



7.1.1. Economic situation

As of January 2025, the per capita gross domestic product (GDP) in Islamabad stood at 2 996 US dollars.[1981](#) In 2023, the ICT accounted for 0.96 % of Pakistan's total population and contributed to approximately 1 % of the national GDP. Banks, TV channels, headquarters of telecommunication operators and state-owned enterprises were in the ICT. The Islamabad Stock Exchange (ISE) is Pakistan's third largest.[1982](#) Islamabad's economy has since 1959 been shaped by the presence of government establishments, political missions, and diplomatic institutions.[1983](#) Its economy has a strong service sector including call centres for foreign companies,[1984](#) but also involves agricultural production, including cotton and rice for export, software and telecommunications, handicraft and rug manufacturing. International aid packages, funding from the military and remittances contribute to the city's economy.[1985](#) While urbanisation has created economic opportunities, it has also exacerbated disparities, and the financial burden on lower-income groups has increased.[1986](#)

The National Science & Technology Park (NSTP) at the National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) Islamabad was granted the status of Hi-Tech Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in October 2020, being the only one in the country.[1987](#) Islamabad's first industrial SEZ, the Islamabad Model Special Economic Zone (IMSEZ), was inaugurated in July 2023. It aims to promote low-carbon industries and enhance industrial output and export potential.[1988](#) SEZs are exempted from income taxes for a period of ten years.[1989](#)

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