

KEY FACTS

Official name: Respublika i Tojikiston
(Republic of Tajikistan)

Head of State: President Emomali Rakhmon (leader since 1992; re-elected 2006)

Head of government: Prime Minister Akil Akilov (since 1999)

Ruling party: Hizbi Demokrati Khalkii (HDK) (People's Democratic Party) (elected 2000; re-elected 2010)

Area: 143,100 square km

Population: 7.96 million (2012)*

Capital: Dushanbe

Official language: Tajik (Farsi)

Currency: Somoni (Sm) = 100 dirams

Exchange rate: Sm4.77 per US\$ (Jul 2013)

GDP per capita: US\$953 (2012)*

GDP real growth: 7.50% (2012)*

GDP: US\$7.59 billion (2012)*

Labour force: 2.10 million (2009)*

Unemployment: 2.20% (2009)*

Inflation: 5.80% (2012)*

Balance of trade: -US\$3.57 billion (2011)

Annual FDI: US\$11.14 million (2011)

* estimated figure

Tajikistan



Tajikistan was beginning to look like something of a failed state in the first half of 2013. President Rakhmon clung on to the vestiges of power, but in many parts of Tajikistan it was errant warlords who called the shots. In mid-2012 Tajikistan had accused neighbouring Uzbekistan of imposing an economic blockade around it to try to trigger a humanitarian catastrophe and destabilise the country, allegations senior Uzbek politicians dismissed as groundless. But it was the fierce rivalry, bordering on armed struggles, that characterised the relationship between Tajikistan and neighbouring Uzbekistan.

(Un)Friendly Relations

In a strongly worded statement, Tajikistan accused the Uzbeks of blocking railway links and cutting gas supplies. The Tajik news agency Asia-Plus quoted the statement as saying, 'The situation, if it continues, will lead to the further deterioration of the conditions of life of the people of Tajikistan and threatens to turn into a humanitarian catastrophe'. Tajikistan is one of the poorest of the Central Asian states. One of its only natural resources is water which runs off the Pamir mountains into

Uzbekistan, where it irrigates the economically important cotton fields.

Of the five former Soviet Central Asian states, only isolationist Turkmenistan is not a member of the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO), the group named after the city where it was set up in 2001. In June 2012 China's state newspaper, the *People's Daily*, reported that Chen Bingde, the highest ranked general in China had flown to Dushanbe, the Tajik capital, after bilateral visits to Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. SCO military were due to play out a counter terrorism exercise in Tajikistan, according to media reports. Over the previous decade China has strengthened its interests in Central Asia. As well as playing a major role in the SCO, China has provided cheap loans, developed infrastructure and become a major client for oil and gas.

In July 2012 Tajik soldiers attacked a rebel stronghold in the south-east of the country, apparently in retaliation for the murder of Abdullo Nazarov, regional head of the State Committee on National Security (GKNB). The fighting was the most severe in Tajikistan for almost two years and was of concern to those Western politicians who were counting on the former Soviet state to act as a bulwark

against any surge north by Islamic militants as Nato forces withdraw from neighbouring Afghanistan in 2014.

Associated Press quoted a Tajik security service officer as saying that 20 soldiers had been killed in gun battles around the provincial capital of Khorog, near the border with Afghanistan. A further 42 people including 12 soldiers and 30 rebels were reported killed in fighting in the remote Tajik region of Gorno-Badakhshan. Some unconfirmed reports spoke of a far higher level of casualties, with dozens of people being killed in the violence, the ferocity of which had converted Khorog into a virtual war zone. The military operation was a further attempt by the Tajik government, which had little influence in the area, to bring Gorno-Badakhshan under its full control, according to the BBC. The pre-dawn attack on fighters loyal to rebel leader Tolib Ayombekov deep in the Pamir mountains underlined Tajikistan's continuing instability 15 years after the end of a civil war. A statement released by the GKNB announced that investigations were under way to see 'whether the citizens of Afghanistan' involved in the violence were connected with the Taliban, al Qaeda or the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan.

Human Wrongs

In early 2012 Human Rights Watch (HRW) published its report on the human rights situation on Tajikistan, which remains poor. The report did not make comfortable reading. HRW noted that the Tajik government has persisted with enforcing a repressive law on religion and has introduced new legislation further restricting religious expression and education. The Tajik authorities continued to restrict media freedoms and journalists – including the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) correspondent Urunboy Usmonov – were targeted for their work.

Domestic violence against women remains a serious problem in Tajik society. The judiciary is neither independent nor effective. In August 2012 President Emomali Rahmon signed a wide-ranging amnesty into law to mark the 20th anniversary of Tajikistan's independence. Approximately 15,000 prisoners were reported to be covered under its terms, including alleged members of banned religious and political groups.

The economy

According to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Tajikistan's economic growth accelerated slightly to 7.5 per cent

in 2012 as remittances hit record highs, but slightly slower growth is forecast for 2013 and 2014. Domestic income and investment remain low. Reforms promised to permit Tajikistan's accession to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) will be important to improve the business climate, increase foreign investment and reduce excessive reliance on remittances.

This robust growth, slightly above the 7.4 per cent recorded in 2011, mainly reflected strong domestic demand from record-high remittances, which equal about half of GDP. Meanwhile, domestic income and investment remained critically low. On the supply side, services remained the main driver of economic growth, expanding by 14.5 per cent and led by retail trade, which grew by 17.1 per cent. Construction, industry and agriculture also grew, but at more modest rates. Industry expanded by 10.4 per cent, backed by continued growth in mining and light processing. Textiles grew by 30 per cent, as weak external demand and lower international prices for cotton prompted firms to focus on local processing. Aluminium production grew by a modest 0.7 per cent, constrained by ageing technology and a reduced supply of natural gas from Uzbekistan and discouraged by lower international prices. Agriculture grew by 10.4 per cent, largely because of strong growth in agricultural processing. However, cotton production grew by only 0.5 per cent, as sharp fluctuations in cotton prices discouraged farmers from following through on initial expansions in planted area. Despite slow growth, aluminium and cotton still

represented 58 per cent of total output, down from 70 per cent in 2008.

On the demand side, consumption was the main driver of growth. Higher spending for social services, human development and social protection raised private consumption, while increased outlays for education and health care boosted public consumption. However, public investment including outlays by state enterprises declined as investment in energy, transport and communication fell by 20.2 per cent. Private investment grew by only one per cent and the share of private investment in gross domestic product (GDP) remained below five per cent. Despite the government's continued efforts to improve the investment climate, serious impediments such as an inefficient tax system, the high cost of financing and weak property rights have kept private investment and income low.

Inflation slowed to 5.8 per cent from 12.5 per cent in 2011. Food prices rose by only 3.5 per cent, despite a sharp jump in wheat and flour prices caused by a drought in Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation. Inflationary pressures came mainly from services, where prices rose by 12.9 per cent.

