



# Afghanistan's Economic Development

Issue No. 47(1404 SH)  
Consecutive Issue No. 61

(Newsletter)

Date: 5/3/2026

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.



## In this issue:

- 1. LAUNCH OF THE SECOND PHASE OF THE SPIN ZAR STATE-OWNED TOWNSHIP IN TAKHAR**
- 2. 33% INCREASE IN RAIL TRANSPORT**
- 3. 25% INCREASE IN PINE NUT EXPORTS**

## LAUNCH OF THE SECOND PHASE OF THE SPIN ZAR STATE-OWNED TOWNSHIP IN TAKHAR



Construction work on the second phase of the Spin Zar State-owned Township, valued at nine million US dollars, has commenced in Takhar Province. This step is considered a significant economic move for the country's northeastern zone. This

phase includes three commercial centers to be developed on 25 jeribs of land, featuring two large markets with around 400 shops. It will also include a wedding hall with four salons. This project carries numerous positive economic

impacts. First, it creates employment opportunities, as dozens of citizens will be engaged during the construction phase. Furthermore, once the markets become operational, hundreds of people will benefit from direct and indirect job opportunities, including shopkeepers, service staff, the transport sector, and other related sectors, enabling citizens to earn a lawful income. Additionally, the operation of these commercial centers will help organize local trade, expand small businesses, and stimulate investment across various sectors. These economic activities will also increase municipal revenues, which can then be allocated to other development projects. Overall, this project has the potential to transform Takhar into an active commercial hub in the region and further facilitate economic activity.

## 33% INCREASE IN RAIL TRANSPORT

According to the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation, from the beginning of Hamal to the end of Dalwa in the year 1404, more than



five million metric tons of goods were transported through the country's railway network via four ports, reflecting a 33% increase compared to the same period last year. These transfers were conducted through the ports of Hairatan, Aqina, and Torghundi, as well as via the Herat-Khaf railway route.

Transporting goods by rail is more cost-effective than by road, reducing import costs and consequently contributing to market stability. Moreover, the expansion of transit activities leads to increased revenues.

Based on its economy-oriented policy, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan seeks broad and

positive trade relations with all countries. The increase in railway transport marks an important development and demonstrates that Afghanistan has broken its dependency on a single country by

diversifying its trade routes.

The expansion of trade via railway is also significant for strengthening Afghan traders' confidence. When domestic products reach international markets without delay

or obstruction, and imported goods arrive smoothly in Afghanistan, traders gain greater confidence and conduct their activities with assurance.

## 25% INCREASE IN PINE NUT EXPORTS

Afghanistan is an important exporter of fresh and dried fruits in the region, and some of its fruits are of exceptionally high quality. Pine nuts are among the country's key export products, largely produced in the eastern and southeastern mountainous regions. According to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, in 2025, Afghanistan

exported 1,031 metric tons of black pine nuts valued at over 15 million US dollars, reflecting a 25% increase compared to the previous year. These exports were made to China, India, Italy, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Germany, the United States, and other countries. The growth in pine nut exports and market expansion

serves as an important source of income for residents of rural and mountainous areas, as well as for pine nut traders. The increase in exports indicates strong international demand for Afghan pine nuts and confirms the high quality of Afghanistan's produce. Overall, the growth in pine nut exports is positive news for strengthening the agricultural sector, increasing revenues, and boosting the regional economy.

