



GCC & Central Asian Countries Relations

Gulf Research Center
Knowledge for All

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General information about Central Asia Countries

- **Population 2023** **80.84 million**
- **GDP 2023** **US\$450.91 Billion**
- The Central Asia region (CA) comprises the countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. It is a diverse region with a mix of upper middle- and low-income countries with major strategic importance due to their geographic location and natural resource endowments.
- Leveraging their critical geography, these nations are renewing their role as the crossroads of trade between the West and Asia—resulting in significant economic development, especially in the sectors of energy and natural resources.
- Central Asia's economic activity is centred on irrigated agriculture in the south and on heavy and light industry and mining in Kazakhstan. Under Soviet rule the area supplied most of the U.S.S.R.'s cotton and was a major supplier of coal and other minerals for industrial use.
- Kazakhstan is the largest and wealthiest, with major oil and gas reserves.



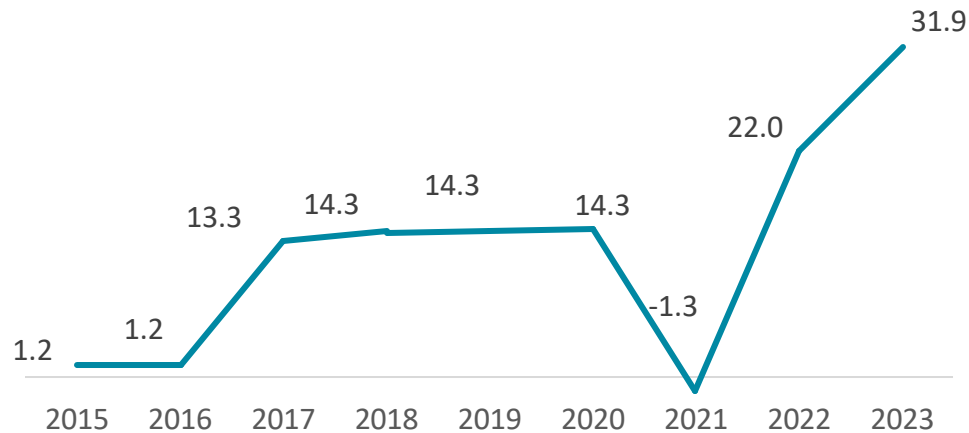
Source: worldbank, Atlantic council, britannica

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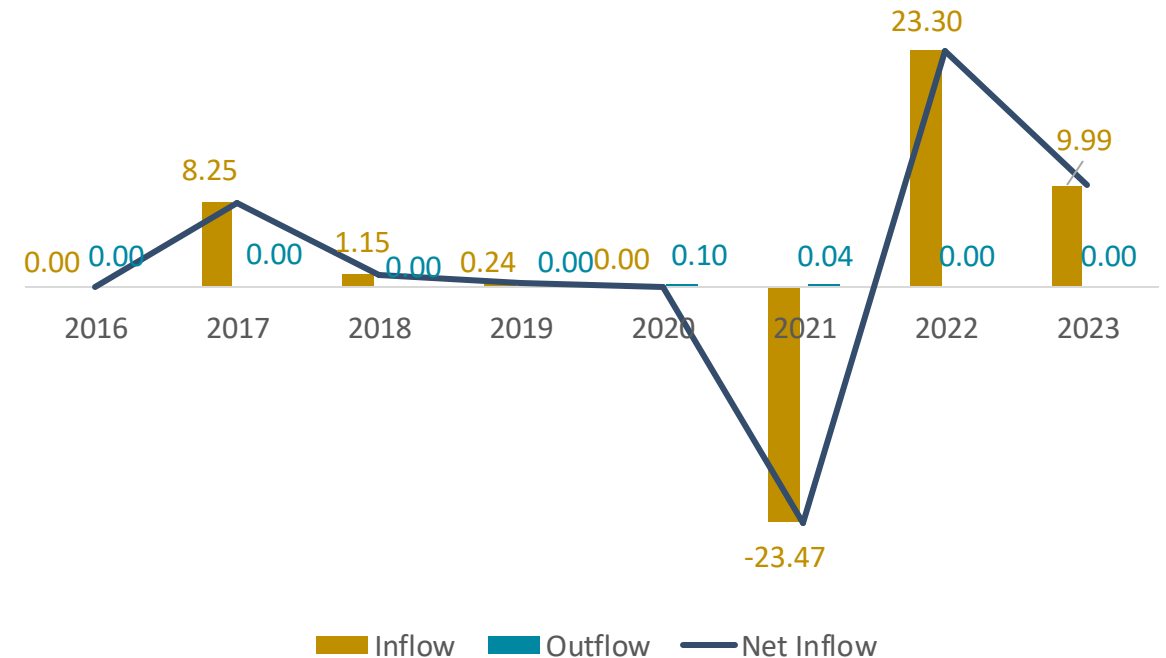
Foreign Direct Investment

- In 2023, SAR 31.94 million in FDI stock was recorded (from Central Asia Countries in Saudi Arabia), higher by 45.5% compared to the previous year.
- In 2023, the value of the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Inflow was SAR 9.99 million, while the FDI Outflow reached a value of SAR 0.0 million. These amounts resulted in an FDI Net Inflow of SAR 9.99 million, lower by -57.15% than the previous year. This for 4 countries (Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Turkmenistan).

