IZMIR

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THE AEGEAN'S GATEWAY TO GLOBAL TRADE, RENEWABLE ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

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Investment and City Profile

ATIC – American Turkish Trade & Investment Council

July 2026

Data Note:
The data used in this report has been compiled from official and institutional sources. Sector, location, incentive, tax, legal compliance, and financial feasibility analyses are recommended before making any investment decisions.

Izmir

THE AEGEAN'S GATEWAY TO GLOBAL TRADE, RENEWABLE ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

Dear Esteemed Members of the Business Community,

American Turkish Trade & Investment Council (ATIC) Board of Directors, we are pleased to present this special report, offering a comprehensive introduction to Izmir — one of Turkey's strongest centers of economy, exports, industry, logistics, and quality of life.

Located the heart of the Aegean Region, Izmir is one of Turkey's most strategic investment cities, distinguished by its advanced port infrastructure, robust industrial and free-zone ecosystem, agri-food production capacity, renewable energy potential, technology development zones, universities, skilled workforce, and high quality of life.

Izmir serves not only the Turkish domestic market but also functions as a strong production, trade, and distribution hub for Europe, the Mediterranean, the Middle East, North Africa, and global supply chains.

One of Izmir's greatest advantages for investors is its ability to offer both industrial capacity and quality of life at once. The city provides strong infrastructure for industrial investment through production and logistics centers such as Aliğa, Kemalpaşa, Torbalı, Gaziemir, Menemen, Tire, Bergama, and Çiğli, while its ports, airport, free zones, universities, and vibrant social life give it the potential to become a sustainable operations center for international companies.

In this report, you will find a wide range of strategic topics — from Izmir's economic indicators to its investment opportunities, from its port and logistics infrastructure to the advantages of its free zones, and from its workforce and R&D ecosystem to the potential for U.S.–Izmir cooperation.

Our goal is to provide you, our valued members of the business community, with a realistic investment perspective backed by accurate data; to strengthen Turkish–U.S. economic cooperation; and to further advance Izmir's role in the global value chain.

Sincerely,

ATIC Board of Directors

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01. Executive Summary

Izmir is one of Turkey's strongest centers of economy, exports, logistics, industry, and quality of life. As the economic center of the Aegean Region, the city is a strategic investment destination for both domestic and foreign investors thanks to its port infrastructure, organized industrial zones, free zones, advanced agri-food production, renewable energy potential, technology development zones, and skilled workforce.

According to the Turkish Statistical Institute's (TÜİK) 2025 Address-Based Population Registration System results, Izmir's population stands at 4,504,185. According to TÜİK's 2024 provincial GDP data, Izmir generated approximately TL 2.56 trillion in gross domestic product, with a per-capita GDP of TL 556,376, equivalent to USD 16,949 — figures that place Izmir above the national average not only in population and quality of life, but also in economic output and per-capita value creation.

According to Ministry of Trade and exporter-association data, Izmir ranked as Turkey's third-largest exporting province in 2025. Its export performance of approximately USD 23.6 billion is built on diverse sectors including chemicals, steel and non-ferrous metals, ready-to-wear and apparel, agri-food, seafood, tobacco, machinery, electrical-electronics, and renewable energy equipment.

The strongest investment opportunities lie in ports and logistics, free-zone production, renewable energy and energy equipment, chemicals and petrochemicals, agri-food and agri-tech, seafood and processed food, ready-to-wear and design, health and life sciences, software, R&D, industrial automation, green transformation, e-export, and B2B trade platforms.

key Current Indicators

Indicator	Current Value	Data Note
Population	4.504.185	TÜİK ADNKS 2025
2024 GDP	Approximately TL 2.56 trillion	TÜİK provincial GDP 2024
Per-capita GDP	TL 556,376 / USD 16,949	TÜİK provincial GDP 2024
2025 Exports	Approximately USD 23.6 billion	Export data by industry
Turkey Export Ranking	3rd	Ministry of Trade / TİM export data by province
Aegean Free Zone	USD 6.332B trade volume, USD 3.260B exports (2025)	ESBAŞ announcements
OIZ structure	13 operating OIZs; network expanding with OIZs/agri-OIZs in planning & infrastructure phase	OSBÜK
Main sectors	Carpets, textiles, food, plastics-packaging, chemicals, machinery	Sectoral structure

