuation of the program to regularize precarious employment relationships in public administration and update career structures.
- National Strategy – launch of a National Roadmap to accelerate employment, social protection and poverty-reduction policies, aligned with the 2030 Agenda.

x. Environmental Issues

The main actions and reforms approved in 2025 include:

- Climate and Environmental Action Program (2025-2027) – this program aims to increase climate resilience, promote sustainable management of natural resources and ensure water and food security;
- Strategic Plan for Climate Support Mobilization (PEMAC) – launched in September 2025, aims to accelerate the energy transition and decarbonization by 2030, focusing on renewable energy and energy efficiency;
- Environmental Investment Directives (Resolution No. 36/2025) – Establish a new paradigm for guiding the Environment Fund, focusing on sustainable management, sanitation and long-term project planning;
- Renewable Energy Targets: Cabo Verde maintains its commitment to accelerate the energy transition, with a target of exceeding 80% of energy from renewable sources by 2025 and 100% in the long term, including the implementation of 100% LED public lighting.

The country continues to face challenges such as water scarcity, soil erosion and waste management, responding with policy instruments that integrate climate change adaptation across all sectors.

xi. SME Promotion

The Government of Cabo Verde established several measures to promote and support Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in 2025, focused on formalization, reduction of the tax burden and digitalization. Key actions included:

- Entrepreneurship Promotion Program – launched to boost business formalization and job creation, offering tax relief and support to micro and small enterprises;
- "Formalize to Prosper": A pilot program supported by the International Labour Organization (OIT) and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, focused on the formalization of entrepreneurs (Santiago and S. Vicente);
- Tax Incentives (2025 State Budget)
- Pró-Empresa's Role: Functions as a single digital and remote window to facilitate the relationship between businesspeople and the tax authority;
- International Support: The IFC (International Finance Corporation) strengthened its support for the private sector, focusing on tourism, renewable energy and digital transformation.

xii. Taxation/Incentives

In April 2025 the Government approved an amendment to the Customs Tariff, based on the recommendations relating to the Amendment to the Harmonized System (SH), adopted by the Customs Cooperation Council of the World Customs Organization (OMA).

In October 2025 the Cabo Verde Tax Authority was created with the aim of improving the effectiveness of Tax Administration, through combating tax evasion and broadening the tax base.

Under the 2025 State Budget, the Government strengthened tax and financial incentives for investors, namely: incentives for technology-based start-ups; incentives for corporate financing; incentives for profit reinvestment; incentives for the digital transition of businesses; incentives for the import of new vehicles for certain activities and of electric vehicles; special incentives for the health sector; and additional incentives for renewable energy production and water desalination for agriculture.

xiii. Sustainability

In 2025, Cabo Verde consolidated various initiatives focused on sustainability, climate resilience and improving the investment climate, aligning economic development with environmental commitments. The country has focused on attracting capital to the blue economy, renewable energy and sustainable tourism, supported by international partnerships and structured strategic plans.

Main Initiatives:

- "Team Europe" and Global Gateway Partnerships: More than 200 million euros (≈ USD 233.7 million) in new investments for renewable energy, ports and digital infrastructure, including the expansion of Cabeólica (wind energy) and the modernization of ports in the Blue Economy;
- Cabo Verde Investment Forum 2025: Forum focused on attracting domestic and foreign capital to strategic sectors, with an emphasis on the blue economy, renewable energy and sustainable tourism.

Strategic Sectors with a Focus on Sustainability:

- Energy: Target of reaching 50% renewable energy by 2030, with wind and solar energy projects strengthened in 2025 to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
- Blue Economy and Fisheries: Aquaculture projects and sustainable ocean management, including the development of a digital tracking system for fishery products.
- Sustainable Tourism: Promotion of local accommodation and integrated tourism that respects the environment, boosting the diversification of the sector.
- Water and Waste Management: Structural projects for the reuse of wastewater in agriculture and treatment of solid waste.

These actions aim not only to mitigate climate risks, but also to transform Cabo Verde's vulnerability into business and sustainable growth opportunities.

3. Corporate Social Responsibility and Responsible Business Conduct

In 2025, Corporate Social Responsibility (RSE) and Responsible Business Conduct (CER) in Cabo Verde were strongly integrated into sustainability (ESG) strategies and the government agenda for climate transition and social inclusion.

Main actions carried out in 2025:

- State-Owned Enterprise Sector Reform (Law No. 56/X/2025): Public enterprises are required to pursue social, environmental and climate responsibility objectives. They must integrate practices of professional development, gender equality, non-discrimination and business ethics, with a focus on protecting the environment and consumers.

- Climate Transition and Sustainability (PEMAC): The Government launched the Strategic Plan for Climate Support Mobilization (PEMAC) for 2030, focusing on resilience and decarbonization. Companies are encouraged to adopt eco-friendly practices and collaborate on energy efficiency.
- Adoption of ESG Criteria: There is a growing incorporation of environmental, social and governance (ESG) policies into long-term strategies, with a focus on reducing carbon emissions, waste management and workplace diversity.

- Inclusive Growth in the 2025 State Budget: The 2025 State Budget proposal (OE2025) reinforced the commitment to inclusive development, focusing on gender equality, deficit reduction and fiscal sustainability, aligned with the Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development (PEDS II).

4. Pattern of Investment Flows: FDI (Trend over the Last 5 Years)

i. Structure

Foreign Direct Investment (IDE) in Cabo Verde in 2025 showed signs of recovery and vitality. Despite the forecast of a downward trend made at the beginning of the year, data accumulated through the third quarter of 2025 indicated a recovery, with net FDI reaching 79 million euros (≈ USD 92.31 million), representing an increase of 18 million euros (≈ USD 21.03 million) compared with the same period the previous year;

Key sectors: Tourism and tourism-related real estate, particularly on the islands of Sal, Boa Vista and Santiago, led the capture of foreign-origin capital.

ii. Orientation

Following the pandemic, there was an extraordinary recovery, with significant increases in the number of new tourism projects.

iii. Source(s)

Origin of Capital: Portugal, Italy and the United Kingdom continue to be the largest sources of FDI.

iv. Flow Statistics (Inflow and Outflow)

Foreign direct investment (IDE) realized in the country (including reinvested profits) stood at 2,871 million escudos (≈ USD 30.42 million) (26,037 million euros (≈ USD 30.42 billion)), which exceeded the 2,495 million escudos (≈ USD 26.44 million) (22,627 million euros (≈ USD 26.44 billion)) recorded in the same quarter of the previous year. The increase in FDI inflows was due to the increase in shares and other equity participations (by 384 million escudos (≈ USD 4.07 million)) and real estate investment (by 48 million escudos (≈ USD 508.67 thousand)).

Source of Information: Bank of Cabo Verde – Second Quarter 2025 Statistics

v. Foreign Portfolio Investment

Project Name	Project Description	Investment (Euros)	Jobs	Sector	Island	Capital Origin
Sport Fishing Boat	Sport fishing and boat rental	140 395 € (≈ USD 164.05 thousand)	2	Tourism	Boa Vista	Portugal
Manga Rosa	Construction and operation of a hotel unit	1 574 845 € (≈ USD 1.84 million)	21	Tourism	Santiago	China
Hotel Morabeza	Remodeling of the Beach Club and construction of a Nautical club	1 287 687 € (≈ USD 1.5 million)	33	Tourism	Sal	France
Vilhenas's Mindelo Aparthotel	Hotel establishment	1 109 742 € (≈ USD 1.3 million)	12	Tourism	S. Vicente	Portugal

Walhalla Seahouse	Accommodation establishment	871 746 € (≈ USD 1.02 million)	9	Tourism	S. Antão	Belgium
Zipline Expansion	Installation of a Giant Swing and Tubing	263 003 € (≈ USD 307.32 thousand)	7	Tourism	Sal	Italy
Terra Kriola Alojamento	Acquisition and remodeling of a development	1 088 287 € (≈ USD 1.27 million)	2	Tourism	Boa Vista	Italy
Boutique Hotel Luz da Lua	Accommodation establishment	181 378 € (≈ USD 211.94 thousand)	7	Tourism	S. Antão	Belgium
Santo Antão Pozzolana Factory	Manufacture and sale of cement	4 399 800 € (≈ USD 5.14 million)	36	Industry	S. Antão	Portugal
Tarafo Bay Golf & Beach Resort L02 - West	Tourist village	61 000 000 € (≈ USD 71.28 million)	300	Tourism	Boa Vista	Ireland
São Pedro Hills	Hotel establishment	38 781 283 € (≈ USD 45.32 million)	66	Tourism	S. Vicente	Belgium
Âncora Tarrafal de Monte Trigo	Construction of a hotel establishment	930 154 € (≈ USD 1.09 million)	17	Tourism	S. Antão	Belgium
Marina Atlântica	Accommodation establishment, gated condominium and marina	36 017 792 € (≈ USD 42.09 million)	102	Tourism	São Vicente	Belgium
SUDE S	Transport and supply of petroleum products	6 000 000 € (≈ USD 7.01 million)	11	Transport	S. Vicente	Norway
Cap Azul	Acquisition of a property to convert into an accommodation establishment	379 087 € (≈ USD 442.96 thousand)	3	Tourism	S. Antão	France
Cala Boca	Construction of a multi-use complex for the promotion of cultural, tourism and business events	402 006 € (≈ USD 469.74 thousand)	10	Tourism	Sal	Portugal
Condomínio do Mar	Construction of a 5-star Hotel	53 500 000 € (≈ USD 62.51 million)	200	Tourism	Sal	Spain
As Palmeiras	Construction of an Aparthotel	2.489.001 (≈ USD 2.91 million)	16	Tourism	Sal	China
Hotel Riu Tuareg	Hotel remodeling	85 000 000 € (≈ USD 99.32 million)	750	Tourism	Boa Vista	Spain
Hotel Occidental Boa Vista Beach	Hotel remodeling	58 000 000 € (≈ USD 67.77 million)	225	Tourism	Boa Vista	Spain
Cavibel/Ceris	Expansion/modernization of the beverage and soft-drink factory	40 478 000 € (≈ USD 47.3 million)	75	Industry	Santiago	Spain
Cimento das Ilhas-Cemtech	Manufacture of concrete, plaster, cement and marble aggregate	20 978 907 € (≈ USD 24.51 million)	120	Industry	Santiago	Turkey
Santiago Produção Copos	Manufacture of cups from recycled plastic and paper	79 952 € (≈ USD 93.42 thousand)	8	Industry	Santiago	China
Tabanka	Restaurant	2 205 743 € (≈ USD 2.58 million)	25	Tourism	Santiago	India
Total		**414 669 807 € (≈ USD 484.54 million)**				

5. Issues Related to Intra-ECOWAS Investment Flows

The undertaking of investment in Cabo Verde, in any sector of activity, provided it is permitted by law, is free, regardless of the investor's nationality, and does not require any prior authorization, beyond the legal, sectoral and general procedures in force in the country.

The problems hindering intra-community investment flows relate mainly to deficient or non-existent economic, physical and logistical infrastructure, particularly maritime and air transport, notably irregular service and high costs, with a direct impact on the realization of investments, both nationally and regionally. There are also other challenges, such as political instability and the social environment in some countries of the sub-region.

6. Investment Agreements and Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements

In the period from 2023 to 2025, Cabo Verde did not sign any new investment agreement. Nor was there any revision, renegotiation or revocation of any existing agreements.

7. Dispute Resolution

Among the main measures adopted to implement mediation and arbitration in Cabo Verde, the following stand out:

a) Approval of the restructuring decree of the National Center for Mediation and Arbitration (CNMA) (Decree-Law No. 40/2025, of 5 December), which approved its Organic Statute, with its Regulation having been approved now in 2026;

b) Training of mediators and arbitrators: Continuous training and refresher courses for certified mediators and arbitrators, creation of a State Pool of Mediators and Arbitrators, and the holding of courses and capacity-building programs in mediation and arbitration;

c) The State has encouraged the promotion of a culture of alternative dispute resolution through awareness campaigns on mediation and arbitration, the dissemination of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, and their use by citizens, businesses and public institutions.

8. Obstacles to Attracting Investment

Main obstacles to attracting investment in Cabo Verde:

- Vulnerability to external shocks: The economy is highly dependent on tourism and imports, making it susceptible to slowdowns in the global economy and in demand from major tourism markets.
- Low productivity and innovation: The country faces low levels of productivity and innovative/technological capacity, with Cabo Verde ranked 95th in the innovation index in 2025.
- Climate and natural risk: Dependence on natural resources and exposure to climate change (droughts, sea-level rise) create risks for coastal infrastructure and the tourism sector.
- Small market scale: The economy is characterized as underdeveloped and lightly industrialized, which may limit attractiveness for large-scale investments.
- Sectoral concentration: excessive dependence on tourism, which may deter investors seeking more diversified markets.

Despite these challenges, the Government has implemented various activities to promote investment in areas such as tourism, transport, the blue economy and digital connectivity, aiming at diversifying and modernizing the economy.

9. Impact of Direct Investment

i. GDP

Direct Investment (ID), both domestic and foreign (IDE), played a fundamental role in Cabo Verde's economy in 2025, driving solid growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which reached 6.3% in volume. Private investment, including FDI, accounted for 44% of total GDP growth.

Main impacts of direct investment on GDP in 2025:

- Investment-led growth: Total investment in Cabo Verde recorded an expressive increase of 13.1% in 2025;

Driving Sectors: Tourism and Transport. Tourism revenues continued to be a pillar, driven by increased accommodation capacity and record service exports;

- Civil Construction: The sector recorded growth of 11.8%, driven by new projects.

- Airport Concession: Management by VINCI of transport and warehousing generated growth of 10.1% in the sector, reflecting efficiency gains.

- FDI and Strategic Partnerships: FDI increased significantly, with a notable rise in the fourth quarter. Initiatives such as the EU's Global Gateway approved 344 million euros (≈ USD 401.96 million) for structuring projects, notably in renewable energy (e.g., the Santiago Hydro Pumped-Storage Plant) and the blue economy.

- Public Finances: The inflow of revenue from airport concessions helped achieve a surplus in the primary balance, with the current account balance recording a surplus of 2.7% of GDP in the first half of the year.

ii. Employment

Main impacts of direct investment on Employment in 2025:

- Reduction in Unemployment: the unemployment rate decreased from 8% in 2024 to 7.5% in the first half of 2025, showing a consistently positive trend.

- Employment Growth: in the first quarter of 2025, employment grew by 7.3%, with the employed population reaching 211,015 people, driven by robust economic growth.

Direct investment, focused mainly on tourism and related areas, boosted the creation of new jobs and the modernization of the labor ecosystem.

iii. Technology and Knowledge Transfer

In 2025, direct investment had a significant impact on technology and knowledge transfer, consolidating the archipelago as a "Digital Hub" in West Africa and driving its structural transformation. The focus was on modernizing infrastructure, digital connectivity and human capital development.

Main impacts on Technology and Knowledge Transfer in 2025:

- Digital Infrastructure and TechPark CV: Direct investment has been fundamental to the development of cutting-edge infrastructure, notably TechPark CV, with hubs in Praia and Mindelo, which function as innovation centers and attract start-ups and technology companies;

- Connectivity and "Made-in-CV": investments were made in modernizing the fiber-optic network, aiming to reduce internet costs and promote the development of "Made-in-CV" digital services;

- Digital Training and Education: high-tech multimedia rooms and e-learning hubs were implemented, with 18 advanced technology rooms functioning as innovation laboratories and remote learning centers;

- Knowledge Transfer in the Blue Economy: Specific projects aimed at transferring technology and technical knowledge to local companies in the blue economy sector, focusing on technological research;

- Partnerships with the European Union (Global Gateway): The 4th edition of the Cabo Verde Investment Forum, in June 2025, focused on the partnership with the European Union (EU-Cabo Verde Global Gateway), prioritizing investments in the blue economy, renewable energy and digital transition.

iv. Gender

In 2025, direct investment, especially in tourism and renewable energy, had a significant impact on gender, aiming to reduce economic disparities and promote female inclusion in the labor market. With solid economic growth driven by these investments, Cabo Verde seeks to strengthen gender parity and female entrepreneurship.

Main impacts of direct investment in 2025:

- Economic empowerment of key sectors: The increase in direct investment concentrated on tourism, renewable energy and the blue economy, areas where efforts are being made to increase women's participation, overcoming their underrepresentation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics sectors.

- Employment and Poverty: Investments directed to the Social Pillar of the 2025 State Budget (40.3 million contos) especially benefited women, through the increase in social pension and the expansion of the Social Inclusion Income (RSI).

- Gender Equality and the "Gender Seal": Cabo Verde stands out in Sub-Saharan Africa (1st place among PALOP countries, 2nd in CEDEAO) in terms of equality legislation. The Ministry of Finance implemented the "Gender Equality Seal" program in public institutions to ensure that economic growth benefits both genders.

Despite progress, there remains a need to overcome barriers to female inclusion in leadership positions and high-technology sectors. In May 2025, the International Forum "Women and the Challenges of Development" was held, addressing these issues under the theme "More Participation, Better Future".

10. Application of the ECOWAS Investment Policy and Code

In August 2025, CEDEAO conducted missions to Cabo Verde to monitor the implementation of regional fiscal directives, ensuring compliance with the Common Investment Code.

11. Investment Governance

The Government has implemented reforms to improve the business environment, with an emphasis on macroeconomic stability and administrative simplification.

Main Investment Governance actions in 2025:

- Creation of the Ministry for Investment Promotion and Business Development (MPIFE) to structure and organize the private sector;

- Development of the "Digital Investment Ecosystem" Platform as the Government's single portal, which gives investors easy access to all the information and procedures for doing business in Cabo Verde, and allows them to carry out online all the operations necessary to complete their investment projects.

12. Conclusion

The undertaking of investment in Cabo Verde, including among the countries of the sub-region, is free under the legislation in force. However, the irregularity of maritime and air transport and its high cost have negatively affected the attraction of potential investment to and from the sub-region.

Among the reforms adopted in the period 2023 to 2025, the following stand out:

- Creation of the Ministry for Investment Promotion and Business Development (MPIFE)
- Effective implementation of the National Center for Mediation and Arbitration (CNMA);
- Creation of the National Committee for the Implementation of the ZCLCA; and
- Creation of the National Committee for the Recognition of CEDEAO Community Origin.

It should be noted that Cabo Verde did not sign, ratify or revoke any new investment-related agreements or treaties between 2023 and 2025.

Note: Figures originally reported in Euros (EUR) and Cabo Verdean Escudos (CVE) have been converted to United States Dollars (USD) for ease of comprehension. Euro figures were converted using the prevailing OANDA exchange rate of EUR 1 = USD 1.1685 (www.oanda.com, as at 21 August 2026); Escudo figures were converted via the fixed EUR/CVE peg of EUR 1 = CVE 110.265 combined with the same OANDA EUR/USD rate. The USD equivalents shown in parentheses are approximate and are provided for indicative purposes only; the original EUR/CVE figures, as officially reported by Cabo Verde, remain the authoritative values.

5.3 CÔTE D'IVOIRE



REPUBLIC OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Union - Discipline - Labor



MACROECONOMIC SITUATION OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE

- Population: 29,389,150 inhabitants (2021 Population and Housing Census); in 2025: between 31 and 32 million inhabitants;
- Population growth rate: 2.3% per year;
- GDP growth rate: 2023: 6.5%; 2024: 6.1%; and 2025: 6.5%;
- Inflation rate: 4.4% in 2023; 3.5% in 2024; and 3% in 2025;
- Investment rate: 26.6% in 2023; 23.6% in 2024; and 22.5% in 2025;
- A reduction in the poverty rate from 36.1% in 2022 to 35% in 2023

MACROECONOMIC SITUATION OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE

The country's current development policy is set out in the 2026-2030 National Development Plan (PND):

It is structured around **six strategic** pillars:

- ❖strengthening security,
- ❖modernizing agriculture,
- ❖***promoting private investment,***
- ❖developing human capital,
- ❖building strategic infrastructure, and
- ❖strengthening good governance.

MACROECONOMIC SITUATION OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE

- The 2026-2030 PND includes a matrix of major reforms covering twenty-two (22) areas.
- Over the 2026-2030 period, it projects:

- ❖average growth of 7.2% over the 2026-2030 period,
- ❖an investment rate rising from 25.4% in 2026 to 34.5% of GDP in 2030,
- ❖total investment of CFA 114,838.5 billion (≈ USD 183.7 billion), of which 70.2% from the private sector and 29.8% from the public sector.

REVIEW OF THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE

The existence of specialized structures providing assistance and technical support to private investors:

- An Investment Promotion Center of Côte d'Ivoire (CEPICI), restructured in 2012;
- The State–Private Sector Consultative Committee (CCESP);
- The National Export Council of Côte d'Ivoire (CNE-CI);
- The Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (ARMP).
- The establishment of a Credit Guarantee Fund for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and the diversification of its assets directed toward SMEs.

REVIEW OF THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE

The establishment of specialized courts responsible for commercial matters:

- The Abidjan Commercial Court (2012);
- The Abidjan Commercial Court of Appeal (2017), an autonomous second-instance court;
- Improved quality of judicial procedures through the digitalization of judicial activities at the Abidjan Commercial Court and the establishment of a National Register of Movable Security Interests (the interconnection of courts was intended to be part of this framework).

REVIEW OF THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE

Regarding the institutional framework and the delivery of public services

- Establishment of a National Competition Commission (2013);
- Facilitation of business creation, in accordance with Inter ministerial Order No. 104/MEMEASFP/MJDHLP/M PMEF/MCAPPME of 25 March 2013, setting the timeframes, procedures and costs for creating and amending businesses at the Business Formalities Service of the CEPICI OneStop Shop;
- Establishment of the One-Stop Shop for Building Permits (2016).

REVIEW OF THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE

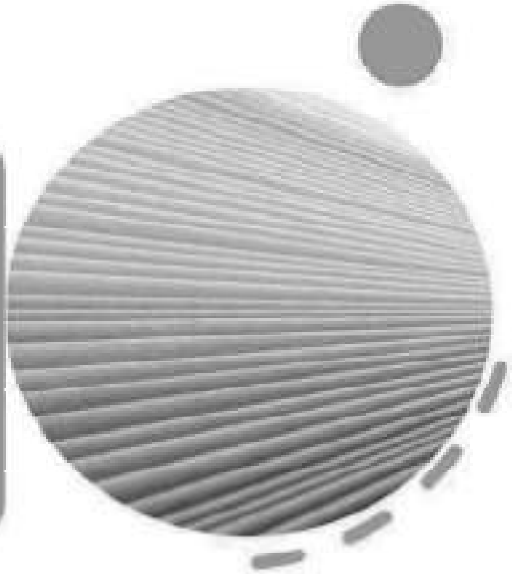
Regarding taxation and quasi-fiscal levies

- Adoption of a new Investment Code established by Ordinance No. 2018 -646 of 1 August 2018, as amended by Ordinance No. 2019 -1088 of 18 December 2019, together with Implementing Decree No. 647 -2018 of 1st August 2018, setting out the implementing procedures for the said Code;
- Facilitation of tax declaration and payment, as well as the submission of financial statements (www.e-impots.gouv.ci and www.dgi.gouv.c), for all taxpayers;
- Introduction of the "entreprenant" state tax under the tax regimes (2021 annex), replacing the synthetic tax.

REVIEW OF THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE

Regarding governance

- Adoption of Ordinance No. 2013660 of 20 September 2013 on the prevention of and fight against corruption and related offenses, which also created the High Authority for Good Governance (2013);
- Establishment of the National Public Procurement Regulatory Authority;
- The State's commitment to a broad digitalization process for public acts and investment-related services, offering online services without requiring investors to travel.



REVIEW OF THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE

- Regarding the settlement of domestic debt:
- Ordinance No. 2019-679 of 24 July 2019 on the Public Procurement Code, establishing a regulatory 30 -day payment period for State suppliers;
- Establishment of a Public Debt Monitoring Committee (CSDP) by Decision No. 409 of 20 April 2015;
- Establishment of the Treasury Single Account (CUT) in 2018 to optimize State cash management.

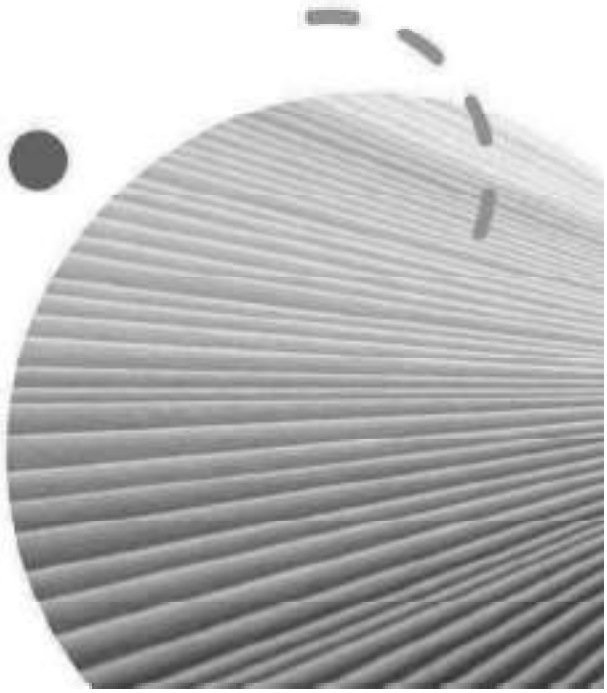


Some key recent reforms promoting investment

Regarding taxation and quasi-fiscal levies

- Establishment of **the Competition and Anti-High-Cost-of-Living Commission;**
- the opening of the Anglo-Saxon Desk, a service platform available to companies from the United States, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, Australia and New Zealand;
- The establishment of the **SME Development One-Stop Shop (GUDE-PME)** in 2022-2023 (established by Decree No. 2022-261 of 13 April 2022), with its two subsidiaries: (i) Côte d'Ivoire PME (formerly the Côte d'Ivoire PME Agency) and (ii) the Credit Guarantee Company for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises;

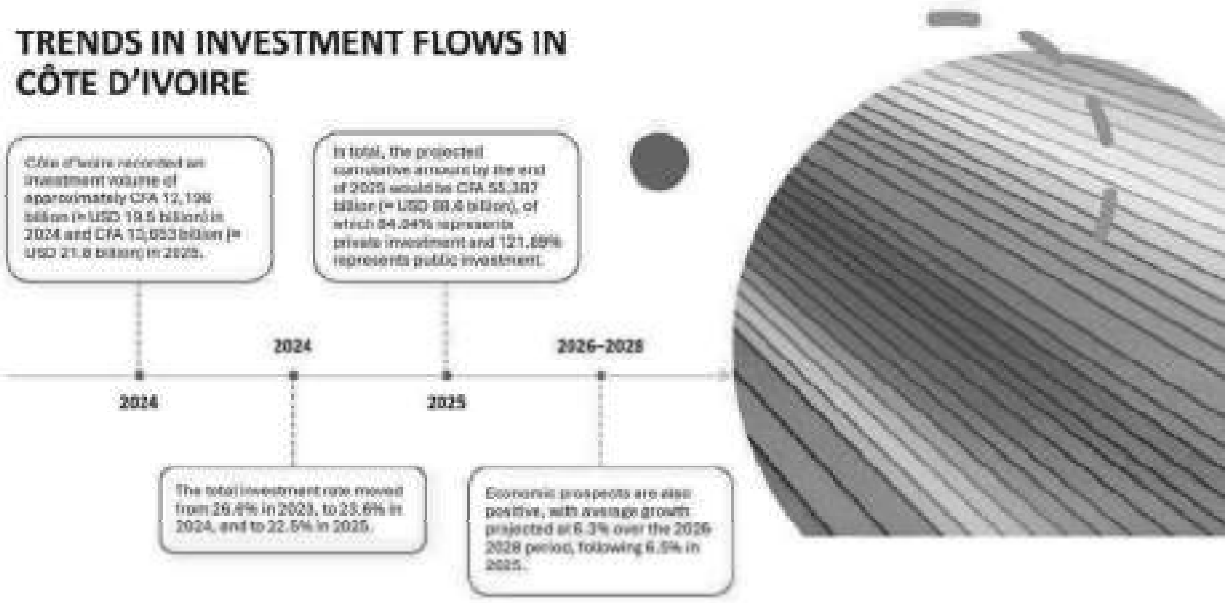
Some key recent reforms promoting investment



The establishment of the **SME Credit Guarantee Company** and the diversification of its assets directed toward SMEs, to progressively resolve the issue of collateral requirements;

The launch in June 2023 of the **Program to Support the Improvement of the Business Climate in Côte d'Ivoire** (PACA-CI), financed by the African Development Bank (AfDB);

Amendment of the Investment Code by Ordinance No. 2024-857 of 30 September 2024, amending Ordinance No. 2018-464 of 1st August 2018 on the Investment Code, as amended by Ordinance No. 2019-1066 of 18 December 2019.



TRENDS IN INVESTMENT FLOWS IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

- Foreign Direct Investment flows reached a historic level of USD 3.8 billion in 2024, reflecting renewed confidence by international investors in macroeconomic stability and the structural reforms undertaken.
- Sovereign ratings upgraded by Moody's and Fitch, together with the stable outlook maintained by Standard & Poor's, further reinforce this credibility.
- In 2025, 26,948 companies were created, a 6% increase compared with 2024, confirming the country's entrepreneurial dynamism.

STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ZLECAF (AfCFTA) INVESTMENT PROTOCOL

For the effective implementation of the AfCFTA (ZLECAf), several initiatives have been undertaken by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire:

- Establishment of the National AfCFTA Committee by Decree No. 2018-514 of 30 May 2018 and deposit of the instrument of ratification on 23 November 2018;
- Development of the National Strategy for AfCFTA Implementation;
- Implementation of the communication strategy of the National AfCFTA Committee (CN -ZLECAf);
- Transmission of signature specimens and certificate-of-origin stamps to the AfCFTA Secretariat;
- Various consultations and meetings of Thematic Working Groups on different protocols;

STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ZLECAF (AfCFTA) INVESTMENT PROTOCOL

- Various awareness-raising tours for stakeholders;
- Various capacity-building workshops for private-sector actors;
- Validation of the private-sector AfCFTA strategy in November 2023, including the development of a Women's and Youth Action Plan:
- development of sectoral action plans for the 5 priority service sectors;
- conducting a study on Côte d'Ivoire's potential markets within the AfCFTA

STATE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ZLECAF (AfCFTA) INVESTMENT PROTOCOL

The AfCFTA negotiations have made it possible to achieve the following results:

- tariff dismantling on most product lines upon entry into force of the Agreement for 47 States Parties;
- availability of tariff concession schedules under trade in goods;
- availability of 22 schedules of specific commitments for the 5 priority service sectors;
- availability of the non-tariff barriers management platform;
- availability of the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System;
- adoption of the Protocols on Investment and on Competition Policy;

CONCLUSION

The negotiations of the AfCFTA (AfCFTA (ZLECAf)) have made it possible to achieve the following results:

- tariff dismantling of 90% of product lines upon entry into force of the Agreement for 47 States Parties;
- availability of tariff concession schedules under trade in goods;
- availability of 22 schedules of specific commitments for the 5 priority service sectors;
- availability of the non-tariff barriers management platform;
- availability of the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System;
- adoption of the Protocols on Investment and on Competition Policy;

CONCLUSION

the ongoing project to establish the National Strategic Reference Framework for Private Investment (CARSNIP) illustrates the Government's determination to create an environment more conducive to investment, in line with the vision of the ECOWAS investment policy.

Thus, the outlook for 2025 and beyond remains favorable, with continued structural reforms and a firm commitment to increasing the country's attractiveness.

Maintaining effective public-private dialogue and implementing regional integration strategies will be decisive factors in ensuring inclusive and sustainable growth in support of the economic development of Côte d'Ivoire and the sub-region.

MERCI

THANK YOU

OBRIGADO

5.4 THE GAMBIA

ECIM INVESTMENT CLIMATE REVIEW SUBMISSION

THE GAMBIA
2026

1. COUNTRY BACKGROUND

The Gambia is a small, open economy in West Africa with a population of approximately 2.7 million. Its economic structure is predominantly service oriented, with key contributions from tourism, trade, and financial services. Tourism, in particular, has historically been a major source of foreign exchange earnings and employment, while trade related services continue to play a central role in domestic economic activity. Agriculture remains a critical sector, especially for rural livelihoods and food security, employing a significant proportion of the population. In addition, remittances from the Gambian diaspora constitute a vital source of income for households and contribute substantially to external balances, helping to cushion the economy against shocks.

In recent years, the Government has prioritized private sector led growth as a central pillar of its development strategy, as articulated in the National Development Plan. This approach reflects a strategic shift toward fostering entrepreneurship, attracting investment, and promoting sustainable economic transformation. To support this agenda, the Government has undertaken a range of macroeconomic stabilization measures, including fiscal consolidation and efforts to maintain price stability. Institutional reforms have also been pursued to improve governance, enhance regulatory frameworks, and strengthen public sector effectiveness.

At the same time, The Gambia has deepened its engagement with regional and global trade and investment frameworks, including the Economic Community of West African States and the African Continental Free Trade Area. These engagements are intended to expand market access, facilitate trade, and integrate the country more effectively into regional and global value chains. Efforts have also been made to improve the business environment through initiatives such as the digitalization of business registration processes, reforms to investment legislation, and measures to enhance transparency and regulatory predictability.

Despite these positive developments, the economy continues to face significant structural constraints. Limited diversification remains a key challenge, with economic activity concentrated in a narrow range of sectors, making the country vulnerable to sector specific shocks. High dependence on imports, particularly for food and energy, exposes the economy to external price volatility and contributes to persistent trade imbalances. In addition, infrastructure gaps, especially in energy and transport, continue to affect productivity and increase the cost of doing business.

Access to finance remains a major constraint for micro, small, and medium sized enterprises, which constitute the backbone of the private sector. Many businesses operate in the informal sector, limiting their ability to access formal financial services, scale operations, and integrate into higher value markets. Furthermore, the economy is highly vulnerable to external shocks, including climate related risks such as flooding and drought, as well as global economic fluctuations that affect tourism and remittance flows.

In this context, strengthening the investment climate is essential to unlocking The Gambia's growth potential and achieving sustainable and inclusive development. This requires continued efforts to improve the regulatory environment, enhance transparency, streamline administrative procedures, and strengthen institutions that support investment and private sector development. It also calls for targeted interventions to address infrastructure gaps, improve access to finance, and support skills development.

Ultimately, a more conducive investment climate will be critical in promoting diversification, attracting both domestic and foreign investment, and enabling the country to transition toward a more resilient and inclusive economic model.

2. INVESTMENT CLIMATE REVIEW (REFORMS)

In recent years, The Gambia has undertaken a series of regulatory and institutional reforms aimed at improving the investment climate and promoting private sector–led growth. These reforms are anchored in the National Development Plan (NDP) and aligned with regional frameworks such as ECOWAS and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

These efforts have contributed to improved investor sentiment, reflected in rising FDI inflows. However, compared to peer economies in Sub-Saharan Africa, The Gambia's investment climate still face structural and institutional constraints that limit its competitiveness.

a) Transparency

The Government of The Gambia has undertaken important reforms to enhance transparency and accountability, recognizing their critical role in improving the investment climate and strengthening investor confidence.

Key progress has been made in the digitalization of administrative **processes**, particularly in business registration and public service delivery. These reforms have reduced processing times and improved access to information, bringing The Gambia closer to regional practices in Sub-Saharan Africa, where business registration timelines typically range between 7 to 15 days.

In addition, public financial management reforms have strengthened fiscal transparency and oversight. Improvements in budget management, audit systems, and reporting mechanisms have contributed to enhanced macroeconomic credibility and governance.

From an institutional perspective, transparency is supported by multiple actors. The Ministry of Justice plays a central role in legal and regulatory oversight, including the review of legislation and the strengthening of accountability frameworks. Oversight institutions such as the National Audit Office and anti-corruption mechanisms also contribute to promoting transparency and good governance.

According to international governance indicators, The Gambia has made progress in areas such as government effectiveness and political stability in recent years, reflecting ongoing reform efforts. However, compared to global benchmarks, challenges remain in areas such as regulatory quality and control of corruption.

Despite these improvements, several constraints continue to affect transparency in practice:

- Inconsistencies in regulatory implementation across institutions
- Limited access to timely and reliable information for investors
- Capacity constraints within public institutions, affecting service delivery
- Perceived administrative inefficiencies, including delays in approvals and licensing

These challenges can increase transaction costs and uncertainty for investors, particularly in sectors requiring multiple regulatory approvals.
To address these issues, the Government is advancing reforms aimed at:

- Expanding e-governance and digital service delivery systems
- Strengthening institutional coordination and information sharing
- Enhancing legal and regulatory clarity
- Improving accountability and anti-corruption frameworks

From an investment perspective, transparency is a key determinant of investor confidence. Countries with more transparent and predictable regulatory environments tend to attract higher levels of foreign direct investment, particularly long-term and productivity-enhancing investments.
Strengthening transparency and governance will therefore be essential for improving the overall business environment in The Gambia. Continued reforms in this area will help reduce uncertainty, lower transaction costs, and support the attraction of high-quality investment.

b) Investment Policy and Regulation

The investment policy framework of The Gambia is anchored in the Gambia Investment Policy (2018), which provides the overarching framework for investment promotion, protection, and facilitation. The policy establishes a generally open and liberal investment regime, with minimal restrictions on foreign ownership and a strong emphasis on private sector–led growth.
The 2018 Investment Policy outlines key objectives, including:

- Promoting domestic and foreign investment
- Enhancing private sector development
- Supporting economic diversification
- Aligning investment policy with regional and international frameworks

In recent years, the Government has initiated a process to review and update the national investment policy, in line with evolving economic priorities and global investment trends. This reform process is being undertaken in coordination with the Ministry of Justice to ensure legal alignment and strengthen investor protection frameworks.
The updated investment policy aims to:

- Streamline regulatory procedures
- Enhance transparency and predictability
- Strengthen investor confidence
- Align with ECOWAS protocols and the AfCFTA Investment Framework

A key recent development is the introduction of the Industrial and Diversification Policy (IDP) 2025–2035, developed by the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment.
This policy represents a strategic shift toward economic transformation and diversification, with a strong focus on:

- Expanding manufacturing and agro-processing

- Promoting value addition in key sectors
- Enhancing export competitiveness
- Developing industrial clusters and Special Economic Zones (SEZs)

The IDP 2025–2035 is designed to address structural weaknesses in the economy, particularly the heavy reliance on services and low-productivity activities. It seeks to reposition The Gambia toward a more production-oriented and export-driven growth model.

Importantly, the policy emphasizes:

- Strengthening linkages between foreign investment and domestic firms
- Promoting SME participation in industrial value chains
- Attracting investment into priority sectors such as manufacturing, energy, and agribusiness

Regulatory and Institutional Framework

The investment regime is implemented through key institutions, notably the Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency, which serves as the main investment promotion and facilitation agency. GIEPA provides investor support services, administers incentives (including SIC and DIC), and acts as a central coordination point for investment-related processes.

The Government has also advanced reforms aimed at improving regulatory efficiency, including:

- Establishment of a One-Stop-Shop for investors
- Digitalization of investment procedures
- Strengthening inter-agency coordination

Policy Gaps and Challenges

Despite the existence of a relatively open and evolving investment policy framework, several challenges remain:

- Implementation gaps, particularly in coordination across institutions
- Regulatory inefficiencies, including delays in approvals and licensing
- Limited diversification of investment, with concentration in tourism and real estate
- Weak linkages between foreign investors and domestic enterprises

These challenges highlight the need to move beyond policy formulation toward more effective implementation and monitoring.

Policy Direction and Strategic Outlook

The ongoing reform of the investment policy, combined with the implementation of the Industrial and Diversification Policy 2025–2035, signals a clear strategic direction toward:

- Improving the quality of investment
- Promoting diversification into productive sectors

- Enhancing industrial development and export capacity

This shift reflects a broader policy objective of transitioning from a service-led economy toward a more diversified, resilient, and investment-driven growth model.
From an investment perspective, aligning the updated investment policy with industrial and trade strategies will be critical to ensuring coherence and maximizing impact. Strengthening this alignment will enhance The Gambia's competitiveness and position it as an attractive destination for sustainable and productivity-enhancing investment.
The convergence of investment, industrial, and trade policies under this framework provides a strong foundation for accelerating structural transformation and enhancing the developmental impact of investment.

Summary (Investment Policy and Regulation)

The investment policy and regulatory framework in The Gambia is anchored on the Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (GIEPA) Act, which provides legal guarantees, incentives, and facilitation mechanisms for investors. Ongoing reforms aim to align the national framework with ECOWAS protocols and the AfCFTA.

figure1: Key Investment Policy Instruments

Policy/Legal Instrument	**Policy/Legal Instrument**	**Objective**
GIEPA Act (Amended)	Provides legal framework for investment promotion and protection	Attract and safeguard investment
Investment Incentive Framework	Defines tax and non-tax incentives for priority sectors	Encourage sector-specific investment
Sector Policies (Agriculture, Energy, ICT)	Guides investment in strategic sectors	Promote diversification and value addition
AfCFTA Alignment Reforms	Ongoing policy adjustments to align with continental framework	Enhance regional and continental integration

figure2: Investment Incentives Overview

Type of Incentive	**Description**	**Target Sectors**
Tax Holidays	Temporary exemption from corporate taxes	Tourism, manufacturing, agribusiness
Duty Exemptions	Exemption on import duties for capital goods	Priority sectors
VAT Concessions	Reduced or exempt VAT on inputs	Selected industries
Investment Certificates	Eligibility for incentives and protections	All qualifying investors

figure3: Reform and Alignment Areas

Reform Area	Status	Purpose
ECOWAS Investment Code Alignment	Ongoing	Harmonize regional investment rules
AfCFTA Investment Protocol	In progress	Facilitate continental investment
Business Environment Reforms	Ongoing	Improve ease of doing business
Digital Investment Services	Expanding	Enhance efficiency and transparency

c) Investment Facilitation and Promotion

Investment facilitation and promotion in The Gambia are primarily led by the Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (GIEPA), which serves as the central institution responsible for attracting, facilitating, and supporting both domestic and foreign investment.

