



# Doing Business in the Kyrgyz Republic: A Country Commercial Guide for U.S. Companies

**INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT, U.S. & FOREIGN COMMERCIAL SERVICE AND U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, 2005. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES.**

- [Chapter 1: Doing Business In ...](#)
- [Chapter 2: Political and Economic Environment](#)
- [Chapter 3: Selling U.S. Products and Services](#)
- [Chapter 4: Leading Sectors for U.S. Export and Investment](#)
- [Chapter 5: Trade Regulations and Standards](#)
- [Chapter 6: Investment Climate](#)
- [Chapter 7: Trade and Project Financing](#)
- [Chapter 8: Business Travel](#)
- [Chapter 9: Contacts, Market Research and Trade Events](#)
- [Chapter 10: Guide to Our Services](#)

[Return to table of contents](#)

## Chapter 1: Doing Business in the Kyrgyz Republic

- [Market Overview](#)
- [Market Challenges](#)
- [Market Opportunities](#)
- [Market Entry Strategy](#)

### Market Overview

[Return to top](#)

The Kyrgyz Republic is a small, low-income country that since its 1991 independence has pursued a democratic political system and a market economy. Significant achievements include maintaining a low rate of inflation and establishing a stable currency that is freely convertible with no controls on capital flows.

Despite these achievements the transition to a market economy is only partially complete. Property rights and the legal system remain weak. Lack of transparency, corruption, and the inconsistent enforcement of the law plague the Kyrgyz Republic's economic development. International accounting standards have been introduced to the banking system and partially to the industrial sector, but are often inconsistently applied.

In 2005, Kyrgyz real gross domestic product (GDP) decreased 0.5%, but then grew 2.7% in 2006. According to the National Statistics Committee, GDP in 2006 amounted to 113.2 billion soms or \$2.8 billion. However, the Kyrgyz Republic remains one of the poorest countries of the former Soviet Union with 2006 wages averaging \$73 per month. While official unemployment numbers are relatively low, actual unemployment figures are complicated by the large number of workers who have moved (temporarily or permanently) to Russia and Kazakhstan in search of work. The Kyrgyz Government in partnership with international donors is tackling poverty, but approximately half of the population continues to live under the poverty line.

The Kyrgyz Government has rewritten its tax code to make the tax system more investor and business friendly, while increasing collection efficiency. Starting in January 2006, the income tax rate fell from 20% to 10% and profit tax decreased from 20% to 10%. Farmers are not obliged to pay VAT. The revenue threshold for business being subject to VAT increased from 500,000 soms (\$12,500) to 2,500,000 soms (\$62,500).

US foreign direct investment in the Kyrgyz Republic in 2005 was \$11.7 million, or about 6% of the total foreign investment in the country.

### Market Challenges

[Return to top](#)

The principle challenges in the Kyrgyz market come from the administrative environment of the country. Corruption is prevalent, as is selective application of the contradictory and confusing Kyrgyz system of law. The judicial system is weak and dependent upon the executive branch of the government, and the outcome of cases is reportedly often decided by bribes.

Although efforts in Parliament are underway to address the problem, the Kyrgyz Republic currently has a vast and confusing system of licenses that present complicated compliance challenges for businesses. Unannounced inspections are frequent and often involve the solicitation of bribes.

The United Nations estimates that 50-60% of the population lives below the poverty line. With most average monthly wages ranging from \$50-\$100, many consumers are unable to purchase western imports. People living outside the larger urban areas rely almost entirely upon herding and subsistence farming.

## **Market Opportunities**

[Return to top](#)

While production difficulties at Kyrgyzstan's largest gold mine as well as political instability constrained GDP growth to 2.7% in 2006, prospects for steady GDP growth are good. Furthermore, the country is bordered by Kazakhstan and China, two of the world's fastest-growing economies, and the Kyrgyz Republic now has a chance, with its recent tax breaks, to take advantage of the growth of its neighbors.

As a result of GDP growth over the last several years, the middle class has grown substantially, especially in Bishkek. This middle class generates demand for western products, many of which have been entering the Kyrgyz market recently.

The Coalition military base situated near Bishkek also produces a significant amount of revenue for the country through contracts and employment.

The agricultural sector, a major portion of the economy outside of the Bishkek region, expanded by only 1.5% in 2006. Productivity could be substantially improved.

Mining has attracted more foreign investment than any other sector. The high world price for gold in the last few years has been a major factor in Kyrgyz GDP growth. Many Chinese, Kazakh and Russian firms continue to seek access to other natural resources.

The Kyrgyz Republic's major exports are gold, textiles, non-precious metals, electricity, footwear, tobacco, alcoholic beverages and mechanical equipment. Major imports include fuel, natural gas, iron, machinery, chemical products, medicine and food products.

Recent infrastructure development projects have focused on telecommunications, power system rehabilitation, agricultural and irrigation system development, road construction and corporate management.

## **Market Entry Strategy**

[Return to top](#)

Although the Kyrgyz Government has implemented a "one-stop shop" model for business registration and simplified the process of registering foreign companies, the most proven strategy for market entry remains the establishment of a joint-stock venture with a local partner that knows the Kyrgyz system. Many U.S. firms also avail themselves of the services of local distributors and franchisees. That notwithstanding, U.S. companies have had success opening regional offices without Kyrgyz investment.

For most large-scale investments, a visit to the country and meetings with appropriate public officials are generally necessary. Reliable partners can be found, and there are several consulting services available to U.S. businesses in the country, including the following:

**American Chamber of Commerce, Kyrgyz Republic**

Ms. Christina Smith, Executive Director  
Hyatt Hotel, Bishkek, Room no. 123  
191, Sovietskaya Street, Bishkek 720011, Kyrgyz Republic  
Tel: (996-312) 68 09 07  
Fax: (996-312) 68 11 72  
E-mail: [director@amcham.kg](mailto:director@amcham.kg)

**BISNIS Representative in Kyrgyzstan**

Artyom Zozulinsky  
171 Prospect Mira  
Bishkek, 720016  
Tel. +996 312 55 12 41, ext. 4403  
Fax. +996 312 55 12 64  
Email. [ZozulinskyA@state.gov](mailto:ZozulinskyA@state.gov)

[Return to table of contents](#)

[Return to table of contents](#)

## **Chapter 2: Political and Economic Environment**

For background information on the political and economic environment of the country, please click on the link below to the U.S. Department of State Background Notes.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5755.htm>

[Return to table of contents](#)

[Return to table of contents](#)

## Chapter 3: Selling U.S. Products and Services

- [Using an Agent or Distributor](#)
- [Establishing an Office](#)
- [Franchising](#)
- [Direct Marketing](#)
- [Joint Ventures/Licensing](#)
- [Selling to the Government](#)
- [Distribution and Sales Channels](#)
- [Selling Factors/Techniques](#)
- [Electronic Commerce](#)
- [Trade Promotion and Advertising](#)
- [Pricing](#)
- [Sales Service/Customer Support](#)
- [Protecting Your Intellectual Property](#)
- [Due Diligence](#)
- [Local Professional Services](#)
- [Web Resources](#)

### Using an Agent or Distributor

[Return to top](#)

The former Soviet distribution and sales networks are no longer fully functional. The private sector is filling this vacuum, but mostly on an informal and small-scale basis. Many western products reach the Kyrgyz Republic via distributors based in Turkey, Russia or Europe. Finding a local agent or distributor is a challenging process because there are few sources of reliable information on potential partners.

However, reliable partners can be located and may be best sourced by contacting other western firms with a presence in the Kyrgyz Republic. Also, the BISNIS representative at the embassy as well as the American Chamber of Commerce may provide leads for local partners. These organizations may also be useful in identifying potential partners for U.S. firms:

#### **Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic**

107 Kievskaya st., 720001  
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan  
Tel. +996 312 21 05 73  
Fax. +996 312 21 05 75  
Email. [cci-kr@totel.kg](mailto:cci-kr@totel.kg)  
Web. <http://www.cci.kg>

#### **Union of Entrepreneurs of Kyrgyzstan**

120 Tynystanova st., room 110  
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan  
Tel. +996 312 66 68 64, +996 312 62 02 08  
Email. [spkg@mail.ru](mailto:spkg@mail.ru)

## **Establishing an Office**

[Return to top](#)

In order to start operating in the Kyrgyz Republic, a legal entity must be registered with three governmental bodies: the Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic (receives registration certificate containing the registration number as well as entry of data into the Unified State Register of Legal Entities), the National Statistics Committee (receives statistical registration card as well as entry of state registration data into the United Single State Register of Statistics) and the State Tax Inspectorate (receives a unique identification number that is to be entered in all financial, accounting, and customs documents). However, individual entrepreneurs need only register with the Statistics Committee and the Tax Inspectorate.

According to Ministry of Justice regulations, in order to be registered as a legal entity, a business must submit the following documents in three copies:

- Application;
- Company charter;
- Incorporation agreement;
- Certificate of Registration in home country (if the founder is foreign enterprise) or passport/ID with visa validity (if the founder is foreign citizen), with notarized translation by a Kyrgyz notary office;
- Documents confirming charter capital.

An enterprise can operate as a limited liability company, additional liability company, joint-stock company, general or limited partnership, foreign enterprise or enterprise with foreign participation. There are some additional types such as individual entrepreneur, representative office, branch office, commercial cooperative and credit union. All incorporating documents should be in Russian or Kyrgyz and be notarized by a Kyrgyz notary office.

## **Franchising**

[Return to top](#)

Franchising is not widespread in the Kyrgyz Republic. While trademark, logo and intellectual property protections exist in theory, prosecution of infringement is difficult and often does not inhibit continued violations. Many large western firms such as Coca-Cola, Xerox and Kodak are represented in the country. However, franchise operations in many other sectors suffer from lengthy supply chains.

## **Direct Marketing**

[Return to top](#)

Direct marketing is a new phenomenon in the Kyrgyz Republic. However, existing advertising companies should be able to assist in direct marketing activities.

## **Joint Ventures/Licensing**

[Return to top](#)

Joint ventures are the most proven strategy for entry into the Kyrgyz market. Foreign investors are generally protected by the inclusion of a well-positioned national investor

that is familiar with the Kyrgyz system. Furthermore, Kyrgyz law gives more protection to joint ventures than to representative offices or international businesses.

The following commercial activities require licenses from the Kyrgyz Government:

- Exploration, prospecting and use of mineral deposits
- Building dams on rivers and reservoirs
- Hunting and catching birds
- Manufacture and sale of pharmaceuticals, medicine, perfume cosmetic and chemical substances, and medical equipment, except enterprises that sell soap, cleanser and perfume-cosmetic goods with a certificate of quality from the manufacturers
- Production of beer, wine, champagne, liquor, vodka, cognac and alcohol
- Private medical and veterinary practice
- Organization of gaming and gambling establishments
- Any kind of aviation services, reception and release of civil aviation aircrafts, technical maintenance of aircrafts and their equipment
- Urban planning, drafting and design of housing, public buildings or industrial construction
- Building and assembly jobs, excluding individual residence buildings construction
- Private detective activity
- Banking operations, credit union and pawnshop activities
- Securities
- Insurance
- Non-governmental pension funds
- Postal and electrical connections, telecommunications, TV and radio broadcasting, including design, construction, production and installation of networks, lines and systems, except internal technological connections for industry
- Trade in alcohol
- Generation, transmission, distribution and sale of electric power and heat; oil and gas processing
- Construction of electric power plants, substations and transmission lines;
- Auditing
- Private educational institutions
- Importing, developing, producing or selling explosive or pyrotechnic products
- Production, repair and trade of arms and ammunition
- Obligatory certification works
- Production and sale of poisonous and radioactive substances
- Utilization, placement, destruction and burial of toxic waste materials and substances including radioactive material and substances
- Transportation (including cross-border) of toxic waste
- Administration of bankruptcy process procedures
- Juridical practice (private notary activity and advocacy)
- Passenger (excluding cab) and international cargo transportation by auto transport, transportation by air, water and railway transport

## **Selling to the Government**

[Return to top](#)

There is an official public procurement agency operating in accordance with the public procurement law. (This law is available at <http://www.goszakupki.gov.kg/English/La/>). To access the list of current tenders, companies must pay a registration fee of 900 soms (approximately \$23) to obtain a username and password on the public procurement



website (<http://www.goszakupki.gov.kg>). A subscription to a printed bulletin costs 900 soms annually. Unfortunately, all the information regarding current bids is only available in Russian. Most attractive tenders are announced through BISNIS Trades & Tenders program, which can be found at <http://bisnis.doc.gov/bisnis/tradeleads1.cfm>.

There are three types of procurement of goods and services. Foreign companies can only participate in one type called "Unlimited Bidding." Instructions and standard documents and forms for "Unlimited Bidding" can be found in Russian at <http://www.goszakupki.gov.kg/Russian/dlyazakupuslug/>.

Additionally, procurement of goods and services for international donors' financed projects are announced through common international channels of tender information, as well as through the BISNIS website.

Unfortunately, some government procurement actions occur outside of regularized procurement channels. In some cases, tenders are only announced one or two days prior to the bidding deadline. In such instances, insider knowledge provides advantages to well-connected companies.

