



# Market review report

JANUARY, 2025

Investment banking department



The Government of Uzbekistan has officially designated 2025 as the "**Year of Environmental Protection and Green Economy**". This initiative underscores a strategic pivot towards sustainable growth, emphasizing renewable energy, green technologies, and water resource management. These reforms align with broader regional trends toward ESG priorities, enhancing Uzbekistan's long-term investment attractiveness.

**President Shavkat Mirziyoyev approved a budget for 2025.** The consolidated budget was approved with a **deficit** of 3 percent to GDP, with its revenues planned at 431 trillion UZS and expenditures at 480.5 trillion UZS.

Annual limits have been set for external borrowing and commitments as follows: a total of 5.5 billion USD in **new external borrowing** agreements, including 3.0 billion USD for **State Budget support** and **deficit financing** and 2.5 billion USD for **investment projects**; a net issuance limit of **30 trillion UZS** for Government securities issued locally; and a maximum of 6.5 billion USD for new **public-private partnership** (PPP) projects requiring state guarantees or approvals.

Uzbekistan's GDP is expected to **grow by 6% in 2025**. The State Budget, including transfers to state trust funds, is planned with a **deficit of 2%** of GDP, with revenues set at **308.5 trillion UZS** and expenditures at **344.8 trillion UZS**. Local budgets, including those of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regions, and Tashkent city, are forecast to generate revenues of **65.8 trillion UZS**, while expenditures are projected at **84.3 trillion UZS**. To support these budgets, inter-budget transfers from the republican budget amounting to **18.5 trillion UZS** have been allocated. A significant focus of the budget is on social expenditures, with **52%** of the State Budget directed toward education, healthcare, social protection, science, culture, sports, and housing for low-income citizens. Tax reforms have also been introduced to increase local budgets' revenues and expand their autonomy. Local budgets will now fully receive turnover tax, land tax, and corporate property tax (excluding large taxpayers), along with at least **50%** of personal income tax and privatization revenues. Local councils have also been given the authority to apply tax coefficients to certain taxes.

Uzbekistan's banking sector plans to raise **6 billion USD** in foreign funds without state guarantees **in 2025**, showcasing confidence in the country's financial system. Key highlights include a **20 trillion UZS** increase in enterprise funds (totaling **107 trillion UZS**) and a **25 trillion UZS** rise in population deposits (totaling **105 trillion UZS**) in 2023. Loan disbursements are projected to exceed **300 trillion UZS by 2025**, with loans to small businesses increasing from **28% to 40%** (120 trillion UZS). These developments reflect growing public and business trust, along with a stronger and more independent financial system.

#### **A new chairman has been appointed to the Central Bank**

The Council of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024, in accordance with the proposal of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, appointed **Timur Amindzhanovich Ishmetov** to the position of **Chairman of the Board of the Central Bank** of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Uzbekistan plans to provide employment for **5.2 million people in 2025**, with **3 million** supported by banks. Agreements with **208 districts** and cities set specific neighborhood targets, supported by **1 billion USD** in allocated credit under the "Neighborhood" program. By February 1, 2025, district bank branches will establish departments with "**neighborhood bankers**" and assistants. Banks and local authorities will offer business projects and training, monitored through integrated systems like **online-mahalla.uz**. Unemployment has decreased from **6.8%** in early 2024 to **5.8%** by November. Additionally, **50 million USD** will support neighborhood startups.

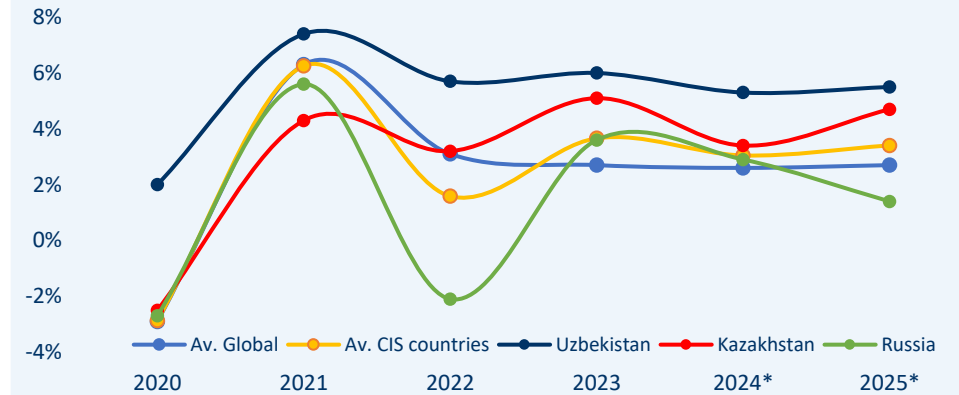
In recent years, Uzbekistan has achieved notable economic progress under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. The nation has implemented ambitious reforms to shift towards a market-oriented economy, with a focus on liberalization, industrial growth, and economic diversification. Major initiatives include reforming the currency, upgrading infrastructure, and attracting foreign investments. By 2025, Uzbekistan aims to solidify its role as a leading regional economy through sustainable growth, digital innovation, and greater integration into global markets.

### GDP growth

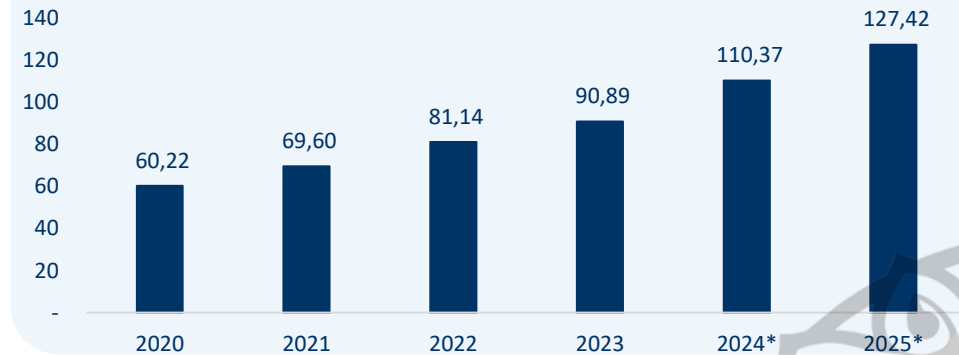
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	2025*
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>5.5%</b>
<b>CIS countries:</b>						
Kazakhstan	-2.5%	4.3%	3.2%	5.1%	3.4%	4.7%
Kyrgyz Republic	-7.1%	5.5%	9.0%	6.2%	4.5%	4.2%
Tajikistan	4.4%	9.4%	8.0%	8.3%	6.5%	4.5%
Turkmenistan	-2.1%	-0.3%	5.3%	2.0%	2.3%	2.3%
Russia	-2.7%	5.6%	-2.1%	3.6%	2.9%	1.4%
Georgia	-6.3%	10.6%	11.0%	7.5%	5.2%	5.0%
Armenia	-7.2%	5.8%	12.6%	8.7%	5.5%	4.9%
Azerbaijan	-4.3%	5.6%	4.7%	1.1%	2.3%	2.4%
Moldova	-8.3%	13.9%	-5.0%	0.8%	2.2%	3.9%
Ukraine	-3.8%	3.4%	-28.8%	5.3%	3.2%	6.5%
Belarus	-0.7%	2.4%	-4.7%	3.9%	1.2%	0.7%
Estonia	-1.0%	7.2%	-0.5%	-3.0%	-1.0%	1.1%
Latvia	-3.5%	6.7%	3.0%	-0.3%	0%	1.0%
Lithuania	0%	6.3%	2.4%	-0.3%	2.2%	3.0%
<b>World Regions:</b>						
Europe & Central Asia	-5.5%	6.5%	3.2%	1.0%	3.0%	2.9%
Latin America & Caribbean	-6.6%	7.0%	4.0%	2.2%	1.8%	2.7%
North America	-2.4%	5.8%	2.1%	2.4%		
Middle East & North Africa	-4.0%	5.6%	5.7%	1.8%	2.8%	4.2%
South Asia	-4.6%	8.8%	6.3%	6.4%	6.2%	6.2%
East Asia & Pacific	-0.1%	6.2%	2.9%	4.1%	4.8%	4.2%
Sub-Saharan Africa	-2.0%	4.3%	3.7%	3.0%	3.5%	4.0%

\*forecast by World Bank

### GDP Growth Trends (2020-2025)



### Uzbekistan's GDP in billions USD



#### Uzbekistan's sovereign credit ratings

MOODY'S	FitchRatings	S&P Global
Ba3 / Stable	BB- / Stable	BB- / Stable

#### Kazakhstan's sovereign credit ratings

MOODY'S	FitchRatings	S&P Global
Baa1 / Stable	BBB / Stable	BBB- / Stable

#### Kyrgyz Republic's sovereign credit ratings

MOODY'S	FitchRatings	S&P Global
B3 / Stable	XXX	XXX

#### Tajikistan's sovereign credit ratings

MOODY'S	FitchRatings	S&P Global
B3 / Positive	XXX	B / Stable

The Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan has projected the USD/UZS average annual exchange rate for 2025 at **13,250 UZS**, which represents a **4.8% increase** compared to the forecasted 2024 rate of **12,640 UZS**. This projection reflects a continuation of the controlled depreciation of the national currency.

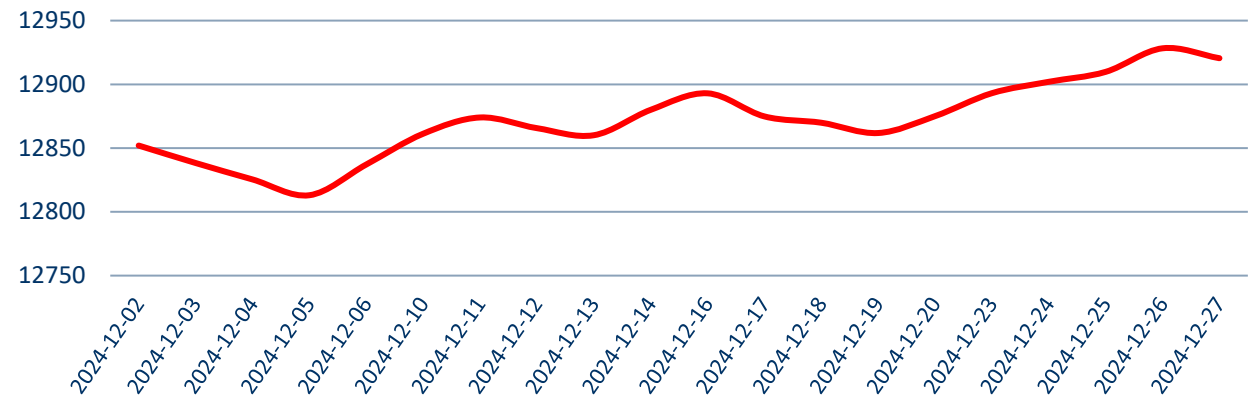
Uzbekistan’s GDP is expected to reach **1.63 quadrillion UZS** (approximately 123 billion USD) in **2025**, calculated based on the projected exchange rate of 13,250 UZS. The state budget remains highly sensitive to exchange rate fluctuations, with a **100 UZS depreciation** of the national currency likely to increase state budget expenses by **240 billion UZS**. For comparison, the 2024 budget projected this figure at **400 billion UZS**. Further exchange rate projections have been made for subsequent years, estimating an average annual rate of **13,725 UZS in 2026** and **14,150 UZS in 2027**. The Central Bank of Uzbekistan has indicated that a **1% devaluation** of the UZS would increase inflation by **0.3 p.p.** However, the currency’s performance in 2024 has shown signs of stability, with a **3.5% depreciation** in the first 10 months of the year, significantly lower than the **8.8% depreciation** observed during the same period in 2023.

