



Islamic Republic of Iran

# Introduction to Guilan Province



# Geographical Situation of the Province

Guilan province is one of the Northern provinces of the country, measuring 14,042 square kilometers in area. It is in meridian 36° and 34 minutes of east longitude. Its weather is mild which is because of Alborz mountainous weather and Caspian Sea. It is a humid area because of being in the vicinity of Caspian Sea; its humidity is between 40 and 100 percent. Most rain falls in Bandaranzali city and least rain falls in Roudbar, Lowshan and Manjil cities. Guilan province is limited to Caspian Sea, Russia, Azerbaijan Republic, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan from the North, to Ardabil province from the West, to Qazvin and Zanjan provinces from the South and to Mazandaran province from the East. According to the latest geographical political divisions, this province consists of 16 towns, 43 districts, 49 cities, 109 villages, 2694 inhabited areas and 241 uninhabited permanent and seasonal areas.



## Population, Employment and Production Index of the Province

- According to the latest census, 2480874 people live in Guilan province
- 49.7 percent are men and 50.3 percent are women
- Totally 3.3 percent of the populations of the country live in Guilan province
- Average annual growth of the population is 0.63 percent
- Relative population density in the province is 177 people which in this sense has the second rate in the country
- Family size of the province is 3.19 people which in this sense has the least family size in the country
- Urban rate is 60.34 percent and rural rate is 39.66 percent
- 95.10 percent are more than 6 years old and most of them are literate
- Literacy rate in urban areas is 88.9 percent and in rural areas is 75.9 percent
- Unemployment rate of the province is 9.3 percent
- Total active population is more than 912 thousand people
- Economic participation rate in ten-year-old people and more is 38.9 percent, in men is 63.9 percent and in women is 17.5 percent
- Employed populations of the province are 740.8 thousand ones
- Annual gross Domestic product rate of the province is 122265.4 billion Rials which has 1.96 percent share of the country
- Employment share in agriculture section is 26 percent, employment share in industry section is 27 percent and employment share in service section is 47 percent
- According to sensitivity and distribution strength index which express superior po-

sition and higher ability of economical sections in internalizing production system and production process, “agriculture, hunting and forestry sectors”, “industrial-manufacturing sectors”, “Electricity, Gas and water supply sectors”, “transportation, inventory and communications sectors” are considered as strategic sectors and are able to motivate previous and subsequent sectors in addition to their production

- Regarding export rate to value added index, the most rate pertains to “industrial-manufacturing” sector



## Production and Economic Advantages of the Province

- Obtaining the first rank of Business Status Indicator between provinces of the country during the past three years
  - Being one of the industrial centers of the country, especially in agricultural alternate industries, steel industries, marine industries, pharmaceutical industries, cellulose paper, MDF production, textile industries, aviculture and cultivation of cold and hot water fish (one of the first provinces of the country)
  - Having the raw material for developing alternate industries
  - Having industrial areas and settlements in different regions of the province
  - Having high quality agricultural land in different regions of the province
  - Having easy access to agricultural products as raw materials for alternate and lateral industries
  - Having favorable climate for planting, growing and harvesting of different kinds of agricultural products in one crop year; having the possibility of producing different kinds of agricultural products due to climate variation of the province
  - Having the possibility of producing high quality and good garden products which have the capacity to be exported (such as Kiwi, Tea, Olive and Citrus)
  - Having Sefidroud and Kerme Abrisham Agricultural and Animal Husbandry Corporations as major agricultural centers
  - Having variation in ecological conditions and climate, having rich resources in surface waters and vegetation
  - Having inexpensive, ready to work, educated and skilled labor force in different sectors
- Having cheap energy sources including water, electricity, gas and etc.

## Geo-Economic Advantages of the Province

- Enjoying a privileged geographical situation and placing in Nostrac corridor
- Being in the vicinity of the Middle Asia through marine and road path
- Enjoying natural resources, dense forest, prone climate, fertile agricultural soil, unique pond of Bandaranzali and beautiful sea shores
- Flowing of permanent and watery rivers such as Sefidroud, Polroud, Karganroud, Shafaroud and etc.
- Having the only Free Industrial Trade Zone in north of the state (Bandaranzali), border market and Special Economic Zone in Astara and Lahijan cities
- Being the commercial and agricultural center from long ago
- Having a mild weather and beautiful nature
- Having marine access to Astarakhan and Lagan ports in Russia
- Having a short transportation path through Guilan province