### **Distribution and Sales Channels**

[Return to top](#)

More than 50% of the foreign investment in the country is centered in Bishkek, and what investment is not centered there tends to be extractive in nature. Most U.S. firms currently operating in the country have not expanded their businesses significantly outside of the capital because of limited market capacity. Many imported products come overland from Kazakhstan for the Bishkek market. Goods for sale in the Osh region can be supplied through Uzbekistan. The road network for distribution of goods is substandard. However, a proposed new highway linking southern Kazakhstan to the Lake Issyk Kul region should improve connections from Kazakhstan.

### **Selling Factors/Techniques**

[Return to top](#)

Products marketed in Bishkek tend to be marketed in Russian, although the use of Kyrgyz in advertisements is growing.

### **Electronic Commerce**

[Return to top](#)

No substantial amount of electronic commerce exists in the Kyrgyz Republic. Internet access outside of major cities is unreliable. ATM/Debit cards are becoming more popular. Electronic payment of salaries is becoming more common. However, credit cards are not commonplace.

### **Trade Promotion and Advertising**

[Return to top](#)

A full range of advertising opportunities are available via print media, radio, television, billboards, promotional goods and sponsorship of events. There are several local advertising agencies that can handle advertising campaigns. Contact information for media outlets are listed below:

#### **PRINT MEDIA**

Agym ('The CURRENT'); Kyrgyz language; private  
Address/postcode: Manas 40 (2nd floor), 720001  
Phone: 665670, 665548  
Fax: 665-548  
Circulation: Tuesdays – 13000, Fridays – up to 22000  
Publication day: Tuesday, Friday  
Contact: Editor-in-chief: Mr. Kenjebek Arkybayev; Deputy  
E-mail: [agym@users.kyrnet.kg](mailto:agym@users.kyrnet.kg)

AKI Press (Russian language; private)  
Address/postcode: Moskovskaya 189, 720001  
General Director Mr. Marat Tazabekov, Executive Director Ms. Alina Sagynbayeva

Journal AKI Press  
Phone: Press center-650-202, Information, Yellow pages-650-204  
Fax: 650-204, 610-396  
Circulation: 1000  
Publication days: monthly  
Newspaper "Limon"  
Phone: 650303,650309, 650306  
Publication: weekly

Website: <http://www.akipress.org>  
Phone: 610396, 611825  
Email: [admin@akipress.org](mailto:admin@akipress.org)

Alas (Kyrgyz language)  
Address/postcode: Chui 132, 720001  
Phone: 691024  
Circulation: 6,000  
Publication day: Thursday  
Contact: Editor-in-chief: Mr. Tugolbay Kazakov  
E-mail: [alas@elcat.kg](mailto:alas@elcat.kg)

The Bishkek Observer (English language, private)  
Address/postcode: Frunze 429, 720000  
Phone: 289-596; 289-388  
Fax: 682261  
Circulation: 2,000-3,000  
Publication days: Thursday  
Contact: editor: Mr. Avtar Singh  
E-mail: [observer@elcat.kg](mailto:observer@elcat.kg)

Delo Nomer ('CASE Number'); Russian language; private; focuses on crime stories  
Address/postcode: Sovietskaya 190, 720000  
Phone: 621-980; 664-917; 621-981  
Fax: 663-866  
Circulation: 30,000  
Publication days: Wednesday  
Contact: Editor-in-chief: Mr. Viktor Mihailovich Zapolsky

E-mail: [delonom@ktnet.kg](mailto:delonom@ktnet.kg)  
Homepage: <http://www.delo.ktnet.kg>

Komsomol'skaya Pravda v Kyrgyzstan (Russian language, private)  
Address/postcode: Tynystanova 195, 720040  
Phone: 622204  
Fax: 622205  
Circulation: 15,000  
Publication days: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday  
Contact: Director General: Mrs. Nasirova Anara Nasirovna  
E-mail: [nvsk2006@mail.ru](mailto:nvsk2006@mail.ru)

Moya Stolitsa (Russian language, private)  
Address/postcode: Elebaeva Street 1 - 37, Shabdan Batir Street 4 B 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 720082  
Phone: 432162; 531688  
Fax: 531683  
Circulation: 50,000  
Publication days: Tuesday; Wednesday; Friday  
Contact: Editor-in-chief: Mr. Alexander A. Kim – 666-556; 587-816; 660-111; Mr. Alexander V. Kim – 583-006;  
Director: Janaliev Toktorbek Nasiranbekovich; Mr. Zamir Osorov – 217-942; Ms. Elena Skorodoumova – 217-354; Ms. Larisa Lee – 666-562  
E-mail: [city@infotel.kg](mailto:city@infotel.kg); [stolica@infotel.kg](mailto:stolica@infotel.kg)  
Homepage: <http://www.mcn.kg>

Obshestvennyi Rating (Russian Language, private)  
Address/postcode: Toktogula 247 (Tolubai Bank), 720010  
Phone: 652020  
Fax: 652021  
Circulation: 3,000  
Publication days: Thursday  
Contact: Editor-in-chief: Mr. Aibek Chekoshev;  
E-mail: [pr\\_100@infotel.kg](mailto:pr_100@infotel.kg)

Times of Central Asia (English language, private)  
Address/postcode: Chui 155, 7th floor, room 702, 720000  
Phone: 680567, 681150  
Fax: 680769  
Circulation: 2,000  
Publication days: Thursday  
Contact: Ms. Lidia Iakovlevna Savina  
E-mail: [edittimes@timesca.com](mailto:edittimes@timesca.com)  
Homepage: <http://www.timesca.com>

Vechernyi Bishkek (Russian language, private)  
Address/postcode: Usenbaeva 2, 720021  
Phone: 682121  
Fax: 680268  
Circulation: 70,000  
Publication days: Monday; Tuesday; Wednesday; Thursday; Friday  
Contact: Editor-in-chief: Mr. Kuzmin Gennadi Alexandrovich; Deputy Editor-in-chiefs:

Alexander Tuzov, 68-23-68 Nina Nichiporova 68-01-51, Erlan Satibekov 68-29-29  
Sales Department: 682341  
E-mail: [webmaster@vb.kg](mailto:webmaster@vb.kg)  
Homepage: <http://www.vb.kg>

Zamandash ("Contemporary Person"); Kyrgyz language  
Address/Postcode: Frunze 549, 720000  
Phone: 658081  
Fax: 658081 (same as phone)  
Publication days: monthly  
Editor-in-chief: Mr. Bakai Shukurov  
Homepage: <http://www.zamandash.kg>

### **BROADCAST MEDIA**

Almaz (radio)  
Address: 133A Chaikova str.  
Phone: 66-37-51, 62-76-20  
Fax: 66-37-51  
Contact: Mr. Rustam Koshmuratov - Director, Mr. Alexei Sidorov –Deputy Director  
E-mail: [almaz@kyrnet.kg](mailto:almaz@kyrnet.kg), [almazfm@mail.ru](mailto:almazfm@mail.ru)

Channel 5 (TV)  
Address: Ibraimov 24 (15<sup>th</sup> floor)  
Phone: 59-20-75, 59-20-70  
Contact: Ms. Oksana Malevanaya - President

Max (radio)  
Homepage: <http://www.max.kg>  
Address: 315, Chui prospect (8 floor)  
Phone: 65-19-50, 58-10-40  
Fax: 65-19-50  
Contact: Mr. Ruslan Savkeev - Director  
E-mail : [radio@max.kg](mailto:radio@max.kg), [ryc@max.kg](mailto:ryc@max.kg)

Pyramid (TV/Radio)  
Homepage: <http://www.pyramid.elcat.kg/>  
Address: 70, Djantosheva Str and 69, Djantosheva Str.  
Phone: 51-15-50, 28-28-28, 51-00-19  
Fax: 51-15-50, 47-16-24, 51-00-12, 52-61-65  
Contact: Mr. Oleg Vassil – Vice President, Ms. Larisa Golikova - Sales Manager  
E-mail: [admin@pyramid.kg](mailto:admin@pyramid.kg), [office@pyramid.kg](mailto:office@pyramid.kg)

NBT (TV)  
Address: 6 A, Alma-Atinskaya Str  
Phone: 53-07-45, 53-07-48,  
Fax: 53-07-43  
Contact: Mr. Mollautov Nazim – General President  
E-mail: [nbt\\_tv@mail.ru](mailto:nbt_tv@mail.ru)

Novaya Televizionnaya Set (New TV Net) (TV)

Address: 7th district, 46a  
Phone: 41-95-40, 51-23-58  
Fax: 41-95-40  
Contact: Ms. Baktygul Jeenbaeva - General President  
E-mail: [info@nts.kg](mailto:info@nts.kg)

KOORT (TV)  
Homepage: <http://www.koort.kg>  
Address: 24, Ibraimova str. (15th floor)  
Phone: 54-77-27, 54-76-43  
Fax: 54-77-15  
Contact: Ms. Oksana Malevannaya - Director,  
E-mail: [office@koort.kg](mailto:office@koort.kg)

Asia Center  
Address: 207 Chui prospect  
Phone: 62-56-38  
Fax: 22-06-40  
Contact: Mr. Anatolii Manoilov - General Director  
E-mail: [echo\\_news@infotel.kg](mailto:echo_news@infotel.kg)

"Europe+", "Russkoe Radio", "The Kyrgyz Republic Obondoru"  
Homepage: <http://www.europa.kg/>  
Address: 4b, Almatinskaya St  
Phone: 53-05-55, 53-01-11, 53-13-33  
Fax: 53-09-99  
Contact: Mr. Aider Bekirov - President, Mr. Sergei Ogai - Director  
E-mail: [office@europa.kg](mailto:office@europa.kg)

Hit FM (Delta)  
Address: 36, Chui (13th floor)  
Phone: 68-10-56  
Fax: 68-10-76  
Contact: Ms. Elena Oshepkova - Director  
E-mail: [hitfm@infotel.kg](mailto:hitfm@infotel.kg)

OK Radio  
Address: 6, Almatinskaya str, room 406  
Phone: 531647  
Contact: Mr. Wes Hendrikson - Director  
E-mail: [okradio@elcat.kg](mailto:okradio@elcat.kg)

Manas FM (radio, Kyrgyz-Turkish University Manas)  
Homepage: <http://www.Manas.kg/radio/>  
Address: 56, Mira Avenue  
Phone: 54-19-36  
Contact: Mr. Seisetdeen Saglam - Director, Ms. Aida Moldalieva - Reporter  
E-mail: [mailto:manasfm@manas.kg](mailto:mailto:manasfm@manas.kg)

Auto Radio  
Address: 119A, Ahunbaeva Str.

Phone: 54-77-46

Contact: Mr. Ulan Alybaev - General Director, Mr. Oleg Zayarnuk – Technical Director

E-mail: [autoradio@elcat.kg](mailto:autoradio@elcat.kg)

Radio "Shanson"

Address: 34, Chui (13th floor)

Phone: 68-08-34

Fax: 28-47-37

Contact: Mr. Tofik Aliev - General Director

E-mail: [shanson@infotel.kg](mailto:shanson@infotel.kg)

Radio "Retro"

Address: 6, Almatinskaya Str., 2nd floor

Phone: 53-08-85, 96-09-96

Fax: 53-08-85

Contact: Ms. Djamilya Unusalieva - Director

E-mail: [retro@infotel.kg](mailto:retro@infotel.kg)

"Mir" (TV/Radio)

Address: 170, U. Abdrahmanova Str.(old street name Sovetskaya)

Phone: 66-05-14

Fax: 66-05-15

Contact: Mr. Zakon Kuruchbekov - Director

E-mail: [mirbishkek@infotel.kg](mailto:mirbishkek@infotel.kg)

## Pricing

[Return to top](#)

The Kyrgyz Republic's VAT is 20%.

## Sales Service/Customer Support

[Return to top](#)

Consistent, friendly customer service is still a relatively rare phenomenon in the Kyrgyz Republic. Any firm offering reliable customer and after-sales service stands to benefit in the Kyrgyz marketplace.

## Protecting Your Intellectual Property

[Return to top](#)

The Kyrgyz Republic is obliged to protect intellectual property rights as a member of the WTO. The Kyrgyz Republic acceded to both the WIPO Copyright Treaty and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty in 2002. However, administrative penalties and fines assessed by the Kyrgyz judicial system have not stymied continued abuse of intellectual property rights in the Kyrgyz Republic.

## Due Diligence

[Return to top](#)

Due diligence is difficult in the Kyrgyz Republic. Market research capacities are underdeveloped and reliable information can be difficult to find. Most reliable economic information is produced by aid and humanitarian organizations operating within the country, including the UNDP, USAID projects, the World Bank and the IMF.

The [American Chamber of Commerce in the Kyrgyz Republic](#) and the [BISNIS \(Business Information Service for Newly Independent States\)](#) representative office, which is located at the Embassy, can provide advice to firms planning to conduct business in the Kyrgyz Republic.

