*For the Kazakh television station of the same name, see [Qazaqstan (channel)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qazaqstan_%28channel%29%22%20%5Co%20%22Qazaqstan%20%28channel%29).*

|  |
| --- |
| **Republic of Kazakhstan*** Қазақстан Республикасы  ([Kazakh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakh_language%22%20%5Co%20%22Kazakh%20language))*Qazaqstan Respýblıkasy*
* Республика Казахстан  ([Russian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_language%22%20%5Co%20%22Russian%20language))*Respublika Kazakhstan*
 |
| Flag of Kazakhstan[Flag](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Kazakhstan)Emblem of Kazakhstan[Emblem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emblem_of_Kazakhstan) |
| **Anthem:**[Менің Қазақстаным](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meni%C5%84_Qazaqstanym%22%20%5Co%20%22Meni%C5%84%20Qazaqstanym)*Meniń Qazaqstanym*"My Kazakhstan"MENU0:00 |
| Location of Kazakhstan (green)Location of Kazakhstan (green) |
| **Capital** | [Nur-Sultan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nur-Sultan)https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/55/WMA_button2b.png/17px-WMA_button2b.png[51°10′N 71°26′E](https://tools.wmflabs.org/geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Kazakhstan&params=51_10_N_71_26_E_type:city) |
| **Largest city** | [Almaty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Almaty) |
| **Official languages** | * [Kazakh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakh_language) (official state language)
* [Russian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_language) (co-official)[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhstan#cite_note-1)
 |
| [**Official scripts**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Official_script) | * [Cyrillic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakh_alphabets#Cyrillic_script)
* [Latin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakh_alphabets#Latin_script)
 |
| [**Ethnic groups**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethnic_group)(2018[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhstan#cite_note-KZ2016-2)) | * 65.5% [Kazakh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhs%22%20%5Co%20%22Kazakhs)
* 21.5% [Russian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russians_in_Kazakhstan%22%20%5Co%20%22Russians%20in%20Kazakhstan)
* 3.0% [Uzbek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uzbeks%22%20%5Co%20%22Uzbeks)
* 1.8% [Ukrainian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ukrainians%22%20%5Co%20%22Ukrainians)
* 1.4% [Uyghur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uyghurs%22%20%5Co%20%22Uyghurs)
* 1.2% [Tatar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tatars%22%20%5Co%20%22Tatars)
* 1.1% [German](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germans%22%20%5Co%20%22Germans)
* 4.5% [others](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethnic_demography_of_Kazakhstan%22%20%5Co%20%22Ethnic%20demography%20of%20Kazakhstan)
 |
| **Religion** | * 70.2% [Muslims](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslims%22%20%5Co%20%22Muslims)
* 26.3% [Christians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christians%22%20%5Co%20%22Christians)
* 3.5% others
 |
| [**Demonym(s)**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demonym) | Kazakhstani[[a]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhstan%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-4)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhstan#cite_note-CIA-5) |
| [**Government**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Politics_of_Kazakhstan) | [Unitary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unitary_state) [presidential](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidential_system%22%20%5Co%20%22Presidential%20system) [constitutional republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic%22%20%5Co%20%22Republic) |
|  |
| • [Chairman of the Security Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Security_Council_of_Kazakhstan) | [Nursultan Nazarbayev](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nursultan_Nazarbayev) |
| • [President](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_Kazakhstan%22%20%5Co%20%22President%20of%20Kazakhstan) | [Kassym-Jomart Tokayev](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kassym-Jomart_Tokayev) |
| • [Prime Minister](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Kazakhstan%22%20%5Co%20%22Prime%20Minister%20of%20Kazakhstan) | [Askar Mamin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Askar_Mamin) |
| • [Chairman of the Senate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senate_of_Kazakhstan%22%20%5Co%20%22Senate%20of%20Kazakhstan) | [Dariga Nazarbayeva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dariga_Nazarbayeva) |
| • [Chairman of the Mazhilis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mazhilis%22%20%5Co%20%22Mazhilis) | [Nurlan Nigmatulin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nurlan_Nigmatulin) |
| **Legislature** | [Parliament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliament_of_Kazakhstan) |
| • [Upper house](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upper_house%22%20%5Co%20%22Upper%20house) | [Senate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senate_of_Kazakhstan) |
