



Article

Trends in The Development of Light Industry in Namangan Region

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Abstract: This article analyzes the development trends of the light industry sector in Namangan region and its role in regional economic growth. The research results show that the production volume of the light industry increased 4.8 times in absolute terms; however, its share in total industrial output decreased from 5.4% to 3.3%. Regional analysis reveals that industrial activities are mainly concentrated in urban centers, while infrastructure development remains weak in remote districts. To enhance sector efficiency, recommendations such as implementing a cluster model, attracting investments, and training qualified personnel are proposed.

Keywords: light industry, regional economy, industrial development, Namangan region.

1. Introduction

Light industry plays a crucial role in ensuring sustainable economic development and improving the population's living standards. As a labor-intensive sector, it contributes significantly to employment generation, import substitution, and export growth.

In Uzbekistan, increasing demand for textile and garment products has made light industry a strategic sector of economic policy [1]. Particularly, the Namangan Region possesses favorable conditions such as raw material availability, labor resources, and industrial infrastructure, making it one of the key regions for light industry development.

However, despite positive growth dynamics, regional disparities and structural imbalances remain. Therefore, analyzing the development trends of light industry in Namangan region is essential for identifying future growth opportunities and policy directions.

Light industry plays an important role in ensuring sustainable economic development and improving the population's standard of living. This sector is significant in providing employment, promoting import substitution, and developing exports. Namangan region is considered a favorable area for the development of light industry due to the availability of raw materials, labor resources, and infrastructure.

2. Materials and Methods

The role of the light industry sector in ensuring sustainable regional economic development and improving the population's standard of living is of great importance. The continuously growing demand for clothing, textiles, and other light industry products that meet everyday consumer needs is making the development of this sector one of the priority directions of regional economic policy. In particular, issues such as filling the domestic market with high-quality and competitive products, import substitution, and expanding local production are becoming increasingly relevant.

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Namangan region is considered one of the areas with the necessary raw material resources, labor potential, and production infrastructure for the development of the light industry sector. Analyzing the level of provision of the population with light industry products, the balance between demand and supply for these goods, and the trends in production volume changes allows for an assessment of the current state of the sector and the identification of future development prospects.

Statistical analyses show that, when comparing the indicators of the gross regional product (GRP) of Namangan region for the period 2010–2025 with the gross domestic product (GDP) of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the economic development process demonstrates a consistent and stable growth trend. During this period, a significant increase in the volume of total output is observed both at the national and regional levels.

Specifically, in the Republic of Uzbekistan, the gross domestic product (GDP) amounted to 88,102.4 billion soums in 2010, while by 2025 this indicator had reached 1,849,650.0 billion soums [2]. This means that during the analyzed period, the GDP increased nearly 17-fold. Economic growth rates remained relatively stable, ranging between 4.7% and 7.9% during 2010–2019; however, in 2020, due to the impact of the global pandemic, this figure declined to 101.6%. Nevertheless, starting from 2021, the economy began to recover, and in 2024 the growth rate reached 106.7%.

Gross domestic product per capita, as an important indicator of national economic development, also increased significantly. In particular, GDP per capita amounted to 3,084.6 thousand soums in 2010, while by 2025 it had reached 48,400.0 thousand soums. This reflects a steady improvement in population income levels and living standards [3].

At the regional level, Namangan region demonstrates specific features of economic development. The gross regional product (GRP) of the region amounted to 3,968.5 billion soums in 2010, increasing to 85,400.0 billion soums by 2025. This indicates a significant expansion of the region's economic potential. Economic growth rates in Namangan region were, in most years, higher than the national average, particularly in 2015–2016, 2018–2019, and 2021–2022, when this trend was especially evident.

The indicator of gross regional product per capita also shows a positive dynamic. In 2010, this indicator amounted to 1,711.3 thousand soums, while by 2025 it had reached 27,548.0 thousand soums. Although this figure remains below the national average, the stability of its growth rate indicates an ongoing improvement in the socio-economic conditions of the region.