To mitigate economic hardships, salaries, pensions, and social benefits in 2025 will be adjusted to align with the forecasted **7% inflation rate**. This marks a significant improvement **compared to 2024**, where lower-than-planned allocations were made for these increases. The national currency is expected to continue depreciating at a slower and controlled pace. The government is taking strategic measures to manage exchange rate fluctuations, stabilize inflation, and address social needs through increased spending on wages and benefits. These forecasts, presented by the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Uzbekistan and supported by insights from the Central Bank of Uzbekistan, reflect a balanced approach to ensuring fiscal and economic stability.

The USD/UZS exchange rate exhibited a **steady upward trend** in December 2024, closing **at 12,920.48 on December 31**. Over short-term periods, changes were minimal, with a weekly increase of **0.35%** and a monthly rise of **0.43%**. Over longer periods, the rate reflected significant USD strength, with a **4.71% increase** over one year, **19.21% over three years**, and **35.90% over five years**.

By the end of 2024, the exchange rate of the US Dollar against the UZS, as determined by the Central Bank of Uzbekistan, appreciated by approximately **582 UZS (a 4.71% increase)**. The rate of devaluation of the national currency was notably slower compared to 2023, with the average annual exchange rate slightly exceeding the forecasted value.

USD/UZS trend in December



USD/UZS Currency rate changes		Cross Currency rate (13.01.2025)	
	13.01.2025		
USD/UZS	<b>12 957.0</b>	USD/EUR	0.97
DoD - 1 day change	0.1280%	USD/RUB	101.41
WoW - 7 days change	0.1158%	USD/CNY	7.33
MoM - 30 days change	0.5978%	USD/CHF	0.91
QoQ - 90 days change	1.2024%	USD/GBP	0.81
YoY - 365 days change	4.3573%	USD/JPY	157.94
3Y Change - 1095 days change	19.3969%		
5Y Change - 1825 days change	35.6646%		



Since 2020, the **Central Bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan** has been implementing its monetary policy within the framework of an **inflation targeting regime**. Under this framework, the Central Bank has set a target inflation rate of **5% by 2027**. All policy actions are designed to maintain inflation levels close to this target, ensuring price stability and supporting sustainable economic growth.

Global public debt is anticipated to **surpass 100 trillion USD by 2024**, exceeding pre-pandemic levels and continuing to grow throughout the decade. This increase is driven by heightened government spending aimed at tackling green transitions, an aging population, and various developmental challenges. Emerging markets and developing nations face heightened debt risks due to financial constraints, while advanced economies are burdened by substantial deficits and significant borrowing demands.

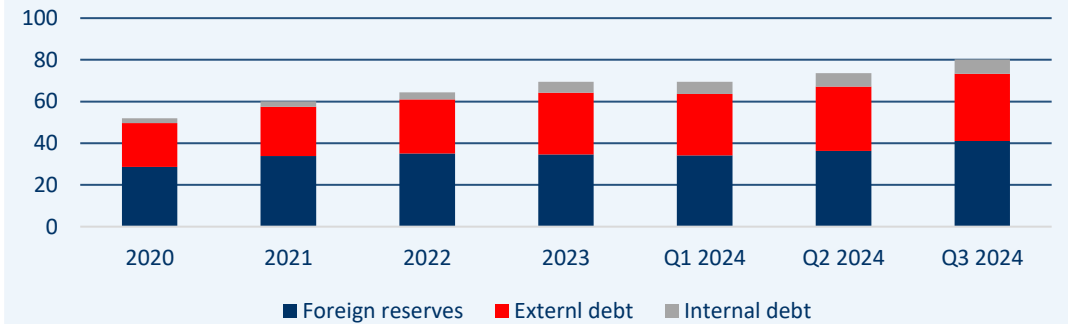
### General government Gross Debt to GDP ratio (%)

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	2025*	2026*
<i>CIS countries:</i>							
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	<b>33.7</b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>32.5</b>	<b>34.3</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>31.4</b>
Kazakhstan	26.4	25.1	23.5	22.8	24.8	27.6	30.0
Kyrgyz Republic	63.6	56.2	46.8	44.7	41.8	41.2	41.8
Tajikistan	51.8	42.1	32.5	30.9	30.7	30.1	29.3
Russia	19.2	16.4	18.5	19.5	19.9	20.4	21.4
Moldova	36.6	33.6	34.9	35.3	36.9	34.8	32.7
Ukraine	41.3	36.3	32.1	32.4	31.4	31.3	30.7
Belarus	47.5	41.2	41.3	40.7	41.4	40.3	40.6
Estonia	18.3	17.6	18.3	19.3	21.8	25.4	28.7
Latvia	42.7	44.4	41.8	43.6	45.2	45.7	46.0
Lithuania	46.3	43.4	38.0	38.3	38.1	37.9	37.6
<i>Economy groups:</i>							
Advanced Economies	121.8	115.4	109.9	108.7	109.4	111.0	112.0
Emerging Market and Middle-Income Economies	65.5	64.7	64.9	69.4	70.8	73.0	75.0
Low-Income Developing Countries	49.1	49.1	50.4	53.5	53.2	50.9	49.0

*\*forecast by World Bank*

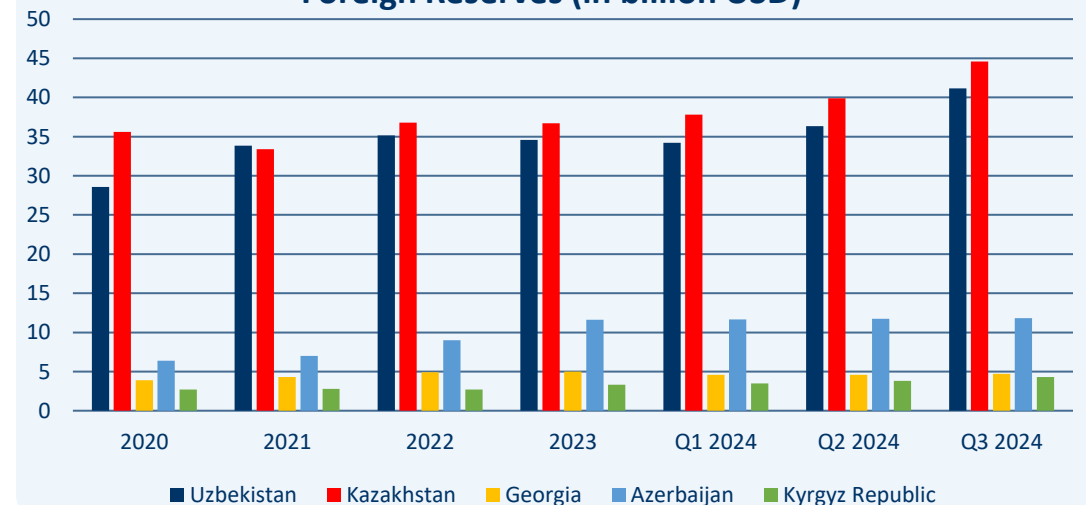
As of July 1, 2024, Uzbekistan's public debt has surpassed **37 billion USD** for the first time. The country's external debt has experienced a rapid increase in recent years. For example, by the end of 2017, the national debt stood at **11.6 billion USD**, but by the end of 2023, it had surged to **34.9 billion USD**, marking a threefold rise. In accordance with the "Law on State Debt," Uzbekistan has set a maximum debt threshold of **60% of its GDP**.

### Foreign reserves & Debt dynamics (in billion USD)



	2020	2021	2022	2023	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024
<b>Foreign reserves, mln USD</b>	28 590.0	33 851.3	35 139.2	34 564.7	34 190.3	36 340.6	41 139.1
<b>Total debt, mln USD</b>	23 367.8	26 323.35	29 231.38	34 927.17	35 349.0	37 229.0	39 073.0

### Foreign Reserves (in billion USD)





**12.12.2024:** The Central Bank of Uzbekistan (CBU) kept its key interest rate unchanged at **13.5%** to control inflationary pressures, with the goal of reaching a **5% inflation** target by 2027.



**02.12.2024:** The Monetary Policy Committee of Kazakhstan's National Bank set the base interest rate at **15.25%**, within a range of **+/-1 p.p.** This decision was based on revised forecasts and a thorough evaluation of inflation risk factors.



**20.12.2024:** The Bank of Russia kept the key rate at **21.00%**, citing tighter monetary conditions, elevated **inflation at 9.5%**, and strong domestic demand. High borrowing costs and slower credit growth are expected to ease inflation pressures, with annual inflation forecasted to reach **4.0% by 2026**. Economic and labour market trends remain robust, but inflation risks persist.



**19.12.2024:** The Federal Reserve reduced its key interest rate by **0.25 percentage points** to a target range of **4.25-4.50%**, marking the third cut that year. Despite this reduction, the Fed signaled a more cautious approach for 2025, projecting only two additional cuts, down from the previously anticipated four, due to persistent inflation concerns.



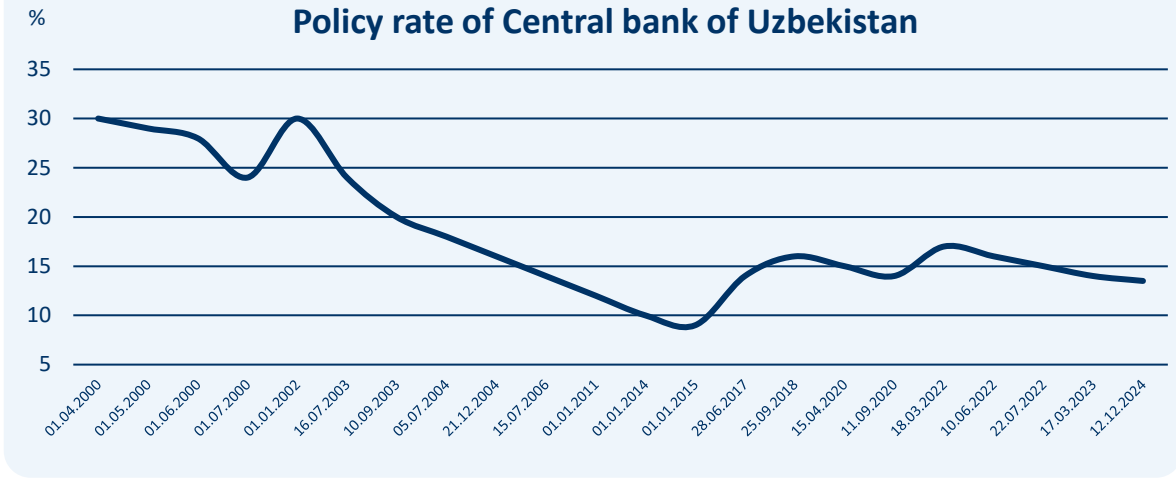
**12.12.2024:** The European Central Bank (ECB) reduced its key interest rate by **25 basis points**, marking the fourth cut that year, bringing the **deposit facility rate to 3.00%**. This decision reflects a more **favorable inflation outlook** and improvements in monetary policy transmission. ECB President Christine Lagarde indicated that while the disinflation process is on track, the economic recovery is expected to be slower than previously projected.



