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GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DEVELOPMENT

Freight transportation for landlocked countries: challenges and opportunities in Kyrgyzstan

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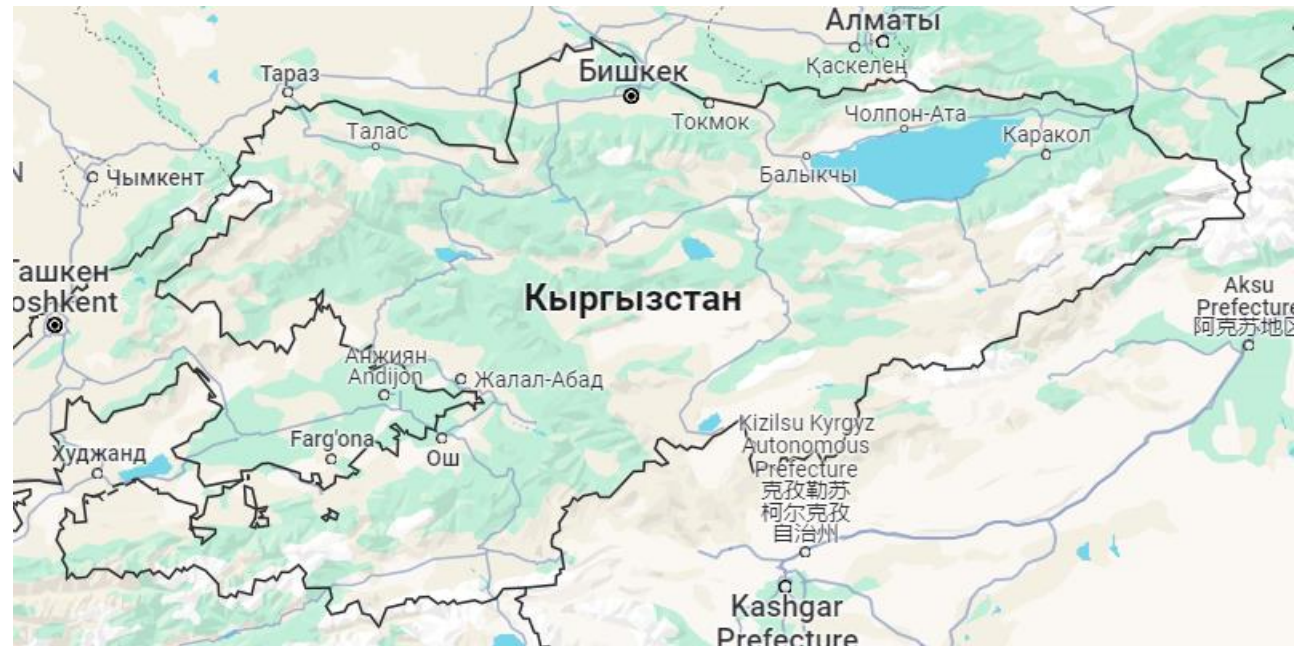
**Institute of Public Policy and Administration
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- The road network provides up to **96 percent of freight** and up to **98 percent of passenger transportation** in the Kyrgyz Republic;

The total length of the road network is approximately 34,000 km,
of which 18,942.8 km are:

international roads – 4,129.1 km,
national roads – 5,616.5 km,
local roads – 9,107.2 km.



