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EGYPTIAN EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION

جمعية المصدرين المصريين

INVEST FOR EXPORT GUIDE



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About This Guide

The Invest for Export Guide, expertly crafted by the Policy Support Unit (PSU) at the Egyptian Exporters Association (Expolink), exemplifies our unwavering commitment to attracting increased investment to Egypt. This comprehensive guide is a cornerstone of Expolink's "Invest for Export Initiative," launched in January 2024.


The PSU and Expolink are dedicated to continuing our support for investors, constantly updating and refining our resources to meet the evolving needs of the investment community. We look forward to welcoming and assisting new investors in their journey towards successful and rewarding ventures in Egypt.

In crafting this guide, the PSU team has relied heavily on official sources to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information presented. We have aimed to cover the key elements of the investment framework, in addition to identifying the incentives schemes for both investment and exports.

It is important to acknowledge that this guide builds on previous efforts in the same context, including the Egyptian Center for Economic Studies (ECES)'s Guide to Industrial Investment in Egypt, in addition to the available data and information provided by the General Authority for Investment and Free Zones (GAFI). Such foundational works have paved the way for tailoring this Guide to addressing the specific inquiries of potential investors today. In addition, We believe that this guide will serve as an invaluable resource for investors seeking to explore the vast opportunities that Egypt has to offer. By providing detailed answers to common inquiries and outlining essential steps in the investment process, we hope to foster a more informed and supportive environment for foreign investment.

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Introduction

Expolink is thrilled to present its comprehensive Invest for Export Guide, crafted specifically to empower new investors in navigating the dynamic landscape of opportunities within Egypt. This guide serves as an essential resource, meticulously detailing the pivotal steps in the investment journey to ensure informed and strategic decision-making.

Furthermore, the Invest for Export Guide provides valuable information and links to help you better understand the investment landscape in Egypt, so join us on this exciting journey, and let our expertise and resources pave the way for your successful investment in Egypt.

The main objective of the guide is to outline the key elements of Egypt's investment framework and to identify various incentive schemes designed to promote investment and exports. Beginning with a strategic approach to selecting the optimal investment zone, the guide provides detailed instructions on establishing a company in Egypt, including necessary legal and procedural requirements. It further breaks down the costs associated with facilities, utilities and labor, offering a clear financial picture for prospective investors.

Additionally, the guide highlights the array of investment and export incentives available within the Egyptian economy. Whether you are a first-time investor or looking to expand your business footprint, Expolink's Investment Guide is your indispensable companion, equipping you with the insights and tools needed to navigate Egypt's dynamic market with confidence and ease.



Investment Schemes & Incentives

First: Investment Schemes

Egypt offers various zones for establishing investment projects, each with its unique investment schemes and regulatory frameworks. These zones include free zones, investment zones, technological zones, economic zones, and industrial zones. They are designed to attract both domestic and foreign investments by providing certain incentives and benefits tailored to each zone's type. Here's an overview of the different investment zones in Egypt:

Zone Type	Free Zone	Investment Zone	Technological Zone	Economic Zone	Industrial Zone
Regulation	Law No. 72/2017 on Investment	Law No. 72/2017 on Investment	Law No. 72/2017 on Investment	Law No. 83/2002 "Economic Zones of Special Nature Law" Amended by Law No. 27/2015	Not governed by a special legal framework
Incentives	Free Zones Incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Incentives • Special Incentives • Additional Incentives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Incentives • Special Incentives • Additional Incentives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Incentives • Special Incentives • Additional Incentives 	General Incentives

Second: Investment Incentives

I. General Incentives

All the Investment Projects subject to the provisions of the law No. 72 of 2017¹ shall enjoy the general incentives provided for in chapter (2) in the law, except for the projects established under the Free Zone Regime. Investment projects enjoy the following general incentives:

- Stamp duty, notarization, and publicity fees on incorporation documents, credit facility, and pledge contracts are exempted for 5 years, including contracts for land registration.
- A unified custom duty of 2% is applied on the value of all imported machinery, equipment, and devices necessary for company or establishment formation.

¹ Investment Law no. 72 for 2017: <https://www.gafi.gov.eg/English/StartaBusiness/Laws-and-Regulations/PublishingImages/Pages/BusinessLaws/Investment%20Law%20english.pdf>

- Industrial projects importing casts, molds, and similar production supplies for temporary use face no custom duties if the items are re-exported abroad after use.

II. Special Incentives

Investment projects established after law No. 72 of 2017 comes into force, in alignment with the investment map², will receive an investment incentive in the form of a discount on taxable net profits. The discount rate will be determined based on the project's key characteristics: (1) geographic location (Sector A), (2) Project Nature & objectives (Sector B), and (3) Finance.

in the following manner:

Project Characteristics	Incentive	Requirements to get the discount
1. Geographic Location	<p>A 50% discount of the investment costs of projects in Sector (A); includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suez Canal Economic Zone • Golden Triangle Economic Zone • Border governorates, including Red Sea Governorate, south Safaga • South of Giza Governorate • Upper Egypt governorates • Governorates of Suez Canal region (east Suez Canal) • Administrative capital zone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new company or facility is required to establish the investment project. • Incorporation of the new company or expansion must occur within 12 years from the issuance of the Executive Regulations of the investment law.³ • The new company or establishment must maintain separate accounts. • Assets of established projects cannot be used in other existing projects when the law is enforced.
Project Nature & Objective	<p>A 30% discount off the investment costs of projects of Sector (B) which covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labor-intensive projects (no less than 500 employees; The direct labor cost exceeds 30% of the total operating cost. • Projects depending on or producing new and renewable energy. • Electricity generation and distribution projects that might be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investors cannot liquidate a company to establish a new investment project for incentive eligibility. • The discount period should not exceed 7 years from the activity startup date. • Incentives are capped at 80% of the paid-up capital by the startup date. • Additional projects or activities beyond those in sectors A and B may receive special incentives based on a decree from SCI.

