Building materials exports to Eurasia jumps 30%, trade official says

Economy Desk


IRNA

Iran's exports of building and construction products to member states of the Eurasian Economic Union have surged by about 30% following the implementation of a free trade agreement, a deputy head of the country's Trade Promotion Organization said on Sunday.

Amir Roshan-Bakhsh Qanbari said the products included copper and polyethylene pipes, taps, fittings and other plumbing equipment, although he did not specify the period covered by the growth figure or provide the value of exports to the five-member bloc.

"Iran exported about $74 million worth of copper pipes, $70 million of polyethylene pipes, $97 million of taps and fittings, and $30 million of reinforced pipes and hoses last year," he said, according to IRNA.

Other exports included $6 million of brass pipes, $26 million of certain industrial pipes, $37 million of related products and fittings, and $14 million of flexible pipes and products.

The figures cover exports of the products concerned and do not indicate how much was shipped to Eurasian markets. The free trade agreement between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union, comprising Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan, took effect on May 15, 2025. It removed tariffs on most goods traded between the two sides.

Trade between Iran and the bloc increased by 22% in the first year of the agreement. That broader growth figure covers trade in both directions and should not be taken as the growth rate for Iranian building materials exports.

Qanbari said the agreement had helped create opportunities for Iranian manufacturers, adding that the bloc's geographical proximity and logistical links made it a potential market for building materials, plumbing equipment and technical and engineering services.

He said discussions with Russian and Belarusian counterparts had included cooperation in supplying goods, carrying out projects and contracting work.

"Iranian manufacturers and suppliers needed to take a more active part in business meetings and develop a better understanding of local markets," he added.

Russia was among the markets being targeted by Iranian exporters, Qanbari said, referring to talks with the Russian Builders Union and other commercial representatives on expanding sales of Iranian building products and cooperation in supplying and implementing projects.

He also cited a recent Iranian delegation's visit to Belarus, where building materials and plumbing products were among the subjects discussed.

"Meeting local standards would be essential for Iranian companies seeking to expand their presence in those markets," he said.

Qanbari described building, kitchen and plumbing products as sectors with significant export potential and said expanding their overseas sales could help reduce Iran's reliance on exports of raw and semi-processed commodities.

Iran, Belarus set to ease vehicle approval barriers in EAEU market

Economy Desk


IRNA

Iran and Belarus are seeking to expand cooperation on vehicle testing and type approval, as Tehran looks to address technical barriers facing its automotive manufacturers in the Eurasian market.

Mahmoudreza Taheri, deputy for conformity assessment at Iran's National Standards Organisation, said on Sunday that officials from the two countries had discussed vehicle testing, type approval, production conformity assessment, laboratory cooperation and the transfer of technical expertise, IRNA reported.

Taheri made the remarks during a meeting with Belarusian Ambassador Dmitry Koltsov in Tehran.

He said Iranian testing bodies, including the Iranian Standards and Quality Inspection Company (ISQI) and AQS, had capabilities in technical inspections, fuel consumption and emissions tests, as well as crash tests.

The talks follow an October 2 memorandum of understanding between Iran's Iranian Standards and Quality Inspection Company (ISQI) and Belarusian testing center Centromash, which focused on vehicle testing, safety standards and research and development.

A report by Centromash said the October meeting also brought together representatives of Russian and Belarusian automakers and Iranian commercial vehicle manufacturers. Participants discussed obstacles facing manufacturers seeking vehicle type approval in the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) market.

The EAEU, which includes Belarus, applies common technical requirements for the safety of wheeled vehicles and their components.

Iran's free trade agreement with the bloc took effect in May 2025.

The agreement provides a framework for considering the acceptance of conformity assessment results from the other side, subject to technical requirements and possible separate arrangements. It does not, however, establish automatic mutual recognition of all test results.

ECONOMIC LENS

Energy security, its impact on global economic dynamics



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ANALYSIS EXCLUSIVE

Energy has always been one of the fundamental pillars of national economic power. However, in today's world, its significance extends far beyond supplying fuel for industries, transportation, and everyday activities. Reliable access to energy resources, the ability to transport them, and the capacity to manage energy costs have become decisive factors in economic competitiveness and countries' positions within the international system. Consequently, energy security is no longer merely a specialized issue concerning the oil and gas sectors; it has evolved into a major component of global economic stability and development. Recent developments have demonstrated that disruptions in energy supplies, even when confined to a particular geographical region, can have far-reaching consequences for global markets. Rising oil and gas prices, increased transportation costs, higher industrial production expenses, and ultimately mounting inflationary pressures can trigger a chain of economic repercussions across countries. This reality highlights the extent to which modern economies depend on an interconnected and complex network of energy production, transportation, and consumption.

One of the most important dimensions of energy security is the mutual dependence between energy producers and consumers. Countries with substantial oil and gas reserves possess considerable potential to influence international markets. Meanwhile, industrialized nations and energy-importing economies are constantly seeking to secure reliable and affordable access to these resources. This interdependence has made energy relations an integral part of international economic affairs. Under such circumstances, any changes in transportation routes, export policies, or production levels in supplying countries can influence economic decisions across different parts of the world.

