

Comparative Economic Indicators of Uzbekistan and Indonesia

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Abstract

The provided article discusses the similarities between Uzbekistan, a developing country, and Indonesia, an industrialized country, in terms of their cultural, political, and economic factors. It highlights various aspects such as population composition, poverty rates, international trade, urbanization, poverty reduction efforts, income inequality, natural resources, and trade agreements. The provided article discusses the similarities between Uzbekistan, a developing country, and Indonesia, an industrialized country, in terms of their cultural, political, and economic factors. The article also mentions the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the trade volume of both countries, leading to a decline in exports and imports. It highlights trade agreements signed by Uzbekistan with various countries and the decrease in tariff rates on imported goods. Indonesia also has an open trade policy and has preferential trade agreements with several countries. Both countries have participation in free trade agreements with their neighboring countries. Uzbekistan has a free trade agreement with eleven countries, primarily former Soviet Union countries. Indonesia is part of the free trade agreement between ten ASEAN members and China.

Keywords: *Similarities, development, industry, culture, economy, factors, population, trade, urbanization, resources, population, export, import.*

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INTRODUCTION. Including other influencing factors, countries may be classified as developed or developing (industrialized) based on their gross national income (GNI) per capita or gross domestic product (GDP), level of industrialization, overall standard of living, and technological infrastructure. This research included Uzbekistan, a developing country, with Indonesia, an industrialized country, that reflects and compares the similarities between the two country's cultural, political, and economic factors.

MAIN PART. There are several similarities between these countries which are:

- According to World Bank data (2022), the Uzbekistan population consists of Muslims 80% and a small portion of the population follows the Russian Orthodox Church 8% and Catholics 1% while in Indonesia, there are Muslims with 87.2%, Protestants with 7% and Roman Catholic with 3.33% as well as both are a member of Islamic Cooperation.
- In 2020, 11.5% of the Uzbek population lives under the national poverty line while in Indonesia, 10.1% of the Indonesian population lived under the national poverty line in 2021¹, as well as Income share, held the lowest 20% is same for Uzbekistan and Indonesia with 7.40 and 7.20 respectively without regarding their GNI².
- International Trade Administration reported (2022) that Uzbekistan has exported Oil & Mineral Fuels \$2,46 billion (14.91% of total export) while Indonesia \$45,1 billion (19.8% of total exports), considering the fact Indonesia is an industrialized country, major export goods are same for both countries with main customers (China and USA). Additionally, both countries import machinery and equipment such as metal and iron from China.
- Indonesia and Uzbekistan are members of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with their bordering countries, and they each have particular tariffs on a range of services and goods. While Uzbekistan's membership in the CIS Free Trade Zone was formally established in 2014, Indonesia is a participant in the FTA between ten ASEAN members and China. Currently, Uzbekistan has FTA in place with eleven countries, all of which were formerly part of the Soviet Union. The FTA between Indonesia and Uzbekistan, which is open to governments with border crossings, is identical in that approach.

Additionally, both countries are undergoing urbanization people from rural areas are moving to big cities for a better quality of life, work, and education, while The Federation of Russia is considered to be the main destination for unskilled laborers of Uzbekistan with 80% of migrants for satisfying monetary things in home country (Seitz. W, 2019) as well as Indonesia has the same pattern of migration for some reason with 78 percent with the main destination to Malaysia³. Remaining migrants from both countries are aimed to migrate for business, education, travel, and treatment.

According to the World bank (2022), 11.5 % of the population of Uzbekistan and 10.14% of the population of Indonesia live in extreme poverty or under the poverty line that people cannot afford the cost of estimated food basket providing the minimum nutritional requirement of 2100 calories along with a small amount for other basic non-food items. Although the average monthly salary (\$842) in Indonesia is almost 12 times more than the average monthly salary (\$71) in Uzbekistan, the income share held by the lowest 20% indicates 7.4 for Uzbekistan with

¹ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/home>

² <https://www.indexmundi.com/>

³ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/home>

GNI \$59.7B and 7.2 for Indonesia with GNI \$1.029.919 million while highest 10% is 28.3 and 29.6 respectively in 2022 (World Bank, 2022). World leaders have adopted the Sustainable Developments Goals (SDG) in 2015 at a historic UN Summit that was agreed upon by 193 countries including Uzbekistan in 2018 and Indonesia in 2020 to reduce poverty and inequality, improve decent work and economic growth.