Tajikistan's fiscal policy tightened, leaving an overall budget surplus (including all investment spending) of 0.1 per cent of GDP that reversed the 2.5 per cent deficit in 2011. The state budget surplus, which excludes foreign-financed investment, rose to 1.8 per cent of GDP from 0.5 per cent in 2011. Revenue performance was on track, reflecting a 22.6 per cent rise in tax revenue and a more than 7.3 per cent increase in non-tax revenue as the

KEY INDICATORS

Tajikistan

	Unit	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Population	m	*6.46	*6.50	*7.60	*7.85	*7.96
Gross domestic product (GDP)	US\$bn	5.13	4.98	5.64	6.52	*7.59
GDP per capita	US\$	771	734	820	935	*953
GDP real growth	%	7.9	3.9	6.4	7.4	*7.5
Inflation	%	20.4	6.5	6.4	14.4	*5.8
Exports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	1,574.9	1,038.5	1,302.7	592.9	0.0
Imports (fob) (goods)	US\$m	3,699.0	2,770.4	2,936.4	4,164.9	0.0
Balance of trade	US\$m	-2,124.2	-1,731.9	-1,633.7	-3,572.0	0.0
Current account	US\$m	47.6	-179.9	-382.8	-787.0	*-146.0
Total reserves minus gold	US\$m	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	*297.9
Foreign exchange	US\$m	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	*190.7
Exchange rate	per US\$	3.43	4.14	4.38	4.61	4.67
* estimated figure						

restructuring of the government's tax committee and better tax administration improved collection. Total expenditure rose by 21.9 per cent, reflecting a 21 per cent increase in spending for social protection. Pensions increased by 30 per cent and social sector wages by 30 per cent – 40 per cent, reflecting the government's commitment to improve social services. However, infrastructure spending fell by 10.1 per cent following the completion of projects commissioned to celebrate Tajikistan's 20 years of independence. Public and publicly guaranteed debt declined to 33.9 per cent of GDP from 34.3 per cent at the end of 2011.

Lower inflationary pressures allowed the National Bank of Tajikistan (central bank) to pursue a more accommodative monetary policy. The refinancing rate was reduced repeatedly in 2012, from 9.8 per cent to 8.0 per cent in March, 6.8 per cent in July and 6.5 per cent in September. Bank credit expanded by 9.2 per cent, mainly driven by a 14 per cent increase in short-term credit. However, the share of long-term credit diminished slightly, by 0.5 per cent, particularly for local currency lending. Overall, the banking system remains prone to risks from low profitability and a significant percentage of non-performing loans, as 9.5 per cent are 30+ days overdue. Microfinance, on the other hand, continued to expand. In 2012, the average somoni exchange rate remained stable at TJS4.8 = US\$1, which helped moderate inflationary expectations through its impact on import prices. Tajikistan's current account balance worsened, however, recording a deficit of 3.5 per cent of GDP after the surplus of 2.3 per cent in 2011, as the trade balance deteriorated.

Exports rose by 8.2 per cent, to an estimated US\$1.4 billion, while high remittances helped boost imports by 18.6 per cent to US\$3.8 billion. Export growth reflected significant gains of 13.5 per cent for cotton fibre and 11.6 per cent for textiles. In addition, the expanding mining sector has made mineral exports increasingly important, with export earnings doubling in 2012. Electricity exports, though relatively small, grew nearly fourfold in 2012 as the supply of electricity to Afghanistan was sustained through the winter despite severe domestic electricity shortages, partly to keep the transmission system functional. Purchases of consumer goods were behind the 18.6 per cent rise in imports. However, remittances, mainly from the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan, rose by more than 28 per cent

to a record of US\$3.6 billion, or more than 47 per cent of GDP.

Continued government borrowing for investment projects helped boost capital inflows. Foreign direct investment (FDI) edged up to an estimated US\$50 million in 2012 after hitting a trough in 2010 of less than US\$10 million. However, FDI remained very low at only 0.5 per cent of GDP. Official reserves rose to US\$662 million at the end of 2012, equivalent to 2.2 months of imports, from US\$572 million a year earlier. Public and publicly guaranteed external debt was 31.2 per cent of GDP, little changed from the 32.1 per cent a year earlier.

Risk assessment

Politics	Fair
Economy	Fair
Regional stability	Fair

COUNTRY PROFILE

Historical profile

1916–17 The Central Asian republics joined in a violent uprising against Russian rule, which was suppressed. After the October Revolution in Russia, the Russian ruler, Lenin, gave the peoples of Central Asia the right of self-determination.

1920s Southern Tajikistan remained under the control of the Khan of Bukhara while northern Tajikistan was incorporated into Soviet-controlled Turkestan, which also included Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, part of northern Turkmenistan and southern Kazakhstan. Soviet nationalities policy, under the direction of Stalin, saw Soviet rule enforced by Red Army troops who put down fierce Muslim resistance in Central Asia after the Russian civil war.

1924 Tajikistan was granted autonomous status in the Socialist Soviet Republic (SSR) of Uzbekistan.

1929 Tajikistan was detached from Uzbekistan and became a separate SSR.

1930s–80s The country underwent a period of agricultural collectivisation and industrialisation, which was unpopular with the population.

1989 Tajik became the official state language.

1990 Social and ethnic tensions erupted in violence in Dushanbe and along the Tajikistan-Kyrgyzstan border. A state of emergency was declared and Soviet troops were sent to Dushanbe to suppress pro-democracy protests. President Kahar Mahkamov resigned after being accused of supporting an attempted coup against the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

1991 The collapse of the Soviet Union resulted in Tajikistan declaring independence. Rahmon Nabiyev was appointed president after winning Tajikistan's first

direct presidential elections. Tajikistan joined the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

1992 Anti-government demonstrations in Dushanbe turned into civil war between pro-government forces and Islamist and pro-democracy groups. Nabiyev was forced to resign and the Hizbi Komunistii Tojikiston (HKT) (Communist Party of Tajikistan) government collapsed.

Pro-Communists massacred thousands of government supporters in Dushanbe. The HKT regained power and Emomali Rakhmonov became head of state.

1993 The Supreme Court returned the country to one-party rule after banning all political parties other than the ruling HKT. A CIS peace-keeping force was deployed along the Tajikistan-Afghan border to prevent armed incursions by Islamic guerrilla groups.

1994 A cease-fire between the government and the rebels was agreed. A presidential constitution was approved by national referendum. Rakhmonov won the presidential elections, which were deemed by international observers to be neither free nor fair.

1995 Rakhmonov supporters won the legislative elections, which took place without the participation of any of the opposition groups. Fighting erupted on the Afghan border.

