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Article

The Dynamics of China–Uzbekistan Trade Relations: Trends and Key Sectors (2010–2024)

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Abstract: This article discusses the development of trade relations between China and Uzbekistan in 2010–2024, identifies key trends and structural changes in trade turnover, as well as sectors of bilateral cooperation. Thus, the proposed study is dedicated to analyzing trade turnover growth momentum, export–import composition diversification and strengthening the role of bilateral, regional and global initiatives (such as the Belt and Road Initiative) in deepening economic ties. Priority sectors had been developed with special attention: energy, construction, textiles, agriculture, machinery and high technologies. The paper also examines institutional and infrastructural factors reducing trade barriers (e.g. transport corridors, logistics modernization and investment projects) in more detail. Drawing on statistical data and comparative analysis, the paper identifies the key factors of trade growth, existing problems and prospects of further deepening economic partnership between the two countries. The results show that China gained the status of one of the key trade partners for Uzbekistan, and also indicate profound changes as Uzbekistan becomes a central hub in Central Asia.

Keywords: China–Uzbekistan Trade Relations, Bilateral Trade, Export and Import Structure, Belt and Road Initiative, Economic Cooperation, Key Sectors, Trade Dynamics, Central Asia, Investment Projects, Transport and Logistics

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1. Introduction

The increasing trend of globalism with a backdrop of deepening regional economic integration has made bilateral trade relations to be one of the key indicators for sustainable and harmonious development between neighboring country economies in addition to international cooperation. For decades, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Uzbekistan have forged a mutually beneficial, resource-complementary economic relationship in this strategically positioned Corridor that continues to deepen. The period from 2010 to 2024 is significant because it not only shows a quantitative increase in trade turnover, but also qualitative changes in the structure, mechanisms and priority sectors of bilateral trade.

China has become a key trading partner for Uzbekistan, while Uzbekistan increasingly fills an important place in China's Central Asia-wide economic ambitions. Enhancement of the bilateral trade is closely connected with major international projects, and above all, with the Belt and Road Initiative(BRI), which has opened new opportunities for transport corridor development and logistics infrastructure, industrial cooperation, investment projects etc. These processes have had important impact on trade flow diversification and sectoral cooperation [1].

This study is relevant because it requires a comprehensive analysis of the dynamics of China–Uzbekistan trade relations, during 2010–2024, in the context of global economic changes, regional integration processes and transformation of national development strategies. Among these were wide ranging economic reforms to liberalize foreign trade, enhance the investment climate and modernize heavy industry. These reforms in turn facilitated expanding trade and economic engagement with China.

2. Materials and Methods

The sectoral structure of bilateral trade deserves special attention. Gradually, in addition to traditional areas — energy resources, raw materials, and agricultural products– new directions have been established: industrial goods, machinery, construction materials and textile production along with high-tech products. Such a structural transformation indicates the shift from resource-based trading model to more diversified and technology based partnership [2].

Additionally, there is a strong theoretical motivation for studying bilateral trade dynamics; understanding how patterns of economic interdependence, comparative advantage, and regional connectivity oscillate over time informs broader understandings in these areas. The analysis of basic trends and branches from a practical point of view allows you to identify existing problems, analyze the effectiveness of existing policies and identify prospects for further development of trade [3].

The alignment between Uzbekistan's strategic development goals and China's regional ambitions is not unexpected or opportunistic, scholars and policymakers have noted. It is instead a pragmatic convergence of interests: Uzbekistan needs foreign capital and industrial technologies, as well as access to the markets it hopes to create; China needs to ensure resource supply chains, expand its influence in Eurasia, and establish confident political partners along its western border [4].

Uzbekistan and China are linked by a long history of interaction over the course of more than 1,000 years. Because of the important segments of the ancient Silk Road that traversed what is now Uzbekistan, the territory served as a critical center in cross-continental trade connecting East Asia with both the Middle East and Europe. These good relations were maintained in commercial and cultural aspects, and led to a deep mutual contact & civilizational heritage, which later provided an essential historical basis for the emergence of modern diplomatic and economic ties between both countries [5];

Formal government-to-government engagement began soon after Uzbekistan declared independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. The establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries dates to January 1992 [6] as one of the first states to recognize Uzbekistan's sovereignty was the People's Republic of China.

