



## FOREIGN TRADE RELATIONS OF UZBEKISTAN

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### Abstract

The article reveals the features of international trade, economic and integration priorities of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

**Keywords:** foreign trade, regional integration, foreign economic relations, economy.

### Introduction

Today, the Republic of Uzbekistan is consistently implementing economic reforms based on market principles, expanding the share of the private sector, strengthening economic stability and increasing the attractiveness of the republic for foreign investors.

In this context, an important direction is the strengthening of the international positions of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the development of an international legal framework on a bilateral and multilateral basis, the improvement of national legislation with the further liberalization of the foreign trade regime and consistent harmonization with international norms and rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Today, Uzbekistan has joined more than 180 important multilateral international conventions and agreements in the field of trade and economic relations.

The Republic of Uzbekistan is currently implementing grandiose socio-economic reforms, turning into one of the leading states of the CIS with an open economy. For the first time in the last 30 years, foreign economic relations that are new in their essence are clearly being built, based on pragmatism and the most flexible use of modern realities and national interests. Previously, Uzbekistan constantly changed the vectors of international cooperation, while retaining the ability to balance its own interests between the global players in Central Asia - Russia, China, the USA and the EU, either strengthening or weakening one or another vector of its policy, but now it has developed a scientifically based strategy ensuring economic security, taking into





account their competitive advantages and their own national priorities, actively diversifying their foreign economic relations.

In Uzbekistan, natural resources are large and diverse, which create favorable conditions for the development of the economy. Their most important components are in industry - large reserves of minerals (more than 2700 deposits and promising manifestations of about 100 types of mineral raw materials), in agriculture - vast areas of fertile land, pastures, an abundance of solar heat and light, considerable water resources. Uzbekistan is one of the world leaders in terms of reserves of silver, tungsten and phosphorites, potassium salt, rare earth metals and other valuable minerals, in particular, in terms of explored reserves of gold on the fourth, uranium - seventh, molybdenum - eighth, in terms of proven reserves of copper - by 10 m, natural gas - 14th in the world. In terms of the area of artificially irrigated land, the country ranks 11th in the world; in terms of cadmium production - in third place, uranium - in sixth place, gold and natural gas - in eighth place, and is also one of the 15 largest countries on the planet in the extraction of molybdenum, feldspar and a number of other types of industrial raw materials. Uzbekistan ranks second in the production of astrakhan, cotton - fifth, raw silk - sixth place in the world. It is also in the top ten countries leading in the production of sulfuric acid, nitrogen fertilizers, mineral lubricating oils and paraffin, cotton yarn and fabrics, tomato paste, dried fruits, the collection of melons and grapes, shearing wool, and rail freight turnover. An important place in the country's exports is occupied by cotton and uranium (second and third place in the world, respectively).

Over the past three or four years, a large-scale transformation has taken place in Uzbekistan in all spheres of life. The resident population of the Republic of Uzbekistan is growing at a faster pace than in many countries of the world, amounting to more than 34 million people at the beginning of 2020. In a short time, Uzbekistan is turning from a country fenced off from the outside world into one of the leading states in the post-Soviet space with an open economy, moving from a model with a high level of administrative barriers and restrictions to a model of a modern economy based on an optimal combination of state and market methods of regulation. This carefully crafted and balanced approach serves as a guarantee of the progressive and dynamic development of the country and creates firm confidence in the positive results of the reforms being implemented. An Action Strategy has been developed and is being successfully implemented in five priority areas for the development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021, which defines a long-term strategy for ensuring economic security, taking into account its own national priorities.





In 2021, the foreign trade turnover of Uzbekistan increased by 16% compared to 2020, reaching \$42.1 billion. The volume of exports amounted to \$16.6 billion, an increase of 10%, imports - \$25.46 billion, which is 20.4% more, than the previous year. In the structure of exports, manufactured goods, including copper and steel, took first place, overtaking gold.

The main foreign trade partners of Uzbekistan are Russia (17.9% of the total trade turnover), China (17.7%), Kazakhstan (9.3%), Turkey (8.1%) and South Korea (4.5%). The main export items for 2021 were manufactured goods (26.1% of total exports), gold (24.7%), services (15.3%) and food products (8.3%).

At the same time, exports of manufactured goods (which include finished textiles, non-ferrous metals, cast iron and steel) experienced significant growth last year — their share in exports was almost 7% higher than in 2020. The share of gold in total exports, on the contrary, turned out to be significantly more modest than a year earlier - 13.7% less compared to 2020. It is also worth noting the growth in exports of cars, its share in the export structure increased 1.5 times, from 2.9% to 4.2%.

The main import articles of Uzbekistan last year were machinery and equipment (32.4%, 5.2% less than in 2020), manufactured goods (18.5%), chemical products (14.3%), food products (9.9%) and services (6.8%).

Strengthening the fundamentals of economic growth, increasing the productivity of production factors, diversifying sectors of the economy, relying on a forward-looking policy strategy are the key to continuing successful systemic structural reforms and effective fiscal policy in order to ensure sustainable economic development.

## Literature

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