1996 A UN-sponsored cease-fire between the government and Islamist rebels came into effect.

1997 Opposition parties were legalised and as part of a peace treaty between the Tajikistan government and the Islamic United Tajik Opposition (UTO), the government agreed to give 30 per cent of its seats to opposition representatives, retaining 50 per cent for itself, and to give the remaining 20 per cent to independents.

1998 The government removed the ban on religious political parties. Rakhmonov pardoned all opposition leaders in exile. Tajikistan joined the CIS Customs Union.

1999 President Rakhmonov was re-elected for a third term. The UTO armed forces were integrated into the state army.

2000 A new bicameral parliament was set up. The elections were won by the Hizbi Demokrati Khalkii (HDK) (People's Democratic Party). The somoni replaced the Tajik rouble as the currency. Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan (formerly the Customs Five) established the Eurasian Economic Community (EEC).

2001 Tajikistan, China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan formed the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO). Rahmon Sanginov, a renegade warlord, declared one of the

country's most wanted criminals, was killed in a gun battle with security forces. 2002 Tajikistan became the last Central Asian republic to join NATO's Partnership for Peace (PfP) programme. The number of border guards was doubled to prevent al Qaeda members from crossing the border with Afghanistan to escape US forces. 2003 Russian President Vladimir Putin announced an agreement to increase Russian military presence. A referendum extended President Rakhmonov's term in office by two more consecutive seven-year terms.

2004 A moratorium on the death penalty was introduced. Russia regained control of a former Soviet space-monitoring centre at Nurek and opened a military base in Dushanbe.

2005 The ruling HDK was re-elected. However, international observers said the elections had not reached acceptable international standards. Opposition leader, Mahmadrizi Iskandarov (HDK), had been arrested and released in Moscow after an extradition request was dismissed, was kidnapped and transported to Tajikistan to be re-arrested; he was sentenced on terrorism and corruption charges and received a 23-year sentence.

2006 Incumbent Emomali Rakhmonov won 79 per cent of the vote for president; giving him his fourth term in office. The election was neither free nor fair according to international observers.

2007 A bridge across the Pyanj River, built by the US army, was opened, linking the Tajik town of Nizhny Pyanj with Shir Khan Bandar and extending the trans-Afghanistan road (Regional Road Corridor Improvement Project) through Central Asia. The president removed the 'ov' from his name and discouraged Russian-style names from use.

2009 Tajikistan reached an agreement with the US to allow non-military shipments destined for Afghanistan to fly over and through its territory.

2010 In parliamentary elections, the incumbent HDK won an overwhelming majority of 55 seats (out of 63). The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) judged the elections had 'failed on many basic democratic standards' and widespread fraud. The opposition mounted a legal challenge to the results. Russia hosted a regional summit meeting of presidents from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Russia. Economic and development co-operation was promised between them.

2011 At the beginning of the year Russia began several negotiations towards achieving a security treaty and to return Russian border guards to the joint Tajikistan-Russian border, due to the

sharp increase in drugs-trafficking across the border and the risk of regional Islamic violence spilling over into Russia's southern Central Asian states. An agreement was reached between Tajikistan and China, which settled a century-old border dispute, following the Tajik parliament's vote in January to cede 1,000 square kilometres of land in the Pamir mountain range to China. Although this only represented 5.5 per cent of the land claimed, China accepted the land as a resolution to the dispute. In August, as part of the anniversary celebrations, President Rakhmonov gave an amnesty to 15,000 prisoners who had fought against his forces during the 1990s civil war.

2012 On 4 April, international relations with Uzbekistan degenerated following Tajikistan's accusation that its neighbour had imposed an 'economic blockade' in an effort to trigger a humanitarian catastrophe and destabilise the government. The complaint was that Uzbekistan had blocked railway links and cut natural gas supplies. In turn, Uzbekistan claimed that the new hydroelectric dam, under construction, would severely reduce water supplies to a parched Uzbekistan with vital cotton fields. On 5 October an agreement was signed with Russia to allow it a 30-year extension on a military base, with a deployed division of 7,000 Russian soldiers, guard the mutual border.

2013

Political structure

Constitution

A presidential constitution was approved by national referendum in 1994. The constitution granted basic economic and political rights and guaranteed religious freedoms. It gave the president powers to appoint the chairs of regions, districts, cities, including Dushanbe, as well as of the Gorno-Badakshan Autonomous Region and the governor of the National Bank of Tajikistan (central bank), subject to the approval of deputies in parliament. The president also has powers of dismissal over these offices. In addition, the president gained the power to declare a state of martial law and issue decrees, as well as immunity from prosecution. Parliament has the power to impeach the president, subject to the findings of the Constitutional Court. If more than two-thirds of deputies vote in favour of impeachment, parliament may dismiss the president from office.

Independence date

9 September 1991

Form of state

Presidential socialist republic

The executive

The president, elected by universal suffrage every seven years, holds executive

power. The government consists of the prime minister and cabinet and may present its resignation to the president if it declares it cannot function normally. In 2003, voters in a referendum favoured allowing President Rakhmonov to run two further consecutive seven-year terms in office after 2006.

National legislature

The bicameral Majlisi Oli (Supreme Assembly) consists of the Majlisi Mamoyandogan (Assembly of Representatives) (lower house), with 63 members, of which 22 are elected by proportional representation and 41 in single-seat constituencies; the Majlisi Milliy (National Assembly) (upper house) has 33 members, of which 25 are elected by subordinate regional assemblies and eight are appointed by the president. All Assembly members serve for five-year terms.

Legal system

The judiciary is constitutionally independent from the legislature and executive. Courts include the Supreme Court, Constitutional Court, Military Court and High Economic Court. In addition there are district and city courts, as well as the Dushanbe City Court. Gorno-Badakshan Autonomous Region has its own court. The president has powers to appoint and dismiss judges of all courts on petition of the minister of justice, except for judges appointed to the Supreme Court, High Economic Court and Constitutional Court. The latter is composed of seven judges elected from the legal profession, one of whom is a representative of Gorno-Badakshan Autonomous Region.

Last elections

28 February 2010 (parliamentary); 6 November 2013 (presidential)

Results: Parliamentary: Hizbi Demokrati Khalkii (HDK) (People's Democratic Party) won 71.04 per cent of the vote (55 seats out of 63), Islamic Renaissance Party (IRP) 8.2 per cent (two), Hizbi Kommunistii (Communist Party) (CP) 7.01 per cent (two); Agrarian Party (AP) 5.11 per cent (two), Party of Economic Reforms (PER) 5.06 per cent. Turnout was 90.84 per cent.

Presidential: Emomali Rakhmonov won with 83.6 per cent of the vote. Turnout was nearly 87 per cent

Next elections

November 2020 (presidential); 2015 (parliamentary)

Political parties

Ruling party

Hizbi Demokrati Khalkii (HDK) (People's Democratic Party) (elected 2000; re-elected 2010)

Main opposition party

Islamic Renaissance Party (IRP)

Population

7.96 million (2012)*

Approximately 40 per cent of the population is under 14 years and 5 per cent over 65 years of age.

