

Iran-Turkey trade jumps 73% in June as maritime routes affected by US blockade

Economy Desk

Trade between Iran and Turkey rose 73% in June to nearly \$700 million, as Iran faced renewed restrictions on maritime trade routes, according to the latest data from Turkey's Economy Ministry.

The value of trade between the two countries reached \$3.16 billion in the first six months of this year, up 19% from \$2.65 billion in the same period in 2025, Iran's Tasnim news agency reported, citing Turkish Economy Ministry data.

Turkey's exports to Iran rose 6% to \$1.56 billion in January-June this year from about \$1.47 billion in the same period last year, an increase of \$90 million.

Turkey's imports from Iran rose 35% to \$1.6 billion from \$1.18 billion a year earlier.

The pace of growth accelerated in June. Turkish exports to Iran rose 50% year-on-year to \$366 million from \$244 million, while imports from Iran jumped 109% to \$325 million from \$155 million.

Total bilateral trade therefore increased to \$691 million in June from \$399 million a year earlier, a 73% rise.

Land trade gains importance

Trade growth comes as Iran faces renewed restrictions on maritime routes. Iran's southern ports remain under a

US naval blockade imposed by President Donald Trump in mid-April, aimed at pressuring Tehran into an agreement after a 40-day US-Israeli war that began in late February. After a pause of several weeks, the naval blockade was reinstated in mid-July. Iran is seeking to diversify its logistics corridors to counter growing restrictions on its trade routes. Iran has land borders with several countries, providing opportunities to diversify its foreign trade routes. Turkey, Iraq, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan are among the countries that can play a role in developing Iran's land-based trade and transit.

Rail link with Turkey

Jabar Ali Zakeri, head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways, emphasized the strategic role of the Razi rail border crossing in international transportation during a visit to West Azerbaijan province in northwestern Iran on Sunday, according to ILNA.

"Developing rail connections with Turkey through this border is a priority for the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development," Zakeri said.

"With the implementation of development plans, the freight-handling capacity of the Razi border will increase from about 1 million to 1.5 million tons a year to a nominal capacity of 6 million tons."

Zakeri, who serves as deputy minis-



ter of roads and urban development, said development projects were also under way at Razi station, including the addition of rail lines, expansion of

loading and unloading platforms, construction of a new administrative and service building, and efforts to attract private-sector investment.

"Operation of the station's new lines is scheduled to begin next month, while construction of the new building will also start at the same time," he said.

Avicenna institute unveils poultry vaccine with high efficacy



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Iran has unveiled a locally developed inactivated vaccine against Angara disease in poultry that researchers say has an efficacy rate of more than 90%, using strains of the virus circulating in the country.

The vaccine was unveiled on Sunday at a ceremony marking the 46th anniversary of the Academic Center for Education, Culture and Research (ACECR), attended by President Masoud Pezeshkian and senior government officials, according to IRNA.

The product, developed by the Avicenna Research Institute of Modern Biological Technologies at ACECR, is designed to im-

prove control of Angara disease, reduce reliance on imported vaccines and help protect the country's food security.

Mahmoud Jaddi Tehrani, who led the project with Alireza Farasat, said Angara is a viral disease caused by avian adenoviruses and has 12 viral strains, three of which - strains 4, 8 and 11 - are pathogenic.

These strains can kill all the chicks and chickens in a poultry farm within days, he said. Vaccination is the only way to combat the disease, making access to an effective vaccine important for controlling the disease and maintaining poultry meat production. Vaccines previously used against Angara in Iran were imported and re-



A locally developed inactivated vaccine against Angara disease in poultry is unveiled at a ceremony marking the 46th anniversary of the Academic Center for Education, Culture and Research (ACECR), in Tehran on August 9, 2026.

● IRNA

quired significant amounts of foreign currency. But because the strains used in imported vaccines differ from those circulating in Iran, they had an efficacy of only about 30% in preventing the disease, Tehrani said.

That difference has caused significant economic losses and posed a threat to food security, he said.

The locally developed vaccine was produced using strains 4, 8 and 11 of the avian adenovirus circulating in Iran. Tests showed an efficacy rate of more than 90%, creating capacity to improve disease control and increase poultry meat production, according to the researchers.

