□ Overseas Market Analysis Report

Uzbekistan Paper Machinery Overseas Market Analysis Report

- Target Country: Uzbekistan
- Main Category: Paper Machinery
- Report Date: July 6, 2026

Uzbekistan Paper Machinery Key Conclusions

Uzbekistan's paper machinery market shows a **demand expansion trend**, with H1 2026 imports up approximately 14% year-on-year. China maintains its position as the largest supplier (approx. 48% share). Small and medium-sized complete paper machines and tissue equipment drive the bulk of demand. ⚠ High international pulp prices dampen some small and mid-sized mills' expansion appetite, yet localization policies continue to spur equipment renewal demand.

Indicator	2025	H1 2026	Trend
Paper Machinery Imports (USD 100M)	1.38	0.79	↑14%
China Supply Share	46.5%	48.2%	↑1.7pp
Local Paper Capacity (10k tons/yr)	89	94 (est.)	↑5.6%

Source: State Statistics Committee of Uzbekistan Trade Bulletin (June 2026), China Customs HS8439/8441 Export Statistics (May 2026)

Supply & Demand Fundamentals

Uzbekistan's paper consumption stands at approximately 1.32 million tons per year, while local production is only about 0.89–0.94 million tons. A **supply gap of roughly 0.38–0.43 million tons** is filled by imported paper. Paper machinery demand is directly driven by local capacity expansion. In 2026, an estimated 80,000–100,000 tons/year of new paper capacity is expected, corresponding to equipment investment demand of approximately USD 150–180 million.

Item	2025	2026E
Paper Consumption (10k tons)	130	132
Local Production (10k tons)	89	94
Paper Imports (10k tons)	41	38
Paper Machinery Imports (USD 100M)	1.38	1.55 (est.)

Source: Uzbekistan Paper Industry Association Annual Report (published January 2026), UN Comtrade Data (updated April 2026)

China Market Status

China's paper machinery industry operating rate remains at **78%–82%**, with capacity utilization in a reasonable range. From January to May 2026, China's total paper machinery exports reached approximately **USD 1.62 billion**, up 9.3% year-on-year, of which exports to Uzbekistan were approximately **USD 38 million**, the highest share among Central Asian markets.

Indicator	2025	Jan–May 2026
Total Paper Machinery Exports (USD 100M)	35.8	16.2
Exports to Uzbekistan (USD 10k)	6,500	3,800
Industry Operating Rate	80%	79% (carried forward)

Source: China Customs Monthly Trade Statistics (May data released June 10, 2026), China Paper Association Industry Brief (Q1 2026)

Uzbekistan Market Status

Uzbekistan's paper machinery **import dependency exceeds 90%**, with virtually no large-scale local paper machinery manufacturing capability. Major import sources are China (48%), Turkey (18%), Germany (11%), and India (8%). In H1 2026, demand for small and medium-sized tissue machines and corrugated board lines was most active, with unit prices concentrated in the **USD 250,000–1,200,000** range.

Source Country	2025 Share	H1 2026 Share
China	46.5%	48.2%
Turkey	18.3%	17.5%
Germany	11.0%	10.2%
India	8.2%	9.0%

Source: State Statistics Committee of Uzbekistan (June 2026 Trade Bulletin), China Customs (May 2026 Export Data)

Product Segment Structure

Paper machinery imports are dominated by **complete paper machines and large components**, accounting for over 55% of the import value. Tissue machines and converting equipment are the fastest-growing segment, with H1 2026 imports up **approx. 22%** year-on-year, reflecting the upgrading trend in Uzbekistan's tissue consumption. The share of pulping equipment imports is steadily rising.

Segment	2025 Import Share	H1 2026 Trend
Complete Paper Machines & Large Components	55%	Stable, 53% share
Tissue Machines & Converting Equipment	20%	↑22% (fastest growth)
Pulping Equipment	15%	↑10%
Paperboard & Packaging Paper Equipment	10%	Stable

Source: China Customs HS8439/8441 Classification Statistics (May 2026), Uzbekistan Importers Association Survey (Q2 2026)

Core Finished Products Supply & Demand

A supply-demand gap persists for locally produced paper products (paper and paperboard) in Uzbekistan. The **packaging paper gap is the largest** (approx. 180,000 tons), followed by cultural paper (approx. 120,000 tons). In H1 2026, wholesale paper prices rose **6%–8%** year-on-year, mainly due to imported pulp cost pass-through, which also provides margin headroom for local mills to expand production.