The population is concentrated in valleys covering less than 5 per cent of the country's surface (the terrain is extremely mountainous).

Last census: January 2000: 6,127,000 (provisional)

Population density: 54 inhabitants per square km (2010). Urban population 26 per cent (2010 Unicef).

Annual growth rate: 1.3 per cent, 1990–2010 (Unicef).

Ethnic make-up

Tajik (69.1 per cent), Uzbek (25 per cent), Russian (2.7 per cent), with remaining minorities including Tatar and Kyrgyz groups. Tajikistan is the exception among the Central Asian republics in that its population is predominantly Persian rather than Turkic. The Tajiks are made up of a number of closely related ethnic groups which differ both anthropologically (inhabitants of the Pamir mountains in the north are tall, dark complexioned with light-coloured eyes; those from Kuliab are stocky and dark-skinned; northern Tajiks are fair-complexioned, brown- and black-eyed). Customs and rituals also differ.

Religions

The majority (80 per cent) of ethnic Tajiks and Uzbeks are Sunni Muslims; 5 per cent are Shi'a Muslims. Ethnic Badakhshanis belong to the Ismaili Muslim sect and have the Aga Khan as their spiritual leader. There are also Baptists and Bukhara Jews. There is no official religion.

Education

Public expenditure on education typically amounts to 3 per cent of GDP.

Primary education lasts four years, followed by eight years of secondary schooling which is divided into two cycles of five and three years in either general, technical or vocational education. Successful students may progress to either a university or institute of which there are 29 established.

In 2003, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a US\$7.5 million loan for education reforms to give about 90,000 children better access to quality education. About 300 schools, in pilot districts, which were damaged during the civil war and lacked maintenance, received funding for refurbishment and to provide textbooks and learning materials, plus pay for enhancing female teacher training.

The total cost of the project was US\$9.38 million, 80 per cent of which was covered by the ADB's loan, while the government provided the balance of US\$1.88 million.

Nationwide, the education system is suffering from an exodus of large numbers of qualified teachers to find better paid work. School attendance levels are also falling, as children are pressed into helping their families cope with the widespread poverty and social vulnerability. Gender imbalance is particularly marked at the upper secondary level, with the proportion of girls declining.

Literacy rate: 100 per cent adult rate; 100 per cent youth rate (15–24) (Unesco 2005).

Compulsory years: Seven to 16.

Enrolment rate: 85 per cent gross primary enrolment (ADB); 76 per cent gross secondary enrolment (Unicef).

Pupils per teacher: 24 in primary schools.

Health

The structure of Tajikistan's health system has evolved from the Soviet model of healthcare with few structural changes. The state funds most of the healthcare services in the country. The health ministry runs national-level healthcare services, while local authorities administer most regional services.

State hospitals have limited supplies of free medicines. People have been increasingly forced to pay for their own healthcare, often buying their own medicines off the street.

The health budget each year has major shortfalls that are partially covered by international aid. The government has introduced more than 11 national and sectoral programmes, including those to combat tuberculosis, prevent HIV/Aids and improve reproductive health. The World Bank began a major rehabilitation project with an estimated expenditure of US\$25 million in 2000–03 in the Soghd and Khatlon regions. The project aimed to rehabilitate 300 health posts, rural physician clinics and outpatient facilities.

Tajikistan has the youngest population of any former Soviet states, with 70 per cent aged under 30 years.

Tajikistan has substantial environmental problems that pose risks to human health. There is high risk of communicable disease with the breakdown of public health measures such as mosquito control and immunisation. Less than 50 per cent of the rural population have access to clean water. Tajikistan is one of the primary transfer points for the flow of drugs due to transparent border controls and poor custom regulations.

HIV/Aids

HIV prevalence: 0.1 per cent aged 15–49 in 2003 (World Bank)

Life expectancy: 63 years, 2004 (WHO 2006)

Fertility rate/Maternal mortality rate:

3.3 births per woman, 2010 (Unicef); maternal mortality 66.5 per 100,000 live births (World Bank).

Birth rate/Death rate: 32.8 births and 8.5 deaths per 1,000 people (2003).

Child (under 5 years) mortality rate (per 1,000): 58 per 1,000 live births (WHO 2012)

Head of population per physician: 2.03 physicians per 1,000 people, 2003 (WHO 2006)

Welfare

As the poorest of the CIS countries, a significant proportion of Tajikistan's population now faces severe social hardship, especially with most of the country's social welfare budget being spent on pensions. The country relies heavily on overseas assistance, highlighting the failure of the state to create a self-financing welfare system.

Main cities

Dushanbe (capital, estimated population 747,705 in 2012), Khujand (140,225), Kulob (86,735), Qurgonteppa (65,309), Konibodom (62,127), Uroteppa (58,227), Kofarnihon (45,563), Isfara (40,612).

Languages spoken

The Tajik language is very close to Persian, spoken in Iran, and to Dari, spoken in Afghanistan. Although Tajik is spoken locally, in practice, Russian is widely used in government and business. Uzbek is also spoken. The Badakhshanis speak the Pamir languages, but also speak Tajik or Russian. There are three main groups – the Pamir languages, the southern Kulyab and the northern Khodzent dialects.

A State Language law provides for a transition to the Tajik language with Arabic script.

Official language/s

Tajik (Farsi)

Media

Despite a constitutionally guaranteed free press, the government has a heavy influence on all media outlets and has led to widespread self-censorship. Laws prohibit the dissemination of information containing state secrets, inciting racial discrimination and any form of ethnic or religious hatred.

Press

Tajikistan does not possess any pulp mills or paper making industries and has to import all newsprint paper and printing equipment, which has resulted in significantly higher printing costs and an inability to produce daily newspapers. The UN considers this situation denies citizens access to current news.

Weeklies: The four official weeklies are not popular as they are concerned with

published resolutions, government decision and official chronicles and lack any innovation. They have deplorable circulation figures of 700–2,000, of which 75 per cent are secured by subscription and only 25 per cent are sold retail.

Government-owned and published three times per week, *Jumhuriyat* and *Sadio Mardumin* Tajik, *Khalq Ovozi* in Uzbek and *Narodnaya Gazeta* in Russian. Private publications include *Neru-i Sukhan* and *Tajikiston* in Takik. Political parties publish *Minbar-i Khalq* (People's Democratic Party), *Nido-i Ranjbar* in Takik (Communist Party), *Golos Tajikistana* in Russian (Communist Party), *Najot* (Islamic Rebirth Party).

Broadcasting

The broadcasting law prohibits dissemination of information containing state secrets, inciting of racial discrimination and any form of ethnic or religious hatred.

