



Traders' Manual for Landlocked Countries

TAJIKISTAN

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

TRADERS' MANUAL FOR LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES:

TAJKISTAN



UNITED NATIONS

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Trader's Manual for Landlocked Countries: Tajikistan

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PREFACE

In today's increasingly globalized and economically integrated world, transparency and access to information trade rules and procedures are becoming more important. This is particularly true for small and medium-sized enterprises in landlocked and least developed countries.

The availability of information on market potential, trade regimes, import and export procedures and other trade-related issues in the least developed or landlocked countries of Asia and the Pacific is important. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has been addressing this need on a priority basis for the past two decades by disseminating information through its Trade Information Service Network (TISNET) and in other publications and handbooks.

The ESCAP series of traders' manuals for Asian and Pacific countries has been acknowledged as a very useful source of information. The secretariat has therefore continued its efforts to publish and update traders' manuals for least developed, landlocked and transit countries in the ESCAP region.

This online edition provides updated information on the business and investment climate in Tajikistan, and is available in electronic form only.

This publication was prepared under the guidance of Ravi Ratnayake, Director, Trade and Investment Division, ESCAP, and Shamika Sirimanne, Chief, Trade Facilitation Section, Trade and Investment Division, ESCAP, by Bin Peng and Ram S. Tiwaree, both Economic Affairs Officers in the Trade and Investment Division, ESCAP, in collaboration with the ministries and agencies of Tajikistan. The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Ministry of Energy and Industry, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection and the State Committee on Statistics provided and verified much of the information contained in the manual. The ESCAP secretariat is very grateful for the support it has received from the ministries and agencies of Tajikistan, in particular, that of Mr. Murod Asludinov and Mr. Tohir Habibov, who worked closely with ESCAP staff in preparing this publication.



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ABBREVIATIONS

c.i.f	cost, insurance and freight
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
f.o.b.	free on board
FDI	foreign direct investment
GDP	gross domestic product
SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organization
TRIPS	Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
VAT	value added tax
WTO	World Trade Organization

Part One
COUNTRY PRESENTATION

I. BASIC COUNTRY DATA

Location:	Between latitudes 36°40'N and 41°05'N, and 67°31'E and 75°14'E
Area:	The nearest port is over 3,000 km from Dushanbe 143,100 km ²
Land boundaries:	Length from west to east 700 km and from north to south 350 km Borders Afghanistan in the south (1,030 km), China in the east (430 km), Kyrgyzstan in the north (630 km), Uzbekistan in the north and west (910 km)
Airports:	Dushanbe International Airport
Railway density:	4 km per 1,000 km ² (2005)
Road density:	198 km per 1,000 km ² (2000)
Climate:	Continental
Population:	Total: 6.73 million (2007) Density: 47 people per km ² (2007) Annual growth rate: 1.4 per cent (2007)
Ethnic groups:	Tajik (65 per cent), Uzbek (25 per cent), Russian (3.5 per cent), others (6.5 per cent)
Independence:	9 September 1991
Capital:	Dushanbe
Time zone:	5 hours ahead of Greenwich mean time (GMT + 5)
Principal languages:	Tajik (official language), Russian and Uzbek are also spoken English is understood
Information and communications technology:	Number of fixed telephone lines per 100 inhabitants: 4.2 (2007) Number of cellular mobile subscribers per 100 inhabitants: 3.9 (2007) Number of internet users per 100 inhabitants: 0.3 (2007)
Education and literacy:	Adult literacy rate: 99.6 per cent (2007)
Economic growth rate:	7.9 per cent per annum (2008)
Foreign trade:	Total: 4.6 billion United States dollars (2008) Exports: 1.4 billion United States dollars (2008) Imports: 3.2 billion United States dollars (2008)
Foreign direct investment:	Net inflow: 401 million United States dollars (2008)
Currency:	Somoni; 1 somoni = 100 dirams
Measures:	Metric system
Business hours:	Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Holidays:	1 January: New Year's Day 8 March: International Women's Day 20-22 March: Navruz (Persian New Year) 1 May: International Solidarity Day 9 May: Victory Day 27 June: National Unity Day 9 September: Independence Day

Exchange rate: 6 November: Constitution Day
9 November: Reconciliation Day
Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr are set according to the lunar calendar
1 United States dollar = 3.4 somoni (annual average in 2008)

II. COUNTRY CONTEXT

A. Government structure

The principles of the State structure in Tajikistan are defined by the Constitution adopted in 1994. The 1994 Constitution guarantees the principle of division of power into legislative, executive and judicial branches. According to the Constitution, the President of the republic is the Head of State and of the executive power (Government). The President is elected for a seven-year term on the basis of universal suffrage, but may not hold office for more than two consecutive terms.

The parliament (Majlisi Oli) is the highest representative and legislative body and consists of two chambers: (a) the upper chamber (Majlisi Milli), consisting of 33 members (25 selected by local deputies and 8 appointed by the President); and (b) the lower chamber (Majlisi Namoyandagon), composed of 63 members elected by popular vote.

The Government is the executive body and consists of a prime minister, deputy prime ministers, ministers and the chairpersons of various State committees.

The judicial power in Tajikistan is exercised by the system of courts, which are classified in hierarchical order as follows: the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court, the Supreme Economic Court, the Military Court, the Court of the autonomous region of Kuhistoni-Badakhshon (formerly known as the autonomous region of Gorniy-Badakshan), and the courts of the viloyats (regions), Dushanbe, and other cities and districts, as well as the economic courts of the autonomous region of Kuhistoni-Badakhshon, other regions and Dushanbe.

The Constitutional Court is the supreme body of the judicial power. The Supreme Court covers the sphere of civil, criminal and administrative legal proceedings, and exercises supervision over the judicial activity of regional, city and district courts. The Supreme Economic Court is the judicial body for economic dispute settlements and other cases under the consideration of economic courts.

The Constitution has supreme validity in the system of laws, followed by constitutional laws; laws and resolutions of the State; decrees of the President; resolutions of the Government; acts of the National Bank; acts of Ministries, State committees and administrative departments; and decisions of local state administrative bodies and local governments.