A key reform in this area has been the establishment of the One-Stop-Shop (OSS) at GIEPA, designed to streamline administrative procedures and reduce bureaucratic barriers faced by investors. The OSS provides a centralized platform for accessing services such as business registration, licensing, and issuance of investment certificates (SIC and DIC), and facilitation of permits and approvals.

In recent years, the Government has also advanced efforts to digitalize investment facilitation processes, improving efficiency, transparency, and coordination across institutions. In addition to facilitation, GIEPA plays a central role in investment promotion through investor outreach, participation in international investment forums, and targeted promotion of priority sectors such as tourism, agribusiness, manufacturing, ICT, and energy.

Ongoing Institutional Reform: GIEPA Amendment Bill 2025

A major recent development is the introduction of the GIEPA Amendment Bill 2025, which is currently before the National Assembly and has successfully passed its Second Reading.

The proposed amendment represents a significant step toward modernizing The Gambia's investment facilitation and promotion framework. The Bill aims to establish a more coherent, transparent, and development-oriented investment regime, designed to attract, retain, and expand sustainable and high-quality investment.

Key objectives of the amendment include:

- Strengthening the institutional capacity of GIEPA and related agencies
- Enhancing coordination across investment-related institutions
- Improving transparency and accountability in the administration of incentives (including SIC and DIC)
- Aligning the investment framework with AfCFTA, ECOWAS, and international best practices
- Integrating sustainability considerations, including environmental and socio-economic objectives

The Bill also seeks to address systemic gaps and inconsistencies in the current investment regime and to better harmonize investment policy with related sectors such as trade, industry, agriculture, labor, and climate policy.

From a policy perspective, this reform reflects a shift toward a more integrated and strategic approach to investment facilitation, moving beyond basic promotion toward a system that supports long-term, responsible, and development-oriented investment.

Challenges in Investment Facilitation

Despite ongoing reforms, several challenges continue to affect the effectiveness of investment facilitation and promotion:

- Fragmentation of services across institutions, requiring multiple points of interaction
- Partial digitalization, with some procedures still requiring manual processing
- Capacity constraints within implementing agencies
- Limited investor aftercare services, affecting retention and expansion of existing investments

Policy Direction and Strategic Outlook

The ongoing reforms under the GIEPA Amendment Bill 2025 signal a strong commitment by the Government to modernize and strengthen the investment facilitation framework.
Going forward, key priorities include:

- Full digitalization of investment processes
- Strengthening inter-agency coordination
- Enhancing investor aftercare and retention strategies
- Promoting targeted, sector-specific investment

Strengthening investment facilitation and promotion will be critical not only for attracting new investment but also for improving investor confidence and maximizing the developmental impact of investment. A more efficient, transparent, and coordinated system will position The Gambia as a more competitive investment destination within the ECOWAS region.
The passage of the GIEPA Amendment Bill 2025 is expected to mark a turning point in The Gambia's investment facilitation framework, strengthening its ability to attract and retain high-quality, sustainable investment.

d) Investment Related Issues

Intellectual Property

The Gambia has established a legal and institutional framework for the protection of intellectual property (IP), which is essential for fostering innovation and attracting investment, particularly in knowledge-based and technology-driven sectors. The country is a member of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and is party to several international agreements governing intellectual property rights.
At the national level, IP protection is provided through legislation covering industrial property, trademarks, copyrights, and related rights. These frameworks provide a legal basis for the protection of intellectual assets and are aligned, to a large extent, with international standards.

However, despite the existence of these legal frameworks, enforcement remains a significant challenge. Institutional capacity constraints, limited technical expertise, and low levels of awareness among businesses and creators reduce the effectiveness of IP protection in practice.
From an investment perspective, weak enforcement of intellectual property rights can act as a deterrent to investors, particularly in sectors such as:

- Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
- Creative industries
- Pharmaceuticals and innovation-driven manufacturing

International evidence suggests that countries with stronger IP protection frameworks tend to attract higher levels of technology-intensive and innovation-driven foreign direct investment, as investors seek to safeguard proprietary knowledge, brands, and technologies.
In The Gambia, limited IP enforcement capacity contributes to the concentration of investment in sectors that are less dependent on intellectual property protection, such as tourism, real estate, and basic services. This constrains the country's ability to diversify into higher-value sectors.
To address these challenges, there is a need to:

- Strengthen institutional capacity for IP administration and enforcement
- Enhance coordination between relevant agencies, including regulatory and judicial bodies
- Increase awareness and utilization of IP systems among businesses, particularly SMEs
- Improve alignment with international best practices and emerging digital IP frameworks

Strengthening intellectual property protection will be critical for supporting innovation, promoting entrepreneurship, and attracting higher-value investment. A more robust IP regime will enhance investor confidence and facilitate the transition toward a more knowledge-based and competitive economy.
Institutional Framework and Enforcement. The institutional framework for intellectual property protection in The Gambia involves multiple stakeholders, with the Ministry of Justice playing a central role in legal oversight and enforcement. The Ministry is responsible for drafting and reviewing IP-related legislation, ensuring alignment with international agreements, and supporting the adjudication of intellectual property disputes through the judicial system.

However, enforcement remains constrained by limited institutional capacity, including technical expertise, resource limitations, and the absence of specialized IP enforcement units. In addition, coordination challenges among relevant institutions including regulatory agencies, law enforcement bodies, and the judiciary further affect the effectiveness of IP protection.

Strengthening the role of the Ministry of Justice, particularly in enhancing judicial capacity and streamlining dispute resolution mechanisms, will be critical to improving enforcement outcomes and increasing investor confidence. Effective enforcement of intellectual property rights will depend not only on legal frameworks but also on the capacity and coordination of institutions responsible for their implementation.

Industrial Policy

The industrial policy framework of The Gambia is evolving in response to the need for economic diversification and structural transformation. A key recent development is the formulation of the Industrial and Diversification Policy (IDP) 2025 – 2035, which provides a strategic framework for promoting industrial development and enhancing productive capacity.

The policy is designed to address structural characteristics of the Gambian economy, including a high reliance on services, limited industrial base, and narrow export structure. In this context, the IDP emphasizes the development of value-added and tradable sectors, with a view to strengthening resilience and improving integration into regional and continental markets.

Policy Priorities

The IDP 2025–2035 focuses on:

- Promoting value addition in agriculture, particularly agro-processing
- Supporting the development of light manufacturing activities
- Enhancing export competitiveness and reducing import dependence
- Encouraging the development of industrial parks and Special Economic Zones (SEZs)
- Strengthening linkages between foreign investors and domestic enterprises, including SMEs

These priorities are aligned with broader regional objectives under ECOWAS and the AfCFTA, particularly in relation to industrialization and regional value chain development.

Linkages with Investment and Trade Policy

The industrial policy is closely linked with ongoing reforms in investment and trade policy. In particular, it seeks to:

- Encourage investment in productive sectors
- Support export-oriented activities
- Enhance participation in regional markets

This reflects a policy shift toward promoting efficiency-seeking and export-oriented investment, as opposed to predominantly market-seeking investment concentrated in non-tradable sectors.

- Constraints to Industrial Development

The policy also recognizes key constraints affecting industrial development in The Gambia, including:

- Limited and costly energy supply
- Infrastructure and logistics challenges
- Limited access to finance for industrial investment
- Skills gaps in technical and vocational areas

These constraints continue to affect the pace of industrialization and the diversification of the investment base.

Regional Dimension

From an ECOWAS perspective, the IDP 2025–2035 provides a framework for enhancing The Gambia's participation in regional value chains, particularly in agro-processing and light manufacturing.

However, realizing these opportunities will depend on improvements in productive capacity, infrastructure, and trade facilitation, as well as continued alignment with regional industrial and investment frameworks.

Outlook

The ongoing implementation of the Industrial and Diversification Policy (2025–2035) is expected to contribute to a gradual rebalancing of the economy toward more productive and tradable sectors. From an

investment climate perspective, this policy direction is likely to support greater diversification of foreign direct investment over time, particularly if supported by complementary reforms in infrastructure, finance, and human capital.

Investment-Related Trade Policy

The Gambia's investment-related trade policy is closely aligned with its broader objectives of regional integration, trade facilitation, and private sector development. As a small, open economy, trade plays a critical role in shaping investment patterns, particularly in sectors such as tourism, re-export trade, and services.

The country is an active member of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and a State Party to the African Continental Free Trade Area, both of which provide a framework for expanding market access and enhancing investment opportunities.

Under these frameworks, The Gambia is implementing reforms aimed at:

- Tariff liberalization and harmonization, in line with the ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET)
- Trade facilitation measures, including customs modernization and digitalization of clearance processes
- Reduction of non-tariff barriers, to improve the efficiency of cross-border trade

These reforms are particularly important given that trade openness is a key determinant of foreign direct investment, especially for export-oriented and efficiency-seeking investors.

However, despite progress, several constraints continue to limit the effectiveness of trade policy in supporting investment. These include:

- High trade and logistics costs, driven by port inefficiencies and limited transport infrastructure
- Delays in customs clearance and border procedures, affecting the speed and reliability of trade flows
- Limited export diversification, with heavy reliance on a narrow range of goods and services

According to global trade indicators, countries that reduce border compliance time and logistics costs tend to experience higher levels of trade and investment. In this regard, The Gambia's continued efforts to modernize customs systems and streamline procedures are critical for improving competitiveness. In addition, the AfCFTA presents significant opportunities for The Gambia to attract investment by providing access to a larger continental market. However, realizing these opportunities will require:

- Strengthening productive capacity, particularly in manufacturing and agro-processing
- Improving trade-related infrastructure
- Enhancing standards, certification, and quality assurance systems

From an investment perspective, the current structure of trade characterized by a strong reliance on imports and re-exports limits the development of domestic value chains and reduces the attractiveness of the economy for export-oriented investment.

Going forward, there is a need to strengthen the link between trade and investment policies by:

- Promoting export-oriented industrialization

- Supporting value addition in key sectors
- Enhancing regional value chain integration
- Leveraging AfCFTA opportunities to attract diversified and high-quality investment

A more integrated approach to trade and investment policy will be essential to transform The Gambia from a consumption-driven economy into a more productive and export-oriented investment destination.

Special Economic Zones

The Gambia has identified Special Economic Zones (SEZs) as a key instrument for promoting industrialization, attracting investment, and enhancing export competitiveness. This approach is aligned with national development priorities and regional frameworks under ECOWAS and the AfCFTA.

Current Status: Trans-Gambia Corridor SEZ (TC-SEZ)

The principal SEZ initiative in The Gambia is the Trans-Gambia Corridor Special Economic Zone (TC-SEZ), which represents the country's flagship industrial zone project. The TC-SEZ has progressed beyond the conceptual stage, with several important preparatory steps completed:

- A strategic location has been identified along the Trans-Gambia Corridor, leveraging its role as a key regional transport and trade route connecting The Gambia and Senegal
- A designated land area has been defined within the corridor for development of the economic zone
- A comprehensive feasibility study and spatial master plan have been developed, including land-use planning and an investment framework for the corridor
- The economic zone concept covers a broad corridor area (approximately 50 km stretch) targeting key growth nodes across the country

These developments indicate that the TC-SEZ has moved into an advanced planning and design phase, providing a concrete foundation for implementation.

Strategic Design and Connectivity

The TC-SEZ is designed as an integrated economic corridor, rather than a single isolated industrial park. The initiative incorporates a multi-modal development approach, including:

- Linkages to the Port of Banjul (approximately 130 km downstream)
- Integration with road networks, including the Senegambia Bridge and trunk roads
- Planned development of river transport facilities and logistics infrastructure
- Potential development of regional growth centres (e.g., Soma and Farafenni) as economic hubs

This integrated design is intended to support trade, logistics, and industrial activity across the corridor and enhance regional connectivity.

Policy and Development Role

From a policy perspective, the TC-SEZ is expected to:

- Promote industrial development and value addition, particularly in agro-processing and light manufacturing
- Attract export-oriented and efficiency-seeking investment

- Support regional trade integration within ECOWAS and the AfCFTA
- Contribute to employment creation, particularly for youth and underemployed populations

The initiative is also linked to broader programs such as Green Industrial Transformation through SEZs and Agropoles, reflecting a focus on sustainable and climate-aligned industrial development

Implementation Status and Challenges

Despite significant progress in planning and design, the TC-SEZ remains at a pre-operational stage. Key implementation steps are still ongoing, including:

- Development of core infrastructure (energy, water, transport, utilities)
- Mobilization of financing for zone development
- Establishment of governance and regulatory frameworks for SEZ management
- Strengthening institutional coordination across implementing agencies

These factors continue to affect the pace of transition from planning to full operationalization.

Outlook

The TC-SEZ represents a major step toward advancing The Gambia's industrialization and investment agenda. The existence of a defined location, designated land area, and completed feasibility and master planning provides a strong basis for implementation.

However, from an ECIM perspective, SEZ development in The Gambia remains in the implementation phase, with its full impact dependent on infrastructure development, investment mobilization, and institutional capacity.

Accelerating implementation and ensuring alignment with investment, trade, and industrial policies will be critical for realizing the TC-SEZ's potential to support diversification, export growth, and regional integration.

Competition

The Gambia has established a legal and institutional framework to promote fair competition and protect consumer welfare, primarily through the Gambia Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (GCCPC). The Commission is mandated to regulate anti-competitive practices, prevent abuse of dominant market positions, review mergers and acquisitions, and promote market efficiency. This framework provides an important foundation for ensuring a level playing field for both domestic and foreign investors. From an investment perspective, effective competition policy contributes to reducing barriers to market entry, enhancing efficiency, and supporting investor confidence. This is particularly relevant in the context of The Gambia's relatively small market size, where economic activity is often concentrated among a limited number of firms, increasing the risk of market dominance and anti-competitive behavior. Despite the existence of a formal framework, enforcement remains a key challenge. Institutional capacity constraints, including limited technical expertise and resources, affect the ability of the GCCPC to effectively monitor and address anti-competitive practices. In addition, awareness of competition rules among businesses and consumers remains relatively low, which can limit compliance and the effectiveness of the regulatory framework. Coordination challenges between the GCCPC and other sectoral regulators also affect the overall efficiency of enforcement.

Within the regional context, competition policy is increasingly important as The Gambia deepens its integration under ECOWAS and the AfCFTA. Increased cross-border trade and investment flows heighten the need for consistent and effective competition frameworks to prevent market distortions and ensure fair competition across the region.

Overall, while the institutional and legal foundations for competition policy are in place, further efforts are required to strengthen enforcement capacity, improve institutional coordination, and enhance awareness. Strengthening competition policy will be important for improving market efficiency, supporting private sector development, and enhancing the overall investment climate.

Infrastructure

Infrastructure remains a critical determinant of the investment climate in The Gambia, affecting the cost of doing business, productivity, and the ability to attract diversified and high-quality investment. While progress has been made in recent years, significant gaps persist across physical, financial, and institutional (soft) infrastructure.

Physical: Physical infrastructure constraints are particularly pronounced in the energy and transport sectors. Electricity supply remains relatively costly and at times unreliable, increasing operational risks for businesses, especially in manufacturing and agro-processing. Transport and logistics systems, including port operations and inland connectivity, also contribute to high transaction costs and delays, limiting the efficiency of trade and supply chains. Although investments have been made in road networks and connectivity such as the Trans-Gambia Corridor, infrastructure limitations continue to affect competitiveness and the geographic distribution of economic activity.

Financial: Financial infrastructure has expanded in recent years, supported by increased banking penetration and the growth of mobile financial services. These developments have improved access to basic financial services and facilitated transactions, particularly for small businesses and households. However, access to long-term finance remains limited, especially for SMEs and industrial investments. Credit constraints, high lending rates, and limited financial market depth continue to restrict private sector expansion and investment diversification.

Soft: Soft infrastructure, including regulatory systems, institutional quality, and administrative processes, has also seen gradual improvement through ongoing reforms. Efforts to digitalize government services, strengthen public financial management, and improve investment facilitation have contributed to a more predictable business environment. However, challenges remain in terms of institutional capacity, coordination across agencies, and consistency in regulatory implementation, which can create uncertainty for investors.

From a regional perspective, infrastructure gaps remain one of the key constraints to enhancing The Gambia's participation in regional value chains under ECOWAS and the AfCFTA. High logistics costs and infrastructure bottlenecks reduce competitiveness and limit the country's ability to attract export-oriented and efficiency-seeking investment.

Overall, while progress has been made in improving infrastructure, addressing remaining gaps particularly in energy reliability, transport logistics, financial access, and institutional efficiency will be critical for strengthening the investment climate and supporting economic diversification.

Health/Safety

Health and safety conditions in The Gambia are supported by an existing regulatory framework aimed at protecting public health and ensuring workplace safety. In recent years, the health sector has undergone gradual improvements, particularly following the COVID-19 pandemic, which strengthened disease surveillance systems, emergency preparedness, and institutional coordination. These developments have contributed to increased resilience in managing public health risks that may affect economic activity and investment.

The structure of the health system is based on a three-tier primary healthcare model, comprising primary, secondary, and tertiary levels, with a network of hospitals, health centres, and community-based facilities. The country has a limited number of major hospitals and health centres, complemented by smaller facilities and mobile clinics serving rural areas. While this network has expanded over time, access and quality remain uneven across regions.

Health outcomes have improved over the long term, with life expectancy increasing to approximately 65–66 years, although this remains below the global average. However, resource constraints continue to affect service delivery. Public expenditure on health remains relatively low, at around 1.5% of GDP, compared to higher recommended benchmarks for developing economies.

Access to healthcare services also remains a challenge. Recent survey data indicate that only about 11% of the population has access to health insurance, while a large majority of report concerns about affordability and availability of medical services. In addition, issues such as shortages of medical supplies, long waiting times, and limited staffing continue to affect service quality in public facilities.

The Government has continued to invest in the health sector through infrastructure expansion, training of health personnel, and collaboration with development partners. There is also increasing private sector participation in healthcare provision, particularly in urban areas, contributing to improved service availability and supporting overall system capacity.

From an investment perspective, improvements in health infrastructure and service delivery are important for enhancing workforce productivity and reducing operational risks. At the same time, the health sector itself presents emerging investment opportunities in areas such as private healthcare services, pharmaceuticals, and medical support services.

However, challenges remain in enforcement of workplace health and safety standards. Institutional capacity constraints, limited inspection systems, and the large informal sector where a significant share of economic activity takes place affect compliance with occupational safety regulations.

Overall, while progress has been made in strengthening the health system, continued investment in infrastructure, improved access to services, and enhanced regulatory enforcement will be important for supporting both social outcomes and a more stable and investment-friendly environment.

Improvements in health infrastructure and service delivery contribute not only to social outcomes but also to a more resilient and investment-friendly economic environment.

Education & Human Capital development

Education and human capital development remain central to The Gambia's long-term economic transformation and its ability to attract diversified and high-quality investment. The country has made notable progress in expanding access to education, particularly at the basic level. Gross enrolment rates at lower basic education are relatively high, reflecting sustained investment in primary education and improved access across regions.

However, outcomes beyond basic education remain more constrained. Recent data indicate that while approximately one in two youths have attained secondary education, only about 7% of the youth population has completed tertiary education, highlighting limited progression to higher levels of education. In addition, around 41% of young people have either no formal education or only primary-level education, indicating persistent gaps in foundational and post-basic education attainment.

Literacy levels have improved over time, but challenges remain. Earlier national data suggest that approximately 22.5% of youth are still illiterate, with higher incidence in rural areas. This reflects disparities in access and quality of education across regions.

Early childhood development indicators also point to mixed outcomes. Approximately 67% of children aged 3 to 4 are developmentally on track, although participation in early childhood education remains relatively low at about 24%, indicating gaps in early learning opportunities.

A key constraint remains the mismatch between education outcomes and labor market needs. Despite improvements in general education, technical and vocational skills remain limited. Evidence shows that participation in vocational training is still low, and skills gaps persist in areas such as manufacturing, ICT, energy, and agribusiness.

From an investment perspective, these human capital constraints affect the country's ability to attract efficiency-seeking and technology-intensive investment. Investors in higher-value sectors require specialized technical and managerial skills, which remain limited in the current workforce. As a result, foreign direct investment continues to be concentrated in lower-skill service sectors.

The Government has prioritized reforms aimed at strengthening Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), including expansion of training programs and improved alignment with labor market needs. These efforts are supported by national education policies that emphasize skills development and employability.

Overall, while The Gambia has made significant progress in expanding access to education, improving the quality, relevance, and progression of human capital remains critical. Addressing skills gaps, expanding TVET, and strengthening linkages between education and industry will be essential for enhancing productivity, supporting economic diversification, and improving the country's attractiveness for higher-value investment.

While access to basic education has improved, limited progression to higher education and low levels of technical skills continue to constrain the development of a workforce capable of supporting higher-value investment

Employment and Labor Policy

The Gambia's labor market is characterized by a relatively flexible regulatory framework, which supports private sector participation. However, employment outcomes remain constrained by structural challenges, including high informality, underemployment, and limited job creation in productive sectors.

While the national unemployment rate is estimated at approximately 8.3%, broader indicators reveal deeper labor market pressures. Labour underutilization is estimated at 26.7%, reflecting significant levels of underemployment and limited access to quality jobs.

A defining feature of the labor market is the high level of informality, with approximately 81% of total employment occurring in the informal sector. This limits productivity, reduces tax revenues, and constrains the effectiveness of labor market policies and social protection systems.

Youth employment remains a critical concern. Approximately 41.3% of young people are not in employment, education, or training (NEET), indicating substantial challenges in school-to-work transition and labor market absorption. Gender disparities are also evident, with labour underutilization significantly higher among women (approximately 34.3%) compared to men (around 19.1%).

The Government of The Gambia has recognized employment creation as a central development priority. Under national policy frameworks, including the National Development Plan (NDP) and employment policy strategies, the Government has set an ambitious target of creating at least 150,000 jobs by 2026 as mentioned the National Employment Policy and Action Plan, particularly for youth and women. Employment policy documents and labor market diagnostics emphasize that achieving this target will require a structural shift in the economy toward more productive sectors. These policy frameworks highlight key challenges, including:

- Limited job creation in high-value sectors
- Weak linkages between education and employment
- High levels of informality and vulnerable employment
- Insufficient private sector absorption capacity

The Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment (MOTIE), in collaboration with relevant institutions, has undertaken employment diagnostics and policy assessments, which consistently

underscore the need to transition from low-productivity, informal employment toward more formal and productive jobs.

Current policy priorities focus on:

- Promoting job creation in priority sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, and services
- Supporting enterprise formalization and improving working conditions
- Strengthening labor market institutions and employment services
- Enhancing coordination between employment, education, and investment policies

From an investment perspective, the structure of the labor market has important implications. While the availability of a young labor force presents opportunities for labor-intensive investment, the dominance of informal employment and limited availability of skilled labor constrain the country's ability to attract higher-value, productivity-enhancing investment.

Achieving the Government's employment target of 150,000 jobs will therefore depend not only on increasing the quantity of jobs, but also on improving their quality. This will require stronger alignment between investment policy and employment objectives, with a focus on sectors that generate sustainable, formal, and high-productivity employment.

Going forward, a more integrated approach to employment policy will be essential, including:

- Strengthening labor market information systems
- Promoting formalization and decent work
- Addressing youth and gender disparities
- Linking employment strategies more closely with industrial and investment policies

Strengthening employment outcomes is critical to ensuring that economic growth translates into inclusive development. A more productive and formalized labor market will enhance the overall impact of investment and support long-term structural transformation.

International Labour Mobility and Circular Migration

As part of efforts to address domestic employment challenges and expand opportunities for Gambian workers, the Government has engaged in bilateral labour mobility initiatives, including circular migration arrangements with Spain. Under this framework, Gambian workers are provided with temporary employment opportunities in Spain, particularly in seasonal sectors such as agriculture. This initiative is designed to promote legal and structured migration, while enabling participants to acquire skills, earn income, and return to contribute to the domestic economy.

The circular migration programme also plays an important role in:

- Reducing irregular migration pressures
- Enhancing remittance inflows
- Facilitating skills and knowledge transfer
- Strengthening bilateral cooperation in labor and migration management

From a policy perspective, such initiatives complement domestic employment strategies by providing

alternative pathways for job creation while supporting human capital development.

However, to maximize its developmental impact, there is a need to:

- Strengthen reintegration programs for returning workers
- Facilitate the transfer of skills and savings into productive investment
- Align migration programs with national employment and skills development strategies

Environmental Issues

Environmental sustainability and climate vulnerability are key considerations in the investment climate of The Gambia. As one of the smallest countries in mainland Africa, The Gambia is particularly exposed to environmental risks, including coastal erosion, flooding, and climate variability, which have direct implications for infrastructure, agriculture, and economic activity.

Approximately 80% of the population and economic activity are concentrated along the coastal zone, making the country highly vulnerable to sea-level rise and coastal degradation. Climate change is expected to further exacerbate these risks, with increasing frequency of extreme weather events and variability in rainfall patterns affecting agricultural productivity and food security.

The agricultural sector, which employs a significant share of the population, is particularly sensitive to climate conditions. Variability in rainfall and rising temperatures continue to affect crop yields and rural livelihoods, highlighting the need for climate-resilient agricultural practices and investment.

In response, the Government has taken steps to integrate environmental sustainability into national development and investment policies. The Gambia has demonstrated strong commitment to climate action, including the implementation of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. The country is also recognized for its high ambition in climate policy, particularly in renewable energy and low-carbon development pathways.

Investments in renewable energy, climate resilience, and environmental protection are gradually increasing, supported by development partners and international climate finance initiatives. These efforts include projects focused on solar energy expansion, coastal protection, and sustainable land management.

From an investment perspective, environmental factors are increasingly important in shaping investor decisions. The growing emphasis on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards globally presents both challenges and opportunities for The Gambia. While environmental risks can increase the cost and uncertainty of investment, they also create opportunities for green investment in areas such as renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and climate-resilient infrastructure.

However, challenges remain in the implementation of environmental policies. These include limited institutional capacity, financing constraints, and gaps in enforcement of environmental regulations. In addition, awareness and adoption of environmental standards among businesses, particularly SMEs, remain limited.

Overall, while The Gambia faces significant environmental vulnerabilities, ongoing policy efforts and investments in climate resilience and sustainability provide a foundation for integrating environmental considerations into the investment framework. Strengthening environmental governance and promoting green investment will be critical for supporting sustainable and resilient economic development. Environmental vulnerability presents both a risk to investment and an opportunity to promote green and climate-resilient investment pathways.

SME Promotion

Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) constitute the backbone of The Gambia's private sector, accounting for the vast majority of businesses and a significant share of employment, particularly in trade, services, and agro-processing. Consistent with trends across Sub-Saharan Africa, SMEs are estimated to represent over 80–90%of total enterprises and contribute substantially to informal sector employment.

The Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment (MOTIE), in collaboration with institutions such as GIEPA, the Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI), The Gambia Youth Chamber of Commerce, The Gambia Women Chamber of Commerce, The Gambia Start up Chamber of Commerce and other development partners, has undertaken a series of diagnostic assessments, including **SME ecosystem mapping** surveys, to better understand the structure and constraints of the sector.

Findings from these ecosystem mapping exercises highlight several persistent and systemic challenges:

- Limited access to finance: Across Sub-Saharan Africa, it is estimated that nearly 40–50%of SMEs identify access to finance as their most significant constraint, and The Gambia reflects similar patterns. High collateral requirements and limited availability of long-term credit restrict SME expansion.
- High levels of informality: A large proportion of SMEs operate outside the formal sector, limiting their access to credit, government support programs, and participation in formal value chains.
- Weak business development services: Limited access to training, mentorship, and market information reduces firm productivity and survival rates.
- Low productivity and technology adoption: SME productivity levels remain significantly below those of larger firms, reflecting limited access to technology and innovation.
- Limited integration into value chains**:** SMEs face difficulties linking with large domestic firms and foreign investors, reducing their contribution to exports and industrial development.

The ecosystem mapping surveys further indicate that, despite their large numbers, SMEs contribute only a modest share to export activity and value-added production. This highlights a structural gap between enterprise quantity and economic impact.

In response, the Government has implemented targeted interventions aimed at strengthening the SME ecosystem, including:

- Capacity-building programs focused on entrepreneurship and business management
- Support for business formalization and regulatory compliance
- Initiatives to expand access to finance through partnerships with financial institutions
- Promotion of SME participation in priority sectors such as agribusiness, manufacturing, and services

Despite these efforts, significant gaps remain. Access to finance continues to be constrained, and coordination among SME support institutions requires strengthening.

Enhancing the SME ecosystem is critical for maximizing the developmental impact of foreign direct investment. Evidence suggests that economies with stronger SME sectors benefit from higher levels of domestic value addition, stronger supply chain linkages, and greater technology diffusion.
Therefore, strengthening SMEs particularly through improved access to finance, digitalization, and value chain integration will be essential to support inclusive growth and structural transformation in The Gambia.

Taxation/Incentives

The Gambia provides a range of fiscal incentives aimed at attracting both foreign and domestic investment into priority sectors, including tourism, agriculture, manufacturing, energy, and ICT. These incentives are primarily administered through the **Special Investment Certificate (SIC)** for foreign investors and the **Domestic Investment Certificate (DIC)** for local investors under the GIEPA framework.
Under these schemes, qualifying investors benefit from a package of incentives, which may include:

- Corporate tax holidays
- Import duty exemptions on capital equipment and intermediate inputs
- Exemptions from certain taxes and levies
- Facilitated access to land and investment support services

The SIC is designed to attract foreign direct investment by enhancing the competitiveness of The Gambia as an investment destination, while the DIC aims to promote domestic investment and strengthen local enterprise development.
From a regional perspective, The Gambia's incentive regime is broadly aligned with ECOWAS practices, where tax holidays of approximately 5 to 10 years are commonly granted to investors in priority sectors. These incentives are particularly important in small economies like The Gambia, where structural constraints such as high energy costs and logistics inefficiencies increase the cost of doing business.
However, international evidence suggests that while fiscal incentives can influence investment decisions, they are rarely the primary driver. Investors place greater emphasis on factors such as infrastructure quality, market access, regulatory predictability, and macroeconomic stability.
In The Gambia, incentives have contributed to increased investment particularly in tourism, construction, and services but have had limited success in attracting diversified, export-oriented, and productivity-enhancing investments. This reflects broader structural challenges within the economy.
In addition, the use of tax incentives presents potential risks, including:

- Revenue foregone, which can impact fiscal sustainability if incentives are not well targeted
- Inefficiencies, where incentives may be granted to investments that would have occurred without them
- Limited monitoring and evaluation, reducing the ability to assess their actual economic impact

To improve effectiveness, there is a need to strengthen the design and administration of the SIC and DIC frameworks. This includes:

- Enhancing transparency and clarity in eligibility criteria
- Linking incentives to performance-based outcomes, such as employment creation, export generation, and technology transfer
- Strengthening monitoring and evaluation mechanisms

- Ensuring alignment with national development priorities and industrial policy objectives

Going forward, a more strategic and targeted approach to investment incentives will be critical. Shifting toward performance-based and sector-specific incentives under the SIC and DIC frameworks will help ensure that investment contributes not only to increased inflows but also to sustainable economic transformation and domestic value creation.

Strengthening the coordination between GIEPA, the Ministry of Finance, and other regulatory institutions will be essential to ensure effective implementation and oversight of the SIC and DIC regimes

Sustainability

Sustainability is increasingly being integrated into The Gambia's development and investment framework, reflecting growing recognition of the need to balance economic growth with environmental and social considerations. As a climate-vulnerable country, sustainability is closely linked to national priorities on resilience, resource management, and inclusive development.

The Government has aligned its policies with the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and international climate commitments, including the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. These frameworks emphasize low-carbon development, climate resilience, and sustainable resource use.

In recent years, efforts have been made to promote green investment, particularly in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and climate-resilient infrastructure. The Gambia has shown strong ambition in climate policy, especially in advancing solar energy and reducing reliance on fossil fuels, with renewable energy increasingly recognized as a priority investment area.

From an investment perspective, sustainability is becoming an important determinant of competitiveness. Global investors are placing greater emphasis on **Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG)** standards, and countries that integrate sustainability into their investment frameworks are better positioned to attract responsible and long-term investment.

At the same time, sustainability considerations are also linked to social outcomes, including job creation, poverty reduction, and inclusive growth. Investments in sectors such as renewable energy and sustainable agriculture have the potential to generate employment while supporting environmental objectives. However, challenges remain in fully integrating sustainability into the investment framework. These include limited access to climate finance, institutional capacity constraints, and gaps in the implementation and enforcement of environmental and social standards. In addition, awareness and adoption of ESG principles among domestic firms, particularly SMEs, remain limited.

Overall, while sustainability is increasingly embedded in policy frameworks, further efforts are required to translate commitments into implementation. Strengthening green investment frameworks, improving access to financing, and enhancing institutional capacity will be critical for ensuring that sustainability contributes to long-term economic resilience and investment attractiveness.

Integrating sustainability into the investment framework will be essential for attracting responsible investment and supporting long-term economic resilience.

Key Structural Constraints and Binding Investment Bottlenecks

Despite progress in reforming the investment climate, The Gambia continues to face a set of binding structural constraints that limit its ability to attract and retain high-quality foreign direct investment.

First, the **cost of doing business** remains relatively high, driven primarily by energy tariffs, logistics inefficiencies, and import dependence. Compared to several ECOWAS peers, production costs in The Gambia are less competitive, particularly for manufacturing and agro-processing activities.

Second, the **domestic private sector** remains shallow, with limited capacity to integrate into global and regional value chains. This constrains backward linkages from foreign firms and reduces the overall developmental impact of FDI.
Third, **institutional and regulatory capacity gaps** continue to affect the predictability and enforcement of policies. While reforms have improved the legal framework, implementation challenges persist across key agencies.
Finally, **limited access to long-term finance** remains a major constraint, particularly for SMEs, restricting domestic investment and limiting the crowding-in effects of foreign investment. These structural constraints collectively explain why FDI in The Gambia remains concentrated in a narrow set of sectors and has yet to fully support broad-based industrialization.

3. CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR) AND BUSINESS CONDUCT

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) are increasingly recognized as important components of the investment environment in The Gambia. While CSR practices are largely voluntary, there is growing awareness among both public institutions and private sector actors of the need to align business activities with social, environmental, and governance standards.
Foreign investors, particularly in sectors such as tourism, energy, and infrastructure, have increasingly incorporated CSR and **Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG)** principles into their operations. These practices include community engagement, environmental protection measures, and support for local employment and skills development. Such initiatives contribute to improving social outcomes and enhancing the sustainability of investment projects.
From a policy perspective, the Government encourages responsible business conduct through broader regulatory and institutional frameworks, including environmental regulations, labor laws, and investment policies. These frameworks aim to ensure that business activities are conducted in a manner that is socially responsible and environmentally sustainable.
However, CSR and RBC practices remain uneven across sectors. While larger firms and foreign investors are more likely to adopt structured ESG approaches, smaller domestic enterprises, particularly within the SME and informal sectors, have limited capacity to implement such practices.
In addition, formal mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on CSR and RBC remain limited, and there is no comprehensive national framework mandating ESG disclosure or standardized reporting. This can affect transparency and the ability to assess the social and environmental impact of business activities.

From an investment perspective, the increasing global emphasis on responsible business conduct presents both opportunities and challenges. Aligning with international ESG standards can enhance The Gambia's attractiveness to responsible investors and improve the sustainability of investment outcomes.
Overall, strengthening CSR and RBC frameworks including improved awareness, institutional coordination, and voluntary or regulatory reporting mechanisms will be important for promoting sustainable investment and ensuring that economic growth is inclusive and socially responsible.

4. PATTERN OF INVESTMENT FLOWS (FDI 5-YEAR TREND)

Structure of FDI

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows into The Gambia are concentrated in a limited number of sectors, ***primarily tourism and hospitality, real estate and construction***, as well as energy and infrastructure, the latter of which has shown a growing share in recent years. This pattern reflects both the country's comparative advantages in services and existing structural constraints that limit investment in more capital-intensive and export-oriented sectors.

Direction

In terms of origin, FDI inflows are sourced from a relatively narrow group of partner countries. The main sources include the European Union particularly the United Kingdom and Spain as well as China, Turkey, and regional investors from the ECOWAS sub-region. These investment patterns are influenced by historical ties, geographic proximity, and sector-specific opportunities within the Gambian economy.

Flow Statistics (Inflow and Outflow)
According to estimates from the Central Bank of The Gambia, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows have shown a consistent upward trend over the past years, with strong post-pandemic recovery.

Figure1: Five-Year Trend (2020–2024)

Year	FDI Inflows (USD Millions)	Annual Growth Rate
2020	365.7	—
2021	387.7	+3.6%
2022	421.2	+11.2%
2023	464.2	+10.2%
2024	490.0	+5.6%

- Steady Growth: FDI increased from USD 365.7 million (2020) to USD 490 million (2024), a cumulative increase of approximately 34% over five years.
- Post-COVID Recovery: After modest growth in 2021 (+3.6%), inflows accelerated significantly in 2022 and 2023, reflecting recovery in:
    - Tourism
    - Construction
    - Energy investments
- Stabilization Phase: Growth moderated slightly in 2024 (+5.6%), indicating a transition toward more stable inflows.

While FDI inflows increased from USD 365.7 million in 2020 to USD 490 million in 2024, the structure of these inflows raises important concerns regarding sustainability and long-term impact.

A significant proportion of FDI is directed toward **non-tradable sectors**, particularly real estate, construction, and tourism. While these sectors contribute to short-term growth and employment, they generate limited export earnings and weak productivity spillovers.

In contrast, investment in **tradable and high-productivity sectors** such as manufacturing and agro-processing remains limited. This imbalance reduces the potential of FDI to support structural transformation and export diversification.

Moreover, compared to other ECOWAS countries, The Gambia's FDI-to-GDP ratio is relatively high, but in absolute terms, inflows remain modest, reflecting the country's small market size and structural

constraints. This highlights the need for a strategic shift toward attracting **efficiency-seeking and export-oriented FDI**, rather than predominantly market-seeking investment.

The recent growth in FDI inflows should not only be assessed in terms of volume but also in terms of quality and developmental impact. High levels of investment concentrated in low-productivity sectors may not translate into sustainable economic transformation.

Therefore, policy efforts should prioritize:

- Technology-intensive investment
- Export-oriented production
- Strong local linkages
- Skills development

This shift is critical to ensuring that FDI contributes not only to GDP growth but also to productivity gains, job quality, and economic resilience.

FDI Outflows

FDI outflows from The Gambia exist but are extremely minimal and often statistically negligible.

- The Gambia is a net FDI recipient country.
- Outward FDI (Gambian investments abroad) is:

  a) Very limited

  b) Not systematically recorded in large volumes

  c) Often classified under "other investments" or small private flows

Why Are Outflows Low?

- Limited number of large domestic firms with capacity to invest abroad
- Capital constraints in the private sector
- Domestic investment needs are still high
- Financial markets are not deep enough to support outward expansion

- Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI)
- Remains negligible due to the absence of a developed capital market.

Foreign Portfolio Investment

Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) in The Gambia remains **limited and underdeveloped**, reflecting the structure of the financial sector and the absence of a formal capital market.

The country does not currently have a **stock exchange**, and financial markets are largely bank-based, which constrains the inflow of portfolio investments such as equities and bonds from foreign investors.

While government securities (e.g., Treasury bills and bonds) exist, participation by foreign investors remains minimal and is not yet a significant source of external financing.

Ongoing financial sector reforms aimed at strengthening market infrastructure, improving regulator frameworks, and deepening financial intermediation may, over time, support the gradual development of portfolio investment flows.

5. ISSUES IN INTRA-ECOWAS INVESTMENT FLOWS

Intra-ECOWAS investment flows involving The Gambia remain relatively low, despite the country's participation in regional integration frameworks. While ECOWAS provides a platform for facilitating cross-border investment, the level of intra-regional investment has not yet reached its full potential.
Several constraints continue to limit the expansion of investment flows within the region. Regulatory inconsistencies across member states create uncertainty for investors and increase the cost of doing business across borders. Differences in national investment regimes, administrative procedures, and legal frameworks reduce predictability and hinder seamless investment within the ECOWAS space.
In addition, limited access to regional financing mechanisms constrains the ability of investors particularly small and medium-sized enterprises to expand beyond domestic markets. Financial systems across the region remain fragmented, with limited availability of long-term and cross-border financing instruments.
Infrastructure gaps also represent a significant barrier to intra-regional investment. Weak transport connectivity, high logistics costs, and inefficiencies in trade facilitation systems reduce the attractiveness of cross-border investment and limit the integration of regional value chains.
Furthermore, limited availability of investment-related information and weak coordination among investment promotion agencies reduce awareness of opportunities within the region. This affects investor decision-making and contributes to the concentration of investment within national markets rather than across borders.
From an ECIM perspective, addressing these constraints will require greater harmonization of investment policies, improved regional infrastructure, enhanced access to finance, and stronger institutional collaboration among member states. Strengthening these areas will be critical for unlocking the potential of intra-ECOWAS investment and supporting regional economic integration.
Unlocking intra-ECOWAS investment potential will depend on deeper policy harmonization, improved connectivity, and stronger regional financial integration

6. INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS

The Gambia participates in a range of international and regional investment agreements that provide a framework for investment protection, promotion, and dispute resolution. These agreements play an important role in enhancing investor confidence by establishing legal certainty and aligning national investment practices with international standards.
At the international level, The Gambia is party to several International Investment Agreements (IIAs), which set out general principles governing the treatment and protection of foreign investors. These frameworks contribute to improving the predictability and credibility of the investment environment.
In addition, The Gambia has entered into a number of Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) with partner countries, including key investment source countries such as the United Kingdom and Switzerland. These agreements provide specific guarantees to investors, including protection against expropriation, fair and equitable treatment, and access to dispute settlement mechanisms.

