



Company for trading, import-export, advising, agency by selling, engineering, computer science, computer programming and design, mobile application development, literature trading, organizing & realization of business conferences in Slovenia and

Address Užiška ulica 9, 2000 Maribor, Slovenia, EU
Phone 00386 2 6131982
Fax 00386 2 6131980
Mobile 00386 41 748 776
E-Mail proming.pos@gmail.com
Web <http://www.proming.eu>
Tax ID 98278983 **Reg. no.** 6317090000
Bank HYPO ALPE ADRIA BANK d.d.,
Dunajska c.117, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
IBAN SI56 3300 0000 5868 394 SWIFT: HAABSI22

NEWS ABOUT IRAN

INFORMATION FOR BUSINESS SECTION



JULY / AUGUST, 2013

Mr. Franc Lenhart is biggest connoisseur for Iran in Europe and he is trying to present the Iran in truthful picture that is why he is preparing every month a set of news for business sectors, private and other population. I hope employability will meet your address.

Tehran welcomes direct Iran-US flights

Iran Air Boeing 747 passenger plane

Wed Jun 26, 2013 5:38PM

Iran Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi says the Islamic Republic welcomes the establishment of direct flights between Iranian and US cities after more than three decades.

“We welcome direct flights between Iran and the United States, and have no problem with it,” Salehi told IRNA on Wednesday.

“Launching direct flights is for the sake of public welfare, and we have no problem with this issue.”

On Tuesday, Mehr News Agency reported that necessary preparations were made to sign a memorandum of understanding regarding the establishment of direct flights between Iran and the United States.

According to the report, Atlanta-based Delta Air Lines and the national Iranian flag carrier, Iran Air, are expected to transport passengers between Iran and the United States.

MP/SS

[Iran's inflation rate stands at 34%: Central Bank](#)

Economic Desk , 29 June 2013



TEHRAN - The Central Bank of Iran has announced that the inflation rate for the 12-month period concluding at the end of the third Iranian calendar month of Khordad (June 21, 2013) hit 34 percent, the Fars News Agency reported.

This is while the Statistical Center of Iran has put the inflation rate at 32.6 percent.

Earlier this month, Central Bank of Iran Governor Mahmoud Bahmani said that the country would curb inflation through three financial policies.

“By selling bonds and gold coins as well as reducing liquidity, we hope to curb inflation,” Bahmani stated.

Iran’s inflation rate was 25.4 percent during the previous Iranian calendar year, which ended on March 20.

In April, the International Monetary Fund reported that Iran's economy contracted by 1.9 percent in 2012 and is expected to shrink by 1.3 percent this year.

However, the economy of the Islamic Republic is forecast to grow next year by 1.1 percent, the IMF said in its annual World Economic Outlook.

[800 companies to attend Iran ConFair 2013](#)

Economic Desk 25 June 2013

TEHRAN – The 13th Tehran International Construction Fair (ConFair 2013) will open on July 3 at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds.

Some 800 domestic and foreign companies will attend the four-day event, the Mehr News Agency reported.

Representatives from France, Switzerland, South Korea, the United Arab Emirates, China, Taiwan, Spain, Malaysia, Italy, Turkey, Germany, the U.S., Syria, Japan, Finland, Britain, and Belgium will showcase their products in the exhibition.

Twelve seminars and four educational workshops will be also held on the sidelines of the expo.

[Iranian rial up on upbeat mood over economy](#)

Economic Desk 22 June 2013



TEHRAN -- The Iranian currency, the rial, continued its rise on the Tehran free market on Saturday on hopes that the economy could improve despite the international sanctions imposed on the country.

The rial strengthened by nearly 1200 units against the U.S. dollar on Saturday, according to the Fars News Agency.

The rial was trading at around 31,900 to the dollar on Saturday afternoon compared with about 33,100 on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Central Bank of Iran Governor Mahmoud Bahmani said on Saturday that the rial appreciation would continue in the coming days.

The recent rial appreciation has occurred despite the unfair sanctions imposed on Iran's central bank by the United States and the European Union.