Tajikistan consists of five administrative regions: (a) Sughd (formerly known as Leninabad), in the north-west (capital city Khujand); (b) Khatlon, in the south-west (capital city Qurghonteppa); (c) the autonomous region of Kuhistoni-Badakhshon, in the south-east (capital city of Khorugh); (d) the Region of Republican Subordination, in the central area (under central administration); and (e) Dushanbe. Each region is divided into several districts which in turn are subdivided into *jamoats* (village-level self-governing units). As of 2006, there were 58 districts and colonies and 367 *jamoats* in Tajikistan.

B. Geography and natural resources

Mountain systems occupy 93 per cent of the territory of Tajikistan. Lower land, including part of the Ferghana Valley, can be found in the north; the south-west and central areas are dominated by the Turkestan, Zarafshan, Hissar and Alay mountain ridges. The Pamir range crosses the south-east area (which includes the highest point in the range—Somoni Peak, at 7,495 m); the south-eastern part also comprises lower land, including the Vakhsh, Hissar and other valleys.

Rivers and lakes are among the most important natural resources of Tajikistan. Thousands of rivers are fed by the abundant run-off from the country's glaciers, which cover more than 8,476 km² of the country's surface area. Approximately 947 rivers are longer than 10 km; if combined, those major rivers would run for more than 28,500 km. They supply more than 60 per cent of the hydro resources for the Central Asian region.

The plains in the south-west part of the country are the main cotton-producing areas. Tajikistan has also rich deposits of minerals, including gold and silver, in its mountainous areas.

Tajikistan lies in an active seismic belt, therefore earthquakes are common. The country also suffers from a number of environmental problems, such as the overuse of mountainous lands for farming and overgrazing by herds, which has led to soil erosion, frequent mudslides and flooding. The intensive farming and development of the irrigation network to grow cotton that took place during the Soviet era have led to water shortages and soil salination.

C. Recent economic development

Tajikistan experienced rapid economic growth over the past several years. According to a survey conducted by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the real gross domestic product (GDP) growth of Tajikistan in 2008 was 7.9 per cent, above the average growth rate in Central Asia. However, Tajikistan is one of the poorest economies in Central Asia, with a GDP per capita of about \$500.

With regard to the performance of different sectors, data from the State Committee on Statistics of Tajikistan showed that the share of agriculture in total GDP, a dominant sector of the economy, dropped from 36.7 per cent in 1995 to 19.8 per cent in 2007. The share of industry also decreased, from 34 per cent to 15.4 per cent, while the share of trade increased from 7.5 per cent to 19.8 per cent. International trade has become an important economic sector. The shares of construction and transport have increased slightly, from 3.5 per cent to 8.7 per cent, and from 4.4 per cent to 5.1 per cent, respectively.

Several international organizations have conducted economic and social surveys of Tajikistan, including ESCAP, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations

Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank.

D. Foreign relations

Tajikistan is a member of the following international and regional agencies, organizations and programmes:

- Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
- Economic Commission for Europe
- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization
- Universal Postal Union
- World Intellectual Property Organization
- World Health Organization
- World Meteorological Organization
- World Tourism Organization
- International Atomic Energy Agency
- International Fund for Agricultural Development
- International Labour Organization
- International Telecommunication Union
- International Civil Aviation Organization
- International Organization for Migration
- International Monetary Fund
- International Development Association
- International Finance Corporation
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- Asian Development Bank
- Islamic Development Bank
- Economic Cooperation Organization
- Shanghai Cooperation Organization
- Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation

E. International trade

The high mountainous ranges separating the different economic centres of the country makes trade very difficult domestically, while international trade relies on cooperation with the neighbouring transit countries.

In recent years, Tajikistan has experienced substantial growth in international trade, with imports growing faster than exports. The value of total trade increased from \$1.5 billion in 1995 to \$4.6 billion in 2008.

Over the period from 1995 to 2008, the annual trade balance was negative, except for the years 1996, 1999, 2000 and 2002 (see table 1). The faster growth rate of imports

against exports is a concern, as it leads to an increasing deficit in the country's balance of trade.

Over the same period, the trade deficit of Tajikistan with countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) grew from \$186 million in 2000 to \$1.6 billion in 2008. The trade deficit of Tajikistan with non-CIS countries was \$256 million in 2008.

Table 1. Balance of trade
(Millions of United States dollars)

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Exports, f.o.b.	748	770	746	597	689	784	652	737	797	915	909	1 399	1 468	1 406
Imports, c.i.f.	809	668	750	711	663	675	688	721	881	1 191	1 330	1 725	2 455	3 270
Trade balance	-61	102	-4	-114	26	109	-36	16	-84	-276	-421	-326	-987	-1 864

Source: Based on data from the State Committee on Statistics of Tajikistan.

Abbreviations: c.i.f. cost, insurance, freight
f.o.b. free on board

1. Import performance

The value of imports to Tajikistan increased substantially, from \$809 million in 1995 to \$3.27 billion in 2008. The major imported goods include natural gas, petroleum products, electricity, grain and flour.

Imports play an important role in the economy of Tajikistan, as most consumer goods and industrial products are imported from other countries. Tajikistan was once highly dependent on the import of electricity, which represented 20 per cent of total imports in 1995. By 2006, however, electricity represented less than 4 per cent of imports. Imports of natural gas have also been falling, while imports of petroleum products have remained more or less stable, as have imports of grain and flour. The value of non-traditional imports, comprising consumer goods, rose from \$478 million in 1995 to \$1.35 billion in 2006, accounting for approximately 80 per cent of total imports.

Since 1991, the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan have been the top two sources of imports for Tajikistan. The share of imports from Kazakhstan has gained significance, reaching around 11.4 per cent of total imports in 2006. Recently, China has become an important source of imports, accounting for about 20 per cent of the total imports in 2006.

2. Export performance

Export growth in Tajikistan is irregular; however, the value of exports increased from \$748 million in 1995 to \$1.4 billion in 2008. During the period 1996 to 2002, the annual values of total exports were lower than that of 1995, due to the poor performance of cotton, one of the country's key exports.

In the past, exports from Tajikistan depended heavily on two major markets, namely, the Netherlands and Uzbekistan (see table 2). However, in 2007, more goods were exported to the Russian Federation than to Uzbekistan. In 2005, the United States of America became an important export destination for Tajik products.