A turning point occurred in 1995, when President Islam Karimov made an official state visit to Beijing. This visit initiated a pragmatic and future-oriented dialogue based on the principles of mutual respect, non-interference, and economic cooperation [7].

The steps have been slow but steady, culminating in symbolic initiatives finally giving way to more concrete and structured forms of cooperation. What began as an initial rapprochement and expressions of good will on both sides had since transformed into a complex structure of high-level meetings, inter-governmental commissions, sectoral agreements and long-term deployment strategies [8]. Such institutional consolidation indicates that this bilateral partnership no longer rests on short-term political or economic expediency, but a long-term strategic vision underpinned by stable legal, economic and organizational architectures.

The ties have thus transcended the confines of transactional diplomacy to a lasting strategic alignment. And it is ever more based on complementary economic needs — infrastructure development, industrial modernization, energy cooperation, transport and logistics connectivity and the growth of trade and investment flows. Concurrently, mutual interests in terms of regional security, sustainable development and assistance for the preservation of political stability have cemented the substantiality of cooperation to such a degree that its scope transcends merely economic matters into socio-political and geo-strategic dimensions.

Moreover, these developments should be understood in the broader context of Central Asia's evolving geopolitical landscape. The deepening collaboration not only signals the bilateral commitment of both states, but also tells of the increasing importance of the region as a strategic theater where new paradigms for economic integration, connectivity and influence are evolving [5]. Strengthening institutional ties and strategic coordination over the long term plays a role in re-configuring Central Asia to be an area of greater economic and political expansion by China, but at the same time providing new avenues for regional development, diversification of external partnerships, and integration into global markers.

Progress has been made to a significant extent in reducing non-tariff barriers and increasing the efficiency of transport and logistics systems in bilateral trade. In recent years, the two governments have taken joint actions to simplify customs processes, align regulations, and develop cross-border infrastructure. Dry ports and major logistics terminals in Tashkent and Termez — launched and developed with Chinese investment, technologies, and engineering capabilities participated in the process. These infrastructure have helped significantly reduce customs clearance times, strengthen multimodal connectivity and integrate rail and road transport corridors, improving the overall speed and reliability of goods movement.

Simultaneously, the introduction of digital trade facilitation mechanisms has started to reshape the landscape of commercial exchange. Opening more e-commerce channels and working with major Chinese digital platforms like Alibaba and JD [9]. New opportunities for Uzbek small and medium-sized enterprises open on uzarchive. These instruments allow access on the ground to the Chinese consumer market with a significant reduction in intermediaries and promote the internationalization of domestic producers, especially agro-industrial, textile and consumption goods.

However, there are still some structural challenges preventing the full potential of bilateral trade from being realised. Despite stable growth in turnover of trade, Uzbekistan still has systemic bottlenecks in logistics capacity, product certification procedures and standardization and fewer but good financing mechanisms for the exports. A small proportion of high value-added products in the export structure points to a raw-material-oriented model and lack of active industrial policy focused on industries that consist in manufacturing, deep processing, and advanced production.

Moreover, the lack of a free trade agreement remains a significant constraint. Uzbek exporters face tariffs and regulatory barriers that hamper their ability to compete in the Chinese marketplace without a preferential trade regime, particularly in promising sectors like textiles, construction materials, and processed agricultural products [10]. By this, the institutional liberalization of bilateral ties further, broadening the arsenal of financial support tools for exporters and development of industrial cooperation is vitally necessary to move from quantitative growth of bilateral trade to qualitative transformation.

Over the last twenty years, foreign direct investment (FDI) from the People's Republic of China has emerged as one of the primary engines propelling Uzbekistan's economic transformation. In this regard, Chinese capital, technology and management expertise have become important catalysts from outside in the context of wide-ranging structural reforms aimed at modernizing industrial base, diversifying exports and upgrading transport & energy infrastructures [11]. Such inflows of investment have not only contributed to capital generation, but also technology transfer and production localization which has subsequently guided Uzbekistan into regional and global value chains.

