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# The Eurasian Region and Partner Countries in Asia: Analysis of Investment Flows

Based on EDB Monitoring  
of Mutual Investments

Report 26/2

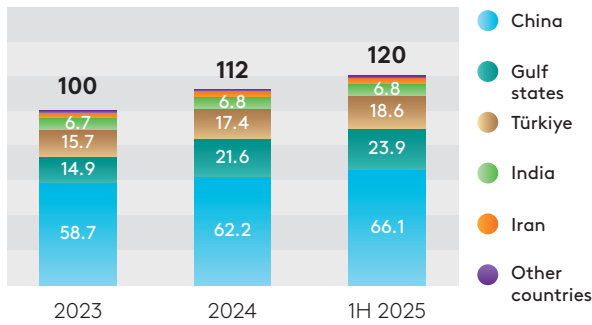
Almaty — 2026

# THE EURASIAN REGION AND PARTNER COUNTRIES IN ASIA: Analysis of Investment Flows based on EDB Monitoring of Mutual Investments

FACTS AND FIGURES

ANALYTICAL REPORT '26/02

Asian countries' investment stock in the Eurasian region, \$bn



FDI stock growth in Eurasian region (1H 2025/2023)

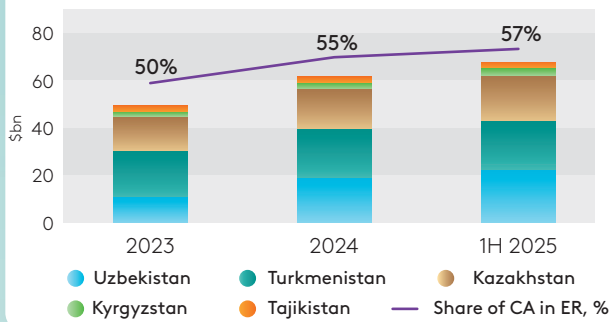
<b>Gulf states</b>	<b>+\$9 bn (45%)</b>
UAE	\$3.8 bn (power)
Qatar	\$2.3 bn (telecom, finance)
Saudi Arabia	\$2.2 bn (power)
Oman	\$0.7 bn (metallurgy, transport)
<b>China</b>	<b>+\$7.4 bn (37%)</b>
<b>Türkiye</b>	<b>+\$2.9 bn (15%)</b>

**+\$20  
bn**

**Central Asia attracted  
of new investments to the Eurasian region**

**>90%**

Inflow of FDI stock to Central Asian countries



**+\$18.5  
bn**

Growth in attracted FDI stock to **Central Asia** — 93% of total growth

**92%**

Share of **Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan** in Central Asia's FDI stock from partner countries in Asia

## POWER SECTOR ACCUMULATES HALF OF ALL NEW INVESTMENTS

**+\$10  
bn**

Investment growth in power projects (1H 2025 vs. 2023)



**50%**

of all new investments in the sector (\$5bn) provided by Gulf states, mainly in renewables

## New partner countries: key features of investment cooperation

Afghanistan



**\$190<sub>m</sub>**

net FDI importer from the Eurasian region

Vietnam



**\$2.4<sub>bn</sub>**

of mutual FDI stock — Russian and Kazakhstani investment in Vietnam

India



**\$6.6<sub>bn</sub>**

Eurasian region investment in India increased sevenfold since 2016

Indonesia



**\$240<sub>m</sub>**

large-scale chemical project in Uzbekistan



Eurasian Development Bank

Full version of analytical report



Vinokurov E. (ed.), Kuznetsov A., Malakhov A., Omarov A., Serik E. Zaboev A., (2026) *The Eurasian Region and Partner Countries in Asia: Analysis of Investment Flows Based on EDB Monitoring of Mutual Investments*. Report 26/2. Almaty: Eurasian Development Bank.

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Head of the authoring team at the research company *Pro Analytics* — E. Serik.

The following individuals participated in the preparation of the database and the report: D.B. Tyulebekova, PhD; E.T. Serik; D.B. Shymyrbek; T. Khaibrakhmanov; and M.V. Lukmanov (experts from the research company *Pro Analytics*).

This report continues a series of publications within the framework of a long-term research project dedicated to Monitoring of Mutual Investments (MMI) in the Eurasian region. The analysis is based on the EDB database, which is built with a bottom-up approach and regularly updated with diverse information from open sources, including company reports and other primary data. The report provides detailed information on the scale, dynamics, geographical and sectoral structure of mutual FDI between countries in the Eurasian region and partner countries in Asia in 2024 and the first half of 2025. It assesses the trends affecting the nature and dynamics of mutual investment relations.

**Keywords:** Asia, investment, foreign direct investment, FDI, mutual investment, investment stock, investment projects, Central Asia.

**JEL:** E22, F15, F21, F23, F36, G31, G34.

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The electronic version of the report is available on the Eurasian Development Bank website: <https://eabr.org/analytics/>.

Comments, suggestions, and remarks on this report can be sent to [research@eabr.org](mailto:research@eabr.org) .

Operational macro analytics, infrastructure monitoring, and other expert opinions of analysts are published weekly on the Eurasian Development Bank's Telegram channel: [t.me/eabr\\_bank](https://t.me/eabr_bank).

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# TERMINOLOGY

**Conduit countries** are countries used in international financial transactions to redistribute capital and income in order to reduce the tax burden or avoid taxes.

**Controlling stake** — a share of shares that gives the owner the ability to directly influence key management decisions in the company. As a rule, a stake of more than 50% of shares is considered a controlling stake.

**Eurasian region** refers to the region comprising 13 countries for the purposes of this report: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

**“Expansion investments,” brownfield projects,** refer to investments in projects that upgrade or expand existing assets. For example, field expansions in the petroleum and gas sector or warehouse upgrading projects (see the Methodology in the Annex).

**Partner countries** — for the purposes of this report, the following Asian countries: Afghanistan, Vietnam, India, Iran, Indonesia, China, Türkiye, as well as the Gulf states (Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, UAE, Oman, Saudi Arabia).

**Foreign direct investments (FDI)** refer to investments that give the investor the ability to participate in the management of a company in a foreign country through various forms of contribution, including the acquisition of an interest in a company or the injection of capital to create new or to upgrade/expand existing assets.

**FDI stock** refers to the total amount of investment in the framework of a transaction or series of transactions. It is calculated based on various parameters depending on the type of entity involved in the transaction. For example, investments in non-financial corporations may be valued at non-current assets, while investments in banks and insurance companies may be valued at equity or charter capital. In some cases, valuations may be performed using similar transactions in the market (see the Methodology in the Annex).

**“Initial investments,” greenfield projects,** refer to investments in projects that create new assets from the ground up, which can include, for example, the construction of infrastructure or a new industrial plant (see the Methodology in the Annex).

**Minority stake** — a share of shares that is insufficient for direct participation in the management of the company. In this report, a minority stake is considered to be a share of shares ranging from 10% to 50% (inclusive).

**Non-current assets** refer to assets of an enterprise that generate income for more than one year or the normal operating cycle, if longer than one year. Fixed assets (buildings, equipment, land), intangible assets (exclusive rights, patents), income-generating investments in tangible assets (investment property), and financial investments (loans granted, investments in other companies) can be classified as noncurrent assets on the company’s balance sheet.

**Portfolio investments** refer to investments that usually involve the acquisition of an interest (up to 10%) in a company for the purpose of generating income without the intention of being involved in the management of the company.

# INTRODUCTION

The Eurasian Development Bank's Monitoring of Mutual Investments (EDB MMI) is a flagship research project analyzing mutual investments. Mutual investment is an indicator used to denote FDI stock between countries, calculated on the basis of the current value of investments in specific investment projects. The MMI allows for analysis of the scale, dynamics, geographical and sectoral structure of mutual investment.

