

# Strikes on steel, petchem sectors failed to shake economy: *Veep*

**Economy Desk**

Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref said attacks by the "American-Zionist enemy" on Iran's steel and petrochemical industries during the Ramadan war had failed to disrupt the country's leading sectors, adding that reconstruction of damaged facilities was progressing faster than expected. Iran is accelerating the reconstruction and modernization of steel and petrochemical facilities damaged during the 40-day conflict that began in late February, Aref said Saturday in meetings with executives from Mobarakeh Steel and Persian Gulf Holding, according to Tasnim news agency.

He described Mobarakeh Steel as a key parent industry and a driver of national development, saying the company had been deliberately targeted because of its major role in Iran's economy.

"The American-Zionist enemy, in the Ramadan War, pursued a strategy of attacking the country's infrastructure and industries, targeting the steel and petrochemical sectors in an effort to create unemployment and destroy the country's leading industries, but this strategy also failed," he said. Referring to damage sustained by steel

industries, Aref said reconstruction and modernization efforts were proceeding faster than expected despite the losses, adding that the government would use all available resources to support the process.

He said Mobarakeh Steel was not merely a regional industrial unit, but a national and cross-sectoral enterprise that, in addition to production, had fulfilled its social responsibilities and remained one of the country's main economic drivers.

Aref also stressed the need for industries to prepare for critical conditions, saying Mobarakeh Steel should develop detailed plans to maintain production during crises and design clear post-war scenarios, as Iran would face different conditions after the conflict. Pointing to Iran's regional and international standing, Aref said recent developments had strengthened the country's position and that, according to some foreign analysts, Iran was now considered among the world's leading powers. The vice president said future planning should take into account as Iran's "superpower" position in the world.

In a separate meeting with executives from Persian Gulf Holding, Aref praised the petrochemical industries



Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref meets with executives from Mobarakeh Steel Company on May 9, 2026.  
● [fvpresident.ir](http://fvpresident.ir)

company for its efforts to rebuild damage caused by enemy attacks and said reconstruction, modernization and rehabilitation of affected industries should proceed more rapidly so their impact would be reflected in the economy and people's livelihoods.

**Ministry pledges support**

Western sanctions on Iran, along with damage from recent military attacks on production infrastructure, have further intensified challenges facing the sector. In this regard, Iran's alloy steel producers have urged the government to exempt steel plants from electricity consumption restrictions this year, citing production disruptions at major facilities following US and Israeli attacks and warning of broader risks to the domestic market.

The group said imposing electricity restrictions — including outages, load shifting or demand cuts — would undermine efforts to replace lost output, deepen liquidity pressures and push



companies into severe financial distress, with potentially irreversible consequences for the broader steel sector. Energy Minister Abbas Aliabadi said on Saturday that the government was prepared to supply electricity to petrochemical and steel companies that had previously generated all or part of

their own power needs. According to Mehr news agency, Aliabadi said several power plants belonging to industrial units had been damaged during the war and that the Energy Ministry was ready to compensate for the shortfall using electricity generated by the national grid.

## US-Israeli war inflicts '\$335m direct damage' on IT sector



Deputy Communications Minister Ehsan Chitsaz addresses a meeting on damage inflicted on the digital economy during the recent US-Israeli war on May 9, 2026.  
● [IRNA](http://IRNA)

warned policymakers and decision-makers about the necessity of maintaining Internet connectivity for digital economy businesses under all conditions.

"From the perspective of the Communications Ministry, Internet connectivity should not be interrupted even in critical conditions," he said, adding that the issue had been repeatedly raised in previous meetings between digital economy activists and policymakers.

Internet access across the country was largely shut down from the early hours of the February 28 US-Israeli attack, with connectivity dropping to around 2% of prewar levels, according to monitoring groups. Since an April 8 ceasefire, authorities have gradually expanded limited access to selected users and entities, but most of the country's population of more than 90 million remains offline.

Despite the damage inflicted on communications infrastructure, Chitsaz said the national network remained stable during the conflict. He said communications between some Iranian islands and the mainland were temporarily cut during attacks in the Ramadan War, but in many cases were restored within hours.

Despite heavy pressure and casualties suffered by ministry personnel, the Communications and Information Technology Ministry managed to maintain the stability of the country's communications network, he added.

**Economy Desk**

Iran's information technology sector suffered \$335 million in direct damage during the recent US-Israeli war, excluding losses caused by Internet shutdowns, Deputy Communications Minister Ehsan Chitsaz said on Saturday.

"The direct damage to the information technology sector from the recent American-Israeli war amounts to \$335 million. This figure does not include losses caused by Internet disruptions," Chitsaz said at a meeting on damage inflicted on the digital economy during the 40-day war began in late February.

According to IRNA, more than 500 communications sites across the country were attacked during the conflict, causing service disruptions, although Internet connectivity in many cases was restored within hours.

The war also damaged fixed assets in Iran's digital economy sector, while missile strikes on technology and communications infrastructure created serious challenges, the report said. Chitsaz described the shutdown of international Internet access as one of the main sources of damage to the digital economy during the war, adding that the telecommunications and com-

munications sector recorded losses of nearly \$25.6 million (4.6 trillion tomans), leading to direct declines in business revenues.

