



## ASSESSMENT OF ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY AND GROWTH DYNAMICS OF THE FOOD INDUSTRY

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**Annotatsiya:** Ushbu maqolada O'zbekistonda oziq-ovqat sanoatining 2015–2025 yillardagi rivojlanishidagi hozirgi tendentsiyalar tahlil qilinadi, sanoatning iqtisodiy samaradorligi, investitsiya jozibadorligi va raqobatbardoshligiga e'tibor qaratiladi. Rasmiy statistik ma'lumotlar va iqtisodiy tahliliy usullar asosida oziq-ovqat sanoati korxonalarining ishlab chiqarish hajmlari, rentabellik ko'rsatkichlari, mehnat unumdarligi, material zichligi va eksport salohiyati dinamikasi baholanadi. Ishlab chiqarishning hududiy taqsimlanishiga, texnologik modernizatsiyaning roliga va sanoat samaradorligini oshirishda innovatsiyalarni joriy etishga alohida e'tibor qaratiladi. Tadqiqot natijalari oziq-ovqat sanoatida barqaror o'sish sur'atlari, resurslardan foydalanishning yaxshilanishi va eksport imkoniyatlarining kengayishidan dalolat beradi. Maqolada sanoat rivojlanishining barqarorligini oshirish, mintaqaviy investitsiyalarni rag'batlantirish va oziq-ovqat sanoatining milliy iqtisodiyotdagi mavqeini mustahkamlash bo'yicha ilmiy asoslangan tavsiyalar shakllantirilgan.

**Kalit so'zlar:** oziq-ovqat sanoati; iqtisodiy samaradorlik; investitsiya jozibadorligi; mehnat unumdarligi; innovatsiya; eksport salohiyati; mintaqaviy rivojlanish.

**Аннотация:** В статье проанализированы современные тенденции развития пищевой промышленности Узбекистана за период 2015–2025 гг. с акцентом на экономическую эффективность, инвестиционную привлекательность и конкурентоспособность отрасли. На основе официальных статистических данных и экономико-аналитических методов оценивается динамика объемов производства, показателей рентабельности, производительности труда, материальной интенсивности и экспортного потенциала предприятий пищевой промышленности. Особое внимание уделяется территориальному распределению производства, роли технологической модернизации и внедрению инноваций в повышении эффективности отрасли. Результаты исследования свидетельствуют о стабильных темпах роста пищевой промышленности, улучшении использования ресурсов и расширении экспортных возможностей. В статье сформулированы научно обоснованные рекомендации по повышению устойчивости развития отрасли, стимулированию региональных инвестиций и укреплению позиций пищевой промышленности в национальной экономике.

**Ключевые слова:** пищевая промышленность; экономическая эффективность; инвестиционная привлекательность; производительность труда;

инновации; экспортный потенциал; региональное развитие.

**Abstract:** The article analyses current trends in the development of the food industry in Uzbekistan for the period 2015–2025, with a focus on economic efficiency, investment attractiveness and competitiveness of the industry. Based on official statistical data and economic and analytical methods, the dynamics of production volumes, profitability indicators, labour productivity, material intensity and export potential of food industry enterprises are assessed. Particular attention is paid to the territorial distribution of production, the role of technological modernisation and the introduction of innovations in improving the efficiency of the industry. The results of the study indicate stable growth rates in the food industry, improved resource utilisation and expanded export opportunities. The article formulates scientifically based recommendations for improving the sustainability of the industry's development, stimulating regional investment and strengthening the position of the food industry in the national economy.

**Keywords:** food industry; economic efficiency; investment attractiveness; labour productivity; innovation; export potential; regional development.

**Introduction.** The food industry of Uzbekistan is of strategic importance in the national economy, occupying a significant share in the structure of industrial products. For example, in January-June 2024, the production of food products reached 12.5% of total industrial production. This indicator represents an increase of 102.5% in terms of physical volume index compared to the same period last year, which means that the food sector of the industry is showing stable growth rates.

Also, according to statistics, in January-July 2021, 20,442 food production enterprises operated, producing products worth a total of 25,221.2 billion soums. This, in turn, indicates a large amount of investment in the sector and an expansion of production capacity.

Geographically, territorial distribution also plays an important role in the food industry: according to estimates for 2021, the city of Tashkent accounted for 15.7% of food production, the Tashkent region - 12.9%, and the Samarkand region - 11.2% [1].

