



FUND MANAGEMENT IN KAZAKHSTAN

Astana
November 2024

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In the event of any discrepancies in the Kazakh and Russian translations with the text in English language, the latter takes precedence.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AFSA	Astana Financial Services Authority
AIFC	Astana International financial Centre
AIX	Astana International Exchange
ARDFM	Agency for Regulation and Development of Financial Market
AUM	Assets Under Management
BNS	Bureau of National Statistics of Kazakhstan
CIS	Collective Investment Scheme
ESMA	European Securities and Markets Authority
JSC	Joint Stock Company
KASE	Kazakhstan Stock Exchange
LSE	London Stock Exchange
MCI	Monthly Calculation Index
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAV	Net Asset Value
NBK	National Bank of Kazakhstan
NFRK	National Fund of Kazakhstan
SFO	Single Family Office
VC	Venture Capital
QIC	Qazaqstan Investment Corporation
UAPF	Unified Accumulative Pension Fund
UIF	Unit Investment Fund

CONTENT

- I EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
- II MACROECONOMIC OVERVIEW OF KAZAKHSTAN
- III KAZAKHSTAN FUNDS IN NUMBERS
- IV FUND FRAMEWORK

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Kazakhstan's securities market has grown significantly over the last years, with several major IPOs taking place in the country. Retail investors are becoming increasingly engaged with Kazakhstan's securities market due to the need to diversify their investments, improved access, and growing financial literacy.
- Bank deposits and real estate remain the main investment instruments for retail investors in Kazakhstan. In 2023, retail deposits amounted to \$35.6 billion or 13.4% of GDP.
- Despite the measures implemented on early withdrawals and transfers of pension assets to private fund management companies, the amount of pension assets under private fund managers supervision accounted for only 0.3% of total pension assets as of September 2024. Pension assets withdrawals mostly were directed towards housing and healthcare purposes.
- As of 1 July 2024, the total AUM of regulated funds in Kazakhstan amounted to \$1.8 billion, 56% and 44% of which comes from funds under the national and AIFC regulations, respectively.
- The total number of regulated funds in Kazakhstan more than doubled since 2020, reaching 135 by July 2024. Such an outcome is a result of the registration of new funds within the AIFC jurisdiction.
- The AIFC jurisdiction has also facilitated the diversification of fund types in the Kazakhstan market, offering a broad range of funds, including PE funds, hedge funds, venture capital funds, REITs, and other specialist funds such as commodity, credit, crypto, fixed income funds, and umbrella fund.
- PE and hedge funds, offered exclusively to professional clients, dominate Kazakhstan's market, accounting for 60% of both total AUM and number of regulated funds. As of 1 July 2024, cumulative AUM of such funds stood at \$1 billion.
- In contrast, the AUM of mutual funds available for retail investors represents only 10% of the total AUM of regulated funds in Kazakhstan, accounting for \$181 million. Despite the growth of total number of unitholders over the last years, the figure is still low with only over 10 000 individual unitholders as of 1

July 2024. These figures highlight the investment preferences of retail investors towards “classic” instruments such as deposits and real estate. Also, it illustrates underlying problems of retail investors such as income level, debt burden and availability of assets to invest. A shortage of “user-friendly” funds for retail investors, which are easy to navigate and invest to, also might be a contributing factor.

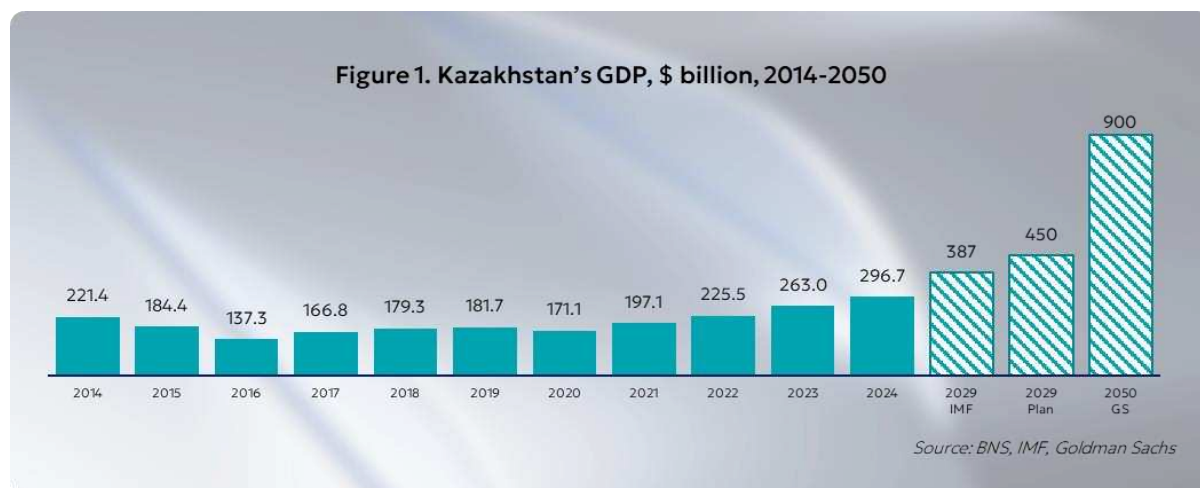
- The report also provides an overall comparison of the national and AIFC regulations of funds. Fund structures and legal forms, investment instruments, and capital requirements are among the main differences.
- The AIFC has had an important role in the development of investment funds in Kazakhstan. In addition to contributing to the growth of assets under management and the number of funds in the country, the AIFC jurisdiction offers new authorised firms an opportunity to enter the market. Independent fund managers established in the AIFC offer a diverse range of fund types and contribute to developing the fund industry in the country. It is expected that the AIFC participants will further scale up their activities in terms of client base, instruments and geography.



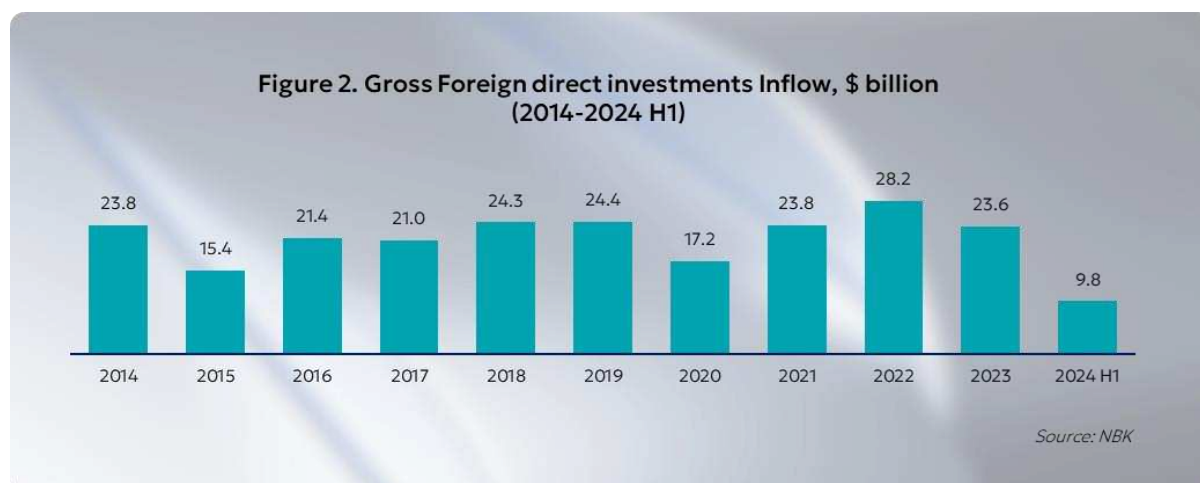
II. MACROECONOMIC OVERVIEW OF KAZAKHSTAN

2.1. KAZAKHSTAN'S GDP AND FDI

The economy of Kazakhstan is the largest in Central Asia and has been demonstrating stable growth. The country has also been providing favourable environment for attracting investment across various sectors. Compared to a \$263 billion GDP in 2023, Kazakhstan's economy is projected to reach \$387 billion by 2029 and \$900 billion by 2050, according to forecasts. Recently, Kazakhstan announced a target nominal GDP of \$450 billion in 2029.¹



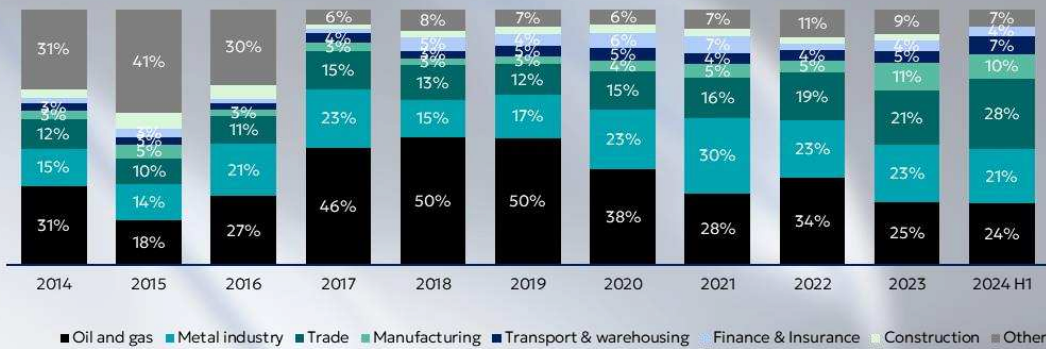
In 2023, gross FDI inflows totalled \$23.4 billion, marking a 17% decline compared to the previous year. As of 2024 H1, gross FDI inflows stood at \$9.8 billion, lower than the \$13.5 billion recorded in 2023 H1.



Notably, the oil and gas sector attracted nearly a quarter of the total gross FDI in 2023, followed by the metal industry, trade, manufacturing. It is worth noting that FDI in trade has increased significantly over the last years.

¹ Akorda. President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's State of the Nation Address "Economic course of a Just Kazakhstan"

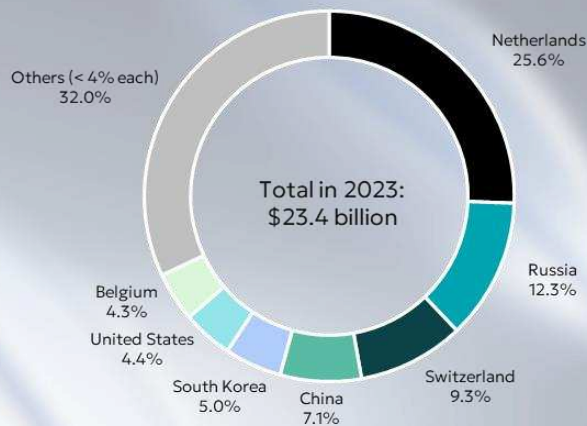
Figure 3. Gross FDI inflow by sectors, % (2014-2024 H1)



Source: NBK

The Netherlands continued to be the largest investor, maintaining its lead position. The other top investors include Russia, Switzerland, China, South Korea, the United States, and Belgium.

Figure 4. Gross FDI inflow by partners, % (2023)



Source: NBK

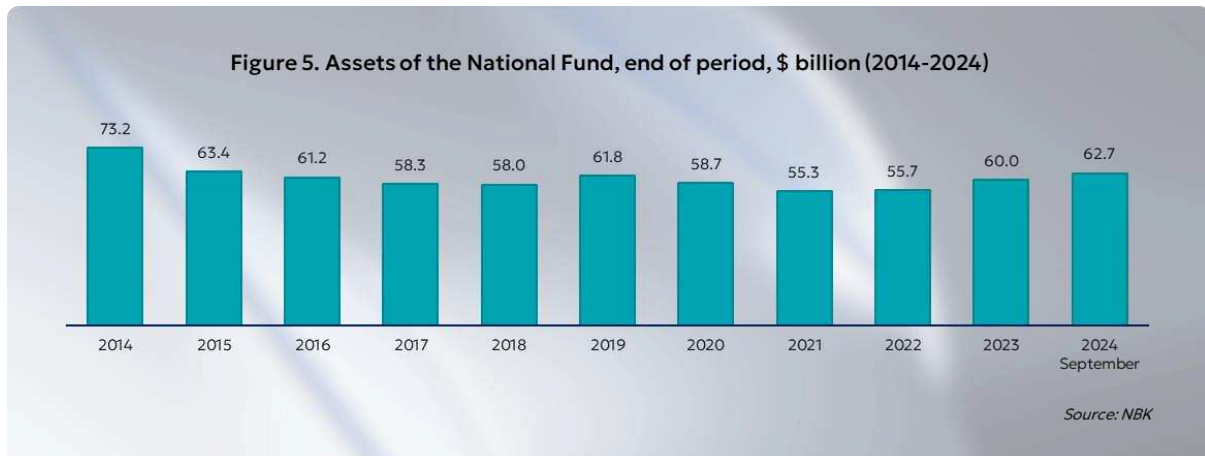
2.2. STATE FUNDS IN KAZAKHSTAN: NFRK and UAPF

Kazakhstan has two major state funds: the NFRK and the UAPF.

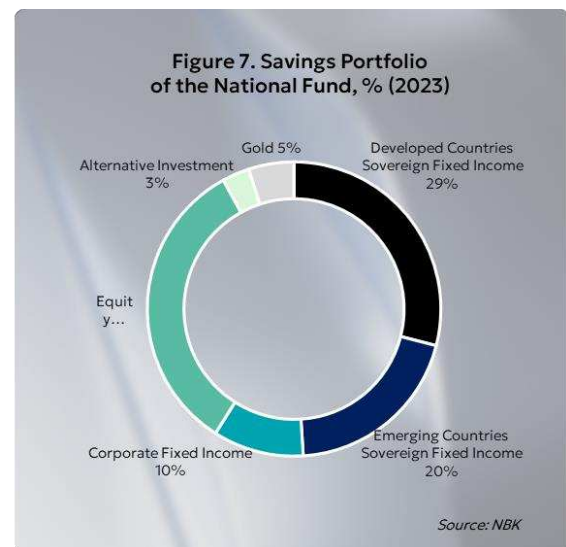
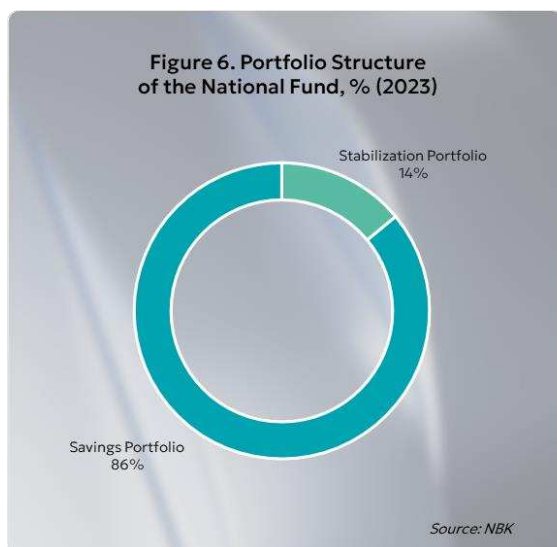
Kazakhstan's NFRK, established in 2000, serves as a sovereign wealth fund designed to stabilise the national economy and accumulate savings for future generations. The fund primarily derives its revenue from the country's oil and gas sector, channelling profits from these natural resources into long-term investments.