Radio: The Government runs Tajik radio with two national networks and in the capital, Radio Sado i Dushanbe. There are two private stations, Asia Plus (www.asiplus.tj) and Radio Vatan (www.vatan.tj) in the capital and Radio Tiroz (www.tiroz.tj) in Khujand.

External radios stations can be received including BBC, VOA and Voice of Free Tajikistan (run by national exiles).

Television: The state runs three regional networks, Tajik TV, Soghd TV and Khatlon TV. Safina TV (www.safina.tj) the only private operation.

National news agency: Khovar (in Russian) (www.khovar.tj).

Other news agencies: Avesta news agency (www.avesta.tj/en).

Economy

The economic problems faced by Tajikistan, which has one of the lowest gross domestic products (GDP) of all the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), are not insurmountable. In 2009, the service sector constituted 56.6 per cent of GDP, with industry comprising 22 per cent, of which manufacturing was 9.5 per cent and agriculture 21.3 per cent. Industry is largely limited to the Tadaz aluminium smelter, the Nurek hydropower station and small obsolete light industry and food processing factories.

The country is dependent on remittances, cotton, aluminium sales, and hydroelectricity for its foreign exchange, all of which are subject to external shocks. The country continues to lack investment. Foreign direct investment (FDI) had averaged US\$280 million over 2004–08 through growth in light industries and the service sector, as well as Russian investment in the Rogun and Sangtuda hydroelectric plants. However it fell to US\$15.8 million in both 2009 and 2010 as the global

economic crisis cut the availability of international (particularly Russian) investment. Natural resources include reserves of gold, silver, uranium, antimony and tungsten.

Although there is considerable potential for expanding hydroelectric output, estimated at 300 billion kilowatt hours (kWh), rather than the current 16.5 billion kWh, Tajikistan does not have the resources to develop the necessary infrastructure. Foreign investors from Russia and China are already assisting in development, but this overrules the potential for private domestic investment that would grow the economy as a whole. Tajikistan also has a serious international dispute with neighbouring Uzbekistan over water rights for the huge Roghun hydroelectricity dam under construction and located on the Vakhsh River.

GDP growth was 7.9 per cent in 2008, falling to 3.9 per cent in 2009 as limited FDI cut down on construction and production. However, growth rebounded to 6.4 per cent in 2010 and was estimated to have grown by 7.4 per cent in 2011. Remittances were US\$1.75 billion in 2009, rising again to US\$2.3 billion in 2010 (31 per cent of GDP) and were estimated to have risen again to US\$2.7 billion in 2011. Over 75 per cent of the male labour force is employed overseas, including most of the qualified and skilled workers, mainly in Russia and Kazakhstan, while estimates of unemployment are 11.5 per cent and under-employment even higher at 40 per cent. Subsistence farming occupies around 60 per cent of the workforce but with very low or no wages.

The UN Human Development Index (HDI) ranked Tajikistan 127 (out of 187) for national development in health, education and income. In 2010, 40 per cent of the population experienced at least one indicator of poverty; the headcount poverty rate was 17.1 per cent of the population over 2000–10.

Tajikistan, located at the crossroads of Russia, Iran, Pakistan and China, is reported to have become a narcotics hub and a major transit route for opium produced not only in Afghanistan but also increasingly in Tajikistan itself.

External trade

Tajikistan belongs to the Eurasian Economic Community (EAEC), established to promote a customs union between its six member states (Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan), and among other objectives to introduce a standardised currency exchange and rules for trade in goods and services. The EAEC evolved out of the Commonwealth of Independent States

(CIS) Customs Union and has begun the process of merging with the Central Asian Co-operation Organisation (CACO). However, by 2010 only three members (Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan) had instituted a customs union. On 19 October 2011, a free trade agreement (FTA) was signed by Russia with seven of its former Soviet republics: Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Tajikistan. The FTA must be ratified by all relevant parliaments before its instigation in 2012.

Tajikistan has the potential to mine gold, silver, uranium, antimony and tungsten, which has yet to be exploited commercially. About 75 per cent of all exports are produced by one aluminium smelter, Talco. Cotton is another important commodity and accounts for almost 10 per cent of exports. Both of these products are subject to world prices and Talco is an old Soviet era factory, which along with the general infrastructure is in need of re-investment. Remittances are vital to the country's foreign earnings.

Imports

Main imports are electricity, hydrocarbons, aluminium oxide, machinery, equipment and foodstuffs.

Main sources: Russia (typically 24 per cent of total), China (24 per cent), Kazakhstan (10 per cent).

Exports

The main exports are aluminium, electricity, cotton, gold, fruits and vegetable oil and textiles.

Main destinations: Russia (typically 20 per cent of total), China (18 per cent), Turkey (13 per cent).

Agriculture

During the Soviet era agriculture was the mainstay of the Tajikistan economy, particularly cotton and wheat. Agriculture typically accounts for around 23 per cent of GDP and employs over 50 per cent of the workforce.

Because of Tajikistan's mountainous nature, only 7 per cent of the land is suitable for farming. Tajikistan is a large net importer of different types of grain. The main agricultural areas are in the lower-lying regions of the south-west and the north-west – part of the Fergana basin. In semi-arid farmland, yield depends on extensive irrigation; aging rural irrigation systems have fallen into serious disrepair after more than a decade of neglect, causing widespread water shortages, silting of irrigation channels, waterlogging, and soil salinity.

Crops constitute about two-thirds, and animal husbandry one-third, of rural production. Cattle, sheep and goats are reared. Important produce is cotton, grain, fruits, grapes, vegetables and tobacco leaves.

Lack of processing and packing facilities and inefficient distribution mean that large amounts of the vegetable and fruit crops are wasted and that the country often fails even to meet its domestic needs. Farm machinery has suffered depreciation over the years without replacement, and the quality of seed varieties has fallen.

In a report published in 2005 – *The Curse of Cotton: Central Asia's destructive monoculture* – the International Crisis Group (ICG) said that while the former Soviet cotton producing countries of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan continued to exploit their cotton growers there was little hope of improving economic development and tackling poverty. The cotton industry is vital to the economy of Tajikistan, yet while the industry continues to rely on cheap labour (including children), land ownership is uncertain, state intervention discourages competition and the rule of law is limited, there is little incentive for the powerful vested interests to reform the system.

In addition to the economic and social costs to the rural populations, the environmental costs of the monoculture have been devastating. The degradation of the Aral Sea in particular has led to international concern.

Fishing remains important for domestic consumption, but pollution and a lack of investment have reduced fish stocks drastically. Tibet stone loach is a common fish in Tajikistan where it is present up to 4,500 metres altitude, but is of no commercial importance. The typical annual fish catch is over 200 tonnes.

