



CADGAT

Central Asia Data Gathering and Analysis Team

**HOLIDAYS IN CENTRAL ASIA**

**Part II: Professional and working holidays**

## Central Asia Regional Data Review

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In 2009, the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) and the OSCE Academy established the Central Asia Data-Gathering and Analysis Team (CADGAT). The purpose of CADGAT is to produce new cross-regional data on Central Asia that can be freely used by researchers, journalists, NGOs and government employees inside and outside the region. The project is managed by Kristin Fjaestad and Indra Overland at NUPI. Comments and questions can be sent to: [cadgat@nupi.no](mailto:cadgat@nupi.no). The datasets can be found at: [www.osce-academy.net/en/cadgat/](http://www.osce-academy.net/en/cadgat/)

## Introduction

Recent academic literature on Central Asia has shown an increasing interest in holidays and the celebrations that mark such days as a way of understanding nation- and state-building policies in the region. This CADGAT dataset provides a good starting point for a comparative approach. It presents an overview of national holidays in the five Central Asian countries: what the holidays are and when they are celebrated; and traces the development of national holidays (some are no longer celebrated, whereas new ones have arrived) back to independence in 1991.

The data were collected between March and September 2014 by individual researchers in each of the five countries. Variation in terms of data availability and quality across the countries must be noted. The sources and methods used are listed in footnotes.

This report is the second part about various aspects of holidays. In this one, we present an overview of professional and working holidays in the five countries. The first report gives an overview of public holidays and the laws and regulations on holidays in these five countries.

## Main findings

- Several professional and working holidays are adopted from the list of international professional and working holidays and are celebrated at approximately the same time as they are celebrated elsewhere in the world. For instance, International Health Day is celebrated in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan on 7 April; Kyrgyzstan celebrates a similar event – Day of Physical Culture and Sports Workers – one day earlier.
- Further, Railroad Workers' Day is celebrated in the first Sunday of August in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. On the same day in August, Kazakhstan celebrates Transport Workers' day. Tajikistan celebrates Railroad Workers' Day on 17 August. Similarly, Builders' Day is the second Sunday of August in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan; in Tajikistan, the third Sunday of August is designated as Builders' Day.
- Quite a few celebratory causes are common across the countries but celebrated on different days. Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan both have days honouring when the national language became the state language, as well as national flag days. In Kyrgyzstan these days are 23 September and 3 March respectively, whereas Uzbekistan celebrates these symbols of sovereignty on 21 October and 18 November respectively.
- Many of the holidays are used to celebrate particular aspects of culture or history, such as Shasmaqam Day in Tajikistan or Turkmen Carpet Day or

Melon Day. In Tajikistan and Uzbekistan several holidays are dedicated to historical persons.

## Kazakhstan

The Presidential Decree 'On Professional and other holidays',<sup>1</sup> amended in 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014<sup>2</sup> defines the list of professional holidays in Kazakhstan.

1 <sup>3</sup>	Day of Geologists	First Sunday of April	Established by Presidential Decree № 164 of 1 July 2011.
2	Day of Education Workers	12 April	Established by Presidential Decree № 164 of 1 July 2011.
2-1	Day of State Security Services	21 April	Established by Presidential Decree № 814 of 4 May 2014
3-1	Day of Culture and Art Workers	21 May	Established by Presidential Decree № 698 of 22 November 2013
4	Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Political Repression and Hunger	31 May	Established by Presidential Decree № 3827 of 20 January 1998.
5	Day of Chemical Industry Workers	Last Sunday of May	Established by Presidential Decree № 164 of 1 July 2011.
6	Day of State Symbols of the Republic of Kazakhstan	4 June	Established by Presidential Decree № 337 of 4 June 2007
7	Day of Ecologists	5 June	Established by Presidential Decree № 164 of 1 July 2011.
8	Day of Financial Police	6 June	Established by Presidential Decree № 164 of 1 July 2011.
9.	Day of Light Industry Workers	Second Sunday of June	Established by Presidential Decree № 164 of 1 July 2011.
10.	Day of Civil Servants	23 June	Established by Presidential Decree № 716 of 20 December 2013
10.1	Day of Police	23 June	Established by Presidential Decree № 342 of 5 June 2007.
11	Day of Health Workers	Third Sunday of June	Established by Presidential Decree № 1226 of 15 November 2003
12	Day of Communications and Information Workers	28 June	Established by Presidential Decree № 164 of 1 July 2011, thereby eliminating the Day of the Press, Television and Radio, celebrated since 1998 on the last Sunday of June.
13	Day of Diplomatic Service	2 July	Established by Presidential Decree № 837 of 1 July 2009
14	Day of National Security Workers	13 July	Established by Presidential Decree № 164 of 1 July 2011.
15	Day of Metallurgists	Third Sunday of July	Established by Presidential Decree № 1226 of 15 November 2003

