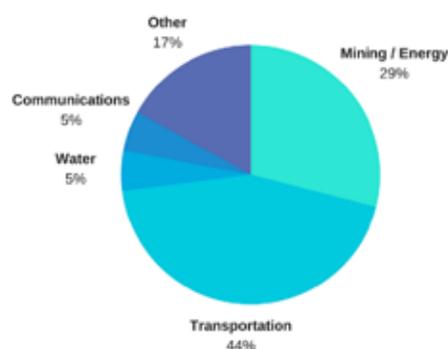


# Who Is Out To Control Africa's Mining Sector?

Contrary to what is generally believed, China is not the largest foreign investor in Africa. China ranks third, after the United States and the United Kingdom. In the ten years between 2005 and 2014, the total accumulated Chinese direct investment (FDI) in Africa was below \$40 billion, while that of the U.S. was above \$60 billion, and that of the U.K. over \$50 billion. However, China is both the number one trade partner of Africa and leads in the rate of growth of direct investments in the recent years; this means it will soon surpass the United States and the UK.

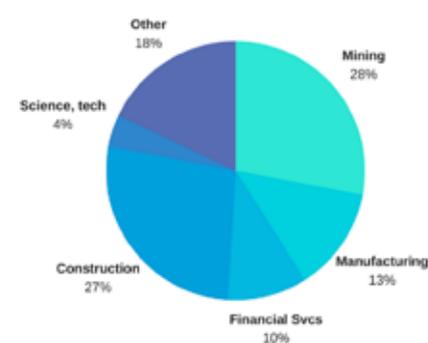
On the other hand, U.S. investments in Africa have been collapsing at a rapid rate starting in 2009, when President Barack Obama was elected.

**Chinese Exim Bank Loans to Africa by Sector, 2005-2015**



Source: SAIS-CARI analysis, based on data from: UNCTAD Bilateral FDI Statistics; China Statistical Yearbook; Statistical Bulletin of China's Outward Foreign Direct Investment; Bureau of Economic Analysis, US Department of Commerce.

**Chinese FDI Stock to Africa by Sector, 2015**



Source: SAIS-CARI, policy brief #18, based on data from CARI's Loan Database and the US Eximbank.

**FDI to Africa**



Source: SAIS-CARI analysis, based on data from: UNCTAD Bilateral FDI Statistics; China Statistical Yearbook; Statistical Bulletin of China's Outward Foreign Direct Investment; Bureau of Economic Analysis, US Department of Commerce.

The statistics reveal that it is not China but rather the United States and the UK which are primarily interested in the raw materials and financial wealth of Africa.

While China's investments are spread over several economic sectors in Africa, with infrastructure construction being the primary one, U.S. and British investments are concentrated in raw materials and finance.

The Chinese Exim Bank is increasingly becoming the leading source of foreign loans to infrastructure and other projects in Africa, with more than \$50 billion over the period from 2005 to 2014; during the same time, the U.S. Exim Bank had invested less than one-tenth of that amount in Africa, and 70% of those investments were directed to the mining sector.

A report issued by the [China Africa Research Initiative](#), at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies—along with other studies—provides a useful quantitative overview of U.S. and Chinese investments into Africa.