At the continental level, The Gambia is an active participant in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), including ongoing negotiations and implementation of the Investment Protocol. The AfCFTA framework is expected to play a significant role in harmonizing investment rules across African countries, facilitating cross-border investment, and supporting the development of regional value chains.

From an ECIM perspective, these agreements provide an important foundation for strengthening the investment climate. However, their effectiveness depends on consistent implementation at the national level, as well as alignment with domestic policies and institutional capacity. Strengthening coherence between international commitments and national regulatory frameworks will be essential for maximizing the benefits of these agreements and supporting sustainable investment flows.

The effectiveness of investment agreements ultimately depends on their implementation and alignment with domestic regulatory frameworks.

7. DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

The Gambia has established a legal and institutional framework for the resolution of investment-related disputes, aimed at providing protection to investors and ensuring confidence in the investment environment. The country is a member of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), which provides access to international arbitration mechanisms for the settlement of disputes between investors and the state.

At the national level, dispute resolution is supported by the judicial system and relevant legal frameworks, which recognize arbitration and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. These provisions allow for both domestic and international investors to seek redress through formal legal channels.

From an investment perspective, the availability of international arbitration mechanisms and legal recourse contributes to enhancing investor confidence by reducing perceived risks associated with disputes. However, challenges remain in the effectiveness and efficiency of dispute resolution processes. These include delays in judicial proceedings, capacity constraints within the legal system, and limitations in the enforcement of decisions.

In addition, awareness and utilization of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms remain relatively limited, particularly among smaller enterprises. Strengthening institutional capacity, improving the efficiency of judicial processes, and enhancing enforcement mechanisms will be important for ensuring timely and effective dispute resolution.

From an ECIM perspective, continued efforts to strengthen dispute settlement systems and align them with international best practices will be critical for improving the overall investment climate and supporting sustainable investment flows.

In addition to international mechanisms, The Gambia provides for domestic dispute resolution through its judicial system, including the High Court and other superior courts, which handle commercial and investment-related disputes. The legal framework also recognizes arbitration and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, allowing parties to resolve disputes outside the court system where applicable. However, domestic dispute resolution mechanisms are not specialized for investment disputes, and challenges remain in terms of efficiency, capacity, and enforcement. The limited use of arbitration and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms further affects the speed and effectiveness of dispute resolution. Strengthening domestic systems will be important for complementing international arbitration mechanisms and improving overall investor confidence.

While domestic mechanisms exist, strengthening their efficiency and expanding the use of alternative dispute resolution will be critical for improving investment-related dispute settlement.

8. Barriers to Investment Attraction

Despite ongoing reforms to improve the investment climate, The Gambia continues to face a number of structural and institutional constraints that limit its ability to attract and retain high-quality investment.

These barriers affect both the volume and the sectoral distribution of foreign direct investment.

Infrastructure Constraints

One of the most significant constraints is the cost of doing business, driven largely by infrastructure limitations, particularly in energy and transport. Electricity supply remains relatively expensive and at times unreliable, increasing operational costs for investors, especially in manufacturing and other productive sectors. Transport and logistics inefficiencies, including port-related delays and limited inland connectivity, further contribute to high transaction costs and reduced competitiveness.

Access to Finance

Access to finance remains a key challenge. While the financial sector has expanded, access to long-term credit is limited, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises. High lending rates, collateral requirements, and shallow financial markets constrain both domestic investment and the ability of local firms to participate in investment value chains.

Land and Property Issues

Land administration and access to serviced land present additional challenges. Issues related to land tenure, registration processes, and availability of fully serviced industrial land can create uncertainty and delays for investors, particularly in large-scale and industrial projects.

Institutional and Administrative Challenges

Institutional and administrative inefficiencies also affect the investment environment. Although reforms such as the establishment of the One-Stop-Shop have improved processes, investors may still encounter delays in approvals, licensing, and coordination across multiple agencies. Variability in regulatory implementation can also affect predictability.

Human Capital Constraints

Human capital limitations further restrict investment attraction, particularly in higher-value sectors. Skills gaps and the mismatch between education outcomes and labor market needs reduce the availability of a workforce suited for industrial and technology-intensive investment.

Economic Structure and Limited Diversification

The structure of the economy, characterized by a narrow production base and limited diversification, continues to influence investment patterns. Investment remains concentrated in services rather than productive and export-oriented sectors, limiting the broader developmental impact.

From an ECIM perspective, addressing these barriers will require a coordinated approach, including investment in infrastructure, improved access to finance, strengthened institutional capacity, and continued regulatory reforms. Overcoming these constraints will be critical for attracting diversified, sustainable, and productivity-enhancing investment.

9. IMPACT OF DIRECT INVESTMENT

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) plays an important role in The Gambia's economic development, contributing to output, employment, and structural transformation. Its impact, however, remains concentrated in a limited number of sectors, with varying effects across different segments of the population.

Contribution to GDP

FDI has been a key driver of capital formation in The Gambia, particularly in sectors such as tourism, construction, and infrastructure. With inflows estimated at approximately USD 490 million in 2024, FDI represents a significant contribution relative to the size of the economy. When indirect effects are considered, FDI is estimated to account for approximately 15–20% of GDP impact.

The tourism sector, which is heavily supported by foreign investment, contributes approximately 20% of GDP (direct and indirect), highlighting the central role of FDI in sustaining economic activity.

Impact on Job/Employment

FDI-intensive sectors such as tourism, construction, and services are among the largest sources of employment in The Gambia. These sectors contribute significantly to urban employment and youth job creation, particularly in service-oriented activities and infrastructure-related projects.

However, employment generated through FDI remains largely concentrated in low- to medium-skilled occupations, limiting productivity gains and income growth. This highlights the need for targeted skills development and workforce upgrading to improve the quality of jobs associated with investment.

Impact on Gender

Disparities are also evident in employment outcomes linked to FDI. Women are more likely to be concentrated in lower-paying and informal segments of sectors such as tourism and services, while their participation in higher-skilled and technical roles remains limited. Addressing these disparities will be important for ensuring that the benefits of investment are more inclusive.

Impact on Technology and Knowledge Transfer

FDI has contributed to improvements in technology adoption and business practices, particularly in sectors such as energy and information and communication technology (ICT). These investments have supported the introduction of new technologies, as well as enhancements in managerial and operational processes. However, technology and knowledge spillovers to domestic firms remain limited. Weak linkages between foreign investors and local enterprises constrain the diffusion of innovation and reduce the broader developmental impact of FDI. Strengthening these linkages will be essential for maximizing productivity gains.

FDI has contributed to gradual structural changes in the economy, including the expansion of the tourism sector, urban infrastructure development, and growth in real estate and services. While these developments have supported economic growth, the concentration of investment in a narrow range of sectors limits diversification.

From an inclusiveness perspective, ensuring that FDI contributes to broad-based employment, gender equality, and skills development remains a key policy priority. Enhancing the quality, diversity, and inclusiveness of investment will be critical for maximizing its long-term developmental impact.

10. Implementation of ECOWAS Investment Policy & Code AT:

The implementation of the ECOWAS Investment Policy and Code in The Gambia is closely linked to broader regional and multilateral frameworks aimed at promoting investment facilitation, policy harmonization, and cross-border investment flows. While progress has been made, implementation remains at varying stages across different levels.

Regional Level (ECOWAS)

At the regional level, The Gambia has aligned its investment framework with the objectives of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which seeks to promote a common investment area through harmonized policies and regulatory frameworks. Efforts have focused on

improving investment facilitation, reducing barriers to cross-border investment, and enhancing cooperation among member states.
However, implementation remains constrained by differences in national legal and regulatory systems, as well as varying institutional capacities across member states. These challenges affect the consistency and effectiveness of the ECOWAS Investment Policy and Code, limiting its full impact on intra-regional investment flows.

Continental Level (AfCFTA)
At the continental level, The Gambia is actively engaged in the implementation of the investment agenda under the African Continental Free Trade Area, including ongoing efforts to operationalize the Investment Protocol. The AfCFTA framework aims to create a more predictable and transparent investment environment across Africa by harmonizing investment rules and facilitating cross-border investment. The implementation of AfCFTA investment provisions is expected to enhance The Gambia's access to a larger continental market and support participation in regional value chains. However, progress remains gradual, and effective implementation will depend on aligning national policies with continental commitments and strengthening institutional capacity.

Multilateral Level (WTO Investment Facilitation Framework)
At the multilateral level, The Gambia is participating in discussions and emerging frameworks related to investment facilitation under the World Trade Organization (WTO). The Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) initiative aims to improve transparency, streamline administrative procedures, and enhance cooperation among countries in facilitating investment.
For The Gambia, aligning with these emerging frameworks presents an opportunity to modernize investment procedures, improve regulatory transparency, and attract more diversified investment. However, implementation will require continued reforms at the national level, including digitalization of processes, strengthening of institutions, and improved coordination across agencies.
While The Gambia has demonstrated commitment to regional and international investment frameworks, implementation remains a work in progress. Strengthening policy coherence across regional, continental, and multilateral levels, as well as improving institutional capacity, will be critical for maximizing the benefits of these frameworks and enhancing the country's investment climate.

11. INVESTMENT GOVERNANCE

Investment governance in The Gambia is shaped by a combination of legal, institutional, and policy frameworks aimed at promoting transparency, accountability, and efficiency in the management of investment activities. The overall framework reflects ongoing efforts to strengthen the business environment and align national systems with regional and international standards.
At the institutional level, investment governance is led by the Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency (GIEPA), which serves as the central body for investment promotion and facilitation. GIEPA operates under the policy oversight of the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment (MOTIE), which is responsible for formulating investment, industrial, and trade policies. The Ministry plays a central role in setting strategic direction, coordinating reforms, and ensuring alignment between investment policy and broader economic objectives.
This governance framework is further supported by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, which oversees fiscal policy and incentives, and the Ministry of Justice, which provides legal oversight, including investment-related legislation and dispute resolution.
The legal framework governing investment provides for investor protection, dispute resolution, and the administration of incentives. Ongoing reforms, including the proposed GIEPA Amendment Bill 2025, aim

to strengthen governance by improving transparency, enhancing institutional coordination, and ensuring more effective oversight of investment processes and incentives.

Efforts to improve governance have also focused on increasing transparency and accountability in public administration. Reforms such as the digitalization of services, improvements in public financial management, and strengthened audit and oversight systems have contributed to a more predictable investment environment. However, challenges remain in ensuring consistency in implementation across institutions and in reducing administrative bottlenecks.

Key governance challenges include limited institutional capacity, coordination gaps among agencies, and variability in regulatory enforcement. These factors can affect investor confidence and increase transaction costs. Strengthening governance will therefore require continued efforts to improve inter-agency coordination, enhance institutional capacity, and ensure the consistent application of rules and procedures.

Overall, while the foundational elements of investment governance are in place, further improvements in transparency, coordination, and implementation will be essential for enhancing the effectiveness of the investment framework and supporting sustainable investment flows.

12. CONCLUSION

The Gambia has made notable progress in improving its investment climate through sustained reforms, institutional strengthening, and deeper regional integration. The steady increase in FDI inflows from USD 365.7 million in 2020 to USD 490 million in 2024 reflects growing investor confidence in the country's reform trajectory and improving business environment. The country remains a net recipient of foreign direct investment, with outward flows currently negligible due to structural constraints within the domestic private sector.

Going forward, the reform agenda will be anchored on strengthening investment governance, enhancing competitiveness, and aligning national policies with regional and continental frameworks. This includes advancing investment facilitation, improving infrastructure, and promoting a more transparent and predictable regulatory environment.

Strategically, The Gambia is positioning itself as a competitive and reliable destination for investment within the ECOWAS region, leveraging its geographic location, reform momentum, and commitment to private sector-led growth.

However, to fully realize this potential, structural constraints particularly in infrastructure, access to finance, and skills development must be addressed to support economic transformation, diversification, and inclusive growth.

13. WAY FORWARD

To maximize the developmental impact of foreign direct investment, the Government of The Gambia will prioritize policies aimed at promoting economic diversification, enhancing value addition, and strengthening linkages between foreign investors and domestic enterprises. This reflects a strategic shift toward improving not only the quantity, but also the quality and inclusiveness of investment.

A key priority will be **strengthening infrastructure development**, particularly in energy and transport, to reduce the cost of doing business and improve competitiveness. Enhancing the reliability of electricity supply and improving logistics systems will be critical for attracting investment into productive and export-oriented sectors.

The Government will also focus on **enhancing investment facilitation**, including the digitalization and expansion of One-Stop-Shop services to streamline administrative processes, reduce delays, and improve the overall investor experience.

In line with regional integration objectives, efforts will be made to **promote intra-regional investment flows**, particularly within the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) framework and under the African Continental Free Trade Area. Strengthening regional investment linkages will be important for expanding market access and supporting regional value chains.

The development of **Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and industrial parks**, including the Trans-Gambia Corridor SEZ, will be prioritized to support export-oriented industrialization and attract investment into manufacturing and agro-processing sectors.

Improving **access to finance**, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises, will be essential for enabling greater participation of domestic firms in investment value chains and strengthening linkages with foreign investors.

The Government will also continue to strengthen **human capital development**, with a focus on technical and vocational education and training aligned with industry needs, in order to support higher-value investment and improve employment outcomes.

Finally, efforts will be made to **enhance regulatory enforcement and investment governance**, improving transparency, predictability, and institutional coordination. Strengthening governance will be critical for building investor confidence and ensuring effective implementation of investment-related policies.

Overall, these measures are expected to support The Gambia's transition toward a more diversified, resilient, and inclusive investment landscape, capable of delivering sustainable economic growth.

5.5 GHANA

GHANA INVESTMENT PROMOTION CENTRE (GIPC)
ANNUAL INVESTMENT REPORT 2025

1.0 Leadership Message

It is our pleasure to present the 2025 Annual Investment Report under the theme "Resetting Ghana's Investment Landscape for Unlocking Opportunities in a Transforming Economy."

The year 2025 marks a turning point in Ghana's economic and investment journey. Following a period of significant macroeconomic adjustment, our country has made strong and deliberate progress toward restoring stability, strengthening investor confidence, and repositioning itself as a competitive destination for capital.

Today, the fundamentals are improving. Inflation is easing, the exchange rate has stabilized, and economic growth is rebounding.

These gains are not accidental, they are the result of targeted policy reforms, fiscal discipline, and a renewed commitment to private sector-led growth. For investors, this signals a more predictable and resilient environment in which to plan, invest, and grow.

Encouragingly, investor confidence is already translating into results. Ghana recorded strong foreign direct investment inflows in 2025, supported not only by new projects but also by reinvestment from existing investors. This is a powerful endorsement of Ghana's long-term value proposition. Investors are not only entering the market; they are staying, expanding, and deepening their presence.

We recognize that sustaining this momentum requires more than stability, it requires intentional transformation of the investment landscape. Over the past year, we have intensified efforts to improve the investor experience through faster, more efficient services, strengthened aftercare, and enhanced policy advocacy.

Key initiatives such as the **24-Hour Economy Programme** are opening new pathways for productivity and industrial growth, while the Investment Opportunities Mapping Project (IOMP) is systematically identifying and packaging bankable opportunities across all regions of Ghana. These efforts are designed to ensure that investment is not only increased, but also better distributed, more inclusive, and more impactful.

We have also strengthened Ghana's global investment footprint through targeted engagements with strategic partners across key markets. These efforts are yielding tangible results as reflected in a growing pipeline of investments across sectors such as manufacturing, energy, agro-processing, infrastructure, and digital services.

Looking ahead, **the outlook for investment in Ghana remains positive.** While global uncertainties persist, the trajectory for foreign direct investment points toward greater stability and sustained inflows over the medium term. Our focus is to convert this potential into reality by continuing to address constraints, unlock new sectors, and facilitate highquality investments that drive jobs, innovation, and exports.

We are fully aware that investors seek more than opportunity. They seek clarity, consistency, and partnership. GIPC and other allied institutions, namely the Bank of Ghana (BoG), the Petroleum Commission and the Ghana Free Zones Authority (GFZA) remain committed to being a proactive and reliable partner to investors at every stage of their journey from entry to expansion.

As Ghana resets its investment landscape, we are guided by a clear objective: **to position the country as a leading hub for sustainable and transformative investment in Africa.** The opportunities are significant, the reforms are underway, and the direction is clear. I invite you to explore this report and, more importantly, to partner with Ghana as we build a more dynamic, competitive, and opportunity-driven economy.

The 2025 Annual Investment Report assesses Ghana's investment performance in a year marked by macroeconomic stabilization, renewed investor engagement, and a widening pipeline of sector opportunities.

In 2025, Ghana's economy transitioned decisively from crisis to recovery following the 2022–2023 debt distress.

Macroeconomic conditions improved markedly, supported by fiscal consolidation, tight monetary policy, and structural reforms under the

IMF-supported programme. Inflation declined sharply to single digits, the exchange rate stabilized, and investor confidence strengthened. Real GDP growth rebounded strongly, underpinned by robust performance in services, agriculture, and a gradual recovery in industry. These developments created a more predictable and conducive environment for investment.

Against a challenging global backdrop characterized by weak and uneven FDI recovery, Ghana demonstrated resilience and competitiveness. Total FDI inflows reached **US$2.62 billion** across **254 new projects and existing companies**, reflecting sustained investor interest in the economy. New investment projects accounted for the majority of inflows, complemented by significant capital injections in the petroleum and free zones sectors. At the macro level, Balance of Payments data showed **FDI rising to US$1.91 billion, driven largely by reinvested earnings (95.4%)**, an indication of strong investor retention and confidence.

Investment activity was concentrated in manufacturing, mining services and services, with manufacturing accounting for the highest number of new projects and mining services attracting the largest FDI value. The pattern underscores Ghana's continued attractiveness for productive, resource linked and service-sector investments. While Greater Accra remained the primary destination for investment projects, high-value investments in regions such as the Western and Eastern Regions signaled increasing geographic diversification. China led in project numbers, while the Cayman Islands and China accounted for the largest shares of FDI value, reflecting a mix of broad-based participation and large-scale capital-intensive investments.

Domestic investment remained robust, reaching a total of **US$816.05 million**. This comprised **71 wholly Ghanaian-owned projects valued at US$685.94 million, together with US$130.11 million** from wholly Ghanaian-owned investments in the upstream petroleum sector, demonstrating sustained local private sector participation across key sectors.

In addition, **Ghana secured over US$11.48 billion** in announced and pipeline investments, including commitments from high-level international engagements and major energy sector agreements, reinforcing strong medium-term investment prospects.

Looking ahead, the outlook for **FDI remains positive. Inflows are projected to increase from approximately US$2.80 billion in 2026 to US$3.11 billion in 2027, before moderating to US$2.38 billion in 2028,** an election year. While global uncertainties and the inherently lumpy nature of FDI mean outcomes may vary, the underlying trend is clear: Ghana is entering a phase of more stable and sustained investment performance. The projected trajectory reflects strengthening short-term momentum, followed by consolidation at relatively high levels, an encouraging signal for long-term investors.

Government policy reforms played a central role in shaping the investment landscape. **Key initiatives including the 24-Hour Economy Programme, the Investment Opportunities Mapping Project (IOMP), digitalization reforms,** and ongoing work toward the Ghana Investment Promotion Authority (GIPA) are enhancing transparency, improving investor facilitation, and promoting geographically balanced investment. The operationalization of a 24-hour premium service and strengthened investor aftercare mechanisms further improved the ease of doing business.

Ghana also deepened its global investment engagement through targeted missions and strategic partnerships across Asia, Europe, and Africa. These efforts resulted in tangible investment commitments and strengthened Ghana's positioning as a gateway to the African market, particularly within the framework of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Despite these gains, challenges persist, including infrastructure gaps, high cost of capital, and increasing regional competition. However, Ghana's improving macroeconomic fundamentals, ongoing structural reforms, and diversified investment opportunities across sectors such as agroprocessing, manufacturing, digital services, energy, and infrastructure provide a strong foundation for sustained investment growth.

Looking ahead, Ghana's priority is to consolidate macroeconomic stability, accelerate structural

reforms, and translate investment commitments into high-quality, productivity-enhancing projects. By doing so, the country aims to drive industrialization, create jobs, and achieve inclusive and regionally balanced economic transformation. Overall, 2025 marks a pivotal year in Ghana's investment trajectory, signaling a reset toward a more resilient, competitive, and opportunity-driven investment landscape.

3.1 Global Trends – 2025

Global foreign direct investment (FDI) showed a modest recovery in 2025, rising to approximately US$1.6 trillion, a 6% increase from 2024 levels (UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), 2026). Conduit flows through majorglobal financial centres and investment hubs subtracted about $40 billion from the total, compared with -$70 billion in 2024.

Switzerland and Ireland, in that order, accounted for most of the increase. Excluding these flows, underlying global FDI growth is estimated at around 4%, indicating weak expansion in productive investment.

Evidence from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank confirms that global investment conditions remained fragile in 2025. High interest rates, geopolitical tensions and trade fragmentation continued to weigh on investor confidence, while a significant share of FDI flows reflected intra-firm financing and corporate restructuring rather than new capital formation.

Core investment indicators point to a slowdown in real investment activity. Greenfield project announcements declined significantly, despite a rise in total project value driven by a small number of large-scale investments. Cross-border mergers and acquisitions (M&A) activity weakened, while international project finance also contracted, signaling reduced investment in infrastructure and long-term development projects (UNCTAD, 2026; OECD, 2025).

The recovery in FDI was also uneven across regions. Developed economies accounted for more than half of the increase in global inflows, with FDI rising by 11% to about US$723 billion. Inflows to developing economies rose slightly by 2% to approximately US$901 billion while least developed countries also recorded a 21% growth to US$43 billion. (UNCTAD, 2026).

Sectoral trends further highlight the narrow base of the recovery. Investment was heavily concentrated in digital and technology-related sectors, particularly data centres and semiconductors, driven by industrial policy and supply chain realignment (UNCTAD, 2026).

In contrast, traditional sectors including manufacturing, extractives and renewable energy, recorded declining investment activity, reflecting cost pressures, regulatory uncertainty and shifting investor priorities.

Overall, global FDI performance in 2025 points to a shallow and uneven recovery. Growth was driven by a narrow set of sectors, while broad-based productive investment remained subdued. These trends underscore the increasingly competitive global investment environment and the need for targeted policies to attract sustainable, real-sector FDI.
Egypt base effect, continued divestment pressures in key markets such as South Africa, and weaker international project finance conditions, which **in 2024,** highlighting a weakening relative position in the global investment landscape (UNCTAD, 2026).

In addition, inflows remained highly concentrated in a small number of economies, with no significant diversification in the group of leading FDI recipients.

Investment patterns continue to be shaped by large-scale projects, particularly in extractives and

3.2 Regional Trends

3.2.1 Africa

Foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows to UNCTAD (2026), inflows in 2024 were significantly Africa declined sharply in 2025, falling to an inflated by a one-off megaproject in Egypt, the Abu estimated US$70 billion from US$94 billion in 2024, a contraction of approximately 26% (UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), 2026). This contrasts with the 6% increase in global FDI, underscoring Africa's relative underperformance during a year of modest global recovery.

The decline largely reflects a normalization effect rather than a structural collapse. According to

Dhabi-backed Ras El-Hekma development which temporarily boosted continental totals. Excluding this transaction, Africa's underlying FDI levels remain broadly stable, indicating that 2025 reflects a return to trend rather than a sharp deterioration in investment fundamentals.

The contraction in 2025 was driven by a combination of factors. These include the unwinding of the

constrained infrastructure and energy investments that typically dominate Africa's FDI profile (UNCTAD, 2026; World Bank, 2025).

infrastructure, rather than broad-based industrial expansion.

Despite the overall decline, a few country-level developments stood out. Egypt remained the continent's largest FDI recipient, attracting approximately US$15 billion, although significantly lower than the previous year, with investments concentrated in energy, real estate and infrastructure. Morocco also recorded FDI inflows of about US$3.3 billion supported by continued diversification into manufacturing and automotive sectors. Mozambique recorded strong growth, with inflows rising to about US$6 billion, driven by projects linked to hydrocarbons and the resumption of major liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects. Angola returned to positive inflows of about $1.1 billion, following negative flows in the previous year, supported by renewed activity in oil and gas. By contrast, South Africa recorded negative inflows of about $2.3 billion, primarily because of intracompany financial flows, profit repatriation and M&A transactions.

Africa's share of global **FDI declined to approximately 4% in 2025, down from about 6%**

Sectoral trends reinforce the resource-driven nature of FDI to the continent. Energy investments, particularly in LNG and oil and gas remained the primary drivers of inflows, notably in Mozambique and Angola. At the same time, divestments in the mining sector, including significant outflows from South Africa, weighed on overall performance (UNCTAD, 2026). **Greenfield investment activity showed mixed signals:** while the number of projects increased, total investment value declined, indicating smaller project sizes and fewer large-scale commitments.
Infrastructure investment in 2025 showed a clear split between the rapid expansion of digital infrastructure and weaker performance across other infrastructure segments. This growth was driven mainly by digital infrastructure, particularly data centres, as rising demand for cloud computing and AI development pushed announced project values in the sector up by more than 80 per cent (UNCTAD, 2026). In addition, global sectoral shifts have had limited positive spillovers for Africa. While investment in digital infrastructure has expanded globally, it remains

concentrated outside the continent, and declining global investment in renewables and extractives further constrained Africa's inflows (UNCTAD, 2026).

In addition, global sectoral shifts have had limited positive spillovers for Africa. While investment in digital infrastructure has expanded globally, it remains concentrated outside the continent, and declining global investment in renewables and extractives further constrained Africa's inflows (UNCTAD, 2026).

Underlying these trends are several structural constraints. Elevated public debt levels and limited fiscal space continue to restrict governments' ability to support investment through infrastructure spending and risk-sharing mechanisms (World Bank, 2025). Tighter external financing conditions and higher borrowing costs have further reduced investment capacity across many African economies. At the same time, geopolitical uncertainty and regional instability continue to weigh on investor confidence and cross-border investment flows.

Notwithstanding these challenges, the **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) presents a significant medium- to long-term opportunity. By creating a market of over 1.3 billion people** with a combined GDP exceeding US$3 trillion, the AfCFTA has the potential to strengthen regional value chains and support market-seeking FDI as implementation deepens (UNCTAD, 2026; World Bank, 2025).

Overall, Africa's FDI performance in 2025 highlights continued dependence on resourcebased and project-driven investment, with limited diversification across sectors and countries. Strengthening investment competitiveness, improving infrastructure, and advancing regional integration will be critical to attracting more stable and diversified FDI inflows going forward.

3.2.2 West Africa

West Africa's FDI performance in 2025 remained relatively subdued within the broader African investment landscape. According to UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (2026), the sub-region entered the year following a decline in inflows in 2024, with investment patterns continuing to reflect structural characteristics, notably reliance on energy, extractive, and infrastructure projects. In 2025 however, FDI inflows to West Africa increased from US$14 billion to US$20 billion, representing an approximate 43% increase. Weak international project finance conditions disproportionately affected regions dependent on large-scale infrastructure and energy investments, central components of West Africa's FDI profile (UNCTAD, 2026; World Bank, 2025).

UNCTAD reported that of the US$70 billion African FDI inflows, North Africa received US$22 billion while East Africa, Southern Africa and Central Africa received US$15 billion, US$8 B and US$5 billion respectively (UNCTAD, 2026). Despite these inflows, the sub-region's share of continental FDI remained modest relative to leading host economies such as Egypt, where a small number of large-scale projects continue to drive continental totals. Overall,

Sub-Saharan Africa recorded a decline in FDI inflows in 2025, reflecting continued volatility from divestments and weak project finance conditions (UNCTAD, 2026).

Macroeconomic and geopolitical factors further influenced investment dynamics. The International Monetary Fund (IMF, 2025) notes that tighter global financial conditions, currency volatility, and fiscal consolidation pressures constrained investment in several West African economies. Security challenges in parts of the Sahel have also affected investor confidence and cross-border integration efforts (UN, 2025).

Within this context, Côte d'Ivoire remained a relatively strong FDI performer, supported by infrastructure expansion and stable macroeconomic conditions (African Development Bank, 2025).



3.2.2. Sectoral Investment Trends

Investment in West Africa continues to be dominated by resource-based industries, with emerging diversification sectors showing early growth:

» Oil and Gas

• Global energy security concerns and diversification away from Russian gas increased investor interest in alternative LNG suppliers, including West Africa (UNCTAD, 2026; IEA, 2025).

• Nigeria and Senegal Benefited from established hydrocarbon reserves and infrastructure, reducing exploration risk and encouraging upstream investment despite energy transition pressures (World Bank, 2025; OECD, 2025).

» Mining Gold, Lithium, Bauxite

• Gold remains a safe-haven investment amid global uncertainty, while West Africa continues to rank among the world's most prospective gold belts (UNCTAD, 2026; African Development Bank 2025).

• Mining projects are predominantly export-oriented, mitigating domestic demand risk (World Bank, 2025).

» Agro processing

- Regional integration under AfCFTA improved the viability of scale-based agro-processing investments, supported by rapid demographic growth and rising demand for processed foods (UNCTAD, 2026; AfDB, 2025).

- Government incentives, including Free Zones and tax breaks, continue to promote value-added industrial activity (OECD, 2025).

» Infrastructure

- Rapid urbanization and population growth sustained demand for transport, power, and logistics infrastructure (UNCTAD, 2026).

- Persistent electricity shortages and ECOWAS corridor development further increased investment needs in energy and cross-border infrastructure (World Bank, 2025; UN, 2025).

» Digital Services

- Rising mobile penetration, fintech expansion, and a youthful demographic profile in Nigeria and Ghana supported investment in digital platforms (UNCTAD, 2026; OECD, 2025).

- Lower capital intensity compared with heavy infrastructure makes digital services attractive under tighter financing conditions (World Bank, 2025).

Despite diversification in agro-processing, digital services, and light manufacturing, West Africa's FDI profile remains largely commodity-driven. Oil, gas, and mining continue to dominate large-scale capital inflows, reflecting broader African trends where extractive industries shape investment patterns (UNCTAD, 2026; OECD, 2025). Among individual economies, Côte d'Ivoire shows the strongest evidence of diversification, attracting investment across agro-processing, infrastructure, and digital services alongside extractives (AfDB, 2025). Senegal is positioning itself as a regional energy hub, supported by recent LNG developments and upstream gas investment (UNCTAD, 2026; World Bank, 2025).

*3.3 **Our Neighbors Nigeria, Burkina, Togo, Ivory Coast***

3.3.1 Nigeria

UNCTAD reported that inward FDI flows to Nigeria reached about US$4.0 billion over the same period, supported largely by oil and gas-related international project finance deals, including a major project valued at approximately US$2.0 billion. Overall, while Nigeria's FDI position improved, inflows remained heavily influenced by large energy-related transactions rather than broad-based productive investment across sectors. Inflows increased from US$1.61 billion in 2024 to US$4.01 billion in 2025. This represents an increase of about US$2.39 billion, or approximately 148.1 per cent. The sharp rise suggests renewed investor interest in the Nigerian economy, supported by ongoing structural reforms and major oil and gas-related investment activity. However, the concentration of inflows in large energy-related transactions indicates that the recovery may not yet reflect broad-based FDI growth across all productive sectors (UNCTAD, 2026).

3.3.2 Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso experienced a significant turnaround in FDI performance, moving from a negative inflow position of US$202 million in 2024 to positive inflows of US$312 million in 2025. This represents an absolute improvement of about US$514 million. The shift from negative to positive inflows indicates a recovery in investor activity and a reversal of the previous year's net divestment position. However, given the negative base in 2024, a conventional percentage growth rate may not provide a meaningful interpretation (UNCTAD, 2026).

3.3.3 Togo

Togo recorded moderate FDI growth in 2025, with inflows increasing from US$202 million in 2024 to US$221 million in 2025. This represents an increase of US$19 million, or about 9.4 per cent. The improvement points to continued investor interest, although the pace of growth remained relatively modest compared to larger regional economies. Togo's performance suggests a stable but gradual expansion in FDI inflows (UNCTAD, 2026).

3.3.4 Côte d'Ivoire

Côte d'Ivoire recorded a notable increase in FDI inflows, rising from US$1.48 billion in 2024 to US$2.03 billion in 2025. This represents an increase of about US$549 million, or approximately 37.2 per cent. The growth reflects the country's continued attractiveness as an investment destination in West Africa, supported by its relatively diversified economy, infrastructure development, and investor confidence. The increase also suggests that Côte d'Ivoire maintained strong momentum in attracting long-term foreign investment (UNCTAD, 2026).





In 2025, Ghana's macroeconomic environment reflected the outcomes of a comprehensive stabilisation and reform programme implemented in the aftermath of the 2022–2023 debt crisis. During this period, the Government entered debt distress and initiated a restructuring process that included the Domestic Debt Exchange Programme (DDEP) and negotiations with external creditors. The crisis had triggered elevated inflation, tightened domestic financial conditions, and exerted significant pressure on the external sector through exchange rate volatility and constrained access to international capital markets (International Monetary Fund, 2023a; Ministry of Finance Ghana, 2023).

The scale of macroeconomic imbalances necessitated a coordinated stabilisation effort. The IMF assessed Ghana's conditions as requiring a front-loaded fiscal adjustment, tight monetary policy, and structural reforms to restore macroeconomic stability and debt sustainability (IMF, 2023a). In addition, the debt operation had implications for financial sector stability, prompting complementary policy measures to safeguard banks and preserve confidence in the financial system (Bank of Ghana, 2023).

In response, the Government through the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Ghana implemented a macroeconomic stabilisation programme anchored on the post-COVID-19 Programme for Economic Growth (PC-PEG), supported by the IMF Extended Credit Facility (ECF) arrangement approved in May 2023 (approximately US$3 billion) (IMF, 2023b).

Fiscal policy in 2025 remained firmly focused on restoring fiscal discipline, including the achievement of programme-aligned primary balance targets, enhanced domestic revenue mobilisation, and rationalisation of public expenditures (MoF, 2025 Budget Statement). These efforts form part of a broader medium-term fiscal consolidation strategy aimed at restoring debt sustainability.

Debt restructuring measures under the DDEP and ongoing external debt negotiations contributed to improving Ghana's debt profile. Public debt increased from approximately US$53.2 billion in March 2024 to US$61.3 billion by December 2025, reflecting both restructuring gains and exchange rate effects (MoF, 2025). These developments signal gradual progress toward restoring debt sustainability, although risks remain contingent on sustained fiscal discipline and external conditions.

Monetary policy in 2025 remained appropriately tight, with the Bank of Ghana maintaining a restrictive stance to anchor inflation expectations and stabilise the currency. This was reinforced by measures to limit monetary financing of the fiscal deficit and supported by ongoing institutional and legal reforms to strengthen central bank independence and policy credibility (BoG, 2024; IMF, 2024).

On the external front, policy emphasis centred on exchange rate flexibility and the rebuilding of foreign exchange reserves to enhance resilience against external shocks. These measures, implemented under the IMF-supported programme, contributed to improved external sector stability and a gradual return of investor confidence (IMF, 2024; BoG, 2025).

As a result of these coordinated policy actions, macroeconomic indicators in 2025 pointed to clear signs of stabilisation. Inflation declined sharply from its peak of 54.1% in December 2022 to single-digit levels by the end of 2025, reflecting tight monetary policy and easing supply-side pressures (Ghana Statistical Service, 2025; BoG, 2025). Growth also showed signs of recovery, supported by improved macroeconomic stability, while fiscal and external balances strengthened relative to crisis-period levels.

IMF programme reviews in 2024 and 2025 highlight these developments as evidence that Ghana's macroeconomic conditions are stabilising as reforms take hold, although continued policy discipline remains essential to sustain gains and rebuild buffers (IMF, 2024; IMF, 2025 Review).

Overall, the evolving macroeconomic environment in 2025 which was characterised by declining inflation, improving fiscal metrics, exchange rate stabilisation, and ongoing structural reforms provided a more predictable and stabilising backdrop for investment and business decision-making in Ghana.

Investment Implication: Implication for Investment: The improving macroeconomic environment in 2025 enhanced investor confidence by reducing macroeconomic uncertainty, stabilising the exchange rate, and improving policy credibility. Lower inflation and tighter fiscal management contributed to a more predictable cost environment, while progress on debt restructuring reduced sovereign risk perceptions. Together, these developments strengthened Ghana's positioning as a recovering and reform-oriented investment destination, particularly for long-term investors seeking opportunities in a stabilising frontier market.

4.1 **GDP and Growth Performance**

In the aftermath of the 2022–2023 debt crisis, Ghana's economy recorded a strong and broad-based recovery. Real GDP growth rebounded from 3.1 per cent in 2023 to 5.7 per cent in 2024 and accelerated further to 6.0 per cent in 2025. The provisional full-year GDP data released by the Ghana Statistical Service confirm the recovery trajectory. Growth for Q1–Q4 2025 averaged approximately 6.0 per cent for overall GDP and 7.6 per cent for non-oil GDP; full-year 2025 data are noted in the

Growth Trends 2023–2025

Table 1: **GDP Growth**

INDICATOR	2023	2024	2025
Overall GDP Growth (%)	3.1	5.7	6.0
Non-Oil GDP Growth (%)	3.6	6.0	7.6

Source: Bank of Ghana (2025), based on Ghana Statistical Service and Ministry of Finance data.

Ghana's nominal GDP is estimated to have reached approximately GH₵1.4 trillion in 2025, reflecting continued expansion in economic output despite earlier macroeconomic constraints (Bank of Ghana, 2025).

Full-year provisional data from GSS confirm nominal GDP at GH₵1.434 trillion, consistent with this estimate.

4.2 Sectoral Performance and Drivers of Growth

Agriculture

The agriculture sector remained a key pillar of Ghana's recovery, supported by strong performance in the cocoa subsector and improved food crop production. High international cocoa prices averaging approximately US$8,139.2 per tonne in 2025 boosted farmer incomes and export receipts (World Bank, 2025). Government interventions aimed at improving productivity, including input support and irrigation initiatives, contributed to steady growth in the sector (Ministry of Finance, 2025). Agriculture's resilience also played a stabilizing role in moderating food inflation and supporting rural livelihoods.

Industry

Industrial growth was driven by both extractive and non-extractive subsectors. Gold production benefited from elevated global prices, averaging about US$3,439 per fine ounce thereby supporting export earnings and fiscal revenues (Bank of Ghana, 2025; World Bank, 2025). The oil and gas sector also contributed positively, supported by stable production from existing fields.Importantly, manufacturing activity showed signs of recovery, reflecting improved macroeconomic stability, easing inflationary pressures, and increased domestic demand. This aligns with Ghana's broader industrialisation agenda, including value addition in agro-processing and light manufacturing (Ministry of Trade and Industry, 2024).

Services

The services sector remained the largest contributor to GDP growth, driven by strong performance in trade, information and communications, financial services, and transport. The digital economy, particularly telecommunications and mobile financial across the services sector, reinforcing its role as a key engine of growth.
services continued to expand rapidly, supported by sustained investment and innovation (Bank of Ghana, 2025). Improved macroeconomic conditions, including declining inflation and exchange rate stability, supported consumer demand and business activity

4.2.1 Linkages to FDI Performance

The sectoral recovery observed in 2025 closely aligns with trends in foreign direct investment (FDI), with capital inflows increasingly targeting highgrowth and high-potential sectors of the economy.

» **Agriculture and agro-processing** attracted growing investor interest, particularly in cocoa value addition, horticulture, and food processing, reflecting opportunities to leverage global commodity demand and regional export markets under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) (GIPC, 2025).

» **Industry,** especially manufacturing and extractives, continued to receive significant FDI inflows. Investments in mining and upstream petroleum remained important, while renewed interest in light manufacturing and pharmaceuticals reflects Ghana's positioning as a regional production hub (UNCTAD, 2024; GIPC, 2025).

» **Services,** notably ICT, fintech, logistics, and trade emerged as leading recipients of FDI, driven by Ghana's expanding digital ecosystem, urbanisation, and growing middle class (World Bank, 2025; GIPC, 2025).

The strong performance of non-oil GDP growth (7.6% in 2025) is particularly significant from an investment perspective, as it signals diversification of economic activity into sectors that are more labour-intensive and investment-driven. This reinforces Ghana's attractiveness to foreign investors seeking opportunities beyond traditional extractive industries.

4.2.2 Conclusion and Investment Implications

Overall, Ghana's growth recovery in 2025 reflects a combination of favourable external conditions and improved domestic macroeconomic management. The broad-based expansion across agriculture, industry, and services indicates strengthening economic fundamentals and increasing resilience.

Implication for Investment: The alignment between sectoral growth and FDI inflows underscores Ghana's transition toward a more diversified and investment-driven growth model. As macroeconomic stability continues to improve, opportunities are expected to expand in agro-processing, manufacturing, digital services, and value-added exports. This positions Ghana as a competitive destination for long-term investors seeking access to both domestic and regional markets (IMF, 2024; World Bank, 2025; GIPC, 2025).

4.3.1 Sectoral Contribution to GDP

Ghana's economy is broadly structured around three sectors: services, industry, and agriculture with services playing an increasingly dominant role in economic activity. 2025 provisional data from Ghana Statistical Service show a modest rebalancing across sectors as noted below.

Table 2: **Sector Contribution to GDP**

SECTOR	SHARE OF GDP (%)
Services	45.9
Industry	31.3
Agriculture	22.8

Source: Ghana Statistical Service (2025)

This structure reflects the growing importance of services including trade, finance, telecommunications, and transport as key drivers of economic growth and structural transformation. The services sector has consistently accounted for the largest share of GDP, supported by strong expansion in ICT, financial services, education, and health. The industry sector remains the second-largest contributor, comprising mining, oil and gas, construction, and manufacturing. Its performance continues to be influenced by global commodity price cycles. The agriculture sector continues to play a critical role, particularly in employment, food security, and rural livelihoods.