## Local Professional Services

[Return to top](#)

Here are some firms providing professional services:

Kalikova & Associates Law firm  
Gulnara Kalikova, Director  
66a Kalyk Akiev Street, Bishkek 720010, Kyrgyz Republic  
Tel: (996-312) 65 01 29, 65 02 56  
Fax: (996-312) 65 09 80  
E-mail: [Gkalikova@k-a.kg](mailto:Gkalikova@k-a.kg)

Deloitte & Touche  
Mr. Aman Tentiyeu, Managing Director  
40, Manas Ave., Bishkek 720001, Kyrgyz Republic  
Tel: (996-312) 60 09 99  
Fax: (996-312) 60 09 90  
E-mail: [atentiyeu@deloitte.kg](mailto:atentiyeu@deloitte.kg)  
Web-site: [www.deloitte.com/kg](http://www.deloitte.com/kg)

KPMG  
Mr. Azamat Murzaliev, Executive Director  
Hyatt Regency Bishkek, Room #122  
191, Sovietskaya Street, Bishkek 720011, Kyrgyz Republic  
Tel: (996-312) 68 02 04, 68 05 73  
E-mail: [amurzaliev@kpmg.kz](mailto:amurzaliev@kpmg.kz)

## Web Resources

[Return to top](#)

<http://www.goszakupki.gov.kg/English/La/>  
<http://www.goszakupki.gov.kg>  
<http://bisnis.doc.gov/bisnis/tradeleads1.cfm>  
<http://www.goszakupki.gov.kg/Russian/dlyazakupuslug/>  
<http://www.akipress.org>  
<http://www.delo.ktnet.kg>  
<http://www.mcn.kg>  
<http://www.timesca.com>  
<http://www.vb.kg>  
<http://www.max.kg>  
<http://www.pyramid.elcat.kg/>  
<http://www.koort.kg>  
<http://www.europa.kg/>  
<http://www.Manas.kg/radio/>  
<http://www.deloitte.com/kg>  
<http://www.amcham.com>  
<http://www.bisnis.doc.gov/bisnis/country/kyrgyzstan.cfm>

<http://www.cci.kg>

[Return to table of contents](#)



[Return to table of contents](#)

## Chapter 4: Leading Sectors for U.S. Export and Investment

- [Agricultural Sector](#)

### **Commercial Sectors**

- [\(ELP – Electrical Power Systems\)](#)
- [\(FPP – Food Processing/Packaging Equipment\)](#)
- [\(HTL – Hotel/Restaurant Equipment\)](#)
- [\(MIN – Mining Industry Equipment\)](#)
- [\(NFM – Non-Ferrous Metals\)](#)
- [\(TRA – Travel/Tourism Services\)](#)
- [\(TXM – Textile Machinery/Equipment\)](#)

## (ELP – Electrical Power Systems)

### Overview

[Return to top](#)

The Kyrgyz Republic is a major producer of hydroelectric power and has great unexploited potential. Several projects are under consideration, but need secured export markets and project financing. Projects include upgrade of the district power and heating plants and upgrade and maintenance of the electric distribution system, which together provide opportunities for electric power equipment exports.

Kyrgyzstan delivered three billion kilowatt/hours of electricity to Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and China in 2006. The proceeds of these electricity exports enabled the government to acquire necessary upgraded equipment for its hydroelectric power stations. The construction of two large hydroelectric stations which began in the Soviet era has not been completed, and the government is interested in securing outside support in finishing work on the power stations.

The government also has a five-year contract with Kazakhstan to export electricity and new contracts with Russia and Uzbekistan that require annual extension. Electricity is also exported to Tajikistan. The development of regional energy markets is on the agenda of regional governments. Kyrgyzstan, given its abundant water supplies, is in an excellent position to become quite literally a regional powerhouse.

### Best Products/Services

[Return to top](#)

Advisory services

Surveying and planning

Power-generating equipment for hydroelectric stations

Replacement parts for hydroelectric, as well as gas-fired, fuel oil and coal facilities

Transmission grid equipment

### Opportunities

[Return to top](#)

Kyrgyzstan's electricity generating and transmission network is based on Soviet-era technology and standards. Companies with experience working in the former Soviet Union would have an advantage in operating in the Kyrgyz arena. Interoperability with Soviet-designed equipment is critical for any export of materials required to maintain and expand Kyrgyz capacity. Funding is limited in Kyrgyzstan, so firms interested in conducting business here may need to develop innovative reimbursement strategies for their export and/or servicing of the Kyrgyz market.

### Resources

[Return to top](#)

#### **BISNIS Representative in Kyrgyzstan**

Artyom Zozulinsky

171 Prospect Mira

Bishkek, 720016

Tel. +996 312 55 12 41, ext. 4403

Fax. +996 312 55 12 64  
Email. [ZozulinskyA@state.gov](mailto:ZozulinskyA@state.gov)

**OJSC “National Electrical Grid of Kyrgyzstan”**

Salaydin Avazov – General Director  
326 Jibek Jolu, 720070,  
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan  
Tel. +996 312 66 10 01  
Fax. +996 312 66 16 09, 66 06 56  
Email. [nesk@elcat.kg](mailto:nesk@elcat.kg)  
Web. <http://www.energo.kg>

**OJSC “Electric Stations”**

326 Jibek Jolu, 720070,  
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan  
Tel. +996 312 66 11 01  
Fax. +996 312 66 34 09  
Email. [es@infotel.kg](mailto:es@infotel.kg)  
Web. <http://www.energo-es.kg>

## (FPP – Food Processing/Packaging Equipment)

### Overview

[Return to top](#)

Kyrgyzstan's primary employer is the agricultural sector. The sector is also the second largest component of Kyrgyzstan's gross domestic product. Despite its significance to the economy, much of the vegetable production in Kyrgyzstan is seasonal, and export markets are currently quite limited due to inefficiencies, regional barriers and packaging deficiencies that limit the amount of transport produce can endure. Disorganization and limited capital not only hamper the fruit and vegetable industry, but also constrain cereal, dairy and meat production. Many international donors assist the agricultural sector, but the transition from localized production and consumption to regional and international exposure is limited by inefficient and inadequate processing, packaging and marketing systems.

As production is seasonal, and many vegetables vanish in the winter, Kyrgyzstan's abundant year-round sunshine could benefit greenhouse production of vegetables for local and regional consumption.

For additional information of the Agricultural and Food-processing industries of the Kyrgyz Republic, please visit <http://bisnis.doc.gov/bisnis/country/kyrgyzstan.cfm>  
(Insert text here)

### Best Prospects/Services

[Return to top](#)

Food processing/packaging equipment  
Greenhouse technologies  
Milking and pasteurization equipment

### Opportunities

[Return to top](#)

In general, the food processing industry of the Kyrgyz Republic is not very well developed. Local companies lack good management skills, do not have productive equipment and many of them operate only at 20-30% of capacity.

**Dairy:** Kyrgyzstan produces over one million tons of milk annually, but only processes 2.5% of its production. The cost of raw milk is lower in Kyrgyzstan than in neighboring, but more economically advanced, Kazakhstan. While foreign investors cannot own farmland, joint ventures with local partners who own land could further decrease production costs and guarantee a consistent supply of raw milk. Milk yields can also be substantially increased from the current 2-4 liters per day to 15 liters per day. Due to local inefficiencies, milk, butter, yogurt, cheese and other dairy products sold in Kyrgyzstan generally are sourced from more expensive producers in Russia and Kazakhstan. With investment in the local dairy industry, Kyrgyz products could reverse this trade flow.

**Meat:** The meat export trade has not been developed in Kyrgyzstan. Neighboring, and increasingly wealthy Kazakhstan, provides a market for Kyrgyz beef and lamb products.

Also, there is an increasing demand for chicken quarters which could be satisfied by U.S. exports. Currently, many processed chickens sold in Kyrgyzstan are supplied from the Middle East and Brazil.

**Fruit & Vegetable Processing:** Similar to the dairy industry, processed fruits and vegetables amount to slightly more than 2% of total production. Considering that local products often are not very attractive in design and packaging, potential U.S. investors may be interested in establishing a factory to produce western quality processed fruits and vegetables. Possible products include marinated products, canned vegetables and fruits.

**Cereals:** There is no production of sweet corn in Kyrgyzstan. This crop can be used as a strategic feed product for cows to increase milk yields. Currently only fodder corn is used in feeding livestock.

## Resources

[Return to top](#)

### **BISNIS Representative in Kyrgyzstan**

Artyom Zozulinsky  
171 Prospect Mira  
Bishkek, 720016  
Tel. +996 312 55 12 41, ext. 4403  
Fax. +996 312 55 12 64  
Email. [ZozulinskyA@state.gov](mailto:ZozulinskyA@state.gov)

### **Ministry of Agriculture**

Food Processing Department  
96A Kievskaya st. 6<sup>th</sup> floor room 614  
Tel. +996 312 62 36 11

### **Association of Fruit and Vegetable Enterprises**

172 Moskovskaya st., room 405  
720001, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan  
Tel. +996 312 21 59 55  
Fax. +996 312 21 59 52  
Email. [fruit@elcat.kg](mailto:fruit@elcat.kg)  
Web. <http://www.afve.org/>

## (HTL – Hotel/Restaurant Equipment)

### Overview

[Return to top](#)

There are a large number of western-style restaurants in Bishkek. Equipment from U.S. suppliers would be competitive with goods currently sourced from Russia and Europe. While the number of western-style hotels is limited, there is demand for improved accommodations along the shores of Lake Issyk-Kul and in ski resort areas. The rapid growth in incomes in neighboring Kazakhstan has doubled tourist numbers to the Lake Issyk-Kul region in the past year. Demand is expected to increase, resulting in the demand for more comfortable accommodations and restaurant facilities. Similar improvements can be anticipated in the Bishkek area as well.

### Best Prospects/Services

[Return to top](#)

Hotels/accommodation in the Lake Issyk Kul region  
Hotel management in Bishkek  
Restaurant equipment in the Lake Issyk Kul and Bishkek regions  
Ski resorts

### Opportunities

[Return to top](#)

Many "prime" resorts on Lake Issyk Kul are dilapidated, Soviet-era projects that suffer from poor service, standards and infrastructure. Numerous new villas are being constructed along the shores of the lake to meet individual demand. However, the establishment of international standard resorts would fill a market void in the Lake Issyk Kul region.

### Resources

[Return to top](#)

#### **BISNIS Representative in Kyrgyzstan**

Artyom Zozulinsky  
171 Prospect Mira  
Bishkek, 720016  
Tel. +996 312 55 12 41, ext. 4403  
Fax. +996 312 55 12 64  
Email. [ZozulinskyA@state.gov](mailto:ZozulinskyA@state.gov)

#### **Kyrgyz Association of Tour Operators**

42 Isanova st. room 112  
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan  
Tel. +996 312 21 36 64  
Email. [admin@kat.kg](mailto:admin@kat.kg)  
Web. <http://www.kat.kg/index.php?en=1>

#### **“Kyrgyz Tourism – DMA” Association**

231 Tynystanova, room 19  
730040, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Tel. +996 312 66 41 27  
Fax. +996 312 90 87 38  
Email. [dma@elcat.kg](mailto:dma@elcat.kg)  
Web. <http://www.dma.centralasia.kg>

## **(MIN – Mining Industry Equipment)**

### **Overview**

[Return to top](#)

There has been a flurry of mining sector tenders in Kyrgyzstan as regional and international firms seek access to Kyrgyz mineral deposits. While Chinese, Kazakh and Russian firms have predominated in the scramble for Kyrgyz resources, other outsiders continue to expand their operations to Kyrgyzstan. There are several large joint venture mining project contracts, including some with U.S. partners. Among the products mined in Kyrgyzstan are tungsten, gold, mercury and silver. There are also programs for coal industry development. Other deposits of tin, lead, uranium, graphite, peat, granite and limestone have been identified. So far the only project presently producing gold is the Canadian gold mining joint venture Kumtor. When other projects get off the ground there may be potential for export of mining equipment and technology.

While not rivaling the resources of some of its neighbors, surveyed gas deposits of 4.9 billion cubic meters present another investment opportunity. The Kyrgyz government is presently seeking investors for a joint-stock company that specializes in locating, surveying and exploiting gas and oil deposits.

### **Best Prospects/Services**

[Return to top](#)

Mining equipment  
Ore processing equipment  
Gas exploration software and equipment

### **Opportunities**

[Return to top](#)

While mining opportunities exist throughout mountainous Kyrgyzstan, current production is limited to only a few minerals. However, investment is powered by the lucrative Chinese market and other regional buyers. While foreign investment in natural resources is a politically sensitive subject, mining and processing of additional minerals in Kyrgyzstan would generate additional jobs. The tender process for new deposits is ongoing.