02. General Overview and Strategic Position

Geographic Location and Regional Significance

Izmir is a strategic city on Turkey's western coast along the Aegean Sea, historically one of the most important centers of Mediterranean trade networks. As the economic, logistical, cultural, and commercial center of the Aegean Region, Izmir is one of Turkey's strongest cities in maritime trade, agriculture, industry, technology, tourism, and quality of life.

With its sea and land links to Europe, access to the Mediterranean basin, Aegean port network, strong hinterland, and developed production zones, the city is a multifaceted hub for investors. Its economic ties with production provinces such as Manisa, Aydın, Denizli, Balikesir, and Uşak make Izmir not just a city economy but the Aegean Region's gateway to foreign trade and logistics.

Izmir's strategic location offers investors three main advantages: first, access to European and Mediterranean markets via the Aegean Sea; second, advanced industrial infrastructure through production-logistics centers such as Aliğa, Alsancak, Kemalpaşa, Torbalı, and Gaziemir; and third, the capacity to serve as a sustainable regional hub for international companies thanks to high quality of life, a skilled workforce, and university-industry cooperation.

Transportation and Logistics Advantages

Izmir is one of Turkey's most advantageous cities in terms of sea, land, rail, and air transport. The ports of Aliğa–Nemrut Bay, TCDD Izmir Port, Adnan Menderes Airport, the Izmir–Istanbul and Izmir–Aydın motorways, Izmir–Ankara connections, and rail infrastructure make the city strong in both production and distribution.

The Aliğa port region is one of Turkey's most important port areas for petrochemicals, energy, bulk cargo, containers, and industrial logistics. Izmir Port remains a key container and general-cargo gateway that carries on the city's historic foreign-trade identity, offering advantages for export-oriented production, e-export, industrial supply chains, and regional distribution.

Population and Workforce

With a population surpassing 4.5 million as of 2025, Izmir is Turkey's third most populous province. Its large population base, university-educated workforce, technical education infrastructure, industrial experience, and service-sector competence make the city strong in both blue- and white-collar employment.

Izmir also holds an advantage in attracting and retaining skilled talent as one of Turkey's cities with the highest quality of life — a favorable environment not only for production facilities but for regional management offices, R&D centers, software teams, design studios, export management units, and international operations centers.

Role in the Regional Economy

Izmir is the economic capital of the Aegean Region. With its ports, free zones, industrial zones, exporter associations, chambers of commerce, universities, and trade-fair infrastructure, it contributes directly not only to its own provincial economy but to the foreign trade, logistics, and investment processes of provinces such as Manisa, Aydın, Denizli, Muğla, Balikesir, Uşak, Kütahya, and Afyonkarahisar.

For this reason, Izmir is not merely a local market for investors — it is a multi-layered economic center connecting the Aegean Region, the Mediterranean, Europe, and global trade networks.

03. Economic Profile and Sectoral Structure

General Economic Outlook

İAccording to 2024 provincial GDP data, Izmir is Turkey's third-largest provincial economy. With an economic volume of approximately TL 2.56 trillion, per-capita GDP of TL 556,376, and per-capita income of USD 16,949, it performs above the national average.

Izmir's economy is not dependent on a single sector. The city has a balanced structure in which industry, ports and logistics, agri-food, renewable energy, chemicals, petrochemicals, ready-to-wear, tourism, health, technology, and services all develop together —an important advantage for risk distribution and business development.

