



# Investment Guide



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#### Vision:

The Board of Investment in Kurdistan, in cooperation with governmental bodies and the concerned establishments, encourages local and foreign investment to reach economic growth and development.

#### Mission:

Working to create investment opportunities and make necessary facilities for investors on the one hand and trying to reconstruct Iraq through Kurdistan due to having clear legal procedures on the other.



#### Kurdistan Region Map



## Introduction:

**Investment Board** is independent and has its own structure. It tries to create suitable environment for the investments whose arrangement and developments in the Iraqi Kurdistan are under its responsibility.

The **Board** has issued this guide to be and exemplary guide for investment in the Region. It guides both local and foreign investors along with containing a brief on investment environment in the Region as per diverse economic sectors. Furthermore, it clarifies the ways for benefiting from Investment Law (No 4/2006)

Kurdistan Region is rich in abundant natural resources (**minerals, petrol, water resources, fertile land, human resources**). The Region has suitable weather for agriculture in different seasons.

The Kurdistan Regional Government, through Kurdistan people, has been playing an essential role in creating national unity in the federal Iraq and establishing democracy foundations and supremacy of law. Also, it works for ensuring and making all necessary facilities to reach growth in all its fields in this Region.

Kurdish people are famous for hospitality, hardworking, development and growth.

## Basic Information on Kurdistan Region:

### Area:

The area of the Region is **80 000 Km<sup>2</sup>**, making up **18%** of the Iraq area.

### Population and Environmental Distribution:

The population of the region is **3,957,499** persons (**70%** in the urban area and the **rest** in rural area)

### Topography:

The Region is characterized by different topographic elevations such as mountains, plains, valleys and plateau





which create suitable environment for agricultural and tourism investments.

#### **Natural Resources:**

The Region is rich in abundant water resources (**rivers, lakes, ground water, springs, rain water**) along with wide natural forestry areas spread on the foots of mountains as well as animal and fishery wealth.

#### **Petrol and Mineral Resources:**

The Region is rich in great petrol resources, natural gas (**under extraction**) and coal along with raw materials for some important minerals (**iron and copper**) which are yet to be invested.

#### **Communication:**

In the Region, there are advanced wired and wireless communication services along with great landline network. Also, there are 3 mobile networks with other wireless networks.



#### **Kurdistan Region Governorates**

##### **Main Cities:**

**Kurdistan Region is composed of 3 governorates:**

**1- Erbil:** Kurdistan Region capital.

**2- Sulaimaniyah.**

**3- Duhok.**





### Erbil Governorate:

The center is Erbil city and it is the capital of the Kurdistan Region. It is the most ancient city and it is bordered with wide plains in the east. Its population is **1,431,580** persons with Kurds making up 93% along with Turkmen and Kido-Assyrians.

The governorate area is **14,471km<sup>2</sup>**. Erbil city is famous for its archeological citadel whose date goes back to more than **6000** years B.C. Due to its oldness; UNESCO has put this citadel as one of the world's 100 edifices.



The weather is hot and dry in the summer and cold and rainy in the winter with a very attractive spring season.

Agriculture and animal breeding are considered main economic activities in the governorate along with different factories, industries and crafts. Due to good security and stability in the Region, tourism activities are tremendously on the increase.





## Sulaymaniyah Governorate:

The center is Sulaymaniyah city and it was established in the end of 18<sup>th</sup> century. Its population is **1,613,397** persons. The governorate area is **13,368 km<sup>2</sup>**. It is above **890m** sea level.

Sulaimaniyah is a mountainous area. The weather is cold and snowfall in the winter and nice in the summer. Previously known as "Zamwa" in the Akad era, Shahrazoor is considered the most fertile plain in the governorate.

Agriculture and animal breeding are considered main economic activities in



the governorate along with wide commerce activities and tourism.

Sulaimaniyah is proud of producing great Kurdish poets and writers (**Nali, Piramerd, Bekas**). In the fifties of the last century, there, two big dams (**Dokan, Darbandikhan**) were constructed which are also considered as tourism sites.





## Duhok Governorate:

The center is Duhok city and it was established in **1887** at the time of Ottoman Caliphate. Its population is **912,522** persons with Kurds making up **95.7%** of the total population with the rest being Kildu-Assyrians. The governorate area is **10,715 km<sup>2</sup>**. It is above **583m** sea level.

The city is surrounded by mountains in all sides. To the north, there is a dam used for agricultural and tourism purposes and it is also the main source for drinking water. There are in the governorate different tourism locations such as Zaweta, Swaratuka, Sarsang, Solav and others. Also, there are archeological sites (Shindukha, Anishke) whose dates go back to Assyrian era.



## Sectors in Which Investment is Possible

### First: Agricultural Sector

- Irrigation and dam projects.
- Production of animal fodder (using local resources).
- Entering Agricultural Machinery.
- Poultry projects.
- Cow and calf breeding projects.
- Agro-industrial projects.
- Veterinary services like equipment and medicine production.