### **Resources**

[Return to top](#)

#### **BISNIS Representative in Kyrgyzstan**

Artyom Zozulinsky  
171 Prospect Mira  
Bishkek, 720016  
Tel. +996 312 55 12 41, ext. 4403  
Fax. +996 312 55 12 64  
Email. [ZozulinskyA@state.gov](mailto:ZozulinskyA@state.gov)

#### **State Agency for Geology & Mineral Resources**

Vladimir Zubkov – Director  
2 Erkindik, Bishkek 720739



Tel. +996 312 66 49 01, 62 06 32  
Fax. +996 312 66 03 91  
Email. [mail@geoagency.bishkek.gov.kg](mailto:mail@geoagency.bishkek.gov.kg)  
Web. <http://www.kgs.bishkek.gov.kg/>

## **(NFM – Non-Ferrous Metals)**

### **Overview**

[Return to top](#)

As discussed in the mining equipment sector, there are numerous mineral deposits through Kyrgyzstan. Demand is growing to supply regional markets. Kyrgyzstan welcomes foreign investment in the sector, but the government also prefers the value added of processing taking place in Kyrgyzstan.

### **Best Prospects/Services**

[Return to top](#)

Tin  
Tungsten  
Gold  
Silver

### **Opportunities**

[Return to top](#)

A varied, but expanding, number of deposits is available for exploration and processing.

### **Resources**

[Return to top](#)

#### **BISNIS Representative in Kyrgyzstan**

Artyom Zozulinsky  
171 Prospect Mira  
Bishkek, 720016  
Tel. +996 312 55 12 41, ext. 4403  
Fax. +996 312 55 12 64  
Email. [ZozulinskyA@state.gov](mailto:ZozulinskyA@state.gov)

#### **State Agency for Geology & Mineral Resources**

Vladimir Zubkov – Director  
2 Erkindik, Bishkek 720739  
Tel. +996 312 66 49 01, 62 06 32  
Fax. +996 312 66 03 91  
Email. [mail@geoagency.bishkek.gov.kg](mailto:mail@geoagency.bishkek.gov.kg)  
Web. <http://www.kgs.bishkek.gov.kg/>

## **(TRA – Travel/Tourism Services)**

### **Overview**

[Return to top](#)

Considering the geographic position and mountainous topography of the country, there are many opportunities for developing tourism. Tourist numbers doubled to nearly one million in 2006 over year 2005 figures. Lake Issyk Kul, the second largest alpine lake in the world, is an excellent place for developing recreation facilities. Several local and foreign investors have implemented a number of resort projects along the lakefront. It is very popular to build and sell cottages, while maintaining a small hotel on the same compound for year round operation. Raduga 1 & 2 and Karven Village are some examples. Demand comes from local Kyrgyz and neighboring Kazakhs. These mostly Soviet-era resorts require renovations.

Poor internal infrastructure and limited international air service are constraints to development. The Kyrgyz government is planning to renovate the airport at Tamchi to transform it into a tourist transit hub and a back-up facility for the country's main international airport near Bishkek.

Currently, there are no hotels with international brand names at Lake Issyk-Kul resorts. This fact creates a niche for major U.S. hotel and resort management companies. The price of land along the lakefront has also increased quite substantially, from \$800/100sq.m in 2004 to \$1,800/100sq.m for land with existing infrastructure. The actual price may vary depending on the state of infrastructure development on any given piece of land. Once complete, the new Almaty-Issyk-Kul road will ease the flow of more tourists, and investment, from Kazakhstan to the Issyk-Kul region.

### **Best Products/Services**

[Return to top](#)

Construction of hotels and resorts along Lake Issyk-Kul  
Hotel and management services  
Tourist promotion activities

### **Opportunities**

[Return to top](#)

The Lake Issyk Kul region is the best new prospect for travel and tourism services. Additional opportunities exist in updating and expanding the winter resorts around Bishkek and Issyk Kul that cater to local and Kazakh citizens seeking ski holidays.

### **Resources**

[Return to top](#)

#### **BISNIS Representative in Kyrgyzstan**

Artyom Zozulinsky  
171 Prospect Mira  
Bishkek, 720016  
Tel. +996 312 55 12 41, ext. 4403  
Fax. +996 312 55 12 64  
Email. [ZozulinskyA@state.gov](mailto:ZozulinskyA@state.gov)

**Kyrgyz Association of Tour Operators**

42 Isanova st. room 112

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Tel. +996 312 21 36 64

Email. [admin@kat.kg](mailto:admin@kat.kg)

Web. <http://www.kat.kg/index.php?en=1>

**“Kyrgyz Tourism – DMA” Association**

231 Tynystanova, room 19

730040, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Tel. +996 312 66 41 27

Fax. +996 312 90 87 38

Email. [dma@elcat.kg](mailto:dma@elcat.kg)

Web. <http://www.dma.centralasia.kg>

## (TXM – Textile Machinery/Equipment)

### Overview

[Return to top](#)

Kyrgyzstan's domestic textile industry largely collapsed after the fall of the Soviet Union. Much infrastructure remains in the southern Fergana Valley region, where idle factories rest adjacent to cotton fields. Wool is also plentiful in Kyrgyzstan. However, the factories and mills need investment and new management to rekindle a resource-rich supply base into a provider of low-cost exports.

### Best Products/Services

[Return to top](#)

Management services  
Updated spinning and textile producing equipment

### Opportunities

[Return to top](#)

The southern Fergana Valley region of Kyrgyzstan has the greatest potential. It abuts the Uzbek portions of the Fergana Valley where other textile industries exist. In other rural areas, wool is a resource for cashmere and wool sweaters.

### Resources

[Return to top](#)

#### **BISNIS Representative in Kyrgyzstan**

Artyom Zozulinsky  
171 Prospect Mira  
Bishkek, 720016  
Tel. +996 312 55 12 41, ext. 4403  
Fax. +996 312 55 12 64  
Email. [ZozulinskyA@state.gov](mailto:ZozulinskyA@state.gov)

#### **Association of Light Industry Enterprises**

44 Mederova st., 720031  
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan  
Tel. +996 312 54 92 29, 58 14 41  
Fax. +996 312 54 93 33  
Email. [legprom.kg@mail.ru](mailto:legprom.kg@mail.ru)  
Web. <http://www.legprom.kg>

The agricultural sector is the largest employer in the Kyrgyz Republic, but is disorganized and undercapitalized. However, several international donor projects are focused on improving credit to the sector. There are opportunities for small-scale operations in a variety of areas: improved seed, fertilizer, small-scale farm equipment, food and textile processing equipment, improved storage and packaging.

Although a law establishing private ownership of land has been enacted, as of July 2003 it has not been implemented.

For additional information on the agricultural and food processing industries of the Kyrgyz Republic, please visit <http://bisnis.doc.gov/bisnis/country/kyrgyzstan.cfm>

[Return to table of contents](#)

[Return to table of contents](#)

## Chapter 5: Trade Regulations and Standards

- [Import Tariffs](#)
- [Trade Barriers](#)
- [Import Requirements and Documentation](#)
- [U.S. Export Controls](#)
- [Temporary Entry](#)
- [Labeling and Marking Requirements](#)
- [Prohibited and Restricted Imports](#)
- [Customs Regulations and Contact Information](#)
- [Standards](#)
- [Trade Agreements](#)
- [Web Resources](#)

### Import Tariffs

[Return to top](#)

Import tariffs of the Kyrgyz Republic range from 0% to 30%. 0% tariffs comprise 47.3% of all goods in the HS Code classification; 5% tariffs – 13.3% of all products; 10% tariffs – 32.1%; 12% tariffs – 3.1%; 15% tariffs – 2.6%; and others – 1.41%. Kyrgyzstan has an agreement with all Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS – most former Soviet republics) for free import of goods. Thus, CIS countries do not pay import tariffs. Members of the WTO are treated according to WTO regulations.

Nevertheless, all imported goods are subject to 20% VAT with some exceptions. If the imported products are part of the fixed assets of a company (e.g. equipment and machinery), VAT is not paid. A uniform customs fee of 0.15% is paid on all imported products.

In addition, all products that fall into the excisable goods category are subject to excise tax.

### Trade Barriers

[Return to top](#)

Although Kyrgyz law allows Kyrgyz authorities to impose quotas or anti-dumping regulations, none are currently in force. The Kyrgyz Government adopted a new Customs Code in April 2004, which took force on January 1, 2005. Unlike the previous customs code, the new Code complies with most international standards and takes into account the regulations of the Kyoto Convention on Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures. The new document includes procedures for speeding up customs inspections and creating more favorable conditions for responsible businesses.

### Import Requirements and Documentation

[Return to top](#)

For the successful importation of products into Kyrgyzstan, the local partner/office must have the following documents:

1. Charter of the company (notarized)
2. Certificate of registration from the Statistical Department (notarized copy)
3. Certificate of registration from the Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic (notarized copy)
4. Taxpayer identification number with registration form of the taxpayer (notarized copy)
5. An official document from the bank confirming the presence of an account (original)
6. An official document from the tax inspectorate confirming company's good standing (original)
7. Completed documentation concerning company's foreign trade activities
8. Warranty for the right of cargo handling in customs sphere (original)
9. Passport of the person who is in charge of customs clearing

Additionally, when imported goods arrive, the Kyrgyz counterpart must have the following documents at hand:

1. Contract between the Kyrgyz and the U.S. company.
2. Invoice
3. Certificate of origination from the sending country.

### **U.S. Export Controls**

[Return to top](#)

U.S. products exported to the Kyrgyz Republic must conform to export controls established by the U.S. government. Such controlled items may include weapons, military hardware, high technology goods and other items.

### **Temporary Entry**

[Return to top](#)

Four Free Enterprise Zones currently exist in the Kyrgyz Republic. Good entering these zones are duty-free. With the exclusion of items entering the Free Enterprise Zones, goods are subject to regular customs policies.

### **Labeling and Marking Requirements**

[Return to top](#)

Products sold in the Kyrgyz Republic must include Russian and Kyrgyz language labeling.

### **Prohibited and Restricted Imports**

[Return to top](#)

Weapons of mass destruction, narcotics and pornography are prohibited imports.

### **Customs Regulations and Contact Information**

[Return to top](#)

According to Article 227 of the Custom Code of the Kyrgyz Republic, the customs value of goods imported into the customs territory of the Kyrgyz Republic shall be determined by using one of the following methods:

1. Transaction value of imported goods
2. Transaction value of identical goods



3. Transaction value of similar goods
4. Deductive method
5. Computed method
6. Provisional method

The principal method for determining customs value of goods is "the transaction value of imported goods method." In cases where the principal method cannot be applied, each of the methods listed above shall be applied in sequence.

Upon the declarer's application, the deductive and computed methods may be used in any sequence.

There are several types of tariffs:

- Import tariffs
- Export tariffs
- Seasonal tariffs
- Special tariffs (anti-dumping, compensative, specific)

There are three types of tariff rates:

- Ad Valorem, calculated as a percentage of the price of the goods
- Specific, calculated at a standard amount per unit
- Combined, including both of the above methods

## **Standards**

[Return to top](#)

- [Overview](#)
- [Standards Organizations](#)
- [Conformity Assessment](#)
- [Product Certification](#)
- [Accreditation](#)
- [Publication of Technical Regulations](#)
- [Labeling and Marking](#)
- [Contacts](#)

## **Overview**

[Return to top](#)

In April 2004, the Kyrgyz Parliament passed a technical regulation law, which decreased government regulation. The Kyrgyz system previously functioned along Soviet standards requiring obligatory certification of 70% of all products. Approximately 50,000 official documents regulated security and quality of goods. The 2004 law states that certification is only required for products that can potentially endanger consumer health. This legislative change reduced standards coverage from 70 to 22 percent. Other goods can be certified on a voluntary basis, but only to confirm product quality.

## **Standards Organizations**

[Return to top](#)

The Kyrgyz Republic is a correspondent member of the International Standard Organization (ISO). There are 588 Kyrgyz state standards as well as around 21,000 CIS intergovernmental standards. The Kyrgyz government has already begun to adopt ISO standards. As of January 1, 2007, the level of harmonization of Kyrgyz internal

standards to international standards has reached 60%, and the level of harmonization of CIS intergovernmental standards to international standards has reached 40%.

### **NIST Notify U.S. Service**

Member countries of the World Trade Organization (WTO) are required under the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement) to report to the WTO all proposed technical regulations that could affect trade with other Member countries.

**Notify U.S.** is a free, web-based e-mail subscription service that offers an opportunity to review and comment on proposed foreign technical regulations that can affect your access to international markets. Register online at Internet URL:

<http://www.nist.gov/notifyus/>

### **Conformity Assessment**

[Return to top](#)

Conformity assessment is not required for goods that do not require product certification.

### **Product Certification**

[Return to top](#)

Products that could possibly endanger human health must be certified. This list includes items such as alcohol, tobacco products, medical supplies and equipment and other items.

### **Accreditation**

[Return to top](#)

The National Institute for Standards and Metrology of the Kyrgyz Republic has an accrediting arm. It functions on the basis of:

- The Kyrgyz law entitled "On the Fundamentals of Technical Regulation"; and
- Government of the Kyrgyz Republic Decree #466 dated 24.08.1999 entitled "On the National Accreditation System of the Kyrgyz Republic in Fields of Activity according to Conformity of Production, Processes and Services".

### **Publication of Technical Regulations**

[Return to top](#)

The Kyrgyz Institute of National Standards and Metrology maintains most technical regulations and would have regulations available for public review.

### **Labeling and Marking**

[Return to top](#)

Products must include Kyrgyz and Russian labeling.