**19.12.2024:** The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) **voted 6-3** to maintain the Bank Rate at **4.75%**. This decision reflects concerns over persistent inflation, which rose to 2.6% in November, **exceeding the 2% target**. The MPC emphasized a cautious approach to future rate adjustments amid economic uncertainties.



**12.12.2024:** The Swiss National Bank (SNB) reduced its policy rate by **50 basis points to 0.5%**, marking the steepest cut in nearly a decade. This decision, the fourth consecutive rate reduction, was driven by declining inflation, which fell from **1.1%** in August to **0.7%** in November, staying within the SNB's target range. The SNB aims to counter reduced inflationary pressure and mitigate the Swiss franc's appreciation, which poses challenges for exporters. The bank remains open to further policy adjustments to ensure medium-term price stability.



<i>Policy rate of Central banks:</i>	<b>Current rate</b>	<b>Latest meeting</b>	<b>Change on meeting</b>	<b>Next meeting</b>
<b>Central bank of Uzbekistan</b>	<b>13.50%</b>	<b>12.12.2024</b>	<b>no change</b>	<b>25.01.2025</b>
National bank of Kazakhstan	15.25%	02.12.2024	<b>+100 bps</b>	17.01.2025
National bank of Tajikistan	9.0%	05.08.2024	no change	XXX
National bank of Kyrgyzstan	9.0%	26.11.2024	no change	27.01.2025
Bank of Russia	21.0%	20.12.2024	no change	14.02.2025
U.S. Federal reserve	4.5%	19.12.2024	<b>-25 bps</b>	28.01.2025
European Central Bank	3.0%	12.12.2024	<b>-25 bps</b>	25.01.2025
Bank of England	4.75%	19.12.2024	no change	06.02.2025
People's Bank of China	3.1%	27.12.2024	no change	29.03.2025
Bank of Japan	0.25%	19.12.2024	no change	23.01.2025
Swiss National Bank	0.5%	12.12.2024	<b>-50 bps</b>	20.03.2025
Reserve Bank of India	6.5%	06.12.2024	no change	06.02.2025

## UZONIA Rates and Market Analysis (13.01.2025)

### UZONIA Rates

**1-day rate:** 13.0365%, showing a minor increase of 0.0215%, indicating a slight tightening of short-term liquidity.

**7-day rate:** 12.7308%, reflecting a decline of 0.5591%, suggesting reduced short-term funding pressure.

**30-day rate:** 13.2116%, with a decrease of 0.0602%, indicating marginal improvement in liquidity conditions over the month.

**90-day rate:** 13.3859%, down by 0.1401%, signaling stabilization in mid-term liquidity.

**180-day rate:** 13.7125%, showing a decline of 0.1944%, reflecting easing liquidity conditions in the medium term.

**Index:** 153.4989, with an overall rise of 2.3005 points, highlighting increased activity in the short-term market.

### Inter-dealer Repo Market (Average rates from 01.12.2024 to 13.01.2025)

**1-day average:** 12.85%, down by 0.10%, suggesting easing in immediate liquidity needs.

**2–3-day average:** 13.02%, a slight decline of 0.04%.

**4–7-day average:** 13.69%, a notable decline of 0.34%, signaling improved liquidity conditions.

**7–30-day average:** 14.89%, down by 0.19%, indicating easing long-term funding pressures.

### Interbank Money Market (Average rates from 01.12.2024 to 13.01.2025)

**1-day rate:** 12.89%, a slight decline of 0.04%.

**2–7-day rate:** 14.44%, showing an increase of 0.78%.

**8–30-day rate:** 16.38%, up by 1.90%.

**31–90-day rate:** 18.73%, reflecting the highest increase of 3.93%.

### Central Bank Activity (01.12.2024 to 13.01.2025)

**Repo auction rate:** 13.69% (2–7 days), reflecting a minor increase of 0.02%.

**Deposit auction rate:** 13.50% (1 week), unchanged during this period.

### UZONIA (13.01.2025)

Periods	Rate	Change
1 day	13.0365%	0.0215%
7 days	12.7308%	-0.5591%
30 days	13.2116%	0.0602%
90 days	13.3895%	-0.1401%
180 days	13.7125%	-0.1944%
<b>Index</b>	<b>153.4989</b>	<b>2.3005</b>

### Inter-dealer Repo

For 01/12/2024 – 13/01/2025

Periods	Rate	Trend
1 day average	12.85%	-0.10%
2–3-day average	13.02%	-0.04%
4–7 day average	13.69%	-0.34%
7- 30 day average	14.89%	-0.19%

### Interbank money market

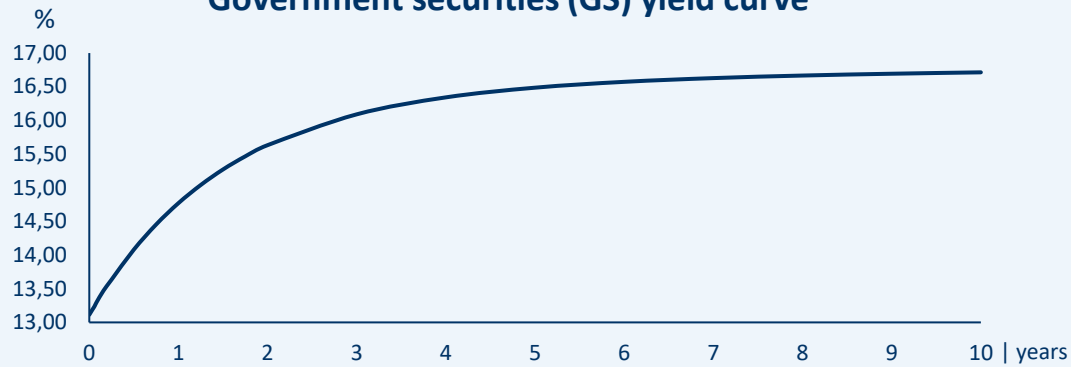
For 01/12/2024 - 13/01/2025

Periods	Rate	Trend
1 day	12.89%	-0.04%
2-7 days	14.44%	0.78%
8-30 days	16.38%	1.9%
31- 90 days	18.73%	3.93%

### For 01/12/2024 - 13/01/2025

	Periods	Rate	Trend
Central bank`s Repo auction	2-7 days	13.69%	0.02%
Central bank`s deposit auction	1 week	13.50%	0%

### Government securities (GS) yield curve



#### Introduction of the Government Securities Yield Curve in Uzbekistan

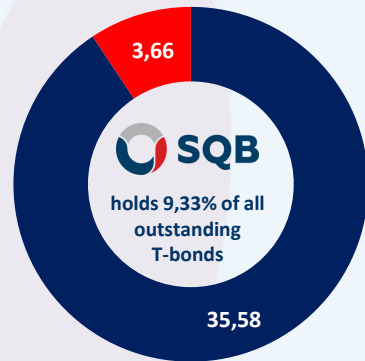
Starting from **1<sup>st</sup> September 2024**, the **Central Bank of Uzbekistan** began publishing the **Government Securities (T-Bonds) Yield Curve**.

As the fiscal agent for government bonds issued by the **Ministry of Economy and Finance**, the Central Bank plays a key role in ensuring transparency and efficiency in the domestic bond market. The introduction of the yield curve marks a significant step toward enhancing market accessibility and providing investors with critical tools for analyzing government securities.

#### Primary dealers of T-bonds

- 1 SQB
- 2 NBU
- 3 Xalq banki
- 4 Business development bank
- 5 Turon bank
- 6 Asaka bank
- 7 Ipak yo`li bank
- 8 Ipoteka bank
- 9 Asia alliance bank
- 10 Kapitalbank

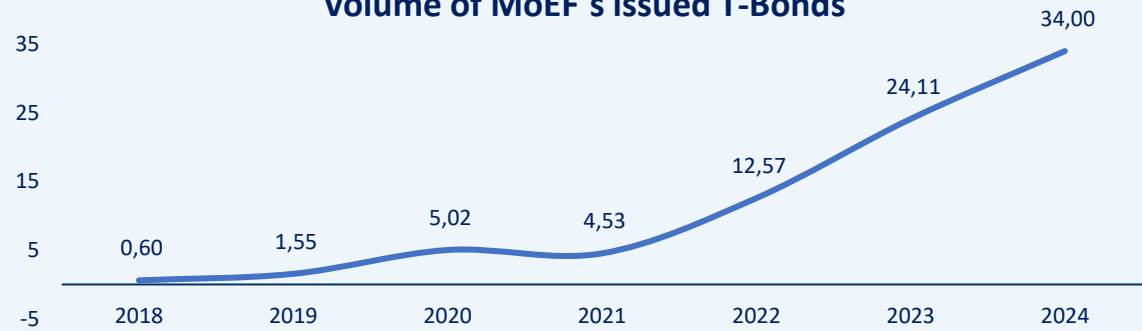
#### Outstanding T-bonds, trillion UZS



\*As of 01/01/2025

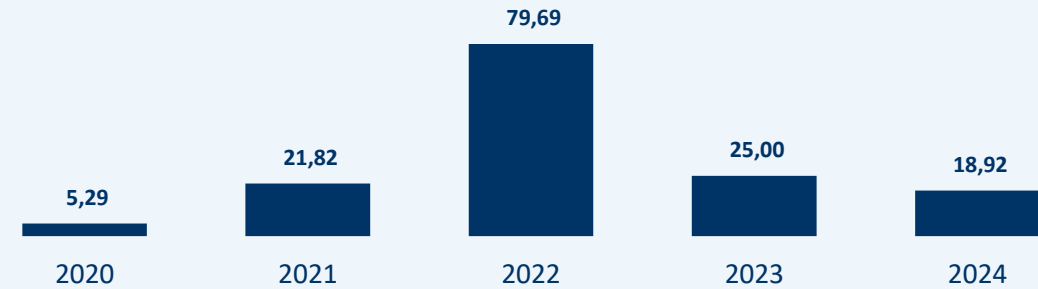
\*trillion UZS

#### Volume of MoEF's issued T-Bonds



\*trillion UZS

#### Volume of CB issued securities



#### Development of the Domestic Government Securities Market in Uzbekistan

Since 2019, the **Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan (MoF)**, later restructured as the **Ministry of Economy and Finance (MoEF)**, has actively issued government treasury securities denominated in the local currency (Uzbek soums). This initiative reflects the government's strategy to gradually shift the state debt portfolio from external borrowing to domestic debt. The approach aims to reduce exposure to external risks while fostering the development of the national capital market. As of 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2025, the **MoEF holds 39.2 trillion UZS in outstanding** government treasury bonds.