## Service and Commercial Advantages of the Province



- Having centers for services and investment attraction in the province
- Having centers for exhibitions and international conferences in Bandaranzali Free Zone
- Having a project in constructing export terminal for flowers and plants
- Having access to a vast network of credit, monetary and financial institutions (governmental and private)
- Having private and governmental organizations in economic and business services such as Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines, Guild Room, Industry House, Cooperative Room, Union of Coastal Co-operatives and etc.
- Having two customs in Bandaranzali and Astara ports and also a custom in Rasht Sardar Jangal International Airport
- Having suitable store pits, store houses and refrigerators
- Having the possibility of transferring land for economic activities investment
- Having access to Caucasus and Middle Asia Markets
- Having currency and Rial facilities for domestic and foreign investors in different economic sectors
- Having enough support and help toward obtaining required permissions for investors
- Having enough help in establishing units in industrial regions and settlements of the province
- Having expertise and skilled labor force
- Having semi industrial and mineral resources
- Having required facilities in domestic and foreign transit and transportation of manufactured goods, raw materials and semi-manufactured goods
- Having been in the vicinity of Astarakhan, Lagan and Makhachkala ports (Russia), Krasnodar and Bektash ports (Turkmenistan), Octave Port (Kazakhstan) and Baku Port (Azerbaijan)

# Infrastructure

## Advantages of the Province

- Having 3 fossil fuel power plant and 3 renewable plant for producing electricity and having wide distribution networks and power transmission in the province, so that Guilan province with production capacity of 2816 Megawatt in the country is the exporter of electricity to other provinces

- Having a 42 inch gas pipeline which is a suitable supplier for commercial, industrial and home use

- Having fuel storage tanks with the capacity up to 200 million liter for kerosene, gasoline and gas oil for fueling Guilan, Ardabil and west part of Mazandaran province

- Having common border market with Azerbaijan Republic

- Having universities, techno vocational training centers and agricultural industrial research institutions which provide expertise and skilled human resource in the province

- Having automation program and providing required hardware and physical structure for developing information technology in the province

- Having Qazvin-Rasht highway (and also a plan for developing it to a freeway) and its continuation to Bandarazali and Astara for developing connecting axes to Turkey, Europe and also Caucasus and Azerbaijan Republic

- Having established Qazvin-Rasht-Bandarazali railway with 205 kilometer length and with 9 million tons annual capacity for carrying out the load which is going to be finished and it would be connected to Azerbaijan's railway until 2017

- Having Rasht Sardar Jangal International Airport which has a 45-meter airstrip with 2950 meters length; by implementing the



airport's development plan there would be the possibility of landing of Airbus airplane

- Having the facilities for port and commercial shipping in Bandarazali zone, so that this port with the capacity of accepting goods up to 11 million tons annually (by implementing development plan it can be promoted to 20 million tons); and also there are facilities for loading and discharging, store rooms and store pits, and it is the greatest port in the margin of Caspian Sea, and the third greatest port in Iran

- Opening Caspian Port Plan in Bandarazali Industrial-commercial Zone with the aim of establishing a modern and great port of third generation

- Having established Rasht-Sari railway plan

- Having established the Southern Line Highway of Caspian Sea (Guilan-Mazandaran)



## Features and Capabilities of the Province in Agriculture, Water and Natural Resources Sectors

- The capacity of Guilan resources for surface water has been estimated 9100 million square meters, of which 3131 million square meters is being restrained by available water installations and 5969 million square meters without being used is getting out of reach toward the sea
- The ratio of the capacity of restrained water to the surface water is 34 percent and the ratio of the capacity of the drained water to the groundwater is 86 percent
- Of total area of Guilan province, 30 percent are agricultural lands, 18.3 percent are pastures and 40 percent are jungles; by having 30 per-

cent for agricultural use, it has the 4th rank between other provinces of the country

- Guilan province is one of the important centers for agriculture; its total agricultural lands are 430000 hectare (313000 hectare for agriculture and 117000 hectare for gardens). The area under cultivation is 266700 hectare and the area of dried crops is 163300 hectare

- The share of value added of agricultural sector in gross domestic production is about 20 percent, whereas this share in the country is 11 percent

- 42 percent of the employed people in Guilan province work in agriculture sector, which is 22 percent more than the average of the country

- Guilan province has the 4th rank in the amount of area under cultivation for agricultural products

- In subdivision of agriculture and horticulture, it has the 1st rank in producing Tea, Hazelnut and Peanut, it has the 2nd rank in producing Rice, it has the 3rd rank in producing Olive, it has 5th rank in producing Citrus and it has the 1st rank in producing blackberry