One of the most important indicators in the analysis is the index reflecting the share of Namangan region's gross regional product in the country's gross domestic product. In 2010, this index stood at 0.555, increasing to 0.629 in 2016. This demonstrates the growing importance of the regional economy within the national context during that period. However, from 2017 onwards, a declining trend in this index was observed, reaching 0.562 by 2025. This situation can be explained by faster economic growth in other regions of the country, as well as the relatively higher concentration of investment flows in more industrially developed areas.

Overall, the conducted analysis shows that the economy of the Republic of Uzbekistan has been on a stable growth trajectory over the past fifteen years [4], with Namangan region actively participating in this process. Although the increase in gross regional product and per capita income in the region is a positive development, further efforts are needed to diversify industry, attract investments more effectively, and develop high value-added production sectors in order to increase the region's share in the national GDP (Table 1).

Table 1
Dynamics of Gross Domestic (Regional) Product Indicators of the Republic of
Uzbekistan and Namangan Region

Years	Republic of Uzbekistan			Namangan region			GRP index
	Bln. UZS	Growth rate in percent	Per capita, thousand soums	Bln. UZS	Growth rate in percent	Per capita, thousand soums	
2010	88102,4	107,7	3084,6	3968,5	110,8	1711,3	0,555
2015	250544,6	107,9	8004,9	12567,1	108,4	4873,2	0,609
2016	290213,4	106,7	9112,5	15062,1	108,7	5731,6	0,629
2017	369612,8	104,7	11411,8	18609,5	103,6	6954,2	0,609
2018	494814,8	105,7	15014,4	22956,4	106,1	8420,6	0,561
2019	620083,2	106,8	18465,6	29384,4	108,8	10562,7	0,572
2020	705076,5	101,6	20596,9	34169,1	104,6	12035,2	0,584
2021	861170,8	108,2	24664,7	41993,6	110,5	14484,6	0,587
2022	1041877,9	106,1	29226,7	50668,2	108,3	17092,8	0,585
2023	1261806	106,3	34653,2	61074,9	106,9	20144,8	0,581
2024	1535431,7	106,7	41306,7	71869,1	107,3	23191,8	0,561
2025	1849650,0	107,7	48400,0	85400,0	108,2	27548,0	0,562

The data show a stable growth trend in industrial production volumes in the Republic of Uzbekistan and Namangan region during the period 2010–2025 (Figure 1). Over this period, industrial output at the national level increased from 38,119 billion soums in 2010 to 1,101,130.0 billion soums in 2025, representing an increase of nearly 23 times. This indicates that the expansion of industrial capacity, modernization of production facilities, attraction of investments, and strengthening of regional industrial policy have played a significant role in this growth.

In Namangan region, high growth rates in industrial production volumes were also observed during the same period. In particular, industrial output in the region amounted to 1,007 billion soums in 2010, reaching 40,100.0 billion soums by 2025, which represents an increase of more than 31 times. This confirms the rapid development of industrial sectors in Namangan region, especially in manufacturing and light industry.

The analysis of growth rates shows that in most years, industrial production growth in Namangan region was higher than the national average. For example, in 2010, the regional growth rate was 113.7%, significantly exceeding the national indicator. Similarly, in 2017–2021, industrial growth rates in the region remained around 114–118%, demonstrating a steady increase in the region's industrial potential. This reflects the effective implementation of regional industrialization policies.

