

## The Economic Role of the Geographical Potential of Samarkand Region

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**Abstract:** *In recent years, the results of the country's economic policy, a special attention has paid to the economic and social development of the regions. Especially in recent years, the economic policies dedicated to the economic development are clear evidences. In this context, one of the important economic regions of the country, Samarkand region has also carried out a number of activities. The effective result of the above activities can be shown in the improvement of the region's role in the economy of the country. Furthermore, a number of problems can be identified. In this article, it is pointed out the role of Samarkand region in the economy of the country and its economic geographical opportunities. In addition, the administrative territorial structure of the region, natural resources, tourism potential, the role in the economy, foreign trade and transport networks to the current state are tried to show by the author.*

**Keywords:** *regional structure, natural resources, tourism potential, agricultural specialization, the gross domestic product, gross national product, industrial production, foreign turnover.*

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Samarkand is the first founded region of Uzbekistan. It got its administrative status on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January 1938. The region has a total area of 16,800 km<sup>2</sup> and it represents 3.7 % of Uzbekistan territory. Samarkand is the most populated region of the country (3,514,800 inh), but it is only on the 7<sup>th</sup> place when it comes to surface area.

The city of Samarkand is the administrative center of the region, is one of the ancient civilization hearth and it is considered old historical monuments place, city was Uzbekistan capital from 1924 until 1930. Samarkand region administratively consists of 14 districts, 11 cities and 88 small cities. And also, there are 1657 rural localities. There are two cities (Samarkand and Kattaqurgan) depending on region and cities obeying to 9 districts.

*Natural resources.* Samarkand region is abundant with natural resources. Especially, many kinds of mineral resources were discovered. For instance, there are golden (Zarmiton) in Qushrabot districts, uranium in Paxtachi district, tungsten, molybdenum, marble (Omonquton, Gozgon, Jom) in Nurobad and Kattaqurgon districts, in Samarkand district has lime, marl, graphite and others.

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In addition, there are natural curative hot water springs in the region's Urgut, Samarkand, Nurabad, Kattakurgan Kushrabot districts (*Usmanov M., 2014*). Akdarya district in the region suffer from various diseases, there are natural healing with mud.

*Tourism potential.* Samarkand region distinguishes from other regions of our country with its fast-developing tourism industry and especially, recreation. Moreover, Samarkand, region center, is one of the world's leading cities in touristic potential. Along with Bukhara, Khiva and Shakhrisabz cities, Samarkand city and many historical-cultural buildings of its territory was also listed in 25-session of UNESCO World cultural heritage which held in Finland in 2001 (*Uzbekistan national encyclopedia. Volume 10, 2004*).

There are over 7 thousands of historical, cultural-archaeological buildings and unique buildings in ancient architectural field. It should be said that, the number of tourists who wants to see the historical buildings is increasing from year to year in our republic. According to the data of Uzbektourism National Company, in our country from 110 international touristic departures, just 65 of them are directed to see historical-cultural heritage buildings. Furthermore, there are 73 big historical architectural monuments in Samarkand region. Samarkand was registered in the line of 50 cities in the world which must be seen and visited (Karimov, I., 2014).

In Uzbekistan territory there are more than 4 thousands of architectural and art monuments which belong to different age and civilization. Up to now 209 of them were listed historical buildings which were under protection of UNESCO. The most important part of them is situated in Samarkand region. According to Statistics information (2014), there are 343 touristic companies and 70 of them are located in region. There are also 100 hotels functioning in region and there have 4500 rooms. Region is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> place after Tashkent city in the number of touristic companies in the republic. In 2014 tour companies served to 27438 visitors (only to visitors who had visa regime) in region (Table 1). 11.1 % of touristic services shown to visitors in Uzbekistan corresponded to Samarkand region.

*The role of region in country economy.* Samarkand region is one of the important regions to the national economy of Uzbekistan. The provincial agriculture is in the direction of the regional agro-industrial agriculture, and of 75 percent of agricultural GDP. In the region's agriculture, vegetables, cotton, livestock, melons and gourds, horticulture, cultivation of tobacco, poultry and bee-keeping sector are well developed. In the province's industrial sectors, the food industry, light industry, chemical and petrochemical industry, machine building and metal processing, metallurgy, building materials, paper production and cellulose as well as the tourism sector are well developed.

According to statistical data, in 2014 6.3% of GDP corresponded to Samarkand region (Table 1). Analysis results show that, 5.7 % of republic industry products, 11.9 % of agricultural products, 8.4 % of retail trade circle, 9.8 % of paid services to the population, 6.4 % of market services, 6.8 % of wholesale trade circle corresponded to region contribution. In terms of quantity of retail trade circle and market services, Samarkand region is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> place after Tashkent city and Tashkent region. About paid services to population it is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> place after Tashkent city (Table 1). Furthermore, Samarkand region among republic regions occupies the top place according to other economic indicators.

