

By the end of 2025, China emerged as the main trading partner of Central Asian countries — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The total trade turnover between China and these five republics reached a record **\$106.3 billion**, marking a 12% increase compared to the previous year, according to Xinhua, cited by “Dunyo”.

A Historic Breakthrough in Economic Cooperation

Chinese analysts note that Beijing's cooperation with Central Asian states has entered a new qualitative stage. For the first time in history, mutual trade turnover surpassed the **\$100 billion** mark — a figure that seemed unattainable just a few years ago.

Trade between China and the region has shown steady growth for five consecutive years. In 2021, the figure was only \$49.5 billion; today, it has more than doubled. The share of Central Asian countries in China's foreign trade also increased from 0.8% to 1.5%.

What Drives the Growth

Economists attribute the record numbers to several key factors:

- rapid expansion of cross-border e-commerce,
- development of logistics and warehouse infrastructure,
- introduction of joint payment systems simplifying settlements,
- the “China-Central Asia” cooperation platform integrating trade, industry, and education.

China also remains one of the region's largest investors. Total investment has already exceeded **\$50 billion**, and major infrastructure projects — including the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway — are accelerating.

Kazakhstan Leads in Trade Volume

According to China's General Administration of Customs, Kazakhstan became China's most active trading partner in Central Asia in 2025, with trade exceeding **\$48.6 billion**.

Next come:

- Kyrgyzstan — **\$27.2 billion**,
- Uzbekistan — **\$16.2 billion**,
- Turkmenistan — **\$10 billion**,

- Tajikistan — **\$4.3 billion**.

Statistical Discrepancies

It is noted that Chinese data does not always match figures from Central Asian agencies. For example, Uzbekistan's Statistics Committee reported that its trade with China reached **\$17.2 billion** last year — about \$1 billion higher than Chinese estimates.

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