² **Egypt's Investment Map** is a strategic tool designed to attract and guide investments within the country. It provides comprehensive information about investment opportunities, key sectors, and geographic regions.

<https://www.investinegypt.gov.eg/english/Pages/default.aspx>

³ Executive Regulations of investment law issuance date was on 28 October 2017.

	<p>listed by a decree of the Prime Minister.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automotive manufacturing and its supplying industries. • National and strategic projects that might be listed by a decree of the Supreme Council of Investments (SCI). • Projects exporting its products outside Egypt. • Tourism projects to be listed under a decree of (SCI). • Wood, furniture, printing, packaging and chemical industries. • Antibiotics, tumor drugs and cosmetics industries. • Food, agricultural crops and agricultural waste recycling industries. • Engineering, metallurgical, textile and leather industries. • Information and communication technology projects • SMEs. 	
Type of finance ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35% of the income tax on the revenues of the project, If the foreign funds transferred from abroad are > 50% but < 75% of the project's total funding. • 45% of the income tax on the revenues of the project, If the foreign funds transferred from abroad are ≥ 75% but < 90% of the project's total funding. • 55% of the income tax on the revenues of the project, If the foreign funds transferred from abroad are > 90% of the project s total Funding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project must be in Sector (A) areas, industrial zones, investment zones, new urban communities, or technological zones. • The financing of the project must include at least 50% foreign funds from abroad. • The project or expansion must start within 6 years from the date Law 160/2023 came into force ². Such a period may be extended for another 6 years depending on a decree of The Cabinet. • The term for which the incentive is valid does not exceed 10 years.

¹ <https://www.gafi.gov.eg/Arabic/StartaBusiness/Laws-and-Regulations/SiteAssets/Pages/BusinessLaws/%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%88%D9%86%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%AB%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B1%2072%20%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%86%D8%A9%2017%20%D9%88%D9%81%D9%82%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D8%B9%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AA%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%94%D8%AE%D9%8A%D8%B1%D8%A9.pdf>

² The date law 160/2023 came into force in July 25, 2023.

III. Additional Incentives

Incentives	Conditions/ Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special customs offices for the Investment Project's exports or imports can be set up with the Finance Minister's approval. • The State will cover some or all costs incurred by the Investor to extend utilities to the Investment Project's properties upon operation. • The State will cover part of the expenses for workers' technical training. • Refund 50% of the land value allocated for industrial projects if production starts within 2 years of land delivery. • Allocate land free of charge for certain strategic activities as per legal rules. • Exempt from land usufruct fees for up to ten years from operation start, based on the competent minister's proposal. • The Prime Minister may decree exemptions of up to 50% of infrastructure, services, and public utilities construction costs for projects with special incentives. • The Public Treasury may cover up to 50% of the project's basic utilities consumption for a maximum of 10 years. • Non-tax incentives may be created, subject to a Cabinet decree.¹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project must have started production or engaged in prescribed activities under Article (11) of Investment Law. • Egypt is a principal production site for products specialized by such companies and establishments. • Companies finance their projects with foreign cash transferred from abroad by an Egyptian bank. • The company operates in modern technology fields and supports cutting-edge technology transfer to Egypt and its supplementary industries. • The local component is at least 50%. • Such companies export at least 50% of their products. • The company's activity is based on research conducted through projects carried out in Egypt.²

¹ <https://www.gafi.gov.eg/Arabic/StartaBusiness/Laws-and-Regulations/SiteAssets/Pages/BusinessLaws/%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%88%D9%86%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%AB%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B1%2072%20%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%86%D8%A9%202017%20%D9%88%D9%81%D9%82%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D8%B9%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AA%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%94%D8%AE%D9%8A%D8%B1%D8%A9.pdf>

² <https://www.gafi.gov.eg/English/StartaBusiness/InvestmentZones/Pages/Inland.aspx>

¹ Executive Regulations of investment law issuance date was on 28 October 2017.

² <https://www.gafi.gov.eg/English/StartaBusiness/Laws-and-Regulations/PublishingImages/Pages/BusinessLaws/Investment%20Law%20English.pdf>

IV. Free Zones Incentives

Free zones in Egypt encompass two distinct types: Public Free Zones and Special Free Zones. Each serves a unique purpose and caters to different investment projects. Briefly, Public Free Zones are state-controlled areas, situated at vital transportation hubs like ports, borders, or airports. Moreover, they are structured to host numerous investment projects and the state ensures the provision of necessary infrastructure to support the operations of all businesses, while Special Free Zones are tailored for singular investment projects that necessitate specific locations or conditions. These zones are allocated based on strategic considerations such as proximity to essential resources or alignment with specialized activities like maritime transport or cement silos. Projects operating within Free Zones Investment Framework enjoy many incentives, guarantees and exemptions granted by Investment Law No. 72 of 2017, the most important of which are as follows:

- Profits are exempt from tax on commercial and industrial activities and dividends.
- Capital assets and equipment (except passenger cars) necessary for production are exempt from customs duties and taxes.
- Imports and exports are exempt from taxes and customs duties.
- Local components are exempt from customs duties when products are exported to the local market.
- Goods in transit with a fixed destination are exempt from transit fees under two conditions: the project falls under the customs office's jurisdiction, and the destination is specified in the bill of lading and the invoice.
- Free transfer of invested capital and profits abroad.
- Freedom to select the field of investment and the legal form of projects.
- Free pricing of products and profit margin.
- No minimum or maximum limits for invested capital (for public free zone projects only).
- No restrictions on the nationality of the capital's owner (excluding projects in Sinai).
- Ability to operate for others to maximize the project's potential (per GAFI rules).
- Providing foreign investors with residency facilities.
- Granting foreign workers residence permits as requested by the project.
- Exports must be at least 80%, with exceptions for strategically important projects.

