

2.2.6 Imports by Export Processing Zone (EPZ) and Economic Zone (EZ)

In order to achieve rapid economic growth in the country by increasing the inflow of foreign investment, particularly through industrialization, special steps have been taken since 1980 by setting up an Export Processing Zone (EPZ) in the country in Chittagong (Halisahar), Dhaka (Savar) and Khulna (Mongla) where favourable facilities/assistance are provided to the potential investors, both Bangladeshi and foreigners. The Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) started from 1983-84, while the Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) started from 1993-94. Later, EPZs have also been established in Mongla of Khulna, Ishurdi of Pabna, Cumilla, Uttara of Syedpur in the district of Nilphamary, Adamjee of Narayanganj and Karnaphuli of Chittagong, where the investments are classified into three types, i.e., A-type (100% foreign investment), B-type (Joint venture investment between Bangladeshi and foreigners) and C-type (100% Bangladeshi entrepreneur's investment). Additionally, the BEPZA Economic Zone (BEPZA- EZ) was established in 2018 at Mirsharai, Chattogram, to promote economic progress further.

At the end of June 2023, the type-wise number of functioning enterprises in EPZ & EZ are shown in Table 2.11.

Table 2.11: Imports by Export Processing Zone (EPZ) and Economic Zone (EZ)

Name of EPZ & EZ	No. of enterprises	Investment (In million USD)	Employment (Local)	Employment (Foreign)
Total : Type-A	370	4305.6	336384	1663
Chittagong	100	1307.6	97589	230
Dhaka	83	1260.8	63417	323
Mongla	28	104.5	14113	40
Ishwardi	18	92.4	8781	63
Cumilla	35	357.9	39623	240
Uttara	16	184.2	25913	266
Adamjee	38	393.0	25113	127
Karnaphuli	33	595.0	61778	371
Bepza-EZ	19	10.2	57	3
Total : Type-B	89	688.4	47412	174
Chittagong	22	140.6	18953	35
Dhaka	18	157.6	2497	68
Mongla	3	26.1	113	1
Ishwardi	9	32.8	523	-
Cumilla	9	101.2	3553	25
Uttara	1	0.1	-	-
Adamjee	19	186.2	19438	45
Karnaphuli	6	43.8	2335	-
Bepza-EZ	2	-	-	-
Total : Type-C	231	1440.3	110549	82
Chittagong	70	585.3	55921	18
Dhaka	37	318.9	12717	23
Mongla	15	38.1	242	-
Ishwardi	20	118.1	8621	14
Cumilla	20	104.6	6638	7
Uttara	23	49.2	6836	2
Adamjee	28	141.7	11929	15
Karnaphuli	14	84.4	7645	3
Bepza-EZ	4	-	-	-
Grand total	690	6434.3	494345	1919

Source: Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA).

Table – 2.12 shows the imports to abroad by the EPZ enterprises since 1989-90. The data have been collected from Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA).

Table 2.12: Imports by Export Processing Zone (EPZ)

Year	Amount (In crore BDT)	Amount (In million USD)
1989-90	105.3	32
1990-91	142.7	40
1991-92	240.3	63
1992-93	332.7	85
1993-94	484.0	121
1994-95	791.9	197
1995-96	1065.8	261
1996-97	1716.6	402
1997-98	2239.2	493
1998-99	2384.0	496
1999-00	3348.7	665
2000-01	3698.4	685
2001-02	3601.7	627
2002-03	4209.3	727
2003-04	5224.6	886
2004-05	5843.5	952
2005-06	7122.5	1062
2006-07	7901.8	1144
2007-08	8877.5	1294
2008-09	8956.0	1302
2009-10	9774.9	1414
2010-11	15273.1	2140
2011-12	16774.3	2114
2012-13	19975.1	2505
2013-14	23120.8	2975
2014-15	23473.0	3022
2015-16	24413.3	3119
2016-17	24497.0	3097
2017-18	29222.4	3556
2018-19	30830.0	3669
2019-20	25631.7	3025
2020-21	28314.4	3339
2021-22	40405.8	4682
2022-23	34967.0	3516

Source : Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA)