Tajikistan Monthly Risk Monitoring & Warning Report

Issue: November, 2010
WEATHER RELATED NATURAL HAZARDS
Sharp drops in temperature are likely during December.

ENERGY SECURITY
Nurek Reservoir is storing more water than on average over the past 5 years, increasing the likelihood of sufficient electrical production capacity later in the winter. In November 2010 “Tajiktransgaz” paid off a 2.5 million USD debt to Uzbekistan together with a prepayment of 600,000 USD. This should result in an increase in natural gas supplies in Tajikistan, at least for industrial users.

FOOD SECURITY
Wheat flour prices have remained stable in Khujand, increased slightly in Dushanbe and increased significantly in Kurgan-Tube from October to November. Prices are near or at the same levels as during the food price crisis in mid-2008. High prices for this basic Tajik commodity can be expected to present challenges for the food security of those with limited disposable assets. Petrol prices in the same three markets are at the highest levels for the past 35 months, and are also likely having a knock-on effect on all commodity prices and overall food security.

HEALTH
The second round of two nationwide rounds with trivalent Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) vaccine was conducted 8 – 12 November 2010. The Ministry of Health reported 99.4% coverage nationwide, while independent monitoring indicates 96 – 108% coverage.

MACROECONOMIC TRENDS
Tajikistan continues to run a significant foreign trade deficit. For the ten months through October, the deficit totaled to 1.13 billion USD, with remittances (1.6 billion USD to October) providing considerable support to covering import costs. To October, total state expenditures (4.1 billion TJS/925.5 million USD) exceeded revenues (excluding grants) of 3.3 billion TJS (744.9 million USD).
Contents

RISK TRENDS ........................................................................................................................................... 2
1. HAZARDOUS EVENTS ......................................................................................................................... 4
2. WEATHER-RELATED RISKS ............................................................................................................... 4
   2.1 Forecast for December 2010 ......................................................................................................... 4
   2.2 Weather Summary for November 2010 ......................................................................................... 4
3. ENERGY ................................................................................................................................................ 5
   3.1 Electricity Supply ........................................................................................................................... 5
   3.2 Electricity Availability ..................................................................................................................... 5
   3.3 Natural Gas & Coal ........................................................................................................................ 6
   3.4 Reservoir Levels ............................................................................................................................ 7
4. FOOD SECURITY ................................................................................................................................ 8
   4.1 Food and Fuel Prices ..................................................................................................................... 8
5. HEALTH ............................................................................................................................................... 9
6. ECONOMIC TRENDS ........................................................................................................................... 9
   6.1 General Trends .............................................................................................................................. 9
   6.2 Inflation ........................................................................................................................................ 11
   6.3 Delayed Rail Freight Deliveries to Tajikistan ............................................................................... 11
   6.4 Migration ...................................................................................................................................... 11
   6.5 Employment and Wages .............................................................................................................. 12
   6.6 Wage and Payment Arrears ........................................................................................................ 12
   6.7 Exchange Rate ............................................................................................................................ 12
   6.8 Remittances ................................................................................................................................. 13
Annex A. Detailed Weather Forecast December 2010 ................................................................. 14
Annex B Delayed Rail Freight Deliveries to Tajikistan ............................................................. 15
1. HAZARDOUS EVENTS¹

(A brief summary of potential and experienced hazard natural hazard events in Tajikistan.)

In December, there is a risk of sharp drops in temperature and hazardous events due to heavy rain and snow leading to mudflows and avalanches.

From 2008 to 2010 there were only 6 disasters reported for November, including four earthquakes, one avalanche and one landslide. From 1998 to 2007 heavy rains and/or heavy snowfall, high water levels in canals, mudflows, avalanches and landslides were also reported during the month of November.

2. WEATHER-RELATED RISKS

2.1 Forecast for December 2010

December temperatures in Khatlon and Sughd Regions are expected to be 1 to 2°C above normal. In Gorno Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) and the Direct Rule Districts (DRD), the forecast is for temperatures to be 1 to 2°C below normal. Precipitation in all four regions in the country is expected to be above normal. (See Annex A for a more detailed forecast for December.)