Annual Evolution of FDI Stock, in Million SAR



Annual Evolution of FDI Inflow and Outflow, in Million SAR



Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs)

Title	Status	Date of Signature	Date of Entry Into Force
Saudi Arabia - Uzbekistan BIT	In force	06/06/2011	24/01/2014
Bahrain - Uzbekistan BIT	In force	16/11/2009	18/11/2010
Oman - Uzbekistan BIT	In force	30/03/2009	20/08/2009
United Arab Emirates - Uzbekistan BIT	In force	26/10/2007	27/03/2011
Kuwait - Uzbekistan BIT	In force	19/01/2004	03/06/2006
Kuwait - Kazakhstan BIT	In force	31/08/1997	01/05/2000
United Arab Emirates - Turkmenistan BIT	In force	09/06/1998	24/11/1999

Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs)

Title	Status	Date of Signature	Date of Entry Into Force
Bahrain - Turkmenistan BIT	In force	09/02/2011	08/03/2012
United Arab Emirates - Kyrgyzstan BIT	In force	07/12/2014	05/01/2016
Bahrain - Tajikistan BIT	In force	28/05/2014	01/02/2016
Kuwait - Tajikistan BIT	In force	18/04/1995	12/06/1998



GCC Countries Trade with Central Asian Countries

(Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan)

GCC Countries trade with CA Countries over the last 7 years (2017 – 2023)

27.14 Billion USD

Total trade between the GCC Countries & CA Countries over the last 7 years

22.08 Billion USD

GCC Countries export to CA Countries over the last 7 years

5.06 Billion USD

GCC Countries import from CA Countries over the last 7 years

▲ **632.48** %

GCC Countries trade growth rate with CA Countries over the last 7 years

▲ **663.60** %

GCC Countries export growth rate over the last 7 years

▲ **506.58** %

GCC Countries import growth rate over the last 7 years

Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof

The top category that GCC Countries exports to CA Countries

Natural, cultured pearls; precious, semi-precious stones

The top category that GCC Countries imports from CA Countries

GCC Countries Summary Trade with Central Asian Countries in 2023

GCC Countries	Import (Million USD)	Export (Million USD)	Total Trade (Million USD)	Trade Balance (Million USD)
United Arab Emirates	1515.16	8140.10	9655.26	6624.94
Saudi Arabia	80.65	28.41	109.06	-52.24
Kuwait	4.55	0.22	4.77	-4.34
Oman	0.29	4.20	4.49	3.90
Qatar	3.34	0.09	3.43	-3.25
Bahrain	1.07	0.76	1.82	-0.31

Note: all Data is not including re-export
Source: UN Comtrade

Rank of GCC Countries according to trade with CA Countries in 2023

UAE

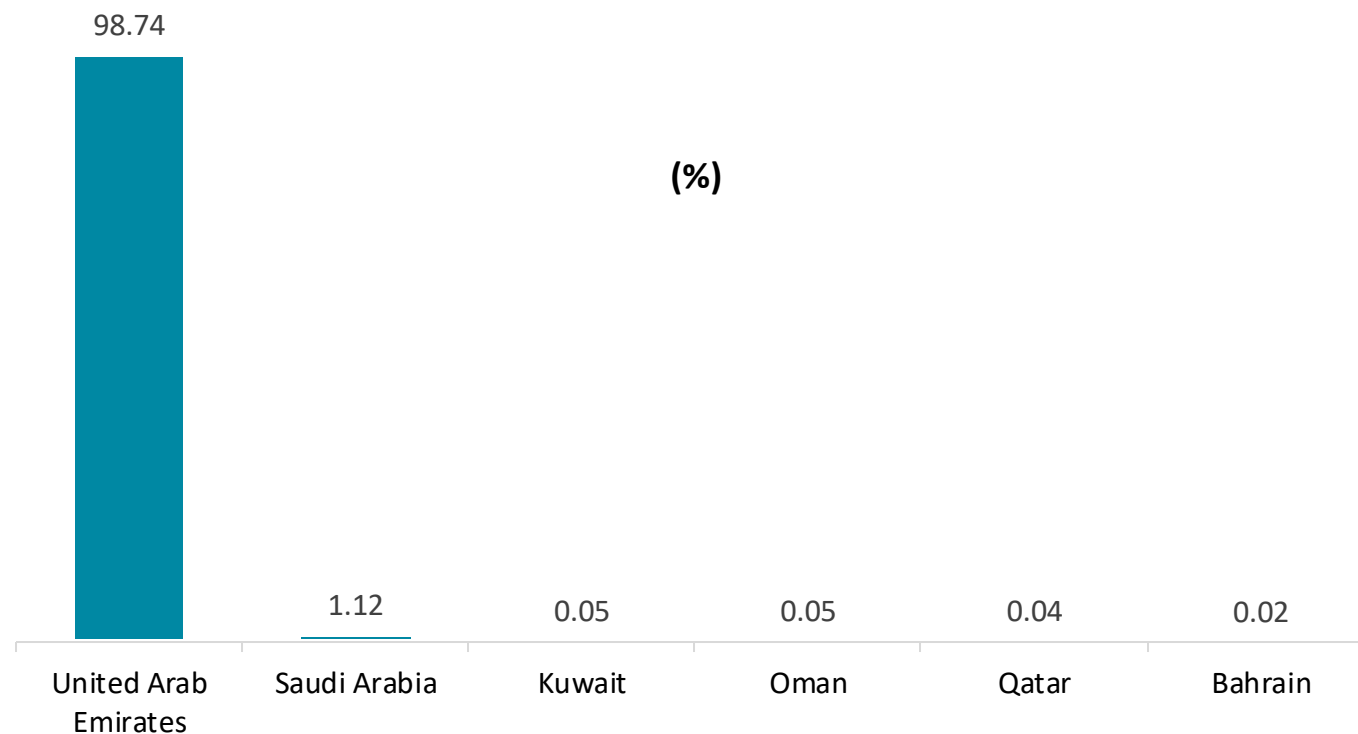
1st partners in GCC countries.
UAE makes up 98.74% of GCC total trade with Central Asian Countries.

Saudi Arabia

2nd partners in GCC countries.
Saudi Arabia makes up 1.12% of GCC total trade with Central Asian Countries.

Kuwait

3rd partners in GCC countries.
Kuwait makes up 0.05% of GCC total trade with Central Asian Countries.



Oman

4th partners in GCC countries
Oman makes up 0.05% of GCC total trade with Central Asian Countries.

