অর্থনৈতিক শুমারি ২০২৪

Economic Census 2024

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
Statistics and Informatics Division
Ministry of Planning

PRELIMINARY REPORT

অর্থনৈতিক
শুমারি ২০২৪

Economic Census 2024

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JANUARY 2025

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শুমারি ২০২৪

Economic Census 2024

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I am delighted to acknowledge the successful completion of the 4th Economic Census by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), conducted from December 10-26, 2024. It is a great occasion today as the Preliminary Report of 'Economic Census 2024' is being published to meet the growing needs of users.

It is worth mentioning that current interim government, led by Dr. Muhammad Yunus, has undertaken initiatives to reform on government machineries to ensure transparency and accountability in various sectors. In this era of information technology, Economic Census-2024 was conducted using the Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) method. I do believe the information gathered from this census will play a vital role in national planning and policymaking.

The preliminary report provides key insights, such as the number of establishments by type, establishments by locality, economic households by locality, establishments by division, economic households by division, and total number of persons engaged by type. I am confident this report will assist policymakers, planners, and development partners in formulating policies, devising strategies, and implementing programs for the country's overall development.

I express my heartiest thanks to Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division (SID) for his wholehearted guidance and directions to execute and expedite this census operation and its publications procedure; Finally, I like to thank the Director General, BBS and all the officials of SID and BBS for successful completion of the census and timely publication of this report.

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the officials of Statistics and Informatics Division (SID) and Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) for successfully conducting the 'Economic Census 2024' and publishing this preliminary report, highlighting several key indicators.

January, 2025

Dr. Wahiduddin Mahmud

অর্থনৈতিক শুমারি ২০২৪
Economic Census 2024

Secretary
Statistics and Informatics Division (SID)
Ministry of Planning
Government of the People's
Republic of Bangladesh

Foreword

I am very delighted to know that the preliminary report of the Economic Census 2024, conducted from 10 to 26 December, 2024, by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) under the Statistics and Informatics Division, is being published. This is the first economic census covering all sectors of the economy throughout the country using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) method.

The objectives of the report are to provide essential information about all establishments involved in economic activities, categorized by classification; to estimate the workforce engaged in these activities and gain insights into their types; and to provide updated information to various stakeholders, including policymakers, planners, and researchers, across the country to support industrial development and other related purposes. I hope that the final report would be published soon and included circumstantial information available from this census.

All types of stakeholders were involved in the census work. Several meetings were held with business communities and other key stakeholders, including the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI), Dhaka Chambers of Commerce and Industries (DCCI), Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA), Shop Owners Association, Business Associations, Local Administrations, and others.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Director General, BBS and Project Director, Economic Census 2023 Project and his team, all types of committee members, other officials of SID and BBS for their meticulous and sincere efforts in ensuring the timely and successful completion of the census activities.

January, 2025

Md. Mahbub Hossain

Director General
Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
Statistics and Informatics Division
Ministry of Planning
Government of the People's
Republic of Bangladesh

Preface

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), the National Statistical Organization (NSO), has conducted Economic Census 2024 under the 'Economic Census 2023 Project.' It is one of the major and most important censuses carried out by BBS, involving extensive operations at both the field and national levels.

The primary goal and objective of the project titled "Economic Census 2023" is to collect and publish data and information regarding the ownership, structure, legal status, types of activities, types of goods or services produced employment, and the value of fixed assets of the existing economic establishments in the country. The census encompasses various national and international protocols and guidance, such as the System of National Accounts (SNA), International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC), Bangladesh Standard Industrial Classification (BSIC), International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO), Bangladesh Standard Classification of Occupations (BSCO) and Industrial Policy 2022. The census will provide an updated framework for conducting future socio-economic surveys. This census will also act as a basis for preparing a Statistical Business Register of all economic activities, facilitating future establishment and institution based surveys.

I believe that policymakers, researchers, and development partners will be able to utilize this data for policy formulation, development planning, and monitoring the achievement of SDG indicators. The results of the preliminary report may slightly differ from those of the final report, as the latter will be prepared after processing all census data.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Mr. Md. Mahbub Hossain, Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division (SID) for his valuable guidance and support in conducting the census as well as preparation of this preliminary report in time. Special thanks are also to Project Director, Economic Census 2023, all other committee members and other officials of BBS in conducting the census on time and preparing the report, especially the project team.

Any suggestions and comments for further improvement of the report will be highly appreciated.

January, 2025

**Mohammed Mizanur
Rahman**

Acknowledgement

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) is planning to publish the preliminary report of 'Economic Census 2024' that has been conducted throughout the country during the period of 10-26 December, 2024. To ensure the quality Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) method was used to collect data in the census.

The present government has given emphasis on the collection and compilation of quality data and its timely release of relevant report. There was launched a mass media campaign to make the awareness of the people regarding Economic Census 2024.

I would like to express my profound regards and deep gratitude to Mr. Md. Mahbub Hossain, Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division (SID) and Mr. Mohammed Mizanur Rahman, Director General, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) for their valuable suggestions to publish the Preliminary Report of Economic Census 2024. Their experience and interest and in depth knowledge of the subject, helped to shape the report into its final form.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all members of the Technical Support Team (TST), the Economic Census Academia Forum (ECAF), the ICT Support Team of the Economic Census, and other dedicated team members for their invaluable contributions. Their expert suggestions, unwavering support, and insightful guidance have been instrumental in the preparation of this preliminary report.

I would like to extend my deep appreciation to my beloved colleagues from both SID and BBS for their relentless efforts in making this census successful.

Comments or suggestions concerning the content of the report for further improvements will be highly appreciated.

January, 2025

S M Shakil Akhter

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Economic Census 2024

ACRONYMS

BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BCPC	Bangladesh Central Product Classifications
BDCCL	Bangladesh Data Center Company Limited
BSCO	Bangladesh Standard Classification of Occupations
BSIC	Bangladesh Standard Industrial Classifications
CEGIS	Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services
DCC	District Census Coordinator
DCCI	Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry
DIVCC	Divisional Census Coordinator
DPP	Development Project Proforma/Proposal
EA	Enumeration Area
EC	Economic Census
ECAF	Economic Census Academia Forum
EH	Economic Household
FBCCI	Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographical Information System
GOB	Government of Bangladesh
ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification
NOC	Network Operation Center
NSO	National Statistical Organization
PE	Permanent Establishment
PEC	Post Enumeration Check
PIC	Project Implementation Committee
PMT	Project Management Team
PSC	Project Steering Committee
SID	Statistics and Informatics Division
SMI	Survey of Manufacturing Industries
SNA	System of National Accounts
TE	Temporary Establishment
TPE	Total Persons Engaged
TST	Technical Support Team
UCC	Upazila Census Coordinator
UN	United Nations
VAT	Value Added Tax
ZO	Zonal Officer

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Economic Census 2024

Economic Census 2024: Key Findings

	Indicators	2024		2013		2001 & 2003	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
1.	**Economic Unit by type**						
	Permanent	6288214	52.94	4514091	57.73	2991238	80.67
	Temporary	576621	4.86	482903	6.18	335851	9.05
	Economic Household*	5012529	42.20	2821571	36.09	381055	10.28
	Total	**11877364**	**100**	**7818565**	**100**	**3708144**	**100**
2.	**Economic Unit by locality**						
	Rural	8346161	70.27	5589019	71.48	2321726	62.6
	Urban	3531203	29.73	2229546	28.52	1386418	37.4
	Total	**11877364**	**100**	**7818565**	**100**	**3708144**	**100**
3.	**Permanent establishment by locality**						
	Rural	3941068	62.67	2936459	65.05	1872804	62.6
	Urban	2347146	37.33	1577632	34.95	1118434	37.4
	Total	**6288214**	**100**	**4514091**	**100**	**2991238**	**100**
4.	**Temporary establishment by locality**						
	Rural	284909	49.41	276993	57.36	130177	38.8
	Urban	291712	50.59	205910	42.64	205674	61.2
	Total	**576621**	**100**	**482903**	**100**	**335851**	**100**
5.	**Economic household by locality**						
	Rural	4120184	82.20	2375567	84.19	318745	83.6
	Urban	892345	17.80	446004	15.81	62310	16.4
	Total	**5012529**	**100**	**2821571**	**100**	**381055**	**100**
6.	**Economic Unit by division**						
	Barishal	668736	5.63	368129	4.71	205263	5.54
	Chattogram	2079951	17.51	1327629	16.98	670544	18.08
	Dhaka	3209850	27.03	1910434	24.43	949938	25.62
	Khulna	1518134	12.78	997086	12.75	545918	14.72
	Mymensingh	791632	6.67	630599	8.07	244700	6.60
	Rajshahi	1692604	14.25	1160669	14.85	499873	13.48
	Rangpur	1361423	11.46	1022040	13.07	405583	10.94
	Sylhet	555034	4.67	401979	5.14	186325	5.02
	Total	**11877364**	**100**	**7818565**	**100**	**3708144**	**100**
7.	**Permanent establishment by division**						
	Barishal	367863	5.85	267619	5.93	188242	6.29
	Chattogram	1187368	18.88	850221	18.83	600250	20.07
	Dhaka	1870922	29.75	1289068	28.56	777683	26.00
	Khulna	709741	11.29	523711	11.61	397076	13.27
	Mymensingh	408101	6.49	298144	6.60	190933	6.38
	Rajshahi	748935	11.91	538682	11.93	364228	12.18

Indicators		2024		2013		2001 & 2003	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
	Rangpur	671991	10.69	484611	10.74	320372	10.71
	Sylhet	323293	5.14	262035	5.80	152454	5.10
	Total	**6288214**	**100**	**4514091**	**100**	**2991238**	**100**
8.	**Temporary establishment by division**						
	Barishal	20086	3.48	13236	2.74	10620	3.16
	Chattogram	96897	16.81	113462	23.50	43963	13.09
	Dhaka	200974	34.85	144619	29.94	107963	32.14
	Khulna	62170	10.78	50320	10.42	46852	13.95
	Mymensingh	35401	6.14	38734	8.02	23569	7.02
	Rajshahi	69704	12.09	47884	9.92	39295	11.70
	Rangpur	61566	10.68	47070	9.75	41866	12.47
	Sylhet	29823	5.17	27578	5.71	21723	6.47
	Total	**576621**	**100**	**482903**	**100**	**335851**	**100**
9.	**Economic household by division**						
	Barishal	280787	5.60	87274	3.09	6401	1.68
	Chattogram	795686	15.87	363946	12.90	26331	6.91
	Dhaka	1137954	22.70	476747	16.90	64292	16.87
	Khulna	746223	14.89	423055	14.99	101990	26.77
	Mymensingh	348130	6.94	293721	10.41	30198	7.92
	Rajshahi	873965	17.44	574103	20.35	96350	25.29
	Rangpur	627866	12.53	490359	17.38	43345	11.37
	Sylhet	201918	4.03	112366	3.98	12148	3.19
	Total	**5012529**	**100**	**2821571**	**100**	**381055**	**100**
10.	**Economic Unit by type of industry**						
	Manufacturing	1041468	8.77	902583	11.54	450348	12.14
	Service	10835896	91.23	6915982	88.46	3257804	87.86
	Total	**11877364**	**100**	**7818565**	**100**	**3708144**	**100**
11.	**Economic Unit by sex of unit head**						
	Male	11109002	93.531	7255197	92.79	3604294	97.20
	Female	768042	6.466	563368	7.21	103850	2.80
	Hijra	320	0.003	-	-	-	-
	Total	**11877364**	**100**	**7818565**	**100**	**3708144**	**100**
12.	**Total persons engaged (TPE) by sex**						
	Male	25630298	83.32	20449132	83.46	10041009	89.09
	Female	5128677	16.67	4051718	16.54	1229413	10.91
	Hijra	2059	0.01	-	-	-	-
	Total	**30761034**	**100**	**24500850**	**100**	**11270422**	**100**

	Indicators	2024		2013		2001 & 2003	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
13.	**Total persons engaged (TPE) by type of establishments**						
	Permanent	23715582	77.10	19062978	77.81	9702282	86.09
	Temporary	795467	2.58	958657	3.91	595177	5.28
	Economic Household	6249985	20.32	4479215	18.28	972963	8.63
	Total	**30761034**	**100**	**24500850**	**100**	**11270422**	**100**
14.	**Total persons engaged (TPE) by locality**						
	Rural	17479170	56.82	15000731	61.23	5865328	52.04
	Urban	13281864	43.18	9500119	38.77	5405094	47.96
	Total	**30761034**	**100**	**24500850**	**100**	**11270422**	**100**
15.	**Total persons engaged (TPE) by division**						
	Barishal	1295547	4.21	1044552	4.26	516787	4.59
	Chattogram	5373061	17.47	4630495	18.90	2013793	17.87
	Dhaka	11829426	38.45	7894013	32.22	4318214	38.31
	Khulna	2950822	9.59	2502586	10.21	1317432	11.69
	Mymensingh	1694576	5.51	1501675	6.13	-	-
	Rajshahi	3422685	11.13	3396115	13.86	2569644	22.80
	Rangpur	2813167	9.15	2501877	10.21	-	-
	Sylhet	1381750	4.49	1029537	4.21	534552	4.74
	Total	**30761034**	**100**	**24500850**	**100**	**11270422**	**100**

New Indicator: Economic Census 2024 Findings

	Indicators	Number	Percentage
1.	**Economic unit by place of operation in economic household**		
	Operated in household	1364512	27.22
	Operated outside the household	3648018	72.78
	Total	**5012529**	**100**
2.	**Economic unit of e-commerce by division**		
	Barishal	4,056	3.47
	Chattogram	22,042	18.84
	Dhaka	55,474	47.42
	Khulna	10,432	8.92
	Mymensingh	3,469	2.97
	Rajshahi	8,690	7.43
	Rangpur	7,837	6.70
	Sylhet	4,978	4.25
	Total	**116,978**	**100**

	Indicators	Number of response	% of responses	% of e-commerce unit
3.	**Activities of e-commerce economic unit**			
	Product sales	45061	29.25	38.52
	Product purchase	6675	4.33	5.71
	Product distribution	5212	3.38	4.46
	Online banking	19218	12.47	16.43
	Customer service	57173	37.11	48.88
	Educational activities	7489	4.86	6.40
	Public transportation	4984	3.24	4.26
	Others	8263	5.36	7.06
	Total	**154075**	**100**	**131.71**
	Indicators	Number of response	% of responses	% of unit
4.	**Existing problems in economic unit**			
	Unavailability of capital	6479645	48.28	85.84
	Unavailability of skilled manpower	720007	5.36	9.54
	Unavailability of raw materials	411331	3.06	5.45
	Increase in production cost	737542	5.50	9.77
	Problem in marketing of Material/ Product	422026	3.14	5.59
	Infrastructural problem	1414996	10.54	18.75
	Electricity and Fuel Problem	604615	4.50	8.01
	Unavailability of easy loan	2597417	19.35	34.41
	Others	33609	0.25	0.45
	Total	**13421188**	**100.00**	**177.81**

*Economic Census (EC) 2024 and 2013 covered premise based and floating economic activities operated by households as economic households.