Table 2. Direction of exports from Tajikistan

*Value of exports
(Millions of United States dollars)*

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Netherlands	255.2	218.0	229.4	221.4	222.3	178.2	194.4	216.9	200.8	379.2	423.4	569.4	570.5
Uzbekistan	132	191	172	126	181	98	87	73	67	66	66	67	87
Russian Federation	95	79	64	48	115	259	105	87	52	60	83	65	97
Belgium	32.7	5.5	14.7	12.8	7.0	5.1	6.0	9.5	7.6	7.2	4.9	4.2	1.4
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	20.7	15.2	6.5	5.1	5.5	6.0	2.5	3.9	2.5	0.9	1.3	1	0.5
Germany	4.6	2.6	2.4	1.4	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.5	1.1
Spain	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.1	2.0	0.9	1.5	2.1	0.9	1.5	0.3
Italy	2.4	6.7	7.7	9.8	4.9	21.4	5.7	6.5	7.7	10.1	15.6	15.6	15.2

Source: Based on data from the State Committee on Statistics of Tajikistan.

3. Port facilities and trading routes

The major transit route for exports from Tajikistan to the west and north passes through Uzbekistan then Kazakhstan to reach the Russian Federation. The southern route passes through Afghanistan, then either Pakistan or Iran before reaching a seaport. The eastern transit route crosses the Pamir Mountains and goes through China. Imports follow the same routes, in reverse.

There are no direct transatlantic air routes to or from Dushanbe. The closest airports connecting Dushanbe with other international cities are in Almaty, Kazakhstan, and Moscow.

4. Trade agreements and preferential schemes

(a) Multilateral and regional framework

The CIS consists of 10 former Soviet republics: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Ukraine (de facto member) and Uzbekistan. It was established in December 1991 with the aim of creating economic and social integration for inclusive development in its members.

The Eurasian Economic Community consists of five countries in CIS: Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation and Tajikistan. At present, traded goods flow almost freely among Community members. Formal tariffs and non-tariff barriers between Tajikistan and other member countries have been removed for certain goods. For more details, see www.evrases.com/en.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), consisting of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, was formed in June 2001. The objective is to strengthen mutual confidence and good neighbourly relations among the member countries. In terms of trade and economic relations, in 2001 the members of SCO signed a memorandum on the basic objectives and orientation of regional economic cooperation and the launching of a process of trade and investment facilitation. Membership in the Organization facilitates efforts by Tajikistan to promote trade and investment activities with all SCO members.

In 2003, Tajikistan, together with Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan signed the Economic Cooperation Organization Trade Agreement.

In June 2004, Tajikistan, together with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, signed a trade and investment framework agreement with the United States.

Tajikistan is also in the process of acceding to the World Trade Organization (WTO); the last working party meeting on its accession was held on in October 2006. Tajikistan submitted information on agriculture, the TRIPS [Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights] checklist, and a legislative action plan in August 2008. The most recent market access negotiations on goods and services were conducted in March 2009.

(b) Bilateral frameworks

Tajikistan signed a bilateral agreement in 1993 with Turkey, one of its major export markets. Tajik-Turkish bilateral cooperation includes many aspects, including political, economic, cultural, academic and technical ties.

Trade relations between Tajikistan and the United States have also been strengthened since 1993. The trade and investment agreement mentioned above focuses on a preference programme under the Generalized System of Preferences.

Tajikistan has also signed bilateral agreements on trade and investment facilitation with the following countries: Afghanistan, Austria, Bulgaria, China, Czech Republic, Hungary, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kuwait, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Syria, United Arab Emirates, United States and Viet Nam.

5. Government procurement

The public procurement system in Tajikistan has been gradually decentralized since the first law on public procurement entered into force in 1997. The Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on Public Procurement of Goods, Works and Services, approved in 2006, provides for the gradual decentralization of procurement responsibilities to ministries, committees, regional administrations and municipalities, among other bodies,

at all government levels, with a view to establishing a transparent, fair and competitive procurement system and thereby ensuring the efficient use of public funds. According to Resolution No. 246 of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan of 2 May 2007, public procurement must be under the control of the Central Office for the Administration for Procurement of Goods, Works and Services (Procurement Agency). This Agency is charged with implementing the policy provisions for government procurement in order to enhance the effectiveness of government funds, foreign credits and grants.

Part Two SELLING TO TAJIKISTAN

I. IMPORT POLICY, REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

A. General

Since its independence, Tajikistan has gone through fundamental social and economic reforms to introduce a market-oriented economy. The transition phase from a centrally planned economy included: (a) the liberalization of prices, with simultaneous suspension of subsidies to producers and consumers; (b) fiscal and monetary policy reforms; (c) the liberalization of foreign currency markets; and (d) the creation of a new legal-regulatory framework for the market economy. The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade was created by presidential decree in January 2001.

As a landlocked country, Tajikistan, in terms of trade, depends heavily on transit regimes and relationships with neighbouring countries. The Government has amended its trade policy in order to: (a) ensure more efficient trade and industrial development; (b) reduce protectionism; and (c) improve tariff structure. Tajikistan aims to comply with WTO principles, thereby facilitating the integration of its economy to the world economic system.

On 1 January 2005, the new Customs Code regulating import, export and transit activities was implemented.

B. Import approval

According to article 5 of Law No. 882 (3 September 1999) on Government Regulation of Foreign Economic Activity, after completing the required registration, any legal or physical person, including international organizations, operating on the territory of Tajikistan or abroad may engaged in foreign trade activities. The registration card and the certificate of participation in foreign economic activities are issued by the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade in accordance with the Council of Ministers decree No. 316 (11 July 1994). All participants engaged in foreign economic activity in Tajikistan must have a Taxpayer Identification Number, issued by the Tax Committee under the Government of Tajikistan.

C. Licensing, quotas and prohibitions

Most goods can be imported to Tajikistan without a license, but some categories of goods that could negatively affect human health or consumer well-being require a license. An import license is required for alcohol, tobacco products and some drugs, as listed in table 3. The license is valid for one year, and is non-transferable.

An application form for the license, specifying: (a) the full name, legal status and legal address of the entity; (b) the name and account number of the entity's bank for settlement; (c) the type of activity; and (d) the requested validity period of the license,

accompanied by a copy of the incorporation document of the entity and a certificate issued by an expert confirming the qualifications of the applicant to carry out the specific activity, must be presented to the Committee on Licensing for its review and approval.

Upon receipt of notification that a license has been issued, the applicant pays the license fees, which amounted to \$300 as of the end of 2008.

There are no quantitative restrictions and bans on the import of goods, except those on products subject to import licensing.

