

## Turkmenistan



### Turkmenistan at a Glance

Capital:	Ashgabat
Official language:	Turkmen
Population:	5,351,277 (July 2017 est.)
Government:	presidential republic; authoritarian
Establishment	27 October 1991
National or Regional Currency:	
Area:	total: 488,100 sq km land: 469,930 sq km water: 18,170 sq km

Elevation extremes: mean elevation: 230 m

**elevation extremes:** lowest point: Vpadina Akchanaya -81 m (Sarygamysh Koli is a lake in northern Turkmenistan with a water level that fluctuates above and below the elevation of Vpadina Akchanaya, the lake has dropped as low as -110 m)

highest point: Gora Ayribaba 3,139 m

Terrain: flat-to-rolling sandy desert with dunes rising to mountains in the south; low mountains along border with Iran; borders Caspian Sea in west

Land boundaries: **total:** 4,158 km

**border countries (4):** Afghanistan 804 km, Iran 1,148 km, Kazakhstan 413 km, Uzbekistan 1,793 km

Area - comparative: slightly more than three times the size of Georgia; slightly larger than California

Map references: Asia

Geographic coordinates: 40 00 N, 60 00 E

Coastline: 0 km (landlocked); note - Turkmenistan borders the Caspian Sea (1,768 km)

Location: Central Asia, bordering the Caspian Sea, between Iran and Kazakhstan

## History

Present-day Turkmenistan covers territory that has been at the crossroads of civilizations for centuries. The area was ruled in antiquity by various Persian empires, and was conquered by Alexander the Great, Muslim armies, the Mongols, Turkic warriors, and eventually the Russians. In medieval times, Merv (located in present-day Mary province) was one of the great cities of the Islamic world and an important stop on the Silk Road. Annexed by Russia in the late 1800s, Turkmenistan later figured prominently in the anti-Bolshevik movement in Central Asia. In 1924, Turkmenistan became a Soviet republic; it achieved independence upon the dissolution of the USSR in 1991. Extensive hydrocarbon/natural gas reserves, which have yet to be fully exploited, have begun to transform the country. The Government of Turkmenistan is moving to expand its extraction and delivery projects and has attempted to diversify its gas export routes beyond Russia's pipeline network. In 2010, new gas export pipelines that carry Turkmen gas to China and to northern Iran began operating, effectively ending the Russian monopoly on Turkmen gas exports. In 2016, Russia and Iran halted their purchase of gas from Turkmenistan making China the only buyer of Turkmen gas. President for Life Saparmurat NYYZAZOW died in December 2006, and Turkmenistan held its first multi-candidate presidential election in February 2007. Gurbanguly BERDIMUHAMEDOW, a deputy cabinet chairman under NYYZAZOW, emerged as the country's new president. He was reelected in 2012 and again in 2017 with over 97% of the vote in both instances, in elections widely regarded as undemocratic.<sup>1</sup>

## Government

<b>Country name:</b>	<b>Turkmenistan</b>
<b>Government type:</b>	presidential republic; authoritarian
<b>Capital:</b>	Ashgabat
<b>Administrative divisions:</b>	Administrative divisions: 5 provinces (welayatlar, singular - welayat) and 1 independent city*: Ahal Welayaty (Anew), Ashgabat*, Balkan Welayaty (Balkanabat), Dasoguz Welayaty, Lebap Welayaty (Turkmenabat), Mary Welayaty
<b>Independence:</b>	27 October 1991 (from the Soviet Union)
<b>National holiday:</b>	Independence Day, 27 October (1991)
<b>Constitution:</b>	history: adopted 18 May 1992
<b>Legal system:</b>	civil law system with Islamic law influences
<b>Suffrage:</b>	18 years of age; universal

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.indexmundi.com/turkmenistan/background.html>

