



# ORASAM

## MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN FROM CENTRAL ASIA



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### **TURKEY, UZBEKISTAN AIM TO BOOST BILATERAL TRADE TO \$5B**



Turkey appreciates reform process in Uzbekistan under leadership of Mirziyoyev, says Turkish president.

Turkey and Uzbekistan aim to increase the bilateral trade volume to \$5 billion, the Turkish president said Wednesday. Speaking at a joint news conference with his Uzbek counterpart Shavkat Mirziyoyev in the capital Ankara, Recep Tayyip Erdogan said: "We have exceeded \$1 billion in both exports and imports for the first time in bilateral trade relations, but there is still a long way to go."

"We define our relations with Uzbekistan as a strategic partnership based on strong brotherly ties with our common history, language and culture," Erdogan added.

He said that Turkey is witnessing with appreciation reforms in Uzbekistan under the leadership of Mirziyoyev, and added that Turkey is always ready to extend support to Uzbekistan in the comprehensive reform process.

The Turkish president said Uzbekistan has taken firm steps towards becoming a center of attraction in its region, with its young and dynamic population approaching 34 million, rich natural resources, industrial potential and strong agricultural production.

"We encourage our entrepreneurs to invest in Uzbekistan. According to Uzbek statistics, only last year, 430 Turkish companies started operating in Uzbekistan and the number of our companies rose to 1,306."

Erdogan pointed out that they exchanged views on how they can improve cooperation in the fields of transportation, energy, health, tourism, education and defense industry.

The two leaders also signed a joint declaration following the first meeting of the High Level Strategic Cooperation Council in Ankara. Mirziyoyev, for his part, said the first meeting of the High Level Strategic Council opened a new page in the history of both countries' friendly relations.

He said improving cooperation in commercial, economic and investment fields is Turkey's and Uzbekistan's primary task. Both leaders will attend tomorrow the opening ceremony of Turkey's largest library.

The Nation's Library project was spearheaded by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and realized through intense efforts by leading Turkish intellectuals, librarians, NGOs, and groups representing the disadvantaged working in harmony.

## GERMAN BUSINESS IN KYRGYZSTAN



The volume of mutual trade between Kyrgyzstan and Germany during 10 months in 2019 amounted to \$ 57.76 million, which is 10% less than it was in 2018. For the same period in 2018, the volume of trade between the Kyrgyz Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany amounted to \$ 64.12 million.

The volume of export deliveries of Kyrgyzstan to Germany between January and October in 2019 amounted to 5.8 million US dollars, and imports from Germany to Kyrgyzstan - 51.96 million US dollars. For the same period in 2018, the volume of export deliveries from Kyrgyzstan to Germany amounted to 5.31 million US dollars, and imports from Germany to Kyrgyzstan - 58.81 million US dollars. There are overall 150 joint Kyrgyz-German enterprises in Kyrgyzstan.

In 9 months, period of 2019, the volume of foreign investment in Kyrgyzstan amounted to 2 million 860.1 thousand dollars, while the amount from foreign direct investment was 3 million 273.3 thousand dollars. For the six months period in 2018, the volume of foreign direct investment from Germany to Kyrgyzstan was 8 million 128 thousand US dollars. Kyrgyz-German companies operate in various economic sectors: trade, manufacturing, tourism, power engineering, service sector and others. Germany has focused its direct investments on processing manufacture, agriculture and trade.

## “OVER THE PAST 2 YEARS, THE GEOGRAPHY OF EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS HAS INCREASED,” PRESIDENT S. JEENBEKOV

“Over the past two years, the geography of exports of domestic agricultural products has increased,” President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sooronbay Jeenbekov said at a meeting with residents of the Ysyk-Ata district of the Chui region on February 6, 2020.