<sup>1</sup> Decree of the President 'On Professional and other holidays' № 3827 as of 20 January 1998

<sup>2</sup> Decree of the President, introducing changes to the law Decree of the President 'On Professional and other holidays' № 164 of 20 October 2011; № 272 of 28 August 2012; № 511 of 1 March 2013; № 698 of 22 November 2013; № 716 of 20 December 2013; № 814 of 4 May 2014.

<sup>3</sup> This is the numeration system which is used in the law. If a new holiday is introduced, the overall numeration order is not changed.

16	Day of Transport Workers	First Sunday of August	Established by Presidential Decree № 1226 of 15 November 2003
17	Builders' Day	Second Sunday of August	Established by Presidential Decree № 164 of 1 July 2011.
17-1	Border Guards' Day	18 August	Established by Presidential Decree № 372 of 28 August 2012
18	Day of Sports	Third Sunday of August	Established by Presidential Decree № 3827 of 20 January 1998.
19	Miners' Day	Last Sunday of August	Established by Presidential Decree № 1226 of 15 November 2003
20	Knowledge Day	1 September	Established by Presidential Decree № 3827 of 20 January 1998.
21	Day of Oil and Gas Industry Workers	First Sunday of September	Established by Presidential Decree № 1226 of 15 November 2003
21.1	Family Day	Second Sunday of September	Established by Presidential Decree № 511 of 1 March 2013.
22	Day of Languages of Peoples of Kazakhstan	Third Sunday of September	Established by Presidential Decree № 3827 of 20 January 1998. Initially celebrated on 22 September.
23	Day of Nuclear Industry Workers	28 September	Established by Presidential Decree № 587 of 12 May 2008
24	Day of Justice Workers	30 September	Established by Presidential Decree № 164 of 1 July 2011.
26	Day of Machine Builders	Last Sunday of September	Established by Presidential Decree № 164 of 1 July 2011.
26-1	Labour Day	Last Sunday of September	Established by Presidential Decree № 698 of 22 November 2013
27	Teachers' Day	First Sunday of October	Established by Presidential Decree № 1226 of 15 November 2003
28	Lifeguards' Day	19 October	Established by Presidential Decree № 164 of 1 July 2011.
29	Day of Social Protection System Workers	Last Sunday of October	Established by Presidential Decree № 164 of 1 July 2011.
30	Day of Statisticians	8 November	Established by Presidential Decree № 164 of 1 July 2011.
31	Day of the National Currency – Tenge: professional holiday of financial system workers	15 November	Established by Presidential Decree № 3827 of 20 January 1998.
32	Day of Agricultural Workers	Third Sunday of November	Established by Presidential Decree № 1226 of 15 November 2003
33	Prosecutor's Office Day	6 December	Established by Presidential Decree № 164 of 1 July 2011.
34	Day of Customs Services Workers	12 December	Established by Presidential Decree № 164 of 1 July 2011.
35	Day of Energy Workers	Third Sunday of December	Established by Presidential Decree № 1226 of 15 November 2003

