



International Congress on Economics, Management and Business Studies

Hosted Online from New York, USA

Date: 23rd January, 2026

Website: <https://econferencia.com>

SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES: A SOURCE OF NEW JOBS AND HIGH VALUE-ADDED PRODUCTION

Mavlyanov Zafar Sahibovich

Independent Researcher

Tashkent State University of Economics

In the current global economic environment, ensuring sustainable economic growth, increasing employment, and expanding the production of high value-added products are among the top priorities for governments. In particular, attracting investments is crucial for modernizing industry, introducing innovative technologies, and establishing competitive production. In this context, special economic zones (SEZs) have been widely used in international practice as a key driver of economic development.

Global experience shows that SEZs play a significant role in creating new jobs and stimulating labor markets. For instance, SEZs established in China, South Korea, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Poland have provided permanent employment for millions of people. These zones have witnessed rapid development of manufacturing enterprises, logistics centers, and service infrastructure, creating highly productive jobs.

At the same time, SEZs serve as important sources of high value-added production. While initially SEZs were primarily focused on basic processing and assembly, today they have evolved into centers of high value-added production in innovative sectors such as electronics, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, mechanical engineering, and digital technologies. As a result, the share of finished products in exports has increased, enhancing the competitiveness of the national economy in international markets.



International Congress on Economics, Management and Business Studies

Hosted Online from New York, USA

Date: 23rd January, 2026

Website: <https://econferencia.com>

In Uzbekistan, the development of SEZs is also a key priority of the state's economic policy. In recent years, SEZs such as "Navoi," "Angren," "Jizzakh," "Urgut," and "Kokand" have been established, implementing industrial, processing, and export-oriented projects that have created thousands of new jobs. Special attention is also being given to high value-added production in Uzbek SEZs. Projects in sectors such as electrical engineering, construction materials, chemical industry, pharmaceuticals, and food processing are driving structural changes in the national economy. This contributes to a qualitative advancement in economic growth.

The effectiveness of SEZs in creating new jobs is largely linked to the investment environment they offer. Tax and customs incentives, ready-to-use infrastructure, and simplified administrative procedures attract investors and lead to the establishment of new enterprises. As a result, employment increases in manufacturing, service, and logistics sectors.

Global experience also shows that jobs created in SEZs are not only quantitatively significant but also of high quality. Modern technologies and advanced management practices used in these zones increase the demand for skilled labor, enhancing workforce capacity and labor productivity.

From a high value-added perspective, SEZs enable moving up the production value chain. Producing finished products for export rather than exporting raw materials generates substantial economic benefits for the national economy. Positive results in this regard have also been observed in Uzbek SEZs.

However, some challenges remain. In certain zones, insufficient local workforce skills, weak collaboration with research institutions, and limited capacity for high value-added production may constrain outcomes. This situation requires a comprehensive approach.



International Congress on Economics, Management and Business Studies

Hosted Online from New York, USA

Date: 23rd January, 2026

Website: <https://econferencia.com>

The above analysis shows that SEZs are a key economic mechanism for creating new jobs and generating high value-added production. They increase employment and contribute to social stability. As a result of SEZ operations, industrialization accelerates, innovative production expands, and export potential grows. This supports sustainable and long-term economic growth.

Uzbekistan's experience demonstrates that SEZs improve not only the number of jobs but also their quality, contributing to higher incomes and improved living standards. Overall, developing SEZs as a key component of economic policy is crucial for modernizing the national economy and transitioning to a high value-added economy.

To further enhance the role of SEZs in creating new jobs and generating high value-added products, it is necessary to align workforce training systems with SEZ requirements. Strengthening collaboration between educational institutions and enterprises is essential. Integrating research and innovation activities with SEZs will increase the share of high-tech production. Government support for innovative projects can accelerate this process.

Moreover, effective use of local raw materials and prioritizing the production of export-oriented finished goods are necessary. In conclusion, a consistent and well-planned development of SEZs is critical for creating new jobs, generating high value-added production, and ensuring sustainable growth of the national economy.