The study is based on a database of investment projects, which is formed on a bottom-up basis using diverse information from open sources, including company reports and other primary data (see Research Methodology in **the Appendix**). This allows for adequate consideration of investments through offshore companies and other "transshipment bases," as well as the reinvestment of profits earned abroad.

In December 2025, the EDB published a report on mutual investments in the Eurasian region (Vinokurov et al., 2025). The countries of the region include 13 states: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

This report contains information on mutual direct investments between the states of the Eurasian region and key economic partners from Asia (referred to here as partner countries or external partners). Compared to last year's report, the countries included in the analysis has been significantly expanded to include Afghanistan, India, Indonesia, and Vietnam. Thus, the partner countries are Afghanistan, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Türkiye, Vietnam, and the Gulf states (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE).

The database includes investment projects between countries in the Eurasian region and partner countries, but does not include projects between third countries, such as between China and Türkiye. The study focuses on investments flowing into countries in the Eurasian region.

The relevance of this work is due to the growing importance in recent years of mutual investments for countries in the Eurasian region (especially Central Asia) from the Gulf states. It is also important to identify changes in the structure and dynamics of mutual investment inflows from other economic partners in Asia.

The report consists of four chapters. The first provides an overall assessment of the dynamics and nature of investment interaction between partner countries with the states of the Eurasian region. The second chapter discusses the sectoral structure of mutual investment stock. The third chapter contains an analysis of the current situation and dynamics of mutual investments between the states of the Eurasian region and individual external partners. In fourth chapter examines the investment interaction between Central Asia and Asian countries.

# SUMMARY

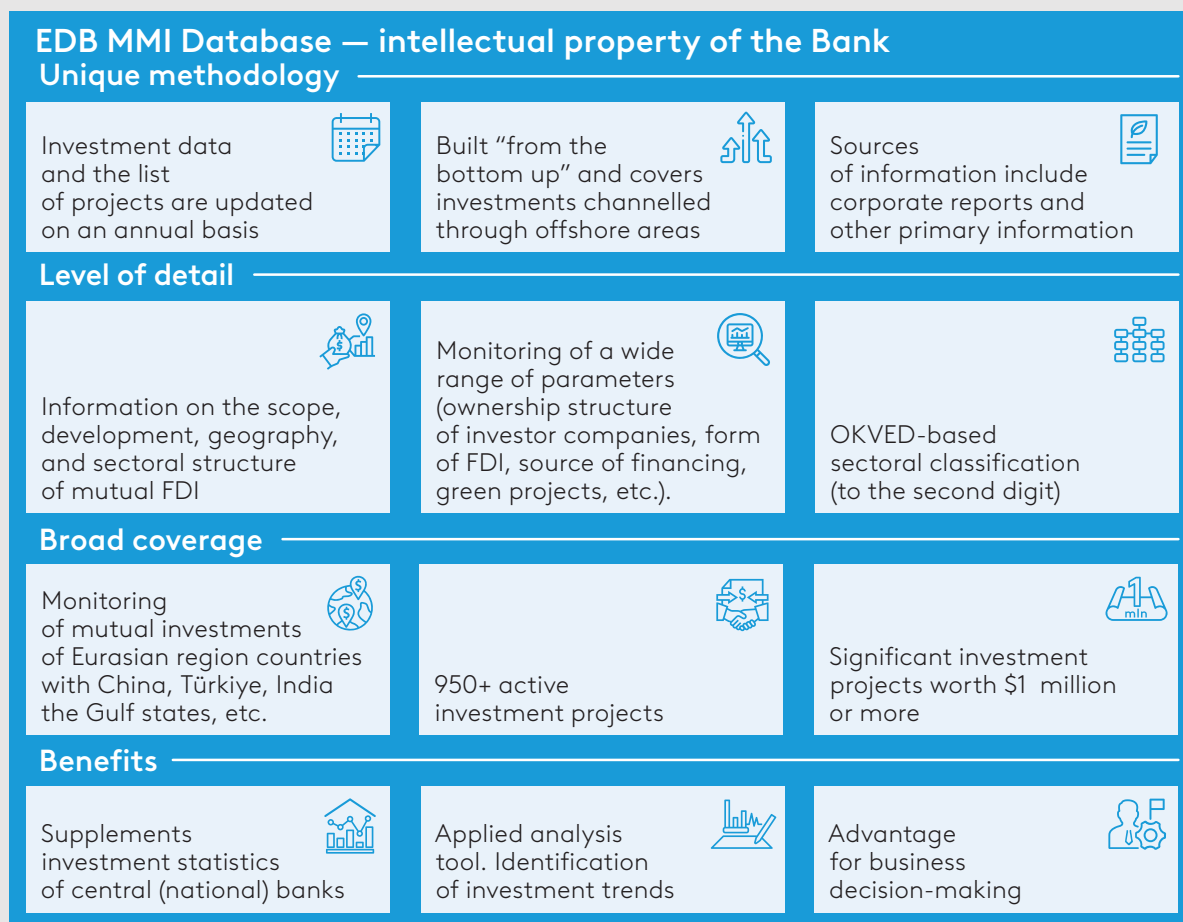
## General information about the methodology of the report