4.3.2 Sectoral Growth Performance

Recent economic data indicate that Ghana's growth recovery has been driven primarily by services and agriculture. The services sector recorded the strongest growth, expanding by approximately 9.9% in Q2 2025, driven largely by ICT, finance, and trade. The agriculture sector also demonstrated resilience, with growth of approximately 5.2 per cent in Q2 2025. By contrast, industrial growth has remained relatively moderate, reflecting slower performance in some subsectors including construction and manufacturing.

Table 3: **Sectoral Growth Performance**

SECTOR	Q1 2025 (%)	Q2 2025 (%)	Q1 - Q4 2025 (%)
Agriculture	6.6	5.2	6.8
Industry	4.1	2.3	2.3
Services	7.8	9.9	8.1

Source: Bank of Ghana (2025) ; full-year updates from Ghana Statistical Service Q4 2025 GDP Highlights

4.3.3 Inflation Trends and Drivers

Inflation has been a central macroeconomic challenge in recent years but declined significantly in 2025 as stabilization measures took effect. Headline inflation declined from 23.8 per cent in December 2024 to approximately 5.4 per cent by December 2025, reflecting a broad-based easing in both food and nonfood prices (Ghana Statistical Service, 2025; Bank of Ghana, 2025). This marks a significant milestone in Ghana's macroeconomic stabilization process and represents the lowest rate since the CPI was rebased in 2021.

Table 4: Inflation Trends

Period	**Inflation Rate (%)**	**Key Observation**
Dec 2022	54.1	Peak during crisis
End-2023	23.2	Rapid disinflation begins
End-2024	23.8	Inflation remains elevated
May 2025	18.4	Continued decline
Sep 2025	9.4	Headline single digit (BoG Cedi@60 announcement)
Oct 2025	8.0	Returns to BoG target band (8±2%)
Nov 2025	6.3	Sustained disinflation
Dec 2025	5.4	12th consecutive monthly decline (lowest since 2021 rebase)

Source: **Ghana Statistical Service** (**2025**); January 2026 figure from GSS CPI Bulletin January 2026.

The disinflation trend was driven by monetary tightening, exchange rate appreciation (cedi appreciated 40.67% against the US dollar in 2025), fiscal consolidation, and commodity windfalls from elevated gold and cocoa prices.

4.4 Fiscal Policy Development

Fiscal policy in the post-crisis period has been anchored on consolidation aimed at restoring debt sustainability and stabilizing public finances. The 2025 Mid-Year Fiscal Policy Review reports improved fiscal performance, supported by stronger macroeconomic conditions and enhanced revenue mobilization (Ministry of Finance, 2025).

Key pillars of the consolidation strategy include expenditure rationalization, domestic revenue mobilization, and Public Financial Management (PFM) reforms. These efforts are being implemented under Ghana's IMF-supported Extended Credit Facility (ECF) programme, approved in May 2023 with total financing of approximately US$3 billion.

On domestic debt, DDEP was implemented in 2023 to restore debt sustainability. On external debt, an OCC Memorandum of Understanding was signed in January 2025 under the G20 Common Framework, with subsequent bilateral agreements. Ghana's improving macroeconomic outlook was reflected in a sovereign rating upgrade by S&P Global Ratings from 'Selective Default (SD)' to 'B-' in November 2025.

Monetary policy in 2025 remained appropriately tight, with the Bank of Ghana maintaining a restrictive stance to support disinflation and exchange rate stability. A key initiative has been the Domestic Gold Purchase Programme (Gold for Reserves), which contributed significantly to foreign exchange inflows and reserve accumulation. Gold reserves increased notably in 2025 reflecting a strategic shift toward leveraging Ghana's gold resources to strengthen macroeconomic buffers (Bank of Ghana, 2025).

The Ghanaian cedi recorded a strong turnaround in 2025. By mid-year, it had appreciated significantly against major currencies, supported by improved external balances, tight monetary policy, and increased foreign exchange inflows. This appreciation contributed to easing imported inflation and reinforcing macroeconomic stability.

» Foreign Exchange Reserves

Ghana's gross international reserves increased to approximately US$13.8 billion by end-December 2025, equivalent to about 5.7 months of import cover, up from US$9.1 billion at end-2024 (Ministry of Finance, 2025). This improvement reflects stronger export earnings, particularly from gold and cocoa alongside moderated import demand, supporting the rebuilding of external buffers and enhancing resilience to shocks.

4.5 Conclusion and Investment Relevance

Ghana's macroeconomic environment in 2025 reflects a transition from crisis to stabilization, characterized by declining inflation, improving fiscal balances, exchange rate recovery, and strengthening external reserves. Sectoral dynamics indicate that growth is currently driven by services and agriculture, with gradual recovery in industry.

Implication for Investment: The evolving macroeconomic and sectoral landscape supports a more stable and predictable investment environment. Strong services growth particularly in ICT and finance, combined with opportunities in agro processing and industrial value addition, positions Ghana as an increasingly attractive destination for diversified and long-term investment (IMF, 2024; World Bank, 2025; GIPC, 2025).



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5.1 **FDI Figures** Table 4: Inflation Trends

5.1.1 Headline FDI / Macro / BoP-based

The headline FDI figures presented in this section are based on the Balance of Payments (BoP) statistics compiled by the Bank of Ghana. This provides a comprehensive record of cross-border investment transactions between residents and non-resident entities. These flows comprise equity other than reinvested earnings, reinvested earnings, and debt instruments between affiliates.

The data shows that net incurrence of direct investment liabilities increased from US$1,765.60 million in 2024 to US$1,908.24 million in 2025, reflecting sustained foreign investor confidence amid ongoing economic recovery. On a quarterly basis, inflows recorded steady growth and peaked at US$549.4 million in Q3 2025, before moderating to US$451.9 million in Q4 2025. Table 5 and figure 1 provide a breakdown of these inflows.

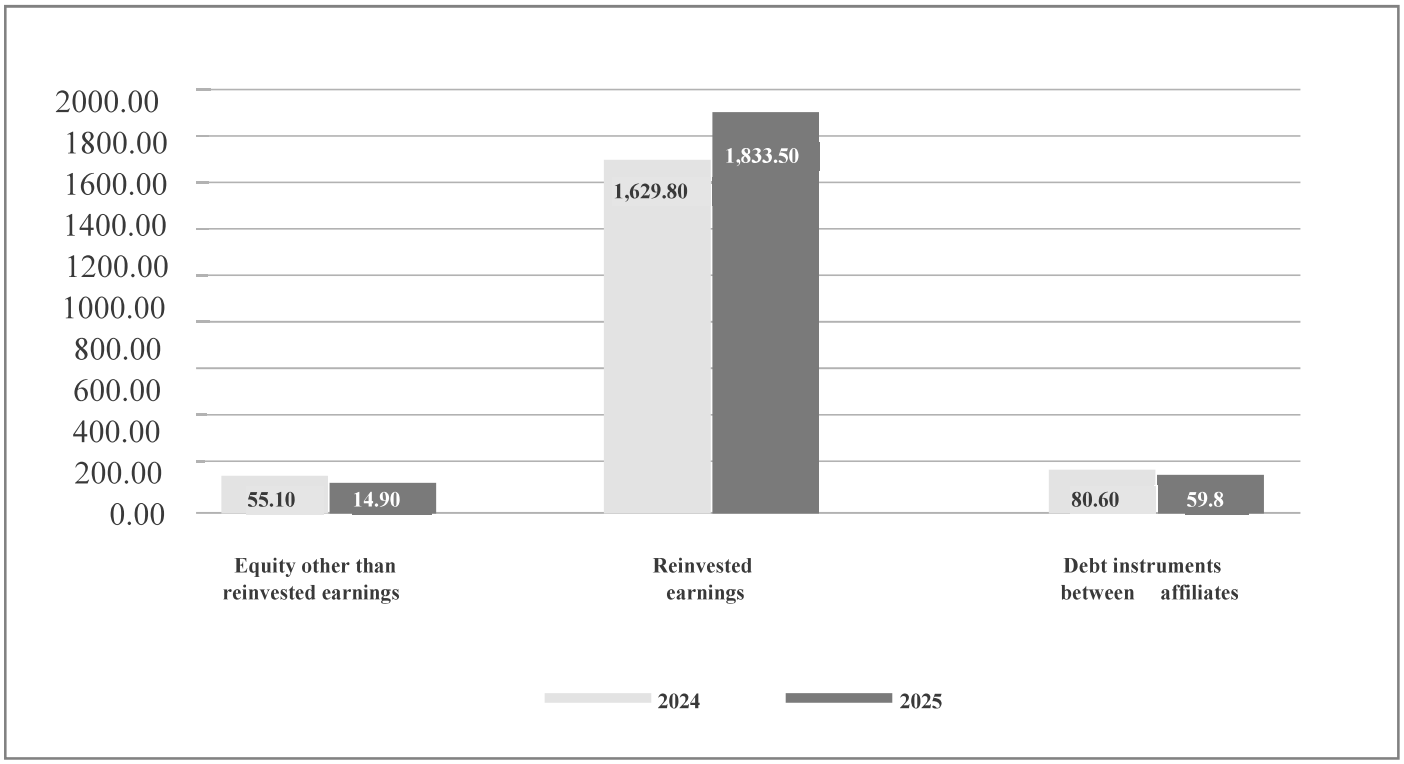
Table 5: Headline FDI Inflows by the Bank of Ghana

Direct Investment (DI) Flows into Ghana (In millions of US$)	**Q1**	**Q2**	**Q3**	**Q4**	**ANNUAL**	**Q1**	**Q2**	**Q3**	**Q4**	**ANNUAL**
		20	**24**				**2**	**025**		
Net Incurrence of DI Liabilities	382.4	420.2	468.7	494.3	1,765.60	392.6	514.4	549.4	451.9	1,908.2
Equity other than reinvested earnings	23.6	14.3	11.5	5.8	55.1	6.6	2.6	2.8	2.9	14.9
Reinvested earnings	350.9	389.4	435.2	454.3	1,629.80	368.6	476.3	533	455.7	1,833.50
Debt instruments between affiliates	7.9	16.5	22	34.2	80.6	17.4	35.5	13.7	-6.7	59.8

Source: Bank of Ghana BoP Statistics (2025).

Note: *Reinvested earnings dominate 2025 inflows (US$ 1,833.50 million or 95.4% of total), reflecting strong investor retention.*

Figure 1: Annual Investment inflows by component (US$ M)



5.1.2 Actual Investments : Project-based

By the end of 2025, **a total of 254 new investment projects and existing companies** was recorded by the GIPC, the Petroleum Commission and the Ghana Free Zones Authority (GFZA). These investments amounted to a **total foreign direct investment (FDI) of US$2.62 billion (US$2,623.33 million).** These investments comprised of 181 new investment projects with FDI amount of US$1.44 B (US$1,437.71 million) and 13 existing companies with additional equity amounting to US$269.06 million by the GIPC, 42 new capital investments with FDI amount of US$176.58 million by the GFZA and 18 existing companies by the Petroleum Commission, operating in the upstream petroleum sector, contributing US$739.98 million. Table 6 provides a breakdown of these investments.

Table 6: **Actual Investments Recorded for 2025**

	INSTITUTION	NUMBER OF PROJECTS/COMPANIES	FDI VALUE (US$ M)
New Investment Projects	GIPC	181	1,437.71
New Capital Investments	GFZA	42*	176.58
Existing Companies	Petroleum Commission	18	739.98
	GIPC	13	269.06
TOTAL		**254**	**2,623.33**

Source: **GIPC, Petroleum Commission, GFZA,**

The 181 new investment projects also contributed a local equity amount of US$42.03 million as well as a total initial capital transfer amounting to US$44.59 million. Of the 181 new investment projects, wholly foreign-owned projects accounted for 70.72% by number and 55.58% by value, while joint ventures

contributed 29.28% by number and 44.42% by investment value, reflecting growing collaboration between Ghanaian and foreign investors and strengthening local participation.

From a sectoral perspective, FDI value was concentrated in a smaller number of high-value sectors. Mining Services attracted the largest FDI value at US$506.61 million, followed by Manufacturing at US$368.71 million and Services at US$306.36 million. Manufacturing accounted for the highest number of new projects, with 99 projects, followed by Services with 43 projects and General Trade with 20 projects.

This pattern highlights strong investor interest in Ghana's extractive, industrial and service sectors, while underscoring opportunities to deepen value addition, strengthen domestic value chains, improve access to finance and technology, and enhance the contribution of investment to export growth, enterprise development and job creation.

Figures 2 and 3 below provide further details.

Figure 2: **Sectoral Breakdown by Number of New Investment Projects Registered by GIPC**

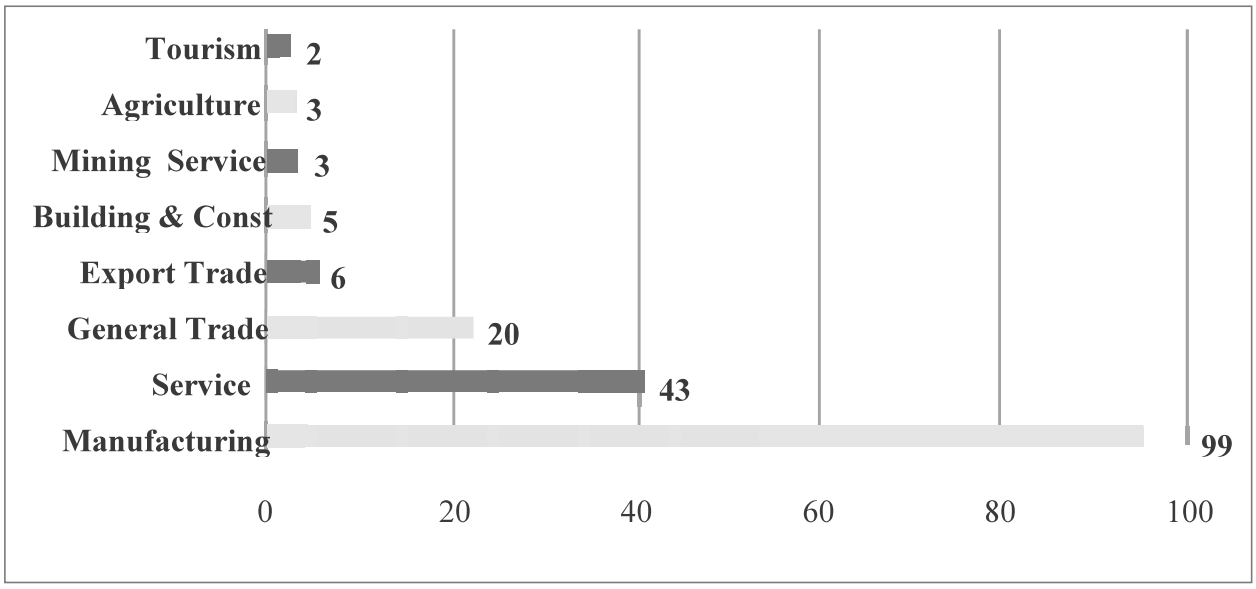
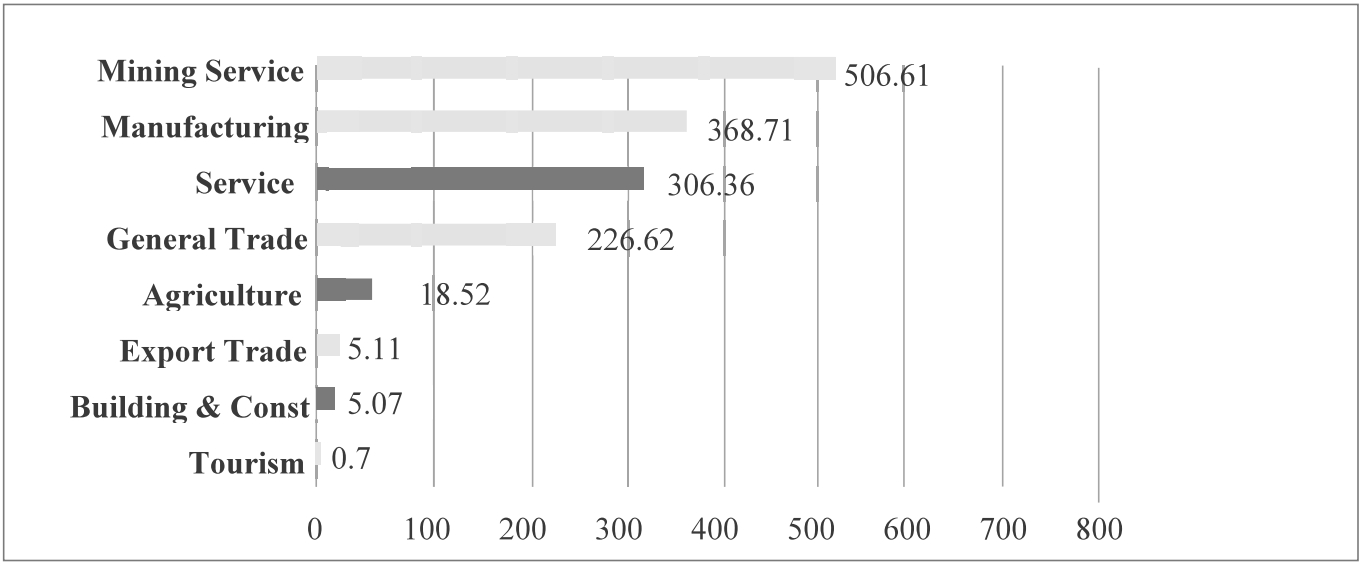


Figure 3: **Sectoral Breakdown by FDI Value (US$ M) – New Investment Projects Registered by GIPC**



In terms of sources of investments, the number of investment projects registered with foreign participation were led by China, which accounted for 70 projects, followed by India with 22 projects, and Nigeria with 10 projects. Other notable contributors included the UAE, the United Kingdom, Turkey, and the USA. This distribution underscores sustained investor interest from Asia, Europe, and North America in Ghana's growing economy.

In terms of FDI value, the Cayman Islands emerged as the largest source, contributing US$500.56 million, closely followed by China with US$486.06 million. Significant inflows were also recorded from Nigeria (US$104.68 million), France/Nigeria (US$100.11 million), and the USA (US$51.42 million).

The contrast between project numbers and FDI value highlights that some countries are driving fewer but larger, capital-intensive investments, particularly in resource-based, infrastructure, and export-oriented sectors.

Overall, the data reflects a combination of broadbased investor participation across multiple countries and targeted high-value investments from specific regions. Leveraging these trends through tailored investment incentives and strategic engagement with high-value investors will be key to sustaining and diversifying foreign investment in Ghana.

Table 7 and figure 4 below provides a breakdown of the sources of investments recorded.

Table 7: **Sources of Registered Investments by Number and by FDI value**

Country	No. of Projects	Country	FDI (US$ M)
China	70	Cayman Islands	500.56
India	22	China	486.06
Nigeria	10	Nigeria	104.68
UAE	9	France/Nigeria	100.11
United Kingdom	8	USA	51.42
Turkey	7	UAE	38.61
India/Ghana	4	India	30.71
Mauritius	4	Morocco	20.00
USA	4	Romania	18.00
Lebanon	3	Mauritius	17.40

Figure 4: **Sources of Registered Investments by Number and by FDI Value (US$ M)**



Regionally, registered investment projects were predominantly concentrated in the Greater Accra Region, which accounted for 143 projects substantially higher than Ashanti with 18 projects and the Western Region with 9 projects. This concentration underscores Greater Accra's enduring appeal as Ghana's commercial and administrative hub, driven by superior infrastructure, access to finance, and proximity to key markets and institutions.



Figure 5:
Regional Distribution of New Investment Projects

However, FDI value displayed a more geographically diverse pattern. Greater Accra led in FDI value with US$619.37 million, followed closely by the Western Region with US$553.99 million, and the Eastern Region with US$241.50 million, despite a relatively lower number of projects. This trend reflects the presence of large-scale, capital-intensive investments in resource-based activities, infrastructure, and export-oriented ventures outside the capital.

These trends demonstrate that while Greater Accra remains the leading destination for investment projects in terms of volume, other regions are increasingly attracting high-value investments. The strong showing of the Western and Eastern Regions highlights the potential of resource-driven and export-oriented sectors. To capitalize on these opportunities, continued focus on regional development, infrastructure improvement, and strategic investment incentives will be essential to **Regional Distribution of New Investment Projects.**

drive more balanced and inclusive economic growth across the country.

Details are provided in figure 5.

Employment Generated: A total of 18,748 jobs were expected to be generated from the 223 projects registered projects in 2025, once these projects operated at full capacity. Of this total, 42 projects registered with the Ghana Free Zones Authority (GFZA) were expected to generate 6,436 jobs, comprising 175 non-Ghanaians and 6,261 Ghanaians.

Domestic investment also remained robust in 2025, reaching a total of US$816.05 million. This comprised seventy-one (71) wholly Ghanaian-owned projects registered by the GIPC, with an estimated total project value of US$685.94 million, as well as US$130.11 million in local investment recorded by the Petroleum Commission in the upstream petroleum sector.

Table 8: **Registered Wholly Ghanaian-Owned Projects (2025)**

Sector	No. of Projects	Total Estimated Cost (US$ M)
Agriculture	3	0.14
Building & Construction	1	0.05
General Trading	27	233.68
Manufacturing	7	4.85
Service	29	446.39
Tourism	4	0.84
TOTAL	**71**	**685.95**

The remaining 181 projects registered with the GIPC were projected to create 12,312 jobs, of which 1,645 are expected to be held by non-Ghanaians, while the remaining 10,667 were expected to be filled by Ghanaians.

Overall, Ghanaians were expected to occupy 90.3% of the total jobs to be generated, while non-Ghanaians will account for the remaining 9.7%.

The GIPC-registered projects were distributed across agriculture, building and construction, general trade, manufacturing, and services, reflecting continued local private sector participation across key areas of the economy. A breakdown of GIPC's registered projects is provided in Table 8 below.

5.1.3 Announced Investments (Pipeline)

In addition to registered projects and existing companies recording Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows, approximately US$11.48 billion in announced investments were tracked for Ghana in 2025. These prospective investments span key sectors including manufacturing, agriculture, mining, energy, technology, tourism, and infrastructure.

Key announced investments include:

» **US$581 million** in prospective investment commitments secured through Presidential Business Fora coordinated by the GIPC during the official visits of John Dramani Mahama to Japan and Singapore in the second half of 2025. The commitments comprise:

- Manufacturing – US$181 million
- Services – US$300 million
- Agriculture – US$100 million

» **Government-led investor-friendly reforms** further strengthened investor confidence and investment prospects.

According to Ghana's 2026 Budget Statement and Economic Policy, these reforms contributed to securing over US$3.5 billion in new investment commitments, comprising:

- A US$2 billion framework agreement for the Jubilee and TEN oil fields to drill 20 new wells; and
- A US$1.5 billion Memorandum of Intent with Offshore Cape Three Points partners to expand petroleum operations.

» Aljadad announced a commitment of approximately US$5 billion towards the establishment of a fertilizer manufacturing plant at the Atuabo Petroleum Hub. The project is expected to produce ammonia and urea using natural gas feedstock and support Ghana's industrial and agricultural transformation agenda.

» Ghana and the United Arab Emirates signed a US$1 billion agreement to develop Africa's largest innovation and Artificial Intelligence hub under the "Ghana-UAE Innovations and Technology Hub" initiative in Ningo-Prampram.

» Chinese investors under the Greenhouse Group announced a US$300 million Bright International Amusement Park project. The project includes a five-star hotel, conference centre, water park, golf villas, artificial beach, and other leisure infrastructure intended to strengthen tourism and business travel in Ghana.

» MTN Group announced plans to invest approximately US$1.1 billion in Ghana over the next three years to expand and strengthen telecommunications infrastructure, improve network resilience and service delivery, and support the country's digital transformation.

5.2 Comparison to Regional Peers
Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Togo, Ivory Coast

» FDI Performance

- FDI inflows into West Africa remain concentrated in a few key economies, primarily Nigeria, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.

- **Nigeria continues** to attract substantial inflows, largely on account of its large domestic market, abundant natural resources and the scale of investment opportunities, although recent macroeconomic and foreign exchange constraints have tempered investor activity.

- **Côte d'Ivoire has emerged** as one of the fastestgrowing investment destinations in the sub-region, supported by sustained public investment in infrastructure, the development of industrial zones and consistently strong economic growth.

- **Ghana maintains** a competitive position as a preferred destination for both efficiency-seeking and market-seeking FDI. This performance is underpinned by its stable political environment, transparent regulatory regime and relatively diversified sectoral distribution of investments.

- In contrast, **Togo attracts** comparatively smaller, but steadily rising inflows, driven mainly by its logistics and trade-hub strategy anchored on the Port of Lomé.

- **Burkina Faso's FDI** remains largely resource-based and is constrained by security challenges, which continue to limit both the scale and diversification of inflows.

» Ease of Doing Business/Business Environment

- **The business regulatory** environment across the selected countries of Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Togo and Ivory Coast reflects varying levels of competitiveness.

- **According to the World Bank's** Doing Business 2020 – the last globally comparable ranking, Togo (97th) and Côte d'Ivoire (110th) were among the leading reformers in the sub-region, recording notable progress in business registration, access to credit and cross-border trade procedures. Ghana ranked 118th and performed relatively well in investor protection and access to credit, but faced challenges in areas such as electricity, property registration and contract enforcement. Nigeria ranked 131st, reflecting ongoing reforms alongside persistent structural bottlenecks, while Burkina Faso ranked 151st, indicating a more constrained business environment.

- **Under the World Bank's** new Business Ready (B-READY) 2025 framework, Togo currently leads the West African region in the overall quality of the business environment, reflecting sustained regulatory reforms and improvements in business entry processes. Ghana follows as a strong performer in regulatory quality, particularly in the financial sector and labour market framework, although operational efficiency and public service delivery remain key areas for further reform.

- **Ghana's Competitive Position:** Ghana continues to rank among the most attractive investment destinations in West Africa, supported by its political stability, adherence to the rule of law, welldeveloped financial sector and the presence of the AfCFTA Secretariat, which reinforces its position as a regional business and services hub. Nevertheless, the rapid reform momentum in Côte d'Ivoire and Togo, especially in industrial development and trade facilitation points to intensifying competition for export-oriented and logistics-related investments.

- **To sustain and strengthen** its competitive edge, Ghana will need to accelerate reforms aimed at reducing the cost of doing business, improving infrastructure and energy reliability, expanding digital public services and enhancing investor aftercare. These measures will be critical to attracting largescale, high-value and efficiency-seeking FDI and to consolidating the country's position as a leading investment destination in the sub-region. Further details are provided in table 9 below.

Table 9: **Comparison to Regional Peers**

Country	FDI Position in West Africa	Business Rank (B-READY / DoB)	Key Business Environment Strength
Ghana	Among top 3 destinations	4th Africa/118th	Investor protection, stable regulatory regime
Nigeria	Largest market, resource, driven inflows	131st	Market size, ongoing business reforms
Cote d'Ivoire	Fast growing industrial hub	Top reformer/110th	Strong reform momentum, infrastructure development
Togo	Small but rising logistics -led	Regional Lead/97th	Fast business start-up, efficient port and trade systems
Burkina Faso	Low; mining dominated	151st	Relatively simple business registration (but security constraints)

5.3 Investor Voices & Testimonials

Three investor testimonials are featured in the report: Olam Agri, Bright International Industrial Park, and Toyota Tsusho Manufacturing Ghana. These firms emphasize Ghana's political stability, skilled workforce, receptive government, and suitability as a base for West African manufacturing and distribution operations.

5.3.1 Olam Agri

Olam Agri's testimonial reflects the voice of a long-term investor whose confidence in Ghana has strengthened over more than three decades of operation. Its experience demonstrates how Ghana can support an investor's evolution from commodity trading into processing, manufacturing, and distribution, while sustaining growth through local value addition and skills development.

As the company explains: "**We realized that the government here is very receptive to business. We also realized that the political situation is surely one of the best on the continent. You have manpower, both skilled and semi-skilled, natural resources, and people who believe in quality products and customer service. So, we realized that this is a good environment to not only trade but also do local manufacturing and distribution.**"

This confidence is matched by a forward-looking commitment to expansion, captured in the company's message to other investors: **"If somebody asks me when the best time is to invest in Ghana, I'll tell them: invest now, because Ghana is open for business."**

5.3.2 Bright International Industrial Park

Bright International Industrial Park offers the perspective of an investor that selected Ghana as the base for a broader West African vision after assessing several alternatives across the continent. Its testimony highlights the importance of Ghana's political stability, peace, and the character of its people in shaping that decision.

In the words of Chairman Zheng Xiangming: **"Before we chose Ghana, we went through the neighboring countries to check, but we found out that Ghana is very politically stable and very peaceful and the people are very kind, very nice. So, we decided to settle here. I travelled more than 14 African**

countries, and I decided to settle in Ghana with my whole family. Ghana is a good place to come and set up your business."

The company's account also reflects the scale of transformation industrial investment can drive, from employment creation to local community growth, reinforced by its concluding affirmation: **"We are very happy to be in Ghana. It's our first overseas factory. Ghanaians are very talented and very friendly employees… GHANA IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS."**

5.3.3 Toyota Tsusho Manufacturing Ghana

Toyota Tsusho Manufacturing Ghana presents the voice of an investor whose entry into Ghana was shaped by both strategic policy direction and strong national fundamentals. Its testimony shows how a clear industrial policy framework, combined with an educated and welcoming population, can provide the basis for a confident manufacturing investment.

As Managing Director Ryuta Yoshikawa notes: **"Ghana has a very high level of education, and almost everyone speaks English. On the other hand, Ghanaians are very friendly and kind, which I think contributes tothe country's safety and ease of living. Supported by these strong fundamentals, I am confident that Ghana's economy will continue to grow steadily in the future."** That confidence is reinforced by the company's broader investment outlook and message to peers: **"Ghana has very talented and educated people, and they are peaceful and a stable country. I can say Ghana is full of potential and now is the time for all companies to take part in its growth."**

5.4 Investment Drive in 2025

GIPC conducted a comprehensive programme of investment missions and local investment drives during 2025, encompassing events across Ghana China, Japan, Singapore, Senegal, and the UAE. Key outcomes include a US$200 million commitment from Olam Group and a US$300 million Letter of Intent from Perennial Holdings at the Africa-Singapore Business Forum; a US$100 million commitment from Degas Limited and a two-year MoU with JETRO at TICAD 9; and GIPC winning the Excellence in Aftercare Award at the WAIPA World Investment Conference.

Table 10: **Investment Missions by Ghana Investment Promotion Authority in 2025**

Event	Date	Location	Strategic Focus	Key Outcome
Ninth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 9) & Presidential Investment Forum	20th -22nd August	Yokohama, Japan	Showcased Ghana's competitive advantages, presented bankable investment opportunities, and strengthened Ghana–Japan economic relations	• A $100 million investment commitment by Degas Limited in AI-powered agriculture. • A two-year Memorandum of Understanding between the GIP and JETRO to deepen bilateral cooperation on trade and investment

Africa-Singapore Business Forum & Presidential Investment Forum	26th -28th August	Singapore	Showcased Ghana's competitive advantages, presented bankable investment opportunities, and strengthened Ghana–Singapore economic relations	• $200 million investment commitment from the Olam Group • $300 million Letter of Intent from Perennial Holdings to construct an ultra-modern 5-star hotel, a convention centre, residential apartments and a retail Centre. • Memorandum of Understanding with the Singapore Cooperation Enterprise to enhance Ghana's investment promotion strategies

Table 10: **Investment Missions by Ghana Investment Promotion Authority in 2025**

Event	Date	Location	Strategic Focus	Key Outcome
UN General Assembly **US-Ghana Executive Business Dialogue**	24th September	NASDAQ Headquarters, New York, USA	Deepened Ghana US economic and diplomatic cooperation while promoting Ghana's priority investment opportunities	Enabled direct engagements and strengthened bilateral relations

Presidential Visit to Beijing	10th -16th October	Beijing, China	Showcased Ghana's competitive advantages, presented bankable investment opportunities, and strengthened Ghana–China economic relations	• Signed agreements on environmental sustainability, green transition projects, infrastructure development, industrialization initiatives • ¥400 million grant from China • Plans for a $150 million glass float factory • Commitment to finalizing a zero percent tariff agreement.
Offshore Technology Conference 2025 **Africa energy Forum**	5th-8th May	Houston, Texas, USA	Showcased investment opportunities, financing strategies and explored other renewable energy sources	Enabled direct engagements aimed at positioning Ghana as a competitive offshore destination
Forum on China Africa Cooperation	11th June	Changsha, China	Deepened Ghana China economic and diplomatic cooperation while promoting Ghana's priority investment opportunities	Enabled direct engagements and strengthened bilateral relations

Table 10: **Investment Missions by Ghana Investment Promotion Authority in 2025**

Event	Date	Location	Strategic Focus	Key Outcome
Intra African Trade Fair	4th -10th September	Algiers, Algeria	Showcased Ghana's competitive advantages, presented bankable investment opportunities	Enabled direct engagements aimed at positioning Ghana as a preferred investment destination
World Expo Osaka	11th September	Osaka, Japan	Showcased Ghana's competitive advantages, present bankab e investment opportunities	Highlighted opportunities in agribusiness, automotive manufacturing, ICT, and renewable energy, reinforcing Ghana's strategic role as a gateway to the West African market under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)
2nd Edition Future Investment Initiative Senegal Forum	7th October	Dakar, Senegal	Explored business and investment opportunities	Enabled direct engagements of potential investors who showed interest in doing business in Ghana
WAIPA World Investment Conference	21st - 23rd October	Sharjah, UAE	Focused on international investment cooperation, regional leadership, and the promotion of policies that foster inclusive and sustainable economic growth	• Recipient of the Excellence in Aftercare award during the Investment Awards • The Centre was elected as a Regional Director for Sub Sharan Africa to serve on the WAIPA steering committee for 2025-2027

Table 11: **Events and Missions by Bank Of Ghana in 2025**

Event	Date	Location
IMF SSA Central Bank Network Seminar on CBDC and Digital Payments	May 12-13, 2025	17th floor -Bank Square
3i Africa Policy Summit	May 14,2025	Kempinski Gold Coast Hotel
Collateral Registry's 15TH Anniversary	June 9-10,2025	Alisa Hotel, Ridge
Financial Market Stakeholder Engagement with Ghana Shippers' Council	July 15, 2025	17th floor, Bank Square
Financial Stability CROs Stakeholder Engagement	October 23,2025	Alisa Hotel, Ridge.
Cedi @ 60 Celebrations	October 28-31, 2025	Accra International Conference Centre
Pan-African Central Bank Governor's Conference	November 10-11, 2025	Kempinski Gold Coast Hotel

Table 12: **Events and Missions by Petroleum Commission in 2025**

Event	Date	Location	Strategic Focus	Key Outcome

Petroleum Commission and Members of the Ghana Upstream Petroleum Chamber Roundtable Meeting	21st March 2025	The Best Western Premier Accra Airport Hotel	Ways of enhancing efforts at investments in the Upstream Petroleum Sector	Deepened investment prospects
CEO'S Courtesy Visit to Upstream Petroleum Stakeholders	24th March 2025	Takoradi, Western Region	Enhancing stakeholder collaborations in the upstream petroleum space	Deepened stakeholder collaborations
Petroleum Commission and Trade Administration of Israel Explore Strategic Collaboration in Ghana's Upstream Sector	10th April 2025	Petroleum Commission Head Office	Promoting Ghana's Upstream petroleum industry for strategic investment	Enhanced prospects for foreign investment
2025 Investment Promotion Drive at the Offshore Technology Conference	5th May 2025	Houston, Texas, USA	Promoting Ghana's Upstream petroleum industry for strategic investment	Enhanced prospects for foreign investment
Showcase Ghana's Upstream Potential at Africa Energies Summit	13th May 2025	Central London, UK	Promoting Ghana's Upstream petroleum industry for strategic investment	Enhanced prospects for foreign investment

Pursue International Collaboration at 2025 Global Energy Show	10th June 2025	Calgary, Canada	Promoting Ghana's Upstream petroleum industry for strategic investment	Enhanced prospects for foreign investment

Table 12: **Events and Missions by Petroleum Commission in 2025 - continued**

Event	Date	Location	Strategic Focus	Key Outcome
Collaboration with Sankofa Events for Africa Oil Week 2025	15th September 2025	Kempinski Hotel, Accra	Promoting Ghana's Upstream petroleum industry for strategic investment	Enhanced prospects for foreign investment
Engagement with Enterprise Singapore on Investment Opportunities in Ghana's Upstream Petroleum Sector	29th September 2025	Petroleum Commission Head Office	Promoting Ghana's Upstream petroleum industry for strategic investment	Enhanced prospects for foreign investment
Highlights on Ghana's Upstream Opportunities at Africa Energy Week	2nd October 2025	Cape Town, South Africa	Promoting Ghana's Upstream petroleum industry for strategic investment	Enhanced prospects for foreign investment
2025 Local Content & Exhibition Conference in Takoradi	4th November 2025	Takoradi, Western Region	Annual flagship program of the Commission to assess the progress of local content and local participation in the industry	Alignment with local content and local participation objectives
Talks with Planet One to Advance Offshore Drilling Plans	4th December 2025	Dubai	Promoting Ghana's Upstream petroleum industry for strategic investment	Enhanced prospects for foreign investment

Investment Missions by Ghana Free Zones Authority in 2025

Event	Date	Location	Strategic Focus	Key Outcome
Breakfast Meeting with UK Trade Envoy to Ghana (UKGCC)	21st May 2025	GFZA HQ, Accra	Leveraging the UK–Ghana Trade Partnership Agreement to attract UK foreign direct investment into Ghana's Free Zones, particularly in export-oriented manufacturing and other eligible sectors.	The engagement provided an opportunity to promote Ghana's Free Zones Scheme and to discuss how both parties could best utilize the provisions under the agreement for mutual benefits and also explored opportunities for strengthening UK–Ghana business linkages.
GFZA Mission to Mayor of City of Columbus -Ohio	19th – 21st May 2025	Ohio, USA	Leveraging the renewal of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) to attract export oriented American investment into Ghana's Free Zones.	The Mission provided an opportunity to promote the Ghana's Free Zones Scheme to high profile American Investors as a platform for accessing opportunities under AGOA. The Authority has subsequently engaged Center of Science and Industry, Ice Miller, Ohio State University, Rocky Boots on potential investment partnership, opportunities and institutional linkages.

Business Meeting with Officials of Dubai Port (DP) World	29th May 2025	GFZA HQ, Accra	Exploring opportunities for collaboration in logistics, trade facilitation, industrial development and investment within Ghana's Free Zones ecosystem.	The engagement strengthened relations with the global logistics and ports operator and provided the platform to discuss possible collaboration in logistics leveraging on Dubai Ports extensive experience.

Investment Missions by Ghana Free Zones Authority in 2025- continued

Event	Date	Location	Strategic Focus	Key Outcome
2025 World Cooperation Industries (WCI) Ghana Forum	28th May 2025	Marriot Hotel, Accra	Promoting Ghana's Free Zones Scheme to Turkish businesses and potential investors and attracting Turkish investment into the Free Zones, particularly in manufacturing, industrial production and other priority sectors under the scheme	GFZA participated in the forum to showcase the Free Zones investment incentives and opportunities available to Turkish investors. The engagement created a platform to market the scheme to Turkish businesses, over 50 relevant engagements were carried out
4th China - Africa Economic and Trade Expo	13th June 2025.	Changsha, China	Attracting Chinese investment into Ghana's Free Zones, particularly in manufacturing, agro processing, industrial production and other export-oriented sectors, while leveraging Ghana–China trade and economic relations	GFZA used the Expo as a platform to promote Ghana's Free Zones Scheme and investment opportunities to Chinese and other international businesses. The Authority has since engaged with a potential investor for the development of the Atienza Special Economic Zone.

2025 Ghana - China Business Summit	27th June 2025	Labadie Beach Hotel, Accra	Promoting Ghana's Free Zones Scheme to Chinese investors and attracting Chinese investment into the Free Zones, with emphasis on manufacturing, industrialization and export-oriented businesses	The Ghana Free Zones Authority (GFZA) promoted Ghana's Free Zones Scheme to Chinese and Ghanaian stakeholders, pitching the country as a prime hub for export-driven investment. GFZA emphasized Ghana's strategic geographic location and key trade agreements—including AGOA, UK-TPA, the EU Trade Partnership, and AfCFTA—which offer duty-free and preferential access to major global markets.

Investment Missions by Ghana Free Zones Authority in 2025 - continued

Event	Date	Location	Strategic Focus	Key Outcome
11th World Free Zones Organization (FZO) World Congress	10th -12th October 2025	Hainan, China.	Strengthening GFZA's engagement with global Free Zones through knowledge exchange, benchmarking and strategic networking, while promoting Ghana's Free Zones as an attractive destination for international investment and partnerships.	By participating, the Ghana Free Zones Authority (GFZA) successfully engaged international stakeholders, investors, and fellow Free Zones authorities to exchange global best practices and promote Ghana's Free Zones Scheme. Ultimately, this engagement helped establish valuable international partnerships designed to drive direct investment into Ghana's Free Zones.

African Economic Zones Organization (AEZO) Annual Congress	26th - 28th, October 2025	Luanda, Angola	Strengthening cooperation with African Economic Zones and leveraging the AEZO platform to attract investment into Ghana's Free Zones, while sharing knowledge and best practices on Free Zones development across Africa.	The Congress enabled the Ghana Free Zones Authority (GFZA) to collaborate with African Economic Zones Organization (AEZO) operators and key stakeholders to exchange best practices, address management challenges, and explore actionable solutions for economic zones. Additionally, participants evaluated strategies to improve tenant experiences and elevate zone competitiveness to both retain current businesses and draw new foreign and local investment.