On June 3, the White House expanded U.S. sanctions on the Islamic Republic, giving broad powers to U.S. authorities to begin targeting those found purchasing or selling large amounts of Iranian currency in foreign banks.

The move, made via an executive order issued by President Barack Obama, was the latest escalation in the U.S. administration's strategy of gradually tightening economic restrictions on Iran.

The executive order targets anyone found to have “knowingly conducted or facilitated any significant transaction related to the purchase or sale of Iranian rial or a derivative, swap, future, forward, or other similar contract whose value is based on the exchange rate of the Iranian rial.”

Individuals who have “maintained significant funds or accounts outside the territory of Iran denominated in the Iranian rial” will also be targeted, the order states.

[Iran continues Peugeot production despite PSA parts stop](#)

Economic Desk 22 June 2013



Iran is continuing to produce Peugeot vehicles in the country despite PSA ending parts shipments as European Union sanctions continue to bite.

Exact figures are currently unavailable as to how many Peugeot models are rolling off Iran Khodro (IKCO) production lines, but the source maintains localization is the key to continued build.

"Most of them [Peugeot models] have been localized 100%," the source in Iran told just-auto. "For example, the 206 completely, this is the model being produced here.

"There is no need to import parts and components - 206, 207 [and] 405 are being produced."

The insistence IKCO is still able to produce Peugeot cars comes as the French automaker reiterated it no longer supplies parts to Iran, partly as a result of the difficulties in obtaining finance due to severe banking sanctions imposed by the European Union and the U.S..

"Because of the sanctions taken against Iran, we can't finance our activity there," a PSA spokeswoman told just-auto from Paris. "It is totally suspended.

"We do not sell any more parts to Iran - we used to sell them to Iran Khodro. We have absolutely no other comment to make."

PSA's involvement with Iran - as well as several other western automakers in the country - has been a hugely sensitive issue given the draconian sanctions regime that aims to dissuade Tehran from developing civilian nuclear programs.

Lobby groups in the U.S., such as United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI), have previously targeted PSA as well as its partner, General Motors, by highlighting what it referred to as the "taxpayer-funded US\$50b bailout of GM".

Only two months ago, UANI said tens of thousands of Peugeot-branded vehicles were being produced in Iran, including nearly 204,000 during the Persian calendar year ending 20 March.

"Once again, we see evidence GM's partner, Peugeot, continues to do business in Iran," said UANI CEO, Mark Wallace, in April this year, although PSA insists it has stopped shipping parts.

A separate Iranian source confirmed to just-auto sanctions had had an effect on the country's car sector: "Of course there were some difficulties and some problems, but we try to solve them through other choices, other options," the source said.

The second Iranian source added companies were looking to subcontract component production for parts that currently had to be imported and highlighted the role of localizing.

"We have many projects for localizing and deepening [the] localization process," the source noted.

Several reports are also currently circulating two other major western automakers have withdrawn from supplying Iran with parts, although these have not yet been verified.

In June last year, PSA put its involvement with IKCO at 1.5% of its EUR79b turnover.

(Source: just-auto.com)

06/28/13

Iran Attracts over 1 Million Foreign Tourists in Spring

Source: [Fars News Agency](#)

Deputy Head of Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization Manouchehr Jahanian said over 1 million tourists from different world states visited Iran this spring, adding that the number shows a 28.8% growth compared with the figures of the same period last year.



"1,180,843 foreign tourists have visited Iran in the first three months of the current Iranian year (started on March 21) which shows a 28.8% growth compared with the same period last year," Jahanian told FNA on Wednesday. He expressed the hope that in the next 6 years of the country's 20-Year Vision Plan for Economic, Cultural and Social Development (2005-2025) Iran will be visited by over 20mln tourists annually. A US newspaper wrote in November that Iran's tourism industry has flourished and the number of foreign tourists visiting Iran has increased in recent years despite the US-led sanctions targeting the country's economy. "The demand by foreign tourists to visit Iran has gone up," The Washington Post said in an article titled 'Tourism a Bright Spot for Iran' by Jason Rezaian. It noted that one of the reasons such boom in Iran's tourism industry is that the foreign purchasing power is at an all-time high in Iran due to a rise in the value of dollar against Iran's national currency, rial.

international travelers sensing a good deal are venturing to a country that they have not traveled to before, the daily said. Although Iran's travel industry still has not reached what many Iranians think could be its true potential, the trend in recent years has been one of growth exceeding global averages.

