

# ILM FAN XABARNOMASI

## Ilmiy elektron jurnali

### INDUSTRY OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN. SMALL BUSINESS

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**Annotation.** Uzbekistan is among the world's leading cotton producers. It is known for its orchards and vineyards and is also important for raising Karakul sheep and silkworms. Uzbekistan's mineral and oil and gas reserves are substantial. The country produces and exports a large volume of natural gas. The central bank issues the national currency, the sum.

**Keywords:** Uzbekistan economic growth, Entrepreneurship in Uzbekistan, Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), Industrial development in Central Asia, Business environment in Uzbekistan, Start-up culture in Uzbekistan, Government support for small business, Innovation in Uzbek Industry, Private sector expansion in Uzbekistan, International trade and Uzbek small businesses.

Ample sunlight, mild winters of short duration, fertile irrigated soil, and good pastures make Uzbekistan suitable for cattle raising and the cultivation of cotton. Irrigation has fallen into disfavour owing to the depletion of the great rivers, and the construction of new irrigation systems has been prohibited or curtailed. Already existing grand canals include the Great Fergana, Northern Fergana, Southern Fergana, and Tashkent. Several large artificial lakes and reservoirs have been created on the Zeravshan and other rivers.

In addition to the high and stable cotton yield in this most northerly of the great cotton regions of the world, growers have raised silkworms systematically since the 4th century. The silkworms are fed mulberry leaves from the many trees planted along streets and ditches. The Fergana Valley is especially noted for silk production.

Varieties of melons, apricots, pomegranates, berries, apples, pears, cherries, and figs grow abundantly, as do vegetables such as carrots, cucumbers, onions, tomatoes, and greens. Uzbekistan's grapes are made into wine or raisins or are eaten fresh. Fruits and vegetables are sold both in the bazaars of Tashkent, Samarkand, Fergana, and other localities and in trade with neighbouring states. Korean agriculturalists cultivate rice along the middle Syr Darya. Sheep are the principal livestock.

Industry: Uzbekistan is the main producer of machinery and heavy equipment in Central Asia. The republic manufactures machines and equipment for cotton cultivation, harvesting, and

processing and for use in the textile industry, irrigation, and road construction. This emphasis on making machinery also makes ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy important. The first metallurgical plant began operation at Bekobod in 1946. Light industry includes tea-packing plants and factories for garment making.

The leading exports from Uzbekistan consist largely of extracted natural resources or raw materials—cotton, natural gas, oil, coal, silk, fruit, and Karakul pelts. Some fresh produce reaches Moscow and other northern markets. Manufactured goods such as machines, cement, textiles, and fertilizer are also exported. Uzbekistan's largest sources of imports are China, Russia, South Korea, and Kazakhstan. Its main export destinations are Switzerland, China, Turkey, and Kazakhstan.

Number of small businesses rises incrementally in Uzbekistan.

In January 2023, the number of registered small businesses increased by 13.5%, reaching 561 000. The main part of small enterprises work in trade (176.2 thousand), industry (93 thousand), agriculture, forestry and fisheries (50.4 thousand). The number of operating companies as of February 1, 2023, amounted to 503.8 thousand, while in January 2022, this figure was 467 thousand. In 2022 small businesses produced goods worth 142.6 trillion soums.

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev chaired a videoconference session to discuss further development of small business and entrepreneurship in the country. Small business and private enterprise is an important factor in economic development, employment and elevation of incomes of the population. In order to provide comprehensive support for the entities in this sphere, more than 50 presidential decrees and resolutions have been adopted over the last two and a half years. In particular, public registration of business as well as obtainment of permits and many other procedures have been simplified. For greater convenience, the Public Services Agency and its local branches have been established. The institution of the Commissioner for the protection of the rights and interests of business entities (Business Ombudsman) has been introduced.

Across the country, reception offices of the Prime Minister have been established to consider appeals from businesspeople. Under the Cabinet of Ministers, the State Fund for the Support of Business Development has been set up, which was allocated 200 billion soums and 50 million dollars. Lending to entrepreneurs from commercial banks has also expanded.

Shavkat Mirziyoyev urged the government working group headed by the Minister of Economy and Industry to work out recommendations for small business development with an eye to the specific features and potential of each region. Based on these proposals, entrepreneurs will be assisted on issues such as project implementation, attainment of loans, land, buildings and facilities, and connection to infrastructure. The President pointed to the need for a broad establishment of industrial cooperation among small businesses and large enterprises.

The President proposed to set up an agency in the system of the Ministry of Economy and Industry for the promotion of entrepreneurship and small business. The body would be empowered to develop and implement integrated government policy in the field of entrepreneurship and small business. The agency will also coordinate the work of the State Fund for the Support of Enterprise Development.

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