

Introduction

Kazakhstan is a landlocked, transcontinental country located in Central Asia and Eastern Europe. It is bordered by China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The terrain extends west to east from the Caspian Sea to the Altay Mountains and north to south from the plains of Western Siberia to the deserts of Central Asia. The government system is a

republic with the authoritarian presidential rule and little power outside the executive branch. The chief of state is the president, and the head of government is the prime minister.

Kazakhstan has a mixed economic system which includes a variety of private freedom, combined with centralized economic planning and government regulation. Kazakhstan is a member of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).



Location: Central Asia

Capital City: Astana (+6 GMT)

Chief of State: President Nursultan Abishuly Nazarbayev

Head of Govt.: Prime Minister Bakytzhan Sagintayev; First Deputy Prime Minister Askar Mamin

Currency: Tenge (KZT)

Major Languages: Kazakh (official, Qazaq) 74% (understand spoken language), Russian (official, used in everyday business, designated the language of interethnic communication) 94.4% (understand spoken language)

Primary Religions: Muslim 70.2%, Christian 26.2% (mainly Russian Orthodox), other 0.2%, atheist 2.8%, unspecified 0.5%

Calling Code: 7-6,7-7

Voltage: 220

Key Websites

Main Government Page: en.government.kz

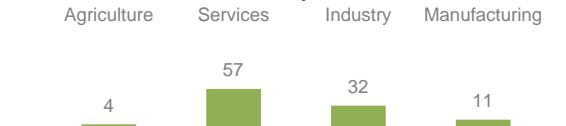
Export Promotion Agency: invest.gov.kz

Investment Promotion Agency: invest.gov.kz

Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	Upper Middle Income
Level of Development:	In Transition
GDP, PPP (current international \$):	\$476.37 billion (2017)
GDP growth (annual %):	4.00% (2017)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$26,409.54 (2017)
External debt stocks, total (DOD, current US\$):	\$167,484,656,204.60 (2017)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	11.18% (2017)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	-\$5.35 billion (2017)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	7.44% (2017)
Labor force, total:	9,230,422 (2017)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	4.90% (2017)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$39.08 billion (2016)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$43.71 billion (2016)

GDP Composition %



**Although Manufacturing is included in the Industry figures, it is also separately reported because it plays a critical role in economy.*

Rankings

Index	Rank
Corruption Perceptions Index	122 / 178
EY Globalization Index	56 / 60
Global Competitiveness Index	59 / 139
Global Enabling Trade Index	88 / 136
Index of Economic Freedom	59 / 179
International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	71 / 160
Inward FDI Potential Index	46 / 139
KOF Index of Globalization	91 / 185
Networked Readiness Index (NRI)	39 / 139
Open Budget Index	42 / 115

Risk Assessment (Provided by Coface)

Country rating: B - Political and economic uncertainties and an occasionally difficult business environment can affect corporate payment behavior. Corporate default probability is appreciable.

Business Climate rating: B - The business environment is mediocre. The availability and the reliability of corporate financial information vary widely. Debt collection can sometimes be difficult. The institutional framework has a few troublesome weaknesses. Intercompany transactions run appreciable risks in the unstable, largely inefficient environments rated B.

Strengths

- Increased oil production
- High levels of foreign direct investment
- Net creditor position of the State
- Strategic location between China and Europe
- Increase in working population (67% of the total) thanks to a dynamic demography
- Relatively high level of training

Weaknesses

- Economy reliant on commodities (oil, gas, uranium, and iron)
- Fragile banking system
- Continuing legal and institutional failings: corruption, administrative delays, and obstacles to trade
- Inadequate road, port, and electrical infrastructures
- Danger of political instability because of lack of clear successor to President Nazarbayev
- Landlocked and low population density, particularly in northern regions

U.S. Embassy

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