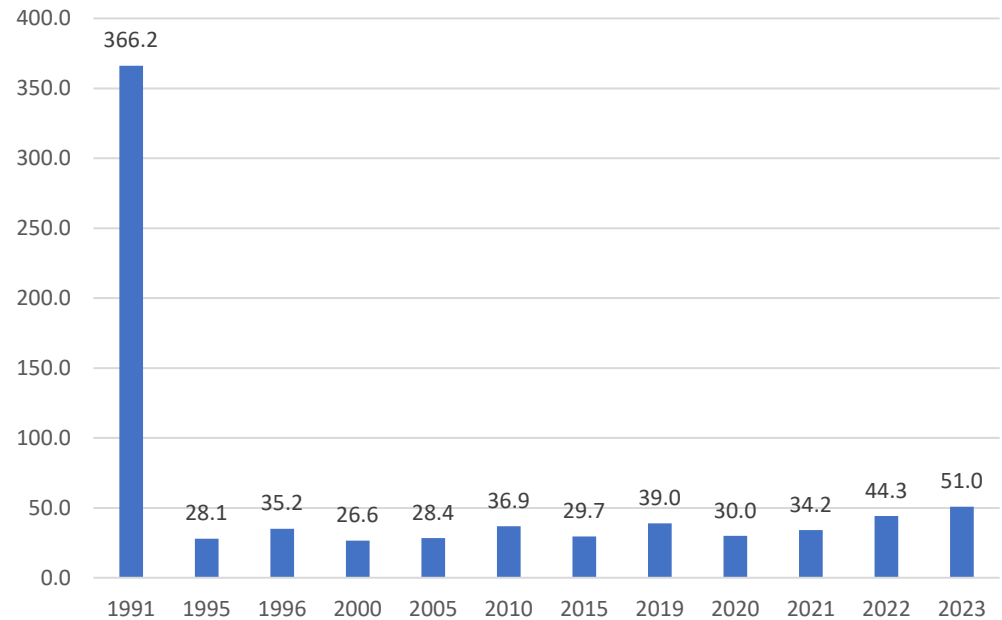
Source: Google Map



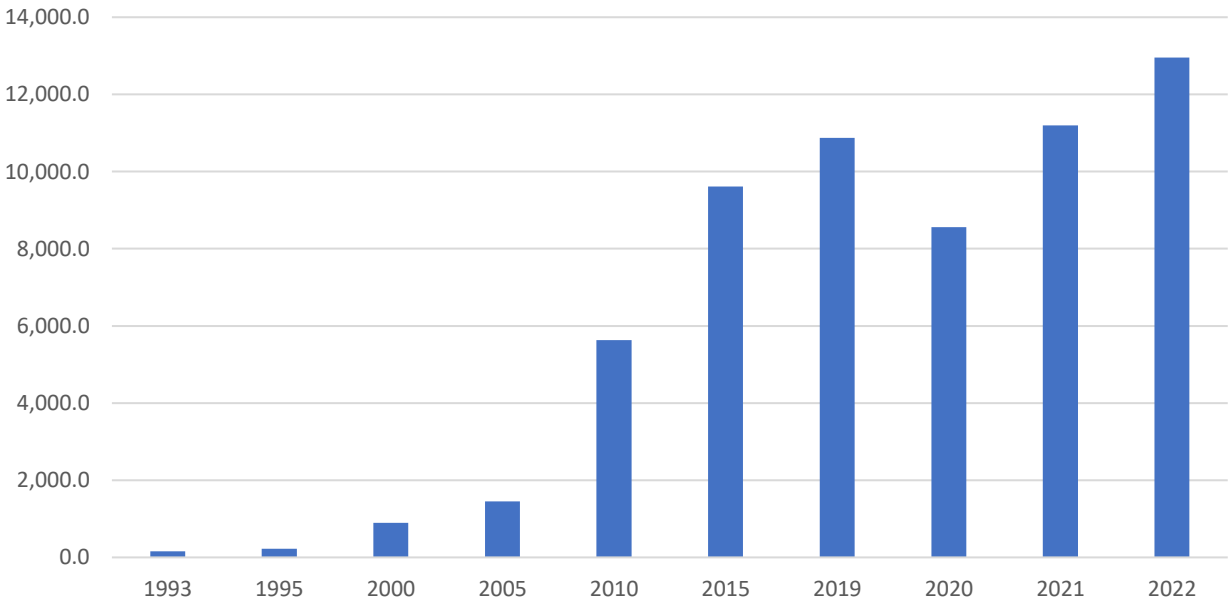
- Rail transport in the Kyrgyz Republic is a part of the **Eurasian railway transport corridors**, as well as international railway transport corridors connected with Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.
- The Kyrgyz railway, with a length of **424.6 km**, is geographically divided into two sections:
 - the **northern section** is 323.4 km, from Balykchy to Turksib (Kazakhstan);
 - the **southern section** is 101.2 km, providing access from Kyrgyzstan to the railway networks of neighboring states - Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.



Freight transportation, by all types (*mln.tons*)



Revenue from freight transportation by all types of transport (*mln soms*)



Source: National Statistic Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic



Freight transportation in Kyrgyzstan

Freight transportation, by types of transportation, thous. tons	1991	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2021	2022	2023
Railroad	6,500	899.1	979.1	1,705.5	1,032.1	1,278.6	7,306.5	7,660.5	8,022.0	9,372.8
Automobile	359.1	27.2	25.0	26.1	35.6	28.2	22.4	26.2	35.9	41.3
Pipelined			591.1	580.3	255.5	208.8	256.9	305.4	336.5	355.8
Air	9.4	5.6	3.3	1.4	1.0	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.3	12.6

