

# President Pezeshkian: Iran Welcomes Foreign Investors, International Traders



*Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian speaks at the inauguration ceremony of the 7th Export Capabilities Exhibition of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran Expo 2025) in Tehran on April 28, 2025.*

TEHRAN - Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian says Tehran welcomes foreign investors and international traders to participate in economic activities and investment opportunities in Iran.

"We express our readiness for any form of cooperation with countries around the world in scientific, economic, political, and social fields," Pezeshkian said while speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the 7th Export Capabilities Exhibition of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran Expo 2025) on Monday.

He said that Iran provides a prime platform for foreign investment and tourism, adding, "Trade, investment, and international co-

operation are the foundations of lasting stability."

Minister of Industry, Mines and Trade Muhammad Atabak, who also gave a speech at the ceremony, said "We're committed to win-win international partnerships and stand ready to share our capabilities."

The said that the country's volume of trade exchanges with the world's countries has reached \$130 billion in 2024, showing an 11 percent growth.

He emphasized that Iran has enhanced its trade and economic exchanges with the countries of the world despite the cruel U.S. sanctions imposed against country.

The minister went on to say that

Iran exported 152 million tons of goods, valued at \$57.8 billion, to other countries in the previous Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2024 to March 20, 2025).

Turning to Iran's volume of trade exchanges with the countries in the world, Atabak pointed out that Iran's volume of trade exchanges with the countries in the world has increased to \$130 billion, showing an 11 percent growth compared to a year earlier.

With the strengthening economic diplomacy, Iran should develop the implementation of Preferential and Free Trade Agreements with other countries, the minister of industry highlighted.

The seventh edition of Iran Expo, Iran's largest and most significant export event for engaging with international markets, kicked off in Tehran on Monday morning with the participation of representatives from companies across over 100 countries.

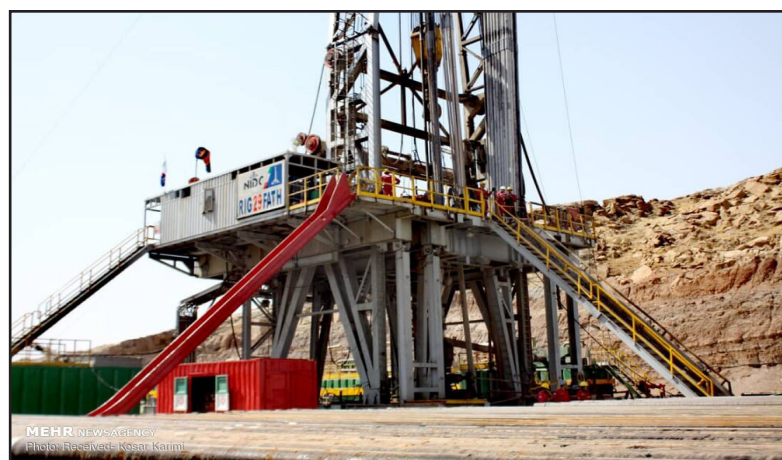
More than 2,000 firms from around the world are in Tehran to engage in negotiations and establish trade interactions with Iran's largest brands.

This came as Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei designated the new Persian year of 1404 as the year of "investment in production" which indicates the need to focus on directing financial resources towards productive sectors.

## NIDC Drills Eight Oil, Gas Wells

TEHRAN - The deputy CEO of the National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) for drilling operations announced the drilling and completion of eight oil and gas wells using the company's rigs during Farvardin (March 21-April 20), the first month of the Iranian calendar year. Hamidreza Shafiei-Makvand said one of the wells was developmental, while the other seven were workover wells. Among them, one developmental well and five workover wells, located in the operational area of the National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC), were finalized and handed over to the employer.

He added that one well was drilled as part of the 12+1 drilling project in the onshore section of the Kish gas field, operated by



Pars Oil and Gas Company, while another was completed and delivered to the employer under a separate project.

The deputy CEO noted that from the beginning to the end of Farvardin, the company's drilling fleet carried out 11,275 meters of drilling in onshore and offshore

oil-rich regions across the country. Currently, 11 of NIDC's light and heavy onshore rigs are being relocated to operational sites.

The NIDC, which owns the country's largest drilling fleet, provides specialized services to oil operating companies in eight provinces.

## Gold Dips as Trade Anxiety Eases

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Gold prices dipped for a second straight session on Monday as U.S.-China trade tensions eased, and the market awaited data due this week.

Spot gold was down 0.6% at \$3,297.10 an ounce as of 09:27 a.m. ET (1327 GMT). U.S. gold futures rose 0.3% to \$3,307.80.

"Gold prices are still dealing with the improved optimism over a U.S.-China trade deal even though there is a lack of clarity," Zain Vawda, analyst at MarketPulse by OANDA, said.

The hopes that tariff damage was being contained also kept global equity markets at their highest over three weeks.

U.S. President Donald Trump says progress has been made with China, and that he has spo-

ken with President Xi Jinping.

However, Beijing has denied trade talks are occurring and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent failed on Sunday to back Trump's assertion that tariff talks with China were under way.

Bullion, a traditional hedge against political and financial instability, rose to an all-time high of \$3,500.05/oz last week and has gained over 25% so far this year.

"The broader gold forecast and price direction remains constructive, even with some of its haven appeal diminishing," said Fawad Razaqada, market analyst at City Index and FOREX.com.

