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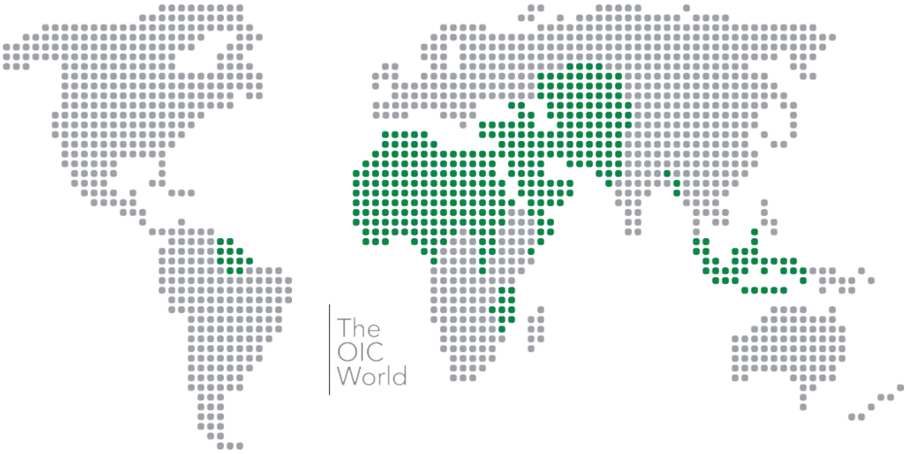

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NEWS ANALYSIS

AZERBAIJAN POSITIONS ITSELF AT THE HEART OF OIC TRADE: LEVERAGING TRIPP FOR REGIONAL INVESTMENT GROWTH.

As the OIC member states are intensifying economic cooperation, Azerbaijan is emerging as a pivotal hub for trade and investment. The country is capitalizing on its energy wealth, strategic geography, and new frameworks such as the Trade Preferential System among OIC Member States (TPS-OIC) to strengthen its role in the region's economic integration.

Azerbaijan is consistently establishing itself as one of the most dynamic economies within the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), attracting interest not just for its conventional energy exports but also for its initiatives to diversify and strengthen economic connections throughout the Muslim world.

At the heart of this progress is the nation's strategic employment of the Trade Preferential System among OIC Member States (TPS-OIC).

This mechanism seeks to lower tariffs and trade obstacles among the OIC member states, thus promoting cross-border investments and enhancing intra-OIC trade movements. For Azerbaijan, TPS-OIC signifies a chance and an asset to enhance its role as a transit and investment center linking Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

Energy continues to be the foundation of Azerbaijan's economy, with oil and gas exports underpinning fiscal robustness. However, recent advancements indicate a wider perspective. Funding in renewable energy, especially solar and wind initiatives, is drawing in collaborators from both Gulf nations and Asian OIC countries. Additionally, Baku's bold infrastructure initiatives, like the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway and the development of the Alat Free Economic Zones, strengthen its position as a logistics and manufacturing center for products moving between the East and the West.

Diplomatic engagements have further strengthened Azerbaijan's economic growth. Indeed, recent bilateral discussions with Türkiye, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan have emphasized collaboration in defense industry, agribusiness and technology transfer. At the same time, collaboration with Asian OIC states like Malaysia and Indonesia indicates Baku's desire to broaden partnerships beyond oil and gas

In a worldwide economy marked by unpredictability and rivalry for investment, Azerbaijan's strategy is practical. By basing its growth strategy on conventional energy exports and innovative sectors and by utilizing frameworks such as TRIPP, the country is establishing itself as a reliable and appealing partner in the OIC bloc.

For investors throughout the Muslim world, Azerbaijan provides not only a wealth of resources but also a connection that unifies various regions into a more cohesive economic area.

Source: Arab News – Azer News.

EGYPT EMERGES AS A MAGNET FOR GLOBAL INVESTMENT AMID GLOBAL UNCERTAINTY

Egypt is attracting investors from various industries, ranging from Chinese tire manufacturers to solar energy facilities and offshore gas exploration, highlighting its increasing attractiveness as a center for strategic sectors in a complicated global landscape

Egypt is progressively establishing itself as a preferred location for international capital, evident through a series of significant investment agreements highlighting its economic attraction. This week, Egypt finalized a $1 billion agreement with China's Sailun Group to establish a tire manufacturing plant in the Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCZONE). Expected to be finished in 2026, the factory will manufacture 10 million tires each year, showcasing China's expanding economic influence and Egypt's desire to become a worldwide manufacturing center.