As an example, the head of state mentioned the export of products to China, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and other countries. He said that in order to expand exports to Chinese markets, a corresponding action plan was approved. As a result of the implementation of this plan, the export of agricultural products to China in 2019 increased by 23.7 %. In addition, the government program for the development of exports of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2019-2022 was adopted. It provides measures to increase the volume of exports of processed vegetables and fruits to Chinese markets, ensuring the growth of processed products. “As a



result, this allowed us to increase the export of agricultural products by 32.4% over the year with an increase of 54 million US dollars,” the President concluded.

## WHAT DOMESTIC GOODS ARE SUPPLIED TO THE KAZAKH MARKET BY KYRGYZSTAN?



The export of domestic goods to the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union in January-November 2019 amounted to 38 billion 461 million 238.6 thousand or \$ 551 million 216.6 thousand.

It's known now that over 400 commodity items are exported from Kyrgyzstan to the EAEU countries. According to the National Statistics Committee, mutual trade with EAEU

member states accounted for 38.9% in the total volume of the Kyrgyz Republic's trade turnover, including 32.1% in exports and 41.5% in imports. The largest share of the republic's mutual trade from the EAEU member states were Russia and Kazakhstan. Thus, in January-November 2019, Kyrgyzstan exported goods to the amount of \$ 305 million 66.1 thousand to Kazakhstan.

## IN KYRGYZSTAN, 7 INVESTMENT PROJECTS WERE IMPLEMENTED IN 2019, AND THEIR AMOUNT IS \$ 63.93 MILLION

In 2019, 7 investment projects were implemented in the amount of \$ 63.93 million in Kyrgyzstan.

Adilbek uulu Shumkarbek, director of the Agency for the Promotion and Protection of Investments of the Kyrgyz Republic, provided this information at a press conference of the Kabar agency.

According to him, 987 jobs were created as a result. "Investment Card", it is where 110 investment proposals had already been submitted. Also, in 2019, 20 business forums, 5 road shows, and 10 export promotion events had been held.

Last year, 8 export contracts had been implemented and the amount of export sales had been amounted to \$24.1 million as Adilbek uulu informed.



## MANAS AIRPORT IS READY TO PROMOTE COMPLEX TOURS IN CENTRAL ASIA



We are ready to implement complex tourist tours together with our colleagues from Central Asia. This was stated to journalists by the commercial Director of the Manas airport Elnar Subakozhoev during the International aviation forum in Tashkent.

“Our countries - Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan - are part of the Great Silk Road. More and more tourists want to visit several countries at once, so I think that soon, like in Europe, tourists will also be offered package tours.

Passengers are interested in moving quickly and comfortably around the region, and our airport, as well as the airport in Osh and Issyk-Kul, can become one of the key links in this transport and logistics network,” Subakozhoev

said.

Within the framework of the international aviation forum in Tashkent, representatives of foreign airlines discuss prospects for cooperation and implementation of joint projects. In particular, the delegation of the airport of the capital of Kyrgyzstan “Manas” also conducts negotiations. According to the representative of Air Harbor of Bishkek, good prospects are opening up for Central Asia in the field of business and passenger transportation.

In Tashkent, a delegation from Kyrgyzstan has already held a number of important meetings with Uzbek partners, discussing several promising projects to expand the route network. “I hope in the near future we will be able to implement them”, — concluded Subakozhoev.

## ENTREPRENEURS OF BURSA INVITED REPRESENTATIVES OF KYRGYZSTAN TO THE KYRGYZ-TURKISH BUSINESS FORUM

Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan in Turkey Kubanychbek Omuraliev presented the investment climate and opportunities of Kyrgyz Republic at the forum in Bursa. This was reported by the press service of the Foreign Ministry.

Omuraliev met with the mayor of the city Alinur Aktash during the trip. He expressed the need to establish twinning relations between Bursa and one of the cities of the Kyrgyz Republic.

During the trip, the embassy met with the head of the Trade and Enterprise Council. He made a presentation on the investment climate and opportunities in the Kyrgyz Republic for doing business (liberal taxes, costs of doing business, etc.), macroeconomic indicators and foreign trade turnover of the Kyrgyz Republic, its membership in the EAEU and the distribution of projects in state-owned private organizations.