2.2 Weather Summary for November 2010²

November experienced moderately warm weather with limited precipitation. Monthly average temperatures were close to or above normal (2 to 4°C). At lower elevations and in the foothills the temperatures were 8 to 12°C, in the mountains 1 to 5°C.

During the first 10 days of the month the weather was warmer than the rest of the month. Daytime temperatures were 23 to 28°C at lower elevations in the Khatlon Region and Direct Rule Districts. Temperatures at lower elevation in the Sughd Region were 20 to 25°C, in western GBAO 14 to 18°C (in Darvaz 20 to 23°C) and in eastern GBAO 4 to 9°C.

From November 21 till 30 the night temperatures significantly dropped in Khatlon and Sughd Regions (1 to 3°C).

Monthly precipitation in most of the regions was significantly below normal:
- At lower elevations in Khatlon Region and DRD- 26-78% of normal.
- In the mountains of Sughd Region - 0-57% of the normal.
- At lower elevations and in the foothills of Sughd Region – in general, 106-140% of the normal (Istravshan 61%).

Hazard Events Reported to the Committee of Emergency Situation in November

Nov. 11: 1:44am local time. 2 to 2.5 magnitude (Richter) earthquake 550 km south of Dushanbe in Pakistan. In Dushanbe it was 1.5 to 2 magnitudes. No human casualties or significant destruction.

Nov. 22: 7:16pm local time. 3 to 4 magnitude (Richter) earthquake 84 km northeast of Dushanbe and 5 km from Rogun town. No human casualties or significant destruction reported.

Nov. 25: 2:27pm local time. 4 magnitude (Righter) earthquake 362 km southeast of Dushanbe in GBAO region. In Dushanbe the earthquake was 2 to 3 magnitude. No human casualties or significant destruction were reported.

¹ Data reported by IMAC/CoES
² The information in Sections 1.2 and 1.3 and Annex A is based on reports from the State Hydro-meteorological Agency.

RMWS Report – November 2010
At high elevations in GBAO - 0-66% or normal.

Rainfall was limited during the month to the following periods:
- Sughd Region, November 3: 15-33 mm in 24 hours.
- DRD, November 3 till 5: 17, 19, 27 mm respectively during 24 hours.
- Khatlon Region, November 5: 13-17 mm during 24 hours.
- GBAO, November 4: 6-8 mm during 24 hours.

3. ENERGY

3.1 Electricity Supply

Total power generation in October 2010 was 1,180 GigaWatts. This is somewhat lower than in previous months. From October, Tajikistan’s energy system switches to a water-saving mode until Spring to ensure sufficient hydroelectric capacity through the Winter. As part of this approach electric power is also limited to most consumers.

The average daily power generation in October was 38 GigaWatts. Nurek HPP average daily production in October was 23 GigaWatts, or 61% of total production, similar to past months.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Nurek</th>
<th>Total for Tajikistan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>858</td>
<td>1,303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>December</td>
<td>866</td>
<td>1,414</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>January</td>
<td>849</td>
<td>1,429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>February</td>
<td>825</td>
<td>1,382</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March</td>
<td>809</td>
<td>1,383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April</td>
<td>824</td>
<td>1,267</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May</td>
<td>986</td>
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<td></td>
<td>June</td>
<td>975</td>
<td>1,331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>July</td>
<td>992</td>
<td>1,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>August</td>
<td>938</td>
<td>1,388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>September</td>
<td>874</td>
<td>1,284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>October</td>
<td>731</td>
<td>1,180</td>
</tr>
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</table>

3.2 Electricity Availability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>South (Including TALCO and Dushanbe)</th>
<th>North</th>
<th>Talco</th>
<th>Dushanbe</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>5.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>18.2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
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<td>4.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The average daily consumption by the major regions of Tajikistan and TALCO (the largest energy user) is shown in the above table. The country remained virtually self-sufficient in electricity in October.