Aiming to achieve upper-middle-income status by 2030, Uzbekistan has made several efforts to decrease the poverty rate from 24% (2000) to 11.5% (2020) which lifted 2.2 million people out of poverty by forming “The Uzbek Model” for poverty reduction from the experience of China that focuses on the main reasons of poverty that economic (unemployment, lack of jobs, low income, lack of funding for social programs) and social (disability, old age, poor health condition, single-parent families, a large number of dependents in the family, belonging to a minority of a particular ethnic group, low qualifications)⁴. While Indonesia has experienced three distinct phases: The New Order era (1970-2000), the Millennium Development Goals era (the 2000s-2015s), and the Sustainable Development Goals era (2015-current) which caused a decrease in the poverty line from 40% to 10.14% by taking programs such as the “rice for the poor” (OPK) program in 1998. It completely became the Staple Food Program (Kartu Sembako) in 2018. as well as in 2007, the Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono administration introduced a cash transfer scheme called the Family Hope Program (PKH). It also installed health insurance for the poor, a system that became the bedrock of the National Health Insurance (JKN) (Aulia, Asadullah, and Maliki, 2020).

When it comes to Income inequality, Uzbekistan and Indonesia have the same 20% of the low-income population holding roughly 7% of GNI (2), at the same time, both countries are taking actions to stabilize Income inequity. In 2019, The Presidential decree of Uzbekistan commanded to form of an “Iron Book” that listed low-income families that need social, psychological, legal, and economic support as well as “Women” and “Youth” books also formed to provide work opportunities and some social assistance. While, Asian Development Bank stated in its report (2019) that Indonesia invested in rural irrigation, bulk water supply infrastructure, and marine and fisheries industries in rural areas to increase productivity and income. As it was part of the program called Rencana Pembangunan Jangka Menengah Nasional 2015-2019 (RPJMN).

Firstly, Asia has vast material wealth, the most valuable of which is its mineral fuels (coal, petroleum, and natural gas), and major countries that exports agricultural product (palm oil, rice, and grains). Uzbekistan and Indonesia are rich in natural resources such as gold natural gas, oil, and silver while Indonesia has enormous geothermal energy, rainforests, and various marine species, thanks to its geological location and large surface area, as well. Additionally, Uzbekistan and Indonesia exported Oil & Mineral Fuels around 16 % of total export which accounted for \$2,46 billion and \$45,1 billion, respectively for each country. According to OEC (2020), the top exports of Indonesia are Palm oil (\$17.9 billion), gold (\$6.31 billion), petroleum gas (\$5.7 billion), and ferroalloys (\$4.74 billion), with the majority of exports going to China (\$32.6 billion) and the United States (\$19.6 billion), as well as the top export of Uzbekistan, are gold (\$6.52 billion), non-retail pure cotton yarn (\$936 million), petroleum gas (\$631 million) and refined copper (\$587 million) primarily to Russia (\$1.74 billion) and China (\$1.29 billion).

Secondly, Uzbekistan depends heavily on international trade. The country has been a major provider of agricultural products such as cotton, fruits, and vegetables. Since its independence,

⁴ <https://isrs.uz/en/>

Uzbekistan has begun to implement progressive reforms. The country's economy was defined by import substitution policies and strong internal market protection. At the same time, Uzbekistan actively promoted its exports as it accounted for a quarter of its GDP in 2021⁵. However, Indonesia has more opportunities for exporting as a member of the World Trade Organization. The primary goal of international trade is to generate a profit, especially in terms of foreign exchange, by exporting products or services manufactured in one country to another. Furthermore, the state may be importing items that are either unavailable or accessible in inadequate amounts and it is as same as Uzbekistan. The share of Export in the GDP of Indonesia was roughly the same as Uzbekistan's⁶.

Moreover, in 2020, the sudden fall in the volume of exports and imports in both countries was due to the global economic crisis during the Covid-19 pandemic. Uzbekistan, the largest decline in economic activity during the quarantine period took place in the first ten days of April, when the volume of the trades on the commodity exchange fell by an average of 30%, and the sales of some goods by up to 80%. The same pandemic condition affected negatively Indonesian's trade market, which represented about a 28.57% decline in the export sector and approximately 30,44% in the import values between March 2020 and April 2020. As for the trade agreements, agreements with 47 countries that provide the most favored nation treatment has been signed by Uzbekistan. 49 bilateral agreements with other countries have also been signed, but 5 of them have not entered force yet.