Table 3. Products subject to import licensing

<i>Commodity code</i>	<i>Commodity name</i>
1302 11 000 0	Opium
2203 00	Malt beer
2204	Grape wines, natural wines, including fortified; stum, except for that mentioned in merchandise position 2009 (including wine materials)
2205	Vermouths and natural wines, other wines with vegetation and aromatic substances
2206 00	Other fermented drinks (for example, cider, pear cider, and honey drink); mixes from fermented drinks, and mixes from fermented drinks and soft drinks not listed elsewhere
2207	Non-denatured ethyl alcohol with ethyl concentration of no less than 80 per cent or more; ethyl alcohol and other denatured alcohols of any concentration
2207 10 000 0	Non-denatured ethyl alcohol with ethyl concentration of no less than 80 per cent or more
2207 20 000 0	Ethyl alcohol, other denatured alcohols of any concentration
2208	Ethyl non-denatured alcohol with ethyl concentration of no less than 80 per cent; alcohol liqueurs, liqueurs, and other alcoholic drinks
2402	Cigars, cigars with cut ends, cigarillos (thin cigars), and cigarettes from tobacco or its substitutes
2402 10 000 0	Cigars, cigars with cut ends, and cigarillos containing tobacco;
2402 20	Filter cigars containing tobacco
2402 20 100 0	Containing cloves
2402 20 900 0	Others
2403	Other industrially produced tobacco and industrial tobacco substitutes; "homogenized" or "restored"; tobacco extracts and essence
2806 10 100 0	Hydrogen chloride (hydrochloric acid)
2807 00 100 0	Sulphuric acid
2841 61 000 0	potassium permanganate
2902 30	Toluene
2909 11 000 0	Diethyl ether
2914 11 000 0	Acetone
2914 12 000 0	Butanone (methyl ethyl ketone)
2914 31 000 0	Phenylacetone (phenylpropane-2-on)

2915 24 000 0	Acetic anhydride
2916 34 000 0	Phenylacetic acid and its salts
2922 14 000 0	Dextropropoxiphen and its salts
2922 31 000 0	Amphetamine, methadone, and normethadone; salts of these compounds
2922 43 000 0	Anthranilic acid and its salts
2922 44 000 0	Tilidine and its salts
2924 29	Others: (acetyl anthranilic acid)
2924 29 100 0	Lidocaine
2924 29 300 0	Paracetamol
2926 30 000 0	Propoxyphene and its salts; methadone
2932 91 000 0	Isosafrole
2932 92 000 0	1-(1,3-Benzodioxol-5-yl) propan-2-one
2932 93 000 0	Piperonal
2932 94 000 0	Safrole
2933 11 100 0	Propiphenazone
2933 32 000 0	Piperidine and its salts
2933 33 000 0	Alfentanil, anileridine, bezitramide, bromazepam, diphenoxine, diphenoxilate, dipipanone, fentanyl, ketobemidone, methylphenidate, pentazocine, pethidine, pethidine – an interim A product, phencyclidine, phenoperidine, pipradrol, piritramide, propirame, and trimeperidine; salts of these compounds
2939 11 000 0	Concentrates from poppy straws; buprenorphine, codeine, dihydrocodeine, ethylmorphine, ethorphine, heroin, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, morphine, nicomorphine, oxycodone, oxymorphone, folicodine, tebacone, and tebaine; salts of these compounds
2939 41 000 0	Ephedrine and its salts
2939 42 000 0	Pseudoephedrine and its salts
2939 61 000 0	Ergometrine and its salts
2939 62 000 0	Ergotamine and its salts
2939 63 000 0	Lysergic acid and its salts
2939 91	Cocaine, ecgonine, levomethamphetamine, methamphetamine, methamphetamine racemate; salts, esters, and other derivative substances; cocaine and its salts
2939 91 110 0	Unrefined cocaine

D. Import requirements

Imported goods must be declared within 15 days of the date of arrival to the port of entry with all required documents. Most import activities require the opening of a letter of credit through a foreign exchange bank. Currently, imports of goods are subject to the following fees: custom duty, value added tax (VAT), excise duty and customs charges, to be cleared at the border. The taxation regime for imported goods is the same as that for national products.

Imports of products subject to licenses require a certificate and/or authorization from the related ministry, such as health or agriculture. A phytosanitary certificate is required for the import of live plants. Imports of live animals require a valid veterinary certificate declaring that the animals are free of contagious diseases. Other goods, such as food and consumer products, require a certificate of quality, in order to protect the safety, health and property of citizens, as well as the environment.

E. Packing and labelling requirements

All goods should be packed to withstand the continental climate of Tajikistan and a potentially rough journey over the mountainous routes and poor road conditions found throughout the country.

Labels must be in Russian and must include the names of the country of origin, product and producer. Specific labelling requirements are in effect for some goods. For example, food products must include information such as the country of origin, manufacturer, weight and volume of the commodity, manufacturing date, expiration date, storage information and usage requirements. The name of the consignee, as well as the destination, weight, quantity of goods and country of origin must be marked on all packages of the shipment.

F. Inspections

Tajikistan has not yet implemented the pre-shipment inspection. Upon receipt of the shipment, the customs inspector verifies that the contents comply with the description of the customs declaration and licensing requirements, if applicable.

II. TARIFF SCHEDULE AND CUSTOMS

A. General

The Customs Committee under the Government of Tajikistan was created by Presidential Decree No. 9 on 30 November 2006. The new Customs Code of Tajikistan, which entered into force on 1 January 2005, regulates all import and export activities. The current customs tariff scheme of Tajikistan is contained in Government Resolution No. 450 of 25 October 2003, as well as in Government Decree No. 187 on the customs tariff of 30 April 2002.

B. Classification

The Commodity Classification of Foreign Economic Activity for CIS used in Tajikistan is based on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System.

C. Customs duties

The customs tariffs of Tajikistan consist of general, most favoured nation and preferential rates. Customs tariffs are calculated ad valorem on c.i.f. values of import. The average tariff is about 7 per cent. Tariff rates are between 0 and 15 per cent.

Members of the Eurasian Economic Community, namely, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation, as well as the least developed countries, are exempt from import tariffs. Safeguards, as well as anti-dumping and countervailing duties are applied on an ad hoc basis as determined by the Government to protect the economic interests of the country.

D. Taxes and surcharges

As per article 114 of the Customs Code, the customs charges are currently fixed at 1.5 per cent of the customs value of the commodity.