The SCZONE, which comprises six ports and four industrial areas strategically located along one of the world's busiest waterways, has been granted special tax and legal incentives to lure international players. Authorities have also ramped up infrastructure spending to make the zone more attractive. Egypt's Prime Minister HE Mostafa Madbouly has framed it as an integrated platform for global investment and a regional center for the green economy.

Beyond manufacturing, Egypt is doubling down on energy exploration. The Petroleum Ministry announced four new agreements worth more than $340 million with international oil majors, including Shell, Eni, BP-linked ventures, and Russia's Zarubezhneft. The deals cover the drilling of 10 wells in the Mediterranean and Nile Delta, part of Cairo's push to revive production after output slipped sharply since 2021.

At the same time, the green transition is drawing substantial capital. A consortium of Egyptian, Emirati, Bahraini, and Chinese firms signed a $220 million contract to build a solar energy and storage complex in the SCZONE under the banner Atom Solar Egypt. Spanning 200,000 square meters, the project will deliver 2 GW of solar cells, 2 GW of panels, and 1 GWh of storage capacity. The entire solar cell output will be exported, while panels will serve Egypt's domestic and regional markets. All together, these developments illustrate how Egypt is leveraging its unique mix of geography, policy and infrastructure to position itself as an all-around investment hub. The country sits at the crossroads of Africa, the Middle East, and Europe, with the Suez Canal offering one of the most strategic trade arteries in the world. By coupling this advantage with dedicated industrial zones, streamlined customs processes and targeted fiscal incentives, Egypt has crafted a platform that appeals to both traditional industries such as oil and gas and fast-growing sectors like green energy and advanced manufacturing. The government's commitment to heavy infrastructure investment, which ranges from ports to energy grids, further enhances the appeal for multinationals seeking reliability and scale.

Equally important is Egypt's expanding role as a regional anchor in an era of global fragmentation. Multinationals are increasingly looking for stable footholds in emerging markets that can serve both local demand and export opportunities, and Egypt offers both. Its large domestic market of more than 100 million people provides immediate consumer scale, while proximity to African, Middle Eastern and European markets constitutes an export gateway and an access to more business ventures .

Source: Asharq Al Awsat - Saur Energy

MOROCCO: DRIVING FORCE BEHIND AFRICAN INTEGRATION

The Atlantic coastline of the African continent is rich in unrivalled natural gas, minerals, agricultural land, marine biodiversity and renewable energy. However, to date, this potential has not yet been fully exploited. With less than 13% of trade taking place within Africa, the continent continues to trade more with the outside world than with itself. Aware of this fact, the Kingdom of Morocco aims to reverse this situation with the Atlantic Initiative, which brings together the Kingdom and four Sahelian countries (Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad), aligns with the African Union's Agenda 2063 and aims to provide the Sahelian countries with direct access to international shipping routes via the Kingdom's Atlantic coastline. The Port of Tangier Med plays a central role in this project, as it is currently the largest transhipment port in Africa, with Dakhla Atlantique currently under construction. Together, these two ports offer the Kingdom of Morocco dual access to Europe in the north and Africa in the south.

The Atlantic Initiative, which reinforces the Kingdom role as an economic driver on the continent, represents a major step for the stakeholders, however it will require the gradual alignment of the ports, customs, taxes and energy policies of the countries involved in order to streamline trade, pool resources and promote regional competitiveness. The establishment of a financing fund and the involvement of young people, the diaspora and the private sector will also be significant assets in ensuring the success of this project.

Through this initiative, the Kingdom is not only building infrastructure but also contributing to the establishment of a coherent and attractive framework for private investment and building collective sovereignty on the continent.

