

Iran says domestic demand for gasoline rose by 14% in H1 fiscal year

A report showed that demand for gasoline increased considerably in Iran in the six months to late September despite restrictions imposed on movement over the period to curb the spread of the coronavirus in the country.

The Thursday report by IRNA said that gasoline use inside Iran was around 85 million liters per day on average in the first half of calendar year that ended on September 22.



IRNA

The figure was a 14% increase compared to March-September 2020 when average gasoline consumption in Iran was about 75 million liters per day, said the report.

Iranian government authorities are concerned that a fresh surge in demand for gasoline could affect surplus supplies that are normally earmarked for exports.

Experts believe that the rising demand could even force Iran to resume imports of gasoline after nearly a decade of self-sufficiency in supplying the fuel to the motorists in the country.

Iran introduced a series of controversial fuel price hikes in November 2019 mainly to control the rising demand and prevent smuggling of cheap fuel into the neighboring countries.

The measure caused gasoline consumption to drop from record highs of over 110 million liters per day to just over 50 million liters per day for a short period in late 2019.

It also caused many motorists to switch to alternative fuels like compressed natural gas (CNG) which is abundant in Iran and even cheaper than the heavily subsidized gasoline.

Gasoline demand had hit record lows of around 40 million liters per day in April 2020 when Iran introduced its first lockdown to curb the coronavirus.

Iran to launch South Pars Phase 14 refinery soon

Iran will launch a refinery in the Phase 14 of South Pars Gas Complex in coming days, said the operator of the SP Phase 14 Development Project.

According to Mohammad Mehdi Tavassoli-Pour, the first train of the refinery was scheduled to be completed by October 7, and as scheduled the refinery's pipeline has been connected to the national gas network to receive sweet gas for final tests and assessments," Shana reported.

He said all of the refinery's utility units, including water, electricity, steam, air, instrumentation, and nitrogen services are completed.

The official added that following the injection of sweet gas from the sixth national pipeline, the commissioning of these units and other process units of the refinery will be completed quickly.

The South Pars Phase 14 development is aimed at producing 56.6 million cubic meters per day of rich gas, 75,000 barrels per day of gas condensate and 400 tons per day of sulfur, and one million tons per year of liquefied petroleum gas as well as one million tons per year of ethane to be fed to petrochemical plants.

The huge South Pars field, which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf, covers an area of 9,700 square kilometers, 3,700 square kilometers of which are in Iran's territorial waters. The remaining 6,000 square kilometers, called North Dome, are situated in Qatar's territorial waters.

The field is estimated to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world's reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate.



SHANA

Iran's new chief banker pledges tight monetary policy

Iran's newly appointed chief banker Ali Salehabadi vowed he would introduce a tight monetary policy to control inflation in the country.

After he was named Central Bank of Iran (CBI) governor on Wednesday, Salehabadi said he would prevent any further expansion of money supply in Iran while trying to stop excessive borrowing of the banks from the CBI, Press TV reported.

"We will try to control the monetary base and prevent extra borrowing of the banks from the CBI resources in order to control the market," said the new CBI governor.

Salehabadi, 44, is the youngest ever banker in charge of the CBI. He is a financial management PhD from the University of Tehran and has served as head of the Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) of Iran between 2005 and 2014 before becoming the CEO and chairman of the board at Export Development Bank of Iran.

A key legacy of his time as SEO head was to set up various bodies and departments in the organization, including a religious committee to check if trading complies with Islamic principles.

He told the Iranian state TV after his appointment was announced on Wednesday that the CBI and the Iranian finance ministry would cooperate to prevent any further attempt by the government to finance its budget deficits through expanding the money supply.

Salehabadi said that controlling rising foreign currency prices would also be one of his top priorities.

"We have thought about required mechanisms to restore calm to the exchange market in the upcoming days and weeks," said Salehabadi.



IRNA

Iranian Deputy Roads and Urban Development Minister Kheirollah Khademi announced conclusion of an agreement between Iran and Armenia for establishing new transit routes.

The alternative transit route for Iranian trucks in Armenia will be asphalted within the next month, and there will be no need to use the previous route which passes through Azerbaijan and requires us to pay tolls to the country," IRNA quoted him saying.

