

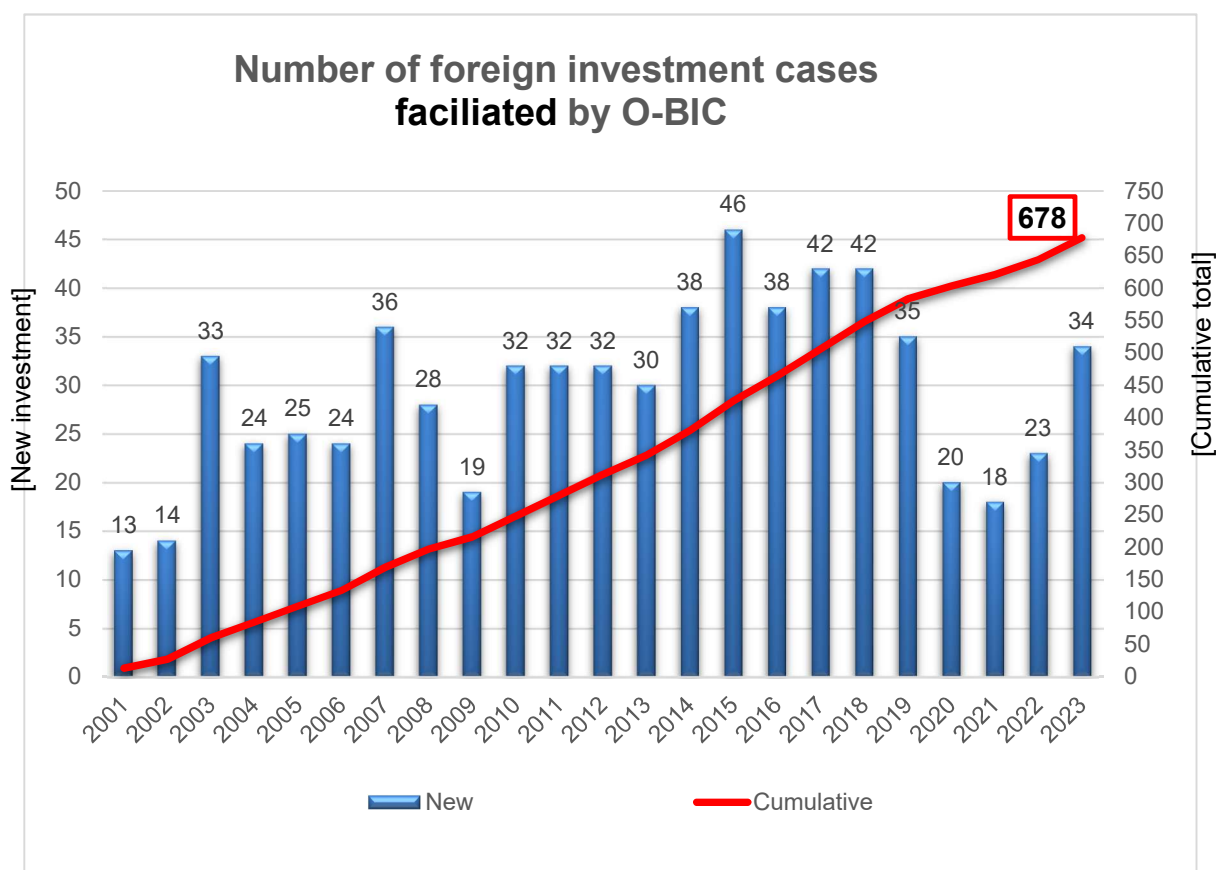
(Translated into English from original Japanese)

**- Succeeded in attracting 34 foreign investments; a significant increase from last year with the upcoming World Expo -
FY2023 performance of Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC)**

【Contact】

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■ Investment Trend



- O-BIC facilitated 34 cases of investment in Osaka by foreign companies in FY2023. This is a significant increase from the previous fiscal year (23 cases) and the highest number since FY2020. With EXPO 2025 Osaka-Kansai approaching, Osaka is attracting attention from both within Japan and overseas. The Osaka Prefectural and City Governments have applied together for designation as a “Special Zone for Financial and Asset Management” to be established by the national government, in preparation for creating an environment conducive to foreign business. The number of inquiries to O-BIC was 192, also a significant increase over the previous year (151).