From 2004 to 2010, the annual increase in tourists visiting foreign countries was 3.2 percent worldwide, according to the UN World Tourism Organization. Iran's figures over the same period show tourism in Iran grew at a much faster clip (12.7 percent).

[Payvand Iran News ...](#)

06/26/13

Iranian automakers seek help in face of sanctions

Source: [Radio Zamaneh](#)

The Iranian auto industry warns that U.S. sanctions have left carmakers on the verge of bankruptcy. The Mehr News Agency reports that the industry has called on the government to assist companies with the crisis in automotive parts and continually rising costs. The industry has called on the government for bailout money to invest in the industry. The latest round of U.S. sanctions, which go into force on July 1, target automotive parts and all services linked to automobile manufacturing. Iranian industry officials have predicted the price of auto parts will rise 15 to 40 percent. A report on Mehr indicates that South Korean companies, which have continued dealing in automotive parts with Iran in recent years, now indicate they will have to curtail that business under the new U.S. sanctions.

Iran's President-Elect: Nation Voted for Change

By ALI AKBAR DAREINI Associated Press
TEHRAN, Iran June 29, 2013 (AP)

Iran's president-elect called his win in national elections this month a vote for change and vowed Saturday to remain committed to his campaign promises of moderation and constructive interaction with the outside world.

Hasan Rouhani's promises of outreach could lower the political temperature between Iran and the West and perhaps nudge the country's ruling Islamic establishment toward a more flexible approach in its standoff over Tehran's disputed nuclear program.

Rouhani has already promised greater openness on the nuclear issue while at the same time siding with the hard-liner establishment that refuses to halt uranium enrichment. He believes it's possible to strike a deal that would allow the Islamic Republic to keep enriching uranium while assuring the West it will not produce a nuclear weapon.

The U.S. and its allies fear Iran may ultimately be able to develop nuclear arms. Tehran has denied the charges, saying its program is peaceful and aimed at generating electricity and producing radioisotopes to treat cancer patients.

The reformist-backed Rouhani won a landslide majority in June 14 presidential election, defeating his conservative and hardline rivals. He will succeed hardline outgoing President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad early August.



"People chose a new path ... People said in this election: We want change," Rouhani told a conference in Tehran Saturday. "The best language of the people is the ballot box. The people's vote is very obvious. There is no ambiguity."

Rouhani's election has revived hopes for a mutually acceptable deal over Iran's disputed nuclear program, as it was seen in part as a referendum on Iran's nuclear diplomacy. The country's top nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili, a hard-liner who supported a policy of resistance, finished third in the vote, which was widely seen as rejection of his tough stance on the nuclear issue.

Rouhani said he will keep his promise of following a path of moderation in domestic and foreign policy.

"Moderation in foreign policy is neither surrender nor conflict, neither passivity nor confrontation. Moderation is effective and constructive interaction with the world," he said.

The final word on all state matters, particularly on the nuclear issue, lies with Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, but a strong president can influence decision-making.

Rouhani has vowed that he will seek to have the stinging economic sanctions against Iran lifted and work with international powers to settle the nuclear issue through active diplomacy and dialogue.

The president-elect also said that the ruling system needs to allow more freedom for Iran's relatively young population.

"Happiness is people's right," he said. "I thank police for increasing the threshold of their tolerance." He was referring to wild street celebrations after he was declared winner of the election.

Iran's anti-vice police sporadically detain youths on vague charges of not observing Islamic codes. During Ahmadinejad's presidency, many detainees claimed to be mistreated while in detention.

"We should talk to girls and boys in the same way we talk to our own children. People's dignity must be preserved. Humiliating people is not acceptable but giving (polite) notice.