The state-owned forestry and wooded land accounts for only 5 per cent of land area with forest cover estimated at over 400,000 hectares (ha). Most of the forests located between 1,000 and 3,000 metre altitude are protected. The main stock of the forests include coniferous and juniper species, which are not available for wood supply.

There are no large-scale primary forest industries and the relatively low per capita consumption of forest products is met mainly by imports from the Russian Federation.

Industry and manufacturing

Industry contributes around 24 per cent to GDP.

Industrial production experienced a significant decline throughout the 1990s. The industrial sector is dominated by some 300 large state-owned enterprises in areas such as heavy industry, transport and wholesale trading and is mainly built around inefficient, labour-intensive production.

Aluminium is Tajikistan's key industrial sector. The country has one of the world's

largest aluminium smelters, the state-owned Tadaz aluminium smelter, which has a capacity of 517,000 tonnes a year. Located at Tursunzade in western Tajikistan, the plant is a main source of revenue for the government.

Light industry accounts for around 45 per cent of the value of total industrial production. The main sectors are food processing (mainly dairy products, meat, fruit and cooking oil), tobacco, cotton cleaning, silk, textiles, knitted goods, footwear, tanning, carpet weaving and simple electronics.

Tourism

Tourist facilities are underdeveloped and travellers to Tajikistan, who may wish to experience outdoor activities such as mountain climbing, skiing and hiking, will have to either undertake the planning and logistics necessary themselves, or join programmed tours. Visitors to the cities can enjoy the culture of the Tajik people that dates back into antiquity, although the Saminid Empire (of the Middle Ages), a Sunni Islamic Persian state, is considered the first Tajik state.

Around 300,000–400,000 people visit per year, the majority of which are from neighbouring countries. The State Museum of Antiquities in Dushanbe has remarkable artefacts displaying Tajikistan as a trading centre and its role as a crossroads for cultures using the historic Silk Road.

Environment

The Aral Sea is drying up due to the overuse of water from the two main rivers which feed into it and has lost 40 per cent of its water, dropping by up to 19 metres. This has resulted in desertification of the surrounding land. A UN study published in 2004 reported that there was no possibility of restoring the water and the need must be on preserving what is left.

The government has endorsed a 2004 joint strategy to resolve the demands of its water requirements with its neighbours. Hundreds of thousands of people endured the worst winter since the 1960s without heat, electricity or running water before an appeal was made to the UN for aid in 2008. As the first winter snows fell and temperatures dropped to -20 Celsius people began to overload the power system in an attempt to keep warm, while rivers in the mountains that fed the hydroelectric power stations froze and cut off supplies; domestic pipes froze and left millions without drinking water. The UN issued an appeal for US\$25 million.

A meeting was held in April 2009 to determine water sharing between Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan failed, as negotiators were unable to find a trade in water for energy

and hydrocarbons. Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan hold around 80 per cent of the water in the Aral Sea but suffer from lack of electricity during freezing winters, while the remaining three states downstream are semi-arid and need water for their cotton industries and agriculture.

Mining

Tajikistan has an established history of mineral production. In the Soviet era, the country used to mine and process uranium amounting to around 500,000 tonnes per year of ore, but with demand falling in the post-Soviet era, uranium production ceased in the 1990s.

Tajikistan holds around 500,000 tonnes of antimony reserves, 6.2 million tonnes of mercury, 60,000 tonnes of silver and 150 tonnes of gold. Lack of modern equipment and techniques means that some resources are not exploited to full capacity. Antimony, bismuth and mercury have been mined, but most deposits are depleted and the mines closing down. Despite large silver reserves, only around one tonne of silver is produced every year. There are significant deposits of world-class marble; also uranium, radium, arsenic, bismuth, mica and small amounts of potassium salts, molybdenum, sulphur, boron, common salt, carbonates, fluorite, quartz sand, asbestos, lead and zinc. Deposits of semi-precious stones include lapis lazuli, rubies, amethyst and ornamental quartz.

Hydrocarbons

There are negligible proven oil reserves (of 12 million barrels in 2008) with production in 2006 of just 280 barrels per day (bpd). Consumption of petroleum products in 2008 was 36,000bpd of which the majority was imported from Uzbekistan (70 per cent of oil imports). In total, the CIS accounts for over 97 per cent of Tajikistan's oil needs. The state-owned national oil company, Tajikneftegaz, is responsible for all oil exploration, drilling and production. Proven natural gas reserves were 5.6 billion cubic metres (cum), with production at 28 million cum, however consumption in 2007 was 849 million cum with domestic needs met by imports mainly from Uzbekistan. TajikGas is responsible for distribution of natural and liquefied gas; imports and distribution of petroleum products are carried out by the state-owned Tajiknefteproduct. Gas is supplied via a pipeline running from Uzbekistan to Dushanbe, in exchange for use of a rail corridor by Uzbekistan and gas pipeline across northern Tajikistan. Tajikistan could have up to six billion tonnes of coal reserves, among of the largest coal deposits in Central Asia, but these are not yet proven. There are six

large coal fields, with that at Fan Yagnob estimated to contain two billion tonnes of reserves. Mostly brown coal is mined in Yagnob and Myonadu, with coking coal at Nazarailok in the Karateginsk Valley in the east.

Energy

Total installed generating capacity was 4.42 gigawatts (GW) in 2006, of which 90 per cent was produced by hydropower; 40 per cent is consumed by the aluminium industry.

Tajikistan is a mountainous country with the potential to produce vast quantities of hydro-electricity. The potential is 300 billion kilowatt hours (kWh), whereas current production is 16.5 billion kWh. However, as one of the poorest countries in central Asia it requires foreign investment to develop its resources. Russia and Iran assisted in the construction of a 670MW Sangtuda-1 hydroelectric power station on the Vakhsh River. There are plans for two more, larger, power stations. Barqi Tojik is the state-owned joint stock company with responsibility for production, transport and distribution of electricity. Energy generation is extremely variable from year to year, depending on the level of rainfall, especially in the winter period. There are two separate electrical networks, the northern grid in the Leninabad region and the southern grid, both linked to Uzbekistan. Both grids are destined to be linked following further investment.

Financial markets

Stock exchange

The Tajik commodity exchange was inaugurated in March 1996.

Banking and insurance

The banking sector remains extremely weak, with the five largest banks (which account for 85 per cent of total commercial bank credit and 90 per cent of deposits) handicapped by substantial non-performing loans. A law on Banks and Banking Activity in May 1998 introduced regulations which are close to international standards.

The restructuring of Agroinvestbank, the largest commercial bank, was completed in March 2004.

Central bank

National Bank of Tajikistan

Time

GMT plus five hours

Geography

Tajikistan is situated in the south-east of Central Asia. To the south of Tajikistan lies Afghanistan, Uzbekistan to the north and west, the People's Republic of China to the east and Kyrgyzstan to the north-east.