The NFRK’s investment strategy focuses on a diversified portfolio that includes foreign assets such as equities, bonds, and alternative investments. In some cases, the NFRK is also allowed to invest in domestic financial instruments.

By investing in a broad range of international assets, the NFRK aims to mitigate the risks associated with commodity price fluctuations and ensure steady economic growth and fiscal resilience for Kazakhstan. As of the end of September 2024, the NFRK’s assets stood at \$62.7 billion.



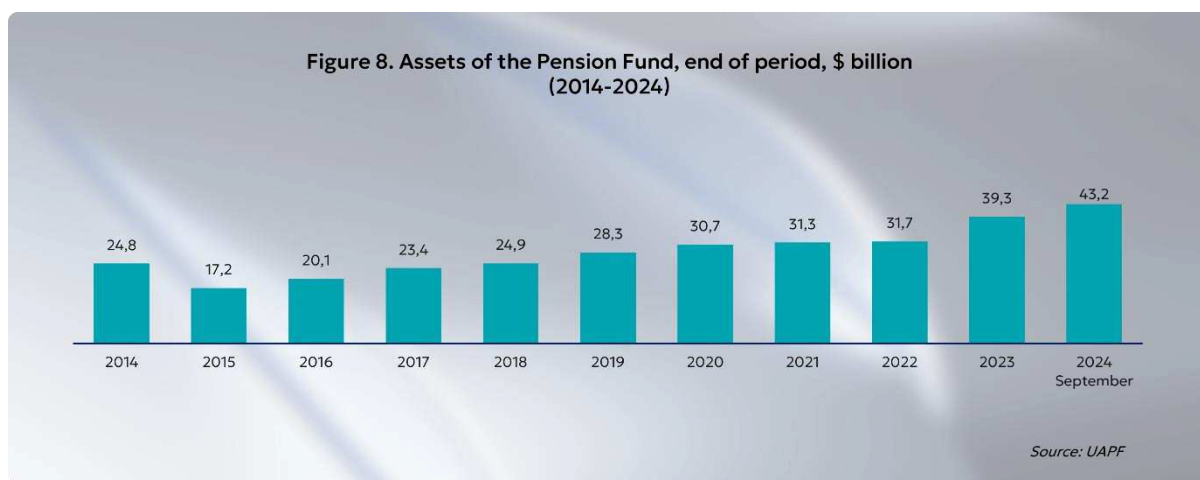
In 2023, 86% of the NFRK assets were allocated to the savings portfolio according to the NBK. Within the savings portfolio, 59% are invested into fixed income instruments.



Assets of the NFRK are managed by the NBK and external asset managers. In case of asset management company’s localisation in the AIFC, such a potential

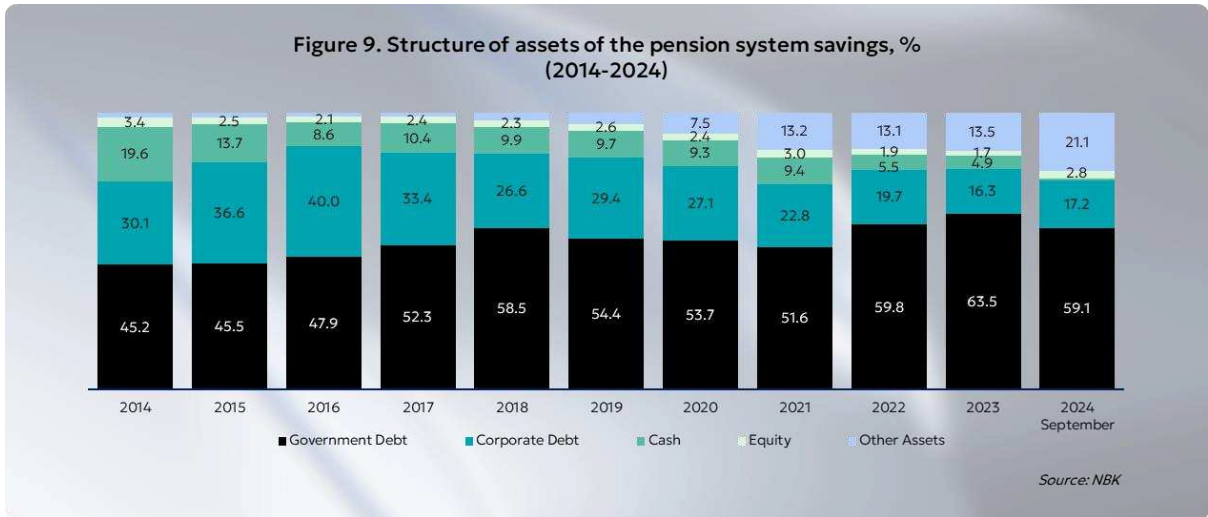
manager of the NFRK is awarded with additional points in scoring system according to the NBK rules.²

The UAPF of Kazakhstan plays a crucial role in the country's social security system by managing mandatory pension contributions from the workforce. The UAPF invests these contributions to generate returns that will support pension payments for future retirees. The investment strategy of the UAPF is characterised by a diversified approach, including domestic and international assets. The UAPF allocates investments across various asset classes, such as government and corporate bonds, equities, cash, and other assets. As of the end of September 2024, the UAPF's assets stood at around \$43 billion.



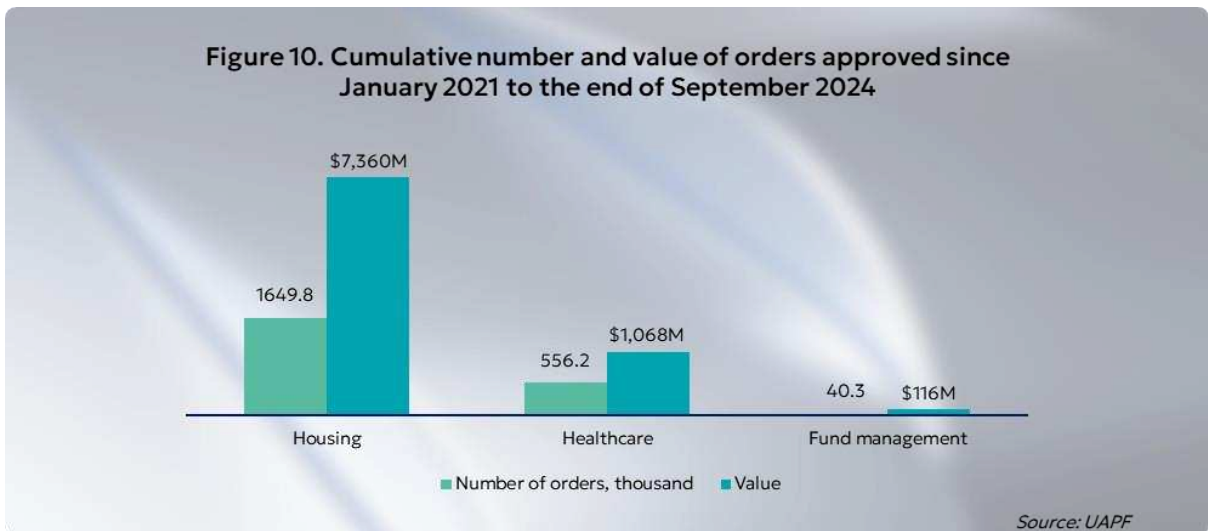
As of the end of September 2024, 76.3% of the UAPF assets were allocated to government and corporate debt. Their total share decreased from almost 88% in 2016. However, the role of government debt increased from 47.9% in 2016 to 59.1% by the end of September 2024, and the share of corporate debt decreased from 40% to 17.2% over the same period.

² [Rules for the selection of external asset managers of the National Fund of the Republic of Kazakhstan](#)



In January 2021, citizens of Kazakhstan were granted the right to make withdrawals from their pension savings above the sufficiency threshold, to be used for housing, medical treatment, or to transfer to private fund management companies.

Since 1 July 2023, depositors have been allowed to transfer up to 50% of their pension savings to private fund managers. Previously, transfers were only permitted for amounts exceeding the minimum sufficiency threshold.



Most withdrawals, both in terms of number and value, occurred in 2021. This was primarily due to a significant increase in the sufficiency threshold for pension savings implemented in 2022. The withdrawal of pension assets in 2021 had a notable impact, contributing to a sharp rise in residential real estate prices across both the primary and secondary markets (Figure 12).

At the same time, the amount of pension assets transferred to private fund management companies remained disproportionately low, accounting for only 2% of the total number of transfers and 1% of the total value.³

Only 5 of 21 fund managers under national regulation are eligible to accept and manage pension assets. Amount of pension assets under private fund managers' supervision is \$120 million, accounting for only 0.3% of total pension assets as of the end of September 2024.⁴

2.3. RETAIL INVESTORS IN KAZAKHSTAN

Bank deposits and real estate remain the main investment instruments for retail investors in Kazakhstan.

In June 2024, when the base rate was at 14.5% and the annual CPI stood at 8.4%, the real interest rate for tenge deposits (both retail and corporate) exceeded 5%.

In 2023, deposits amounted to \$50.9 billion or 19.2% of GDP, consisting of \$35.6 billion in retail deposits and \$15.3 billion in corporate deposits.



Real estate market, another way for savings allocation among people, demonstrated a peak in the number of deals in 2021. As previously mentioned, the residential real estate market was boosted by withdrawals from the UAPF, with average prices per m² reaching \$1,085 in 2023.

³ enpf.kz, enpf.kz

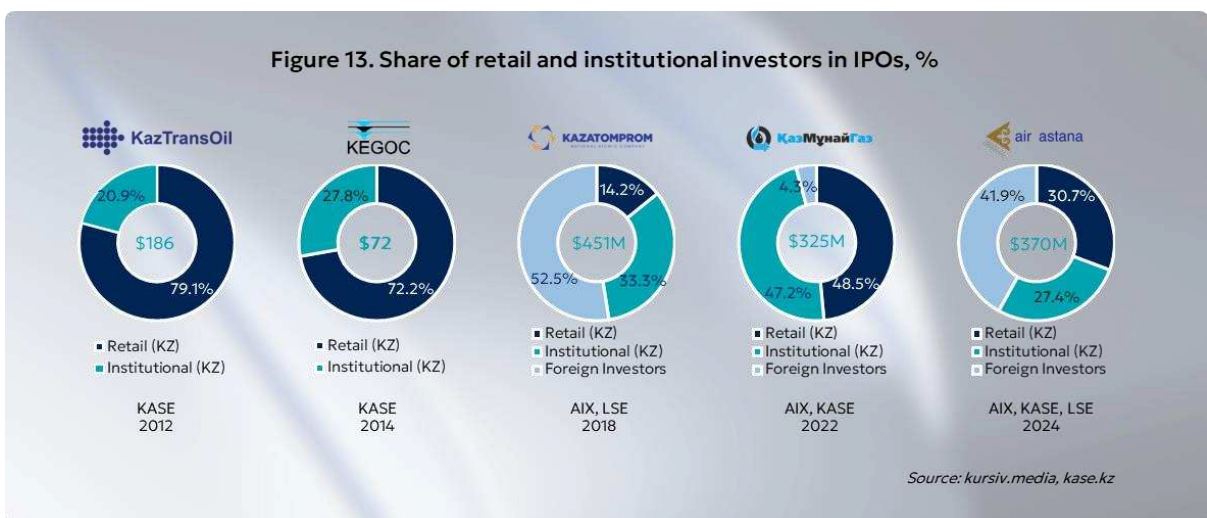
⁴ gov.kz



2.4. SECURITIES MARKET AND IPOs

Kazakhstan's securities market has grown significantly over the last years, with several major national IPOs taking place in the country – companies like Kazatomprom, KazMunayGaz, and Air Astana went public.

Retail investors are becoming increasingly engaged with Kazakhstan's securities market due to the need to diversify their investments, improved access, and growing financial literacy. In the IPOs of KazTransOil and KEGOC, which were open for local investors only, retail investors had the biggest share. In the last two IPOs of KazMunayGas and Air Astana, shares of local retail and institutional investors were distributed almost equally.



Retail investors now have more opportunities to invest in a wider range of securities, including stocks, bonds, and exchange-traded funds (ETFs).

Technological advancements and the rise of online trading platforms have also played a crucial role in democratising investment, allowing retail investors to easily buy and sell securities.

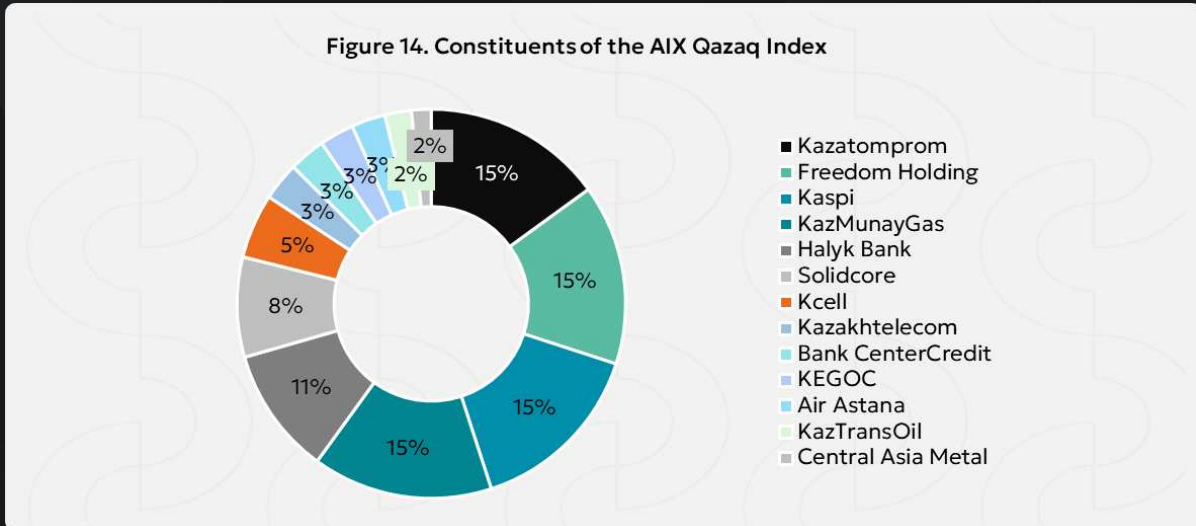
Institutional investors are also showing a heightened interest in Kazakhstan's securities market, attracted by the country's economic stability and growth potential. Major institutional players, such as pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, and international asset managers, are recognizing the benefits of diversifying their portfolios with Kazakh assets. For example, more than 70 institutional investors were involved in the Air Astana IPO in February 2024.