“We invite businessmen to participate in the business forum of Kyrgyzstan, which will be held in the summer of 2020”. He also answered questions of interest to them.

Bursa is a large city in the north-west of Turkey, the fourth largest after Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir and the administrative center of the province. The population of Bursa is 3,056 million people in 2019. The main sectors



of the provincial economy are agriculture, agricultural, textile and automotive industries, trade, tourism, minerals (tungsten, zinc, marble, etc.). There are automobile plants Oyak-Renault and TOFA in Bursa, and Zhoskunoz, a company manufacturing press equipment for automotive components.

## TURKESTAN REGION TAKES THE LEADING POSITION IN PRODUCING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.



Turkestan is the leader among existing agricultural producers. Gross agricultural output in the country grew by 0.9% per year as Kazpravda.kz reports with reference to Finprom.kz.

By January 2020, 17.4 thousand legal entities, branches

and representative offices were registered in Kazakhstan as producers of agricultural products. The annual growth of the number of companies in the agricultural sector was 5.3%. Also, 219.4 thousand peasant and farm households were registered in the country (annual growth - 8.1%), as well as 1.6 million households in villages and rural districts (annual growth - 0.2%). Among them, active agricultural producers are 13.9 thousand legal entities, branches and representative offices (annual growth - by 7.5%) and 211.7 thousand peasant and farm enterprises (annual growth - 7.7%). The largest number of operating legal entities, branches and representative offices works in Turkestan, Akmola and Almaty regions. The maximum focus of existing farms is on the Turkestan, Almaty and Zhambyl regions. Gross agricultural output for January and December of last year amounted to 5.2 trillion tenge, by 0.9% real growth in physical volume. In terms of gross output, TOP-3 regions are Almaty (852 billion tenge), North Kazakhstan (631.9 billion tenge) and Turkestan (627.5 billion tenge).

## **KAZAKHSTAN IS EXPECTED TO OPEN 14 NEW ROUTES IN OPEN SKY MODE IN 2020**

President of Kazakhstan Kasym-Jomart Tokayev received Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Roman Sklyar, reports Akorda's website

Roman Sklyar reported on the work to create an "open sky" mode over Kazakhstan. He said that in 2020, it is expected to open 14 new routes that will serve well-known airlines from Qatar, Poland, Oman, Belarus, Malaysia, Romania, the UAE, and Kuwait.

Negotiations are also underway with the aviation authorities of Switzerland, South Korea, Singapore, Latvia, and Lithuania

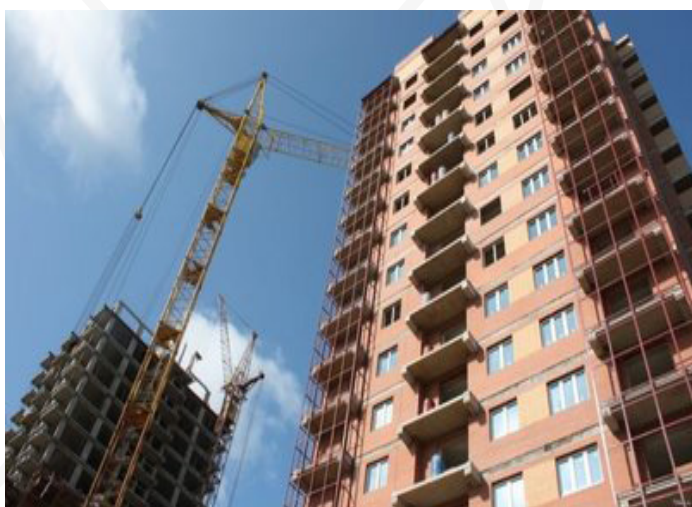
The Deputy Prime Minister recalled that in 2019, 12 new air routes were opened, including from the capital of Kazakhstan to Prague, Ulaanbaatar and Tokyo.

