

## **Aktuelle Hinweise Iran**

### **Iran's petrochemical production capacity to increase to 100 million tonnes by March 2022**

By the end of the current Iranian calendar year (20 March 2022), Iranian petrochemical production capacity is expected to reach a record 100 million tonnes of petrochemical products. Total investment in the sector between 2013 and 2021 added up to USD 25bn, of which about USD 11bn was invested in the past Iranian year. During the eight-year tenure of Iran's President H.E. Hassan Rouhani, 32 petrochemical projects with a total capacity of 34 million tonnes have become operational. The country's annual revenues from the petrochemical industry are expected to reach USD 25bn a year after the current development projects are completed. An additional six ventures will come on stream this year, with five more to follow in the first half of the next year. In the four-year period from March 2022 to March 2026, 39 petrochemical industry projects are expected to be inaugurated, requiring additional investment of around USD 20bn. The petrochemical industry plays a crucial role in Iran's non-oil economy, as exports of these products are the country's second largest source of revenue after crude oil. Petrochemical exports already account for nearly one-third of Iran's non-oil exports.

### **Iranian car manufacturing up 11% year-on-year**

Iran's three major automakers, Iran Khodoro Company (IKCO), SAIPA Group and Pars Khodoro, have produced nearly 290,000 vehicles in the first four months of the current Iranian year, compared to 260,200 vehicles in the same period of 2020. According to the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, the production of 1.2 million cars is on the agenda for the current calendar year. As the Director General of the Automotive Department of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade recently stated, domestic automotive production saves the country around USD 400-500 per vehicle produced.

### **Iran inaugurates the first phase of Siraf Pars port**

The Iranian Ministry of Petroleum has inaugurated the first phase of the Siraf Parts port on the Persian Gulf coast. The port, the second largest gas export terminal for the South Pars field production, is located in the southwestern province of Bushehr and was built with an investment of USD 350m. With the full commissioning of this export and service port, all sulfur and liquefied petroleum gas (LNG) products from the Pars-2 refineries will be loaded and exported to target markets. In addition, the Kangan Petro Refining Company project has a direct connection to the port, allowing this petrochemical centre to export its products as well.

### **Railway and freeway projects worth more than USD 2.5bn inaugurated**

Iranian President H.E. Hassan Rouhani has inaugurated major railroad and highway ventures worth USD 2.6bn in seven provinces across the country. The projects are being carried out in Zanjan, Yazd, Fars, Qazvin, Isfahan, Alborz, and Mazandaran provinces. One of the main goals is to improve safety, increase passenger and freight traffic, and reduce travel time. The first project to be inaugurated was the Yazd-Eqlid railroad line, which shortens the Shiraz-Mashhad railroad line by about 320 kilometres and saves about four hours of travel time. Other projects include the Zanjan-Qazvin double-track railroad line, the Bafq-Zarrinshahr railroad line and the Alborz Tunnel, which is the longest tunnel in the West Asian region with a total length of 6.5 kilometres. Since the beginning of the current year, several industrial, infrastructure, production and agricultural projects have been put into operation every week in different Iranian provinces.

### **Increase in transit of goods across Iranian land borders by 95%**

In the first four months of the current Iranian calendar (21 March to 22 July), 3.753 million tonnes of goods were transported across the country's land borders, an increase of 95% compared to the same period in 2020. Despite the restrictions imposed by the global coronavirus pandemic, a total of 7.532 million tonnes of goods were transported through Iran during the past Iranian calendar year. The country has a special status in trade and transit relations due to its strategic location and special geography. This status has opened up many opportunities for the country to make the most of through the development of its transportation network and reliable and efficient communications to generate foreign exchange earnings and economic growth, and to make transit revenues a suitable alternative to oil exports. To take full advantage of its location for transit, the country has many plans and is striving to increase its transit capacity. These plans include, for example, the expansion of Shahid Rajaei Port, Iran's largest and best-equipped container port in the south of the country, and Chabahar Port in southeastern Iran. In the future, these ports will be connected to the rail network, an expansion of transit via rail is planned, and it is hoped that some customs measures such as improving transit procedures will be improved.

### **CBI estimates annual GDP growth at 3.5%**

At the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the Annual Ordinary General Meeting, the Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) estimated Iran's GDP growth at 3.5% in the previous calendar year. Following the U.S. government's withdrawal from the nuclear deal in 2018 and the reimposition of economic sanctions and restrictions on foreign financial and trade transactions, Iran's GDP recorded a decline of 5.4% and 6.5% in the Iranian calendar years from March 2018 to March 2020. Thanks to the measures taken last year to manage and contain the negative impact of sanctions, Iran was able to achieve economic growth in a situation where many countries in the world affected by the negative impact of coronavirus pandemic faced a sharp decline in economic growth.