China's increasing investment footprint fits neatly with Uzbekistan's long-term development strategy, emphasising industrialisation, bolstering processing industries and establishing modern logistics corridors. The transition from a predominantly trade-based bilateral interaction to deep midstream and downstream production & investment cooperation is well illustrated by the scale joint projects in such sectors as energy, petrochemicals, metallurgy, construction materials, telecommunications and transportation infrastructure of special economic zones. The projects have often been involved in the formation of new industrial clusters, job creation and development of national economy's technological capacity [12].

By 2024, over 23% of Uzbekistan's inbound direct investment stock came from a China that was already the country's largest single foreign direct investor. This quantitative sign not only means much higher scope of financial involvement, but also qualitative transformation of bilateral economic relations to the one that signifies all-embracing strategic cooperation [13]. Whether in the modernization of power generation facilities, construction of railways and highways, or developing dry ports and logistics hubs as well as digitalization of economy sectors, Chinese engagement points to a sustained investment in Uzbekistan's structural development.

Simultaneously, the growing role of Chinese FDI must be seen in the context of overall movement towards economic diversification and balanced foreign economic policy. However, even though these investments dramatically speed up industrial development and infrastructure advancement, they also emphasize the need for building national technological skills, strengthening local value progressing and ensuring that domestic industries are both sustainable and competitive [14]. Thus, Chinese FDI is not only a provider of capital in this regard but also an enabler of structural upgrading, regional connectivity and the progressive transformation of Uzbekistan from a resource-intensive economy to one that is driven by manufacturing and innovation.

Therefore, the state of China–Uzbekistan trade relations is not only a mirror for bilateral economic cooperation but also an integral part of more complex regional and global economic trends. Their detailed study further adds to the knowledge of how economic cooperation will develop in a fragmented international economic system and what will be the position of Uzbekistan in such an environment.

3. Results and Discussion

Analytical Discussion: The Dynamics of China–Uzbekistan Trade Relations (2010–2024)

The development of trade relations between China and Uzbekistan over the period 2010–2024 reflects broader transformations in regional economic integration, global supply chains, and Uzbekistan's transition toward a more open and diversified economy. During this period, bilateral trade has moved from a relatively limited and commodity-oriented exchange to a more complex and multidimensional economic partnership characterized by increasing investment, industrial cooperation, and infrastructure connectivity.

Growth of Trade Turnover and Structural Shifts

Statistical trends indicate a steady increase in bilateral trade turnover, especially after 2016, when Uzbekistan initiated comprehensive economic reforms aimed at liberalizing foreign trade, simplifying customs procedures, and improving the business environment. China quickly became one of Uzbekistan's largest trading partners, accounting for a significant share of its total foreign trade. This growth was driven by several factors, including rising demand for industrial equipment, the expansion of construction and energy projects, and the intensification of cross-border logistics.

At the same time, the structure of trade has undergone noticeable changes. Uzbekistan's exports to China have traditionally been dominated by raw materials, energy resources, and agricultural products. However, in recent years there has been a gradual increase in the export of processed goods, particularly in the textile and agro-industrial sectors. This shift reflects Uzbekistan's industrialization strategy and its efforts to move up the value chain. On the import side, China supplies machinery, electrical equipment, construction materials, chemical products, and consumer goods, which play a crucial role in the modernization of Uzbekistan's economy.

Sectoral Cooperation and Industrial Development

Perhaps the largest trend in China–Uzbekistan trade has been the increasing importance of sectoral cooperation. Another important area of cooperation is energy: Chinese companies are involved in the construction of gas processing plants, thermal and renewable energy facilities. Further, construction is another key area of cooperation because Uzbekistan is implementing extensive infrastructure modernization programs.