- The majority of inquiries were from East Asia, with 70 from China (including Hong Kong), 23 from South Korea, and 12 from Taiwan; a total of 20 inquiries were from Southeast Asian countries such as Singapore, the Philippines, and Malaysia.
- Looking at the 34 investment cases by country/region, China (including Hong Kong) has the most with 13 (10 in the previous year), followed by South Korea with 11 (7 in the previous year), and then Taiwan, the US, and the UAE with two each (three in Taiwan, 0 in the US, and 0 in the UAE in the previous year). There was investment from one company each from Singapore, Mongolia, the UK, and Germany, indicating that although the majority of companies were from East Asia, companies from a variety of countries and regions invested in Osaka.
- Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, in which some 160 countries and regions have announced their participation, is bringing Osaka and the world closer together in business. The relatively lower cost of doing business in Osaka compared to Tokyo in terms of land prices, rents, and labor costs has spurred foreign companies to invest in the region. Taking advantage of this opportunity, O-BIC plans to continue to actively promote the inviting of foreign capital investment to Osaka.
- The cumulative total number of investment cases over the 23 years since the establishment of O-BIC to FY 2023 is 678. The top three countries/regions were the same as last year: China with 282 (including Hong Kong), South Korea with 124, and the US with 51.

■ Characteristics of investments

(1) Steady investment from East Asia

In FY2023, there were 13 investments from China (including Hong Kong), 11 from South Korea, 2 from Taiwan, and 1 from Mongolia; East Asia accounted for about 80% (27) of the total (34). Of the 27 cases, about 50% were related to the import/export of consumer goods such as cosmetics and clothing, and capital goods such as industrial parts and materials, while 25% were in the service sector, such as restaurants and consulting. In addition, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation (TSMC), one of the world's largest semiconductor contract manufacturers, opened an R&D center in Osaka in 2022 and built a plant in Kumamoto Prefecture in 2024, indicating a likely increase in the number of its related companies in Japan.

(2) Investment by foreign companies in connection with Expo 2025 Osaka/Kansai

As foreign companies doing business related to the Osaka World Expo in 2025, three companies have invested in Osaka: PICO Osaka (UAE) handles overall MICE business, including logistics and distribution, as well as the operation of the Expo pavilion and Expo-related major international events; BEYOND LIMITS (UAE) builds and operates Expo pavilions; and World Expo Exhibition Association Corporation (China) organizes Expo-related exhibitions and ticket sales. Expo 2025 Osaka-Kansai is expected to create new business opportunities, including

opportunities to participate in exhibitions and business meetings both within and outside the Expo site.

(3) Investment by foreign companies specializing in life sciences, one of Osaka's strengths

Bioswamp Co., Ltd. (China) has entered the Osaka market. The Company offers a range of products, including high-quality antibodies, recombinant proteins, and reagent kits for life science research institutions and biotechnology companies. It covers cutting-edge areas of modern life science research in gut microbiota, cancer, immunology, neuroscience, cardiovascular disease, tumor stem cells, epigenetics, endocrinology, metabolism, etc.

(4) Entry of overseas startups

Osaka has developed a startup ecosystem that supports both domestic and foreign startups. New entrants to the Osaka market included Singapore-based Koh & Associates LLC, a provider of data science consulting services and training, and US-based Botminds Japan Inc, a provider of AI-based big data analysis and extraction systems.

■ Major companies investing in Osaka

Chang Hwa Bank (Taiwan: Kita-ku, Osaka)

URL: <https://www.bankchb.com/frontend/index.html>

Business: Company facilitating residential and commercial real estate loan transactions in the Kansai region, primarily for Taiwanese investors. Provider of working capital loans to Taiwanese SMEs in the Kansai region.