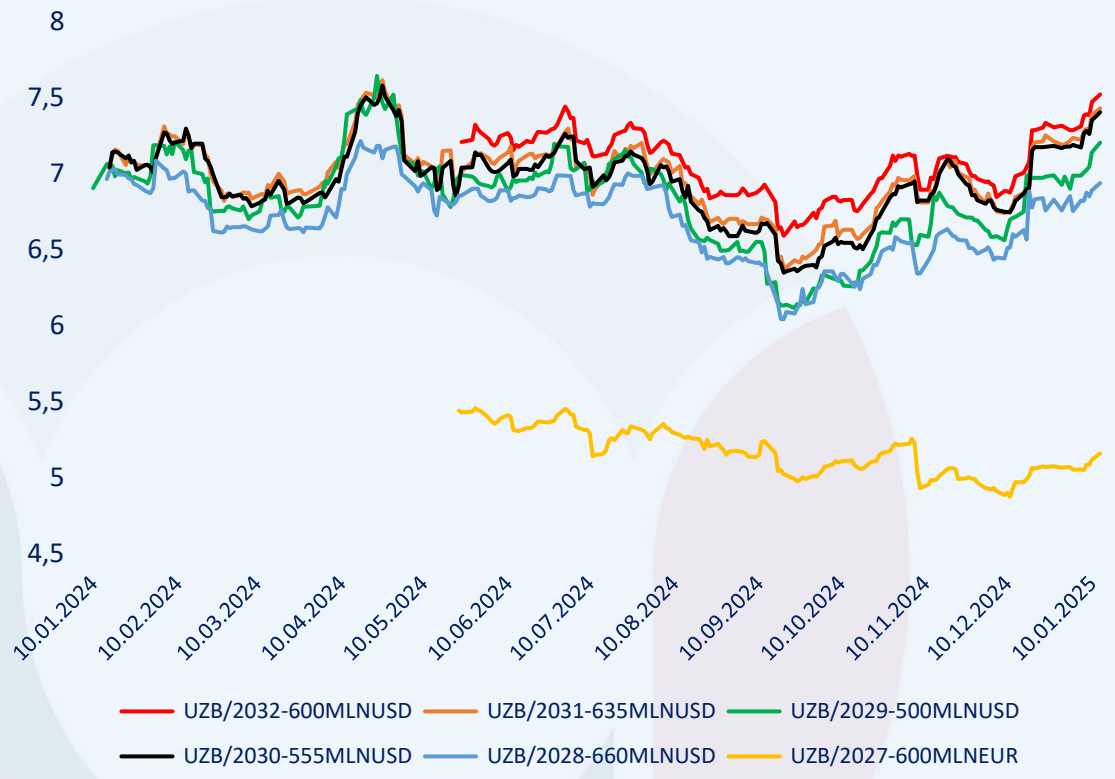
Furthermore, the Ministry is planning to expand the market by offering government securities to **retail investors**, primarily targeting foreign investors and local people. This initiative is supported by **Presidential Decree No. 291**, which provides tax privileges to individuals. The decree allows citizens to allocate up to **105 million UZS of their yearly income** toward the purchase of local securities without incurring tax liabilities.



Since 2019, Uzbekistan has successfully issued **Eurobonds six times across 11 tranches**, demonstrating its growing presence in the global financial markets. These issuances have collectively raised approximately **3.45 billion USD, 600 million EUR, and 11.75 trillion UZS** in foreign debt.

The **Debt Management Office (DMO)**, established in 2018 within the **Ministry of Economy and Finance**, played a pivotal role in facilitating these transactions. The bonds were predominantly listed on the **London Stock Exchange**, adhering to **Regulation S / Rule 144A standards**, which allowed global investors to participate in purchasing Uzbekistan's sovereign debt securities.

Secondary Trading Performance (Yield %)



**SDG Bond EUR 600mm 5.375% due 2027, (peak orderbook> EUR 2.0bn)**  
**UZS 3.0tn 16.625% due 2027, (peak orderbook>UZS 4.tn)**  
**USD 600mm 6.9% due 2032, (peak orderbook>USD 2,9bn)**

May 2024



**USD 660mm 7.85% due 2028 (peak orderbook>USD 2.1bn)**  
**Green Bond UZS 4.25tn 15.25% due 2026 (peak orderbook>UZS 4.4tn)**  
 October 2023



**USD 635mm 3.9% due 2031 (peak orderbook>USD 2.2bn)**  
**SDG Bond UZS 2.5tn 14.0% due 2023 (redeemed)**  
 (peak orderbook>UZS 3.55tn)  
 July 2021



**USD 555mm 3.7% due 2030 (peak orderbook>USD 3.9bn)**  
**DFI Bond UZS 2.0tn 14.5% due 2023 (redeemed)**  
 (peak orderbook>UZS 5.0tn)  
 November 2020



**USD 500mm 4.75% due 2024 (redeemed)**  
**USD 500mm 5.375% due 2029**  
 Combined peak orderbook of over USD 8.5bn  
 February 2019

Source: Bloomberg

## Eurobond Issuances by Uzbek Corporations

Uzbekistan's corporate Eurobond market has seen rapid growth since 2019, with **11 issuances across 15 tranches**, raising **4.785 billion USD and 6.0 trillion UZS**. This growth reflects a strong shift toward accessing international capital markets. State-owned enterprises (SOEs), such as **NMMC, Uzbekneftegaz, and UzAuto**, have dominated these issuances, playing a critical role in financing major economic projects and highlighting their influence in the corporate sector.

Investor demand has been significant, evidenced by large peak order books, such as **5.5 billion USD for NMMC and 1.7 billion USD for Uzbekneftegaz**. This indicates high confidence in Uzbekistan's economic trajectory and corporate creditworthiness. The market also demonstrates sectoral diversification, with issuers representing banking, energy, and manufacturing industries, showcasing broad participation from key economic players.

During 2024, 300 million USD 5.75% bonds issued by SQB and 785 billion UZS 16.0% bonds issued by Ipoteka Bank (OTP) have already been **redeemed**, highlighting the continued evolution and maturity of the market.

Longer maturity bonds, such as NMMC's issuance maturing in **2031**, highlight a strategic focus on stable, long-term funding to support large-scale development projects. Furthermore, the emergence of local currency bonds, like Ipoteka Bank's **1.4 trillion UZS issuance**, reflects efforts to mitigate exchange rate risks and attract foreign investment into local financial instruments.



**NMMC**

USD 500mm 6.7% due 2028  
 USD 500mm 6.9% due 2031  
*Combined peak orderbook of over USD 5.5bn*  
**October 2024**



**Agrobank**

USD 400mm 9.25% due 2029  
*(peak orderbook of over USD 1bn)*  
 UZS 700bn 21.75% due 2026  
*(peak orderbook>UZS 705bn)*  
**September 2024**



**SQB**

USD 400mm 8.95% due 2029  
*(peak orderbook of over USD 650mm)*  
 UZS 2.5tn 21.0% due 2027  
*(peak orderbook>UZS 2.3tn)*  
**July 2024**



**ipotekabank**  
otp group

UZS 1.4tn 20.5% due 2027  
**April 2024**



**UZBEKNEFTEGAZ**

USD 700mm 4.750% due 2028  
*Peak orderbook of over USD 1.7bn*  
**November 2021**



**O'ZMILLIYBANK**

USD 300mm 8.5% due 2029  
*(peak orderbook>USD 625mm)*  
 UZS 1.4tn 19.875% due 2027  
*(peak orderbook>UZS 1.6tn)*  
 June 2024



**ipotekabank**  
otp group

USD 300mm 5.5% due 2025  
*Peak orderbook of over USD 500mm*  
**November 2020**



**O'ZMILLIYBANK**

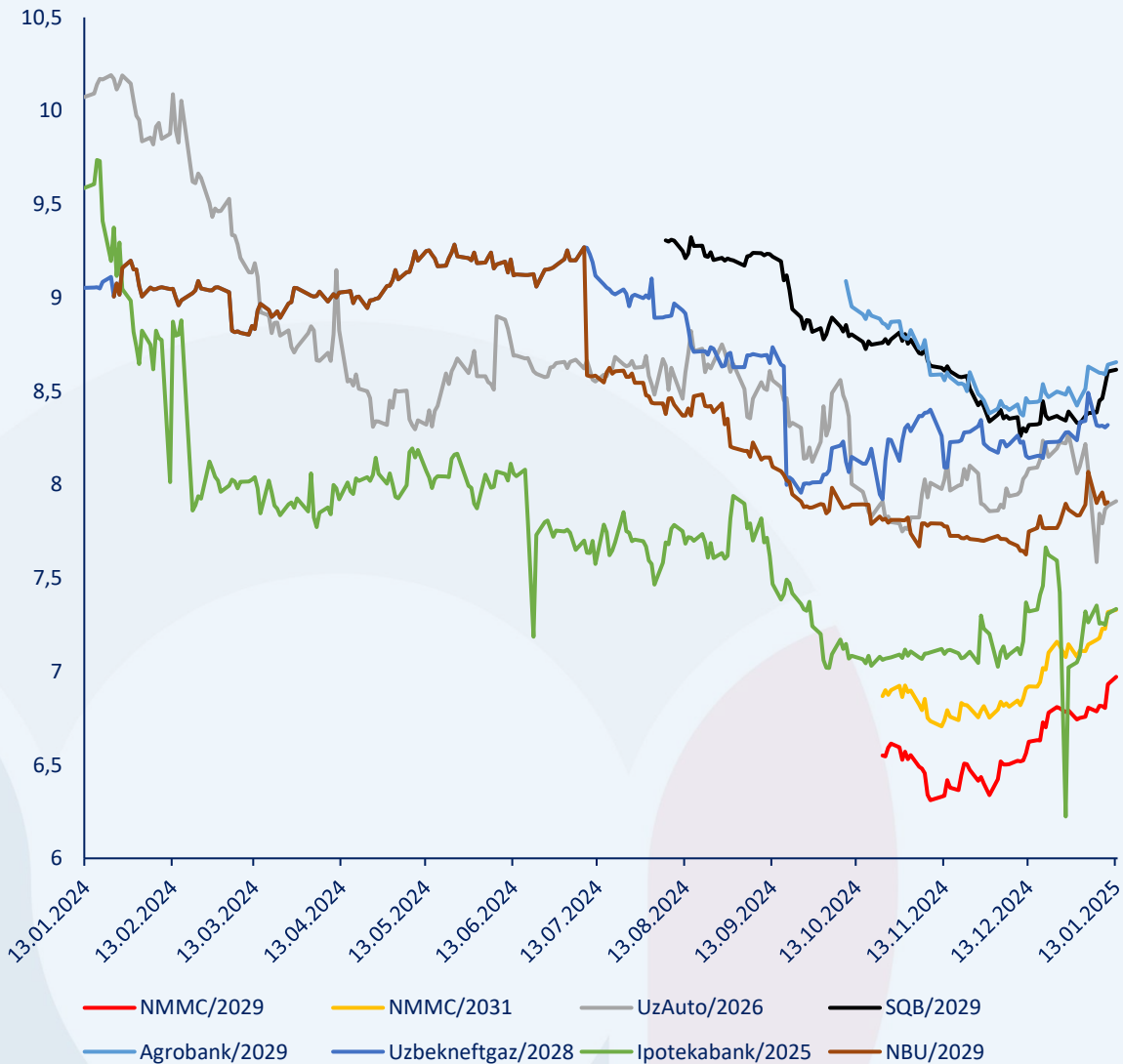
USD 300mm 4.85% due 2025  
*Peak orderbook of over USD 700mm*  
**October 2020**



