**Kyrgyz Republic** Kirgisistans flagga

The country, also referred to as Kyrgyzstan, is the second poorest country in former Soviet Union, and has witnessed several clashes between ethnic groups, riots, rebellion regions and even border skirmishes with Uzbekistan, since the independence 1991. In 2010 turbulence, unrest and even riots with blood-sheds broke out in April when President Kurmanbek Bakiyev was ousted. Circumstances were more peaceful during the “Tulip Revolution” back in 2005, when the then residing President Askar Akayev was forced to go in exile, after a massive rising against fraudulent elections.

There are large ethnic and religious tensions in the country and they are aggravated by widespread poverty. The residing President, Alamazbek Atambayev (since October 2011) has not managed to unite the different groups and parts of the country, and to install a strong and trusted central government. Lately there has been renewed unrest in the south of the country, where there are large groups and communities of Uzbek population.

Kyrgyz Republic is very mountainous and only 8 % of the area is arable. The country is to a large extent dependent on foreign aid, support loans from IMF and the fairly large inflow of remittances from Kyrgyz people living abroad, mainly in Russia and Kazakhstan. Lately also China made commitments to support the economy by investments into infrastructure. The dependence on foreign aid and support as well as remittances will remain.

Key facts (Sources: IMF, ADB, The Economist, Business Monitor Int´l, National Bank of Kyrgyz Republic)

2014 2015e 2016f 2017f

Population (mn) 5,8 5,9 6,0 6,1

GDP (nom.; USD, bn) 7,7 7,2 7,8 8,6

GDP-growth, real (%, y-o-y) +4,1 +3,9 +3,9 +3

GDP/capita (USD) 1.376 1.253 1.344 1.450

Budget balance (% of GDP) -3,4 -3,0 -2,5 -2,0

Inflation (CPI; e-o-p, %) 10,0 11,0 9,0 7

Export (USD, bn) 2,1 2,3 2,5 2,6

Import (USD, bn) 5,5 5,7 5,9 6,2

Balance of trade (USD, bn) -3,4 -3,4 -3,4 -3,6

Current account (USD, bn) -1,6 -1,6 -1,6 -1,7

Current account (% of GDP) -20,5 -22,0 -20,8 -20

Foreign reserves (USD, bn) 2,0 2,0 2,1 2,2

Total external debt (USD, bn) 7,3 8,1 8,5 9,2

Total external debt (% of GDP) 95,6 111,9 109,7 107

Exchange rate (KGS/USD) 58,89 69,00 71,00 73