Qatar

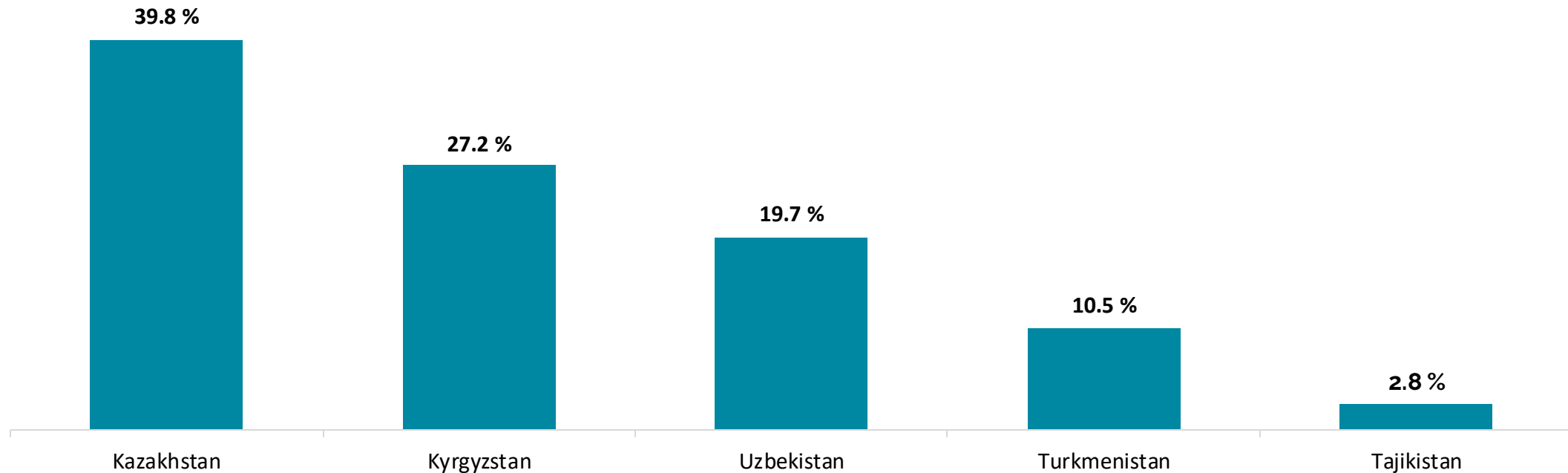
5th partners in GCC countries
Qatar makes up 0.04% of GCC total trade with Central Asian Countries.

Bahrain

6th partners in GCC countries
Bahrain makes up 0.02% of GCC total trade with Central Asian Countries.

Rank of CA Countries according to trade with GCC Countries

In 2023, **Kazakhstan** was the leading trading partner of GCC countries in Central Asia, accounting for 39.8% of the region's total trade, valued at USD 3896.62 million. **Kyrgyzstan** ranked second with a 27.2% share, equivalent to USD 2656.56 million. **Uzbekistan** followed in third place, contributing 19.7% of the trade, amounting to USD 1929.43 million. **Turkmenistan** came fourth, representing 10.5% of the trade with a total of USD 1026.21 million. Lastly, **Tajikistan** was the smallest contributor, making up just 2.8% of the trade, valued at USD 270.02 million.



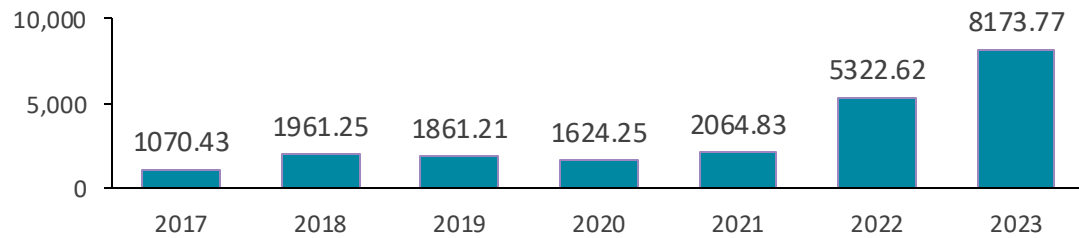
GCC Countries & CA Countries total trade volume

In 2023, GCC Countries export value to Central Asian Countries was US\$ 8173.77M, representing 83.6% of the total trade with Central Asian Countries. The main export categories have been Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof, Vehicles; other than railway or tramway rolling stock, Machinery and mechanical appliances, Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes, and Essential oils and resinoids.

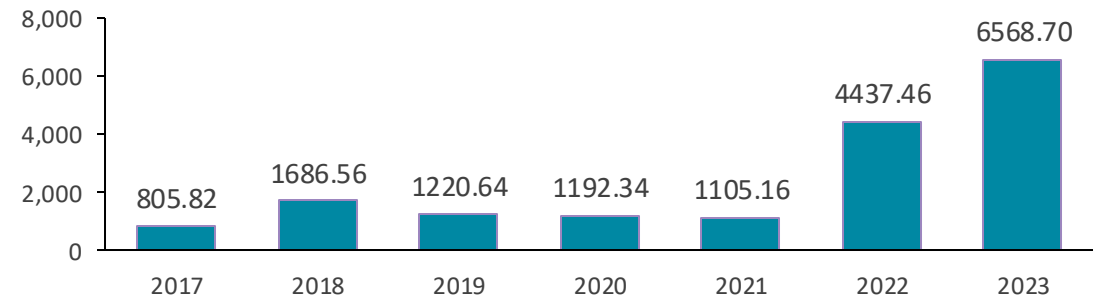
The value of total imports from Central Asian Countries was US\$ 1605.07M, representing 16.4% of the total trade with Central Asian Countries. The main categories were Natural, cultured pearls; precious, Zinc and articles thereof, Copper and articles thereof, Works of art; collectors' pieces and antiques, and Fruit and nuts, edible; peel of citrus fruit or melons.

GCC Countries positive trade balance with Central Asian Countries was US\$ 6568.70M in 2023. The total trade value between GCC Countries and Central Asian Countries in 2023 was equal to US\$ 9778.84 M.