The generation table shows a 41% drop in consumption in the north from September 2010. Northern Tajikistan is supplied electricity from the Kayrakum HPP as well as the Nurek HPP and purchases from Uzbekistan. With the advent of the winter power allocations, supplies to northern Tajikistan are reduced.
to save water in the Nurek Cascade\(^3\) and ensure adequate power for the southern part of the country later in the winter.

### 3.3 Natural Gas & Coal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010 (Projected)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Million m(^3)</td>
<td>622.5</td>
<td>629</td>
<td>635</td>
<td>644.7</td>
<td>512.7</td>
<td>216.7</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In January 2010 “Uzbektransgaz” has reduced natural gas supplies to Tajikistan by 50% due to a dispute over payments. Gas supply was cut from 480,000 m\(^3\) to 240,000 m\(^3\)/day.

In November 2010 “Tajiktransgaz” paid off a 2.5 million USD debt to “Uzbektransgaz” and made an advance payment of 600,000 USD. “Due to this (payment) Uzbekistan has increased hourly gas supply to Tajikistan to 25,000 m\(^3\), (per hour) with the major part of Uzbek gas deliveries (21,000 m\(^3\)/hour) distributed to the Tajik Aluminum Company “TALCO” and “Tojikcement” (Dushanbe cement plant).\(^4\) The figures for gas import in November and December are expected to rise.

![Graph showing natural gas imports from January to October 2010](image)

The coal production target for 2010 was 184,000 tons. Over the past 10 months, a total of 186,400 tons have been produced. A total of 188,100 tons of coal (including reserves) have been offered for sale over the past 10 months, or 44.100 tons more than the last year. The price per ton is 150 TJS ($33.56).

There are 1,905 coal sales points in the country. Coal can be purchased directly from the following coal fields: Fon-Yagnob, Shurob, Ziddeh, Saiyod, Shurobod, and Miyondust.

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\(^3\) The “Nurek Cascade” is a series of dams along the Vakhsh River which generate most of the electricity available in Tajikistan.


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3.4 Reservoir Levels
As indicated in the first chart below (Water Storage - Nurek HPP Oct 09 – Nov 10) the volume of water in Nurek Reservoir as of the middle of November was above the 2005-2009 average. The second chart below (Water Inflow - Nurek HPP Oct 09 – Nov 10) shows that November inflows were somewhat above average following below average inflows in October. However, outflows in November have been below average (see Water Outflow - Nurek HPP Oct 09 – Nov 10), consistent with above average water storage levels and reduced power generation (see Section 3.1). Above average storage and inflows will improving Nurek Cascade capacity to produce electricity in early 2011.

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5 Data from CAWaterInfo, [http://www.cawater-info.net/analysis/water/nurek_e.htm#](http://www.cawater-info.net/analysis/water/nurek_e.htm#)
4. FOOD SECURITY

4.1 Food and Fuel Prices

1st Grade Wheat Flour

The first table below provides per kg prices for 1st grade wheat flour in the main Tajik commercial markets of Dushanbe, Khujand and Kurgan Tyube from January 2008 to November 2010. The reported price for wheat flour in Kurgan Tyube in the last week of November was as high as the food crisis period in the middle of 2008. Wheat flour prices increased in Dushanbe but remain unchanged in Khujand in November, but these prices remain close to the peak prices during the food price crisis in mid-2008. High prices for this basic Tajik commodity will present challenges for the food security of those with limited disposable assets.

The second table below provides prices for 1st grade wheat flour in Garm and Khorog for the same period, as well as the average price for this commodity in the three main markets noted above. The two regional markets are being monitored as winter weather and resulting road blockages may drive up prices. While end-of-November prices remained unchanged in Khorog and Garm, prices are high compared to prices since November 2008. The lowest price for flour in Garm was in May 2010 (1.7 TJS per kg). As in other parts of Tajikistan, these relatively high prices will affect the food security of those with limited assets.

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6 Food and fuel prices are from WFP Food Security Weekly Market Monitoring, Tajikistan

RMWS Report – November 2010
Fuel Prices

As indicated below, petrol prices have dropped slight since July but remain at levels above any time since January 2008. Persistent high petrol prices are likely to impact (increase) overall prices in Tajikistan and result in more expensive basic commodities.