Projects within free zones and the profits they distribute are not subject to the provisions of the applicable taxes and fees laws in Egypt. However, these projects are subject to other treatments:

Free Zone Type	Fees eligible for free zones
Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A 2% fee on the value of goods upon entry (CIF¹) for storage projects and a 1% fee on the value of goods upon exit (FOB²) for manufacturing and assembly projects, with exempted transit trade.• A 1% fee on total revenues for projects not requiring goods' entry or exit, based on approved financial statements.

¹ Cost, Insurance, and Freight (CIF) represents the total price of imported goods at the customs point of the importing country, including the insurance and transportation costs.

² Free on Board (FOB) is the price of imported goods at the customs of the exporting country, excluding insurance and transportation costs.

Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 1% fee on total revenues of manufacturing and assembly projects when exporting goods, and a 2% fee when importing goods. Transit trade of goods with a specified destination is fee exempt. • A 2% fee on total revenue for projects not requiring goods' entry or exit.
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Third: Other Incentives

I. Real Estate Investments

Incentives	Conditions/ Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The land percentage for business activities in integrated urban projects can be adjusted between 5% and 15%, provided it doesn't conflict with client contracts. • The completion deadline for ongoing service, investment, and urban projects is extended by 20%. • A project is considered completed at 80% implementation, conditional on all utilities being provided. • The direct location option is now available for all real estate developers to ensure equal opportunities. • The reservation advance for mega projects exceeding one billion pounds has been reduced. • The completion deadline for small residential plots in new cities is extended by six months. • The deadline for real estate development projects is extended by 20%, with no specific time limit for the remaining 20% if 80% completion is achieved. • The additional interest imposed by the Ministry of Finance on developers is reduced from 2% to 1%. • 80% of late fines will be waived if all overdue payments are made in full (no longer valid). • Foreigners owning properties worth at least USD 200,000 can receive a renewable five-year residence permit. • Real estate developers and investment projects in fields like real estate, agriculture, industry, and tourism in new cities will receive a 10% interest on their installments for two years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land deeds must be valid, legitimate, authenticated, and conflict-free. • Contracts with clients must not be conflicted. • No conflict with height restrictions in the project area. • Developer must provide parking spaces within plot boundaries per the Egyptian Code for Garages. • All lawsuits must be dropped before granting incentives. • Developers must obtain all required approvals from competent authorities. • Incentives are granted for one year to projects compliant with NUCA deadlines, pending Cabinet's approval.

II. Social Responsibility Incentives

Incentives	Required Activities
The project can get a discount of up to 10% off its annual taxable profits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting technical education, academic research, and awareness campaigns to enhance production processes. • Conducting training and scientific research initiatives. • Enhancing environmental protection measures. • Allocating a portion of project profits towards sustainable development goals. • Offering health, social, cultural, or other community services.

III. Tax Incentives for SMEs

Incentives	Requirements/ Conditions
Capital gains from selling assets, machinery, or production equipment under SMEs Law are tax-exempt.	If the sale proceeds are reinvested in new machinery and assets within one year of the disposal date.
Dividends from single member companies are not taxed.	if the company owner is an individual and the company operates under the SMEs Law.
SMEs may receive full or partial exemptions from real estate tax, duration determined by The Cabinet.	

IV. Science, Technology and Innovation Incentives

1. Tools, devices, and equipment imported by higher education and scientific research institutions for research projects are duty and tax exempt, including VAT.
2. Funding for scientific research projects is income tax exempt. When calculating industrial and commercial profits tax related to such projects, the funding is considered an expense or cost incurred.
3. Remuneration for research teams involved in approved R&D projects funded by external grants is tax and fee exempt, as per applicable regulations.

V. Incentives for Waste Management Activities

1. Companies focused on integrated waste management operations receive benefits, exemptions, and incentives outlined in the Investment Law.
2. Entities licensed for integrated waste management can allocate up to 10% of yearly net profits to support and promote the system.

VI. Incentives granted to Projects engaged in Green Hydrogen and its Derivatives

Projects involved in green hydrogen production and its derivatives can receive incentives for the entire project agreement term. Expansion of such projects can also qualify for incentives if an agreement is signed within seven years of the project's start date.

Eligible Investments	Projects/	Conditions/ Requirements	Incentives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factories manufacturing green hydrogen and its derivatives. • Desalination plants dedicate a portion of their output to green hydrogen and its derivatives. • Power stations generating electricity from renewable sources, with at least 95% of output supplying green hydrogen factories. • Projects involved in transporting, storing, or distributing domestically produced green hydrogen and derivatives. • Facilities producing or storing inputs for green hydrogen production, as decreed by The Cabinet. • Future expansions of these projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project must commence operations within 5 years of the agreement date. • At least 70% of the project's or expansion's investment cost must be financed from foreign currency sources. • A minimum of 20% of project components must be sourced locally whenever available. • The project should promote technology localization and offer training programs for Egyptian workers. • Adherence to social responsibility principles outlined in Article 15 of the Investment Law, including local area development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects involved in green hydrogen and its derivatives enjoy VAT exemption on equipment, machinery, raw materials, and transportation (excluding passenger cars). • These projects can import directly or through third parties without needing registration at the Importers Register. They can also export products without a license or exporter registration. • Revenues from the project or expansion qualify for a 35%-55% value deduction. • Usufruct fees for industrial and parts storage lands are discounted by 25% and 20%, respectively. 	