Khademi visited Armenia on top of a delegation last week for discussing resolution of recent transit problems along a 20-kilometer section of Armenia's Goris-Kapan road stretching from Nurduz (in Iran) to Yerevan.

"Positive meetings were held

with Armenian officials. In order to determine a new route for Iranian trucks; good solutions were also suggested with a specific schedule to solve the problem," the official added.

The northern part of the route (from Yerevan to Georgia) has been completed by Armenia and the southern part toward the Nurduz border in Iran is unfinished and the two sides agreed to launch its construction operation.

According to Khademi, Armenia's long-term plan is to build section 4 of the global corridor, and Iran has announced its readiness of its consultants and contractors to participate in the implementation of the project.

The Goris-Kapan road is the main traffic route in southern Armenia.

Tehran, Yerevan agree on construction of new transit routes



IRNA

September's U.S. jobs report badly misses expectations

The U.S. economy created jobs at a much slower than expected pace in September, a pessimistic sign about the state of the economy though the total was held back substantially by a sharp drop in government employment.

Nonfarm payrolls rose by just 194,000 in the month, compared to the Dow Jones estimate of 500,000, the Labor Department reported Friday, CNBC reported.

The unemployment rate fell to 4.8%, better than the expectation for 5.1% and the lowest since February 2020.

The headline number was hurt by a 123,000 decline in government payrolls, while private payrolls increased by 317,000. The drop in the jobless rate came as labor force participation edged lower. A more encompassing number that includes discouraged workers and those holding part-time jobs for economic reasons fell to 8.5%, also a pandemic-era low.

"This is quite a deflating report," said Nick Bunker, economic research director at jobs placement site Indeed. "This year has been one of false dawns for the labor market. Demand for workers is strong and millions of people want to return to work, but employment growth



REUTERS

has yet to find its footing."

Nevertheless, markets reacted little to the news, with Dow futures around flat for the morning and government bond yields mixed as investors digested what was a mixed bag of a report.

Despite the weak jobs total, wages increased sharply. The monthly gain of 0.6% pushed the year-over-year increase to 4.6% as companies use wage increases to combat the persistent labor shortage. The available workforce declined by 183,000 in September and is 3.1 million shy of where it was in February 2020, just before the pandemic declaration.

"Labor shortages are continuing to put severe upward pressure on wages ... at a time when the return of low-wage leisure and hospitality workers should be depressing the average," wrote Andrew Hunter, senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics.

Leisure and hospitality again led job creation, adding 74,000 positions. Professional and business services contributed 60,000 while retail increased by 56,000.

Job gains were spread across a variety of other sectors: Transportation and warehousing (47,000), information (32,000), social assistance (30,000), manufacturing (26,000), construc-

tion (22,000) and wholesale trade (17,000).

The survey week of Sept. 12 came just as COVID cases were peaking in the U.S. The delta variant spread since has cooled, with cases most recently dropping below an average of 100,000 a day.

There was some good news in Friday's report from previous months.

July's already-strong gains were revised higher by 38,000 to 1,091,3 million, while August's big letdown also was revised up, to 366,000 from the initially re-

ported 235,000.

The report comes at a critical time for the economy, with recent data showing solid consumer spending despite rising prices, growth in the manufacturing and services sector and surging housing costs.

Federal Reserve officials are watching the jobs numbers closely. The central bank recently has indicated it's ready to start pulling back on some of the extraordinary help it has provided during the pandemic crisis, primarily because inflation has met and exceeded the Fed's 2% goal.

First announcement Invitation to participate in the tender

Bistoon Tamin paper manufacturing company to perform reviewing and completion of basic design engineering, detail design and purchasing engineering, site supervision, pre-commissioning test and commissioning of the project of construction of Bistoon Tamin packaging paper factory located in Iran, Kermanshah province, Harsin city intends to purchase consulting services through tender among the consulting engineering companies with qualified and free capacity with the sufficient expertise and experience in the field of designing the paper industries. Eligible companies can apply to the RONIN CO. (address: No.9, Aftab Street, Khodadad Avenue, Vanak square Tehran, Iran (Tel:+9821 88052008) from the second announcement October 19, 2021 to Wednesday October 27, 2021 to receive the bidding documents. The employer is free to reject or accept the bids of the bidders.