As Uzbekistan is a developing country, people mostly focused on the production of local goods and were less interested in overseas products due to a lack of opportunities. However, having a 17.3% tariff rate in September 2017, the government then decreased the tariff on imported goods to 7.5% in 2020⁷. This was made by the 2nd President of Uzbekistan to reduce the tariff rates of external goods and services to make national production more competitive. Moreover, depending on the statistics given by TradeGov, the cost of imports will reduce from 15% to 12% by 2023 to have more economic integration with other countries at the worldwide level. Indonesia's latest data available in 2019 shows the country had an 8.1% applied tariff rate for imported products which shows that it is also an open place for other foreign goods. When it comes to products of agricultural and non-agricultural products, tariffs for them stand at 8.7% and 8.0% respectively.

Uzbekistan is currently having a Preferential Trade Agreement with Pakistan on many products to improve the quality of goods and boost their production⁸. According to the information provided, they are thinking of making the customs duty rate between 20-100%. Such products are bananas being imported from Pakistan with a customs duty of 20% as well as Pakistan

⁵ Briefing, S.R. (2022). Uzbekistan 2021 Exports Up 34.4%, China The Largest Market, Russia A Close Second. Silk Road Briefing. Available from <https://www.silkroadbriefing.com/news/2022/02/21/uzbekistan-2021-ex-ports-up-34-4-china-the-largest-market-russia-a-close-second/#:~:text=A%20Close%20Second-> [Accessed 18 October 2022].

⁶ Indonesia Eximbank. (2021). The Impacts of International Trade on Indonesian Economy | Lembaga Pembiayaan Ekspor Indonesia. indonesiaeximbank.go.id. Available from <https://indonesiaeximbank.go.id/news/detail/the-impacts-of-international-trade-on-indonesian-economy> [Accessed 18 October 2022]

⁷ TradeGov. (2021). Uzbekistan - Import Tariffs. www.trade.gov. Available from <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/uzbekistan-import-tariffs> [Accessed 17 October 2022].

⁸ Global Business Guide Indonesia. (2016). Indonesia in Free Trade Agreements. www.gbgingonesia.com. Available from http://www.gbgingonesia.com/en/main/business_guide/2016/indonesia_in_free_trade_agreements_11504.php . [Accessed 18 October 2022].

receiving air conditions and refrigerators with a 20% customs union. The Uzbek Ambassador mentions that it is going to be a great way to open trade routes between Central and South Asia. Indonesia, similarly, has preferred trade agreements with Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, and New Zealand and finished text-based RCP discussions in November 2019. Apart from Preferential Trade Agreements, it has implemented several free trade agreements as an independent country and within the Association of South East Asian Nations that include several bilateral trades. Having been signed in 1992, 99% of imported goods in this association are tariff-free and lists Indonesia at the top in terms of trading.

Indonesia–Uzbekistan relations was officially established on June 23, 1992. Both countries have recognized importance of each other's potential; Uzbekistan realized the strategic importance of Indonesia, home to the world's biggest Muslim population and Southeast Asia's biggest economy, while Indonesia recognize Uzbekistan strategic importance as the gate to Central Asia, a growing economy also a potential market. Indonesia has an embassy in Tashkent, while Uzbekistan has an embassy in Jakarta. Both countries have Muslim-majority population and both are members of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. In 2021, Uzbekistan ranked 79 in the Economic Complexity Index (ECI -0.38), and 81 in total exports (\$14.7B). That same year, Indonesia ranked 61 in the Economic Complexity Index (ECI 0.042), and 27 in total exports (\$248B).

DISCUSSION

The main products that Indonesia exported to Uzbekistan(from 2017 to 2021 in USD)