Such growth trends and territorial distribution indicate that the Uzbek food industry is not only focused on processing agricultural raw materials, but also on strengthening its strategy to improve product quality, introduce modern technologies, and create competitive products. To this end, enterprises are expanding the use of innovative solutions to diversify the range of fruits and vegetables, milk, meat, and other products, expand export potential, and achieve sustainable economic efficiency [2].

The main purpose of this article is to analyze the development trends of the Uzbek food industry and assess the competitiveness, sustainability and investment attractiveness of enterprises through economic efficiency indicators.

**Literature review.** In the scientific literature devoted to the study of the development and economic efficiency of the Uzbek food industry, several main directions are distinguished:

The role and growth rates of the food industry in the national economy have been studied by many economists. For example, Kodirov and Turakulov (2023) analyzed

the growth trends in production volumes and territorial distribution in the food industry of Uzbekistan and noted a high level of diversification of the industry. According to their calculations, the number of industrial enterprises and production capacities expanded by an average of 4–5% per year during 2015–2020 [3].

1. Economic efficiency and investment attractiveness: Mirzaev (2020) and Islamov (2022) analyze that economic efficiency indicators in the food industry — production profitability, raw material efficiency, and labor productivity — are key factors determining competitiveness [4]. Their study notes that in some sectors, product costs have decreased and export potential has increased.

2. Technological innovation and modernization: In recent years, the issue of introducing modern technologies in the food industry has been widely discussed. For example, according to Abdullaev and Ismoilov (2021), the introduction of automated lines in the processing of fruits, vegetables and dairy products has increased production efficiency by 15–20% [5]. At the same time, their study emphasizes that innovative investments serve to improve product quality and export opportunities.

3. Territorial development and resource use: Special attention is also paid to issues of territorial distribution and efficient use of resources. Kholmatov (2022) and Karimov (2024) compared the development characteristics of the food industry in different regions of Uzbekistan and found that the highest production volumes are concentrated in Tashkent and Samarkand regions [6,7]. This is an important factor in developing regional strategies.

At the same time, there are some analytical gaps in the existing literature: for example, the efficiency of small and medium-sized enterprises in the industry, strategies for increasing export potential, and indicators of sustainable development have not been studied in sufficient depth. Therefore, this article aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the development trends and economic efficiency indicators of the Uzbek food industry.

**Research Methodology.** The methodological basis of this research is formed by a combination of general scientific, statistical, and economic-analytical methods aimed at assessing the development trends and economic efficiency of the food industry of Uzbekistan. The study applies methods of analysis and synthesis to identify key structural changes and development patterns within the industry, as well as induction and deduction to formulate general conclusions based on empirical data.

Statistical and comparative analysis methods were used to evaluate production dynamics, profitability, labor productivity, raw material efficiency, and export performance of the food industry over the period 2015–2025. Official data from the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Foreign Trade, and international organizations such as FAO were used as the main information base.

Territorial analysis was applied to assess regional differences in production volumes and efficiency indicators across major industrial regions, including Tashkent city, Tashkent region, Samarkand region, and the Fergana Valley. Trend analysis and forecasting methods were used to assess future development prospects of the industry up to 2025 based on existing growth dynamics.

In addition, economic efficiency indicators—such as profitability, labor

productivity, material efficiency, and export growth—were analyzed to assess competitiveness and investment attractiveness of enterprises. The combination of these methods made it possible to identify key factors influencing sustainable growth and to substantiate scientifically grounded recommendations for improving efficiency and strengthening the strategic role of the food industry in the national economy.

**Analysis of material and research results.** The development trends of the food industry in Uzbekistan have shown significant changes in recent years. The volume of industrial production has grown steadily over the period 2015–2023. For example, in 2015, the total value of industrial production amounted to 45 trillion soums, while in 2023 it reached 70.5 trillion soums. During this period, annual growth averaged 5.8 percent, indicating that the industry is higher than the average growth rate in the national economy. The highest growth was recorded in 2019 and 2021, during which the introduction of new technologies and the expansion of the export market played an important role [8].

Economic efficiency indicators are also showing positive dynamics. Profitability was 9.5 percent in 2015, while in 2023 it reached 12.3 percent. At the same time, labor productivity has increased significantly: the value of products produced by one worker was an average of 28 million soums in 2015, while in 2023 this figure reached 42 million soums. Raw material efficiency has also improved; that is, if in 2015 1 soum of raw materials was used to produce 1.8 soums of products, in 2023 this figure reached 2.4 soums. These figures indicate an increase in resource utilization and internal efficiency in the food industry [9].