World Bank Support for GIPC's Regional Investment Promotion

As part of efforts to strengthen GIPC's presence and investment promotion activities at the subnational level, the World Bank, through the Ghana Economic Transformation Project (GETP), provided three vehicles to support the operations of the GIPC regional offices in Kumasi, Takoradi, and the Northern Region. The vehicles will enhance the offices' ability to undertake field engagements, conduct investor outreach, identify and validate local investment opportunities, and provide aftercare services to businesses across their respective regions.

The support forms part of GIPC's broader local investment drive, which seeks to deepen investment promotion beyond Accra, strengthen engagement with businesses and local authorities, and identify investment opportunities within the regions.

5.5 Matrix of sectors by FDI, incentives, risks, outlook

Table 14: **Sectors by FDI Trend with Incentives, Outlook, etc**

Sector	FDI Profile (Recent Trend)	Key Incentives	Key Risks / Constraints	Outlook	Main Sources

Energy (Oil, Gas & Renewables)	High-value upstream sector; renewables rising; US$3.5bn oil & gas commitments in 2025; crude output down 25.9% in H1 2025	Petroleum licensing framework; 10-year FIT; renewable equipment duty exemptions; 10% renewable purchase obligation; Gas Master Plan	Declining reserves/ output; FX volatility; energy SOE debt; local content requirements; approval delays	Positive; E&P revival, 17 projects by 2027, gas-to power growth, natural gas as transition fuel	BoG, Energy Commission, Ministry of Energy & Green Transition, Petroleum Commission
Manufacturing (Agro processing, Light Industry)	Efficiency - seeking surge; AfCFTA exports; 99 projects	GFZA 10-yr holiday, tax rebates	Power, finance costs, logistics	Strong; industrial parks	GIPC, UNCTAD, World Bank
Mining	Gold dominant; lithium emerging (e.g., Barari DV Ghana Limited)	Stability agreements, 5-10% royalty structure, allowances	Prices, ESG compliance	Stable/ cyclical; critical minerals	Minerals Commission, UNCTAD
Agriculture & Agribusiness	Moderate growth; value chains	5-10 yr. holidays, duty-free machinery	Climate, land issues	High potential; irrigation/ processing	MoFA, GIPC
ICT / Digital Economy	Rising fintech/ telecom (mobile money surge)	VAT exemptions, ecosystem support	Skills, cyber, regulations	Strong; digital reforms	Ministry of Communication, Digital Technology & Innovations, World Bank
ICT / Digital Economy	Rising fintech/ telecom (mobile money surge)	VAT exemptions, ecosystem support	Skills, cyber, regulations	Strong; digital reforms	Ministry of Communication, Digital Technology & Innovations, World Bank
Tourism & Hospitality	Recovering post - pandemic diaspora and conference tourism support inflows	22% corporate tax hotels, locational incentives	Infrastructure gaps, exchange rate	Gradual recovery; regional integration	GTA, UNWTO

Real Estate & Construction	Moderate urban demand	PPP Opportunities, Project- based duty exemptions	Forex exposure, high construction costs	Stable; rising urban/middleclass demand	Ministry of Works and Housing, GIPC

5.6 Legislation, Policy, Regulation, Incentives

» Ghana Investment Promotion Authority (GIPA) Bill, 2025

The GIPA Bill, 2025 seeks to establish the Ghana Investment Promotion Authority (GIPA) as the lead agency responsible for promoting, facilitating, regulating, and coordinating investments in Ghana. The Bill, which was placed before parliament in 2025, expands the Authority's objectives, introduces a revised governance structure, and reviews minimum foreign capital requirements to enhance investor protection and support sustainable economic growth. It also strengthens the regulatory framework for Technology Transfer Agreements (TTAs), creating a more efficient and responsive system for managing and promoting technology transfer in Ghana.

» 24-Hour Economy (24H+) Policy

Work on the 24-Hour Economy and Accelerated Export Development Programme (24H+) formally commenced in 2025 with the establishment of the Secretariat to coordinate its implementation. The policy seeks to transform Ghana into a competitive, export-driven and industrialized economy by improving productivity, expanding industrial capacity, and fostering a more supportive investment climate. Central to the programme is a performancebased incentive framework that rewards firms for job creation, local value addition, and strong domestic linkages. Key incentives include import duty exemptions on manufacturing equipment and selected raw materials, corporate income tax reductions for companies operating multiple shifts, targeted VAT relief, tax exemptions for agriculture in strategic value chains, and discounted electricity tariffs for night operations. The initiative is designed to lower production costs, encourage continuous operations, and stimulate sustained private sector growth.

» Fiscal Incentives in Mining and Exploration

As part of the 2026 Budget reforms, Ghana removed the 15% VAT on mineral exploration and reconnaissance activities in late 2025. This measure is intended to reduce upfront costs for investors, attract greenfield mining projects, and enhance Ghana's competitiveness within the region.

» Central Bank Act Amendments

In December 2025, Parliament approved amendments to the Bank of Ghana Act to strengthen central bank independence, limit direct government financing, and improve governance standards. These reforms reinforce macroeconomic stability, enhance policy credibility, and align with IMF-supported reforms, thereby improving investor confidence.

» Regulation of Cryptocurrency and Digital Assets

On 19 December 2025, Parliament passed the Virtual Asset Service Providers (VASP) Act, 2025, establishing a formal regulatory framework for digital asset service providers. The law legalizes cryptocurrency trading under a licensed regime, introduces compliance and consumer protection standards, and places oversight under the Bank of Ghana. While virtual assets such as Bitcoin and Ethereum can be traded legally, the Ghanaian cedi remains the sole legal tender.

Overall Implications for Investment Promotion: Collectively, Ghana's 2025 reforms lower entry barriers, strengthen regulatory certainty, introduce targeted sectoral incentives, enhance fiscal competitiveness, reinforce macroeconomic stability, and open new opportunities in digital finance. These measures position Ghana as an increasingly attractive destination for both domestic and foreign investors.

Major Grievance Categories

Table 15: **Some Investor Grievance Issues Compiled by GIPC in 2025**

Category	Key Issues
Land Administration & Disputes	Lack of clarity in land titles, multiple claims, delays in approvals, encroachment issues affecting financing and project execution
Infrastructure & Utilities	Poor road networks, unreliable power supply, high tariffs, delayed utility installations, affecting production costs and logistics
Regulatory Fragmentation	Overlapping agency mandates, weak enforcement, conflicting rules, excessive discretion in tax administration
Port, Customs & Exemptions	Delays in clearance, exemption processing, high storage/demurrage fees
Taxation & Compliance	Frequent audits, unpredictable assessments, complex filing, abuse of discretion
Smuggling & Market Distortion	Counterfeit and illegal imports reducing competitiveness of local products by 15–20%
Foreign Exchange Constraints	Limited access to FX for imports and operational payments
Policy & Trade Inconsistencies	Unclear trade regulations, changing export and regional policies
Investment Facilitation Gaps	Weak district-level engagement, absence of liaison officers, poor escalation pathways

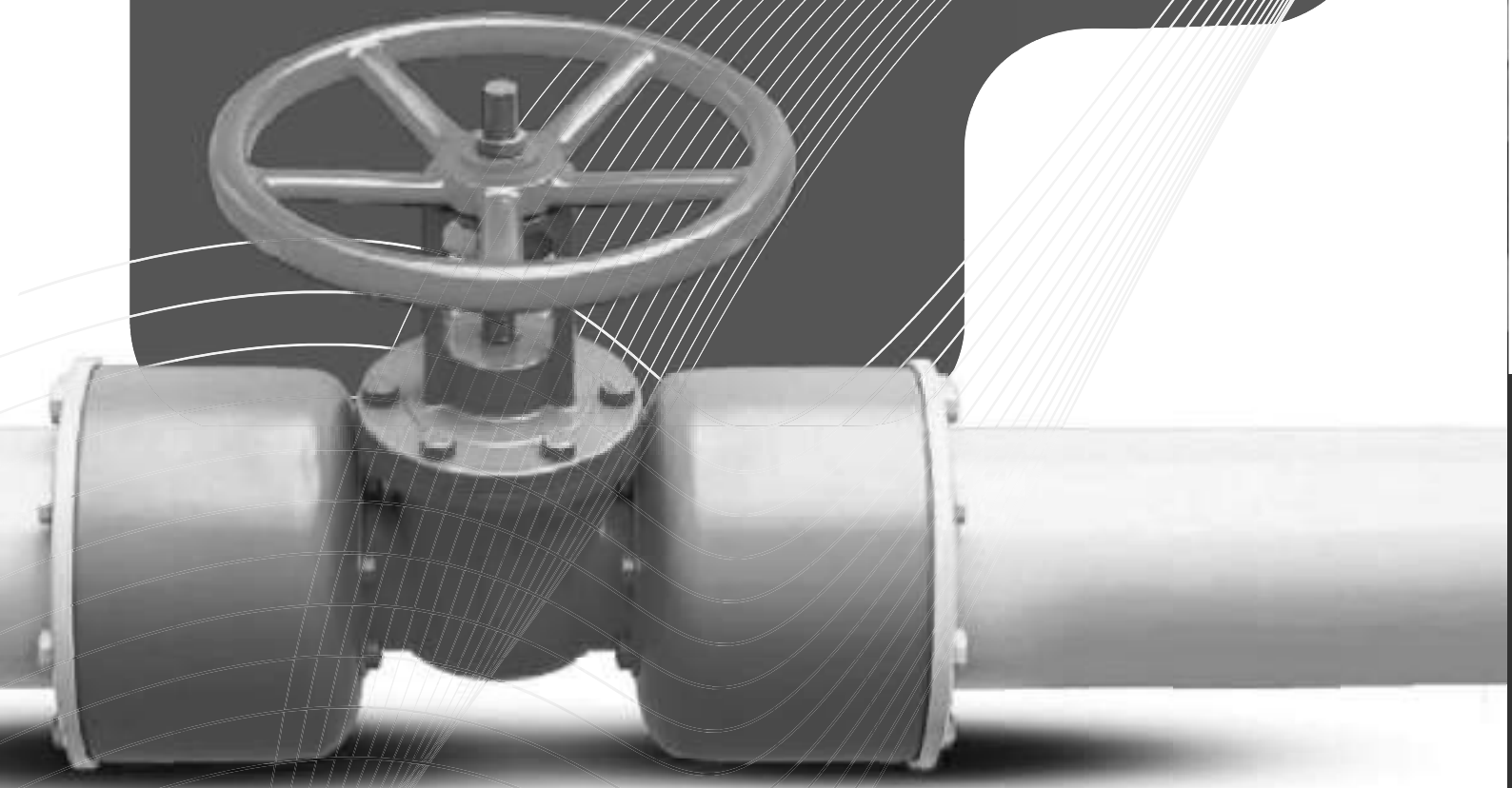
Investor grievances highlight systemic and sector-specific challenges that impact Ghana's competitiveness. Implementing coordinated reforms, improving transparency, modernizing infrastructure, and enhancing enforcement can boost investor confidence, promote reinvestment, and strengthen Ghana's position as a preferred FDI hub in West Africa.

PETROLEUM COMMISSION

Ghana's Upstream Petroleum Regulator

What We Do

- Promote Ghana's hydrocarbon potential
- Promote sustainable and cost efficient petroleum activities for the overall benefit and welfare of Ghanaians
- Monitor and ensure compliance with national policies and laws related to upstream petroleum activities
- Ensure compliance with Health, Safety, and Environmental (HSE) standards in petroleum activities
- Issue permits to companies seeking to operate in Ghana's upstream petroleum industry



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QDCM Petroleum Commission Ghana

6.1 *Macroeconomic and Investment Climate Outlook*

Ghana's macroeconomic outlook is expected to improve gradually over the medium term, supported by fiscal consolidation measures, tight monetary policy, and structural reforms aimed at restoring macroeconomic stability. Following recent economic challenges including high inflation, currency volatility, and elevated public debt levels, the Government of Ghana, with support from international partners, has implemented stabilization measures to strengthen economic fundamentals and rebuild investor confidence (International Monetary Fund, 2025; World Bank, 2025).

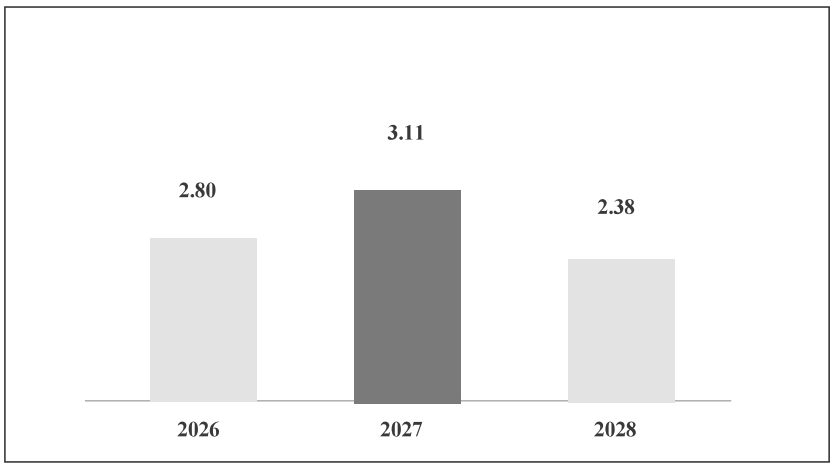
Economic growth is projected to recover steadily as key sectors such as services, mining, agriculture, and energy continue to drive economic activity. Real GDP growth is projected to reach approximately 4.8 percent in 2026, reflecting improving

6.2 *FDI Forecast*

Figure 6: **FDI Forecast** (**US$ B**)

macroeconomic conditions and a gradual recovery in domestic demand and investment. In nominal terms, earlier projections made showed Ghana's economy will expand, reaching around US$113 billion by 2026. (As of 2025, this figure had already been surpassed, reaching US$114 billion in 2025).

Macroeconomic stability improved significantly, with inflation declining to 5.4 per cent in December 2025. Ghana's investment climate is expected to benefit from its stable democratic governance, improving macroeconomic environment, and strategic position within West Africa as host of the AfCFTA Secretariat. Priority sectors with strong investment potential include renewable energy, manufacturing and industrial processing, agribusiness, digital services, tourism, and logistics.



FDI projections indicate a positive outlook over the forecast period, with inflows expected to rise from approximately US$2.80 billion in 2026 to US$3.11 billion in 2027, before moderating to US$2.38 billion in 2028, an election year. Overall, the projections point to a favourable medium-term outlook, with FDI inflows expected to remain at comparatively high levels over the period, as shown in Figure 6 above.

6.3 Sector Outlook: Growth and Emerging

Investment Opportunities

Ghana's sectoral outlook for 2026 and beyond is shaped by macro-stabilisation, structural reforms, and regional integration under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Growth is expected to be driven by a mix of established sectors with proven performance and emerging high-value sectors leveraging technology, sustainability, and regulatory innovation.

Established Growth Sectors

These sectors are highly investment-ready, with clear policy support, robust market demand, and existing infrastructure.

» Agro-Processing and Agribusiness (Short-Term / High Readiness)

• **Agro-processing remains** a cornerstone of Ghana's industrial transformation. Strong agricultural output, particularly cocoa, cashew, oil palm, and horticulture provides the raw materials for value-added processing. Government incentives to encourage local processing and reduce raw commodity exports further enhance sector attractiveness.

•Key opportunities include:

- Food and beverage processing
- Export-oriented value addition
- **Agro-industrial parks development:** Investment readiness: High. Market demand and policy support are well established. (Ministry of Trade and Industry, 2024; World Bank, 2025).

» Manufacturing and Textiles & Garments (Short- to Medium-Term)

- **Textiles, garments,** and light manufacturing are expected to grow due to rising regional demand, import substitution, and AfCFTA market access. Government incentives for export-oriented industries, industrial parks, and SME support programmes enhance sector potential.

•Investment readiness: Medium. Requires investment in technology, scale-up, and export infrastructure. (GIPC, 2025).

» Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Digital Economy (Short-Term / High Readiness)

ICT remains one of Ghana's fastest-growing sectors, driven by mobile penetration, fintech adoption, and demand for digital services. Opportunities exist in:

- Fintech platforms and mobile payments
- Data centers and cloud services
- Enterprise and consumer software solutions • Investment readiness: High. Strong market uptake and regulatory support make Ghana a regional ICT hub. (Bank of Ghana, 2025; World Bank, 2025).

» Energy and Renewable Energy(Medium-Term)

Energy infrastructure is critical for industrial growth. Renewables, particularly solar and wind, are emerging as strategic priorities, alongside oil and gas. Investment areas include: • Utility-scale solar and wind projects

- Off-grid mini-grids and rural electrification
- Energy storage and battery solutions
- Investment readiness: Medium. Opportunities depend on regulatory clarity, grid integration, and financing arrangements. (World Bank, 2025)

» Mining and Minerals Value Addition (Medium-Term)

The mining sector is expanding into value-added processing and critical minerals, including lithium and bauxite. Policy reforms emphasize: • Local refining and beneficiation

- Downstream industrial linkages
- Export-oriented production
- Investment readiness: Medium. Requires capitalintensive projects and compliance with evolving environmental standards. (Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, 2025).

Emerging and Frontier Sectors

These sectors are high-potential but require earlystage investment, regulatory navigation, and infrastructure development.

» Electric Vehicles (EVs) and Green Mobility (Medium-Term / Frontier)

Ghana's EV sector is accelerating under the National Electric Vehicle Policy, offering incentives for local assembly and import duty waivers.

EV adoption surged to over 17,000 vehicles by early 2026 , driven by ride-hailing fleets and logistics operators. Investment opportunities: • EV assembly and component manufacturing

- Charging infrastructure and solar-powered stations • Battery technologies and recycling
- Investment readiness: Medium. Market is growing, but infrastructure and charging networks need scale-up. (Ministry of Energy, 2025; World Bank, 2025).

» Cannabis (Industrial Hemp and Medicinal Use) (Medium- to Long-Term / Frontier)

Legalisation of industrial hemp and medicinal cannabis (THC ≤0.3%) has opened a high-value export-oriented sector. Licensing commenced in February 2026, supported by favourable agroclimatic conditions. Investment opportunities: • Cultivation and greenhouse farming

- Pharmaceutical processing and medicinal products
- Industrial hemp applications (textiles, biofuels)

Export supply chains

•Investment readiness: Medium. Regulatory framework is emerging; early movers can shape market norms. (Narcotics Control Commission, 2023; UNCTAD, 2024)

» Cryptocurrency and Digital Assets

(Medium-Term / Frontier): The cryptocurrency and digital asset sector is growing under the VASP Act, 2025 (Act 1154), which provides licensing and regulatory clarity. Approximately 3 million Ghanaians engaged in digital asset transactions totaling over US$3 billion between July 2023–June 2024.

Investment opportunities:

- Digital asset exchanges and custody services
- Blockchain-based financial solutions
- Cross-border payments and remittances
- DeFi and fintech integration

•Investment readiness: Medium. Regulatory framework now exists, but market volatility and enforcement capacity are key risks. (Bank of Ghana, 2025 ; SEC, 2026).

» Tourism, Creative Industries, and Logistics (Medium- to Long-Term)

Ghana's tourism, creative industries, and logistics sectors continue to expand under initiatives such as "Beyond the Return" and AfCFTA market integration.

Key opportunities include:

- Cultural and heritage tourism
- Film, music, and digital content production
- Warehousing, cold-chain, and transport infrastructure
- Investment readiness: Medium- to long-term. Requires marketing, infrastructure, and cross-border integration. (World Bank, 2025; AfDB, 2024).

Conclusion

Ghana offers a diversified portfolio of investment opportunities, spanning established growth sectors (agro-processing, ICT, textiles) and frontier sectors

(EVs, cannabis, digital assets). The combination of macroeconomic stabilisation, regulatory reforms, and AfCFTA integration enhances both shortterm investment readiness and medium to longterm strategic opportunities, positioning Ghana as a regional gateway for diversified, high-impact investments.

Implication for Investors: Early movers in emerging sectors can benefit from first-mover advantages, while established sectors offer immediate returns with lower risk exposure.

6.5 Key Investment Enablers

Ghana's attractiveness for foreign direct investment (FDI) and private sector development is increasingly supported by strategic infrastructure, industrial development, and trade facilitation initiatives. These enablers create a conducive environment for both established and emerging sectors, including agroprocessing, manufacturing, ICT, EVs, cannabis, and digital assets.

» Infrastructure and Industrial Development as Investment Enablers

Ghana's ongoing infrastructure drive under the "Big Push" initiative and complementary programmes is enhancing connectivity, reducing logistics costs, and supporting industrial expansion across key economic corridors. These developments are critical for enabling value-added production, efficient supply chains, and regional trade integration under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) (MoF, 2025; World Bank, 2025).

Big Push Infrastructure Programme

Announced in the 2026 State of the Nation Address, the "Big Push" programme comprises 50 priority road projects covering approximately 1,144 kilometres, with an estimated investment of GH¢50 billion. In addition, 23 inherited projects spanning 573 kilometres are being completed to strengthen inter-regional connectivity (MoF) 2026). Key flagship projects include:

• **Accra–Kumasi Expressway:**

198.7-kilometre six-lane expressway, currently at design stage

- **Eastern Corridor Road:** targeted for completion by 2027
- **Accra–Tema** Motorway expansion
- **Kumasi** Inner Ring Road

Collectively, these projects are expected to:

- Reduce travel times and logistics costs
- Unlock new economic corridors for manufacturing and trade
- Support regional integration through improved transport efficiency

By end-2026, approximately 2,000 kilometres of road works are underway across all 16 regions, with 73 projects showing significant progress (MoF, 2026 ; AfDB, 2024).

» Industrial Parks and Economic Zones:

Ghana is advancing the development of large-scale industrial parks and special economic zones (SEZs) to support value addition, exportoriented production, and industrial diversification (GIPC, 2025; MoTI, 2024). Notable developments include:

- **Gomoa Central Special Economic Zone (GCSEZ):** 21,000-acre project valued at US$1.5 billion, launched in October 2025 in partnership with the Ghana Free Zones Authority. Expected to host over 200 factories and create approximately 60,000 jobs. Digital systems will facilitate trade under AfCFTA.

•**Existing operational zones:** Tema Export Processing Zone hosts over 90 companies engaged in manufacturing and exports.

- **Emerging zones:** Dawa Industrial Zone, Shama Export Processing Zone, and Sekondi Export Processing Zone continue to expand industrial and manufacturing capacity.

These zones provide investors with:

- Serviced land
- Fiscal incentives, including tax holidays and duty exemptions

•Streamlined regulatory processes for rapid business setup

Industrial parks are particularly relevant for sectors such as agro-processing, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and EV assembly, enabling efficient clustering and supply chain integration (GIPC, 2025; World Bank, 2025).

» **Logistics Hub Development**

Strategic investments in logistics infrastructure are enhancing Ghana's position as a regional trade and distribution hub. Key developments include:

- **Tema Port expansion:** Operates on a 24-hour basis, with modern container terminals improving cargo handling capacity and reducing congestion (MoTI, 2024; AfDB, 2024).

- **Inland logistics port:** Nearing commissioning by
- **Debt sustainability:** Ghana's public debt, though declining after the Domestic Debt Exchange Programme (DDEP) and external restructuring, remains elevated. High debt servicing obligations could limit fiscal flexibility and crowd out private investment (IMF, 2024; World Bank, 2025).

- **Fiscal slippages:** Pre-election periods or policy shocks may trigger temporary deviations from fiscal consolidation targets, affecting inflation and the cedi exchange rate (MoF, 2025).

- **Inflation volatility:** While headline inflation declined to 5.4% by December 2025, unexpected shocks in food, fuel, or imported goods prices could reignite price pressures (Bank of Ghana, 2025). » **Exchange Rate and External Sector Risk Cryptocurrency and digital assets:** end-2026, facilitating rail-based cargo movement and easing pressure on road networks.

Accra–Tema corridor upgrades: improving road transport efficiency for industrial, trade, and export activities.

• **Regional integration:** Maritime and logistics projects complement West African trade corridors, reducing costs and enhancing competitiveness for investors (World Bank, 2025).

These logistics enablers are critical for high-growth sectors such as agro-processing, manufacturing, EVs, and digital economy ventures, providing the infrastructure necessary for efficient supply chains, timely export delivery, and regional distribution.

6.6 Risks & Uncertainties

While Ghana's macroeconomic stabilization and sectoral growth prospects are positive, investors should be aware of key risks and uncertainties that could affect the outlook for 2026 and beyond. These risks span macroeconomic, regulatory, sectoral, and external dimensions.

» **Macroeconomic and Fiscal Risks**

Despite strong post-crisis recovery, macroeconomic vulnerabilities persist:

Market volatility, cyber risks, and regulatory enforcement capacity remain key uncertainties for investors in digital financial services (SEC, 2026; Bank of Ghana, 2025).

» **Sectoral and Operational Risks**

Industrial and manufacturing sectors: Energy shortages, rising input costs, and transport bottlenecks may affect production efficiency and export competitiveness (GIPC, 2025). • **Agriculture and agro-processing:** Climate variability, including droughts, floods, and pest outbreaks, poses a significant risk to crop yields and supply chains (FAO, 2024).

Ghana's macroeconomic stability is closely linked to external balances and cedi performance:

- **Commodity price volatility:** Ghana's exports, especially gold, cocoa, and oil, expose the economy to fluctuations in global commodity prices. A sharp decline in prices could reduce export revenues and weaken the cedi (World Bank, 2025).

- **Capital flow volatility:** As FDI and portfolio investment flows are key to financing development, sudden reversals in investor sentiment or global interest rate shifts could strain foreign exchange reserves (IMF, 2024).

» **Regulatory and Policy Risks**

Emerging sectors and frontier industries present unique regulatory challenges:

- **EV and green mobility:** Adoption may be slowed if infrastructure development (charging networks) lags or policy incentives are adjusted (Ministry of Energy, 2025).

- **Cannabis and medicinal hemp:** Sector growth depends on clear, transparent licensing and enforcement of regulatory frameworks. Delays or inconsistencies could constrain investment and market expansion (NCC, 2023; UNCTAD, 2024).

- **Tourism and creative industries:** Travel restrictions, geopolitical developments, or shifts in global demand could affect tourism revenues and creative exports (AfDB, 2024).

» **Global and Geopolitical Risks**

- **Global economic slowdown:** Ghana's exportoriented sectors are sensitive to developments in Europe, the United States, and Asia. A slowdown in global demand could affect trade volumes and investment returns (World Bank, 2025).

- **Geopolitical tensions and supply chain disruptions:** Disruptions in logistics or trade routes, particularly for energy and industrial inputs, could increase costs and reduce operational efficiency (IMF, 2024).

- **Strengthened fiscal discipline** and debt management frameworks to reduce vulnerability to shocks (MoF, 2025).

- **Monetary policy measures** by the Bank of Ghana to maintain inflation within the target band and stabilise the currency (Bank of Ghana, 2025).

- **Sector-specific regulatory reforms**, including clear licensing regimes for cannabis, digital assets, and EVs, to improve investor confidence and market transparency (NCC, 2023; SEC, 2026; Ministry of Energy, 2025).

- **Infrastructure investments**, such as the "Big Push" roads and industrial parks, to reduce logistics and operational risks for businesses (MoF, 2026; GIPC, 2025).



» **Mitigation Measures and Policy Response** The Ghanaian government and regulatory authorities have implemented policies to mitigate these risks, including:

» **Ghana's investment drive in 2026** is anchored on key reforms and strategic initiatives aimed at enhancing investor confidence and promoting sustainable development.

» A key catalyst is the new **Ghana Investment Promotion Authority (GIPA) Act**, which modernizes the investment legal framework. It introduces an Investor Grievance Mechanism to resolve disputes efficiently and reflects an expanded

While risks remain, macro-stabilisation measures, policy reforms, and infrastructure investments position Ghana to absorb shocks and sustain medium-term growth, particularly for investors willing to engage with frontier and high-growth sectors.

mandate, transitioning from the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC) to GIPA, to cover investment promotion, facilitation, and regulation. The Act is expected to significantly improve the investment landscape, particularly for SMEs, by creating a more transparent, predictable, and supportive business environment, improving access to opportunities, and strengthening institutional support for business growth.

» Ghana's commitment to regional integration under the **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Protocol** on Investment further serves as a strategic catalyst. By harmonizing the new investment legislation with AfCFTA provisions, Ghana is ensuring that its legal and regulatory framework meets continental standards for investor protection, transparency, and facilitation. This enhances Ghana's attractiveness as a gateway to the broader African market.

» **Sustainability is a major priority**, with the new Act promoting investments consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and introducing investor obligations in areas such as human rights, labour, corporate responsibility, climate, and the environment. The focus is shifting toward investments that deliver mutual benefits, including skills transfer, capacity building, and local development, creating more inclusive opportunities for SMEs to integrate into larger value chains.

» Finally, the Ghana International Investment Summit (August 2026) stands as a flagship platform to consolidate these efforts. As the culmination of the **Investment Opportunities Mapping Project,** the Summit will showcase Ghana's diverse sectoral opportunities and connect global investors with local businesses, particularly SMEs. By facilitating strategic partnerships, the event is expected to unlock new investment flows, deepen economic linkages, and reinforce Ghana's position as a preferred investment destination.

» Together, these reforms and initiatives form a coherent set of strategic catalysts that will drive **investment growth, improve investor experience,** and ensure that investment contributes sustainably to Ghana's economic transformation in 2026 and beyond.



All foreign investors are required to register with the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC) before commencing operations in Ghana, as stipulated under the GIPC Act, 2013 (Act 865). The registration process has been progressively streamlined and can be initiated online through GIPC's Investment Portal.

8.1.1 Step-by-Step GIPC Registration Guide

» New Registration:

In accordance with the GIPC Act, 2013 (Act 865), an enterprise in which foreign ownership is permitted must after its incorporation or registration and before commencement of operations be registered with the GIPC. Similarly, an enterprise which is wholly owned by a Ghanaian may after being incorporated or registered, be registered with the GIPC.

» Register your business at the Office of the Registrar of Companies (ORC)

Incorporate a company at the Office of the Registrar of Companies (ORC) and obtain the following:

- Copy of Certificate of Incorporation
- Copy of Company's regulation
- Beneficial Ownership Document from the Registrar of Companies
- Form 3 from the Registrar of Companies
- Change Profile document from the Registrar of Companies (if any changes have been made)
- Articles/Memorandum of Association (in the case of Liaison companies or subsidiaries)
- Power of Attorney (in the case of Liaison companies)
- Deed of transfer or shareholder's agreement filed at the Office of the Registrar of Companies (in situations where some shares have been transferred).

» Minimum Capital Requirements

Foreign investors are required to comply with the GIPC Act 2013 (Act 865) regarding minimum foreign capital requirements either in cash or in capital goods relevant to the investment; or a combination of both. By way of equity participation, the breakdown is as follows:

- US$200,000 for Joint Venture with the Ghanaian partner having not less than 10% shares.
- US$500,000 for wholly foreign-owned companies.
- US$1,000,000 for General trading companies with a minimum of 20 skilled Ghanaians employed by such an enterprise

Companies exempted from the minimum foreign equity requirement include those set up solely for Manufacturing, Export Trade, or Portfolio Investments, companies owned by Ghanaians who lose the citizenship by reason of the assumption of the citizenship of another country (living in Ghana or in the Diaspora) and foreign spouses of Ghanaian citizens in a marriage of at least 5years and also resident in Ghana.

» GIPC Registration Process

Download GIPC's Registration Form. Complete it and attach the following:

- Evidence of Payment
- Certificate of Incorporation/Registration Certificate
- Company Constitution/Regulations/Articles or Memorandum of Association
- Office of the Registrar of Companies' Form 3/ Form 20
- Change Profile
- Beneficial Ownership Profile
- Power of Attorney (External Companies)
- Bank of Ghana Equity letter / Customs Import Documentation (if applicable)

The completed GIPC registration forms and all supporting documents must be scanned and submitted to the email address **investor.services@gipc.gov.gh.**

» Review and Processing:

GIPC reviews applications within five (5) working days. The review includes verification of capital

requirements, compliance with sectoral requirements, and due diligence checks. GIPC may request additional documentation during the review period. There is a 24-Hour Expedited Premium Service.

» **Certificate Issuance:** Upon successful review, GIPC issues a GIPC Certificate of Registration.

8.2 Contacts at Key Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs)

Table 17: **Key Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in Ghana's Business Environment**

MDA	Function Relevant to Investors	Contact / Portal
Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC)	Investment registration, facilitation, aftercare	gipc.gov.gh / +233 302 665 125
Office of the Registrar of Companies (ORC)	Company incorporation and registration	orc.gov.gh
Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA)	Tax registration, TIN, incentives administration	gra.gov.gh
Ghana Free Zones Authority (GFZA)	Free Zone investor licensing and compliance	gfzagh.com
Ghana Standards Authority (GSA)	Product standards, quality certification	gsb.gov.gh
Food and Drugs Authority (FDA)	Pharmaceutical, food and cosmetics licensing	fdaghana.gov.gh
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Environmental Impact Assessment, permits	epa.gov.gh
Lands Commission	Land acquisition, search and registration	lc.gov.gh
Ghana Immigration Service (GIS)	Work permits, business visas, quotas	ghanaimmigration.org
Minerals Commission	Mineral rights, concession applications	mincom.gov.gh
Petroleum Commission	Registration of upstream petroleum operations in Ghana, Issuance of permits for specific petroleum activities, Facilitation of expatriates' (foreign employees) Localization Permits (work permits) in collaboration with Ghana Immigration Service (GIS)	info@petrocom.gov.gh | +233 302 550933
Energy Commission	Energy sector licences and permits	energycom.gov.gh

Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA)	Port access, customs coordination	ghanaports.com.gh
Ghana Free Zones Board	Free zone designation and compliance	gfzagh.com
Ministry of Trade, Agribusiness & Industry (MoTAI)	Industrial policy, 1D1F Programme	moti.gov.gh

8.3 *Tax Incentives Summary*

Ghana offers a comprehensive package of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives to domestic and foreign investors across all major sectors. Incentives are available under the GIPC Act 2013 (Act 865), the Income Tax Act, the Free Zones Act, and sector-specific legislation. The table below summarizes the key incentives by sector.

8.3.1 Sector-by-Sector Incentive Summary

Table 18: **Incentives by Sectors**

Sector	**Key Fiscal Incentives**	**Other Support**
Manufacturing	Custom duty exemption on plant, machinery & equipment Free Zone: 10-yr income tax holiday; ≤15% CIT thereafter Non-traditional exports: 8% CIT Agro processing: 1% CIT for 5 yrs; waste processing: 1% for 7 yrs Accelerated depreciation; R&D deductions; loss carry-forward	Locational rebates: 25–50% for factories outside Accra/Tema Reduced CIT: 18.75% (regional capitals) / 12.5% (rural)
Agriculture	Custom duty exemption on machinery, spare parts, Agro inputs Tree crop/cattle farming: 1% CIT for 10 yrs Cash crop/livestock: 1% CIT for 5 yrs Duty & VAT exemption on live poultry imports	Credit risk guarantees up to 70% (GIRSAL) Cocoa Board support: free inputs, anti-smuggling Feed Ghana Programme; Greenhouse Villages Programme
Education & Health	Custom duty exemption on core machinery & equipment Accelerated depreciation; R&D deductions Loss carry-forward provisions	DTA relief for foreign investors & staff GIPC handholding & permit assistance

Tourism	10% concessionary import duty on hotel equipment (fridges, TVs, ACs, furnishings etc.) CIT: 22% (vs. standard 25%) Accelerated depreciation; loss carry-forward	DTA coverage GIPC marketing & investor linkage support
Oil & Gas	Custom duty exemption on plant, machinery & equipment Accelerated depreciation R&D deductions Loss carry-forward	Stability/investment agreements possible DTA relief

Table 18: **Incentives by Sectors — continued**

Sector	Key Fiscal Incentives	Other Support
Mining	Import duty exemption on plant & equipment Capital allowance: 75% write-off yr 1; 50% declining balance thereafter 5% investment allowance (yr 1); 5-yr loss carry-forward GoldBod bonus: GHS 832/lb. for licensed miners	Mining fiscal rates: 35% CIT, 5% royalty, 8% dividend tax Foreign currency retention rights. DTA & BIT coverage
Real Estate & Venture Capital	Certified low-cost housing: 1% CIT for 5 yrs Free zone developers: 10-yr CIT holiday; 15% CIT post-holiday (exports) Venture capital: 1% tax on interest/dividends for 10 yrs; 5% CIT for 10 yrs Stamp duty relief on new equity subscriptions	Loss carry-forward: 5 yrs post-disposal REITs: income exempt from tax Mutual funds / unit trusts: income exempt

8.3.2 Investment Guarantees and Cross-Sector Support : All Sectors

- Constitutional guarantee against expropriation of private investments
- Free transferability of capital, profits, dividends & foreign loan repayments
- Remittance of full proceeds on sale or liquidation of investment
- Insurance against non-commercial risks (Ghana is a MIGA Convention signatory)
- Double Taxation Agreements (DTAs) ratified with: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, South Africa, Switzerland, UK, Mauritius, Morocco, Singapore
- Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) with: UK, Netherlands, China, Denmark, Switzerland, Germany, Malaysia (ratified); others executed/pending ratification
- Automatic immigrant quota linked to paid-up capital (1–4 persons for US$50K–US$700K+)
- Time-bound work permits available; 100% foreign ownership permissible (US$500K minimum equity).

8.4 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q1: What is the minimum investment required to invest in Ghana as a foreigner?

A: Foreign investors seeking GIPC registration must demonstrate a minimum capital investment of USD 500,000 for wholly foreign-owned enterprises. For joint ventures with Ghanaian partners, the minimum is USD 200,000 (Ghanaian majority) to USD 250,000 (foreign majority). Trading businesses require USD 1,000,000. These requirements are set out in the GIPC Act and are subject to amendment under the proposed GIPA Bill.

Q2: Can a foreigner own 100% of a business in Ghana?

A: Yes, in most sectors. Ghana allows 100% foreign ownership of enterprises in most sectors, subject to meeting minimum capital requirements and sectoral licensing requirements. However, certain strategic sectors reserve a percentage of equity for Ghanaian nationals, including specific areas of the mining sector and retail trading activities.

Q3: Which Business Can Register With GIPC?

A: An Enterprise in which foreign participation is permitted after incorporation or registration and before commencement of operations is required to register with the GIPC which is mandated by the GIPC Act, 2013(865). Also, wholly Ghanaian-owned enterprises are encouraged to register with the Centre to benefit from the incentives provided for in the GIPC Act, 2013, Act 865.

Q4: How can I access investment incentives and what is the application process?

A: Investment incentives are accessed primarily through GIPC registration (which confers general investment protections and incentives), Ghana Free Zones Authority (GFZA) licensing (for free zone benefits), and sector-specific applications to relevant MDAs (e.g., Energy Commission for energy incentives). The GRA administers the practical application of fiscal incentives. GIPC facilitates investor navigation of the incentives framework and can provide a tailored incentives assessment for specific investment projects.

Q5: What services does the GIPC provide to the Investing Public?

A: The Ghana Investment Promotion Centre provides support to all foreign and domestic companies that are seeking to set up or expand their business in Ghana. We do this by providing integrated advisory services to all our investors. We also offer assistance to companies that need the necessary permits or licenses to facilitate their operations in the country. We also have aftercare Services that seek to support companies that have already registered with us and need further assistance in the setting up or facilitating their business to run smoothly in the country.

Our Specific Services include:

- Issuance of the GIPC Registration Certificate that facilitates immediate start of business
- Key information on location factors and business opportunities in the country.
- Sector information and introduction to key sector networks
- Support to build collaborative partnerships with Ghanaian businesses

8.5 Dispute Resolution

In 2025, the work of the Aftercare and Investor Grievance Division (AIGD) formed part of GIPC's broader effort to strengthen investor confidence, support investment retention and reinvestment, and improve the investment climate through proactive investor engagement, issue resolution and stakeholder coordination. Its role therefore extended beyond responding to investor complaints to include continuous engagement with existing investors, identification of operational bottlenecks, facilitation of business expansion, and advocacy for institutional improvements affecting investors.

It currently operates with a mandate that emphasizes investor facilitation and issue resolution, rather than the administration of structured dispute adjudication or arbitration processes.

The relevant provisions in the revised GIPC Act (GIPA Bill), which would establish the legal foundation for a formal dispute resolution framework, are still undergoing the legislative process. Consequently, the Division is not presently mandated to administer formal dispute resolution mechanisms.

However, in practice, the Division has therefore adopted the following approach to resolving investors issues:

» **Formal or Informal Dispute Resolution Frameworks**

- **At present,** the Division does not operate a formal dispute resolution framework or standard operating procedures for adjudicative or arbitral processes. Instead, its work focuses on early identification of investor grievances, stakeholder engagement, and coordinated resolution through dialogue and facilitation among relevant institutions.

- **Nonetheless, Standard Operating** Procedures (SOPs) have been drafted to support the establishment of an Investor Grievance Mechanism (IGM). These SOPs are currently undergoing internal management review and stakeholder input and have not yet been finalized.

» **Categories of Investor Grievances**

- **Investor grievances** typically arise from regulatory and administrative challenges, including delays in permits or approvals, access to utilities and infrastructure, taxation and customs-related matters, land acquisition issues, and coordination gaps among public institutions.

- **Sector officers** within the Division lead the issue resolution process, engaging directly with the relevant Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) to facilitate timely resolution. Where necessary, matters are escalated through structured institutional engagement to ensure appropriate follow-up and coordination.

Table 19: **Summary of Investor Grievances**

Category	Summary of Issues
Human Capital & Labor Issues	Shortage of specialized skills and inadequate quota allocation for expatriates in technical roles
Trade, Customs & Market Access	Unpredictable changes to import/export procedures and ineffectiveness in bonded warehousing arrangements
Fiscal & Taxation	Complex tax structures and a lack of exemptions affecting operational costs and competitiveness
Infrastructure & Utilities	Intermittent power supply, high utility costs and inadequate access to reliable ICT services, poor road network
Business Environment, Regulatory & Compliance	Lengthy and inconsistent permit/licensing processes across agencies, coupled with overlapping mandates, and perceived harassment from regulatory agencies
Category	**Summary of Issues**
Finance & Capital	Access to funding

- **This facilitative** approach constitutes the core of the Division's work since its establishment, given that there is currently no legal basis for the formal adjudication or arbitration of investor grievances under the existing framework.