The textile industry is another key avenue. Uzbekistan's deep processing policy of cotton and the creation of textile clusters opened up new prospects for cooperation with Chinese investors and technology providers. Likewise, agriculture and food processing have emerged as promising fields especially due to the growing demand for high-quality agricultural products in China.

Professional, scientific and technical industries are also increasing in importance. The renewal of the technology base of Uzbek enterprises is supported by a number of projects implemented with the Chinese side - the supply and local production of modern equipment. This indicates a gradual shift from being a purely trade relationship to an investment and production partnership.

The Belt and Road Initiative and Transport Connectivity

Time will show how the One Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) will be its major driver in expanding or strengtheningChina–Uzbekistan economic relations. Located in Central Asia, Uzbekistan occupies a strategic position to become one of the major competitors in connecting East and West through transcontinental transport corridors to Europe and the Middle East. Transportation networks like railways and highways, logistics centers, and dry ports have slashed the cost of transportation as well as boosted trade volumes.

Increased connectivity I not only contributed to bilateral trade, but also made Uzbekistan a regional transit hub. It has opened up other economic activities, notably logistics services, warehousing and export-oriented industries.

Investment as a Driver of Trade Expansion

Chinese investments in Uzbekistan have played a crucial role in shaping the dynamics of bilateral trade. Investment projects in industrial zones, energy infrastructure, telecommunications, and manufacturing have created new production capacities and increased the demand for intermediate and capital goods. As a result, trade and investment have become mutually reinforcing processes.

Moreover, financial cooperation between the two countries has expanded through credit lines, joint funds, and participation in multilateral development institutions. This has provided the necessary financial resources for the implementation of large-scale projects and the modernization of key sectors of the Uzbek economy.

Existing Challenges and Imbalances

While the trends are positive, some structural challenges still exist. The main problem is the trade imbalance, imports from China are far higher than Uzbekistan's exports. This indicates differences in the degree of industrial development and technological potential. Another drawback is the relatively low proportion of high value–added and high-tech products in Uzbekistan's export structure.

Moreover, customs rules, technical requirements and certification systems should be further improved in order to ensure access of Uzbek products to the Chinese market. Establishing competitive national industries and strengthening innovation capacity are crucial Building a More Balanced and Sustainable Trade Relationship

Regional and Global Implications

The dynamics of China–Uzbekistan trade relations should also be situated in the broader context of regional economic integration in Central Asia. The growth of economic collaboration, on the one hand, paves way for new production and logistics chains, improves regional connectivity, and raises overall competitiveness of the region in a global economy.

As such, China and Uzbekistan's partnership reflects a viable model for trade relations that prioritizes mutual benefits through complementary (resource-based) economic models on the one hand, and development of growth infrastructure on the other.

General Analytical Outcome

2010–2024: Era of Blazing Acceleration and Qualitative Development of China–Uzbekistan Trade Relations The World Bank is expected to be the primary financier of the regional mega projects and facilitate payment systems which are consistent with the economic-belt path, gradually transforming from traditional commodity exchange to diversified investment-focused and technology-driven cooperative development that shows how a long-term strategic partnership will take shape. The future of these relations will be seen through the prism of how successfully Uzbekistan implements industrial diversification, develops innovation and integrates into global value chains.

Table 1. Uzbekistan–China Trade Data Table (Extended to 2024)

Year	Import Value ($ bn)	Import Growth (%)	Export Value ($ bn)	Export Growth (%)	Total Trade ($ bn)	Total Growth (%)	Trade Surplus ($ bn)
2010	11.81	15.07	13.01	-37.97	24.82	29.95	1.2
2011	13.59	31.20	8.07	35.32	21.66	-12.73	-5.52
2012	17.83	46.55	10.92	77.47	28.75	32.73	-6.91
2013	26.13	2.49	19.38	-17.54	45.51	58.30	-6.75
2014	26.78	-16.77	15.98	-20.71	42.76	-6.04	-10.8
2015	22.29	-9.96	12.67	26.84	34.96	-18.24	-9.62
2016	20.07	36.97	16.07	-8.46	36.14	3.38	-4
2017	27.49	43.51	14.71	-2.18	42.2	16.77	-12.78
2018	39.45	27.55	15.03	57.42	54.48	29.10	-24.42
2019	50.32	2.13	23.66	-31.57	73.98	35.79	-26.66
2020	51.39	14.46	16.19	-4.82	67.58	-8.65	-35.2
2021	58.82	27.58	15.41	47.70	74.23	9.84	-43.41
2022	75.04	17.01	22.76	101.50	97.8	31.75	-52.28
2023	11.3	-84.94	2.5	-89.02	13.7	-85.99	-8.8
2024	11.0	-2.65	2.05	-18.00	12.4	-9.49	-8.95