Revenue from freight transportation by all types of transport, mln soms	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2021	2022
Railroad	104.2	147.2	457.6	1,680.1	3,372.2	4,646.5	5,716.9	5,328.7
Automobile	117.8	687.4	970.0	3,913.7	6,204.6	3,904.1	5,472.3	7,612.5
Air	2.1	56.9	18.1	27.5	34.0	5.3	7.7	11.9

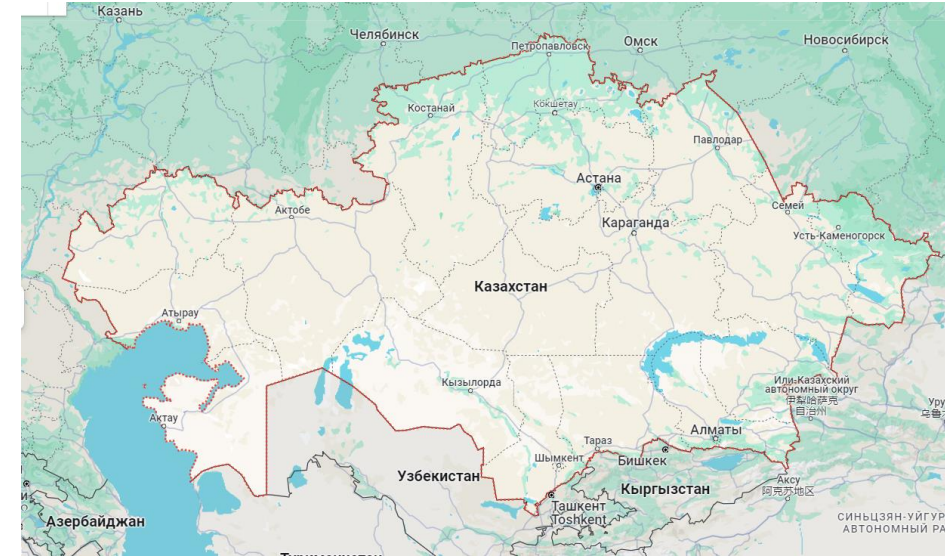
Source: National Statistic Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic

Source: Google Map

KYRGYZSTAN - KAZAKHSTAN

Kazakhstan serves as a main transit hub for Kyrgyzstan due to:

- Geographical Proximity
- Infrastructure
- Access to Ports
- Economic Ties



Source: Google Map

Through Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan can access markets in Europe, Russia, China, and other parts of Asia, making it a key transit route for Kyrgyzstan's freight transportation.

PAKISTAN – CHINA – KYRGYZSTAN

- The Agreement on Transit Transport between the Governments of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan was signed on March 9, 1995.
- All Parties agreed to adopt a multimodal transport regime and ensure the transportation of transit goods along mutually agreed routes. At the same time, no distinctions will be made regarding the ownership of the transport vehicle.



Source: Yandex Map

Border points :

Pakistan: Sost and Karachi Port

China: Khunjerab, Torugart, Khorgos

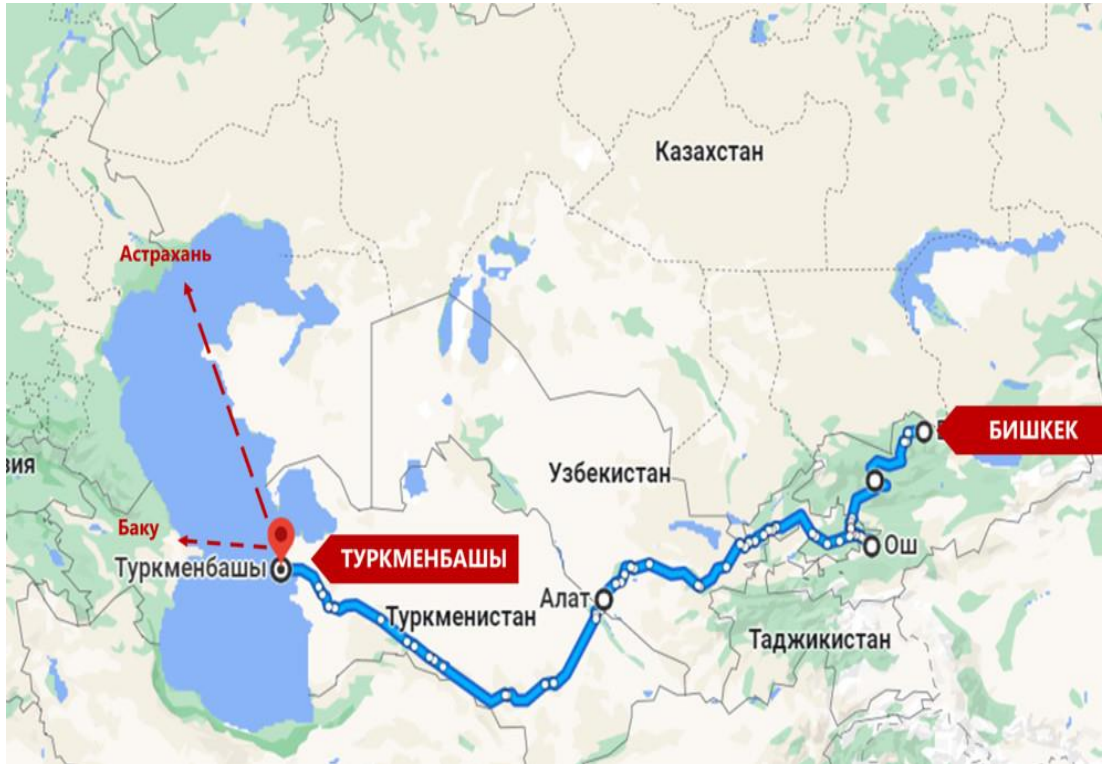
Kyrgyzstan: Torugart and Ak-Jol, Lugovoye settlement