Exclusive: Iran importing missile-grade ore from Germany, France

By Maytaal Angel and Jonathan Saul

LONDON | Tue Jul 2, 2013 7:29am EDT

(Reuters) – Exploiting a loophole in Western sanctions, Iran is importing a high grade of refined alumina ore from several European countries including Germany and France that Tehran could be using to make armor parts and missile components.

Western measures imposed on Iran over its disputed nuclear program have hit many sectors of its economy including steel and other metals, where it is heavily dependent on imports. Tehran says its atomic work is peaceful.

The refined ore has been excluded from European Union sanctions, but tightened U.S. sanctions that came into effect on July 1 seek to close the loophole. According to a U.S. Treasury briefing, the latest measures will cover “raw or semi-finished metals” that include aluminum.

“After July 1, new sanctions will blacklist metals trade with Iran including aluminum, coal, steel, gold, silver and platinum amongst others, and should include alumina,” said Mark Dubowitz, who has advised President Barack Obama’s administration and U.S. lawmakers on sanctions.

Alumina is a refined version of the raw ore bauxite. It is typically used to make aluminum, but in its high purity or ‘chemical grade’ form, it has non-metal applications that have sensitive military uses.

Export data from independent firm Global Trade Information Services showed that between January 2012 and March 2013, around 4,000 metric tons of alumina had been sold to Iran mostly from Germany and France, but also from Slovenia, Italy, Hungary and Belgium.

Experts and traders say the high price paid of \$700-\$1,000 a metric ton (1.1023 tons) and relatively low amounts involved indicated the exports were most likely high purity chemical grade alumina.

Mark Gorwitz, previously with the U.S. Department of Defense and now a consultant specializing in nuclear and missile-related technologies, says Iran is able to manufacture weapons grade ceramic composites using chemical alumina.

“Iran definitely has the ability to manufacture missile parts locally. They’ve done quite a bit of work on ceramic composites made with alumina, and used for manufacturing armor parts and missile components like nozzles and radomes,” he said.

Gorwitz cited an academic paper seen by Reuters on the scientific properties of alumina armor, published in 2011 by researchers at Malek Ashtar University, an entity listed by the EU in 2008 as linked to Iran’s nuclear activities.

Chemical alumina, a powder, has to be combined with other materials to make ceramic composites for missiles and armor.

David Albright, a former UN weapons inspector now president of U.S.-based think-tank the Institute for Science and International Security, said Iran had been studying the use of chemical alumina for years, citing three scientific journal papers published by Iranian academics between 2008 and 2009.

“The documents show that there’s an interest in mastering the use of chemical alumina for a broad set of uses which include military,” he said.

Chemical alumina can also be used to make transparent ceramics used in lasers and night vision devices. But its use in protective cones for missiles potentially links it to Iran’s nuclear program.

“In general, Iran has been trying for three decades to develop ballistic missiles,” said Michael Elleman with the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies.

“Transparent ceramics are a type of sapphire made using chemical alumina. Sapphire can be used as a missile component. Whether the missile carries explosive or nuclear warheads is not the point; most missiles are dual capable.”

A spokesman for Tehran’s UN mission in New York said sanctions were “counterproductive in terms of confidence building between Iran and some members of the Security Council who level some allegations against my country”.

“Iran has never violated its international commitment and always remains committed to its obligations,” he said.

Data from the International Aluminum Institute showed Europe produced 2.38 million metric tons of chemical grade alumina between January and June 2013, accounting for about a third of the total chemical alumina produced globally.

“None of the military and defense-related applications use particularly large tonnages of alumina,” a Western specialist familiar with alumina processes said.

Iranian military commanders regularly announce what they say is significant progress in the manufacture of defense systems and missiles, which are tested during regular drills and war games. But western analysts say their real capabilities cannot be independently verified.

A spokesman for EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton said the export of all forms of crude aluminum products as well as other aluminum products were prohibited under EU sanctions.

“Whereas the export of aluminum ore – alumina – is not,” the spokesman said. “It is an area that may be looked at in the future.”