Business Establishment

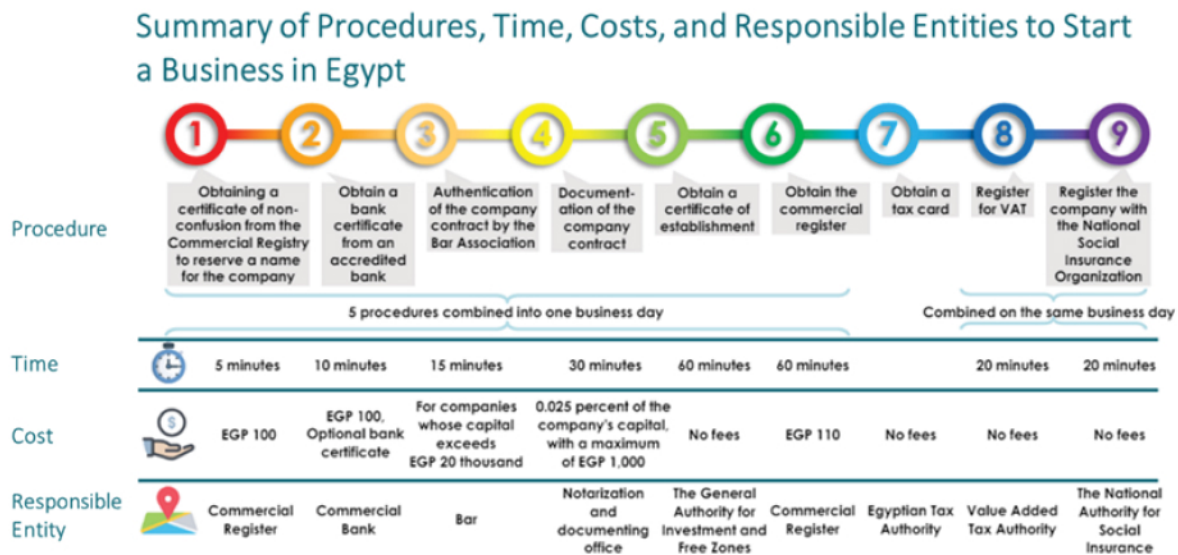
First: Steps & Procedures to Start a Business in Egypt

▪ **Legal Framework:** The key laws for the establishment of a legal entity are the Investment law no. 72/2017, the Companies Law no. 159/1981 which was amended in 2018 by virtue of Law No. 4/2018 and the Capital Market Law No. 95/1992 and their Executive Regulations. Antitrust law No. 3/2005. The General Authority for Investment and Free Zones (GAFI) oversees investment procedures and provides guidance to investors.¹¹

▪ **Legal Forms of Businesses or Companies:** In Egypt, businesses can operate under various legal structures, each with its own regulatory framework, benefits, and requirements. The main types of business structures in Egypt include Joint-stock company, Limited liability company, limited by shares companies, Partnership Companies (General Partnership and Limited Partnership), and Sole corporation.¹²

▪ **Company Registration & Establishment Procedures:** The establishment, fees, and required documents vary according to the type of company. However, companies are generally similar in terms of the sequence of procedures. Each procedure is conducted by different governmental institutions. These institutions include The Commercial register, Commercial Bank, The Bar Association, Notarization and documenting office, General Authority for Investment and Free Zones, Egyptian Tax Authority, and The National Authority for Social Insurance.

Below is a brief overview of the procedures:



Source: ECES, Your Guide to Industrial Investment in Egypt, 2023

¹¹ <https://itida.gov.eg/English/Reports/Documents/PWC-Doing-business-in-Egypt-2021.pdf>
¹² <https://www.gafi.gov.eg/english/eServices/Pages/eservices-guide.aspx>

Second: Investors Services Center

You can easily perform all the previously mentioned steps in one place, which is the Investor Services Center (ISC). As it Help you to obtain all necessary National and Local approvals to facilitate a fast start-up of your operation in Egypt. Gathering representatives from 47 ministries and government agencies authorized to provide all necessary licenses and approvals required for the establishment of businesses.

▪ The main functions of the ISC include:

1. Facilitate the procurement of business licenses.
2. Offer technical advice and information to clients' projects planning.
3. Introduce a transparent and reasonable fee structure.
4. Improve the quality and timeliness of government related processes.

▪ The (ISC) offers a range of services to facilitate the investment process. These services include:

1. Incorporation Establishment Services.
2. After establishment Services (Legal Services and Technical Services).
3. Governmental Services.
4. Publication in The Investment Gazette.
5. Tax Exemption services.
6. Services offered by the General Department for committees.

▪ You can access further details about the Investor Services Center (ISC) by visiting the following link:
<https://www.gafi.gov.eg/english/Howcanwehelp/OneStopShop/Pages/default.aspx>

Third: The Golden License

The golden license is a comprehensive approval on the set up, operation and management of a project, including building licenses of such project and the allocation of the real property required. It may be granted to companies upon a decree of the Cabinet.

*Any company that would like to obtain the Comprehensive Approval (Golden License) must submit its application to the technical secretariat of the Golden License Unit formed at GAFI. The Unit will then assess the application and ascertain whether the company complies with all terms and conditions.*¹³

Moreover, Golden License projects may be granted special incentives and additional incentives, as stipulated in Articles 11 and 13 of Investment Law No. 72 of 2017. Special Incentives such as a deduction of 30% or 50% of investment costs in some sectors. Additional Incentives (subject to approval) such as allowing the establishment of special customs outlets for the project's exports or imports, in agreement with the Minister of Finance.¹⁴

¹³ You can know more details about the golden license by visiting the following link:
<https://www.investinegypt.gov.eg/Fact%20Sheets/Golden%20License%20Guidebook.pdf>

¹⁴ مبادرة إصلاح مناخ الأعمال في مصر (إزالة). حوافز الاستثمار في مصر. مارس 2023. متاح على:

<https://www.errada.gov.eg/app/uploads/2023/11/%D8%AD%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%B2-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%AB%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B1-30-4-1.pdf>



