

SCI: Iran's Tax-to-GDP Ratio at 6.4% in March 2025



TEHRAN- Figures from the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) show that the share of taxes in Iran's gross domestic product has risen in recent years as part of efforts to curb the country's reliance on oil export revenues.

SCI data showed that Iran's tax-to-GDP ratio had reached 6.4% in the calendar year ending March 2025, up from 4% in the year to March 2021.

The report also referenced separate estimates from the Central Bank of Iran, which put the ratio at 8.3% for the past calendar year, compared to 7.7% a year earlier.

Earlier figures published by the Iranian National Tax Administration (INTA) in July similarly showed the tax-to-GDP ratio rising to 8.3%, from 5.7% in 2021.

According to SCI's latest assessment, tax revenues covered 48% of the government's public budget needs in the year to late March, a significant increase from 29.2% four years earlier.

The data highlights progress in Iran's economic diversification drive, launched after U.S. sanctions in 2018 prompted the country to reduce its dependence on oil revenues.

Iran has reported strong growth in annual tax receipts, supported by improved taxation policies and wider adoption of online tax payment systems.

Tax revenues rose by more than 50% in the calendar year to late March, with the government collecting 12,290 trillion rials (\$10.241 billion at current prices), up 51.7% from the previous year.

INTA reports show that direct taxes, including income tax, corporate duties, and taxes imposed on high-income individuals, account for more than 70% of its total receipts.

Envoy: Iran-Uzbekistan Trade to Increase to \$2bn

TEHRAN - Uzbekistan Ambassador in Iran, Fariddin Nasriyev, says that the volume of trade exchanges between Iran and Uzbekistan will reach \$2 billion upon the orders of the presidents of the two countries.

Addressing the joint economic meeting of the Iranian and Uzbek businesses and members of the Arak Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture in Markazi Province, Nasriyev lauded the significant increase in economic cooperation between the two countries.

There are four weekly direct flights between Tehran and Tashkent, which play an important role in developing cooperation, he added.

Referring to Uzbekistan's Prime Minister's recent visit to Iran, accompanied by a 150-member delegation of Uzbek companies, he said an agreement was signed according to which 10 Iranian goods and 10 Uzbek goods can be exchanged without paying taxes and customs duties.

He also pointed to transportation and financing as two main



Uzbekistan Ambassador in Iran Fariddin Nasriyev (L) addressing a joint economic meeting in Arak, Iran, December 7, 2025.

challenges of trade between the two countries.

Expressing Uzbekistan's interest in expanding provincial cooperation with Iran, he said the two countries are negotiating on sister-city relations between Arak and one of the cities of Uzbekistan.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Nasriyev expressed Uzbekistan's readiness for full cooperation with Iran's private sector.

This year, more than \$35 billion in foreign investment has been attracted in the agricultural sector of Uzbekistan, he said

inviting Iranian economic activists to invest in Uzbekistan's market.

Currently, more than 250 Iranian companies have started their activities in Uzbekistan which shows the great capacity for cooperation between the two countries, the Uzbek diplomat said.

All provinces of Uzbekistan have special economic zones, and Iranian economic activists can open their factories and production units in these zones and benefit from extensive advantages such as tax exemptions, he noted.

Vice President Calls for Steps Towards Attracting Iranian Investment Abroad

TEHRAN - Iran's First Vice President Muhammad Reza Aref has stressed the need for providing suitable conditions for Iranians to invest their capital abroad, saying the current administration is pursuing a strategy based on existing laws to help investors in this regard.

Addressing the First Conference on Ranking of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in Tehran on Monday, Araf said Iranian investors must be given complete assurance that not only will their capital be safe, but they will also be free to use the profits from their investments however they wish.

He added that the Ministry of Industry and Trade has made good progress on sev-



eral key indicators, including developing the value chain, investing in emerging technologies, improving industrial and mining infrastructure.

Regarding the role and position of small and medium-sized economic enterprises, he described them as the backbone of the country's industrial development and praised them for overcoming

investment challenges.

"An important part of the country's production capacity and employment has been formed in small and medium-sized enterprises and is getting closer to maturity every day," he said, adding that these enterprises must be organized, ranked and guided to attract both domestic and foreign investors.

Russian Trade Delegation Visits Iran

TEHRAN - A high-level commercial delegation from Russia's Ulyanovsk province has arrived in Iran to explore trade and investment opportunities.

The Iranian Consulate in Kazan facilitated the visit, which is led by Ruslan Gainetdinov, Advisor to the Governor and Head of the Regional Entrepreneurship Support Organization of Ulyanovsk.

The delegation aims to meet with officials and business leaders in Iran's Qazvin and Gilan provinces, and will tour special economic zones as well as the Caspian ports of Anzali and Astara.

The province of Ulyanovsk, located in Russia, is a key industrial and agricultural hub.

1st Ulyanovsk-Astara shipping line to Be Launched

A representative of the Ulyanovsk region has revealed the first shipping line between Iran's Astara and Russia's Ulyanovsk province would be launched in the first quarter of the next Iranian calendar year (Mar. 21, 2026).



Speaking in a joint economic meeting with the deputy governor of Gilan province for economic affairs, Ruslan Gainetdinov pointed to the high capacities of exchanges of products between the two countries, noting that the development of trade-economic cooperation with Iran at two industrial and agricultural sectors is the main goal for the Russian side.

Ulyanovsk province is ready to transport and export various types of goods and commodities to the regional markets, he underlined.

Grains and vegetable oils are of the most important goods that can be exchanged between the two

sides in the agricultural sector, he opined.

The advisor to the governor of Ulyanovsk province pointed to the high potential and capacity of Iran in the petrochemical and plastic industries and also other industrial products, emphasizing that many of Iranian products including tea and citrus fruits can be exchanged between the two sides.

During the meeting, it was agreed to launch the first commercial ship between Iran's northern ports, especially Astara and the port of Ulyanovsk in the Russian Federation in the first three months of the next Iranian calendar year, he added.

Iran Resumes Flights From Five Cities to UAE's Sharjah

TEHRAN - The first flight by an Iranian airline to Sharjah since the end of the 12-day Israeli imposed war against Iran took off on Monday morning from Imam Khomeini International Airport

(IKIA).

The inaugural flight departed Tehran at 10:30 a.m., marking the official reopening of the Iran-Sharjah air corridor.

Speaking to reporters

on the sidelines of the resumption of flights, Head of the Association of Iranian Travel Agencies Hormatollah Rafiei said the resumption of flights comes after a conflict that left a

significant impact on public sentiment and the country's economic climate.

He noted that one Iranian airline has taken the lead in reopening this key route.

Rafiei added that Shar-

jah is one of the most in-demand regional destinations for Iranian travelers. As of today, flights have resumed from Tehran, Lar, Bandar Abbas, Qeshm, and Ahvaz.

He announced that the airline will operate 14 weekly flights to Sharjah, a development he described as a promising sign for the recovery of Iran's tourism and aviation sectors.