<p><b>Executive branch:</b></p>	<p>Executive branch: chief of state: President Gurbanguly BERDIMUHAMEDOW (since 14 February 2007); note - the president is both chief of state and head of government</p> <p>head of government: President Gurbanguly BERDIMUHAMEDOW (since 14 February 2007)</p> <p>cabinet: Cabinet of Ministers appointed by the president</p> <p>elections/appointments: president directly elected by absolute majority popular vote in 2 rounds if needed for a 7-year term (no term limits); election last held on 12 February 2017 (next to be held in February 2024)</p> <p>election results: Gurbanguly BERDIMUHAMEDOW reelected president; percent of vote - Gurbanguly BERDIMUHAMEDOW (DPT) 97.7%, other 2.3%</p>
<p><b>Legislative branch:</b></p>	<p>unicameral National Assembly or Mejlis (125 seats; members directly elected from single-seat constituencies by absolute majority vote; members serve 5-year terms)</p> <p><b>elections:</b> last held on 15 December 2013 (next to be held in December 2018), although interim elections are held on an ad hoc basis to fill vacant seats</p> <p><b>election results:</b> percent of vote by party - NA; seats by party - DPT 47, Organization of Trade Unions of Turkmenistan 33, Women's Union of Turkmenistan 16, PIE 14, Magtymguly Youth Organization 8, independent 7; note - all of these parties support President BERDIMUHAMEDOW</p>
<p><b>Judicial branch:</b></p>	<p>highest court(s): Supreme Court of Turkmenistan (consists of the court president and 21 associate judges and organized into civil, criminal, and military chambers)</p> <p>judge selection and term of office: judges appointed by the president for 5-year terms</p> <p>subordinate courts: High Commercial Court; appellate courts; provincial, district, and city courts; military courts<sup>2</sup></p>

---

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.indexmundi.com/turkmenistan/government\\_profile.html](https://www.indexmundi.com/turkmenistan/government_profile.html)

## International Human Development Trend

Human Development Index

Year	value
2010	0.673
2012	0.686
2014	0.697
2015	0.701
2016	0.705
2017	0.706

Source: [http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2018\\_human\\_development\\_statistical\\_update.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2018_human_development_statistical_update.pdf)

## Human Development Indicators

### Health

Indicator	value
<b>Expenditure on health, public (% of GDP)(%)2015</b>	6.3
<b>Under-five mortality (per 1,000 live birth) 2016</b>	51.0
<b>Life expectancy at birth 2017</b>	68.0

Source: [http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2018\\_human\\_development\\_statistical\\_update.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2018_human_development_statistical_update.pdf)

### Education

Indicator	Value
<b>Government expenditure on education (% of GDP) (%) 2012-2017</b>	3.0
<b>Expected Years of Schooling (of children) 2017</b>	10.8
<b>Mean years of schooling (of adults) (years)</b>	9.8

Source: [http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2018\\_human\\_development\\_statistical\\_update.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2018_human_development_statistical_update.pdf)

### Economy – overview

Turkmenistan is largely a desert country with intensive agriculture in irrigated oases and significant natural gas and oil resources. The two largest crops are cotton, most of which is produced for export, and wheat, which is domestically consumed. Although agriculture accounts for almost 8% of GDP, it continues to employ nearly half of the country's workforce. Hydrocarbon exports (mainly natural gas) make up 25% of Turkmenistan's GDP, the bulk of which is natural gas going to China. Ashgabat has explored two initiatives to bring gas to new markets: a trans-

Caspian pipeline that would carry gas to Europe and the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline. Both face major financing and security hurdles and are unlikely to be completed soon.

Turkmenistan's autocratic governments under presidents NIYAZOW (1991-2006) and BERDIMUHAMEDOW (since 2007) have made little progress improving the business climate, privatizing state-owned industries, and combatting corruption, limiting economic development outside the energy sector. High energy prices in the mid-2000s allowed the government to undertake extensive development and social spending, including providing heavy utility subsidies.

