



Doing Business in the Kurdistan Region in Iraq

DIRECT INVESTMENT IN THE KURDISTAN REGION

For **investment** enquires please contact the Kurdistan Investment Board

<http://www.kurdistaninvestment.org/>

Postal address:

Headquarters

Erbil City, In front of the Council of Ministers Building, 30 metre Street

Telephone: +964 (0)66 2531559 / 253 5010

Email: info@kurdistaninvestment.org

Suleimaniah Branch

Suleimaniah City- Hammdi Street, Kani Askan District

Telephone : +964 (0)53 312 39 07 / 312 3918

Email: suli@kurdistaninvestment.org

Dohuk Branch

Dohuk City- 1st Shubat Street

Telephone : +964 (0)62 7627175 / 7627 013

Email: duhok@kurdistaninvestment.org

The **New Investment Law** is explained and can be downloaded online from

<http://www.krg.org/articles/detail.asp?lngnr=12&smap=03010800&nr=145&nr=18620>

The Kurdistan Region: Invest in the Future is a publication produced by the KRG in February 2008 that gives an overview of investment opportunities in many sectors. The PDF version can be viewed and downloaded from this link:

http://www.krg.org/uploads/documents/Invest_in_the_Future_2008.pdf

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

ERBIL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

President: Mr Dara Jalil Khayat

Members as of end 2006:

Number of businessmen 12,907

Number of businessmen working in the field of Industry and manufacturing 1,055

Number of companies registered 1,230.

Website: www.erbilchamber.org
Email: erbilchamberofcommerce@yahoo.com
Tel: +964 (0)66 2222014, +964 (0)66 2222162, +964 (0)66 2230671
Visiting address: Aras Street, Chamber of commerce BLDG., Erbil, Kurdistan Region, Iraq

SULEIMANIAH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chairman: Mr Hassan Baqi Hawrami
Members as of end 2006: 30,544

Website: www.sulcci.com
Email: info@sulcci.com ; sulaimanychamber@yahoo.com ; info@sule-chamber.org
Tel: +964 (0)53 312 3293 / 3772 / 6845
Fax: +964 (0)52 312 6985
Visiting address: Sulaimany Salim St, Opp. Sulaimany Museum, SCC Building, Kurdistan Region, Iraq

DOHUK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

President: Mr Ayad H. Abdul Halim
Mr Abdulsalam Salih al-Doski - Adviser, Tel: +964 (0)62 722 1647
Mr Mustafa Ramazan Ahmed - Manager, Tel: +964 (0)62 722 4633

Website: www.duhokchamber.org
Email: duhok_traderoom@yahoo.com ; sulavcompany@yahoo.com
Alternative email: abdulhalim_h@yahoo.com
Tel: +964 (0)750 471 7827

CONTRACTORS UNION

The Kurdistan Contractors Union represents local contracting companies.
President: Mr Ahmad Aziz Rekani
Tel: +964 (0)7701 433333 / (0)7701435822 / (0)750 112 6969
Email: balendaran@yahoo.com

TRADE ENQUIRIES AND COMPANY REGISTRATION

For trade enquires please contact the Ministry of Trade: <http://www.kurdistanmot.com/en/mail.php>

TRADE MISSIONS TO THE KURDISTAN REGION

The KRG welcomes inward trade or investment missions. Companies and trade associations with can contact the KRG for advice on visiting the Region and exploring business opportunities:

The KRG Department of Foreign Relations, Erbil: dfr@krg.org

KRG Representation to the UK, London: uk@krg.org

KRG Representation to the US, Washington DC: us@krg.org

The KRG regularly welcomes and assists inward business delegations from many countries, including Italy, Japan and the Czech Republic. Please contact your country's trade ministry or trade associations to enquire about their missions to the Kurdistan Region.

