KAZAKHSTAN

INTRODUCTION
Ethnic Kazakhs, a mix of Turkic and Mongol nomadic tribes with additional Persian cultural influences, migrated to the region in the 15th century. The area was conquered by Russia in the 18th and 19th centuries, and Kazakhstan became a Soviet Republic in 1925. The country gained independence in 1991.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President Kassym-Zhomart TOKAYEV
Head of Government
Prime Minister Alikhan SMAILOV
Government Type
presidential republic
Capital
Nur-Sultan
Legislature
bicameral Parliament consists of the Senate (49 seats) and the Mazhilis (107 seats)

GEOGRAPHY
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

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
oil and gas giant, with growing international investment; domestic economy hit hard by COVID-19 disruptions; reforming civil society and improving business confidence; legacy state controls and Russian influence inhibit growth and autonomy
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $475.2 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $25,300 (2020 est.)
Industries - oil, coal, iron ore, manganese, chromite, lead, zinc, copper, titanium, bauxite, gold, silver, phosphates, sulfur, uranium
Agricultural products - wheat, milk, potatoes, barley, watermelons, melons, linseeds, onions, maize, sunflower seed
Exports $51.75 billion (2020 est.)
crude petroleum, natural gas, copper, iron alloys, radioactive chemicals (2019)
partners: China 13%, Italy 12%, Russia 10%, Netherlands 7%, France 6%, South Korea 5% (2019)
Imports $44.3 billion (2020 est.)
packaged medicines, natural gas, cars, broadcasting equipment, aircraft (2019)
partners: Russia 34%, China 24% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
19.4 mil. (July 2022 est.)
Population Growth
0.77% (2022 est.)
Ethnicity
Kazakh (Qazaq) 68%, Russian 19.3%, Uzbek 3.2%, Ukrainian 1.5%, Uighur 1.5%, Tatar 1.1%, German 1%, other 4.4% (2019 est.)
Language
Kazakh (official, Qazaq) 83.1% (understand spoken language), trilingual (Kazakh, Russian, English) 22.3% (2017 est.); Russian (official, used in everyday business, designated as "language of interethnic communication") 94.4% (understand spoken language) (2009 est.)
Religion
Muslim 70.2%, Christian 26.2% (mainly Russian Orthodox), other 0.2%, atheist 2.8%, unspecified 0.5% (2009 est.)
as of May 2022