

**THE ROLE AND STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF INDUSTRIAL SECTORS IN THE
NATIONAL ECONOMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN**

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Annotation: This article analyzes the role of industrial sectors in the national economy of Uzbekistan, their impact on the country's economic development, and their strategic significance. It highlights the importance of modernizing industry, introducing innovative technologies, and producing competitive products within the national economy.

Keywords: Industry, national economy, sectors, modernization, innovation, competitiveness, strategic importance.

Industry is the backbone of any national economy. It not only generates a significant share of national income but also increases labor productivity, introduces new technologies, and improves public welfare. The economic strength, prosperity, and independence of any country primarily depend on its production capacity—the level of development of its industrial sector. Industrial sectors form the fundamental pillar of the national economy; they contribute to GDP, enhance export potential, and raise labor productivity. In Uzbekistan, the views of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, who stated that “Industry plays a crucial role in the nation's economy and employment,” are of great importance in shaping industrial development.

In today's rapidly developing era, Uzbekistan's industry has become the driving force of the national economy. Industrial sectors not only supply other branches of the national economy with raw materials and products but also ensure employment, increase export volumes, and stimulate innovative development. Therefore, the modernization of industry, expansion of import-substituting and export-oriented production are identified as priority areas of economic policy by the country's leadership.

Among various sectors, the production complex of industry constitutes the main core. A key characteristic of the industrial complex is that a large share of national income is created within its branches through the production of means of labor and consumer goods while promoting scientific and technological advancement. Today, the majority of Uzbekistan's working-age population is employed in industrial production. Industrial development is advancing based on the objective economic laws of society and the legislative reforms adopted in recent years.

From the early years of independence, Uzbekistan set the goal of transforming its economy from a raw material-exporting state into a producer of finished goods. To achieve this, comprehensive reforms have been implemented to modernize and diversify industrial sectors.

Industrial sectors hold a leading position in Uzbekistan's economic structure. Nearly 30 percent of the country's GDP comes from industry. In recent years, sectors such as energy, oil and gas, chemicals, textiles, construction materials, automotive manufacturing, electrical engineering, and pharmaceuticals have grown rapidly. New industrial zones, technoparks, and clusters have been established, and production based on deep processing of local raw materials is expanding.

Industry is directly linked with other sectors of the economy—agriculture, transport, services, and trade—providing them with necessary equipment, energy, and materials. The strategic importance of industry can be summarized as follows:

First, it ensures economic independence by reducing reliance on imports. Domestic production satisfies internal market demand and increases export capacity.

Second, it serves as a major source of employment and income, as hundreds of thousands of citizens work in industrial sectors, thereby raising living standards and supporting social stability.

Third, it drives innovation and technological development. The introduction of advanced technologies—including digitalization, “green energy,” automation, and digital management systems—enhances production efficiency and fosters a transition to a digital economy.

Fourth, industry significantly contributes to export potential. Uzbekistan exports a wide range of industrial products—fabrics, automobiles, electrical equipment, fertilizers, cement, gold, and non-ferrous metals—to many foreign markets. Today, domestic industrial output is exported to more than 80 countries, and products such as automobiles, textiles, chemical goods, and pharmaceuticals are in high demand abroad, increasing foreign currency revenues.

Fifth, industry plays a vital role in regional development. Establishing industrial enterprises creates new jobs, improves infrastructure, and raises the well-being of the population. The free economic zones of Navoi, Jizzakh, Angren, and “Urgut” are clear examples of this.

Industry, particularly its core branch—heavy industry—forms the basis for expanded reproduction within the country. By supplying modern technical equipment to agriculture, industry helps elevate rural production to higher economic and cultural levels, narrow the gap between urban and rural areas, and transform agricultural labor into industrial labor.

Today, the industrial policy of Uzbekistan is being implemented in the following directions:

- Strengthening import-substituting and export-oriented production;
- Introducing energy-efficient and environmentally friendly technologies;
- Developing production based on the principles of the green economy;
- Establishing industrial clusters and technoparks in the regions;
- Creating favorable conditions for foreign investors.

In conclusion, industry provides all sectors of the national economy with production tools and labor instruments. The development of the national economy, science, education, culture, healthcare, sports, tourism, and other spheres is closely dependent on the progress of industry. Its historical role in the development of productive forces and relations is immense. Therefore, the stronger and more efficient the industrial sector becomes, the more powerful the state and the higher the population’s standard of living will be.

Industry unites the working class—the leading force of society. Its development increases the number, knowledge, skills, and qualifications of employees. Based on the above, the industrial sectors of Uzbekistan can truly be considered the heart of the national economy and the foundation of the country’s progress. Industrial development enhances export potential, creates new jobs, introduces innovations, and positions Uzbekistan as a competitive participant in the global economic system.

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