Key Sectors

The main sectors that stand out in Izmir's economic structure are as follows:

- Chemicals, petrochemicals, and plastics
- Steel, iron, and non-ferrous metals
- Ready-to-wear, textiles, and design
- Agriculture, food processing, and packaged food
- Seafood and animal products
- Olives, olive oil, dried fruit, and organic products
- Machinery, electrical-electronics, industrial equipment
- Renewable energy and energy equipment
- Logistics, port operations, and e-export
- Software, R&D, life sciences, health technologies
- Tourism, health tourism, and creative industries

Investment Advantages

Izmir's investment advantage stems from offering production infrastructure and quality of life at once. A company investing here can benefit simultaneously from proximity to ports, free-zone advantages, OIZ infrastructure, a skilled workforce, a network of universities and technoparks, access to the European market, a strong exporter base, and high living standards.

Izmir offers a strong position for investors seeking value-added production, R&D, design, sustainable manufacturing, green transformation, digitalization, and a regional distribution center.

04. Invesstment Opportunities

Industrial and Manufacturing Capacity

İIzmir has developed industrial zones around Aliğa, Kemalpaşa, Torbalı, Çiğli, Menemen, Tire, Ödemiş, Bergama, Kınık, and Gaziemir. According to OSBÜK data, Izmir hosts numerous mixed-use and specialized organized industrial zones (OIZs) in operation, with infrastructure continuing to expand through agriculture-based specialized OIZs and new development areas.

Leading OIZs and production areas include Izmir Atatürk OIZ, Izmir Kemalpaşa OIZ, Aliğa Chemical Specialized and Mixed OIZ, İTOB OIZ, Pancar OIZ, Menemen Plastics Specialized OIZ, Tire OIZ, Torbalı Mixed and Furniture OIZ, Bergama OIZ, Buca Ege OIZ, Bağyurdu OIZ, Ödemiş OIZ, and Kınık OIZ — offering investors infrastructure, supplier networks, and clustering advantages across chemicals, food, plastics, machinery, metals, textiles, packaging, furniture, agricultural machinery, and electronics.

Free Zones

One of Izmir’s strongest investment assets is its free-zone infrastructure. The Aegean Free Zone is one of Turkey’s most successful free-zone examples. Located in Gaziemir, its proximity to Adnan Menderes Airport, the Izmir city center, ports, and major transport routes gives it a strong position for high-value-added production and export.

The Aegean Free Zone is an important center for companies in aviation, defense, electronics, medical devices, machinery, automotive supply, textiles, and high-tech manufacturing. Its 2025 trade volume and export performance show that the zone holds strategic importance not only for Izmir but for Turkey’s foreign trade as a whole.

The Western Anatolia Free Zone, developed in Bergama, is also significant for creating new investment areas along Izmir’s northern axis, given its proximity to the Aliğa ports and the Northern Aegean production basin.

Renewable Energy and Energy Equipment

Izmir is one of the leading cities in Turkey’s renewable energy transformation. Wind power, solar power, energy storage, energy efficiency, electric mobility, and green production technologies represent high-potential investment areas for the city.

The city is well positioned for growth in wind energy equipment, turbine components, towers, blades, generator equipment, maintenance and repair services, energy software, and energy-efficiency solutions for industrial facilities. Izmir’s industrial infrastructure, port connections, and technical workforce create significant advantages for manufacturing and exporting renewable energy equipment.

Agriculture, Food, and AgriTech

Izmir is one of Turkey’s strongest cities in agricultural production diversity, with a robust production and export base in olives and olive oil, grapes, dried fruit, fruits and vegetables, dairy, seafood, organic farming, and processed food.

The key areas for investment are as follows:

- Olive and olive oil processing
- Organic and healthy food products
- Seafood processing and cold-chain logistics
- Dried fruit and value-added agri-products
- Smart irrigation and greenhouse tech
- Food packaging and shelf-life technologies
- Plant-based and functional food, healthy snacks

For U.S. investors, Izmir offers strong opportunities especially in healthy food, the Mediterranean diet, organic products, premium olive oil, seafood, and sustainable agricultural technologies.

Technology, R&D, and Life Sciences

Izmir's technology ecosystem continues to develop through Teknopark Izmir, Izmir Bilimpark, Ege Teknopark, DEPARK, Technocity Izmir, universities, R&D centers, and entrepreneurship platforms. Growth in the number of companies and R&D staff at Teknopark Izmir shows a growing ecosystem in software, hardware, biotechnology, energy, agricultural technologies, and
advanced engineering.

