
REGIONAL TRADE AMONG CENTRAL ASIAN STATES SHOWS GROWTH

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Trade among the five Central Asian states is taking off, but mutual turnover totals are still responsible for only a relatively small share of overall trade, according to data for the first half of 2026 released by regional governments. Kazakhstans trade with its four Central Asian neighbors stood at \$5.1 billion, or 7 percent of its total foreign trade of about \$71.8 billion for H1, according to Kazakh official statistics. Uzbekistan registered the next highest regional turnover figure at just over \$4.4 billion, or under 11 percent of its total foreign turnover of \$41 billion, as reported by the Uzbek state statistics agency. Kyrgyzstans trade with its four regional neighbors exceeded \$1.5 billion out of the total foreign turnover of \$7.9 billion, good for a 19.5 percent share. The accuracy of Kyrgyzstans official statistics has faced scrutiny, however, as some experts believe the officials routinely manipulate data. Tajikistan reported roughly \$1.1 billion in trade with its Central Asian neighbors, accounting for about 16 percent of its total turnover of \$6.8 billion, based on the data released by

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