The Eurasian Development Bank's Monitoring of Mutual Investments (EDB MMI) is a flagship analytical project aimed at systematically tracking, verifying, and analyzing mutual FDI stock in the countries of the Eurasian region. The project also covers the investment links between the Eurasian region and key external partners in Asia, which allows for a comprehensive assessment of the dynamics, structure, and geography of cross-border investment flows.

The Eurasian region comprises 13 countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

Partner countries in the current report include the following Asian countries: Afghanistan, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Türkiye, Vietnam, and the Gulf states (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE).

↓ Figure A. EDB Monitoring of Mutual Investments Database



Source: EDB

The EDB's MMI database is the basis for the study of mutual investments. It contains detailed information on investment projects from 2016 to the first half of 2025 (Figure A).

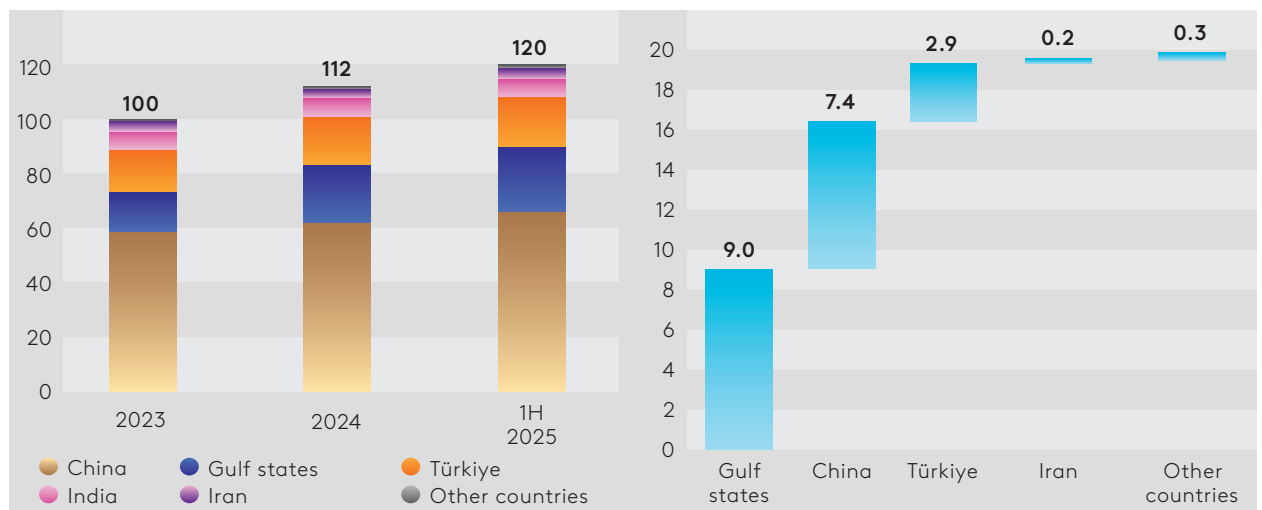
The EDB's MMI information base is formed using a bottom-up approach, which involves collecting data at the level of individual companies and investment projects. The sources are official corporate reports, press releases, and other publicly available data, which ensures the accuracy and transparency of the information.