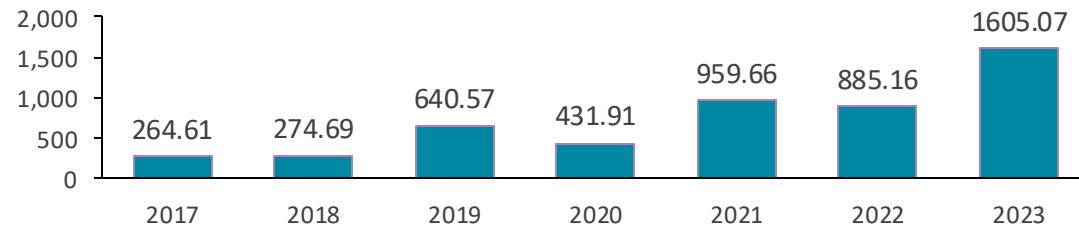
GCC Countries Exports to Central Asian Countries, in million US\$



Trade balance, in million US\$



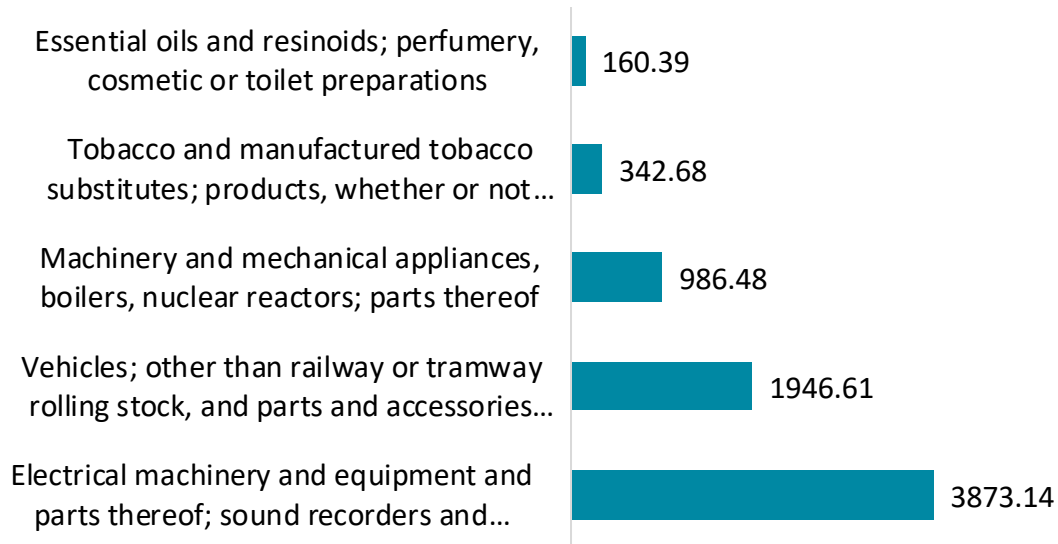
GCC Countries Imports from Central Asian Countries, in million US\$



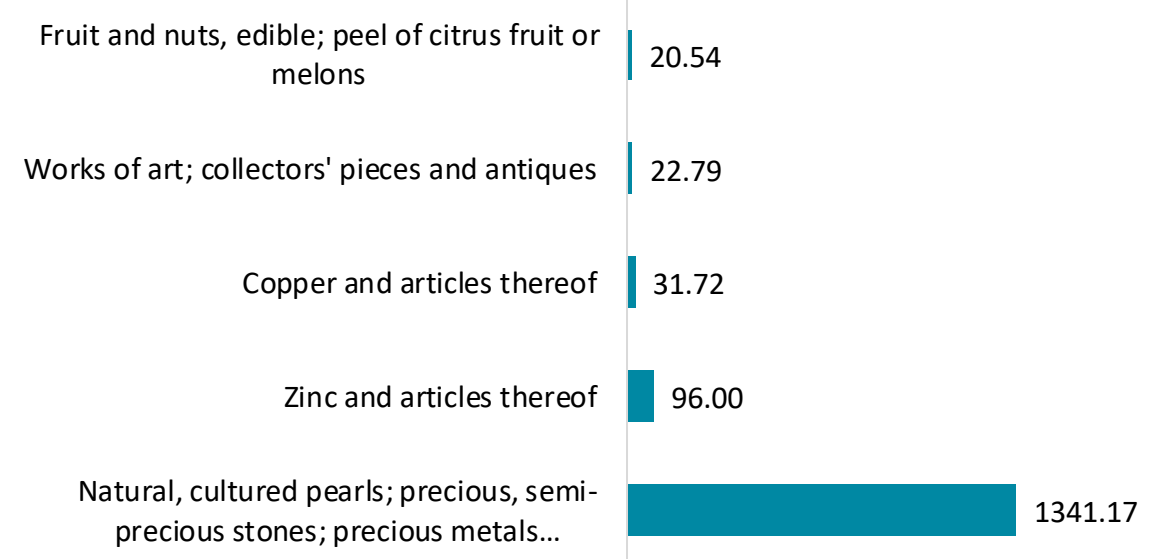
Top trade categories between GCC Countries & CA Countries

- In 2023, 89.4% of GCC Countries exports to Central Asian Countries were concentrated in five categories. The main export categories were Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof (47.4%), Vehicles; other than railway or tramway rolling stock (23.8%).
- In 2023, 94.2% of GCC Countries imports from Central Asian Countries were concentrated in five categories. The main categories were Natural, cultured pearls; precious, semi-precious stones (83.6%) and Zinc and articles thereof (6.0%).

Top categories for export to Central Asian Countries in 2023, in million US\$



Top categories for import from Central Asian Countries in 2023, in million US\$



Top trade products between GCC Countries & CA Countries

- In 2023, 80.6% of GCC Countries exports to Central Asian Countries were concentrated in ten products. The main export products have been Telephone sets, including smartphones, Motor cars and other motor vehicles, and Automatic data processing machines and units thereof.
- In 2023, 96.9% of GCC Countries imports from Central Asian Countries were concentrated in ten products. The main import products have been Gold (including gold plated with platinum) unwrought, Zinc; unwrought, and Copper; refined and copper alloys, unwrought.