*Economic Census 2001 & 03 covered premise based economic activities operated by households as economic households and floating economic activities operated by households as temporary establishments.
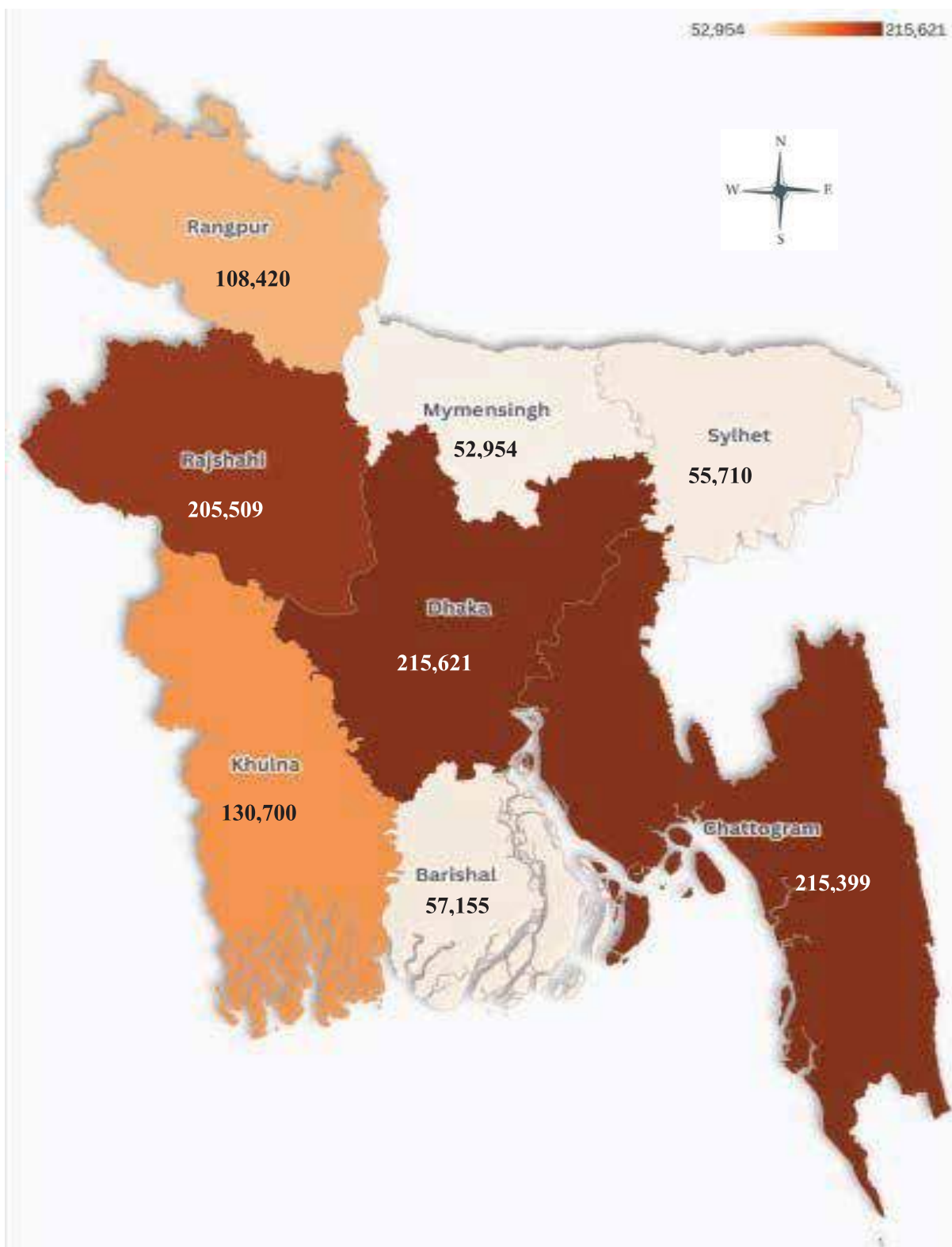
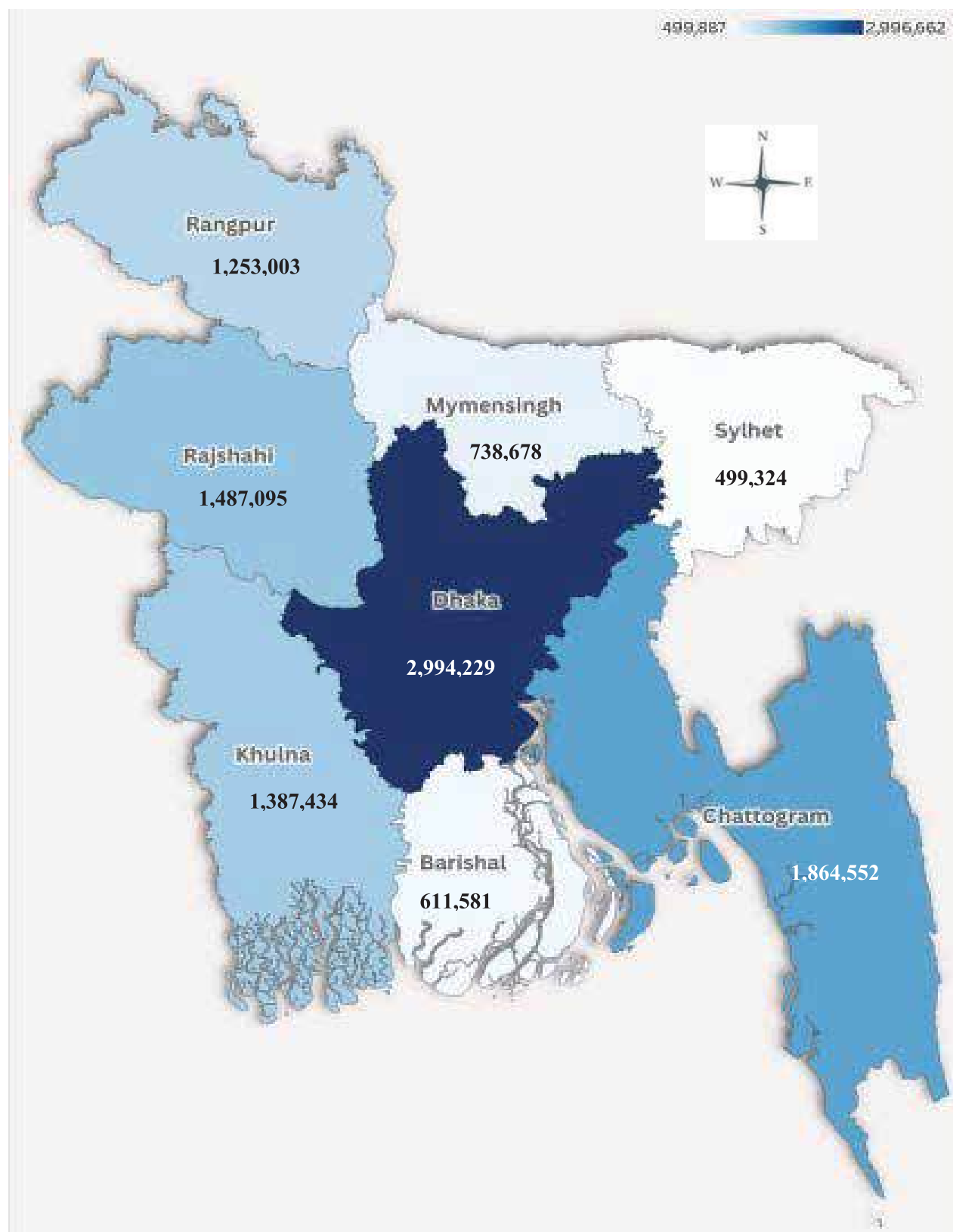# Map: Distribution of Economic Units by Division: 2024

555,034 ▬▬▬ 3,209,850

RANGPUR
1361423

MYMENSINGH
791632

SYLHET
555034

RAJSHAHI
1692604

DHAKA
3209850

KHULNA
1518134

BARISHAL
668736

CHATTOGRAM
2079951

Map: Distribution of Total Persons Engaged (TPE) by Division: 2024

1,295,547 — 11,829,426

RANGPUR
2813167

MYMENSINGH
1694576

SYLHET
1381750

RAJSHAHI
3422685

DHAKA
11829426

KHULNA
2950822

BARISHAL
1295547

CHATTOGRAM
5373061

Map: Distribution of Manufacturing Economic Units by Division: 2024

52,954 ▭▭▭▬ 215,621

Rangpur
108,420

Rajshahi
205,509

Mymensingh
52,954

Sylhet
55,710

Dhaka
215,621

Khulna
130,700

Barishal
57,155

Chattogram
215,399

Map: Distribution of Service Economic Units by Division: 2024

499,887 — 2,996,662

Rangpur
1,253,003

Mymensingh
738,678

Sylhet
499,324

Rajshahi
1,487,095

Dhaka
2,994,229

Khulna
1,387,434

Barishal
611,581

Chattogram
1,864,552

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Economic Census is the complete enumeration of the full set of economic units belonging to a given population or universe at a particular time with respect to well defined economic characteristics. The first Economic Census of Bangladesh was conducted in 1986. The second Economic Census was conducted in two stages, in the year 2001 and 2003. Following the ten years periodicity, the third Economic Census was conducted in 2013. The 4th Economic Census was conducted from 10 to 16 December 2024. It is the first economic census in the history of the country and in the census; data has been collected using digital device following the Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) method. A total of 90,043 enumerators have been engaged in the census to collect data from all economic units of the country.

The census preparations are carried out through three zonal operations. Under these operations, a number of preparatory activities such as formation of enumeration areas (EAs), recruitment of enumerators and supervisors, preparing maps, updating of geo-codes, identifying training centers, enlisting the restricted areas are undertaken. A web-based Integrated Census Management System (ICMS) is developed to control and manage the first CAPI based economic census. Subsequently, all census-controlling maps including ECO-EAs are integrated with geo-code through ICMS. A technology equipped Network Operations Centre (NOC), situated at the BBS Headquarter is used to monitor data collection activities and to ensure data quality through the ICMS.

The data collected from the household using Tablets are transmitted to the data centre of BBS in fully encrypted form through a strong security system, established in Tier IV Data Center of Bangladesh Data Center Company Limited (BDCCL). Later on, making the data decrypted, these are made real-time visualization on the screen of the NOC. This system enables a real-time tracking of data collection progress and monitoring of its quality.

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

Total economic unit: 2024

The preliminary result of the Economic Census 2024 reveals that the total number of economic units stood at 11,877,364 at the time of the census. This figure encompasses all permanent establishments (6,288,214), temporary establishments (576,621), and economic household (5,012,529) operating across the country. Of these economic units, a significant portion falls within the service sector (91.23%), while others are distributed across manufacturing sector (8.77%). Approximately 29.73% of the economic units are located in urban areas, with the remaining 70.27% situated in rural areas.

Total persons engaged (TPE): 2024

The result also shows that 30,761,034 persons are engaged in various non-farm economic activities in Bangladesh, where 25,630,298 are male, 5,128,677 are female and 2,059 are hijra. Out of the total, 23,715,582 (77.10%) persons are engaged in permanent establishments, 795,467 (2.58%) persons are engaged in temporary establishments and 6,249,985 (20.32%) persons are engaged in economic households.

Expanding formal and informal sector

The provisional results of the 2024 Economic Census indicate that the total number of economic units in Bangladesh reached 11,877,364 during the census period, compared to 7,818,565 in 2013; 3,708,144 in 2001 & 2003, and 2,169,419 in 1986. The growth of economic units was 70.92% between 1986 and 2001-2003, 110.85% between 2001-2003 and 2013, and 51.91% between 2013 and 2024.

Economic Census (EC) 2024 and 2013 covered premise based and floating economic activities operated by households as economic households. Economic Census 2001 & 03 covered premises based economic activities operated by households as economic households and floating economic activities operated by households as temporary establishments.

Increasing permanent establishments

It has been observed that the number of permanent establishments in Bangladesh has steadily increased over time. The number of permanent establishment was 2,991,238 in 2001& 2003 which has risen to 4,514,091 in 2013 and 6,288,214 in 2024. It shows that the growth in number (1,774,123) over the last eleven years is higher than that (1,522,853) occurred in the last ten years (2001 & 2003 to 2013).

Facing problems in economic units

It is found that 85.84% of all units, which facing problems in operating business, reported that unavailability of capital is the main problem, which is 48.28% of the total problems. Furthermore, 34.41% economic units reported that they are facing problems on getting easy loan to run their business smoothly which is 19.35% of total problems.

Expansion of household based economic activities

The findings of the Economic Census 2024 reveal that household based economic activities expansion is continuing over the last decade. The number of economic household is 50,12,529 in 2024 which was 28,21,571 in 2013 and 3,81,055 in 2001 & 2003. The definition of economic households remains same for 2013 and 2024 to contribute to this expansion. The growth of economic households was 640.46 % during 2001 & 03 to 2013 and 77.65% during 2024 through 2013.

## Number of Units increased both in urban and rural areas

In 2024, share of urban economic units is 3,531,203 (29.73%) and rural 8,346,161 (70.27%) whereas the share of urban economic units was 2,229,546 (28.52 %) and rural 5,589,019 (71.48%) in 2013.

Regional variations almost follow the same trend in economic activities

The findings show that at the division level, large variation still exists in economic activities. The highest number of economic units (3,209,850) was observed in Dhaka followed by Chattogram (2,079,951), Rajshahi (1,692,604), Khulna (1,518,134), Rangpur (1,361,423), Barishal (668,736) and Sylhet (555,034), Mymensingh (791,632). In 2013, Dhaka (1,910,434) was in the first position, followed by Chattogram (1,327,629), Rajshahi (1,160,669), Rangpur (1,022,040), Khulna (997,086), Mymensingh (630,599), Sylhet (401,979) and Barishal (368,129).