| • [Lower house](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lower_house%22%20%5Co%20%22Lower%20house) | [Mazhilis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mazhilis) |
| [**Formation**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Kazakhstan) |
|  |
| • [Kazakh Khanate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakh_Khanate%22%20%5Co%20%22Kazakh%20Khanate) | 1465 |
| • [Alash Autonomy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alash_Autonomy%22%20%5Co%20%22Alash%20Autonomy) | 13 December 1917 |
| • [Kirghiz ASSR](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kirghiz_Autonomous_Socialist_Soviet_Republic_%281920%E2%80%9325%29%22%20%5Co%20%22Kirghiz%20Autonomous%20Socialist%20Soviet%20Republic%20%281920%E2%80%9325%29) | 26 August 1920 |
| • [Kazakh ASSR](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakh_Autonomous_Socialist_Soviet_Republic%22%20%5Co%20%22Kazakh%20Autonomous%20Socialist%20Soviet%20Republic) | 19 June 1925 |
| • [Kazakh SSR](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakh_Soviet_Socialist_Republic%22%20%5Co%20%22Kazakh%20Soviet%20Socialist%20Republic) | 5 December 1936 |
| • Declared Sovereignty | 25 October 1990 |
| • Reconstituted as the Republic of Kazakhstan | 10 December 1991 |
| • Declared Independence from the [USSR](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet_Union) | 16 December 1991 |
| • [CIS Accession](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alma-Ata_Protocol) | 21 December 1991 |
| • [Recognized](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dissolution_of_the_Soviet_Union%22%20%5Co%20%22Dissolution%20of%20the%20Soviet%20Union) | 26 December 1991 |
| • [Admitted to the](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Security_Council_Resolution_732) [United Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations) | 2 March 1992 |
| • [Current constitution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_Kazakhstan%22%20%5Co%20%22Constitution%20of%20Kazakhstan) | 30 August 1995 |
| [**Area**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Kazakhstan) |
| • Total | 2,724,900 km2 (1,052,100 sq mi) ([9th](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_by_area)) |
| • Water (%) | 1.7 |
| [**Population**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Kazakhstan) |
| • 2019 estimate | Steady 18,448,600[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhstan#cite_note-%D0%9D%D0%B5%D0%B3%D1%96%D0%B7%D0%B3%D1%96-6) ([63rd](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_by_population)) |
| • Density | 7/km2 (18.1/sq mi) ([236th](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_and_dependencies_by_population_density)) |
| [**GDP**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gross_domestic_product)([PPP](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purchasing_power_parity)) | 2020 estimate |
| • Total | Increase $569.813 billion[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhstan%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-IMF-7) ([41st](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_%28PPP%29)) |
| • Per capita | Increase $30,178[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhstan#cite_note-IMF-7) ([53rd](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_%28PPP%29_per_capita)) |
| [**GDP**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gross_domestic_product)(nominal) | 2020 estimate |
| • Total | Increase $182.623 billion[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhstan%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-IMF-7) ([55th](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_%28nominal%29)) |
| • Per capita | Increase $9,672[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhstan#cite_note-IMF-7) ([69th](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_%28nominal%29_per_capita)) |
| [**Gini**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gini_coefficient)(2017) | Negative increase 27.5[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhstan#cite_note-WB1-8)low |
| [**HDI**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_Development_Index)(2018) | Increase 0.817[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhstan#cite_note-HDI-9)very high · [50th](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_Human_Development_Index) |
| **Currency** | [Tenge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhstani_tenge) (₸) ([KZT](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_4217)) |
| **Time zone** | [UTC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coordinated_Universal_Time)[+5](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UTC%2B05%3A00) / [+6](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UTC%2B06%3A00) ([West / East](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_in_Kazakhstan%22%20%5Co%20%22Time%20in%20Kazakhstan)) |
| [**Driving side**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Left-_and_right-hand_traffic) | right |
| [**Calling code**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telephone_numbers_in_Kazakhstan) | +7-6xx, +7-7xx |
| [**ISO 3166 code**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_3166) | [KZ](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_3166-2%3AKZ) |
| [**Internet TLD**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Country_code_top-level_domain) | * [.kz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/.kz)
* [.қаз](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/.%D2%9B%D0%B0%D0%B7)
 |

