

Kazakhstan



Kazakhstan GDP grew by 10.3 % for Q1 of 2007

The Kazakhstan GDP for the first quarter of 2007 compared to the similar period of last year has grown by 10.3 %.

According to the PM K.Masimov the parameters of social and economic development of the Republic for the first quarter of 2007 demonstrated positive dynamics. GDP for the first quarter of 2007 in relation to the similar period of last year has grown by 10.3 %.

Industrial output in the first quarter grew by 9.6%, the total agricultural production - by 3.7 %, volume of investments into fixed capital - by 7.1 %. Foreign trade turnover only for two months of this year (January - February) has increased by more than 50 % and reached \$10.5 billion. - *Source: Kazakhstan Today*

Russia bans meat imports from Kazakhstan

Russia has suspended imports of livestock and meat products from Kazakhstan due to outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease, Russia's food safety watchdog said on April 25.

“Due to recent outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in Kazakhstan, Rosselkhoznadzor has introduced a temporary ban on imports of livestock, meat products and feedstuffs from this country,” the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Inspection said in a statement.

Emergency Ministry of Kazakhstan has recently issued several reports of outbreaks

of foot-and-mouth disease in the Karaganda region of the country. The latest report on April 23 put the number of affected livestock at 52 cattle on 14 private holdings in the village of Kengir. All cattle were incinerated to prevent the spread of the disease. - *Source: Kazinform*

The next negotiations round between the U.S. and Kazakhstan on WTO accession took place in Washington, D.C.

Negotiations round between the US and Kazakhstan on WTO accession took place in Washington, D.C. on April 24.

During the negotiations Kazakhstani official delegation headed by the RK Special Representative on WTO negotiations RK Industry and Trade Vice-Minister Zhanar Aitzhanova discussed state role in economy, external economic relations participants trade rules fulfillment, intellectual property protection.

Parties have discussed meat and milk production import requirements into Kazakhstani market and defined next steps on harmonization of used in Kazakhstan veterinary and sanitary measures with international requirements.

During the visit official meetings of Zhanar Aitzhanova and Agriculture vice-Minister A. Kurishbayev with the U.S. Agriculture Vice-Minister Kinam, the U.S. State Department International Trade director William Craft took place. The US representatives expressed overall support to the process of WTO accession by Kazakhstan and an intention to finish bilateral negotiations until the end of 2007. - *Source: Kazakhstan Today*

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Kyrgyzstan



Kyrgyzstan sees government reshuffle

Kyrgyz President Kurmanbek Bakiyev has reshuffled his government. First Deputy Prime Minister Daniyar Usenov has been relieved of his duties. Turatbek Dzhunushaliyev has been appointed Emergency Situations Minister. He served earlier as Deputy Economic Development and Trade Minister. Emergency Situations Minister Dzhanysh Rustenbekov has been relieved of his duties. Tuigunaaly Abdraimov has been made Health Minister, replacing Shailoobek Niyazov. Chairman of the State Tax Committee Toktobek Akmatov has been dismissed and replaced by Temirbek Kurmanbekov, the former head of the Bishkek Tax Committee. Transport and Communications Minister Nurlan Sulaimanov, Economic Development and Trade Minister Sabymbek Moldokulov and Migration and Employment Committee Chairman Aigul Ryskulova have retained their posts, Shakiyev said. The new appointments came after the parliament confirmed Almaz Atambayev as prime minister.

Soronbai Jeenbekov was appointed to the post of Minister of Agriculture, water resources and processing industry. - *Source: Interfax*

Kyrgyzstan's economy grows 7.3% in Q1

Kyrgyzstan's GDP grew tentatively 7.3% year-on-year in the first quarter of 2007 to 21.119 billion som (38.05 som/\$1 on April 10).

GDP minus the Kumtor gold mining project would have been 19.965 billion som, up 9.5%. Inflation was 2%.

Industrial output grew by 1.1% to 13.23 billion som or, minus Kumtor, by 9.9% to 10.112 billion som.

Extractive industry output fell 3.5% year-on-year to 226.4 million som, and manufacturing output fell 2.1% to 8.9 billion som. Output by the utilities sector (power, gas and water) rose by 7% to 4.104 billion som.

Output grew 2.1% to 7.004 billion som in agriculture and forestry, 45.7% to 1.418 billion som in the construction sector, 6.2% to 6.067 billion som in freight and 24.3% to 1.406 billion som in communications.

Kyrgyzstan had a foreign trade deficit of \$179.6 million som in January-February 2007. Imports came to \$331.6 million and exports to \$152 million. - *Source: Interfax*

Uzbekistan



Economic development of Uzbekistan 1Q 2007

Uzbekistan's GDP increased by 9.1% in the first three months of 2007. Industrial production grew by 12%, agricultural production by 5.5%, construction sector by 12.8%, retail turnover by 16.5% and paid services by 25%.

Foreign trade was growing at high pace, with exports increasing by 21.1%. Positive foreign trade balance made up about \$600 million.

The volume of used foreign investments increased by 36.4%, and foreign direct investments grew by 47%.

Production in small and medium business sector also showed high growth, leading to increase of the SME share in GDP to 33.2%. - *Source: Press Uz Agency*

Uzbekistan: Government increases its blocking of news websites

As the presidential election campaign approaches in Uzbekistan, the country's authorities are trying to limit the public's access to independent sources of information.

Since truly independent newspapers, radio, and television stations are almost nonexistent in Uzbekistan, the government has turned its attention to the Internet, blocking news websites and creating pro-government sites that cover events from the government's viewpoint.

The Russian-language website portal-credo.ru

is the most recent addition to the list of the many political, opposition, and news websites that the Uzbek government is keeping users in Uzbekistan from seeing.

While control of the independent media and free speech by Uzbek President Islam Karimov's government has long been criticized by local and international observers, the censorship of independent sources of information intensified after the bloody crackdown on protests in the eastern city of Andijon in May 2005.

According to the Head of the Internet Freedom Desk at Reporters Without Borders J.Pain the security services in Uzbekistan are very involved in controlling the Internet and putting pressure upon the Internet Service Providers, so they block the opposition websites.

The Internet is not yet hugely popular in Uzbekistan, but like the other Central Asian countries, the number of Internet users -- private computer owners as well as Internet cafes - has been growing rapidly in recent years. According to official figures, some 1.5 million of Uzbekistan's 27 million people have access to the Internet.

"The Internet is like a big shop," the President Karimov said. "When you enter the shop, you

buy the goods you desire. Closing down the Internet is a foolish idea. You cannot close it. The person who tries to shut down the Internet is a complete fool." - *Source: Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty*

Tajikistan



Tajikistan foreign trade \$891.5 million in 1Q 2007

Tajikistan's foreign trade in the first three months of 2007 increased by \$196.3 million, year-on-year, to \$891.5 million.

The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) accounted for 43.9% of the Tajik trade, or \$391.7 million, with the share of non-CIS countries standing at 56.1%, or \$499.8 million. In the first quarter of 2007, Tajik exports amounted to \$367.6 million.

The country's imports were \$523.9 million in January-March 2007, up \$146 million, year-on-year.

The country's major economic partners in the same period were the Netherlands (\$191.7 million), Russia (\$179.2 million) and Turkey (\$93 million). - *Source: RIA Novosti*