Furthermore, energy security is not limited to the volume of underground reserves or production capacity. Transportation infrastructure, pipelines, export terminals, ports, electricity networks, and even energy storage technologies play decisive roles in ensuring a stable supply. A country may possess abundant energy resources, but without adequate infrastructure and sufficient investment, it may be unable to utilize this potential effectively. For this reason, investment in energy infrastructure and the modernization of transmission networks have become major priorities in economic policymaking across many countries.

Alongside oil and natural gas, developments in renewable energy have also transformed the concept of energy security. The expansion of solar, wind, and other clean energy technologies has created new opportunities to reduce dependence on fossil fuels. Nevertheless, the energy transition does not mean the end of the importance of conventional energy sources. For years to come, the global economy will continue to rely on a combination of energy resources, and countries' success in this transition will depend on their ability to strike a balance between security of supply, economic affordability, and environmental considerations.

Another important point is that the transition toward clean energy is creating new forms of dependency. Access to critical minerals, battery technology, power generation equipment, and the supply chains for solar panels and wind turbines has now become part of the broader economic competition among nations. Therefore, future energy security will not be concerned solely with oil and gas; countries' ability to access technology, raw materials, and the technical expertise required for energy production will become increasingly important.

In this context, developing economies face even greater challenges. Rising energy import costs can limit the financial resources available for infrastructure development, education, and public services. On the other hand, fluctuations in energy prices do not always represent an opportunity for exporting countries. Excessive dependence on natural resource exports for national revenues and public budgets makes their economies vulnerable to price shocks. Economic diversification and the efficient allocation of energy revenues are therefore among the most important strategies for reducing such vulnerabilities.

For Iran, energy security is significant from two perspectives. First, the country possesses extensive oil and natural gas resources, which can provide a foundation for expanding economic cooperation and strengthening its presence in regional markets. Second, there is an urgent need to improve consumption management, develop infrastructure, and invest in renewable energy. Transforming energy resources into a sustainable economic advantage requires a perspective that goes beyond the export of raw materials and gives serious attention to value chains, technology, productivity, and investment. Ultimately, energy security should be regarded as one of the fundamental pillars of global economic stability. Sustaining economic growth requires energy that is reliable, accessible, and affordable. Countries capable of establishing a balance between resource diversification, infrastructure development, technological advancement, and consumption management will enjoy a more stable position in the future global economy. The reality is that, in today's global economic landscape, power does not belong exclusively to countries with greater natural resources; rather, those that can transform resources and technology into economic security and sustainable development will be better positioned to succeed.

China's open, inclusive ...

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As the 15th Five-Year Plan advances steadily, China will continue to pursue high-quality development and shape "China Opportunity 2.0" through new quality productive forces. This will bring the world not only market dividends, but also innovation dividends, opening up new horizons for industrial upgrading, innovative applications and green development. In the first three quarters, new growth drivers—including advanced manufacturing, the digital and intelligent economy, and modern services—contributed more than 40 percent to economic growth. The value added of large-scale equipment manufacturing and high-tech manufacturing grew 10.2 percent and 14.3 percent year on year, respectively. Frontier technologies, including large AI models, are advancing rapidly. China accounted for more than 90 percent of global humanoid robot shipments, maintained its position as the world's largest producer and seller of new energy vehicles, and accelerated development in fields such as innovative drugs. "China Opportunity 2.0" will offer countries around the world broad-based innovation empowerment and high-return investment opportunities, while providing powerful impetus for the reshaping of global industrial chains.

At a time when unilateralism and protectionism are putting the global trading system under strain and economic globalization is facing headwinds, President Xi Jinping stressed at the APEC CEO Summit the need to firmly uphold the WTO-centered, rules-based multilateral trading system. China is accelerating efforts to develop a vast, open market and expand imports of high-quality goods and services. It has successfully hosted the China International Import Expo (CIIE) for nine consecutive years and organized nearly 100 events under the "Export to China" initiative. China will continue to host such events, providing efficient channels for quality products from around the world to enter the Chinese market. The continued expansion of imports will not only generate additional growth for global trade, but also contribute to building an open world economy through Chinese modernization. China has been the world's second-largest import market for 17 consecutive years and is a major export destination for nearly 80 countries. In the first three quarters, China's merchandise imports grew by 22.3 percent year on year, while exports rose by 16.4 percent, with import growth outpacing export growth by 5.9 percentage points. The outlook for China's imports remains promising.

Recently, Iran participated in the 9th CIIE in Shanghai, where its distinctive products were warmly received by Chinese consumers. Iran set up its national pavilion, modeled on the Gate of All Nations of the ancient Persian Empire, reflecting the country's rich historical and cultural heritage. It also organized Iranian companies to participate in the business exhibition, showcasing products and technologies from traditional sectors to cutting-edge fields such as nanotechnology. During the expo, China and Iran also held an investment and trade forum to explore ways to expand channels for Iranian small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to export to China and discuss cooperation in technology and investment. The event served as a bridge for further deepening economic and trade cooperation between China and Iran.

The stronger the headwinds, the greater the resolve. No matter how the international landscape may evolve, China will continue to expand high-standard opening up and remain steadfast in promoting the high-quality development of the Belt and Road cooperation, creating favorable conditions for mutually beneficial and win-win cooperation. China stands ready to work with Iran and other countries to harness the power of innovation for growth and pursue shared prosperity through cooperation. Together, we can turn the opportunities outlined in China's 15th Five-Year Plan into a concrete agenda for joint development, enabling "China Opportunity 2.0" to deliver greater benefits to the people of China and Iran and the wider world.