The country's commitment to adopting international best practices in governance and sustainability aligns well with the investment criteria of these institutions. As a result, institutional investment in Kazakh securities is on the rise, contributing to increased market depth and liquidity.

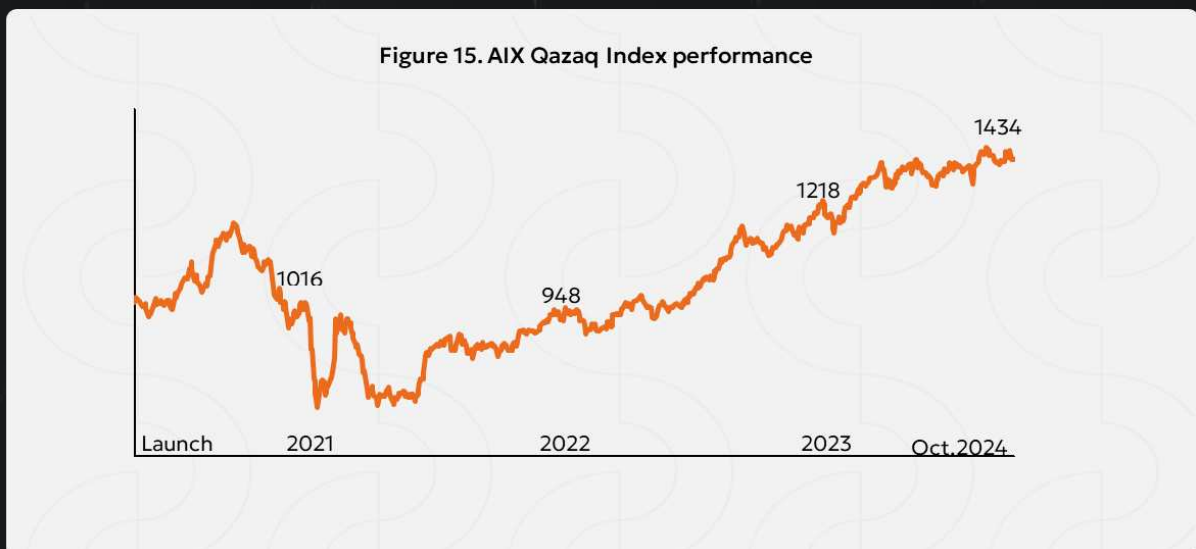
AIX QAZAQ INDEX

Launched in 2021, the AIX Qazaq Index is a market capitalisation-weighted index that is comprised of equity and GDR securities of Kazakhstan and Kazakhstan-linked companies traded on AIX, KASE, LSE and NASDAQ stock exchanges.

AIX Qazaq Index is a price index, and it is not adjusted for dividends paid and is not protected against dilution caused by dividend pay-outs.



Kazakhstan companies include those either registered in Kazakhstan or whose business income is generated partially or fully in Kazakhstan or substantial amount of operational activity is in Kazakhstan.



AIX Qazaq Index has been positively impacted by the recent developments in the stock market and demonstrated a growth over the last year and stood at 1,433.81 as of 31 October 2024.⁵ As of the end of October 2024, the total market cap of companies that are constituents of AIX Qazaq Index was around \$77 billion.

⁵ [Index Data | AIX](#)

Key Takeaways

Chapter II. Macroeconomic overview of Kazakhstan

1. Retail and institutional investors are becoming increasingly engaged with Kazakhstan's securities market due to the need to diversify their investments, improved access, and growing financial literacy.
2. Bank deposits and real estate remain the main investment instruments for retail investors. The amount of pension assets transferred to private fund management companies remained disproportionately low in comparison with housing and healthcare withdrawals, accounting for only 2% of the total number of transfers and 1% of the total value.
3. Amount of pension assets under private fund managers' supervision is \$120 million, accounting for only 0.3% of total pension assets as of the end of September 2024.



III. KAZAKHSTAN FUNDS IN NUMBERS

Due to the differences in national and AIFC regulations regarding fund types, this report adopts an alternative classification for funds within the national regulation.

According to current national regulations, only professional investors are permitted to invest in risky investment funds, which include closed-ended risky UIFs and joint-stock risky investment funds. Considering their investment strategy and mandate, closed-ended risky UIFs are classified as “Hedge Funds”⁶ and joint-stock risky investment funds – as “either PE or Hedge Funds”.⁷

For the purposes of this report, fund types under national regulation will be referred to as follows:

- UIF (open, interval, closed-ended) – **“Mutual Fund”**;
- Joint stock real estate fund – **“REIT”**;
- Closed-ended risky UIF – **“Hedge Fund”**;
- Joint-stock risky investment funds – **“PE/Hedge Fund”**.

This classification is not established by national legislation and is used solely for the purposes of this report.

Please note that joint-stock investment funds and Islamic investment funds are not considered in this report, as no such funds were registered in Kazakhstan as of 1 July 2024.

3.1. KAZAKHSTAN MARKET IN NUMBERS

The report focuses exclusively on regulated funds under the supervision of ARDFM or AFSA. Consequently, the data on AUM, the number of fund managers, and the number of funds does not include state-owned funds, asset managers, or private companies implementing PE or venture capital strategies without establishing a formal fund. Therefore, the data presented reflects only fund management as a regulated activity and does not provide a comprehensive overview of the broader Kazakhstan market.

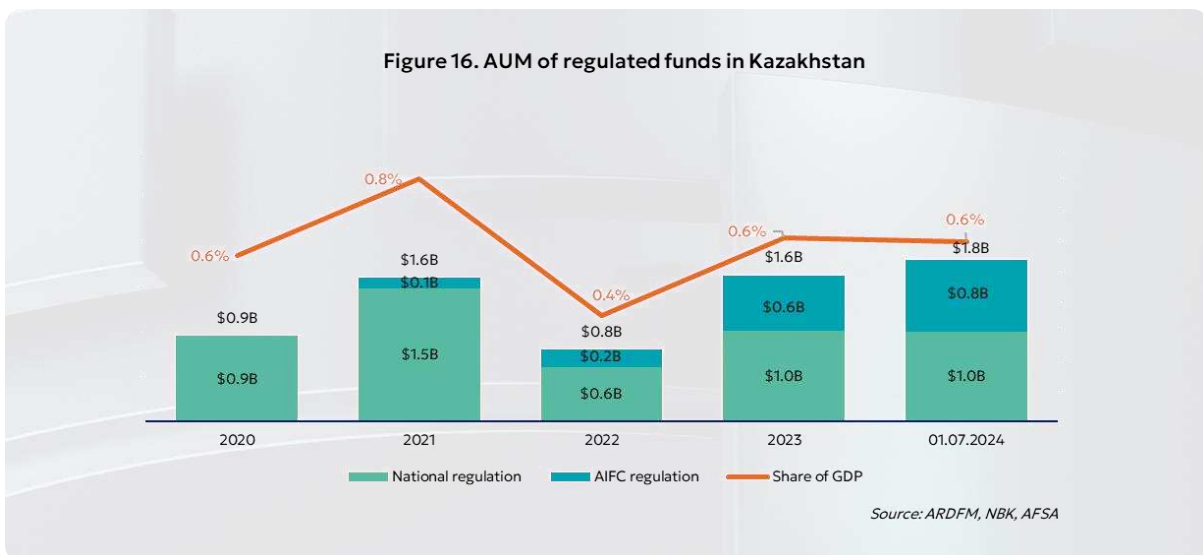
⁶ An analysis of publicly available information on the official websites of fund managers reveals that closed-ended risky investment UIFs typically have broad investment mandates. These mandates often include high-yield shares of companies traded on both local and foreign stock exchanges. As a result, such funds are classified as hedge funds, as they are designed to pursue high returns through diverse and often risky investment strategies.

⁷ It is assumed that a risky investment fund established as JSC may employ either PE or hedge fund strategies.

KEY NUMBERS as of July 1, 2024

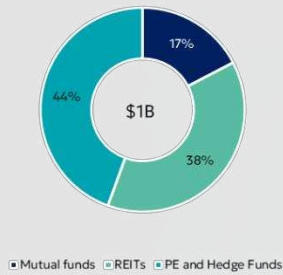


As of 1 July 2024, the total AUM of regulated funds in Kazakhstan amounted to \$1.8 billion, which is around 0.6% of the country’s GDP. The AUM of funds under national regulation has experienced fluctuations but is now recovering following a decline in 2022. The AUM of funds under the AIFC regulation has demonstrated steady growth over the last years.



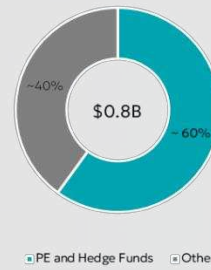
PE and hedge funds represent the largest share of total AUM of regulated funds across Kazakhstan, accounting for over 60%. These funds also lead in AUM among those operating under the national and AIFC regulations, with shares of 44% and over 60%, respectively.

Figure 17. Breakdown of AUM by fund types under national regulation



Source: ARDFM, NBK

Figure 18. Breakdown of AUM by fund types under AIFC regulation



Source: AFSA

The total number of regulated funds in Kazakhstan more than doubled since 2020, reaching 135 by July 2024. Such an outcome is a result of the registration of new funds within the AIFC jurisdiction.

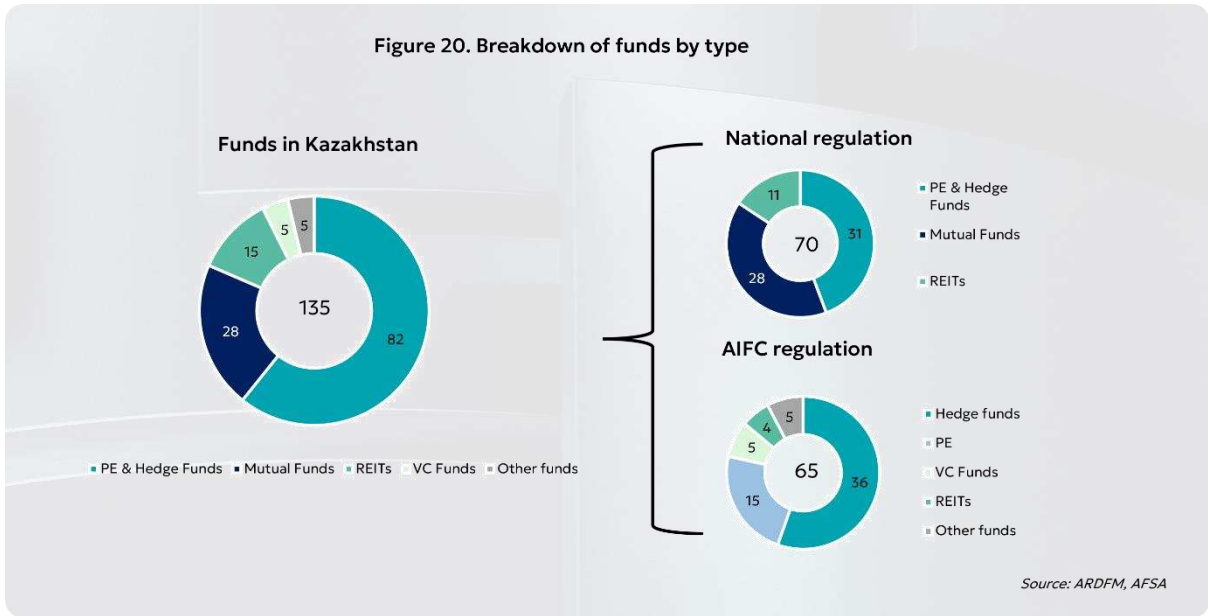
Figure 19. Number of regulated funds in Kazakhstan



Source: ARDFM, AFSA

Approximately 60% of the regulated funds in Kazakhstan are PE and hedge funds, followed by mutual funds at 20%, and REITs at 11%.

Figure 20. Breakdown of funds by type



It is worth noting that the AIFC jurisdiction has facilitated the diversification of fund types in the Kazakhstan market, offering a broad range of vehicles, including PE funds, hedge funds, VC funds, REITs, and other specialist funds such as commodity, credit, crypto, fixed income funds, and umbrella fund.

Clients of funds under national regulation include retail investors, professional investors⁸, and legal entities. AIFC clients consist exclusively of professional clients, as all funds operating within the AIFC were exempt funds as of July 2024.

⁸ In the report, a term “professional investor” is used instead of a term “qualified investor” determined under the national regulation. Note, that “client” and “investor” are used interchangeably throughout the text.

According to the national regulation, an individual is recognized as a qualified investor if they meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. Higher education in finance, economics, mathematics, or IT;
2. Holding at least one of the following certifications: CFA, CIIA, FRM, or equivalent;
3. A minimum of three years of professional experience in fields directly related to financial instruments and investment transactions;
4. Financial assets exceeding \$65K (8,500 MCI);
5. Completion of at least 50 transactions with financial instruments within 12 consecutive months.

Under the AIFC regulation a professional client is a client that is either a Deemed Professional Client (a national or regional government; a public body that manages public debt; a central bank; an international or supranational institution) or an Assessed Professional Client (net assets of at least \$100,000; and/or possess sufficient work experience and understanding of relevant financial products, financial services, transactions, and associated risks).

3.2. MUTUAL FUNDS

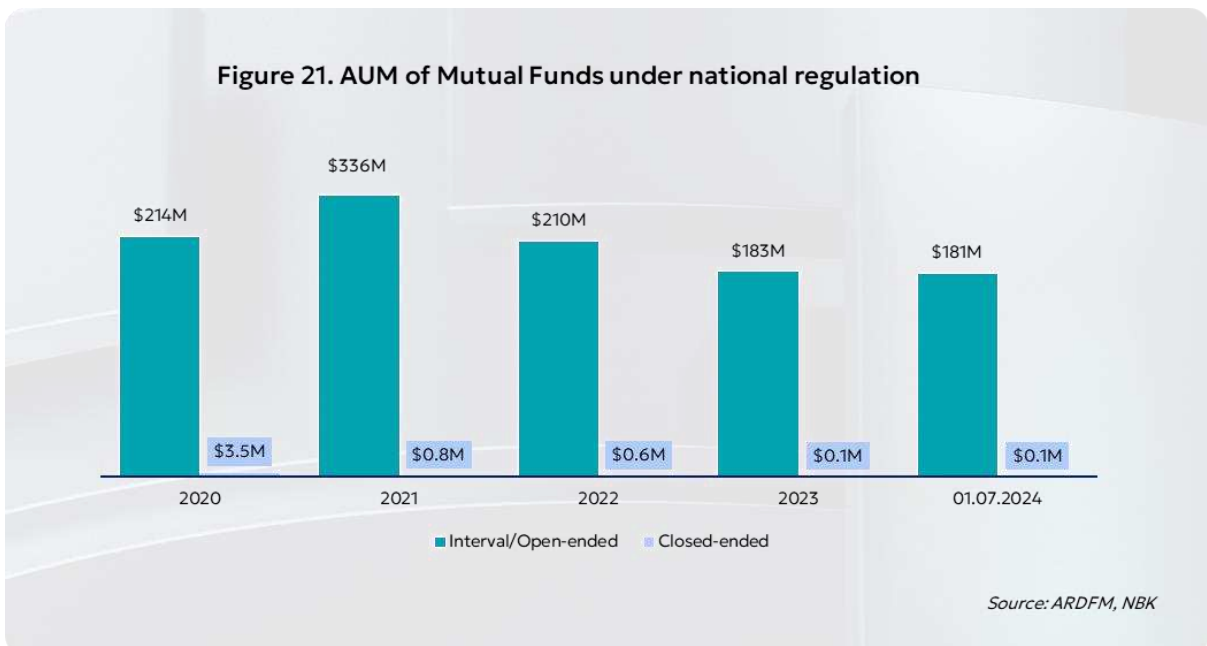
As the first non-exempt fund for retail investors under the AIFC regulation was registered in September 2024, data provided in this section covers mutual funds⁹ operating under the national regulation.