## Kyrgyzstan

1	Day of Financial Police	19 February	Established by Government Decree of 17 February 2005
2	Day of Land Management, Geodesy and Cartography Kyrgyzstan	22 February	Established by Government Decree № 24 of 31 January 2007.
3	National Flag Day	3 March	Celebrated since 2010. Established by Presidential Decree of the Kyrgyz Republic № 270 of 19 June 2009.
4	Day of Judicial system's Worker	5 March	Celebrated since 2005. Established by Government Decree of the Kyrgyz Republic № 387 of 26 May 2004.
5	Day of Geologists	6 April	Government Decree № 89 of 20 March 1995.
6	Day of Physical Culture and Sports Workers	6 April	Celebrated since 2014. The Prime Minister signed Government Decree on 11 January 2014, thereby annulling Government Decree of 17 September 1993: the Day of Sportsmen and Physical Culture and Sports Professionals had been celebrated on the last Saturday of September.
7	Day of Books	23 April	Established by Government Decree № 189 of 1 April 2002
8	Day of Radio	7 May	Set by Government Decree № 135 of 17 April 1995
9	Day of Bank Employees	10 May	On 10 May 1993, the country introduced its own currency – the Kyrgyz som.
10	Mothers' Day	Third Sunday of May	Established by Presidential Decree of 23 April 2012.
11	Library Day	27 May	Established by Government Decree № 308 of 17 June 2008; celebrated since 2009.
12	Kyrgyz Border Guards' Day	28 May	Established by Government Decree № 696 of 15 December 1999. However, Government Decree № 303 of 23 May 2003 set a new date for the celebration – 29 October. Border Service veterans appealed, and the Government decided to return to the historical date, 28 May (Decree of the Kyrgyz Parliament № 296 –III of 26 May 2005).
13	Kyrgyz Armed Forces Day	29 May	Decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic of 29 May 1992, 'On the taking (acceptance) of the jurisdiction of military formations, units and institutions of the former Soviet Union, located on the territory of Kyrgyzstan'
14	Day of Financial and Economic Workers	7 June	Established by Government Decree № 209 of 16 April 2003. Prior to this, this holiday was set twice: in 1998 (10 December) and in 2001 (the last Sunday in November)
15	Day of Firefighting Service	15 June	Established by Government Decree № 795 of 28 October 1994
16	Day of Water Industry Workers	Third Sunday of June	Established by Government Decree № 225 of 5 June 1995.
17	Day of Civil Servants of Kyrgyzstan	23 June	Established by Government Decree № 242 of 22 June 2007
18	Lawyers' Day	Last Sunday of June	Established by Government Decree № 272 of 24 June 1993
19	Day of Tax Employees	1 July	Established by Government Decree № 262 of 12 April 2006
20	Day of Medical Workers	First Sunday of July	Established by Government Decree № 253 of 8 June 1993.

21	Day of the National Guard of Kyrgyzstan	20 July	On 20 July 1992, the First National Guard of the Kyrgyz Republic took the oath of allegiance to the country and the people.
22	Railroad Employees' Day	First Sunday of August	Established by Government Decree № 578 of 3 August 1994.
23	Builder's Day	Second Sunday of August	Established by Government Decree № 539 of 28 July 1994
24	Day of Penitentiary System Employees	12 August	Established by Government Decree № 609 of 26 September 2003
25	Day of Drug Control Institution Employees	17 August	Established by Government Decree № 801 of 16 November 2006
26	Day of Internal Troops of Kyrgyzstan	24 August	Established by Government Decree № 478 of 3 July 2006
27	Day of Archivists	30 August	Established by Government Decree № 519 of 26 October 1993.
28	Day of the Coal Industry of Kyrgyzstan (Miners' Day)	Last Sunday of August	Established by Government Decree № 332 of 4 August 1995.
29	Day of Oil and Gas Industry of Kyrgyzstan	First Sunday of September	Established by Government Decree № 25 of 1 February 1995.
30	Day of the State Defence Service	16 September	Established by Government Decree № 369 of 11 June 2009
31	Day of Entrepreneurs	20 September	Established by Government Decree of 20 October 2000.
32	Day of Forestry Workers	Third Sunday of September	Established by Government Decree № 364 of 13 August 1993.
33	Day of the State Language	23 September	Established by Presidential Decree of 22 September 2009
34	Day of Bishkek City	Last Saturday of September	Official date of foundation of the city is 29 April 1878. For a long time the holiday was celebrated on 29 April, but in 2014 its celebration was postponed to the autumn, for convenience.
35	Machine Engineers' Day	Last Sunday of September	Established by Government Decree № 396 of 22 September 1995
36	Blood Donors' Day	Last Sunday of September	Established by Government Decree № 599 of 15 October 1997
37	Day of Education Workers in Kyrgyzstan	First Sunday in October	Established by Government Decree № 36 of 5 February 2008, thereby annulling Government Decree № 376 of 23 May 2006 'On establishing the day of primary vocational education system of the Kyrgyz Republic'. That was celebrated only once – in 2007. The first professional holiday of educators in Kyrgyzstan was established by the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of 29 September 1965 as Teachers' Day. After Kyrgyz independence it was the only professional day that was not reinstalled in accordance with national legislation.
38	Day of Civil Aviation of Kyrgyzstan	7 October	Established by Government Decree № 738 of 3 October 1994
39	Diplomatic Workers' Day	24 October	Established by Government Decree № 689 of 21 October 1998
40	Day of Standardization and Metrology Workers	24 October	Kyrgyz Government Decree № 449 of 1 October 1996
41	Day of Local	Last Sunday of	Established by Government Decree № 107 of 6 March