Low energy prices since mid-2014 are hampering Turkmenistan's economic growth and reducing government revenues. The government has cut subsidies in several areas, and wage arrears have increased. In January 2014, the Central Bank of Turkmenistan devalued the manat by 19%, and downward pressure on the currency continues. There is a widening spread between the official exchange rate (4.1 TMM per US dollar) and the black market exchange rate (approximately 7 TMM per US dollar). Currency depreciation, corruption, isolationist policies, and limited spending on public services has resulted in a stagnate economy that is nearing crisis. Turkmenistan claims substantial foreign currency reserves, but non-transparent data limit international institutions' ability to verify this information.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.indexmundi.com/turkmenistan/economy\\_overview.html](https://www.indexmundi.com/turkmenistan/economy_overview.html)

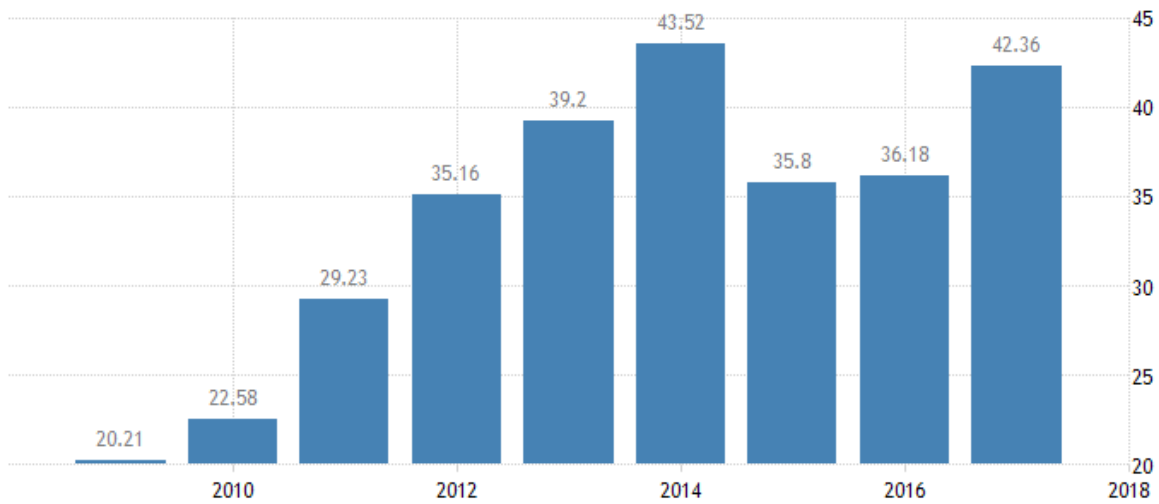
<b>Markets</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>Previous</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
<b>GDP</b>	Last	Previous	Range	Unit	Reference	Frequency
<b>GDP</b>	42.36	36.18	0:43.52	USD Billion	Dec/17	Yearly
<b>GDP Annual Growth Rate</b>	6.2	6.2	-17.3:16.5	%	Jan/17	Quarterly
<b>GDP PER CAPITA</b>	7318	6987	1876:7318	USD	Dec/17	Yearly
<b>GDP PER CAPITA PPP</b>	16389	15648	42202:16389	USD	Dec/17	Yearly
<b>Labor</b>	Last	Previous	Range	Unit	Reference	Frequency
<b>POPULATION</b>	5.76	5.66	1.6:5.76	Million	Dec/17	Yearly
<b>UNEMPLOYMENT RATE</b>	3.4	8.26	3.4:9.29	%	Dec/17	Yearly
<b>Prices</b>	Last	Previous	Range	Unit	Reference	Frequency
<b>INFLATION RATE</b>	9.4	6.5	0..1:83.7	%	Dec/18	Yearly
<b>Trade</b>	Last	Previous	Range	Unit	Reference	Frequency
<b>BALANCE OF TRADE</b>	2887	1970	-3498:4757	USD Million	Dec/17	Yearly
<b>CURRENT ACCOUNT</b>	-7105	-6194	-7105:4037	USD Million	Dec/17	Yearly
<b>CURRENT ACCOUNT TO GDP</b>	-12.8	-18.5	-108:154	%	Dec/17	Yearly
<b>EXPORTS</b>	7458	6964	64.34:12395	USD Million	Dec/17	Yearly
<b>IMPORTS</b>	4571	4994	141:10167	USD Million	Dec/17	Yearly
<b>Government</b>	Last	Previous	Range	Unit	Reference	Frequency
<b>GOVERNMENT DEBT TO GDP</b>	28.82	24.07	2.42:64.41	%	Dec/17	Yearly
<b>GOVERNMENT BUDGET</b>	-0.9	-0.8	-2.59:11.3	% of GDP	Dec/17	Yearly
<b>CREDIT RATING</b>	15					Monthly

