

Rhodium  
Group



China  
Cross-Border  
Monitor

September 2024

Version 1.1.0

# China Cross-Border Monitor User Guide



## Using the China Cross-Border Monitor

Rhodium Group's China Cross Border Monitor (CBM) provides actionable data on China's global economic footprint for business and policy.

At the core of our offering is a micro dataset on China's global outbound foreign direct investment (FDI) transactions. The dataset is compiled through Rhodium Group's proprietary Comprehensive Direct Investment Tracking (CDIT) methodology. A China CDIT methodology overview paper can be found [here](#).

This document provides an overview of the navigation and functions of the CBM portal ([cbm.rhg.com](http://cbm.rhg.com)).

### Contents

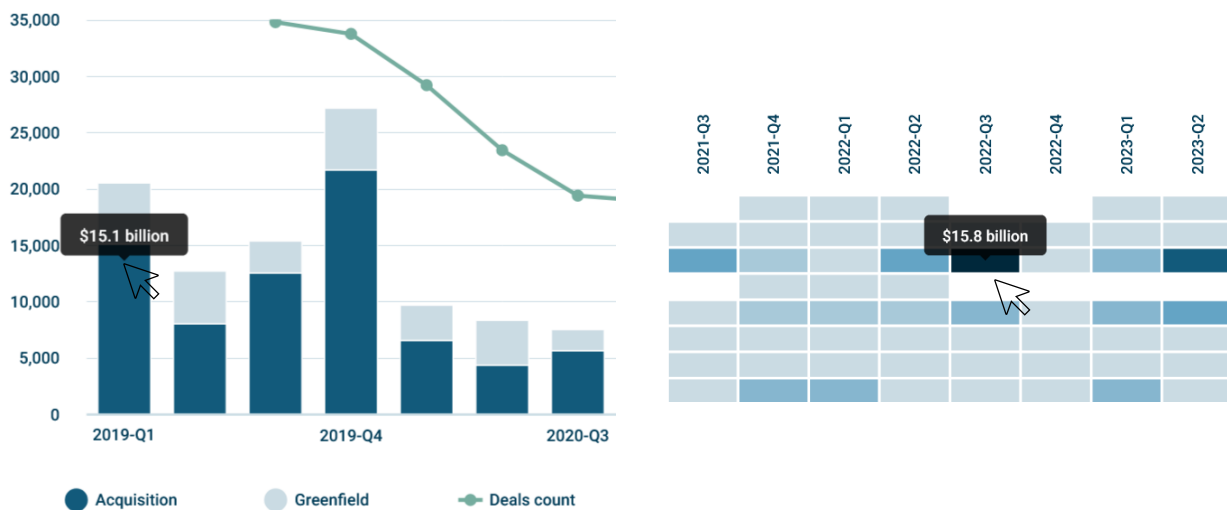
- Navigating the portal
  - Momentum data
  - Historical data
  - Full data tables
- Methodology
- Research
- About
- Support

## Navigating the portal

### Momentum

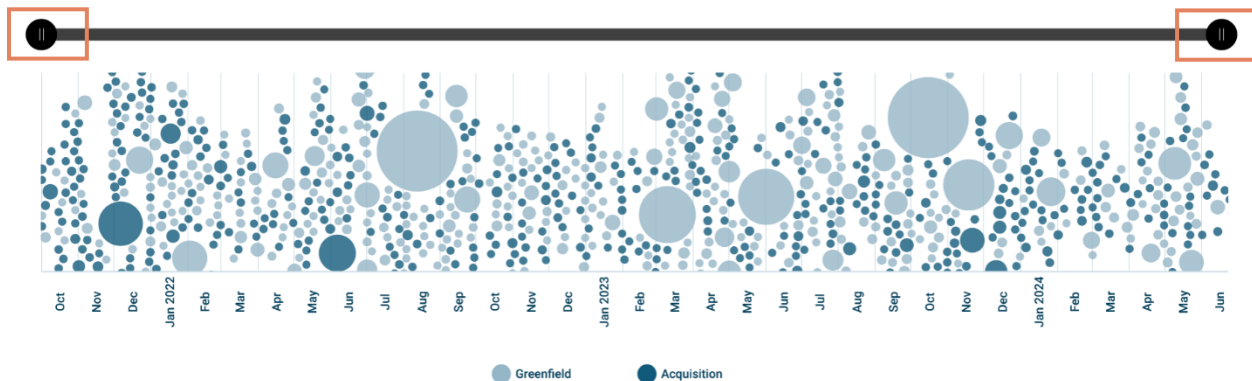
Our Momentum dataset uses announced transactions to track where Chinese companies are setting up investments. This leading indicator can offer early detection of trends critical to business and policy planning.