Utilities & Facilities

First: Electricity

Price for industrial electricity for Consumption in factory (by Segments)¹⁵

Electricity Use	Price per kWh
Up to 100 kWh	65 piasters
Up to 250 kWh	123 piasters
UP to 600 kWh	140 piasters
601 to 1000 kWh	155 piasters
Exceeding 1000 kWh	160 piasters

Second: Water

Price for industrial water in factory¹⁶

Water Use	Price (EGP/ m ³)
1:50 m ³	4.5
51:100 m ³	5
More than 100 m ³	6

Third: Gas & Petroleum

Price for industrial gas¹⁷

Industry	Price (USD/ MMBTU)
iron and steel	\$5.75 According to the Prime Minister's Decision No. 2902 of 2021
cement	\$12 According to the Prime Minister's Decision No. 3574 of 2022
generate Electricity	\$3 According to the Prime Minister's Decision No. 2375 of 2022
all other industrial activities	\$4.75 According to the Prime Minister's Decision No. 2902 of 2021

¹⁵ <http://egyptera.org/ar/Tarrif2023.aspx>

¹⁶ Egyptian Center For Economic Studies

¹⁷ <https://www.gasreg.org.eg/ar/natural-gas-pricing/>

I. Petroleum products prices in factory¹⁸

Price for Petroleum products

Commercial Butane	Diesel	Kerosene	Petrol 80	Petrol 92	Petrol 95
150 Pounds/Cylinder	8.25	7.25	8.75	10.25	11.50
Pounds/Liter					
Fuel Oil (Mazut) (with fixed prices for the food and electricity industries)				Automotive gas	
6000 Pounds/Ton				4.50 Pounds/m ³	

Fourth: Wastes

I. Wastewater tariff

Price per meter for industrial wastewater is 4.5 (LE/m³)¹⁹

II. Tariff for processing the waste of industrial establishments²⁰

Contaminants	Absorbed bio-oxygen (BoD)			Absorbed Chemical Oxygen (CoD)		
	More than 600 and less than 660	660 or more and less than 2000	2000 or more	More than 1100 and less than 2000	2000 or more and less than 5000	5000 or more
Concentrations (g/m ³)						
Cost of purification (EGP/m ³)	3	9	18	6	18	30

Source: ECES, Your Guide to Industrial Investment in Egypt, 2023

Fifth: Rents

I. Rent price per square meter

Industrial complexes in Egypt grant investors facilities and licenses to start their activity in industrial units. Rents in industrial complex in Egypt ranges from EGP 17.4 pound to EGP 24 pound monthly per square meter. Investors are granted rent exemption for 9 months from the date of receipt. At the end of 2023, there were about 3,298 units in Egypt assigned to 16 industrial complexes, additionally apparel sector is one of the main targeted sectors in those complexes.²¹

¹⁸ ECES, Your Guide to Industrial Investment in Egypt

¹⁹ ECES, Your Guide to Industrial Investment in Egypt

²⁰ ECES, Your Guide to Industrial Investment in Egypt

²¹ <http://ida.gov.eg/cs/groups/public/documents/document/mde2/nja4/~edisp/19216816010016608695.pdf>



Labor Laws and Regulation

First: Workers' Wages & Working hours

Legal Weekly Working Hours & Conditions^{22,23}:

- The length of work is 8 hours per day, 6 days per week with a maximum of 48 hours per week (maximum 10 hours per day), and a paid rest obligation of a minimum of 24 consecutive hours in a week.
- There is a minimum of 1 hour of rest for a day of work.
- The minimum wage in private sector in Egypt is EGP 3500 per month²⁴.
- Workers receive an annual regular salary increase of at least 7%.

Second: Overtime Payment

If an employee works for more than 8 hours per day, he/she has a right to a 35% bonus for day work and 70% bonus for night work²⁵.

Fourth: Sick Leaves

Article 54 of the Egyptian labor law states that if a worker is sick, they can take sick leave as determined by a medical authority. During this time, they are entitled to compensation according to the Social Insurance Law. In certain industrial settings, the worker can take sick leave every three years, starting with one month at full pay, followed by eight months at 75% pay, and then three months without pay if recovery seems likely. The worker can use their accumulated annual leave during sick leave and can also convert sick leave into annual leave if they have enough remaining.

Third: Social Insurance

The social insurance rate for each employee is 29% of his/her insurance salary, of which 11% is paid by the employee and 18.75% is paid by the employer (in the case of private sector).

- The minimum social insurance salary in EGP 2000, while the maximum social insurance salary is EGP 12,600.
- The minimum and maximum social insurance salaries are subject to a 15% annual increase applied every January²⁶.
- Public medical insurance is not an obligation; however, it is better for the business owner (especially in factories) to apply it as it saves cost for the owner in case of workers injuries.

²² <https://www.manpower.gov.eg/PDF/WorkLow/law2003.pdf>

²³ <https://www.lloydsbanktrade.com/en/market-potential/egypt/work-conditions>

²⁴ [https://mped.gov.eg/singlenews?id=5157&lang=en#:~:text=Egypt's%20National%20Wages%20Council%20\(NWC,3%2C000%2C%20starting%20in%20January%202024.](https://mped.gov.eg/singlenews?id=5157&lang=en#:~:text=Egypt's%20National%20Wages%20Council%20(NWC,3%2C000%2C%20starting%20in%20January%202024.)