Source: <https://tradingeconomics.com/turkmenistan/indicators>

## GDP

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Turkmenistan was worth 42.36 billion US dollars in 2017. The GDP value of Turkmenistan represents 0.07 percent of the world economy. GDP in Turkmenistan averaged 13.22 USD Billion from 1987 until 2017, reaching an all time high of 43.52 USD Billion in 2014 and a record low of 0 USD Billion in 1991.<sup>4</sup>

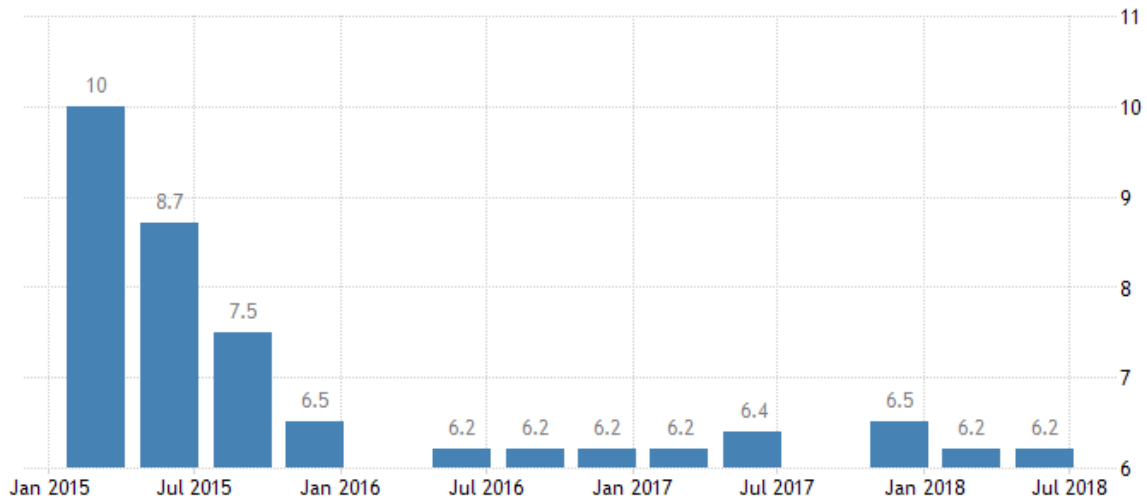
<sup>4</sup> <https://tradingeconomics.com/turkmenistan/gdp>



SOURCE: TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | WORLD BANK

### GDP Annual Growth Rate

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Turkmenistan expanded 6.20 percent in the second quarter of 2018 over the same quarter of the previous year. GDP Annual Growth Rate in Turkmenistan averaged 6.84 percent from 1994 until 2018, reaching an all time high of 16.50 percent in the fourth quarter of 1999 and a record low of -17.30 percent in the fourth quarter of 1994.<sup>5</sup>

