



# **MONTHLY REPORT ON UZBEKISTAN**

## **JULY 2021**

**Europe-Uzbekistan Association for Economic  
Cooperation (EUROUZ)**

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## 1. SPECIAL UPDATE – COVID-19

**Uzbekistan introduces compulsory vaccination for some parts of the population and intends to vaccinate 70% of all its citizens by November 1st.**

In total, over 21.4 million people over 18 years of age are eligible for voluntary vaccination, but as of July 28, only 1.14 million (5.4%) were fully vaccinated.

<https://www.uzdaily.uz/en/post/66819>

<https://morningexpress.in/uzbekistan-intends-to-vaccinate-70-of-population-against-covid-19-by-november-1/>

### **Uzbekistan starts producing Sputnik V vaccine**

The first batch has been produced and sent to Russian for testing. Once the locally produced vaccines are approved, full-scale production will begin in the city of Almalyk.

<https://en.trend.az/casia/uzbekistan/3463689.html>

### **Uzbekistan receives COVID-19 vaccines from Azerbaijan**

50,000 doses delivered to Uzbekistan as part of the COVAX program in July.

<https://www.azernews.az/nation/181298.html>

### **Uzbekistan receives 3 million doses of Moderna vaccine from USA**

3 million 60 doses of the Moderna vaccine were delivered to Uzbekistan from Alabama, US as part of the COVAX program.

<https://kun.uz/en/57832462>

## 2. NOTABLE STATEMENTS

### **Presidential elections campaign has started in Uzbekistan**

The presidential elections shall take place on October 24th this year.

<https://kun.uz/en/03867092>

### **Uzbekistan to launch e-list of corrupt officials**

The list will register of persons convicted of corruption offenses. The system was created in response to a presidential decree. Persons included in the register are prohibited from being involved in the country's public and private operations.

<https://kun.uz/en/85102449>

## **Turkey to attract labor migrants from Uzbekistan**

The Agency for External Labor Migration and Turkpermit agreed to send Uzbek workers to Turkey based on formal selection. Previously Turkey had created 72.2 thousand vacancies for Uzbek workers.

<https://kun.uz/en/55724650>

## **3. ECONOMIC OVERVIEW**

### **3.1 LOCAL LEVEL**

#### **EBRD, J.P. Morgan and Moody's Have Improved Their Economic Forecasts for Uzbekistan**

According to the J. P. Morgan forecast, Uzbekistan's economy is expected to grow by 8.1% in 2021 and by 6.3% in 2022. This forecast far exceeds the ones previously made by the IMF and other international financial institutions. The report says that despite the rapid growth of foreign debt since 2016, the recently established threshold of foreign debt (60% of GDP) in the legislation is expected to stabilize the situation.

Moody's in its report assigned Uzbekistan the level B1, while increasing the forecast to "positive". Importantly, this is the first time the "Big Three" agency assigns "positive" level to Uzbekistan. The agency forecasts economic growth of 5.5% this year and 6.3% next year.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) also improved its forecast for Uzbekistan's economy. According to EBRD experts, Uzbekistan's economy will grow by 6% in 2022. The report positively assessed important market reforms that took place in the country, including privatization of state enterprises and banks. In addition, the bank forecasts a recovery of private consumption and investment in Uzbekistan.

<https://www.mondaq.com/economic-analysis/1096254/ebrd-jp-morgan-and-moody39s-have-improved-their-economic-forecasts-for-uzbekistan>

#### **Uzbekistan's GDP growth in the first half of the year amounted to 6.2%**

The Uzbek economy grew by 6.2% in January-June. For the same period of last year, the figure was 1.1%.