	Communities	October	2003
42	Day of Culture Workers	2 November	Established by Government Decree № 318 of 28 July 1995.
43	Day of Information and Press	7 November	Established by Government Decree № 527 of 1 November 1993
44	Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Political Repression	8 November	Established by Parliamentary Resolution № 74-IV of 18 January 2008. Originally it was decided that 30 October should mark the Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Political Repression in the Kyrgyz Republic; later Parliaments shifted the date to 8 November
45	Youth Day	10 November	Established by Government Decree № 15 of 14 January 2002
46	Science Day	10 November	Established by Government Decree № 18 of 14 January 2002
47	Day of Radio and Television	8 December	Established by Government Decree № 566 of 23 December 1995.
48	National Day of Literature of Kyrgyzstan	12 December	Proposed by the Parliament In 2011; approved in June 2011 by Prime Minister A. Atambayev.
49	Day of National Security Agents	20 December	Established by Government Decree № 120 of 12 April 2007, annulling Government Decree № 568 of 19 November 1993. The previously celebrated date (since 1993) was 20 November
50	Day of Power Industry Workers	22 December	Established by Government Decree № 461 of 30 June 1994
51	Day of Passport and Visa Service Employees	27 December	On December 27, 1932 the Central Executive Committee and Council of People's Commissars of the USSR adopted a resolution "On establishment of a single passport system in the USSR" and on mandatory registration of passports. Since then December 27 is considered to be a day of foundation of Passport and Visa service in the Soviet Union. After the break-up of the Soviet Union this holiday stayed associated with the professional holiday of the Passport and Visa Service Employees of Kyrgyzstan.
52	Day of Customs Services	31 December	Established by Government Decree № 98 of 15 February 2006

## Tajikistan

1.	Customs Workers' Day	22 January	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
2.	National Army Day	23 February	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
3.	Mass Media Day	11 March	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
4.	Garden Celebration	Second Sunday of March	Established by Amendment to the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 7 July 2012
5.	Intelligentsia Day	20 March	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
6.	Economists' Day	8 April	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
7.	Internal Armed Forces' Day	10 April	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
8.	International Day of Protection of Historical Sights, Architecture and Culture	18 April	Established by Amendment to the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays', of 7 July 2012
9.	Day of Dushanbe, Capital of Tajikistan	Third Saturday of April	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
10.	Tajikistan Science Day	Third Sunday of April	Established by Amendment to the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 28 June 2011
11.	International Day of Intellectual Property	26 April	Established by Amendment to the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 7 July 2012
12.	Tax Workers' Day	4 May	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
13.	Day of Radio and Workers in Communications	7 May	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
14.	Shashmaqam Day	12 May	Shashmaqam, or Six Maqams (music styles), is the classical music of Tajiks and Uzbeks in Central Asia. Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
15.	International Family Day	15 May	Established by Amendment to the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 5 May 2008
16.	Tajikistan Youth Day	23 May	Established by Amendment to the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 5 January 2008
17.	Lawyers' Day	26 May	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
18.	Border Guards' Day	28 May	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
19.	Chemists' Day	Last Sunday of May	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
20.	International Day of Children	1 June	Established by the Amendment to the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 20 March 2008
21.	International Day of Environment	5 June	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
22.	Day of Workers in Services Sector	First Sunday of June	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
23.	Textiles Workers' Day	Second Sunday of June	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
24.	International Day of	6 July	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan

	Trade Cooperation Workers		'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
25.	Disabled Persons' Day	8 July	Established by Amendment to the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 28 December 2005
26.	Fishers' Day	Second Sunday of July	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
27.	Metal Workers' Day	Third Sunday of July	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
28.	Automotive Transport Workers' Day	25 July	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
29.	Firefighters' Day	30 July	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
30.	Construction Workers' Day	Third Sunday of August	Established by Amendment to the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 27 July 2010
31.	Emergency Service Workers' Day	17 August	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
32.	Railway Workers' Day	17 August	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
33.	Medical Workers' Day	18 August	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
34.	Inventors' Day	Third Sunday of August	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
35.	Coal Miners' Day	Last Sunday of August	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
36.	Day of Knowledge	1 September	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
37.	Aviation Day	3 September	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
38.	National Guards' Day	3 September	Established by Amendment to the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 28 June 2011
39.	Day of Books	4 September	Established by Amendment to the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 19 May 2009
40.	Oil and Gas Workers' Day	First Sunday of September	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
41.	Road Workers' Day	Second Sunday of September	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
42.	Forestry Workers' Day	Third Sunday of September	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
43.	Rudaki Day	22 September	Abu Abdullo Rudaki, (859 —940/941), is regarded as the father of Persian/Tajik poetry. He was the first to compose poems in the "New Persian" written with the Arabic alphabet. Established by Amendment to the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 28 June 2011
44.	Mavlono Jaloliddin Balkhi Day	30 September	Mavlono Jaloliddini Balkhi, known in the West as Rumi, was a 13th century Persian/Tajik poet, legal and Islamic scholar, theologian, and Sufi mystic. Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
45.	Elderly Persons' Day	1 October	Established by Amendment to the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 5 August 2009
46.	Tajikistan State Language Day	5 October	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
47.	Teachers' Day	First Sunday of October	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
48.	Agriculture Workers' Day	8 October	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)

49.	Falak <sup>4</sup> Day	10 October	Established by the Amendment to the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 16 September 2011
50.	Justice and Court Workers' Day	Second Sunday of October	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
51.	Tajik Cinema Day	16 October	Established by Amendment to the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 14 May 1999
52.	Mehrgon Holiday	Third Sunday of October	Mehrgon is a Zoroastrian and Persian/Tajik festival celebrated since the pre-Islamic era to honor the divinity of "Mehr", which is responsible for friendship, affection and love. It is also widely referred to as Persian Festival of Autumn. Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
53.	Theatre Workers' Day	7 November	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
54.	Police Day	10 November	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
55.	Day of National Flag of Tajikistan	24 November	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
56.	Finance Workers' Day	7 December	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
57.	Human Rights Day	10 December	Established by Amendment to the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 19 November 2007
58.	Geologists' Day	9 December	Established by Amendment to the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 July 2012
59.	Prosecutors' Day	14 December	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
60.	International Day of Labour Migrants	18 December	Established by Amendment to the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 26 June 2011
61.	Energy Sector Workers' Day	22 December	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)
62.	National Intelligence Workers' Day	28 December	Established by the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan 'On Public Holidays' of 3 November 1995 (No.98)

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<sup>4</sup> Type of traditional music popular in southern and eastern Tajikistan.

## Turkmenistan

1	Day of Fatherland Defenders – military servicemen of the Defence Ministry and the Armed Forces of Turkmenistan	27 January	Celebrated since 2008. Established by Presidential Decree signed 15 August 2008. <sup>5</sup>
2	Day of Diplomatic Staff of Turkmenistan	18 February	Decree was signed in February 23, 2009. Celebrated since 2009. Established by the Presidential Decree <sup>6</sup>
3	Drop of Water– a Grain of Gold Holiday	First Sunday in April	Established by Presidential Decree signed 26 December 1994 and announced as National Holiday. <sup>7</sup> Celebrated since 1995. Professional day of water resources workers and irrigators.
4	World Health Day	7 April	Established by Presidential Decree 'On the establishment and implementation of the national holiday the Day of the Turkmen People's Health', signed 4 November 2000 and originally celebrated on the first Saturday of November. <sup>8</sup> Following amendments to the Labour Code, 'World Health Day' has been celebrated on 7 April since 2008. <sup>9</sup>
5	Turkmen Racing Horse Festival	Last Sunday in April	Established by Presidential Decree; celebrated since 1992. This holiday is included in the Labour Code. <sup>10</sup>
6	Day of Ashgabat city	25 May	Established by the Presidential Decree in May, 24, 2013. <sup>11</sup>
7	Day of Internal Affairs Officers	29 May	Established by Presidential Decree 'On establishment of the Day of Internal Affairs Officers', signed 12 November 2007. <sup>12</sup>
8	Turkmen Carpet Day	Last Sunday of May	Celebrated since 1992. <sup>13</sup>
9	International Children's Day	1 June	Celebrated since 1949. <sup>14</sup>
10	World Environment Protection Day	5 June	Established by Presidential Decree; celebrated since 2008. <sup>15</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Neutral Turkmenistan, August 16, 2008 see also <http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/?id=5878> Accessed 11 August 2014).