As of July 1, however, the tightened U.S. sanctions might hamper the alumina trade with Iran as companies involved, who also have U.S. interests could be targeted by Washington.

“Any European companies found selling alumina, for example, will face the full weight of U.S. law. Alumina previously has sailed past the radar under previous U.S. and EU sanctions and should not be overlooked again as an important target of pressure,” Dubowitz said.

NEW PRESIDENT

Earlier this year, Switzerland-based commodities giant Glencore Xstrata said it had done nothing wrong when they engaged in alumina-for-aluminum swap deals with Iran. Another Swiss group Trafigura was involved in similar deals.

One industry source said at present alumina made in Europe was reaching Iran via middlemen operating from the Middle East Gulf who transport the cargoes on barges from the United Arab Emirates. Alumina can be shipped in general cargo vessels.

“There’s a number of small-time traders in Dubai dealing with alumina from Europe. They buy it from Europe and ship it to (Iran’s major cargo port) Bandar Abbas,” said a Europe-based alumina player familiar with the trade.

“It’s a lucrative market ... these small guys have not got that much reputation to lose even if they get caught.”

The surprise victory of moderate cleric Hassan Rouhani in Iran’s presidential election last month has raised hopes for an easing of tension in the decade-old nuclear dispute, although he is not expected to opt for dramatic change, given his ties with the religious leadership.

“It seems unlikely that the presidential elections will have a significant effect on Iran’s military program – at least in the short term,” said Hannah Poppy at consultancy Risk Advisory.

Iran's Rouhani urges end to meddling in private lives

.

[View gallery](#)

Iranian President-elect Hassan Rohani gestures to the media during a news conference in

By Jon Hemming

DUBAI (Reuters) - President-elect Hassan Rouhani called on Wednesday for the government and powerful clergy to end interference in the private lives of the Iranian people, free up Internet access and allow state media to be more open about Iran's problems.

Rouhani's comments began to flesh out his message of moderation at home and better relations abroad that contributed to his surprise election victory last month.

His election prompted a huge outpouring of support from Iranians hungry for change after eight years of domestic security crackdowns and international confrontation under hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

"There shouldn't be any rift or division between the government or the clergy especially at a time when people have pinned their hopes on seeing some sort of change in society," Rouhani, a mid-ranking cleric, told fellow clergymen in Tehran.

"A strong government does not mean a government that interferes and intervenes in all affairs. It is not a government that limits the lives of people. This is not a strong government," said Rouhani who takes office early next month.

"The power of the government lies in improving popular trust and...offering services, decreasing problems, setting the stage for further development of all citizens to help meet the needs of the people and desire for change," he said in an address aired on state television.

Rouhani is bolstered by his popular mandate and the backing of an alliance of moderates and reformers led by former presidents Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Mohammad Khatami - both sidelined by hardliners under Ahmadinejad.

For now the divided hardline conservative camp has given Rouhani a relatively free ride, repeatedly emphasizing the high turnout in the election as a victory for the system rather than a defeat for themselves and the status quo.

But with a majority in parliament, strong links to the powerful Revolutionary Guards and a grip on the top jobs in state media and the security apparatus, the hardliners could confound Rouhani's attempts to foster change, especially if they sense their positions are under direct threat.

LOOSEN MEDIA CONTROLS

During his election campaign, Rouhani demanded a loosening of the "security atmosphere" and on Wednesday signaled what steps he wanted to see taken.

Filtering of the Internet in Iran, stepped up after social media was used to encourage and coordinate large protests following the disputed 2009 presidential election, had proved ineffective, Rouhani said, fittingly, on Twitter.

"Which important piece of news has filtering been able to black out in recent years?" he asked.

At the same time, he criticized state broadcaster IRIB for ignoring issues inside Iran.

The state has a monopoly over terrestrial television in Iran and though satellite receivers are banned and foreign news broadcasts are often blocked, many Iranians tune in to U.S. and Europe-based channels beaming news and entertainment into the Islamic Republic.

"When IRIB airs the birth of a panda in China but nothing about unpaid workers protesting, it is obvious that the people and youth will ignore it," Rouhani tweeted.