Source: Authors work

Analytical Commentary on the Dynamics of Uzbekistan–China Trade (2010–2024)

The data presented in the table illustrate the evolving structure and scale of trade relations between Uzbekistan and China over the period 2010–2024. This timeframe reflects both the intensification of bilateral economic cooperation and the structural imbalances that characterize the trade relationship.

Early Stage: Relative Balance and Initial Fluctuations (2010–2012)

In 2010, Uzbekistan recorded a positive trade balance of **$1.2 billion**, mainly due to a high export volume **($13.01 billion**) compared to imports. However, this situation was short-lived. From 2011 onward, imports began to grow more rapidly than exports, increasing by **31.2%** in 2011 and **46.55%** in 2012. Although exports also demonstrated significant growth in 2012 (**77.47%**), the overall trade balance turned negative and remained so in subsequent years. This shift indicates Uzbekistan's growing dependence on Chinese machinery, industrial equipment, and consumer goods.

Rapid Expansion and Structural Deepening (2013–2016)

The period from 2013 to 2016 was marked by sharp fluctuations in both imports and exports. In 2013, total trade increased dramatically to **$45.51 billion**, with a growth rate of **58.30%**, reflecting the expansion of large-scale industrial and infrastructure projects. Despite this growth, the trade balance remained negative, highlighting the dominance of imports.

Between 2014 and 2016, total trade experienced periods of decline and moderate recovery. This was largely influenced by global commodity price volatility and internal economic adjustments. Nevertheless, the overall trend shows a gradual strengthening of trade ties, particularly in investment-related imports.

Stage of Accelerated Growth after Economic Reforms (2017–2019)

A new phase began in 2017 following Uzbekistan's economic liberalization and foreign trade reforms. Imports increased significantly (**43.51% in 2017** and **27.55% in 2018**), and total trade reached **$73.98 billion by 2019**. This expansion was driven by:

1. Infrastructure modernization,
2. Industrial diversification,
3. Increased participation in the belt and road initiative.

Exports also showed notable growth in certain years, particularly in 2018 (**57.42%**), but they remained insufficient to offset the rapid rise in imports. As a result, the trade deficit deepened to **–$26.66 billion** in 2019.

Pandemic Impact and Recovery Phase (2020–2022)

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic caused a decline in total trade (**–8.65%**), although imports continued to grow moderately. By 2021 and especially in 2022, trade recovered strongly. In 2022, total trade reached its peak at **$97.8 billion**, with exports increasing by **101.50%**. Despite this impressive export growth, the trade balance remained heavily negative (**–$52.28 billion**), confirming the structural asymmetry of bilateral trade.

Methodological Shift and New Statistical Reality (2023–2024)

The sharp decline in trade indicators in 2023 and 2024 reflects a change in statistical methodology rather than an actual collapse in economic relations. Total trade decreased to **$13.7 billion in 2023** and **$12.4 billion in 2024**, while both imports and exports showed significant negative growth rates. Even within this revised statistical framework, the trade balance remained negative, indicating the persistence of import dominance.