Dominance of the service sector

The dominance of the service sector (91.23%) compared to the industry sector (8.77%) indicates an imbalance in the economic structure, with a heavy reliance on services. There is a need for policies that promote industrial growth and diversification, such as supporting manufacturing, construction, and other industrial activities through incentives, subsidies, and infrastructure development.
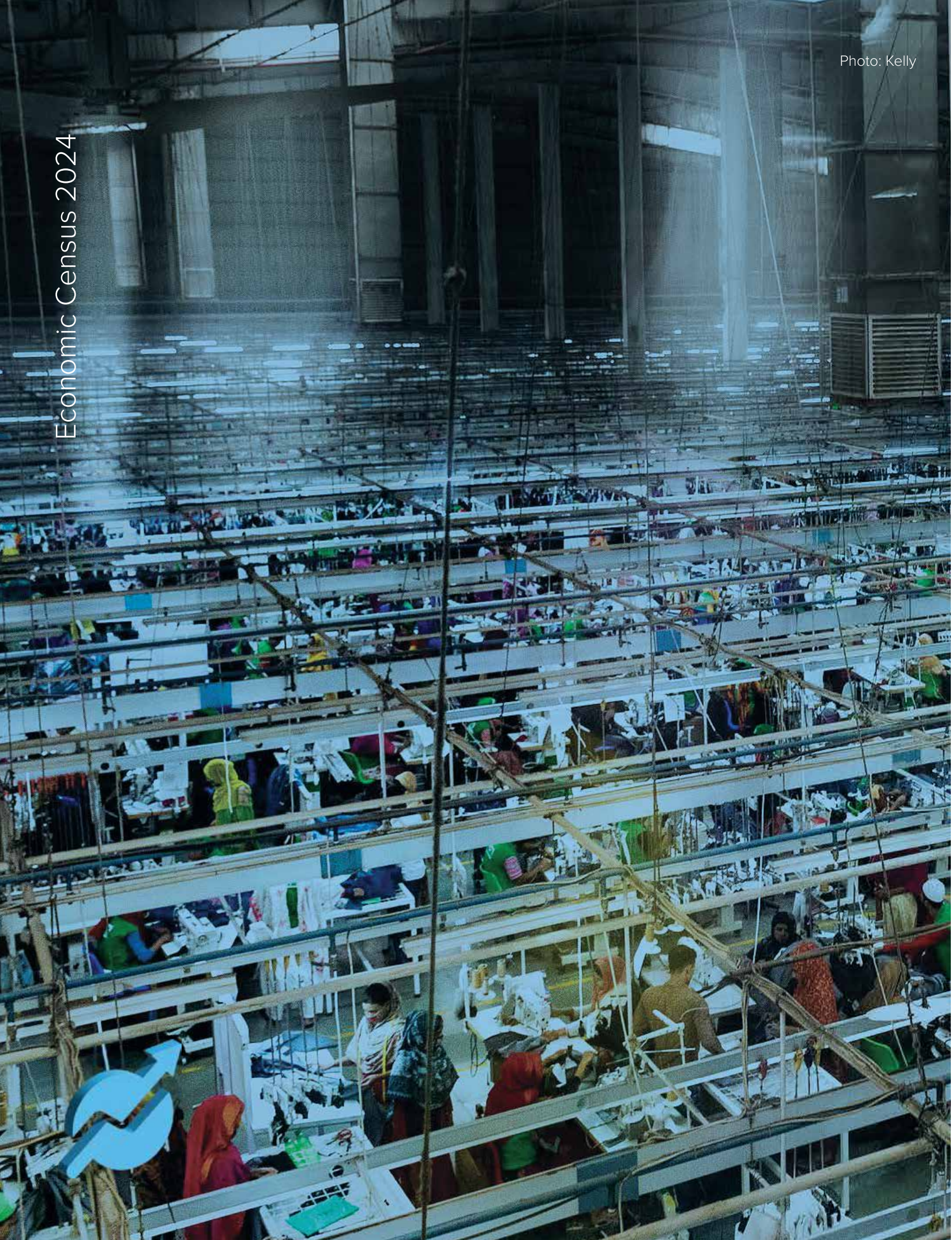
Introduction

1.1   Background

Economic Census (EC) is the complete enumeration of the full set of economic units belonging to a given population or universe at a particular time with respect to well defined characteristics. It is literally the whole process of collecting, compiling, processing, analyzing data and publishing report to all economic units in a country. It is a well-structured undertaking which provides timely, reliable, accurate and detailed data on the size and distribution of economic units of different categories.

A valuable repository of important basic information on all industries and businesses of a country covers by the EC. This database mainly includes the name, address, legal basis of the organization, relationship with the controlling office of the organization, functions of the organization, manpower, income, net assets, establishment date, location of the organization etc.

In addition, up-to-date information on various issues related to industry and business institutions of the country can be obtained through the EC, and when the information is available, it becomes easier to formulate and implement related policies. Furthermore, the operation will lead to projection and improvement of GDP estimation, rationalization of the coefficient, and thereby it might be possible to accurately estimate the size of the country's GDP and its growth.

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) produced industrial statistics through various surveys such as Survey of Manufacturing Industries (SMI), Survey of Wholesale and Retail Trade, Survey of Hotel and Restaurant, Business Directory etc. By implementing the Economic Census, it would be possible for BBS to capture information from establishments and economic units those are engaged in non-agricultural economic activities. Therefore, the Economic Census can be a measure

of the government's data warehouses in relation to the sector-wise economy.

As the national statistical organization of the country, BBS is the sole agency responsible for collecting, compiling, processing, and publishing all official statistics of the country. Therefore, there is no alternative to building a complete information repository of all industrial and business institutions and all service sector institutions of the country in order to accelerate the development of the country.

The statistics produced by EC is needed for policy makers, planners, and Business communities. Trade associations, chambers of commerce, and industrial society rely on this information for strategic planning further economic development, business decisions, and. Moreover, domestic, and foreign investors will be able to make important decisions including selecting the place of investment, appropriate field or sector for investment, long term capital decision.

1.2 Legal Mandate of Economic Census

In the Allocation of Business of Bangladesh, it is defined that the Statistics and Informatics Division, under the Ministry of Planning, is mandated to conduct periodic census on Population and Housing, Agricultural and Economic activities. In addition, according to the Statistics Act 2013, the BBS is responsible to conduct all censuses and surveys of the country, prepares official statistics and preserves data. BBS also generates data and statistics in line with government's development plans, under the guidance of Statistics and Informatics Division, through various censuses and surveys according to the needs of the stakeholders. It is clearly mentioned in the Statistical Act that any person, organization, institution, or authority shall be bound to provide the information preserved by them to the BBS as per requisition. In addition, the

BBS will ensure the confidentiality of the information.

BBS has responsibility to provide high-quality statistical services to the government with relevant, timely and accurate data for the adoption of sustainable, effective, and result-oriented planning. Again, data is essential for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of SDG and other national plans that have already been adopted. Bangladesh has adopted national plans focused on creating sustainable jobs and reduction of poverty for inclusive growth, improving on social, environmental, and labor related compliances in order to compete in the global market. It would be possible through the EC to provide the necessary information for the business, industry and service sectors that would be helpful in increasing the productivity of these sectors and filling the data gaps and proper monitoring the national Plan. Moreover, the EC would meet the data demand related to pertinent goals of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The relevant Goals are Goal: 08 (Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all) and Goal: 09 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation).

Also, it is mentioned in the second Strategic Actions of Industry and Labour Wing in National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) that BBS will develop a Comprehensive Business Register and update it regularly to provide a strong sampling frame for industrial surveys. The EC is the only source to develop Statistical Business Register. It is essential to carry out the project undertaken by BBS to fulfill the objectives of the NSDS and Statistics Act 2013.

1.3 Overview of Previous Economic Censuses in Bangladesh

The history of economic censuses is not as old as the history of censuses all over the world, especially in Bangladesh. In different countries of the world, population census and agricultural census are the oldest censuses comparing to the economic census. Besides, the economic census started much later. After the increase in non-agricultural goods and services in various countries, people have realized the importance of the economic census. The first economic census, covering retail and wholesale trade in the United States was conducted in 1930. In many countries, detailed economic activity is recorded in the census rather than in separate economic censuses.

1.3.1 Economic Census-1986

The country's first economic census was conducted across the country on 27-29 December 1986. The census was titled "Census of Non-Agricultural Economic Activities and Disabled Persons-1986". According to the Economic Census 1986, a unit means a house, establishment (permanent/temporary) or any other single/physical location where an economic or social activity is carried on. A unit may contain one or more substructures and sometimes a substructure may contain multiple units. Temporary establishments, which were located at a fixed location without any infrastructure, were also considered independent units.

The Economic Census of 1986 enumerated 21, 68,778 establishments across the country, of which 1,561,930 were permanent establishments, 64,249 were temporary establishments and 542,599 were household economic activities/establishments. A total of 72, 07,437 people were employed in these institutions, of which 6,353,134 were men and 854,303 were women. The number of male workers was significantly higher than that of females.

1.3.2 Economic Census 2001 & 2003

The 2nd Economic Census of the country was conducted in two phases. The Economic Census in urban areas was conducted on 27-31 May 2001. On the other hand, in rural areas, it was held from 20-26 April 2003. From the Economic Census of 2001 and 2003, the total number of establishments was found to be 3,708,152, of which 2,991,249 were permanent establishments, 335,851 temporary establishments and 3,81,052 household economic activities. A total of 11,270,442 persons were engaged in economic activities, of which 10,041,009 were males and 1,229,413 were females. The definition of economic unit was identical in both phases of the census.

1.3.3 Economic Census 2013

The main activity of the 3rd Economic Census of our country was conducted also in two phases from March 31 to May 31, 2013. In the 1st phase, data was collected in 37 districts from April 15-24, 2013. In the 2nd phase, data was collected from May 15-24, 2013 in the remaining districts. In the Economic Census 2013, for the first time, all establishments/units and households economic activities were enumerated before the census. This facilitated better coverage of the 2013 Economic Census, as a complete list of economic units prepared was available to the enumerator. Hence the possibility of omission or multiple inclusion of any unit was eliminated which ensured complete coverage of units in this census.

According to the Economic Census 2013, a total of 7,818,565 economic units were available, which was 110% more than the economic census of 2001 and 2003. Out of these 7,818,565 economic units, 4,514,091 were permanent, 482,903 were temporary and 2,821,571 were household economic activities.

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Economic Census 2024

Photo: faisal arefin abid

Objectives, Scope and Coverage

2.1 Objectives of the Economic Census (EC)

The main goals of the EC-2024 are to observe the nature of the structural changes taking place in the economy over the last decade and to provide comprehensive statistical information to policymakers, planners, researchers, business communities and others for planning and policy-making.

The objectives of EC-2024 are:

1. Classification of establishments following System of National Accounts (SNA) 2008, International Standard of Industrial Classification (ISIC): Rev.4 and National Industrial Policy 2022;

2. Determining the number of all economic establishments according to the classification of large, medium, small, micro and cottage industries in the country;

3. Finding the number of economic establishments (permanent/temporary) as well as total households by type;

4. Determining the comprehensive number of persons engaged in various economic activities as employee or partners, unpaid family workers, full-time and part-time workers and casual or daily labours;

5. Assessing the number of women entrepreneurs engaged in economic activities;

6. Determining the number of economic institutions engaged in the informal sector;

7. Identifying the nature of structural changes that occurred in the economy over time;

8. Making a sampling frame available for planning and designing comprehensive surveys on non-agricultural economic activities in between two economic censuses;

9. Facilitating the determination of the relative contribution of the non-agricultural sector to the economy;

10. Providing benchmark data for rebasing and updating the national accounts aggregates and other economic measures of the country;

11. Preparing an up-to-date Statistical Business Register (SBR) of establishments and enterprises for urban and rural areas according to the Bangladesh Standard Industrial Classification (BSIC).

2.2 Scope and Coverage of the Economic Census

Economic census is a means of identifying and collecting basic economic statistics aimed at providing a comprehensive source of statistical information for economic and social development and planning, administrative purposes, research and improvement of business products and processes.

It is an establishment-based census and it covers all units irrespective of their size in terms of the number of persons employed or turnover. The EC includes all establishments:

- Operated for at least some part of the census year;
- Located in one of the 64 districts of Bangladesh;
- Have paid employees;

- Classified in one of the sectors defined by Bangladesh Standard Industrial Classifications (BSIC).

2.2.1 Scope

All non-farm economic activities according to BSIC-2020 (except activities of households as employers, undifferentiated goods- and services-producing activities of households for own use, and activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies) were included in the scope of the Economic Census 2024. Section-T of BSIC-2020 was excluded, considering that activities under this section had been conventionally covered partly by the Agriculture Census and partly by the Labour Force Survey, to avoid duplication. Section-U of BSIC-2020 was also excluded from the scope of the census, as the activities under this section were not reasonably accounted for in national accounts aggregates globally; traditionally, this section was kept outside the scopes of earlier economic censuses, including Economic Census 2013, Economic Census 2001 & 03, and Economic Census 1986.

Hence, all government and non-government establishments engaged in the aforementioned activities for profit-making or community service, regardless of their nature (permanent, temporary, or household-based), were considered within the scope of this census.

It is noteworthy that, in addition to economic activities carried out within households, activities operated outside households, such as hawking, operating own rickshaws, pushcarts, vans, easy bikes, or other transports, street vending, etc., were included within the purview of household-based economic activities. These activities were also covered in the Economic Census 2013, where they were categorized as temporary establishments in the censuses of 2013, 2001 & 03.

2.2.2 Coverage

Geographically, the EC-24 covered the entire area of the country except 'Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services producing activities of households for own use' and 'Activities of extraterritorial organizations and bodies'. Agricultural establishments such as farm based livestock; poultry and fishery were included in the EC-24. All establishments and economic households located both in urban and rural areas are to be completely enumerated in the census. It may be noted that the scope, coverage, concepts & definitions and questionnaire of the EC are treated by the high-level committee.

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Economic Census 2024

Economic Census 2024
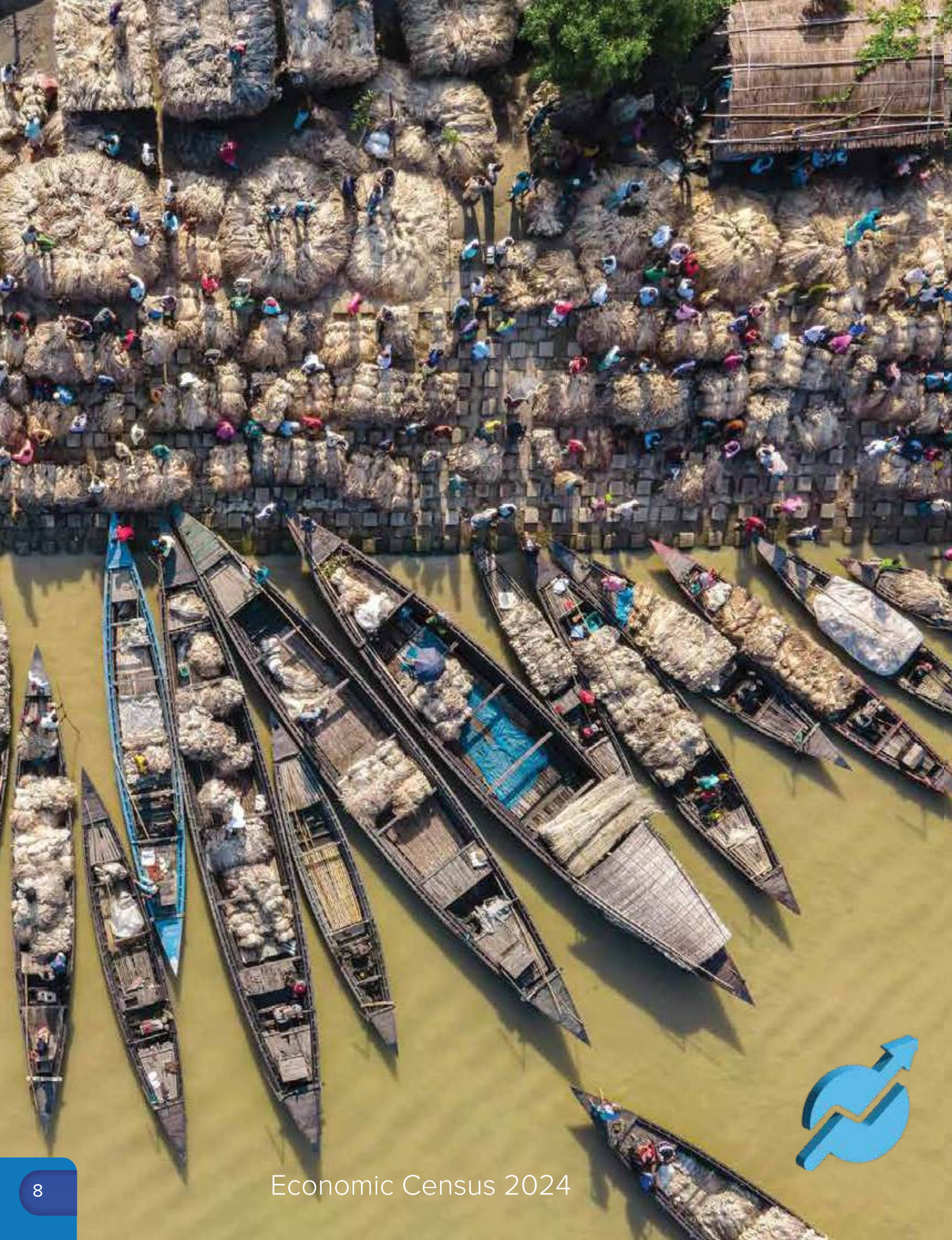
Census Planning and Operation

3.1 Census Process

A systematic and comprehensive implementation plan was developed and documented in the Development Project Proforma (DPP) to ensure the smooth execution of the census operation. The plan outlines all key census activities, including the pilot census, and provides details on operational procedures such as:

- Questionnaire design and methodologies

- Enumeration planning

- Training programs and procedures

- Field control and manpower requirements

- Roles and responsibilities of supervisory personnel

- Census publicity and material distribution

- Data processing and publication plans

Additionally, a detailed calendar of census activities with specific timelines was prepared. The entire census operation was conducted by this calendar, ensuring timely and efficient completion.