KEY NUMBERS as of 1 July 2024



As of 1 July 2024, the total AUM of mutual funds reached \$181 million. At present, 28 funds are managed by 11 fund managers.

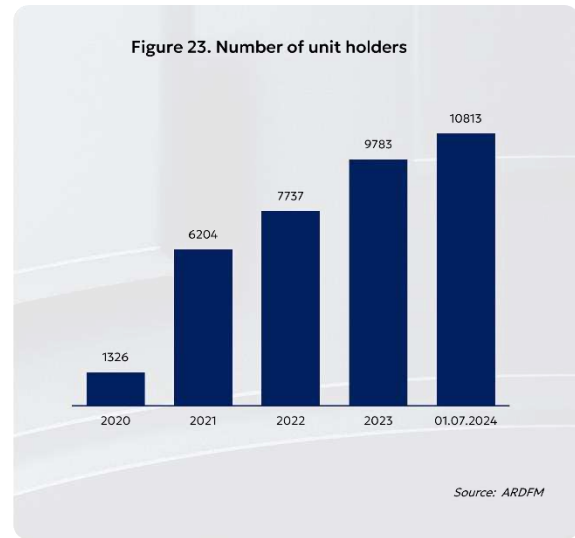
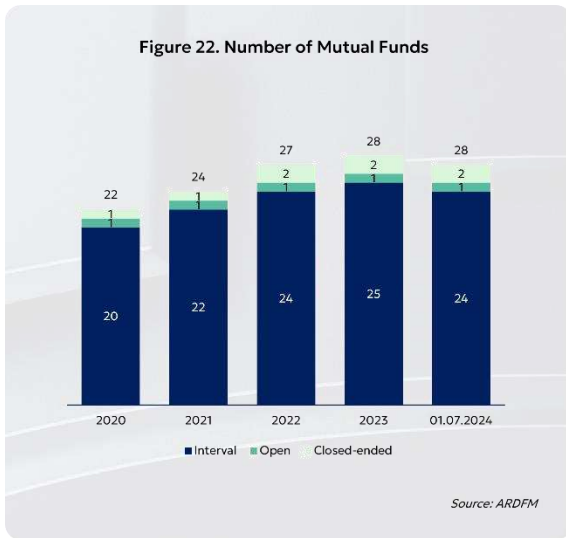
The total AUM of mutual funds has declined significantly over the given period, nearly halving since its peak in 2021. The share of open-ended and interval mutual funds in terms of AUM within the total is minimal, comprising about 1%.



In contrast, the total number of unit holders surged, skyrocketing from 1,326 in 2020 to 10,813 in 2024. This growth was primarily driven by interval mutual funds,

⁹ Open-ended, interval, and closed-ended. Closed-ended risky UIFs are referred as hedge funds.

which account for approximately 99% of the investors. Additionally, around 99% of unit holders are individual investors.¹⁰



3.3. REITs

KEY NUMBERS as of July 1, 2024

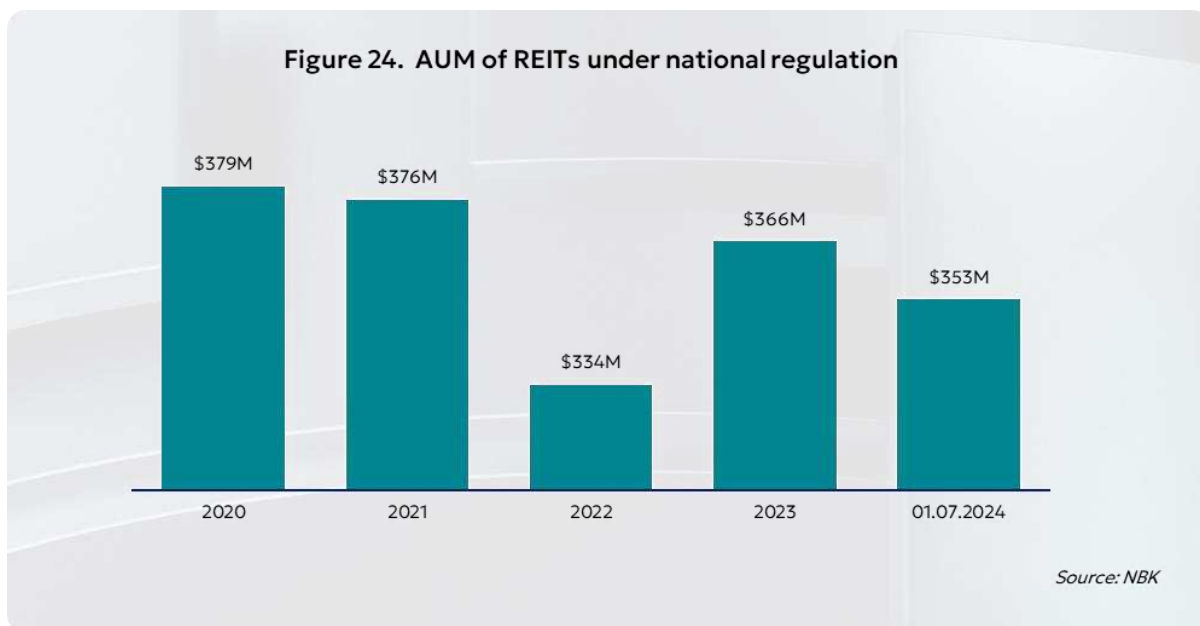


As of July 2024, the AUM of REITs regulated under the national legislation amounted to \$353 million. While the AUM of REITs operating within the AIFC regulation is not disclosed, it is included in the overall AUM managed by AIFC fund managers.

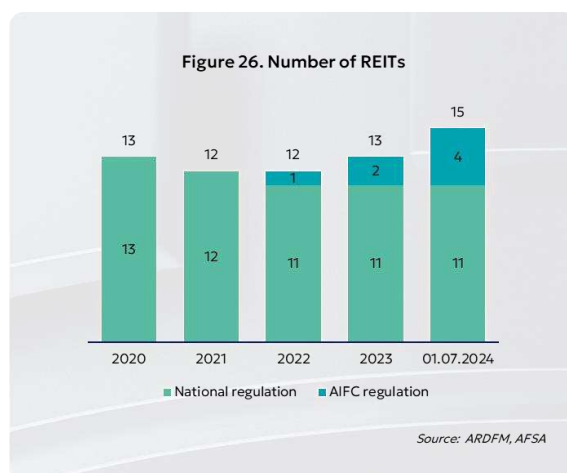
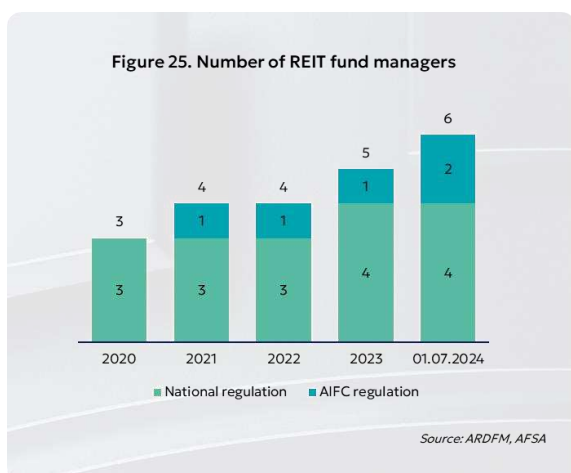
At present, 6 fund managers operate 15 REITs in Kazakhstan, with 4 of these REITs managed under the AIFC regulation. These REITs manage various real estate properties, including shopping malls and business centres.

¹⁰ Source: [The Agency of Republic of Kazakhstan for Regulation and Development of Financial Market](#)

The AUM of REITs regulated by the ARDFM has been declining since 2020, with a notable drop in 2022 from which it has yet to recover.



By contrast, the number of REITs in Kazakhstan has been growing. This was mainly due to the registration of new REITs in the AIFC.



3.4. PRIVATE EQUITY AND HEDGE FUNDS

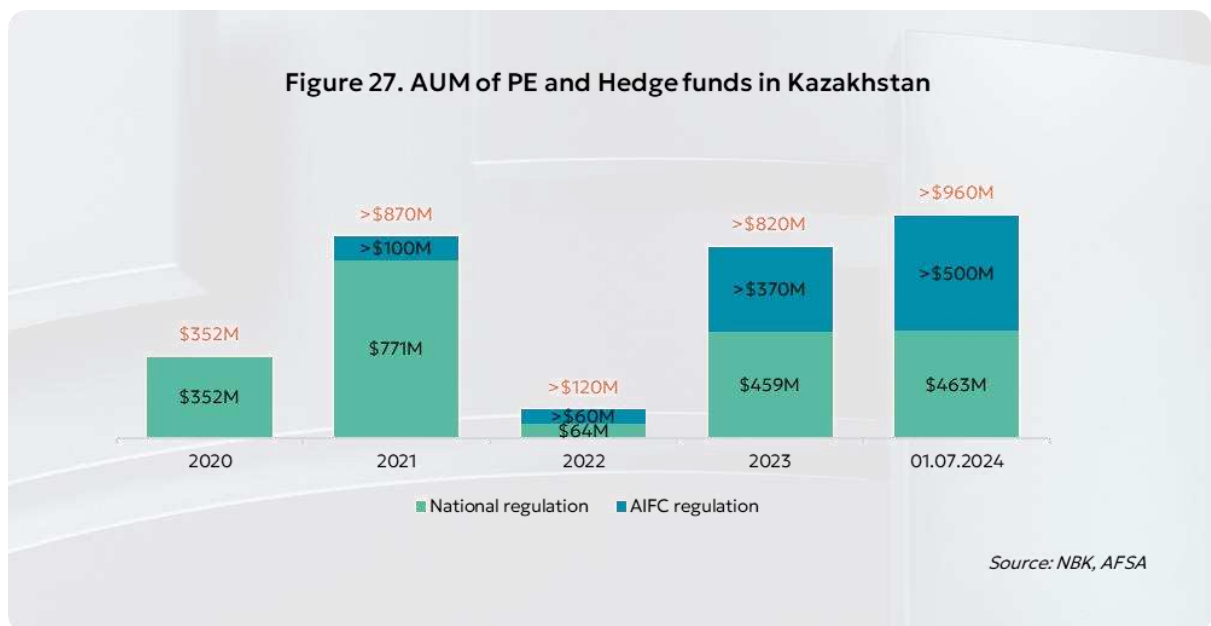
PE and hedge funds both under national and AIFC regulations are open only for professional clients.¹¹

¹¹ In the report, a term “professional investor” is used instead of a term “qualified investor” determined under the national regulation. Note, that “client” and “investor” are used interchangeably throughout the text.

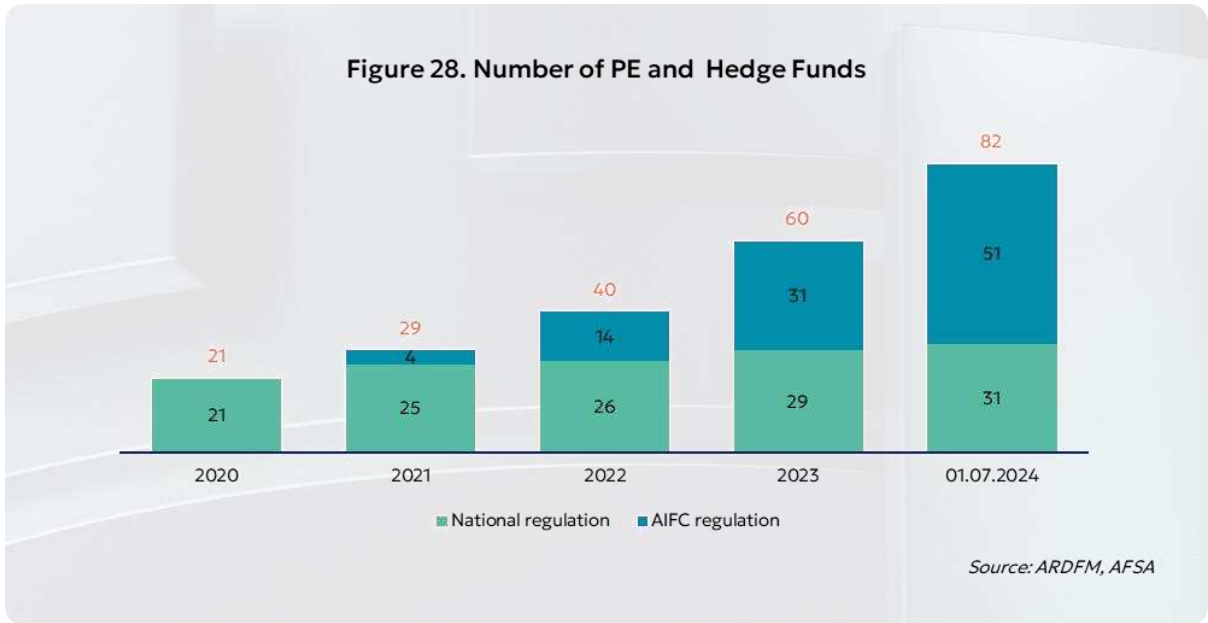
KEY NUMBERS as of July 1, 2024



By 1 July 2024, the total AUM of PE and hedge funds reached around \$1 billion. At present, 82 funds are managed by 36 fund managers.



About 98% of the AUM for PE and hedge funds within the national regulation originate from closed-ended risky investment UIFs. In contrast, the contribution from joint-stock investment funds is negligible.



Since 2020, the total number of PE and hedge funds in Kazakhstan has grown almost four times, reaching 82 by July 2024. Such development is also driven by new funds registered within the AIFC.