### **Contacts**

[Return to top](#)

National Institute for Standards and Metrology of the Kyrgyz Republic  
197 Panfilov Street  
Bishkek 720040  
Kyrgyz Republic  
Ph: 996-312-661-456  
E-mail: [eldyar@nism.gov.kg](mailto:eldyar@nism.gov.kg)  
Internet: [www.nism.gov.kg](http://www.nism.gov.kg)

On April 15, 1994, CIS member states (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan) agreed to establish a free trade zone. According to the agreement, imports of goods produced within the CIS having respective certificates of origin are not subject to any customs or value added taxes in the Kyrgyz Republic. However, this exemption does not cover excise goods (such as alcohol); furniture; video, television and computer equipment and any accessories to such electronic equipment. Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan have also signed a customs agreement.

In June 2004, the Kyrgyz Republic signed a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement with the U.S, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to provide a forum for addressing trade issues and enhancing trade and investment between the United States and Central Asia. The objective of the TIFA is to increase and diversify trade and investment opportunities between the United States and Central Asia. The TIFA also provides a regular forum in which to address regional trade issues that hamper intra-regional trade, economic development and investment. The TIFA creates a United States-Central Asia Council on Trade and Investment, which is designed to consider a wide range of issues that include, but are not limited to, intellectual property, labor, environmental issues and enhancing the participation of small- and medium-sized enterprises in trade and investment.

The Kyrgyz Republic currently enjoys bilateral investment treaties with the United States, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, China, France, Georgia, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, United Kingdom, Ukraine, Finland, Moldova, Sweden and Uzbekistan.

The Kyrgyz Republic has also signed double taxation treaties with several countries including Belarus, Canada, India, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Poland, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, Finland, Austria, China, Iran, Switzerland, Malaysia, Pakistan, Germany, Moldova and Uzbekistan. The U.S.-U.S.S.R. treaty on double taxation, which was signed in 1973, remains in effect between the U.S. and the Kyrgyz Republic.

<http://www.nist.gov/notifyus/>  
[www.nism.gov.kg](http://www.nism.gov.kg)

[Return to table of contents](#)

## Chapter 6: Investment Climate

- [Openness to Foreign Investment](#)
- [Conversion and Transfer Policies](#)
- [Expropriation and Compensation](#)
- [Dispute Settlement](#)
- [Performance Requirements and Incentives](#)
- [Right to Private Ownership and Establishment](#)
- [Protection of Property Rights](#)
- [Transparency of Regulatory System](#)
- [Efficient Capital Markets and Portfolio Investment](#)
- [Political Violence](#)
- [Corruption](#)
- [Bilateral Investment Agreements](#)
- [OPIC and Other Investment Insurance Programs](#)
- [Labor](#)
- [Foreign-Trade Zones/Free Ports](#)
- [Foreign Direct Investment Statistics](#)
- [Web Resources](#)

### Openness to Foreign Investment

[Return to top](#)

The Kyrgyz Republic has a liberal investment regime with a broad base of commercial laws. Unfortunately, these laws are not implemented consistently. Foreign investors must register their firms with the Ministry of Justice. In addition to registration, expatriate employees must obtain a work permit from the State Committee on Migration and Employment. Foreign investors usually form joint ventures with local partners, a step which has proven to be the most successful strategy to date.

The legal concept of contract sanctity is not consistently observed. Kyrgyz law on foreign investment guarantees protection for foreign investors from expropriation and nationalization. Individual investors have become involved in disputes over licensing, registration, and enforcement of contracts. Corruption is also a serious problem, although the Government of Kyrgyzstan (GOKG) has publicly denounced corruption and implemented some steps to counter this problem. In June 2002, Parliament passed the Law on Commercial Arbitration, creating a mechanism for expeditious resolution of commercial disputes. This mechanism, the Commercial Arbitration Court of Kyrgyzstan, opened in October 2002 and began considering cases in April 2004.

Banking laws do not discriminate against foreign banks. Eight foreign banks operate in the Kyrgyz Republic: Demir Bank (Turkey), Bank of Asia (South Korea), National Bank of Pakistan, EnergoBank (90% owned by the Kazakh ATF Bank), Halyk Bank (Kazakhstan), the Kyrgyz Investment and Credit Bank (owned mostly by international public and private development institutions), FinanceCreditBank (Kazakhstan) and KyrgyzCredit Bank (under Italian control).

There is no discrimination against foreign investors enshrined in official government policy. However, procedures for licensing and approvals are not transparent, which can make the process seem discriminatory. Tax authorities may apply greater scrutiny to foreign entities operating in the Kyrgyz Republic.

### **Conversion and Transfer Policies**

[Return to top](#)

Foreign exchange is widely available, and the local currency, the som, is freely convertible. The National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic (NBKR) conducts weekly inter-bank currency auctions, in which competitive bids determine market-based transaction prices. Banks clear payments within a single working day.

Few foreign businesses complain of currency conversion issues. Some Kyrgyz entities, particularly in the agricultural sector, are strapped for cash and thus engage in cashless barter transactions. The government has recognized the need to phase out barter transactions. Payment disputes adjudicated through the court system can be extremely lengthy.

In 2000 and 2001, several Kyrgyz banks declared bankruptcy, lost their licenses or were restructured. Depositors at these banks lost significant sums. The government does not guarantee or insure deposits with Kyrgyz banks. No bank closures have occurred since 2001.

### **Expropriation and Compensation**

[Return to top](#)

To date, the Kyrgyz government has not expropriated any properties. However, in 2006, local officials assisted in the seizure of equipment and other property of one foreign investor. Foreign investors have the right to compensation in the case of government seizure of assets. However, there is little understanding of distinctions among historical book value, replacement value and actual market value, which brings into question whether the government could calculate a fair basis for compensation in the event of expropriation. The government has frozen bank accounts and other liquid assets until disputes were resolved. In anecdotal cases, government officials have hinted at nationalization in disputes with foreign firms.

Foreign ownership of land continues to be prohibited. Prior to an October 1998 referendum that introduced private land ownership, Kyrgyz citizens were also prohibited from owning land. While foreign ownership of land is still forbidden, there is no prohibition on foreign rental of land for residences or factory sites. A central land registry has helped potential lenders and others deal with the financing of real property (e.g., land, buildings, and other improvements) in a more sophisticated manner.

### **Dispute Settlement**

[Return to top](#)

The Law on Commercial Arbitration allows for international and domestic arbitration of disputes. If feasible, the arbiter should be a neutral entity that is identified in the contract, along with the specific terms of arbitration. Establishing the terms for arbitration beforehand will prevent further complications in the event of a dispute. The Kyrgyz Republic is a member of the International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). It signed the ICSID agreement on June 9, 1995, and

ratified it on July 5, 1997. The Kyrgyz Republic became a member of the 1958 New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards on March 18, 1997.

## **Performance Requirements and Incentives**

[Return to top](#)

Former tax holidays and other incentives for foreign investors have been eliminated in accordance with standards preferred by international financial institutions and as a requirement of the Kyrgyz Republic's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO). The Kyrgyz Republic is compliant with WTO Trade Related Investment Measures obligations. The Kyrgyz government has also reduced the tax burden on repatriation of profits by foreign investors to conform to the tax rate for domestic investors. There are no specific conditions for permission to invest. However, any project is likely to be scrutinized for its effect on employment and tax revenues.

Visa requirements and fees may change on short notice. In 2006, the Kyrgyz government adopted a measure limiting the period expatriates can work in Kyrgyzstan. Government ministries, lacking adequate budgets, often finance their operations through user fees. Such fees may appear arbitrary.

The Kyrgyz Government is in the process of overhauling its tax code. A consortium of government officials, business leaders and outside experts are reviewing the current tax code to address the legislation's shortcomings, improve the tax administration process, rationalize the rate structure and make the tax system more investment friendly. The new tax code might be adopted in 2007.

Taxes are complex, although the new tax code is supposed to improve the situation. Some of the existing taxes involve complex and time-consuming accounting. Payroll taxes such as social fund payments, used for the National Pension System, are also complex. Many recent tax inspections have focused on social fund payments. Transparency is a problem, as even basic laws, tax rates, and regulations are seldom published.

## **Right to Private Ownership and Establishment**

[Return to top](#)

Foreign and domestic private entities may own business enterprises and engage in a broad range of commercial activities. Foreign entities are expressly forbidden from owning land, including farmland, although regulations allow for up to 99-year leases of property, which is adequate for most business purposes. A law regulating foreign ownership of houses, apartments, and other structures has been repealed, leaving the rights of foreigners to own such properties unclear.

Foreign investors are theoretically given equal treatment under Kyrgyz law. In reality, well-connected Kyrgyz private or state-owned companies are able to utilize their contacts to achieve their business aims. Foreign investors are disadvantaged less by outright discrimination than by a simple lack of knowledge on how to "work the system."

## **Protection of Property Rights**

[Return to top](#)

Property right protections are slowly emerging. However, the judicial system remains under-developed and lacks independence. Court actions can force the sale of property to enforce payments and other contractual obligations. Laws on collateral and bankruptcy make the enforcement of commercial obligations increasingly viable and more widely respected. A central lien registry, now functioning, also reduces disputes over collateral.

The Kyrgyz Republic is obligated to protect intellectual property rights as a member of the WTO. However, an estimated 80% of DVDs, CDs and other audio-visual products sold in the Kyrgyz Republic are counterfeit. The Kyrgyz Republic acceded to both the WIPO Copyright Treaty and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty in 2002.

### **Transparency of Regulatory System**

[Return to top](#)

The legal and regulatory system of the Kyrgyz Republic continues to develop. The process of implementing regulations and court orders relating to commercial transactions remains inconsistent. The Kyrgyz system is heavily bureaucratic. Consequently, investors must overcome a great deal of red tape in order to conduct business.

The GOKG established a “one stop shop,” recently shifted to the Ministry of Finance, to guide investors through the government bureaucracy. The ability of this office to steer firms through the system has not been fully demonstrated. Contradictory government decrees often create bureaucratic paralysis or opportunities for undocumented incentives.

### **Efficient Capital Markets and Portfolio Investment**

[Return to top](#)

The National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic increasingly favors modern financial practices. The currency is freely convertible, Kyrgyz bonds are available for foreign ownership, and the stock market is developing.

In December 2006, the stock market listed 14 companies, all adhering to international accounting standards. There were also approximately 500 unlisted companies trading at the exchange weekly. (The unlisted firms either have not maintained a transparent accounting system for the previous three years, or refuse to disclose their financial records.) The 2005 total trade volume was 1,745 transactions for 51,008,715 shares valued at 1,245,809,389 soms (approximately \$30,385,594).

From January 1 to September 30, 2006, the total trade volume was 1,709 transactions for 111,414,663 shares valued at 1,796,038,000 soms (approximately \$ 47,264,157). Although most shares are still traded over the counter, a new computerized central depository for shareholder information has simplified trades and record keeping.

Total capitalization of the banking sector as of January 2006 was about \$ 64,331,637. There are currently 21 commercial banks in the Kyrgyz Republic, with a total of 171 branches throughout the country.

Several foreign banks now operate in the Kyrgyz Republic. Demir Bank, Bank of Asia, National Bank of Pakistan, Halyk Bank, Kazcommerce Bank and FinanceCredit Bank

are entirely foreign held. Other banks are partially foreign held, including the Asia Universal Bank (70% foreign held) and KICB (Kyrgyz Investment and Credit Bank). Although no U.S. bank has set up operations in the Kyrgyz Republic to date, many Kyrgyz banks maintain correspondent relations with U.S. and other foreign banks to facilitate short-term commercial lending, such as letters of credit.

The Kyrgyz Investment and Credit Bank (KICB) began operating in mid-2001. Established to provide commercial lending and other services, the KICB introduced western banking practices and encouraged the entry of other banks into the Kyrgyz market. KICB's principle shareholder is the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development, which has a 30% stake. The International Finance Corporation, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the German Bank for Reconstruction and Development each hold 20% stakes. The GOKG retains a 10% share.

The Kyrgyz Republic is largely a cash society, and outside investors have rarely sought financing from domestic banks. Bank lending is heavily biased towards short-term loans and traditionally has not favored using physical assets as collateral. Some banks ignore retail banking, and instead focus on government bonds.

Since October 1999, new banks must have a minimum charter capital requirement of 300 million soms (\$7.7 million).

As of January 1, 2006, the minimum owned capital requirement (charter capital plus or minus profit or losses) was set at no less than 60 million soms (\$1.5 million). Banking laws also require that banks maintain a 10% reserve with the National Bank. No deposit insurance or government guarantee of deposits currently exists, although plans for such a system have been outlined.

Between 1999 and mid-2001, seven banks became insolvent and suspended operations. No bank closures have occurred since 2001. The Supreme Court, in 2005, ruled against the National Bank's attempt to declare the commercial bank, "AkBank," bankrupt.

Accounting systems in banks and enterprises are rapidly being converted to international standards. The Kyrgyz government has supported this exercise. International assistance programs have contributed to rapid progress in reaching these standards via accounting training and certification. The National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic is trying to impose strict regulation on the banking system, and is also working to improve commercial accountability. The closure of weaker banks has made the banking sector stronger and more viable as a whole.