**Table1.** *The role of Samarkand region in republic economy (2014)*

№	Indicators	Samarkand region	Uzbekistan Republic	Region quantity of republic, %	Occupied place
1	Square, thousands.sq.km	16,8	448,9	3,7	7
2	Number of population, thousands people	3514,8	31022,5	11,3	1
3	GDP (GNP), billion. sum	9198,1	144867,9	6,3	6
4	Industry products, billion. sum	4264,4	75194,2	5,7	7
5	Agricultural gross product, billion. sum	4394,1	36957,0	11,9	3
6	Retail trade circle, billion. sum	3894,9	58136,6	6,7	5
7	Paid services to population, billion. sum	2181,9	22392,4	9,7	2
Number of main products and services					
7	Autobuses, piece	2588	2588	100	1
8	Trucks, piece	2462	2462	100	1
9	Fridges, thousand piece	250	-	-	1
10	Mineral fertilizer, thousand tons	18,4	1212,1	1,6	5
11	Food products (billion. sum)	921,4	10080,1	9,1	3
12	Non-food products (billion. sum)	1418,3	16202,5	8,8	3
13	Field plantings, thousand hectare	364,3	3678,2	9,9	3
14	Intensive gardens, thousand hectare (in content of farming economy)	4875	23753	20,5	1
15	Vineyards, thousand hectare (in content of farming economy)	29746	86068	34,5	1
16	Grain, thousand tons	848,6	8050,5	10,6	2
17	Grape, thousand tons	497,3	1441,2	34,5	1
18	Fruit, thousand tons	341,7	2490,6	13,7	3

## The Economic Role of the Geographical Potential of Samarkand Region

19	Vegetable, thousand tons	1457,7	9286,7	15,7	2
20	Big cattle, thousand cattle	1331,8	10607,3	12,6	1
27	Sheep and goats, thousand cattle	1940,9	17717,6	10,9	2
21	All types of poultries	7540,5	52363,2	14,4	2
22	Number of touristic companies	70	343	20,4	2
23	Touristic services, including hotel services, total, billion. sum	38,9	384,7	11,1	3
24	Transport services, total, billion. sum	882,0	21538,0	4,1	3

**Source:** It was formed by an author on the base of "Uzbek tourism" National Company information, Ministry of rural and water economy, "Uzautoindustry" joint-stock company and State Statistics committee.

Food industry, machinery-manufacturing, light, chemistry industry branches are highly developed in region. According to Statistics information, 9.1 % of republic food industry products, 8.8 % of non-food products corresponded to region portion (Table 1). Over the last years industry production is quickly growing in region. Motor-car construction industry, specialized in production of autobus, truck and special cars built in times of independence and it is having a high significance to raise region economy. Generally, in republic manufacturing this type of automobiles are only established in Samarkand region. In 2014 this factories manufactured 2588 autobus, 2462 trucks (Table 1). Production size of industry is growing year by year.

In Samarkand region there are very rare industry branches that do not exist in other districts of country. For example, "Samarkand porcelain dishes works" has the capacity to produce average 22 million pieces of porcelain dishes in a year. In 2011 "Elxolding" company was the first established in republic to manufacture three-wheeled motorcycles. Nowadays 7000 pieces of motorcycle are being produced in a year. Current transport means which has the power to raise 650 kilogram cargo is not only being exported in domestic market, but also in C.I.S countries. "Sino" joint-stock company began producing 18 types of refrigerators (annual power is 250 thousand pieces of fridge). Along with it, this company produces air-conditioners too. Besides that, region occupies the leading places in terms of producing alcohol beverages (vodka-wine), some light industry goods such as carpet and carpet products, packed tea and tobacco products.

*Agriculture in the region.* Agricultural potential of region is high and it is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> place in quantity of agricultural products after Tashkent (12.6%) and Andijan (10.2%) in republic (Table 1). In region cotton-growing, arable farming, gardening products, grape and tobacco growing are well-developed. It should be mentioned that, in country 96.5 % percent of tobacco growing corresponds to share of Samarkand region. It should be noted that the cultivation of tobacco is only in Urgut district of the province. Agriculture specialization is unique in the region as a whole. The sectors of agriculture in each district of the province are distinguished from one another.