- In subdivision of animal products, in population of native cattle, native poultry and other fowls, and in producing honey for each colony it has the 1st rank in the country. And also it has the 1st rank in management improvement, in sheep and goat breeding plan, industrial production index of birds and also in per capita consumption of milk

- Guilan province allocated 3 percent of the production of agricultural sector

# Advantages of the Province in Agriculture Sector

- Having high quality agricultural land in the province
- Having high annual production capacity in the province
- Having a privileged natural position and environmental capacity, being in the vicinity of the sea and other valuable ecosystems
- Having variation in ecological conditions and climate, having rich resources in surface waters and vegetation
- Having favorable climate for planting, growing and harvesting of different kinds of agricultural products in one crop year
  - Having the possibility of producing high quality and good garden products which have the capacity to be exported (such as Kiwi, Tea, Olive and Citrus)
- Guilan province has a top rank in most of the strategic products in the country some of which are referred to hereunder:



| Product              | Amount of Production | Share (%) | Country Rank |
|----------------------|----------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Rough Rice           | 7210 Thousand Tons   | 37.6      | 2nd          |
| Tea                  | 80 Thousand Tons     | 92.1      | 1st          |
| Hazelnut             | 17 Thousand Tons     | 76.5      | 1st          |
| Peanut               | 10.5 Thousand Tons   | 90        | 1st          |
| Olive                | 13.8 Thousand Tons   | 15        | 3rd          |
| Blackberry           | 90 Thousand Tons     | 41        | 1st          |
| Chicken              | 117 Thousand Tons    | -         | 6th          |
| Egg                  | 20 Thousand Tons     | 2         | 11th         |
| Honey                | 6 Thousand Tons      | -         | 3rd          |
| Red Meat             | 34 Thousand Tons     | -         | 12th         |
| Milk                 | 339 Thousand Tons    | -         | 12th         |
| Kiwi                 | 123 Thousand Tons    | 45        | 2nd          |
| Citrus               | 110 Thousand Tons    | 5         | 5th          |
| Aquaculture products | 65 Thousand Tons     | -         | 2nd          |



# Tourist Attractions of the Province



## **Bandar Anzali International Lagoon,**

It is one of the unique sights of the world. This pond with beautiful islands, massive canebreaks and areas full of Lotus is a suitable resort for native and immigrant birds.

## **Aštara Steel Lagoon**

This pond is located at 3.8 kilometer to Aštara and its height from the sea is 4.69 meters. It is a suitable place for immigrant water birds because of having safety and being shallow. This pond is one of the 72 superior tourism areas determined by Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization.

## **Guilan Rural Heritage Museum**

We exhibit villages of Guilan in the heart of the nature of Saravan forest by preserving the intimacy, friendship and humanity of their environment. We preserve the memories in Guilan Rural Heritage Museum in order to link the past and present generation and to introduce Guilan's culture and history.

## **Lahijan's Baame Sabz and Gondola Lift**

Baame Sabz and gondola lift are located at the southern side of Lahijan city and honored to visit Sheytan Kooch Waterfall and Pool. Baame Sabz is a flat area with handicrafts' shops, supermarkets and also car parking. The entrance of the tele cabin is located at this area.

## **The Tomb of Mirza Koochak Jangali**

Mirza was born in 1881 in Rasht. His name was Younes. He was son of Mirza Bozorg, so he was called Mirza Koochak. He was the founder of Jangal movement which began in 1914. His tomb is in Soleimandarab Cemetery.

## **The Tomb of Sheykh Zahed Guilani**

This tomb is located at Sheykhavar or Sheykhaneh village, between Lahijan and Langroud cities. It is the tomb of Sheykh Zahed Tajeldin Ebrahim Guilani; one of the

great mystics and master of Sheykh Safiaddin Ardabili. Sheykh Zahed Guilani tomb bears No.822 in registration of National Iranian Art.

#### **Rudkhan Castle**

Rudkhan castle is one of the most glorious constructions of Guilan province. This castle is located on top of a mountain in 25 kilometer Southwest of Fouman city, in Gourab village, after central environs of Fouman. Rudkhan castle is registered in National Iranian Art bearing No.1546 dated 21.08.1975 because of its historical, architectural, artistic and military validity and importance and also its significant extent.

#### **Masouleh Historical City**

Masouleh city measuring about 16 Hectare, is located at the westernmost area of Guilan province, it is on southwest side of Rasht and 25 kilometer from Fouman. Masouleh is registered by No.1090 as one of the Iranian National Arts by Cultural Heritage Organization.

