



The Importance of the Transport Sector in the Development of the Economy of Uzbekistan

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Abstract: This article explores the importance and development of the transport sector in the economy of Uzbekistan.

Key words: transport, infrastructure, economics, railway, transportation, economics, road transport.

Transport is important for the national economy: the quality of transport infrastructure is one of the key aspects of its competitiveness, and increasing population mobility is one of the most important indicators of social development. Transport contributes to the formation of inter-sectoral, intra-district, inter-district and interstate connections.

The means of transportation in Uzbekistan plays an important role. The country's medium-sized territories and high population density, the disunity of industrial and agricultural centers, as well as the distance from world markets make having a developed transport system vital for Uzbekistan. As of 2022, the length of railways in Uzbekistan is 7,400 kilometers. Of these, more than 1,300 kilometers are electrified. The main line of Uzbekistan's railways is part of the Trans-Caspian Railway, which connected Tashkent with cities located on the banks of the Amu Darya River. Uzbekistan has railway relations with all surrounding neighboring states. These states include: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

The territory of Uzbekistan was located in the core of the Great Silk Road, and this was due to the fact that the shortest transport corridors from Europe to Asia passed through this route. Occupying a central place in the region, Uzbekistan is objectively called upon to play the role of a geopolitical bridge in relations between the countries of the West and the East.

Using the geographical location of Uzbekistan at the crossroads between West and East, as well as North and South of the Eurasian continent, opens up the opportunity for many countries of the Eurasian continent to carry out continuous and safe land transport communications.

The Republic of Uzbekistan has a developed network of railways and highways, a complex of international airports, as well as air routes that cross the territory of the state far and wide and meet the country's needs both in international and, primarily, in transit transportation. Thus, modern Uzbekistan has enormous transport potential and unique capabilities to meet the country's needs for the movement of both goods and passengers in all directions by all possible modes of transport through the use of available transit resources.

Modernization and development of transport infrastructure, the creation of new transport corridors are an important factor in attracting foreign investment.

The railway network of Uzbekistan is one of the largest in Central Asia. It connects various cities and regions of the country, and also provides transit transport through Uzbekistan. Railways play an

important role in freight and passenger transport, exclusively for the transport of goods of international importance.

The automobile network of Uzbekistan is also well developed. Roads connect cities and towns, providing ease of travel for passengers and freight. In past years, the government of Uzbekistan has been actively investing in the modernization and construction of new roads to improve the quality and safety of transport infrastructure.

Uzbekistan has several international airports, including Tashkent Airport, which is the largest in the country. Aviation infrastructure connects Uzbekistan with other countries and facilitates international passenger and cargo transportation. In recent years, the country's aviation industry has been actively developing, attracting foreign airlines and expanding its route network.

Uzbekistan has a small inland water transport system based on the Amu Darya River. Water transport is used to transport goods and passengers within the country, as well as for international transport across the Caspian Sea.

Uzbekistan's transport infrastructure continues to develop and modernize to ensure more efficient and convenient movement of people and goods. This contributes to the development of the country's economy and strengthening its position in the region.

All types of transport are developed in the Republic of Uzbekistan. Today, the total length of the country's railways is 6.5 thousand kilometers. The republic occupies a leading place in Central Asia in terms of railway density. Road transport also plays a significant role in the transportation of goods and passengers. Over the years of reforms, more than 43.5 thousand kilometers of roads have been built and put into operation in the country, 97% of which have a hard surface.

Dynamics of the volume of road transport services, trillion. sum



The existing railway network of the State Joint Stock Railway Company "Uzbekistan Temir Yollari" connects the most remote regions of the country with the main centers, providing, accordingly, access to international transport systems and the main mineral and raw materials resources of the country.

The creation of an international transport system that provides access to neighboring states and other countries of the world is one of the priority areas for the country's development.

At the moment, the Tejen-Sarakhs-Mashhad railway line is operating, which is an integral part of the Trans-Asian Corridor and connects Beijing and Istanbul. Since 2000, this railway has transported 6-8 million tons of various cargoes, while there is a tendency to double these figures.