<https://review.uz/en/post/rost-vvp-uzbekistana-v-pervom-polugodii-sostavil-62>

#### **GDP projected to grow to 6.8% by year end**

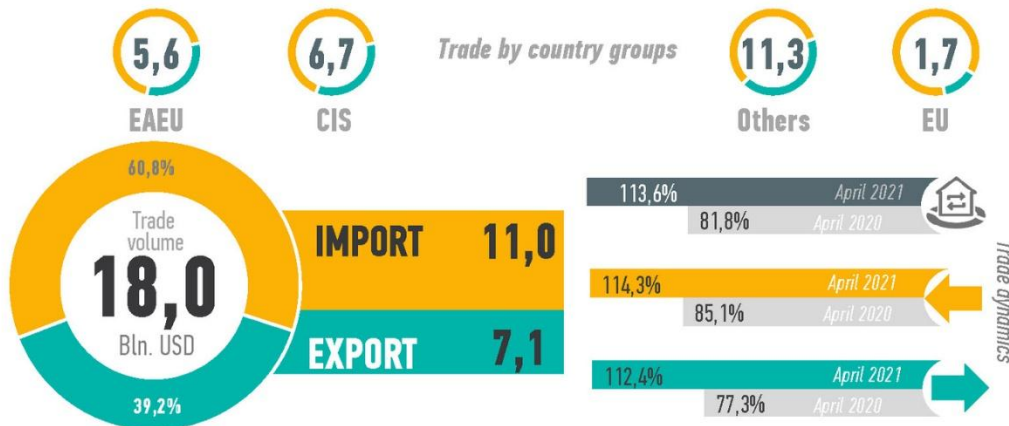
The Central Bank of Uzbekistan has adjusted its previous forecast from 5.8% to 6.8%.

<https://kun.uz/en/65134048>

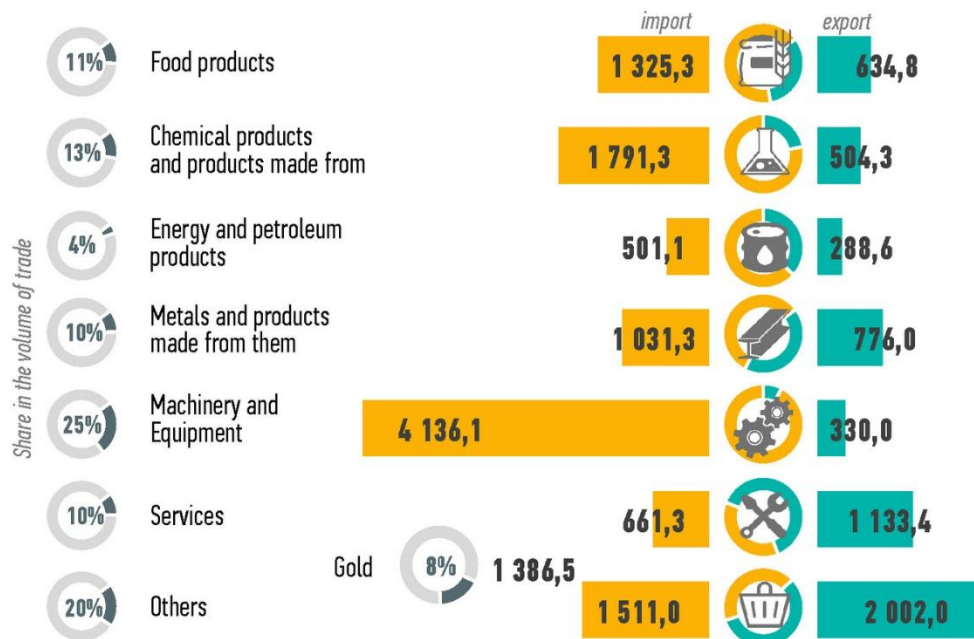
Infographics: Foreign trade of Uzbekistan in January-June 2021

# Foreign trade of Uzbekistan

## January - June 2021



### Trade structure (mln. USD)



Based on the data of the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan

CERR

ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКОЕ  
ОБОЗРЕНИЕ

<https://review.uz/en/post/infografika-ozbekistonning-2021-yil-yanvar-fevral-oyi-uchun-tashqi-savdosi>

### **3.2 REGIONAL, BILATERAL & MULTILATERAL COOPERATION**

#### **Uzbekistan hosted the International Conference on Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity, Challenges and Opportunities with a focus on Aghanistan**

The conference took place on July 15-16 in Tashkent city. The event had delegations from 44 countries and 30 international organizations, as well as research and analytical centers. Topics focused on the measures to strengthen security and stability in the Central and South Asian region. Special attention was paid to the Termez–Mazar-i-Sharif–Kabul–Peshawar railway.

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20210720000805>

#### **Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan sign a protocol on demarcation of state borders**

The protocol between the three nations was signed during negotiations in Fergana. Earlier this year the delimitation of Uzbek-Kyrgyz and Kyrgyz-Tajik borders were discussed.

<https://kun.uz/en/45108165>

#### **A "C5+1" dialogue took place in Tashkent**

Ministers from all Central Asian countries, as well as, representatives from the US and China got together to hold discussions prior to the International conference.

<https://www.uzdaily.com/en/post/66727>

#### **Honorary Consulate of Austria opens in Uzbekistan**

The main aims of opening the consulate are to help businesses collaborate, increase tourist exchanges and facilitate visa procedures.