According to article 247 of the Tax Code, excisable goods in Tajikistan include the following: spirits; alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages; vinegar; tobacco and tobacco products; combustibles and lubricants; automobile tires; cars; and jewellery made of gold, platinum and silver. Excise duty also applies to goods produced in Tajikistan, and is calculated as a percentage of the value of the dutiable goods or in United States dollars per unit product. The rates of excise duty on excisable goods are established by Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan No. 126 of 2 April, 2005. The rates vary according to the type of product.

Currently, the VAT rate for the import of goods is 20 per cent. However, according to article 211 of the Tax Code, the following types of import goods shall be exempted from VAT, subject to certain conditions:

- (a) Imports of domestic and/or foreign currency as well as securities;
- (b) Imports of gold, silver, platinum, palladium and other valuable metals by the National Bank of Tajikistan or the Tajikistan Ministry of Finance for the State Valuables Repository;
- (c) Imports of goods as humanitarian assistance for the purpose of dealing with the after-effects of natural disasters, accidents and catastrophes, and imports of goods transferred on an unrequited basis to government bodies of Tajikistan;
- (d) Imports of manufacturing and industrial equipment and components thereof for the purpose of establishing or adding to the authorized capital of an enterprise or the technical retooling of an existing production facility, as well as personal property imported into Tajikistan by foreign employees of enterprises with foreign investment directly for their own needs;
- (e) Imports of agricultural equipment and spare parts thereof, as well as medicines, based on a list established by the Government of Tajikistan in accordance with the foreign economic activity commodity nomenclature;
- (f) Imports of goods for the implementation of targeted projects approved by the Government of Tajikistan (within the limits) funded through grants and/or credits (loans)

provided by legal entities or individuals, foreign States, Governments of foreign States, or international organizations;

(g) Imports of goods for the construction of high-priority projects. A list of such goods and high-priority projects shall be established by the Government of Tajikistan;

(h) Imports (with the exception of excisable goods) of basic types of raw materials, supplies, energy resources, and equipment based on a list and in quantities established by the Government of Tajikistan, effected directly by the Tajik Aluminium Plant for the production of primary aluminium;

(i) Imports of specialized products for individual use by disabled persons based on a list established by the Government of Tajikistan.

III. TRADE DOCUMENTS

A. All shipments

All customs transactions, namely, import, export and transit, require a customs declaration form. It must be duly completed to be accepted by the Tajik customs authorities.

Importers can use the services of customs brokers, who can handle all documentation and other formal procedures on their behalf. Regulations on the operation of customs brokers are provided in the Customs Code of 2005.

B. Import documents

The documents that must be submitted in the process of customs clearance are listed in table 4.

Table 4. Documents for import clearance

<i>Document</i>	<i>Number of copies</i>	<i>Body concerned</i>
Bill of lading/air waybill	1	Shipping company/airline company
Certificate of Origin	1	Chamber of Commerce
Customs Declaration Form	1	Customs
Foreign trade contract	1	
Invoice	1	Exporter
Power of attorney authorizing physical entity to handle customs clearance	1	Line ministries
Packing list	1	Exporter
Prior permission for permissible import	1	Line ministries
Receipt for payments of customs duties	1	Income Tax Department
Certificate of quality		Tajikstandart
Phytosanitary certificate		Ministry of Agriculture
Letter of application for customs clearance		

According to article 65 of the Customs Code, all documents for custom clearance can be presented in a foreign language known and understood by customs officials, if approved by the authorized body on customs affairs. However, the customs cargo declaration must be filled out in Russian or Tajik for countries of the Eurasian Economic Community.

IV. STANDARDS AND INSPECTION

The metric system is commonly used in Tajikistan. Therefore, all weights are expressed in kilograms and metric tons.

The Tajikistan Agency for Standardization, Metrology, Certification and Trade Inspection (Tajikstandart) is the Government agency charged with managing standardization issues.

The Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on Certification of Products and Services regulates the technical, pharmacological, sanitary, veterinary, phytosanitary and environmental standards and requirements that imports must meet. A certificate is mandatory for the following:

- Children's goods
- Food products, certain goods of agricultural origin, pharmaceuticals, herbal plants
- Consumer goods that contact the skin, food products or drinking water;
- Fuel, oil and oil products, gas, electrical and heat energy
- Consumer chemicals, perfumes and cosmetics
- Chemical weed killers
- Mineral fertilizers
- Domestic appliances
- Agro-industrial machinery
- Items of individual protection
- Appliances for compatibility and safety
- Building materials
- Communications equipment
- Materials for fire and explosion alarms
- Aircraft and spare parts
- Railway trucks
- Signalling and communications systems
- Automotive vehicles
- Mining equipment
- Quarry appliances
- Explosive and explosion equipment
- Apparatus under pressure
- Lifting machines

Part Three
BUYING FROM TAJIKISTAN

I. EXPORT POLICY, REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

A. General

Tajikistan has carried out a series of economic reforms and has been gradually removing trade barriers by following the practices of global trade liberalization and facilitation. To promote economic growth, Tajikistan adopted an export-oriented policy, with the adoption of the resolution on foreign trade liberalization in the Republic of Tajikistan of 27 June 1995 and the resolution on liberalization of currency and export operation of 24 February 1996. In addition, the Government provides exporters with trade information services and implements programmes to promote exports. With the exception of some strategic goods, approval is not required to export goods from Tajikistan.

B. Licensing, quotas and prohibitions

The quota and licensing system in Tajikistan was eliminated effective 1 February 1996. However, some strategic export products, including cotton, aluminium, rare metals and dual-use products, still require Government licensing.

C. Other requirements

Apart from the general requirements that export goods must meet, exporters of some goods are required to meet technical standards, provide certification or obtain special permission. The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade determines which export products are subject to special requirements.

II. EXPORT CHARGES

There is no formal export tariff in Tajikistan. Since 1 March 1996, all export activities have been exempted from customs duties. As a result of a Government decree, all hard-currency profits earned by exporters are tax-free, except for those related to cotton and aluminium, which are subject to sales taxes of 5 per cent and 25 per cent respectively.

According to the World Bank's Doing Business data, normally it takes about 82 days for a standard 20-foot container to complete export procedures in Tajikistan. The costs associated with export procedures, including the costs for documents, administrative fees for customs clearance and technical control, terminal handling charges and inland transport, amount to \$3,150.