3.2 Zonal Operation

There were conducted two zonal operations as preparatory work for the main census in Economic Census-2024. Zonal operation referred to the preparatory tasks for the census that were directly carried out in the field by zonal officers before the actual census took place. At the same time, the Divisional Census Coordinator (DivCC), District Census Coordinator (DCC), and Upazila/Thana Census Coordinators ensured quality control of the census preparation through closely supervision. Zonal operations were a crucial component of census

preparation. To ensure the smooth and successful execution of the Economic Census 2024, two zonal operations had been planned.

3.2.1 First Zonal Operation

The First Zonal Operation of the Economic Census 2024 consisted of two phases aimed at ensuring accurate data collection and efficient supervision. Phase-1 involved verifying and updating the Geo Code list at the field level in the Integrated Census Management System (ICMS). This phase also included identifying zonal areas and marking boundaries of enumeration areas using real-world landmarks from the Population and Housing Census 2022. Tasks such as preparing listing areas, finalizing enumerators, setting up training centers, and listing key individuals and organizations were completed. Additionally, the Geo Code list was updated for areas affected by river erosion or depopulation. The phase also involved managing reserved tablets for data collection and ensuring integration with the Mobile Device Management (MDM) system.

Phase-2 focused on creating a detailed list of households and establishments based on the Economic Census listing areas. Enumeration areas, each covering about 150 economic units, were defined and grouped into supervisor areas. Control maps were then prepared for various levels, including data collectors, supervisors, and other key officials to facilitate smooth operations.

3.2.2 Second Zonal Operation

The Second Zonal Operation of the Economic Census-2024 focused on verifying and ensuring the accuracy of data and operational readiness for the enumeration process. Key tasks included verifying administrative areas and updating Geocode information in the Integrated Census Management

System (ICMS). The geographical boundaries of the Economic Census zones, enumeration areas, and supervisor areas were checked, and any necessary corrections were made. Maps for these areas were created, verified, and updated in the ICMS. Enumerators were carefully selected based on eligibility, and training centers were prepared and registered in the ICMS. All necessary census equipment, such as tablets and mobile phones, were checked, repaired, and ensured to be in working condition. The data collected during the first phase was thoroughly reviewed for accuracy, and any errors were corrected. Information on new establishments was gathered, and previously collected data was re-verified for completeness. Updates were made to the Geo Code list for areas affected by river erosion or depopulation, and field-level tablets were integrated into the Mobile Device Management (MDM) system, ensuring internet connectivity. Finally, meetings were organized at various administrative levels to ensure smooth coordination among all census committees, strengthening the operational framework for the census.

3.3 Use of Digital Maps

Economic Census Eco-EA maps and Supervisors' maps for every census were prepared by digital Mauza maps which are created by BBS as the base map. Prior to the main census, geo-codes were updated and maps were created during zonal operations to accurately demarcate enumeration areas and to set up Census Zones for the efficient execution of the census operations. This procedure also assisted in creating a robust control over the census's coverage inaccuracy.

3.4 Pre-Test and Pilot Census

The pre-test evaluated the data entry software to ensure that the survey data was entered correctly, the questionnaire flow was consistent, and the data checks were complete. The pilot census was a dress rehearsal for the main census. It served as a method for testing the efficiency of census preparation and helped identify any deficiencies in the process. To assess the preparatory work for the main census, a Pilot Census was conducted from October 20 to 21, 2024, in three districts: Dhaka, Narayanganj, and Gazipur District. The Pilot Census addressed issues such as the appropriateness of the questionnaire, including the respondents' burden, field operations with supervision, data processing, tabulation, and data analysis. Following the pilot census, necessary adjustments were made to ensure the smooth and effective operation of the main census.

3.5 Economic Census Area Formation and Mapping

The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) developed a hierarchical geo-coding system to uniquely identify administrative units from the highest to the lowest level. Digital maps of Mauzas, the smallest administrative units, were prepared and used as base maps for creating Enumeration Area (EA) maps and supervisors' maps. Geo-codes and maps were updated during zonal operations to accurately demarcate EAs, ensuring minimal coverage errors during the census.

In the economic census, each data collector gathered information from approximately 150 economic units, comprising households or institutions engaged in economic activities. Zonal officers verified these numbers through the ICMS system. Based on these verifications, economic census areas were defined, averaging 150 units each. In urban areas, where large industrial establishments demanded more time, economic census areas included fewer units.

In rural areas, smaller institution numbers typically required combining multiple census areas to form one economic census area. Conversely, in urban areas with higher institution density, one census area comprised multiple economic census areas. The numbering followed a union-based structure, and individual census areas were not divided when merging.

3.6 Key Principles for Economic Census Areas

1. Foundation: Economic census areas were derived from the 2022 Population and Housing Census areas.

2. Unit Count: Each area averaged 150 economic units.

3. Urban and Rural Variations: Urban areas had fewer units per area due to industrial density, while rural areas combined multiple census areas into one.

4. Map Preparation: Sketch maps on A4 paper included boundaries, geo-codes, unit numbers, and other details, with red ink used for boundary marking.

5. Supervisor Areas: Five to six economic census areas formed a supervisor area, with maps retained by zonal officers.

3.7 Questionnaire

The questionnaire is prepared incorporating the views of the stakeholders collected through several meetings, workshops/seminars, and adding the findings of its pre-test. Various committee namely Technical Support Team (TST), Economic Census Academia Forum (ECAF), Business Forum actively participated with the Census team to develop a modified questionnaire. Recommended Questions from all the stakeholders have been incorporated in

the final questionnaire. Afterwards, a CAPI system web developed on the basis of the questionnaire is developed and a pre-test is conducted to assess its performance. Based on the findings from the pre-test, the CAPI system of the questionnaire is finalized. The questionnaire contains 74 questions. To examine the entire processes of the main census, a piloting is conducted just before the census operation in Gazipur and Narayanganj district.

3.8 Manual

A manual is a written guide or instruction book designed to assist in performing a specific task or process. Before the main Economic Census operation, two manuals were prepared: the Field Manual and the Training Manual for Data Collectors. The Field Manual explained the legal aspects of the Economic Census, the composition, and responsibilities of various census committees, the roles of data collectors, supervisors, and Economic Census coordinators, the training methodology, modes of publicity, the distribution and collection process of census materials, and other relevant details. The Training Manual for Data Collectors provided detailed explanations of definitions and concepts of various terms, the methods of data collection, the meaning of each question in the Economic Census questionnaire, and the process of completing the forms.

3.9 Campaign for Economic Census 2024

A campaign is a crucial component of any census. Often, respondents are hesitant to provide information to interviewers due to a lack of awareness about the importance and utility of statistical data. A well-executed media campaign can play a vital role in motivating respondents to participate in the census and answer the questionnaire. It also helps interviewers gain easier access to respondents. The campaign for Economic Census 2024, utilizing both print and electronic media, introduced a new dimension to the census process. The following steps were undertaken to ensure active participation and encourage people from all sectors of society to provide accurate data during the Economic Census 2024:

(a) Public Service Announcement by the Chief Advisor:

The Honorable Chief Advisor addressed the nation on December 10, 2024, at a convenient time to inspire and motivate citizens to actively participate in the Economic Census.

(b) Special Supplements in Newspapers:

On December 10, 2024, the first day of the census, a special supplement titled Economic Census 2024 was published in widely circulated national newspapers in both Bengali

and English. The supplement included messages from the Honorable Chief Advisor, the Education and Planning Advisor, the Secretary of the Statistics and Informatics Division, and the Director General of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

(c) Census Rallies:

Inaugural rallies were held on December 10, 2024, at the BBS headquarters and divisional offices along with district and upazila statistical offices to mark the launch of the Economic Census 2024.

(d) Newspaper Advertisements:

To raise awareness and highlight the importance of accurate information, advertisements containing the census slogan and schedule were published in widely circulated national newspapers from November 8 to December 15, 2024.

(e) Promotional Stickers:

PVC stickers featuring "Economic Census 2024" were displayed on government and private vehicles to attract public attention. Zonal officers, assisted by data collectors and supervisors, implemented this initiative.

(f) Posters, Banners, and Festoons:

Posters emphasizing the census schedule and citizens' responsibilities were displayed in public areas. Zonal officers, under the direction of district and upazila census coordinators, also set up banners and festoons at key locations.

(g) Brochures:

Brochures summarizing the objectives, features, and activities of the Economic Census 2024 were distributed by divisional, district, and upazila census coordinators and zonal officers to the public, census committee members, government and private institutions, and local representatives.

(h) Leaflets:

Leaflets with essential information about the census were distributed by newspaper vendors, students, scouts, and volunteers before and during census week. Additionally, leaflets were distributed during Friday prayers on December 6, 13, and 20, 2024, by zonal officers and supervisors.

(i) Bulk SMS Campaign:

Through BTRC, bulk SMS messages were sent to all active mobile users nationwide, stating: "The Economic Census 2024 will take place from December 10-26, 2024. Please cooperate with census workers by providing accurate information."

(j) Public Announcements (Miking):

To enhance public awareness and encourage participation, zonal officers arranged at least three public announcements (miking) per zone from December 10-26, 2024, supplemented by drum-beating.

(k) Promotion via Religious Instructions:

The Islamic Foundation arranged for imams to deliver detailed sermons about the census during Jumma prayers on December 6, 13, and 20, 2024. The Ministry of Religious Affairs coordinated similar promotional activities at temples, churches, pagodas, and other religious institutions.

(l) TV Scrolling:

Key messages, slogans, and dates regarding the census appeared as scrolling text on popular television channels from December 10-26, 2024.

(m) Online Media Campaign:

Promotional content about the census was disseminated on social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and WhatsApp, to increase public engagement.

(n) Television Commercials (TVCs):

Two live-action TV commercials and one animated TVC emphasizing the importance and necessity of the census aired from December 10-26, 2024.

(o) Radio Commercials:

Renowned voice artists produced radio commercials to underscore the significance of the census, which were broadcast on various radio channels during the same period.

(p) Public Service Announcements (PSAs):

Three video PSAs featuring the Honorable Advisor and celebrities were aired to encourage the public to provide accurate data during the census.

(q) TV Talk Shows:

Five 30-minute television talk shows were organized, focusing on the framework and necessity of the Economic Census 2024.

(r) Digital Display Boards:

Fifty-seven digital billboards (20 in Dhaka North and South, 10 in Chattogram, and 3 in Each Other City Corporation) displayed census-related messages and visuals.

(s) Decorative Lighting:

Key landmarks, such as the Statistics Building, Planning Commission, prominent intersections, and areas within city corporations, were illuminated to commemorate the occasion.

These measures ensured widespread public engagement and the successful implementation of the Economic Census 2024.

3.10 Appointment of Enumerators and Supervisors

a. During the final preparation/second zonal operation/activities, the Census Supervisors/Zonal Officers appointed supervisors from among the local educated youth, young women, teachers, or government employees for the collection of census data.

b. Later, the Enumerator Recruitment Committee appointed the Enumerators through a competitive examination.

c. The minimum educational qualification of enumerators was set as High School or equivalent. Enumerators were required to be proficient in smartphone/tab operation. Previous experience with Tab/Android smartphone or ICR-related censuses and surveys organized by BBS was preferred.

The structure of the Recruitment Committee is given below:

Sl	Members of the committee	Designation in committee
1	UNO/Regional Executive Officer (City Corporation)	President
2	Upazila Family Planning Officer/Equivalent Officer in City Corporation	Member
3	Upazila Education Officer/Equivalent Officer in City Corporation	Member
4	Upazila Secondary Education Officer/Equivalent Officer in City Corporation	Member
5	Upazila Statistical Officer/ Upazila Census Coordinator/ Senior Zonal Officer	Member Secretary

a) This committee took the recruitment test through the meeting. The zonal officer assisted in the recruitment process as member secretary at the upazila/police station level.

b) The Committee ensured the necessary participation from each Mauza in the pool of enumerators.

c) The decision to assign or engage enumerators was taken independently by the concerned Zonal Officer.

3.11 Training and Data Collection:

Comprehensive training was provided to the census personnel to equip them with the necessary skills for their respective tasks. The entire country, including 64 districts and city corporations, was divided into 124 Census Districts during the first zonal operation. These Census Districts were further divided into smaller areas to ensure intensive supervision and monitoring, which in turn ensured the collection of high-quality data.

The 124 Census Districts were subdivided into 2,564 zones based on the listing operation, ensuring proper management of the census and accurate enumeration. These zones were then divided into 87,629 Enumeration Areas (EAs), with each EA consisting of approximately 150 economic units, whether household or establishment. An interviewer was assigned to each EA, and a supervisor was responsible for overseeing the work of 6 to 7 interviewers.

For the final data collection, a total of 87,419 interviewers, 16,934 supervisors, 2,564 zonal officers, and 124 District Census Coordinators (DCCs) were appointed. Interviewers and supervisors were recruited from among the locally educated unemployed youth, while zonal officers and DCCs were assigned from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) staff.