- **The issues received** in 2025 fall within the following categories:

Analysis of the issues recorded in 2025 showed that business environment, regulatory and compliance matters were the most frequently raised concerns (50 mentions), followed by fiscal and taxation issues (42 mentions), infrastructure and utility constraints (21 mentions), labour and human capital issues (6 mentions), finance and capital access constraints (6 mentions), and trade and market access concerns (4 mentions).

In sectoral terms, formal investor issues were most concentrated in manufacturing (20 cases), followed by agriculture and agro-processing (11 cases), services (7 cases), general trading (6 cases),

extractives, building and construction, and tourism and hospitality (3 cases).

8.5.1 Resolution pathways

The Division's issue resolution process primarily relies on facilitation and coordinated engagement through the following pathways:

- **Direct engagement** with the investor to clarify concerns and obtain relevant information.
- **Bilateral or tripartite** meetings involving the investor and the relevant Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs).
- **Multi-stakeholder** consultations to align institutions on appropriate remedial actions and timelines.
- **Escalation** to higher-level institutional leadership where necessary to facilitate resolution.
- **To date, including** throughout 2025, the Division has not encountered cases that extended beyond administrative facilitation or required formal adjudication or the invocation of statutory or contractual dispute resolution mechanisms.

8.5.2 Key performance indicators

- **While the Division** does not specifically track dispute resolution timelines, it monitors issue acknowledgment timelines, records and shares engagement milestones, and follows up on agreed actions to ensure effective and timely issue management. The Investor Issue Resolution process is formally outlined in the Division's Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

- **During the year,** the Division engaged a total of 1,110 companies across various sectors of the economy and conducted 120 site visits and investor meetings. Engagement activity increased significantly in the second half of the year, with 841 companies engaged between July and December compared to 269 companies in the first half of the year. In addition, 174 companies reported no operational challenges, while 5 companies indicated plans for expansion or reinvestment.
- **In 2025,** a total of 58 formal investor issues were recorded, of which 18 were resolved, representing a 31 % resolution rate.
- **The comparatively** lower resolution rate is partly due to the inclusion of policy-related matters, which typically require longer-term institutional or legislative action and are therefore not readily resolvable within the short to medium term. To enhance the accuracy of performance tracking, it may be advisable to separate policy-related issues from operational or administrative issues, thereby providing a clearer assessment of resolution outcomes and improving the reporting of the Division's effectiveness.

8.5.3 Partnerships / working arrangements

- **The Division works** closely with relevant Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) in addressing investor concerns through its network of institutional focal persons, which supports the investor issue resolution process. At present, nominated focal persons from 23 MDAs are actively engaged in this framework, while responses from an additional 24 institutions are still pending.

- **However, the Division** does not currently maintain formalized partnership arrangements with arbitral institutions or the Commercial Court for the purposes of dispute adjudication or arbitration.

8.6 Notable Outcomes in 2025

In 2025, GIPC's interventions focused on resolving systemic bottlenecks through inter-agency coordination, resulting in improved turnaround times and regulatory clarity in select sectors. The outcomes below reflect GIPC's facilitative role in supporting investors and advancing policy dialogue.

The year also marked an important milestone for GIPC's investor aftercare function, as the Centre received the WAIPA Excellence in Aftercare Award, the first-ever award received by the Centre from the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies. This recognition affirmed GIPC's growing role in investor aftercare, issue resolution and investment climate support.

8.6.1 Invest or Facilitation and Issue Resolution

Six (6) individual investor cases were facilitated across manufacturing, agro-industrial, equipment, agribusiness, and infrastructure sectors.

Table 20: **Examples of Investor Issues Handled**

No.	Sector	Issue Summary	Action Taken	Outcome
1	Manufacturing / Labour	Labour recruitment support for company expansion	Facilitated engagements with the Youth Employment Agency (YEA), culminating in an MoU signing on 7 July 2025. Coordinated the formal handover of the first batch of recruited staff in August 2025.	MoU signed between the investor and YEA (7 Jul 2025); first cohort of recruited staff deployed (Aug 2025).
2	Agro-Industrial / Export	Consignment held in European bonded warehouse due to missing FDA certification	Coordinated engagement between the investor and the FDA to clarify certification requirements and facilitate resolution of the documentation gap.	Consignment released following laboratory testing confirming product compliance.
3	Scientific Equipment / Distribution	High import duties applied to donated analytical instruments	Facilitated a meeting with the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) to verify duty application and clarify customs classifications, appeal procedures, and bonded warehouse processes.	Clarity provided on duty application; regional (Central & West Africa) re-export model confirmed.
4	Heavy Equipment / Port Logistics	Regulatory hold on excavator clearance at Tema Port despite prior approvals	Engaged the Minerals Commission and the Mining Equipment Registration Centre in Tema to resolve the regulatory hold and initiate the registration process.	Equipment cleared; potential demurrage costs and project delays mitigated.

5	Agriculture & Agribusiness	Delayed payment by a public institution for agro-chemical supplies	Undertook a series of engagements with the public sector institution to facilitate settlement of the outstanding payment.	Partial payment made in early December 2025; institution agreed to a schedule for settlement of the outstanding balance.
6	Industrial / Infrastructure	Persistent access road challenges in the Tema-Kpone Free Zones Enclave	Re-engaged the Ministry of Roads and Highways through structured engagements to advance rehabilitation of access roads affecting investors' operational logistics.	Structured engagement advanced with the Ministry; road rehabilitation efforts progressed.

8.6.2 Policy Dialogue and Systemic Issue Resolution

GIPC convened structured platforms for investor-government dialogue on recurrent systemic issues, contributing to inter-agency action on fiscal matters and illicit trade.

Table 21: **Examples of Policy Related Dialogues by GIPC on Investor Issues**

No.	Activity	Key Actions	Outcomes and Follow-Up
1	Maiden Investor Issue Resolution Roundtable	Convened the Maiden Investor Issue Resolution Roundtable on 27 November 2025, bringing together investors and senior public sector officials to address recurrent fiscal and taxation concerns. Scheduled issue-specific follow-up meetings between GRA Customs and Domestic Tax divisions and representatives from the FMCG, cosmetics, and agro-industrial sectors.	Direct investor-government dialogue facilitated; companies expressed appreciation for targeted follow-up. Structured platform established for ongoing investor-state engagement on fiscal matters.
2	Illicit Trade & Smuggling - Inter-Agency Engagement	Facilitated roundtable discussions on illicit trade and smuggling concerns affecting the FMCG and oil palm sectors. Contributed to subsequent inter-agency engagements led by the Ministry of the Interior.	A committee on smuggling established under the Ministry of the Interior, underscoring the role of sustained policy dialogue in driving systemic reform.

8.6.3 Aftercare and Investor Grievance Division

The Aftercare and Investor Grievance Division of the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC) maintains structured engagement with registered investors to identify operational constraints, facilitate issue resolution, and support investment retention and reinvestment. This report presents a consolidated fullyear view of investor issues raised between January and December 2025.

Across 2025, the Division engaged 1,110 companies and undertook 120 site visits. Over the same period, 58 formal investor issues were recorded: 17 in the first half of the year and 41 in the second half. Of the 58 formal issues, 18 were reported as resolved, 37 remained ongoing, and 3 were classified as stalled by yearend, mainly due to non-responsiveness.

2025 Performance Report

Delivery against 2025 targets



Companies engaged across all sectors

1,110



Meetings and on-site engagements

120



Across 8+ sectors throughout the year 58

17 in H1 - 41 in H 2

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Engagement surged in H2 (41 companies (Jul - Dec) vs 369 companies (Jan - Jun), reflecting intensified outreach efforts.
- Issues resolution rate stood at 31% (18 resolved of 58) with 37 ongoing cases actively pursued at the year - end.
- 174 companies reported no issues and 5 companies signaled planned expansion - positive signals for reinvestment.

Analysis of investor engagements throughout the year highlighted three key areas influencing the investment climate. First, investors identified gaps to further enhance regulatory coordination, streamline compliance requirements, improve land administration processes, and strengthen the consistent implementation of policy measures. Second, investors raised issues relating to fiscal and tax administration, particularly regarding exemptions, duty treatment, VAT administration, and the application of customs and revenue procedures. Third, infrastructure and utility services remained important considerations for investors, particularly with respect to power reliability, road access, water supply, metering, and connectivity.

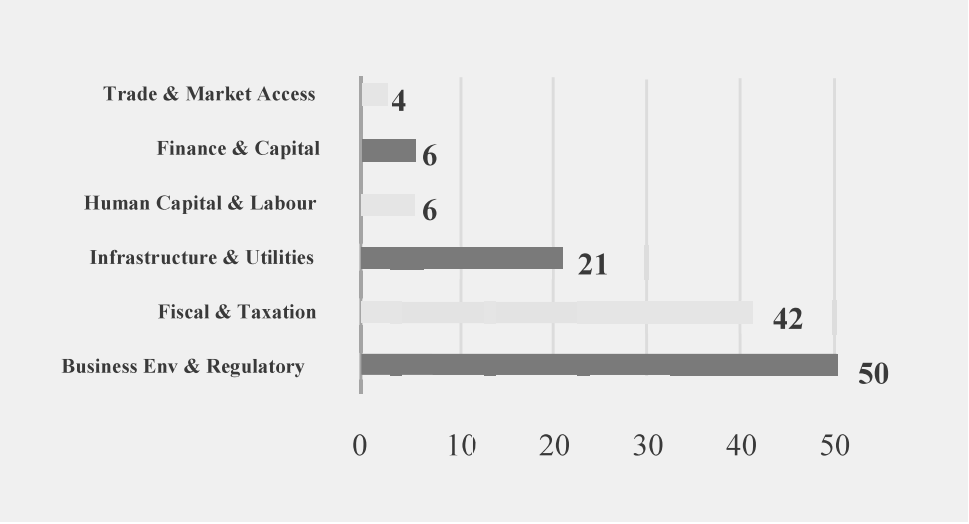
At the same time, the issue profile evolved over the course of the year. The first half was more heavily weighted toward taxation, exemptions, infrastructure costs, labour supply concerns, and finance constraints. By the second half, regulatory enforcement, land and compliance issues, trade enforcement, border and customs frictions, smuggling, and market-access concerns became even more prominent.

The result is a fuller annual picture in which both cost-of-doing-business pressures and implementation gaps in the operating environment materially affected investor confidence and expansion planning.

Investor Issues - Categories and Sectors

129 category mentions from formal issues and broader investor engagements across all sectors.

Issues by **Thematic Category**



Issues by **Sector (Formal Issues)**

5.6 LIBERIA

LIBERIA'S 2025 INVESTMENT REPORT TO THE ECIM COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 27-30, 2026

1. Country Context and Socioeconomic Profile

Liberia is a small West African economy with an estimated population of 5.6 million and a land area of 96,320 km². The economy remains highly resource-dependent, with mining and agriculture accounting for a significant share of exports and foreign direct investment (FDI). Despite sustained post-conflict recovery and recent reform momentum, Liberia continues to face structural challenges related to infrastructure deficits, macroeconomic instability, governance constraints, and limited human capital.

Demographics and Labor Force

Liberia's population is young, with a median age of approximately 19 years, offering a potential demographic dividend over the medium term. Labor force participation is relatively high, including female participation estimated at approximately 72 percent, exceeding regional averages. However, unemployment and underemployment—particularly among youth—remain significant, and the workforce is predominantly informal, with limited access to technical and vocational skills.

Macroeconomic Conditions • **Real GDP growth: 5.1% (2025)**

•Growth Drivers:

- Strong expansion in mining (17%)
- Moderate growth in agriculture (3.1%)
- Services growth at 3.3%

Inflation Trends

- **8.5% (2025 average):**

- Declining to app.3.1% (Feb 2026)

1.3. Investment Climate: Opportunities and Constraints

1.3.1 Investment Strengths

Liberia offers several structural advantages for investment:

- Abundant natural resources, including iron ore, gold, and fertile agricultural land
- A young and expanding labor force with potential for skills development
- Strategic coastal location with access to Atlantic shipping routes and ECOWAS markets
- Positive medium-term growth prospects, conditional on macroeconomic and political stability

1.3.2 Key Constraints

Despite these strengths, investment attraction and retention are constrained by:

- Severe infrastructure gaps that increase operational costs
- Macroeconomic volatility, particularly high inflation and currency instability
- Governance weaknesses, including regulatory unpredictability and corruption risks
- Human capital limitations affecting productivity and value addition

1.4 Priority Investment Sectors

Liberia's three most promising investment sectors—mining, agriculture, and services—offer distinct opportunities: mining is resource-rich but infrastructure-dependent, agriculture is being revitalized with a $900M national program, and services (telecom, energy, finance, tourism)

1.4.1 Mining

Mining contributes approximately 17 percent of GDP and remains Liberia's largest recipient of FDI. Traditional exports include iron ore, gold, and diamonds, with emerging interest in lithium and rare earth minerals driven by global energy transition demand.

Key mining regions include the Nimba, Bong, Wologizi, and Bea Mountain ranges. Government strategy for 2025–2029 emphasizes transparency (including EITI compliance), regulation of artisanal mining, and public–private partnerships, particularly in transport and port infrastructure.

1.4.2 Agriculture

Agriculture employs the majority of Liberians and remains central to livelihoods and food security. Key crops include rubber, palm oil, cocoa, rice, and cassava. The sector is undergoing revitalization through a US$900 million national agriculture program emphasizing mechanization, irrigation, digital solutions, and agro-processing.

Investment opportunities include commercial farming, value-chain development, agritech platforms, and regional market integration within ECOWAS.

1.4.3 Services

The services sector is underdeveloped but expanding, particularly in:

- Telecommunications and ICT

- Energy generation and distribution
- Financial services, including microfinance and fintech
- Tourism, particularly eco-tourism

Growth in these sectors is constrained by infrastructure gaps, logistics bottlenecks, and regulatory capacity.

2. Investment Policy and Regulatory Reforms (2025)

In 2025, Liberia adopted reforms focused on anti-corruption and transparency, streamlined investment regulations, improved facilitation through one-stop shops, and sector-specific measures in trade, SEZs, competition, infrastructure, labor, and sustainability. These reforms aimed to attract foreign direct investment, strengthen governance, and diversify the economy.

2.1 Transparency and Governance

- Strengthened enforcement of anti-corruption laws
- Publication of quarterly fiscal reports
- Introduction of a beneficial ownership registry for public contracts

2.2Investment Promotion

- Produced 7 Sector-Specific Investment value propositions, providing investors with data, sector insights, and guidance on opportunities
- Hosted Liberia Investment Forum 2025 (held in Monrovia) brought together investors, policymakers, and stakeholders.
- Participated in international lead generation missions (e.g., to Istanbul in 2025) to build investor pipelines and partnerships.

2.3 Investment Policy and Facilitation

- Clarification of investor rights and dispute resolution mechanisms
- Digitization of land registries to reduce disputes
- Simplification of licensing processes through statutory timelines
- Establishment of a one-stop shop for business registration and permits
- Launch of structured investor aftercare services

2.4 Sector-Specific and Cross-Cutting Reforms

Reforms were implemented across intellectual property, industrial policy, trade facilitation, SEZs, competition policy, labor regulation, environmental safeguards, SME promotion, and incentive administration. Investment incentives increasingly follow performance-based models linked to employment, exports, and compliance.

Investment-Related Issues

AREA	**2025 Reform Highlights**

Intellectual Property	Drafted new IP law aligned with WIPO standards; improved trademark registration.
Industrial Policy	Sectoral roadmaps for agro-processing and light manufacturing; SME linkages encouraged.
Trade Policy	Customs modernization with risk-based inspections; tariff simplification.
Special Economic Zones (SEZs)	New SEZ framework with clearer incentives and governance standards.
Competition	Competition authority operationalized; focus on cement, telecom, and transport markets.
Infrastructure	IMF supported scaling-up of public Infrastructure - roads, bridges, electricity, and ports.
Health/Safety	Occupational safety codes updated; workplace health protocols formalized.
Education/Human Capital	Expanded TVET programs aligned with industry needs; apprenticeship schemes in SEZs.
Employment/Labor Policy	Labor law reforms clarified contract terms and dispute resolution mechanisms.
Environmental Issues	Integrated environmental and social impact assessments; climate-smart agriculture incentives.
SME Promotion	Simplified tax regimes for micro-enterprises; procurement set-asides for SMEs.
Taxation/Incentives	Incentives registry published; shift to performance-based credits tied to jobs and exports
Monetary Policy Tools	Greater transparency in FX auctions; improved liquidity management and communication.
Sustainability	Green investment taxonomy introduced; climate financing opportunities expanded.

3. Responsible Business Conduct and Sustainability

Liberia does not have a single comprehensive CSR law. Instead, responsible business conduct (RBC) is embedded across sectoral regulations, concession agreements, procurement rules, and environmental and social safeguards.
Key mechanisms include:

- Mandatory ESIA/ESMP processes overseen by the Environmental Protection Agency
- Community development and local content obligations in concessions
- Transparency and disclosure requirements under LEITI
- Incentive conditionality tied to environmental and social compliance

- Stakeholder consultation and grievance mechanisms

These frameworks collectively function as de facto RBC requirements.

4. Foreign Direct Investment Trends and Structure (2021–2025)

FDI inflows have been volatile, ranging from approximately US$535 million to nearly US$1 billion annually, driven primarily by mining, agriculture, and infrastructure projects. Average inflows over the period were approximately US$770 million per year.
FDI is dominated by equity investment and reinvested earnings, with minimal outward investment and negligible foreign portfolio investment due to underdeveloped capital markets. Major sources include European, Asian, and regional African investors, alongside multilateral institutions. **5 years FDI Trend (USD)**

YEAR	FDI INFLOWS (USD)
2021	**$ 535.58M**
2022	**$ 960.19M**
2023	**$ 744.58M**
2024	**$ 885M**
2025	**$ 740-750M**

Trend Analysis

- **2021–2022:** Sharp surge (+79%) as Liberia attracted major mining and agribusiness investments.
- **2022–2023:** Significant contraction (-22%) reflecting global commodity price volatility and investor caution.
- **2023–2024:** Recovery (+19%) with renewed interest in infrastructure and energy.
- **2024–2025:** Another dip (-16%), stabilizing inflows around **USD 740–750M**, showing Liberia's dependence on extractive industries

i. Structure

- **Dominant Sectors:** Mining (iron ore, gold, lithium), agriculture (rubber, palm oil, cocoa), and infrastructure (ports, energy).
- **Equity vs. Reinvestment:** Majority of inflows are equity capital and reinvested earnings, with limited debt financing.
- **Outflows:** Negligible, as Liberia is not a major source of outward FDI.

ii. Direction

- **Inward FDI:** Strong inflows into extractive industries and agribusiness.
- **Outward FDI:** Minimal, mostly small-scale investments by Liberian firms in neighboring ECOWAS countries.

iii. Sources

- **Europe:** Significant investments from ArcelorMittal (iron ore) and other mining firms.
- **Asia:** Chinese firms in infrastructure and mining.
- **Regional Africa:** Nigerian and Ghanaian investors in banking, telecom, and services.
- **Multilateral Institutions:** World Bank, IFC, AfDB supporting agriculture and infrastructure.

iv. Flow Statistics

- **Inflow:** Averaged ~**$773M annually** over 2021–2025.
- **Outflow:** Consistently below **$100M annually**, reflecting limited overseas expansion.
- **Volatility:** Sharp swings linked to commodity prices, political stability, and global shocks (COVID-19, inflation).

v. Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI)

- **Capital Market Status:** Liberia has **no deep stock exchange or bond market**, limiting FPI.
- **Government Bonds:** Some foreign participation in sovereign debt, but small relative to FDI.
- **Overall Impact:** FPI remains negligible compared to FDI, with investors preferring direct equity in mining and agriculture.

5. Issues in Intra-ECOWAS Flows

Liberia (as of 2025/early-2026) is addressing barriers to cross-border investment, political risk, and investment-climate challenges — such as inadequate infrastructure, institutional weaknesses, and regulatory hurdles — at the national level in the context of intra-ECOWAS economic flows:

5. 1 National Policy Frameworks & Strategic Reform Agendas

ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development

Liberia's government under President Joseph Boakai launched the **ARREST Agenda for Inclusive Development (AAID)** — a five-year national development strategy (2025–2030) that aims to improve governance, stabilize the economy, enhance infrastructure, and broaden investment opportunities. It explicitly targets improving the **business and investment climate** by strengthening rule of law, governance, and basic infrastructure.

How this redresses investment barriers:

- **Governance reforms** to enhance transparency and predictability in regulatory enforcement.
- **Rule of law emphasis** to reduce arbitrary decision-making and lower perceived political risk.
- **Priority on roads, energy, education, and health**, which underpin economic activity and competitiveness.

These actions are designed to reduce uncertainty for both domestic and foreign investors — including those from ECOWAS — by signaling a more **stable, predictable environment**.

5.2 Investment Policy & Incentives

Reforming Incentive Regimes

Liberia lifted its **moratorium on investment incentives** and now offers tax and related incentives in key sectors such as manufacturing, tourism, energy, transport infrastructure, technology, and agriculture — conditional on meeting specified capital investment thresholds.

Purpose:

- Making Liberia more attractive compared with other potential ECOWAS investment destinations.
- Reducing **regulatory and tax barriers** to entry, while aligning incentives with strategic sectors.

5.3 Engagement with Multilateral Partners for Institutional Strengthening

World Bank & IMF Support

Liberia's 2025-2030 **Country Partnership Framework** with the World Bank prioritizes private sector development, governance reforms, and infrastructure investments that improve the investment climate.

The IMF's 2025 Article IV consultation underscores progress on fiscal consolidation and structural reforms but highlights ongoing needs in competitiveness and anticorruption efforts.

Key contributions include:

- Technical and financial assistance to **strengthen public financial management**, improving investor confidence.
- Focus on **private sector enabling conditions**, including regulatory reform and macroeconomic stability.
- Support for **education and skills development**, critical for market competitiveness.

5.4 Targeted Infrastructure Projects & Sectoral Interventions

Transport, Energy & Digital Infrastructure

Liberia is implementing or partnering on infrastructure projects to tackle one of its biggest investment climate hurdles — **poor physical and logistics infrastructure**:

- National and partner-funded road rehabilitation and rural electrification projects (e.g., EU supported transport and energy works).
- Renewables and grid expansion efforts (e.g., mini-hydropower and solar in Sinoe).

Outcome: Reduced operational costs and **improved connectivity** — key to lowering barriers to cross-border trade and investment.

5.5 Integration with Regional Mechanisms (ECOWAS)

Participation in Regional Trade & Investment Frameworks

Liberia participates in ECOWAS schemes like the **ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme (ETLS)**, which reduces tariffs and non-tariff barriers among member states and helps investment flows across borders by simplifying trade requirements (e.g., for products from Liberia's Special Agriculture and Processing Zones).

Benefits:

- Facilitates cost-effective access to ECOWAS markets.
- Encourages cross-border economic linkages through reduced trade barriers.

6. Investment Agreements in 2023-2025

- **i. IIA with More than One State Party**
- ✓**Yes** — AfCFTA Protocol on Investment and ACP-EU Samoa Agreement are multilateral TIPs involving Liberia during this period.

- **ii. IIA with a Third Country**

- ✗**No new formal BIT** with a third country was signed between 2023–2025, although Liberia ratified a longstanding treaty with France in 2025 and concluded bilateral cooperation agreements with other countries.

- **iii. ECOWAS Member States or AfCFTA State Parties**
- ✓**Yes** — AfCFTA Protocol on Investment involves AfCFTA State Parties, and existing ECOWAS treaties continue to be part of Liberia's investment policy landscape (e.g., ECOWAS Supplementary Act on Investment).

7. Dispute Settlement

Throughout 2025, Liberia advanced **dispute prevention and resolution reforms** through strengthened Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) initiatives, political dialogue and electoral dispute mechanisms, digital modernization of courts, regulatory measures affecting litigation integrity, and broader justice system improvements aligned with national development priorities. These reforms together aim to reduce conflict, improve access to justice, and enhance efficiency and fairness in both judicial and non-judicial dispute resolution processes.

8. Barriers to Investment Attraction

Comprehensive overview of the key barriers to investment attraction in Liberia in 2025, focusing on administrative, institutional, procedural, and policy measures that may constrain pre-establishment, establishment, post-establishment, and ongoing operations of cross-border investment at the national level.

8.1 Administrative & Procedural Barriers

a. Opaque and Inefficient Regulatory Processes

- **Complex licensing, registration, and compliance procedures** persist in Liberia's investment framework. Multiple face-to-face interactions, unclear requirements, and paper-based processes create **bureaucratic delays** and uncertainty, deterring investors at the pre-establishment stage.

b. Fragmented Customs and Trade Processes

- Customs administration and border procedures remain constrained by outdated practices and weak enforcement of modern trade facilitation tools. This adds to **costs and delays in cross-border operations**—a critical issue for investors engaged in import/export activities.

8.2 Institutional Constraints

a. Fragmentation of institutional mandates

•Where multiple agencies with overlapping responsibilities oversee investment, taxation, and licensing—creates confusion, duplication, and inconsistent policy interpretation across ministries.

b. Limited Institutional Capacity

•Many government institutions, including revenue authorities and investment promotion agencies, face **staffing shortages, limited technical skills, and high personnel turnover**, weakening compliance enforcement and investor support services.

8.3 Policy-Level Barriers

a. Restrictive Investment Law Provisions

•The 2010 Investment Act still contains provisions that limit foreign participation in specific sectors (e.g., land ownership and certain economic activities) and mandates minimum capital thresholds before foreign investors can independently operate.

b. Sectoral and Ownership Restrictions

•Some sectors are **reserved exclusively for Liberian nationals** or require local participation and minimum capital investment levels (e.g., US$500,000 for independent operations). These provisions can act as entry barriers, especially for small and medium foreign investors.

c. Inconsistent Incentive Regimes

•Although the government lifted a moratorium on investment incentives, detailed administrative regulations and **minimum investment thresholds attached to incentive eligibility** may inadvertently constrain smaller investors or those without immediate access to large capital.

d. Fiscal Policy Constraints

•Weak policy frameworks and outdated tax laws have limited the effectiveness of fiscal incentives. Excessive exemptions and loopholes in tax regulation also create uncertainty for foreign investors regarding long-term cost forecasting.

8.4 Post-Establishment Barriers

a. Weak Protection of Property Rights

•Foreign investors often encounter **unclear land ownership laws** that do not allow foreigners to own land. This forces them to enter into long leases or partnerships, increasing complexity and risk in post-establishment operations.

b. Human Capital and Operational Cost Constraints

•Limited skilled labor and high operational costs (especially due to poor infrastructure and unreliable utilities) impose ongoing challenges for investors in conducting efficient business operations after establishment.

c. Infrastructure Deficits

•Chronic deficiencies in transport networks, energy supply, and digital connectivity continue to raise production and distribution costs, undermining competitiveness. These infrastructure challenges can slow operational growth and deter reinvestment or expansion.

8.5 Regional and Cross-Border Issues

a. Incomplete Regional Integration

•Although Liberia is part of ECOWAS, incomplete domestication and harmonization of regional investment codes and arbitration standards create a **disjointed legal environment** for cross-border investors. This variation in regional policies can complicate market entry and operations across neighboring markets.

b. Non-Tariff Barriers

•Persistent non-tariff barriers, including opaque customs procedures and administrative practices at borders, reduce the efficiency of cross-border trade and investment flows.

2025-focused overview of how **direct investment**, particularly **foreign direct investment (FDI)** and cross-border private investment, impacted key national development outcomes in Liberia — covering **GDP, employment, technology and knowledge transfer, and gender** dimensions.

9. Impact of Direct Investment

9.1 Impact on GDP (Gross Domestic Product)

a. Contribution to Economic Growth

•Liberia's economy recorded a growth at about **5.1% in 2025**, supported by macroeconomic reforms, external financing, and investment climate strengthening. Sustained investment inflows — including direct and portfolio investment — helped bolster aggregate demand and productive activities, contributing to GDP expansion.

b. Role in Structural Transformation

•Liberia is actively seeking to diversify its economic base beyond a narrow commodity focus toward **agribusiness, energy, and services**, which broadens GDP impact. Conferences featuring foreign investors and trade promotion initiatives in 2025 were aimed at catalyzing investment that would expand value-added production.

9.2 Impact on Job/Employment

a. Job Creation through Private Investment

- Increased investment — domestic and foreign — supports **enterprise expansion and new business ventures**, which generate employment opportunities, especially in formal sectors such as agribusiness, manufacturing, and services. (e.g., SME growth hubs and manufacturing projects).
- National development frameworks emphasize scaling private sector investment to accelerate quality job creation, although Liberia's formal sector remains relatively small compared with informal employment.

b. Skills and Youth Employment

•Investment flows have been linked with **skills training and workforce development programs** (e.g., tech skills, entrepreneurship support) that improve employability and integrate youth into the labour market, indirectly bolstering employment prospects. **9.3 Technology and Knowledge Transfer**

a. Adoption of Improved Technologies

- FDI and strategic partnerships bring **new technologies and best practices**, particularly in sectors like agriculture (e.g., agtech investments involving advanced irrigation, smart farming technologies) where foreign capital has been directed.

- Trade and investment engagement platforms hosted in 2025 aimed to attract **international firms capable of transferring technical know-how and modern processes**, thereby enhancing competitiveness.

b. Institutional and Capacity Strengthening

•Digital transformation initiatives supported by investment partners (e.g., digital literacy and telecom sector engagement) lay the groundwork for expanded technology use across the economy.

9.4 Impact on Gender

a. Women's Economic Participation

•Investment-linked programs that prioritize inclusive development have supported **women's entrepreneurship, access to resources, and participation in economic activities**. For instance, initiatives focused on women's income generation and empowerment — though not exclusively tied to foreign direct investment — reflect broader investment in gender-inclusive economic opportunities.

b. Gender-Responsive Investment Policies

•While explicit gender targets in national investment policy reforms for 2025 are not yet fully articulated, there is growing recognition that direct investment should be **aligned with gender equality goals** to maximize economic inclusion and resilience, especially for women-led enterprises.

10. Implementation of ECOWAS Investment Code & AfCFTA Investment Protocol

In 2025, Liberia has moved beyond ratifying regional and continental trade/investment agreements to actively domesticating policy frameworks, building institutional capacity, and aligning national laws with ECOWAS and AfCFTA standards. While formal harmonization of national investment law with the ECOWAS Common Investment Code remains a work in progress, substantial progress is being made on the AfCFTA front through implementation planning, stakeholder capacity building, and strategic coordination mechanisms. At the multilateral level, WTO membership continues to anchor broader legal reforms that indirectly support investment climate improvements and integration into global investment regimes.

10.1 Regional Level — ECOWAS Investment Code Implementation

a. Legal & Policy Alignment

•**ECOWAS Common Investment Code (ECOWIC)** establishes harmonized principles and standards for investment across the region (e.g., investor rights, non-discrimination, dispute settlement, tax/transfer pricing obligations). Member states are expected to domesticate these rules into national law and harmonize them with domestic investment legislation.

b. Observed Efforts (2025)

- **Policy dialogue and reform advocacy**: Local economic stakeholders and policymakers (including former NIC leadership) have publicly urged harmonizing Liberian investment laws with regional

frameworks to reduce fragmentation and enhance predictability for cross-border investors, noting that inconsistent national laws remain a barrier to regional investment integration.

- **Institutional awareness building**: Although Liberia's reported reform steps are still emerging, the government's engagement at ECOWAS forums emphasizes investment policy alignment with regional standards. This includes dialogue on infrastructure, regulatory predictability and harmonization with ECOWAS protocols.

c. Institutional Structures

•**Liberia's National Investment Commission (NIC)** continues to play a role in interfacing with regional investment frameworks (e.g., ECOWAS and bilateral engagements), though formal institutional mechanisms specific to ECOWAS Code implementation at the national level (such as a dedicated ECOWAS investment implementation unit) are still under development or advocacy.

10.2 Continental Level — AfCFTA Investment Protocol & AfCFTA Implementation

a. Ratification & National Strategy

•Liberia **ratified the AfCFTA Agreement** in July 2023 and has been transitioning from legal commitments to **implementation action in 2025**.

b. National AfCFTA Implementation Strategy (2025–2030)

- **Launch and rollout**: The **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI)** officially launched Liberia's National AfCFTA Implementation Strategy in August 2025 — a key policy instrument to guide how Liberia implements AfCFTA provisions across trade, investment, services, and export facilitation.

- **Capacity building workshops**: MoCI, in collaboration with the **United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)** and **UNDP**, held multi-day workshops in Monrovia to increase understanding and operational readiness on AfCFTA commitments among government agencies, private sector partners and civil society. These sessions aimed to improve institutional capacity for investment, trade facilitation and regional market integration.

c. Institutional Structures & Coordination

•**National implementation coordination**: Drafts and validation discussions during 2024 pointed to the establishment of a **Liberia AfCFTA Implementation Committee (LAIC)** within MoCI to coordinate policy alignment, stakeholder engagement, monitoring, reporting and compliance with AfCFTA obligations.

d. Stakeholder Engagement & Inclusion

•The rollout strategy emphasizes awareness and participation by **ministries, agencies, private sector entities, women, youth, MSMEs, rural and vulnerable groups** — which helps integrate investment and trade policy changes at grassroots and institutional levels.

10.3 Multilateral Level — WTO Commitments & Investment-Related Obligations

a. WTO Membership and Domestic Reform

- Liberia has been a member of the **World Trade Organization (WTO)** since 2016, which requires adherence to global trade rules, including those affecting investment-related aspects like **trade-related investment measures (TRIMs)** and market access commitments in goods and services.

• WTO participation has historically driven Liberia to **standardize and update domestic trade and investment laws** (e.g., Foreign Trade Law, Customs Code, competition and SME laws) to conform with non-discrimination and transparency obligations, which indirectly supports a favorable environment for investment.

b. Capacity Building & Implementation

• Implementation progress for certain WTO commitments (e.g., Trade Facilitation Agreement measures) has been ongoing, with efforts to modernize customs procedures and align with ECOWAS-harmonized codes also supporting compliance with multilateral trade rules.

4) Cross-Cutting Institutional & Policy Actions in 2025

a. Policy Alignment & Reform

•Liberia's national strategies — including **AfCFTA implementation plans** and **ongoing policy reviews** like its national trade policy — are being updated to reflect compliance obligations with ECOWAS and AfCFTA rules, as well as WTO norms.

b. Awareness Raising & Sensitization

•**Workshops, stakeholder consultations, and nationwide awareness efforts** are intended to ensure that various government ministries, agencies, the private sector, and civil society understand how regional and continental investment protocols affect domestic law and business practices.

c. Technical & Institutional Capacity

•Partner support from **UNECA, UNDP and other development partners** is instrumental in providing technical assistance and training for policy implementation, trade facilitation, and institutional coordination required under AfCFTA and ECOWAS frameworks.

Summary: Liberia's Implementation Landscape (2025)

Level	Key Steps Taken	Institutional Actions
ECOWAS	Policy advocacy for harmonized investment laws; regional dialogue on legal alignment	NIC and policymakers engaging cross-border investment reform conversations
AfCFTA	Ratification completed; National Implementation Strategy launched; training & rollout workshops	MoCI coordinating implementation; draft committees and stakeholder sensitization underway
WTO	WTO membership anchoring domestic reform; alignment with investment related trade measures	Ongoing modernization of trade and customs law supporting multilateral protocols

Below is a detailed overview of the key institutions and governance structures Liberia has (as of 2025) that are being used or strengthened to harmonize, regulate, supervise, and coordinate investment policy and implementation — particularly in the context of complying with the ECOWAS Investment Code (ECOWIC), the AfCFTA Investment Protocol, and broader international obligations.

1. National Investment Commission (NIC) — Central Investment Policy Organ

Role & Mandate

The **National Investment Commission (NIC)** is Liberia's **primary agency responsible for investment governance**, including:

- **Promotion of Liberia as an investment destination** and engagement with foreign partners.
- **Investment facilitation** — acting as a single-window support hub for regulatory clearances.
- **Aftercare and retention services** — managing investor relations and post-establishment support.
- **Policy advisory** — providing policy recommendations, incentive guidance, and regulatory interpretation.
- **Negotiation and oversight of major investment contracts**, including concessions above certain thresholds (e.g., through the Inter-Ministerial Concession Committee).

Institutional Strengthening in 2025

- The NIC participated in **international lead generation missions** (e.g., to Istanbul in 2025) to build investor pipelines and partnerships.
- Staff attended **capacity-building workshops focused on modern investment promotion skills, targeting Nigerian and international partners**, under programmes like the LIFT project, to strengthen operational effectiveness.
- NIC's role has expanded beyond mere promotion toward **policy facilitation, investor aftercare, and alignment with regional integration objectives** — key functions for ECOWIC and AfCFTA alignment.

Why It Matters: The NIC serves as an Investment Promotion Agency (IPA), a national focal point for investment policy coordination, and a central implementing organ for incentive management and investor problem resolution — all critical for compliance with regional and continental investment protocols.

2. Inter-Ministerial Concession Committee (IMCC)

Purpose & Function

- Chaired by the NIC, the **IMCC includes representatives from key ministries** — such as Finance & Development Planning, Justice, Commerce & Industry, and relevant sector ministries depending on project scope (e.g., Agriculture, Mining).
- Its primary role is to **evaluate, negotiate, and recommend concession contracts and investment agreements** (especially projects above US$10 million) before cabinet and legislative ratification.

Why It Matters: The IMCC mechanism strengthens **inter-agency coordination and regulatory oversight of large investments** — useful for harmonizing national policy with ECOWIC and preparing the country to meet AfCFTA standards on transparency, non-discrimination, and investment treatment.

3. Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoCI) — AfCFTA & Investment Policy

CoordinationRole in Investment Governance

- MoCI has the **lead national responsibility for trade and market integration**, which overlaps with investment policy under ECOWIC and AfCFTA commitments.
- The ministry actively coordinates **national strategy development and implementation** for the **AfCFTA Investment Protocol and broader AfCFTA commitments**.

Key Actions in 2025

- **Launch of Liberia's AfCFTA National Implementation Strategy (2025–2030)** — a comprehensive framework to operationalize AfCFTA commitments domestically.
- **Multi-stakeholder capacity-building workshops** involving government, private sector, and civil society to deepen understanding of AfCFTA investment, trade facilitation, and export opportunities.
- These workshops include sensitization on compliance requirements, institutional roles, and necessary internal coordination for seamless implementation.

Why It Matters: By leading **implementation strategy and stakeholder training**, MoCI is helping to build institutional capacity to enforce AfCFTA investment provisions and link trade facilitation with investment policy.

4. Multi-Agency Network & Stakeholder Coordination

Cross-Government Institutions

Investment governance in Liberia also involves multiple collaborating institutions whose mandates intersect with investment policy:

Institution	Role in Investment Governance
Ministry of Finance & Development Planning (MFDP)	Budget, fiscal incentives, macroeconomic policy influence impacting investment incentives
Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA)	Tax administration and compliance, key for investor treatment and fiscal predictability
Ministry of Agriculture / Mines & Energy / Transport &	Sectoral regulatory oversight, necessary to streamline investment procedures
Liberia Special Economic Zones	Supports infrastructure and investor incentives in targeted zones
Liberia Law Reform Commission (LLRC)	Legal reform and alignment with regional investment codes

These entities form part of **inter-agency committees and policy forums** designed to enhance policy coherence with ECOWIC and AfCFTA standards.

5. Institutional Structures for Investor Support & Dispute Prevention

Investor Aftercare & Complaint Focal Points

- The NIC operates or coordinates **investor aftercare services**, which function as **informal focal points** for resolving operational issues and minimizing disputes post-establishment.
- While Liberia has not yet formally established a **standalone national investor complaint mechanism**, such functions are being exercised through NIC and MoCI facilitation channels.

Coordination with Anti-Corruption Networks

- Liberia participates in **regional anti-corruption platforms** such as **NACIWA** — the Network of National Anti-Corruption Institutions in West Africa — which helps integrate anti-corruption efforts with transparent investment governance.
- This complements investor protection and dispute prevention by targeting systemic barriers that can deter investment.

6. Legal & Regulatory Reform Initiatives

Alignment with ECOWIC & AfCFTA

- Liberia's institutional arrangements and policy dialogues reflect ongoing efforts to **review national investment policy frameworks** to align with ECOWAS and AfCFTA commitments. Although specific new laws in 2025 may still be in development, **ongoing coordination and advisory roles** by NIC and MoCI are central to this process.

- Liberia has also **lifted the moratorium on investment incentives** (originally reinstated earlier) and reintroduced sector-specific incentive regimes with minimum thresholds to attract investment — reflecting attempts to harmonize incentives with broader regional approaches.

Summary — Investment Governance Institutions in 2025

Function	Key Institutional Actors
Investment Policy & Promotion	National Investment Commission (NIC)
Inter-Agency Concession Oversight	Inter-Ministerial Concession Committee (IMCC)
Trade & Continental Integration	Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoCI)
Sectoral Investment Regulation	Sector Ministries & Agencies (e.g.,
Incentive & Fiscal Policy	MFDP, LRA
Legal Reform & Harmonization	Law Reform Commission, NIC advisory
Anti-Corruption & Transparency	NACIWA & national anti-corruption agencies

Conclusion

Liberia's investment and socioeconomic profile shows a country with strong potential but persistent structural challenges. The economy is resource-dependent, with mining and agriculture driving growth, yet infrastructure deficits, governance weaknesses, and macroeconomic instability continue to constrain competitiveness. Reforms adopted in 2025—such as anti-corruption measures, streamlined investment facilitation, and sector-specific incentives—signal progress toward transparency and diversification.
Foreign direct investment remains concentrated in extractives and agriculture, with volatility tied to global commodity cycles and domestic governance. Regional integration through ECOWAS and AfCFTA frameworks is advancing, but incomplete harmonization and regulatory fragmentation still hinder cross-border flows.
Direct investment has contributed positively to GDP growth, job creation, technology transfer, and women's economic participation, though gaps in skilled labor, infrastructure, and gender equity remain. Liberia's ARREST Agenda (2025–2030) and AfCFTA Implementation Strategy provide a roadmap for inclusive development, institutional strengthening, and regional integration.