<https://uzreport.news/politics/honorary-consulate-of-austria-opens-in-tashkent>

#### **Uzbekistan and Pakistan strengthen friendship and cooperation & agree to conclude preferential trade agreement**

Several agreements with a total worth of USD 500 million were inked during a visit of Pakistan's president with an extended business delegation to Uzbekistan.

<https://www.thestatesman.com/world/uzbekistan-pakistan-ink-strategic-partnership-deal-1502983043.html>

<https://eminetra.com/pakistans-uzbekistan-agrees-to-conclude-preferential-trade-agreement/647355/>

#### **Uzbekistan, Turkey to strengthen cultural ties**

An agreement was reached on the mutual holding of "Days of Culture" in the two countries.

<https://kun.uz/en/46318728>

### **Uzbek CEC invites SCO observer mission to Presidential elections**

The SCO mission, led by its Secretary General Vladimir Norov, were invited to the elections, which will start in the end July.

<https://kun.uz/en/43503490>

### **Uzbekistan, USA, Afghanistan and Pakistan to create a new platform for consultations**

The four sides have agreed to create a new quadripartite platform for consultations. Its aim is to enhance regional connectivity.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/rest-of-world/us-afghanistan-pakistan-and-uzbekistan-to-form-new-quad-grouping/articleshow/84515798.cms>

### **Russia and Central Asian countries plan joint military drills on the Afghan border**

The exercises will last from August to September. The trainings are done in case of border crossings by the Taliban and other terrorist groups.

<https://kun.uz/en/36879985>

### **Bangladesh and Uzbekistan discuss expanding bilateral ties**

The idea of establishing air transportation between the two countries and the opening of Uzbek embassy in Dhaka were considered. Also, Uzbekistan's President accepted the invitation to visit Dhaka this year in December.

<https://unb.com.bd/category/Bangladesh/bangladesh-uzbekistan-discuss-expanding-bilateral-ties/75710>

### **Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov meets with GGGI Assembly Chairman Ban Ki-moon**

A USD 5.6 million project between KOICA and GGGI to improve the Aral Sea region was brought up.

<https://kun.uz/en/53687722>

## **4. MARKET DEVELOPMENT BY SECTORS**

### **4.1 BANKING SECTOR**

#### **Fitch Affirms Qishloq Qurilish Bank at 'BB-'**

Fitch Ratings has affirmed Joint-stock commercial bank Qishloq Qurilish Bank (QQB) Long-Term Issuer Default Ratings (IDRs) at 'BB-' with Stable Outlook and Viability Rating (VR) at 'b'.

<https://www.fitchratings.com/research/banks/fitch-affirms-qishloq-qurilish-bank-at-bb-outlook-stable-28-07-2021>

### **Fitch Affirms Xalq Bank at 'BB-'**

Fitch Ratings has affirmed Joint Stock Commercial Xalq Bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan's (Xalq) Long-Term Issuer Default Ratings (IDRs) at 'BB-' with Stable Outlook and Viability Rating (VR) at 'b-'.

<https://www.fitchratings.com/research/banks/fitch-affirms-xalq-bank-at-bb-outlook-stable-28-07-2021>

## **4.2 INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION**

### **More than 40 million tons of copper reserves discovered in Uzbekistan**

About 60% of copper is exported as raw materials. The revenue from that is expected to grow from USD 2.5 billion to USD 7-8 billion. The state head urged to focus on selling copper as a value-added product. A copper industry cluster would enable that and create many new jobs.

<https://kun.uz/en/44049900>

### **Uzbekistan to establish the copper industry cluster**

The cluster is planned to produce high added value copper and processed products. The project will improve the mining industry of the nation and its regulatory environment. Foreign manufacturers and consultants are being attracted to mine Uzbekistan's copper reserves, which are the 8th largest in the world.

<https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/uzbekistan-establishes-the-copper-4731665/>

### **EPSILON (EDC) improves the flow rate of Chigil–1 well**

EDC completed fracking at well No.1, Chigil field, thereby increasing its production rate by 70,000 m3 of natural gas per day. On July 9th the well was connected to the main pipeline.

<https://kun.uz/en/73993152>

### **A new textile complex to be built in Bukhara region of Uzbekistan**

All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) and the governor of Bukhara agreed to build a textile complex in Uzbekistan's Bukhara region. Covering 30,000 hectares, the complex will do everything from cultivating cotton to making garments. The facility will cost USD 100 million.