Every year since 2016, the MMI project updates and reevaluates data on mutual investments for the previous period. Adjustments are made based on refined project information and new corporate reports, which, in accordance with the MMI methodology, take precedence over media publications.

## China is the largest investor; the Gulf states are the main driver of investment growth

As of the end of the first half of 2025, the total volume of FDI stock from Asian countries in the economies of the Eurasian region reached **\$119.8 billion, an increase of 20%** compared to 2023 (Figure B).

↓ Figure B. Direct investment stock by Asian countries in the Eurasian region (left) and investment growth by investor countries from 2023 to the first half of 2025 (right), billion dollars



Source: EDB MMI database

The main sources of investment remain China — \$66.1 billion (55% of the total), the Gulf states — \$23.9 billion (20%), and Türkiye — \$12.3 billion (15.5%). Together, they account for about 90% of all investment stock from Asian countries.

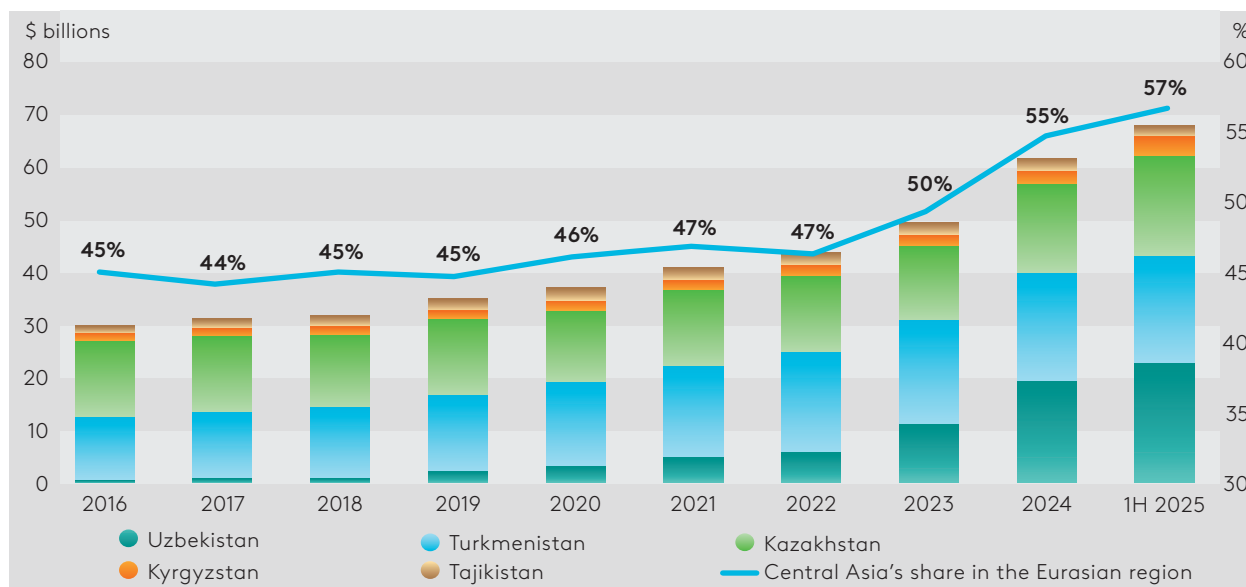
**China** retains its status as the largest investor in the Eurasian region, with Chinese investment in the region growing by 13%, or **\$7.4 billion**, over the past year and a half (2024–first half of 2025).

**The Gulf states** have been the key driver of investment growth in recent years. With a total increase in investment from Asian countries of \$20 billion, they accounted for **about \$9 billion, or 45%** of the total increase. In the long term, the Gulf states have shown the highest rates of investment growth in the Eurasian region, averaging 13.9% per year since 2016, which is more than double the average rate of investment growth from Asian countries (6.8%). The largest investor among the Gulf states is the UAE, with investment stock of \$16.1 billion (68% of the Gulf states’ total portfolio). It is followed by Saudi Arabia with \$4.2 billion (18%), Qatar with \$2.4 billion (10%), and Oman with \$1.1 billion (5%).

### Central Asia — a center of attraction for investment from Asian countries

FDI stock from Asian countries in the economies of Central Asia increased 2.3 times between 2016 and the first half of 2025, from **\$29.9 billion to \$68 billion**. The rapid growth in capital inflows (averaging about 10% per year from 2016 to the first half of 2025) has allowed Central Asia to establish itself as a center of attraction for investment in Eurasia. A particularly noticeable acceleration has been observed since 2023, when the region’s share in the total investments of external partners reached 50%. By the end of the first half of 2025, **this share had grown to 57%** (Figure C).

↓ Figure C. Investment stock from Asian countries in Central Asia



Source: EDB MMI database

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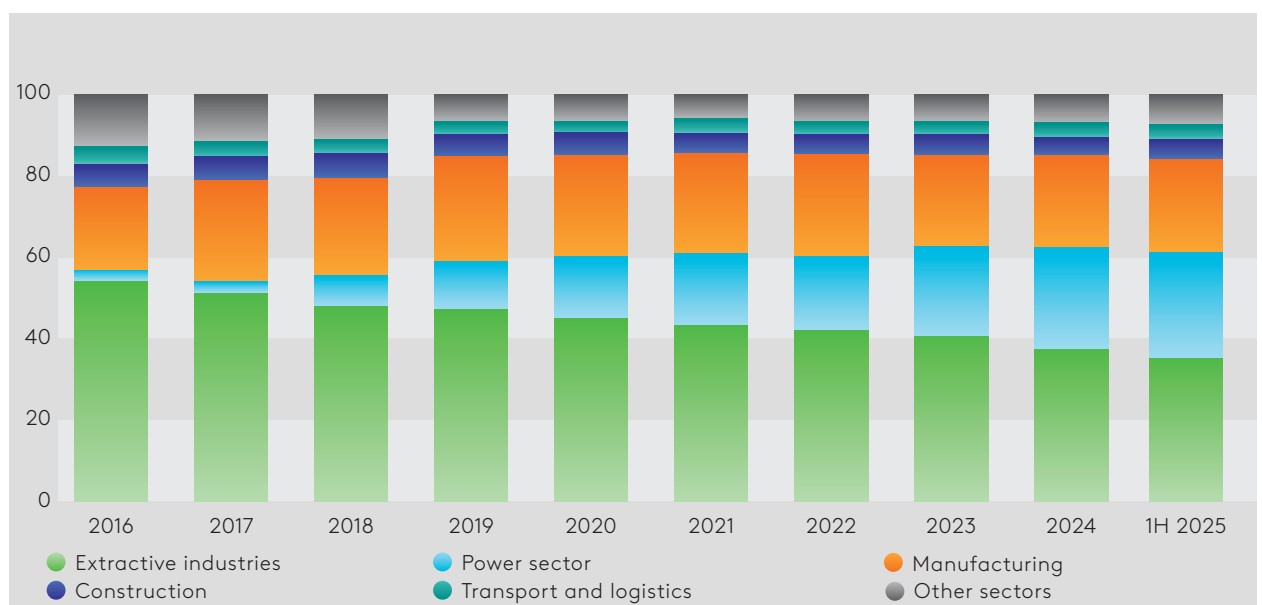
The investment portfolio of Central Asia is characterized by high country concentration. The bulk of investments (92%) is concentrated in three countries: **Uzbekistan** (\$22.6 billion), **Turkmenistan** (\$20.6 billion), and **Kazakhstan** (\$19.3 billion).

