**Investment Policy of Sri Lanka**

Sri Lanka’s Investment policy is geared towards the realization of national sustainable development goals and grounded in the country’s overall development strategy. Investment policy priorities are based on a thorough analysis of the country’s comparative advantages and development challenges and opportunities.

Its strategic priorities include:

* Investment in specific economic activities
* Areas for mutual reinforcement of public and private investment (including a framework for public-private partnerships)
* An investment that makes a significant development contribution by creating decent work opportunities, enhancing sustainability, and/or by expanding and qualitatively improving productive capacity and international competitiveness.

The Board of Investments of Sri Lanka (BOI) established in 1978, under the name Greater Colombo Economic Commission and it is one of the foremost investment promotion agencies in South Asia. As the apex agency for foreign direct investment in Sri Lanka, there are over 1700 enterprises under the purview of BOI in the span of its 40 years in operation.

Under the policy developments for attracting the foreign direct investments since 1978 the repatriation of profits/dividends has been completely liberalized. All income, proceeds on sale of the investments can be repatriated through an Inward Investment Account opened by the Investor. 100% foreign ownership is permitted in most industrial and a number of service sector activities including banking, insurance, finance, construction, mass transportation, telecommunications and information technology, and petroleum distribution.

Stock market investments can be remitted without prior approval from the Central Bank. Investment returns can be remitted in any convertible currency at the market rate while foreign investors may invest in foreign-currency denominated bonds. National treatment is offered to all foreign investors.

Sri Lanka has signed important investment protection agreements and double taxation agreements with many economic partners. ([Avoidance of Double Taxation – Investment Opportunities – Board of Investment of Sri Lanka (investsrilanka.com)](https://investsrilanka.com/avoidance-of-double-taxation/). A MoU is on the table of South Africa – Sri Lanka Partnership Forum to be finalized in near future.

Sri Lanka is a founder member of the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), which provides further safeguard against expropriation and non-commercial risk. Further Sri Lanka has entered into 28 Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Treaties (BITs) so far, providing a protection to foreign investments within the country.

You may find more information through [Investment Opportunities – Board of Investment of Sri Lanka (investsrilanka.com)](https://investsrilanka.com/)