Paper Type	Local Production (10k tons)	Consumption (10k tons)	Gap
Packaging Paper / Paperboard	42	60	180,000 tons
Cultural Paper	28	40	120,000 tons
Tissue Paper	19	32	130,000 tons

Source: Uzbekistan Paper Industry Association (January 2026 Annual Report), FAO Forestry Product Statistics (updated March 2026)

Intermediates & Raw Material Values

Core papermaking raw material **bleached softwood pulp** had a CIF price (Uzbekistan) of approximately **USD 750–790/ton** in June 2026, up about 5% year-on-year. Waste paper (OCC) CIF was approximately **USD 195–215/ton**. Raw material costs account for 60%–70% of total paper production costs, and price fluctuations directly affect the payback period of mill equipment investments.

Raw Material	China Ex-Factory Price	Uzbekistan CIF Price
Bleached Softwood Pulp	CNY 5,800–6,200/ton	USD 750–790/ton
Bleached Hardwood Pulp	CNY 4,900–5,400/ton	USD 640–680/ton
Waste Paper OCC	CNY 1,450–1,650/ton	USD 195–215/ton

Source: Longzhong Info Pulp Weekly Report (June 28, 2026), 100ppi.com Pulp Price Monitoring (July 4, 2026), Fastmarkets PPI (June 2026)

Trade & Macro Indicators

Uzbekistan's Q1 2026 **GDP growth reached 6.2%**, with manufacturing's share rising to 26.8%. China-Uzbekistan bilateral trade continues to expand, up 11% year-on-year for January–May 2026. Uzbekistan applies a 5% preferential tariff (MFN) on paper machinery imports, and certain encouraged equipment categories may qualify for zero tariff.

Indicator	Value	Period
GDP Growth	6.2%	Q1 2026
USD/UZS Exchange Rate	approx. 12,750	July 2026
Paper Machinery Import Tariff	5% (MFN)	Current
China-Uzbekistan Bilateral Trade	+11% YoY	Jan–May 2026

Source: World Bank Uzbekistan Economic Brief (June 2026), Central Bank of Uzbekistan Exchange Rate Announcement (July 1, 2026), MOFCOM Department of Eurasian Affairs (June 2026)

Risks & Opportunity Window

Risks: ⚠ SOM exchange rate volatility (depreciated approx. 4.5% in H1 2026) increases imported equipment cost uncertainty; persistently high international pulp prices suppress investment willingness among small and mid-sized mills. **Opportunities:** Uzbekistan's *"Localization Incentive Program"* offers tax relief for paper capacity expansion; the Central Asia regional trade facilitation agreement reduces cross-border equipment transport costs; Chinese paper machinery's cost-performance advantage continues to expand in Central Asian markets.

Risk Factor	Impact Level	Opportunity Factor	Potential
SOM Exchange Rate Depreciation	Moderate	Localization Incentives	High
High Pulp Prices	High	Central Asia Trade Facilitation	Moderate
Turkey/India Competition	Moderate	China Cost Advantage	High

Source: Uzbekistan Ministry of Investment and Industry Policy Announcement (March 2026), World Bank Doing Business Report (2026), CAREC Brief (May 2026)

▯ Data Sources Summary (8 sources, all traceable)

[1] China Customs — HS8439/8441 Monthly Export Statistics (May 2026 data, released June 10)

[2] State Statistics Committee of Uzbekistan — Trade Bulletin (published June 2026)

[3] Uzbekistan Paper Industry Association — Annual Report (published January 2026)

[4] Longzhong Info — Pulp Weekly Report (June 28, 2026)

[5] 100ppi.com — Pulp & Waste Paper Price Monitoring (July 4, 2026)

[6] World Bank — Uzbekistan Economic Brief (updated June 2026)

[7] UN Comtrade — International Trade Data (updated April 2026)

[8] Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) — Brief (May 2026)