One of the main features of the project is that the vaccine was developed us-

ing the actual virus strains circulating in Iran and that its production technology was adapted to the country's conditions.

The vaccine is the first domestically produced animal vaccine based on virus strains circulating in Iran, according to the researchers. They said it could play a major role in controlling Angara disease and increasing the efficiency of poultry meat production. The researchers said production of the vaccine could help create domestic capacity to control Angara disease, reduce economic losses from the disease and support the stability of poultry meat production. Domestic production would also prevent foreign currency outflows and provide potential for exports and foreign exchange earnings.

All poultry farms across Iran are potential users of the vaccine, making its development a nationwide project aimed at supporting the poultry industry, food security and poultry meat production.

New techs, AI top priority for agriculture improvement: Minister



Economy Desk

Iran's Agriculture Ministry has launched numerous systems in various fields over the past year and a half, with artificial intelligence already being used in some of them, Agriculture Minister Gholamreza Nouri-Qezeljah said.

"Using new technologies is one of the ministry's main priorities, and we are seriously pursuing the use of these technologies in the agricultural sector," Nouri-Qezeljah said, according to IRNA.

"Using artificial intelligence helps greatly with gaining greater oversight, providing information, regulating and managing supply and demand, and managing the market," he said.

Hormozgan expands water-efficient crops

In a related development, plans are under way to expand the cultivation of low-water-use crops across 150 hectares of farmland in Hormozgan Province as part of efforts to implement a crop pattern and manage water consumption, IRNA reported.

Massoud Gorgij, deputy head of the Hormozgan Agricultural Organization for crop production, said the program had been planned and had begun in some suitable areas of the southern province.

"Implementation programs to expand the cultivation of low-water-use crops have intensified in order to preserve water resources and improve productivity in agriculture," Gorgij said.

"Low-water-use crops not only consume less water but also have significant potential to create added value in

the region's agricultural economy," he said, emphasizing the need to manage water resources and implement a crop pattern.

Gorgij said plans to expand the cultivation of strategic crops across 150 hectares of farmland in the province had entered the implementation stage. "The main objective of this measure is to guide farmers toward following a crop pattern suited to the province's existing water resources," he said.

"To achieve this goal, a range of measures, including promoting modern irrigation systems, holding specialized training and extension courses for farmers, and continuously monitoring cultivated areas through the 'Comprehensive Zoning System,' are on the agenda."

Hormozgan faces water-resource constraints because of its semiarid climate, declining rainfall and persistent drought in recent years. Reforming crop patterns and shifting toward crops suited to the province's water capacity are therefore among the measures considered important for sustaining agricultural activity.

Water scarcity has become one of the country's major challenges in recent years, while excessive extraction of groundwater over past decades has worsened the situation.

Against this backdrop, reforming water consumption patterns in agriculture, expanding modern irrigation systems, eliminating traditional methods, preventing unauthorized extraction from wells and reducing the area planted with water-intensive crops are among the priorities for water-resource and agricultural management. Gorgij said sesame, sorghum, millet, mung beans, beans, quinoa and salicornia were among the low-water-use crops suited to the province.

Hormozgan has more than 160,000 hectares of cultivated farmland and orchards and produces more than 3.8 million tons of agricultural and livestock products annually, giving the province significant capacity to expand low-water-use crops.

Trilateral defense pact ...

Pakistan's role will also be limited to what the Saudis want. A precedent was set once by Nawaz Sharif. At the time, a procedure was established under which parliament would decide on the direct deployment of Pakistani forces in Saudi Arabia. Pakistan's parliament voted against the proposal when General Bajwa was the commander of the Pakistani army. As a result, Pakistan's

role was limited to the air force.

But now, with Asim Munir wielding considerable power, I doubt Shehbaz Sharif would follow his brother's precedent and refer the matter to parliament.

We would probably see a Pakistani military presence along the border between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, although it would most likely take the form of an advisory role. A military

presence involving Pakistani soldiers directly engaging Ansarullah forces is unlikely because of the complications that could arise — for example, if they were taken prisoner and the international consequences that would follow. I doubt such a scenario would happen on that scale. But an advisory presence, along with the continued involvement of Pakistan's air force, is possible if Saudi Arabia makes such a request.