To ensure quality control during data collection, a four-tier supervision system was implemented. Supervisors were assigned to oversee the work of interviewers, zonal officers supervised the supervisors, and DCCs monitored the zonal officers. Additionally, several independent teams, consisting of senior BBS and SID officials, were tasked with overseeing the overall quality of the census.

Extra measures were also taken to further ensure the quality of the census by temporarily engaging high-ranking officials, Deputy Secretaries and Joint Secretaries from the Statistics and Informatics Division of the Ministry of Planning.

To ensure the collection of accurate data and to provide comprehensive guidelines on census operations, a three-day training program was conducted. DCCs (Master Trainers) were trained on the census questionnaire and techniques by the core team of the Economic Census in Dhaka. Zonal Officers were trained by DCCs at the district headquarters, and Supervisors and Interviewers were trained by Zonal Officers at the Upazila/Union level. A detailed training manual, including instructions for completing questionnaires and conducting field operations, was

provided to all trainees to ensure uniformity in training. Hands-on exercises on data collection techniques were also demonstrated during the training sessions at all levels.

Following the training, enumeration was carried out from December 10-26, 2024, across 64 districts. To ensure smooth operations, a central census control room was established at the BBS headquarters, which operated 24/7. In addition, control rooms were set up at various levels in regional, district, and upazila offices to address any emergencies promptly.

3.12 Main Census Data Collection:

The main census of the economic survey collected detailed information and data from all households and institutions engaged in economic activities across the country. Before the main census, all households and institutions were listed through the 1st and 2nd zonal operations. During the main census, a data collector gathered information about all economic activity-engaged households and institutions within their designated data collection area.

The data collection activities for the economic survey were conducted from December 10 to December 26, 2024 (excluding December 16 and December 25). During these 15 days, information on all economic activity-engaged households and institutions within the designated enumeration areas was collected. The data from all economic units within the enumeration area were collected, and measures were taken to ensure that information from the same unit was not collected more than once.

3.13 Limitations of the Preliminary Report:

This preliminary report has been prepared exclusively based on key indicators/findings rather than the full set of questionnaires from the Economic Census. Each key indicator/finding provides a concise summary of the number of economic units, classified by type and category, by BSIC 2020 at the 5-digit level for each economic unit.

To facilitate this process, a tabulation sheet was attached to the top of each census book, one of which was centrally processed at the headquarters to prepare this report. It is important to note that the figures in this report were summarized by the respective data analysts. Consequently, the final results derived from the comprehensive processing of all questionnaires from the Economic Census may differ from the findings presented in this preliminary report.

Additionally, the final results will be refined and adjusted further, incorporating insights from the Post Enumeration Check (PEC) operation. This ensures that the final report will present a complete and accurate representation of the economic landscape.

Stay tuned for the main census report, which will deliver more.

Economic Census 2024

Preliminary Findings

4.1 Total Economic Unit: 2024

The preliminary result of the Economic Census 2024 reveals that the total number of economic units stood at 11,877,364 at the time of the census. This figure encompasses all permanent establishments (6,288,214), temporary establishments (576,621), and economic household (5,012,529) operating across the country (Table-4.1). Of these economic units, a significant portion falls within the service sector (91.23%), while others are distributed across manufacturing sector (8.77%). Approximately 29.73% of the economic units are located in urban areas, with the remaining 70.27% situated in rural areas.

4.2 Total Persons Engaged (TPE): 2024

The result also shows that 30,761,034 persons are engaged in various non-farm economic activities in Bangladesh, where 25,630,298 are male, 5,128,677 are female and 2,059 are hijra. Out of the total, 23,715,582 (77.10%) persons are engaged in permanent establishments, 795,467 (2.58%) persons are engaged in temporary establishments and 6,249,985 (20.32%) persons are engaged in economic households (Table-4.1).

Table 4.1: Total economic unit and total persons engaged (TPE) by type, 2024

Type	Economic Unit		Total Persons Engaged	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Permanent	6288214	52.94	23715582	77.10
Temporary	576621	4.86	795467	2.58
Economic Household	5012529	42.20	6249985	20.32
Total	**11877364**	**100**	**30761034**	**100**

4.3 Economic Units by Type in the Last Three Censuses: 2001 & 2003, 2013 and 2024

Table 4.2 illustrates that total economic units followed an increasing trend during the three censuses 2001 & 2003, 2013 and 2024. The total number of economic units in 2001 & 2003 was 3,708,144 and rose to 7,818,565 in 2013. The provisional result of Economic Census 2024 demonstrates that total number of economic units has risen to 11,877,364.

Table 4.2: Distribution of economic units by type in the last three economic censuses, 2001 & 2003, 2013 and 2024

Census Year	Unit/ Percentage	Permanent Establishment	Temporary Establishment	Economic Household*	Total
2024	Unit	6288214	576621	5012529	11877364
	Percentage	52.94	4.86	42.20	100
2013	Unit	4514091	482903	2821571	7818565
	Percentage	57.73	6.18	36.09	100
2001 & 2003	Unit	2991238	335851	381055	3708144
	Percentage	80.67	9.05	10.28	100

*Economic Census (EC) 2024 and 2013 covered premise based and floating economic activities operated by households as economic households.

*Economic Census 2001 & 03 covered premise based economic activities operated by households as economic households and floating economic activities operated by households as temporary establishments.

While the number of total economic units shows a steady and significant expansion in the overall sector during 2013 to 2024, the increase in the number of economic units by types shows somewhat varying patterns. Permanent establishments constitute the dominant category, accounting for the majority of the total economic units. An increasing trend is shown in the number of permanent establishments but its share in total establishments decreased from 80.67 percent in 2001 & 2003 to 57.73 percent in 2013. Furthermore, it is observed that share of permanent establishments within total economic units is 52.94 percent in 2024, which depicts a decreasing trend in last three censuses. The number of temporary establishment experienced steady increase during 2001 & 2003 to 2024 but the share of this type of economic units decreased from 9.05 percent in 2001 & 2003 to 4.86 percent in 2024.

Figure 1: Distribution of economic units (in number), 2001 & 2003, 2013 and 2024.
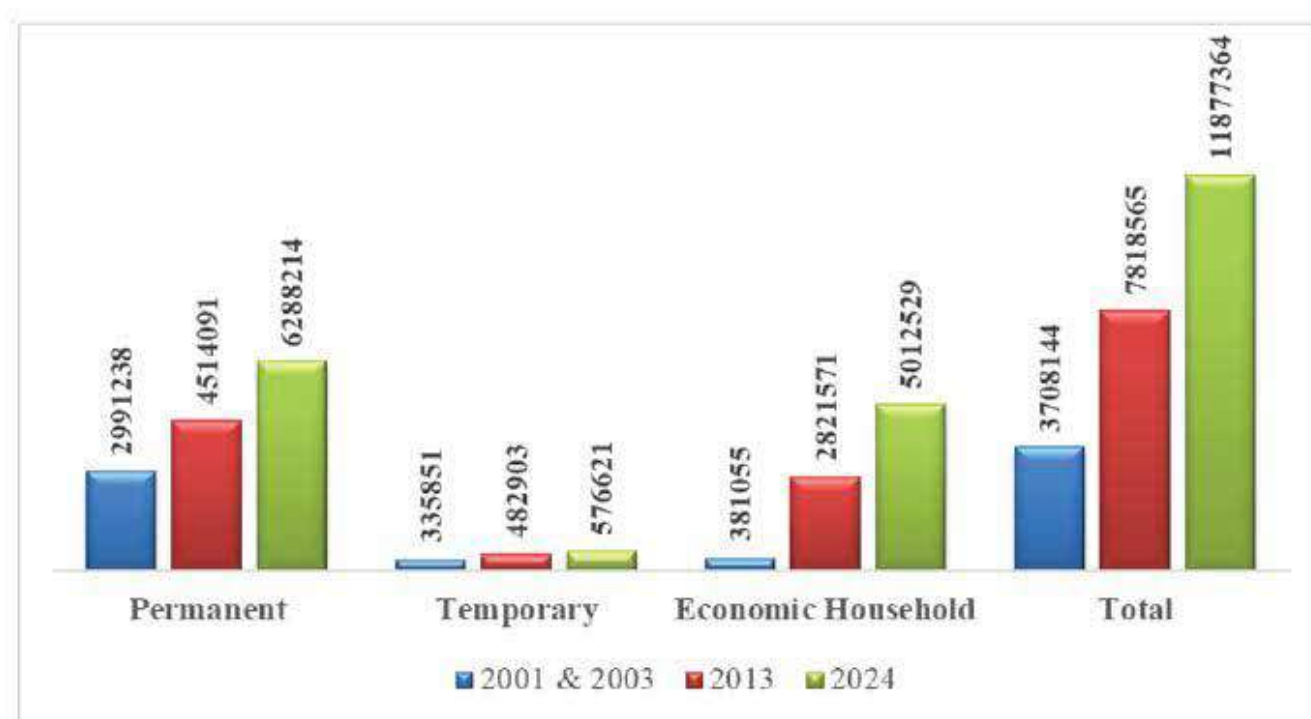
Figure 1 shows that economic units followed increasing trend during the three censuses 2001 & 2003, 2013 and 2024.

Figure 2: Percentage share of economic unit by type, 2001 & 2003, 2013 and 2024.

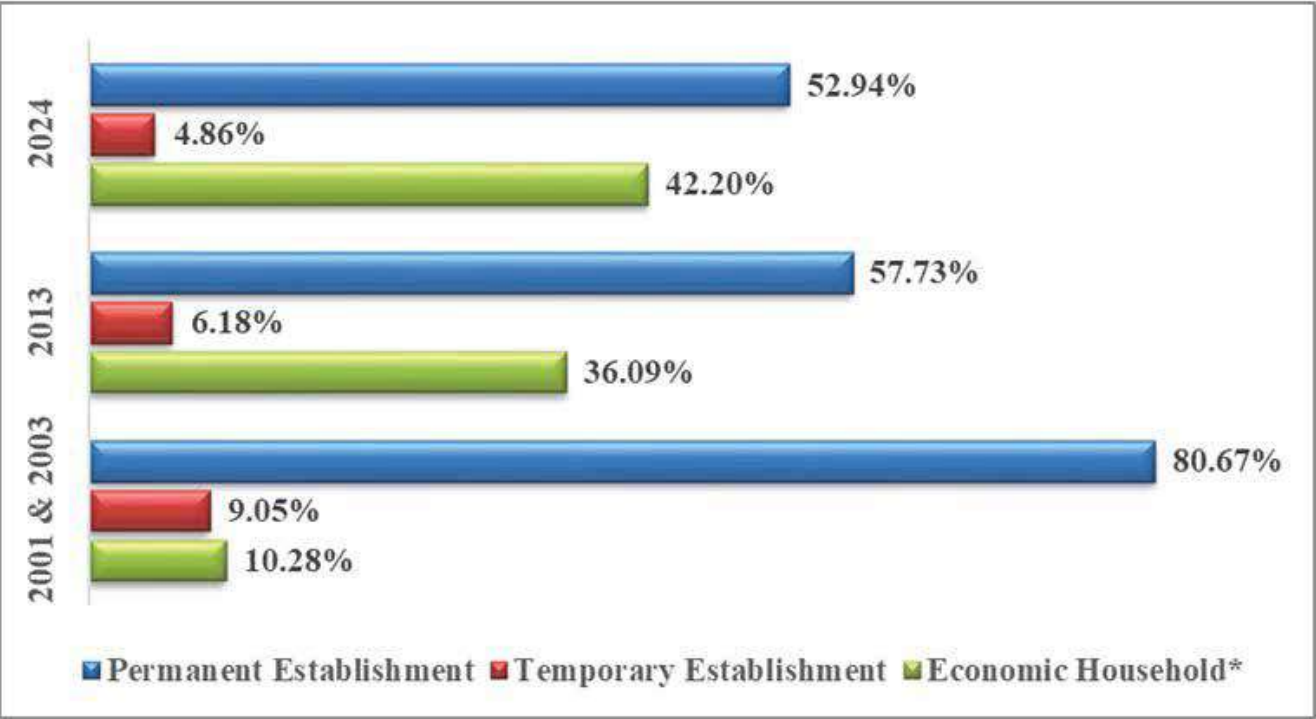Figure 2 shows that share of Permanent Establishments, Temporary Establishment Economic Households followed almost similar pattern during the three censuses 2001 & 2003, 2013 and 2024.

Figure 3: Distribution of Total Persons Engaged (TPE), 2001 & 2003, 2013 and 2024.
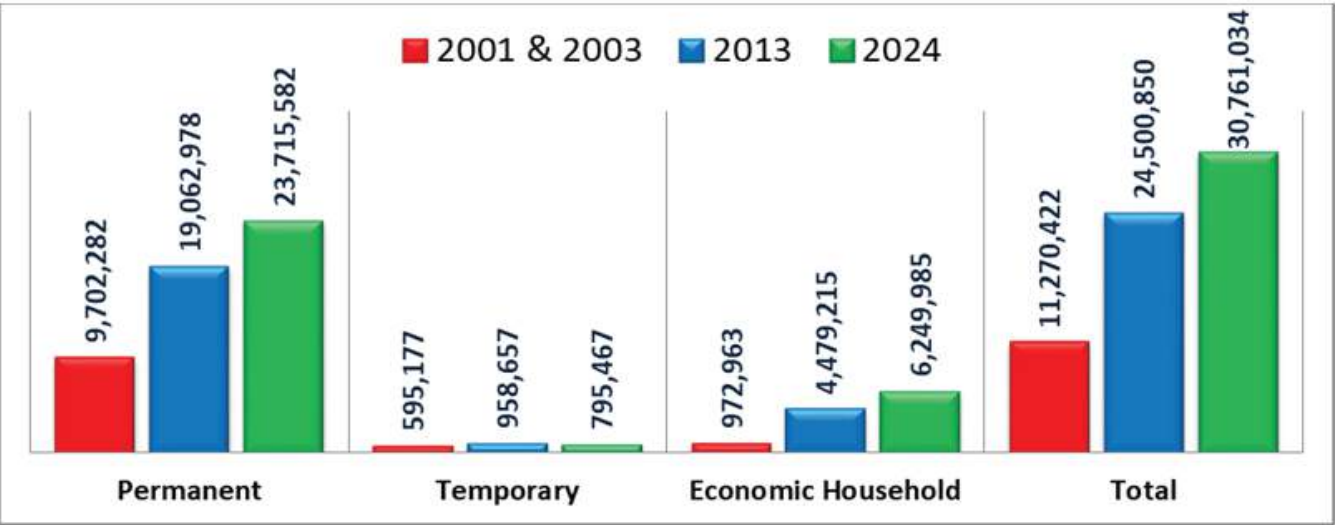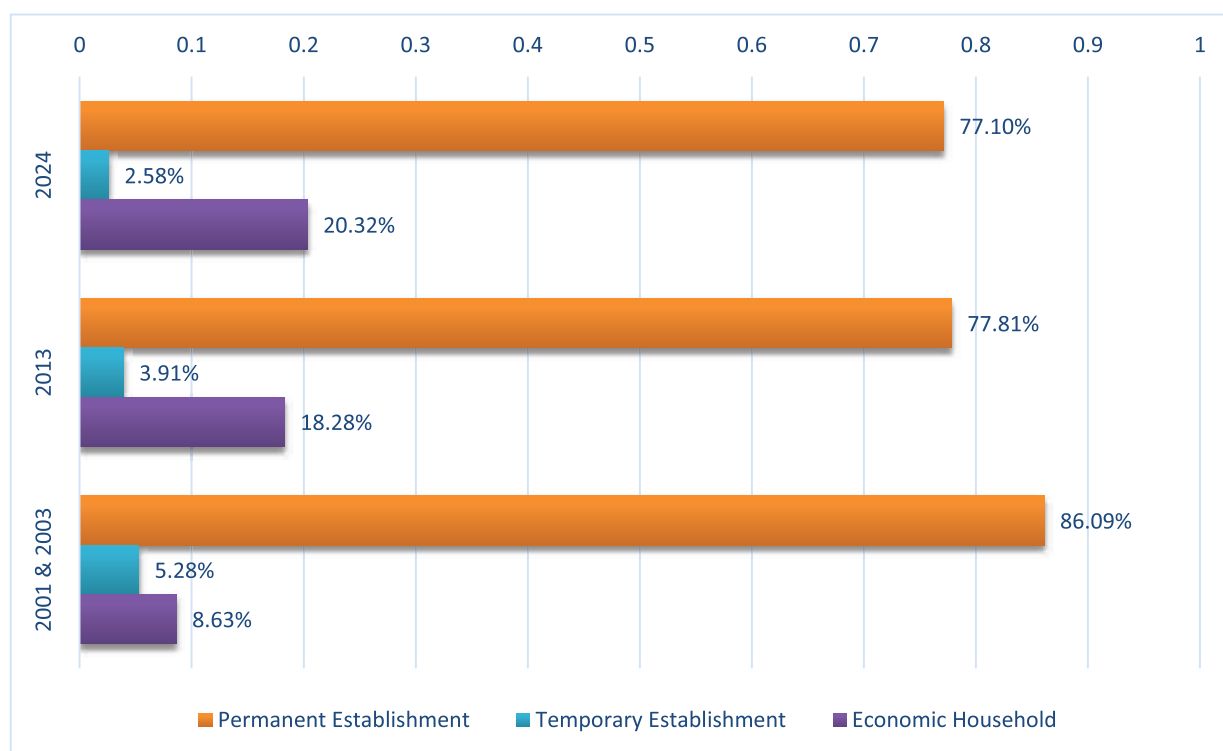
Figure 4: Percentage share of Total Persons Engaged (TPE), 2001 & 2003, 2013 and 2024.