<sup>6</sup> Neutral Turkmenistan, February 24, 2009

<sup>7</sup> *Neutral Turkmenistan*, 28 December 1994

<sup>8</sup> *Neutral Turkmenistan*, 6 November 2000 and see also Collection of Decrees of President of Turkmenistan and Government resolutions 2000, №11.

<sup>9</sup> Decree signed 18 January 2008: *Neutral Turkmenistan* 19 January 2008.

<sup>10</sup> Neutral Turkmenistan January 19, 2008

<sup>11</sup> <http://arzuw.tm/novosti-dnya/item/299-zasedaniye-kabineta-ministrov-turkmenistana> Accessed 18 August 2014.

<sup>12</sup> Neutral Turkmenistan, November 13, 2007, <http://lenta.ru/news/2007/11/13/holiday/> Accessed 10 August 2014.

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.calend.ru/holidays/0/0/1418/> Accessed 10 August 2014.

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.turkmenembassy.ru/?q=node/97> Accessed 10 August 2014.

11	Science Day	12 June	Established by the Decree of President of Turkmenistan, June 9, 2008. <sup>16</sup>
12	Day of Textile Industry	First Sunday of June	Decree of the President 'On the establishment and conduct of national holiday a day of textile workers of Turkmenistan' signed in February 17, 2006. <sup>17</sup>
13	Day of Turkmen Workers of Culture and Art	27 June	Celebrated since 2008 Established by the Presidential Decree. <sup>18</sup>
14	Gala Bayramy (Festival of Grain)	Third Sunday in July	Established by Presidential Decree signed 16 July 1998, after the country produced more than one million tonnes of wheat.
15	Day of Health and Medical Industry	21 July	Celebrated since 2009 Established by the Presidential Decree №PP-5395, July 20, 2009 <sup>19</sup>
16	Day of Border Guard of Turkmenistan	11 August	Celebrated since 2008. Established by the Presidential Decree. <sup>20</sup>
17	Turkmen Melon Day	Second Sunday in August	Established by Presidential Decree; celebrated since 1994. <sup>21</sup>
18	Day of Knowledge and Students	1 September	In 1993, 17 November was established as the Day of Students by a Presidential Decree. It was a non-working day only for students and teachers. <sup>22</sup> Since 2008, the date was changed to 1 September, which is the same date that this was celebrated in the Soviet Union from 1984. <sup>23</sup>
19	Day of Energy Industry	Second Saturday of September	Established in June, 2003. <sup>24</sup>
20	Rukhnama Day	12 September	The Rukhnama (Book of the Soul) is a book written by the former president of Turkmenistan, Saparmurat Niyazov. This day has been celebrated since 2001.
21	International Day of Senior Citizens	1 October	This holiday is included in the Labour Code.
22	Day of Naval Forces of Turkmenistan	9 October	Celebrated since 2011. <sup>25</sup>
23	Hasyl Bayramy (Harvest Festival)	Last Sunday of November	Established by Presidential Decree; celebrated since 1992. <sup>26</sup>
24	Day of Railway Workers	3 December	Established by Presidential Decree dated 23 January 2015 <sup>27</sup>

<sup>15</sup> <http://turkmenportal.com/news.php?details=2253> Accessed 11 August 2014.

<sup>16</sup> [http://science.gov.tm/news/20110613conf\\_2011/](http://science.gov.tm/news/20110613conf_2011/) Accessed 10 August 2014.

<sup>17</sup> Neutral Turkmenistan, February 18, 2006, see also Collection of President's Decrees and Government resolutions 2006, №2.

<sup>18</sup> Neutral Turkmenistan July 22, 2008

<sup>19</sup> Collection of President's Decrees and Government Resolutions 2009, №7

<sup>20</sup> Neutral Turkmenistan, August 16, 2008

<sup>21</sup> *Vechernii Ashgabat* (Evening Ashgabat) 15 July 1994; see also *The Voice of Turkmenbashi*, 19 July 1994

<sup>22</sup> *Vechernii Ashgabat* (Evening Ashgabat) 26 November 1993.

<sup>23</sup> *Neutral Turkmenistan* 19 January 2008

<sup>24</sup> Balkan newspaper, June 19, 2003.

