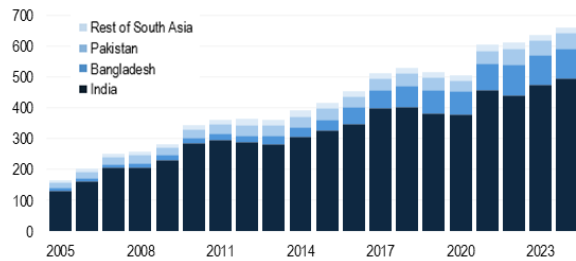


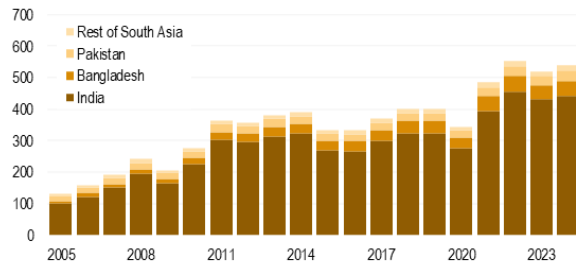
## South Asia's Expanding Industrial Base, Anchored by India

The region's manufacturing output now exceeds USD 600 bn and exports surpass USD 500 bn, with India providing industrial scale and Bangladesh driving the fastest export-led expansion.

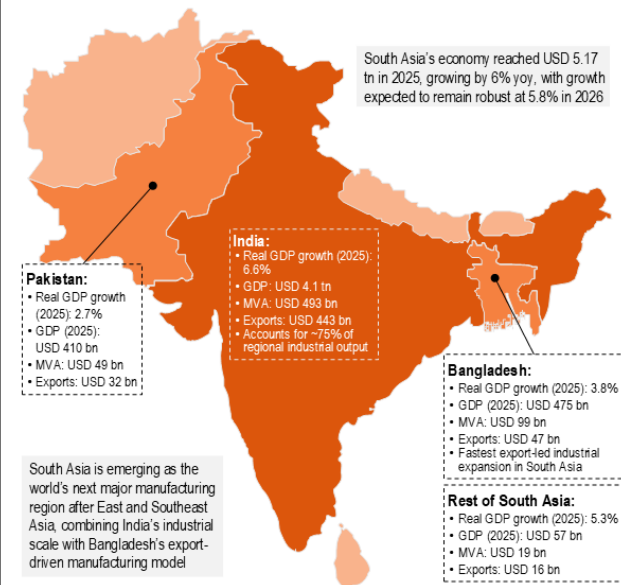
Top South Asian Economies by Manufacturing Value Added (MVA), USD bn (2005-2024)



Top South Asian Exporters to the World, USD bn (2005-2024)



South Asia Industrial and Trade Landscape



Note: South Asia comprises eight countries as recognized by the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC): Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka. No MVA data for Afghanistan and Bhutan; no GDP and real GDP growth data for Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. Source: World Bank, IMF, ANDAMAN PARTNERS Analysis

South Asia is emerging as an increasingly significant industrial and manufacturing region within the global economy. The eight economies that make up the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) together generated a combined GDP of around USD 5.17 trillion in 2025, with growth of about 6%, making the region one of the fastest-growing large economic areas in the world. This expansion is increasingly supported by rising manufacturing activity and export integration.

Manufacturing value added across the region now exceeds USD 600 billion, having expanded steadily over the past two decades. India dominates the region's industrial base, accounting for the overwhelming majority of output, with manufacturing value added reaching USD 493 billion in 2024. Pakistan and Bangladesh contribute smaller but still significant industrial sectors, with manufacturing value added of USD 49 billion and USD 99 billion respectively.

A similar pattern is visible in trade. South Asia's exports to the world now exceed USD 500 billion, reflecting the region's growing integration into global supply chains. India again provides the bulk of export scale with USD 443 billion in exports, but Bangladesh has emerged as a particularly dynamic export manufacturing hub, shipping USD 47 billion of goods to global markets and recording the fastest export-led industrial expansion in the region.

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These trends highlight a regional structure in which India provides industrial scale and market depth, while Bangladesh demonstrates the potential of export-oriented manufacturing growth. For global businesses, this combination of large domestic markets, expanding industrial capacity and competitive export platforms increasingly positions South Asia as one of the most important emerging manufacturing regions after East and Southeast Asia.

Also by ANDAMAN PARTNERS:



- [Oil, Metals and Electronics: The Rapid Growth of India's Imports](#)
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