1-table

Uzbekistan Exports to Indonesia	Value	Year
Fertilizers	\$9.61M	2022
Pulp of wood, fibrous cellulosic material, waste	\$5.94M	2022
Optical, photo, technical, medical apparatus	\$144.00K	2022
Inorganic chemicals, precious metal compound, isotope	\$114.15K	2022
Other made textile articles, sets, worn clothing	\$79.69K	2022
Live animals	\$40.17K	2022
Live trees, plants, bulbs, roots, cut flowers	\$10.5K	2022
Electrical, electronic equipment	\$4.56K	2022
Mineral fuels, oils, distillation products	\$1.64K	2022
Pharmaceutical products	\$218.50K	2021
Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers	\$87.79K	2021
Wood and articles of wood, wood charcoal	\$1.67K	2021
Ceramic products	\$1.54K	2021
Copper	\$1.22K	2021
Toys, games, sports requisites	\$375	2021
Articles of leather, animal gut, harness, travel good	\$263	2021
Silk	\$158	2021
Carpets and other textile floor coverings	\$98	2021
Articles of apparel, not knit or crocheted	\$56	2021
Machinery, nuclear reactors, boilers	\$36.70K	2020
Soaps, lubricants, waxes, candles, modelling pastes	\$31.76K	2020
Articles of iron or steel	\$6.35K	2020

Plastics	\$2.45K	2020
Tools, implements, cutlery of base metal	\$301	2020
Essential oils, perfumes, cosmetics, toileteries	\$269	2019
Tobacco and manufactures tobacco substitutes	\$1.16K	2017

In 2021, Uzbekistan exported \$8.82M to Indonesia. The main products that Uzbekistan exported to Indonesia are Recovered Paper Pulp (\$5.53M), Potassic Fertilizers (\$2.5M), and Sulfates (\$258k). During the last 24 years the exports of Uzbekistan to Indonesia have decreased at an annualized rate of 1.78%, from \$13.6M in 1997 to \$8.82M in 2021.

The main products that Indonesia exported to Uzbekistan(from 2017 to 2021 in USD)

2-table

Indonesia Exports to Uzbekistan	Value	Year
Electrical, electronic equipment	\$8.97M	2021
Machinery, nuclear reactors, boilers	\$3.20M	2021
Soaps, lubricants, waxes, candles, modelling pastes	\$2.72M	2021
Animal, vegetable fats and oils, cleavage products	\$1.87M	2021
Manmade staple fibers	\$1.16M	2021
Miscellaneous edible preparations	\$798.57K	2021
Pharmaceutical products	\$437.34K	2021
Essential oils, perfumes, cosmetics, toileteries	\$283.61K	2021
Vegetable, fruit, nut food preparations	\$218.99K	2021
Miscellaneous chemical products	\$211.14K	2021
Meat, fish and seafood preparations	\$148.97K	2021
Paper and paperboard, articles of pulp, paper and board	\$138.90K	2021
Edible fruits, nuts, peel of citrus fruit, melons	\$79.10K	2021
Plastics	\$60.29K	2021
Wadding, felt, nonwovens, yarns, twine, cordage	\$55.82K	2021
Glass and glassware	\$35.33K	2021
Cocoa and cocoa preparations	\$25.2K	2021
Wood and articles of wood, wood charcoal	\$19.53K	2021
Fish, crustaceans, molluscs, aquatics invertebrates	\$9.73K	2021
Optical, photo, technical, medical apparatus	\$9.70K	2021
Articles of apparel, knit or crocheted	\$3.98K	2021
Articles of apparel, not knit or crocheted	\$2.00K	2021
Live animals	\$1.59K	2021
Bird skin, feathers, artificial flowers, human hair	\$921	2021
Rubbers	\$453.00K	2020
Other made textile articles, sets, worn clothing	\$49.49K	2020
Commodities not specified according to kind	\$10.00K	2020
Stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica or similar materials	\$8.65K	2020
Cereal, flour, starch, milk preparations and products	\$6K	2020
Musical instruments, parts and accessories	\$2.43K	2020
Tobacco and manufactures tobacco substitutes	\$1.89K	2020
Coffee, tea, mate and spices	\$1.64K	2020

Printed books, newspapers, pictures	\$100	2020
Organic chemicals	\$31.6K	2019
Manufacturers of plaiting material, basketwork	\$12.79K	2019
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	\$2.02K	2019
Sugars and sugar confectionery	\$45.4K	2018
Footwear, gaiters and the like,	\$42.33K	2018
Furniture, lighting signs, prefabricated buildings	\$21.38K	2018
Miscellaneous articles of base metal	\$8.23K	2018
Tools, implements, cutlery of base metal	\$7.06K	2018
Lac, gums, resins	\$1.05K	2018
Ceramic products	\$107	2018
Articles of iron or steel	\$4.83K	2017
Tanning, dyeing extracts, tannins, derivatives, pigments	\$638	2017

The main products that Indonesia exported to Uzbekistan were Video Displays (\$8.97M), Soap (\$2.74M), and Refrigerators (\$2.53M). During the last 24 years the exports of Indonesia to Uzbekistan have increased at an annualized rate of 25.5%, from \$113k in 1997 to \$26.6M in 2021.