Way Forward
To fully unlock its investment potential and achieve sustainable growth, Liberia should prioritize:

1. **Infrastructure Development**

- Accelerate road, energy, and port projects to reduce operational costs and improve connectivity.

- Expand renewable energy and digital infrastructure to support services and industrial growth.

2. **Governance & Transparency**
    - Deepen anti-corruption enforcement and regulatory predictability.
    - Strengthen property rights, land tenure clarity, and judicial efficiency to reduce investor risk.

3. **Human Capital & Skills**
    - Scale up technical and vocational training aligned with industry needs.
    - Promote youth and women's participation in formal employment and entrepreneurship.

4. **Investment Climate & Incentives**
    - Simplify licensing and customs processes through digitization.
    - Ensure incentive regimes are transparent, performance-based, and accessible to SMEs.

5. **Regional & Global Integration**
    - Harmonize national laws with ECOWAS and AfCFTA investment codes to reduce fragmentation.
    - Leverage multilateral partnerships (World Bank, IMF, AfDB) for institutional capacity building.

6. **Sectoral Diversification**
    - Expand beyond mining into agribusiness, light manufacturing, ICT, and tourism.
    - Encourage value addition and regional market integration to reduce commodity dependence.

5.7 NIGERIA

2025 INVESTMENT REPORT OF NIGERIA

SUBMITTED TO THE

ECOWAS COMMISSION

PREPARED BY:

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND INVESTMENT (FMITI)

IN COLLABORATION WITH

NIGERIAN INVESTMENT PROMOTION COMMISSION (NIPC)

24 APRIL 2026

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Nigeria's investment environment in 2025 reflects a period of sustained structural reform aimed at improving macroeconomic stability, restoring investor confidence, and aligning national investment policies with regional and continental frameworks under ECOWAS and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). These reforms are part of a broader strategy to transform Nigeria from a commodity-dependent economy to a diversified, productive, and globally competitive nation.

1.2 Despite an overall increase in capital inflows, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) remained relatively low, indicating persistent structural challenges in attracting long-term and productivity-enhancing investments. This trend suggests that while Nigeria continues to attract short-term capital, deeper reforms are required to convert inflows into stable, long-term investment.

1.3 The Government has continued to prioritize reforms in foreign exchange management, tax administration, regulatory efficiency, and investment dispute resolution, among others. These efforts are designed to foster a transparent, predictable, and investor-friendly environment that attracts high-quality investment and supports sustainable economic growth.

2 INVESTMENT CLIMATE AND POLICY REFORMS (2025)

2.1 The macroeconomic environment in 2025 was shaped by continued foreign exchange liberalization led by the Central Bank of Nigeria. These measures were designed to enhance transparency in the Forex market, improve liquidity, and reduce distortions that previously discouraged foreign investors. At the

same time, monetary tightening policies were implemented to address inflationary pressures and stabilize the economy.

2.2 On the fiscal front, the Government has pursued reforms to strengthen fiscal sustainability, including the removal of fuel subsidies. While challenging, these measures are intended to reduce fiscal pressures and reallocate resources toward critical infrastructure and development priorities.

2.3 In the area of regulatory reform, notable progress has been achieved through the digitalization of business registration processes by the Corporate Affairs Commission, significantly reducing the time and cost of establishing businesses. In addition, tax administration reforms implemented by the Federal Inland Revenue Service have streamlined and harmonized key investment incentives under the Nigeria Tax Act 2026, alongside the institutional transition of FIRS into the Nigeria Revenue Service (NRS).

2.4 Nigeria's oil, gas, and broader energy sector has undergone far-reaching reforms aimed at improving efficiency, attracting investment, and supporting energy transition objectives. Central to these reforms is the implementation of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA), which has introduced a more transparent and competitive fiscal and regulatory framework. The deregulation of the downstream petroleum sector has improved market efficiency, while reforms in the upstream segment have strengthened investor confidence through clearer licensing and royalty structures.

2.5 The government has also introduced a range of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives to stimulate investment in the oil and gas sector. These include reduced royalty rates for deep offshore production, tax credits for gas utilization projects, and investment allowances for marginal fields. In addition, the Decade of Gas Initiative has accelerated policies aimed at expanding domestic gas utilization and commercialization

2.6 Sector-specific reforms were also notable. The energy sector experienced further deregulation, while incentives were introduced to promote renewable energy investments. Additionally, the digital economy—particularly fintech—continued to expand rapidly, contributing to economic diversification and attracting investor interest.

2.7 In summary, over the last three years, Nigeria's investment climate reforms have been driven by:

i. Macroeconomic stabilization (FX, subsidy removal, fiscal reforms)

ii. Tax system overhaul and transparency improvements

iii. Trade, Industrial and SEZ policy modernization

iv. Strengthened investment facilitation mechanisms

v. Gradual shift toward sustainable, diversified, private-sector-led growth

3 FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI) TRENDS (2023–2025)

3.1 Nigeria's FDI performance over the period 2023 to 2025 shows a fluctuating trend characterized by an initial recovery, followed by a decline and subsequent stabilization. Although inflows rose significantly in 2025, the dominance of short-term portfolio capital highlights continued vulnerability to external shocks and limited expansion in long-term productive investment.

3.2 In 2023, FDI inflows increased significantly to USD 1.14 billion, reflecting a reform-driven recovery and renewed investor interest. However, in 2024, inflows declined sharply to USD 1.08 billion, largely due to foreign exchange instability and macroeconomic uncertainty.

3.3 By 2025, FDI inflows further declined to USD 0.92 billion, although the slower rate of decline suggests some degree of stabilization. Nonetheless, the overall trend indicates that Nigeria continues to face challenges in attracting sustained long-term investment.

3.4 As shown in the charts above, between 2020 and 2025, Nigeria's external capital structure transformed significantly. FPI inflows more than tripled, surging from $5.6 billion to nearly $20 billion, while FDI inflows remained weak and relatively flat, averaging around $1 billion annually. This surge indicates renewed foreign appetite for Nigerian financial assets, though it also heightens external vulnerability due to the volatile nature of portfolio investment.

3.5 Nigeria continues to be a net recipient of foreign capital, with outward FDI negligible as depicted in chart 3. While this avoids the problem of domestic capital leakage, it also signals that Nigerian companies are not yet regional or global investors – a missed opportunity for export diversification and foreign earnings.

3.6 More strikingly, the share of volatile portfolio investment rose sharply from just over one-fifth (22%) to an estimated 95% or more of total inflows. This concentration in hot money is a double-edged sword: it provides short-term liquidity and reflects investor confidence, but it also exposes Nigeria's balance of payments to sudden reversals, especially during global risk-off episodes.

4 INVESTMENT PROMOTION, FACILITATION AND AFTERCARE

Nigeria has strengthened FDI attraction by improving infrastructure planning, advancing policy reforms, and introducing sector-specific incentives in manufacturing, agro-processing, ICT, and energy to boost productive investment inflows.

4.1 Investment Facilitation and Aftercare

4.1.1 Investment promotion efforts in Nigeria are led by the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission, which actively markets the country as a preferred investment destination in West Africa. This includes organizing business and investment forums, roadshows, stakeholder engagements, etc. These focus on sharing investment updates, resolving operational bottlenecks, and strengthening bilateral collaborations

4.1.2 Through the NIPC, Nigeria has shifted to a more proactive and structured investor aftercare approach, moving away from being reactive to complaints to actively visiting and engaging companies, identifying operational bottlenecks early and using feedback to shape policy reforms. In Q1, 2026, the NIPC partnered with State Investment Promotion Agencies (SIPAs) to undertake 21 aftercare visits as part of its proactive aftercare strategy to engage with existing investors. This is intended to strengthen the partnership with investors by gaining first - hand insight into their operations, understanding any challenges or expansion plans, and identifying ways NIPC can better support their continued growth in Nigeria. It provides an opportunity to strengthen state-level investment aftercare processes as well as discuss policy, regulatory and facilitation matters that enhance investment experience in Nigeria. These engagements are collaborative and value-driven - aimed at ensuring that investment objectives are fully supported within Nigeria's evolving business environment.

4.1.3 Additionally, NIPC is deepening investment facilitation by strengthening the One-Stop Investment Centre, digitizing business registration and licensing processes to support investment retention and expansion.

4.2 National Single Window for Trade

4.2.1 Nigeria is currently implementing a National Single Window system aimed at modernizing trade facilitation processes and improving the efficiency of cross-border transactions. The system integrates multiple government agencies involved in trade and customs procedures into a unified digital platform, thereby reducing duplication, enhancing transparency, and shortening cargo clearance timelines. By streamlining documentation and automating processes, the Single Window initiative is expected to significantly lower transaction costs, improve port efficiency, and enhance Nigeria's competitiveness in regional and global trade.

4.3 AfCFTA Trade Facilitation Progress

4.3.1 Under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Nigeria has made notable progress in operationalizing intra-African trade. The country has actively participated in the Guided Trade Initiative, facilitating the movement of goods under the AfCFTA framework and strengthening compliance with rules of origin requirements.

4.3.2 A key milestone has been the successful shipment of Nigerian goods to East African markets, including Uganda, demonstrating the practical implementation of AfCFTA trade corridors. This development reflects improvements in customs coordination, logistics systems, and regional trade cooperation. It also underscores Nigeria's growing role in supporting regional value chains and expanding market access for Nigerian products across the continent.

4.4 Subnational Coordination

4.4.1 Efforts to strengthen investor aftercare are also being extended to the subnational level through enhanced coordination under the Forum of State Investment Promotion Agencies of Nigeria (FoSIPAN). This approach is helping to institutionalize investment facilitation across states, improve consistency in investor experience, and ensure that reforms at the federal level are effectively implemented nationwide.

4.4.2 For Nigeria, investment aftercare remains a priority, with initiatives focused on investor retention, expansion support, and continuous engagement with investors to address operational challenges and policy constraints.

5 INVESTMENT DISPUTE SETTLEMENT FRAMEWORK

5.1 Nigeria operates a hybrid investment dispute resolution system that combines domestic and international mechanisms to ensure investor protection.

5.2 At the domestic level, dispute resolution mechanisms include courts, arbitration centres, and mediation processes. Efforts have been made to promote Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) as a faster and more efficient option.

5.3 At the international level, Nigeria is a member of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), providing investors with access to internationally recognized arbitration mechanisms.

5.4 In essence, Nigeria is reviewing and modernizing its international investment treaty framework to align with national development priorities and global best practices. Ongoing efforts focus on ensuring that IIAs balance investor protection with the State's right to regulate in the public interest, including areas such as the environment, labor, taxation, and sustainable development. Nigeria is also prioritizing transparency in treaty negotiations and strengthening interagency coordination to ensure coherence between investment policy and trade objectives.

6 INVESTMENT DISPUTES (2023–2025)

6.1 Investment disputes recorded between 2023 and 2025 were concentrated in key sectors, particularly oil and gas, infrastructure concessions, and the power sector.

6.2 These disputes typically arose from contractual disagreements, regulatory changes, and payment related issues, reflecting structural and operational challenges within these sectors.

6.3 The sectoral distribution of disputes is summarized in the table below:

S/NO SECTOR NATURE OF DISPUTES

1 Oil & Gas Contractual disagreements

2. Power Payment and regulatory issues

3. Infrastructure Concession-related disputes

6.4 In terms of resolution status, most disputes are being addressed through arbitration, while some have been resolved through negotiated settlements. Litigation remains limited, indicating a preference for alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

7 BILATERAL INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS (BITs)

7.1 The International Investment Agreement (IIA) team of Nigeria has mapped the contents of Nigeria's existing BITs using 20 critical and reform-oriented parameters to determine the quality of the BITs. This work was validated by UNCTAD. 21 of the 29 BITs executed by Nigeria have been analyzed. Of these 29 BITs, 26 were negotiated with the old generation BIT model and signed.

Since 2017, Nigeria has moved away from the old generation BIT to a reform-oriented BIT model, which was developed in 2016 and is currently being reviewed. The 2016 model BIT highlights the sustainable development policy objectives of the government and balances investors' rights with obligations in a bid to ensure that Nigeria attracts responsible, inclusive, beneficial and sustainable investments. Accordingly, Nigeria has negotiated with Morocco and Singapore with the 2016 BIT model, which has been signed and ratified.

7.2 These agreements provide legal protection for investors and establish frameworks for dispute resolution, thereby enhancing investor confidence.

7.3 In 2025, the Government initiated a review of existing BITs to ensure alignment with AfCFTA standards and contemporary investment practices.

7.4 The policy direction reflects a shift from traditional investment protection agreements toward more balanced frameworks that incorporate environmental and social considerations.

8 IMPLEMENTATION OF ECOWAS INVESTMENT POLICY & CODE

8.1 Nigeria's implementation of investment frameworks at the regional, continental, and multilateral levels reflects both commitment and challenges.

8.2 At the regional ECOWAS level, Nigeria supports the ECOWAS Investment Policy and Code, which aims to harmonize investment rules, promote transparency, and facilitate cross-border flows. However, enforcement is uneven, with barriers such as border closures, non-tariff restrictions, and weak infrastructure undermining full integration.

8.3 At the continental level under AfCFTA, Nigeria ratified the agreement in 2019 and participates in negotiations on the Protocol on Investment, which seeks to create a unified African investment regime. Nigeria's role is crucial given its market size, but aligning national protectionist tendencies with AfCFTA's liberalization goals remains a challenge.

8.4 At the multilateral level (WTO Investment Facilitation Framework), Nigeria is part of ongoing discussions to establish global rules that simplify investment procedures, improve transparency, and strengthen investor protections. While Nigeria has expressed support, domestic implementation is slowed by regulatory uncertainty, bureaucratic inefficiencies, and weak institutional capacity.

8.5 This alignment has contributed to improved investor protection and increased participation in regional investment policy platforms.

8.6 However, challenges remain in ensuring consistent implementation and strengthening enforcement mechanisms across institutions.

9 IMPLEMENTATION OF AfCFTA INVESTMENT PROTOCOL

9.1 Within the framework of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Nigeria is actively implementing measures to deepen intra-African investment and trade integration. The country is working to harmonize investment facilitation policies with AfCFTA protocols, enhance cross-border investment opportunities, and support regional value chains in manufacturing, agriculture, and services.

9.2 Nigeria is also strengthening collaboration with ECOWAS member states to ensure coherence in investment rules, reduce barriers to regional capital flows, and promote Africa-wide industrialization.

10 BARRIERS TO INVESTMENT ATTRACTION

10.1 Nigeria continues to face significant barriers to attracting investment, including policy and regulatory uncertainty from frequent changes in foreign exchange rules, widespread corruption and governance weaknesses that increase transaction costs, and severe infrastructure deficits such as unreliable power supply and poor transport networks. Security concerns from insurgency, banditry, and piracy deter investors. Weak dispute settlement mechanisms, environmental degradation in the Niger Delta, and social risks linked to unemployment further complicate the investment climate.

11 IMPACTS OF FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI) IN NIGERIA

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has played a strategically important role across the key sectors of the Nigerian economy, though relatively modest and uneven:

11.1 Contribution to GDP and Sectoral Output: FDI inflows into Nigeria have remained comparatively low in recent years, typically accounting for less than 5% of total capital inflows and under 1–2% of GDP. These inflows are highly concentrated in a few sectors—primarily oil and gas, telecommunications, and financial services—where they have supported output expansion and productivity gains. Notably, the telecommunications sector has benefited significantly from sustained FDI, contributing over 12–14% to GDP in recent years. However, limited inflows into manufacturing, agriculture, and export-oriented industries have constrained broader economic diversification and reduced the overall developmental impact.

11.2 Employment Generation: FDI has contributed to employment creation both directly and indirectly. Direct employment is generated in sectors such as telecommunications, manufacturing, and financial services, particularly in areas like network operations, customer services, and industrial production. Indirect employment effects arise through backward and forward linkages, including supply chains, logistics, and service provision. However, the overall employment impact remains moderate, as a significant share of FDI is concentrated in capital-intensive industries, especially oil and gas, which have relatively low labour absorption capacity. Consequently, FDI's contribution to large-scale job creation has been limited compared to its potential.

11.3 Technology Transfer and Skills Development: FDI has facilitated the introduction of advanced technologies and managerial practices, particularly in ICT, banking, and extractive industries. Multinational enterprises have deployed innovations such as digital financial platforms, broadband infrastructure, and modern extraction techniques, contributing to productivity improvements and sectoral modernization. In addition, FDI has supported human capital development through training, skills transfer, and exposure to global best practices. Nevertheless, the extent of technology diffusion to domestic firms remains constrained by weak local content integration, limited absorptive capacity of local enterprises, and insufficient research–industry linkages, thereby reducing broader economy-wide spillovers.

12 INVESTMENT GOVERNANCE

12.1 Nigeria is advancing a comprehensive set of governance reforms aimed at strengthening the investment climate and aligning domestic frameworks with international best practices.

12.2 At the institutional level, the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC) has intensified efforts to streamline investor services through the digitalization of administrative processes via its Investor Portal, while expanding the One Stop Investment Centre (OSIC) to reduce procedural bottlenecks and improve inter-agency coordination.

12.3 On the legal front, the enactment of the Arbitration and Mediation Act 2023 has modernized Nigeria's dispute resolution framework, aligning it with internationally recognized standards such as those of United Nations Commission on International Trade Law. In parallel, recent Finance Acts 2025 have rationalized investment incentives, enhanced fiscal transparency, and strengthened the efficiency of tax administration.

12.4 In terms of transparency and accountability, Nigeria continues to operationalize the Freedom of Information Act 2011, reinforcing access to public information and promoting good governance. The country is also collaborating with United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the Nigeria Investment Policy (2023–2027), which places strong emphasis on sustainable development, investor responsibility, and policy coherence.

12.5 Regionally, Nigeria is aligning its investment governance framework with the Economic Community of West African States Investment Policy and Code, while at the continental level, it is actively engaged in negotiations under the African Continental Free Trade Area Protocol on Investment. At the global level, Nigeria supports ongoing initiatives within the World Trade Organization Investment Facilitation Framework, demonstrating its commitment to simplifying administrative procedures, enhancing transparency, and strengthening investor protections.

12.6 Collectively, these reforms reflect a coordinated effort to build a more transparent, predictable, and investor-friendly governance environment capable of attracting and retaining quality investment.

13 CHALLENGES AND POLICY OUTLOOK

13.1 Nigeria continues to face several structural challenges affecting its investment climate, including exchange rate volatility, infrastructure deficits, security concerns, and regulatory bottlenecks.

13.2 Looking ahead, the Government's policy priorities include attracting long-term FDI, strengthening institutional frameworks, improving infrastructure, and enhancing regional integration.

13.3 Sustained reform efforts and effective implementation will be critical to achieving these objectives.

14 WAY FORWARD

14.1 Moving forward, the focus will be on strengthening infrastructure competitiveness, enhancing policy predictability, and fostering deeper linkages between foreign investment and the domestic economy.

14.2 Nigeria reaffirms its commitment to collaborating closely with ECOWAS Member States to promote a stable, transparent, and investment-friendly regional environment that supports industrialization, job creation, and technology transfer.

15 CONCLUSIONS

15.1 Nigeria's investment climate in 2025 demonstrates gradual improvement driven by ongoing reforms and policy adjustments.

15.2 However, attracting stable and long-term Foreign Direct Investment requires continued commitment to macroeconomic stability, regulatory consistency, and infrastructure development.

15.3 While recent reforms have strengthened capital inflows, particularly in portfolio investment, the priority remains to translate these gains into sustained Foreign Direct Investment that is productive, inclusive, and development-oriented. Nigeria is committed to deepening policy reforms, modernizing investment agreements, strengthening dispute prevention and resolution mechanisms, and fully leveraging the AfCFTA framework to expand regional investment and value chains.

15.4 Finally, alignment with ECOWAS and AfCFTA frameworks remains essential for enhancing Nigeria's competitiveness within the regional and global investment landscape.

5.8 SENEGAL

REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL
One People - One Goal - One Faith



ECOWAS Common Investment Market Council (ECIM)
SENEGAL 2025 INVESTMENT REPORT

Ministry of Industry and Trade (Trade, Investment and Development Sub-Committee) Minister of the Economy, Planning and Cooperation
National Agency for Investment Promotion and Major Works (APIX)
Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) - 27 to 30 April 2026

Outline

- Review of the investment climate and investment policy reforms adopted in 2025.
- The trend in foreign direct investment (FDI) flows over the previous three years (2023, 2024 and 2025).
- The status of implementation of the ECOWAS Investment Policy and Code, as well as the AfCFTA Protocol on Investment.
- Investment promotion, facilitation and monitoring.
- Investment dispute resolution measures and disputes involving the country over the period in question.
- Existing bilateral investment agreements as well as recent ones.
- Recommendations.

1. Review of the Investment Climate and Investment Policy Reforms Adopted in 2025

Senegal has embarked on an ambitious drive to improve the business climate and position the private sector as the primary engine of economic transformation, in line with the national Senegal 2050 Transformation Agenda.

A structured strategy to boost the private sector

The National Strategy for Private Sector Development and Investment Promotion (SNDSPI 2025-2029) is the main operational framework aimed at improving the business climate and making the private sector the engine of economic growth. It aims to build a competitive private sector that creates wealth and sustainable jobs, capable of driving endogenous growth across the country's various territorial hubs.

To achieve this objective, the strategy is built around three major pillars: strengthening the competitiveness of territorial hubs through the structuring of local value chains and the development of dedicated economic infrastructure; facilitating business and investment, notably through modernization of the regulatory framework, reduction of production costs and the revival of public-private partnerships; and direct support to businesses, through improved support for SMEs and diversification of financing mechanisms.

Business climate diagnosis: persistent constraints

Despite progress made in improving the business climate, the Senegalese private sector continues to face several structural constraints. Economic activity remains heavily concentrated in the Dakar-Thiès-Diourbel triangle, which accounts for around 62% of national wealth, thereby limiting the exploitation of economic potential in other regions.

Furthermore, the high cost of production factors is a major obstacle to business competitiveness, notably due to energy prices among the highest in WAEMU (UEMOA), the cost of telecommunications, and the shortage of skilled labor. These difficulties are compounded by administrative and regulatory constraints, characterized by slow land reforms, administrative burdens and the still-limited application of certain structuring laws, such as the Startup Act.

Finally, access to financing remains insufficient for businesses, particularly SMEs, with private-sector credit estimated at 31% of GDP in 2023 and financial offerings often poorly suited to business needs. These challenges represent priority issues for strengthening private-sector competitiveness and sustainably improving the business climate in Senegal.

Structuring reforms to improve the business climate

As part of efforts to improve the business climate, Senegal adopted the new Investment Code (Law No. 2025-16 of 27 September 2025), introducing major reforms aimed at strengthening the country's attractiveness to investors. This new framework is being operationalized through implementing decrees, notably one relating to the digitalization of procedures, which centralizes applications for approval and allows electronic filing via APIX, thereby helping to speed up the processing of files. Another decree sets the eligibility criteria and incentives, specifying the sectors concerned, the benefits available during the installation and operating phases, and the lowering of the investment threshold to 15 million FCFA (≈ USD 26.11 thousand).

The new Code also provides for the regulation of approval timelines, the establishment of a dedicated dispute-resolution mechanism, strengthened legal guarantees for investors, and the broadening of eligible sectors. Overall, these reforms aim to reduce bureaucracy, improve transparency and facilitate private investment, thereby strengthening Senegal's competitiveness and the attractiveness of its business climate.

Senegal's performance in the 2025 B-Ready ranking

Senegal joined the World Bank's Business Ready (B-Ready) report for the first time, marking a significant step forward in improving its business climate. The country ranks 8th out of 27 African countries assessed and is among the 51 pilot economies for this new methodology.

The results reflect notable progress, including 5th place in Africa for regulatory framework and implementation efficiency, and 10th place for the quality of public services. This performance confirms the efforts made by Senegal to strengthen the attractiveness of its business environment and encourage private investment.

Mobilizing investment: strategic levers

In order to strengthen the mobilization of foreign direct investment and concessional financing, several strategic levers have been identified, including improving the preparation and bankability of public projects, modernizing production tools, and promoting industrialization and local processing. These efforts are also accompanied by the development of value chains and improved access to essential production factors, particularly energy and infrastructure, in order to strengthen the attractiveness and competitiveness of the national economy.

The renewed Presidential Investment Council: a new governance framework

The renewed Presidential Investment Council (CPI) represents a structuring reform of Senegal's business climate, aimed at strengthening the effectiveness of public-private dialogue and accelerating the implementation of economic reforms. Its main objectives are to remove obstacles to investment, improve institutional coordination, and ensure faster and more coherent execution of public decisions.

This reform is based on a strengthened institutional framework, introducing a permanent structuring of bodies, institutionalized private-sector participation, territorialization of actions, and systematic monitoring and evaluation of reforms. It also aims to improve the detection and resolution of administrative, legal and operational obstacles to investment.

In this context, a decree establishing the creation, organization and functioning of the Presidential Investment Council was adopted on 15 April 2026 by the Council of Ministers. This text formalizes the renewed CPI and clarifies its institutional framework, strengthening its role as the central mechanism for steering investment-related reforms, under the chairmanship of the Head of State.

This new institutional architecture responds to the need for a more operational and effective framework, in a context marked by the growing complexity of projects and demands for administrative performance, in order to sustainably improve the business climate in Senegal.

New Labour Code

On 15 April 2026, Senegal adopted a new Labour Code as part of the broader drive to modernize the legal framework and improve the business climate. This reform aims to adapt labor legislation to economic changes, strengthen labor-market flexibility while guaranteeing better protection for workers, and improve business competitiveness. It also helps secure professional relationships, encourage the creation of formal jobs, and foster a more attractive working environment for domestic and foreign investment.

Senegal is engaged in an ambitious drive to improve its business climate, founded on a clear strategy, structuring reforms and strengthened governance.

The implementation of the SNDSPI 2025-2029, the adoption of the new Investment Code, inclusion in the B-Ready ranking, the new Labour Code, and the formalization of the Presidential Investment Council reflect a strong political will to make the private sector the engine of inclusive and sustainable growth.

These reforms are expected to attract more investment, strengthen business competitiveness and support job creation, thereby contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the Senegal 2050 Agenda.

2. Trend in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Flows over the Previous Three Years (2023, 2024 and 2025)

Foreign direct investment statistics show the following trends:

Table: Investment flow and stock statistics for Senegal (in millions of USD)

Year	2023	2024	2025
FDI Flows	-	-	-
Inflows	**4,790**	**2,016**	**Not available**
Outflows	**71**	**48**	**Not available**

Source: UNCTAD

The table presents the evolution of foreign direct investment (FDI) flows in Senegal over the 2023-2025 period. A sharp decline in inflows can be observed between 2023 and 2024. Indeed, FDI inflows fell from USD 4,790 million in 2023 to USD 2,016 million in 2024, a significant decrease. This decline can be explained by several factors, notably the uncertain international economic context, the global slowdown in investment, as well as certain domestic factors related to the business climate.

As for outflows, these remain relatively low compared with inflows. They fell from USD 71 million in 2023 to USD 48 million in 2024, also recording a decline. This shows that Senegalese companies still invest relatively little abroad, which is characteristic of developing economies where the attraction of foreign investment is generally greater than outward investment.

For 2025, data are not yet available, which limits the analysis of the recent trend. However, the decline observed between 2023 and 2024 could indicate a slowdown in Senegal's attractiveness to foreign investors, even though the country continues to attract significant volumes of investment.

Overall, this data illustrates that Senegal remains a net recipient country of foreign direct investment, despite a notable contraction in inflows between 2023 and 2024.

3. Status of Implementation of the ECOWAS Investment Policy and Code, and the AfCFTA Protocol on Investment

Senegal has not yet implemented the ECOWAS Investment Policy and Code due to genuine coordination and investment-governance problems, with responsibilities scattered across different bodies. However, it is necessary to ensure that the ongoing reform of the Investment Code can incorporate the relevant provisions of ECOWIC and the AfCFTA Protocol on Investment.

Senegal has adopted the AfCFTA Protocol on Investment and is preparing for its implementation by organizing awareness-raising meetings for the public, particularly the private sector.

4. Investment Promotion, Facilitation and Monitoring

Establishment of a legal framework for investment

Title of Text	Comments
Treaty on the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa (OHADA)	The treaty was ratified by Senegal on 14 June 1994 and entered into force on 18 September 1995.
The Investment Code	Senegal has a new Investment Code adopted in 2025.
National Strategy for Private Sector Development (SNDSPI)	Senegal has a new strategy published in February 2026.
The General Tax Code of Senegal	The General Tax Code of Senegal was adopted by Law No. 2012-31 of 31 December 2012.
The Customs Code	The Customs Code was adopted by Law No. 2014-10 of 28 February 2014 on the Customs Code of Senegal. It is currently under reform.
The Labour Code of Senegal	Senegal has a new Labour Code, adopted on 15 April 2026.
The Urban Planning Code	The Urban Planning Code was adopted by Law No. 2008-43 of 20 August 2008 on the Urban Planning Code.
The Building Code	The Building Code was adopted by Law No. 2009-23 of 8 July 2009 on the Building Code (legislative part) and Decree No. 2010-99 of 27 January 2010 on the Building Code (regulatory part).
The Mining Code	The Mining Code was adopted by Law No. 2016-32 of 8 November 2016 on the Mining Code.
The Petroleum Code	The Petroleum Code was adopted by Law No. 2019-03 of 1 February 2019 on the Petroleum Code.
The Electricity Code	The Electricity Code was adopted by Law No. 2021-31 of 9 July 2021 on the Electricity Code.
The Public Procurement Code	The Public Procurement Code was adopted by Decree No. 2022-1538 of 12 August 2022, amending and supplementing Decree No. 2014-1212 of 22 September 2014 on the Public Procurement Code.
The Law on Public-Private Partnership Contracts	The Law on Public-Private Partnership Contracts was adopted by Law No. 2021-23 of 2 March 2021, on public-private partnership contracts.
Local Content Laws	Law No. 2019-04 of 1 February 2019 on local content in the hydrocarbons sector. Law No. 2022-17 of 23 May 2022 on local content in the mining sector.
The Law on Special Economic Zones (SEZ)	The SEZ Law was adopted by Law No. 2017-06 of 6 January 2017 on SEZs.
The Law on the Warehouse Receipt System for Goods in Senegal	The Warehouse Receipt System for Goods in Senegal was created by Decree No. 2020-789 of 19 March 2020 implementing Law No. 2017-29 of 14 July 2017.
The Law establishing the Energy Sector Regulatory Commission	Law No. 2021-32 of 9 July 2021, establishing and setting out the mandate of the Energy Sector Regulatory Commission (CRSE).
The AfCFTA Protocol on Investment	The Protocol was adopted on 18 and 19 February 2023 by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union.

The Common Investment Code of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)	The Investment Code was adopted by Supplementary Act A/SA 3/12/08 adopting the Community Rules on Investment and the modalities for their implementation within ECOWAS.
The Investment Policy of the Economic Community of West African States	The ECOWAS Investment Policy was adopted by Act A/SA.3/12/08.
The Pan-African Investment Code	This Code was ultimately not incorporated into the African Union's normative texts. However, it facilitated the drafting of the AfCFTA Protocol on Investment.
The 2008 Supplementary Act on Investment	Supplementary Act A/SA3/12/08 adopting the Community rules on investment and the modalities for their implementation within ECOWAS.
The ECOWAS Energy Protocol	Protocol signed on 31 January 2003.
Framework Agreement on Trade and Investment between the Government of the United States of America and ECOWAS	The Framework Agreement was adopted on 5 August 2014.

5. Investment Dispute Resolution Measures and Disputes Involving the Country over the Period

Investment dispute resolution measures

Two articles (50 and 51) of the new Investment Code establish a structured mechanism for the prevention and resolution of disputes between the State and investors, which clearly constitutes a mechanism introduced by the new Investment Code.

Article 50 focuses first on dispute prevention. The body responsible for investment promotion, together with the Technical Investment Monitoring Committee (CSTI), plays an active upstream role: they receive grievances from investors that could create tensions with public administrations and may propose measures to the Ministry of Finance to mitigate or resolve these disputes before they escalate. This reflects a preventive and institutionalized approach to conflict management.

Article 51 then organizes the resolution of disputes proper. It first favors amicable and alternative solutions (negotiation, good offices, mediation, and conciliation). Only if these mechanisms fail can the dispute be brought before the competent national courts, or, if the parties so wish, referred to international arbitration in accordance with agreements in force.

Overall, these provisions reflect an important innovation of the new Investment Code: the establishment of a comprehensive, graduated and modern framework for dispute management, which favors dialogue and prevention first, while offering judicial and arbitral remedies as a last resort.

Disputes involving Senegal in 2025

The dispute between the State of Senegal and Woodside Energy, operator of the Sangomar offshore oil field, is a domestic tax dispute that has become an international arbitration case. It illustrates the tensions between the State's economic sovereignty and the legal protection of foreign investors under international investment law.

Origin of the dispute (June 2024)

The dispute began in June 2024 when the General Directorate of Taxes and State Property (DGID) notified Woodside of a tax reassessment estimated at between 40 and 41 billion FCFA (approximately USD 65 million). The tax administration considers that additional taxes are owed on the operation of the Sangomar oil field. Woodside disputes this decision, stating that it has complied with Senegalese tax legislation and with the production-sharing contract (PSC) signed with the State.

Escalation of the dispute at the national level

The disagreement quickly turned into judicial proceedings in Senegal:

- Seizure of bank accounts via third-party garnishment orders (ATD);
- Partial freezing of company funds;
- Referral to the Dakar courts from August 2024;
- Temporary suspension of collection, conditional on a bank guarantee equivalent to the amount claimed (via Citibank and the Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations).

Internationalization of the dispute: recourse to ICSID (May 2025)

In the absence of a resolution at the national level, Woodside initiated international arbitration proceedings before ICSID (the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes) in May 2025.

The company bases its claim on the arbitration clauses contained in the petroleum contracts and a Senegal-Netherlands bilateral investment treaty (1979), via its Dutch subsidiary, allowing access to ICSID despite the absence of a direct BIT between Senegal and Australia.

Framework and scope of ICSID arbitration

ICSID, a World Bank institution, has jurisdiction over disputes between foreign investors and States. Its main characteristics are:

- Final and binding decisions;
- Absence of a conventional appeal (except for annulment on procedural grounds);
- Enforcement governed by the ICSID Convention.

Woodside argues that the tax reassessment could constitute a breach of contract and a violation of the fair and equitable treatment (FET) principle.

Possible consequences of the arbitration

If ICSID rules in Woodside's favor, Senegal could be required to refund the amounts collected, pay damages, and revise certain tax practices applied to investors.

In addition, the State faces high arbitration costs (several million dollars), a lengthy procedure (an average of 3 to 4 years), and potential difficulties in enforcing the award.

Broader economic and political issues

This dispute is part of a broader structural context:

- Revision of oil and gas contracts by the State;
- The desire to increase revenue from natural resources;
- Tensions between contractual stabilization clauses and new sovereign economic policies.

6. Existing Bilateral Investment Agreements and Recent Ones

Senegal is a signatory to several bilateral investment treaties (BITs) with the following countries: Turkey; India; Spain; France; Mauritius; Italy; Malaysia; South Africa; Qatar; Argentina; Republic of Korea; Tunisia; United States of America; Romania; United Kingdom; Netherlands; Sweden; Germany; Switzerland; Canada; Tunisia (UNCTAD).

NB: It is important to note that the new AfCFTA Protocol on Investment provides for the lapse of all BITs between African countries upon adoption of the Protocol. Furthermore, BITs signed with non-African countries remain in force provided they are not incompatible with the provisions of the AfCFTA Protocol on Investment; the provisions of the latter prevail in the event of conflict with BITs signed with countries that have now become third parties in relation to African countries.

7. Recommendations on Expected Regional Measures to Support Investment Promotion and Attraction

The following recommendations aim to propose concrete courses of action at the regional level, in order to strengthen legal certainty, improve investment governance, and sustainably increase the attractiveness of the ECOWAS-AfCFTA space.

Harmonization and Strengthening of the Legal Framework

This involves unifying investment rules among ECOWAS and AfCFTA member states in order to reduce legal contradictions. The objective is to clarify the relationship between national codes, bilateral treaties and sectoral contracts, while establishing a hierarchy of norms. This would help limit legal uncertainty and the risk of international disputes.

Regional Dispute-Resolution Mechanism

This recommendation calls for the creation of an African investment arbitration institution to handle disputes between States and investors. It emphasizes amicable solutions (mediation, conciliation) before resorting to international arbitration such as ICSID. The aim is to reduce costs, strengthen regional legal autonomy and improve conflict management.

Reform of Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs)

This involves modernizing older treaties to rebalance investor protection and state sovereignty. Clauses considered too favorable to investors must be corrected, particularly those relating to fiscal stability or fair treatment. New treaties must incorporate room for public-policy regulation (taxation, environment, development).

Fiscal and Contractual Predictability

This measure aims to harmonize tax regimes and contracts in strategic sectors such as mining, oil and energy. It encourages more flexible but stable rules in order to avoid abrupt policy changes and disputes. The objective is to secure investment while maintaining the State's capacity to adapt.

Investment Governance

This involves modernizing investment administration through connected one-stop shops and common digital tools at the regional level. Project monitoring becomes more effective and transparent. This helps reduce administrative delays and improve coordination among States.

Integrated Regional Projects
This approach encourages the development of cross-border economic projects and regional value chains. It promotes structuring investments in infrastructure, energy and industry. The aim is to strengthen economic integration and create economies of scale across Africa.

Investor Confidence
This involves strengthening the region's credibility by establishing common, transparent indicators on the business climate. The regular publication of comparative data improves visibility and predictability for investors. This helps strengthen the overall attractiveness of the ECOWAS-AfCFTA space.

Management of Tax and Mining Disputes
This recommendation aims to better regulate tax disputes that could become international arbitration cases. It proposes clear rules for tax reassessments in extractive sectors and mechanisms for conflict prevention. The objective is to avoid costly disputes and promote legal stability.

Note: Figures originally reported in West African CFA Francs (FCFA/XOF) have been converted to United States Dollars (USD) for ease of comprehension, using the prevailing OANDA exchange rate of USD 1 = XOF 574.50 (www.oanda.com, as at 21 August 2026). The USD equivalents shown in parentheses are approximate and are provided for indicative purposes only; the original FCFA figures, as officially reported by the Member State, remain the authoritative values.

5.9 SIERRA LEONE

GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

NATIONAL INVESTMENT BOARD SECRETARIAT

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Sierra Leone Investment Report – 2023, 2024 and 2025

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1. Executive Summary

The year 2025 marked a watershed moment for Sierra Leone's investment landscape, characterized by the adoption of transformative legislation, institutional consolidation, and a surge in international investor confidence. The government, through the National Investment Board (NIB), launched high-level Public-Private Dialogues aimed at overhauling the business environment, digitizing business registration, and establishing a One-Stop Shop Centre for Investment. The Finance Act 2025 introduced one of the most competitive fiscal incentive regimes in West Africa, offering tiered tax holidays and duty exemptions tied to investment size and local job creation.

Sierra Leone secured nearly **$2 billion in foreign direct investment** commitments from Europe and the United States between 2023 and 2025, with key inflows targeting mining, energy, agriculture, and financial services. Simultaneously, the country deepened its regional integration commitments, positioning itself as a leader in AfCFTA implementation. The Arbitration Act 2022, reinforced by accession to the New York Convention, provided a modern, investor-friendly dispute resolution framework. However, the period also witnessed significant investment disputes, including the Gerald International and Koidu Limited cases, highlighting persistent challenges in contract enforcement, land governance, and political interference.

2. Review of the Investment Climate and Investment Policy Reforms Adopted in 2025

2.1. Institutional Foundations: The National Investment Board (NIB)

The National Investment Board (NIB), established under the NIB Act of 2022, remained the central government agency for all investment matters in 2025. Its mandate encompasses investment promotion, coordination, facilitation, and the administration of corporate affairs, including business registration. In 2025, the NIB emerged as the primary interface for both domestic and foreign investors, replacing a previously fragmented system and creating a unified, transparent institutional framework.

The NIB advanced several institutional reform initiatives, including the development of a National Investment Strategy, an Aftercare framework, the consolidation of the Companies Act (2009) and Business Registration Act (2007), the completion of an Investment Policy Review, digitization of business records, and enhanced engagement with local councils to streamline the registration process.

2.2. Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) and Business Environment Reforms

On 30 July 2025, the Government of Sierra Leone, through the NIB in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), officially launched a high-level Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) aimed at overhauling the country's business environment. Held under the theme **"Building a Smarter OSSC Business Environment: Accelerating Business Entry through Collaborative Reform,"** the event convened stakeholders from government institutions, the private sector, development partners, and civil society.

Pillar	Description
Inter-Agency Coordination	Improving collaboration and real-time data sharing among institutions
Digitization of Business Processes	Transitioning from paper-based to digital systems to enhance transparency and efficiency
Legal and Regulatory Clarity	Updating laws to protect investors and reduce ambiguity
SME Inclusion and Awareness	Increasing registration access for women, youth, and small enterprises
Capacity Building and Feedback Loops	Creating systems for continuous improvement informed by user feedback

As part of its district-level PPD initiative, the NIB engaged stakeholders to support the development and implementation of a **One-Stop Shop Centre for Investment** (OSSC). Following a successful engagement session brought together representatives from government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), local councils, private sector actors, and development partners. The OSSC will serve as a centralized hub for business registration, licensing, and investment services.