Key Structural Trends

The analysis of the entire period reveals several important patterns:

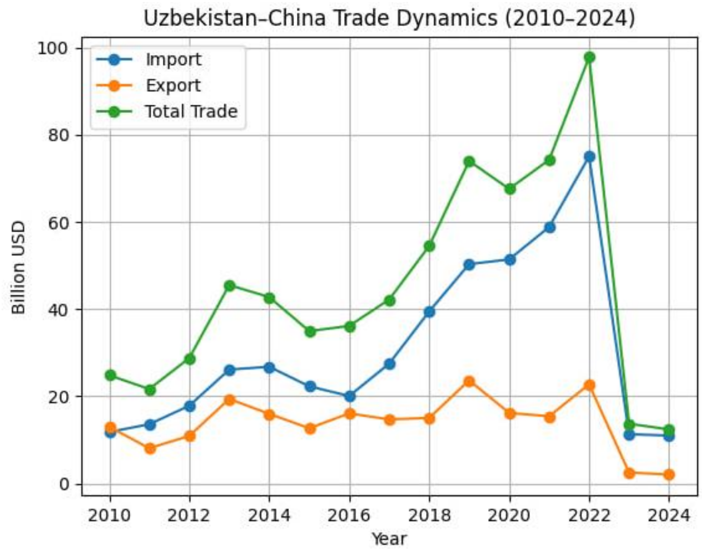
1. **Long-term growth trend** – Trade between Uzbekistan and China expanded significantly, especially after 2017.
2. **Import-driven model** – Imports consistently exceeded exports, reflecting Uzbekistan's reliance on Chinese technology, equipment, and manufactured goods.
3. **Export volatility** – Export growth was irregular and largely dependent on raw materials and semi-processed goods.

4. **Deepening trade deficit** – The negative trade balance widened over time, demonstrating structural asymmetry in bilateral trade.
5. **Impact of economic reforms** – Liberalization policies and infrastructure development played a crucial role in boosting trade turnover.

The dynamics of Uzbekistan–China trade from 2010 to 2024 show the transformation of bilateral economic relations into a large-scale, strategically important partnership. However, the persistent trade deficit and the dominance of imports highlight the need for Uzbekistan to:

- diversify its export structure,
- increase the share of high value-added products,
- strengthen industrial and technological capacity.

Such measures would allow the country to move from an import-dependent trade model toward a more balanced and sustainable economic relationship with China [15].



Source: Authors work

Figure 1. Uzbekistan-China Trade Dynamics (2010-2024)

The diagram clearly illustrates the changing trajectory of import, export, and total trade volume between Uzbekistan and China over the period 2010–2024. The visual data reveal several distinct stages and structural characteristics of bilateral trade relations.

1. General upward trend until 2022

From 2010 to 2022, total trade shows a **stable long-term growth trend** despite short-term fluctuations.

- Total trade increased from **$24.82 billion in 2010** to **$97.8 billion in 2022**, which indicates nearly a **fourfold expansion**.
- Imports grew more rapidly than exports throughout the period.
- This confirms that China became **one of Uzbekistan's key strategic economic partners**.

This growth was driven by:

- Industrial modernization in Uzbekistan
- Infrastructure projects
- Increasing demand for Chinese technology and equipment
- Participation in the Belt and Road Initiative

2. Dominance of imports over exports

One of the most visible features of the diagram is the **persistent gap between imports and exports**.

- In most years, the import line remains significantly higher than the export line.
- The gap widens especially after 2017, when economic liberalization accelerated investment inflows.

This indicates:

- Strong dependence on chinese industrial and technological goods
- Relatively low share of high value-added uzbek exports

As a result, the trade balance remains negative and deepens over time.

3. Export volatility

Unlike imports, exports demonstrate **irregular and unstable dynamics**:

- Sharp growth in some years (e.g., 2018 and 2022)
- Decline in others (2011, 2015, 2020, 2023–2024)

This suggests that Uzbek exports to China are still:

- Concentrated in a limited range of commodities
- Sensitive to external market conditions

4. Structural break in 2023–2024

The dramatic decline in all indicators after 2022 is clearly visible in the diagram.

