

February 29, 2008

Kazakhstan



Meat market review

106.2 thousand MT of meat were produced in Kazakhstan in January 2008. The production of eggs constituted 161 million pcs.

The livestock as of February 2008 (in comparison with February 2007):

- Cattle +3.7% (to the level of 5873.1 thousand heats),
- Sheep and goats +6.1% (to the level of 15990.4 thousand heats),
- Pigs +3.6% (to the level of 1376.6 thousand heats),
- Poultry +5.6% (to the level of 28810.9 thousand heats). - *Source: APK-Inform; Translated by: usapeec.kz*

Kazakhstan's 2007 GDP up by 8.5% to 12.5 trillion tenge

Kazakhstan's GDP tentatively reached 12.567 trillion tenge in 2007, the state statistics agency has reported. The GDP volume index for January-December 2007 compared to the same period in the previous year reached 108.5%. Commodity production in the 2007 GDP accounted for 43.9% (including industrial production's share of 28.7%), and the services sector 49.4%.

"Considering existing forecasted tendencies and conditions influencing macroeconomic development of Kazakhstan, in 2008, real GDP growth is estimated at the level of 5 %," the Minister of Economics Bakhyt Sultanov said. He reminded that the last year GDP growth made 8.5 %. Thus, B. Sultanov emphasized that manufacture has grown in all segments of real sector. The official exchange rate as of February 7 is 120.28 tenge/\$1. - *Source: Interfax, Kazakhstan Today; Edited by: usapeec.kz*

Kazakhstan plans to join WTO in 2009

Kazakhstan plans to join WTO in 2009. Vice Minister of Industry and Commerce of Kazakhstan, the special representative of Kazakhstan at negotiations for WTO introduction, Zhanar Aytzhanova informed journalists after the ceremony of signing the protocol on completion of bilateral negotiations with Canada.

Next round of bilateral talks with the US on Kazakhstan's accession to the World Trade Organization will be held in March, she added. "We plan to finish all bilateral negotiations in 2008 and if everything goes according to the plan that Kazakhstan party has, next year we will be able to finish multilateral negotiations," Z. Aytzhanova said. She explained that completion of multilateral negotiations will mean introduction to WTO.

Kazakhstan need to finish bilateral negotiations with USA, European Union, Australia, India and Mongolia. - *Source: Kazakhstan Today*

U.S. -Kazakhstan relations develop dynamically: Richard Boucher

President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev met with Assistant to US Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Richard Boucher in the presidential residence in Astana on February 11, 2008.

During the meeting, the sides discussed a wide range of issues regarding energy, socio-political situation in the region, economy and preparation for the forthcoming Kazakhstan's chairmanship in the OSCE in 2010. Relations between Kazakhstan and the United State develop dynamically, the high-rankig guest noted.

After the meeting with President Nazarbayev Richard Boucher met with the Kazakh Secretary of State Kanat Saudabayev.

K. Saudabayev stressed the realization of the special program "The Way to Europe" announced by the President of Kazakhstan in his annual address to the nation was a very important aspect of cooperation between Kazakhstan and the U.S. The program will contribute to development of the economic cooperation, attraction of the technologies, improvement of the legislation and development of our strategic vision as regards the OSCE presidency. - *Source: Kazinform Agency*

Kyrgyzstan



Customs services of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan agreed to use joint technologies of keeping shipping documents in safe-packets

Heads of Customs Services of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan signed bilateral Protocol on usage of joint technology of keeping shipping documents in plastic safe-packets during transportation.

The press service of the State Customs Committee of Kyrgyzstan reports that this will improve customs control over transportation of goods and documents for those goods.

"To exclude possibilities of fake and exchange of documents while transportation through borders is the main purpose of using so called safe-packets. Kazakh customs officers are convinced of efficiency of this technology in practice and suggested colleagues from Kyrgyzstan to draw this successful experience", Customs Service experts told. - *Source: Kyrgyz National News Agency*

USDA offers GSM-102 credit guarantees for export sales to Eurasia region

The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced the availability of the following credit guarantees for sales of U.S. agricultural commodities under the Commodity Credit Corporation's Export Credit Guarantee Program (GSM-102) for fiscal year 2008:

Total Amount Available: \$110 million
Geographical Area: Armenia, Azerbaijan,

Georgia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Russia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

The GSM-102 program helps ensure that credit is available to finance commercial exports of U.S. agricultural products to developing countries, while providing competitive credit terms in these countries. Under this program, the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) reduces the financial risk to lenders by guaranteeing payments due from approved foreign banks to exporters or financial institutions in the United States. This program announcement is issued in accordance with title 7, section 1493.10(d), of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Commodity allocations

Exporters may apply for credit guarantees on a first-come, first-served basis. These guarantees are to cover sales of the commodities specified below.

Country / Commodity

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan - All commodities

Russia-All commodities excluding poultry meat (frozen or chilled including parts thereof, muscle meat) and processed poultry meat products (products from poultry and mixtures thereof) Sales of poultry products (specified above) to Russian buyers, regardless of the destination of the goods, are not eligible under this announcement.

Beginning Time: 9:00 AM in the Eastern Standard Time Zone

Beginning Date: Jan. 15, 2008

The allocation does not assign dollar amounts to any of the commodities specified in the GSM list of commodities, providing buyers and sellers maximum flexibility in arranging the size of their transactions within the scope of the overall allocation.

Terms of coverage

In accordance with section 1493.20(v)(1), this announcement offers coverage on a free-alongside-ship or free-on-board basis. If commodities are sold on a cost-and-freight or cost-insurance-and-freight basis, coverage on

a cost-and-freight basis to point of ocean transportation or international air carrier discharge is also available in accordance with section 1493.20(v)(2). Coverage is not available under this announcement for insurance costs.

Coverage of up to 98 percent of the principal is offered on credit terms from 30 days to three years, except for solid wood products, wood pulp, and wood chips, for which coverage is offered on credit terms of up to 720 days. Adjustable interest coverage is also offered in accordance with FAS program announcement PR 0105-05 issued July 15, 2005, or as superseded. In any case where the credit period exceeds six months, principal payments are due at semi-annual intervals.

Eligible banks in the Eurasia region

Any bank approved by CCC for this region is eligible. For a complete list of eligible banks, refer to the CCC “GSM Program Foreign Bank Obligors” Web page located at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/excredits/foreignbanks.html>. Exporters are advised to obtain from their foreign buyer the name of the CCC-approved foreign bank that will be opening the letter of credit.

Guarantees fee rates

Pursuant to section 1493.70, for a complete list of fees refer to the CCC “GSM-102 Guarantee Fee Rate Schedule” Web page located at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/excredits/gsm102fees.html>. These fees are listed by risk category. A complete list of countries and their associated risk category is available on the CCC “Country Risk Category” Web page located at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/excredits/countryrisk.html>.

Special terms and conditions

Sales must be registered with CCC by Sept. 30, 2008. Exporters’ contractual arrangements must call for exports no later than Nov. 30, 2008.

Points of contact

For further information, contact the Registrations and Operations Branch of FAS at (202) 720-3224, or by e-mail at gsm.registrations@fas.usda.gov

For the latest updates on FAS programs and activities, go to the FAS Web page at <http://www.fas.usda.gov>.

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