III. SETTLEMENT OF BILLS

The financial transactions involved in export activities in Tajikistan are not subject to any specific requirements. All types of settlement, including letters of credit,

can be arranged internationally. Most payments are made by bank transfer. The procedures and regulations regarding the use of cheques are strict.

IV. TRADE DOCUMENTS

The documents required for declaring at the customs authorities when exporting goods are listed in table 5.

Table 5. Documents for export clearance

<i>Document</i>	<i>No. of copies</i>	<i>Body concerned</i>
Bill of landing/air waybill	1	Shipping company/airline company
Cargo release order	1	Custom authorities
Certificate of origin	1	Tajikistan Chamber of Commerce
Commercial invoice	1	Traders
Custom export declaration	1	Customs inspectorate
Confirmation on payment of the sales tax of cotton and aluminium		Tax authorities
Export license		Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
Foreign exchange authorization	1	National Bank of Tajikistan
Packing list	1	Exporters
Insurance declaration	1	Tajiksarmoyaguzor (State company for investment insurance)
Technical standard/health certificate		Tajikstandart.
Terminal handing receipts	1	Exporters

According to article 65 of the Customs Code, documents for customs clearance can be presented in a foreign language known and understood by customs officials, if approved by the authorized body on customs affairs.

V. STATE MONOPOLY ON EXPORT ITEMS

The mandatory sale of certain goods through the State-owned Tajik Universal Commodity Exchange represents a kind of export restriction. The types of goods subject to this requirement, which include all major export products, such as cotton, aluminium, precious and semi-precious stones, ores and metals, are mandated and subsidised by Government of Tajikistan agencies.

VI. EXPORT INCENTIVE SCHEMES

The Government of Tajikistan considers the export of goods and services to be important to the country's economic development; therefore, it implements incentive programmes in the production sector to stimulate the growth of exports. For example, the new Export Directory: Tajikistan website (www.exportdir.tj/eng/) has been developed to provide trade information to exporters.

Part Four

INVESTING IN TAJIKISTAN

As part of its efforts towards fostering economic development, the Government is currently encouraging and promoting both domestic and international business activities. Foreign direct investment (FDI) is especially encouraged, since such investment is considered as vital to industrial and trade development. In this regard, Tajikistan is working to create an enabling environment to attract more FDI. The inflow of such investment to this country was once very low compared to other CIS countries due to the civil war and unstable political situations.

I. FOREIGN INVESTMENT POLICY AND REGULATIONS

Foreign investment in the country is governed under the Law on Foreign Investment in the Republic of Tajikistan, which acts as a guiding legal, economic and social framework. The Law is aimed at providing foreign investors with the same business opportunities and protection of rights offered to domestic investors.

According to the Law, foreign investors can acquire real estate; however, private land ownership is prohibited, as land is the property of the State. There is no legal limitation on foreign investors with regard to buying shares on local stock markets. The procedures for the purchase of stocks by foreign investors are overseen by the Ministry of Finance. Foreign investors are also given the right to freely repatriate capital, dividends and revenue.

From 2005 to 2008, Tajikistan attracted FDI amounting to about \$1.1 billion. FDI dramatically increased from 54 million in 2005 to 376 million in 2008. The top investors include the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Korea. Other large direct investors include the Russian Federation, Cyprus, Italy, the United States and Canada.

Tajikistan has signed bilateral investment agreements with about 20 countries, and treaties for the prevention of double taxation with countries such as the Russian Federation, Belarus, Ukraine and Turkey. Agreements on the prevention of double taxation with additional countries are currently under negotiation.

II. INVESTMENT PROCEDURES

According to article 1 of the Law on Foreign Investment in the Republic of Tajikistan, foreign investment refers to all the property and intellectual values invested by foreign investors into goods production, works and service rendering, when as a result profit (income) is generated or a social effect is being achieved. Such investments may be: (a) money, special bank deposits, shares and other securities; (b) movable and immovable property (buildings, constructions, equipment and other values), and property (real estate); (c) property rights resulting from copyright, know-how, experience and intellectual values; (d) the right to use land and other natural resources, and other property rights; and (e) other values.

According to the Law, foreign investors in Tajikistan can be: (a) foreign legal entities; (b) foreign citizens, stateless persons and citizens of Tajikistan with permanent residence abroad; (c) foreign associations without rights of a legal entity; (d) sovereign states; or (e) international agencies.

A. Incorporation

In Tajikistan, foreign investors have the following investment options:

- (a) Acquiring shares of enterprises jointly with legal Tajik entities and citizens;
- (b) Establishing enterprises entirely belonging to foreign investors;
- (c) Acquiring property, including shares and securities;
- (d) Acquiring the right to use land and other natural resources or acquiring other property rights independently or jointly with legal Tajik entities and citizens;
- (e) Concluding treaties with legal entities and citizens of Tajikistan and providing other ways to engage in foreign investments.

B. Registration

A new business entity must be registered with the local State Notary's office. In order to obtain the necessary approvals, permits and licenses, the following documents must be submitted:

- (a) Written application form;
- (b) Statute of the enterprise;
- (c) Certificates from banks confirming the solvency and level of credit;
- (d) Legal certification of the documents for establishment issued by the Ministry of Justice of Tajikistan;
- (e) Codes of classification from the statistics body;
- (f) Certificates confirming the location of the enterprise;
- (g) Receipts of payment of State fees;
- (h) Financial certification from the Ministry of Finance of Tajikistan.

III. INVESTMENT INCENTIVES AND SPECIAL PROMOTION ZONES

A. Sectoral development incentives

Foreign investors are encouraged to invest in the following sectors:

- (a) Oil and gas complex;
- (b) Natural resources;
- (c) Mining;
- (d) Agriculture (for example, cotton growing, vegetable growing and stock raising);
- (e) Energy.

B. Additional incentives

In addition to the rights and guarantees provided by the laws of the country, the following incentives are offered:

- (a) Special tax incentives offered to joint-venture companies with foreign investment (pay taxes at lower rates, including taxes on profits set abroad);
- (b) Reduced rate on payments for the use of land and other natural resources;
- (c) Right to rent long term and sublease properties;
- (d) Special customs regime, including the decrease of customs duties on exports and imports of goods and special treatment and privileges for cross-border procedures. The terms and conditions of these special treatments are decided by the Government and approved by the Majlisi Oli of Tajikistan;
- (e) Simplified entry-exit rules, including visa exemption for foreign citizens.

