



COOPERATION OF UZBEKISTAN WITH CIS COUNTRIES IN DEVELOPING TRADE RELATIONS AND ITS OUTCOMES

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Abstract: This article analyzes Uzbekistan's trade and economic relations with CIS countries, their development stages, and current trends. It examines major partner states, trade volumes, and growth dynamics.

Keywords: CIS, trade relations, export-import, economic cooperation, integration.

Introduction

The cooperation of Uzbekistan with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries has been forming since the early years of independence. This partnership is of great political and economic importance, contributing significantly to strengthening the national economy, particularly through the development of trade relations. The CIS region represents a critical market for Uzbekistan and holds substantial importance in expanding transport, logistics, and production linkages.

Methodology: This study utilizes historical-analytical, comparative, and statistical methods. The analysis is conducted based on trade volume, export-import indicators, and their dynamics with CIS countries.

Literature Review: In scientific works dedicated to this topic, economic cooperation with CIS countries is highlighted as a primary direction. The general aspects of this partnership are outlined in the research by Pulatov S.B.. Vokhidova M.Kh. analyzed the theoretical foundations of economic relations. Meanwhile, Kholmurodov D.R. explored the historical development of relations between Uzbekistan and Russia. Furthermore, contemporary analyses evaluate the growth of trade volumes and integration processes as key factors.

Analysis and Results

The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was established on December 8, 1991, in Minsk by Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine, with other former USSR republics joining subsequently. The organization was formed to foster political, economic, and cultural cooperation among the member states. In 1993, the CIS Charter was adopted, outlining tasks such as strengthening economic ties, establishing a single economic space, and developing transport and communication systems. Notably, developing trade relations, increasing commodity turnover, and expanding economic cooperation constitute the core priorities. Trade relations occupy a pivotal position among CIS states, allowing countries to export their products and import essential goods. Consequently, the CIS region serves as a vital market for Uzbekistan, helping to minimize transportation costs and stimulate economic growth. Although the CIS also helped prevent acute conflicts within the former Soviet space and reinforce state



independence, there have been instances where numerous adopted decisions were not fully implemented. Uzbekistan participates in the CIS based on its national interests, viewing the organization as a platform for coordinating cooperation among sovereign states, with a primary focus on developing trade and economic relations between equal partners[1].

On October 26, 1991, Islam Karimov paid an official visit to Moscow and met with Boris Yeltsin, agreeing on establishing permanent missions and cooperating in foreign policy and economic spheres. Both parties emphasized the strategic importance of Uzbekistan–Russia relations. On July 22, 1992, negotiations between delegations of the two states took place in Tashkent, resulting in the signing of a joint document on cooperation development[3, p-61].

Between 1993 and 1995, significant documents aimed at developing economic cooperation between Uzbekistan and Russia were adopted. These included agreements on establishing an intergovernmental commission, taxation matters in mutual trade, combating smuggling, and recognizing as well as simplifying customs regulations and procedures. Furthermore, an economic cooperation program for 1995–2000 was approved.

During these years, Russia established 48 joint ventures in Uzbekistan, 12 of which were partnership-based, while the rest operated as branches of Russian enterprises[3, p-62]. In May 2001, a delegation from the "Siberian Agreement" interregional association visited Uzbekistan to discuss the enhancement of economic cooperation and resolution of existing challenges. In the same year, 1,000 units of "Altaytrak" tractors were delivered from the Altai Krai to Uzbekistan[3, p-62].

On September 7, 2001, Islam Karimov received the Mayor of Moscow, Yuri Luzhkov. Representative offices of the "UzDEUavto" enterprise operated in Moscow, selling 5,144 vehicles in 2000. Concurrently, modern equipment and commodities were imported from Russia to Uzbekistan. Overall, between 1993 and 2000, the trade turnover between Uzbekistan and Russia amounted to 1 billion 28.6 million USD[3, p-62]. In 2004, mutual trade turnover increased by 42.9% compared to 2003, reaching 1,641.9 million USD[3, p-63]. On January 14, 2009, the eleventh meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation was held in Moscow[3, p-68]. In 2012, within the framework of the State Investment Program, 789.4 million USD of direct Russian investments were attracted to the republic. Agricultural products cultivated in sunny Uzbekistan, such as apricots, apples, grapes, peaches, figs, pomegranates, and melons, enjoy continuous demand in Russian markets. For instance, while apricot and peach exports amounted to 3.324 million USD in 2014, this figure reached 6.391 million USD by 2015. By 2018, this indicator escalated to 48.795 million USD[3, p-70].

