

Central gas fields hit 240 mcm daily amid national consumption records

Economy Desk

Iran's central gas fields produced 240 million cubic meters of gas daily this week, with more than 2 million cubic meters sourced from flare gas recovery, according to Ali Rezaei, production manager at the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC)'s Central Regions.

"More than 2 million cubic meters of this volume comes from collected flare gas, which — after processing and extraction of natural gas liquids — is injected into the national grid," Rezaei told SHANA on Saturday.

Of the total output, approximately 28 million cubic meters stemmed from withdrawn stored gas, he added. "Flare gas collection and its reintroduction into the consumption cycle is a critical step toward boosting efficiency, reducing pollution, and safeguarding national assets. Optimizing the use of gas storage fields also remains a con-

tinuous priority for the company." The figures come as Iran's overall gas infrastructure faces peak winter demand. On Wednesday, national gas consumption by households, commercial users, and small industries reached 737 million cubic meters, accounting for 85% of total delivered gas, according to Saeed Tavakoli, managing director of the National Iranian Gas Company.

Despite the record draw, Tavakoli said grid stability was maintained through operational efforts. "Gas industry personnel have created a miracle in preserving network stability," he told SHANA. "Adopting an optimal consumption pattern plays a decisive role in sustaining the integrity of the national gas system."

By Friday, domestic consumption slightly declined to 715 million cubic meters amid persistently cold weather, still representing 82% of total gas supplied nationwide.

Separately, NIOC CEO Hamid Bovard has announced a new milestone in South Pars field output. "Gas extraction from the South Pars joint field reached an unprecedented 727 million cubic meters today," he said on Wednesday. South Pars is the world's largest natural gas field which Iran shares it with Qatar where it is called North Dome.

Bovard linked the achievement to broader efforts to secure future energy supply. "Given the measures underway to procure new rigs and drilling equipment, we hope to guarantee the country's energy production in the coming years," he said.

He also urged high-consumption sectors to conserve energy. "We ask all segments, especially major consumers, to help their fellow countrymen working in operational zones and support sustainable energy security by practicing energy savings."



SHANA

Iran outsmarts Muslims in key digital techs, globally ranked 11 in cloud computing



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The Islamic Republic holds the 11th global position in cloud computing research and 15th in Multi-access Edge Computing (MEC), according to data from the Web of Science database, said Mohammad-Mehdi Alavian-Mehr, head of the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC).

"Iran has outperformed other Muslim countries in such technologies," Alavian-Mehr said, citing ISC findings.

He emphasized the critical role of digital transformation in today's business environment. "In today's rapidly digitizing business world,

technology is not just a competitive advantage — it is a vital necessity," ISNA reported.

Alavian-Mehr outlined how cloud computing emerged as a response to longstanding challenges. "Before the advent of cloud computing, companies had to bear enormous costs for purchasing, maintaining, and managing hardware infrastructure — costs that not only imposed financial burdens but also carried risks such as data loss. These challenges paved the way for cloud computing, a solution that offers scalable and accessible computing resources, revolutionizing information management and

significantly enhancing flexibility and cost efficiency."

Given this context, he stressed the importance of tracking Iran's scientific standing in cloud and edge computing through reputable global rankings.

According to ISC, Iran also ranks 16th globally in serverless computing, 21st in Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS), 23rd in Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS), and 31st in Software-as-a-Service (SaaS).

Moreover, based on Web of Science data, Iran leads all leading Islamic countries in IaaS, serverless computing, and Multi-access Edge Computing (MEC).

Road transit plateau at 12.4m tons despite regional conflicts, logistical shocks

Economy Desk

Iran transited 12.437 million metric tons of goods through its road networks in the first nine months of the current Iranian year, which began on March 21, 2025, according to a senior official at Iran Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization.

"Road transit across the country's land borders has remained stable," Javad Hedayati, director general of the Office of Transit and International Transport at the organization told IRNA on Saturday.