The key to whether Rouhani will be able to succeed in his vision of a more open society within the Islamic system will be whether he receives the backing of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei who sits at the top of Iran's complex hybrid system of clerical rule combined and elements of elected representation.

A life-long insider in post-revolutionary Iran, Rouhani was for years Khamenei's personal representative on the National Security Council, managing to maintain the trust of the leader even as other moderates fell out of favor and hardliners moved into the ascendant, especially in the early Ahmadinejad years.

But the next president will also have to temper the demands of a population that may want change faster than he can deliver.

Facing potential political opposition at home, an economy incapacitated by tough international sanctions over Iran's nuclear dispute with the West, Rouhani has repeatedly urged patience.

"We have a lot of problems facing us. No government in the history of Iran has faced the problems that this government is facing," Rouhani told the meeting of clerics. "The problems cannot be solved in a matter of days or months."

GDP (Constant Prices, National Currency) for Iran, in other Years

Year	Billion
2018	596,742.22
2017	582,825.56
2016	570,193.01
2015	557,972.44
2014	547,137.35
2013	541,241.92
2012	548,112.09
2011	558,586.82
2010	542,174.00
2009	511,975.00
2008	492,522.00
2007	489,699.00
2006	460,387.03
2005	433,462.86
2004	414,178.80
2003	390,487.83
2002	361,366.15
2001	334,104.16
2000	322,278.43

Economic Indicators for Iran 2013

[GDP \(Constant Prices, National Currency\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is IRR 541,241.92 Billion.

[GDP Growth \(Constant Prices, National Currency\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is -1.253 %.

[GDP \(Current Prices, National Currency\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is IRR 8,857,401.74 Billion.

[GDP \(Current Prices, US Dollars\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is US\$ 429.246 Billion.

[GDP Deflator for Iran in year 2013](#) is 1,636.50 (Index, Base Year as per country's accounts = 100).

[GDP Per Capita \(Constant Prices, National Currency\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is IRR 7,020,315.56 .

[GDP Per Capita \(Current Prices, National Currency\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is IRR 114,887,176.08 .

[GDP Per Capita \(Current Prices, US Dollars\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is US\$ 5,567.64 .

[GDP \(PPP\), US Dollars for Iran in year 2013](#) is US\$ 1,002.90 Billion.

[GDP Per Capita \(PPP\), US Dollars for Iran in year 2013](#) is US\$ 13,008.37 .

[GDP Share of World Total \(PPP\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is 1.15 %.

[Implied PPP Conversion Rate for Iran in year 2013](#) is 8,831.79 .

[Investment \(% of GDP\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is 33.913 %.

[Gross National Savings \(% of GDP\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is 37.553 %.

[Inflation, Average Consumer Prices \(Indexed to Year 2000\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is 460.507 (Index, Base Year 2000 = 100).

[Inflation \(Average Consumer Price Change %\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is 27.2 %.

[Inflation, End of Year \(Indexed to Year 2000\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is 510.995 (Index, Base Year 2000 = 100).

[Inflation \(End of Year Change %\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is 22 %.

[Import Volume of All Items Including Goods and Services \(Percent Change\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is -4.713 %.

[Import Volumes of Goods Only \(Percent Change\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is -4.669 %.

[Export Volume of All Items Including Goods and Services \(Percent Change\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is -3.29 %.

[Export Volumes of Goods Only \(Percent Change\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is -4.481 %.

[Value of Oil Imports for Iran in year 2013](#) is US\$ 0 Billions.

[Value of Oil Exports for Iran in year 2013](#) is US\$ 52.672 Billions.

[Unemployment Rate \(% of Labour Force\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is 13.374 %.

[Population for Iran in year 2013](#) is 77.097 Million .

[General government revenue \(National Currency\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is IRR 1,202,169.14 Billions.

[General government revenue \(% of GDP\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is 13.572 %.

[General government total expenditure \(National Currency\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is IRR 1,511,666.96 Billions.

[General government total expenditure \(% of GDP\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is 17.067 %.