Top products for export to Central Asian Countries in 2023	Code	Value (MUS\$)
Telephone sets, including smartphones and other telephones for cellular/wireless networks	8517	3398.14
Motor cars and other motor vehicles...	8703	1429.43
Automatic data processing machines and units thereof...	8471	618.47
Cigars, cheroots, cigarillos and cigarettes; of tobacco	2402	333.12
Vehicles; for the transport of goods	8704	222.93
Motor vehicles; parts and accessories	8708	216.60
Microphones and their stands; loudspeakers...	8518	117.20
Perfumes and toilet waters	3303	115.61
Gold (including gold plated with platinum) unwrought...	7108	81.55
Vehicles; public transport passenger type	8702	57.91

Top products for import from Central Asian Countries in 2023	Code	Value (MUS\$)
Gold (including gold plated with platinum) unwrought...	7108	1312.06
Zinc; unwrought	7901	95.59
Copper; refined and copper alloys, unwrought	7403	29.91
Silver (including silver plated with gold or platinum)..	7106	26.89
Sculptures and statuary; original, in any material	9703	22.68
Grapes; fresh or dried	806	18.72
Meat of sheep or goats; fresh, chilled or frozen	204	14.58
Vegetable saps and extracts; pectic substances...	1302	13.85
Alkali or alkaline-earth metals; rare-earth metals...	2805	10.79
Aircraft; parts of goods of heading 8801, 8802 or 8806	8807	10.09

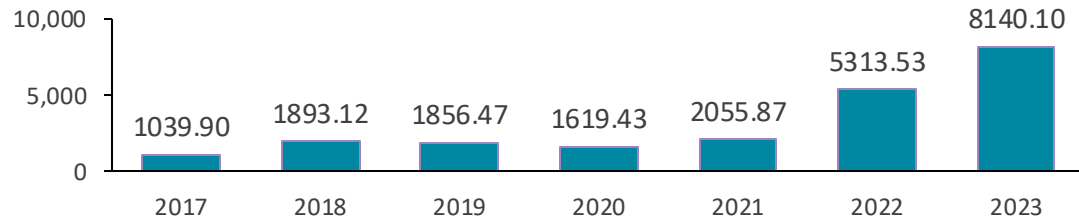
UAE makes up 98.74% of GCC total trade with Central Asian Countries

In 2023, the UAE's export value to CA Countries was US\$ 8140.10M, representing 84.3% of the total trade with CA Countries. The main export categories were Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof, Vehicles; other than railway or tramway rolling stock, Machinery and mechanical appliances, Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes, and Essential oils and resinoids.

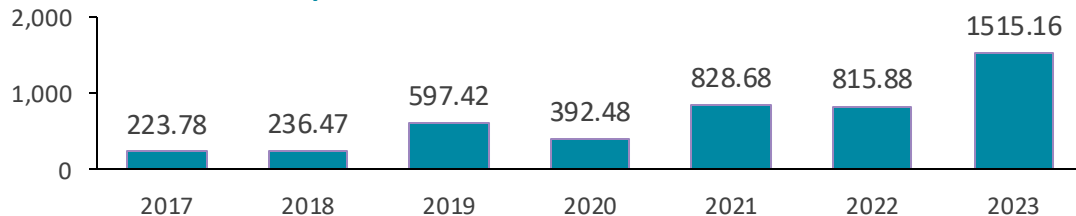
The total value of imports from CA Countries was US\$ 1515.16M, accounting for 15.7% of the total trade with CA Countries. The main import categories were Natural, cultured pearls; precious, semi-precious stones, Zinc and articles thereof, Copper and articles thereof, Lac; gums, resins and other vegetable saps and extracts, and Inorganic chemicals.

The UAE's positive trade balance with CA Countries in 2023 was US\$ 6624.94M . The total trade value between UAE and CA Countries in 2023 was equal to US\$ 9655.26M.

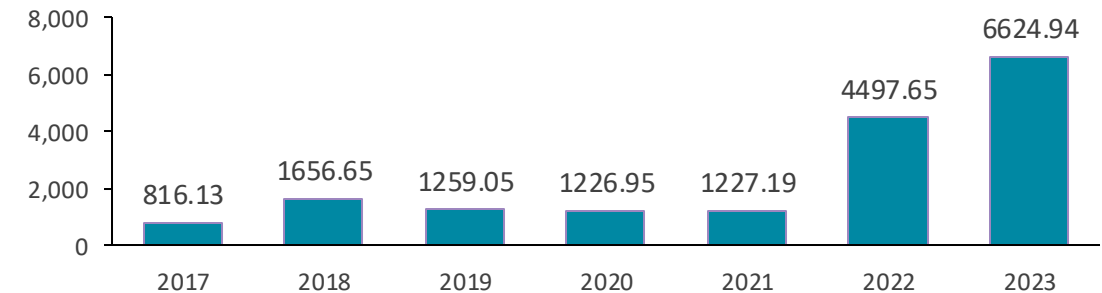
UAE Exports to Central Asian Countries, in million US\$



UAE Imports from Central Asian Countries, in million US\$



Trade balance, in million US\$



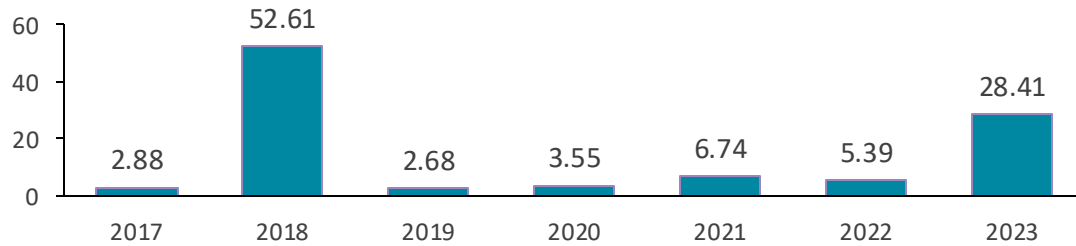
KSA makes up 1.12% of GCC total trade with Central Asian Countries

In 2023, Saudi Arabia's export value to CA Countries was US\$ 28.41M, representing 26.0% of the total trade with CA Countries. The main export categories were Works of art; collectors' pieces and antiques, Plastics and articles thereof, Machinery and mechanical appliances, Fruit and nuts, edible; peel of citrus fruit or melons, and Tanning or dyeing extracts; tannins and their derivatives.