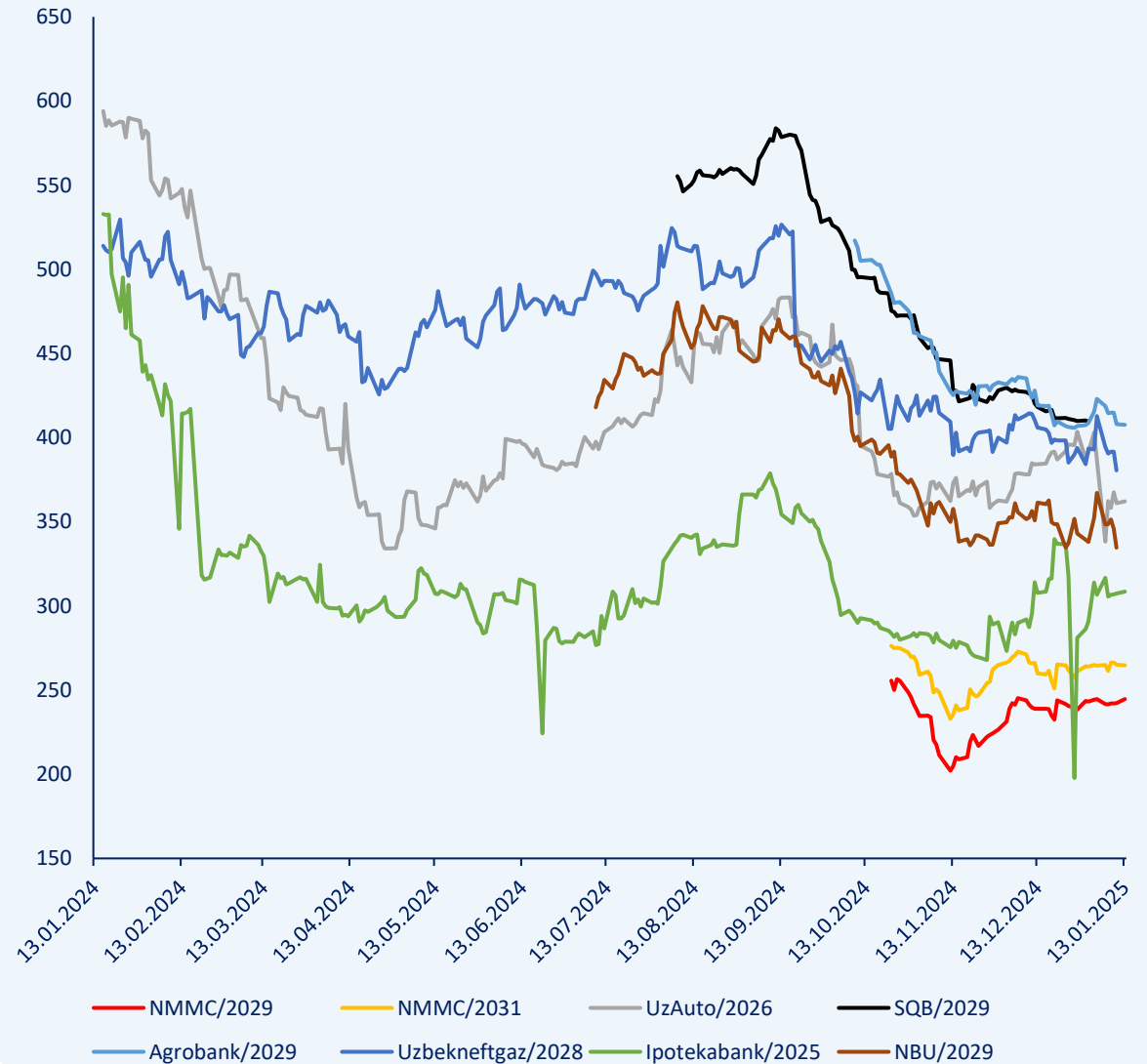
**UzAuto**  
MOTORS

USD 300mm 4.85% due 2026  
*Peak orderbook of over USD 1.4bn*  
**April 2021**

Secondary Trading Performance (Yield %)



Secondary Trading Performance (G-Spread)



## Listed outstanding bonds as of 13.01.2025

Listed	Ticker	ISIN	Par value (UZS)	Quantity	Amount (UZS)	Coupon rate	Issue date	Maturity date	Coupon payment cycle
JSCB "Asia Alliance Bank"	AABK1	UZ6055797666	1 000 000	45 175	45 175 000 000	CBU rate + 4%	15.07.2019	15.07.2026	Quarterly
JSCB "Kapitalbank"	KPB4	UZ6047447AA6	1 000 000	50 000	50 000 000 000	CBU rate + 5%	13.05.2020	21.05.2027	Monthly
"Biznes finans mikromoliya tashkiloti" LLC	BFMT3	UZ6057687AA4	1 000 000	6 565	6 565 000 000	27.0%	16.09.2022	30.08.2025	Monthly
	BFMT3V2	UZ6057687AB2	100 000	200 000	20 000 000 000	27.0%	09.10.2023	13.09.2026	Monthly
	BFMT3V3	UZ6057687AC0	100 000	300 000	30 000 000 000	27.0%	05.12.2024	20.11.2027	Monthly
JSC "Imkon Finans mikromoliya tashkiloti"	IFMT3	UZ6056967AC7	1 000 000	6 000	6 000 000 000	28.0%	10.04.2023	25.03.2026	Monthly
	IFMT4	UZ6056967AD5	1 000 000	10 000	10 000 000 000	28.0%	24.04.2024	09.04.2027	Monthly
"Hamkor invest lizing" LLC	HKIL3	UZ6057757AB3	1 000 000	17 500	17 500 000 000	18.0%	25.04.2023	06.05.2026	Quarterly
JSCB "Hamkorbank"	HMKB1	UZ6011340AA5	1 000 000	50 000	50 000 000 000	22.0%	30.04.2024	30.04.2025	On the maturity date
JSC "O`zbekiston ipotekani qayta moliyalashtirish kompaniyasi"	IQMK3	UZ6056887AA1	1 000 000	140 000	140 000 000 000	19.0%	20.12.2023	17.10.2026	Semi-annual
	IQMK3V2	UZ6056887AB9	1 000 000	150 000	150 000 000 000	19.0%	17.07.2024	08.07.2027	Semi-annual
	IQMK5E	UZ6056887AC7	1 000 000	50 000	50 000 000 000	18.0%	16.09.2024	18.09.2029	Quarterly
	IQMK3V4	UZ6056887AD5	1 000 000	250 000	250 000 000 000	19.0%	11.11.2024	17.11.2027	Quarterly

## Unlisted outstanding bonds as of 13.01.2025

Listed	Ticker	ISIN	Par value	Quantity	Amount (UZS)	Coupon rate	Issue date	Maturity date	Coupon payment cycle
JSC "IMKON FINANS MIKROMOLIYA TASHKILOTI"	A056967	UZ6056967AB9	1 000 000	3 000	3 000 000 000	28.00%	02.08.2022	24.07.2025	Monthly
"UZREPORT" LLC	A056997	UZ6056997AA8	50 000 000	600	30 000 000 000	22.00%	17.12.2020	13.12.2025	Quarterly
"AKFA MEDLINE" LLC	A057077	UZ6057077AA8	10 000 000	21 100	21 100 000 000	CBU rate + 6.0%	11.05.2021	10.05.2026	Semi-Annually
"FAROVON HAYOT IFODASI" LLC	A057567	UZ6057567AA8	1 000 000	2 000	2 000 000 000	24.0%	22.04.2022	01.04.2025	Quarterly
"FAROVON HAYOT IFODASI" LLC	A05756A	UZ6057567AB6	1 000 000	10 000	10 000 000 000	22.0%	20.06.2022	13.06.2025	Quarterly
"IFODA AGRO KIMYO HIMOYA" LLC	A057617	UZ6057617AA1	1 000 000	110 000	110 000 000 000	CBU rate + 8.0%	07.07.2022	24.06.2027	Quarterly
"BESHARIQ ISHONCH SAVDO" LLC	A005762	UZ6057627AA0	1 000 000	10 000	10 000 000 000	22.0%	06.07.2022	03.07.2025	Quarterly
"Farg'ona Ishonch Savdo" LLC	A057637	UZ6057637AA9	1 000 000	5 000	5 000 000 000	22.0%	19.08.2022	21.08.2025	Quarterly
"Trust Trade Partner" LLC	A057647	UZ6057647AA8	1 000 000	5 000	5 000 000 000	22.0%	19.08.2022	21.08.2025	Quarterly
"VARIANT RETAIL FINANCE" LLC	A057657	UZ6057657AA7	1 000 000	20 000	20 000 000 000	20.0%	19.08.2022	21.08.2025	Quarterly
"VARIANT RETAIL FINANCE" LLC	VARF3	UZ6057657AB5	1 000 000	20 000	20 000 000 000	20.0%	24.05.2023	16.05.2026	Quarterly
"VARIANT RETAIL FINANCE" LLC	VTRF3	UZ6057657AC3	1 000 000	30 000	30 000 000 000	20.0%	27.06.2023	21.06.2026	Quarterly
"VARIANT RETAIL FINANCE" LLC	OVRF3	UZ6057657AD1	1 000 000	30 000	30 000 000 000	20.0%	29.04.2024	29.04.2027	Quarterly
"VARIANT RETAIL FINANCE" LLC	A057667	UZ6057667AA6	1 000 000	10 000	10 000 000 000	22.0%	19.08.2022	23.08.2025	Quarterly
"ISHONCH KREDIT SAVDO" LLC	A057717	UZ6057717AA9	1 000 000	5 000	5 000 000 000	22.0%	21.09.2022	14.09.2025	Quarterly
"TURIST BIZNES TRADE" LLC	A057727	UZ6057727AA8	1 000 000	5 000	5 000 000 000	22.0%	22.09.2022	14.09.2025	Quarterly
"TRUST TRADE ASIA" LLC	A057737	UZ6057737AA7	1 000 000	5 000	5 000 000 000	22.0%	07.10.2022	29.09.2025	Quarterly
"STAR CITY SENTER" LLC	057757A	UZ6057757AA5	1 000 000	4 500	4 500 000 000	17.0%	23.11.2022	10.11.2025	Quarterly
"HAMKOR INVEST LIZING" LLC	A057767	UZ6057767AA4	1 000 000	4 500	4 500 000 000	17.0%	24.11.2022	10.11.2025	Quarterly
"HAMKORMAZLIZING" LLC	HRML3	UZ6057767AB2	1 000 000	8 500	8 500 000 000	18.0%	08.05.2023	20.04.2026	Quarterly
"HAMKORMAZLIZING" LLC	057777A	UZ6057777AA3	1 000 000	15 000	15 000 000 000	15.0%	15.12.2022	10.12.2027	Quarterly
"NATURAL JUICE" LLC	057787A	UZ6057787AA2	1 000 000	3 000	3 000 000 000	22.0%	16.12.2022	11.12.2025	Quarterly
"KIDS WORLD OF GOODS" LLC	TVTR3	UZ6057837AA5	1 000 000	7 000	7 000 000 000	22.0%	04.05.2023	23.04.2026	Annually
"TRUST VALLEY TRADE" LLC	TRIT3	UZ6057897AA9	1 000 000	5 000	5 000 000 000	22.0%	21.06.2023	15.06.2026	Quarterly
"TRUST IMPORTANT TRADE" LLC	DMTI	UZ6058027AA2	10 000 000	1 500	15 000 000 000	36.0%	15.12.2023	12.12.2024	Quarterly
"CHINARA BIZNES KREDIT LOMBARD" LLC	SAGR	UZ6058037AA1	50 000 000	1 000	50 000 000 000	24.0%	19.12.2023	17.12.2028	Quarterly
"SAIPRO GROUP" LLC	OWUF3	UZ6058457AA1	1 000 000	12 000	12 000 000 000	22.0%	19.06.2024	19.06.2027	Monthly
"WITH US FOREVER" LLC	OPLF3	UZ6058737AA6	1 000 000	13 000	13 000 000 000	22.0%	22.08.2024	22.08.2027	Quarterly
"PROSPEROUS LARGE FUTURE" LLC	OPNW3	UZ6058467AA0	1 000 000	20 000	20 000 000 000	22.0%	24.06.2024	19.06.2027	Quarterly
"PERFECT NETWORK" LLC	OHMT3	UZ6058537AA0	1 000 000	30 000	30 000 000 000	26.0%	03.07.2024	16.06.2027	Quarterly
"HAMROH MIKROMOLIYA TASHKILOTI" LLC	OHMT4	UZ6058537AB8	1 000 000	15 000	15 000 000 000	26.0%	16.10.2024	24.09.2028	Quarterly
"HAMROH MIKROMOLIYA TASHKILOTI" LLC	OEVN3	UZ6058727AA7	1 000 000	25 000	25 000 000 000	22.0%	22.08.2024	22.08.2027	Monthly
"EVOLUTION NETWORKS" LLC	OYPM4	UZ6058767AA3	1 000 000	20 000	20 000 000 000	26.0%	16.09.2024	31.08.2028	Quarterly
"OLTIN YULDUZ PLUS MIKROMOLIYA TASHKILOTI" LLC	OTBC1	UZ6056857AA4	1 000	40 000 000	40 000 000 000	24.0%	27.11.2024	28.11.2025	Annually
"TBC Bank" JSCB	OTBC2V2	UZ6056857AB2	1 000	128 000 000	128 000 000 000	24.0%	26.12.2024	24.12.2026	Semi-annual
"TBC Bank" JSCB	OFSR3	UZ6058907AA5	1 000 000	10 000	10 000 000 000	22.0%	25.12.2024	17.12.2027	Quarterly
"FIRSTSTEP RETAIL" LLC	OLBM3	UZ6058877AA0	1 000 000	13 000	13 000 000 000	22.0%	03.12.2024	27.11.2027	Quarterly
"LIVE BETTER MARKET" LLC	ONRG2	UZ6058927AA3	100 000	600 000	60 000 000 000	25.0%	03.01.2025	25.12.2026	Quarterly
"NAZAROV RAKHIMBAYEV GROUP" LLC	OUXP3	UZ6058917AA4	1 000 000	7 000	7 000 000 000	22.0%	03.01.2025	24.12.2027	Quarterly