Furthermore, both Uzbekistan and Indonesia are counted as a member of the Trade and Investment Framework Agreements (TIFAs) focuses on market access issues and labor altogether with many countries in the world.

According to a World Bank study (2019), the weak local labor markets are the main driver of labor migration from Uzbekistan, and low life satisfaction, job insecurity, and unemployment are the main causes of migration for citizens. Furthermore, the country's internal migration is restricted by strict “прописка^{9*}” policies and expensive urban housing, which forces the surplus labor just outside of the country, while the Indonesia population preferred to migrate to other countries for the opportunities of gainful employment, higher earnings, acquiring skills & experience, relieving financial strain on households and lasting benefits. The main destination to migrate from Uzbekistan to work is remaining Russia in 2016 with 1.9 million migrants to 2.4 million migrants in 2019 as well as Immigrants made at least 10% of the GDP in the country and keep the poverty level decreased, in fact, without remittance income (\$2.7 billion from Russia in 2016), the level of poverty would have been much higher, like increasing from 9.6 to 16.8 percent. Additionally, remittance reduces the probability of Indonesian households being poor by 28% that sending over US \$8.9 billion back to Indonesia in remittances in 2016, and Malaysia is considered to be the main destination for the Indonesian population with about 55% of migrants¹⁰. Uzbekistan and Indonesia are currently experiencing urbanization in terms of the population form rural areas migrating to urban areas. This is mainly for well-paid jobs or better quality of education.

On the other hand, there is another main reason for the migration pattern which is pursuing higher education in foreign countries as the quality of education and teaching system is much

⁹ Propiska – registration that proves you live permanently at certain place more than 5 years

¹⁰ World Bank. (2017a). Juggling Opportunities & Risks A WORLD BANK INDONESIA REPORT NOVEMBER 2017 Indonesia's Global Workers. Available from <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/3571315117786763660070022017/original/IndonesiasGlobalWorkersJugglingOpportunitiesRisks.pdf> [Accessed 18 October 2022]

better than in Uzbekistan and Indonesia. The main destination for Uzbek students is still Russia with 20,862 students enrolled, followed by Kazakhstan (3,768), Korea (1,716), and Latvia (1,025). At the same time, 42,000 students from Indonesia were enrolled mainly for the tertiary level in Australia, the US, Malaysia, Egypt, and Japan.

It is a well-known fact that major companies need a cheap labor force to increase production and revenues by investing in developing and industrialized countries. In Indonesia, there are Toyota, Nestle, LG, and Samsung that already established their factories in Jakarta as this city has some of the best sources for manufacturing such as paved roads, large ports, and stable electricity which keeps the cost of logistics significantly low to export goods as well. Also, some multinational car brands invested in Uzbekistan such as KIA, Renault, and LADA have built their firm in Jizzakh for the reason of flexible geographical location, availability of mineral resources, and labor force in that city¹¹

CONCLUSION. The provided article highlights the similarities between Uzbekistan and Indonesia in terms of cultural, political, and economic factors. Both countries share similarities in terms of their religious composition, poverty rates, income inequality, and participation in international trade agreements. They also face similar challenges such as urbanization and the need to address poverty and inequality.

Despite their differences in economic development, with Uzbekistan classified as a developing country and Indonesia as an industrialized country, both nations have taken steps to improve their economies and living conditions. Uzbekistan has implemented the "Uzbek Model" for poverty reduction, drawing inspiration from China's approach, while Indonesia has introduced programs such as the "rice for the poor" and the Family Hope Program.

The article also emphasizes the abundant natural resources of both countries, which contribute to their export sectors. Uzbekistan heavily relies on international trade, while Indonesia benefits from its membership in the World Trade Organization and participation in various trade agreements.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on trade and the efforts of both countries to stabilize their economies are also discussed. Tariff reductions and trade integration initiatives demonstrate their commitment to fostering economic growth and cooperation.

The similarities between Uzbekistan and Indonesia, despite their varying levels of development, highlight the interconnectedness of countries and the shared challenges they face. By understanding and learning from each other's experiences, these nations can continue their efforts to reduce poverty, promote economic growth, and enhance the well-being of their populations.

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