

Republic of Kazakhstan

Basic Information

Republic of Kazakhstan (hereinafter referred to as “Kazakhstan”) is a country located in Central Asia. It borders Russia in the north, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan in the south, Caspian Sea in the west and China in the east. With an area of 2,724,900 square kilometres, Kazakhstan is the ninth largest country and largest landlocked country in the world. The country is divided into fourteen states and three municipalities, namely Nur-Sultan, Almaty and Shymkent. The population of Kazakhstan exceeds 18.75 million people and consists of about 140 ethnic groups, of which ethnic Kazakhs account for 68% and Russians account for 20%. The residents of Kazakhstan are mainly Muslims while others are Russian Orthodox, Catholics and Buddhists as well as several other religions. The official languages are Kazakh and Russian. Nur-Sultan, formerly known as Astana, is not only the capital and second largest city of Kazakhstan, but also a major industrial and agricultural production base and a national transportation hub. Almaty is the largest city and has the largest airport in the country - Almaty Mutu International Airport.

Kazakhstan is the largest economy in Central Asia. In 2020, the country recorded a year-on-year decrease of 5.8% in GDP, with the amount of US\$171.1 billion, of which the agriculture, industry and service sectors represented 5%, 33% and 62%, respectively. China and Russia are Kazakhstan's main trading partners. Strategically, Kazakhstan links markets such as China and South Asia with Russia and Western Europe by road, rail and Caspian ports. Currently, Kazakhstan is a member of many international organisations, such as United Nations (UN), World Trade Organisation (WTO), Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) and Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC).

Economic and trade co-operation between China and Kazakhstan

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1992, China and Kazakhstan have maintained friendly and co-operative relations, especially in recent years, the high-level exchanges have been particularly frequent. For example, the two countries signed the Treaty of Good-Neighbourliness and Friendly Co-operation Between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2002, established a strategic partnership in 2005 and upgraded bilateral ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership in 2011. Subsequently, in September 2019, the two countries announced the development of a permanent comprehensive strategic partnership, in order to further strengthen the relationship of mutual co-operation to a new level.

As an important country on the Silk Road Economic Belt, Kazakhstan is not only China's largest trading partner in Central Asia, but also the place where the “Belt and Road Initiative” was initiated. As of July 2021, China and Kazakhstan have established 19 sister provinces and cities, of which Beijing and Nur-Sultan are sister cities.

In terms of energy co-operation, the two countries have good co-operation in the field of oil and gas. For example, the two sides jointly built China's first cross-border oil pipeline - Kazakhstan–China Oil Pipeline. Meanwhile, the line A/B/C of Central Asia–China gas pipelines all pass through Kazakhstan. Regarding the cultural co-operation, China and Kazakhstan have achieved fruitful results in the fields of education, culture, science and technology. Cultural and artistic groups have frequently been visited both countries for performances. In addition, China has established five Confucius Institutes in Kazakhstan.

Business opportunity information

Kazakhstan is rich in oil and mineral resources, with nearly 14 billion tons of proven oil reserves and over 90 proven mineral deposits, including natural gas, coal, chromium, lead, tungsten, copper, zinc, iron and gold. In respect of the development of the financial services industry, in 2018, Kazakhstan established the Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC) in the capital Nur-Sultan, with the aim of, on the one hand, helping Central Asian companies to go global, and on the other hand, attracting international investment to Central Asia and building it into a two-way business bridge.

Main economic and social indicators of Kazakhstan

Main Economic and Social Indicators	2019	2020
GDP (Current US\$) (US\$ billions)	181.7	171.1
GDP per capita (Current US\$)	9,812.6	9,122.2
GDP Growth (annual %)	4.5	-2.5
GDP, PPP (purchasing power parity) (US\$ billions)	487.9	475.7
GDP per capita, PPP (purchasing power parity) (US\$)	26,351.8	25,363.2
Inflation (annual %)	7.6	4.2
Foreign Direct Investment, Net Inflows (BoP, Current US\$) (US\$ millions)	3,718.6	7,406.5
Area (sq. km)	2,724,900	2,724,900
Population	18,513,673	18,754,440

Source: World Bank, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China

Foreign Trade Statistics of Kazakhstan

	2019	2020
Imports (US\$ millions)	38,419.02	38,142.89
Export (US\$ millions)	57,676.73	46,926.83
Total Imports and Exports (US\$ millions)	96,095.75	85,069.72

Source: International Monetary Fund Data

Major trading partners of Kazakhstan

Main Import Destinations	2019		2020	
	Total imports (US\$ millions)	%	Total imports (US\$ millions)	%
Russia	14,065.06	36.6	13,300.22	34.9
China	6,566.47	17.1	6,346.50	16.6
South Korea	3,422.42	8.9	4,885.61	12.8

Source: International Monetary Fund Data

Main export Destinations	2019		2020	
	Total exports (US\$ millions)	%	Total exports (US\$ millions)	%
China	7,823.41	13.6	9,004.01	19.2
Italy	8,373.71	14.5	6,644.71	14.2
Russia	5,602.53	9.7	4,899.45	10.4
The Netherlands	4,393.20	7.6	3,148.59	6.7

Import and export trade between Macao and Kazakhstan

	2019	2020	2021
Total imports from the UAE (MOP)	159,195	-	-
Total exports to the UAE (MOP)	-	-	-
Total trade (MOP)	159,195	-	-

Source: Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), Macao SAR Government

Source

World Bank

<https://data.worldbank.org/>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China

<https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/>

China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT)

<https://www.ccpit.org/a/20210915/20210915v9r7.html>

Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC)

<https://research.hktdc.com/sc/data-and-profiles/market-profiles/kazakhstan>

International Monetary Fund Data

<https://www.imf.org/en/Data>

Statistics and Census Service of Macao SAR (DSEC)

<https://www.dsec.gov.mo/zh-MO/>