In December 2024, Uzbekistan's corporate bond market experienced robust activity, with five issuers collectively raising **218 billion UZS**. This reflects growing confidence in local debt markets and highlights an ongoing diversification of funding sources among private sector entities.

#### Key Transactions:

- **JSCB TBC Bank**

On December 26, TBC Bank issued corporate bonds denominated in Uzbek soums, raising **128 billion UZS** at a competitive annual interest rate of **24%**. This marks the bank's second issuance, bringing its cumulative bond financing to **168 billion UZS**. The bonds, placed in the over-the-counter (OTC) market, further leverage the bank's **BB-** credit rating with a stable outlook from Fitch Ratings, underscoring its robust standing in the market.

- **Nazarov Rakhimbayev Group (NRG)**

NRG, a leading player in Uzbekistan's construction and development sector, issued two-year corporate bonds worth **60 billion UZS** with a **25%** coupon rate. Notably, NRG stands as the sole issuer from the construction and development industry to tap into the local debt market in 2024, signaling a unique shift in sectoral engagement with capital markets.

- **Retail Sector Issuances**

December also witnessed notable activity from retail chain operators:

- *Firststep Retail LLC* raised **10 billion UZS** with a **22%** annual coupon rate.
- *Live Better Market LLC* issued bonds totaling **13 billion UZS**, also at **22%**.
- *Unexpected Purchases LLC* placed bonds worth **7 billion UZS**, maintaining the consistent **22%** coupon rate seen across the retail segment.

#### Market Performance and Trends

By year-end 2024, corporate bond issuances in Uzbekistan by LLC form entities totaled **317 billion UZS**, accounting for **32%** of overall corporate bond activity. Notably, Limited Liability Companies (LLCs) were the primary drivers of this expansion, achieving an exceptional **201%** year-over-year growth in issuance volume. This strong performance reflects a maturing local debt market, bolstered by enhanced investor appetite for diverse credit exposures. The increasing use of corporate bonds as a financing tool among private sector players, particularly within non-traditional industries such as retail and construction, indicates a promising trajectory for Uzbekistan's capital markets.

#### Outlook

Looking ahead, the sustained growth in corporate bond issuances underscores the potential for deeper market development. As local issuers continue to access debt capital markets, opportunities for investors are expected to expand, driven by favorable economic conditions and a supportive regulatory environment.

#### Issuers:




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#### Corporate Bond Market Key Metrics for 2024

*Total Issuance: **995.3 billion UZS** (2x increase)*

*Total Outstanding Bonds: **1 859.04 billion UZS***

*Average Coupon Rate: **21.08%***

In 1991, following Uzbekistan's independence, the “Toshkent” universal commodity and stock exchange was established. In 1994, this entity was reorganized into two separate exchanges. Since then, the JSC Republican Stock Exchange “Toshkent” has operated as the sole exchange for the equity and corporate bond markets in Uzbekistan.

In December 2024, the Tashkent Stock Exchange recorded total trades of **1,953.91 billion UZS** across **29,882 transactions** on all boards.

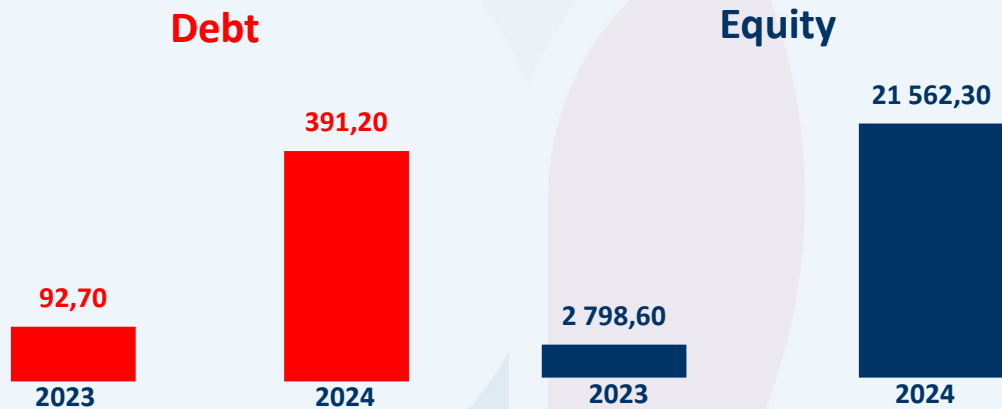
Over the course of the year, total trades on the exchange amounted to **21,953.49 billion UZS**, with **498,381 transactions** concluded. A notable highlight was the completion of a **Secondary Public Offering (SPO)**, during which the **State Assets Management Agency** offered **4.44% of shares** in JSC “Uzbek Commodity Exchange” to the public.

The **total trade volume increased by 709.27%** year-over-year, driven primarily by the introduction of the **FoP Board**, which enhanced trading efficiency and accessibility. The **number of transactions** also increased by **21%**, reaching a total of **498,381 trades**.

The market remained heavily dominated by **equity trades**, which accounted for **98% of the total traded value**, while **debt securities** comprised only **2%**. However, the debt securities market demonstrated significant growth, with transaction volumes increasing by **322%** year-over-year to reach **391.21 billion UZS**.

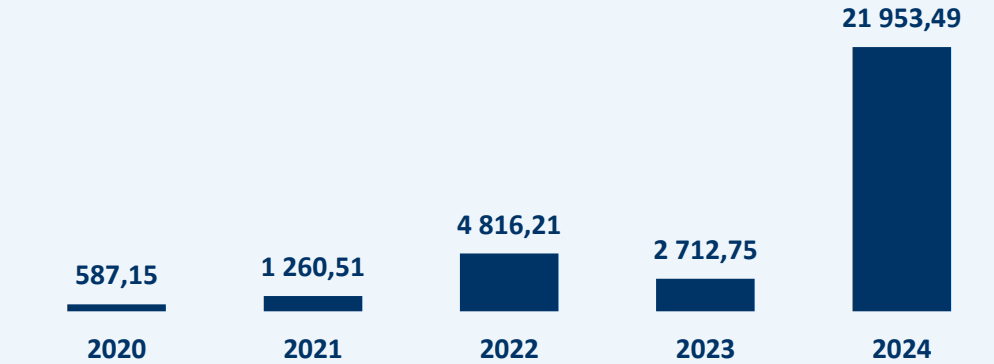
These developments underscore the ongoing evolution and maturity of Uzbekistan’s capital markets, with notable strides in liquidity, market participation, and infrastructure enhancements.

Total trade volume of debt and equity securities in RSE “Toshkent” (bn. UZS)

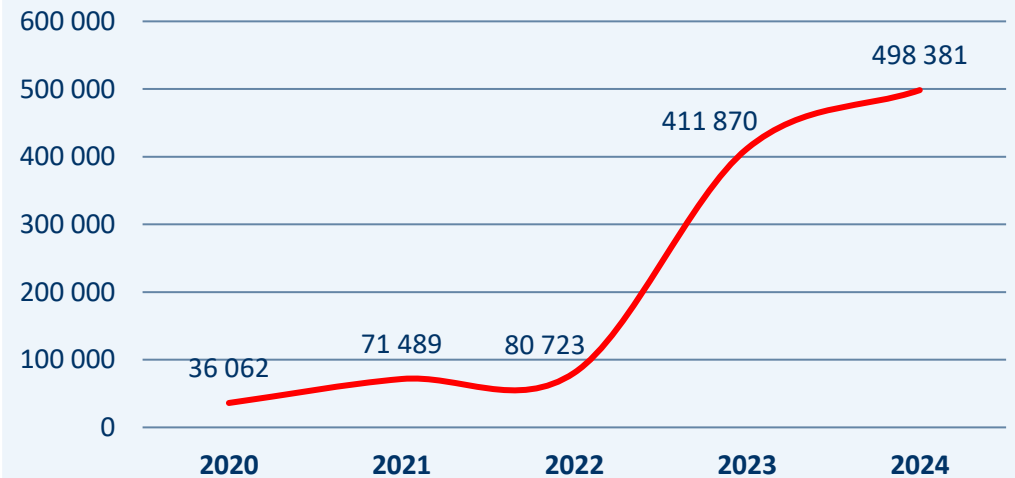


Trade Volume

bn. UZS



Trade Number



## BRIEF OVERVIEW

### RSE “Toshkent” Market Performance – December 2024

#### Trading Volume:

In December 2024, the total trading volume on the Republican Stock Exchange (RSE) “Toshkent” reached **1.97 trillion UZS**, marking a **fivefold increase** compared to December 2023.