Diesel prices for January 2008-November 2010 for the three markets follow a similar, but not identical, trend as for petrol. Diesel price in Dushanbe and Kurgan-Tube remains static since Sep 2010, while in Khujand prices has increased slightly. (No table provided.)

Media reports\(^7\) indicate that the Tajikistan and Russian governments are discussing the provision of duty-free petroleum products to Tajikistan. Such an agreement would remove the 30% tax of fuel exports imposed by Russia earlier in the year, a contributing factor to the high fuel prices in the country.

### Petrol, Somoni/liter, Three Main Markets, Jan 2008-Oct 2010

![Chart showing Petrol, Somoni/liter, Three Main Markets, Jan 2008-Oct 2010](chart.png)

5. HEALTH

As of 30 November 2010, Tajikistan has reported 710 Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP cases, of which 458 are laboratory confirmed for wild poliovirus type1, with 153 negative samples. The onset date for the latest AFP case was November 5, 2010.

A second of two nationwide rounds with trivalent Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) vaccine was conducted 8 – 12 November 2010. The Ministry of Health reported 99.4% coverage while independent monitoring\(^8\) indicated 96-108% coverage.

6. ECONOMIC TRENDS

6.1 General Trends

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for January-October 2010 totaled 18.9 billion TJS (4.2 billion USD) which is 5.2% more than during the same period in 2009 in comparable prices. However, in October there was a reduction of the pace of GDP growth compared to September. This is mainly associated with the state budget deficit for the first nine months of the year. In October, GDP was 1.9 billion TJS which 0.9 billion TJS less than in September.

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\(^7\) Russia may eliminate oil export duties for Tajikistan, [http://www.rbcnews.com/free/20101125115614.shtml](http://www.rbcnews.com/free/20101125115614.shtml)

\(^8\) WHO, UNICEF, USAID and several NGOs.
The share of goods production within the GDP in October was 41.2%. This is an increase compared to July (37.1%), August (38.2%) and September (40.1%). The share of services in GDP for the last three months continued its decline and reached 48.0% in October. In July, this indicator was 51.6%, in August 51.0% and in September 49.1%. At the same time, the share of taxes in the GDP over the past three months remained relatively unchanged: 10.8% in October compared to: July - 11.3%, August - 10.8%, and September - 10.8%.

As indicated in all previous monthly reports, the country’s economy experiences a growing negative trend of aggregate domestic expenditures exceeding GDP. During the period from June to September 2010, the excess of domestic expenditures over the produced GDP increased from 17% to 19%. In October, this ratio was 22.5%, indicating a threat of economic insecurity, especially due to dependency of the economy on the external market conditions and remittances from labor migrants.

A difficult situation remains in the fiscal and monetary sectors of the economy. From January to October 2010, total state budget revenue (excluding grants) was 3.3 billion TJS (744.9 million USD) or 19.5% of GDP, while the total amount expenditures was 4.1 billion TJS (925.5 million USD) or 24.1% of GDP.

Total loans granted by financial institutions in Tajikistan for the first 9 months of 2010 totaled more than 5.7 billion TJS, 2.5% more than the same period in 2009. According to data from the National Bank of Tajikistan (NBT), 70.2% of the loans are in Somoni and 29.8% in other currencies. Past-due loans in the banking system and microfinance institutions remain high as of early October 2010. The total amount of the past-due loans was 2.44 billion TJS or 42% of the total value of granted loans (94.3% were granted in local currency and 5.7% in foreign currency.)

NBT tries to support second-tier banks in order to ensure liquidity, but this support is mainly short-term (up to 6 months), increasing the risks to second-tier banks in the long run. The focus on short-term over long-term credit does not promote long-term investment into the manufacturing sector of the economy.

A complex and ambiguous situation remains in the foreign trade sector of the economy. In October, the negative trade balance continued its increase and was $128.1 million. In general, from January to October 2010, the trade deficit totaled 1.13 billion USD. The trade deficit with CIS countries increased by 133.6 million USD to 1.08 billion USD. The trade deficit with other countries decreased by 5.5 million USD to 55 million USD. In October, only 45% of imports were covered by export revenues, 6% more than for the corresponding period of 2009. In general, this figure is very low and raises concerns about the foreign economic security of the country, with the dependency of the national currency on remittances from labor migrants and not the ratio of export and import operations.