Our Momentum data page provides a short summary of the latest quarterly trends in Chinese outbound FDI and a range of visuals to dissect these trends in greater detail. To see more details about any given data point, move your cursor over it to see more details.



To adjust the timespan of the bubble chart for announced transaction value by year, click and drag the circle icons on either end of the chart to adjust. To see more details about a specific transaction, move your cursor over it to see more details.

### Announced Transaction Value by Year

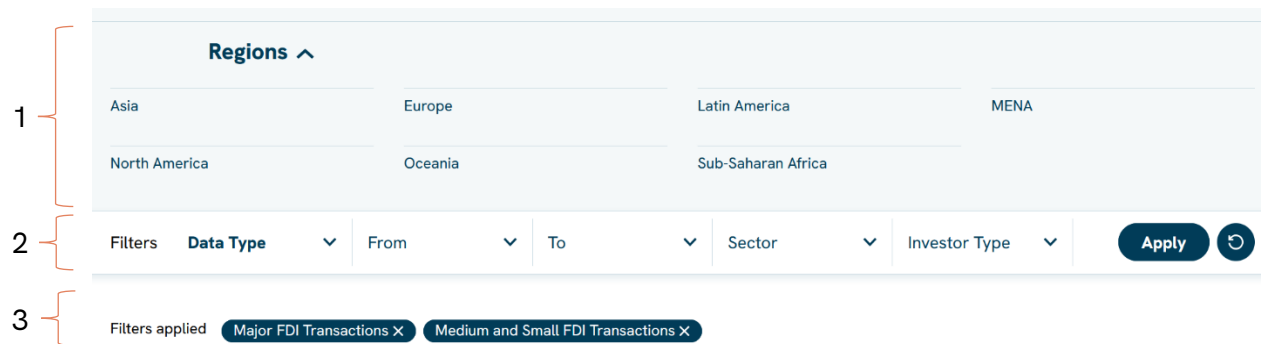


## Historical data

Our historical data based on completed transactions contains three subsections: Geographies, Industries, and Investors. These three lenses let you investigate our data in different ways to suit your research needs and interests. Each of these lenses offers a range of settings you can adjust to refine and select particular data.

### GEOGRAPHIES

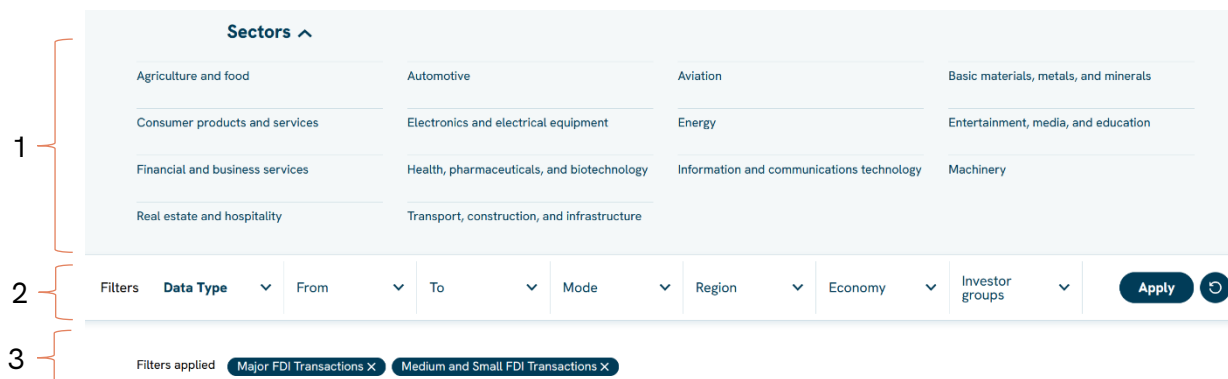
We track China's investment footprint across more than 200 countries, regions, and economies. The main landing page for Geographies provides top-level statistics about investment from Chinese companies worldwide.