²⁵ <https://www.manpower.gov.eg/PDF/WorkLow/law2003.pdf>

²⁶ <https://nosi.gov.eg/ar/News/Pages/2023-12-17.aspx#:~:text=%D8%B9%D9%88%D8%B6%3A%20%D8%B2%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%AF%D8%A9%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D8%AF%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%AF%D9%86%D9%8A%20%D9%84%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B9%D8%A7%D8%B4%D8%A7%D8%AA,%D8%A5%D8%B9%D8%AA%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%8B%20%D9%85%D9%86%20%D8%B4%D9%87%D8%B1%20%D9%8A%D9%86%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%B1%202024>



Export Incentives

First: The Export Rebates Program

The Egyptian export rebates program boosts the competitiveness of Egyptian products globally by offering financial incentives and refunds on export-related expenses. This reduces costs for exporters, stimulates economic growth, and increases foreign currency earnings. This program operates under structured executive rules encompassing four key sections: General rules of the program, Rules governing the disbursement of support, The Sectors benefiting from the program, and the percentages specified for each Sector, and Additional criteria for support.

I. General Rules

- To benefit from the export rebates program, the exported product's local added value must be at a minimum of 40%.
- Exporters located in free zones will receive 50% less export support than non-free zone exporters.

II. Rules governing the disbursement of the export support

• Entities Entitled to Receive the Export Support:

All entities involved in exporting goods under export development programs are eligible to apply for export support, *considering the following criteria:*

1. The value added of the product exported by the company shall not be less than 40%.
2. The entity applying for support must have obtained a quality certification²⁷. The following must be considered:

- The issuing authority of the certificate must be registered with the Egyptian Organization for Standards and Quality.
- The certificate obtained by the establishment must be registered with the Egyptian Organization for Standards and Quality.
- You can know the procedures of obtaining the quality certificate and the issuing authority of the certificate by visiting the following link: <https://www.eos.org.eg/ar/page/59>

²⁷ **Product quality certification** is a formal assessment process where a product is evaluated against established standards. It assures consumers, businesses, and regulators that the product meets quality requirements, follows regulations, and adheres to best practices.

III. Sectors Benefiting from Export Rebates Program

1. Textile Sector

The allocated rebates for spinning, apparel and home textile are as follows:

Allocated Rebates Ratio for Spinning					
Added Value above 60%		Added Value from 50% to 60%		Added Value from 40% to 50%	
Interior Zone	Free Zone	Interior Zone	Free Zone	Interior Zone	Free Zone
3%-12%	1.5%-6%	2%-11%	1%-5.5%	1%-10%	0.5%-5%

Allocated Rebates Ratio for Apparel					
Added Value above 60%		Added Value from 50% to 60%		Added Value from 40% to 50%	
Interior Zone	Free Zone	Interior Zone	Free Zone	Interior Zone	Free Zone
3%-12%	1.5%-6%	2%-11%	1%-5.5%	1%-10%	0.5%-5%

Allocated Rebates Ratio for Home Textile					
Added Value above 60%		Added Value from 50% to 60%		Added Value from 40% to 50%	
Interior Zone	Free Zone	Interior Zone	Free Zone	Interior Zone	Free Zone
2%-12%	1%-6%	1%-11%	0.5%-5.5%	2%-10%	0%-5%

2. Agriculture

Allocated Rebates Ratio for Agriculture		
Products	Interior Zone	Free Zone
Vegetables, Fruits, Medicinal & aromatic plants & legumes (except beans & lentils)	8%	4%
Vital varieties of vegetables & fruits aromatic plants & legumes (except beans & lentils)	10%	5%

3. Engineering

Allocated Rebates Ratio for Engineering					
Added Value above 60%		Added Value from 50% to 60%		Added Value from 40% to 50%	
Interior Zone	Free Zone	Interior Zone	Free Zone	Interior Zone	Free Zone
10%	5%	8%	4%	6%	3%

4. Processed Food

Allocated Rebates Ratio for Processed Food					
Added Value above 80%		Added Value from 60% to 80%		Added Value from 60% to 40%	
Interior Zone	Free Zone	Interior Zone	Free Zone	Interior Zone	Free Zone
10%	5%	9%	4.5%	7%	3.5%

5. Leather

Allocated Rebates Ratio for Leather			
Added Value above 70%		Added Value from 40% to 70%	
Interior Zone	Free Zone	Interior Zone	Free Zone
7%-12%	3.5%-6%	5%-10%	2.5%-5%

6. Building Materials

Allocated Rebates Ratio for Building Materials					
Added Value above 70%		Added Value from 50% to 70%		Added Value from 40% to 50%	
Interior Zone	Free Zone	Interior Zone	Free Zone	Interior Zone	Free Zone
5%-10%	3.75%-5%	4%-9%	2%-4.5%	3%-8%	1.5%-4%

7. Medical Industries & Cosmetics

Allocated Rebates Ratio for Medical Industries and Cosmetics					
Added Value above 70%		Added Value from 60% to 70%		Added Value from 40% to 60%	
Interior Zone	Free Zone	Interior Zone	Free Zone	Interior Zone	Free Zone
10%	5%	8%-9%	4%-4.5%	7%-8%	3.5%-4%

8. Chemicals

Allocated Rebates Ratio for Medical Industries and Cosmetics					
Added Value above 60%		Added Value from 50% to 60%		Added Value from 40% to 50%	
Interior Zone	Free Zone	Interior Zone	Free Zone	Interior Zone	Free Zone
10%	5%	9%	4.5%	7%	3.5%

9. Printing and Packaging

Allocated Rebates Ratio for Printing and Packaging					
Added Value above 80%		Added Value from 60% to 80%		Added Value from 40% to 60%	
Interior Zone	Free Zone	Interior Zone	Free Zone	Interior Zone	Free Zone
10%	5%	8%	4%	6%	3%

10. Handicrafts

Granting handicrafts exports a 10% support, provided that this category of establishments is exempted from the following requirements: quality certification, value-added certification, and industrial registration.