A total of **30 116 trades** were executed during the month.

Key transactions included the private placement of additional shares by: **JSCB “Business Development Bank”** amounting to **599.9 billion UZS**, **JSCB “TBC Bank”** totaling **473.2 billion UZS**.

#### Most Traded Securities:

The most actively traded securities during the month were:

**JSC “Uzbek Commodity Exchange”**

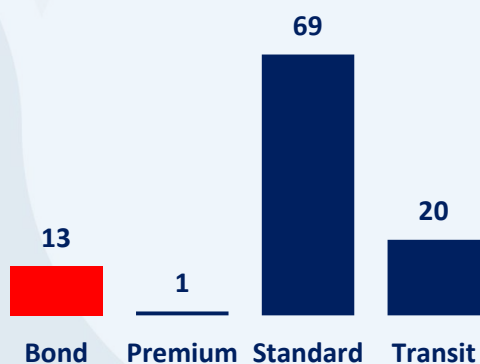
**JSCB “Aloqabank”**

**JSC “Chilonzor Buyum Savdo Kompleksi”**

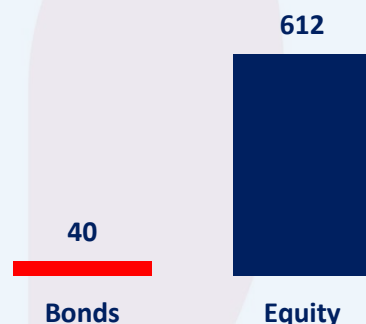
#### Key Highlights:

Several commercial banks completed capital increases in December to meet the regulator's updated requirements on minimum charter capital. These banks include: **AVO Bank, Apex Bank, Smart Bank, Garant Bank, Universal Bank**. In total, these banks increased their charter capital by **605.4 billion UZS**.

#### Number of companies included in the RSE “Toshkent” listing



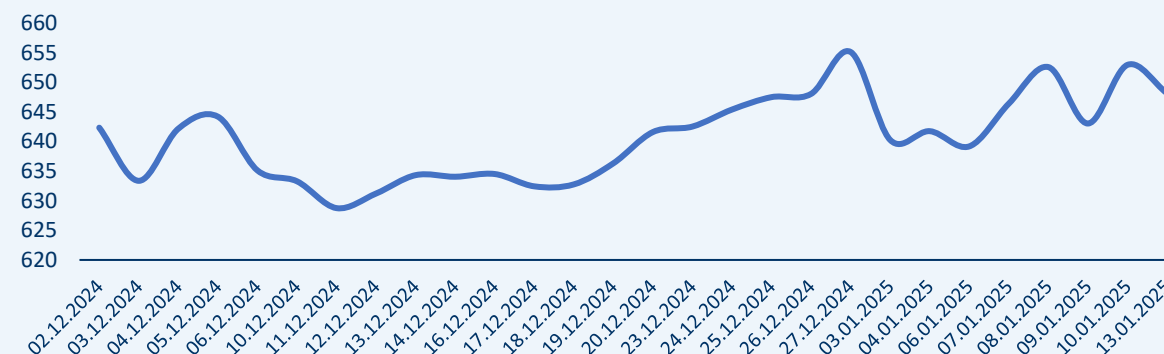
#### Number of companies not included in the RSE “Toshkent” listing



### Main Stock Market Index of Uzbekistan and CIS Countries

		13.01.2025	WTD	MTD	YTD
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	<b>UCI index</b>	<b>648.15</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>2.22%</b>	<b>-4.53%</b>
<b>CIS countries</b>		<b>2 866.11</b>	<b>1.77%</b>	<b>15.33%</b>	<b>-10.02%</b>
Russia	IMOEX	5 762.47	1.48%	3.74%	34.39%
Kazakhstan	Index KASE	4 072.56	-0.03%	1.52%	52.58%
Kyrgyzstan	KSE	874.14	0%	0.34%	-35.43%
Latvia	OMX Riga GI	1 769.7	-0.53%	1.12%	-3.02%
Lithuania	OMX Tallinn GI	1 101.11	0.37%	4.0%	15.45%
Estonia	OMX Vilnius GI	648.15	1.4%	2.22%	-4.53%

#### UCI Index



#### Local blue-chip stocks (UZS)

		13.01.2025	WTD	MTD	YTD
JSC "Uzbek commodity exchange"		3 456.0	-1.26%	-3.54%	0.47%
JSC "Uzmetkombinat"		4 265.0	1.57%	0.35%	-35.38%
JSCB "Hamkorbank"		24.4	-0.41%	1.24%	19.61%
JSCB "Ipak yo`li"		131.88	2.23%	-5.12%	64.87%
JSCB "SQB"		11.79	-25.52%	22.81%	17.9%
JSC "Qizilqumsement"		1 400.0	-6.67%	-11.11%	-50.09%
JSC "Uzbektelekom"		4 035.05	-10.15%	5.49%	-28.89%
JSC "UzAuto Motors"		71 399.99	2.0%	-1.23%	-0.83%



Uzbekistan's gold and foreign exchange reserves totaled **41.1 billion USD** as January 1, 2025, reflecting a **0.73% decline** from **41.4 billion USD** on December 1, 2024, as reported by the Central Bank of Uzbekistan. Gold, accounting for the majority at **32 billion USD**, decreased by **2.1%** from **32.7 billion USD** in December 2024. Foreign currency assets were **8.1 billion USD** in December 2024, **down 4.9%** from **8.5 billion USD** in November. Gold exports for January-November 2024 reached **6.62 billion USD**, highlighting the critical role of gold in the nation's reserves and export portfolio.

### Gold

Gold prices experienced an overall increase, rising from **2,585.35 USD** on December 18, 2024, to **2,663.16 USD** on **January 13, 2025**, with some fluctuations during the period. This trend was largely driven by the U.S. Federal Reserve's monetary policy decisions. While the Fed reduced interest rates **from 4.75% to 4.5%** in December 2024, its hawkish outlook for future rate cuts created uncertainty, prompting investors to reassess their strategies. Additionally, geopolitical tensions in Eastern Europe and the Middle East fueled the safe-haven demand for gold, as investors often turn to the metal during times of crisis. Another significant factor was the increase in gold purchases by central banks in emerging markets.

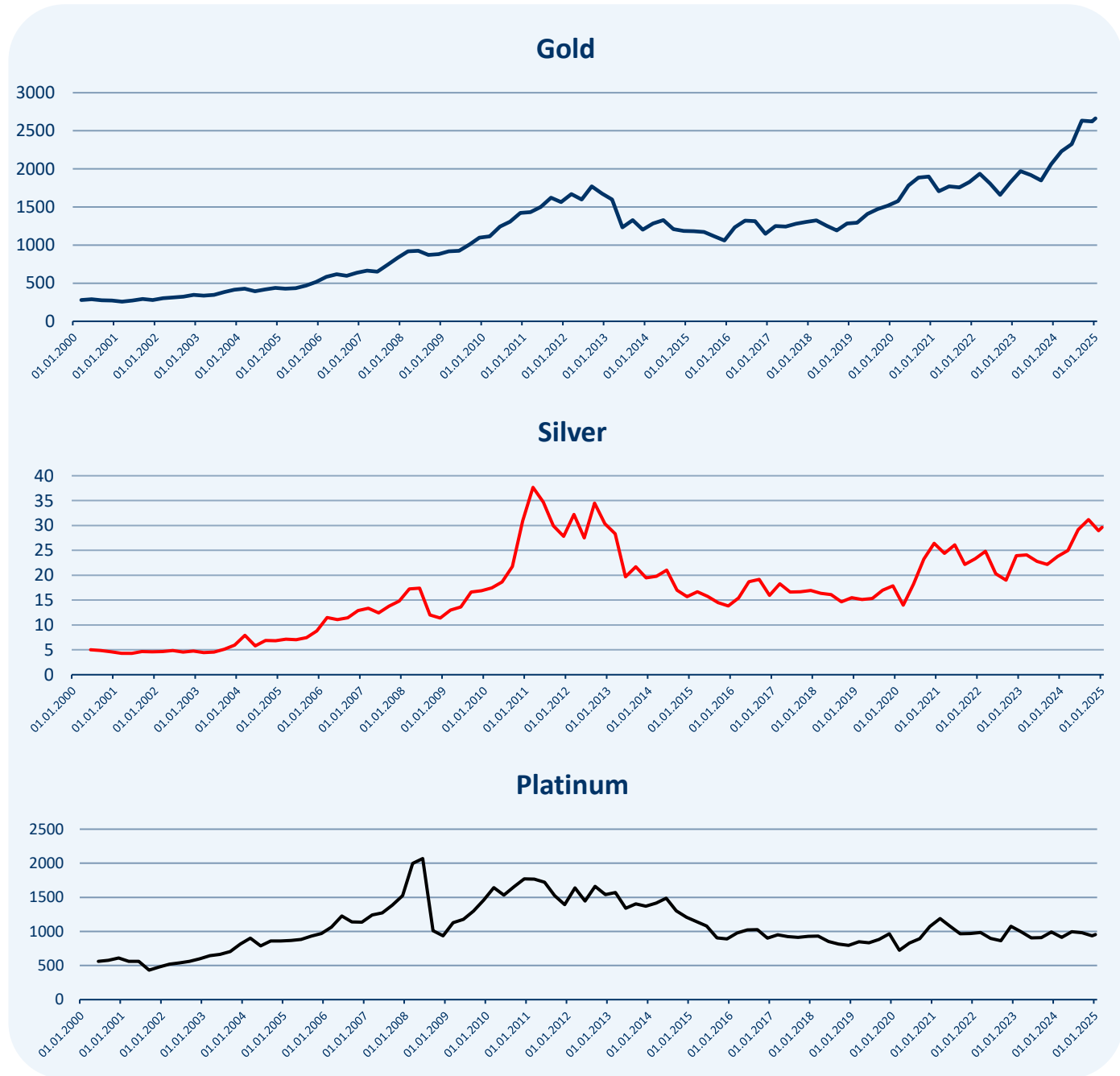
### Silver

Silver prices showed a consistent upward trend, increasing from **28.95 USD** on December 30, 2024, to **30.13 USD** on **January 9, 2025**. This rise was supported by a combination of industrial demand and a weaker U.S. dollar. As silver serves both as an investment asset and an industrial metal, the growth in its demand for use in electronics and renewable energy technologies played a significant role in the price increase. Furthermore, the weakening of the U.S. dollar during this period made silver more attractive to foreign investors, further driving demand and contributing to the upward trend in prices.