## **Political Violence**

[Return to top](#)

In March 2005, a popular uprising led to the overthrow of President Askar Akayev. The change of power was precipitated by smaller uprisings in southern Kyrgyz towns, such as Osh and Jalalabad, in which citizens rallied against perceived flaws in earlier parliamentary elections. The uprising was swift and largely bereft of serious violence, but witnessed substantial looting and numerous minor injuries. Three people reportedly died during the unrest. Losses due to looting in Bishkek are estimated at almost \$100 million. Kurmanbek Bakiyev was elected president in July 2005.



Outside of the March 2005 uprisings, there have been no recent incidents of politically motivated damage to projects and installations. Demonstrations in November 2006, which resulted in a new constitution, were largely peaceful. Kyrgyz citizens enjoy basic rights, including the right to protest and demonstrate. Although Kyrgyz citizens have exercised these rights more freely than citizens in nearby countries, the GOKG occasionally restricted these rights in the past.

Supporters of extremist groups such as the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), Al-Qaeda, and the Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement remain active in Central Asia. These groups have expressed anti-U.S. sentiments and may attempt to target U.S.-affiliated interests in the region, including in the Kyrgyz Republic. Because of increased security at official U.S. facilities, terrorists seek softer civilian targets such as residential areas, clubs, restaurants, places of worship, hotels, schools, outdoor recreation events, resorts, beaches, maritime facilities and planes. In December 2002, a bombing occurred at the Dordoi Bazaar, a market mostly frequented by locals. In May 2003, a bank in Osh was bombed. The Kyrgyz Government blamed the IMU for both bombings.

In May 2006, suspected Islamic militants attacked a border post on the Kyrgyz-Tajik border, and ensuing skirmishes took place between the militants and Kyrgyz military forces throughout the southern Batken region. U.S. citizens planning to travel to the Kyrgyz Republic should refer to the U.S. Department of State for updated security information. This information is available on the Internet at <http://travel.state.gov>.

In the summers of 1999 and 2000, armed IMU insurgents entered the southern Kyrgyz Republic and took a number of Kyrgyz citizens and foreigners captive. While subsequent military operations in Afghanistan have eliminated many resources used by these insurgents, the Department of State urges U.S. citizens to avoid travel to the following areas of the Kyrgyz Republic: the rural areas along the Kyrgyz-Uzbek and Kyrgyz-Tajik borders, and the areas to the south and west of the provincial capital Osh.

There are occasional tensions among ethnic Kyrgyz, Russian, Uzbek and other ethnic nationalities in the Kyrgyz Republic over such issues as language, land rights, and religion. North-south divisions are also palpable in the Kyrgyz Republic. Such tensions, however, seldom affect foreign employers directly. The Kyrgyz Republic's relations with its neighbors sometimes are complicated over disagreements regarding water rights, energy payments, refugees, and other issues. However, it is unlikely that such tensions would translate into disputes directly affecting foreign investors.

## **Corruption**

[Return to top](#)

Corruption permeates life in the Kyrgyz Republic. U.S. firms complying with the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act can be disadvantaged vis-a-vis other foreign firms operating in the Kyrgyz Republic. However, most U.S. firms that have resolved to conduct business in the Kyrgyz Republic have eventually been able to do so. To date, measures targeting bribery and other such economic crimes have been selectively enforced, typically against persons perceived as political enemies of the government.

The Kyrgyz Government is taking measures to address rampant corruption in the country. As part of its IMF Poverty Reduction and Growth Facilitation program, the

GOKG has agreed to take action to stem corruption. On June 29, 2005, the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic ratified the UN Convention Against Corruption. In 2004, the Kyrgyz Government founded the National Council for Good Governance, which is tasked with tackling corruption. While the Council has yet to take significant steps to address the problem, the government is working closely with international financial institutions, international donors and non-governmental organizations to develop a plan to concrete plan to fight corruption. Following the 2005 overthrow of the Akayev regime, the new government opened 106 criminal cases against the Akayev family's business interests. However, in October 2006, the Kyrgyz Deputy General Prosecutor acknowledged that a number of the criminal cases were groundless and merited dismissal. As of January 2007, investigations into the remaining cases continued.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs (i.e., the police) and the National Security Service (i.e., the successor to the KGB) are responsible for investigating corruption, together with the Prosecutor General and subordinate prosecutors. Kyrgyz law enforcement officers received integrity awareness training under a U.S. government-sponsored anti-corruption program in August 2001. The government has also created special police anti-corruption units. However, they have yet to show their effectiveness.

The Kyrgyz Republic is not a signatory to the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery. However, the OECD and the World Bank have previously reported on the progress of anti-corruption measures.

U.S. and third-country firms have identified corruption as a major obstacle to foreign investment. While bribing a government official is technically a criminal act, there have been no recent prosecutions of this crime. Corruption is found in every aspect of a company's interaction with the government, including licensing, dispute settlement, government procurement, regulatory activity, and taxation. All levels of government appear to be afflicted by corruption and allegations of corruption.

## **Bilateral Investment Agreements**

[Return to top](#)

The Kyrgyz Republic currently enjoys bilateral investment treaties with the United States, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, China, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Moldova, Mongolia, Pakistan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, United Kingdom, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

The Kyrgyz Republic has also signed double taxation treaties with Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Canada, Finland, Germany, India, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Poland, Russia, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. The U.S.-U.S.S.R. treaty on double taxation, which was signed in 1973, remains in effect between the U.S. and the Kyrgyz Republic.

## **OPIC and Other Investment Insurance Programs**

[Return to top](#)

OPIC is currently active in the Kyrgyz Republic. The event of an inconvertibility claim against OPIC is highly unlikely, given the Kyrgyz Republic's liberal conversion regime. As of December 2006, the local currency, the som, had a conversion rate of 38.6 soms per U.S. dollar. The exchange rate is market-based. According to the Bulletin of the

National Bank, the Kyrgyz Republic's Consumer Price Index (CPI) reached 4.9% in 2005, and is estimated to have been 4% in 2006.

## **Labor**

[Return to top](#)

Labor is widely available, but the number of skilled individuals is decreasing as Kyrgyz citizens find more lucrative job opportunities abroad. International organizations are generally able to employ competent staff, often bilingual in English or other languages, but are starting to encounter difficulties retaining staff members. Literacy in the Kyrgyz Republic is approximately 97 percent. The Employment Department under the Labor Ministry reports that, as of October 2006, the official unemployment rate was 17.7 percent. The unemployment rate would actually be significantly higher if neighboring countries and Russia did not absorb many migrant workers.

## **Foreign-Trade Zones/Free Ports**

[Return to top](#)

There are four Free Economic Zones (FEZs) in the Kyrgyz Republic: Bishkek, Naryn, Karakol and Maimak. Each is situated to make use of transportation infrastructure and/or customs posts along the Kyrgyz borders. Goods entering and traded within the zones are duty free within the Kyrgyz Republic. Government incentives for investment in the zones include exemption from several taxes, duties and payments; exemptions from some import and export duties; simplified customs procedures; and direct access to utility suppliers. The production and sale of petroleum, liquor, and tobacco products in FEZs is banned.

## **Foreign Direct Investment Statistics**

[Return to top](#)

According to the Kyrgyz National Statistical Committee, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) totaled \$210.3 million in 2005, \$176 million in 2004, \$147 million in 2003, \$116 million in 2002 and \$90 million in 2001. For the first nine months of 2006, FDI amounted to \$189.5 million. Government statistics are generally accurate regarding inflation and price levels. However, the problem of registering and tracking numerous new private businesses has rendered statistics on employment, the tax-base and national economic performance less accurate. The shadow economy may account for up to one-half of overall economic activity.

Foreign direct investment is chiefly oriented towards manufacturing, food processing, banking, mining, trade, restaurant services, transportation and communications. Many foreign firms conduct contract work for foreign assistance organizations. U.S. direct investment is concentrated in the hotel and telecommunications sectors, with increasing interest in construction and mining.

Joint ventures and foreign companies in the Kyrgyz Republic include the Reetsma Kyrgyzstan Company (cigarettes), the Plaskap Bishkek Company (packaging/bottling), the Central Asian Group (entertainment/garments), the Hyatt Regency Bishkek, and the Kyrgyz Petroleum Company. A U.S.-Turkish-Dutch joint venture operates a Coca-Cola franchise that bottles its soft drinks locally, and the Canadian gold-mining firm Centerra Gold has formed the largest western joint venture in the Kyrgyz Republic, the Kumtor Operating Company. Joint ventures play a leading role in the mining, petrochemical, hotel, and food processing sectors.

According to the National Statistical Committee, the following countries were the largest sources of FDI in 2005: Germany 17.33%, Great Britain 14.02%, Canada 12.43%, Turkey 7.66% and USA 5.57%. Data for 2006 are not yet available. However, Kazakh entrepreneurs are investing heavily in Kyrgyzstan, and have substantial stakes in the financial services and tourism sectors.

Bishkek and the surrounding Chui region absorbed more than 70% of FDI in 2005. An additional 13% went to the Issyk Kul region, with the remaining amounts scattered among the other five regions of the country.

## **Web Resources**

[Return to top](#)

<http://travel.state.gov>

[Return to table of contents](#)

[Return to table of contents](#)

## Chapter 7: Trade and Project Financing

- [How Do I Get Paid \(Methods of Payment\)](#)
- [How Does the Banking System Operate](#)
- [Foreign-Exchange Controls](#)
- [U.S. Banks and Local Correspondent Banks](#)
- [Project Financing](#)
- [Web Resources](#)

### **How Do I Get Paid (Methods of Payment)**

[Return to top](#)

Most imports are paid for in cash or cash transfer generally in advance. Letters of credit are not commonly used in Kyrgyzstan. Nearly everything is done on a cash basis in the private sector.

### **How Does the Banking System Operate**

[Return to top](#)

Total capitalization of the banking sector as of January 2006 was \$64,331,637. There are currently more than 20 commercial banks in the Kyrgyz Republic, with a total of over 170 branches throughout the country. The National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic provides oversight duties, and has previously closed bankrupt institutions.

In general, the banking system is weak and undercapitalized. Real interest rates remain high and long-term credit is locally unavailable. Many banks earn profit primarily from foreign exchange operations and trading of treasury bills. Short-term financing for trade is available at high interest rates. Most foreign entities do not seek credit in the Kyrgyz Republic because of its high cost.

### **Foreign-Exchange Controls**

[Return to top](#)

There are no foreign exchange controls in place in the Kyrgyz Republic.

### **U.S. Banks and Local Correspondent Banks**

[Return to top](#)

There are no U.S. banks operating in the Kyrgyz Republic. A list of other banks and multilateral lending institutions, with available correspondent banking information, is listed below:

National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic  
(Central bank issuing the licenses for bank activities, debt collection, installment lending)  
Chairman: Mr. Marat ALAPAYEV  
101 Umetaliev Street, Bishkek 720040, Kyrgyz Republic  
Tel: (996-312) 66 90 11, 669012  
Fax: (996-312) 21 74 27, 61 07 30  
E-mail: [mail@nbkr.kg](mailto:mail@nbkr.kg)  
Web-site: <http://www.nbkr.kg>

U.S. correspondent bank: Federal Reserve Bank of New York

International Monetary Fund office:

Mr. James MCHUGH, IMF Resident Representative  
101 Umetaliyev Street, Bishkek 720040, Kyrgyz Republic  
Tel: (996-312) 61 18 16, 61 18 15  
Fax: (996-312) 61 01 65  
E-mail: or [iakmatova@imf.org](mailto:iakmatova@imf.org)  
Web-site: <http://www.imf.org> / [www.imf.kg](http://www.imf.kg)

The World Bank, Resident Mission in the Kyrgyz Republic  
Mr. Roger ROBINSON, Country Manager  
214 Moskovskaya Street, Bishkek 720010, Kyrgyz Republic  
Tel: (996-312) 61 06 50, 61 01 57, 61 11 15  
Fax: (996-312) 61 03 56, 61 04 81  
E-mail: [jsalieva@worldbank.org](mailto:jsalieva@worldbank.org)  
Web-site: <http://www.worldbank.org.kg>

Asian Development Bank  
Mr. Ashraf MALIK, Country Director  
52 Orozbekova Street, Bishkek 720040, Kyrgyz Republic  
Tel: 996 (312) 900445, 627343  
Fax: 996 (312) 627344  
E-mail: [aberdybekova@adb.org](mailto:aberdybekova@adb.org)  
Web-site: <http://www.adb.org>

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development:  
Mr. Daniel BERG, Head of Resident Office  
26 Geologicheskii pereulok, Bishkek, 720005 Kyrgyz Republic  
Tel: 996 (312) 53 00 16, 53 00 17, 530015, 530012  
Fax: 996 (312) 666284  
E-mail: [amanovaa@bsk.ebrd.com](mailto:amanovaa@bsk.ebrd.com)  
Web-site: <http://www.ebrd.com>

Commercial banks (in alphabetical order):