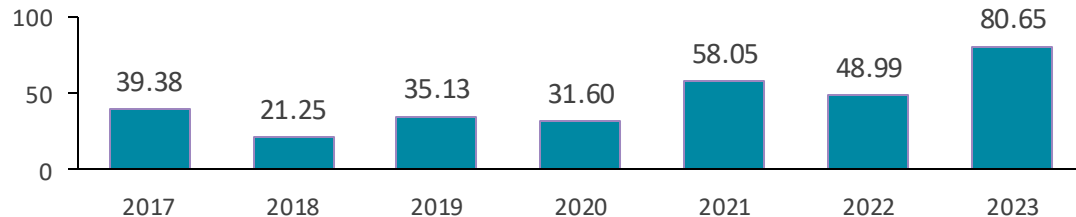
The value of total imports from CA Countries was US\$ 80.65M, representing 74.0% of the total trade with CA Countries. The main import categories were Zinc and articles thereof, Works of art; collectors' pieces and antiques, Fruit and nuts, edible; peel of citrus fruit or melons, Mineral fuels, and Machinery and mechanical appliances.

Saudi Arabia's negative trade balance with CA Countries was US\$ -52.24M in 2023. The total trade value between Saudi Arabia and CA Countries in 2023 was equal to US\$ 109.06M.

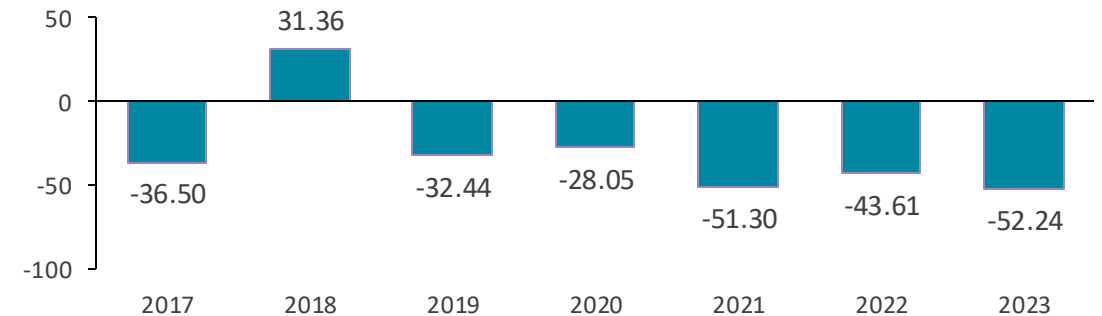
KSA Exports to Central Asian Countries, in million US\$



KSA Imports from Central Asian Countries, in million US\$



Trade balance, in million US\$



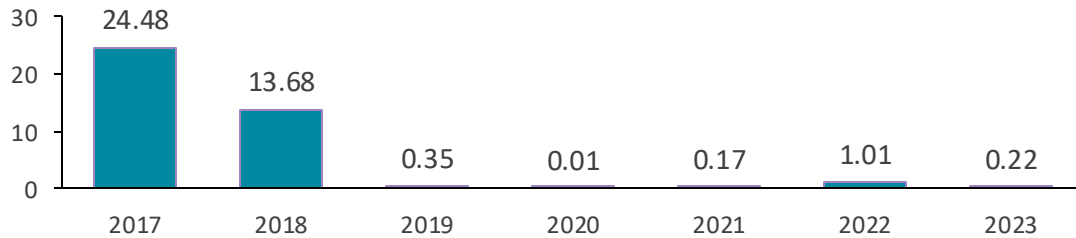
Kuwait makes up 0.05% of GCC total trade with Central Asian Countries

In 2023, Kuwait's export value to CA Countries was US\$ 0.22M, representing 4.5% of the total trade with CA Countries. The main export categories were Machinery and mechanical appliances, Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring..., Iron or steel articles, Commodities not specified according to kind, and Organic chemicals.

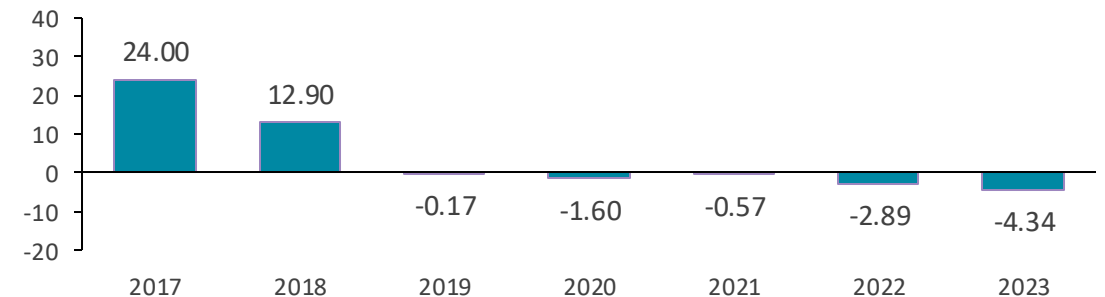
The value of total imports from CA Countries was US\$ 4.55M, representing 95.5% of the total trade with CA Countries. The main import categories were Meat and edible meat offal, Dairy produce; birds' eggs; natural honey, Copper and articles thereof, and Apparel and clothing accessories.

Kuwait's negative trade balance with CA Countries was US\$ -4.34M in 2023. The total trade value between Kuwait and CA Countries in 2023 was equal to US\$ 4.77M.

