

Appendix 1

1. What is your gender?

- a. Male
- b. Female

2. How old are you?

- a. 18-29
- b. 30-45
- c. 46-45+

3. Your highest educational level achieved.

- a. High school
- b. First year of university (dropouts)
- c. Secondary special
- d. Master Thesis

4. What is the size of your SME in terms of employees?

- a. 1-10 employees
- b. 11-50 employees
- c. 51-100 employees
- d. 101+ employees

5. How long has your SME been in operation in the Akmola region?

- a. Less than 1 year

- b. 1-3 years
- c. 4-6 years
- d. 7+ years

6. *What is the nature of your SME's business activities?*

- a. Trade
- b. Manufacturing industry
- c. Transport and communications
- d. Provision of personal services
- e. Agriculture and forestry
- f. healthcare
- g. Education
- h. Catering
- i. Repair of automobiles, household products and ...
- j. Construction
- k. Operations with real estate, rent
- l. Tourism and hotels
- m. Provision of social services
- n. Financial activities
- o. Provision of public services
- p. Veterinary
- q. Fishing and fish farming
- r. Other

7. *What is the main source of financing for your SME?*
 - a. Personal savings
 - b. Bank loans
 - c. Investment from family or friends
 - d. Venture capital

8. *What is the current level of government support for your SME?*
 - a. None
 - b. Minimal
 - c. Moderate
 - d. High

9. *What is the level of competition in your SME's market?*
 - a. Low
 - b. Moderate
 - c. High
 - d. Very high

10. *How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected your SME's operations?*
 - a. Negative impact
 - b. Neutral impact
 - c. Positive impact
 - d. No impact

11. *What are the major challenges facing your SME in the Akmola region?*

- a. Access to financing
- b. Government regulations
- c. Competition
- d. Infrastructure development

12. *What state support in the field of education do you need?*

- a. I don't need support in the field of education
- b. Management courses
- c. Advertising and marketing courses
- d. Internship at successful companies in your industry
- e. Programming courses
- f. Seminars on new technologies and business process optimization
- g. Videos on the various stages of building a business

13. *Is it easy to get financial support for small and medium-sized businesses*

- a. Yes
- b. Probably yes
- c. Very limited
- d. No
- e. Other

14. *Form of business activity*

- a. Individual entrepreneur

- b. Limited liability partnership LLP
- c. Peasant farm

15. What is the most prosperous region(city) in Kazakhstan to start a business?

- a. Akmola region total
- b. Almaty region total
- c. Atyrau region total
- d. East Kazakhstan total
- e. West Kazakhstan total
- f. Karaganda region total
- g. North Kazakhstan total
- h. Astana total
- i. Almaty total
- j. South Kazakhstan Region total

Appendix 2

Year	The number of registered SMEs				GDP growth %	HDI%	Foreign direct investment. net inflows (% of GDP)	Inflation . consumer prices (annual %)	Population growth (annual %)	Inflation. consumer prices (annual %)
	Astana	Almaty	Akmola region	Almaty region						
2000	8458	42128	4339	5401	9.80	0.68	7.49	13.18	-0.30	12.75
2001	5384	29333	5105	6570	13.50	0.70	12.72	8.35	-0.17	10.43
2002	8921	43914	4572	5986	9.80	0.71	10.51	5.84	0.00	9.33
2003	10681	50029	4949	6532	9.30	0.72	8.05	6.44	0.34	8.78
2004	12117	45232	5056	6606	9.60	0.73	13.01	6.88	0.69	8.40
2005	16428	65427	6609	8668	9.70	0.74	4.46	7.58	0.89	8.13
2006	17047	60879	5477	7317	10.70	0.75	9.40	8.72	1.06	7.79
2007	20620	66294	5895	8386	8.90	0.76	11.42	10.85	1.14	7.26
2008	23015	71377	6473	9223	3.30	0.76	12.60	17.14	1.87	6.63
2009	25424	77129	6879	10068	1.20	0.76	12.38	7.32	1.98	6.55

2010	2619 4	68899	6676	10445	7.30	0.77	5.04	7.40	1.41	5.77
2011	2866 4	72526	6997	10967	7.40	0.78	7.14	8.42	1.43	5.39
2012	3154 7	76360	7180	11412	4.80	0.78	6.56	5.10	1.41	5.29
2013	3616 6	82299	7597	12044	6.00	0.79	4.23	5.85	1.44	5.20
2014	4242 2	93024	7842	11665	4.20	0.80	3.30	6.71	1.47	5.06
2015	4523 4	95407	8450	13213	1.20	0.81	3.57	6.67	1.46	4.93
2016	5037 0	10194 9	9129	14403	1.10	0.81	12.5 5	14.55	1.42	4.96
2017	5731 5	10966 0	9815	15713	4.10	0.81	2.85	7.44	1.36	4.90
2018	6433 9	11484 5	1034 1	16852	4.10	0.81	0.20	6.02	1.31	4.85
2019	6848 3	11670 4	1058 4	17916	4.50	0.82	2.05	5.25	1.29	4.80
2020	7225 2	12051 2	1097 0	18804	- 2.50	0.81	4.22	6.75	1.30	4.89

Appendix 3

Data	GDP growth%	HDI%	Foreign direct investment. net inflows (% of GDP)	Inflation. consumer prices (annual %)	Population growth (annual %)	Inflation. consumer prices (annual %)
2000	9.80	0.68	7.49	13.18	-0.30	12.75
2001	13.50	0.70	12.72	8.35	-0.17	10.43
2002	9.80	0.71	10.51	5.84	0.00	9.33
2003	9.30	0.72	8.05	6.44	0.34	8.78
2004	9.60	0.73	13.01	6.88	0.69	8.40
2005	9.70	0.74	4.46	7.58	0.89	8.13
2006	10.70	0.75	9.40	8.72	1.06	7.79
2007	8.90	0.76	11.42	10.85	1.14	7.26
2008	3.30	0.76	12.60	17.14	1.87	6.63
2009	1.20	0.76	12.38	7.32	1.98	6.55
2010	7.30	0.77	5.04	7.40	1.41	5.77
2011	7.40	0.78	7.14	8.42	1.43	5.39
2012	4.80	0.78	6.56	5.10	1.41	5.29
2013	6.00	0.79	4.23	5.85	1.44	5.20
2014	4.20	0.80	3.30	6.71	1.47	5.06
2015	1.20	0.81	3.57	6.67	1.46	4.93
2016	1.10	0.81	12.55	14.55	1.42	4.96
2017	4.10	0.81	2.85	7.44	1.36	4.90
2018	4.10	0.81	0.20	6.02	1.31	4.85
2019	4.50	0.82	2.05	5.25	1.29	4.80
2020	-2.50	0.81	4.22	6.75	1.30	4.89