11. Furniture

Allocated Rebates Ratio for Furniture					
Added Value above 70%		Added Value from 50% to 70%		Added Value from 40% to 50%	
Interior Zone	Free Zone	Interior Zone	Free Zone	Interior Zone	Free Zone
10%	5%	9%	4.5%	7%	3.5%

12. Transport Support Programs

In the realm of international trade, effective transportation plays a pivotal role in facilitating the movement of goods across borders. Recognizing this, Egypt implements transport support programs as part of their export rebates initiatives. These programs aim to enhance the competitiveness of domestic exporters by alleviating transportation costs and improving logistical efficiency. Here's an overview of transport support programs in Egypt:

▪ Transport support program for Africa

The regulated disbursement rules of the program are as follows:

1. This program applies only to exports that do not benefit from the Export Support Program and covers all types of transportation.
2. The freight program to Africa is supported by 50% of the cost of transport to Africa.
3. Submission of a copy of the issuance certificate and a copy of the commercial invoice approved by Customs.

▪ Air Freight Support Program (Egypt Air)

Support Provided to Egypt Air for the Shipment of Fresh Agricultural Products	
Passenger Aircraft	200 USD/ Tone
Cargo Aircraft	400 USD/ Tone
Chartered Aircraft	200 USD/ Tone
Support is disbursed to the following countries: Ostend (Belgium) - Cologne (Germany) - Frankfurt (Germany) - London (UK) - Paris (France) - Amsterdam (Netherlands) – Russia.	

N.B: The support amount will be fully paid in cash to EgyptAir.

IV. Additional Support Criteria

1. The export increase program: An additional incentive to the basic support percentage is provided to companies based on the achieved increase in exports.

Support Provided to Egypt Air for the Shipment of Fresh Agricultural Products		
Percentage of Exports increase	Medium -Large Companies	Small Companies
20%-30%	10% of the basic percentage	20% of the basic percentage
Above 30%	15% of the basic percentage	30% of the basic percentage

2. SMEs Program: An additional percentage of the basic support is provided as follows; 2% for small enterprises and 1% for medium enterprises.

3. Upper Egypt and the border governorates Support Program: An additional subsidy whose percentage equals 50% of the basic subsidy allocated to Upper Egypt, the border governorates (Fayoum, Beni Suef, Sohag, El Minia, Assiut, Qena, Luxor, Aswan, El Wadi El Gedid, North and South Sinai, Martouh, The Red Sea).

4. Export Infrastructure Development Program: The International Specialized Exhibitions Support Program is implemented according to the Export Development Fund's approved rules.

Second: Trade Agreements

Egypt has signed 29 agreements to facilitate trade with its partners. The agreements are multilateral signed with region or group of countries, bilateral signed with only one partner, and unilateral or non-reciprocal arrangement provided by partners to Egypt.

Egypt signed seven Plurilateral Trade Agreements

Agreement	Members	Rules of Origin
Agadir	Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia	https://findrulesoforigin.org/documents/pdf/itc00190_sroo.pdf
EFTA	Egypt, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland	https://findrulesoforigin.org/documents/pdf/itc00336_sroo.pdf
MERCOSUR	Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, Paraguay, Uruguay	https://findrulesoforigin.org/documents/pdf/itc00618_sroo.pdf
COMESA	Angola, Burundi, Comoros, Congo, Democratic Republic of, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe	https://findrulesoforigin.org/documents/pdf/itc00660_sroo.pdf
AfCFTA	Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Congo, Democratic Republic of, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar,	https://findrulesoforigin.org/documents/pdf/itc00883_sroo.pdf

Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, United Republic of, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Western Sahara, Zambia, Zimbabwe	
Egypt, European Union	https://findrulesoforigin.org/documents/pdf/itc00380_sroo.pdf
Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, State of, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen	https://findrulesoforigin.org/documents/pdf/itc00668_sroo.pdf

Egypt has signed 10 bilateral trade agreements, predominantly with Arab countries prior to the establishment of the Arab League of State Free Trade Agreement (FTA). These include FTAs with Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Iraq, Morocco, Sudan, and Tunisia, all of which remain in effect today. The most significant bilateral FTAs are with Turkey and the UK.

Partner	Rules of Origin
Turkey	https://findrulesoforigin.org/documents/pdf/itc00371_sroo.pdf
UK	https://findrulesoforigin.org/documents/pdf/itc01100_sroo.pdf

Egypt enjoys preferential treatment from several countries under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) including New Zealand, Armenia, Australia, and Japan. The most important GSP systems are with the USA and Canada

Partner	Rules of Origin
USA	https://findrulesoforigin.org/documents/pdf/itc00701_roo.pdf https://ustr.gov/issue-areas/trade-development/preference-programs/generalized-system-preferences-gsp/gsp-program-i-0
Canada	https://findrulesoforigin.org/documents/pdf/itc00091_roo.pdf

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Annexes

Annex 1: Egypt's Investment Map

It provides comprehensive information on investment opportunities, including key sectors. Additionally, it highlights prime locations in different zones.

For more detailed information, visit the following link:

<https://www.investinegypt.gov.eg/Arabic/Pages/default.aspx>

Annex 2: Industrial Zones

Egypt has many industrial zones, each contributing to the country's economic development and industrial diversification. Some prominent industrial zones in Egypt include:

Industrial Zones of Governorate

Governorate	Zone Title
Cairo	Torah and Shaq Al Tho'ban industrial zone
	South Helwan industrial zone
	Katamia industrial zone
	Shaq Al Tho'ban industrial zone (taken hold of
	Al Robeky Industrial Zone
	Al Maasara Industrial Zone
	New Cairo Industrial Zone.pdf
	Industrial Zone 15 May
	Industrial Zone Badr City.pdf
	El Marg District Industrial Zones
	El Sharabya District Industrial Zones
Alexandria	New Al Manshia Industrial Zone
	Al Nasria Industrial Zone
	Margham Industrial Zone.