4.4 Growth of economic units by type: 2013 and 2024

Table 4.3 indicates the growth of total economic unit by type. The growth of total economic unit is 110.85% in 2013 (2001 & 2003 to 2013). The preliminary result shows that in 2024 the growth of total economic unit is 51.91% (2013 to 2024). In terms of the type of economic unit, the growth of permanent establishment is 50.91% in 2013 and 39.30% in 2024, the growth of temporary establishment is 43.78% in 2013 and 19.40% in 2014, and the growth of economic household is 640.46% in 2013 and 77.65% in 2024.

Table 4.3: Growth of economic units by type in last two censuses, 2013 and 2024

Census Year	Permanent Establishment	Temporary Establishment	Economic Household	Total
2013	50.91	43.78	640.46	110.85
2024	39.30	19.41	77.65	51.91

4.5 Distribution of Economic Units and TPE by Division: 2024

As illustrated in Table 4.4, Dhaka leads all divisions with a total of 3,209,850 establishments, followed by Chattogram (2,079,951), Rajshahi (1,692,604), Khulna (1,518,134), Rangpur (1,361,423) and Mymensingh (791,632). Sylhet has the lowest number of economic units (555,034) while Barishal (668,736) has the second lowest position.

In terms of total persons engaged, Dhaka leads all divisions with a total of 11,829,426 persons, followed by Chattogram (5,373,061), Rajshahi (3,422,685), Khulna (2,950,822), Rangpur (2,813,167) and Mymensingh (1,694,576). Barishal has the lowest number of persons (1,295,547) while Sylhet (1,381,750) has the second lowest position.

Figure 5: Distribution of economic units and Total Persons Engaged (TPE), by type and division: 2024

Barishal: 668736 / 1295547
Chattogram: 2079951 / 5373061
Dhaka: 3209850 / 11829426
Khulna: 1518134 / 2950822
Mymensingh: 791632 / 1694576
Rajshahi: 1692604 / 3422685
Rangpur: 1361426 / 2813167
Sylhet: 555034 / 1381750

■ Number of Economic Unit   ■ Total Persons Eangaged(TPE)
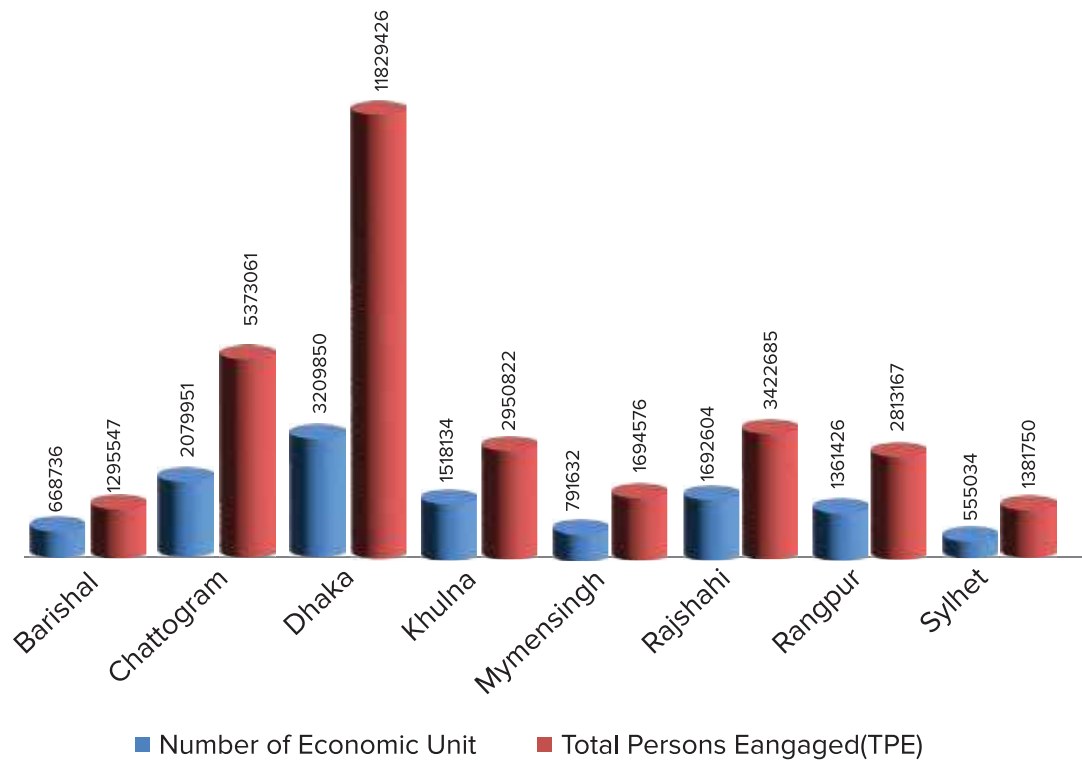
Figure 6: Percentage share of Economic Units by division and type: 2024

	Barishal	Chattogram	Dhaka	Khulna	Mymensingh	Rajshahi	Rangpur	Sylhet
Permanent Establishment	5.85%	18.88%	29.75%	11.29%	6.49%	11.91%	10.69%	5.14%
Temporary Establishment	3.48%	16.80%	34.85%	10.78%	6.14%	12.09%	10.68%	5.17%
Economic Household	5.60%	15.87%	22.70%	14.89%	6.95%	17.44%	12.53%	4.03%

■ Barishal ■ Chattogram ■ Dhaka ■ Khulna ■ Mymensingh ■ Rajshahi ■ Rangpur ■ Sylhet
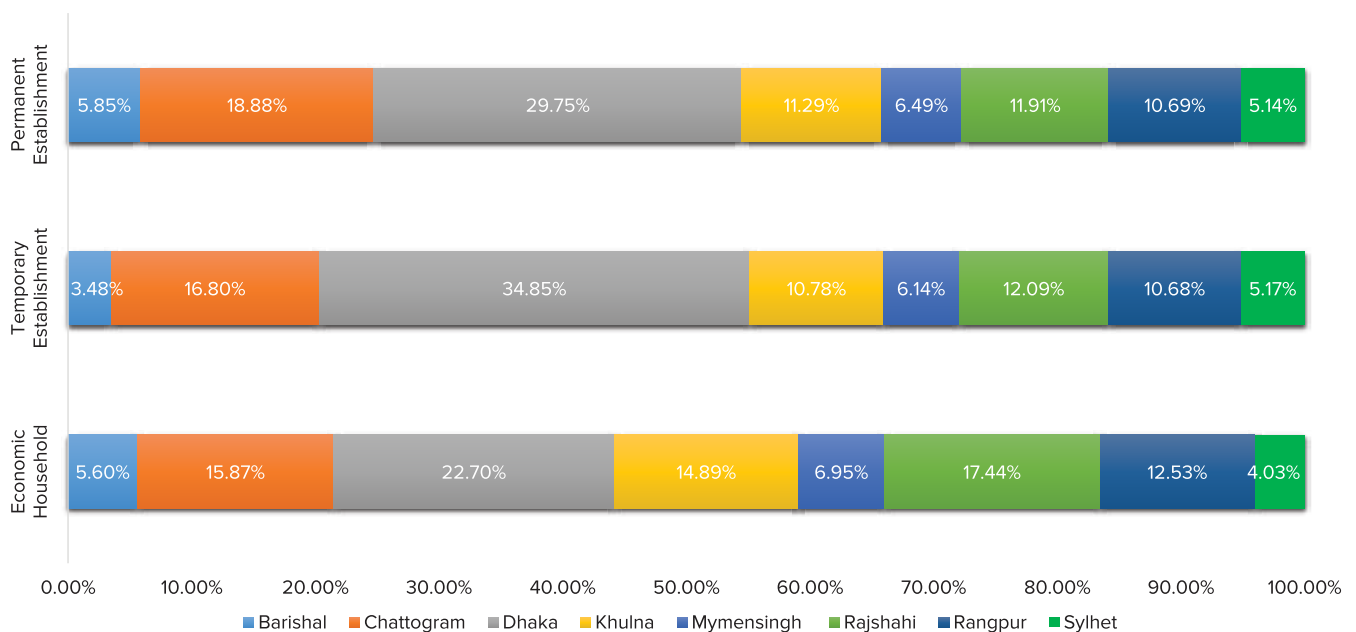
4.6 Distribution of Economic Units by Division: 2001 & 2003, 2013 and 2024

The preliminary result shows in 2024 Dhaka division ranks highest in total economic units (27.02%), followed by Chattogram (17.51%), Rajshahi (14.25%), Khulna (12.78%), Rangpur (11.46%) Mymensingh (6.67%), whereas Sylhet holds the lowest percentage (4.67%) and Barisal holds the second lowest percentage (5.63%). The pattern is largely similar in 2013 for total economic units, except change in ranking of Khulna & Rangpur, Sylhet & Barishal (Table 4.4).

Table 4.4: Distribution of economic units by type and division: 2024, 2013 and 2001 & 2003

Year	Division	No. of Unit				% of Division				% of Total
		Permanent Establishment	Temporary Establishment	Economic Household	Total	Permanent Establishment	Temporary Establishment	Economic Household	Total	
2024	Barishal	367863	20086	280787	668736	55.01	3.00	41.99	100	5.63
	Chattogram	1187368	96897	795686	2079951	57.09	4.66	38.26	100	17.51
	Dhaka	1870922	200974	1137954	3209850	58.29	6.26	35.45	100	27.02
	Khulna	709741	62170	746223	1518134	46.75	4.10	49.15	100	12.78
	Mymensingh	408101	35401	348130	791632	51.55	4.47	43.98	100	6.67
	Rajshahi	748935	69704	873965	1692604	44.25	4.12	51.63	100	14.25
	Rangpur	671991	61566	627866	1361423	49.36	4.52	46.12	100	11.46
	Sylhet	323293	29823	201918	555034	58.25	5.37	36.38	100	4.67
	Bangladesh	**6288214**	**576621**	**5012529**	**11877364**	**52.94**	**4.85**	**42.20**	**-**	**100**
2013	Barisal	267619	13236	87274	368129	72.70	3.60	23.71	100	4.71
	Chattogram	850221	113462	363946	1327629	64.04	8.55	27.41	100	16.98
	Dhaka	1289068	144619	476747	1910434	67.48	7.57	24.95	100	24.43
	Khulna	523711	50320	423055	997086	52.52	5.05	42.43	100	12.75
	Mymensingh	298144	38734	293721	630599	47.28	6.14	46.58	100	8.07
	Rajshahi	538682	47884	574103	1160669	46.41	4.13	49.46	100	14.85
	Rangpur	484611	47070	490359	1022040	47.42	4.61	47.98	100	13.07
	Sylhet	262035	27578	112366	401979	65.19	6.86	27.95	100	5.14
	Bangladesh	**4514091**	**482903**	**2821571**	**7818565**	**57.74**	**6.18**	**36.09**	**-**	**100**
2001 &2003	Barisal	188242	10620	6401	205263	91.71	5.17	3.12	100	5.54
	Chattogram	600250	43963	26331	670544	89.52	6.56	3.93	100	18.08
	Dhaka	777683	107963	64292	949938	81.87	11.37	6.77	100	25.62
	Khulna	397076	46852	101990	545918	72.74	8.58	18.68	100	14.72
	Mymensingh	190933	23569	30198	244700	78.03	9.63	12.34	100	6.60
	Rajshahi	364228	39295	96350	499873	72.86	7.86	19.27	100	13.48
	Rangpur	320372	41866	43345	405583	78.99	10.32	10.69	100	10.94
	Sylhet	152454	21723	12148	186325	81.82	11.66	6.52	100	5.02
	Bangladesh	**2991238**	**335851**	**381055**	**3708144**	**80.67**	**9.06**	**10.28**	**-**	**100**

4.7 Inter-censual Growth of Economic Units by Division: 2001 & 2003, 2013 and 2024

As mentioned earlier, total economic units increased steadily during the period 2001 & 2003 to 2024. However, growth in the number of economic units seems to have been more pronounced during the last inter-census period. Thus, between 2001 & 03 and 2013, total economic units increased by about 110.85 percent, while between 2013 and 2024, total economic units increased by about 51.91 percent (Table 4.5). The annual compound growth rate has been estimated to be 3.2 percent, 8.1 percent and 3.87 percent in the three sub periods respectively.

Table 4.5: Distribution & Inter-Censual Growth of Economic Units over the last three Economic Censuses by Division.