O-BIC's support: Provided information

Kawatek K.K. (USA: Suminoe-ku, Osaka)

URL: <https://kawatek.jp/>

Business: Advanced healthcare technology company specializing in the development and manufacture of bionic prosthetics and artificial eyes based on intelligent brain control accompanied by autonomous rehabilitation systems. It provides services from Japan on a global scale. Through advanced human augmentation technology and breakthrough solutions, it aims to enrich people's lives.

O-BIC's support: Assisted in matching with other companies

Koh & Associates LLC (Singapore: Fujiidera City)

URL: <https://danthescientist.com/>

Business: Specializing in Excel automation, report generation, data science and artificial intelligence development, data analysis, provision of Singapore market information, and various consulting services. Hosting seminars on topics such as streamlining data entry, leveraging machine and deep learning technologies, and more.

O-BIC's support: Introduced experts; supported promotional activities

PICO Osaka Co., Ltd. (UAE: Suminoe-ku, Osaka City)

URL: <https://jp.pico.com/ja/>

Business: As a foreign company involved in business related to Expo 2025 Osaka/Kansai, handles all aspects of MICE operations, including logistics and distribution, as well as the operation of Expo pavilions and large-scale international events related to the Expo.

O-BIC's support: Provided information

- Overview of O-BIC and its activities in FY 2023 -

■ About O-BIC

The Osaka Business and Investment Center (O-BIC) was established in 2001 jointly by the Osaka Prefectural Government, the Osaka Municipal Government, and the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry as a one-stop support hub to promote foreign direct investment in Osaka. (Secretariat: International Division, OCCI)

■ Overview of O-BIC's Activities in FY2023

- O-BIC proactively facilitated investment in Osaka and promoted the prefecture in cooperation with the Osaka International Business Promotion Center, JETRO Osaka, the Kansai Bureau of Economy, Trade and Industry, and other Osaka-based organizations that promote investment in Japan;
- With the resumption of human traffic to and from overseas, O-BIC saw a significant increase in the number of inquiries, especially from other Asian countries;
- O-BIC participated in more than 70 events and information sessions in Japan and abroad, and promoted the attractiveness of Osaka's investment environment and O-BIC's services, while also utilizing social networking services;
- Accompanied top promoters sent by the City of Osaka to various countries. In Chicago, USA and Melbourne, Australia, O-BIC introduced Osaka and O-BIC's activities and proposed cooperation with local organizations;
- Hosted the "Global Innovation Forum" and helped attract overseas startups to Osaka through business matching;
- Held the "Kansai International Exchange Program: Viewing & Briefing of Maishima Incineration Plant and Advanced Energy Technology" to strengthen ties with consulates general and consulates in the Kansai region;
- Conducted the first "Osaka Online Tour" to promote Osaka's business environment and advantages to businesses and foreign diplomatic missions in Japan and abroad; Disseminated information on the attractive features of Osaka and EXPO 2025 Osaka/Kansai;
- On the occasion of the G7 Trade Ministers' Meeting in OSAKA-SAKAI, held a meeting with the Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Japan of G7 participating countries as a G7 side event to promote investment in Japan.

< Further Reading >

- ① List of investments handled by O-BIC in FY2023
- ② Matrix of investments handled by O-BIC in FY2023
- ③ Investments handled by O-BIC between FY2001 and FY2023 (for 23 years)

Investments Handled by O-BIC

FY	Inquires	FDIs handled	Support program users
2001	300	13	-
2002	273	14	-
2003	164	33	-
2004	141	24	-
2005	158	25	-
2006	175	24	-
2007	139	36	-
2008	117	28	11
2009	137	19	12
2010	101	32	18
2011	123	32	15
2012	94	32	13
2013	97	30	14
2014	113	38	25
2015	137	46	23
2016	118	38	24
2017	135	42	23
2018	167	42	23
2019	193	35	16
2020	176	20	9
2021	115	18	13
2022	151	23	11
2023	192	34	11
Total	3516	678	261

Support Program: An incentive program offered by O-BIC to encourage investment in Osaka by reducing the burden of registration costs (up to a maximum of ¥100,000).