Compared to Istanbul and Ankara, Izmir can be an attractive center for software, design, engineering, and R&D teams
thanks to more balanced living costs, high quality of life, and its university network.

05. Infrastructure and Logistics

Maritime and Port Infrastructure

One of Izmir's strongest investment advantages is its port infrastructure. TCDD Izmir Port, the ports of Aliğa–Nemrut Bay, private-sector terminals, container ports, and petrochemical/bulk-cargo facilities support the city's foreign-trade capacity.

Port facilities under the Aliğa Regional Port Authority are among Turkey's highest-cargo-volume port areas. Petkim, TÜPRAŞ, SOCAR, Nemport, Ege Gübre, Habaş, and other private port investments strengthen Izmir's industrial and foreign-trade infrastructure.

Izmir Port, in the Alsancak district, continues the city's historic foreign-trade identity through its container-handling capacity — benefiting investors in exports, imports, intermediate-goods sourcing, regional distribution, and e-export.

Air Transport

Adnan Menderes Airport supports Izmir's international access. Its proximity to the Aegean Free Zone, Torbalı, Gaziemir, Menderes, Kemalpaşa, and the city center offers investors, technical teams, and international business travelers a practical advantage.

Road and Rail Connections

Izmir has strong road connections to Istanbul, Ankara, Aydın, Manisa, Denizli, Balıkesir, and Çanakkale. The Izmir-Istanbul Expressway, the Izmir-Aydın Expressway, and the ring road connections provide significant convenience for industrial and logistics operations.

Railway connections hold medium- and long-term development potential, particularly in terms of port-industry integration, sustainable logistics, freight transport, and intermodal transport.

Warehousing and Logistics Centers

Izmir offers suitable areas around Aliğa, Kemalpaşa, Torbalı, Gaziemir, Menemen, and Çiğli for warehouse, bonded-warehouse, cold-chain, distribution-center, e-export, and regional logistics investments. Production and storage infrastructure near the ports can create operational time and cost advantages for exporting companies.

06. Economic Data and Foreign Trade

Export Performance

In 2025, Izmir ranked as Turkey’s third-largest exporting province, with exports of approximately USD 23.6 billion. The city plays a critical role not only in the Aegean Region’s foreign trade performance but in Turkey’s as a whole.

Izmir’s export structure is highly diversified across sectors, which keeps the city from depending on a single industry and gives investors a more balanced economic structure.

Sectoral Export Profile

The sectors making the strongest contribution to Izmir’s exports include chemicals, steel and non-ferrous metals, ready-to-wear and apparel, agri-food, seafood, tobacco, machinery, electrical-electronics, and olives/olive oil and dried fruit.

In 2025, the chemical sector contributed the most to Izmir’s exports, with steel/non-ferrous metals and ready-to-wear/apparel also performing strongly — showing a balanced export profile spanning both industry and agri-food.

Export Performance by Country

European Union countries, the United States, and the Mediterranean basin hold a significant share of Izmir's exports. Germany, the United States, Spain, Italy, the United Kingdom, Romania, and other European countries can be considered strategic export markets for Izmir.

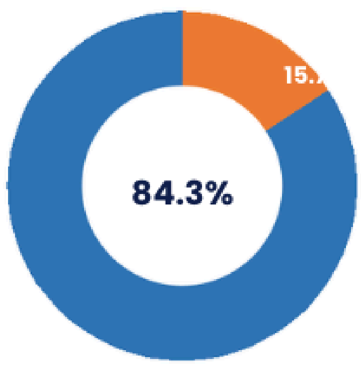
The U.S. market carries strong growth potential for Izmir-based companies, particularly in chemicals, food, ready-to-wear, olive oil, seafood, machinery, renewable energy equipment, and technology-based products.

Izmir's Top Export Destination Countries

Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Trade – Export Data Bulletin by Province of Activity, March 2026

Top 5 Export Markets

Continental Distribution of the Top 5 Countries



Europe (84.3%) North America (15.7%)

Note: The continental distribution is calculated based only on the top 5 export markets.