Kasym-Jomart Tokayev instructed to continue active work on expanding air links between Kazakhstan and interested states, as well as on increasing cargo transportation through the main airports of Kazakhstan.



The President also noted the importance of increasing competition in the aviation sector, which will have a positive impact on the quality of passenger service and the development of civil aviation in general.

## **IN NUR-SULTAN, THE VOLUME OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONSTRUCTION WILL INCREASE BY 3 TIMES**



The volume of affordable housing construction in the capital will be increased by 3 times. This was announced during a meeting of the mayor of Nur-Sultan with the population,

reports Kazpravda.kz. According to the mayor's office, in 2020, it is planned to build preferential housing with a total area of more than 500 thousand square meters – about 8 thousand apartments. In 2021, it is planned to put into operation 8,5 thousand apartments.

"The issue of housing is one of the main and urgent directions. Now there are 48 thousand people in the queue. These are the poor, people with disabilities 1 and 2 groups, children left without parental care, large families, police officers, and doctors. In Zhilstroysberbank, 214 thousand people have accounts. Only last year, 59 thousand people opened accounts in this Bank," the mayor of the capital Altai Kulginov informed.

Last year, 2900 people on the waiting list received housing. Among them, 1050 are working youth. "On behalf of the head of state, we will increase the volume of affordable housing construction by 3 times this year. We will start building 10 thousand apartments. We will complete the construction of 8 thousand apartments by the end of the year. This is affordable housing," the mayor said.

## KAZAKHSTAN AND UZBEKISTAN WILL OPEN A JOINT TOURIST ROUTE



Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan will open a joint tourist route, reports Uzbek telegraph agency (UzTAG). According to the MIR 24 TV channel, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan launch a joint tourist route “Golden Square”.

It will include modern and famous ancient cities, including Almaty, Nur-Sultan, Samarkand and Turkestan. The tourists will get acquainted with the culture, cuisine, history of countries, as well as visit shrines. On average, the program is designed for 5-7 days. “Of course, you can take a small circle inside. It’s not necessary to visit all the

places. But overall, this route will be interesting for children, schoolchildren. The gastronomic part is also interesting, not only spiritual. It is a mass tourism, and the prices need to be regulated,” said the Ambassador for Culture and Tourism Uzbekistan in Kazakhstan Lazzat Akhanova. It is noted that in March, the first trip to “Golden Square” will take place. The tour operators and a working groups will take part in it. They will define the tour price. This route is an analogue of the Russian “Golden Ring”, which involves up to 20 million tourists annually.

## UZBEKISTAN IS ONE OF THE THREE LARGEST EXPORTERS OF CLOTHING TO KAZAKHSTAN



According to the local media, Uzbekistan exported 10,000 tons of clothing to Kazakhstan in 2019.

In 2019, Kazakhstan imported light industry products worth 670,600,000 US dollars (about 62,000 tons) from abroad.

Almost half of this production (31 tons) comes from China. In other words, the Chinese have sold to Kazakhstan the clothing in the amount of 181,800,000 US dollars.

The second place was taken by the Russians, who delivered 10.5 thousand tons of clothing. They received \$ 195 million for their products.

Although Uzbekistan is the third largest supplier, which supplies almost the same volume as Russia, its revenue is less than 10 times lower.

Light industry exporters to Kazakhstan include Turkey, Bangladesh, Belarus, and other countries.

## 55 DAIRY FARMS ARE LAUNCHING IN KAZAKHSTAN IN 2020

The establishment of 55 industrial dairy farms will make it possible to achieve the planned program oriented on dairy farming sector in Kazakhstan.

Kazpravda.kz reports that it was announced at an expanded meeting of the board of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan by the First Deputy Minister of Agriculture Aidarbek Saparov.

“This program of dairy farming development is required for the purpose of import substitution. So, in 2019, 30 dairy farms were funded and launched - 8 of which were industrial farms with a total number of 7.5 thousand cattle. In order to reach the aims of the program, 25 industrial MTFs and 30 family MTFs with a total capacity of at least 15 thousand cattle herds are necessary”, Saparov said.