As seen from the table in Samarkand and Toyloq districts, vegetables, horticulture, cultivation of melons and gourds growing is well developed. In general, the region's Urgut, Samarkand and Toyloq districts, suburban agriculture is developed. In these districts, the supply with agricultural products of the city of Samarkand is of great importance. As well as melons and gourds growing covers large areas in Oqdaryo, Ishtyhan, Jambai and Bulungur districts.

Mountain and foothill areas Nurabod, Kushrabort is with low share of agriculture in rural areas, mainly specializing in livestock. High level of all the agricultural products is because of the large size of cultivated areas, soil fertility. Samarkand region's cultivated area 364.3 is thousand hectares of cultivated land accounts for about 10 percent of the Samarkand region (Table 1).

In republic almost 10 % of plant growing areas conform to Samarkand region contribution. Also in republic region delivers 6.8 % of planting cotton raw materials, 13.7 % of fruits, 15.7 % of vegetables, and 5.7 % of field plantings. It should be said that, in republic region is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> place in quantity of growing vegetables and it is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> place in fruits quantity (Table 1).

In 2014 region amounted to 848.6 thousand tons in quantity of planting grain crops. It gives 10.6% of planting grain crops in republic. Region with this index is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> place after Kashkadarya region. What is more, in republic 21.5% of growing potato and 34.5% of grape crop conform to region portion and it is a single forward among regions in republic (Table 1). In the region along with farming, cattle-raising is also developed. In republic according to the number of cattle and livestock-breeding products' quantity and shepherding has a big importance. According to the number of big

cattle (1407.5 thousands), sheep and goats (2074.2 thousands) and the number of all poultry types (7540.5) region occupies the leading places in republic. To sum up, in rearing cattle products Samarkand region is also considered leader among republic districts.

In the last years in republic government is individually paying attention to extend orchard areas and establish intensive gardens. According to the information of Rural and Water Economy Ministry in 2014, 10.6 % of general orchard areas in country's farming economy, likewise, 20.5 % of intensive gardens, 34.5 % of general vineyard area, 36.6 % of crop giving vineyard area corresponded to region contribution (Table 1). Currently, needed tasks are being done to carry out these works in region.

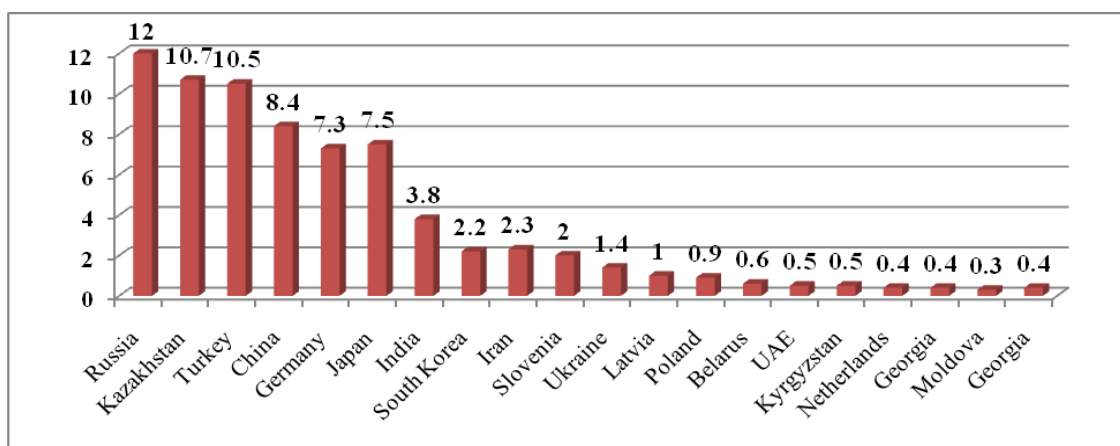
*Foreign trade turnover of the region.* The province's foreign trade turnover reached 1031.6 million US dollars, including export 331.8 million US dollars and imports of 700.0 million US dollars in 2015. It is seen from the data that the main part of the foreign trade turnover, which is 67.8 % import products. If we analyze the data in the Table, export production includes 45.7% in food products, 40.3% of services, chemical products 1.8 percent, machinery and equipment - 1.4% and other products 10.8% (Table 2). In addition, the major part of the imported products and equipment - 43.9%, chemical products - 29.7%, - 4.2%, energy resources and oil products are 0.3%, ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy are 2.2% and other products are 7.9% (Table 2).