Division	2024		2013		2001 & 2003		% Change in 2024 over 2013	% Change in 2013 over 2001 & 03
	Economic Unit	%	Economic Unit	%	Economic Unit	%		
Barishal	668736	5.63	368129	4.71	205263	5.54	81.66	79.35
Chattogram	2079951	17.51	1327629	16.98	670544	18.08	56.67	97.99
Dhaka	3209850	27.03	1910434	24.43	949938	25.62	68.02	101.11
Khulna	1518134	12.78	997086	12.75	545918	14.72	52.26	82.64
Mymensingh	791632	6.67	630599	8.07	244700	6.60	25.54	157.70
Rajshahi	1692604	14.25	1160669	14.85	499873	13.48	45.83	132.19
Rangpur	1361423	11.46	1022040	13.07	405583	10.94	33.21	151.99
Sylhet	555034	4.67	401979	5.14	186325	5.02	38.08	115.74
Total	**11877364**	**100**	**7818565**	**100**	**3708144**	**100**	**51.91**	**110.85**

Table 4.5 provides data on the number of economic units in different divisions of Bangladesh over three economic censuses (2001 & 2003, 2013, and 2024). It also shows the percentage share of each division in total economic units and the percentage growth rates over different periods. The total number of economic units has increased from 3,708,144 in 2001-03 to 7,818,565 in 2013 and further to 11,877,364 in 2024. This reflects a 110.85% increase from 2001 & 2003 to 2013 and a 51.91% increase from 2013 to 2024. The growth rate has slowed slightly in the recent period compared to the earlier period. Dhaka (27.02%) has the largest share of economic units in 2024, showing its dominance as the economic center. Chattogram (17.51%) follows as another major economic hub. Rajshahi (14.25%) and Khulna (12.78%) have significant contributions. Sylhet (4.67%) and Barishal (5.63%) have the smallest shares, but Barishal has experienced one of the highest recent growth rates. The highest recent growth (2024 vs. 2013) is in Barishal (81.66%), followed by Dhaka (68.02%) and Chattogram (56.67%). Mymensingh's growth (25.54%) has slowed down significantly in the most recent period.

The total number of economic units, which includes establishments, and household economic activities, has increased by more than three times since 2001 & 2003. This reflects a substantial growth in the number of businesses, self-employed individuals, and informal enterprises. Dhaka and Chattogram divisions continue to be the dominant economic centers, while Barishal and Rangpur divisions are experiencing a rise in business activity.

Table 4.6: Distribution & Inter-censual Growth of Economic Units in 2024 over 2001 & 2003.

Division	2024		2013		2001 & 2003		Percentage change in 2024 over 2001 & 2003
	Economic Unit	%	Economic Unit	%	Economic Unit	%	
Barishal	668736	5.63	368129	4.71	205263	5.54	325.8
Chattogram	2079951	17.51	1327629	16.98	670544	18.08	310.2
Dhaka	3209850	27.02	1910434	24.43	949938	25.62	337.9
Khulna	1518134	12.78	997086	12.75	545918	14.72	278.1
Mymensingh	791632	6.67	630599	8.07	244700	6.60	323.5
Rajshahi	1692604	14.25	1160669	14.85	499873	13.48	338.6
Rangpur	1361423	11.46	1022040	13.07	405583	10.94	335.7
Sylhet	555034	4.67	401979	5.14	186325	5.02	297.9
Total	**11877364**	**100**	**7818565**	**100**	**3708144**	**100**	**320.3**

Table 4.5 provides data on the number of economic units in different divisions of Bangladesh over three economic censuses (2001 & 2003, 2013, and 2024). It also shows the percentage share of each division in total economic units and the percentage growth rates over different periods. The total number of economic units has increased from 3,708,144 in 2001-03 to 7,818,565 in 2013 and further to 11,877,364 in 2024. This reflects a 110.85% increase from 2001 & 2003 to 2013 and a 51.91% increase from 2013 to 2024. The growth rate has slowed slightly in the recent period compared to the earlier period. Dhaka (27.02%) has the largest share of economic units in 2024, showing its dominance as the economic center. Chattogram (17.51%) follows as another major economic hub. Rajshahi (14.25%) and Khulna (12.78%) have significant contributions. Sylhet (4.67%) and Barishal (5.63%) have the smallest shares, but Barishal has experienced one of the highest recent growth rates. The highest recent growth (2024 vs. 2013) is in Barishal (81.66%), followed by Dhaka (68.02%) and Chattogram (56.67%). Mymensingh's growth (25.54%) has slowed down significantly in the most recent period.

The total number of economic units, which includes establishments, and household economic activities, has increased by more than three times since 2001 & 2003. This reflects a substantial growth in the number of businesses, self-employed individuals, and informal enterprises. Dhaka and Chattogram divisions continue to be the dominant economic centers, while Barishal and Rangpur divisions are experiencing a rise in business activity.

4.8 Number of Economic Unit by Type and Locality: 2001 & 2003, 2013 and 2024

It has been observed that the number of permanent establishments in Bangladesh has steadily increased over time. The number of permanent establishment was 2,991,238 in 2001 & 2003 which has risen to 4,514,091 in 2013 and 6,288,214 (The share of permanent establishment is 52.94%) in 2024.. It shows that the growth of permanent establishment in number (1,774,123) over the last eleven years is higher than that (1,522,853) occurred in the years 2001 & 2003 to 2013 (Table-4.7).

Table 4.7: Distribution of establishment by Type and locality: 2001 & 2003, 2013 and 2024

Type	2024		2013		2001 & 2003	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Permanent establishment						
Rural	3941068	62.67	2936459	65.05	1872804	62.6
Urban	2347146	37.33	1577632	34.95	1118434	37.4
Total	**6288214**	**100**	**4514091**	**100**	**2991238**	**100**

Type	2024		2013		2001 & 2003	
	Number	**%**	**Number**	**%**	**Number**	**%**
Temporary establishment						
Rural	284909	49.41	482903	70.11	130177	38.8
Urban	291712	50.59	205910	29.89	205674	61.2
Total	**576621**	**100**	**688813**	**100**	**335851**	**100**
Economic household						
Rural	4120184	82.20	2375567	84.19	318745	83.6
Urban	892345	17.80	446004	15.81	62310	16.4
Total	**5012529**	**100**	**2821571**	**100**	**381055**	**100**

In 2024, share of urban economic units is 3,531,203 (29.73%) and rural 8,346,161 (70.27%) whereas the share of urban economic units was 2,229,546 (28.52 %) and rural 5,589,019 (71.48%) in 2013 (Figure 7). The increase in the share of urban economic units from 28.52% in 2013 to 29.73% in 2024 indicates a gradual shift towards urbanization. This suggests that urban areas are becoming slightly more dominant in terms of economic activities over time. On the other hand, rural economic units also grew substantially, from 5,589,019 in 2013 to 8,346,161 in 2024, indicating that rural areas continue to play a dominant role in economic activities.

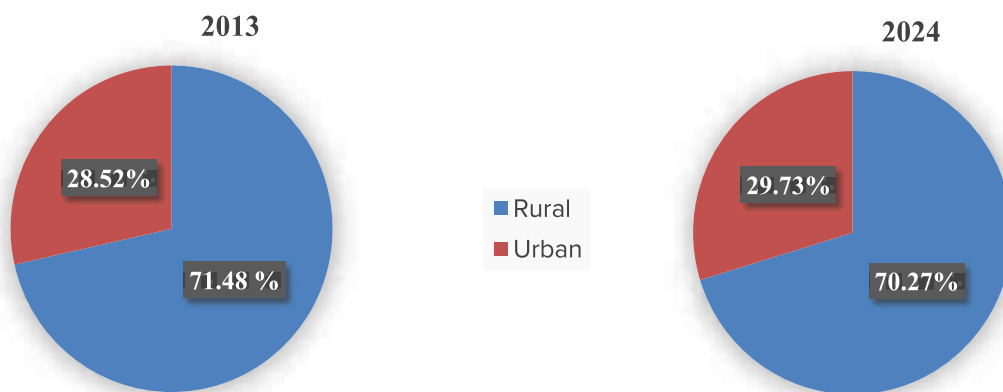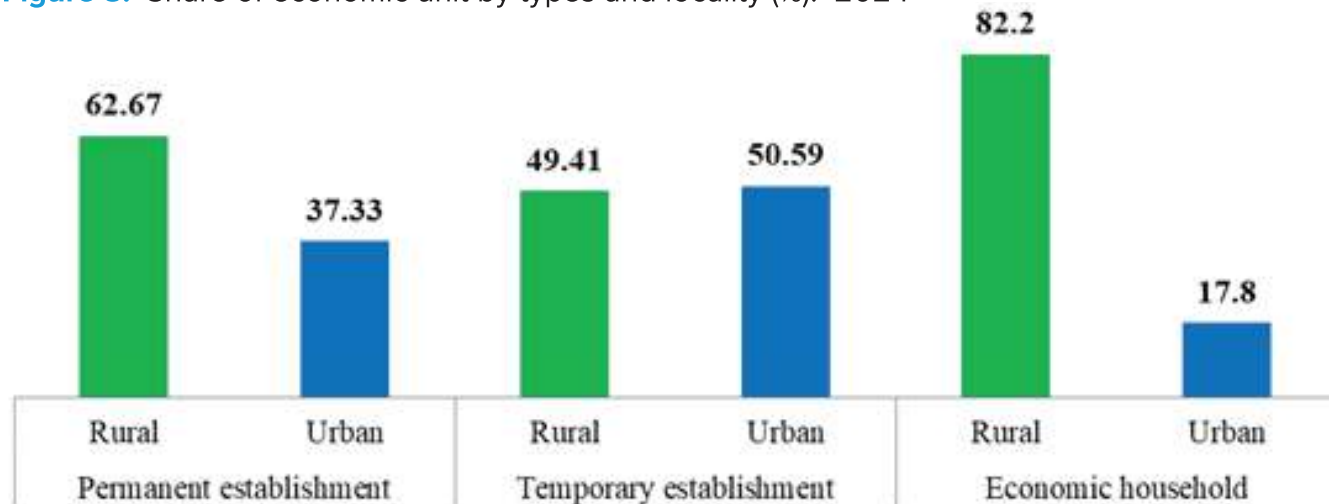**Figure 7:** Percentage share of Economic Units by locality: 2024 and 2013

Figure 8: Share of economic unit by types and locality (%): 2024

4.9 Economic Units and Total Persons Engaged (TPE) by district: 2013 and 2024

Table 4.8 shows the distribution of economic units and total person engaged by district. The preliminary result reveals that significant regional variations, providing valuable insights into the economic landscape of Bangladesh. Dhaka, as the capital and economic hub, consistently records the highest concentration of establishments (1,050,221) and employed persons (4,912,134) in 2024, reflecting its role as a center for commerce, industry, and services. Other major industrial districts such as Chattogram (537,766), Gazipur (397,400), Mymensingh (353,507) and Cumilla (347,260) also exhibit substantial numbers of economic units.

Table 4.8: Distribution of economic units and total persons engaged (TPE) by district: 2024 and 2013

Division Name	District	2024		2013	
		Unit	TPE	Unit	TPE
Barishal	Barguna	76703	145946	34206	78589
	Barishal	174566	372501	107072	342511
	Bhola	120332	222071	69770	218825
	Jhalokati	64799	119403	33394	76012
	Patuakhali	134701	247991	68484	159374
	Pirojpur	97635	187635	55203	169241
	Total	668736	1295547	368129	1044552
Chattogram	Bandarban	32663	81639	16149	64754
	Brahmanbaria	212835	428544	113812	334887
	Chandpur	183271	340894	106241	314753
	Chattogram	537766	2008443	380550	1968862
	Cox'S Bazar	188435	444480	95614	260078
	Cumilla	347260	801944	202347	548911
	Feni	102724	239375	91362	232143
	Khagrachhari	54440	125823	29660	98015
	Lakshmipur	141202	291476	107087	245857
	Noakhali	229109	483515	151659	432824
	Rangamati	50246	126928	33148	129411
	Total	2079951	5373061	1327629	4630495
Dhaka	Dhaka	1050221	4912134	662584	3683456
	Faridpur	186118	364616	101425	211211
	Gazipur	397400	2430222	160743	1040218
	Gopalganj	110799	203262	62970	125944
	Kishoreganj	208698	423292	150946	302467
	Madaripur	99471	188271	52797	117178
	Manikganj	119004	268793	51677	152354
	Munshiganj	103214	242547	49443	171975
	Narayanganj	279617	1218440	158643	861792
	Narsingdi	183255	513110	107152	375052
	Rajbari	98018	180816	70347	157296
	Shariatpur	87284	157044	56553	142285
	Tangail	286751	726879	225154	552785
	Total	3209850	11829426	1910434	7894013

Division Name	District	2024		2013	
		Unit	TPE	Unit	TPE
Khulna	Bagerhat	133122	260957	98154	271512
	Chuadanga	108281	186122	60576	171488
	Jashore	261559	553336	182749	443072
	Jhenaidah	174377	316924	107812	208548
	Khulna	242003	534139	164506	440604
	Kushtia	195531	379992	125887	275486
	Magura	95589	165988	67838	176159
	Meherpur	64455	110966	41880	101856
	Narail	59098	101120	46950	136884
	Satkhira	184119	341278	100734	276977
	Total	1518134	2950822	997086	2502586
Mymensingh	Jamalpur	202346	355211	159156	299997
	Mymensingh	353507	903454	270462	767787
	Netrakona	126775	231369	93312	237713
	Sherpur	109004	204542	107669	196178
	Total	791632	1694576	630599	1501675
Rajshahi	Bogura	340102	712492	256075	724353
	Chapainabab-ganj	146023	263812	96261	265610
	Joypurhat	88401	172561	75084	237143
	Naogaon	263726	487396	151779	390051
	Natore	156922	297271	99932	301099
	Pabna	211246	457124	153030	453080
	Rajshahi	234431	501252	153865	444081
	Sirajganj	251753	530777	174643	580698
	Total	1692604	3422685	1160669	3396115
Rangpur	Dinajpur	273337	594820	216115	472083
	Gaibandha	210774	382048	151052	318579
	Kurigram	174890	321430	124450	280466
	Lalmonirhat	100742	196427	72075	164777
	Nilphamari	160620	356125	132102	391484
	Panchagarh	91165	178261	64335	186161
	Rangpur	237550	541126	183153	511580
	Thakurgaon	112345	242930	78758	176747
	Total	1361423	2813167	1022040	2501877
Sylhet	Habiganj	127499	323930	74412	170460
	Moulvibazar	118940	314976	75001	236537
	Sunamganj	119853	229501	88261	189006
	Sylhet	188742	513343	164305	433534
	Total	555034	1381750	401979	1029537
National		**11877364**	**30761034**	**7818565**	**24500850**

4.10 Economic Units by Type of Industry: 2001 & 2003, 2013 and 2024

Table 4.9 depicts the distribution of economic units by two industry type- manufacturing and industry. The findings from the Economic Census 2024 indicate that the service sector overwhelmingly dominates economic activities, accounting for 10835896 (91.23%) of economic units, while the manufacturing sector contributes 1041468 (8.77%)

Table 4.9: Distribution of economic units by category: 2001 & 2003, 2013 and 2024:

Industry Type	2024		2013		2001& 2003	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Manufacturing	1041468	8.77	902583	11.54	450348	12.14
Service	10835896	91.23	6915982	88.46	3257804	87.86
Total	**11877364**	**100**	**7818565**	**100**	**3708144**	**100**

Figure 9: Share of economic units by type of industry: 2024 and 2013

4.11 Share of Total Persons engaged (TPE) by division: 2001 & 2003, 2013 and 2024

Table 4.10 illustrates the Total Person involvement in the establishment by division. Overall, the results reveal that the total 30,761,034 persons are engaged in various economic activities (excluding household based agricultural activity) whereas the figures were 24,500,850 in 2013, which indicates 25.55% increase over the period. The data highlights regional dynamics in the distribution of total economic units (TPE) across divisions in 2013 and 2024. Dhaka division consistently holds the largest share of TPE, slightly increasing from 38.34% in 2013 to 38.46% in 2024. Chattogram remains the second-largest contributor to TPE, though its share has declined slightly from 18.89% in 2013 to 17.47% in 2024. Barishal and Sylhet divisions consistently have the lowest shares of TPE, with 4.21% and 4.49% respectively in 2024. Their limited contributions highlight challenges such as lower industrial activity, fewer businesses, or less developed infrastructure compared to other divisions.