<https://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/textile-news/pak-aptma-bukhara-governor-sign-mou-for-textile-complex-in-uzbekistan-275274-newsdetails.htm>

### **New building codes anticipate obligatory testing for seismic stability**

Based on the new resolution adopted by the government, buildings and structures shall be given electronic technical passports. It will hold data about seismic vulnerability assessments.

<https://kun.uz/en/66291402>



## **Russia's VEB.RF to provide EUR 146 million loans for improving water system in Uzbekistan**

The loan will be used to modernize pumping stations in a number of regions. The loan's interest rate is 2% per annum, the term for obtaining the loan is two years, and the payback period is 10 years.

<https://kun.uz/en/10977371>

## **Construction companies completed work USD 4.5 billion in first half of 2021**

When compared to the same period in 2020, the growth rate was 100.1%. Out of the total amount the share of non-state-owned organizations was 95.9%.

<https://kun.uz/en/26709600>

### **4.3 AUTOMOBILE AND TRANSPORTATION SECTOR**

## **Two new high speed Talgo-250 trains, purchased in Spain arrive in Uzbekistan**

Uzbekistan acquired new high-speed EMUs in 2019, when Uzbekistan Railways and Talgo signed a new EUR 57.5 million contract for the supply of two high-speed trains, funded by the Spanish Fund for the internalization (FIEM). According to the investment agreement, in addition to the two trains, the Spanish rolling stock manufacturer promised to supply four economy-class coaches, as well as repair equipment, but a total of two locomotives and 11 railway cars arrived in Tashkent in July. Four of Talgo's high-speed trains are already under the use of Uzbekistan's railway network.

<https://www.railwaypro.com/wp/two-new-talgo-trains-arrive-in-uzbekistan/>

## **Tashkent metro purchases ten Russian trains for EUR 63.7 million**

The purchase of ten four-car metro trains will be covered by Uzbekistan's state budget funds and loans. The vehicles are expected to arrive from Metrowagonmash (Russian Federation) by December 1st 2021.

<https://kun.uz/en/66559492>

## **Uzbekistan increased car loans by 40% since the beginning of the year**

There is a growing demand for cars in the country. And research has shown that there is a significant correlation between the volume of car loans and the demand for cars.

<https://kun.uz/en/40685141>

## **Uzbekistan to extend railroad from Surkhandarya to KP province**

KP province is located in the northwestern region of Pakistan and, after an agreement, became Surkhandarya region's twin sister city. Both nations plan to connect the provinces through a railroad to boost bilateral trade.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/786188/uzbekistan-to-extend-railroad-from-surkhandarya-to-kp-province-ambassador/>

### **Railway transit may bring Uzbekistan up to USD 600 million**

Almost all cargo movement between Asia and Europe happens by sea. The Mazar-Sharif-Kabul-Peshawar route would be a land alternative and bring Uzbekistan USD 595 million by 2025.

<https://kun.uz/en/17777900>

### **Russian company to service aircraft engines in Uzbekistan**

JSC “UEC-Klimov” and the State Enterprise “Chirchik Aviation Repair Plant” have entered into a general agreement on organizing an after-sales service system for TV3-117 engines and main gearboxes VR-14.

<https://www.aviationpros.com/aircraft/rotorcraft/news/21231857/uzbekistan-russia-to-create-joint-repair-center-for-helicopter-engines>

### **New Airbus helicopters delivered to Uzbekistan**

Two H-125 Airbus helicopters for the purpose of providing civil aviation services were delivered. Two more H-130 helicopters are expected to arrive in October. Airbus helicopters has been increasing its collaboration with Uzbekistan over the past several years, delivering both military & civil helicopters.

<https://kun.uz/en/78043057>

## **4.4 HEALTHCARE**

### **Launch of state health insurance in the Syrdarya region**

The new pilot scheme is a tax-based health protection service which is planned to operate until the end of 2022. With the support of WHO and Europe, Uzbekistan plans to restructure and digitalize its healthcare industry.

<https://www.euro.who.int/en/countries/uzbekistan/news/news/2021/7/launch-of-state-health-insurance-in-the-syrdarya-region>

### **Military doctors of Uzbekistan to undergo training in Korea**

The training took place in the military medical educational institutions of the Republic of Korea. The Uzbek delegation got acquainted with the Medical Situation Center of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Korea, the headquarters for the support of quarantine measures, and other institutions.

<https://kun.uz/en/33444016>

## **US-registered company to build pharmaceutical plant worth USD 85 million**

The factory shall be built in Tashkent Pharma Park (Zangiata district) and is intended to produce cancer drugs and drugs from blood plasma. The project's life cycle is 5-6 years.

