The Republic of Mordovia (Russian: Республика Мордовия, Respublika Mordoviya; Moksha/Erzya: Мордовия Республикась, Mordoviya Respublikas) is a constituent entity of the Russian Federation. It comprises the Volga Federal District, one of the eight federal districts of Russia.

State Power Bodies of the Republic of Mordovia:

The highest executive official of the Republic of Mordovia is the Head of the Republic of Mordovia.

The Head of the Republic is Mr Vladimir VOLKOV, who was appointed in 2012.

The State Assembly (parliament) is the unicameral legislature of the Republic of Mordovia. It succeeded the Supreme Council in 1995. Its members lodge the Head of the Republic with powers for a period of five years upon presentation of a candidacy by the President of the Russian Federation. The presiding officer (speaker) is the Chairman of the State Assembly of Mordovia.

The Government of the Republic of Mordovia is a constantly operating highest executive power body of the Republic. The presiding officer (prime minister) is the Chairman of the Government of the Republic of Mordovia.

Other state power bodies of the Republic of Mordovia.

Geographical Location: The Republic of Mordovia is located in the central part of the East European (Russian) plain, in the Oka and Sura rivers interstream area, in the basin of the Volga river. The territory of the Republic extends from the West to the East for approximately 280 km. And from the North to the South it is from 55 to 140 km.

The Republic borders on the Ryazan, Nizhniy Novgorod, Ulyanovsk, Penza regions and the Chuvash Republic.

Mordovia resides in the densely populated and well reclaimed zone of Russia characterized by the temperate climate of the midland. The distance from Moscow to Saransk is 642 km.

Population: The population of the Republic as on 2012 is accounted 825,5 thousand people, 328,7 thousand of them – town-dwellers.

Average age is – 40,5 years.

National structure of the population, according to the data of the All-Russian population census (2010) is as follows: Mordva -39.9%, Russians - 53.2%, Tatars - 5.2%, other nationalities - 1.7%.

Population density – 31,6 people per 1 sq.km.

Territorial Subdivision: as on January 2010 the Republic comprises 22 municipal districts (17 urban and 375 rural settlements), 1 urban district of Saransk, 6 towns (Ruzaevka, Kovylkino, Krasnoslobodsk, Ardatov, Temnikov, Insar).

Territory Area: 26.1 thousand km² (10,100 sq mi).

Main Natural Resources: Among natural resources deposits of raw construction materials are of the utmost importance. The republic possesses the largest deposits of marly-cretaceous mining and gaize used for production of high quality cement (known reserves exceed 360 mln. m³). A spacious deposit of Diatomaceous earth has been discovered (total reserves are estimated by 7 mln. M3). There are deposits of sands, clay, black fumed oak, peat (500 known deposits of peat of the total area of 9.2 thousand hectares with the reserves of 28.7 mln. tons).
Mordovia possesses forest raw-material resources. The stock of wood makes 110.5 mln. m³, including 27.5 mln. m³ of exploitable and declining wood. Rated wood cutting makes 1089.4 thousand m³, including 111.1 thousand m³ of conifer, 88.3 thousand m³ of hardwood and 890 thousand m³ of softwood.

**Administrative Centre:** Saransk.

**Largest towns:** Saransk, Ruzaevka, Kovylkino, Krasnoslobodsk, Ardatov.

**Industry**

The Republic of Mordovia belongs to regions with industrial and agrarian type of economic specialisation. The leading role belongs to industry. Its share in the gross regional product makes 25.2 percent. 17.4% of the gross regional product goes to agriculture, 14.0% - to trade and catering, 9.4% - to construction, 8.3% - to transport and communication (as on 2010).

In the structure of industrial production the largest share goes to machine-building complex, construction and food industry. Share of manufacturing production in the republican industry makes 89.8%.
Transport and Communication

Length of automobile roads is 5.6 thousand km. Main highways are: M5 «Ural», 1P 178 «Nizhny Novgorod - Arzamas - Saransk», “Saransk - Cheboksary”.

The republic has rail communication with all regions of Russia. A large railway junction of the Kuibyshev railroad – Ruzaevka – is about 20 km from Saransk. Length of track in use is 550 km.
Saransk airport is capable of landing airplanes with tonnage of up to 100 tons.

6 cross-country gas lines (from gas fields located in the northern part of Western Siberia) as well as gas line «Saratov - Gorky» go through the territory of the republic. 100% of Mordovia inhabited localities are gasified.

The republic possesses full coverage of its territory with digital television, Internet, modern types of communication and information services.

**Investment Activity**

Favourable investment climate for investments attraction and business activities has been created in the republic. Normative and legal base offering investors maximum possible benefits and preferences has been established:

- reduction in profit tax rate paid to the republican budget of the Republic of Mordovia from 18 to 13.5 % for the investment project payback period but not longer than for 5 years;
- reduction in property tax rate from 2.2 to 0 % for the investment project payback period but not longer than for 5 years;
- granting delay or deferred payment of regional taxes for the period of up to 3 years and investment tax credit for regional taxes for the period up to 5 years;
- assignment of subsidies for partial refunding expenditures for paying interest for the use of credits of Russian credit organisations, allocating received credits for investment projects financing;
- rendering state support in the form of pawning the Republic of Mordovia property for provision of obligations satisfaction to credit organisations and organisations granting loans;
- granting preferences in land tax (in the competence of local self-government bodies);
- granting other forms of state support (rendering assistance in choosing land plots provided with necessary infra-structure; assistance in the process of co-ordination and attraction of funds from federal development institutions; rendering state guarantees of the Republic of Mordovia, etc.).
The relations between the Republic of Mordovia and an investor, implementing an investment project, are defined by an agreement, including obligations of the Republic of Mordovia on the state support as of establishing preferences unities in the course of analogous projects implementation, a complete list of reasons for termination of the agreement, legal process for settlement of disputes, including a possibility for international arbitrage attraction and liabilities of the investor on the investment project implementation, achieving a certain social and economic effect.

