



# Investing in Kazakhstan:

## A Comprehensive Report



### INTRODUCTION

Kazakhstan, the largest landlocked country in the world and the ninth-largest overall, is a dynamic and rapidly emerging economy in Central Asia. With a population of approximately 19.8 million (2023 estimate) and a GDP of around \$250 billion, Kazakhstan stands as a hub for trade, investment, and innovation in the region.

Rich in natural resources, strategically located between Europe and Asia, and committed to modernizing its economy, Kazakhstan offers unparalleled opportunities for global investors. The government's focus on economic diversification, infrastructure development, and innovation ensures a business-friendly environment, making Kazakhstan an attractive destination for investment across multiple sectors.

### BACKGROUND

Kazakhstan is located at the heart of Eurasia and shares borders with Russia, China, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan. Its capital, Astana (formerly Nur-Sultan), is a modern and rapidly developing city, while Almaty remains the country's financial and cultural center.

Kazakhstan's economy is one of the most stable and advanced in Central Asia, driven by its abundant natural resources, including oil, gas, uranium, and minerals. The country is also a leader in agriculture, manufacturing, and logistics, supported by its strategic location along the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

As part of its "Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy", the government is committed to becoming one of the top 30 global economies by mid-century. This long-term vision emphasizes economic diversification, infrastructure modernization, and sustainable development, creating an ideal investment climate.

### BENEFITS OF INVESTING IN KAZAKHSTAN

#### Strategic Geographic Location

Kazakhstan's location at the crossroads of Europe and Asia makes it a key transit hub for international trade. The country is a vital part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), providing investors access to over 2 billion consumers in neighboring markets.

#### Abundance of Natural Resources

Kazakhstan is one of the world's leading producers of oil, gas, uranium, and other minerals. Its resource wealth provides significant opportunities for investment in energy, mining, and industrial production.

#### Economic Stability and Growth

Kazakhstan has experienced consistent economic growth, with an average annual GDP growth rate of 4-5% over the last decade. The government's macroeconomic policies ensure a stable and predictable business environment.

#### Pro-Business Environment

Kazakhstan ranks as one of the top countries in Central Asia for ease of doing business, thanks to streamlined regulations, transparent legal frameworks, and investor-friendly laws.

#### Access to Regional and Global Markets

As a member of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), Kazakhstan provides investors with duty-free access to a market of over 180 million people. Additionally, its free trade agreements with major economies enable access to European, Asian, and Middle Eastern markets.

#### Highly Skilled Workforce

Kazakhstan has a well-educated and skilled workforce, especially in

engineering, technology, and industrial sectors. The government's emphasis on education and training ensures a steady supply of qualified professionals.

#### Modern Infrastructure

Kazakhstan has invested heavily in developing its infrastructure, including modern highways, railways, and airports. The Khorgos Gateway, a major dry port, connects global markets through efficient logistics.

#### Government Commitment to Economic Diversification

The government's focus on reducing dependence on natural resources has created opportunities in renewable energy, agriculture, manufacturing, and technology. Initiatives like the "Nurly Zhol" infrastructure program further enhance the investment climate.

### RELEVANT AGENCIES

Numerous government agencies and organizations provide support to investors in Kazakhstan:

#### Kazakh Invest:

The national investment promotion agency, offering assistance with market entry, permits, incentives, and project facilitation.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Investment Committee:

Oversees investment policies and provides guidance to foreign investors.

#### Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC):

A regional financial hub offering tax benefits, legal support, and arbitration services under English common law principles.

Samruk-Kazyna (Sovereign Wealth Fund):

Supports investment in key industries, including energy, transportation, and infrastructure.

#### Kazakhstan Chamber of Commerce and Industry:

Facilitates networking opportunities and business support for investors.

Ministry of Energy:

Promotes investments in oil, gas, renewable energy, and mining sectors.

#### National Agency for Technological Development (NATD):

Supports innovation and technology-driven projects with funding and incentives.

### INCENTIVES FOR INVESTORS

Kazakhstan offers a wide range of incentives to attract both foreign and domestic investment:

#### Tax Benefits

Corporate income tax exemptions for up to 10 years in priority sectors.

Reduced value-added tax (VAT) rates for certain industries, such as agriculture and manufacturing.

#### Customs Exemptions

Exemptions on import duties for machinery, equipment, and raw materials used in production.

#### Special Economic Zones (SEZs):

Businesses operating in SEZs enjoy zero taxes on land, property, and corporate income, along with access to modern infrastructure.

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## Investment Subsidies

Partial reimbursement of construction costs and equipment purchases for large-scale projects.

## Renewable Energy Incentives

Feed-in tariffs and financial support for solar, wind, and hydroelectric projects.

## Access to Financing

Low-interest loans and guarantees for infrastructure, technology, and SME projects from institutions like the Development Bank of Kazakhstan.

## Export Support

Assistance with export financing, market access, and trade facilitation for export-oriented businesses.

## Legal Protections

Guarantees against expropriation and full repatriation of profits and dividends for foreign investors.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVESTORS

### Energy and Renewable Energy

Kazakhstan is one of the world's top energy producers, with significant opportunities in oil, gas, and uranium mining. The government's commitment to achieving 50% renewable energy by 2050 creates opportunities in solar, wind, and hydropower.

### Mining and Metallurgy

Kazakhstan is rich in minerals, including gold, copper, and rare earth metals. Investors can explore opportunities in mining exploration, processing, and export.

### Agriculture and Food Processing

Kazakhstan's vast arable land and favorable climate make it a leader in wheat, livestock, and organic farming. Investment opportunities exist in modern farming techniques, food processing, and export-oriented agribusiness.

### Infrastructure and Logistics

As a key transit hub in the Belt and Road Initiative, Kazakhstan offers opportunities in transportation, warehousing, and logistics infrastructure development.

### Information Technology and Innovation

Kazakhstan's growing tech ecosystem offers opportunities in fintech, software development, and digital transformation projects. The government's support for startups further enhances this sector.

### Tourism and Hospitality

Kazakhstan's natural beauty, including the vast steppes, mountains, and cultural heritage sites, creates opportunities in eco-tourism, luxury hospitality, and leisure activities.

### Manufacturing and Industrial Production

Kazakhstan's focus on industrialization provides opportunities in automotive manufacturing, electronics, and construction materials.

### Financial Services

The Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC) offers a platform for investments in banking, insurance, and asset management, supported by tax benefits and arbitration facilities.

## CONCLUSION

Kazakhstan is a land of immense opportunity, offering investors a stable, dynamic, and business-friendly environment. With its strategic location, abundant natural resources, and government-backed incentives, Kazakhstan provides a gateway to regional and global markets.

From energy and mining to technology and agriculture, Kazakhstan's diverse economy ensures opportunities for investors across various sectors. The government's commitment to economic reform, sustainability, and innovation promises long-term growth and success for businesses operating in the country.

Now is the time to invest in Kazakhstan and be part of its transformation into a leading global economy.

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