<https://globalnewslead.com/us-company-to-build-pharmaceutical-plant-in-uzbekistans-tashkent-region/>

### **4.5 AGRICULTURE AND FOOD**

#### **Ministry of Agriculture and CIP launch a five-year food safety program**

The Ministry of Agriculture of Uzbekistan and the International Potato Center (CIP) are launching a five-year program "Improving food security and resilience to climate change in Uzbekistan through breeding and seed production of potatoes and sweet potatoes."

<https://www.uzdaily.uz/en/post/66711>

Measures on improving the water supply of agricultural lands identified

For now, EUR 146 million will be invested into modernizing 95 pumping stations in different regions to improve the irrigation of over 300 thousand hectares of land.

<https://yuz.uz/en/news/qishloq-xojaligi-maydonlarining-suv-taminotini-yaxshilash-choralari-belgilandi>

### **4.6 INVESTMENT AND FINANCE**

#### **New sovereign bonds issued by the Republic of Uzbekistan on LSE**

Sovereign bonds worth USD 635 million and 2.5 trillion sums (USD 233.6 million) were issued by the Republic of Uzbekistan on LSE in July. The USD dominated papers were placed for 10 years at a coupon rate of 3.9%, while the national currency bonds were placed for 3 years at 14%. This debt funding shall be used to finance sustainable development goals (SDG) and cover state budget deficit.

<https://telegra.ph/International-bonds-of-the-Republic-of-Uzbekistan-worth-635-million-US-dollars-and-25-trillion-soums-were-placed-on-the-London-S-07-14>

#### **The IMF will allocate USD 650 billion to revive the world economy**

Out of the total sum, about USD 275 billion will go to emerging markets and developing countries, which include Uzbekistan as well.

<https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2021/07/30/pr21235-imf-governors-approve-a-historic-us-650-billion-sdr-allocation-of-special-drawing-rights>

### **4.7 IT SECTOR**

### **Uzbek President calls for the expansion of online public services**

Various ministries are tasked with creating IT roadmaps. The number of public services on mobile devices was set to reach 100. IT startups are promised to receive financial support from Aloqabank's new platform for contributing to public service digitalization efforts.

<https://www.uzdaily.uz/en/post/66694>

### **Uzbekistan average broadband speed up 56% year over year in June**

The speed of fixed Internet in Uzbekistan has grown by over 50% compared to May 2020. Similarly, mobile Internet speeds grew by over 60% compared to last year.

<https://review.uz/en/post/ozbekistonning-internet-tezligi-boyicha-jahon-reytingida-poziciyasi-yaxshilandi>

## **4.8 ENERGY SECTOR**

### **Gasoline prices increase by 17% in the past 6 months**

Since the beginning of the year the price for gasoline in Uzbekistan increased by 17%. Gasoline saw the most significant increase, followed maintenance and repair services for personal vehicles (8.2%).

<https://kun.uz/en/72271789>

### **Uzbekistan scraps plans to offer subsidies for wind farms**

Officials feared that electricity prices would increase due to state subsidies. To them foreign private investors, such as the Asian Development Bank and International Finance Corporation, seem to be a better way to finance the projects.

<https://www.windpowermonthly.com/article/1721238/uzbekistan-scraps-plans-offer-subsidies-wind-farms>

### **Energy Ministry signs two PV plant project agreements with Masdar**

The two 220 MW photovoltaic power plants will be built in Samarkand and Jizzakh regions. Specifically, the Kattakurgan and Gallaaral districts. With an investment of USD 300 million, the projects will launch in the beginning of 2022.

<https://www.energylivenews.com/2021/07/20/masdar-bags-440mw-solar-pv-deal-in-uzbekistan>

### **IAEA declares Uzbekistan ready to build a nuclear power plant**

The International Atomic Energy Agency commission after completing its 12-day working visit to Uzbekistan announced that the country is ready for its first nuclear power plant.

<https://kun.uz/en/67326761>

### **Oil production in Uzbekistan decreased by 32% in the past 6 months**

During the 1st half of 2021, the volume of oil production in Uzbekistan decreased by almost a third compared to the same period from last year.

<https://kun.uz/en/75431878>

### **Stone City Energy to build a new thermal power plant in Surkhandarya region**

The project will cost USD 1.2 billion and is planned to produce 1500-1600 MW of energy.

<https://www.uzdaily.uz/en/post/67104>

## **4.9 BUSINESS**

### **New financial technology companies to appear in Uzbek markets**

The Central Bank and the World Bank created a strategy for 2021-2023. Upon its competition new bank service points, digital financial services, investment instruments for SMEs, customer service enhancements, and financial literacy programs shall be introduced.