<sup>25</sup> Available from: <http://www.turkmenistan.gov.tm/?id=2463> Accessed 10 August 2014.

<sup>26</sup> *Turkmenskaya Iskra* (Turkmen Spark) 20 February 1992

25	Good Neighbourliness Day	First Sunday of December	As per Presidential Decree №160 (21081) of 3 December 1992. <sup>28</sup>
26	Day of Oil, Gas and Geological Industries	14 December	Celebrated since 2010. Established by the Presidential Decree №PP-5498, January 15, 2010 <sup>29</sup>
27	Day of Remembrance of the First President of Turkmenistan, S.A. Niyazov (Saparmurat Turkmenbashi the Great)	21 December	Established by Presidential Decree signed 2 March 2007; celebrated since 2007. <sup>30</sup>

## Uzbekistan

1.	Day of Defenders of the Motherland	14 January	Established by Parliamentary Decision of 29 December 1993; celebrated since 1994.
2.	Alisher Navoi's birthday	9 February	A Central Asian Turkic poet, writer, politician, linguist, mystic, and painter. He was the greatest representative of Chagatai language literature
3.	Zahridin Mukhammad Bobur's birthday	14 February	Bobur was a conqueror from Central Asia who succeeded in laying the basis for the Mughal dynasty in the Indian Subcontinent and became the first Mughal emperor. He was a direct descendant of Timur and also a descendant of Genghis Khan through his mother.
4.	International Day of Mother Tongue	21 February	Established by UNESCO on 17 November 1999 <sup>31</sup>
5.	International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking	1 March	Instituted by UN General Assembly Resolution 42/112 of 7 December 1987 <sup>32</sup>
6.	Day of Accession to UN	2 March	Uzbekistan joined UN in 1992
7.	Mirzo Ulugbek's birthday	22 March	He was a Timurid ruler and an astronomer, mathematician and sultan.
8.	Day of Geologists	First Sunday of April <sup>33</sup>	

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.turkmenistan.ru/en/articles/17850.html> Accessed 21 March 2015

<sup>28</sup> *Turkmenskaya Iskra* (Turkmen Spark) 11 July 1995

<sup>29</sup> Collection of President's Decrees and Government Resolutions 2010, №1

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.advantour.com/turkmenistan/holidays.htm> Accessed 16 July 2014.

<sup>31</sup> Information from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Mother\\_Language\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Mother_Language_Day) and <http://www.goldenpages.uz/holidays/>. Accessed 26 June 2014.

<sup>32</sup> Information from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Day\\_against\\_Drug\\_Abuse\\_and\\_Illicit\\_Trafficking](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Day_against_Drug_Abuse_and_Illicit_Trafficking) and <http://www.goldenpages.uz/holidays/>. Accessed 27 June 2014.

<sup>33</sup> Information from <http://natlib.uz/ru/article/299/>. Accessed 26 June 2014.

9.	International Health Day	7 April	Established by the first Assembly of the World Health Organization in 1948 <sup>34</sup>
10	Amir Temur's birthday	9 April	Temur, historically known as Tamerlane, was a Turko-Mongol conqueror and the founder of the Timurid dynasty in Central Asia
11	Abdulla Qodiriy's birthday	10 April	He was an Uzbek and Soviet playwright, poet, writer, and literary translator in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century.
12	Day of Firefighters of Uzbekistan <sup>35</sup>	17 April	
13	World Book Day	23 April	Established by the 28th General Conference of UNESCO; celebrated since 1995 <sup>36</sup>
14	International Youth Day	24 April	Designated by the United Nations in 1999 with the adoption of Resolution 54/120 <sup>37</sup>
15	International Museum Day	18 May	Celebration every year on or around 18 May, coordinated by the International Council of Museums (ICOM). <sup>38</sup>
16	World No Tobacco Day	31 May	Created in 1987 by the member states of the World Health Organization (WHO). <sup>39</sup>
17	International Day for the Protection of Children	1 June	Established by the Women's International Democratic Federation at its congress in Moscow, 22 November 1949
18	Day of Ameliorators	First Sunday of June	The day of agricultural workers working on improving the condition of land.
19	International Day of Protection of the Environment	5 June	Celebrated since June 1973, on the occasion of the UN International Conference on Protection of Environment in Stockholm
20	Day of Workers in Light Industry	Second Sunday of June	
21	Day of Workers in Trade, Consumer Cooperation and Service	Last Sunday of June	Established by law of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 25 April 1997
22	Day of Print and Mass Media Workers	27 June	Established by Presidential Decree of 24 June 1993; celebrated since 1994.
23	Day of adoption of the law on 'National Coat of Arms of Uzbekistan' 1992	2 July	

<sup>34</sup>Information from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World\\_Health\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Health_Day) and <http://www.goldenpages.uz/holidays/>. Accessed 27 June 2014.