OJSC "Aiyl Bank" (formerly KAFC – Kyrgyz Agriculture Finance Corporation)  
Chairman: Mr. Malabek Anashevich TOKTOBOLOTOV  
50 Pushkin Street, Bishkek 720021, Kyrgyz Republic  
Tel: (996-312) 665278  
Fax: (996-312) 665403  
E-mail: [aiylbank@infotel.kg](mailto:aiylbank@infotel.kg)  
Web-site: n/a  
U.S. correspondent banks: n/a

AsiaUniversalBank (AUB)  
Chairperson: Mr. Nurdin Akinovich ABDRAZAKOV  
187 Toktogula St., Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, 720001  
Tel.: +996 (312) 662110, 620252  
Fax: +996 (312) 620250  
E-mail: [reception@aub.kg](mailto:reception@aub.kg)

Web-site: <http://www.aub.kg>  
U.S. correspondent bank: Union Bank of California

ATF Bank  
Chairman: Mr. Sabit Shakenovich SHAKENOV  
493 Jibek-Jolu Prospect, Bishkek 720070, Kyrgyz Republic  
Tel: (996-312) 670047  
Fax: (996-312) 670048  
E-mail: [bank@energobank.kg](mailto:bank@energobank.kg)  
Web-site: <http://www.atfbank.kg>  
U.S. correspondent banks: Citibank NA New York, Societe Generale NY

AKB Kyrgyzstan  
Chairperson: Mr. Nurbek Asylbekovich ABIROV  
54-a Togolok Moldo Street, Bishkek 720001, Kyrgyz Republic  
Tel: (996-312) 21 95 98, 24 95 92  
Fax: (996-312) 61 02 20, 610900  
E-mail: [akb@bankkg.kg](mailto:akb@bankkg.kg)  
Web-site: <http://www.bankkg.kg>  
U.S. correspondent bank: Banker Trust Company of New York

Amanbank  
Chairperson: Mr. John Ibraimovich JAPARKULOV  
249 Tunustanova Street, Bishkek 7200040, Kyrgyz Republic  
Tel: (996-312) 622077, 662441, 660603, 661922  
Fax: (996-312) 622077  
E-mail: [bank@amanbank.kg](mailto:bank@amanbank.kg)  
Web-site: <http://www.amanbank.kg>  
U.S. correspondent banks: n/a

Bank - Bakai  
Chairman: Ms. Bakyta Abdykalyevna MUNDUZBAEVA  
75 Isanov Street, Bishkek 720001, Kyrgyz Republic  
Tel: (996-312) 66 06 10  
Fax: (996-312) 66 06 12  
E-mail: [bank@bakai.kg](mailto:bank@bakai.kg)  
Web-site: <http://www.bakai.kg>  
U.S. correspondent banks: Bank of America, Union Bank of California

Bank of Asia  
Chairperson: Mr. Taalaibek JUMATAEV  
303 Prospect Mira, Free Economic Zone, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, 720016  
Tel.: +996 (312) 551053, 551184, 287310, 682281  
Fax: +996 (312) 551182, 286806  
E-mail: [bankasia@elcat.kg](mailto:bankasia@elcat.kg)  
Web-site: <http://www.bankasia.elcat.kg>  
U.S. correspondent bank: Union Bank of California

Demir Kyrgyz International Bank  
General Manager: Mr. Ahmet PARMAKSIZ  
245 Chui Prospect, Bishkek 720001, Kyrgyz Republic

Tel: (996-312) 61 06 10, 61 04 41  
Fax: (996-312) 61 04 44, 61 04 45  
E-mail: [dkib@demirbank.kg](mailto:dkib@demirbank.kg)  
Web-site: <http://www.demirbank.kg>  
This bank uses GAAP accounting standards.  
U.S. correspondent banks: New York Citibank, American Express Bank

Doscredobank  
Chairman: Ms. Svetlana Alekseevna RADIONOVA  
52 Chui Prospect, Bishkek 720011, Kyrgyz Republic  
Tel: (996-312) 682175, 682167, 682173, 681767, 680532  
Fax: (996-312) 682167, 680225  
E-mail: [credo@credo.com.kg](mailto:credo@credo.com.kg)  
Web-site: <http://www.credo.com.kg>  
U.S. correspondent banks: n/a

Ecobank  
Chairman: Mr. Nurlanbek Asankarievich SAGYNDYKOV  
17 Geologicheskii pereulok, Bishkek 720031, Kyrgyz Republic  
Tel: (996-312) 543582, 543576  
Fax: (996-312) 543580  
E-mail: [office@ecobank.kg](mailto:office@ecobank.kg)  
Web-site: <http://www.ecobank.kg>  
U.S. correspondent bank: Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas in New York

OJSC "FinanceCreditBank KAB"  
Chairman: Mr. Timir Bulatovich DJANTAEV  
2/1 Zhukееva Pudovkina Street, Bishkek 720021, Kyrgyz Republic  
Tel: (996-312) 443399  
Fax: (996-312) 443441  
E-mail: [fbk@fbk.kg](mailto:fbk@fbk.kg)  
Web-site: <http://www.fbk.kg>  
U.S. correspondent banks: n/a

OJSC "Halyk Bank Kyrgyzstan"  
Chairman: Ms. Kastoru Kasymbekovna MAMYTOVA  
390 Frunze Street, Bishkek 720033, Kyrgyz Republic  
Tel: (996-312) 218932  
Fax: (996-312) 218955  
E-mail: [swift@halykbank.kg](mailto:swift@halykbank.kg)  
Web-site: <http://www.halykbank.kg>  
U.S. correspondent banks: n/a

Ineximbank  
Chairman: Mr. Murat Kerimjanovich KUNAKUNOV  
57 Kalyka Akieva Street, Bishkek 720001, Kyrgyz Republic  
Tel: (996-312) 650610  
Fax: (996-312) 650654  
E-mail: [info@ineximbank.com](mailto:info@ineximbank.com)  
Web-site: <http://www.ineximbank.com>  
U.S. correspondent banks: Bank of New York and Banker Trust Company of New York



OJSC IB "Issyk-Kul  
Chairman: Mr. Bolot Mukashevich BAIKOJOEV  
133 Abdrahmanova Street, Bishkek 720021, Kyrgyz Republic  
Tel: (996-312) 622179  
Fax: (996-312) 665116  
E-mail: [invest@bankik.com.kg](mailto:invest@bankik.com.kg)  
Web-site: <http://www.investbank.kg>  
U.S. correspondent banks: n/a

KazKommertsbank  
Chairman: Mr. Kanat Mambetovich MAMAKEEV  
42 Isanova Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Bishkek, 720017 Kyrgyz Republic  
Tel.: +996 (312) 664646, 660524  
Fax: +996 (312) 660704  
E-mail: [bishkek@kkb.kz](mailto:bishkek@kkb.kz)  
Web-site: <http://www.kkb.kz>  
U.S. correspondent banks: New York Citibank, Bank of New York

Kyrgyz Investment and Credit Bank (KICB)  
Executive Chairman: Mr. Kwang Young Choi  
115 "A" Ibraimova Street, Dordoi Business Center,  
Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, 720021  
Tel.: +996 (312) 512380, 512381, 512382  
Fax: +996 (312) 609560  
E-mail: [kicb@kicb.net](mailto:kicb@kicb.net)  
Web-site: <http://www.kicb.kg>  
U.S. correspondent bank: Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas in New York

Kyrgyzcredit  
Chairperson: Mr. Kanatbek Abdykaimovich SHALPYKOV  
194 Moscovskaya Street, Bishkek 720010, Kyrgyz Republic  
Tel: (996-312) 218674, 218652, 216676, 610857, 610701  
Fax: (996-312) 610701  
E-mail: [office@kcredit.kg](mailto:office@kcredit.kg)  
Website: <http://www.kcredit.kg>  
U.S. correspondent banks: n/a

Kyrgyzpromstroybank  
Chairman: Mr. Jumash Toktobekovich SYDYKOV  
168 Chui Prospect, Bishkek 720040, Kyrgyz Republic  
Tel: (996-312) 216477, 217965, 611149  
Fax: (996-312) 690148, 690158  
E-mail: [kirgpsb@transfer.kg](mailto:kirgpsb@transfer.kg)  
Web-site: <http://www.kpsbank.kg>  
U.S. correspondent bank: Bank of New York

National Bank of Pakistan (NBP)  
Chairperson: Mr. Muhammad Naimulla DJAN  
84 Moskovskaya Street, Bishkek, 720021, Kyrgyz Republic  
Tel.: +996 (312) 627250, 627248

Fax: +996 (312) 627251, 627247, 627246  
E-mail: [nbp.bishkek@transfer.kg](mailto:nbp.bishkek@transfer.kg)  
Web-site: <http://www.nbp.com.pk>  
U.S. correspondent banks: n/a, NBP has its own branch in USA

Savings and Settlement Company  
Chairman: Mr. Ruslan Jumakulovich AKMATBEKOV  
38a Molodaya Gvardia blvd, Bishkek 720010, Kyrgyz Republic  
Tel: (996-312) 650152, 656746, 654538  
Fax: (996-312) 650152  
E-mail: [a.konokbaev@ssc.kg](mailto:a.konokbaev@ssc.kg)  
Web-site: <http://www.ssc.kg>  
U.S. Correspondent banks: Citibank and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas in New York

Tolubai Bank  
Chairman: Mr. Jenishbek Seitbekovich BAIGUTTIEV  
247 Toktogula Street, Bishkek 720010, Kyrgyz Republic  
Tel: (996-312) 252913, 240246  
Fax: (996-312) 655951  
E-mail: [tolubai@infotel.kg](mailto:tolubai@infotel.kg)  
Website: <http://www.tolybaibank.kg>  
U.S. correspondent banks: n/a

## Project Financing

[Return to top](#)

Securing financing from local banks may be difficult. The U.S. Export-Import Bank does not finance exports to the Kyrgyz Republic. However, OPIC finances investments in the Kyrgyz Republic. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development finances private sector projects in the Kyrgyz Republic by member countries. The Asian Development Bank and the World Bank/IFC also finance public sector projects in agriculture, transport, energy, telecommunications and education.

## Web Resources

[Return to top](#)

Export-Import Bank of the United States: <http://www.exim.gov>  
Country Limitation Schedule: [http://www.exim.gov/tools/country/country\\_limits.html](http://www.exim.gov/tools/country/country_limits.html)  
OPIC: <http://www.opic.gov>  
Trade and Development Agency: <http://www.tda.gov/>  
SBA's Office of International Trade: <http://www.sba.gov/oit/>  
USDA Commodity Credit Corporation: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ccs/default.htm>  
U.S. Agency for International Development: <http://www.usaid.gov>  
<http://www.nbkr.kg>  
<http://www.imf.org>  
<http://www.worldbank.org.kg>  
<http://www.adb.org>  
<http://www.ebrd.com>

[Return to table of contents](#)

[Return to table of contents](#)

## Chapter 8: Business Travel

- [Business Customs](#)
- [Travel Advisory](#)
- [Visa Requirements](#)
- [Telecommunications](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Language](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Local Time, Business Hours and Holidays](#)
- [Temporary Entry of Materials and Personal Belongings](#)
- [Web Resources](#)

### **Business Customs**

[Return to top](#)

Business customs are closely tied to social customs and it is important to allow plenty of time for meetings. Business meetings often lead to offers of meals that may be many hours long, offering course after course and many toasts. Heavy amounts of alcohol may be consumed at these events. If you are firm your hosts will allow you to toast with a non-alcohol beverage. However, if you start with alcohol it is difficult to switch to something non-alcoholic, and you may offend the host if you try.

Tours of factories and facilities may also become an obligatory part of initial meetings. Meetings are rarely held separately with different officials in a single company. Most, and often all, relevant officials will be at one large meeting, but very often only the most senior person will do most of talking. Small gifts with company logos, books, fruit, and alcohol or candy are often presented or exchanged.

### **Travel Advisory**

[Return to top](#)

The Department of State urges U.S. citizens to avoid all travel to rural areas along the Kyrgyz-Uzbek and Kyrgyz-Tajik borders, and all areas to the south and west of the provincial capital of Osh. Security conditions in these parts of the southern Kyrgyz Republic differ from security conditions in the north, and the threat of violence against foreigners in the southern Kyrgyz Republic continues. Hostage-taking incidents involving foreigners occurred during the summers of 1999 and 2000, including one incident in the summer of 2000 involving American citizens. In 2006, suspected Islamic militants attacked a border post on the Kyrgyz-Tajik border, and ensuing skirmishes took place between the militants and Kyrgyz military forces throughout the southern Batken region. Land mines in Batken Oblast and near the Kyrgyz-Tajik border continue to be a concern. There are currently restrictions for U.S. Government employees traveling to areas of the Kyrgyz Republic south and west of Osh and in rural areas along the Kyrgyz-Uzbek border because of the volatile security situation in these areas.