It is essential to focus on trade and economic relations with Central Asian republics. Following changes in Uzbekistan's foreign economic policy after 2016, trade relations with Central Asian countries expanded significantly. Currently, the nation actively trades with all countries in the region. Kazakhstan (11%) and Kyrgyzstan (8.2%) hold prominent positions in exports, while Kazakhstan leads in imports.

Kazakhstan remains one of Uzbekistan's largest trading partners. In 2021, mutual trade turnover stood at 3.9 billion USD, reaching 4.2 billion USD in 2022. Exports predominantly consist of vehicles, food products, services, plastics, and textiles, while imports primarily comprise flour products, ferrous metals, energy resources, and construction materials. Overall, Kazakhstan accounts for 60% of Uzbekistan's trade volume within Central Asia[2, p-29]. Trade relations with Kyrgyzstan are also advancing rapidly. Between 2016 and 2020, trade



volume grew 3.5-fold, reaching 903 million USD. In 2021, this figure amounted to 953.5 million USD. Currently, 187 enterprises with Kyrgyz capital operate in Uzbekistan, 98 of which are joint ventures. Cooperation spans energy, light industry, pharmaceuticals, automotive, and agriculture. Additionally, the "China–Kyrgyzstan–Uzbekistan" transport corridor is projected to further enhance future trade volumes[2, p-29].

Economic ties with Tajikistan demonstrate steady progress as well. In 2021, trade turnover reached 604.5 million USD, with exports accounting for 500.9 million USD and imports for 103.6 million USD. Notably, trade volume did not contract even during the pandemic, showing slight growth instead[2, p-29].

Economic relations with Turkmenistan are likewise strengthening. In 2021, trade volume reached 902 million USD, marking a 67.6% increase compared to the previous year. In early 2022, trade volume was recorded at 322.6 million USD. There are 173 enterprises with Turkmen capital operating in Uzbekistan, supported by bilateral agreements to develop border trade[2, p-29].

As of January–October 2024, Uzbekistan's foreign trade with CIS countries grew significantly, reaching 19 billion USD and constituting 34.9% of the country's total foreign trade volume. During this period, exports amounted to 7.5 billion USD (a 110.7% increase), while imports reached 11.5 billion USD (a 114.7% growth), indicating a substantial improvement over 2022 figures.

Uzbekistan's largest trading partners within the CIS include Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Belarus. Trade volume with Russia reached 9.7 billion USD, and with Kazakhstan, it stood at 3.4 billion USD. Trade with Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan was relatively lower, amounting to 675.6 million USD and 564.2 million USD, respectively. Commodity turnover increased compared to 2022; for instance, trade with Azerbaijan rose by 113.1%, and with Armenia by 161.8%, while trade with Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan sustained upward growth.

In 2023, Uzbekistan's trade turnover with CIS countries totaled 18.5 billion USD, representing a 10% increase compared to 2022. Exports stood at 6.7 billion USD, and imports reached 10 billion USD, with the CIS share in total foreign trade hovering around 34%. Russia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan remained the primary partners.

Uzbekistan recorded its highest trade volume with CIS nations in 2022, reaching 20.1 billion USD. Exports amounted to 7.2 billion USD, imports accounted for 12.9 billion USD, and the CIS share constituted 34.2% of total trade[4]. Russia was the leading trading partner in 2022, with a turnover of 9.5 billion USD (3 billion USD in exports, 6.5 billion USD in imports). Trade with Kazakhstan totaled 3.2 billion USD, and with Kyrgyzstan, it reached 650 million USD[4]. In general, from 2022 onward, Uzbekistan's trade relations with CIS countries intensified, maintaining high growth rates.

In 2024, Russia maintained its leading position in Uzbekistan's foreign trade with CIS countries. Trade volume reached 11.6 billion USD, capturing a 50.3% share of the total. Kazakhstan ranked second with a trade volume of 4.2 billion USD, though its share contracted to 18.5%. Trade with Turkmenistan grew slightly to 1.1 billion USD, constituting around a 5% share. Although trade volumes with Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan declined, they remained key partners. Trade turnover with Belarus and Azerbaijan grew marginally, whereas declines were observed with Ukraine, Armenia, and Moldova[5, p-328]. Overall, in 2024, the bulk of



Uzbekistan's trade within the CIS was concentrated with Russia and Kazakhstan, while trade with other states remained relatively modest in volume.

Conclusion

Uzbekistan's trade relations with CIS countries have developed steadily in recent years, with Russia and Kazakhstan standing out as primary trading partners. The substantial increase in trade volume between 2022 and 2024 indicates a deepening of economic cooperation. Overall, trade and economic relations with CIS states remain a vital component of Uzbekistan's national economy.

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