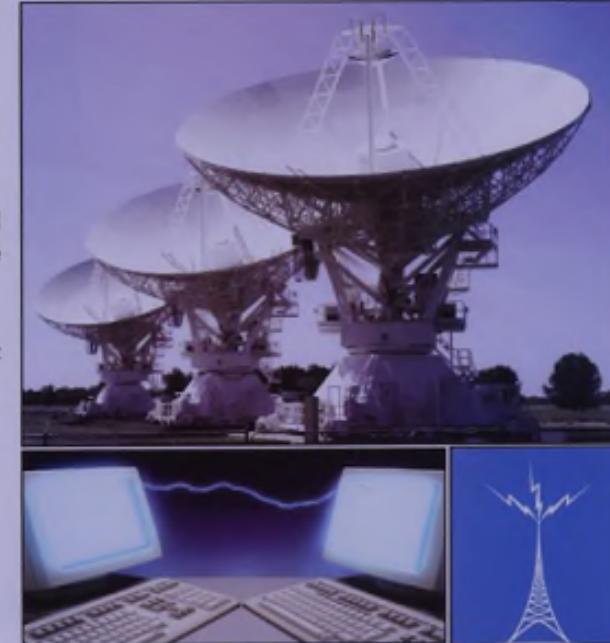


- Food processing factories (canning fruits and vegetables).
- Silos.
- Cold stores



## Second: Technology and Information Sector

- Intranet and Internet Systems.
- Telecommunication Systems (Cell Phone, Mobile, land line, Telephone Exchange).
- Electronic Bank System.
- Electronic Government (Electronic Administration).



### Third: Transportation Sector

- Establishing modern transportation companies with modern buses
- Improving and developing the existing airports in the Region ( Erbil- Sulaymaniyah)
- Terminals
- Bridges
- Establishing internal and external railway.
- High ways among cities



### Forth: Hotels and Tourism Sector

- Hotel and restaurant services.
- Amusement cities and recreational centers.
- Trading Centers.
- Cultural centers.
- Summer and winter tourism cities and camps.





## Fifth: Industrial Sector

Extracting natural resources to be used in the infrastructure industry (cement, health tools, asphalt, marble, pipes, water...etc)

- Air conditioning systems.
- Food products (beverage gas, diaries, biscuits,...etc).
- Factories for pre-cast concrete buildings.
- Establishing and improving power production and distribution network.



## Sixth: Buildings and Housing Services Sector

- Need vertical expansion instead of the existing horizontal one like apartments, motels...etc.
- Constructing schools, educational, institutions ....etc.



## Seventh: Electricity Sector

- High-power electricity lines.
- Distribution networks in the cities and districts.



## Eighth: Health, Environment and Municipality, Sector

- Constructing hospitals
- Producing drugs and medial needs
- Constructing special labs
- Project for treating sewerage water
- Projects for solid wastes treatment

Along with other sectors as mentioned in the Investment Law (No.4 /2006)



## Investment Constituents

Development and investment are achieved through creating a balanced strategy for ensuring local and internal needs for the Region with concentrating on external tendency by developing the economic activities which can be exported to make development balance between external requests and optimal exploitation for economic resources.

To create and encourage investment environment in the Region, remove the legal obstacles and find opportunities for investing national, Arabic and foreign capitals, individually and collectively, in the investment projects contributing to economic growth, make facilities, provide

incentives and ensure tax exemption, a very encouraging law has been issued with special governmental **Board** for arranging diverse areas for investment in the Region.





## Why Do We Invest in Kurdistan?

The Regional Government considers direct investment (**national, Arabic, foreign**) an essential factor for achieving advancement and growth. It welcomes all international and commercial investors' inquiries.

In the Region, due to good stability and security, there are valuable and numeral opportunities for investment. As mentioned before, Kurdistan is rich in natural resources according to the economists, guests and politicians visiting the Region.

On the other hand, local and foreign investment and per capita income have rapidly and noticeably increased.

In the Region, there are **5** universities and **10** technical institutions in which approximately **33,265** students (male and female) are studying along with **2,700** schools for different education stages.



## What Assistance Does Kurdistan Offer for Investors?

Kurdistan is famous for diverse natural resources which are not exploited yet. Also, there are specialist and skilful human resources along with cheap manpower compared to neighboring countries.

Kurdistan is considered as a link among Turkey, Iran, Syria and Iraq. Economically, it is a large consumption market for different local and imported goods.





## Investment Characteristics in Kurdistan

- Abundant natural resources, broad fertile land and tourism sites.
- Multi cross-border points with two international airports in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah for commercial exchanges.
- Availability of large number of experts (engineering, economy, industry, health) on whose capacities we can depend along with sufficient number of university teachers.
- Large ratio of population of working

years (%48) on whom we can depend in implementing investment projects.

- Good security in the Region.
- Issuance of helpful and encouraging investment law.