Exports in October have increased by 36.9% and imports by 3.9% compared to September. Foreign trade turnover in January-October 2010 totaled 1.3 billion USD, 5.0% more compared to the same period 2009. However, it has decreased by 0.6% or 8.0 million USD, with CIS countries and increased by 9.8% or 150.6 million USD dollars, with other countries.
6.2 Inflation

The inflation rate for the consumer sector of Tajikistan was 0.4%. According to the State Statistics Agency, in October food prices rose by 1.7%, non-food products by 0.1%, and paid services dropped by 0.1%. Over the January to October period 2010, inflation in the consumer sector was 7.8%, including growth of food prices by 10.2%, non-food products by 4.4% and paid services by 5.2%. In general, the average monthly inflation rate over this period was 0.8% (the monthly inflation rate for the same period of 2009 was 0.5%).

The actual cost of food items in the family consumer basket for October 2010 was 107.54 TJS (24.2 USD) with the cost based on nutritional standards being 208.77 TJS (47.1 USD).

6.3 Delayed Rail Freight Deliveries to Tajikistan

A total of 729 rail cars were reported as delayed as of 8 December, down from 1,270 in late October. A month-by-month breakdown of delayed rail deliveries by contents can be found in Annex B.)

The chart at right provides information on total delayed rail cars from April 14 to Dec 8th, 2010 destined to Tajikistan. After “Other Commodities”, the most frequently delayed commodities were fuel and lubricants and flour and grains, which may have contributed to the increase on fuel and wheat flour prices. Tajikistan’s business sector experiences high costs of resupply while paying extra fees for delayed rail cars and also paying informal fees to get their rail cars released.

6.4 Migration

A total of 426,300 labor migrants left Tajikistan during the first 10 months of 2010, compared to 536,800 in the same period on 2009. Of the total, 389,863 were men (91.4%). Means of departure included air: (328,212 persons) railway (82,719 persons) and motor vehicle (15,389 persons).

A total of 212,389 labor migrants returned to Tajikistan during the first 10 months of 2010 (86.6% male) Returns were by air (174,843 persons), railway (35,768 persons) and motor vehicles (1,778 persons).

According to Mr. Sebelev, Dushanbe

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9 Data in sections 5.3, 5.6 and 5.7 is provided by the National Bank of Tajikistan.

10 State Statistics Agency in Tajikistan
Representative, Russian Federal Migration Service, a total of 929,000 persons from Tajikistan entered the Russian Federation in 2009 with the corresponding number for the first eight months of 2010 being 762,000 persons. In 2009, work permits were issued to more than 213,000 Tajik citizens while over 129,000 Tajik citizens were allowed to work during the first eight months of 2010.

Of note, the migration statistics provided by the Tajikistan Migration Service (Ministry of Interior) and Russian Federal Migration Service seem to differ significantly and warrant further investigation.

6.5 Employment and Wages

The State Statistics Agency in Tajikistan reported that 2.2 million people were economically active in October. Of this total, 2.1 million (97.8%) were employed in various industries and 47,800 were officially unemployed.

A total of 109,954 new jobs were created in the first 10 months of 2010.

As of October 2010, the average monthly salary nationwide rose, from 313.75 TJS (70.8 USD) to 354.83 TJS (80 USD) (13.1%) compared with the same period in 2009. See chart at right for local-specific data.

6.6 Wage and Payment Arrears

Salary arrears to September 2010 totaled 19.1 million TJS (4.3 million USD). For September alone, arrears totaled an estimated 4.9 million TJS (1.1 million USD) or 26.1% of total arrears. (Further information on payment and wage arrears will be provided in the December report.)

6.7 Exchange Rate

The official NBT TJS-USD exchange rate 2 December 2010 was 4.39 TJS/1 USD. In October the average TJS/USD settlement rate was 4.38 TJS/1 USD. The TJS dropped by 0.2 points against Russian ruble and by 0.5 points against Euro.