1. **Region drop-down menu:** Use this menu to select a specific region. Clicking a region will take you to a new page with only data for that region. You can also click on a region on the world map to navigate to that region's page. Similarly, when on the page for a specific region, this menu will let you narrow down to a specific economy.
2. **Filter menu:** This menu lets you specify what data you see. Selections here reflect across all the charts on the landing page once you click apply. You can reset your selections using the circular arrow refresh button.
  - **Data type:** This menu allows you to select which dataset displays. Our two largest datasets (Major FDI Transactions and Medium and Small FDI Transactions) are selected by default. You can also add our estimated Micro FDI Transactions database to the data displayed using this menu.
  - **From and To:** Use these options to set the time range of your data.
  - **Sector:** Use this menu to choose which industries are displayed. All sectors are included by default.
  - **Investor groups:** Narrow down investments by the type of entity behind them. All investor groups are included by default.
3. **Filter information:** Your selections in the filter menu will display here. By default, we display data from our two largest transactions databases.

## INDUSTRIES

Users can use our data to track the evolution of Chinese outbound investment by sector, industry, and business activity.

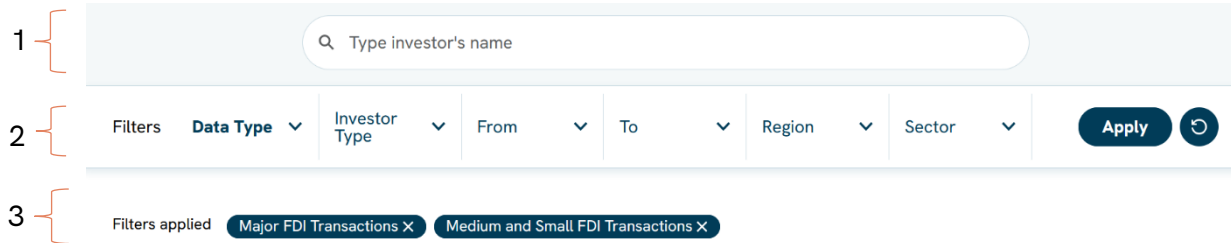


- Sector drop-down menu:** Use this menu to select a specific sector.<sup>1</sup> Clicking a sector will take you to a new page with only data for that sector. Similarly, when on the page for a specific sector, this menu will let you narrow down to a specific industry. Note that while most sectors have smaller component industries, not all of them do.
- Filter menu:** This menu lets you specify what data you see. Selections here reflect across all the charts on the landing page once you click apply. You can reset your selections using the circular arrow refresh button.
  - **Data type:** This menu allows you to select which dataset displays. Our two largest datasets (Major FDI Transactions and Medium and Small FDI Transactions) are selected by default. You can also add our estimated Micro FDI Transactions database to the data displayed using this menu.
  - **From and To:** Use these options to set the time range of your data.
  - **Mode:** Choose whether to include greenfield or M&A transactions. Both are included by default.
  - **Region:** Use this menu to narrow down to investments in a specific region. The default setting is for all transactions worldwide.
  - **Economy:** Use this menu to narrow down to investments in a specific country or economy. The default setting is for all transactions worldwide.
  - **Investor groups:** Narrow down investments by the type of entity behind them. All investor groups are included by default.
- Filter information:** Your selections in the filter menu will display here. By default, we display data from our two largest transactions databases.

<sup>1</sup> We use the term Sector for a larger industrial grouping and Industry for the smaller component verticals.

## INVESTORS

Get a breakdown of Chinese investment by investor type. Note that our Ultimate Beneficial Owner (UBO) database is currently a work in progress—not every transaction is connected to a UBO in the 1.1.0 version of the database. This means that the number and value of transactions in the Investors section are smaller than in the Industries and Geographies section. As we continue to develop our dataset, investor coverage will continue to expand.



