



SUEZ CANAL

## Suez Canal revenues hit \$449 million in early 2026 as regional stability returns



**S**uez Canal revenues reached \$449m since the beginning of 2026, marking a recovery following a ceasefire in Gaza that restored regional stability, Suez Canal Authority (SCA) Chairperson Osama Rabie.

The canal recorded the passage of 1,315 ships with a total net tonnage of 56 million tons from January 1 to February 8, 2026. This compares to 1,243 ships, 47 million tons, and \$368 million in revenue during the same period last year, Rabie stated during the opening of the 15th International Maritime Transport and Logistics Conference (MARLOG).

Navigation statistics for the first half of the 2025/2026 fiscal year showed a relative improvement, with the number of passing vessels increasing by 5.8% and net tonnage rising by 16%. These figures resulted in an 18.5% increase in revenue compared to the same period in the FY 2024/2025.

Rabie described 2024 as a “year of testing” due to significant impacts from Red Sea navigation disruptions. However, he noted that the last quarter of 2025 witnessed the start of a recovery following Sharm El-Sheikh peace summit, which led to a ceasefire in Gaza and re-established calm in the region.

The Suez Canal has “redefined itself” as a sophisticated logistics system adopting comprehensive digital transformation, according to Rabie. He added that the waterway has become a global symbol of resilience against severe challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the grounding of the Ever Given, the Ukrainian war, and recent tensions in the Red Sea and Bab al-Mandab.

Under its 2030 strategy, the Suez Canal Authority has completed the development of the canal’s southern sector, which Rabie said has increased the navigational safety factor by 28%. The authority has also modernised its maritime service system, introducing crew change services and maritime ambulance and rescue operations. These capabilities were recently utilised in the rescue of the crew of the ship Fener at the entrance to Port Said.

ECONOMY

## EU commits \$147 million to green hydrogen, grid expansion projects in Egypt



**T**he European Commission announced that it is committing €124.3 million (\$147 million) of funding to Egypt to support the country’s green hydrogen development and grid expansion projects.

The funding package includes €34.3 million (\$41 million) for the Sokhna Green Ammonia project and €90 million (\$107 million) for the Egypt Grid Modernisation and Expansion programme.

The projects were presented at the “Egypt’s Sustainable Energy Outlook 2040: Cooperation for Shared Prosperity” conference in Cairo, co-hosted by the European Union and the Egyptian government.

INVESTMENTS

## Egypt’s SCZONE signs \$13 million deals for food and fertilizer projects in Sokhna



**E**gypt’s Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCZONE) signed two contracts for industrial projects in the Sokhna Industrial Zone worth a combined \$13 million (EGP 609m) to manufacture food products and fertilisers.

Waleed Gamal El-Din, Chairperson of the SCZONE, witnessed the signing ceremonies. The first contract for Al-Atta Group for Food and Mining Industries. The project involves an investment of \$11 million (EGP 515 million) and will be established on a 17,000-square-metre site within the Sokhna Industrial Zone, under the Main Development Company (MDC), the authority’s development arm.

The Al-Atta Group facility is expected to begin production in 2027 with an annual capacity of 10,000 tonnes of packaged grains. The project, which will create approximately 30 direct jobs, also includes activities for the processing and trading of minerals and precious stones.

The second contract was signed with Grass Egypt for the manufacture of fertilisers, soil conditioners, and agricultural pesticides. This project represents a \$2 million (EGP 94 million) investment and will cover 15,000 square meters. Scheduled to commence production in early 2027, the plant will have an annual capacity ranging between 5,000 and 7,000 tonnes and is expected to provide 70 direct jobs.

Gamal El-Din stated that the Sokhna Industrial Zone is experiencing increasing interest from investors across various sectors, which he attributed to confidence in the authority’s investment environment. He said the SCZONE continues to support industrial projects that meet domestic market needs and bolster exports, with a focus on vital sectors such as food security, supply chains, and mining.