Key summaries from the report on Kazakhstan’s private equity market¹² in 2012-2022 are provided below. Please note that these figures encompass all disclosed transactions conducted by PE funds and FO, not solely those executed by regulated funds.

KEY NUMBERS

AUM
\$107B

\$12.6B

Dry powder

Disclosed amount of AUM and dry powder of all PE funds and their management companies operating in Kazakhstan.

M&A deals in 2012-2022

Total amount
\$49B

\$4.8B

PE funds and management companies

A total of 423 M&A transactions, valued at \$49B, were closed in the period. Of these, 66% involved quasi-state institutions, 33% -international investors, and 1% - local funds. PE funds accounted for 88 transactions, totaling \$4.8B, with state-owned QIC funds participating in 45% of these deals.

Total number
423

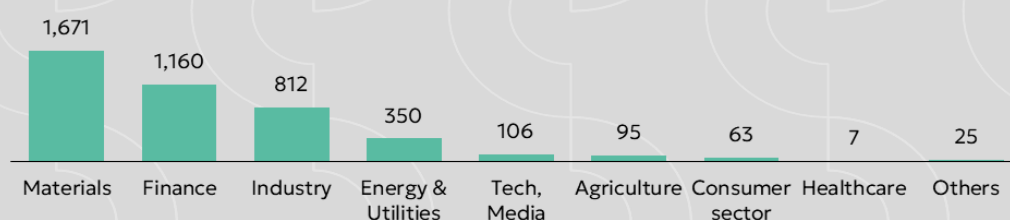
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PE funds and management companies

Figure 29. The volume and number of M&A deals closed by PE funds and FO



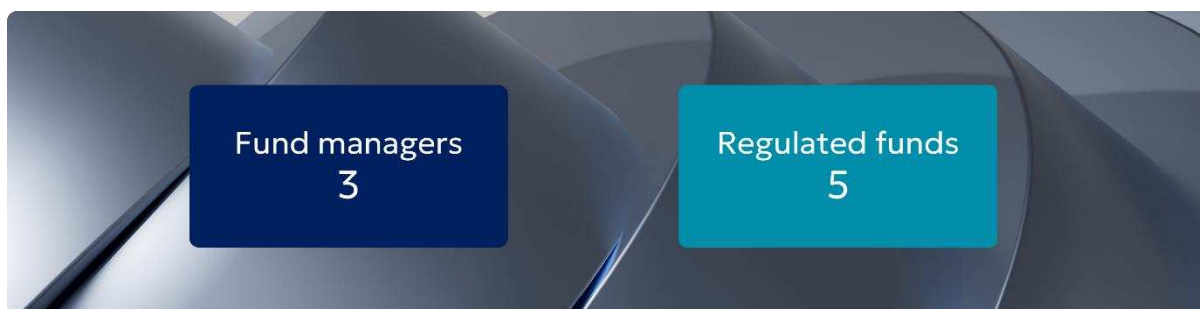
Figure 30. Sectors of M&A deals closed by PE funds and FO, \$M



¹² Kazakhstan's private equity market. Baker Tilly Qazaqstan Advisory. Qazaqstan Investment Corporation. 2023

3.5. VENTURE CAPITAL FUNDS

KEY NUMBERS as of July 1, 2024



The statistics on the number of funds and fund managers in this report exclusively consider venture funds that are regulated by the ARDFM and AFSA. According to data provided by the ARDFM, regulated VC funds have not been registered under national legislation yet. Under the AIFC legal framework there are 5 VC funds managed by 3 fund managers.¹³

An analysis of publicly available information indicates that companies involved in venture financing are not always organised as funds and may operate outside the regulation of the authorities.

To understand the VC market size, data on the number and volume of VC deals were sourced from the report on VC market in Kazakhstan¹⁴ and Astana Hub¹⁵.



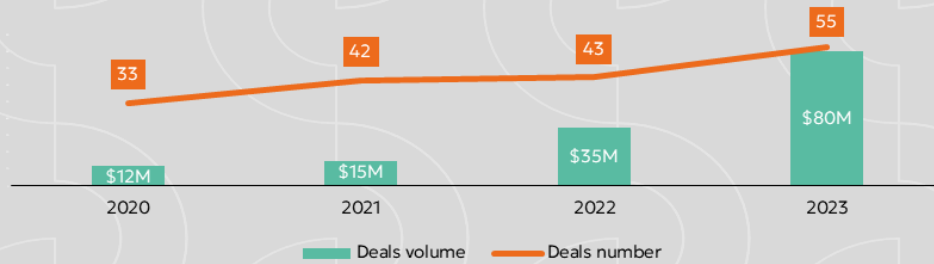
¹³ The fund restricts total subscriptions to a maximum of \$100 million (or its equivalent in other currencies), unless specifically approved to raise a higher amount by AFSA

¹⁴ [Venture Capital Market Overview in Kazakhstan, 2023](#)

¹⁵ astanahub.com

Please note that these figures encompass all disclosed VC transactions conducted by market participants, not solely those executed by regulated venture capital funds.

Figure 31. Volume and number of observable VC deals

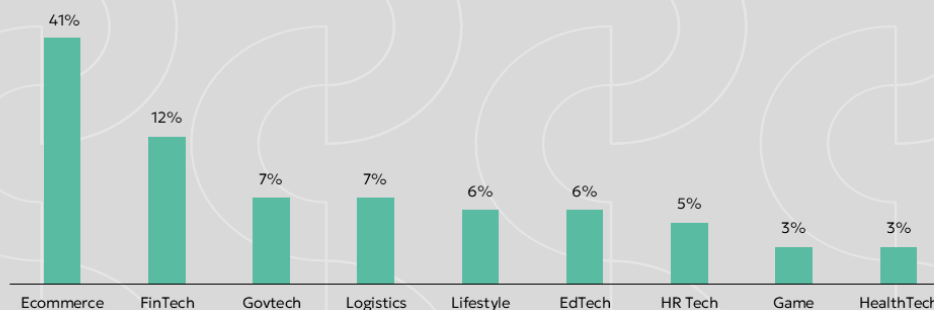


Source: Venture Capital Market Overview in Kazakhstan, 2023; Astana Hub

Figure 32. Share of VC investors in number and volume of VC deals, 2018-2022



Figure 33. Volume of VC deals by sectors, 2018-2022



Source: Venture Capital Market Overview in Kazakhstan, 2023

Key Takeaways

Chapter III. Kazakhstan funds in numbers

1. As of 1 July 2024, the total AUM of regulated funds in Kazakhstan amounted to \$1.8 billion.
2. The total number of regulated funds in Kazakhstan more than doubled since 2020, reaching 135 by July 2024. Such an outcome is a result of the registration of new funds within the AIFC jurisdiction.
3. PE and hedge funds represent the largest share of total number and AUM of regulated funds across Kazakhstan. As of 1 July 2024, AUM of around \$1 billion is managed by 82 PE and hedge funds.
4. Recent reports on Kazakhstan PE and VC markets provide data on a broader market, which includes asset managers or private companies implementing private equity or venture capital strategies without establishing a regulated fund. Thus, M&A deals involving PE funds and management companies amounted to \$4.8 billion in 2012-2022. While observable VC deals amounted to over \$140 million in 2020-2023.



IV. FUND FRAMEWORK

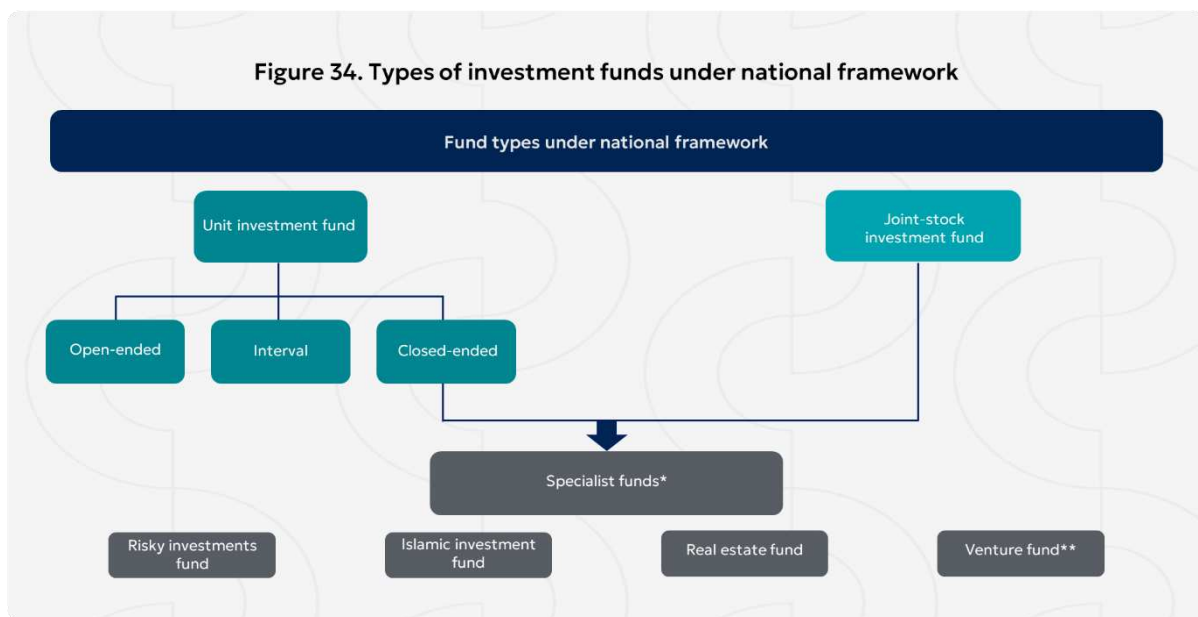
4.1. NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

The ARDFM, the state body responsible for regulating, controlling, and supervising the financial market and financial institutions,¹⁶ oversees the activities of investment funds in Kazakhstan.

The primary legislative act governing the activities of investment funds in Kazakhstan is the law "On Investment and Venture Funds".¹⁷ This law does not apply to organisations in which more than 50% of the voting shares are owned or held in trust by a national management holding company, except in cases where they establish venture funds.

According to the law, investment funds can be structured in the following forms:

- UIFs, which can be structured as open-ended, interval, or closed-ended funds;
- joint-stock investment funds.



Note:

**The term "specialist fund" is not determined in the national regulation.*

*** Venture fund vehicles include: simple partnership without forming a legal entity, JSC, and business partnerships.*

Joint-stock investment funds and closed-ended UIFs are the only types eligible to be classified as risky investment funds (Figure 34).

A risky investment fund may:

- obtain loans, which are to be repaid using the fund's assets;

¹⁶ On further improvement of the public administration system of the Republic of Kazakhstan

¹⁷ On investment funds - "Adilet" LIS (zan.kz)

- acquire investment assets from affiliated entities of the management company or sell fund assets under the company's management to these affiliates;
- allocate assets in financial instruments of a single issuance from one legal entity, with an investment amount that can exceed 15% of the total volume of such issued financial instruments.

Furthermore, the national legislation governs and provides regulation for real estate funds, Islamic investment funds, and venture funds.

Real estate fund is allowed to be structured only as a joint-stock investment fund.

Islamic investment fund may be structured either as a closed-ended UIF or as a joint-stock investment fund. While venture funds are offered a broader range of structuring options, including a simple partnership without forming a legal entity, JSC, and business partnerships.

National regulation in Kazakhstan does not explicitly classify private equity and hedge funds as a distinct fund type. In practice, such investment principles can be incorporated into investment strategies of funds.

Major players, such as state-affiliated funds and family offices, are exempt from this regulation. For example, according to a recent report on Kazakhstan's private equity market, many family offices and business conglomerates operate based on private equity principles. This group remains the most closed-off segment of the Kazakhstan direct investment market. Key findings from the report can be found in chapter 3 of this report.

4.2. AIFC FRAMEWORK

AFSA is the independent regulator of the AIFC. AFSA oversees both financial and non-financial services activities within the AIFC. The activities of funds are regulated by the CIS Rules and other AIFC acts.¹⁸

Fund vehicles

The AIFC CIS framework offers fund managers several options when choosing fund vehicles:

1. Investment company (open or closed-ended). Open ended investment companies allow for operation of traditional funds with regular subscription and redemption possibilities whilst closed ended investment companies may be used to structure a listed fund vehicle.

2. Limited Partnerships structure, which includes a general partner (a fund manager) and limited partners, can serve as the basis for the AIFC fund structure.

Collective Investment Schemes¹⁹

Managing a CIS in the AIFC jurisdiction is considered a regulated activity, which requires obtaining a license to engage in this activity if it is conducted as part of business operations.

The AIFC offers two categories of funds based on investor classification:

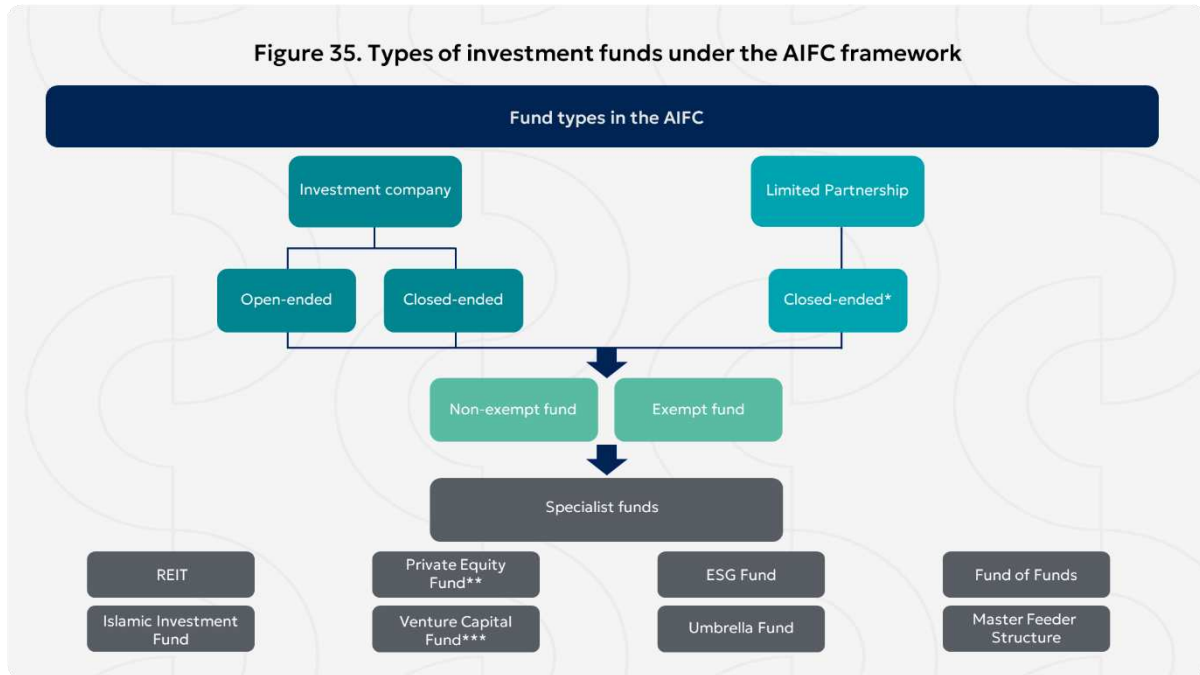
1. Non-exempt fund is a CIS, units of which are offered to any client in the AIFC.
2. Exempt fund is subject to less stringent regulation compared to Non-Exempt Funds. Exempt Funds are available exclusively to professional clients.