Brief Assessment

- Europe is the dominant market.
- Four of the top 5 markets are in Europe.
- The United States stands out as the strongest market outside Europe.

07. Workforce, Education and R&D Ecosytem

Universities and Research Centers

Izmir is one of Turkey's strongest university cities. Ege University, Dokuz Eylül University, Izmir Institute of High Technology, Izmir University of Economics, Yaşar University, Katip Çelebi University, and other institutions produce skilled graduates in engineering, medicine, health sciences, software, design, agriculture, energy, maritime studies, and social sciences.

Izmir Institute of High Technology and Teknopark Izmir stand out in technology development, software, engineering, energy, biotechnology, and advanced materials. Izmir Bilimpark's location within the İTOB OIZ offers an important model linking R&D with production.

Vocational Training and Technical Workforce

The technical workforce required by Izmir's industry, port, agri-food, textile, chemical, machinery, and energy sectors is supported through partnerships among vocational high schools, universities, OIZs, and chambers of industry and commerce.

Izmir's advantage lies not only in workforce size but in its diversity — engineers, technicians, software developers, designers, export specialists, logistics managers, food engineers, energy experts, and health professionals.

Labor Cost and Competitiveness

Compared with Istanbul, Izmir can offer a more balanced structure in certain living and operating costs — an advantage particularly for R&D, software, regional management, design, export management, and production planning teams. Investors are advised to separately assess wages, rent, services, logistics, energy, and executive living costs on a location-specific basis.

08. Life, Culture and the Environment for Executive Families

Quality of Life

Izmir is one of Turkey's cities with the highest quality of life. With its coastline, climate, social life, cultural diversity, education and healthcare facilities, transport connections, and safe living areas, it offers an appealing environment for both domestic and international professionals.

Districts such as Karşıyaka, Alsancak, Bornova, Urla, Güzelbahçe, Narlıdere, Balçova, Çeşme, Alaçatı, and Seferihisar offer a range of living options for executive families, expatriate employees, entrepreneurs, and R&D professionals.

Culture, Gastronomy, and Social Life

Izmir has a strong civic identity built on history, culture, the sea, gastronomy, trade fairs, and creative industries. Landmarks such as the ancient city of Ephesus, Bergama, Kemeraltı, Kadifekale, the Izmir Gulf, Çeşme, Alaçatı, Urla, and Seferihisar make the city strong not only in industry and trade but in tourism and quality of life.

Izmir's cuisine stands out for its olive oil, seafood, Aegean herbs, organic produce, local markets, and Mediterranean-style diet — a foundation that adds value for investors in food, tourism, gastronomy, and quality-of-life-related sectors.

Health and Education

Izmir offers a strong urban environment in terms of healthcare infrastructure, university hospitals, private hospitals, quality schools, and access to international education. Criteria such as schools, housing, healthcare, social life, and transport should be evaluated separately by executive families on a location-specific basis.

09. Goverment and Local Support Mechanisms

National Support Mechanisms

Companies investing in Izmir can benefit from Ministry of Industry and Technology investment incentives, TÜBİTAK R&D support, KOSGEB programs, Ministry of Trade export and branding support, the Turquality program, green-transformation incentives, energy-efficiency support, and project-based incentives.

Which support mechanism applies depends on the nature, scale, and technology level of the investment, its export targets, its location, and sectoral priorities.

The Role of Local Institutions

The Izmir Chamber of Commerce, the Aegean Region Chamber of Industry, the Aegean Exporters' Associations, the Izmir Mercantile Exchange, the Izmir Development Agency, OIZ administrations, free-zone operating companies, universities, and technoparks are all important institutions for integrating investors into the local ecosystem.

These institutions can support investors in finding business partners, gathering market intelligence, evaluating investment locations, accessing export support, forming R&D partnerships, building university-industry links, and coordinating with public institutions.

Legal Framework for Foreign Investors

Foreign direct investment in Turkey is free under Law No. 4875 on Foreign Direct Investment. Subject to international agreements and special statutory provisions, foreign investors are treated equally with domestic investors.