2.3. The Finance Act 2025: A Landmark Incentive Regime

On 8 January 2025, Sierra Leone adopted the **Finance Act 2025**, a landmark piece of legislation that introduced a comprehensive, tiered system of investment incentives designed to attract large-scale, high-impact investments. The Act establishes clear eligibility criteria based on investment size and local employment creation, providing investors with predictability and legal certainty.

The key incentives are summarized below:

Incentive Type	Requirement	Benefit
Tax Holiday (Tier 1)	Min. $5M investment + 100+ full-time employees	5-year corporate income tax exemption
Tax Holiday (Tier 2)	Min. $7.5M investment + 150+ full-time employees	10-year corporate income tax exemption
Duty-free Import (New Businesses)	Min. $10M investment	3-year duty-free import of plants and machinery
Duty-free Import (Expansion)	Min. $5M investment (existing businesses)	Duty-free import of plants and machinery
Renewable Energy Incentives	Min. $500,000 investment + 50+ employees	Duty-free import of renewable energy products
R&D & Training Incentive	Expenses on R&D, training, export promotion	125% tax deduction
Agribusiness Incentives	Cultivation/livestock investment meeting criteria	Full corporate income tax exemption

Source: UNCTAD Investment Policy Monitor, based on The Finance Act 2025

Important: Businesses registered in Sierra Leone with at least 20 per cent local ownership are eligible for these exemptions.

2.4. Land Governance and Responsible Investment

In collaboration with the **"Land for Life Sierra Leone" (L4L)** initiative, the NIB co-developed a **CSO–Private Sector–Community Framework** designed to enhance transparency, accountability, and cooperation in land-based investments. A preliminary one-day forum held in Freetown in April 2025 emphasized the urgent need for a structured framework to reduce conflict, ensure equitable investment benefits, and promote sustainable land governance.

Regional dialogues were subsequently organized bringing together civil society, private actors, and landowners. During these engagements, community landowners expressed concerns over limited community benefits, delayed payment of lease rents, and unfulfilled corporate promises, which have contributed to tensions between investors and host communities.

Looking ahead, a **CSO–Private Sector Dialogic Framework** will be developed and validated to provide a roadmap for constructive engagement between communities, CSOs, and investors, contributing to more inclusive and sustainable land-based investments.

2.5. President Bio's International Investment Drive

President Julius Maada Bio personally led the global engagement strategy, reshaping Sierra Leone's image as an attractive investment destination. Speaking during a London investment roundtable in October 2025, emphasized that the government had "moved from aid to trade," highlighting that Sierra Leone is now a priority country for institutions including British International Investment, Proparco, FMO, DFC, and IFC. President Bio outlined key sectors ripe for investment before Wall Street investors, highlighting enhanced fiscal discipline, the streamlined NIB, and strengthened investor protection laws rooted in transparency, rule of law, and predictability. He also highlighted reforms including **24-hour company registration**, a **five-day turnaround for work permits**, and duty waivers on machinery and agricultural inputs.

2.6. Remaining Challenges

Despite significant progress, persistent challenges remain. Stakeholders identified limited public awareness of institutional roles, overlapping taxation, high interest rates on business loans, and the need for greater private sector involvement in policy formulation as ongoing obstacles to business registration and operations.

3. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Flow Trend: 2023–2025

3.1. Statistical Overview

Sierra Leone's FDI performance over the 2023–2025 period presents a nuanced picture characterized by relatively stable net inflow levels alongside a significant surge in announced investment commitments.

Sierra Leone FDI Net Inflows (2023–2025)

The chart below illustrates the trend in Sierra Leone's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) net inflows:

FDI Net Inflows (USD billion)

Year	Year FDI Net Inflows (USD)	Source
2023	USD 0.20 billion (USD 200 million)	Focus Economics
2024	USD 0.12 billion (USD 121.79 million)	World Bank data via Trading Economics
2025	USD 0.07 billion (USD 73.50 million)	Estimated projection based on 2024 trend

Important Context: The 2025 figure (USD 73.50 million) is an estimated projection based on the 2024 data and expected trends, not a final official statistic. The sharp decline in net inflows reflected in the 2024–2025 data may be partially attributable to data revision methodologies, exchange rate fluctuations, or the timing of investment disbursements relative to commitment announcements. These statistical figures capture net inflows (inward FDI minus outward FDI) and may not fully reflect the scale of investment commitments secured during the period.

3.2. Investment Commitments and Announcements

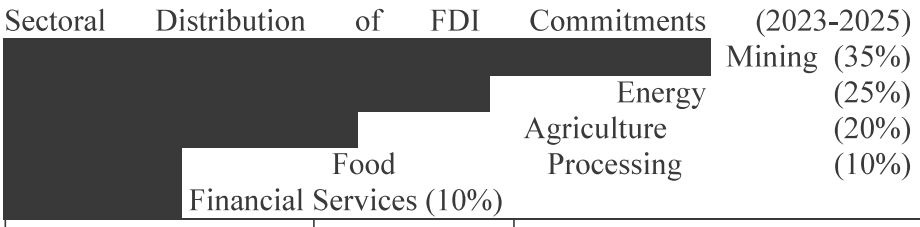
Notwithstanding the modest net inflow figures, Sierra Leone secured nearly **$2 billion in foreign direct investment** from Europe and the United States over the three-year period 2023–2025, According to State House sources, the surge in investor confidence stems from three key strategies championed by President Bio:

1. **Aggressive International Engagement:** By personally leading Sierra Leone's representation at global investment conferences, President Bio has repositioned the country's image, drawing investors' focus to its untapped opportunities.

2. **Policy and Institutional Reforms:** The government has implemented sweeping changes to the business ecosystem, including the creation of the National Investment Board, the National Land Commission, and the enactment of the Customary Land Rights Law.

3. **Strong Economic Fundamentals:** With stable foreign exchange, controlled inflation the lowest in a generation and a predictable economic outlook, Sierra Leone is now seen as a safer and more profitable destination for private capital.

3.3. Sectoral Distribution of FDI Commitments



Sector	Percentage	Examples of Beneficiary Companies
Mining	35%	FG Gold, Koidu Limited, Gerald International
Energy	25%	Planet Solar, renewable energy projects
Agriculture	20%	Miro Forestry, Jolaks, PC & Sons
Food Processing	10%	Pure Water, agribusiness ventures
Financial Services	10%	Ecobank, British International Investment

Source: Analysis based on State House sources

Key sectors benefiting from the investment include mining, energy, agriculture, food processing, and financial services, with companies such as Miro Forestry, Jolaks, PC & Sons, FG Gold, Pure Water, Ecobank, and Planet Solar among the beneficiaries.

3.4. Investment from International Financial Institutions

The $2 billion FDI includes significant inflows from major development finance institutions:

Institution	Country/Region
British International Investment (BII)	United Kingdom
Proparco	France
FMO	Netherlands
U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)	United States
International Finance Corporation (IFC)	World Bank Group

"These investments are proof that Sierra Leone is moving from aid dependency to trade partnerships," President Bio said during a recent engagement in London. "When FDI complements government action, industries grow, jobs are created, and living standards improve. This is the path toward achieving our goal of becoming a middle-income country by 2039."

4. Status of Implementation of Protocols in the Member State

4.1. AfCFTA Implementation: A Strategic Priority

Sierra Leone has demonstrated strong commitment to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), with 2025 representing a year of significant progress in aligning national frameworks with continental trade and investment protocols.

4.1.1. National Readiness Assessment

Sierra Leone completed its readiness assessment on trade in goods and established a legal framework for its national committee. The country is one of six beneficiary ECOWAS Member States alongside The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, and Togo targeted for the Institutional Support Project for the Effective Implementation of the AfCFTA, launched on 6 August 2025 by ECOWAS, the African Development Bank (AfDB), and UNDP.

The project aims to strengthen national and regional institutional capacities for effective and inclusive implementation of the AfCFTA. It focuses on strengthening national capacities to design and implement inclusive AfCFTA strategies and building institutional support systems for trade, business, and investment organizations, particularly those working with micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

4.1.2. Capacity Building Workshop (June 2025)

The Ministry of Trade and Industry of Sierra Leone, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the AfCFTA Secretariat, hosted a four-day Capacity Building Workshop from 10–13 June 2025 in Freetown. The workshop brought together policymakers, technical experts, and development partners to deepen understanding of the AfCFTA Agreement, protocols, annexes, and implementation processes.

Key thematic areas covered included:

1. Rules of Origin
2. Trade Facilitation
3. Digital Trade
4. Intellectual Property Rights
5. Women and Youth in Trade

4.1.3. AfCFTA Secretary-General Commends Sierra Leone

On 14–15 October 2025, AfCFTA Secretary-General H.E. Wamkele Mene met with President Julius Maada Bio and participated in the Sierra Leone AfCFTA Conference held under the theme **"From Policy to Practice: Accelerating Sierra Leone's AfCFTA Implementation for Sustainable Economic Transformation."** The Secretary-General commended Sierra Leone's leadership in advancing AfCFTA implementation.

4.1.4. Ongoing Reforms Ongoing reforms include the review of Sierra Leone's National Trade Strategy, National Export Strategy, MSME frameworks, and trade facilitation infrastructure, as well as the successful WTO Trade Policy Review that reaffirmed Sierra Leone's commitment to open and rules-based trade.

4.2. ECOWAS Protocols

President Bio highlighted Sierra Leone's progress in aligning with key ECOWAS and AfCFTA protocols during his Presidential Goodwill Message at the West Africa Economic Summit (WAES) in Abuja in June 2025. Key achievements include:

I. **Registration of products** under the ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme (ETLS);

II. **Implementation of the ASYCUDA WORLD system** to modernize customs infrastructure; and

III. **Advancing the rollout of ECOWAS biometric ID cards** to promote regional mobility.

The President called for monetary union, a common regional currency, and greater investment in infrastructure, energy, and digital connectivity to drive down costs and facilitate the movement of people and goods.

4.3. ECOWAS Common Investment Code

Sierra Leone has been actively working to align its national investment framework with the ECOWAS Common Investment Code and Policy. In February 2026, the Ministry of Justice, with support from the NIB and UNDP, hosted a capacity-building workshop to deepen understanding of international investment law and ISDS reform, reflecting the government's commitment to harmonizing its investment regime with regional standards.

4.4. AfCFTA Investment Protocol

The AfCFTA Protocol on Investment aims to facilitate and protect intra-African investment and align regulatory strategies by building upon existing policies and best practices that apply within its parties. Speaking on behalf of the AfCFTA Secretary-General, Willie Shumba, Sr. Customs Expert, stated: **"The AfCFTA is an ambitious trade agreement with a comprehensive scope that covers critical areas like investment protection and digital trade vital for Africa's economic development."**

5. Investment Promotion, Facilitation and Aftercare

5.1. Legal and Institutional Framework

The cornerstone of Sierra Leone's investor services is the **National Investment Board (NIB)**, established by the NIB Act of 2022. The NIB serves as the single point of contact for investors, and all services provided by the NIB are offered **free of charge**. The NIB is the central government agency mandated to promote, coordinate, and facilitate private sector investment, replacing a more fragmented system.

5.2. Investment Promotion Activities (2025)

The NIB's promotion strategy combined global engagement with targeted sector-specific campaigns:

Event/Activity	Date	Key Outcomes
London Investment Programme	October 2025	Sponsored by British International Investment (BII) in partnership with Invest Salone, ARIA, Herbert Smith Freehills, and the NIB
Wall Street Engagement	2025	President Bio outlined key sectors ripe for investment before U.S. investors
Chinese Chamber of Commerce Inauguration	October 2025	Vice President Dr. Mohamed Juldeh Jalloh inaugurated the 5th Chinese Chamber of Commerce
Agri-Food Investment Summit	November 2025	Highlighted agribusiness as a major priority; President Bio guaranteed attractive tax incentives and regulatory reforms
Opportunity Salone Knowledge-Sharing Event	3–5 December 2025	Three-day event at Radisson Blu Hotel with ILO, development partners, private sector actors, and SMEs

5.3. Investment Facilitation: One-Stop Shop Model

The NIB provides a comprehensive "one-stop-shop" that includes:

I. **Online Business Registration Portal and One-Stop Centre:** Allowing for business registration in 3–5 working days, with a target of **24-hour registration** once the new digital platform is fully operational.

II. **Permitting and Licensing Assistance:** Help obtaining all necessary permits, licenses, and certificates to commence business.

III. **Market Intelligence and Joint-Venture Partner Identification:** Providing investors with market research, economic analysis, and connections with local partners.

IV. **Pre- and Post-Registration Services:** The NIB's Corporate Affairs Directorate administers the Business Registration Act 2007 and the Companies Act 2009, covering company registration from name verification to certification, and has noted a steady year-on-year increase in the number of sole proprietorships, partnerships, and companies.

5.4. Aftercare Services

A formal **"Framework for Aftercare Services"** has been developed to provide structured support to investors throughout the investment lifecycle. Key elements include:

Aftercare Component	Description
Dedicated Aftercare Framework	Developed with support from the ICR Facility; provides a "how-to" guide for supporting investors
Nationwide Aftercare Visits	The NIB conducts aftercare visits to existing investors and exporters to handle issues
Focus on Reinvestment and Expansion	Aftercare services designed to facilitate reinvestment, expansions, and diversification
Mediation Services	For investor grievances, the NIB provides mediation services and refers unresolved cases to the appropriate legal authorities

5.5. IMF Engagement on Governance Diagnostic

In February 2025, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) engaged the NIB in discussions on governance diagnostics, following a previous engagement aimed at enhancing transparency, accountability, and investment facilitation in the country. The NIB team provided insights into Sierra Leone's investment incentive framework, explaining that both fiscal and non-fiscal incentives, including duty waivers on machinery and agricultural inputs, are granted to investors based on the proposals they submit to the government.

6. Investment Dispute Settlement Measures

6.1. Legislative Framework

Sierra Leone has established a modern and investor-friendly legal framework for dispute resolution. The cornerstone is the **Arbitration Act of 2022 (Act No. 18 of 2022)**, which replaced the outdated Arbitration Act, Cap 25 (Laws of Sierra Leone 1960), and brings Sierra Leone in line with modern international arbitration standards.
The 2022 Act was signed into law by President Dr. Julius Maada Bio on 6 September 2022 and entered into force on 22 September 2022.

6.2. Key Features of the Arbitration Act 2022

Feature	Description
Sierra Leone International Arbitration Centre (SLIAC)	Section 82 of the Act provides for the establishment of this centre to promote and administer arbitration and ADR
Enforcement of ICSID Awards	Arbitral awards made under the ICSID Convention are recognized as directly enforceable by Sierra Leonean courts without further review at the recognition stage
New York Convention Implementation	The Act incorporates the New York Convention (1958) for the recognition and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards
Modern Procedures	Covers jurisdiction of arbitral tribunals, emergency measures and preliminary orders, third-party funding, and video-conferencing
Minimum Judicial Intervention	Sierra Leone courts should not intervene in arbitration matters, except as provided for under the 2022 Act

6.3. Dispute Settlement Options under the NIB Act 2022

The NIB Act provides for multiple tiers of dispute settlement for investors:

1. **Negotiations:** Direct dialogue between the parties.

2. **Adjudication:** Resolution through Sierra Leone's courts.

3. **International Mechanisms:** Access to international arbitration, specifically mentioning the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes **(ICSID)** or any other framework provided under a bilateral or multilateral agreement.

6.4. New York Convention Accession

Sierra Leone's accession to the **New York Convention** (1958) on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards represents a significant boost to international investor confidence. As noted by the Attorney General, "Sierra Leone's accession to the New York Convention in 2020 was a major milestone," and the enactment of the Arbitration Act 2022 was described as "a transformative step in modernizing the country's arbitration framework".

6.5. Capacity Building on International Arbitration

In February 2026, the Ministry of Justice, with support from UNDP, hosted a training session aimed at enhancing expertise in managing complex arbitration cases and safeguarding the State's interests in international investment disputes. The Attorney General referenced Sierra Leone's accession to the New York Convention and the Arbitration Act 2022 as key achievements in modernizing the country's arbitration framework.

6.6. Fast Track Commercial Court

The NIB has outlined plans for the creation of a Fast Track Commercial Court to expedite commercial dispute resolution, further strengthening the rule of law and reducing the time and cost associated with commercial litigation.

7. Disputes Involving the Country in the Period (2023–2025)

The period 2023–2025 witnessed several notable investment-related disputes, highlighting ongoing challenges in contract enforcement, land governance, and political interference.

7.1. Gerald International Ltd / SL Mining v. Republic of Sierra Leone

This remains the most significant investment dispute in Sierra Leone's recent history. The dispute arose from a large-scale iron ore mining license agreement after Sierra Leone prohibited Gerald International from removing or selling additional ore from Sierra Leone's mines. Gerald commenced three (3) proceedings:

Proceeding	Forum	Status
(a)	ICC Arbitration (International Chamber of Commerce)	Arbitration concluded
(b)	ICSID Arbitration (under UK-Sierra Leone BIT 1981)	Claimed over $1.8 billion in damages
(c)	Arbitral enforcement proceeding before U.S. District Court for DC	Enforcement stage

2025 Development: In January 2025, U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan denied Sierra Leone's motion to dismiss a complaint filed by Jenner & Block LLP, the U.S. law firm that represented Sierra Leone in the dispute. The law firm sought over $8 million in unpaid legal fees, alleging that Sierra Leone orally agreed to provide additional compensation because the work exceeded the scope anticipated by the flat fee.
The court denied Sierra Leone's motion to dismiss, rejecting the government's argument that as a sovereign state it was immune and the court lacked jurisdiction.

7.2. Koidu Limited Dispute (2025)

Sierra Leone's Court of Appeal extended a freezing order on Koidu Limited's assets amid a long-running lawsuit by locals alleging the diamond producer stripped assets, polluted communities, and uprooted livelihoods claims the company disputes while accusing the First Lady of inciting strikes that shuttered its operations.

Timeline of Key Events:

Date	Event
2019	Lawsuit filed by Marginalised Affected Property Owners (MAPO) against Koidu Limited, its parent company Octea Limited, and ten affiliates and directors
March 2025	Koidu Limited placed mine into care and maintenance; workers renewed demands for pay rise and better working conditions
May 2025	Residents filmed heavy machinery being moved out of the mine; Koidu Limited Workers Union reported over 17 pieces of vital mining equipment removed
May 2025	Koidu Limited accused First Lady Fatima Bio of causing revenue losses of $16 million; demanded $20 million
July–August 2025	Court of Appeal extended freezing order on Koidu Limited's assets
August 2025	Koidu Limited announced it had engaged a UK law firm and would initiate international arbitration against the government

7.3. ECOWAS Court Cases (2025)

Two notable cases were adjudicated by the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice in 2025:

Case	Citation	Allegation
Garber and Others v. Republic of Sierra Leone	ECW/CCJ/APP/22/21 (decided 17 March 2025)	Alleging that Krio citizens have suffered discrimination
Banya v. Republic of Sierra Leone	ECW/CCJ/APP/51/21; ECW/CCJ/JUD/15/25 (decided 20 March 2025)	Involving claims of political violence following the 2018 presidential elections

7.4. Sierra Rutile Mediation (November 2025)

The Parliamentary Committee on Mines and Mineral Resources, chaired by Hon. Saa Emerson Lamina, convened a mediation meeting on 13 November 2025 involving residents of Moriba Town and the management of Sierra Rutile Limited, demonstrating the government's commitment to alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

8. Existing and New Bilateral Investment Agreements (BITs) 8.1. Existing BITs

Partner	Year Signed	Status
Germany	1965	In force
United Kingdom	1981	In force
China	2001	In force

8.2. New and Recent Agreements (2024–2025)

8.2.1. China (2024–2025)

In 2024, China and Sierra Leone signed multiple bilateral cooperation documents in the areas of the **Belt and Road Initiative, agricultural cooperation, and economic development**, deepening the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries.

On 8 January 2025, Sierra Leone and China signed an **Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement** to enhance bilateral economic relations. The agreement follows a pledge made during the recent Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) summit, where China committed 200 million yuan to support Sierra Leone's development initiatives.

As a direct result of strengthened bilateral relations, trade between China and Sierra Leone surged to approximately **US$1.82 billion between January and October 2025**, representing nearly a 20 percent increase compared to the same period in the previous year.

8.2.2. Tonkolili North Iron Ore Supplementary Agreement (1 July 2025)

The Mineral Wealth Fund (Sierra Leone) Limited and China Overseas Engineering Group Company Limited (COVEC) signed a landmark Supplementary Agreement in Beijing. COVEC committed to providing financing of up to **$300 million** to cover mine construction, transportation networks, and beneficiation facilities. The financing is structured under a negotiated EPC Contract, Deferred Payment Agreement, and Joint Venture Agreement, ensuring non-recourse to Sierra Leone's national budget. This agreement builds upon a Framework Agreement signed in September 2024.

8.2.3. Senegal (3 June 2025)

Sierra Leone and Senegal signed several cooperation agreements in Freetown following a working session between officials of the two countries. These bilateral agreements focus on energy, the development of natural resources, and the facilitation of investments between the two countries, aiming to strengthen cooperation and increase economic exchanges in West Africa. APIX SA, the Senegalese investment promotion agency, signed an agreement with the NIB, building on a study tour conducted in November 2024.

8.2.4. United Arab Emirates (UAE) – Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

Sierra Leone and the UAE signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement **(CEPA)** to deepen bilateral trade and investment, though specific details of the agreement remain to be fully disclosed.

8.3. Regional and Multilateral Frameworks

Framework	Status in 2025
AfCFTA Investment Protocol	Sierra Leone actively aligning national framework with AfCFTA standards
ECOWAS Common Investment Code	Capacity-building workshops held in 2025–2026 to deepen understanding of international investment law and ISDS reform
ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme (ETLS)	Products registered under ETLS

9. Summary of Key Achievements in 2025

The year 2025 represents a pivotal chapter in Sierra Leone's investment story. Key achievements include:

Area	Key Achievement
Legislative Reforms	Finance Act 2025 introduced tiered tax holidays (5–10 years) and duty exemptions tied to investment size and job creation
Institutional Strengthening	National Investment Board (NIB) consolidated as central investment authority; Public-Private Dialogue launched
Digital Transformation	24-hour digital business registration targeted; One-Stop Shop Centre for Investment under development
Physical One stop shop (OSSC)	In person one stop shop center business registration operationalised
FDI Attraction	Nearly $2 billion in FDI commitments secured from Europe and the US (2023–2025)
Dispute Resolution	Arbitration Act 2022 fully operational; New York Convention and ICSID enforcement provisions in place
Regional Integration	AfCFTA readiness assessment completed; beneficiary of ECOWAS Institutional Support Project
Bilateral Relations	New agreements with China, Senegal, UAE; China-Sierra Leone trade reached $1.82 billion (Jan–Oct 2025)

10. Sources

Source	Citation	URL/Reference
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Focus Economics	FDI 2023 data	https://www.focus-economics.com/country-indicator/sierra-leone/foreign-direct-investment-usd/
Trading Economics (World Bank)	FDI 2024 net inflows (% of GDP)	https://tradingeconomics.com/sierra-leone/foreign-direct-investment-net-inflows-percent-of-gdp-wb-data.html
Sierra loaded	$2 Billion FDI announcement	https://sierraloaded.sl/news/sierra-leone-secured-2-billion-dollars/
Sierra Leone Monitor	President Bio secures $2 billion FDI	https://www.sierraleonemonitor.com/bio-secures-billion-investment/
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Africa-Press	NIB engages Bo City on One-Stop Shop	https://www.africa-press.net/sierra-leone/all-news/national-investment-board-engages-bo-city-on-initiative
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Jus Mundi	Gerald International / SL Mining v. Sierra Leone	https://jusmundi.com/en/document/decision/en-sl-mining-limited-v-republic-of-sierra-leone-ii-memorandum-opinion
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UNDP	ECOWAS AfCFTA Project Launch	https://www.undp.org/africa/press-releases/ecowas-afdb-and-undp-launch-new-project-accelerate-afcfta-implementation-west-africa
ECA	AfCFTA Capacity Building Workshop	https://www.uneca.org/eca-events/stories/sierra-leone-strengthens-trade-readiness-through-afcfta-capacity-building-workshop
The Calabash Newspaper	China-Sierra Leone Relations 2025	https://thecalabashnewspaper.com/china-sierra-leone-relations-deepen-as-2025-records-major-diplomatic-economic-and-people-to-people-milestones/
FAAPA	Sierra Leone-China Economic Agreement	https://www.faapa.info/en/sierra-leone-china-sign-economic-and-technical-cooperation-agreement/
State House	President Bio invites Nigerian investors	https://statehouse.gov.sl
LinkedIn (NIB)	IMF engages NIB on governance diagnostic	https://www.linkedin.com

This report was prepared based on publicly available information from government sources, international organizations (UNCTAD, World Bank, UNDP, ECA, and AfDB), legal databases, and news media. All data and figures are referenced to their original sources. The report is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal or investment advice.

5.10 TOGO



2025 ANNUAL INVESTMENT REPORT

The investment projects compiled in this report relate to the three special regimes below:

- The Investment Code (CI),
- The industrial free zone (ZF) status,
- The free zone status in the textile and apparel sector (ZFTH).

APPROVALS GRANTED IN 2025

During 2025, 50 investment projects were reviewed under the Investment Code and in the industrial free zones and the textile and apparel sector by the approval committee, of which:

• Forty-seven (47) were approved for a total planned investment amount of 355,507,930,779 FCFA (≈ USD 618.81 million), broken down as follows: twenty-seven (27) under the Investment Code (CI) for a total amount of 309,172,754,148 FCFA (≈ USD 538.16 million); Nineteen (19) under free zone (ZF) status for an amount of 36,594,861,908 FCFA (≈ USD 63.7 million); and one (01) under free zone status in the textile and apparel sector (ZFTH) for a total amount of 9,740,314,723 FCFA (≈ USD 16.95 million)

• One (01) project should be re-examined pending additional information; and
• Two (02) were found ineligible under the CI given their nature.

The 47 approved projects are expected to create **5,193** permanent national jobs from the operational phase onward (**2,811** under CI, **1,667** under ZF and **715** under ZFTH).

SECTORS OF ACTIVITY OF APPROVED PROJECTS Under the Investment Code, the 27 approved projects fall within various sectors:

• Real estate: 9 projects for an amount of 120,080,000,000 FCFA (≈ USD 209.02 million)
• Construction / Civil works: 5 projects for an amount of 69,120,000,000 FCFA (≈ USD 120.31 million)

• Education: 3 projects for an amount of 62,190,000,000 FCFA (≈ USD 108.25 million)
• Electricity: 2 projects for an amount of 28,000,000,000 FCFA (≈ USD 48.74 million)
• Logistics: 2 projects for an amount of 10,420,000,000 FCFA (≈ USD 18.14 million)
• Agri-food / Agro-industry: 2 projects for an amount of 9,740,000,000 FCFA (≈ USD 16.95 million)

• Plastics: 1 project for an amount of 4,710,000,000 FCFA (≈ USD 8.2 million)
• Used oil recycling: 1 project for an amount of 2,360,000,000 FCFA (≈ USD 4.11 million)
• Paper: 1 project for an amount of 1,490,000,000 FCFA (≈ USD 2.59 million)
• Hospitality: 1 project for an amount of 1,070,000,000 FCFA (≈ USD 1.86 million);
Under industrial free zone status, the 19 approved projects fall within the following sectors:•Agri-food / Agro-industry: 8 projects for an amount of 21,305,000,000 FCFA (≈ USD 37.08 million)•Metallurgy: 1 project for an amount of 5,450,000,000 FCFA (≈ USD 9.49 million)
• Plastics: 4 projects for an amount of 3,669,000,000 FCFA (≈ USD 6.39 million)
• Printing: 1 project for an amount of 2,267,000,000 FCFA (≈ USD 3.95 million)
• Cosmetics: 2 projects for an amount of 2,063,000,000 FCFA (≈ USD 3.59 million)
• Mechanical engineering: 1 project for an amount of 1,290,000,000 FCFA (≈ USD 2.25 million)

• Mining services: 1 project for an amount of 500,000,000 FCFA (≈ USD 870.32 thousand)
• Business services: 1 project for an amount of 50,000,000 FCFA (≈ USD 87.03 thousand)

ORIGIN OF INVESTMENTS
For all three regimes combined (CI, ZF and ZFTH):
• National Direct Investment (NDI) totals 185,901,252,187 FCFA (≈ USD 323.59 million), representing 52% of the total value of projects approved during 2025, across 17 projects.

• Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) totals 169,606,678,592 FCFA (≈ USD 295.22 million), representing 48% of the total value of projects approved during 2025, across 30 projects.

LOCATION OF APPROVED PROJECTS
The 47 projects approved under CI, ZF and ZFTH will be carried out in the following prefectures:•19 projects (7 CI and 12 ZF) in Golfe prefecture;
•5 projects (5 CI) in Agoè-Nyivé prefecture (outside the PIA);
•4 projects (2 CI and 2 ZF) in Agoè-Nyivé prefecture (PIA);
•9 projects (6 CI and 3 ZF) in Zio prefecture;
•4 projects (3 CI and 1 ZF) in Avé prefecture;
•2 projects (1 CI and 1 ZF) in Lacs prefecture;
•1 project under CI in Tchaoudjo prefecture;
•2 projects under CI in Kozah prefecture.

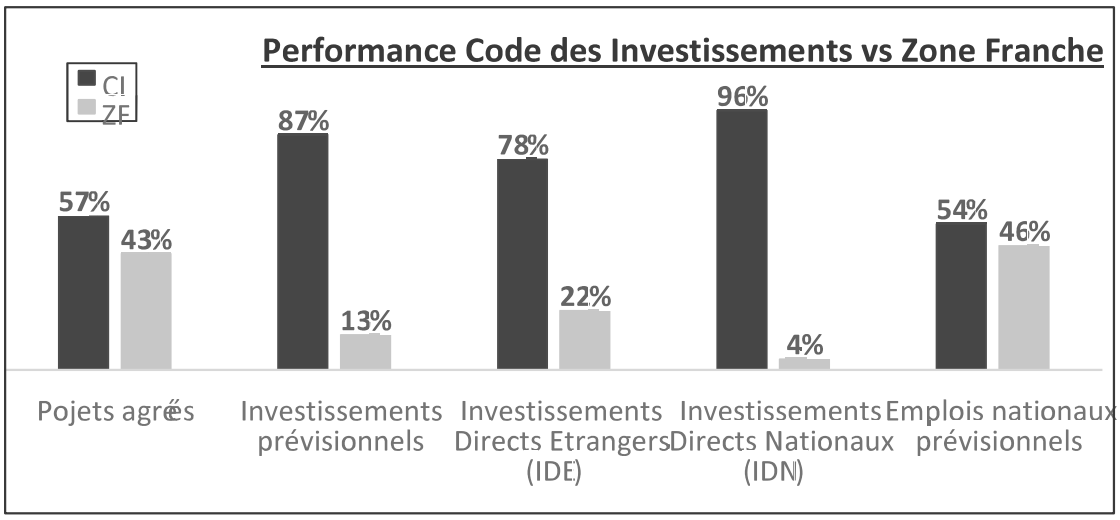
LIFE CYCLE OF PREVIOUSLY GRANTED APPROVALS
During 2025,
• **Two (02) companies** moved into the operating phase:
01 under the Investment Code
01 under industrial free zone status
• **Forty-five (45)** approved projects are in the installation phase (26 CI, 18 ZF and 1 ZFTH)
Overall, 228 projects were approved from 2020 to 2025 (47 in 2020, 38 in 2021, 36 in 2022, 23 in 2023, 37 in 2024 and 47 in 2025).

As of the end of December 2025,

• 86 companies are in the operating phase: 38 CI; 46 ZF and 2 ZFTH, for cumulative investment of 390,340,266,416 FCFA (≈ USD 679.44 million); the number of national jobs created is 7,604.

• 138 projects are in the installation phase: 79 CI; 56 ZF and 3 ZFTH; the planned investment amount is 999,864,225,013 FCFA (≈ USD 1.74 billion). These projects are expected to create 18,225 national jobs;
• 04 CI projects have not yet started; the promoters are still seeking a site and/or financing. The planned investment amount is 57,516,648,970 FCFA (≈ USD 100.12 million).

Promotion and Outreach Activities
During the first part of 2025, the Ministry, supported by API-ZF, carried out promotional activities through a mission to the United Arab Emirates.
A total of 67 companies were approached and received support from API-ZF aimed at prompting or finalizing their investment decisions.
API-ZF remains firmly committed to implementing the projects of the Government Roadmap in line with your vision.

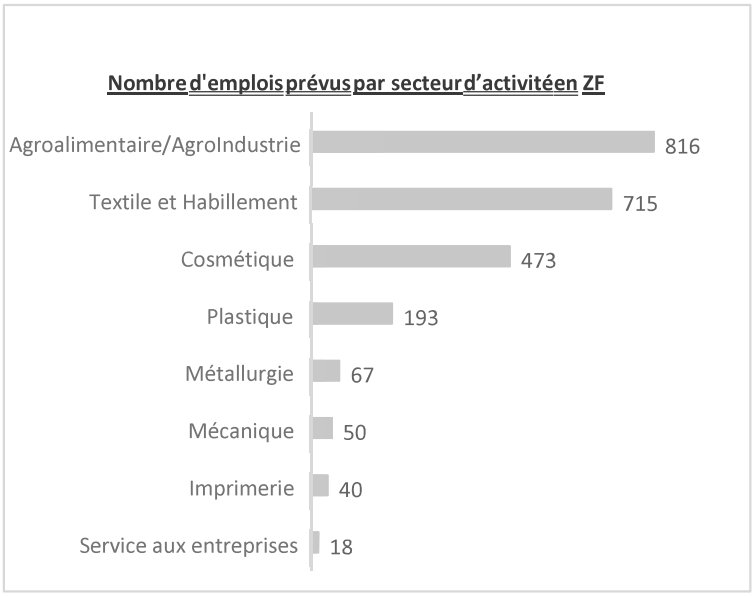


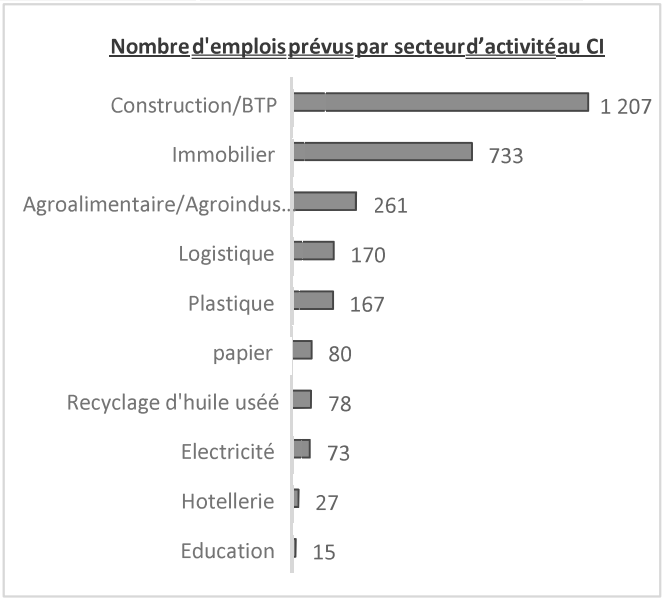
In 2025, the Investment Code stood out for its strong contribution to investment volumes, while the Free Zone remained a key vehicle for social impact:

- **Approved projects:** the Investment Code accounts for the majority share, at 57%
- **Planned investments:** projects approved under the Code involve larger capital amounts than free-zone projects (87% versus 13%)
- **Foreign Direct Investment and National Direct Investment:** the Investment Code shows a strong capacity to attract both foreign and domestic capital
- **Planned jobs:** the difference is less pronounced (despite lower investment levels, the Free Zone remains an important driver of job creation).

Comparative Analysis of the Regimes by Job Creation per Sector of Activity

Jobs planned — CI	Jobs planned — ZF:	Jobs planned — ZFTH	Total
2 811	1 667	715	5 193
54%	32%	14%	100%





Note: Figures originally reported in West African CFA Francs (FCFA/XOF) have been converted to United States Dollars (USD) for ease of comprehension, using the prevailing OANDA exchange rate of USD 1 = XOF 574.50 (www.oanda.com, as at 21 August 2026). The USD equivalents shown in parentheses are approximate and are provided for indicative purposes only; the original FCFA figures, as officially reported by the Member State, remain the authoritative values.

6.0 COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF INVESTMENT CLIMATE ACROSS MEMBER STATES

6.1 Key Strengths

•Historic FDI peak and strong macroeconomic performance in Côte d'Ivoire (USD 3.8 billion FDI in 2024; NDP 2026–2030 targeting 7.2 % average growth and total investment of approximately USD 183.7 billion).

•Sustained reform momentum and digitalization of facilitation services across multiple Member States (Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Cabo Verde, and The Gambia).

•Updating of investment legislation in Benin (2024 Law and decrees) and Côte d'Ivoire (2024 Ordinance), and ongoing BIT modernization in Nigeria.

•Robust free-zone and preferential-regime activity in Togo (47 projects approved for 355.5 billion FCFA (≈ USD 618.8 million), expected to create 5 193 permanent jobs).

•Recovery of net FDI in Cabo Verde (EUR 79 million (≈ USD 92.31 million) to Q3 2025) and continued upward trajectory in The Gambia (USD 490 million in 2024).

•Strengthened aftercare and sub-national coordination mechanisms (notably Nigeria's NIPC–SIPA collaboration and FoSIPAN).

•Active engagement with AfCFTA implementation (national committees, strategies, origin certification, private-sector action plans) in several Member States.

6.2 Common Challenges

•Foreign-exchange volatility and the dominance of short-term portfolio flows relative to long-term productive FDI (particularly Nigeria).

•Infrastructure and logistics gaps that constrain intra-ECOWAS investment and participation in regional value chains.

•Climate vulnerability and external-shock exposure (especially for Cabo Verde and other tourism- or commodity-dependent economies).

•Need for deeper conversion of capital inflows into sustained, productivity-enhancing investment.

•Capacity constraints in dispute prevention, treaty modernization, and consistent enforcement of regional commitments.

•Uneven depth of implementation of the ECOWAS Investment Code and the AfCFTA Protocol on Investment.

6.3 Action Notes

Member States and the Commission are encouraged to:

•Accelerate the operationalization of national AfCFTA implementation strategies and the ECOWAS Investment Code;

•Deepen digital one-stop facilitation and aftercare systems, with particular attention to SME access;

•Strengthen regional infrastructure corridors and logistics facilitation to reduce the cost of intra-ECOWAS investment;

•Promote the shift from short-term portfolio capital toward longer-term greenfield and brownfield productive investment;

•Enhance peer learning on free-zone governance, BIT modernization and dispute-prevention mechanisms; and

•Improve the consistency and comparability of data presented in future National Investment Reports.

Note: Figures originally reported in West African CFA Francs (FCFA/XOF) and in Euros (EUR) have been converted to United States Dollars (USD) for ease of comprehension, using the prevailing OANDA exchange rate of USD 1 = XOF 574.50 and EUR 1 = USD 1.1685 (www.oanda.com, as at 21 August 2026).

7.0 CONCLUSION

The 2025 National Investment Reports submitted by Benin, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo to the Fifth Meeting of the Technical Committee of the ECIM Council present a region advancing on reforms, even as it confronts real structural diversity. At one end, Côte d'Ivoire's historic FDI peak and Togo's expanding free-zone project pipeline illustrate sustained investor confidence and institutional depth; at the other, Liberia's report is candid that resource dependence, infrastructure deficits, macroeconomic volatility and human-capital constraints still condition its ability to convert natural endowments into diversified investment for sustainable development+

Between these poles, The Gambia and Cabo Verde report recovering or steadily rising FDI concentrated in tourism and real estate, Sierra Leone documents a "watershed year" of legislative and institutional consolidation despite softer headline inflows, and Nigeria shows FDI stabilizing alongside a surge in shorter-term portfolio capital. This spread is itself instructive: it confirms that the ECIM's Member States are not moving from a common baseline, and that regional policy harmonization must be calibrated to that unevenness rather than assume a single reform pathway fits all.

What unites the reports is the direction, not just the pace, of reform. Modernized investment legislation (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, and Nigeria), digitalized facilitation services, strengthened aftercare and one-stop mechanisms, and deepening engagement with the ECOWAS Investment Code and the AfCFTA Protocol on Investment recur across nearly every submission. So too does a shared set of unresolved risks: foreign-exchange volatility and short-term capital dominance, infrastructure and logistics gaps that constrain intra-ECOWAS investment, climate and external-shock vulnerability, and capacity limitations in dispute prevention and treaty modernization — the latter illustrated concretely by Senegal's ICSID arbitration with Woodside Energy and Sierra Leone's Gerald International/SL Mining and Koidu Limited disputes. These cases underline that as inflows grow, so does exposure to investor-state friction, making the region's dispute-settlement architecture as much a priority as its investment-promotion machinery.

The Comparative Analysis in Section 6 distils these findings into a shared agenda: accelerating implementation of national AfCFTA strategies and the ECOWAS Investment Code; deepening digital facilitation and aftercare with particular attention to SME access; strengthening regional infrastructure and logistics corridors; shifting the balance of capital inflows toward longer-term productive investment; enhancing peer learning on free-zone governance, BIT modernization and dispute prevention; and improving the consistency and comparability of data across future National Investment Reports. These action notes, together with the individual country findings, provide the evidentiary basis on which the Technical Committee's policy recommendations and next steps, to be finalized and adopted by the ECIM Council, should be built.

Taken together, this Consolidated Compilation demonstrates that the ECOWAS Common Investment Market is neither a uniform success story nor a stalled initiative, but a region of differentiated but converging reform effort. The task before the Council is to translate that convergence into shared regional infrastructure, harmonized rules and predictable dispute resolution, so that the gains recorded by individual Member States in 2025 compound into a genuinely single, competitive investment space for West Africa as a whole. The Commission looks forward to the 2026 reporting cycle as the next opportunity to measure progress against the priorities this compilation has identified.