In addition, the First Vice Minister said that within the framework of development programs it is necessary to take measures to further increase the production of poultry meat for import substitution.

“At the end of 2019, the share of poultry meat was 45.3 percent, and in 2018 - 49 percent. The import share reduction is the result of the first stage of the project, when 25 thousand tons of poultry meat was produced in



Akmola region by Makinsk Poultry Farm LLP. Also, the implementation of the project to expand the existing poultry farm contributed with a capacity of up to 8 thousand tons of poultry meat per year in the Zhambyl region by Aulie Ata Phoenix LLP”, he stated.

## TURKMENGAZ WILL BUY EQUIPMENT FOR TAPI GAS PIPELINE IN MALAYSIA



President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov signed today a decree which will allow the State concern “Türkmengaz” to enter into an agreement with the company “ Serba Dinamik Sdn.Bhd “ (Malaysia). This contract is for the

purchase of various materials and equipment, delivery and installation of telemechanics and control systems, SCADA communications, as well as a set of equipment for the gas measuring station.

The document prescribes to hand over the objects with full readiness for operation in December 2022.

The decree was signed “to successfully implement the construction project of the Turkmen section of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline,” the document says. It should be recalled that the length of the Turkmen TAPI section, which began construction in December 2015, will be 205 kilometers. Then the gas pipeline will pass through the Afghan cities of Herat and Kandahar – 816 kilometers, through the territory of Pakistan 819 kilometers-through the cities of Quetta and Multan, and reach the settlement of Fazilka in India. The planned capacity of the pipeline is designed to supply 33 billion cubic meters of gas per year.



## CONSTRUCTION OF A POWER TRANSMISSION LINE (TAP) HAS STARTED IN TURKMENISTAN.



A ceremony was held in Mary velayat (regions in the South-East of the country) to begin construction of the Turkmen section of the Turkmenistan – Afghanistan – Pakistan electricity line (TAP).

In accordance with the decree of the head of state, the construction of power lines to the Turkmen-Afghan border in the direction of the Afghan city of Herat will be carried out by the company “TAPP-500 Power Transmission Line FZE”, which is a subsidiary of the Turkish company “Çalik Holding”. The ceremony was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Charymyrat Purchekov, who oversees the power industry, and the head of “Çalik Holding” Ahmed Chalyk, representatives of the Turkish energy industry, foreign experts and local residents.

The new transmission line will allow Turkmen electricity to be exported to Pakistan and other South Asian countries via Afghanistan. It is planned to complete the construction of this section of the TAP power line in August 2021.

## LUKOIL IS READY TO DEVELOP OILFIELD IN TURKMENISTAN



“The Russian oil company Lukoil has strategic interests in Turkmenistan, which possesses significant reserves of hydrocarbons”, said the head of the Russian oil company Vagit Alikperov during the meeting with the president

Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov in Ashgabat. This was reported on the official website of Lukoil.

1. Alikperov emphasized that Turkmenistan offered a favorable investment environment and relevant legal basis that allow effective cooperation to develop oil and gas fields, as well as infrastructure construction. Therefore, the company is interested in implementation of the projects in these sectors.

Welcoming the initiatives of Russian partners, the President of Turkmenistan mentioned that all the proposals of both parties were worked out together with the state representatives “Turkmenneft” and “Turkmengaz” and sent for further consideration.

“Turkmenistan is always open for productive cooperation with the foreign partners,” said Berdimukhamedov. He noted the traditional friendship and constructive nature of Turkmen-Russian relations.

The head of the state and the guests admitted the willingness of Turkmenistan and Lukoil to develop long-term mutually beneficial cooperation.

## OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION INCREASE IN TURKMENISTAN



In January 2020, oil production reached 318.2 thousand tons, gas - 376 million cubic meters. This is significantly higher than last year according to the Internet newspaper "Oil and Gas of Turkmenistan".