The Government offers to foreign companies certain tax privileges, such as tax exemption on profits for two to five years, depending on the level of investment. This privilege may be granted to newly established companies. Such investors may also be granted a reduced fee for the use of land and natural resources.

C. Free trade zones

The Law on Free Trade Zones was enacted by the Government in 2004. The implementation regulations are currently under preparation. The Law is designed to attract foreign capital and technology. The locations of the free trade zones have yet to be decided by the Government.

IV. TAXATION

Taxation is administered under the rules and regulations fixed by the Tax Code of Tajikistan, which came into effect on 1 January 2005. The Tax Code provides for the payment of 19 types of taxes; 15 at the national level and 4 at the local level.

A. Income tax

According to article 140 of the Tax Code of Tajikistan, income tax was reduced in 2005 from 20 per cent down to 8 or 13 per cent, depending on the amount of taxable income. The personal income tax rate is applied to both residents of Tajikistan and non-residents.

B. Corporate profit tax

The corporate profit tax applies to resident and non-resident enterprises that are engaged in economic activity and earn profits within Tajikistan. The corporate profit tax rate was reduced from 30 per cent to 25 per cent under the new tax law.

C. Value added tax (VAT)

In Tajikistan, a business entity is required to register for VAT purposes if its turnover exceeds 48,000 somoni (approximately \$15,000) for 12 consecutive months. The VAT rate is 20 per cent for domestic production and import. However, some import goods, such as raw materials, energy and equipment, could be exempted from VAT, subject to the quotas and listings by the Government of Tajikistan.

The method of calculation and the payments of VAT are fixed according to the tax legislation.

V. LABOUR ISSUES

A. Work permits and foreign employment

Under the Law on Foreign Investment in the Republic of Tajikistan, at least 70 per cent of employees in foreign-owned companies must be local workers. The Government of Tajikistan sets the minimum salary for a Tajik citizen working at enterprises with foreign investments.

B. Child labour

The Prosecutor's office, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Social Welfare, the Ministry of Industry and other local and regional governmental offices are in charge of enforcing child labour laws.

The Labour Code of Tajikistan the minimum age for employment at 16. With the agreement of the local trade union, however, employment may begin at age 15. Children below the age of 18 may work at the most six hours per day and an average of 36 hours per week.

C. Wages, hours and overtime

Legally, an adult over the age of 18 may work up to 40 hours a week (8 hours per day, with no work during the weekend). Overtime pay is authorized by law, with the first two hours to be paid at one and a half times the normal rate and at twice the normal rate for subsequent hours.

VI. BANKING SYSTEM AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Since its independence, Tajikistan has gradually transformed from a centrally planned economy to a market-oriented economy. This has entailed legal, trade-policy and banking reform and the privatization of State-owned enterprises. The National Bank of Tajikistan performs the role of central bank, as per the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on the National Bank of Tajikistan (1996).

As of August 2009, there were 12 banks (including one branch of the Tijorat Bank of IRI in Dushanbe), 6 credit societies and 1 non-banking financial institution in Tajikistan. Of the banks, one is State-owned, eight are joint stock companies and three are foreign-owned. The banking sector is in an early stage of development. Currently, major issues with the banking system are: (a) insufficient capital; (b) limited banking services; and (c) mistrust as a result of the banking system crisis in the early 1990s. A list of banks in Tajikistan is presented below:

1. State-owned bank

- Amonat Bank (State savings bank)

2. Commercial banks

- Agroinvestbank
- Eshkhat Bank
- Orien Bank
- Tojik Sodiro Bank
- Tajprombank
- Sohibkorbank
- Tajikistan Development Bank (Bonki rushdi Tojikiston)
- Branch of Tijorat Bank of IRI in Dushanbe

3. Foreign banks

- First MicroFinanceBank
- Fononbank
- Kazkommertsbank Tajikistan

Tajikistan is subject to article VIII of the Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund, which covers, among other things, foreign exchange controls, and the country follows a liberal exchange system whereby no restrictions on converting or transferring funds are imposed. Major foreign currencies can be exchanged throughout the country.

The somoni, the national currency, was introduced in October 2000. Under the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on Currency, the currency has full convertibility in current operations.

There are no restrictions on foreign exchange transactions and the rules of registration and operation of exchange offices are under revision. However, there are some allowances for the National Bank of Tajikistan to officially intervene in the foreign exchange market in order to stabilize the currency and economy.

VII. DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

The Institute of International Arbitration was recently established in Tajikistan; the country's laws concerning dispute settlement are not yet fully implemented. Tajikistan has signed bilateral agreements with various countries on arbitration and investment disputes.

In 2002, Tajikistan became a member of the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency. It is, however, not a party to the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (1958).

VIII. PROTECTION OF PROPERTY RIGHTS

Patents, trademarks and copyrights are governed by the following legislative framework:

- Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on Inventions
- Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on Industrial Designs
- Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on Trade and Service Marks
- Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on Copyright and Related Rights

Tajikistan has joined the following international treaties:

1. World Intellectual Property Organization treaties

- Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, since March 2000
- Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure, since December 1991
- Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization, since December 1991
- Locarno Agreement Establishing an International Classification for Industrial Designs, since December 1991
- Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks, since December 1991
- Nairobi Treaty on the Protection of the Olympic Symbol, since December 1991
- Nice Agreement Concerning the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks, since December 1991
- Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, since December 1991
- Patent Cooperation Treaty, since December 1991
- Rome Convention, since May 2008
- Strasbourg Agreement Concerning the International Patent Classification, since December 1991
- World Intellectual Property Organization Copyright Treaty, since April 2009

2. Other affiliations:

- Member of the Eurasian Patent Organization, since August 1995
- Party to the Universal Copyright Convention, since August 1992

In Tajikistan, the Government agency dealing with the application of intellectual property rights is the National Center for Patents and Information.

A. Patents

The National Center for Patents and Information is the Government agency that deals with patents, established under Resolution No. 243 of 28 May 1993. It was based on the foundation of the Institute of Scientific and Technical Information and Economic Research of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Tajikistan.

The Center holds the authority to protect industrial property in the territory of Tajikistan in line with national legislation and the international conventions and treaties of which Tajikistan is a member.