The US Department of Commerce Iraq Investment and Reconstruction Task Force (IIRTF), and the Middle East Association, a leading British trade association, have organised and led trade

missions to the Kurdistan Region. Please contact the IIRTF or the MEA if you would like to know more about participating in one of their missions and their criteria or conditions for participants: <http://trade.gov/iraq/>

<http://www.the-mea.co.uk/>

TRAVEL AND VISAS

For information on flights to the Kurdistan Region please see:

<http://www.krg.org/articles/detail.asp?rnr=154&lngnr=12&smap=03017500&anr=11535>

For general information about the Kurdistan Region in Iraq please visit the Kurdistan Regional Government website, <http://www.krg.org/>

For tourism information please see the official Kurdistan Tourism website,

<http://www.tourismkurdistan.com/>

For visa information, please contact your nearest Iraqi embassy, or email the KRG at dfr@krg.org uk@krg.org or us@krg.org

HOW TO SET UP A COMPANY OR BRANCH IN THE KURDISTAN REGION IN IRAQ

NOTE: IT IS STRONGLY ADVISED TO SEEK APPROPRIATE LOCAL LEGAL ADVICE

The new investment law allows foreigners to own or hold stakes in companies in the Kurdistan Region in Iraq. It is currently necessary for all shareholders to be resident in Kurdistan and hold a residents' permit, but this is expected to change soon.

Foreign companies wishing to register a branch in the Kurdistan Region

Most of the procedures outlined below can be undertaken by a local lawyer and accountant. To find a local lawyer please contact the Kurdistan Lawyers Syndicate:

Mr Sirwan Allaf: sirwan_lawyer@yahoo.com

Mr Kaka Rash Nakshbandi: kba_1993@yahoo.com

The following documents and forms can be provided in either English, Kurdish or Arabic.

1. Certified copy of company's registered name.
2. Company registration certificate, authorised by the company's country of origin, and certified by the nearest Iraqi embassy or official KRG representation abroad.
3. Letter from the main company, on company letterhead, authorising the opening of a branch office in Kurdistan. This letter should identify the branch office's lawyer and accountant (both must be Iraqi), and the authorised branch manager (can be any nationality). At least three residents of the Kurdistan Region as company employees and their positions stated. This letter should also be certified by the nearest Iraqi embassy or an official KRG representation abroad.
4. Deposit of funds (exact amount depends on the type of company) to be held in escrow by the Kurdistan Regional Government during the period the company operates in the Kurdistan Region. The funds will be returned when the company leaves the Region.

5. A copy of the main company's financial statements covering the previous year.
6. A branch registration fee of 200,000 Iraqi Dinars.
7. Certified rental contract for the branch premises in the Kurdistan Region.
8. Certified copies of work contracts (if any) that the company has signed in the Kurdistan Region.
9. The completion of the Foreign Branch or Trade Office Registration Form at <http://www.br-iraq.com/English/formsandinstructs.htm> (please note the website is currently unavailable), to reserve and register the branch office.
10. Certified copies of the passports of foreign partners/employees, and ID cards of Iraqi employees.
11. Letter from an Iraqi lawyer affirming the validity and legality of all the above documents.
12. The KRG Ministry of Trade General (Company Registration Directorate) is responsible for company and branch registration, please see the trade ministry website <http://kurdistanmot.com/en/rmenu.php?t=16> for more details.

Requirements for opening a new company (not a branch office)

1. Minutes must be taken of an inaugural Board meeting held at the companies registered office in Kurdistan. A Managing Director and all members of the board must be appointed and minutes are signed by all shareholders (or their nominee).
2. Each shareholder needs to provide two passport photographs and a copy of his/her passport.
3. A Foundation Contract to be prepared by a lawyer registered in Kurdistan. This is compulsory. A local lawyer must subsequently be retained by the company.
4. Company name has to be registered at the relevant Chamber of Commerce in either Erbil, Dohuk or Suleimaniah.
5. Accounts have to be prepared and signed off by a local accountant who must be a member of the local Syndicate of Accountants.

To find a local lawyer please contact the Kurdistan Lawyers Syndicate:

Mr Sirwan Allaf: sirwan_lawyer@yahoo.com

Mr Kaka Rash Nakshbandi: kba_1993@yahoo.com

Approximate costs of establishing an office (as of January 2007)

Company registration fee: \$370

Legal/Solicitor fees: \$2,000 - 5,000 depending on size of company

Monthly legal retainer: \$ 500

Accountants fees (set-up): \$1,000

Monthly accounts thereafter: \$200

Office* \$2,500 – 3,500 per month

Car & Driver \$1,000 per month

Guards** \$400 per guard per month
Generator purchase cost \$7,000
Diesel and maintenance \$300 per month

Notes on office and staff costs

* Office space and housing are the same. There is still a great shortage in designated office space so it is normal to rent a house and turn it into an office with accommodation.