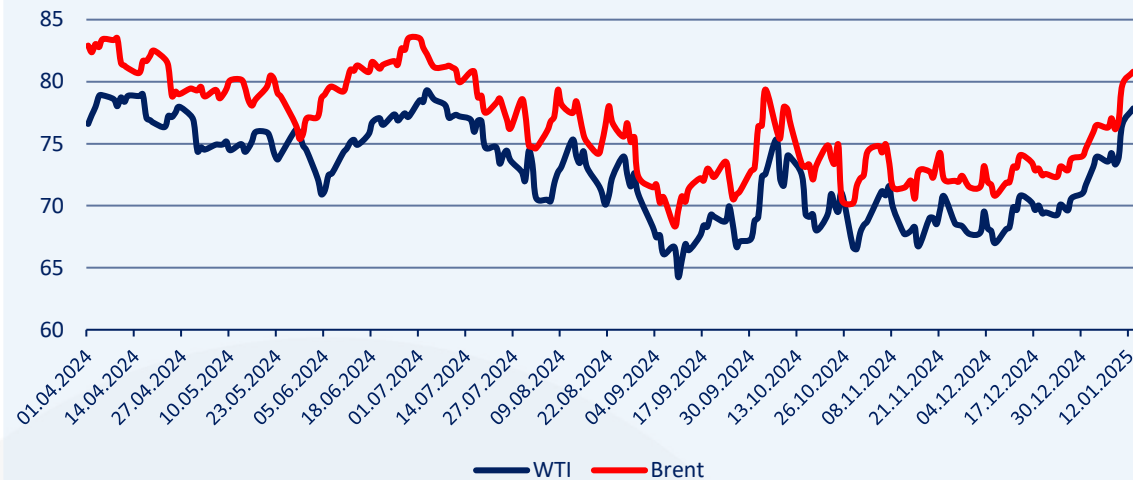
### Platinum

Platinum prices also demonstrated a notable rise, increasing from **921.19 USD** on December 18, 2024, to **956.27 USD** on January 13, 2025. This increase was attributed to growing industrial demand, particularly from the automotive sector, where platinum is a key component in catalytic converters and hydrogen fuel cells. The shift toward green energy solutions further enhanced demand for platinum.

The fluctuations in gold, silver, and platinum prices during this period were shaped by a combination of macroeconomic factors, geopolitical tensions, industrial demand, central bank actions, and currency movements.



## Oil price dynamics in 2024

**Overall Trend:**

WTI and Brent prices fluctuate within a defined range throughout the year. WTI prices range from a **low of 66.26** (in September 2024) to a **high of 79.68** (in April 2024). Brent prices range from a **low of 70.29** (in September 2024) to a **high of 84.09** (in April 2024).

**Seasonal Behavior:**

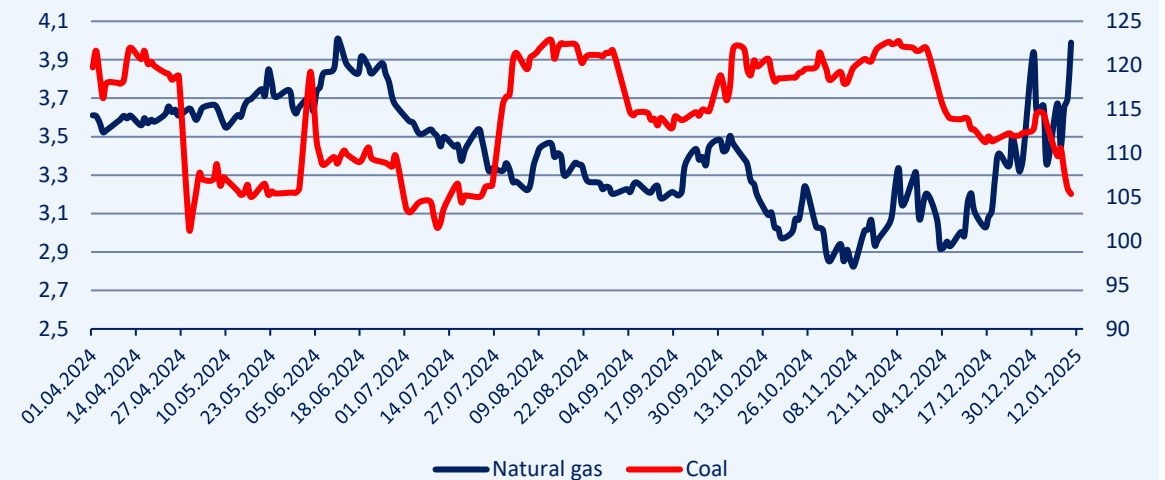
Prices peak during **April 2024**, with both WTI and Brent reaching their highest values for the year. A noticeable dip in prices occurs around **September 2024**, indicating possible market supply surpluses or reduced demand.

**WTI vs. Brent:**

Brent consistently trades at a premium compared to WTI, reflecting differences in oil quality and global market factors. The price gap between **Brent and WTI** remains relatively stable, averaging **about 2-4 USD**.

**Volatility:** Price volatility is more pronounced during the middle of the year, possibly due to geopolitical events or changes in production and supply.

## Nat Gaz &amp; Coal price dynamics in 2024



In 2024, natural gas prices showed volatility, with prices falling from **3.82 USD per MMBtu** on June 28 to **3.38 USD** on December 27. This was influenced by a **2.8% year-on-year** increase in natural gas consumption, driven largely by demand in Asia. However, growth slowed in Q3 2024 due to higher gas prices. Global gas demand is expected to reach a record **4,200 bcm** by the end of 2024, with Asia-Pacific contributing nearly **45%** of the increase. LNG supply growth was slower than expected in 2024, increasing by just **2%**, mainly due to delays and supply issues.

Looking ahead, LNG supply growth is expected to accelerate in 2025, especially from North America, which will account for 85% of the incremental supply. However, geopolitical risks, such as the potential halt of Russian gas transit through Ukraine, may increase LNG demand in Europe.

In 2024, global coal production contracted, with a **15% drop** in U.S. output in the first half of the year, reflecting a long-term trend of declining coal use in power generation. Coal production in India and Indonesia grew by about **10%** each due to strong regional demand. According to the World Bank, global coal production is expected to decline further in 2025 and 2026, as major producers, except India, reduce output due to the global energy transition and the rise of renewable energy alternatives.

**Timur Ishmetov has been appointed as Chairman of the Board of the Central Bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan.** The Senate Council of the Oliy Majlis adopted a decision on his appointment based on the proposal of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Previously, also on the President's initiative, the Senate Council relieved the former head of the Central Bank, Mamarizo Nurmuratov, from his position. Nurmuratov had held the role since 2017.



**The Central Bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan has joined the Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB).** The IFSB is responsible for developing international standards for the regulation and supervision of Islamic financial institutions. Its activities include implementing modern corporate governance mechanisms, managing risks, conducting research, improving professional skills, and providing support to its members in these areas.



**On December 25, 2024, the Central Bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan officially joined the International Operational Risk Group (IORWG).** This membership facilitates collaboration with prominent central banks worldwide, enabling the exchange of best practices in operational risk management. Additionally, it supports the enhancement of the Central Bank's risk management framework by aligning it with internationally recognized standards.



**Uzbekistan has emerged as a global leader in the cement market, recording an impressive year-to-date (YTD) cement volume growth of 31.3% by September 2024, according to CementReview.** This exceptional achievement highlights Uzbekistan's evolution into a significant force in the global construction materials industry, fueled by ambitious government reforms, strategic investments, and extensive infrastructure development initiatives.



**Uzbekistan's foreign trade turnover (FTT) reached 59.4 billion USD between January and November 2024,** reflecting a 2.1 billion USD (3.6%) increase compared to the same period in 2023. This growth highlights the country's continued efforts to boost exports, streamline imports, and foster a more balanced trade environment. During the 11-month period, exports totaled 24.2 billion USD, marking a 4.4% rise from 2023, while imports amounted to 35.1 billion USD, a 3.0% increase. The trade deficit narrowed to 10.9 billion USD as export growth outpaced the rise in imports.



### **Uzbekistan Extends Zero Import Duty on Essential Goods Until 2026**

Uzbekistan has prolonged the zero-import duty on 59 categories of goods, including staple food items and other products, until January 1, 2026. This decision, authorized by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev on December 27, aims to stabilize domestic market prices and encourage healthy competition.



On January 1, 2025, Tajikistan took over the chairmanship of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), beginning a year-long tenure aimed at advancing organizational reforms and strengthening collaboration among member nations, as stated by the country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Under Tajikistan's leadership, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) will strengthen its collaboration with the United Nations. For the first time, a high-level event showcasing the growing partnership between the two organizations will be held during the UN General Assembly Week in September 2025 at the UN Headquarters in New York. Additionally, Tajikistan is dedicated to advancing the adoption of a new UN General Assembly resolution aimed at enhancing cooperation between the CIS and the United Nations, further cementing their relationship.



### Mastercard Introduces Crypto Credential in UAE and Kazakhstan to Simplify Digital Transactions

Mastercard has launched its innovative Crypto Credential solution in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Kazakhstan, marking its entry into the Eastern Europe, Middle East, and Africa (EEMEA) region, according to a January 9 report by Fintech Finance News. The Mastercard Crypto Credential enhances the user experience by enabling cryptocurrency exchange users to send and receive digital assets using simple aliases instead of complex blockchain addresses. Developed in partnership with regional exchanges and providers, the solution also verifies transactions on blockchain networks, ensuring users meet established verification standards and confirming that the recipient's wallet can accept the transferred asset. By exchanging metadata and adhering to Travel Rule requirements, it aims to bring greater trust and reliability to cryptocurrency transactions.



### AIX Launches Debut Green Bonds from Kyrgyz Republic

On Dec. 20, the Astana International Exchange (AIX) facilitated the issuance of debut green bonds by PlanDem LLC, marking the first sustainable finance initiative from the Kyrgyz Republic. Operating under Kyrgyz law, PlanDem is advancing over 1.6 gigawatts of renewable energy projects across Kazakhstan, Sri Lanka, Serbia, South Africa, and other regions. The bonds, issued under a Green Wholesale Bond Programme, have a total volume of 370 million yuan and mature on Dec. 20, 2054, with coupon payments beginning in the 10th year. This milestone highlights AIX's role in promoting global sustainability by supporting renewable energy investments and transitioning emerging markets toward cleaner energy solutions.



### Otkritie Bank ceased operations on January 1, 2025

Otkritie Bank ceased operations after merging into BM-Bank, part of VTB Group. VTB acquired Otkritie for 340 billion RUB in 2022 and completed its integration, adding over 370 branches to its network, now exceeding 1,600 locations nationwide. Uncontacted Otkritie clients, estimated at 100.00, were automatically transferred to BM-Bank. VTB initially planned to liquidate Otkritie but revised its strategy to address client migration. Additionally, VTB acquired a 49.99% stake in Post Bank from Russian Post for RUB 36 billion, becoming its sole owner. The rebranded network now spans 70% of Russia, covering key regions.



## Disclosure

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