

# Turkmenistan Refractory Materials Overseas Market Analysis Report

Report Updated: July 13, 2026

Target Country: Turkmenistan

Main Category: Refractory Materials

Data as of: July 2026

## Core Conclusions on Turkmenistan Refractory Materials

Annual consumption in Turkmenistan's refractory market is approximately 20,000–28,000 tons, with **near-total import dependence approaching 100%**. China, Russia, and Turkey are the main suppliers. In H1 2026, China's magnesia prices fluctuated at low levels, enhancing export competitiveness and improving market reach in Central Asia. Turkmenistan's steel output is stable at around 350,000 tons; combined with demand from cement and glass sectors, the market is small but exhibits steady growth. Core risks lie in geopolitical uncertainty and Turkmenistan's foreign exchange controls.

Import Dependence  $\approx$ 98%–100%

Annual Consumption 20,000–28,000 tons

Reference Price (China 97% Fused Magnesia)  $\approx$ 2,800–3,200 RMB/ton ▼ Low Level

Key Risk

▲ FX Control & Logistics Bottlenecks

Sources: Mysteel Refractory Weekly Report Jul 2026; Worldsteel Annual Statistics 2025; China Customs HS6902 Export Data Jun 2026

## Supply and Demand Fundamentals

Turkmenistan has virtually zero domestic refractory production capacity; consumption is entirely import-driven. Estimated imports in 2025 were approximately 23,000 tons, primarily sourced from China (~45–55%), Russia (~20–25%), and Turkey (~15–20%). Downstream consumption is dominated by steel smelting (~65%), followed by cement kilns (~22%) and glass furnaces (~10%).

| Indicator                      | 2024        | 2025 Est.   | YoY Change |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| Domestic Production (10k tons) | $\approx$ 0 | $\approx$ 0 | —          |
| Imports (10k tons)             | 2.1         | 2.3         | +9.5%      |
| Steel Consumption Share        | 63%         | 65%         | +2pp       |
| Cement Consumption Share       | 23%         | 22%         | -1pp       |

Sources: Worldsteel 2025; Turkmenistan State Statistics Committee Annual Report (2025 Ed.); China Customs Export by Destination 2025

## China Market Status

In H1 2026, China's refractory industry operating rate remained in the 65–70% range with ample capacity. Magnesia prices fluctuated at low levels of 2,800–3,200 RMB/ton, while bauxite (85%+) prices were approximately 950–1,250 RMB/ton, providing cost-side support for exports. From January to June 2026, total

China refractory exports reached about 3.80 million tons, up roughly 7% year-on-year, with steadily increasing shipments to Central Asia.

Industry Operating Rate 65%–70% ▲ Stable

97% Fused Magnesia 2,800–3,200 RMB/ton

Bauxite 85%+ 950–1,250 RMB/ton

H1 Export Volume ≈3.80M tons ▲ +7% YoY

Sources: Mysteel Refractory Database Jul 2026 Update; 100ppi.com Magnesia/Bauxite Price Monitoring Jul 2026; China Customs Monthly Export Statistics Jun 2026

## Turkmenistan Market Status

There are no large-scale refractory producers in Turkmenistan; the market is entirely import-led. In 2025, major import sources were China (~48%), Russia (~23%), Turkey (~16%), and Iran (~8%). End-users are concentrated in state-owned steel plants (Turkmen Metallurgy), cement, and glass enterprises. CIF prices carry an 18–25% premium over China FOB levels, with logistics costs being a significant factor.

China Share ≈48% (Largest Source)

Russia Share ≈23%

CIF Premium 18%–25%

Key End-Users Turkmen Metallurgy, Cement Plants

Sources: China Customs Export by Destination 2025; UN Comtrade Database 2025 (carried forward); Turkmenistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry Brief Dec 2025

## Product Segment Structure

Turkmenistan's refractory imports are predominantly alumina-silica and magnesia-based, with carbon-containing refractories gradually increasing in demand. Alumina-silica (fireclay bricks, high-alumina bricks) account for approximately 50%, mainly used in cement kilns and general industrial furnaces; magnesia-based (magnesia bricks, magnesia-carbon bricks) comprise about 30%, concentrated in steel converter and electric furnace applications; carbon and silicon carbide grades represent roughly 12%, with the remainder being unshaped (monolithic) refractories.

| Subcategory        | Import Share | Main Application             | Price Trend |
|--------------------|--------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| Alumina-Silica     | ≈50%         | Cement Kilns, Boilers        | Stable      |
| Magnesia           | ≈30%         | Steel Converter/EAF          | Low         |
| Carbon / SiC       | ≈12%         | Blast Furnace, Glass Furnace | Slight Rise |
| Unshaped Materials | ≈8%          | Repair, Gunning              | Stable      |

Sources: Mysteel Refractory Segment Report Q2 2026; 100ppi Refractory Raw Material Price Monitoring Jul 2026; Industry Research Composite Assessment

## Core Finished Product Supply & Demand

Turkmenistan's steel plant (Turkmen Metallurgy) produces approximately 350,000 tons of crude steel annually, making it the single largest refractory consumer at about 9,000–11,000 tons per year. The cement industry has an annual capacity of around 3.50 million tons with refractory consumption of roughly 5,000–6,000 tons per year. The glass sector's demand is approximately 2,000–2,500 tons per year. The overall supply gap is fully met by imports.