The terrain is almost entirely mountainous with more than one-half of the country above 3,000 metres. The main mountain ranges are the western Tian Shan in the north, the southern Tian Shan in the central region and the Pamirs in the south-east. The northern Pamirs are the highest mountains of Tajikistan, and of the former Soviet Union – Lenin Peak 7,134 metres and Ismail Samani Peak (formerly Communism Peak) 7,495 metres. There is a dense river network.

Hemisphere

Northern

Climate

Extreme continental; temperatures range between minus 20 degrees Celsius (C) and 0 degrees C in January, and from 0 degrees C to 30 degrees C in June, depending on altitude. From minus 5 degrees C to 35 degrees C in foothills, valleys and Dushanbe; sub-zero temperatures in the Pamir mountains. Rainfall between 150 and 250mm per annum.

Dress codes

Not overly formal but modest, particularly outside Dushanbe.

Entry requirements

Passports

Required by all, valid for at least six months after date of departure.

Visa

Required by all, except nationals of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Visas may be obtained at Dushanbe airport by air travellers, but land travellers must obtain their visas in advance from the nearest Tajik embassies. All applications must be supported by a letter of invitation endorsed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (For details, see www.traveltajikistan.com/visas).

A business visa requires, in addition to a letter of invitation from a local company or organisation, a business letter undertaking full financial responsibility for expenses incurred by the representative and a full itinerary.

Visitors must obtain special permission to visit Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous region.

Currency advice/regulations

There are no restrictions on the import of local and foreign currencies, but it must be declared on arrival. Export of local currency is prohibited. Foreign currency can be exported up to the amount declared on arrival.

Travellers cheques are not generally accepted. Tajikistan is a cash-only economy, although carrying large amounts of cash can be dangerous. US dollars are widely accepted.

Customs

Most personal effects may be imported duty-free, subject to declaration on arrival.

Health (for visitors)

A reciprocal health agreement for urgent medical treatment exists with the United Kingdom. Proof of UK residence will be required. Standards of healthcare are significantly below Western levels. Although emergency treatment can be very expensive, doctors and hospitals often expect immediate cash payment. Uninsured visitors requiring urgent medical evacuation may face extreme difficulties. Comprehensive travel and medical insurance, including evacuation by air ambulance, is essential.

Mandatory precautions

Vaccination certificates are required for yellow fever if travelling from an infected area. Visitors staying for longer than 90 days may be submitted to an Aids test, which carries the possibility of infection with HIV or other pathogens, given the lack of medical supplies in Tajikistan.

Advisable precautions

Water precautions are recommended: water purification tablets may be useful, or drink bottled water. The risk of water-borne diseases, including cholera, is high.

It is advisable to be in date for the following immunisations: polio and tetanus (both within 10 years), typhoid, hepatitis A, and tuberculosis. Anti-malarial precautions are also advisable. There has been a significant increase in the number of cases of diphtheria and professional advice should be sought to determine a suitable precaution.

Any medicines required should be taken by the visitor, and it would be wise to have precautionary antibiotics if going outside major urban centres. A travel kit including a disposable syringe is a reasonable precaution.

Hotels

Visitors are advised to use well-known travel operators with established contacts in Tajikistan. There is a lack of adequate hotel accommodation and there are very few hotels outside the two main towns, Dushanbe and Khodzhtent.

Credit cards

Credit cards are not generally accepted.

Public holidays (national)

The Islamic year contains 354 or 355 days, with the result that Muslim feasts advance by 10–12 days against the Gregorian calendar. Dates of feasts vary according to the sighting of the new moon, so cannot be forecast exactly. Tajikistan uses the Persian calendar, which differs from the Gregorian

calendar: there are 31 days in each of the first six months of the Persian calendar, 30 days in each of the next five months and 29 days in the last month, except in leap year when it has 30 days.

Fixed dates

1 Jan (New Year's Day), 8 Mar (Women's Day), 20–22 Mar (Navruz/Persian New Year), 1 May (Labour Day), 9 May (Victory Day), 9 Sep (Independence Day), 6 Nov (Constitution Day), 9 Nov (National Reconciliation Day).

Variable dates

Eid al Adha, Eid al Fitr.

Working hours

Banking

Mon–Fri: 0800–1700.

Business

Mon–Fri: approximately 0900–1800 (appointments are best made in the morning).

Shops

No formal hours, but generally within 0800–2100.

Telecommunications

Mobile/cell phones

Limited 900/1800 GSM services exist particularly around Dushanbe.

Electricity supply

220V AC

Social customs/useful tips

The increasing influence of Islam is widely evident, particularly in rural areas. The Islamic faith can be traced back to the seventh century in Tajikistan and although religious activity was banned during the Soviet era it has begun to play a more important role in everyday life since the late 1980s. Closer links with Iran (Iranian television is beamed into Tajikistan) have been established since independence, although alcohol (generally vodka) is still freely available and consumed. Gratuities are becoming more customary, particularly in international hotels.

'Dushanbe' – Tajik for Monday – is named after the day when, for centuries, merchants have gathered at Dushanbe's famous oriental bazaar.

Security

The prevalence of light weapons and local warlords throughout the country mean that care should be taken at all times. Visitors should avoid demonstrations, crowds, or congregations of military personnel.

Visitors may have their movements, hotel rooms and correspondence (including telephone and fax) monitored by security personnel. Taking photographs of military or otherwise strategically significant installations is not advised. There are periodic nightly curfews. Travel alone or on foot after dark is highly inadvisable. Car hire

with a driver is advised rather than the use of public transport. Visitors are reminded to be vigilant and to dress down.

Getting there

Air

National airline: Tajikistan Airlines

International airport/s: Dushanbe (DYU), 3km south of city; restaurant, post office, chemist and left luggage.

There are bus services (nos 3 and 12), hours 0600–1800, and train services (lines 3 and 4), hours 0600–1900, between the airport and city centre, with a journey time of 20 minutes. Taxis operate between 0800–2000, journey time five minutes; as they are not metered the fare should be agreed in advance.

Airport tax: None.

Surface

There are border crossings with neighbouring countries, but not all of them may be open. It is advisable to check in advance.

Road: There are a few primary roads; secondary roads, particularly in mountain areas, are of poor quality. An all-weather road connects the capital Dushanbe to the Samarkand railhead (in Uzbekistan) to the north-west. Vehicles with Tajik licence plates may be refused entry into Uzbekistan.

On 26 August 2007, a bridge was opened across the Pyanj River, build by the US army (at a cost of US\$37 million), linking the Tajik town of Nizhny Pyanj with Shir Khan Bandar in Afghanistan and extended the trans-Afghanistan road (Regional Road Corridor Improvement Project) through Central Asia.

