

**ECONOMIC INTEGRATION WITH MAJOR PARTNER COUNTRIES IN
UZBEKISTAN'S IMPORTS AND CHANGES IN THE TRADE BALANCE**

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Abstract

This article examines economic integration with Uzbekistan's main partner countries in imports and changes in the trade balance. The study provides a scientific analysis of import volumes, economic relations with partner countries, the share of major partners and their impact on the national economy, as well as the strategic importance of import processes. The article also addresses issues such as economic integration processes, trade balance dynamics, diversification of import sources, and their influence on national production needs. In addition, based on international and domestic sources, the paper highlights approaches to shaping import policy, developing cooperation, and ensuring economic stability.

Keywords

imports, economic integration, trade balance, national economy, diversification of import sources, foreign economic relations, strategic policy.

Introduction

In recent years, Uzbekistan's foreign trade system has been developing dynamically, with a steady increase in import volumes and an expansion of economic integration processes. According to official statistical data, in 2025 the total volume of imports of the Republic of Uzbekistan reached USD 47.4 billion, which indicates a significant increase compared to 2024. This figure serves as an important factor not only in meeting market demand for goods, but also in supplementing national production capacities, ensuring domestic market supply, and strengthening international economic relations.

The growth in import volumes reflects Uzbekistan's increasing integration into the global trading system. Within this process, the country has established import relations in goods and services with more than 180 countries, indicating a highly diversified trade geography. Such diversification helps supply various sectors of the domestic economy with necessary materials and increases the potential to improve export-import balance. Changes in the structure of imports also deserve special attention. According to several sources, a large share of imports consists of industrial machinery, production equipment, and raw materials, which aligns with Uzbekistan's economic policy aimed at modernizing industry and the service sector. For example, during January–September 2025, total imports amounted to USD 33.1 billion, with a significant share attributed to machinery and transport equipment.

Economic integration with major partner countries plays a key role in the import process. China, Russia, and Kazakhstan occupy leading positions in Uzbekistan's imports, supplying various goods including machinery, raw materials, energy resources, and industrial products. Such import relations create favorable conditions for expanding domestic production capacity, introducing innovations, and developing competitive products. Moreover, the list of partner countries involved in imports indicates that imports have not only economic but also geopolitical strategic importance. Countries such as the Republic of Korea, Germany, and India also hold significant shares in Uzbekistan's imports, supplying technological components, high-quality products, and goods with high added value.

The state of the trade balance is another critical economic issue for Uzbekistan. Rising import volumes influence export levels as well; in the first 11 months of 2025, imports amounted to USD 41.9 billion, showing a continuing upward trend. The trade balance is an important indicator in shaping economic strategy, ensuring national currency stability, managing external debt, and maintaining macroeconomic equilibrium. Therefore, analyzing economic integration with major import partner countries, trends in import growth, and their impact on the trade balance remains a relevant scientific and practical issue.

Literature Review

The issue of Uzbekistan's import processes and economic integration with major partner countries has been widely studied in economic literature. Within this topic, the role of the national economy in the global trading system, import volumes, trade balance, and strategic integration processes have been analyzed from various perspectives.

Ro'ziyeva, Toshniyozov, and Usmonov, in their article "*Analysis of Factors Affecting the Volume of Imports in the Republic of Uzbekistan*", examine the impact of GDP, exchange rates, and investments on import volumes using an empirical statistical model. Applying the OLS regression approach, the authors identify a significant positive impact of GDP and foreign economic activity on import volumes. This study scientifically demonstrates the close link between imports and national economic performance.

Berdivaliyeva, in "*Examining Uzbekistan's Foreign Trade Indicators*", analyzes changes in import-export balance, trade partners, and the system of economic reforms. The author highlights the role of increased imports and economic integration with key partner countries in supporting national production, ensuring strategic goods supply, and replenishing domestic market resources.

Ulashev and Joraqulova, in "*Foreign Economic Activity of the Republic of Uzbekistan: Assessment and Momentum of Development*", focus on import mechanisms, customs regulations, and the relationship between imports and economic integration. The authors emphasize opportunities to support domestic production and stabilize the trade balance through the import of goods and technologies from major partner countries.

Kamolov, in "*Current Development Trends in Uzbekistan's Foreign Trade*", examines import volumes, trade balance disparities, and the impact of economic liberalization on import processes using statistical analysis. The author stresses the importance of government strategic foreign trade measures in effectively managing imports.

Tirkashev, Xo'jaqulov, and Raxmatullayev, in "*Foreign Trade Policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan*", analyze government strategic trade measures, customs regulations, and relations

with major import partners in optimizing import-export balance. The authors describe mechanisms for ensuring national economic stability through trade regulation.

Research Methodology

The main objective of this article is to theoretically examine economic integration with major import partner countries and changes in the trade balance of Uzbekistan. The study is based on the analysis of international and national scientific literature addressing import processes, trade policy, and economic integration concepts. Through theoretical analysis, the mechanisms of Uzbekistan's import processes, economic relations with key partner countries, and the formation of the trade balance are examined. The methodological approach relies on theoretical analysis and systematic literature review. A limitation of the study is that it is based solely on theoretical sources and does not include empirical statistical analysis or real-time data modeling.

Analysis and Results

In 2025, Uzbekistan's import volume amounted to USD 47.4 billion, representing an 18.5% increase compared to 2024. Imports were conducted from more than 180 countries, confirming the country's broad global economic ties. Major partner countries significantly influence Uzbekistan's economic integration and trade balance.

Table 1. Top 10 Import Partner Countries of Uzbekistan (2025)

Davlat	Import hajmi (mlrd AQSH \$)
Xitoy	14,8
Rossiya	8,6
Qozog'iston	3,4
Turkiya	1,9
Koreya Respublikasi	1,7
Germaniya	1,3
Hindiston	1,2
Turkmaniston	1,1
Belarus	0,778
AQSH	0,712

Theoretical analysis shows that China is Uzbekistan's largest import source, accounting for 31.2% of total imports. Russia ranks second with 18.1%, while Kazakhstan holds third place with 7.2%. Together, these three countries account for 56.5% of total imports, indicating a certain degree of dependence on key partners. Other countries contribute to diversification, technological modernization, and strategic economic security.

Conclusion and Recommendations

In conclusion, economic integration with major import partner countries and changes in the trade balance significantly affect Uzbekistan's national economic stability and development strategy. Import growth supports domestic production needs and technological modernization, while high dependence on a limited number of countries raises strategic concerns.

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are proposed:

- Diversify import partners while maintaining relations with major countries to reduce dependency and enhance trade balance stability.
- Prioritize imports of high-technology and high value-added products to support modernization.
- Monitor import volumes and structures with key partners to stabilize the trade balance and ensure economic security.
- Develop imports not only as trade exchange but as a strategic tool for attracting technology and investment.

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