

Belt and Road Trade Cooperation Between Chinese and Kyrgyz Enterprises: Status, Drivers, and Prospects

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KEYWORDS

ABSTRACT

*Belt and road
initiative;*

China;

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*China-Kyrgyzstan-Uz
bekistan railway;*

Trade structure

China and Kyrgyzstan's trade relationship has grown quickly since the start of the Belt and Road plan. China has been Kyrgyzstan's biggest trade partner and source of imports for years. This paper looks at the current state, traits, and cooperation methods of trade between the two countries' businesses under the Belt and Road plan. The study shows that the total trade between the two countries is growing fast, but it still goes up and down. Their trade structures clearly complement each other; China mainly exports industrial products like textiles, clothing, and shoes, while it imports minerals like gold from Kyrgyzstan. In recent years, high-level diplomacy, strategic alignment, and multi-level cooperation have strongly driven trade cooperation between the two countries.

Big trade problems like trade imbalances, Kyrgyzstan's business situation, and geopolitics remain. Projects like the China-Kyrgyzstan Uzbekistan railway and teamwork in digital economy and green energy can improve trade potential and help ensure a great future.

INTRODUCTION

Kyrgyzstan, located in Central Asia, was a key part of the ancient Silk Road and is now central to the Silk Road Economic Belt. After 2013, with the launch of the Belt and Road Initiative, China and Kyrgyzstan have grown closer, fostering trade and economic ties. By May 2023, the firms were seen as strategic allies, strengthening their business ties. Trade between Chinese and Kyrgyz companies is key to their economic Partnership and illustrates the efficacy of China's BRI is working within Central Asia. Studying this trade helps improve their rapport and business cooperation locally.

the two countries was \$4.8 billion from January to October 2024, up 11.5%. Chinese customs says trade was \$23.57 billion from January to October 2025, up 35.4%. China's exports to Kyrgyzstan were \$18.41 billion, and imports from Kyrgyzstan were \$5.16 billion. Trade has risen a lot since the early days. Trade has a large surplus with Kyrgyzstan, because China's goods are liked for their low cost. Kyrgyzstan is also a key transit point in Central Asia. A lot of Chinese goods go through Kyrgyzstan to other countries, which shows the country's important role as a regional trade hub.

1.Current State and Structure of Sino-Kyrgyz Trade

1.1.Trade Volume

After China and Kyrgyzstan started relations in 1992, their trade has grown. The Belt and Road Initiative has led to a quick increase in trade. Kyrgyz numbers show trade between

1.2.Trade Structure

Sino-Kyrgyz trade works well because of differences in resources and industries.(Attachment1)

Table 1 shows that China's exports to Kyrgyzstan have shifted from mainly daily consumer goods to more capital and tech-heavy products, such as new energy vehicles and machinery. In contrast, Kyrgyzstan's exports to China are

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mainly minerals and basic agricultural goods, with fewer different product types. This trade setup shows what each country is good at and suggests chances for industry investment and teamwork.

2.Risks Facing Sino-Kyrgyz Trade and Policy Recommendations

Trade between the two nations is increasing due to strong cooperation. Leaders meet regularly and in February 2025, aligned China's Belt and Road plan with Kyrgyzstan's 2026 targets, projecting trade and investments until 2030 for market steadiness.

The countries are working together on customs and standards to increase trade, agreeing in February 2025 to team up on the Belt and Road plan, economic growth, AI, and digital business. A key project is the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway, started in late 2024, which could change Central Asian transportation by cutting shipping costs and times. Upgrading borders aims to improve traffic, directly supporting trade boosts.

2.1.Challenges and Risks Facing Sino-Kyrgyz Trade

Even with good chances, Chinese and Kyrgyz businesses still have problems. Trade differences might make Kyrgyzstan worry about depending too much on China because Kyrgyzstan doesn't export a broad selection of items to China, so they could be easily hurt by price changes. Kyrgyzstan's commercial laws aren't always stable or clear, and customs can be difficult. Corruption also makes things expensive for businesses. Tax laws change depending on where you are and what you do, which may cause investing complex. Sometimes, people in Kyrgyzstan don't like China because some Chinese projects don't hire enough local people. Even though the governments try to fix misunderstandings, it's important to be careful with what people think. Also, big countries competing in Central Asia could make it harder for businesses to work together.

2.2.Future Prospects and Policy Recommendations

In the future, trade between China and Kyrgyzstan will likely grow closer. China's next five-year plan and

Kyrgyzstan's development plan for 2030 are similar, creating chances for future cooperation.

First, diversifying trade is essential. Both countries should keep the green channel for farm goods open and grow Kyrgyzstan's exports of honey and fruit to China. They should also look into service and digital trading in green mining, clean energy, and healthcare to find new ways to grow.

Second, both trade and investment should be promoted. Chinese companies should be encouraged to invest in Kyrgyzstan, building factories for farm processing, construction materials, and electronics assembly. This will help Kyrgyzstan become more industrialized, turning simple trade into industrial partnerships that increase jobs and exports.

Finally, it's important to improve infrastructure and regulations. While pushing big projects like the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway, the two countries should also work together to share customs data, recognize standards, and build single window systems. Improving these soft connections will lower the costs of doing business.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Belt and Road Initiative has guided China and Kyrgyzstan to achieve remarkable trade cooperation, expanding trade and improving infrastructure, which lead to great benefits for both countries. Now, the cooperation has entered a crucial phase of quality improvements. Despite challenges like trade imbalances and the business environment, significant political faith between the two governments and very well-matched economic architectures form a solid base for deeper cooperation. As long as both sides stick to the principles of mutual consultation, joint construction, and shared benefits, properly handle risks, and focus on promoting greater trade and investment, economic and trade cooperation between China and Kyrgyzstan will have even broader prospects and become a cooperation model for the Belt and Road Initiative.

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Attachment1

Table.1. Structure of Major Import and Export Goods Between China and Kyrgyzstan

Direction	Main product categories	Specific product examples	Feature
China's exports to Kyrgyzstan	Textiles, Apparel and Footwear	Clothing, footwear, and knitwear	Traditional advantageous product categories account for over 40%.
	Mechanical and electrical equipment and transportation equipment	Automobiles (including electric vehicles), motorcycles, communication equipment, and laptops	The proportion of high value-added products continues to increase
	Miscellaneous products	Furniture, toys, and lamps	A wide variety of products to meet daily consumption needs
Imported from China by Kyiv	Mineral products and precious metals	Gold (China's 7th largest source of imports), copper, antimony and other ores	Resource-intensive, dominating
	Agricultural raw materials	Leather, wool, cotton	Traditional advantages
	Agricultural products	Honey, dried fruit	Exports to China are being expanded through a "green channel".