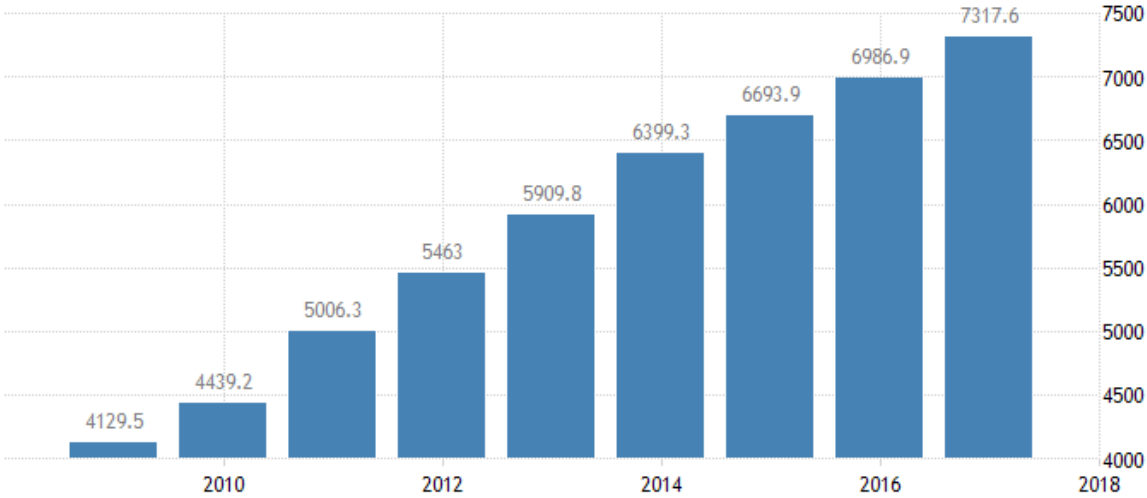


SOURCE: TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATE STATISTICS AND INFORMATION, TURKMENISTAN

<sup>5</sup> <https://tradingeconomics.com/turkmenistan/gdp-growth-annual>

### GDP per Capita

The Gross Domestic Product per capita in Turkmenistan was last recorded at 7317.60 US dollars in 2017. The GDP per Capita in Turkmenistan is equivalent to 58 percent of the world's average. GDP per capita in Turkmenistan averaged 3622.09 USD from 1987 until 2017, reaching an all time high of 7317.60 USD in 2017 and a record low of 1876.40 USD in 1997.<sup>6</sup>



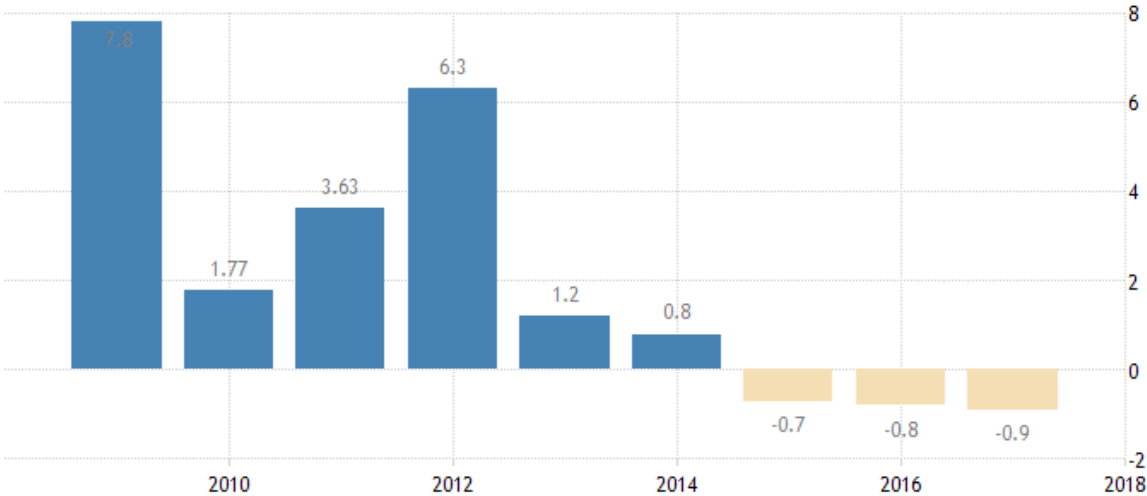
SOURCE: TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | WORLD BANK

<sup>6</sup> <https://tradingeconomics.com/turkmenistan/gdp-per-capita>



# Government Budget

Turkmenistan recorded a Government Budget deficit equal to 0.90 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product in 2017. Government Budget in Turkmenistan averaged 1.69 percent of GDP from 1994 until 2017, reaching an all time high of 11.30 percent of GDP in 2008 and a record low of -2.59 percent of GDP in 1998.<sup>7</sup>