Over the same period, 110 thousand tons of crude oil was produced, which is almost a third of the total production of "black gold".

About 305.2 thousand tons of raw materials were sent to the Turkmenbashi complex of oil refineries for further processing. In January, the volume of deliveries to consumers of natural gas received in the western region of the country amounted to 117.4. "Turkmenneft" continues to expand the geography of earth expeditions using the latest equipment.

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## TURKMENISTAN WILL TRANSPORT OIL AND OIL PRODUCTS THROUGH GEORGIA AT REDUCED TARIFFS

New tariffs have been approved for the transit of oil products from Turkmenistan through Azerbaijan and Georgia. Agreements were made on seasonal transit transportation of petroleum products from Turkmenistan at reduced rates. This was reported by TSS with reference to the press service of JSC "Georgian Railway".

Seasonal transportation of petroleum products includes a period from 1 April to 1 November. All negotiators unanimously resolved the issue of one common tariff for the transportation of Turkmen oil and oil products.

Georgian Railway JSC ensures that lowering tariffs will help to make the Azerbaijani-Georgian transport corridor for Turkmen oil competitive with the Volga-Don Canal of Russia.

In the period from 2007 to 2008, Turkmenistan transported about 200 thousand tons of oil and oil products through Georgia. However, due to the unstable situation in Georgia, the route changed to Makhachkala - Novorossiysk, according to the source. In 2015, Turkmen oil products were again exported to Europe through Georgia after successful negotiations.



A total of 1.3 thousand tons of Turkmen oil products passed through Georgia in 2016. At this stage, there are agreements to transport one and a half million tons of oil annually from Turkmenistan to Georgia

## DANISH COMPANY HALDOR TOPSOE HOPES TO EXPAND COOPERATION WITH TURKMENISTAN

In Dubai, from 24 to 25 February the Hyatt Regency Dubai Creek Heights hotel hosted the road show “Oil and gas of Turkmenistan 2020”. It aimed at attracting investment in the country’s energy industry.

The forum was attended by foreign companies from more than forty countries, including stable partners in the Turkmen oil and gas market, such as Haldor Topsoe (Denmark).

Haldor Topsoe, which is the largest licensor in the field of natural gas conversion and monetization of natural gas into various types of products, has been on the market of Turkmenistan for 10 years. The results of cooperation are shown by 2 major projects, one of them is the production of mineral fertilizers at Garabogaz. There is a large-scale equipment for the production of ammonia, from which carbamide is obtained.

The second project – the plant to produce eco-friendly ECO-95 gasoline from natural gas – is the company’s pride in the uniqueness of production.

Vadim Shiriev, a representative of Haldor Topsoe, notes that the company has been operating in Turkmenistan for ten years and feels comfortable in the Turkmen market, emphasizing that the country’s oil and gas structures are solvent and can guarantee a return on investment.

Haldor Topsoe hopes to continue participating in the natural resource diversification program and expand cooperation



with Turkmenistan.

The Danish company regularly participates in international forums organized by the oil and gas sector of Turkmenistan, and often sponsors events. Haldor Topsoe regards its participation in the road show as a unique opportunity to share new products and learn from the experience of other companies, as well as to meet with its regular partners with whom it cooperates in Turkmenistan.

## THE NATIONAL BANK OF TAJIKISTAN INCREASED ITS GOLD RESERVES BY 22% IN 2019

The national Bank of Tajikistan in 2019 increased the reserves of monetary gold in foreign exchange reserves by 22.4% - up to 27.3 tons, Prime reports.

“Last year, the national Bank bought 5 tons of gold, this year we plan to buy 6 tons”, said the head of the national Bank of Tajikistan Jamshed Nurmukhammadzoda at a press conference in Dushanbe. Tajikistan’s total foreign exchange reserves increased by 15.2% in 2019, exceeding \$ 1.479 billion as of January 1, 2020.