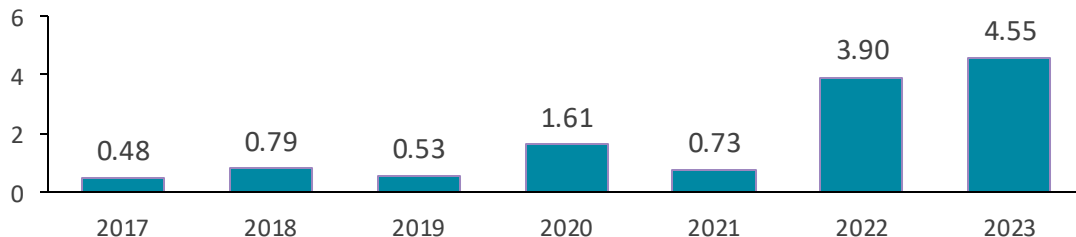
Kuwait Exports to Central Asian Countries, in million US\$



Trade balance, in million US\$



Kuwait Imports from Central Asian Countries, in million US\$



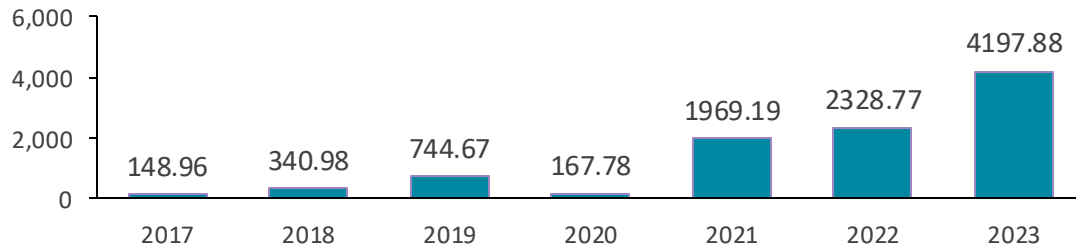
Oman makes up 0.05% of GCC total trade with Central Asian Countries

In 2023, Oman's export value to CA Countries was US\$ 4197.88K, representing 93.5% of the total trade with CA Countries. The main export categories were Vehicles; other than railway or tramway rolling stock, Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation, Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring..., Pharmaceutical products, and Machinery and mechanical appliances.

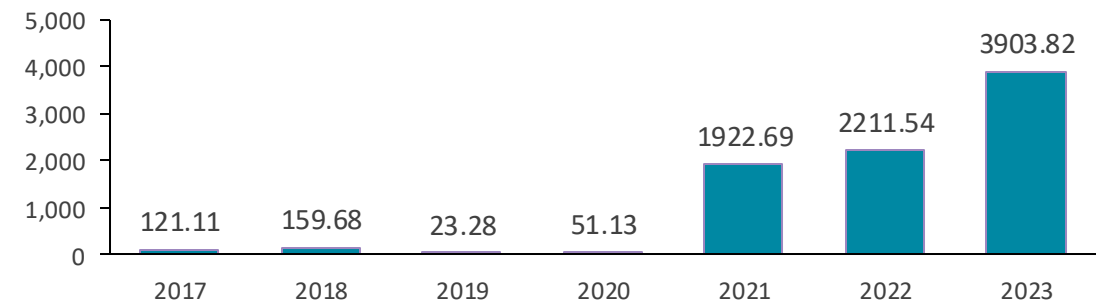
The value of total imports from CA Countries was US\$ 294.05K, representing 6.5% of the total trade with CA Countries. The main import categories were Cereals, Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring..., Fruit and nuts, edible; peel of citrus fruit or melons, Iron or steel articles, and Machinery and mechanical appliances.

Oman's positive trade balance with CA Countries was US\$ 3903.82K in 2023. The total trade value between Oman and CA Countries in 2023 was equal to US\$ 4491.93K.

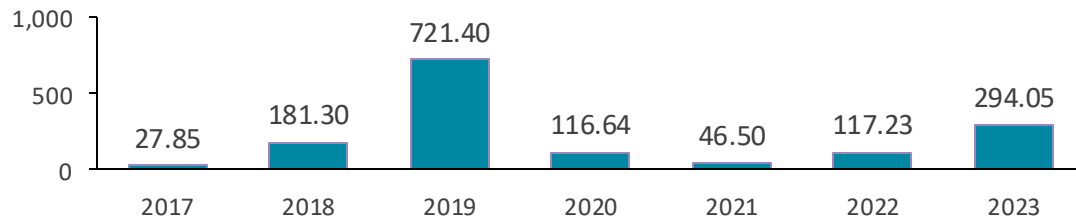
Oman Exports to Central Asian Countries, in thousand US\$



Trade balance, in thousand US\$



Oman Imports from Central Asian Countries, in thousand US\$



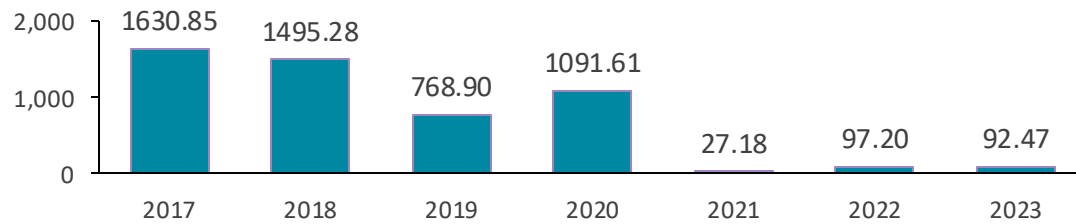
Qatar makes up 0.04% of GCC total trade with CA Countries

In 2023, Qatar's export value to CA Countries was US\$ 92.47K, representing 2.69% of the total trade with CA Countries. The main export categories were Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers; television image and sound recorders and reproducers, parts and accessories of such articles.