**Kazakhstan**,[[b]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhstan#cite_note-14) officially the **Republic of Kazakhstan**,[[c]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhstan#cite_note-15)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhstan#cite_note-CIA-5)[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhstan#cite_note-16) is a [transcontinental](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_transcontinental_countries) country largely located in [Central Asia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Asia) with the most western parts of it being located in [Eastern Europe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Europe). It is the world's largest [landlocked country](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landlocked_country), and the [ninth-largest country](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_and_outlying_territories_by_land_area) in the world, with an area of 2,724,900 square kilometres (1,052,100 sq mi).[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhstan#cite_note-CIA-5)[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhstan#cite_note-17) Kazakhstan is the most dominant nation of [Central Asia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Asia) economically, generating 60% of the region's GDP, primarily through its oil and gas industry. It also has vast mineral resources.[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhstan#cite_note-time-18)

Kazakhstan is officially a democratic, secular, unitary, constitutional republic with a diverse cultural heritage.[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhstan#cite_note-19) Kazakhstan shares borders with [Russia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia), [China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China), [Kyrgyzstan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kyrgyzstan), [Uzbekistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uzbekistan), and [Turkmenistan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkmenistan), and also adjoins a large part of the [Caspian Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caspian_Sea). The terrain of Kazakhstan includes flatlands, [steppe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steppe), [taiga](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taiga), [rock canyons](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canyon), [hills](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hill), [deltas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_delta), snow-capped [mountains](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mountain), and [deserts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desert). Kazakhstan has an estimated 18.3 million people as of 2018.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhstan#cite_note-20) Its [population density](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_population_density) is among the lowest, at less than 6 people per square kilometre (15 people per sq mi). Since 1997 and independence, the capital is [Nur-Sultan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nur-Sultan%22%20%5Co%20%22Nur-Sultan), formerly known as Astana. It was moved from [Almaty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Almaty), the country's largest city.

The territory of Kazakhstan has historically been inhabited by nomadic groups and empires. In antiquity, the nomadic [Scythians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scythians) inhabited the land and the Persian [Achaemenid Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achaemenid_Empire%22%20%5Co%20%22Achaemenid%20Empire) expanded towards the southern territory of the modern country. [Turkic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkic_people) [nomads](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nomads), who trace their ancestry to many [Turkic states](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Turkic_dynasties_and_countries) such as [Turkic Khaganate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkic_Khaganate), etc., have inhabited the country throughout its history.

In the 13th century, the territory was subjugated by the [Mongolian Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mongolian_Empire) under [Genghis Khan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genghis_Khan). By the 16th century, the [Kazakh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhs) emerged as a distinct group, divided into three *[jüz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J%C3%BCz%22%20%5Co%20%22J%C3%BCz)* (ancestor branches occupying specific territories). The [Russians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russians) began advancing into the [Kazakh steppe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakh_steppe) in the 18th century, and by the mid-19th century, they nominally ruled all of Kazakhstan as part of the [Russian Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Empire). Following the 1917 [Russian Revolution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Revolution), and subsequent [civil war](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Civil_War), the territory of Kazakhstan was reorganised several times. In 1936, it was made the [Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakh_Soviet_Socialist_Republic), part of the [Soviet Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet_Union).

Kazakhstan was the last of the [Soviet republics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republics_of_the_Soviet_Union) to declare independence during the [dissolution of the Soviet Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dissolution_of_the_Soviet_Union) in 1991. [Nursultan Nazarbayev](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nursultan_Nazarbayev%22%20%5Co%20%22Nursultan%20Nazarbayev), the first [president of Kazakhstan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_Kazakhstan), was characterised as an authoritarian, and his government was accused of numerous human rights violations, including suppression of dissent and censorship of the media. Nazarbayev resigned in March 2019 but was made the Kazakh [Security Council's](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Security_Council_of_Kazakhstan) chairman-for-life. He had the capital's name changed to his first name.

Senate Chairman [Kassym-Jomart Tokayev](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kassym-Jomart_Tokayev%22%20%5Co%20%22Kassym-Jomart%20Tokayev) succeeded Nazarbayev as president.[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhstan#cite_note-time-18) In the 21st century, Kazakhstan has worked to develop its [economy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_Kazakhstan), especially its dominant [hydrocarbon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hydrocarbon) industry.[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhstan#cite_note-time-18) [Human Rights Watch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_Rights_Watch) says that "Kazakhstan heavily restricts freedom of assembly, speech, and religion."[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhstan#cite_note-World_Report_2015:_Kazakhstan-21) Other human rights organisations regularly describe [Kazakhstan's human rights situation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Kazakhstan) as poor.

Kazakhstan's 131 ethnicities include [Kazakhs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhs) (65.5% of the population), [Russians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russians), [Uzbeks](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uzbeks), [Ukrainians](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ukrainians), [Germans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germans), [Tatars](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tatars), and [Uyghurs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uyghurs%22%20%5Co%20%22Uyghurs).[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhstan#cite_note-Census2009-22) [Islam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam) is the religion of about 70% of the population, with [Christianity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity) practised by 26%.[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhstan#cite_note-2009_Census-23) Kazakhstan officially allows [freedom of religion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_religion_in_Kazakhstan), but religious leaders who oppose the government are suppressed.[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhstan#cite_note-GoncalvesSmith2016-24)

The [Kazakh language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakh_language) is the [state language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_language), and [Russian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_language) has equal official status for all levels of administrative and institutional purposes.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhstan#cite_note-CIA-5)[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakhstan#cite_note-25) Kazakhstan is a member of the [United Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations) (UN), [WTO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Trade_Organization), [CIS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commonwealth_of_Independent_States), the [Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shanghai_Cooperation_Organization), the [Eurasian Economic Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurasian_Economic_Union), [CSTO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collective_Security_Treaty_Organisation), [OSCE](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organization_for_Security_and_Co-operation_in_Europe), [OIC](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organisation_of_Islamic_Cooperation), and [TURKSOY](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Organization_of_Turkic_Culture).