- Investor search bar:** Clients of CBM+ can see detailed pages of individual investors. See an [example page here](#).
- Filter menu:** This menu lets you specify what data you see. Selections here reflect across all the charts on the landing page once you click apply. You can reset your selections using the circular arrow refresh button.
  - **Data type:** This menu allows you to select which dataset displays. Our two largest datasets (Major FDI Transactions and Medium and Small FDI Transactions) are selected by default. You can also add our estimated Micro FDI Transactions database to the data displayed using this menu.
  - **From and To:** Use these options to set the time range of your data.
  - **Region:** Use this menu to narrow down to investments in a specific region. The default setting is for all transactions worldwide.
  - **Sector:** Use this menu to choose which industries are displayed. All sectors are included by default.
- Filter information:** Your selections in the filter menu will display here. By default, we display data from our two largest transactions databases.

## Methodology

The China Cross-Border Monitor is powered by Rhodium Group's proprietary Comprehensive Direct Investment Tracking (CDIT) methodology. Because traditional methods of tracking overseas investment by Chinese companies are skewed by the use of tax havens and reinvested earnings, we use a transaction-based methodology that tracks nearly a million individual investments worldwide to create a more transparent view of China's global investment footprint.

The methodology page offers documentation of the CDIT methodology, including a short methodology white paper and a detailed methodology paper.

## Research

Comprehensive, detailed, and up-to-date, the China Cross-Border Monitor data facilitates impactful research for policy and business applications. Rhodium Group's researchers use data from the CBM in a variety of research projects into China's relationship with the world. You can find a selection of Rhodium Group research that uses CBM data on our website. Click on an image or title to read the piece.

## About

Our About page explains the purpose and abilities of the CBM. The page also provides contact information for the CBM team and Rhodium Group.

To contact the China Cross-Border Monitor team, email us at [cbm@rhg.com](mailto:cbm@rhg.com).

For media inquiries, please email us at [press@rhg.com](mailto:press@rhg.com).



## Benefits of CBM+

China Cross-Border Monitor Plus users get more data and get it sooner. Registered users have access to more than 700,000 individual transactions in our database, categorized by industry, geography, and investor. Clients also get to see new data updates a month before the public.

To learn more and activate your account, contact the China Cross-Border Monitor team at [cbm@rhg.com](mailto:cbm@rhg.com).

## ABOUT RHODIUM GROUP

Rhodium Group is an independent research provider with deep expertise in policy and economic analysis. We help decision-makers in both the public and private sectors navigate global challenges through objective, original, and data-driven research and insights. Our key areas of expertise are China's economy and policy dynamics, and global climate change and energy systems. More information is available at [www.rhg.com](http://www.rhg.com).

## ABOUT THE CHINA CROSS-BORDER MONITOR

The China Cross-Border Monitor is a project of Rhodium Group's China practice to track China's overseas investments. Traditional methods of tracking overseas investment by Chinese companies are skewed by the use of tax havens and reinvested earnings, creating a skewed picture of China's overseas investments. Our transaction-based methodology tracks nearly a million individual investments worldwide, helping create a more transparent view of China's global investment footprint.

## DISCLOSURES

This documentation and the data contemplated in this documentation are provided by Rhodium Group, LLC ("Rhodium") for use by the recipient only. It is provided "as is" without warranty of any kind. Rhodium and its data providers hereby disclaim all warranties regarding this documentation and the data, whether express, implied, or statutory, including all warranties of merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose, title, and non-infringement. To the fullest extent permitted under applicable law, Rhodium and its data providers shall not be liable for any damages arising from use or reliance on this documentation or the data, including without limitation special, indirect, or consequential damages and damages arising from loss of use or profits, whether arising in an action for breach of contract, negligence, or any other cause of action. In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between this paragraph and any written agreement duly executed by Rhodium, the written agreement will control.

© 2024 Rhodium Group LLC, 5 Columbus Circle, New York, NY 10019. All rights reserved.

New York | California | Washington, DC | Paris

Website: [www.cbm.rhg.com](http://www.cbm.rhg.com)



Rhodium  
Group



China  
Cross-Border  
Monitor