The Regional Road Corridor Improvement Project, estimated at US\$18 billion, to improve Central Asian roads, airports, railway lines and seaports and provide a vital transit route between Europe and Asia was agreed, on 3 November 2007. Six new transit corridors, between Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, of mainly roads and rail links, will be constructed, or existing resources upgraded, by 2013. Half the costs will be provided by the Asian Development Bank and other multilateral organisations and the other half by participating countries.

Rail: Tajikistan is linked to the rail network of the former Soviet republics, with the main line running south from Dushanbe to the Uzbekistan border town of Termez and on to Samarkand, Tashkent and the Black Sea. A line running from Andizhan to Samarkand, both in Uzbekistan, cuts through the northern tip of Tajikistan.

Getting about

National transport

Air: There are flights between Dushanbe and Khorog, Khojand and Kulyab, but

take-off is dependent on weather conditions and fuel availability.

Road: The road network is generally in a poor condition. Roads are often closed due to weather conditions. Road travel, especially in the east, can be impeded by checkpoints, from which soldiers or other armed groups may shoot if vehicles do not stop. Travel by road should only be undertaken during daylight hours, with the appropriate vehicle and with the utmost precautions.

Buses: Buses run between the main centres when weather conditions permit.

Rail: The railway system is not well-developed, with only around 500km of rail track. The north and south of the country are not linked by rail, because of the mountainous terrain. Passengers are advised to safeguard their possessions.

City transport

Taxis: Taxis can be found at prominent places in the cities. They can also be hailed in the street. It is advisable to use only officially-licensed taxis. As they are not metered, the fare should be agreed in advance. Before setting off, the passenger should be satisfied that the driver is clear about the destination.

Minibus taxis (*marshrutkas*) travel on fixed routes and stop on request, but they can be over-crowded.

Car hire

There are no international car hire companies operating in Tajikistan.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The addresses listed below are a selection only. While World of Information makes every endeavour to check these addresses, we cannot guarantee that changes have not been made, especially to telephone numbers and area codes. We would welcome any corrections.

Telephone area codes

The international direct dialling (IDD) code for Tajikistan is +992, followed by area code and subscriber's number:
Dushanbe 372

Useful telephone numbers

Police: 02
Fire: 01
Ambulance: 03

Chambers of Commerce

Tajikistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 21 Mazayeva Street, 734012 Dushanbe (tel: 279-519; fax: 211-480).

Banking

Agroinvestbank, Prospekt S Sherozi 21, Dushanbe (tel: 210-385; fax: 211-206).

Orientalbank, 95/1 Rudaki Ave, Dushanbe (tel: 210-920; fax: 211-662).

Tajikbankbusiness (commercial bank), 29 Shotemur Street, 734025 Dushanbe (tel/fax: 210-634).

Tajikvnesheconombank (Tajikistan Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs), Dushanbe (tel: 233-571, 225-952).

Central bank

National Bank of Tajikistan, Prospekt Rudaki 107A, 734003 Dushanbe (tel: 600-3227; fax: 600-3235; e-mail: info@natbank.tajnet.com).

Stock exchange

The Tajik commodity exchange was inaugurated in March 1996.

Travel information

Tajikistan Airlines, Titova Street 32/1, 734006 Dushanbe (tel: 212-247; fax: 510-041; e-mail: mop_gart@tajnet.com).

Tajikistan Republican Council of Tourism and Excursions, Sherozi Avenue 11, 734018 Dushanbe (tel: 332-770; fax: 334-420).

Travel Tajikistan, Proletarskaya 5/11, 734000 Dushanbe (tel: 247-673; fax: 217-184; e-mail: info@traveltajikistan.com).

National tourist organisation offices

National Tourism Company SAYOH, Pushkin Street 14, 734095 Dushanbe (tel: 234—233; fax: 217-184)

Ministries

Council of Ministers, Prospekt Rudaki 48, 734025 Dushanbe (tel: 232-903; fax: 228-120).

EU Co-ordinating Unit, c/o Ministry of External Economic Relations, Prospekt

Rudaki 42, Dushanbe (tel: 222-403, 227-077; fax: 228-120).

Ministry of Agriculture, 46 Rudaki Ave, Dushanbe 734051 (tel: 276-249).

Ministry of Communications, 57 Rudaki Ave, 734025 Dushanbe (tel: 232-284; fax: 212-953; International Relations Department (tel: 216-010; fax: 510-277).

Ministry of Construction, 36 Kirova Street, Dushanbe 734025 (tel: 226-143).

Ministry of Economy and External Economic Affairs, 42 Rudaki Ave, 734025 Dushanbe (tel: 232-944).

Ministry of Finance, Prospekt Kuibysheva 3, 734025 Dushanbe (tel: 273-941; fax: 213-329).

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 40 Rudaki Ave, 734051 Dushanbe (tel: 221-560, 232-971; fax: 227-051).

Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, 42 Rudaki Ave, Dushanbe (tel: 232-971; fax: 232-964).

Ministry of Grain Products, 42 Rudaki Ave, Dushanbe 734051 (tel: 276-131).

Ministry of Industrial Affairs, 80 Rudaki Avenue, Dushanbe 734023 (tel: 232-249, 231-845; fax: 232-381).

Ministry of Information, Ulitsa Negmata Karabaeva 17, 734018 Dushanbe (tel: 335-851).

Ministry of Justice, 25 Rudaki Ave, 734025 Dushanbe (tel: 214-405; fax: 218-066).

Ministry of Trade and Material Resources, 37 Bokhtar Street, Dushanbe 734002 (tel: 273-434).

Prime Minister's Office, 80 Rudaki Ave, 734023 Dushanbe (tel: 211-871; fax: 215-110).

Other useful addresses

British Embassy, Gulyamov Street 67, Tashkent 700000, Uzbekistan (accredited to Tajikistan) (tel: (+998 71) 120-7852; fax: (+998 71) 120-6549).

State Statistical Committee (SSC), 17 Bokhtar Street, Dushanbe 734025 (tel: 276-882; fax: 275-408).

Tajikistan Embassy (USA), 1005 New Hampshire Avenue, Washington DC 20037 (tel: (+1-202) 223-6090; fax: (+1-202) 223-6091; e-mail: tajikistan@verizon.net).

Tajikistan (TDA) Office, c/o Tajik Bank Business, 23/2 Rudaki Avenue, 734620 Dushanbe (tel: 233-512; fax: 224-844).

Tajikvneshtorg (foreign trade organisation), Prospekt Lenina 41, 734051 Dushanbe (tel: 232-903; fax: 228-120).

National news agency: Khovar (in Russian) (www.khovar.tj).

Other news agencies: Avesta news agency (www.avesta.tj/en).

Internet sites

Tajikistan Privatisation Agency: <http://privatization.tajikistan.com>

Tajikistan Resource Page: <http://www.eurasianet.org/resource/tajikistan/index.shtml>

National Tourism Company: <http://www.tajiktour.tajnet.com>