In the period of the last 10 years more than USD 5.5 bln. have been invested into the economy of the republic. In the structure of investments by financing sources a considerable part belongs to own funds of organizations, commercial banks resources and budget funds. By investment trends the most part of all investments goes to manufacturing production (32%), agriculture and forestry (11%), transport and communication (8%), operations with real estate, lease and services (14%).

A high level of infra-structure development has been achieved in the republic: high-quality roads, communication means and modern communications, a large railway junction, an airport, 100% provision of gas supply, a broad network of financial institutions and insurance companies are available.

In the last years modern high-efficiency enterprises for production of XLPE power cables, aluminium and copper rod, tractors, iron casting, colourless and coloured glassware for food industry, plywood, semi-dry concept cement, malt, new types of confectionary, frozen vegetables and prepared food, alcoholic beverages have been put into operation. A modern export–orientated plant for aluminium processing has been constructed, reconstruction of a sugar processing plant as well as an existing production of green peas and many others have been carried out. Production of power semi–conductor devices, converters, rubber ware, etc., has been developed. More than 100 investment projects are implemented in agriculture. 8 modern milk complexes for 1000 heads have been commissioned; construction of grain elevators, animal feed and seed plants are carried out.
A number of large investment projects are presently being implemented.

On the basis of cluster approach a new branch of industry – railway car building – has been developed. Construction of a new cement plant for production of super-efficient dry concept cement with annual output of 2.4 mln. tons is being finished.

For the purpose of competitiveness of the republican economy increase, innovative sector development, high-tech branches in accordance with the Strategy for Social and Economic Development of the Republic of Mordovia till 2025 implementation of investment projects for development of mass production of energy-saving lighting sources, initiation of high-tech industrial production with application of ultra-clean nanodispersed aluminium oxide, organisation of production of XLPE power cables of voltage up to 500 kV, development of production of semi-conductors on the basis of silicon carbide, construction of plants for wood boards production, super-efficient dry concept cement production with the capacity of 6 thousand tons of clinker per day and gypsum, modern cheese-producing plant is planned. It is also planned to build and put into operation milk complexes, large feeding houses and pig complexes.

Close co-operation with federal development institutions is carried out. Agreements on mutual co-operation with State Corporation “Bank for Development and Foreign Economic Affairs (Vnesheconombank)”, Russian Technologies State Corporation, Russian Corporation of Nanotechnologies (RUSNANO), etc. have been concluded.

Among innovative projects establishment of a Technopark in the high-tech sphere is of the utmost importance for the economy of the republic. The Technopark will allow creating necessary conditions for the innovative potential implementation and commercialisation of innovations.

**Education**

The republic possesses all the necessary institutions of higher and professional education. All compulsory institutions have broadband Internet access; they are equipped with modern computer and office appliances – per 11 school children there is one computer.

The Republic of Mordovia is the region with a significant educational and scientific potential. 3 institutions of higher professional education and 6 branches of accredited higher educational institutions of the Russian Federation operate in the republic. 43.2 thousand students of 9 specialities (489 students per 10 thousand people) study in higher educational institutions.
Mordovia State University named after N.P. Ogarev is one of the leading universities of the Volga Region. In 2010 State Educational Institution of Higher Professional Education “Mordovia State University named after N.P. Ogarev” was included into the number of universities which were granted the category of “Scientific Research University”; it received the category of expert organisation in the sphere of regional utilisation and saving of energy. In co-operation with OJSC “Electrovypryamitel” the University won the right for receiving subsidies for implementation of complex projects for initiation of production of power electronic devices and converters.

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin signs an executive order on assigning the status of national research institutes to a number of higher education institutions 24 May 2010

In line with Article 9 of Federal Law on Higher and Post-Graduate Education, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin signed an executive order № 812-r of May 20, 2010, assigning the status of national research institutes to the following state higher education institutions: Belgorod State University, Irkutsk State Technological University, Kazan State Technological University, Ogaryov Mordovia State University, Moscow State Institute of Electronic Equipment (technical university), Moscow State Construction University, Moscow Energy Institute (technical university), Perm State University, Russian State Medical University under the Federal Agency on Healthcare and Social Development, Gubkin Russian State Oil and Gas University, St Petersburg State Polytechnic University, Chenshevsky Saratov State University, Tomsk State University, South Ural State University, and the Nanotechnology Research and Education Centre at St Petersburg Academic University, Russian Academy of Sciences.

Offered by State Educational Institution of Higher Professional Education “Mordovia State Pedagogical Institute named after M.E. Evseyev” programme for the development of innovative infra-structure “Centre for Collective Utilisation “Mordovia Basic Centre for Pedagogical Education” became the winner of the contest selection of programmes for the development of innovative infra-structure, including support for small innovative entrepreneurship, federal educational institutions of higher professional education.

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