According to the subsoil users of Tajikistan in 2019 the production of gold increased in comparison to the previous year by 26.2% - up to 8.1 tons. The main gold mining company in the country is the Tajik — Chinese joint venture Zarafshon, which accounts for about 70% of the gold produced. In Tajikistan there are only 10 gold mining enterprises, the largest: joint ventures “Zarafshon”, “Aprelevka”, state enterprise “Tilloi Tojik”, artel “Odina” and company “Pakrut”.



## 65 STATE INVESTMENT PROJECTS WORTH \$ 3.3 BILLION ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED IN TAJIKISTAN



In Tajikistan, from the beginning of the year, 65 state investment projects were implemented in the total amount of 32.1 billion somoni (\$ 3.3 billion) as the Tajik Telegraph Agency (TajikTA) reported on Monday.

"16.9 billion somoni, or 52.6% of the indicated amount of funds are loans, grant funds are 13.6 billion somoni, or 42.4%. The contribution of the country's government amounted to 1.4 billion somoni (\$ 144.4 million) or 4.4% and other sources, including state enterprises of the republic, local executive bodies of state power, beneficiaries - 190.7 million somoni (\$ 19.6 mln), or 0.6%," the State Committee on Investments reports. In 2019, within the framework of existing projects, 3.16 billion somoni (\$ 326.1 million) were disbursed. According to statistics last year, the volume of direct investment received 3.3 billion somoni (\$ 345.8 million), which is 6% more compared to the same period last year.

## IN 2019, TAJIKISTAN WAS VISITED BY 21.6% MORE TOURISTS THAN IN 2018

The number of foreign tourists who visited Tajikistan in 2019 amounted to 1 million 257 thousand 300 people, which is 21.6% (or 219.7 thousand people) more than in 2018, reports the Tajik Telegraph Agency (TajikTA).

This was announced by the Chairman of the Committee on Tourism Development under the government of Tajikistan Shirin Amonzoda. According to her, the geography of tourism has also expanded – representatives of 146 countries of the world came to Tajikistan to travel. In 2016, there were only 59 of them.

The bulk of visitors to Tajikistan was made up of residents of neighboring Uzbekistan - 853 thousand 634 people arrived. At the same time, more than 844 thousand of them named tourism as the purpose of the visit.

In terms of the number of tourists who visited Tajikistan, the second place was occupied by citizens of Russia - 212 thousand, and the third-by Kyrgyzstan-116 thousand people.

The top ten also included Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, China, Turkey, the UAE, Germany and India.

The number of tourists from India, France and Japan increased 2.5-3 times. The number of tourists from Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan, the United States, Ukraine,



Turkmenistan, Canada and South Korea increased by more than 50% compared to last year.

Amonzoda noted that in 2019, the income from tourism in the Tajik economy amounted to \$267,5 million through the sale of tickets. Due to the provision of tourist services, the Tajik budget received 403 million 760 thousand somoni. The share of tourism in the country's GDP was 2.2%, and together with industries that have points of tourist services – 10.4%.

## TAJIKISTAN PLANS TO INCREASE THE VOLUME OF ELECTRICITY EXPORTS TO ITS NEIGHBORS



Tajikistan plans to increase electricity exports to Afghanistan in 2020. Mirzo Ismoilzoda, Chairman of the state energy holding “Barki Tojik”, said at a meeting with journalists in Dushanbe on Tuesday that an agreement has been reached with the Afghan energy company “Breshno” on the supply of electricity for the current year.

According to the contract, in 2020 Tajikistan exports electricity to Afghanistan in the amount of 1 billion 588 million kWh, which is almost 30 million kWh more than in 2019. Last year, 1 billion 458.2 million kWh of electricity was exported to the neighboring country for \$60.6 million. The head of “Barki Tojik” stated that the issue of the volume of electricity supplies and prices for the current year will be discussed with Uzbek power engineers at the meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission in March 2020.