SOURCE: TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATE STATISTICS AND INFORMATION, TURKMENISTAN

<sup>7</sup> <https://tradingeconomics.com/turkmenistan/government-budget>

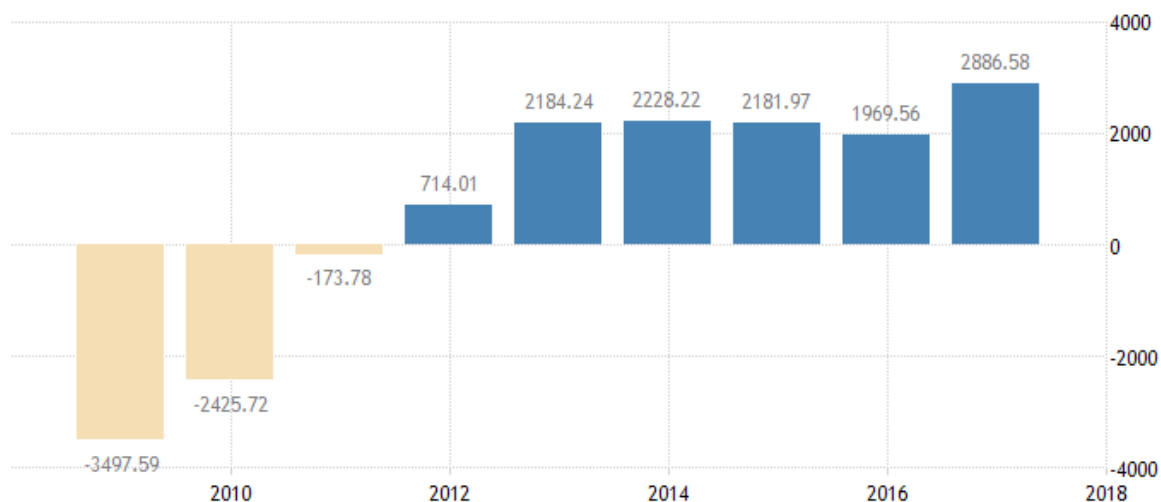
## Evaluation of foreign trade

Trade	Last	Previous	Highest	Lowest	Unit
Balance of Trade	2886.58	1969.56	4756.85	-3497.59	USD Million
Current Account	-7105.00	-6194.00	4037.00	-7105.00	USD Million
Current Account to GDP	-12.80	-18.50	153.67	-107.87	percent
Exports	97.50	88.70	291.80	35.10	USD Million
<b>Imports</b>	<b>4570.95</b>	<b>4994.33</b>	<b>10166.68</b>	<b>141.49</b>	<b>USD Million</b>

Source: <https://tradingeconomics.com/turkmenistan/balance-of-trade>

## Balance of Trade

Turkmenistan recorded a trade surplus of 2886.58 USD Million in 2017. Balance of Trade in Turkmenistan averaged 874.39 USD Million from 1992 until 2017, reaching an all time high of 4756.85 USD Million in 2008 and a record low of -3497.59 USD Million in 2009.<sup>8</sup>



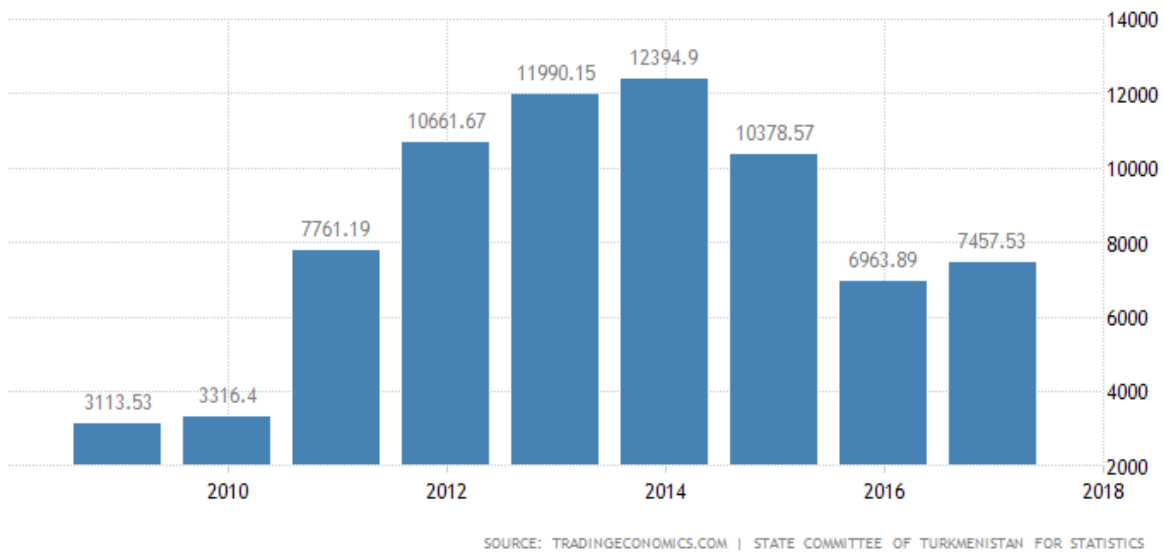
SOURCE: TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | STATE COMMITTEE OF TURKMENISTAN FOR STATISTICS