CHINA – AFGHANISTAN via KYRGYZSTAN

- A new freight route from China to Afghanistan, passing through Kyrgyzstan, has been established in 2023:
 - Cargo by rail starts from Lanzhou, a major transportation hub in northwest China;
 - Subsequently, there is a transfer to road transport for delivery to Kazakhstan;
 - In Kyrgyzstan, the freight is once again transferred to rail transport and sent to the Afghan city of Hairatan.

NEW ROUTE DEVELOPMENT



Source: Tazabek

- Possibility of opening a new international multimodal corridor to Russia via the Caspian Sea;
- The land part of the new route will pass from Kyrgyzstan through the territory of Uzbekistan to the seaport of Turkmenbashi in the Balkan region of Turkmenistan;
- Further, goods are proposed to be transported by sea to the Russian port in Astrakhan.



CHINA – KYRGYZSTAN - UZBEKISTAN

- The China–Kyrgyzstan–Uzbekistan railway was first proposed in **1997**;
- The project aims to create new transportation routes linking **European and Persian Gulf countries**, bolstering trade and economic ties across the region;
- The project finally looked like it might begin after China and the five Central Asian countries made agreements at the Xi'an summit in **May 2023**;
- Construction on the 523-kilometre route was scheduled to begin several months after, but this has still not happened;
- Kyrgyzstan's President, Sadyr Japarov, announced that the construction of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway will begin in **October 2024**.



THE RECENT NEWS

- **EIB Global signed memorandums of understanding** for project co-financing with the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Uzbekistan and with the Development Bank of Kazakhstan for a total of €1.47 billion at the EU-Central Asia Investors Forum in 2024 - *implementation of a number of infrastructural projects to make freight transportation efficient;*
- The **temporary restriction on the movement of freight vehicles** with a maximum total weight exceeding 18 tons on municipal roads of Bishkek when the daytime air temperature reaches 28°C will be in effect from June 1st to September 1st, 2024, from 10am to 7pm - *for the purpose of prevention, avoiding damage to road surfaces, environmental protection, and compliance with ecological and sanitary norms;*
- Within the framework of the Paris Climate Agreement, Kyrgyzstan has submitted its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), **committing to significantly reduce emissions from transportation**. The widespread adoption of electric vehicles is envisioned as the *primary instrument for achieving this reduction in transport emissions within the NDC;*



THE RECENT NEWS

- Kyrgyzstan is implementing a new electronic system for **railway transportation management** – launch in May 2024;
- The transport ministers of Kyrgyzstan and Turkiye have discussed plans to **optimize freight transport** between the two countries – cancel of permissions required for bilateral and transit transportation starting from May 2024;
- The Ministry of Transport has improved the **procedure for carriers to obtain foreign permit forms** for international freight transportation by road. Now, carriers can submit electronic applications through the portal elicense.gov.kg and receive permits at the Entrepreneur Service Center.



CONCLUSION

While Kyrgyzstan faces significant challenges as a landlocked country in terms of freight transportation, there are ample opportunities to overcome these obstacles through strategic investments, regional cooperation, and technological advancements. By leveraging its strategic location and participating in international trade routes, Kyrgyzstan can enhance its connectivity and economic prospects.



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Thank you for your attention!

Рaxмaт!

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