**Table2.** Export and import products of Samarkand region

№	Export products	Volume (%)	Import products	Volume (%)
1	Food products	45.7	Food products	11.8
2	Chemical products	1.8	Chemical products	29.7
3	Cars and equipment	1.4	Energy resources and oil products	0.3
4	Services	40.3	Ferrous and non-ferrous metals	2.2
5	Others	10.8	Cars and equipment	43.9
6			Services	4.2
7			Others	7.9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>		<b>100</b>

**Source:** Data based on the information from Samarkand State Statistics Committee

In foreign trade turnover, the CIS states are the main countries. In 2015, the region carried out foreign trade operations with more than 112 countries around the world and was achieved a positive balance with 35 countries. The CIS countries, Kazakhstan, Russia -12% to 10.7% respectively are leading trade turnover in the province's foreign trade turnover with the states having the greatest share of trade. Other Asian countries are China 8.4%, Turkey 10.5%, Japan 7.5%, India 3.8%, South Korea 2.2%, and Iran 2.3%. European countries, including Germany machinery - Germany 7.3% and 2% in Slovenia, Latvia, Ukraine 1.4% -1%, Poland 0.9%, respectively the indicators are as following (Figure 2).



**Figure2.** The region's foreign trade turnover with the states having the greatest share of trade turnover (2015)

**Source:** Data based on the information from Samarkand State Statistics Committee

In recent years, in the province's foreign trade turnover, volume of agricultural products has been increased. In regional import, the volume of chemical and plastic products is increasing. But the volume of machinery and equipment is reducing.

## The Economic Role of the Geographical Potential of Samarkand Region

*Transportation-geographic location.* The role of transportation is incomparable in raising level of living and country's socio-economic development. Transport plays an important role in delivering needed raw materials to manufacturers and various ready products to consumers and also in carrying passengers. The development of this branch greatly influences to the progress of country and its each territories. The use of transport types is geographically comfortable, because Samarkand region is located in the central part of republic.

The total length of railways passed from region territory is 282.9 km and 6.7 % of republic railways conform to region share.

Automobile roads which have the high significance in the life of country pass through Tashkent, Samarkand and Bukhara, Kashkadarya, Surkhondarya and other regions. For example, Samarkand region has 4090 km long public automobile roads. Region automobile roads make up 9.7 % of total automobile roads in republic (*Table 3*). For instance: 385 km international automobile road, 979 km state automobile road, 2726 km local automobile roads.

**Table 3.** *The level of using transportation services (2014)*

	All transport services billion.sum.	Total length of railways	Total length of automobile roads	Carried cargos through railway	Carried cargos through automobile roads	Carried passengers through railway	Carried passengers through automobile roads
		km	Km	Thousands. tons	Million. tons	Thousands. People	Million. people
Samarkand region	882.1	282.9	4090	3231.3	63.4	257.7	531.2
Republic of Uzbekistan	21538	4201.7	41990	65722.3	1327.4	19086.3	7244.4
in %	4.10	6.73	9.74	4.92	4.78	1.35	7.33

*It was prepared by an author on the base of State Statistics committee information.*

In 2014 882.1 billion sums in transportation services were shown in Samarkand region. It stands at 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the republic in the quantity of transportation services. This indicator of region equals to 4.1 % in republic quantity (*Table 3*).

The main part of passengers and carried cargo in region sphere is operated in automobile transport. According to the data of 2014 year, in region 531.2 million people were carried to their address in automobile (*Table 3*). Likewise, 7.3 % of total carried passengers in republic corresponds to region share. Along with carrying passenger, carrying cargo is also crucial in region. In 2014 over 63.4 million tons of cargos were carried in automobile and it amounted to 4.8 % of general republic indicator.

According to statistical data, in the region in recent years, the volume of rail passenger traffic has increased slightly. But the region's share of rail passenger transport is not significant. For example, in 2014 the quantity of carrying passenger in public railway transport amounted to 257.7 thousand people (*Table 3*). The indicator of carrying passenger in public railway transport makes up 1.4 % in spite of being a several time high comparing this index with the first years. Furthermore, in region cargos sent through railway consist of 3231.3 thousand tons and cargos delivered through railway make up 5 % in republic (*Table 3*).

## 2. CONCLUSION

In recent years, the region's economic situation is developing with the results of implementation of a wide range of economic measures. In particular, a number of industrial enterprises, many affiliates of the joint ventures can improve the region's economic potential.

We believe that attracting more foreign investment is in accordance with the purpose to improve the economic potential of the region. In addition, there is a full access to use natural resources in the region. To carry out this work, first of all, the country's location in the center of the region increases its capacity. Second convenience is economic, geographical location and natural geographical conditions. Third, there were found many of the natural resources. Fourth is the high demographic potential of the region, supply of labor resources.

This means that if these opportunities are fully and effectively used, this will cause to improve the economic situation of the region and reinforce its role in the economy of the Republic.

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