## Exports and Imports

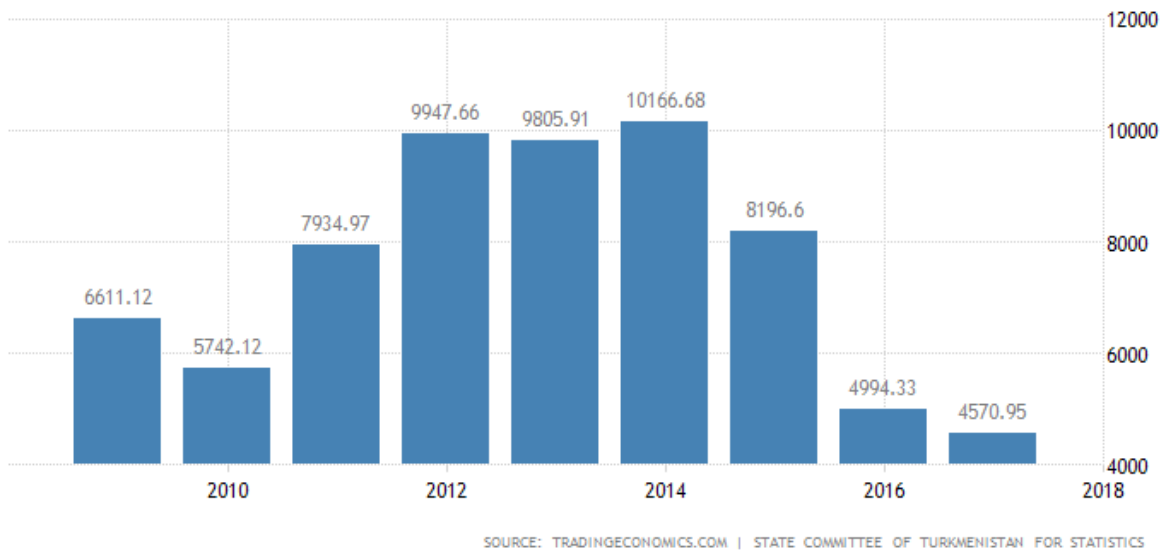
Exports in Turkmenistan increased to 7457.53 USD Million in 2017 from 6963.89 USD Million in 2016. Exports in Turkmenistan averaged 4773.60 USD Million from 1992 until 2017, reaching

<sup>8</sup> <https://tradingeconomics.com/turkmenistan/balance-of-trade>

an all time high of 12394.90 USD Million in 2014 and a record low of 64.34 USD Million in 1992.<sup>9</sup>



Imports in Turkmenistan decreased to 4570.95 USD Million in 2017 from 4994.33 USD Million in 2016. Imports in Turkmenistan averaged 3899.22 USD Million from 1992 until 2017, reaching an all time high of 10166.68 USD Million in 2014 and a record low of 141.49 USD Million in 1992.<sup>10</sup>



<sup>9</sup> <https://tradingeconomics.com/turkmenistan/exports>

<sup>10</sup> <https://tradingeconomics.com/turkmenistan/imports>

# Trade Profile 2017

## Turkmenistan

GDP (million current US\$, 2016)	36 180	<b>Rank in world trade, 2016</b>	<u>Exports</u>	<u>Imports</u>
GDP per capita (US\$, 2014-2016)	7 161	Merchandise	79	109
Current account balance (% GDP, 2016)	-21.0	excluding intra-EU trade	54	84
Trade per capita (US\$, 2014-2016)	...	Commercial services	86	90
Trade (% GDP, 2014-2016)	...	excluding intra-EU trade	59	64