B. Trade names and trademarks

The Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on Trade and Service Marks ensures the legal guarantees, rights and interests of foreign investment companies. Trademarks must be registered with the State Service of the Republic of Tajikistan for Protection of Inventions and Registration of Trade and Service Marks. Applications must include:

- (a) Request for registration of the trademark;
- (b) Submitted symbol and a description thereof;
- (c) List of goods and services in respect of which the registration is requested.

Applied trade names and trademarks are valid for a period of 10 years starting from the date of application. The registration can, however, be renewed for successive periods of 10 years at the request of the owner within one year before the expiry date.

Any changes or modifications to the trade name, trademark or the owner's name, as well as any addition or elimination to the original list of goods submitted must be reported to the State Service of Tajikistan for Protection of Inventions and Registration of Trade and Service Marks.

C. Copyrights

The Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on Copyright and Related Rights governs matters related to the protection of copyright in line with the Constitution. It protects the creation of scientific, literary and artistic works as well as broadcast performances and programmes or cable distribution.

The terms of the copyright have effect throughout the lifetime of the author or creator and for 50 years after the author or creator's death. The copyright of an anonymous or pseudonymous work is valid for 50 years. The copyright on works that are first published during the 30 years after the creator's death is valid for 50 years following the publication of the work.

Part Five

TIPS FOR VISITORS TO TAJIKISTAN

Tourism has become a priority sector for the economic development of Tajikistan. The Government participates in the National Tourism Development Programme as a means of attracting further investment to this sector. Tajikistan has been a member of the World Tourism Organization since 2007.

I. GETTING THERE

Located in the heart of Central Asia, Tajikistan was once an important player on the ancient Silk Road. The mountainous terrain limits transportation across and to the country, thus Dushanbe International Airport is the main gateway for travellers. At present, a limited number of cities, such as Almaty, Kazakhstan; Istanbul, Turkey; and Moscow have direct flights to Dushanbe.

Travelling by train is difficult due to the limited rail network in the country. There are no direct rail connections between the north and south of Tajikistan; travellers must travel via Termez, Uzbekistan.

II. VISAS AND PASSPORTS

Most visitors must obtain a visa before entering Tajikistan. A letter of invitation issued either by legal entities, permanent representatives of the foreign State, international agencies or by private persons is necessary in order to apply for a Tajik visa. The visa is usually processed in three to seven business days. The following documents are required:

- (a) Applicant's passport, which must be valid for at least six months from the date of arrival in Tajikistan;
- (b) Letter of invitation, if required;
- (c) 2 copies of the completed visa application form;
- (d) 1 passport photograph (2 if applying for the visa at the Tajik embassy in certain countries, such as the United States);
- (e) Appropriate fees;
- (f) A stamped self-addressed envelope and/or payment to cover the cost of returning the passport if applying by post.

Visitors must arrange their visas before travelling to Tajikistan. Visas may also be obtained at Dushanbe Airport upon arrival if prior arrangements are made with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan. A transit visa is required for visitors travelling via Tajikistan to other countries.

Travellers should note that visits to restricted areas in Tajikistan, such as the autonomous region of Kuhistoni-Badakhshon, require special permission. Permission from the Ministry of Emergency Situations is required to travel to Lake Sarez; only scientists are considered.

III. HEALTH

No compulsory vaccinations are required to enter Tajikistan. It is best, however, if foreign travellers have the recommended immunizations, such as diphtheria, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, malaria, tuberculosis and typhoid. Immunization for tuberculosis and tick-borne encephalitis are recommended in certain circumstances, for instance, travellers making three or more visits per year or staying for more than three months in a rural area, or high-risk occupational groups staying for more than one month. Certain health risks, including malaria, exist from June to October in the following areas: the Khatlon and Sughd regions, Dushanbe and the autonomous region of Kuhistoni-Badakhston.

For detailed information on prevalent diseases and inoculations, travellers may wish to consult the nearest Tajik embassy or consulate or the World Health Organization.

IV. CURRENCY

On 30 October 2000, the new official currency, called the somoni, was introduced in Tajikistan. Tajik bank notes are available in denominations of 1, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 somoni and 1, 5, 20 and 50 dirams; 1 somoni = 100 dirams.

The major foreign currencies used in Tajikistan include the United States dollar, the euro and the rouble. These currencies are accepted at most exchange points. Also, the Uzbek sum and Kyrgyz som can be exchanged at exchange kiosks in Dushanbe, Khujand, Penjikent and other border areas. Credit/debit cards are seldom used in Tajikistan and travellers' cheques are not accepted by local businesses.

V. HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS

A range of hotels can be found in Dushanbe and other major cities in Tajikistan. Information on hotels can be found on various commercial websites.

VI. EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES

Tajikistan has embassies and consulates in the following cities: Kabul; Vienna; Minsk; Brussels; Beijing; Berlin; New Delhi; Tehran; Almaty, Kazakhstan; Bishkek; Islamabad; Moscow; Ankara; Ashgabat; Washington D.C.; and Tashkent.

Annex
List of hyperlinks corresponding to underlined text in the publication
(in alphabetical order)

Asian Development Bank	www.adb.org
Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation	www.adb.org/carec
Economic Cooperation Organization	www.ecosecretariat.org
Economic Commission for Europe	www.unece.org
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	www.unescap.org
Eurasian Economic Community	www.evrazes.com/en
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	www.ebrd.org
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	www.fao.org
International Atomic Energy Agency	www.iaea.org
International Civil Aviation Organization	www.icao.int
International Development Association	www.worldbank.org/ida
International Finance Corporation	www.ifc.org
International Fund for Agricultural Development	www.ifad.org
International Labour Organization	www.ilo.org
International Monetary Fund	www.imf.org
International Organization for Migration	www.iom.int
International Telecommunication Union	www.itu.int
Islamic Development Bank	www.isdb.org
Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency	www.miga.org
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development	www.oecd.org
Organization of the Islamic Conference	www.oic-oci.org
Shanghai Cooperation Organization	www.sectsco.org
Trade and Investment Framework Agreements	www.ustr.gov
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	www.unctad.org
United Nations Development Programme	www.undp.org
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	www.unesco.org
United Nations Industrial Development Organization	www.unido.org
Universal Postal Union	www.upu.int
World Bank	www.worldbank.org
World Health Organization	www.who.int
World Intellectual Property Organization	www.wipo.int
World Meteorological Organization	www.wmo.int
World Tourism Organization	www.unwto.org
World Trade Organization	www.wto.org