<https://kun.uz/en/21671379>

### **State companies banned from conducting public procurement without a tender**

If the cost of the product or service being procured is above 25,000 basic calculating amounts, the firm must make a tender on the “Center for Comprehensive Examination of Projects and Import Contracts”.

<https://en.trend.az/casia/uzbekistan/3450325.html>

### **Iranian company to build paint factory in Uzbekistan**

Based on recent negotiations between both nations, North Industrial Marine Coating and Payam Gostar Tejarat Farda will open a paint factory in Uzbekistan.

<https://uzreport.news/economy/iranian-company-to-build-paint-factory-in-uzbekistan>

### **Mobiuz telco operator being transferred to MITC**

The Ministry for the Development of Information Technologies and Communications of Uzbekistan receives a 100% state share in the authorized capital of Universal Mobile Systems (mobile operator Mobiuz). Since 2018, the sole owner of the operator of Mobiuz was the Digital Trust Fund, established under the National Project Management Agency.

<https://uzdaily.uz/en/post/66931>

#### **4.10 TOURISM**

##### **Uzbekistan to create a system of warning about threats of terrorist ideas**

The system is intended for travelling Uzbeks. Prior to travelling the individuals shall be informed about the terrorism threat at their destination, and upon return they shall be screened to prevent the spread of harmful ideologies.

<https://kun.uz/en/46486085>

##### **Israel forbids its citizens from traveling to Uzbekistan**

From July 12th, due to the rise COVID-19 cases in Uzbekistan, all Israel citizens are banned from travelling to Uzbekistan and those arriving from Uzbekistan to Israel are required to be isolated.

<https://www.garda.com/crisis24/news-alerts/500881/israel-authorities-ban-citizens-from-traveling-to-belarus-uzbekistan-beginning-july-12-self-isolation-requirements-expanded-from-july-16-update-109>

##### **Rules for entering Uzbekistan during the pandemic updated**

Persons travelling by rail or air are required to have a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours from a specified list of medical labs. Those that crossing the border on a car must do an express test on the spot. “Yellow” and “red” zone citizens must self-isolate for 14 days, while healthy “green” zone travelers can enter immediately.

<https://kun.uz/en/18282060>

##### **Uzbekistan joins digital platform “Traveling without COVID-19”**

The application has been developed by the Russian Federation and shall take effect on September 1st 2021. It can be used by citizens from all CIS countries.

<https://kun.uz/en/32989722>

#### **4.11 TRADE**

##### **Uzbekistan introduces new types of foreign trade contracts**

Based on the “On additional measures to further simplify customs administration and procedures” resolution, local firms have the opportunity to export foreign products without importing them.

<https://menafn.com/1102424244/Uzbekistan-introduces-new-types-of-foreign-trade-contracts&source=138>

### **International industrial exhibition AgroExpo Uzbekistan held in Tashkent**

The 3-day exhibition was attended by 3.5 thousand local guests and over a hundred international companies. Several major discussions were held with Russian and German businesses.

<https://kun.uz/en/05043304>

### **Uzbekistan to export USD 5 million worth of textile products to Iran**

The agreement was signed during a visit by an Uzbek delegation to Iran.

<https://www.fibre2fashion.com/news/textile-news/uzbek-district-iranian-company-sign-5-mn-agreement-on-textile-export-275171-newsdetails.htm>

### **Rosselkhoznadzor bans Uzbek tomatoes and peppers**

Due to the presence of the tomato brown fruit virus, as well as the pepino mosaic virus, tomato and pepper exports from the Tashkent and Bukhara regions to Russia were stopped. All shipments before July 22nd went through a phytosanitary examination.

<https://www.uzreport.news/economy/rosselkhoznadzor-bans-uzbek-tomatoes-and-peppers>

### **Uzbekistan to allocate USD 100 million to support export activities**

The sum will be financed by the Fund for Reconstruction and Development to the Export Support Fund and shall be used for export-related trade and pre-export operations for 5 years at a rate of 1%. Additionally, foreign financial investments shall be attracted to provide USD 200 million for pre-export financing.

<https://uzreport.news/economy/uzbekistan-to-allocate-100mn-to-support-export-activities>

### **Uzbekistan's total export of goods for the first half of this year reached USD 5.9 billion**

The export of goods increased by 48% compared to last year. Similarly, imports increased by 24%. The account deficit of the balance of payments amounted to USD 2.9 billion. The negative trade and primary income balance of USD 5.7 billion was partially offset by the positive secondary income balance of USD 2.7 billion.

