

1.2.6 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 2024, the type-wise number of functioning enterprises in EPZ & EZ are shown in Table 1.11.

Table 1.11: 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	390	4550.6	334398	1722
Chittagong	101	1351.0	95776	247
Dhaka	83	1307.6	61145	332
Mongla	30	160.4	9769	46
Ishwardi	18	104.1	8735	70
Cumilla	36	380.8	40385	241
Uttara	16	198.1	29120	278
Adamjee	39	416.4	27383	136
Karnaphuli	34	612.2	60876	361
Bepza-EZ	33	20.0	1209	11
Total : Type-B	87	722.4	51042	194
Chittagong	23	141.8	19016	37
Dhaka	18	158.5	2251	63
Mongla	3	34.4	94	3
Ishwardi	8	38.4	523	-
Cumilla	10	102.9	3408	25
Adamjee	18	200.6	22974	65
Karnaphuli	5	45.8	2776	1
Bepza-EZ	2	-	-	-
Total : Type-C	230	1512.1	113805	81
Chittagong	70	621.3	54819	20
Dhaka	38	332.6	16272	23
Mongla	15	40.7	192	-
Ishwardi	21	126.6	8820	17
Cumilla	20	105.5	6363	6
Uttara	17	50.5	5640	2
Adamjee	30	149.3	13616	10
Karnaphuli	14	85.6	8083	3
Bepza-EZ	5	-	-	-
Grand total	707	6785.1	499245	1997

Source: Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA).

Table – 1.12 shows the imports to abroad by the EPZ enterprises since 1990-91. The data have been collected from Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA).

Table 1.12: Imports by Export Processing Zone (EPZ)

Year	Amount (In crore BDT)	Amount (In million USD)
1990-91	142.7	40.0
1991-92	240.3	63.0
1992-93	332.7	85.0
1993-94	484.0	121.0
1994-95	791.9	197.0
1995-96	1065.8	261.0
1996-97	1716.6	402.0
1997-98	2239.2	493.0
1998-99	2384.0	496.0
1999-00	3348.7	665.0
2000-01	3698.4	685.0
2001-02	3601.7	627.0
2002-03	4209.3	727.0
2003-04	5224.6	886.0
2004-05	5843.5	952.0
2005-06	7122.5	1062.0
2006-07	7901.8	1144.0
2007-08	8877.5	1294.0
2008-09	8956.0	1302.0
2009-10	9774.9	1413.6
2010-11	15273.1	2140.3
2011-12	16774.3	2114.0
2012-13	19975.1	2505.0
2013-14	23120.8	2975.0
2014-15	23473.0	3021.8
2015-16	24413.3	3118.6
2016-17	24497.0	3097.1
2017-18	29222.4	3556.0
2018-19	30830.0	3669.4
2019-20	25631.7	3025.3
2020-21	28314.4	3339.0
2021-22	40405.8	4682.0
2022-23	34967.0	3516.1
2023-24	38803.0	3494.4

Source : Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA)