

How do businesses and commercial banks perceive the future? Their intentions to expand, maintain or contract their investment in the medium-term provide some indication as to future trends, and, combined with other data and analysis, assist policy makers in identifying the probability of potential shocks.

It is also vital to ask exactly where they intend to put their future investments. Factors typically include what investors think will happen to their profits and turnover, and plans to diversify their activities (e.g. by product, economic sector, region), human resources (e.g. training, recruitment), and research and development.

The great majority of investors in all countries indicate the intention to either expand or maintain their investment in the medium term, with most anticipating an increase in their profits and turnover. The most important areas for expanding future investment related to labour (staff training and recruitment of nationals), boosting technology, and diversification by product within the same economic sector. There were mixed findings on diversification to new countries, within the country, and into new economic sectors. The least important area was consistently the recruitment of ex-patriates.

### Downloads

An updated synthesis publication will be made available shortly via this website. In the meantime, earlier synthesis and country analysis may be obtained on the [private capital flows publications page](#)