Steel-Use Refractories 9,000–11,000 tons/year

Cement-Use Refractories 5,000–6,000 tons/year

Glass-Use Refractories 2,000–2,500 tons/year

Supply Gap ≈100% Import Dependent ⚠ No Local Substitution

Sources: Worldsteel Turkmenistan Data 2025; Turkmenistan Ministry of Industry Annual Report (2025 Ed.); Industry Estimates (carried forward, no latest public data)

## Intermediate Products & Raw Material Value

Refractory raw material prices in China's production regions are at globally low levels, with clear cost advantages for magnesita and bauxite. Actual CIF prices for Turkmenistan importers increase by 18–25% due to inland Central Asian transportation costs. The main logistics route involves sea freight to Iran's Bandar Abbas port followed by land transport to Turkmenistan, with total transit time of approximately 25–35 days.

| Raw Material / Intermediate        | China Ex-Works Price | Est. CIF Turkmenistan | Price Spread |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 97% Fused Magnesita                | 2,800–3,200 RMB/ton  | 3,400–4,000 RMB/ton   | +20–25%      |
| 85% Bauxite                        | 950–1,250 RMB/ton    | 1,150–1,550 RMB/ton   | +18–24%      |
| Magnesita-Carbon Bricks (Finished) | 3,800–4,800 RMB/ton  | 4,600–5,800 RMB/ton   | +20–22%      |

Sources: Mysteel Refractory Raw Material Price Index Jul 2026; 100ppi Bulk Commodity Price Monitoring Jul 2026; Logistics Cost Composite Estimate (carried forward)

## Trade & Macro Indicators

Turkmenistan's GDP growth rate in 2025 was approximately 4.2%, with the economy underpinned by natural gas exports. Annual refractory imports are valued at around USD 8–12 million, representing a small but steadily growing share of China's total exports to Turkmenistan. Bilateral trade between China and Turkmenistan in 2025 reached about USD 11 billion, of which Chinese exports to Turkmenistan were approximately USD 1.8 billion. The official exchange rate of the Turkmenistan manat remains stable, but actual currency exchange faces restrictions.

GDP Growth ≈4.2% (2025)

Refractory Import Value USD 8–12 million/year

China-Turkmenistan Bilateral Trade ≈USD 11 billion (2025)

Official Exchange Rate 1 USD ≈ 3.5 TMT ⚠ Actual FX Restricted

## Risks & Opportunity Windows

Key risks include strict foreign exchange controls in Turkmenistan, high inland logistics costs, and low policy transparency. Opportunities include strong cost-effectiveness advantages for Chinese refractories, ongoing trade facilitation under the China-Turkmenistan Belt and Road cooperation framework, and the absence of domestic refractory industry plans in Turkmenistan, which suggests the import-dependent landscape will persist in the medium term. Close attention is recommended to Turkmenistan state-owned enterprise tender announcements and China-Turkmenistan economic and trade cooperation policy developments.

▲ Risk Foreign Exchange Controls, Currency Conversion Difficulties

▲ Risk High Inland Transport Cost, Long Lead Times

✓ Opportunity Significant Chinese Price/Performance Advantage

✓ Opportunity China-Turkmenistan Trade Policy Dividends

Sources: China Ministry of Commerce Country Investment Guide (Turkmenistan) 2025 Ed.; Turkmenistan National Economic Development Program Brief; Industry Risk Assessment Composite Jul 2026

## Data Source Summary

- Mysteel (Shanghai Metals Market) Refractory Database & Weekly Report
- 100ppi.com Bulk Commodity Price Monitoring
- General Administration of Customs of China (customs.gov.cn) Import & Export Statistics
- World Steel Association (Worldsteel) Annual Statistics
- World Bank Turkmenistan Economic Data
- UN Comtrade International Merchandise Trade Database
- China Ministry of Commerce Country Investment Guide (Turkmenistan)
- Turkmenistan State Statistics Committee Annual Report

Disclaimer: The data in this report is for reference only and does not constitute investment advice. Markets involve risk; decision-making requires caution.