[Total Government Net Lending/ Borrowing \(National Currency\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is IRR -309,497.82 Billions.

[Total Government Net Lending/ Borrowing \(% of GDP\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is -3.494 %.

[General Government Balance \(National Currency\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is IRR -295,073.58 Billion.

[General Government Balance \(% of GDP\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is -3.331 %.

[Total Government Net Debt \(National Currency\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is IRR 509,887.04 Billion.

[Total Government Net Debt \(% of GDP\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is 5.757 %.

[Total Government Gross Debt \(National Currency\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is IRR 1,014,842.28 Billion.

[Total Government Gross Debt \(% of GDP\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is 11.458 %.

[Fiscal Year Gross Domestic Product, Current Prices for Iran in year 2013](#) is IRR 8,857,401.74 Billions.

[Current Account Balance \(US Dollars\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is US\$ 15.623 Billion.

[Current Account Balance \(% GDP\) for Iran in year 2013](#) is 3.64 %.

Vir : <http://www.economywatch.com/economic-statistics/country/Iran/>

Expanded U.S. sanctions on Iran effective July 1, 2013

President Obama's New Executive Order Targets New Areas of the Iranian Economy and OFAC Issues Guidance

President Obama has issued a new Executive Order that goes into effect July 1, 2013. The Executive Order targets new areas of the Iranian economy for sanctions, including exchange transactions involving Iranian Rials and Iran's automotive industry.

Further, OFAC has issued long-awaited guidance on the sweeping sanctions against the energy, shipping and shipbuilding sectors of Iran, as well as Iranian port operators, under the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act of 2012 (IFCA), which also comes into effect July 1, 2013. (See our prior "[Iran Sanctions Update, January 16, 2013](#).)

These latest actions follow previous U.S. sanctions imposing potentially severe sanctions on non-U.S. companies that engage in, finance, or insure trade with Iran in sanctionable cargo, deal with specific Iranian sanctioned entities, or aid Iranian entities in evading U.S. financial and other sanctions.

New Executive Order 13645: Implementing IFCA and Imposing Additional Sanctions

Effective July 1, 2013, the major provisions of Executive Order 13645 will impose the following new sanctions and tighten certain existing sanctions:

Iranian Rials. Foreign financial institutions that conduct or facilitate significant transactions related to the purchase or sale of Iranian Rials, including derivatives, swaps, or maintaining significant accounts denominated in Iranian Rials, are subject to sanction.

Providing Assistance to Iranian SDNs. Any person that provides material assistance, technological support, or goods or services to Iranian persons or entities identified as Specially Designated Nationals (SDNs) (other than certain Iranian banks) will be subject to sanction. This will expand greatly the extraterritorial application of sanctions to transactions with Iranian government-owned entities.

Iranian Automotive Sector. The Executive Order imposes sanctions on any person that engages in significant transactions relating to the sale of significant goods or services for use by Iran's automotive sector, including goods used in the manufacture or assembly of trucks, cars, motorcycles and other vehicles in Iran.

Tightening Sanctions on Exports of Petroleum/Petrochemicals from Iran. Executive Order 13622, issued in July 2012, targeted persons who engaged in significant transactions involving the acquisition of petroleum and petrochemicals from Iran. Executive Order 13645 expands and clarifies the scope of Executive Order 13622 to make clear that the provisions also apply to those entities involved in the transport or marketing of these Iranian export products.

New OFAC Guidance on IFCA Sanctions

On June 3, 2013, OFAC posted answers to a number of questions regarding the new Executive Order and the IFCA provisions that go into effect July 1, 2013, noting that OFAC regulations and guidance from the State Department would be forthcoming. While many of the answers are so general that they are of little practical value, there is some useful information:

Offshore Activity. OFAC clarifies that the Iranian sectors include activities that may occur offshore in areas where Iran claims jurisdiction (e.g., the exclusive economic zone and continental shelf).

Designation of Iranian Entities in Iran's Energy, Shipping, Shipbuilding Sectors and Port Operators. OFAC confirmed that under IFCA §1244(c), the sanctions apply to those individuals and entities specifically identified as SDNs. Such a clearly defined list will make compliance easier. However, be cautioned that the reach of the sanctions almost certainly includes any entity owned or controlled by such designated entities.