Source: LeMatin.ma

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TIME FOR INVESTMENT

2-4 DECEMBER 2025 | **BAMAKO** REPUBLIC OF MALI

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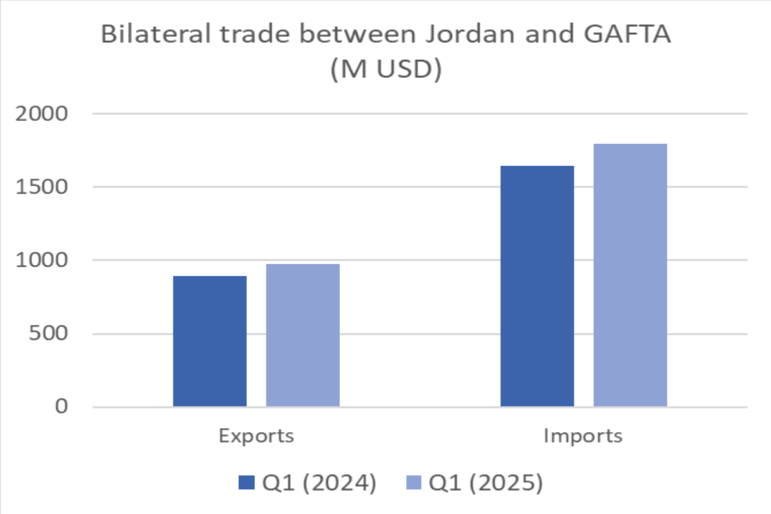
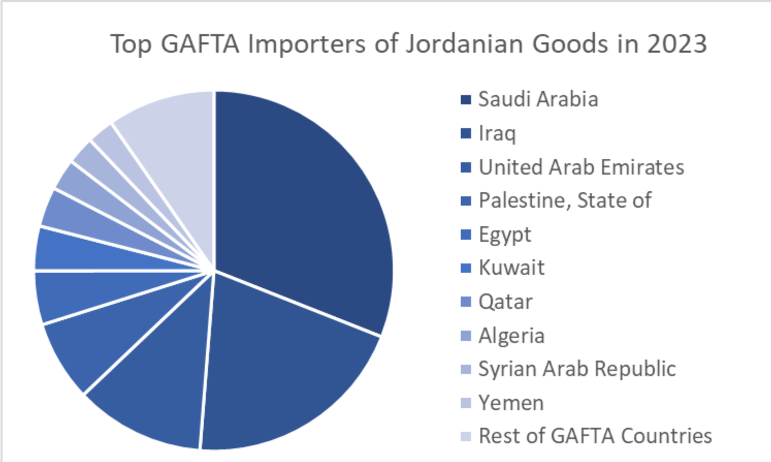
JORDAN'S TRADE WITH ARAB BLOC RISES IN FIRST QUARTER OF 2025

Jordan's trade with its Arab partners under the Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA) gained pace in the first half of 2025, with exports posting double-digit growth and the trade deficit showing signs of improvement. Official figures reveal that the bloc remains a vital pillar of Jordan's foreign trade, led by Saudi Arabia and Iraq.





Jordan's trade with the Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA) gained momentum in the first half of 2025, with both exports and imports showing strong growth, according to data released by the Department of Statistics (DoS).

National exports to GAFTA members climbed 16.9 percent, reaching USD 2.61 billion between January and June, compared with USD 2.23 billion during the same period last year. The bloc reinforced its position as Jordan's top trading partner, accounting for 42.3 percent of the Kingdom's total exports.

Imports from GAFTA also grew, rising 10.5 percent to USD 3.66 billion, up from USD 3.31 billion in the first half of 2024. Despite higher imports, Jordan's trade deficit with the bloc narrowed slightly, falling to USD 1.05 billion from USD 1.08 billion a year earlier.

Saudi Arabia continued to dominate Jordan's trade within the bloc. Jordanian exports to the Kingdom reached USD 862 million, making it Jordan's largest Arab market, followed by Iraq at USD 607 million. On the import side, Saudi Arabia was also the leading supplier, providing goods worth USD 1.97 billion in the first six months of the year.

Launched in 2005, GAFTA is a regional pact of 18 Arab countries designed to reduce tariffs and promote intra-Arab economic integration. For Jordan, the bloc has become a critical outlet for manufactured goods, agricultural products, and pharmaceuticals, while also serving as a key source of energy and raw materials.

Analysts note that while the trade deficit remains substantial, the narrowing gap highlights Jordan's ability to expand its export base within the Arab market. With demand in neighboring economies recovering, the GAFTA partnership is expected to remain central to Jordan's foreign trade performance in the coming years.

Source : Zawya - Trade Map – Jordan News

BRIEFS

➢ Malaysia signs free trade pact with Norway, Iceland and other EFTA countries.

Malaysia has signed a wide-ranging economic partnership agreement with the four member states of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA): Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein. The signing ceremony took place in Tromsø, Norway on June 25th, 2025.

The agreement is Malaysia's first free trade deal with several European countries and its 18th free trade agreement overall.

The new partnership covers trade in goods and services, investment, intellectual property, government procurement, competition, sustainable development, and sanitary standards, among other areas. More than 90% of Malaysia's exports to the EFTA countries will receive long-term duty-free access.

In services, the agreement is expected to improve access for Malaysian professionals such as accountants, teachers, lawyers and healthcare workers to work across the EFTA countries.

The signing was accompanied by a memorandum of understanding on capacity-building cooperation and a joint statement on sustainable palm oil.

Source: ScandAsia

➢ European Commission outlines three priorities in Indonesia-EU partnership

The relationship between Indonesia and the European Union (EU) is becoming closer with the agreement on the Indonesia-European Union Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IEU-CEPA).