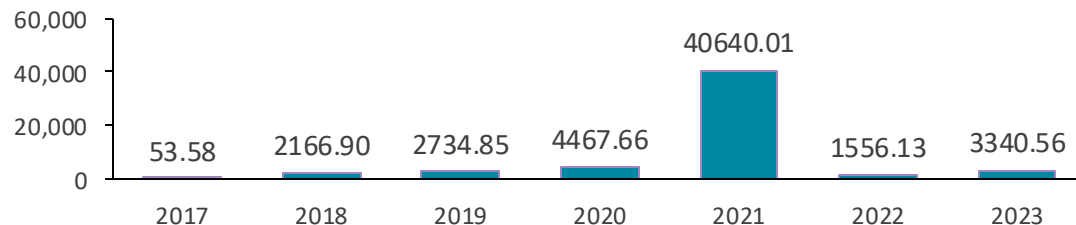
The value of total imports from CA Countries was US\$ 3340.56K, representing 97.31% of the total trade with CA Countries. The main import categories were Meat and edible meat offal, Fruit and nuts, edible; peel of citrus fruit or melons, Copper and articles thereof, Zinc and articles thereof, and Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof.

Qatar's negative trade balance with CA Countries was US\$ -3248.09K in 2023. The total trade value between Qatar and CA Countries in 2023 was equal to US\$ 3433.03K.

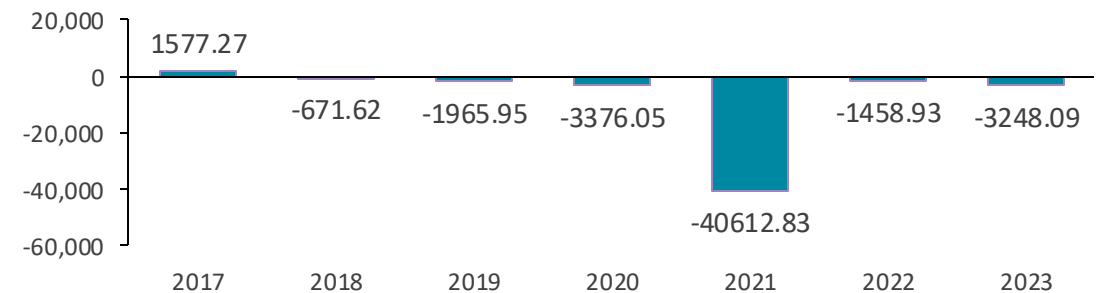
Qatar Exports to Central Asian Countries, in thousand US\$



Qatar Imports from Central Asian Countries, in thousand US\$



Trade balance, in thousand US\$

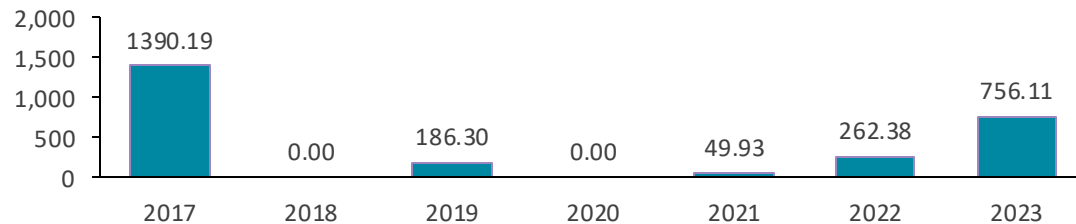


Bahrain makes up 0.02% of GCC total trade with CA Countries

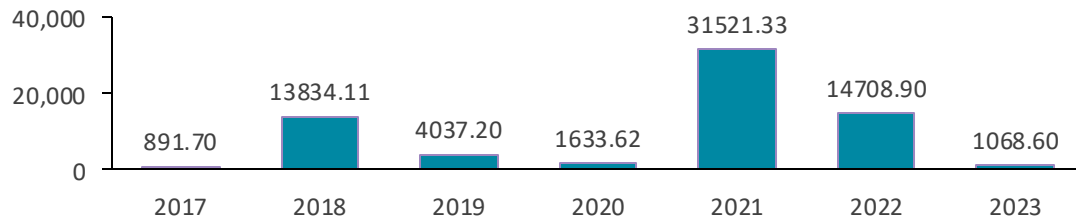
In 2023, Bahrain's export value to CA Countries was US\$ 756.11K, representing 41.4% of the total trade with CA Countries. The main export categories were Furniture; bedding, mattresses, mattress supports..., Machinery and mechanical appliances, Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal, Glass and glassware, and Animals; live. The value of total imports from CA Countries was US\$ 1068.60K, representing 58.6% of the total trade with CA Countries. The main import categories were Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation, Fruit and nuts, edible; peel of citrus fruit or melons, Vegetables and certain roots and tubers; edible, Cereals, and Inorganic chemicals.

Bahrain's negative trade balance with CA Countries was US\$ -312.48K in 2023. The total trade value between Bahrain and CA Countries in 2023 was equal to US\$ 1824.71K.

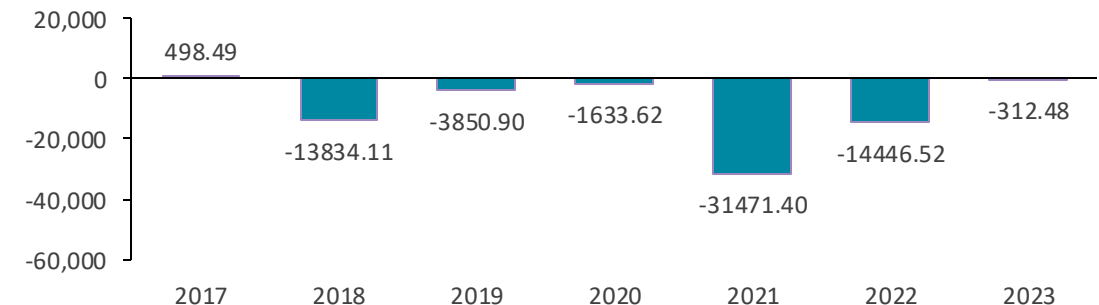
Bahrain Exports to Central Asian Countries, in thousand US\$



Bahrain Imports from Central Asian Countries, in thousand US\$



Trade balance, in thousand US\$



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