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SECTORAL STRUCTURE AND TERRITORIAL SPECIALIZATION OF INDUSTRY IN URGUT DISTRICT

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Abstract. This article analyzes the development of industrial sectors in Urgut District from 2010 to 2023 on the basis of statistical data. It examines the dynamics of industrial output, the sectoral structure, the district's share in the industry of Samarkand Region, and per capita indicators. Territorial specialization coefficients were calculated, and the results show that light industry is the leading sector of the district's industry, while the chemical industry, fabricated metal products, and paper production are the fastest-growing sectors.

Keywords: Urgut District, industrial sectors, free economic zone, industrial output, territorial specialization, textile industry, investments.

Introduction

The stability of a regional economy depends directly on the condition of its industrial sectors, the volume of value added they generate, and the efficient employment of labor resources. In Uzbekistan, reforms are being carried out to strengthen regional industrial potential, diversify production, and increase the volume of export-oriented products, and the role of free economic zones (FEZs) in this process is growing. International studies show that the effectiveness of zones depends on their linkages with the local economy, infrastructure, and the value chain [1; 2].

Urgut District is located in the south-east of Samarkand Region. Its area is 1,120.3 km² (6.5% of the region's area), and in 2023 its population was 559.2 thousand people (13.1% of the region's population) [3]. The district's economy is agrarian-industrial in character: of more than 800 enterprises, 52 are medium-sized, 261 are small, and 506 are microfirms. Joint ventures operate in the district in the processing of carpets, marble, construction materials, and tobacco products. By Presidential Resolution No. PQ-5278 of November 4, 2021, the activity of the "Urgut" FEZ was expanded [4]. Nevertheless, the sectoral structure of the district's industry and the dynamics of its share in the region's industry have not been sufficiently analyzed on the basis of long-term statistical series.

Aims, Objectives, and Methods of the Study

The aim of the study is to analyze the development of industrial sectors in Urgut District from 2010 to 2023, to identify structural changes, and to assess the district's position in the industry of Samarkand Region. The objectives are: (1) to determine the dynamics of industrial output; (2) to analyze changes in the sectoral structure; (3) to assess the district's share in regional industry and its territorial specialization; and (4) to study per capita indicators.

The information base consists of data from the Samarkand Regional Statistics Department [9]. Statistical comparison, time series, and structural analysis methods were used, along with the average annual growth rate and the specialization coefficient. The theoretical basis draws on the concepts of agglomeration effects (A. Marshall) [5], "growth poles" (F. Perroux) [6], clusters (M. Porter) [7], and the new economic geography (P. Krugman) [8]. The data are given in current prices; therefore, part of the absolute growth is attributable to inflation.

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Results and Discussion

The volume of industrial output in the district rose from 116.3 billion soums in 2010 to 1,558.1 billion soums in 2020 and reached 2,441.5 billion soums in 2023, an increase of approximately 21 times. Between 2018 and 2023, output grew from 1,039.1 billion soums to 2,441.5 billion soums (2.35 times), with an average annual growth rate of approximately 18.6%. Almost all of the district's industry (99.9% in 2023) is accounted for by manufacturing, while the share of mining is negligible.

Table 1. Sectoral structure of industry in Urgut District (billion soums)

Sector	2018	2023	Growth (times)	Share in 2023, %
Textiles	414.2	930.5	2.25	38.1
Food products	195.9	268.7	1.37	11.0
Wearing apparel	108.3	224.5	2.07	9.2
Leather and related products	76.2	181.6	2.38	7.4
Electrical equipment	71.3	215.6	3.02	8.8
Fabricated metal products	11.7	188.6	16.1	7.7
Paper and paper products	18.7	121.7	6.5	5.0
Chemicals and chemical products	7.3	118.6	16.2	4.9
Total industry	1,039.1	2,441.5	2.35	100

Source: Author's calculations based on data from the Samarkand Regional Statistics Department.

Textiles lead the sectoral structure (930.5 billion soums in 2023, or 38.1% of industry). Textiles, apparel, and leather together accounted for 57.6% of industry in 2018 and 54.7% in 2023, so light industry remains the foundation of the district's industry. The share of the food industry fell from 18.9% to 11.0% because it grew more slowly than other sectors (1.37 times). Chemicals (16.2 times), fabricated metal products (16.1 times), and paper production (6.5 times) grew rapidly, which indicates that the sectoral structure is diversifying. However, sharp fluctuations in metallurgy and tobacco production point to the instability of some sectors.

The district's share in the region's industry rose from 5.8% in 2010 to 10.3% in 2015, then declined and fluctuated between 7.1% and 8.8% in 2018-2023 (7.4% in 2023). The specialization coefficients for 2023 showed that, relative to the other districts of the region, the district is most strongly specialized in the production of leather (8.6), paper (4.3), chemicals (4.1), electrical equipment (3.8), and apparel (3.7). The coefficient was 2.2 for textiles and 0.4 for food products. Thus, although the district's industry has grown rapidly in absolute terms, it has not grown significantly faster than that of the competing districts of the region.

In industrial output per capita, the district ranks fifth in the region after Tayloq, Narpay, Jomboy, and Samarkand districts, which is explained by its relatively large population. The growth rate of this indicator was high in 2010-2015 and slowed afterwards. This cannot be explained by demographic factors alone, since the district's share in the region's industry also declined over the same period. The "Urgut" FEZ and foreign investment may be among the important drivers of industrial growth; however, assessing the zone's direct contribution requires separate statistics on zone residents (investment, exports, and jobs).

Conclusion

Urgut District's industry grew at a high rate from 2010 to 2023 and is evolving from an agrarian-industrial orientation into an economy based on manufacturing. Light industry (textiles, apparel, and leather) accounts for the main part of industrial output, while chemicals, fabricated metal products, and paper production are growing rapidly. At the same time, the decline in the district's share of regional

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industry and in the growth rate of per capita output indicates the need for balanced sectoral development, higher value added, and stronger cooperation between FEZ residents and local enterprises.

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