10. Future Outlook 2026–2036

Anticipated Investment Areas

Izmir's competitive advantage over the next decade will depend on combining its port and industrial infrastructure with green transformation, advanced technology, digitalization, and quality of life — evolving from a classic production and trade hub into a higher-value-added center for technology, energy, and sustainable manufacturing.

The key transformation topics are as follows:

- Renewable energy and energy equipment
- Wind and solar energy supply chains
- Energy storage and battery technologies
- Green manufacturing and carbon management
- Smart port and logistics technologies
- Agri-food technologies, sustainable agriculture
- Seafood and processed-food exports
- Software, AI, and industrial digitalization
- Health technologies and life sciences
- Design, fashion, and creative industries
- E-export and B2B digital trade

Izmir's Role in U.S.–Turkey Cooperation

Izmir can be considered one of the most strategic cities in Turkey for U.S. companies, with strong cooperation potential in renewable energy, food, health, software, logistics, chemicals, ready-to-wear, agricultural technologies, and free-zone production.

For U.S. companies, Izmir can be positioned as a regional production, R&D, and distribution hub thanks to its access to European and Mediterranean markets, skilled workforce, free-zone advantages, high quality of life, and export-oriented production infrastructure.

11. US–Izmir Cooperation Potential

partnerships. With its ports, free zones, industrial infrastructure, agri-food production, renewable energy potential, technology ecosystem, and quality of life, the city is a strong city-based area of cooperation in U.S.–Turkey economic relations.

Izmir's cooperation potential with the United States should be approached from two directions: delivering Izmir-manufactured industrial, food, textile, chemical, energy-equipment, and design products more effectively to the U.S. market; and integrating U.S.-based technology, energy, health, digital trade, automation, and sustainable-production solutions into Izmir's industrial and service ecosystem.

Renewable Energy and Energy Technologies

Izmir can be one of the strongest cities in Turkey for U.S. energy companies. Wind energy, solar energy, energy storage, industrial energy efficiency, carbon measurement, smart grids, and electric-mobility infrastructure are leading areas for Izmir–U.S. cooperation

For U.S. companies, the opportunities in Izmir are as follows:

- Wind energy equipment and maintenance services
- Solar energy systems
- Battery and energy-storage solutions
- Energy efficiency for industrial facilities
- Carbon measurement and reporting software
- Smart-grid and energy-management systems
- Green OIZs and low-carbon manufacturing projects

Agriculture, Food, and Healthy Products

İIzmir holds significant potential in food and agriculture-based industry for the U.S. market. Olive oil, organic products, dried fruit, seafood, plant-based food, healthy snacks, functional food, and Mediterranean-diet-focused products can all be positioned in high-value-added segments of the U.S. market.

Opportunities for U.S. investors:

- Premium olive oil and branded Mediterranean products
- Organic and natural food products
- Seafood and processed marine products
- FDA-compliant packaged food
- Cold-chain and shelf-life technologies
- Agricultural data analytics, smart irrigation, agri-tech
- Private-label production for U.S. retail & e-commerce

Free-Zone Production & High-Value Manufacturing

The Aegean Free Zone is one of the strongest free-zone production centers in Turkey for U.S. companies. Its export performance, employment structure, logistics advantages, and high-value-added production profile create opportunities for direct investment or joint production by U.S.-based firms.

Key areas of collaboration:

- Medical devices and health technologies
- Electronics and precision manufacturing
- Aerospace and defense supply chain
- Machinery and automation equipment
- High-tech assembly and testing operations
- Regional production for Europe and MENA
- Nearshoring and friendshoring models

Software, R&D, and Technology Transfer

Izmir's university and technopark ecosystem can offer U.S. technology companies a cost-effective, skilled R&D environment. Software, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, industrial IoT, digital twins, health technologies, agricultural technologies, and energy software are leading areas for cooperation.

U.S. companies can establish an R&D office, a software development center, a product testing team, a regional technical support office, or a joint university-industry project model in Izmir.