### MERCHANDISE TRADE

Million US\$	Value		Annual percentage change	
	2016	2010-2016	2015	2016
Merchandise exports, f.o.b.	11 000	9	-20	-21
Merchandise imports, c.i.f.	7 000	3	-20	-13
	2016			2016
Share in world total exports (%)	0.07	Share in world total imports (%)		0.04

#### Breakdown in economy's total exports

By main commodity group



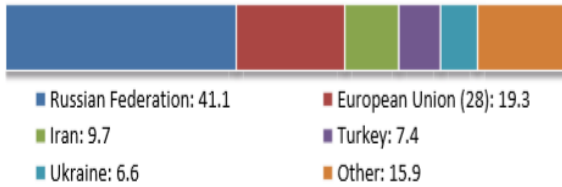
#### Breakdown in economy's total imports

By main commodity group

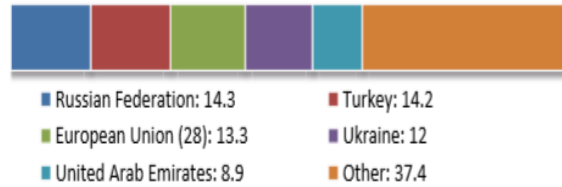


Activate Windows  
Go to Settings to activate

#### By main destination, % (2000)



#### By main origin, % (2000)



### Agricultural Products

Top exported products (Million US\$)	Value		Top imported products (Million US\$)	Value	
	2016	2015		2016	2015
...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...

#### Share in economy's trade in agricultural products



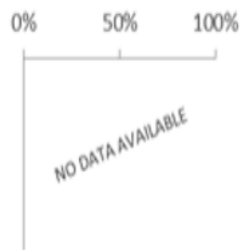
Million US\$	Value		Annual percentage change	
	2016	2010-2016	2015	2016
Exports	...	...	...	...
Imports	...	...	...	...

Activate Windows  
Go to Settings to activate

## Non-Agricultural Products

Top exported products (Million US\$)	Value 2016	Top imported products (Million US\$)	Value 2016
...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...

### Share in economy's trade in non-agricultural products



Value	Annual percentage change		
	2016	2010-2016	2015
Exports	...	...	...
Imports	...	...	...

Activate Windows

Turkmenistan

## TRADE IN COMMERCIAL SERVICES

Million US\$	Value	Annual percentage change		
	2016	2010-2016	2015	2016
Commercial services exports	...	...	...	...
Commercial services imports	...	...	...	...

Share in world total exports (%)

Share in world total imports (%)

### Breakdown in economy's total exports

### Breakdown in economy's total imports

#### By main services item

#### By main services item

NO DATA AVAILABLE

NO DATA AVAILABLE

#### By main destination

#### By main origin

NO DATA AVAILABLE

NO DATA AVAILABLE

Activate Windows  
Go to Settings to activate Windows.

<b>FATS sales</b>		Value	Annual percentage change	2016
		2016	2015	2016
Inward (million US\$)		...	...	...
Outward (million US\$)		...	...	...

<b>Transport</b>		Value	Annual percentage change	2016
		2016	2015	2016
Exports	Million US\$	...	...	...
Imports	Million US\$	...	...	...
Exports	Share (%)	...	...	...
By sea		...	...	...
By air		...	...	...
By other		...	...	...

<b>Travel</b>		Value	Annual percentage change	2016
		2016	2015	2016
Exports	Million US\$	...	...	...
Imports	Million US\$	...	...	...

<b>Other Commercial Services and Goods-related Services</b>		Value	Annual percentage change	2016
		2016	2015	2016
<b>Other commercial services</b>				
Exports	Million US\$	...	...	...
Imports	Million US\$	...	...	...
<b>Goods-related services</b>				
Exports	Million US\$	...	...	...
Imports	Million US\$	...	...	...

<b>INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY</b>								
<b>Patent applications</b>			<b>Trademark applications, 2015</b>			<b>Industrial design applications</b>		
Residents	Non-residents	Total	Residents	Non-residents	Total	Residents	Non-residents	Total
...	...	...	...	2 067	2 067	...	...	...

Extracted from: World Trade Organization (WTO), "Trade Profiles 2017", page. 368-369