

At Minex 2025 expo

# Iran breaking mold to woo investors: Officials

**Economy Desk**

Iran is stepping up efforts to attract international investment into its mining sector, officials said on Tuesday at the opening of the 14th International Exhibition on Investment Opportunities in Iran's Mining and Mining Industries (Minex 2025) in Tehran. "Our outlook in the mining sector has moved beyond traditional frameworks, and we are now forming constructive economic relations with neighboring countries," said Mohammad Reza Bahraman, head of Iran's Mining House at the international expo. "Today, interaction with countries such as Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, South Africa, Poland, South Korea, Nigeria and Turkey is underway, with representatives of these countries actively present at the exhibition," he said. The Mining House head emphasized on Iran's "valuable place in the global mining geography," and called it "a good opportunity for boosting the sector." He added that there is "serious willingness to expand trade cooperation and joint investments

across various fields," which he described as a chance to open new paths for economic and cultural ties between Iran and other nations. The country, with an estimated \$27.3 trillion in mineral capital, ranks as the world's fifth-largest holder of mineral reserves and the 15th-largest mineral-rich country overall. It has 81 types of minerals, according to official data. Iranian policymakers frequently call mining the backbone of industrial development and argue it should replace oil as the primary source of revenue. With the aim of showcasing the latest domestic and foreign mining technologies, machinery and services, and introducing investment opportunities, the four-day exhibition is being held across seven sections: mining, machinery and equipment, stock exchange and economy, exploration, health and environment, mineral industries, a special section on precious and semi-precious stones, and universities. Meanwhile, the head of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture

Head of Iran's Mining House Mohammad Reza Bahraman addresses the inauguration ceremony of the Minex 2025 in Tehran on September 30, 2025. ● IRNA

described the Tehran exhibition as "an opportunity to remind the country's broader goals for the mining sector, and a platform for dialogue among private players, policymakers and government officials." The large presence of foreign ambassadors, Samad Hassanzadeh said, underlined the international importance of the event and the cooperation potential it offered. Addressing the opening ceremony, Hassanzadeh noted that Iran, with about 1% of the world's population, holds 7% of global mineral reserves. He said that more than 75% of the country's mineral production is carried out by the private sector, according to data from the chamber's research center. "This shows the private sector's strong capacity, but to achieve real growth and impact, it requires support and stability in



diverse mining and mineral industries investments," he added. According to him, "Iran's Seventh Development Plan has set a target of 13% growth for the mining sector, which is achievable with incentive policies and

programs to attract investors." On the sidelines of the exhibition, Mohammad Aghajanolou, head of state-owned mining and metals holding IMIDRO, said about \$2.5 billion has been allocated this year to complete

and launch mining and infrastructure projects. He added that significant steps in building power plants and developing gas fields were also underway to push the industry toward greater self-sufficiency and efficiency.

## Minister hails growing ties with EAEU as free trade deal takes effect



**Economy Desk**

Iran's trade with member states of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) is accelerating, and the Islamic Republic is preparing to take a more active role in the bloc, Industry Minister Mohammad Atabak said on Tuesday. "The operational process of the free trade agreement between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union began in May this year," Atabak told the intergovernmental council of EAEU prime ministers in the Belarusian capital of Minsk. "The Islamic Republic of Iran is fully prepared to take a stronger role in the union's mechanisms and actively propose new ideas," IRNA reported.

The EAEU signed a three-year roadmap with Iran on Friday to enhance economic cooperation across various sectors. The event followed the implementation of Iran's free trade agreement with the EAEU, which took effect on May 15, 2025, eliminating tariffs on approximately 87 percent of goods traded between Iran and the bloc. Atabak noted that while trade with EAEU members is expanding rapidly, it still "has far to go to reach an optimal level." He stressed that broadening cooperation with neighboring and regional countries remains a cornerstone of Iran's economic diplomacy. "Active participation in EAEU meetings underscores the importance of