Supporters of extremist terrorist groups such as the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), the Islamic Jihad Union (IJU), al-Qaida, and the Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement, and the extremist group Hizb ut-Tahrir remain active in Central Asia. These groups have expressed anti-U.S. sentiments and may attempt to target U.S. Government or private interests in the region, including in the Kyrgyz Republic. Terrorist attacks involving the use of suicide bombers have previously taken place in neighboring Uzbekistan. Terrorists do not distinguish between official and civilian targets. Because of increased security at official U.S. facilities, terrorists are seeking softer civilian targets such as residential areas, clubs and restaurants, places of worship, hotels, schools, outdoor recreation events, resorts, beaches, maritime facilities, airports and aircraft.

For the latest security information, Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor the [Department's Internet web site \(http://travel.state.gov\)](http://travel.state.gov) where the current [Travel Warnings and Public Announcements](#), including the [Public Announcement for Central Asia](#), and the [Worldwide Caution Public Announcement](#), can be found.

Up-to-date information on safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll free in the U.S. and Canada, or for callers outside the U.S. and Canada, a regular toll-line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

The Department of State urges American citizens to take responsibility for their own personal security while traveling overseas. For general information about appropriate measures travelers can take to protect themselves in an overseas environment, see the Department of State's pamphlet [A Safe Trip Abroad](#).

## Visa Requirements

[Return to top](#)

A passport and visa are required. For further information regarding entry requirements, contact the Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic which is located at 2360 Massachusetts Avenue, NW in Washington, DC (zip code 20008). The Embassy's phone number is (202) 338-5141 and the fax number is (202) 386-7550. The Embassy can also be contacted by e-mail at [consul@kyrgyzembassy.org](mailto:consul@kyrgyzembassy.org) or on the internet at <http://www.kyrgyzembassy.org> for updated visa information and processing of visa requests. U.S. citizens currently can obtain a one-month single entry tourist visa upon arrival at Bishkek's "Manas" airport for a \$36 fee without an invitation letter. (This option is subject to change. Also, Embassy has heard of instances of different fees being charged.) Travelers cannot obtain a tourist visa at land borders or other airports. U.S. citizens visiting the Kyrgyz Republic no longer have to register with the Office of Visas and Registration. U.S. citizens may also wish to obtain Kazakh visas, as commercial air travel out of the Kyrgyz Republic is limited and transit through Kazakhstan may be required to return to the United States.

U.S. Companies that require travel of foreign businesspersons to the United States should be advised that security options are handled via an interagency process. Visa applicants should go to the following links.

State Department Visa Website: <http://travel.state.gov/visa/index.html>

United States Visas.gov: <http://www.unitedstatesvisas.gov/>

U.S. Embassy website: <http://kyrgyz.usembassy.gov/>

## **Telecommunications**

[Return to top](#)

Mobile phone service exists throughout the Kyrgyz Republic and is generally reliable. However, some rural and mountainous areas may have limited coverage. Ground lines are generally quite old and often impractical for business purposes. Modem internet and DSL internet are available in Bishkek and in regional centers.

## **Transportation**

[Return to top](#)

The only two major western carriers flying to Bishkek are Turkish Airlines and British Airlines. Kyrgyzstan Airlines has flights to New Delhi, Dubai and a few other non-CIS destinations to include seasonal flights to Hannover and Frankfurt in Germany. Aeroflot, Pulkovo and Uzbek Airlines also fly to Bishkek. Many U.S. travelers fly to Almaty, Kazakhstan via Europe and then travel by car to Bishkek. The trip between Bishkek and Almaty takes approximately three hours when the roads are clear. The road traverses mountain passes that are normally passable all winter, but the trip can take longer when snow and ice are heavy. Visitors taking this route must have a valid Kazakh visa as well as a valid Kyrgyz visa. Kyrgyz visas are not available at land borders.

Within the country, it is possible to fly to the major cities of Osh and Jalalabad as well as Karakol in the summer. There are daily Bishkek-Osh flights. Taxis are easily available and reasonably priced, though often dangerous and in various states of repair. It is easy to arrange for a modern car and driver for the entire period of stay or on a day-by-day basis. Train and bus travel are not recommended.

## **Language**

[Return to top](#)

Both Kyrgyz and Russian are widely used in the Kyrgyz Republic. In Bishkek and some northern towns Russian predominates, although Kyrgyz is gaining in importance and frequency of use. In rural areas and some parts of the south, Kyrgyz dominates but most people can and will speak Russian. Most documents are written in Russian. English is not generally spoken, but some officials and businessmen speak English. An increasing number of people know at least a little English and the study of English is popular.

## **Health**

[Return to top](#)

Modern medical assistance in the Kyrgyz Republic is not readily available from local hospitals. There is often a shortage of all forms of medical supplies, diagnostic equipment, and medicines, and of western-trained doctors and nurses. Food sanitation can be a problem, and food poisoning, salmonella, giardia and diarrhea are not uncommon. Embassy Bishkek recommends that all visitors eat only cooked foods (no raw vegetables) and drink only bottled or distilled water. All visitors should ensure they have up-to-date vaccinations for typhoid fever, hepatitis a and b, diphtheria, and meningitis. There is a high incidence of contractible tuberculosis.

People should bring their own supplies and medicines for minor illnesses or injuries. For major illnesses or injuries the normal practice is to get emergency treatment at local facilities and to arrange for medical evacuation. All visitors should maintain medical evacuation insurance.

For treatment within the country, the following medical facilities in Kyrgyzstan are available:

**1. Bishkek Ambulance:**

During a medical emergency, the Bishkek City Ambulance can be reached by dialing telephone: **103**. Generally, operators will only speak Russian and the response time can be up to one hour.

Commercial Ambulance Service is available by dialing telephone number **151 or 65-73-04**. This service is also Russian-speaking, and equipment standards vary widely.

**2. MEDICAL ASSOCIATES CLINIC**

Primary and Emergency Medicine.

Address: Hyatt Regency Bishkek, 191 Sovetskaya, room 113.

Tel: (996-312) 98-57-45, E-mail: [roman\\_kislov@kumtor.com](mailto:roman_kislov@kumtor.com)

**3. VIP Clinic**

Provides medical consultations, as well as medical treatment and examinations for foreign citizens. Emergency care is not generally available. However, English speakers are available.

Address: 110 Kievskaya Street,  
Bishkek, 720001, Kyrgyz Republic.

Sagymbaev Marat Akimovich, Chief Physician.

Tazabekova Osipa Tabakelovna, Deputy Chief Physician,

Tel: (office) (996-312) 62-10-63; (home) (312) 66-13-10

24 hours duty telephone/ambulance: (996-312) 66-03-56/22-89-92

Reception: (996-312) 66-35-49 or 21-69-37 or 66-19-01

**4. Family Medicine Training Center**

English-speaking, U.S.-trained physicians are available for medical consultations during normal working hours. Dental appointments are also available.

Address: 144 A Bokonbaev Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Tel: (996-312) 66-06-44 or 66-59-07

**5. Republican Cardiac Center**

**Intensive Care Unit** is available 24 hours. Heart attack cases are treated here. English speakers are available.

Address: 3 Togolok Moldo Street (intersection T. Moldo and Toktogul)

Telephone of Intensive Care Unit: (996-312) 62-56-82

Hospitalization for foreigners costs 120 USD.

**6. “Poliklinika Stroiteley,” – Trauma Unit, 24 hours first aid in case of minor traumas.**

Address: 41 Manas Street (intersection Toktogul/Manas)

Telephone of the Trauma Unit: (996-312) 21-68-75

Reception: (996-312) 21-72-17

### **7. Private Medical Clinic "Vytas"**

89 Shopokova Street  
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. English speaker is available.  
Tel: 996-312-284-659

### **8. The Center for Family Medicine, Osh**

Policlinica #2, Room 9, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
22 "A" Zainabeddinova Street  
Osh City

Dr. Heather Dunn  
Dr. Begaim Akmatova  
Tel.: 3222-25420, 56991, 25375.  
Cell phone: 0-502-334494  
(Mondays and Thursdays  
from 8:30 to 12:30)  
English speakers are available.

*(Note: Since local doctors are limited in time and resources American citizens are strongly recommended to have medical plans in place for other sources of help in an emergency.)*

### **9. Medical Evacuations:**

The following is the list of companies that can assist U.S. citizens with medical evacuations. Please be aware that the Embassy can not provide administrative assistance, such as airport and flight clearance assistance, for private medical evacuations.

- **DELTA CONSULATING**, Moscow, tel: 7-495-937-6477
- **GENEVA SOS EMERGENCY**: tel: 41-22-785-6464
- **SOS, Philadelphia**, PA, the emergency number for the home office is 215-244-1500.
- **AEA INTERNATIONAL**, worldwide emergency assistance.

Almaty, Kazakhstan

Dr. Francois Gourraud, Medical Director for Central Asia  
Tel: (7-3272) 581-911 or doctor on call at (7-3007) 441-111

### **Pharmacies:**

Prestige, 95a Kievskaya Street  
Tel.: 621-462  
Neman, 139 Moskovskaya Street/T. Moldo Street  
Tel.: 622-937  
Neman, 8 Manas Ave/Bokonbaeva Street  
Tel.: 216-792  
Central Pharmacy, 340 Frunze Street  
Tel.: 681-005

## **Local Time, Business Hours, and Holidays**

[Return to top](#)

Local time is two hours ahead of Moscow in the summer and three hours ahead in daylight savings time or 10-11 hours ahead of the U.S. east coast.

Businesses are generally open from 9 till 5, Monday through Saturday.

2007 holidays are:

January 1	New Year's Day
January 7	Orthodox Christmas
March 8	Women's Day
March 21	Nooruz Muslim New Year
May 1	Labor Day
May 5	Constitution Day
May 9	Victory Day
August 31	Independence Day
Month**	Kurman Ait Day
November 7	Great October Socialist Revolution Day
Month**	Orozo Ait Day

\*\*These dates are determined every year by the lunar calendar

### **Temporary Entry of Materials and Personal Belongings**

[Return to top](#)

In addition to other commonly forbidden items such as firearms and narcotics, pornographic materials cannot be imported into the Kyrgyz Republic. Technically, all cash accompanying travelers must be declared. This requirement is selectively enforced, and may only be an issue with large sums of cash.

### **Web Resources**

[Return to top](#)

<http://travel.state.gov>  
<http://www.kyrgyzembassy.org>  
<http://www.unitedstatesvisas.gov/>  
<http://kyrgyz.usembassy.gov/>

[Return to table of contents](#)



[Return to table of contents](#)

## Chapter 9: Contacts, Market Research, and Trade Events

- [Contacts](#)
- [Market Research](#)
- [Trade Events](#)

### Contacts

[Return to top](#)

American Chamber of Commerce, Kyrgyz Republic  
191 Sovetskaya, Office #123  
Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic 720011  
Phone: (996 312) 68-09-07  
Fax: (996 312) 68-11-72  
Internet: <http://www.amcham.kg>

BISNIS Representative in Kyrgyzstan  
Artyom Zozulinsky  
171 Prospect Mira  
Bishkek, 720016  
Tel. +996 312 55 12 41, ext. 4403  
Fax. +996 312 55 12 64  
Email. [ZozulinskyA@state.gov](mailto:ZozulinskyA@state.gov)

Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic  
107 Kievskaya st., 720001  
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan  
Tel. +996 312 21 05 73  
Fax. +996 312 21 05 75  
Email. [cci-kr@total.kg](mailto:cci-kr@total.kg)  
Web. <http://www.cci.kg>

Union of Entrepreneurs of Kyrgyzstan  
120 Tynystanova st., room 110  
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan  
Tel. +996 312 66 68 64, +996 312 62 02 08  
Email. [spkg@mail.ru](mailto:spkg@mail.ru)

### Market Research

[Return to top](#)

To view market research reports produced by the U.S. Commercial Service please go to the following website: <http://www.export.gov/marketresearch.html> and click on Country and Industry Market Reports.

Please note that these reports are only available to U.S. citizens and U.S. companies. Registration to the site is required, but free of charge.

More free industry reports are available at:  
<http://bisnis.doc.gov/bisnis/country/kyrgyzstan.cfm>

## **Trade Events**

[Return to top](#)

Please click on the link below for information on upcoming trade events.

<http://www.export.gov/tradeevents.html>

<http://www.amcham.kg>

<http://www.bisnis.doc.gov>

[Return to table of contents](#)

[Return to table of contents](#)

## Chapter 10: Guide to Our Services

The U.S. Commercial Service offers customized solutions to help your business enter and succeed in markets worldwide. Our global network of trade specialists will work one-on-one with you through every step of the exporting process, helping you to:

- Target the best markets with our world-class research
- Promote your products and services to qualified buyers
- Meet the best distributors and agents for your products and services
- Overcome potential challenges or trade barriers

For more information on the services the U.S. Commercial Service offers U.S. businesses, please click on the link below.

[Return to table of contents](#)

U.S. exporters seeking general export information/assistance or country-specific commercial information should consult with their nearest **Export Assistance Center** or the **U.S. Department of Commerce's Trade Information Center** at **(800) USA-TRADE**, or go to the following website: <http://www.export.gov>

To the best of our knowledge, the information contained in this report is accurate as of the date published. However, **The Department of Commerce** does not take responsibility for actions readers may take based on the information contained herein. Readers should always conduct their own due diligence before entering into business ventures or other commercial arrangements. **The Department of Commerce** can assist companies in these endeavors.