**Uzbekistan** has demonstrated the highest rates of investment attraction, with FDI stock increasing more than 45-fold since 2016. Over the past year and a half, the volume of investment in the country has doubled, from \$11.0 billion to \$22.6 billion. This accounted for about 62% of the total investment growth in Central Asia during the period under review and reflected improvements in the investment climate, industrial modernization, and power sector transformation.

### The power sector is the driver of investment attractiveness in the Eurasian region

Mutual investments between countries in the Eurasian region and Asian partner countries continue to be highly concentrated in certain sectors: more than 84% of their total volume is accounted for by **extractive industries, power sector, and manufacturing**. At the same time, long-term dynamics show a steady structural shift from the dominance of extractive industries to a more diversified investment model. Although the extractive industry sector remains the largest in terms of FDI stock, its share has declined from 55% in 2016 to 35% in the first half of 2025, primarily due to the rapid growth of investment in the power sector (Figure D).

↓ Figure D. Sectoral distribution of mutual FDI stock of Eurasian countries and Asian countries, %



Source: EDB MMI database

**The power sector** is undergoing the most pronounced quantitative and structural changes. Over the decade, the share of the power sector in the structure of mutual FDI has grown almost tenfold, from 2.6% in 2016 to 26% by mid-2025. A similar trend can be observed in investments attracted by the Eurasian region from Asian countries: the share of the power sector increased from 2% to 17%. In just a year and a half (from 2024 to the first half of 2025), power projects accounted for more than half of the total increase in attracted investments (\$10.1 billion out of \$19.8 billion).

The most active investors are **the Gulf states and China**. In a year and a half, the Gulf states invested about **\$5 billion**. As a result, their FDI stock reached \$8.3 billion by the end of the first half of 2025, allowing them to surpass China in investment stock in the power sector of the Eurasian region (\$8.2 billion).

### **New partner countries (Afghanistan, India, Indonesia, Vietnam): key features of investment cooperation**

Investment cooperation with **India** is the most developed. The volume of mutual investment stock between India and the countries of the Eurasian region reached \$13.4 billion, with practical parity between incoming and outgoing FDI flows. Indian investments are concentrated mainly in the oil and gas sector of Russia and Azerbaijan.

**Vietnam** has a moderate but qualitatively transforming investment presence. Vietnam's FDI stock in the Eurasian region grew from \$613 million in 2016 to \$825 million by mid-2025 (+34%), with simultaneous diversification of the geography of investments. Russia remains a key destination (\$570 million, 69% of the portfolio), but its share is declining due to the depreciation of oil and gas assets. The role of Central Asia is growing: investments in Kazakhstan reached \$128 million, while the ROX Group has become more active in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, with projects in the real estate and renewable power industries. The sectoral structure of Vietnamese FDI has changed significantly: the share of the extractive sector has declined from 87% to 25%, while the agro-industrial complex has become a key area (63% of the portfolio). Vietnamese investments in the food industry and renewable power have provided additional diversification.