#### **The Tomb of Agha Seyed Jalaleddin Ashraf**

Agha Seyed Jalaleddin Ashraf Tomb is located at the center of Astanehashrafieh city. Agha Seyed Jalaleddin Ashraf is the son of the 7th Imam and Imam Reza's brother.

#### **The Tomb and Museum of Kashefo-Saltaneh**

Mohammad Mirza Ghavanlou Tomb and Museum who is known as "Kashefolsaltaneh" is one of the tourism attraction center of Lahijan city. Kashef-Saltaneh brought tea to Iran from India for the first time.



## **Features and Abilities of the Province in Mine and Industry Sector**

The industry of Guilan has had a long and difficult history. This history which steps into a new stage by tea and silk industry is about one century. In some periods, textile industry has been recognized as a pole. Now it is moving toward developing most industrial groups, also on the basis of advantages and superiorities of the province. According to the latest available information:

- The amount of industrial investing in Guilan during the current government is equal to 15000 billion Rials.
- In recent years, important units such as great steel production units, pharmaceutical products, printing and packaging industries, cement, tile and glass industry, MDF, textile products, food and dairy industry, cellulose industries and agricultural conversion industries in Guilan have been started up.
- Long history of the establishment of industry in the region, especially agriculture-related industries and existence of the required raw materials for such industries, including wood, tea, silk, olive, citrus,



rice, required mineral material for building material and etc. have provided extensive facilities for developing industrial activities. Guilan province is one of the most important provinces in the field of industry.

- At the moment, more than 300 industrial units in the province are working in the field of food industry and conversion industry of agriculture sector as a subset of Mine and Industry Organization.

- Production of different high quality auto parts, especially production of disk and clutch plate, parts of the front of the vehicle, different types of shock absorber, exhaust components, plastic car parts, auto electronic parts and etc...have converted this province to one of the superior provinces in the field of auto parts manufacturing, so that according to the latest assessments, it was the 4th superior auto parts manufacturer.

- Guilan has been a pole in production of pharmaceutical and sanitary products from long ago and it is one of the leading provinces in innovation and production of exquisite and unique products. Production of Angi Pars Cardiovascular Medicines, production of HIV Antiviral drug (IMOD) for the first time in the country, production of Anticancer Antibiotics for the first time in the Middle East and etc. certify this fact.

- The capacity of producing cement in Guilan province is one of the advantages in mineral industry. Now, 2 cement production units with daily capacity of producing 9000 tons are active in the province.

- The capacity of producing tiles in the province is 3.9 million sq. meters in a year; it is expected by exploitation of available devel-





oping plan, the production of this product to be increased to 9 million sq. meters in a year.

- The capacity of producing steel in the province is equal to four million six hundred thousand tons in a year, so it is one of the poles for producing steel in the country.

- Moving toward establishing industries adapted to the advantages of the province, including establishing factories for transforming waste of agricultural products to valuable industrial products such as pulp, tissue paper, disposable dishes, turning citrus to concentrate, new textile industries and mineral industries, are important actions which are in the agenda of the Ministry of Industry and Mines and their implementation operation has been started.

- At the moment, there are 33 active industrial areas and settlements in different zones of the province with the space of 1680 hectare.

- Rasht industrial city as one of the first industrial cities in the country is one of the advantages of the province. Rasht industrial city with the space of 521 hectare with active and potential facilities has a desirable condition for attracting industrial investors.

This industrial city by possessing special advantages such as supplying more than 450 liter water in a second, more than 400 megawatt electricity, gas, telephone lines, crossing railway and transit asphalt road in the vicinity of it, security services and etc. has provided suitable substrates for investment in average and great industries and this cause for investor to pay attention to it for establishing industrial and production units. Now there are 329 industrial units in Rasht

industrial city, of which 156 units are active and the rest are under construction. It should be noted that the primary enacted area for Rasht industrial city was totally 2288 hectare which the transference thereof has not been done in one stage. In the second period of the president's travel to Guilan, transference of the rest of Rasht industrial city's lands was enacted and it has been established that a part of Sefidrud company's lands be transferred to Rasht industrial city and industrial cities company for establishment of production units.

- Due to environmental and natural conditions and available limits, paying attention to the mine and mining in Guilan province is very important. Now there are 100 valid Mineral Exploitation Permits in Guilan province.



# Introduction to Guilan Province

No.674, Valiasr Blvd., Rasht - Iran 41697-66548

<http://www.iccimaguil.ir>

<http://www.gccim.ir>

E-mail: [info@iccimaguil.ir](mailto:info@iccimaguil.ir)

Tel.: ( +98 13 ) 33757037, 33757038

Fax: ( +98 13 ) 33757036