In the AIFC jurisdiction, both non-exempt and exempt funds can be established as specialist funds, tailored to specific business activities and investment objectives. The AIFC permits the following types of specialist funds: private equity fund, venture capital fund, REIT, Islamic investment fund, ESG fund, umbrella fund, fund of funds, master feeder structure (Figure 35).

¹⁸ [AFSA, Guidance for Fund Management activity and Funds in the AIFC](#)

¹⁹ [AFSA, Guidance for Fund Management activity and Funds in the AIFC](#)

Figure 35. Types of investment funds under the AIFC framework



Note:

*LPs are most commonly established as closed-ended structures

**Private equity fund is an exempt fund that is required to be closed-ended (unless otherwise approved by AFSA).

***Venture capital fund is both an exempt fund and a domestic fund, required to be closed-ended, with total subscriptions not exceeding US\$100 million (or the currency equivalent) unless a higher amount is approved by AFSA.

The table below summarises the key requirements applicable to both non-exempt and exempt funds:

	Non-Exempt Fund		Exempt Fund	
Fund Manager	Domestic Fund Manager	Domestic Fund Manager	Foreign Fund Manager	
Minimum capital requirements of Fund Manager	US\$ 150,000	US\$ 50,000*	n/a	
Fund Domiciliation	AIFC and foreign jurisdictions		AIFC	
Fund Registration/Notification	Registration	Notification	Registration	
Fund Constitution	Required			
Offering Materials	Required			
Investors/Unit holders	Any	Professional Clients only		
Minimum Subscription amount	-	US\$ 50,000		
Eligible Custodian	Required	Not required (unless REIT)	Required	
Fund Auditor	Required	Not required (unless REIT)		
Periodic reports	Annual and quarterly	Not Required		
Financial reports	Annually (IFRS or US-GAAP)			
Prudential returns	Quarterly and annually			

Source: AFSA

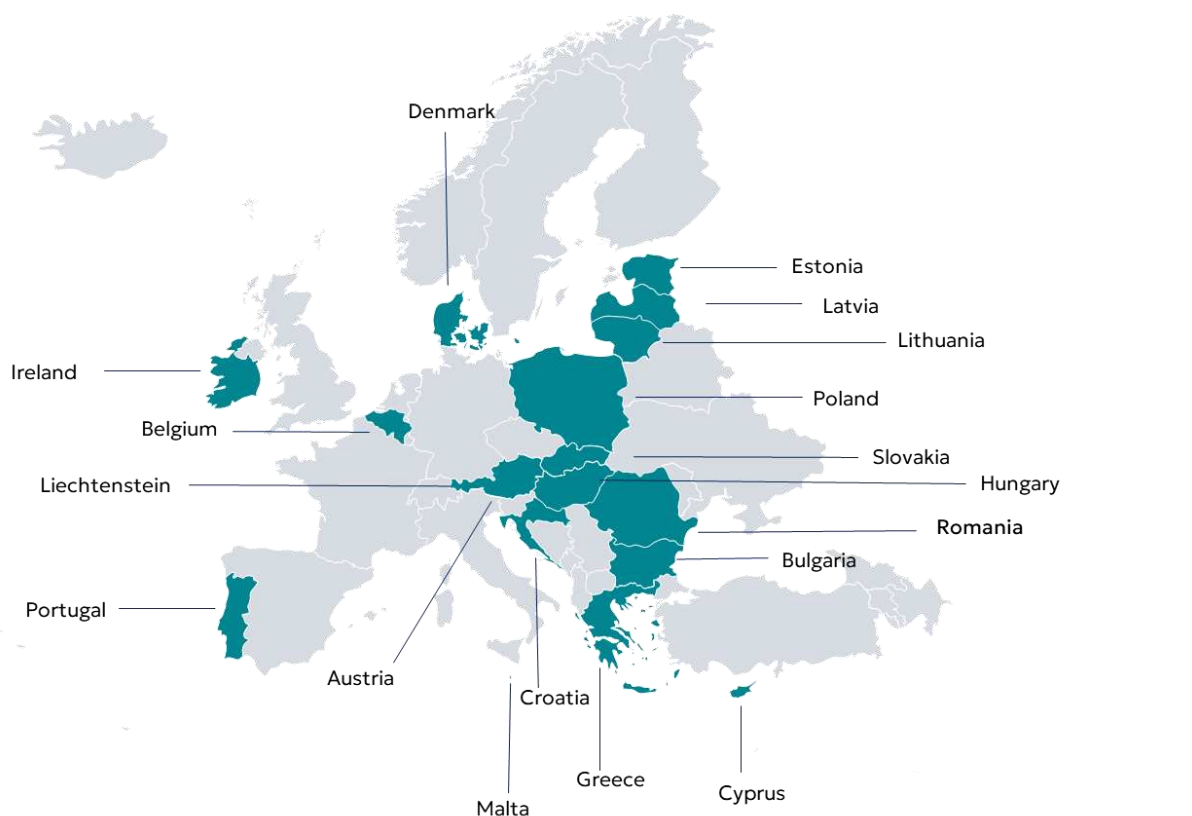
* Fund has an appointed Eligible Custodian unless the appointment of an Eligible Custodian is not required due to the nature of the Fund and the type of assets which it holds. Otherwise, the base capital requirement increases to US\$ 500,000.

Foreign Fund Manager recognition

A Foreign Fund Manager is permitted to manage a domestic fund, and if the units of such fund are offered in the AIFC, it must be classified as an Exempt Fund.

For recognition as a Foreign Fund Manager, the applicant must meet specific requirements outlined in the AIFC CIS Rules. The applicant must appoint a Fund Administrator and an eligible custodian. Additionally, the application must include a declaration stating that the manager is regulated by a financial services regulator either in a recognised jurisdiction or in a jurisdiction that is not recognised by AFSA.²⁰

As of today, AFSA, in coordination with the ESMA, has signed 18 MoUs on cooperation regarding the supervision of alternative investment fund managers with respective national authorities.²¹



Equilibrium Capital Ltd, a Hungary-based fund manager is the first foreign fund manager recognised in the AIFC in 2023. The fund manager is regulated by the Central Bank of Hungary²².

²⁰ Guidance for Fund Management activity and Funds in the AIFC. AFSA

²¹ Astana Financial Services Authority (AFSA) в LinkedIn: #afsainforms

²² Assets under Management at AIFC

RECENT REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AIFC

SECURITY TOKEN OFFERING FRAMEWORK IN THE AIFC

Effective 1 January 2024, Security Token Offerings (STOs) framework provides issuers and investors with a structured pathway to issue and trade regulated distributed ledger technology securities, in accordance with international regulatory standards. STOs unlock new possibilities for improved market liquidity and more precise price discovery. By integrating blockchain technology, the system ensures enhanced transparency, real-time access to trading data, and greater overall efficiency in the securities market.²³

SINGLE FAMILY OFFICES (SFO) IN THE AIFC

Effective 1 July 2024, AFSA has introduced the AIFC Family Offices framework, specifically designed for SFOs within the AIFC. This framework enables SFOs to establish and manage SFO Funds, aligning family wealth management with global best practices.²⁴

EXEMPT FUNDS CAN LIST THEIR UNITS ON AUTHORISED INVESTMENT EXCHANGES WITHIN THE AIFC

AFSA has implemented a new strategy allowing Exempt Funds to list their units on Authorised Investment Exchanges within the AIFC. Previously, only Non-Exempt Funds had this privilege. This development is expected to introduce a wider range of financial instruments, facilitate connections between professional investors and fund managers, and potentially lower distribution costs.²⁵

²³ AFSA

²⁴ AFSA has enacted the AIFC Family Offices framework effective from 1 July 2024

²⁵ AFSA allows Fund Managers of Exempt Funds to have their units traded on Authorised Investment Exchanges of AIFC

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AMONG AIFC PARTICIPANTS

UMBRELLA FUND

In June 2024, AFSA registered Fonte Emerging Markets Umbrella Fund as the first Umbrella Fund in the AIFC. This fund consolidates several Sub-Funds, each with its own investment objectives and strategies.

Umbrella Funds streamline administration by consolidating compliance and management under one unified structure. This approach enhances operational efficiency, reduces complexity, and minimises the potential for errors, making fund management more effective.²⁶

NON-EXEMPT FUND

In September 2024, the first non-exempt fund, SBI Active Fund, was registered within the AIFC. Operations of such funds allow retail investors to access a broader range of investment opportunities, which could include more flexibility in terms of asset allocation, risk exposure, and potential returns.²⁷

²⁶ [AFSA registers first Umbrella Fund – AIFC](#)

²⁷ [AFSA has registered the first Non-exempt fund for retail investors...](#)

4.3. KEY DIFFERENCES IN THE FRAMEWORKS

Some key differences of national and AIFC regulations regarding fund management activities are summarised below. Detailed tables describing fund regulations can be found in Annexes 1 and 2.

Please note that the information provided below represents the views of the authors and does not constitute an official statement by the AIFC, AFSA, or ARDFM.

Legal form

Legal forms of investment funds under national regulation include JSC and UIFs without forming a legal entity. A wider choice is offered only for venture funds, which can be in the form of a simple partnership, business partnership, and JSC. However, a regulated venture fund has not yet been registered under national legislation.

The AIFC allows funds to be established as Investment company or Limited partnership.

Assets of investment fund

National regulations permit investments exclusively in financial instruments (except for REITs) and provide a list of financial instruments for REITs, open-ended and interval UIFs.

The AIFC framework, in addition to financial instruments, allows investments in other funds, derivatives, real property, and other instruments, in line with the fund's investment policy. The list of permissible financial instruments is determined based on the fund's investment policy.

Capital requirements for fund managers

In national regulation, capital requirement for the management company that carries out trust management of pension assets is about \$6.2 million.²⁸ While the national regulation sets higher capital requirements for fund managers, such funds have access to the management of pension assets.

In the AIFC jurisdiction, capital requirement for management companies: \$150 thousand for Non-exempt funds and \$50 thousand for Exempt funds.

²⁸ 800,000 MCI

ANNEXES

DISCLAIMER

These Annexes are an integral part of the report “Fund Management in Kazakhstan.” The content of the Annexes is structured and presented based on the authors’ views and cannot be used as official statements of either the ARDFM or AFSA.

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In the event of any discrepancies in the Kazakh and Russian translations with the text in English language, the latter takes precedence.

ANNEX 1
NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

1. FUND STRUCTURE, AUTHORIZATION, RESTRUCTURING AND LIQUIDATION

Requirement	Joint-stock real estate investment fund	Joint-stock investment fund	Closed-ended UIF	Open-ended UIF	Interval UIF
Legal form	JSC		Without forming a legal entity.		
Fund size (min/max)	Authorized capital of not less than 50,000 MCI		Determined by the fund rules		
Creation of the Fund	The charter must contain: regulations on activities in accordance with the investment declaration; types, procedure for determining and max. amounts of expenses		The management company's board of directors decides on the creation of a UIF and approves the rules of the UIF. The management company has the right to create several UIFs. UIFs of the same type, created by one management company, must differ in investment declarations.		
Registration	In the manner prescribed by the Law on JSC		Carried out by the ARDFM within 15 business days		
Documents for registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The charter •Draft agreement with the management company •Investment declaration approved by the general meeting or by a founder 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Application •Copy of the decision by the Board of Directors or the general meeting of unitholders on the establishment of a UIF •Fund rules approved by the Board of Directors or the general meeting of unitholders •Internal documents of the management company 		
Specific requirements	Prohibited: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Golden shares •Subsidiaries (permitted for real estate investment fund exclusively for servicing real estate) •Issuance of other instruments, except for ordinary shares (excl. risky investment funds and real estate investment funds) 		The management company cannot hold shares in the investment funds it manages under the concluded agreements. Similarly, the custodian, audit organization, and appraiser cannot hold shares in the investment funds they service under the concluded agreements		
Reorganization and liquidation	In the manner prescribed by the Law on JSC		Competence of the general meeting of unitholders	-	-
Voluntary reorganization and liquidation	Notify the regulator within 5 business days		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Merging of closed-ended UIFs is permitted. •A change of form to open-ended or interval fund is permitted by the decision of the general meeting of unit holders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Merging of open-ended funds is permitted •A change of form to a closed-ended fund is prohibited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Merging of interval funds is permitted •A change of form to a closed-ended fund is prohibited
Forced reorganization and liquidation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •By court decision. •Notify the regulator within 5 working days after the decision comes into force. •The failure of a fund to re-register with the State Corporation "Government for Citizens" within two months from the date of termination, cancellation, or expiration of the agreement with the management company is grounds for its forced liquidation 		-	-	-
Listing & trading	Allowed (excl. risky investment fund)		Allowed (excl. risky investment fund)	Not allowed	Allowed

*Note: venture funds are not included in the Annexes. Venture funds can be structured as 1) a simple partnership without forming a legal entity; 2) JSC; 3) business partnership. The charter of venture fund must contain a provision stating that its exclusive activity is venture financing.

2. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY

Requirement	Joint-stock real estate investment fund	Joint-stock investment fund	Closed-ended UIF	Open-ended UIF	Interval UIF
Decision of the first general meeting			-	-	-
Participation at the general meeting			-	-	-
Decisions of the general meeting			The decision, which allows its shareholders to submit applications for the repurchase of shares, comes into force in 30 days	Decision on changing from closed-ended fund to open-ended or interval fund upon compliance with requirements	-
Competence in terms of changes to the investment declaration/fund rules			Competence of the board of directors	Competence of the general meeting of unitholders	Competence of a management company
Changes to investment declaration/fund rules, subject to ARDFM compliance		-		Changes and additions are subject to approval by the ARDFM, except for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The name and location of the management company •The name and location of the custodian •The auditor of the management company and custodian, as well as changes to their names and locations •The list of intermediaries for the placement and redemption of units 	
ARDFM review period			Submitted to the ARDFM for approval within 3 working days from the date of their approval by the board of directors' decision	The ARDFM reviews within 15 calendar days	
Entry into force of changes to the investment declaration/fund rules			30 days after publication in the media or receipt of the text of these amendments/additions by all shareholders, with an indication of their registration with the authorized body	-	30 days after publication in the media
Share/Unitholders responsibility			A shareholder is only liable for company losses up to their share value	Unit holders are not liable for the fund's obligations and bear the risk of losses up to the value of their units	
Share/Unitholders rights		In accordance with the Law on JSC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Control of the management company's activities •Participation in the general meeting •Receiving dividends 	Control of the activities of the management company in accordance with the fund rules
Exclusive competence of the general meeting		In accordance with the Law on JSC		1) making changes and additions to the fund rules; 2) termination of the fund; 3) merging with another closed-end UIF or changing the fund to open-end or interval; 4) changing the management company or custodian; 5) other issues in accordance with the rules	-

3. INVESTMENT DECLARATION OF THE FUND AND RULES OF THE UIF

Requirement	Joint-stock real estate investment fund	Joint-stock investment fund	Closed-ended UIF	Open-ended UIF	Interval UIF
Full and abbreviated name of the fund			✓	✓	✓
Full name and location of the management company. Rights and obligations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Full name and location of the custodian, auditor. Rights and obligations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rights and obligations of unit holders			✓	✓	✓
Types, procedures for determining, and maximum amounts of expenses and remuneration to the management company, custodian, and other persons, which are subject to payment from the assets of the investment fund	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Conditions and procedure for making changes and additions to the rules/investment declaration by the management company			-	✓	✓
Conditions and procedure for changing the management company or custodian			✓	✓	✓
Asset management agreement			✓	✓	✓
Fund validity period (or perpetual validity period)			✓	✓	✓
Description of the goals and objectives of the investment policy, as well as policy restrictions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
List of investment objects, types of transactions, their conditions and limits	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
The procedure and timeframe for bringing assets into compliance with the investment declaration			✓	✓	✓
Description of risks, and conditions for hedging and diversification of assets	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dividend policy / Terms and procedure for accrual and payment of dividends	✓	✓	✓	-	-
The procedure for accounting and determining the value of assets and the estimated value of a share	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Conditions of application and procedure for calculating surcharges to the estimated value of units/shares			✓	✓	✓
Conditions for the application and procedure for calculating the discount when buying out a share from the management company			-	✓	✓
List of management company representatives responsible for the placement and redemption of shares			✓	✓	✓
Conditions and procedure for liquidation/termination of the fund			✓	✓	✓
Investment declaration			✓	✓	✓
Conditions and procedure for filing and executing applications for the acquisition of shares			✓	✓	✓
Nominal value of a share at initial placement			✓	✓	✓
Conditions for execution of applications for share redemption			-	✓	✓
Conditions and procedure for suspension of placement			✓	✓	✓
Conditions and procedure for suspending the buyout			-	✓	✓
Conditions for exchanging shares for shares of another open-ended or interval UIF			-	✓	✓
Conditions for disclosure of information to share/unitholders			✓	✓	✓
Terms and procedure for providing responses to share/unitholders			✓	✓	✓
Information about the media in which the information will be published			-	✓	✓
Conditions and procedure for convening and holding a general meeting of share/unitholders			✓	-	-

4. ISSUANCE, CANCELLATION, SALE AND REDEMPTION OF SHARES/UNITS

Requirement	Joint-stock real estate investment fund	Joint-stock investment fund	Closed-ended UIF	Open-ended UIF	Interval UIF
Issuance			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Lasts no more than 3 months and ends when the minimum asset size is reached •A one-time extension is possible (subject to agreement with the ARDFM), but it cannot exceed 3 months 		
Purchase of Units	Only in cash and in the national currency		Only in cash and in the national currency (unit nominal value may be denominated in foreign currency)		
Restrictions during the initial issue			Investing only in deposits of second-tier banks that are not affiliated with the management company and whose securities are included in the stock exchange list		
Restrictions for Unitholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Management company, custodian, central depository, auditor, and appraiser •Legal entity registered in offshore zones (except for risky investment fund)* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Management company, custodian, auditor, and appraiser** •A legal entity if its financial instruments are part of the assets and constitute more than 5% 	Management company, custodian, auditor, and appraiser	Management company, custodian, auditor, and appraiser	
Frequency of redemption of shares/units				At least once every two weeks	At least once a year (If less than once a month, the application acceptance period must be at least 3 working days)
Buyback	In the event that the general meeting of shareholders makes a decision on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The reorganization of the fund, or •Making changes and additions to the charter or prospectus of the fund that infringe on its rights •Making changes and additions to the investment declaration 	No right to demand, unless determined by the rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •At the expense of money contained in the assets of an investment fund or received from their sale, as well as borrowed funds •Not allowed during the initial placement •The right to demand from the management company on the terms and in the manner established by the rules •Within 30 days before the entry into force of changes to the rules that infringe on the interests of holders •Discounts are permitted (up to 3%) •Discounts are prohibited upon termination of the UIF and changes to the rules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •At the expense of money contained in the assets of an investment fund or received from their sale, as well as borrowed funds •Not allowed during the initial placement •The right to demand from the management company on the terms and in the manner established by the rules •Within 30 days before the entry into force of changes to the rules that infringe on the interests of holders •Discounts are permitted (up to 3%) •Discounts are prohibited upon termination of the UIF and changes to the rules 	
Subsequent offering of shares/units			Price surcharges are allowed	Price surcharges are allowed	Price surcharges are allowed
Temporarily suspension the issuance, cancellation, sale and redemption of Units		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By order of the ARDFM •The management company has the right to specify in the rules the suspension of placement upon notification in the media 	By order of the ARDFM or the management company itself (but the ARDFM has the right to prohibit it if it does not align with the interests of the shareholders)	By order of the ARDFM or the management company itself (but the ARDFM has the right to prohibit it if it does not align with the interests of the shareholders)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The management company has the right to specify in the rules the suspension of placement upon notification in the media

*Separate requirements for a risky investment fund do not apply

** Except in the case of holding units by a management company as part of a market maker function. In this case, the number of units held by a given management company must be less than 10% of the number of all placed units (excluding redeemed units) of the fund it manages.

5. ASSETS OF INVESTMENT FUND

Requirement	Joint-stock real estate investment fund	Joint-stock investment fund	Closed-ended UIF	Open-ended UIF	Interval UIF
Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Financial instruments •Buildings and structures •Land plots •Unfinished construction projects •Production inventory and fixed assets used to service buildings and structures 	Financial instruments	Financial instruments	Financial instruments	Financial instruments
List of financial instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Government securities, municipal bonds, debt securities of Samruk-Kazyna and its subsidiaries, •Deposits in Kazakhstan second-tier banks with a rating of at least B-, deposits in resident subsidiary banks whose non-resident parent bank has a rating of at least A-, •Shares, provided they are included in the representative list of the index of Kazakhstan stock exchange on the date of the transaction, •Debt securities of RK issuers with a rating of at least B-, •Securities of foreign issuers with a rating of at least AA-, •Securities of international financial organizations, •Government securities and currencies of countries with a sovereign rating of at least BBB, and refined precious metals, •Derivative financial instruments with underlying assets that are financial instruments permitted for acquisition by real estate investment fund, •Share in a legal entity servicing property included in real estate investment fund 	-	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Government securities, municipal bonds, debt securities of Samruk-Kazyna and its subsidiaries, •Deposits in Kazakhstan second-tier banks with a rating of at least B-, deposits in resident subsidiary banks whose non-resident parent bank has a rating of at least A-, •Debt securities of issuers with a rating of at least B- and debt securities admitted to public trading on AIX, •Infrastructure bonds of organizations in the Republic of Kazakhstan that are included in the official list of the stock exchange and/or admitted to public trading on AIX, Units of investment funds included in the official list of the stock exchange and/or admitted to public trading on AIX •ETFs and ETNs with a rating of at least 3 stars from the Morningstar rating agency •Depository receipts •Government securities and currencies of foreign countries with a sovereign rating of at least BBB, Refined precious metals •Securities of international financial organizations and foreign organization with a rating of at least BB-Principal protected notes, subject to compliance with the conditions, Derivative financial instruments, subject to compliance with the conditions •Deposits in non-resident banks with a long-term credit rating of at least A- •ETFs with an asset structure that mirrors one of the major stock indices •Shares in LLPs 	
Restrictions on financial instruments (prohibitions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Shares/units of a fund managed by the same management company •Assets/securities of the management company •Shares/interests in non-profit organizations •Financial instruments more than 15% of the total placement (except for closed-ended risky UIFs, joint-stock risky investment fund, and real estate investment fund in terms of the creation of subsidiaries whose main activity is real estate servicing) 				
Investment limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Not less than 80% of assets must be invested in real estate, with not less than 50% of all income generated from rent. •Financial instruments of one person or its affiliated persons and financial instruments of a quasi-state company and its affiliated persons in one industry - in total no more than 20% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Financial instruments of one person or its affiliated persons in total no more than 30% •Financial instruments of a quasi-state company and its affiliated persons in one industry - in total no more than 50% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Financial instruments of one person or its affiliated persons in total no more than 20% •Financial instruments of a quasi-state company and its affiliated persons in one industry - in total no more than 30% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Financial instruments of one person or its affiliated persons in total no more than 20% •Financial instruments of a quasi-state company and its affiliated persons in one industry - in total no more than 30% 	
Leverage or borrowing limits	No more than 60% of the asset value	Loans received for the repurchase of shares or units should not exceed 10% of the net asset value and should be for a period of no more than 3 months	Loans received for the repurchase of shares or units should not exceed 10% of the net asset value and should be for a period of no more than 3 months	Loans received for the repurchase of shares or units should not exceed 10% of the net asset value and should be for a period of no more than 3 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Payment of remuneration for such loans at the expense of the management company
Deadlines to align assets with the investment policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •12 months from the date of registration •6 months (after the first 12 months) 			-	
Financial statement	Accounting in accordance with legal acts of the Ministry of Finance			-	

6. PRUDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

Requirement	Management company not authorized to attract voluntary pension contributions	Management company authorized to attract voluntary pension contributions
Minimum authorized capital required	-	800 000 MCI
Minimum Capital Requirement	50 000 MCI	440 000 MCI
Capital adequacy	<p>Capital adequacy coefficient = $(HLA+LA - TL) / (50\ 000\ MCI+OR)$, where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLA - Highly liquid assets of the investment portfolio manager available on the calculation date. LA - Liquid assets of the investment portfolio manager available on the calculation date. TL - Total liabilities on the balance sheet available on the calculation date. OR - Operational risk associated with the trust management of assets, calculated as the amount of assets under investment management on the calculation date, multiplied by the operational risk coefficient of management company 0.1% 	<p>Capital adequacy coefficient = $(HLA+LA - TL) / (440\ 000\ MCI+OR)$, where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HLA - Highly liquid assets of the investment portfolio manager available on the calculation date. LA - Liquid assets of the investment portfolio manager available on the calculation date. TL - Total liabilities on the balance sheet available on the calculation date. OR - Operational risk associated with the trust management of pension assets, calculated as the amount of assets under investment management on the calculation date, multiplied by the operational risk coefficient of management company 4%
Liquidity requirement	K2-1 – not less than 1; K2-2 – not less than 0,9; K2-3 – not less than 0,8; K2-4 – not less than 0,5.	
Frequency of reporting	Monthly, no later than the 5th working day	
Notification in case of breaches	Within 3 business days	
An action plan with early response measures to enhance the organization's financial sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A detailed analysis of the factors influencing the deterioration of the organization's financial position, with an indication of the reasons for their occurrence Forecast of the factor, justification for this forecast, and the negative impact of the factor on the organization's activities Measures to improve a factor, reducing it to a level that neither poses a threat nor creates additional risks to the organization's activities; Deadlines for the implementation of the action plan for each of its points; List of senior staff responsible for implementing the action plan 	
Review of the action plan by ARDFM	Within 30 business days	
Providing an action plan	Within 5 business days (in case of independent identification of the factors by management company)	
Methodology for Identifying Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A decrease of more than twofold in the equity capital adequacy ratio over three consecutive months, reaching a level 0.3 points above or below the target equity capital adequacy ratio A decrease in the equity capital adequacy ratio when its initial value is already below a level that exceeds the target by 0.3 points A cumulative decrease in the volume of liquid assets by 20 percent or more over three consecutive months Loss-making operations for 3 consecutive months 	

7. CUSTODIAN AND FUND ADMINISTRATOR

Requirements to additional service providers

Mandatory requirement for the fund

Separate accounting for every investment fund

Safekeeping of assets (separate from own assets or assets of other clients)

Accounting for share/unit placement and redemption transactions

Accounting for the value, movement, and composition of investment fund assets

Calculation of share costs upon placement and redemption

Implementing control over transactions to ensure compliance with legislation

Ensure monthly reconciliation of the value, movement, and composition of the investment fund's assets with the management company

Custodian	Administrator
✓	-
✓	
✓	
✓	
✓	
✓	
✓	
✓	
✓	

*The national legislation does not include provisions for a fund administrator.