“The Grass Egypt project contributes directly to the substitution of imported fertilisers and pesticides,” Gamal El-Din said, adding that the authority’s strategy aims to localise national industries and deepen local components in essential sectors.

The chairperson noted that the authority is working to accelerate the implementation of industrial projects by providing a package of facilities and services to investors. These efforts are intended to enhance national competitiveness and increase employment opportunities while building a diverse industrial base in Sokhna.



INVESTMENTS

## Egypt's FRA launches digital factoring portal to curb financing risks



**E**gypt's Financial Regulatory Authority (FRA) has launched a digital factoring system on its electronic portal in partnership with e-finance to prevent double financing risks and streamline oversight of the sector, the regulator said.

The first phase of the system allows factoring companies to conduct electronic inquiries into invoices to verify whether they have been previously funded. This is achieved through a direct link with the Ministry of Finance and the Egyptian Tax Authority, intended to ensure data accuracy and protect the market from irregular practices.

FRA Chairperson Mohamed Farid said the launch is a step toward building an integrated infrastructure for the digital transformation of non-banking financial services. He noted that the system employs financial technology to enhance transparency and governance while improving the speed of service delivery.

The digitisation comes amid rapid growth in the sector. The value of factored securities rose by 77.8% in 2025 to reach EGP 132.2 billion, compared to EGP 74.5 billion in 2024, according to FRA data.

Under the new mechanism, factoring firms can reserve invoices in their favour until the funding is disbursed to the seller. Companies are then required to upload proof of payment to maintain a precise digital record of each transaction. Factoring is a short-term financing tool where businesses sell their future receivables to a third party, known as the factor, to obtain immediate liquidity.

Farid added that a second phase of the project will transition the entire factoring cycle into a fully electronic process, covering everything from initial invoice verification to final payment. He stated that this expansion is expected to reduce operational costs, shorten procedural timelines, and accelerate corporate access to necessary liquidity.

ECONOMY

## Egypt's urban inflation eases to 11.9% in January 2026



**E**gypt's annual urban inflation eased to 11.9% in January 2026, down from 12.3% in December 2025, according to the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics (CAPMAS).

In a statement issued on Tuesday, CAPMAS said the overall consumer price index (CPI) for the Arab Republic of Egypt reached 268.1 points in

January 2026, bringing nationwide annual inflation to 10.1%, compared with 10.3% in December 2025.

Core CPI inflation declined to 11.2% in January 2026, from 11.8% in December 2025. Monthly core CPI inflation, calculated by the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE), stood at 1.2% in January 2026, compared with 1.7% in January 2025.

In its accompanying statement, the central bank said the rate cut was appropriate to maintain a monetary policy stance that anchors inflation expectations and supports the disinflation path. It added that demand-side inflationary pressures are expected to remain limited under the current policy framework.

The CBE noted that the recent moderation in monthly inflation developments compared with typical seasonal patterns points to improved inflation expectations and the gradual fading of the effects of previous shocks.

INVESTMENTS

## Japanese investment delegation visits Egypt to strengthen infrastructure partnerships



**H**igh-level Japanese investment delegation paid a visit to Egypt as part of ongoing efforts to deepen economic and investment ties between the two countries and advance cooperation on infrastructure and sustainable development projects in Egypt and

across Africa.

The visit included the convening of the Quality Infrastructure Dialogue (QID), with senior-level participation from both sides.

The dialogue is led by Japan's Vice Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and attended by senior officials from Egyptian government entities, the Suez Canal Economic Zone, and key institutional stakeholders. Jointly organised with the Egyptian-Japanese Business Council, the event brings together leading Japanese and Egyptian companies active in infrastructure and urban development.

The Quality Infrastructure Dialogue represents a structured institutional pathway aimed at transferring Japanese investment, expertise, and quality standards to Egypt and Africa through joint projects in industrial zones, energy, transport, and water sectors.

More than 30 Japanese companies are participating, marking the largest Japanese investment mission of its kind to an African country. The turnout reflects Egypt's growing strategic importance within Japan's Africa expansion strategy and its position as a regional hub for infrastructure and sustainable development projects.