<sup>35</sup> Information from <http://natlib.uz/ru/article/299/>. Accessed 27 June 2014.

<sup>36</sup> Information from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World\\_Book\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Book_Day) and <http://natlib.uz/ru/article/299/>. Accessed 27 June 2014.

<sup>37</sup> Information from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Youth\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Youth_Day) and <http://www.goldenpages.uz/holidays/>. Accessed 27 June 2014.

<sup>38</sup> Information from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Museum\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Museum_Day) and <http://www.goldenpages.uz/holidays/>. Accessed 27 June 2014.

<sup>39</sup> Information from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World\\_No\\_Tobacco\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_No_Tobacco_Day) and <http://www.goldenpages.uz/holidays/>. Accessed 27 June 2014

24	Day of Imam Bukhari	July 20	Imam Bukhari was an Islamic scholar who authored the <i>hadith</i> collection known as Sahih al-Bukhari, regarded by Sunni Muslims as one of the most sahih (authentic) of all <i>hadith</i> compilations. <sup>40</sup>
25	Day of Mahalla	First Saturday of August	A mahalla is an urban division in Uzbek communities. Celebrated since 1997 <sup>41</sup>
26	Railroad Workers Day <sup>42</sup>	First Sunday of August	
27	Physical Culture Day	Second Saturday of August	
28	Builders' Day	Second Sunday of August	
29	Mining Workers' Day	Last Sunday of August	
30	Day of Commemoration of Victims of Repression	31 August	Initiated by Presidential Decree; celebrated since 2001.
31	Oil and Gas Workers' Day	First Sunday of September	
32	Bahauddin Naqshbandi Day	September 16	Baha-ud-Din Naqshband Bukhari (1318–1389) was the founder of what would become one of the largest and most influential Sufi Muslim orders, the Naqshbandi.
33	Birthday of Abdulla Kahhor	September 17	Abdulla Kahhor (September 17, 1907 – May 25, 1968) was an Uzbek novelist, short story writer, poet, playwright, and literary translator
34	Day of Food Industry workers	Third Sunday of October	
35	Day of adoption of the law on 'State Language of the Republic of Uzbekistan'	21 October	
36	Day of Workers in the Internal Affairs of Uzbekistan	25 October	Established by law of the Republic of Uzbekistan of 6 December 2006
37	Day of Healthcare workers of Uzbekistan	Second Sunday of November	Established by law of the Republic of Uzbekistan of 12 November 2006 <sup>43</sup>
38	National Flag Day	18 November	The design of the national flag was approved on 18 November 1991
39	Cotton Day	Last Sunday of November	
40	World AIDS Day	1 December	World AIDS Day is one of eight official global public health campaigns designated by the World Health Organization

<sup>40</sup> Information from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad\\_al-Bukhari](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad_al-Bukhari) and <http://natlib.uz/ru/article/299/>. Accessed 27 June 2014

<sup>41</sup> Information from <http://natlib.uz/ru/article/299/>. Accessed 27 June 2014.

<sup>42</sup> Information from <http://natlib.uz/ru/article/299/>. Accessed 27 June 2014.

<sup>43</sup> Information from <http://natlib.uz/ru/article/299/>. Accessed 27 November 2014.

			(WHO) <sup>44</sup>
41	International Day of People with Disabilities	December 3	Established by 47 <sup>th</sup> session of General Assembly of UN on 11 November 1992 and promoted as an international day of observance <sup>45</sup>
42	Day of adoption of the national anthem of the Republic of Uzbekistan	10 December	The national anthem was adopted on 10 December, 1992.

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<sup>44</sup> Information from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World\\_AIDS\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_AIDS_Day) and <http://natlib.uz/ru/article/299/>. Accessed 27 November 2014.

<sup>45</sup> Information from <http://natlib.uz/ru/article/299/>. Accessed 27 November 2014.