Abbas Ashtiani, head of the blockchain commission at Iran's ICT Guild Organization, had earlier estimated that the digital blackout imposed at least \$30 million to \$35 million in daily direct, indirect and opportunity costs on the country.

Chitsaz said e-commerce businesses suffered \$12.8 million (2.3 trillion tomans) in lost revenue, while large-scale digital businesses incurred losses of around \$30.6 million (5.5 trillion tomans).

He added that losses in the postal and logistics sector were estimated at \$4.3 million (780 billion tomans), while damages in the space sector and provincial businesses reached about \$10.6 million (1.9 trillion tomans).

Chitsaz said large digital businesses also suffered \$90.7 million (16.32 trillion tomans) in lost profits because of Internet disruptions.

He said years of underinvestment in the communications sector had left businesses vulnerable, resulting in both direct wartime losses and reduced resilience across the economy.

The deputy minister stressed that the Communications Ministry had repeatedly

## Iran's 2025 oil revenue surpassed \$45b, OPEC data shows

**Economy Desk**

Iran earned more than \$45 billion in oil revenue in 2025 despite intensified US sanctions and the return of Washington's "maximum pressure" policy, according to the latest report by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Tasnim news agency, citing the OPEC report, said the combined oil revenue of the group's 12 members fell to \$619 billion in 2025 from \$651 billion in 2024, marking the third consecutive annual decline in OPEC oil income.

According to the report, OPEC members' oil revenues declined

from \$828 billion in 2022 to \$678 billion in 2023, before falling further to \$651 billion in 2024 and \$619 billion in 2025.

Iran's oil revenue showed only a limited decline despite tighter US sanctions, with the country earning about \$45.335 billion from oil exports in 2025, compared with approximately \$46.776 billion in 2024, a decrease of around \$1.4 billion.

The report showed Iran's oil income had followed a relatively upward trend in recent years, with 2025 revenue standing roughly \$20 billion above the country's oil earnings in 2021.

Iran accounted for more than 7%



of total OPEC oil revenue in 2025, ranking as the organization's sixth-highest oil earner. Saudi Arabia recorded the highest oil revenue among OPEC members at \$213 billion, followed by Iraq with \$88 billion, the United Arab Emirates with \$73 billion, Kuwait with \$61 billion and Nigeria with \$54 billion.

## Transport projects proceed 'at full strength' under wartime strain

**Economy Desk**

Iran's transport and urban development minister said on Saturday that infrastructure, road maintenance, bridge construction and highway projects were continuing at full strength despite wartime conditions in the country.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of road maintenance and transport projects in northeastern Semnan Province, Farzaneh Sadegh Malvajerd praised road maintenance workers for their efforts during the recent US-Israeli imposed war, according to IRNA.

"Road maintenance workers stood by the country with solidarity and cooperation during the recent war, and some of them were martyred while serving," she said.

The country remains under wartime conditions. Following a 40-day conflict, Tehran and Washington reached a temporary ceasefire on April 8 through Pakistani mediation, though tensions remain high. Semnan Province, located along Iran's west-east and north-south transit routes, is considered one of the country's key regions for the development of road and rail transport infrastructure. On Sat-

urday, an additional 36 kilometers of the Garmsar-Semnan highway were inaugurated in the presence of the minister. According to ISNA, the highway is part of a 980-kilometer project designed to connect central and southern Iran to the country's northeast and ease bottlenecks along the transport corridor.

The road lies on the international east-west transport corridor and the Asian TRACECA (Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia) corridor, linking the provinces of Qom, Tehran, Semnan and Khorasan Razavi while helping complete Iran's national highway network.

## CIA report exposes ...

The recent CIA report is not unique; similar assessments had been issued before. Even prior to the 12-day war, intelligence estimates suggested that Iran did not pose an immediate national security threat. Regarding uranium enrichment, the assessments indicated that Iran had not yet reached the breaking point and would need at least six months — with some estimates extending to a year — before reaching that stage. In that sense, Israel appeared to be the driving force behind the policy direction.

The US president remains highly unpredictable, but the primary logic behind his decision-making is minimizing personal political damage. In less than five months, the United States will hold its midterm elections. The greatest threat facing Trump personally is avoiding the fate of Richard Nixon.

If the current trajectory continues, and Trump keeps pressing ahead with the war despite assessments from bipartisan and higher-level institutions such as the CIA, while effectively imposing the costs of the conflict on American voters, the political risks for him will grow substantially. Gasoline prices in the US are now roughly 40% higher on average than they were three months ago, and in some states the increase has reached 50%.

That could push voters away from sup-

porting Republican majorities over the next five months. Should that happen, the political risks for Trump would rise sharply, including the possibility of impeachment proceedings. As a result, he appears to be looking for an exit plan in both the Middle East and the Iran file.

At this stage, de-escalation would logically be the preferred direction unless Israel once again creates a fait accompli on the ground. Trump would prefer to walk away with even a limited claim of success. The blockade itself was designed to create the impression that pressure had been applied, that the opposing side had backed down, and that concessions had been extracted from Iran. At present, Trump appears to favor reducing tensions, although there remains the possibility that he could once again be pulled back in by Israel.

**Could this push Washington toward changing course — moving away from maximum pressure toward crisis management and negotiations — or is there still a possibility of further escalation?**