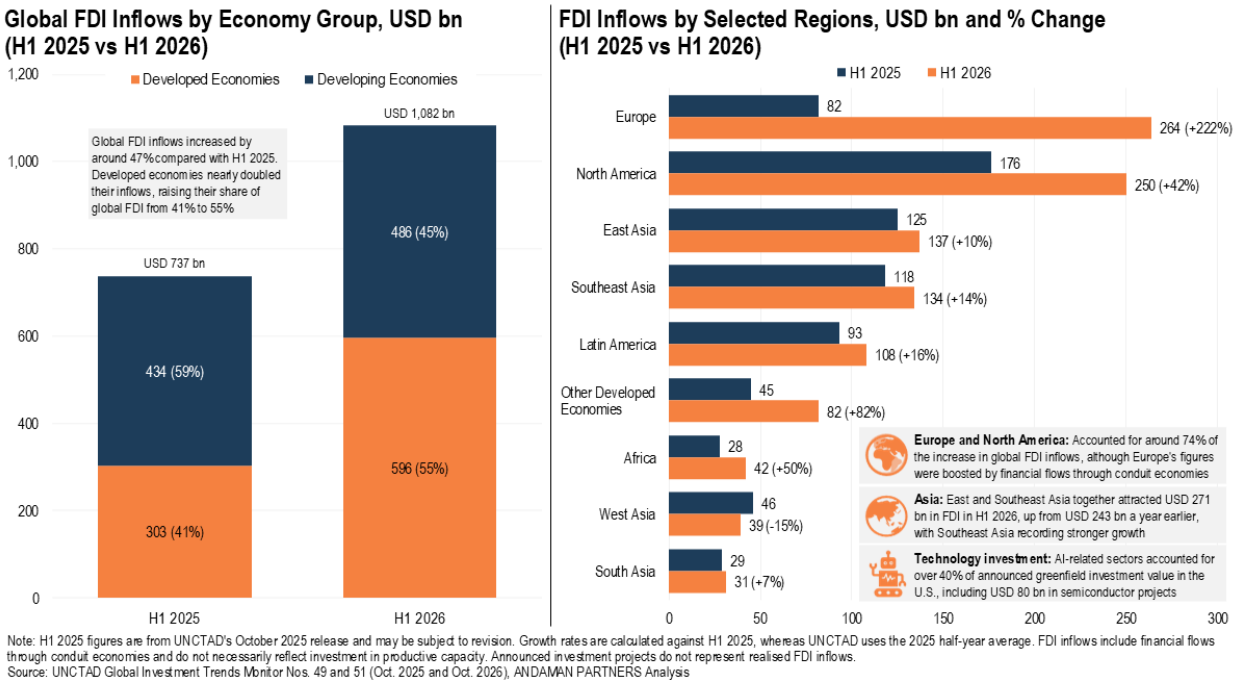
Global FDI Rebounds with Developed Economies Leading the Way

Global foreign direct investment exceeded USD 1 trillion in the first half of 2026, with developed economies accounting for around 85% of the increase compared with the same period in 2025



Note: H1 2025 figures are from UNCTAD's October 2025 release and may be subject to revision. Growth rates are calculated against H1 2025, whereas UNCTAD uses the 2025 half-year average. FDI inflows include financial flows through conduit economies and do not necessarily reflect investment in productive capacity. Announced investment projects do not represent realised FDI inflows.
Source: UNCTAD Global Investment Trends Monitor Nos. 49 and 51 (Oct. 2025 and Oct. 2026), ANDAMAN PARTNERS Analysis

Global foreign direct investment (FDI) is recovering in 2026, but the recovery is far from evenly distributed.

Global FDI inflows reached USD 1.08 trillion in the first half of 2026, compared with USD 737 billion initially reported for the same period in 2025. Developed economies accounted for around 85% of this increase and now attract more than half of global FDI.

Europe recorded the largest increase, although its figures were boosted by financial transactions passing through investment hubs rather than necessarily reflecting new factories or business operations. North America also recorded strong growth, with technology emerging as a major investment priority. In the U.S., AI-related sectors accounted for over 40% of the value of announced greenfield investment projects, including USD 80 billion in semiconductors.

Developing economies continue to attract substantial international investment. East and Southeast Asia together received USD 271 billion in the first half of 2026, exceeding the total for either Europe or North America.

Behind the headline recovery, however, investors remain selective. The number of new greenfield investment projects announced globally fell by 15%. More capital is crossing borders,

but it is increasingly concentrated in large transactions and a relatively narrow range of markets and industries.

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