Iran's Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade Mohammad Atabak (2nd Right) poses for a photo with counterparts at the Eurasian Economic Union Council of Prime Ministers in Minsk, Belarus, September 30, 2025. ● IRNA

member states in Iran's economic diplomacy and foreign policy, reflecting our commitment to developing bilateral cooperation," he said. The minister added that such collaboration "will enhance the welfare of peoples in the region, strengthen multilateralism, and promote lasting peace." He described the full implementation of the free trade agreement and the creation of a free trade zone with the EAEU as "a milestone in the history of trade and economic relations of the member countries." To support Iranian companies entering the EAEU market, the Tehran Chamber of Commerce said it will host the Fourth Iran-Eurasia Strategic Forum on October 22 in Tehran under the theme "Trade, Diplomacy and the Emerging Regional Order." The forum will focus on leveraging new technologies and smart strategies to help Iranian firms access the regional market.

**Strengthening regional trade ties**  
Meanwhile during his visit to Be-

larus, the Iranian minister held intensive consultations with prime ministers and senior officials of the Eurasian Economic Union, with a focus on strengthening regional trade ties. Atabak, who chairs the Iran-Belarus Joint Economic Committee on behalf of Tehran, represented First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref at the EAEU Council of Prime Ministers. He also held separate discussions with Belarusian ministers and senior economic and industrial officials. Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Minsk International Innovations in Industry Exhibition, Atabak told the assembled EAEU prime ministers, ministers, and officials that the region's future depends on the determination of its leaders and decisions made in the interest of their people. He stressed the need to harness new technologies and to foster greater convergence among regional states through scientific capacity. "The Islamic Republic of Iran, relying on its scientific and technological strengths and with a forward-looking approach, is determined to open a new path for fair, sustainable, and peaceful development alongside its neighbors and partners," he said. Atabak added that the pursuit of this path would lead to a future where science, industry, and technology serve the welfare.

## Foreign trade tops \$54b in H1 calendar year as import values dip: IRICA



**Economy Desk**

Iran's foreign trade reached \$54.31 billion in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year, which began on March 21, with the value of imports falling compared with the same period last year, the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) said on Tuesday. Foroud Asgari said that during the stated period, Iran exported \$25.94 billion worth of non-oil goods and imported \$28.37 billion. The total weight of exported goods was 74.997 million tons,

compared with 18.757 million tons of imports, as reported by IRNA. According to the deputy finance minister, non-oil exports rose six percent in weight compared with the same period last year, while their value remained largely unchanged. Imports increased slightly in weight by two percent but declined in value by roughly 15 percent. Asgari also highlighted that Iran maintained trade relations with more than 100 countries during the first half of the year, reflecting the country's broad international commercial network.

## Will China and ...

"This rupture would have consequences far beyond Iran," Ghanbari warns. "If Council decisions lose credibility at the hands of certain major powers, the very legitimacy of the UN as the cornerstone of the post-war international order will be called into question. The Charter was written to resolve disputes between states, not to man-

age fractures among the great powers." That makes the current crisis a make-or-break test for the Council — one that could either restore its authority or fatally undermine it, heralding a new era in international relations. **Hard road back to 'maximum pressure'**  
In this climate, observers ar-

gue that the recent votes laid bare more than just divisions. They underscored the emergence of a relatively cohesive bloc: Russia, China, Algeria and Pakistan lined up on one side, showing that their alignment could play a decisive role in more sensitive arenas, such as sanctions committees. What makes this crucial is the decision-making rule: these bodies operate not by majority

vote but by consensus, meaning even a single dissenting voice can block the path forward. Consequently, seemingly mundane and procedural matters — such as appointing a committee chair — could be brought to a standstill where the gentle demonstration of power, through a silent veto or calculated silence, proves far more effective than formal instruments.

The same logic applies to the expert panel established under Resolution 1929, designed to monitor sanctions implementation. Reviving this mechanism would require a collective decision of the Council — and just one "no" from Russia or China could pull the plug, leaving a body that could have acted as the Security Council's eyes and ears on the Iran file effectively

confined to paper. In the end, while Russia's rotating presidency of the Council may not by itself bring sweeping changes, the strategic alignment of Moscow and Beijing at the committee level could tie Western ambitions in knots. It could make the road to restoring "maximum pressure" on Iran far bumpier — and far less certain — than many in the West had hoped.