Table 4.10: Distribution of economic units by category: 2001& 2003, 2013 and 2024:

Division	2024		2013		2001 & 2003	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Barishal	1295547	4.21	1044552	4.26	516787	4.59
Chattogram	5373061	17.47	4630495	18.9	2013793	17.87
Dhaka	11829426	38.45	7894013	32.22	4318214	38.31
Khulna	2950822	9.59	2502586	10.21	1317432	11.69
Mymensingh	1694576	5.51	1501675	6.13	-	-
Rajshahi	3422685	11.13	3396115	13.86	2569644	22.8
Rangpur	2813167	9.15	2501877	10.21	-	-
Sylhet	1381750	4.49	1029537	4.21	534552	4.74
Total	**30761034**	**100**	**24500850**	**100**	**11270422**	**100**

Figure 10: Share of TPE by division (in percentage): 2001& 2003, 2013 and 2024
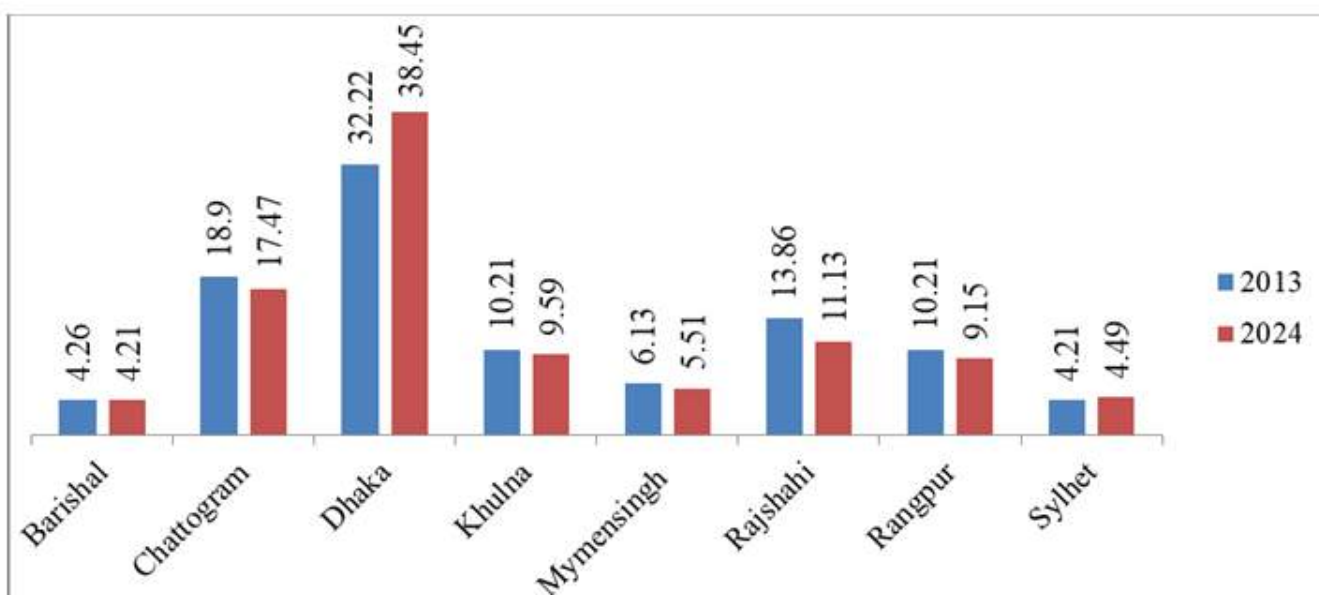
4.12 Establishment by Place of Operation in Economic Household: 2024

The Economic Census 2024 conducted a comprehensive enumeration of household-based non-farm economic activities. These activities operate in two distinct ways: within the household (inside the premises or courtyard) and outside the household (mobile economic activities). The census results reveal that 1364512 (27.22%) economic units operated in household (premises or courtyard), while the remaining 3648018 (72.78%) are operated outside the household as mobile economic activities.

Figure 11: Economic Units by place of operation in Economic Household: 2024

Operated in Household 27%

Operated outside of Household 73%
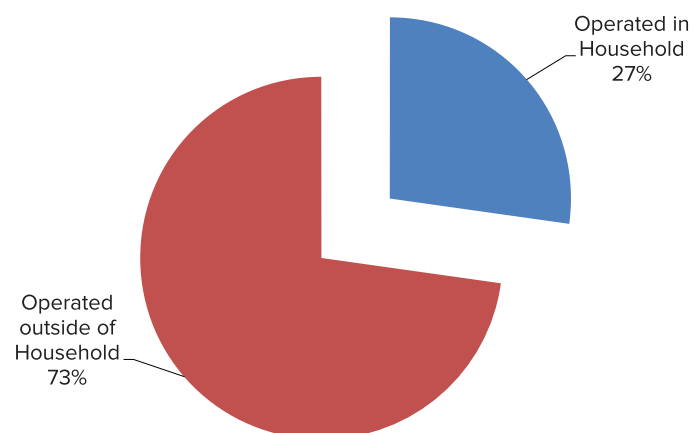
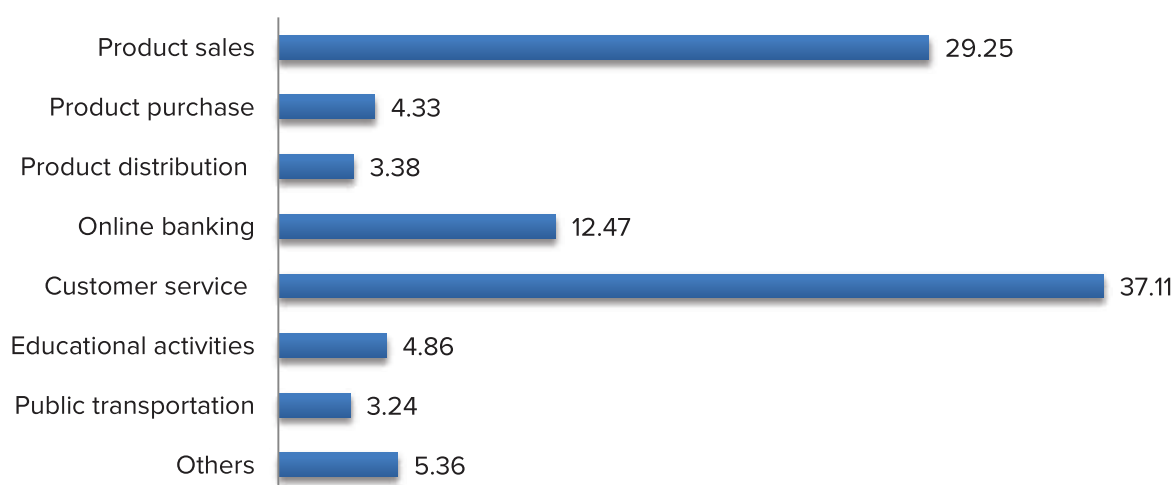## 4.13 Establishment of E-Commerce by Division: 2024

The Economic Census 2024 marked the first comprehensive enumeration of e-commerce establishments in the country. The census collected detailed information on the location, activities, payment methods, and other characteristics of e-commerce establishments. The preliminary result shows that out of the total economic units, 116,978 numbers of units are involved in e-commerce activity. Dhaka leads with the highest number of e-commerce establishments (55,474), followed by Chattogram (22,042) and Khulna (10,432).

The preliminary result also provided insights into the activities of e-commerce establishments. Customer Service emerged as the most prominent activity, 48.88% e-commerce unit provides this service which is 36.36% of total e-commerce activity. Besides, 38.52% e-commerce unit provides product sales which are 28.66% of total e-commerce activity. Overall, one single e-commerce unit deliver on average 1.34 types of services related to e-commerce.

Table 4.11: Activity of e-commerce establishment in percentage: 2024

Activities of e-commerce establishment	No. of response	% of responses	% of e-commerce unit
Product sales	45061	29.25	38.52
Product purchase	6675	4.33	5.71
Product distribution	5212	3.38	4.46
Online banking	19218	12.47	16.43
Customer service	57173	37.11	48.88
Educational activities	7489	4.86	6.40
Public transportation	4984	3.24	4.26
Others	8263	5.36	7.06
Total	**154075**	**100**	**131.71**

Figure 12: Percentage share of response on e-commerce activities: 2024

Activity	Value
Product sales	29.25
Product purchase	4.33
Product distribution	3.38
Online banking	12.47
Customer service	37.11
Educational activities	4.86
Public transportation	3.24
Others	5.36

4.14 Existing problems in Economic Units-2024

The economic census collected information on existing problems in the establishment. The problems are categorized by unavailability of capital, unavailability of skilled manpower, unavailability of raw materials, increase in production cost, problem in marketing of Product, infrastructural problem, electricity and fuel problem, unavailability of easy loan and others. The preliminary result reveals that 85.84% economic units which reported that they are facing problems in operating business, unavailability of capital is the main problem which is 48.28% of the total response. Furthermore, 34.41% economic units reported unavailabily of easy loan to run their business smoothly which is 19.35% total responses.

Table 4.12: Existing problems in establishments: 2024

Existing problems in establishments	No. of response	% of responses	% of unit
Unavailability of capital	6479645	48.28	85.84
Unavailability of skilled manpower	720007	5.36	9.54
Unavailability of raw materials	411331	3.06	5.45
Increase in production cost	737542	5.50	9.77
Problem in marketing of Material/Product	422026	3.14	5.59
Infrastructural problem	1414996	10.54	18.75
Electricity and Fuel Problem	604615	4.50	8.01
Unavailability of easy loan	2597417	19.35	34.41
Others	33609	0.25	0.45
Total	**13421188**	**100.00**	**177.81**

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Annex-I
CONCEPTS & DEFINITIONS

Economic Activity:

All activities undertaken for profit or own accounts are considered as economic activities. Such activities shall refer to production, distribution, marketing and sales of goods and services.

Economic Unit:

Economic Unit is defined as a single establishment or economic household operating economic activities for profit, household gain or indirect benefit to the community.

Establishment:

The basic economic unit operated in a permanent or temporary place is called establishment. It is usually a combination of both activities and resources under a single ownership and location. If the activity is conducted in a separate room or place only for shop/show room/plants is also considered as separate economic establishment.

Permanent Structure:

A structure that has a fixed location and permanent shed, wall and fence is a permanent structure. It may be a building, tin shed or a hut or parts there off. It usually lasts for more than a year.

Temporary Structure:

Temporary structures are those which have temporary shed but with no wall or fence. It may also be a type with wall or fence but no shed.

Permanent Establishment:

An economic unit outside household having fixed location and permanent structure is a permanent establishment. Permanent establishment is organized in a permanent structure.

Temporary Establishment:

An economic unit outside household located in a fixed place beside a road or in a market place, whether under a temporary shed for a year or more is a temporary establishment. The structure may have either shed and no fence or either fence or no shed. Temporary establishment is organized in a temporary structure.

Economic Household:

Many households have non-agricultural economic activities such as cottage industry, shop or workshop in or within its premise. These are classified as Economic Household. However, economic activities operated in the household, economic activities operated outside the household such as hawking, operating own rickshaw/push cart/van/easy bike, street vendor etc. were included within the purview of the household based economic activities.

Urban Area:

There are three components of the urban area. The areas covered under City Corporation, Paurashava and Upazila Headquarters are treated as urban area for the Economic Census 2024.

Ward:

Ward is a part of Paurashava or City Corporation. For administrative convenience each Paurashava and City Corporation is divided into different parts. Each part is called a Ward which has an independent and a distinct map. A ward is an urban unit and its equivalent unit in the rural area is a Union.

Mauza:

The smallest revenue collection unit in the country is called Mauza. It has a distinct map called Cadastral Survey (CS) map. Each Mauza has a Jurisdiction List (JL) number. A Mauza is a popular unit in the village and is called a revenue village.

Mahalla:

The smallest informal unit in the urban area is a Mahalla and its equivalent unit in the rural area is a village. Each Mahalla is a part of a ward which is a part of a Paurashava or City Corporation in the urban area.

Paurashava:

According to Paurashava Ordinance 1977, Paurashava is an urban area demarcated by a defined area map and location. It is within the jurisdiction of Local Government Division, Ministry of LGRD & Cooperatives. The Paurashava is headed by a Mayor & has an autonomous status in the Local Government. The Paurashava authority builds physical infrastructure, sewerage system, administration and other civil amenities for its people.

Upazila Headquarters:

Upazila Headquarters is also an urban area formed around Upazila complex or Upazila police Station as a nuclear point. If a part of a Mauza falls within the Upazila Headquarters it is brought under its coverage for the convenience of census enumeration.

Growth Centre:

Growth Centers are called provisionally the convenient well- communication marketing places where the producers of agriculture bring products from rural areas for marketing of their commodities to distributors or wholesaler in exchange of reasonable price. The economic activities of these rural marketing centers developed and constructed by the Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) will be counted in the economic census.

Non-Economic Activities:

Human activities which are not performed for money or money's worth are called non-economic activities, for instance, if person/persons of family are engaged in household works like cooking, taking care of own family members, helping in studying the children, will not be considered as economic activities in the census.

Annex-III

INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Sl.	Name	Designation
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17	Mr. Ishrak Muhommad Antik	Statistical Officer, BBS
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21	Mr. Saju Ahmed	Consultant, Economic Census 2023 Project

Annex-IV
PHOTO

Workshop of Questionnaire Finalization (23 September, 2024)

Economic Census Academia Forum (ECAF) Meeting (25 September, 2024)

Economic Census 2024 Workshop at FBCCI (08 October, 2024)

Technical Support Team (TST) Meeting (24 October, 2024)

Master trainers Training of main census operation (27 November, 2024)

Rally for opening Economic Census 2024 (10 December 2024)

**Monitoring of Data Collection of Main Census at NOC Room
(22 December, 2024)**

Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting (23 January, 2024)

Preliminary Report

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Economic Census 2024