ANNEX 2
AIFC FRAMEWORK

1. FUND STRUCTURE, AUTHORIZATION, RESTRUCTURING AND LIQUIDATION

Requirement	Non-exempt fund	Exempt fund	
Fund manager	Domestic fund manager	Domestic fund manager	Foreign fund manager
Legal form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment company Limited Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment company Limited Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment company Limited Partnership
Fund size (min/max)	According to the Constitution of the Fund	According to the Constitution of the Fund	According to the Constitution of the Fund
Registration of the Fund	Registration required	1. Notification* 2. Registration required in case of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 15 clients; listing of the fund 	Registration required
Documents for registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration form The Constitution of the Fund Offering Materials relating to the Fund Certification by the Fund Manager that the Constitution and Offering Materials comply with requirements of the AFSA Other information upon the AFSA's request 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notification/Registration form The Constitution of the Fund Offering Materials relating to the Fund Certification by the Fund Manager that the Constitution and Offering Materials comply with requirements of the AFSA Other information upon the AFSA's request 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration form The Constitution of the Fund Offering Materials relating to the Fund Certification by the Fund Manager that the Constitution and Offering Materials comply with requirements of the AFSA Other information upon the AFSA's request
Specific requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single pricing for the purposes of redemption and re-issue or sale of Units (for open-ended Non-Exempt funds) Eligible Custodian and Fund Administrator required (incl. REIT)** Auditor is required (Non-exempt and REIT) 	Eligible Custodian, Fund Administrator, Auditor are required (if REIT)	Eligible Custodian and Fund Administrator required** Auditor is required (REIT)
Reorganization and liquidation	According to Companies Regulations and Rules/LP Regulations and Rules, Insolvency Regulations	According to Companies Regulations and Rules/LP Regulations and Rules, Insolvency Regulations	According to Companies Regulations and Rules/LP Regulations and Rules, Insolvency Regulations
Voluntary reorganization and liquidation	According to Companies Regulations and Rules/LP Regulations and Rules	According to Companies Regulations and Rules/LP Regulations and Rules	According to Companies Regulations and Rules/LP Regulations and Rules
Forced reorganization and liquidation	According to Companies Regulations and Rules/LP Regulations and Rules	According to Companies Regulations and Rules/LP Regulations and Rules	According to Companies Regulations and Rules/LP Regulations and Rules
Listing & Trading	Allowed	Allowed under certain conditions***	Not allowed

*Despite the notion of "notification" for the Exempt Funds, it does not relieve Fund Managers planning to establish and manage Exempt Funds from complying with the relevant AIFC Act(s)

**CIS Rule 8.2 (The AFSA may waive the requirement to appoint an Eligible Custodian or Administrator on a case-by-case basis)

***AFSA NOTICE N° AFSA-C-OA-2024-0454 from 17 June 2024 ON MODIFICATION (Domestic Fund Managers of Exempt Funds)

Source: AIFC CIS Rules

2. CORPORATE MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY

Requirement	Non-exempt fund	Exempt fund
Decision of the first general meeting/Directors meeting	According to the Constitution of the Fund	According to the Constitution of the Fund
Participation at the general meeting/Directors meeting	According to the Constitution of the Fund	According to the Constitution of the Fund
Decisions of the General meeting/Directors meeting	According to the Constitution of the Fund	According to the Constitution of the Fund
Competence in terms of changes to the investment declaration/policy	According to the Constitution of the Fund	According to the Constitution of the Fund
Changes to investment declaration/policy, subject to AFSA compliance	Required	-
AFSA review period	-	-
Entry into force of changes to the investment declaration/policy	According to the Constitution of the Fund*	According to the Constitution of the Fund*
Unitholders responsibility	According to the Constitution of the Fund	According to the Constitution of the Fund
Unitholders rights	According to the Constitution of the Fund	According to the Constitution of the Fund
Exclusive competence of the general meeting/Directors meeting	According to the Constitution of the Fund	According to the Constitution of the Fund

*A Fund Manager must not introduce a new category of remuneration for its services or make any increase in the current rate or amount of its remuneration in respect of a Fund unless it has given not less than 90 days' written notice of that introduction or increase and of the date of its commencement to the Unitholders of that Fund and the Unitholders approve such new category or increase by such majority as is provided for in the Fund's Constitution.

3-1. CONSTITUTION: NON-EXEMPT AND EXEMPT FUNDS

Content requirement	Non-exempt fund	Exempt fund
Fund name	✓	✓
Fund Manager's name and its principal place of business	✓	✓
Statement that the Fund is a Domestic Fund, the Constitution of which is governed by the laws of the AIFC	✓	✓
Legal form of the Fund and whether it is open- or closed-ended	✓	✓
A statement to the effect that: (i) the Fund Manager is responsible for all operations concerning the Fund and may from time to time delegate activities or outsource functions, but not the responsibility for conducting those activities and functions; (ii) the Fund Property is entrusted to the Fund Manager and the Fund Manager remains responsible for the property even when an Eligible Custodian holds the legal title to the Fund Property	✓	✓
Duration of the Fund	✓	✓
Fees, charges and other expenses of the Fund may be taken out of Fund Property and the basis for determination of the amount of such fees, charges and other expenses	✓	✓
The maximum and minimum sizes of the Fund's capital	✓	✓
A statement that a Unitholder is not liable: (i) for the debts of the Fund, unless the applicable legislation prescribes otherwise and, if so, those circumstances; (ii) to make any further payment after he has paid the price of his Units and that no further liability can be imposed on him in respect of the Units he holds;	✓	✓
Information on the investment objectives of the Fund (i) whether the aim of the Fund is to spread investment risks and, if a Property Fund, whether the Fund invests in a single property; (ii) the types of Investments or assets in which it and (where applicable) each SubFund may invest; (iii) if the Fund is a specialist class of Fund, the class of Fund	✓	✓
Details of any investment, borrowing or stock lending restrictions	✓	✓
The classes of Units which the Fund may issue and the rights attaching to Units of each class	✓	✓
Any restrictions on the right to redeem Units in any class, and the circumstances in which the issue of the Units of any particular class may be limited	✓	✓
Details on calculation, transfer, allocation and distribution of income for any class of Unit issued and outstanding during the accounting period	✓	✓
The provision for the payment of income, if any, and the date on which such distribution shall be made	✓	✓
Base currency of the Fund	✓	✓
Procedures for the convening of meetings and the procedures relating to resolutions, voting and the voting rights of Unitholders	✓	✓
Details of oversight arrangements	✓	✓
The grounds under which the Fund Manager may initiate a suspension of the Fund and any associated procedures. The methodology for determining the rights of Unitholders to participate in the Fund Property on winding up	✓	✓
Amendments to the Constitution	✓	✓

Source: CIS Rules, Schedule 1: Content requirements for Constitution.

Note: This table does not cover all the requirements for Constitution as set out in CIS Rules.

*Although CIS Rules, Schedule 1 is applicable to Non-Exempt Funds, it serves a good purpose for any Fund as it reflects significant and material matters of the Fund's operations.

A Fund's Constitution may be considered as an appropriately compliant (with the AIFC CIS Rules) articles of association of an investment company or a partnership agreement of a limited partnership, or a trust deed in the case of a trust (as the case may be) when establishing the Fund in the AIFC.

3-2. OFFERING MATERIALS: NON-EXEMPT AND EXEMPT FUNDS

Content Requirements	Details/Clarifications	Content Requirements	Details/Clarifications
1. Executive Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name of the Fund Legal form Type (Non-exempt or Exempt) Open-ended or closed-ended Duration Size Base currency Minimum subscription amount 	9. Fund Shares/Units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The classes of Shares/Units and the rights attaching to Shares/Units of each class Restrictions on the right to redeem Shares/Units, Circumstances when Shares/Units may not be issued, Details on responsible parties which will carry out calculation, transfer, allocation and distribution of income for each class of Shares/Units. The minimum subscription amount Redemption/exchange of Shares/Units in both normal and exceptional circumstances
2. Amendments to Offering Materials	<p>When and how the Offering Materials may be amended</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type of investments/assets Allocation of investments Restrictions applicable Whether investments may be made in other Funds Whether derivatives or stock lending/short selling may be used Procedures for amending the investment objective/strategy/policy Consequences and measures of breaching investment objective/strategy/policy 	10. Listing	Listing arrangements and procedures for issue/sale of Shares/Units
3. Investment objective/strategy/policy of the Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valuation procedures for investments Valuation procedures and pricing methodology for Shares/Units 	11. Client Money and Investments	Description of protection mechanisms, contractual arrangements for safekeeping and accounting methods and instruments employed
4. Valuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicable risks of investing into Fund's Shares/Units 	12. Distribution policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution policy Waterfall Periodicity of distribution and types (dividend, re-investment, etc.)
5. Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All fees, charges and expenses and the maximum amounts thereof which are directly/indirectly borne by Shareholders/Unitholders Circumstances of using leverage Types and sources of leverage Associated risks Restrictions on use of leverage Collateral and asset reuse arrangements Maximum level of leverage 	13. Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procedures, channels, reporting, forms of communication and complaints handling Ways of informing Shareholders/Unitholders on any material changes to the Offering Materials
6. Fees, charges and expenses	Names and credentials of a Fund Manager, Custodian or Depositary, Fund Administrator, Auditor and any other service providers for the Fund.	14. Record-Keeping Policy	Types of info to be recorded and their retention periods
7. Borrowing	Their duties and rights	15. Other significant details and matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Report of the Fund (if applicable); NAV and historical performance of the Fund (if applicable); Prime broker for the Fund and a description of any material arrangements with that prime broker Life of the Fund, the ability to terminate the Fund and the process; Details relating to a Foreign Fund (if applicable) Offering materials must be made available in English
8. Fund Manager and Third Party Service Provider			

Source: CIS Rules, Templates of offering materials for Exempt fund and Non-exempt funds.

Note: The table provides a summary of main aspects related to Offering Materials. It does not cover other requirements as set out in the relevant AIFC Acts.

4. ISSUANCE, CANCELLATION, SALE AND REDEMPTION OF SHARES/UNITS

Requirement	Non-exempt fund		Exempt fund	
	Domestic fund manager	Domestic fund manager	Foreign fund manager	
Fund manager				
Issuance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial offering period in accordance with the investment declaration May not be Offered prior to the effective date of registration of the fund 	Initial offering period in accordance with the investment declaration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial offering period in accordance with the investment declaration May not be offered prior to the effective date of registration of the fund 	
Purchase of Units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with the Constitution of the Fund Non-cash consideration for the purchase of Units is not permitted in REIT that are Non-Exempt Funds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with the Constitution of the Fund REIT that is an Exempt Fund shall be permitted to accept non-cash consideration for the purchase of Units in the REIT. 	In accordance with the Constitution of the Fund	
Restrictions for Unitholders	Lock-up period allowed in accordance with the investment declaration of the Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only for professional clients with minimum subscription amount equal to \$50,000. Lock-up period allowed in accordance with the investment declaration of the Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only for professional clients with minimum subscription amount equal to \$50,000. Lock-up period allowed in accordance with the investment declaration of the Fund 	
Frequency of redemption of shares/units	In accordance with the investment declaration of the Fund	In accordance with the investment declaration of the Fund	In accordance with the investment declaration of the Fund	
Buyback	In accordance with the investment declaration of the Fund	In accordance with the investment declaration of the Fund	In accordance with the investment declaration of the Fund	
Subsequent offering of shares/units	In accordance with the investment declaration of the Fund	In accordance with the investment declaration of the Fund	In accordance with the investment declaration of the Fund	
Temporarily suspension the issuance, cancellation, sale and redemption of Units	In a case of an open-ended Fund: in accordance with the Constitution of the Fund where due to exceptional circumstances it is in the interest of the Unitholders or by the AFSA order	In a case of an open-ended Fund: in accordance with the Constitution of the Fund where due to exceptional circumstances it is in the interest of the Unitholders or by the AFSA order	In a case of an open-ended Fund: in accordance with the Constitution of the Fund where due to exceptional circumstances it is in the interest of the Unitholders or by the AFSA order	

5. ASSETS OF THE FUNDS

Requirement	Non-exempt fund	Exempt fund
<p>Assets</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed white;"/> <p>List of financial instruments</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed white;"/> <p>Restrictions on financial instruments (prohibitions)</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed white;"/> <p>Investment limits</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed white;"/> <p>Leverage or borrowing limits</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed white;"/> <p>Deadlines to align assets with the investment policy</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed white;"/> <p>Determining the value of assets</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed white;"/> <p>Financial statement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial instruments • Other instruments in accordance with investment policy of the Fund; • Investment in other funds • Investment in Derivatives • Securities lending and borrowing • Real Property* <p style="text-align: center;">According to investment policy of the Fund</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed #ccc;"/> <p>REIT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in a property under development is allowed if full completion of construction is guaranteed by a relevant state authority or acceptable by the AFSA guarantee issued by a credible bank. • The total contract value of the property under development must not exceed 10% of the net asset value of the Fund <p>1. According to investment policy of the Fund</p> <p>2. REIT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at least 80% of its assets must be invested in income-generating real property, with the remainder invested in cash or other securities; • at least 50% of its net income must be derived from the rental of real property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to investment policy of the Fund • REIT: up to a maximum of 60% of its net asset value <p style="text-align: center;">According to investment policy of the Fund (6 months for REIT)</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed #ccc;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Methodology for determining value in accordance with the investment policy</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed #ccc;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">In accordance with IFRS or US GAAP standards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial instruments • Other instruments in accordance with investment policy of the Fund; • Investment in other funds • Investment in Derivatives • Securities lending and borrowing • Real Property <p style="text-align: center;">According to investment policy of the Fund</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed #ccc;"/>

* Non-exempt fund and REIT must appoint an independent professional Valuer to ensure that the relevant Real Property is expertly valued

6. PRUDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

Requirement	Fund manager of Non-exempt fund	Fund manager of Exempt fund
Minimum authorized capital	In accordance with AIFC Companies Regulations	In accordance with AIFC Companies Regulations
Minimum Capital Requirement	\$150 000	\$50 000 (Custodian appointed) \$500 000 (Custodian not appointed)
Capital adequacy	Capital Resources of at least its Minimum Capital Requirement = Base Capital Requirement	Capital Resources of at least its Minimum Capital Requirement = Base Capital Requirement
Liquidity requirement	Liquid Assets whose value is at least equal to 25% of the firm’s Annual Operating Expenditure	
Frequency of reporting	Quarterly and annual prudential returns to the AFSA using the templates prescribed for this purpose by the AFSA	
Notification in case of breaches of the prudential requirements	Not later than within 1 Business Day	
An action plan that includes early response measures to improve the financial sustainability of the organization	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify any future circumstances and events with a realistic probability of occurring, which would create a risk that the Fund manager would become insolvent 2. Conduct an annual internal capital adequacy assessment to examine how Fund manager would be affected by adverse stresses and scenarios that might reasonably be expected to occur in a future period of three years 3. Cashflows that it would expect to receive and pay, in anticipation of, and as a result of, those stresses and in those scenarios 4. Management actions plan 	
Review of the action plan by the AFSA Providing an action plan	- Upon the AFSA request	

7. CUSTODIAN AND FUND ADMINISTRATOR

Requirements and contents of agreements with additional service providers	Custodian	Administrator
Mandatory requirement for the fund*	✓	✓
Separate accounting	✓	
Safekeeping of assets (separate from own assets or assets of other clients)	✓	
The Fund's property must be credited and withdrawn in accordance with the instructions of the Fund Manager	✓	
The arrangements for recording and registering the Fund's property, claiming and receiving dividends and other entitlements and interest	✓	
No delegation of the activities and functions of the Eligible Custodian without the prior written consent of the Fund Manager	✓	
A statement (incl. its frequency) to the Fund Manager, which details the Fund's Investments deposited to the account	✓	
Custodian is not entitled to combine the account with any other account or to exercise any charge, mortgage, lien, right of set-off or counterclaim against Investments in that account	✓	
The extent of liability of the Eligible Custodian in the event of default	✓	
Must not hold or control monies or assets belonging to third parties in connection with such administration except in the circumstances defined by the CIS Rules		✓
Functions and service standards that will be applied to the provision of the administration of the Fund		✓
No delegation of the activities and functions of the Administrator without the prior written consent of the Fund Manager		✓
The AML module		✓
Documents confirming transactions must be retained		✓ (6 years)

*1) Non-exempt Fund, REIT managed by Domestic Fund Manager; 2) Exempt Fund managed by Foreign Fund Manager.

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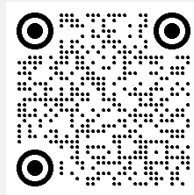
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AIFC Publications



CIS Rules

