



## TRADE IN UZBEKISTAN: A STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

Khudayberdiyev Umar

Associate professor of Samarkand institute of economics and service,  
Ravupova Makhliyo

Student of Samarkand institute of economics and service

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.14626310>

**Annotation.** This article reviews Uzbekistan's trade dynamics, noting key reforms and a trade turnover in 2022. Exports focus on natural gas, cotton, and textiles, while imports center on machinery and consumer goods. With major partners like China, Russia, and Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan is advancing policies to attract investment and strengthen its role as a regional trade hub.

**Key words.** Uzbekistan, trade, economic reforms, exports, imports, natural gas, cotton, textiles, trading partners, investment.

**Introduction.** Uzbekistan, strategically located in Central Asia, boasts a rich cultural heritage and abundant natural resources. In recent years, the country has embarked on significant economic reforms aimed at enhancing trade, attracting foreign investments, and integrating into the global economy. This article delves into the statistical data concerning trade in Uzbekistan, showcasing key sectors, trading partners, and trends that shape the country's economic landscape.

### Historical Context

Uzbekistan gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, and since then, it has gradually transitioned from a centrally planned economy to a market-oriented one. The government initiated major reforms, particularly from 2016 under President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, which have had a profound impact on trade policies and practices.

### Trade Statistics and Key Sectors

In recent years, Uzbekistan's trade statistics reveal a dynamic economy. According to the latest data from the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics, total trade turnover in 2022 reached approximately \$36 billion, marking an increase of about 25% compared to the previous year. Exports accounted for about \$16 billion, while imports stood at around \$20 billion.

#### 1. Key Export Sectors:

- **Energy Resources:** Uzbekistan is rich in natural gas, gold, and cotton. Natural gas remains one of the primary exports, contributing significantly to national revenue. In 2022, natural gas exports surged, primarily to neighboring countries like Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

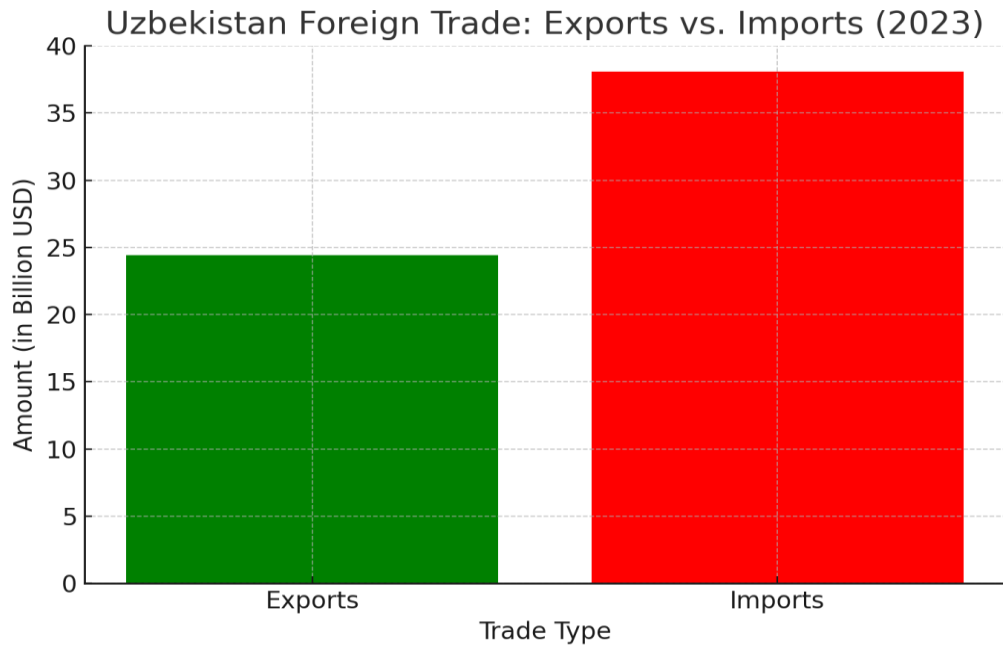
- **Agricultural Products:** Cotton, a traditional cash crop, plays a crucial role in the Uzbek economy. The country ranks among the top cotton producers globally, with significant exports to countries like China, Turkey, and the European Union.

- **Textiles and Garments:** The government has also been promoting textile production, aiming to add value to raw cotton. The textile sector saw a growth rate of 18% in exports in 2022.

**2. Key Import Sectors:**

- Machinery and Equipment: Uzbekistan relies heavily on importing machinery, vehicles, and equipment to modernize its industries. In 2022, mechanical engineering products constituted a significant portion of total imports.

- Consumer Goods: The demand for foreign consumer goods has been rising, leading to increased imports of food products, electronics, and textiles from countries such as Russia, China, and South Korea.



Here is a chart demonstrating Uzbekistan's foreign trade for 2023, showing a comparison between exports and imports. In 2023, Uzbekistan's exports reached \$24.4 billion, while imports totaled \$38.1 billion, reflecting the ongoing trends in the country's trade dynamics.

**Major Trading Partners**

Uzbekistan's trade landscape is characterized by strong ties with several key trading partners. The most significant partners include:

- China: As one of its largest trading partners, China exports machinery and electronics while importing natural resources and cotton.
- Russia: Russia is a crucial partner for exports ranging from agricultural products to energy.
- Kazakhstan: Sharing a border, Kazakhstan is vital for regional trade, particularly in the import of petroleum products and machinery.

**Recent Trends and Future Prospects**

Uzbekistan's trade policy has gradually shifted towards liberalization, focusing on reducing tariffs and simplifying customs procedures. The introduction of special economic zones has attracted foreign direct investment and fostered export-oriented enterprises.

Moreover, the country's accession to various international trade agreements stimulates further economic integration. The government aims to diversify its trade routes, reducing dependency on traditional partners and expanding outreach to global markets.

**Conclusion.** Uzbekistan's trade landscape reflects a nation undergoing significant economic transformation. With strategic reforms, growing trade volumes, and an emphasis on diversifying export sectors, the country is positioning itself as a key player in Central Asia's economy. Strong ties with major trading partners like China, Russia, and Kazakhstan, coupled with efforts to attract foreign investment through policies like special economic zones, indicate a promising future. As Uzbekistan continues to modernize its economic framework and expand its global trade networks, it holds great potential to become a vital hub for regional and international commerce.

### References:

- 1."Uzbekistan: Economic and Political Developments".
- 2."The Silk Road: A New History" by Valerie Hansen.
- 3.State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics: [website link].
- 4.Uzbekistan's Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade: [website link].
- 5.<https://www.gazeta.uz&sz=16>.
- 6.<https://supplychainreport.org/uzbekistans-trade-surges-2023-import-export-statistics-revealed>.
- 7.<https://www.lloydsbanktrade.com/en/market-potential/uzbekistan/trade-profile>