<https://www.uzdaily.uz/en/post/66808>

### **Uzbekistan's foreign trade turnover up by 13.6%**

This year's January-June trade turnover was USD 18 billion, which is a 13.6% higher compared to the same period in 2020. The largest trading partners were China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkey, and South Korea.

<https://invest.gov.uz/mediacenter/news/uzbekistan-s-foreign-trade-turnover-increased-by-13-6-in-the-first-half-of-the-year/>

### **Uzbekistan increases electric vehicle imports**

In January-June 2021, Uzbekistan imported 268 electric vehicles, which is an increase by 230 units. The largest supplier was China.

<https://kun.uz/en/42458538>

## **5. EDUCATION**

### **International Central Asia Institute opens in Tashkent**

The event was attended by officials who were invited to the “Central and South Asia: Regional Interconnectedness. Challenges and Opportunities”. The new institution shall serve as a platform for discussion on regional cooperation in various fields.

<https://brightuzbekistan.uz/en/the-international-institute-of-central-asia-has-opened-in-tashkent/>

### **Branch of the University of Pisa to open in Tashkent**

The institution plans to have geology, geophysics, energy, chemistry, biotechnology, information and communication technologies, economics and business management programs.

<https://tashkenttimes.uz/national/5017-university-of-pisa-could-open-branch-in-tashkent>

### **U.S. to allocate funds to kindergarten nutrition improvement program**

More than USD 21 million shall be allocated to improving food nutrition and infrastructure in over 600 pre-school educational facilities.

<https://kun.uz/en/93062284>

## **6. REGULATORY CHANGES**

### **National Strategy for Combating Extremism and Terrorism approved**

The decree “On approval of the National Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan on combating extremism and terrorism for 2021-2026” was adopted on July 1st. The three stage strategy focuses on protecting citizens from extremist ideologies and combating terrorist activity.

<https://kun.uz/en/22281925>

### **President Mirziyoyev signs law “On freedom of conscience and religious organizations”**

The new law helps strengthen guarantees of freedom of conscience, reinforce legal mechanisms to ensure the right of everyone to believe in any religion or not to believe in any religion. It also simplifies the procedure for registering religious organizations.

<http://www.theasian.asia/archives/110644>



### **Shavkat Mirziyoyev signs law on presidential state security service**

The law defines the rights of the Presidential State Security Service (PSSS), the persons under the protection of the PSSS, and the hiring procedure of PSSS members.

<https://kun.uz/en/37377033>

### **Additional measures against legalization of illegal proceeds approved**

The Law “On countering the legalization of criminal proceeds, the financing of terrorism and the financing of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction” defines reporting procedures for suspicious transactions.

<https://kun.uz/en/59408842>

### **Government officials to be banned from having accounts and property abroad**

From the beginning of 2022 a system of compulsory declaration of income and property shall be launched. All high ranking officials and their close family must be open about their personal wealth and refrain from keeping foreign property and accounts. Failure to adhere will result in layoffs and prosecution.

<https://kun.uz/en/78562596>

### **Uzbekistan to change its forensic system**

Based on a Presidential decree, from September 1 state and non-state organizations are allowed to undertake various forensic examinations. Non-state organizations shall receive certifications. And in 2022 a single electronic “E-expertise” information system shall be established to hold all forensic data.

<https://kun.uz/en/93812600>

### **Uzbekistan to establish Strategic Development Agency**

The purpose the new agency is to improve approaches to the implementation of reforms aimed at improving the country's investment climate, increase investment attractiveness and competitiveness. All to ensure the rapid development of regions and industries.

<https://en.trend.az/casia/uzbekistan/3458409.html>

### **President signs Spatial Data Act**

Based on the law, data on spatial objects, including information about their location, shape, and other properties shall be under the control of the Cadastral Agency.

<https://kun.uz/en/75034861>

### **President signs a decree on labor migration**

The decree will take effect from September 1st 2021 and allow the state to cover language proficiency test, road ticket, and visa expenses to a certain degree.

<https://kun.uz/en/71121243>

### **Functions of the Finance Ministry to be transferred to public associations of auditors**

Issuing, reissuing, extending and terminating the validity of an auditor's qualification certificate, and approving programs for training auditors' qualifications are to be transferred on August 1st 2021.

