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Uzbekistan



and 6.3% in trade and HRI sector. GDP is targeted to grow 7.2% in 2006. Industrial output should grow 9%, farm output 5.2% and capex 7.5%.

UNHCR leaves Uzbekistan

Uzbek authorities have accused the UN body of protecting criminals and terrorists. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) says it has withdrawn its employees and closed its office in Uzbekistan. The UNHCR's spokesperson, Jennifer Pagonis, says the decision is at the request of Uzbek authorities. The UNHCR announced on March 20 that Tashkent had given it one month to leave, saying the agency had fulfilled its tasks and there was no need for its continued presence. The UNHCR has been involved in assisting Uzbek refugees who fled the country after the government crackdown on protesters in Andijon in May 2005. In July, more than 400 Uzbeks were given asylum in Europe, despite protests from Tashkent.

Uzbekistan's economy grows 3.5% in Q1

According to Shavkat Mirziyev - Prime Minister of Uzbekistan - Uzbekistan's economy grew 3.6% in the first quarter of 2006. Mirziyev said industrial output grew 6.8% and agricultural output 4.5%. Output in the construction sector rose 3.6%, 7.3% in transport and communications

Trade Barriers in Uzbekistan

During the last trade servicing visit to Tashkent on March 2006, USAPEEC Central Asia/Eastern Europe Consultant has found out that most poultry product is smuggled into Uzbekistan and importers are not registered in any statistics. This is mainly explained by prohibitive import duties

that are used in Uzbekistan. By implementing such an unreasonable duties government want to defend their local producers. At the same time local poultry producers are not capable to satisfy the existing demand for poultry products. USAPEEC CA_EE Consultant conducted a meeting with private Consulting Company that helps foreign trade companies to fill in GTD (State Customs Declaration) lists.

They provided the information on import duties, VAT and other dues that importers have to pay while bringing product into the country. The current custom regulations for poultry meat products are as indicated in the table below:

VAT is always 20%

Custom duties for poultry meats in Uzbekistan

Product name	Code	Custom value per kilo	Import duty from an invoice price (per kilo)
Chicken MDM	020714100	\$ 0.75	30% but not less than \$0.25
Turkey MDM	020727100	\$ 0.25	30% but not less than \$0.25
Chicken Skins	020714990	\$ 0.22	30% but not less than \$0.25
Turkey Skins	020727990	\$ 0.22	30% but not less than \$0.25
CLQ	020714600	-	30%

During a trade servicing trip to Tashkent USAPEEC Consultant met with a State Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan - Abdurasul Boltaev. He has informed USAPEEC on current bird flu situation and measures taken to prevent a spread of bird flu.

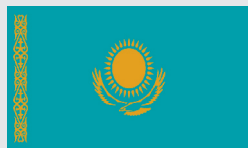


The following posters were developed by Uzbek Veterinary Department to prevent a spread of bird flu in private households of Uzbekistan.

Dear USAPEEC Members!

On May 25 -27, 2006 the 8th International Food Exhibition “AstanaFood” (“AgriHort”), organized by ITE Group, will take place in Astana, Kazakhstan. This annual event attracts several government officials and organizations from the capital. USAPEEC CA_EE Consultant is also attending the Trade Show. For more information on “AstanaFood” visit: <http://www.astanafood.kz/en/2006/> If you are interested in visiting this show please send an e-mail to: bella_usapeec@yahoo.com. USAPEEC Central Asia office can offer you special rates at the hotels of Astana.

Kazakhstan



Kazakh scientists develop vaccine against bird flu

The members of the Zhambyl oblast Research Institute are working at the unique project TADR along with the American colleagues, the press service of the Zhambyl oblast Akim reports. The scientists are supposed to develop a vaccine against the bird flu. Besides, the Kazakhstan scholars are engaged in comprehensive examination of traditional swine fever, goat and sheep-pox, horse flu and other infectious matters.

Almaty to host regional international conference on bird flu prevention

The international conference on regional cooperation and coordination of countermeasures to bird flu

spread is scheduled for June 12-13 in Almaty, press service of the Kazakhstan Emergency Situations Ministry released. “It is planned that the conference will take place within an agreement signed between the Health Ministry of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Asian Development Bank. Other international organizations like WHO, USAID, UNICEF, CDC, European Commission, World Bank will participate in its arrangement and will provide a part of finances,” the release indicates. According to the statement, representatives from the Ministries of Emergency Situations, Health and Agriculture of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Russia, China, Mongolia and Afghanistan will attend the conference. Moreover, experts from Thailand, Philippines, the Netherlands and the U.S. are also invited to the conference.

Trade barriers in Kazakhstan

Import duty on poultry (turkey, whole chicken and chicken leg quarters) is fixed and equal to 0.15 euro/kg. Since June 10, 2005 short term preferential duties on chicken leg quarters were established at the level of 10% from the invoice price. This special custom regime permits decreasing of custom deductions on chicken leg quarters by 2 times. However, this temporary measure will be valid only until June, 2006. After June, 2006 the former customs tariff will come into force. That is why prices on chicken leg quarters in Kazakhstan are expected to increase by 18-20% in Spring - Summer 2006. Taking into a consideration the fact that during the last several years local poultry production significantly increased and prices became more competitive, we can expect that this situation on the market can lead to a decrease in import volumes.