"Until we witness clear patterns of lower highs, lower lows,

and firm trade agreements rather than more political bluster from the Trump administration, the prospect of fresh highs for gold cannot be dismissed."

The risk is high that the global economy will slip into recession this year, according to a majority of economists in a Reuters poll.

Data due this week include the U.S. job openings report on Tuesday, Personal Consumption Expenditures on Wednesday, and the nonfarm payrolls report on Friday. Market participants will scan these to gauge the impact of the latest tariffs on the U.S. economy.

Spot silver eased 0.1% to \$33.04, platinum gained 1.8% to \$988.90 and palladium added 0.8% to \$956.35.

## Expert: Iran More Than Halved Its Power Grid Losses to 10%

TEHRAN - Iran has managed to significantly reduce its electrical grid losses in the past decades thanks to continued investment in its power plants and transmission systems, according to a senior industry expert.

Saeed Mirsharifi said that power grid losses in Iran had been at 21.5% in 2007, but they were cut to 10% in 2018.

Mirsharifi said the average electrical grid loss in the world is nearly 8%, adding that developed countries have reduced the figure to 5-7%.

He said that the Iranian Energy Ministry has made significant investments in recent years to renovate its power plants and to increase efficiency in the sector.

The expert said that the average efficiency at thermal power plants

in Iran has reached 44% from 37% in the past decades, which he said was a result of repair and renovation work on key installations like boilers and cooling towers.

Mirsharifi said another factor contributing to lower electricity losses in Iran was the country's efforts to upgrade traditional gas-fired power plants to turn them into combined-cycle systems where the steam is raised using the exhaust heat from combustion turbines.

By expanding its small-scale power plants, Iran has cut the length of its transmission lines, further reducing losses in the grid, he said.

The remarks come as Iran continues to invest in its massive electricity sector to be able to respond to a growing demand for power

inside the country.

Electricity demand reached a peak of nearly 85 gigawatts (GW) last summer, with authorities saying the figure was equal to consumption in industrial countries like Germany.

Iran is the 16th largest electricity producer in the world, considering its installed power generation capacity of 94.5 GW.

Government figures released earlier this month showed that Iran's thermal power plants had produced some 351-million-megawatt hours of electricity in the year to March 20.

The figures showed that thermal power plants are responsible for 84% of the electricity generation capacity in Iran and some 94% of the country's total electricity production.

## Bolivia, Iran Stress Strengthening Oil Industry Cooperation

TEHRAN - Iran's Petroleum Minister Mohsen Paknejad has emphasized the country's readiness to expand and strengthen bilateral cooperation in oil, gas, refining and petrochemicals during a meeting with Bolivia's minister of energy and hydrocarbons Alejandro Gallardo Baldovino.

Paknejad said in the meeting on Monday with that, given the capabilities of Iranian companies in exploration, Iran can share their successful experiences in ongoing exploration projects in Bolivia and foster effective collaboration in this field.

He also highlighted Bolivia's expertise in solar power generation and related technologies, stating, "We are pleased to benefit from these experiences and technical knowledge in the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Bolivian minister expressed condolences to the Iranian people over



the explosion at Shahid Rajaee Port in Hormuzgan Province.

He noted that the presence of Iranian companies at the 'Iran Expo 2025 exhibition' presents a valuable opportunity to expand cooperation between the two countries, particularly in oil, gas, refining and petrochemicals.

The minister added that Bolivia is

keen to utilize the expertise of Iranian knowledge-based companies in designing, constructing and operating oil refineries.

Referring to Bolivia's achievements in renewable energy, he suggested that technical delegations from both countries should be formed as soon as possible to enhance cooperation in this sector.

## China Confident in 5% GDP Growth Despite Trade War

BEIJING (Reuters) - China tried to ease concerns on Monday that the trade war with the United States would take a heavy toll on its economic growth.

Policy makers expressed confidence that the 5% GDP growth target would be reached and that the lack of agriculture and energy imports from the U.S. wouldn't materially hit its economy.

"Even if we do not purchase feed grains and oilseeds from the United States, it will not have much impact on our country's grain supply," Zhao Chenxin, vice chair of China's state planner, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), said on Monday.

Amid the ongoing U.S.-China trade war, in which U.S. President Donald Trump has slapped triple-digit tariffs on Chinese imports into America, China's top policy bodies and officials sought to reassure the public that the world's second-largest economy could withstand the tariff war.

"The achievements of the first quarter have laid a solid foundation for the economic development of the whole year," Zhao further said.

"No matter how the international situation changes, we will



anchor our development goals, maintain strategic focus and concentrate on doing our own thing."

Last week, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) cut its GDP growth estimate for China to 4%, from 4.6% growth expected in January. China itself continues to relay the message that it is confident it will reach its target of 5% growth this year.

Meanwhile, China slashed its imports of many U.S. energy and agricultural commodities in March amid intensifying trade and tariff tensions with the United States, which are set to further reduce Chinese purchases of American goods this month and in the coming months.

China's LNG imports from the

United States crashed to zero in March as China slapped tariffs on American LNG and other energy products, making these uneconomical for Chinese buyers.

Similarly to non-existent LNG, China did not import any wheat from the U.S. in March, per Chinese customs data cited by Bloomberg last week.

Chinese cotton imports from the United States plummeted by 90% in March from a year earlier, while purchases of U.S. corn slumped to a five-year low.

A Chinese official said that the U.S. farm products are "highly substitutable" while no energy imports from America would have a limited impact on China's oil, gas, and coal supply, Beijing says.