Iranian Shipping Sector. OFAC guidance implies that the "Iranian shipping sector" is likely limited to seagoing vessels owned, controlled, or chartered directly or indirectly by the Government of Iran or flying an Iranian flag. OFAC provides examples of the types of activities that may be sanctionable, including sale, charter of a vessel, provision of registry, classification, repair, survey, issuance of certificates or provision of maintenance, supply, bunkering, docking, etc., to or for the benefit of vessels in the Iranian shipping sector.

Prohibited Metals and Precious Metals. OFAC gives a detailed list of what types of metals and metal alloys are sanctionable, as well as a list of precious metals that could trigger sanctions under IFCA.

Contract Sanctity. While stating that there is no grandfathering of pre-existing contractual obligations, OFAC infers that the pre-existing nature of the contract may be a factor mitigating against a finding that a particular transaction was “significant” and therefore sanctionable.

Impact of New Sanctions

The pending IFCA sanctions have already had a chilling effect on foreign trade with Iran. In particular, the uncertainty regarding what transactions will be considered "significant" under IFCA raises concerns even for the transport of non-sanctioned cargo. Hence, except for trade related to humanitarian goods and expressly exempt oil/natural gas transactions, there are no clear safe harbors.

Further, in recent months, OFAC and the U.S. State Department appear to be increasingly willing to sanction non-U.S., non-Iranian entities not clearly owned or controlled by Iran for their collusion in assisting Iranian entities in evading sanctions.

Non-U.S. companies that intend to continue trade with Iran after July 1, 2013, face not only potential sanction by the U.S., but also commercial risks such as:

- denial of coverage by insurers unwilling to risk sanction
- refusal by banks to process transactions related to Iran
- counterparties that may claim force majeure or other contractual basis to refuse to perform on contracts that involve potentially sanctionable conduct

For non-U.S. companies, particularly those in shipping, insurance and financial services, there are only a few weeks left to implement changes in policy or enhance compliance procedures to comply with these new sanctions.

Audrey E Mross
Labor & Employment Attorney
Munck Carter LLP

When is Ramadan in 2013?

Ramadan in 2013 will start on Tuesday, the **9th of July** and will continue for 30 days until Wednesday, the **7th of August**.

Based on sightability in North America, in 2013 Ramadan will start in North America a day later - on Wednesday, the **10th of July**.

Note that in the Muslim calendar, a holiday begins on the sunset of the previous day, so observing Muslims will celebrate Ramadan on the sunset of Monday, the **8th of July**.

Although Ramadan is always on the same day of the Islamic calendar, the date on the Gregorian calendar varies from year to year, since the Gregorian calendar is a solar calendar and the Islamic calendar is a lunar calendar. This difference means Ramadan moves in the Gregorian calendar approximately 11 days every year. The date of Ramadan may also vary from country to country depending on whether the moon has been sighted or not.

The dates provided here are based on the dates adopted by the [Fiqh Council of North America](#) for the celebration of Ramadan. Note that these dates are based on astronomical calculations to affirm each date, and not on the actual sighting of the moon with the naked eyes. This approach is accepted by many, but is still being hotly debated.

- [When is Ramadan in 2006?](#)
- [When is Ramadan in 2007?](#)
- [When is Ramadan in 2008?](#)
- [When is Ramadan in 2009?](#)
- [When is Ramadan in 2010?](#)
- [When is Ramadan in 2011?](#)
- [When is Ramadan in 2012?](#)
- [When is Ramadan in 2013?](#)
- [When is Ramadan in 2014?](#)
- [When is Ramadan in 2015?](#)
- [When is Ramadan in 2016?](#)
- [When is Ramadan in 2017?](#)
- [When is Ramadan in 2018?](#)
- [When is Ramadan in 2019?](#)
- [When is Ramadan in 2020?](#)

Prepared by Eng. Franc Lenhart,

Owner of Proming group Ltd.

Slovenia