VAT in Kazakhstan is calculated as follows: 15% from the invoice price + customs + custom duty. This clearly depicts that an increase of custom duty will lead to an increase of VAT. The import duty today is \$50 per each customs declaration list.

Bird flu was not confirmed in Kazakhstan

The Agriculture Ministry's territorial department informed of 23 chicken death cases in the village of Krasnaya Niva in Karaganda oblast on April 25. The samples were sent for confirmation to the national laboratory in the commercial capital Almaty, he said. However, a bird flu virus in the perished poultry has not been confirmed.

"Highly pathogenic H5N1 virus has not been found in the fallen stock in Karaganda oblast," head of the Kazakhstani Agriculture Ministry's epizootic control department Talgat Abylgazin on April 27. According to prior information of the veterinary service, poultry dieoff "may be linked to disinfecting the household of rats," he continued.

Abylgazin states that 859 bird scaring teams have been arranged in regions so far. Additionally, poultry vaccination is 90% completed in the country. Last month, Kazakhstan recorded its first case of the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu in a dead swan that was found on the Caspian Sea coast. Authorities ordered the vaccination of other birds in the coastal area.

Tajikistan



273 heads of poultry have died in Temurmalik district of Tajikistan over three months

According to J. Amirshoyev, Chief Livestock Specialist at the Kulob Agriculture Department, in January-March, 273 heads of poultry have died in private sector and poultry breeders in the Temurmalik district of Khatlon, Tajikistan. No cases of avian influenza have been registered in the district. Appropriate services are monitoring the situation, thoroughly studying each case. "The situation does not yet evoke concern," the Kulob Chief Livestock Specialist said. Amirshoyev said that during the same period of last year, 349 heads poultry died in Temurmalik, 446 heads died.

World Bank will provide Tajikistan with \$1,5 mln only if the bird flu found

World Bank will provide \$1,5 mln only in case if bird flu evidence confirmed in Tajikistan, the WHO Representative in Tajik Republic - Nazira Artikova said. The fowl plague discovered within last 2 weeks in Tajikistan. However, the cause of plague is a disease which can not be transmitted to human, authorities say.

Kyrgyzstan



Poultry Import Regime in Kyrgyzstan

At the present moment custom duty of 15% from an invoice price is being used for poultry meats. VAT in Kyrgyzstan is 20%. The exchange rate is USD 1\$ = 42 Kyrgyz som

Fear of bird flu hits poultry market

Consumers are staying away from poultry products in Kyrgyzstan following reported cases of bird flu in neighboring Kazakhstan and China, a move that is having a devastating

impact on local farmers and vendors. “We’ve had to lower the prices after the bad news,” said Gusyuna Aitbaeva, who works in the central Osh market in the capital Bishkek. “Demand has dropped and there has definitely been a change in the type of customers we are seeing. People with low income who were too poor to buy chicken before are now buying, while middle class and wealthy families are simply staying away.” Consumers are shunning even eggs, with a decline in demand likely to continue, vendors complain.

“We used to send out 200 birds to the supermarkets each day. Now we barely send 15 and we have stopped delivering eggs. Nobody wants to buy them,” said an accountant of one local poultry company.

The hype created by the media annoys local farmers, while some believe there is no threat at all. Some complained that the plummeting trade was already having an impact on their livelihoods. “We live off selling milk, eggs and poultry meat,” a local vendor in Bishkek, said. “If something happens to my chickens, I do not know what I will do.”

But while no single case of the disease has been detected, some people wonder out loud whether the government has the capacity to detect the infection. “We examine birds simply by inspecting them with our eyes,” Aitpai Mashrapov, Chief Veterinarian responsible for the sanitary inspection of all meat products at the Osh bazaar, remarked. “We do not have any sophisticated equipment to detect bird flu,” he said, claiming that all the meat entering the market was safe to consume.

Meanwhile, the government has banned the transit and export of poultry products from areas described as risky, a move deemed scandalous by some. In one case, about 30 containers with poultry had been awaiting customs clearance for three months.

Adakhan Madumarov, Deputy Prime Minister, said that he doubted that the containers came from the US and Brazil, as the owners claimed. “Who will guarantee it was not repacked in Turkey, China or Kazakhstan on its way?”.

According to experts, the northern Chui Valley and Issyk Kul province were particularly at risk given thousands of small ponds and lakes found in the area hosting migrating birds. Talantbek Uzakbekov, Director of the National Veterinary Service, said that the first task now was to prepare vet specialists and the public for a potential outbreak. “We will have to completely quarantine the area where the virus was detected. mechanism as well,” Uzakbekov added.

The World Bank has approved US \$6.4 million to develop and implement a national plan on the And if a diagnosis is confirmed, we will take all the birds from the zone and cull them. In order to prevent the local population from hiding birds, we are developing a compensation prevention of bird flu in Kyrgyzstan, making it the first country in the former Soviet Union and the second in the world to receive aid on bird flu prevention.

“It’s not because Kyrgyzstan is under the most threat, simply the government was eager to prepare the country for the pandemic,” Asel Sargaldakova, a World Bank Health Specialist, clarified, explaining that the money would be spent in the health and agriculture sectors.

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