31 Km Desert road industrial Zone.
Sebko Industrial Zone.
Alaagami South Betash (small industrial complex)
Al nahda Industrial Zone and its extension.pdf
Om Zegho industrial zone.pdf
C1 Industrial Zone.pdf
C6 Industrial Zone.pdf
C 11 Industrial Zone (craftsmenhousing and workshops)
The Industrial Zone northwest of Portex factory.
The Industrial Zone south of Port Said (Al-Rasswa).
Ataqa north suez gulf industrial zone
South West Gmasa Industrial Zone.
Al Asafra Industrial Zone.
10th of Ramadan Industrial Zone
Al-Sherouq Industrial Zone (Abu Za'bal) Khanka Administrative Division.
Al-Safa Industrial Zone forFoundries (Al-Zahar area)
Al Aqrasha Industrial Zone
Balteem Industrial Zone.
Metoubas Industrial Zone and its extension.
Industrial Zone in mlaha ofMoneisi
Mubarak Industrial Zone, Kafour AL-Raml
Sadat City Industrial Zone.

Beheira	New Al Nubaria industrial zone.
	Al Busily desert (Rosetta) Industrial Zone.
Ismailia	East Qantra Industrial Zone.
	First and Second Industrial Zone.
	Technology Valley Industrial Zone.
	The 2nd industrial zone
	Abo Khalifa Industrial Zone.
	Abu Khalifa (Sugar Factory)
Giza	Abo Rwash Industrial Zone.
Beni Sueif	Kom Abu Radi Industrial Zone.
	Bayad Al-Arab Industrial Zone.
	31-1 Industrial Zone.
	31-2 Industrial Zone.
	31-3 Industrial Zone.
	31-4 Industrial Zone.
Fayoum	Kom Osheem Industrial Zone.
	New Fayoum Industrial Zone.
	Kotah industrial Zone.
Minya	El-Metahra Industrial Zone, eastern side of the Nile and its extension.
Assiut	Al Awamer Abnuob Industrial Zone
	Al Zarrabi Wadi Serga Mountain Industrial Zone.
	Al Safaa (Bani Ghaleb) Industrial Zone.

Sahel Selem Industrial Zone (small industries complex)
Dashlot Dariot Industrial Zone.
Bdary Industrial Zone.
AlKawtharIndustrial Zone.
AlAhaywa Industrial Zone.
BaytDaoud Industrial Zone west of Gerga.
Industrial Zone west of Tahta.
Al-KalaheenIndustrial Zone Qeft.
Hou Industrial Zone Nag'aHamadi.
Al Boghdadi Industrial Zone.
Al Shlallat Al Aulaqui Valley Industrial Zone.
Kharga Industrial Zone.
Dakhla Industrial Zone in Mout.
26 Kilo Industrial Zone south-east Matrouh road.
Be'r Al-Abd Industrial Zone.
Massaeed Crafts Zone.

Industrial Zones in the New Urban Community Cities

Governorate	Zone Title
Cairo	Industrial Zone Badr City.
	Industrial Zone 15 May.
	New Cairo Industrial Zone.

Al Shrouk industrial zone
Borg Al Arab Industrial Zone.
Ataqa north suez gulf industrial zone.
Petrochemicals zone (North Sumed pipeline).
New Damietta City Industrial Zone.
New Al Salhia Industrial Zone.
10th of Ramadan Industrial Zone.pdf
The Industrial Zone south of Port Said (Al-Rasswa)
Al Obour industrial zone
Sadat City Industrial Zone.
New Al Nubaria industrial zone
6th October Industrial Zone.
Industrial Zone in New BeniSuef City.
New Fayoum Industrial Zone
New Minya City Industrial Zone.
New Assuit Industrial Zone.
New Souhag City Industrial Zone.
New Thebes industrial zone.

Heavy industrial zones

Governorate	Zone Title
Giza	Al wahat Industrial zone

suez	North Ataka industrial zone
	West ataka industrial zone
Beni sueif	Gabal Ghareb industrial zone
Minya	Wadi el sararyah
New valley	El Dakhla
	Wadi Waer West
Red Sea	Bernes 1
	Bernes 2
	Alaki 1
	Alaki 2
North Sinai	Arish industrial zone

Annex 3: Public Free Zones

There are 9 Public Free Zones in Egypt located in various governates, including:

Governates
1. Alexandria (Amrya)
2. Cairo (Nasr City)
3. Port Said
4. Suez 3 sites: (Port Tawfiq, El Adabeya and Attaqa)
5. Ismailia
6. Damietta
7. Shebeen ALKoum
8. Qena (Qeft)
9. Media Zone in City of 6th October

Note: Public Free Zones are not a specialized zones -except the last one- as each zone includes variety of projects as inventory, industrial, services, and financing services.

Annex 4: Private Free Zones

Egypt has approximately 204 private free zones.

Annex 5: Economic Zones

Suez Canal economic zone (SCZone) is the first economic zone with a special nature to be established in Egypt.

Annex 6: Investment Zones

Egypt has established numerous investment zones, each designed to support various sectors and projects. Here's a breakdown of some key zones and their associated projects:

Zones	Projects
Investment Zones for Industrial Parks "6 th October"	Polaris parks CPC – Egypt for Industrial Development CO.
Investment Zones for Industrial Parks "10 th of Ramada	pyramids industrial parks alTajamouat industrial parks
Investment Zones for Industrial Parks "Damietta"	Damietta furniture city
Investment Zones for Administrative and Commercial Services	Majid AlFuttaim City Center Almaza EMAAR
Investment Zones for logistics Services	ORCHID Kuwaiti Egyptian company
Investment Zones for Educational Services	Cairo University
Investment Zones for SME's	El-Saf investment zone Mit Ghamr Investment Zone Banha Investment zone

Annex 7: Technological zones

Zones
The technological zone in beni suef
The technological zone in Sadat city
The knowledge City in the New Administrative Capital
The technological zone in Maadi
The technological zone in New Borg El Arab city
The technological zone in new Assiut city

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