During a meeting at the EU Headquarters in Brussels on July 13, 2025, in a joint press statement, Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, mentioned the three main focuses of Indonesia-EU cooperation: trade, security, and inter-societal relations. She announced that a political agreement related to the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) has finally been reached after a decade-long negotiation process and emphasized that this trade agreement will open access to new markets, strengthen the automotive, service, and agricultural sectors, and build responsible raw material supply chains. Indeed, the EU and Indonesia have agreed to enhance cooperation into a strategic partnership, including strengthening joint contributions within the EU-ASEAN framework. *Source: Tempo*

➢ Pakistan, Iran reaffirm commitment to move forward towards FTA

Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, led Pakistan's delegation to the high-level Ministerial Meeting on Food Security and Agricultural Cooperation in Tehran, marking a significant advancement in Pakistan-Iran agricultural trade ties. Accompanied by senior officials from the Ministry and the Department of Plant Protection (DPP), the minister co-chaired discussions with his Iranian counterpart, Gholamreza Nourozi, in the presence of top representatives from both countries' ministries, trade authorities, and research institutions.

A major breakthrough was achieved with Iran agreeing to import a substantial share of its rice requirements from Pakistan, creating a stable and expanded export market for Pakistani rice.

In the livestock and meat sector, Iran committed to sourcing 60% of its meat imports from Pakistan and agreed to import large quantities of Pakistani maize.

The two sides will focus on crop research, livestock breeding, water management, and agricultural innovation.

To ensure sustained progress, a Joint Committee on Agricultural Cooperation was established. This Committee will convene biannually to monitor implementation, address issues, and strengthen bilateral engagement, marking a transformative step in Pakistan-Iran agricultural relations.

Source: Bilaterals

- Encouraging the development of regular trade exchanges among Member States.
- Promoting investments aimed at trade development.
- Contributing to the promotion of productions from Member States and facilitating access to foreign

- Promoting commercial information.
- Assisting Member States in the field of trade promotion and international trade negotiations.
- Assisting businesses and economic operators.

- Encouraging contacts between businessmen from Member States.
- Promoting the products of Member States, including through regular Islamic Fairs and specialized

- Assisting Member States in establishing and organizing Export Promotion Centers.
- Providing advisory and expertise services to Member States in trade promotion matters.

- Collecting and disseminating trade data.
- Developing remotely accessible trade databases.
- Assisting Member States in establishing Documentation Centers and Commercial Information

- Encouraging intra-OIC investments.
- Promoting foreign investments in OIC Member States.
- Encouraging partnerships among economic operators from Member States.
- Providing advisory and expertise services to Member States, particularly in export-oriented investment

- Publishing an Annual Report on intra-Islamic trade.
- Conducting sectoral studies on products and markets.
- Studying ways and means to alleviate trade barriers among Member States.

- Organizing seminars and training programs.
- Assisting Member States in creating a pool of experts in various fields of trade development.

- Assisting Member States in trade negotiations.
- Preparing and organizing intra-OIC trade negotiations.

Agenda

- **5th OIC Regional Cooperation Organizations**
  02-03 October 2025 • Istanbul, Türkiye

- **OIC TOURISM FAIR / AFRICA TOURISM EXPO,**
  23-25 October 2025 • Kampala, Uganda

- **42ND SESSION OF COMCEC**
  01-04 November 2025 • Istanbul, Türkiye

- **Regional Workshop on Road Connectivity and its Impact on Regional Trade in Atlantic Africa through the TIR Convention**
  10-11 November 2025 • Casablanca, Morocco

- **Workshop on the role of credit information in supporting trade and investment decisions**
  24-26 November 2025 • Casablanca, Morocco

- **HALAL EXPO & WORLD HALAL SUMMIT**
  26-29 November 2025 • Istanbul, Türkiye

- **OIC INVESTMENT FORUM IN AFRICA**
  02-04 December 2025 • Bamako, Mali

- **OIC Cotton, Textiles and Leather Expo**
  03-04 December 2025 • Bamako, Mali

- **9TH ACMOI** 10-11 December 2025 • Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

- **OIC Invest Days N'Djamena,** 16-17 December 2025, • N'Djaména, Chad

- **OIC Handicraft Expo**, 18-28 December 2025, • Casablanca, Morocco

Islamic Centre
for Development of Trade

SUBSIDARY ORGAN OF ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION

Tour des Habous 11/12ème étage 20000 Casablanca- Maroc

+212 522 314 974 | icdt@icdt-oic.org

www.icdt-cidc.org