An analysis of territorial distribution shows that the volume of production is 28 percent in Tashkent region, 12 percent in Samarkand region, and 10 and 8 percent in Fergana and Andijan regions, respectively. These differences are explained by the availability of raw materials, transport infrastructure, and labor.

The introduction of innovative technologies and automated production lines has increased efficiency. At the same time, export volumes have increased from US\$420 million in 2018 to US\$610 million in 2023, showing an average annual growth rate of 7.6%. These figures confirm the increased potential of the industry in international markets. As a result, the food industry has a stable development pace, and the increase in economic efficiency indicators serves to strengthen competitiveness. Although there are regional differences, technological modernization and increased export potential in the main production centers further strengthen the strategic importance of the industry.

The Uzbek food industry demonstrated significant development momentum during 2020–2025. During this period, the industry achieved stable growth, adapting to internal and external conditions.

In 2020, under the influence of the global pandemic, production volume amounted to 62 trillion soums, a decrease of 0.8% compared to the previous year. At the same time, domestic demand remained stable, and the increase in the need for food products contributed to the rapid recovery of the industry. In 2021, production volume reached 66.4 trillion soums, with a growth rate of 7%. In 2022–2023, production volume amounted to 70.1 and 74.5 trillion soums, respectively, with an annual growth rate of around 5–6%.

Preliminary reports for 2024 indicate that production will reach 78.0 trillion

soums, and in 2025 it is projected to reach 82–83 trillion soums. At the same time, profitability indicators are also increasing: profitability, which was 10.2 percent in 2020, reached 12.3 percent in 2023, and in 2025 it is expected to be around 13–13.5 percent.

Labor productivity has also improved significantly. The value of output per worker was 34 million soums in 2020, but is projected to reach 42 million soums in 2023 and 46–47 million soums in 2025. Raw material efficiency is also expected to increase from 2.0 soums/soum in 2020 to 2.4 soums/soum in 2023 and 2.5–2.6 soums/soum in 2025.

Exports have been steadily growing in recent years. Exports, which amounted to 480 million US dollars in 2020, reached 610 million US dollars in 2023, are projected to increase to 670 million in 2024, and 720–730 million US dollars in 2025. This confirms the growing international demand for Uzbek food products.

Territorially, production centers are concentrated in the Tashkent region and the Fergana Valley. In 2023, the Tashkent region accounted for 28 percent of the country's total production, and the Fergana Valley for 18 percent, while in 2025 these shares are expected to increase to 30 and 20 percent, respectively. The introduction of new technologies and the implementation of investment projects in these regions are contributing to increased efficiency.

At the same time, the industry needs to continue to expand innovative approaches, integrate domestic and foreign markets, and use resources efficiently for sustainable development. As a result, during 2020–2025, the Uzbek food industry strengthened its importance in the national economy, while maintaining stable growth and high efficiency.

**Conclusions.** The Uzbek food industry is showing stable growth rates over the period 2020–2025. According to the analysis, the volume of industrial production is expected to increase from 62 trillion soums in 2020 to approximately 82–83 trillion soums in 2025, which is equivalent to a growth of 33–34 percent over a five-year period. At the same time, profitability is projected to increase from 10.2 percent in 2020 to 13–13.5 percent in 2025, indicating an improvement in domestic economic efficiency.

In terms of labor productivity, the value of output produced by one worker will increase from 34 million soums in 2020 to 46–47 million soums in 2025. Raw materials

The increase in material efficiency indicators from 2.0 soums/soum to 2.5–2.6 soums/soum indicates an improvement in resource use efficiency. Also, export volumes are expected to increase from 480 million US dollars in 2020 to 720–730 million US dollars in 2025, which confirms the growing international demand for Uzbek food products.

On this basis, the following scientific and practical proposals were developed:

1. Widespread introduction of innovative technologies: In order to increase production efficiency and ensure optimal use of resources, modern technologies should be integrated into production processes.

2. Stimulating regional investments: It is recommended to increase production capacity by expanding investment projects in Tashkent region, the Fergana Valley, and other industrial centers.

3. Developing export potential: It is necessary to increase export volumes by adapting local products to international standards and attracting new foreign markets.

4. Stabilizing the domestic market: Effective management of the domestic production and distribution system is essential to ensure food security and maintain price stability.

As a result, by 2025, the Uzbek food industry can achieve high efficiency and sustainable growth rates, strengthen its position in the national economy, expand the potential of domestic and foreign markets, and ensure the efficient use of resources.

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