He noted that the volume showed little difference compared to the same period last year, defying expectations of a 50-60% decline due to multiple disruptions. "Given the challenges — particularly those following (the Israeli-imposed) 12-day war — it was anticipated that transit would suffer a severe drop, but this did not happen, and we even saw growth on certain routes."

Hedayati listed the 12-day Israeli aggression in June, a fire at Shahid Rajaee Port, the global oil price crash, and professional protests by truck drivers among the factors that analysts believed could cripple transit

operations. "Yet in practice, this did not occur," he said. While oil-related transit volumes have halved during the nine-month period, non-oil cargo transit has followed an upward trend that "remains robust," he added.

Hedayati attributed part of this resilience to the establishment of the National Transit Headquarters (Gozar) and the government's focus — particularly by President Masoud Pezeshkian — on simplifying and facilitating transit procedures.

In late December, the headquarters formally approved and circulated the "National Transit Plan" to all member agencies, developed under the framework of Iran's Seventh Development Plan Law.

The document is intended to serve as the country's comprehensive roadmap for transit, outlining objectives, strategies, and requirements to strengthen Iran's position in regional and transregional value chains. Infrastructure upgrades and expanded trade ties with neighboring countries have also created new opportunities. "Strengthening road infrastructure and deepening commercial engagement with countries sharing borders with Iran have paved the way for boosting exports and transiting various goods through our territory to other regional markets," Hedayati said.

A recent agreement with Tajikistan is expected to further enhance competi-

tiveness. "Tajikistan's Foreign Ministry recently announced that, starting in early March 2026, the two countries will abolish visa requirements for international transport drivers," he said. "This measure, along with reduced documentary and administrative costs, will increase the competitiveness of Iran's transit corridor."

According to IRNA, as many as 561,582 international freight trips were carried out through Iran's borders during the nine-month period. Of these, over 10.01 million metric tons of goods were exported via nearly 419,000 trips, while more than 1.913 million metric tons of cargo were imported through over 87,000 freight trips.

Iran must explore ...

They don't see the 70,000 victims in Gaza. They see the shooters, arsonists of mosques and religious centers, the killing of ordinary people in Iran, and they defend them. They don't see the diminished rights of a nation in Venezuela. The president of a nation was taken from his home, near his family, and spirited out of the country, and the Council said nothing. But today, a group of knife-wielders, shouters, and mosque and Quran burners have become "human beings" in the eyes of this Council, who must be defended. This Council is a very laughable play-

thing and simply operates to serve the interests of the United States and Western colonial powers.

What repercussions do such actions have for the international order? What threats do they pose?

Such actions breed distrust in the international system regarding what the UNHRC claims to be, and no member of the international community has trust or confidence in it. This pushes the world towards unilateralism, where everyone plays whatever tune they want, and there is no credible and impartial international arbit-

ter to be trusted.

What tools does Iran have at its disposal to counter such moves against it in international organizations?

What other strategies can be considered to strengthen Iran's position in this regard?

Iran should, in multilateral assemblies where it is a member — for example, Shanghai, BRICS, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) — strive to define parallel human rights mechanisms. Iran alone does not have a decisive weight in the world. While it rejects and condemns such resolutions

in the media and statements, if it can define new mechanisms within larger, multilateral frameworks and foster a consensus in resisting such proxy movements in the world with member countries of those organizations, that would be a suitable countermeasure. Furthermore, to facilitate more coordinated response in the world, Iran certainly can cooperate with countries that voted against this resolution and assist them when statements against those countries are to be made at the international level.

What is your analysis of the role of

European countries in proposing and approving this resolution? Can it be seen as a sign of a more hostile stance by Europe or just playing in the hands of the United States and Israel?

Not exactly. Iran's enemies, led by the United States, are using all their tools but don't want to become more discredited, so they put forward a few lightweight countries. This way, they can also display a broader scope of confrontation with Iran across the world. Although these countries appear to be the proposers, the United States certainly has a fundamental role in this process.