Transportation carried out along this transport corridor additionally provides Uzbekistan with the opportunity to establish foreign trade relations with the Eastern states of the Pacific Ocean region, Western Turkey and a number of European countries. **NAC "Uzbekistan Airways" is the state**

airline of the Republic of Uzbekistan, meeting the needs of the economy and population in aviation services (cargo, passenger, special aviation work).

The airline was established by Decree of the President of the country I.A. Karimov on January 28, 1992. From now on, the state program for the development of civil aviation of the republic began to be implemented, which provided for the modernization of the aircraft fleet, the construction of new air terminal complexes, a radical reconstruction of the air traffic control system, the re-equipment of airfields with modern ground equipment, the creation of its own base for training highly professional personnel, and the improvement of the management system. Thanks to the reforms carried out, the aviation transport industry is becoming one of the leading ones in the economy of Uzbekistan, contributing to the development of international, economic, diplomatic and cultural relations of the country with the outside world.

Transport infrastructure plays an important role in the economy of Uzbekistan. Carrying out an open economic policy requires entering new markets. Uzbekistan is seeking to diversify its exports. In addition to traditional markets such as Central Asia and Russia, the country is increasing supplies to China, European countries and Turkey. The following Figures 1-2 show the shares of the country's trading partners in total exports and imports. According to Figure 1, China remains a key export partner for Uzbekistan's products. Its share of the country's total exports was 12% in 2019, but fell to 10% in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Russian market is also one of the key destinations for Uzbek products. Russia's share in 2019 was 14%, and in 2020 it fell to 9%. Turkey's share in 2019 was 8%, and in 2020 it decreased to 7%. Uzbekistan remains an important supplier to the markets of Central Asian countries. In 2020, Kazakhstan's share was 6%, while a year earlier it was 9%. Kyrgyzstan's share of Uzbekistan's total exports has shown steady growth, increasing from 2% in 2017 to 5% in 2020. Afghanistan's share changed from 3% in 2019 to 4% in 2020. Thus, Uzbekistan is diversifying its exports, and the number of countries for its products is increasing.

Uzbekistan has a variety of economic resources that play an important role in the development of the country. The main economic resources of Uzbekistan are listed below: natural resources, labor resources, agriculture, water resources. Thanks to each of them, our country has developed and advanced in different sectors of the economy. The transport infrastructure of Uzbekistan is one of the important components of the country's economic development. It provides connectivity between different regions and facilitates the movement of people, goods and services.

The holding of the First SCO International Transport Forum in Tashkent on the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, announced at the Samarkand SCO Summit in September 2022, is an important event for representatives of the transport sector. At the forum, the Minister of Transport of Uzbekistan Ikhom Mahkamov made a welcoming speech. The Minister briefly touched upon the reforms and projects implemented in the field of transport in the Republic of Uzbekistan in recent years and currently being developed. The Minister of Transport of the Republic of Uzbekistan Ikhom Makhkamov, the Deputy Minister of Transport of the Russian Federation Dmitry Zverev and the Minister of Transport and Communications of the Kyrgyz Republic Tilek Tekebaev signed a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the formation and development of the international multimodal transport corridor "Russia - Caspian Sea - Turkmenistan - Uzbekistan - Kyrgyzstan".

Today, in world markets, the process of delivering products is associated with the process of performing a whole series of works, operations and services, the complex of which will ensure effective transportation and, finally, uniform distribution of products. It is the freight forwarding companies that are called upon to realize the goal of such distribution.

The goal of reforming the passenger transport services market is to create a sustainable, efficiently functioning passenger transport system that meets the needs of the population and is accessible to all segments of it, including the poor.

To improve and develop the transport sector, our country must increase investment in rail and road infrastructure to reduce trade costs. These investments could bring significant benefits to the country's producers. Also, Uzbekistan should strengthen international transport cooperation and coordination of transport strategies, and should continue economic reforms with an emphasis on

industrialization and the development of agricultural sectors with the involvement of the private sector. In particular, to improve competitiveness, it is important for Uzbekistan to complement the country's transport strategy with comprehensive reforms and international cooperation.

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