<https://kun.uz/en/97233228>

## **7. SENIOR OFFICIALS CHANGES/APPOINTMENTS**

- **Head of the Sanitary-Epidemiological Peace and Public Health Service**  
**Appointed** - Bakhodir Yusupaliyev  
**Previously served as** Deputy Minister of Health – Head of the Sanitary-Epidemiological Peace and Public Health Service
- **Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Geology and Mineral Resources**  
**Appointed** - Shamsiddin Alimov  
**Previously served as** First Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Geology and Mineral Resources
- **Director of the “Uzbekchorvanasi” Agency**  
**Appointed** - Bakhtiyor Atamuradov  
**Previously served as** Deputy Chairman of the State Committee for Veterinary and Livestock Development – Director of the “Uzbekchorvanasi” Agency
- **Director of the Cadaster Agency under the State Tax Committee (STC)**  
**Appointed** - Fazliddin Umarov  
**Previously served as** First Deputy Chairman of the STC – Director of the Cadaster Agency under the STC
- **Deputy Minister of Finance**  
**Appointed** - Gulnora Rakhimova  
**Previously served as** Deputy Head of the Treasury - Director of the Public Procurement Department of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan

- **Director of the Uzbek agency for technical regulations under the Ministry of investment and foreign trade**  
**Appointed** - Sattarov Dilshod  
**Previously served as** Head of "Uzstandart" agency
- **Director of the Samarkand international airport**  
**Appointed** - Saydullo Tukhtasinov  
**Currently serves as** Director of the Andijan international airport
- **Deputy Minister of Preschool Education**  
**Appointed** - Nodir Muslitdinov  
**Previously served as** Head of the Budgetary Policy Department in the Sphere of Social Protection and Public Social Services at the Finance Ministry
- **Deputy Chairman of the State Customs Committee**  
**Appointed** - Nodir Musamukhamedov  
**Previously served as** Head of the department of the State Customs Committee for the Jizzak Region
- **Uzbekistan's ambassador to Japan**  
**Appointed** - Mukhsinkhuja Abdurakhmonov  
**Previously served as** Head of a department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- **Chairman of the People's Bank**  
**Appointed** - Shukhrat Otaboyev  
**Previously served as** Deputy Adviser to the President on economic development, investment and foreign trade policy
- **Acting rector of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy**  
**Appointed** - Sodiq Safoev  
**Previously served as** First Deputy Chairman of the Senate of Oliy Majlis
- **Director of Capital Market Development Department of the Ministry of Finance**  
**Appointed** - Sarvarbek Akhmedov  
**Previously served as** Head of the department on international ratings and indices under the Ministry of Finance

## **8. USEFUL PUBLICATIONS AND LINKS**

### **Opportunities for Dutch businesses in Uzbekistan**

#### **Market research commissioned by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (June 2021)**

[https://www.rvo.nl/sites/default/files/2021/07/Market%20Research%20Uzbekistan\\_0.pdf](https://www.rvo.nl/sites/default/files/2021/07/Market%20Research%20Uzbekistan_0.pdf)

#### **Does Uzbekistan plan to cover external debt through investments?**

<https://www.ibtimes.com/does-uzbekistan-plan-cover-external-debt-through-investments-3246532>

#### **Reform-Minded Uzbekistan Becoming Strategic U.S. Partner in Central Asia**

<https://www.heritage.org/asia/commentary/reform-minded-uzbekistan-becoming-strategic-us-partner-central-asia>

#### **How Uzbekistan is balancing between America, China and Russia**

<https://tribune.com.pk/article/97434/how-uzbekistan-is-balancing-between-america-china-and-russia>

#### **Making privatization work in Uzbekistan**

<https://www.bne.eu/interview-making-privatisation-work-in-uzbekistan-216287/>

#### **Five years in, Uzbekistan's reform program is being readied for Stage Two**

<https://www.euronews.com/2021/07/26/five-years-in-uzbekistan-s-reform-programme-is-being-readied-for-stage-two>

#### **Development of the economy of Uzbekistan in the first half of 2021**

<https://www.eureporter.co/world/uzbekistan/2021/07/27/development-of-the-economy-of-uzbekistan-in-the-first-half-of-2021/>

#### **Central Asia is on the brink of an Islamic Fintech revolution**

<https://www.globalbankingandfinance.com/central-asia-is-on-the-brink-of-an-islamic-fintech-revolution/>

#### **Review of the dynamical development of the financial and banking sector in Uzbekistan for 2017-2020**

<https://review.uz/en/post/obzor-dinamiki-razvitiya-finansovo-bankovskogo-sektora-uzbekistana-za-2017-2020-god>



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