Mirzo Ismoilzoda also said that 1 billion 425.1 million kWh was delivered to neighboring Uzbekistan last year at the price of 2 US cents per kilowatt.

The total amount of electricity exports to Uzbekistan amounted to \$28.5 million.

## CHINA IS THE LEADER IN TERMS OF DIRECT INVESTMENT IN THE TAJIK ECONOMY

China is leading in terms of direct investment in Tajikistan's economy in 2019. This was stated by the head of the state Committee on Investment and State Property Management of Tajikistan Farrukh Hamralizoda, the Avesta Agency reports.

According to him, in 2019, Tajikistan received foreign investments in the amount of about 346 million US dollars, which is 6% more than in 2018.

China is the leader in terms of direct investment in Tajikistan. The total amount of Chinese direct investment in 2019 was \$ 262.3 million.

The volume of Russian direct investment amounted to \$ 33.1 million. The UK accounts for -13.9 million dollars. The share of Turkish investments in the Tajik economy was 13.5 million dollars.

The head of GosKomInvest also noted that last year seven investment agreements were signed, the implementation of which provides for the creation of eight new production enterprises. The amount of these investment agreements is about 2.4 billion somoni (\$247.6 million).

In total, 65 state investment projects are currently being implemented in Tajikistan, the total amount of which is 32.1 billion somoni (more than \$ 3.3 billion). Over 3 billion



somoni were spent on them last year.

These projects are being implemented in various areas of the Tajik economy. As a percentage of the total amount of financing, 52.6% or 16.9 billion are credit funds.

## UZBEKISTAN PLANS TO CREATE FIVE NEW AIRLINES



Uzbekistan plans to launch five new airlines, according to the Uzbek Telegraph Agency (Uztag). This is stated in the draft state action program for 2020.

The Ministry of transport of Uzbekistan, the state tourism Committee and a number of other agencies have been instructed to create five new airlines by April 1, 2020.

It is noted that these measures will increase the frequency of existing flights, as well as open new destinations. The document implies the launch of new international flights at each airport in Uzbekistan within the framework of the "open sky" program. The plans also include increasing the number of countries whose citizens will be granted a visa-free regime with Uzbekistan.

## UZAUTO MOTORS STARTS SELLING CARS FOR EXPORT UNDER THE CHEVROLET BRAND

UzAuto Motors has signed an agreement with its Alliance partner, General Motors Company, to sell Uzbek cars abroad. According to the company's press service the first models available from March 2020 in Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus under the brand Chevrolet will be Spark, Nexia and Cobalt.

The right to use the Chevrolet brand in foreign markets is granted to the domestic manufacturer due to the high quality of cars that fully meet the standards set by one of the leaders of the world auto industry - General Motors Company. UzAuto Motors will manage the distribution of Chevrolet models produced in Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus. Working under a single brand will open new opportunities for further development of the automotive industry in Uzbekistan and sales in export markets. The sale of cars under the Ravon brand in Russia and the CIS countries will cease by mid-2020.



## TURKEY MAY OPEN A BRANCH OF SPECIAL INDUSTRIAL ZONE IN UZBEKISTAN

A branch of the Turkish special industrial zone “Gebze” can be established in Uzbekistan. The prospects for cooperation in the establishment of the branch were discussed at a meeting with the Vice President of Turkey Fuatom and the Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan Sardor Umurzakov in Ankara.

The press services of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade delivered that the parties touched upon issues of systemic interaction in the field of transport and freight, the development of cooperation in the framework of technical assistance and soft loans from the Turkish government.

They also examined the issues of accelerating the preparation for signing the Agreement on preferential trade between Uzbekistan and Turkey expanding the list of commodity items proposed for inclusion in this agreement, and also agreed the procedure for its practical application. “It is expected that these measures will greatly facilitate the



fulfillment of the instructions of the Presidents of the two countries to bring trade between Turkey and Uzbekistan to \$ 5 billion,” the ministry said in a statement.

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