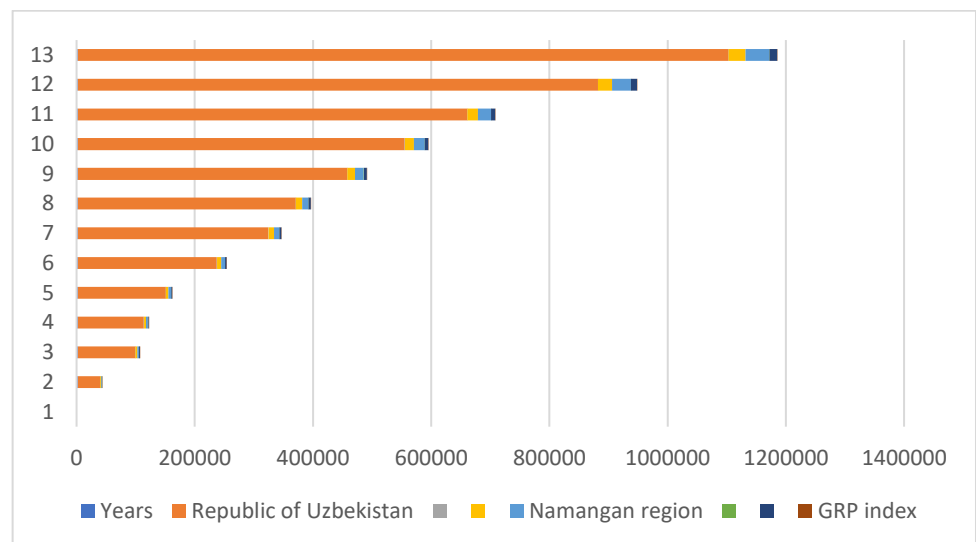


Figure 1. Dynamics of Industrial Production Indicators in the Republic of Uzbekistan and Namangan Region

Per capita industrial output in Namangan region has also shown a steady increase. In 2010, this indicator amounted to 434.2 thousand soums, while by 2025 it had reached 12,935.0 thousand soums. This reflects a significant improvement in the population's provision with industrial goods and indicates that production is increasingly aligned with consumer needs. At the same time, although per capita industrial output has also grown at the national level, the higher growth rate in Namangan region demonstrates its active participation in the industrialization process.

The GRP index (gross regional product index) presented in the table reflects the growing share of Namangan region in national industrial output and its increasing economic activity. In 2010, this index stood at 0.325, rising to 0.364 by 2025. This indicates that the region's contribution to the national economy has been gradually increasing, and industrial production is becoming an important driver of regional development.

Overall, the table data confirm that Namangan region is one of the steadily developing areas of the Republic of Uzbekistan in terms of industrial production, with relatively high growth rates [5]. The rapid increase in industrial output, the growth in per capita production, and the positive dynamics of the GRP index all demonstrate that the region's position in the national industrial structure is strengthening. This indicates that there is a solid economic foundation for further developing Namangan region as a highly industrialized area with strong export potential in the future (Figure 1).

The growth in industrial output is also increasingly driven by the share of the light industry sector [6]. In Uzbekistan, light industry is an important branch of the economy and plays a significant role in addressing employment issues due to its high labor intensity.

The light industry of Uzbekistan is a multi-sector industrial complex comprising 17 types of industries, including textiles, knitwear, garment manufacturing, silk production, leather and footwear, porcelain production, and others. Among these sectors, the largest is the textile industry, where cotton, wool, hemp, and other raw materials are processed into various types of fabrics.

The light industry sector:

- accounts for more than 25% of the country's total industrial output;
- provides a significant share of employment opportunities for the labor force;
- increases the country's export potential while also improving the population's standard of living [7].

From the perspective of our research topic, determining the share of light industry products within total industrial output and analyzing per capita production capacity in

the region allows for more precise conclusions regarding the solution to the problem under study.

By 2025, in terms of regional shares in the total production of light industry products in the Republic, including textile production, the highest shares belong to Fergana, Namangan, Bukhara regions, and the city of Tashkent [8]. In contrast, the lowest indicators are observed in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Jizzakh, Kashkadarya, Namangan, Samarkand, and Syrdarya regions. In the production of knitwear products, Andijan, Jizzakh, Tashkent regions, and the city of Tashkent are the leading regions.

