



Kazakhstan



Background Ethnic Kazakhs derive from a mix of Turkic nomadic tribes that migrated to the region in the 15th century. The Russian Empire conquered the Kazakh steppe in the 18th and 19th centuries, and Kazakhstan became a Soviet Republic in 1925. Forced agricultural collectivization led to repression and starvation, resulting in more than a million deaths in the early 1930s. During the 1950s and 1960s, the agricultural "Virgin Lands" program generated an influx of settlers -- mostly ethnic Russians, but also other nationalities -- and by the time of Kazakhstan's independence in 1991, ethnic Kazakhs were a minority. However, non-Muslim ethnic minorities departed Kazakhstan in large numbers from the mid-1990s through the mid-2000s, and a national program has repatriated about a million ethnic Kazakhs (from Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Mongolia, and the Xinjiang region of China) to Kazakhstan. As a result of this shift, the ethnic Kazakh share of the population now exceeds two-thirds.

Kazakhstan's economy is the largest in Central Asia, mainly due to the country's vast natural resources. Current issues include diversifying the economy, attracting foreign direct investment, enhancing Kazakhstan's economic competitiveness, and strengthening economic relations with neighboring states and foreign powers.

Capital	name: Astana
Government type	presidential republic
Area	total : 2,724,900 sq km land: 2,699,700 sq km water: 25,200 sq km
Climate	continental, cold winters and hot summers, arid and semiarid
Natural resources	major deposits of petroleum, natural gas, coal, iron ore, manganese, chrome ore, nickel, cobalt, copper, molybdenum, lead, zinc, bauxite, gold, uranium
Population	total: 20,260,006 (2024 est.)
Population growth rate	0.86% (2024 est.)
Ethnic groups	Kazakh 71%, Russian 14.9%, Uzbek 3.3%, Ukrainian 1.9%, Uyghurs 1.5%, German 1.1%, Tatar 1.1%, other 4.9%, unspecified 0.3% (2023 est.)
Religions	Muslim 69.3%, Christian 17.2% (Orthodox 17%, other 0.2%), Buddhism 0.1%, other 0.1%, non-believers 2.3%, unspecified 11% (2021 est.)
Languages	Kazakh (official, Qazaq) 80.1%, Russian 83.7%, English 35.1% (2021 est.)
Executive branch	chief of state: President Kasym-Zhomart TOKAYEV (since 20 March 2019) head of government: Prime Minister Olzhas BEKTENOV (since 6 February 2024)

Legislative branch	legislature name: Parliament (Parlament)
Diplomatic representation in the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Magzhan ILYASSOV (since 16 December 2025)
Diplomatic representation from the US	chief of mission: Ambassador-designate Julie STUFFT; Chargé d'Affaires Deborah ROBINSON (since January 2025)
Economic overview	upper-middle-income Central Asian economy; robust growth due to rising oil production, expansion in manufacturing and services, rising domestic demand, and infrastructure investments; however, rapid growth contributing to high inflation rate; declining unemployment and poverty rates
Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$739.385 billion (2024 est.) \$705.52 billion (2023 est.) \$671.285 billion (2022 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$35,900 (2024 est.) \$34,700 (2023 est.) \$33,500 (2022 est.)
Exports	\$91.908 billion (2024 est.) \$90.926 billion (2023 est.) \$93.822 billion (2022 est.)
Exports - partners	China 16%, UK 15%, Russia 10%, Turkey 6%, Italy 5% (2023)
Exports - commodities	crude petroleum, gold, radioactive chemicals, refined copper, copper ore (2023)
Imports	\$74.246 billion (2024 est.) \$72.723 billion (2023 est.) \$60.439 billion (2022 est.)
Imports - partners	China 28%, Russia 24%, Gambia, The 4%, Turkey 4%, USA 4% (2023)
Imports - commodities	garments, cars, broadcasting equipment, vehicle bodies, packaged medicine (2023)

Population Pyramid

