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SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS OF THE ECONOMIC GROWTH INDICATORS OF THE LIGHT INDUSTRY IN UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract. The light industry is one of the strategic sectors of Uzbekistan's economy, significantly contributing to industrial diversification, employment generation, export expansion, and sustainable economic development. Over the past decade, comprehensive economic reforms, modernization programs, and investment policies have accelerated the development of the textile, garment, leather, and silk industries. This study aims to provide a scientific analysis of the economic growth indicators of Uzbekistan's light industry by examining production dynamics, export performance, labor productivity, investment trends, and value-added creation. The research employs qualitative and quantitative analytical methods, including comparative analysis, statistical evaluation, trend analysis, and synthesis of secondary data obtained from national statistical reports and international organizations. The findings indicate that government support, technological modernization, digital transformation, and export-oriented industrial policies have significantly enhanced the competitiveness of Uzbekistan's light industry. However, challenges remain regarding innovation capacity, energy efficiency, labor productivity, and integration into global value chains. The study concludes with policy recommendations for strengthening sustainable industrial growth through innovation, digitalization, human capital development, and environmentally responsible production practices.

Keywords: Light industry, economic growth, textile industry, industrial development, exports, labor productivity, Uzbekistan, investment, sustainable development, industrial policy.

Introduction. Economic diversification has become one of the principal priorities of Uzbekistan's long-term development strategy. In recent years, the Government of Uzbekistan has implemented comprehensive structural reforms aimed at reducing dependence on raw material exports while promoting value-added manufacturing industries. Among these sectors, the light industry occupies a central position due to its considerable contribution to industrial production, employment, foreign exchange earnings, and regional development.

The light industry encompasses textile production, apparel manufacturing, leather processing, footwear production, silk manufacturing, and related industries. Owing to Uzbekistan's substantial cotton resources, favorable climatic conditions, expanding industrial infrastructure, and increasing foreign investment, the sector has become one of the fastest-growing components of the national economy [1;2;3]. The relevance of this research is reinforced by the increasing importance of industrial competitiveness in the global economy. International markets require high-quality products, environmentally sustainable production systems, digital manufacturing technologies, and compliance with international standards. Therefore, evaluating the economic growth indicators of Uzbekistan's light industry is essential for understanding its current performance and identifying future development opportunities [4;5]. Furthermore, recent national development strategies emphasize industrial modernization, export diversification, technological innovation, and human capital

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development as key drivers of sustainable economic growth. Scientific analysis of these indicators provides valuable evidence for policymakers, investors, researchers, and industrial managers.

Research Methodology. This study employs a mixed-method research design combining quantitative statistical analysis with qualitative policy evaluation. National economic indicators relating to industrial production, exports, employment, investment, and productivity are analyzed using descriptive statistical methods. The development of Uzbekistan's light industry is compared across different periods to identify structural changes and growth dynamics. Findings from empirical data and previous scientific studies are integrated to formulate comprehensive conclusions and recommendations.

Results and Discussion. The analysis demonstrates that Uzbekistan's light industry has experienced significant structural transformation during the past decade. Industrial production in the light industry has increased steadily due to modernization of textile enterprises, establishment of textile clusters, and expansion of domestic processing capacity. The transition from exporting raw cotton toward manufacturing value-added textile products has substantially increased industrial output and national income.

Government investment programs have encouraged modernization of production facilities through the introduction of automated equipment, digital manufacturing technologies, and quality management systems. Consequently, production efficiency has improved while production costs have gradually decreased [6;7;8].

The analysis indicates continuous growth in exports of textile products, garments, knitted products, and finished apparel. Diversification of export destinations has reduced dependence on traditional markets while increasing competitiveness within European and Asian markets.

Export-oriented industrial policies have stimulated private investment, increased production capacity, and strengthened international cooperation with foreign investors.

Nevertheless, maintaining export competitiveness requires continuous improvements in product quality, international certification, logistics infrastructure, and brand development.

Discussion. The results demonstrate that the economic growth of Uzbekistan's light industry is driven by a combination of industrial modernization, export-oriented policies, investment attraction, technological innovation, and institutional reforms.

The findings are consistent with international economic theories emphasizing the importance of industrial diversification for sustainable economic growth. However, sustainable competitiveness requires continued investment in innovation, digital transformation, workforce development, research and development, and environmental sustainability. Future industrial policy should focus on increasing value-added production rather than expanding production volume alone.

Conclusion. The scientific analysis confirms that the light industry has become one of the most dynamic sectors of Uzbekistan's economy. Structural reforms, industrial modernization, foreign investment, and export-oriented policies have significantly strengthened the sector's contribution to national economic growth.

The study demonstrates that improvements in production capacity, export performance, labor productivity, and technological innovation have enhanced industrial competitiveness. At the same time, challenges related to digital transformation, environmental sustainability, innovation capacity, and workforce skills remain important priorities for future development.

To ensure long-term sustainable growth, the following policy recommendations are proposed:

Accelerate digital transformation through Industry 4.0 technologies.

Increase investment in research, innovation, and product development.

Expand vocational education and workforce training programs.

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Strengthen environmental sustainability through green manufacturing technologies.
Improve logistics infrastructure and export promotion mechanisms.
Encourage greater integration into global textile value chains.
Support small and medium-sized textile enterprises through financial incentives and technology transfer.

Implementation of these recommendations will contribute to improving the international competitiveness of Uzbekistan's light industry while supporting sustainable economic development and increasing national export potential.

The scientific analysis conducted in this study demonstrates that the light industry has become one of the key drivers of Uzbekistan's economic growth and industrial modernization. The sector has experienced substantial progress over the past decade as a result of comprehensive economic reforms, increased foreign direct investment, technological modernization, and export-oriented industrial policies. These developments have strengthened the competitiveness of the textile, garment, leather, and related industries while contributing significantly to employment generation, value-added production, and foreign exchange earnings.

The findings indicate that industrial growth has been supported by the successful implementation of textile cluster systems, modernization of production facilities, and the adoption of advanced manufacturing technologies. Furthermore, the transition from exporting raw cotton to producing higher value-added textile and apparel products has increased industrial productivity and improved the country's position in international markets. Government support measures, including investment incentives, infrastructure development, and export promotion policies, have played an essential role in accelerating industrial development.

Despite these achievements, the study also identifies several challenges that may limit the long-term competitiveness of Uzbekistan's light industry. These include relatively low labor productivity compared with leading textile-producing countries, insufficient investment in research and development, uneven adoption of digital technologies among enterprises, and the need to strengthen environmental sustainability and compliance with international quality standards. In addition, increasing global competition requires continuous innovation, improved product quality, effective branding strategies, and deeper integration into global value chains.

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