However, this should **not be interpreted as an actual collapse of trade**, but rather as:

- a transition to a new statistical methodology

or recalculation based on different trade accounting principles

Even in this new format:

- Imports still exceed exports
- The negative trade balance persists

5. Peak year – 2022

The highest point on the diagram is 2022:

- Maximum total trade volume
- Significant export growth
- Strongest economic interaction

This year represents the **culmination of the previous growth model**.

The diagram demonstrates that:

- Uzbekistan–China trade relations have expanded rapidly and systematically.
- The trade model is predominantly import-driven.
- Export growth remains unstable and structurally limited.
- The trade deficit has become a long-term structural feature.
- Economic reforms after 2017 significantly accelerated trade turnover.
- The apparent decline in 2023–2024 reflects methodological changes rather than a real economic downturn.

Overall, the dynamics shown in the diagram confirm that bilateral trade has evolved from moderate exchange to a large-scale strategic partnership. At the same time, the persistent asymmetry between imports and exports highlights the need for Uzbekistan to diversify its export structure, increase the share of high value-added products, and strengthen its industrial competitiveness in order to ensure a more balanced and sustainable trade relationship with China.

4. Conclusion

The analysis of the dynamics of China–Uzbekistan trade relations in the period 2010–2024 demonstrates a steady expansion of bilateral economic cooperation, both in quantitative and qualitative terms. Over the past decade, China has consolidated its position as one of Uzbekistan's leading trade partners, while Uzbekistan has strengthened its role as an important economic and logistics hub in Central Asia. The growth of trade turnover has been accompanied by structural changes in export–import composition, diversification of traded goods, and the increasing importance of industrial and high value–added products.

The study shows that the development of bilateral trade has been largely influenced by large-scale economic reforms in Uzbekistan, the improvement of the investment climate, and the expansion of transport and logistics infrastructure. In this regard, the Belt and Road Initiative has played a significant role in enhancing connectivity, facilitating the implementation of joint projects, and creating favorable conditions for trade growth. The active participation of Chinese investments in key sectors such as energy, construction, textiles, agriculture, and machinery has contributed to the modernization of Uzbekistan's economy and the formation of new industrial capacities.

At the same time, the research reveals that despite the positive dynamics, certain challenges remain. These include the imbalance in trade structure, the relatively low share of high value–added exports from Uzbekistan, technological dependence in some sectors, and the need to further improve transport efficiency and customs procedures. Addressing these issues is essential for ensuring sustainable and mutually beneficial economic cooperation.

In general, the evolution of China–Uzbekistan trade relations reflects a transition from traditional resource-oriented trade toward a more diversified, investment-driven, and technologically integrated partnership. This transformation creates favorable conditions for long-term economic growth, regional integration, and the strengthening of Uzbekistan's position in the global trade system.

Recommendations

1. Diversification of exports: Uzbekistan should increase the share of finished and high value–added products in its exports to China, particularly in the textile, agro-processing, chemical, and manufacturing sectors.
2. Development of industrial cooperation: It is necessary to expand joint industrial zones, technology parks, and localization projects aimed at producing competitive goods for both domestic and external markets.

4. Enhancement of transport and logistics infrastructure: Further modernization of transport corridors, dry ports, and digital logistics systems will reduce trade costs and increase the efficiency of bilateral trade flows.
5. Promotion of innovation and technology transfer: Strengthening cooperation in high technologies, renewable energy, digital economy, and smart manufacturing will contribute to the transition to a knowledge-based economy.
6. Support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs): Creating favorable financial and institutional mechanisms for SMEs will allow them to actively participate in bilateral trade and global value chains.
7. Improvement of institutional and legal frameworks: Simplification of customs procedures, harmonization of standards, and expansion of financial cooperation will further stimulate trade and investment activities.
8. Development of human capital and professional training: Training specialists with knowledge of foreign languages, international trade, logistics, and modern technologies will increase the effectiveness of economic cooperation.

In conclusion, the future of China–Uzbekistan trade relations depends on the deepening of structural reforms, the expansion of high-tech and industrial cooperation, and the effective use of regional connectivity opportunities. A balanced and innovation-oriented trade strategy will ensure sustainable economic growth and mutually beneficial partnership between the two countries.

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