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advanced technologies. For instance, in the production of catalysts and special raw materials, which previously relied heavily on imports, domestic production has increased significantly. This has not only helped reduce production costs but also enhanced the country's self-sufficiency in the petrochemical industry.

Position of petrochemicals in exporting oil-derived products

Iran, as one of the largest exporters of petrochemical products in the region, has managed to carve out a significant share of global markets. According to statistics from the Iranian Customs Administration, in 2022, Iran's petrochemical exports reached \$15 billion, accounting for a substantial portion of the country's non-oil exports. These revenues are generated from the export of products such as methanol, polyethylene, polypropylene, and chemical fertilizers to various countries around the world. In this regard, China, India, and Turkey are recognized as the primary destinations for Iran's exports. Iran has solidified its position among the world's largest producers by producing over 70 million tons of petrochemical products. Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company and Marun Petrochemical Com-

plex are among the largest petrochemical companies in Iran, accounting for a significant share of the country's production and successfully exporting high-quality products to global markets. These companies are particularly recognized as major global suppliers of methanol and polyethylene.

The export of petrochemical products not only contributes to increasing the country's foreign exchange earnings but also drives economic growth in various regions. This industry has created employment opportunities and developed industrial infrastructure, particularly in the southern provinces of Bushehr and Khuzestan. Therefore, Iran's petrochemical industry plays a crucial role not only in exports and revenue generation but also in the development of industrial regions and increasing domestic production.

Importance of petrochemicals in preventing sale of crude oil

Iran's petrochemical industry plays a vital role in preventing the sale of crude oil and converting it into higher-value-added products. According to the Oil Ministry, in 2022, Iran produced approximately 3 million barrels of crude oil per day. A significant portion of this crude oil is not exported in its raw form, but is instead converted

into petrochemical products within the country, thereby creating more value-added revenue. This process has taken on special importance in the face of sanctions, as Iran has been able to reduce its dependence on crude oil sales by producing and exporting petrochemical products.

By harnessing its petrochemical capacities, Iran has managed to generate a substantial portion of its foreign exchange earnings from petrochemical products over the past few decades. According to reports from the Iran Trade Promotion Organization, in 2022, Iran earned over \$15 billion from petrochemical exports. This revenue has enabled Iran to enjoy a lower dependence on crude oil exports compared to many other countries with similar oil reserves.

Petrochemicals play a crucial role in converting crude oil into high-value-added petrochemical and chemical products. These industries are able to produce final products such as polyethylene, polypropylene, methanol, and ammonia from primary resources like natural gas and crude oil through complex chemical processes. These products are not only valuable in domestic industries but also in global markets, which in turn prevents the sale of crude oil.

Major petrochemical units

Iran is home to a number of large and advanced petrochemical units that play a significant role in meeting domestic needs and exporting petrochemical products. "Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company" is the largest and most important petrochemical company in Iran, located in the province of Bushehr, and is involved in the production of various products, including methanol, polyethylene, and propylene. With an annual production capacity of over 10 million tons, this company plays a key role in supplying petrochemical products to both domestic and foreign markets. According to the annual reports of Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company, the company was able to export over 6 million tons of petrochemical products to various countries in 2022.

Another major petrochemical unit in Iran is "Marun Petrochemical Complex", located in Khuzestan Province, which is recognized as one of the largest producers of polypropylene and ammonia in the country. With an annual production capacity of over 4 million tons, this company is considered one of the leading companies in the Iranian petrochemical industry and the region. According to reports from the Iran Trade Promotion Organiza-

tion, this company was able to secure a significant share of Iran's petrochemical exports in 2022.

Other major petrochemical units in Iran include "Bandar Imam Petrochemical Company", which is involved in the production of methanol, ammonia, and other chemical products. This company, with an annual production capacity of over 5 million tons, is also one of the largest petrochemical units in Iran. Bandar Imam Petrochemical Company plays a significant role in supplying petrochemical products to both domestic and international markets and contributes to the export of chemical products.

In light of the above, the "Iranian petrochemical industry" has not only become a leading industry in terms of production but also in terms of exports and value-added creation. With the continuation of the growth and development of this industry, Iran will be able to secure a larger share of global markets and take effective steps towards reducing its dependence on oil resources. Continued investment in domestic projects and cooperation with international companies can contribute significantly to the sustainability and growth of the Iranian petrochemical industry.

The story was first provided by the Persian language news agency ISNA.



Iran's petrochemical industry plays a vital role in creating direct and indirect jobs in the country, creating over 143,000 direct jobs. Many of these jobs have been created in southern regions of the country, such as Bushehr and Khuzestan provinces and have significantly contributed to the economic development of these areas.