** Depending on the size of the company and the number of staff, it is advisable to employ four Guards to work in shifts (two on and two off).

An Office manager would expect a wage in the region of \$1,000-1,500 per month. If required a secretary/translator would earn approx \$700-1,000 per month according to age and experience. It is expected to provide lunch and other meals if necessary for staff, a food bill for two people would come to approximately \$150-200 per month.

TRADE SHOWS AND EXHIBITIONS IN THE KURDISTAN REGION

Erbil International Fair Company

The venue for Erbil's trade shows is Erbil International Fair Ground, which is inside Sami Abdulrahman Park and is managed by the Erbil International Fair Company. For the latest information on shows and exhibitions at this venue, please see:

<http://www.erbilfair.com/english/>

Tel.: 00964 66 255 44 55

Fax: 00964 66 255 44 33

email: info@erbilfair.com

ERBIL TRADE SHOWS AND EXHIBITIONS IN 2010

(Listed in chronological order)

4th Italian Expo for Industries and Technologies

12 – 15 June

Organiser: AXIS Fairs and Services SRL

Please see www.italianexpo.it

Tel. +39 035 781256

Fax +39 035 781292

email: info@italianexpo.it

Cosmetics Fair

27 – 30 June

Contact Erbil Fair for details, www.erbilfair.com

Erbil Trade Solo Exhibition for Construction & Municipalities and Erbil Stone

12 – 15 July

Organiser: Pyramids Group

Tel: +964 (0)66 2528629

Tel: +964 (0)750 445 1775

Fax: +964 (0)66 270 0464,

Email: info@pyramidsfair.com

www.pyramidsfair.com

Project Iraq

27 – 30 September

The 3rd International Trade Exhibition for Construction Technology, Building Materials and Equipment

Organiser: IFP Group

Please see www.ifpiraq.com

Tel : +964 66 256 76 34

Fax: +964 66 225 20 48

email: info@ifpiraq.com

IFP Erbil address:

Al Mashraq Street, Villa 2,

Hadiab

Ankawa, Erbil

6th Annual Erbil International Fair

18 – 21 October

Erbil's biggest and premier international trade show.

Organiser: IFP Group

Please see www.ifpiraq.com

Tel : +964 66 256 76 34

Fax: +964 66 225 20 48

email: info@ifpiraq.com

IFP Erbil address:

Al Mashraq Street, Villa 2,

Hadiab

Ankawa, Erbil

Hotel Equipment Fair

23 – 26 November

Contact Erbil Fair for details, www.erbilfair.com

Iraq Medicare Fair and Iraq Agro Food Fair

6 – 9 December

Serving the medical needs of Iraq

Organiser: IFP Group

Please see www.ifpiraq.com

Tel : +964 66 256 76 34

Fax: +964 66 225 20 48

email: info@ifpiraq.com

IFP Erbil address:

Al Mashraq Street, Villa 2,

Hadiab

Ankawa, Erbil

Construction Fair

27 – 30 December

Contact Erbil Fair for details, www.erbilfair.com

Erbil Health 2010

13 March 2010

Gavan Company

Contact Erbil Fair for details, www.erbilfair.com

SULEIMANIAH AND DOHUK TRADE SHOWS AND EXHIBITIONS IN 2010

Suleimaniah, one of Iraq's most populous cities and a thriving business centre near the Iranian border, holds trade shows every year. Dohuk is the main northern gateway to Iraq, less than two hours' drive from Turkey which the Kurdistan Region's busiest trading border.

DBX Kurdistan Expo Suleimaniah

11 – 14 November

Suleimaniah's premiere trade fair. The fourth annual international exhibition on rebuilding the Kurdistan Region and Iraq.

Organiser: Iraqi American Chamber of Commerce & Industry (IACCI).

Please see www.dbxkurdistan.com

Tel. +964 750 461 8082

Tel. +964 770 132 0150

Land line: +964 66 225 1959

email: dbx@iacci.info

DBX Kurdistan Expo Dohuk

1 – 4 August

Suleimaniah's premiere trade fair. The fourth annual international exhibition on rebuilding the Kurdistan Region and Iraq.

Organiser: Iraqi American Chamber of Commerce & Industry (IACCI).

Please see www.dbxkurdistan.com

Tel. +964 750 461 8082

Tel. +964 770 132 0150

Land line: +964 66 225 1959

email: dbx@iacci.info