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11 Data in sections 5.4 and 5.5 is provided by the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection in Tajikistan.
The NBT reports that to October, 2010, remittances totaled 1.6 billion USD compared to 1.8 billion on all of 2009. The NTB expects remittances to exceed 2.1 billion USD by the end of 2010, compared to approximately 2.5 billion USD in 2008.

**Khatlon Region and Direct Ruled District (DRD)**

The Hydrometeorology Service of Tajikistan forecasts monthly average temperatures in December to be 1 to 2°C above normal in lower elevations, reaching 5 to 6°C, and in the foothills, 2 to 4°C.

During December temperatures are expected to fluctuate during nighttime between 3 to 8°C at lower elevations, and -3 to 2°C, in the foothills and between -2 to 3°C and -3 to -8°C; during daytime in lower elevations and between 3 to 8°C and 11 to 16°C, and in the foothills between 3 to 8°C and 9 to 14°C.

Frequent rain or snow is forecast for the month. Monthly precipitation is expected above normal: in the valleys normal = 32-66mm and in the foothills normal = 77-92mm.

Winds will be from the western at 64-82 km/hour, with mist at times.

**Sughd Region**

Monthly average temperature is expected to be 2°C above normal in valley areas while in the mountains temperatures are expected to be 1°C below normal.

During the month the temperatures at nighttime will fluctuate between -3 to 2°C and 1 to 6°C; in valley areas and between -2 to -7°C and -9 to -14°C; daytime temperatures in lower elevation between 1 to 6°C and 8 to 13°C, in the mountains between -3 to 2°C and 2 to 7°C.

Frequent precipitation (snow and rain) is expected. Monthly precipitation is expected above normal. Normal in lowlands = 15-35mm; in the mountains = 10-22mm.

Winds from the western at 64-82 km/hour and mist can be expected.

**Mountainous Regions, DRD and Western GBAO**

Monthly average temperature is expected to be 1 to 2°C below normal with temperatures ranging from 1 to -5°C.

During the month temperatures will fluctuate at nighttime between 2 to 7°C and -10 to -15°C and during daytime between -1 to 4°C and 0 to -5°C with some days as warm as 5 to 10°C.

Monthly precipitation is expected to be above normal: Western GABAO normal = 6-30mm; DRD mountains = 37-72mm.

**Eastern GBAO**

Monthly average temperatures are expected to be 1 to 2°C below normal with temperatures -16 to -18°C.

Temperatures during nighttime will be between -11 and -16°C and -20 and -25°C. On some days temperatures may drop at nighttime to between -27 and -32°C and during daytime to between -4 and -9°C and -10 and -15°C. Monthly precipitation is expected above normal (normal 4-12mm).
# Annex B Delayed Rail Freight Deliveries to Tajikistan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodities</th>
<th>14 Apr</th>
<th>12 May</th>
<th>22 June</th>
<th>21 July</th>
<th>28 Aug</th>
<th>4 Oct</th>
<th>29 Oct</th>
<th>8 Dec</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bauxite</td>
<td>270</td>
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<td>Fuel and Lubricants</td>
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<td>485</td>
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<td>126</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Gas</td>
<td>None reported</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>None reported</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>None reported</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other commodities</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>627</td>
<td>748</td>
<td>791</td>
<td>605</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>810</td>
<td>564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,147</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,761</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,502</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,043</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,024</strong></td>
<td><strong>922</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,270</strong></td>
<td><strong>729</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The aim of the Tajikistan Monthly Risk Monitoring Reports is to provide regular information and succinct analysis on the evolution of natural, economic, food-related, energy-related and other risk factors in Tajikistan. Data and information in this report are provided by different sources and compiled by the RMWS Group of Experts and UN Agencies in Tajikistan. The United Nations in Tajikistan and UKAid are not responsible for the quality or accuracy of the data provided by external sources or the analysis contained in this report.

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The report is available at:
http://untj.org/country_context/coordination_mechanisms/disaster_management/compound_crisis/early_warning_indicators/