



# Afghanistan's Economic Development

**Issue No. 26 (1404 SH)**  
Consecutive Issue No. 40

**(Newsletter)**

**Date: 9/10/2025**

Each week, significant economic activities and developments occur across various sectors in Afghanistan. The Afghanistan's Economic Development Newsletter covers these important and latest economic activities and advancements.



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## NEARLY 13,000 RETURNEE REFUGEES EMPLOYED IN HERAT



Local officials in Herat have stated that recently 12,600 Afghan refugees who returned from Iran have been employed in the Herat Industrial Park. Over the past year, thousands of Afghan refugees have been deported from Iran, many of whom were impoverished individuals who had gone there for employment. Following their

deportation and return to Afghanistan, many Afghans feared unemployment; however, after returning to the country, they found jobs and are now earning income to support their families. Several returnees have expressed satisfaction with their return to Afghanistan, stating that they did not expect to find work and

become employed upon returning home. Herat is one of Afghanistan's major and most important industrial provinces. Before the re-establishment of the Islamic Emirate, the number of factories in Herat was limited. However, since the Islamic Emirate came to power and began attracting investment, supporting the private sector, and providing facilities for industrial growth, the number of factories has exceeded 1,000. This development has played a significant role in improving the national economic situation and increasing the country's gross domestic product (GDP). The Islamic Emirate has launched various projects aimed at reducing the unemployment rate in the country. One of the key projects in Herat Province is the TAPI project, which seeks to increase economic activity and create numerous job opportunities once Turkmenistan's gas reaches Herat.

## TRADE WITH EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAS INCREASED

Officials from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce have

stated that Afghanistan's trade with European countries has



increased, with the total value of exports exceeding USD 17 million in the first eight months of the current Gregorian year. According to the officials, this figure shows growth compared to the same period last year.

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is striving to resolve the challenges that emerged in trade and other sectors after the political transition and to expand Afghanistan's commercial ties.

Afghan traders report that there is a growing demand for Afghan products in European markets. Afghanistan produces high-quality dry and fresh fruits, and its carpets



also enjoy strong demand in European markets.

Afghanistan's economy is largely based on agriculture and livestock, and gaining access to markets beyond neighboring countries is considered crucial for supporting domestic products and outputs. To this end, trade relations with

several European countries have recently been strengthened, and efforts are underway to expand similar relations with other nations.

Afghan exporters are also encouraged to observe the standards required by importing countries and to pay close

attention to product quality, packaging, and other relevant aspects, as these are vital for maintaining the country's reputation and ensuring continued market access abroad.

## A MAJOR STEP TAKEN TOWARD EXPANDING ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH UZBEKISTAN

In an effort to expand economic relations, attract foreign investment, and create employment opportunities, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has granted mining licenses to several Uzbek companies.

Officials of the Islamic Emirate have stated that through this initiative, they aim to facilitate investment

opportunities within Afghanistan.

Afghanistan possesses vast untapped mineral resources, and the extraction of these resources can help the country move toward economic self-sufficiency. The nation holds deposits of gas, oil, copper, and other minerals, some of which have already entered the extraction phase.

According to the Islamic Emirate's economy-centered policy, both foreign and domestic companies are permitted to invest in Afghanistan in accordance with applicable regulations. Currently, investors and companies from various countries—including Uzbekistan—are actively investing across multiple sectors in Afghanistan, thereby contributing to the creation of numerous employment opportunities throughout the country.