## Investment Law in Kurdistan

Law No. 4 for the year 2006

### Investment Board in Kurdistan

1. Independent administratively and financially.
2. It has a chairman at minister rank.
3. The Board is composed of the following departments:
  1. Studies and Information.
  2. Promotion, Assessment and Licensing of Projects.
  3. Legal, Administrative and Financial Affairs.
  4. Industrial Cities and Zones.





## Treatment of Foreign Investors

- Both local and foreign investors fare treated on equal footing
- Foreign investors have rights for ownership of the project implemented in the Region
- Foreign investors have rights for transferring project profits and interests of his capital abroad as per investment law.
- A foreign Investor shall be entitled to send his capital back abroad upon winding up or disposal of the Project, without prejudice to applicable laws and regulations regarding taxes and customs.
- Foreign investors have rights for insuring their projects.

## Investment Sectors in the Region

1. Manufacturing industries, electric power and related services.
2. Agriculture, both crop growing farms and animal farms, forestry and related services.
3. Hotels, tourist and recreational projects, funfairs, and amusement parks.
4. Health and environment.
5. Science and technology research, and information technology.
6. Modern communication and transport.
7. Banks, insurance companies, and other



## Facilities, Exemptions and Privileges Contained in the Investment Law:

1. Allocation the plots of land for investment projects inside or outside within the initial layout through leasing or usufruct at promotional price.
2. Owning strategic project lands at promotional price at the suggestion of the **Board** and with **Investment Supreme Council** approval.
3. Exemption of the project from all non-custom, taxes and duties for 10 years.
4. Exemption of all tools, equipment and



machines imported for the project from taxes and duties providing obtaining importing license.

5. Exemption of spare parts imported for the project from taxes and duties.
6. Exemption of raw materials imported for the project from custom duties for 5 years.
7. Exemption of all projects needs (machines, tools) from custom duties.
8. Additional exemptions



### Additional Facilities:

The **Board** will make additional facilities in the following investment projects:

1. Projects set up in under-developed areas in the Region.
2. Joint investment projects set up by national and foreign Investors.
3. Service investment projects especially hotels, hospitals, tourist resorts, universities and schools.

### Legal Guarantees:

- The investor can insure the project at foreign or national insurance companies.
- The investor can use local or foreign manpower.
- Non-Iraqi members of staff can transfer their dues and wages abroad.
- The investor can transfer his investment, totally or partially, to another foreign or local investor or may assign the project to his project partner with the approval of the Board.
- Investors can open bank accounts in



national or foreign currency or both, with banks located inside or outside the **Region**.

- The **Board** is bound to keep technical and economic information of the project confidential



You can get full text of **Investment Law** in the 3 languages (Arabic, English, Kurdish) at:

[www.krg.org](http://www.krg.org)

or

[www.kurdistaninvestment.org](http://www.kurdistaninvestment.org)

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### General Information

Please visit our site:

[www.kurdistaninvestment.org](http://www.kurdistaninvestment.org) for:

1-Filling in request form (basic information, project license)

2-To know the needs for registering companies (local, international)

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### Main Hospitals-Erbil

Rizgari : 424 beds

Educational: 329 beds

Emergency(local): 55 beds

Maternity: 260 beds

Rapareen: 329 beds

Emergency (int'l): 105 beds

Nanakali: 36 beds

### Main Hospitals-Sulaimaniyah

General: 200 beds

Educational: 200 beds

Emergency (local): 200 beds

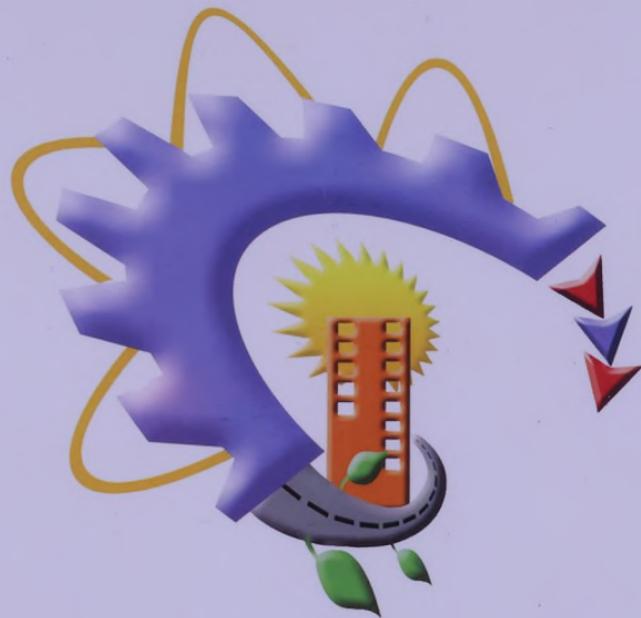
Maternity: 150 beds

Chwarbagh: 100 beds

Shorish: 200 beds







دەستەی وەبەرھەيىنان  
ھيئەتە لەاستەمار  
Board of Investment