

Introduction

Kuwait is a country located in the Middle East on the northeast Arabian Peninsula. It borders the Persian Gulf, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia. The flat, sandy Arabian Desert covers most of Kuwait. The government system is a constitutional emirate; the chief of state is the emir, or sheikh, and the head of government is the prime minister. Kuwait has a mixed economic system which includes a variety of private freedom, combined with centralized economic planning and government regulation. Kuwait is a member of the League of Arab States (Arab League) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).



Location: Western Asia

Capital City: Kuwait City (+3 GMT)

Chief of State: Emir Sabah IV Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

Head of Govt.: Prime Minister Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah

Currency: Kuwaiti Dinar (KWD)

Major Languages: <p>Arabic (official), English widely spoken</p>

Primary Religions: <p>Muslim (official) 74.6%, Christian 18.2%, other and unspecified 7.2%</p>

Calling Code: 965

Voltage: 240

Key Websites

Main Government Page: e.gov.kw

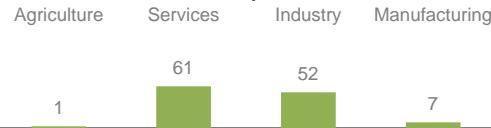
Commerce Ministry: moci.gov.kw

Investment Promotion Agency: kdipa.gov.kw

Key Economic Facts

Income Level (by per capita GNI):	High Income
Level of Development:	Developing
GDP, PPP (current international \$):	\$297.59 billion (2017)
GDP growth (annual %):	-2.87% (2017)
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$):	\$71,943.01 (2017)
Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):	7.27% (2016)
Current account balance (BoP, current US\$):	\$7.59 billion (2017)
Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):	2.17% (2017)
Labor force, total:	2,253,095 (2017)
Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):	2.14% (2017)
Imports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$51.50 billion (2016)
Exports of goods and services (current US\$):	\$53.50 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	85 / 178
Global Competitiveness Index	54 / 139
Global Enabling Trade Index	87 / 136
Index of Economic Freedom	90 / 179
International Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	63 / 160
Inward FDI Potential Index	29 / 139
KOF Index of Globalization	49 / 185
Networked Readiness Index (NRI)	61 / 139

Risk Assessment (Provided by Coface)

Country rating: A3 - Changes in generally good but somewhat volatile political and economic environment can affect corporate payment behavior. A basically secure business environment can nonetheless give rise to occasional difficulties for companies. Corporate default probability is quite acceptable on average.

Business Climate rating: A4 - The business environment is acceptable. Corporate financial information is sometimes neither readily available nor sufficiently reliable. Debt collection is not always efficient and the institutional framework has shortcomings. Intercompany transactions may thus run into appreciable difficulties in the acceptable but occasionally unstable environments rated A4.

Strengths

- Large oil reserves (6% of world total)
- Accumulation of substantial public and foreign surpluses managed by Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) sovereign funds

Weaknesses

- Political obstacles to structural reforms
- Business climate and competitive context could be improved
- Uncertainties associated with the succession to the Emir and tensions between the Executive and Parliament
- Location in a region of geopolitical tensions, specifically proximity to Iran and Iraq

U.S. Embassy

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