Logistics, Ports, and E-Export

Izmir's port infrastructure is a major advantage in trade with the United States. The logistics ecosystem around Aliğa and Izmir Port provides a strong foundation for container, bulk-cargo, petrochemical, cold-chain, storage, bonded-warehouse, and e-export operations.

Opportunities for U.S. technology and logistics companies:

- Port-operations software
- Warehouse automation
- Supply-chain visibility
- E-export logistics
- Cold-chain tracking systems
- AI-driven route and inventory optimization
- B2B digital trade platforms

Health, Life Sciences, and Medical Technologies

With its universities, healthcare infrastructure, quality of life, and technoparks, Izmir has strong potential for growth in health technologies and life sciences. Opportunities for U.S. firms may arise in medical devices, digital health, biotechnology, elder-care technologies, health-tourism infrastructure, and clinical data management.

Joint Investment and Cooperation Models

Various collaboration models for U.S. companies in Izmir could be considered:

- • Direct investment in the free zone
- • Joint production with a local manufacturer
- • Private-label manufacturing
- • Technology licensing
- • Establishing an R&D center
- • Establishing a regional distribution center
- • Joint university-industry projects
- • E-export and B2B platform partnerships
- • Energy-efficiency and green-transformation projects
- • Strategic acquisitions in food, health, energy

Sector Opportunity Matrix

Sector	Izmir’s Strength	Opportunity for U.S. Investors
Renewable energy	Wind, solar, energy equipment, industrial infrastructure	Solar/wind equipment, storage, carbon measurement
Agri-food	Olive oil, seafood, organic products, dried fruit	FDA-compliant goods, premium food, agri-tech
Free-zone production	Aegean Free Zone, high-value-added manufacturing	Nearshoring, joint production, medical/electronics
Logistics & ports	Aliğa, Izmir Port, land-air connections	Smart port, warehouse automation, e-export
Technology & R&D	Technoparks, universities, software/engineering talent	Software, AI, cybersecurity, IoT
Ready-to-wear & design	Fashion, textiles, design, export track record	Private label, sustainable textiles, U.S. retail
Health & life sciences	University hospitals, technoparks, quality of life	Digital health, medical devices, health tourism

12. 10 Tips for U.S. Business Professionals

1. Analyze free-zone advantages: The Aegean Free Zone and the Western Anatolia Free Zone can offer strong opportunities for high-value-added production, exports, and regional distribution.

2. Put port connectivity at the center of your investment model: Connections through Aliğa and Izmir Port can create major logistics advantages for export and import operations.

3. Evaluate renewable energy opportunities: With its wind, solar, energy equipment, energy-efficiency, and carbon-management capabilities, Izmir is a strong application market for U.S. technology firms.

4. Adapt agri-food products for the U.S. market: For olive oil, seafood, organic products, dried fruit, and healthy food items, plan FDA, labeling, packaging, and shelf-life requirements from the outset.

5. Use the technopark and university network: Develop R&D and software projects with Teknopark Izmir, Izmir Bilimpark, Ege Teknopark, DEPARK, and local universities.

6. Choose your OIZ based on sector: For chemical, food, machinery, plastics, textile, furniture, or energy-equipment investments, the right OIZ and supplier ecosystem directly affects investment performance.

7. Don’t overlook e-export and B2B digitalization: Izmir’s strong exporter base is well suited to online B2B sales, digital catalogs, payment systems, and logistics-tracking solutions for the U.S. market.

8. Treat green transformation as a business opportunity: The European Green Deal and carbon-management requirements are increasing the need for energy efficiency and sustainable production solutions in Izmir’s industry.

9. Evaluate quality of life from an executive-relocation perspective: Izmir offers a strong urban environment for expatriate executives and their families in terms of housing, education, healthcare, social life, and international access.

10. Build systematic relationships with local institutions: The Izmir Chamber of Commerce, the Aegean Region Chamber of Industry, the Aegean Exporters’ Associations, the Izmir Development Agency, OIZ administrations, and free-zone operating companies can play a critical role in selecting the right partner and location.

ATIC

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