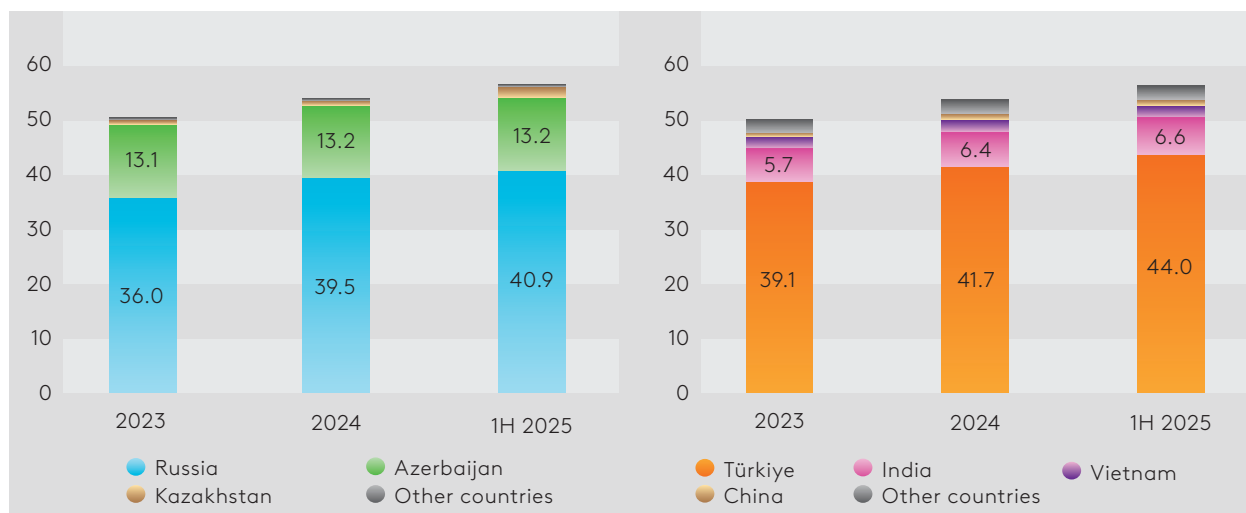
**Afghanistan** is seen by the countries of the Eurasian region as a niche market but a strategically important investment destination. The total volume of FDI stock reached \$190 million at the end of the first half of 2025, with the Eurasian region acting as a net exporter of capital. The largest investor is Turkmenistan (52% of the portfolio, \$99 million), which is focused on infrastructure and power sector projects, primarily the TAPI gas pipeline. Uzbekistan is implementing gas production projects; Azerbaijan is represented by an oil refinery in Khayraton; Kazakhstan's participation is still limited. Overall, the investment presence is infrastructure- and transit-power-related.

**Indonesia** is represented in the Eurasian region by a single but significant industrial project. Indorama Corp. acquired 99% of the shares of FerganaAzot in Uzbekistan, combining the purchase with commitments to modernize production. By mid-2025, the volume of investment is estimated at \$240 million. In addition, a significant pool of potential projects has been announced, indicating opportunities for expanding investment cooperation.

### Investment stock by countries of the Eurasian region in Asian countries

Eurasian countries are active exporters of capital. At the end of the first half of 2025, their FDI stock in partner countries of Asia reached **\$56.6 billion**, an increase of 12.5% over the past year and a half (Figure E).

↓ **Figure E. Distribution of investment stock by the Eurasian region in Asian countries by investor countries (left) and recipient countries (right), \$ billions**



Source: EDB MMI database

The key investors are Russia and Azerbaijan, which account for 72% and 23% of outward investment, respectively. The geography of capital allocation is highly concentrated: the main recipient countries are Türkiye (78% of all investments), India (12%), Vietnam (4%), and China (2%).

**Türkiye** is the largest recipient of investments from the Eurasian region: the volume of investment stock reached \$44 billion, which is more than twice the volume of Turkish investments in the Eurasian region (\$18.6 billion). The main contribution is made by Russian and Azerbaijani companies, mainly in the power and oil-refining sectors. In recent years, Kazakhstan has joined the ranks of active investors in Türkiye—the growth in investment activity is primarily associated with large deals by Kaspı Bank in the financial sector.

Investments from Eurasian countries in **India** are showing steady growth. Between 2016 and the first half of 2025, their volume increased more than sevenfold to \$6.6 billion, mainly due to Russian investments in India's oil-refining industry.

The volume of investment stock from the Eurasian region in **Vietnam** has remained relatively stable in recent years and amounted to \$2.35 billion in the first half of 2025. At the same time, the country structure is undergoing a transformation: Russia's share has decreased from 92% in 2016 to 74%, while Kazakhstan's share has grown from 8% to 25%, reflecting a gradual diversification of investment sources.