Table 2
Dynamics of Light Industry Production in the Republic of Uzbekistan

Product name	2020 y	2021 y	2022 y	2023 y	2024 y	2025 y
Cotton fiber, thousand tons	630,0	650,0	688,5	659,1	672,7	
Silk cotton fiber yarn (hank), thousand tons	614,8	789,0	662,3	689,5	616,7	592,9
Silk fiber, thousand tons	7,8	8,5	9,2	10,0	11,0	12,0
Cotton fabric, million m ²	405,5	407,5	413,6	400,4	395,0	390,0
Silk fabric, million m ²	7,8	8,5	9,2	10,0	11,0	12,0
Silk fabric, thousand m ²	7 825,4	12 347,7	20 438,1	21 852,9	36 735,9	45 000
Carpets and carpet products, thousand m ²	54 445,8	66 339,4	60 133,1	59 909,6	58 634,5	57 500
Hosiery, million pairs	131,5	176,7	182,4	162,7	165,2	168,0
Knitwear products, thousand units	64,6	663,7	404,0	6 052,5	5852,1	6 200
Footwear, million pairs	27,6	26,5	24	23,4	20,0	18,5
Yarn hank, thousand tons	614,8	789	662,3	689,5	616,7	592,9

Regions with a high level of light industry development include Fergana, Tashkent, Namangan regions, and the city of Tashkent. Regions with a medium level of industrial development are Samarkand, Andijan, Khorezm, and Bukhara regions. At the same time, regions with a low level of light industry development include Jizzakh, Kashkadarya, Syrdarya, Surkhandarya, Namangan regions, and the Republic of Karakalpakstan.

By 2024, in terms of regional contributions to the total production of light industry products in the Republic, including textile production, the highest shares belong to Fergana, Namangan, Bukhara regions, and the city of Tashkent [9]. In contrast, the lowest indicators are observed in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Jizzakh, Kashkadarya, Navoiy, Samarkand, and Syrdarya regions. In the production of knitwear products, Andijan, Jizzakh, Tashkent regions, and the city of Tashkent are the leading regions.

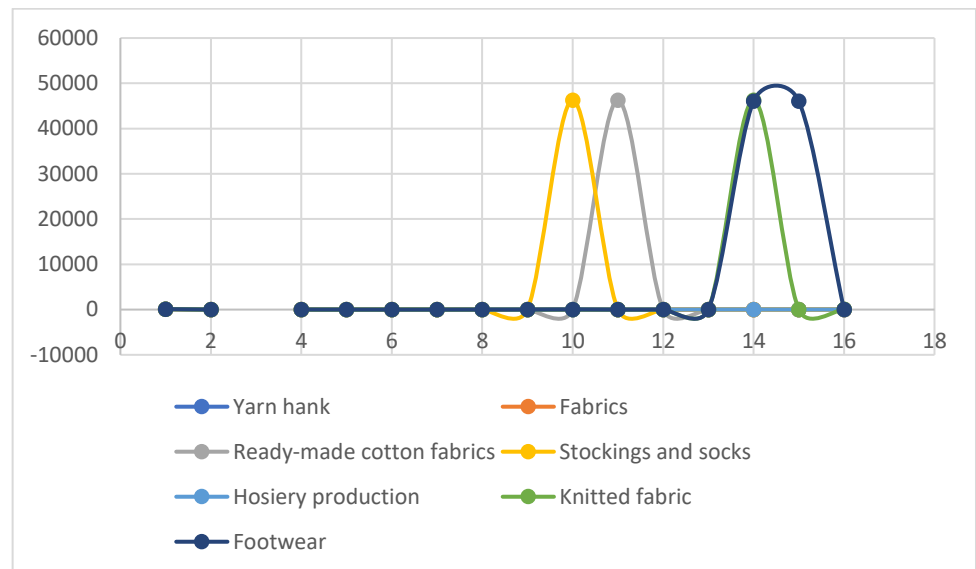


Figure 2. Share of Regions in the Total Production Volume of Main Types of Light Industry Products in the Republic of Uzbekistan (as a percentage of the total, 2025)

Considering that the light industry sector is highly labor-intensive, such disparities in regional development may lead to the widening of socio-economic gaps between regions. It can also result in significant differences in employment levels across regions.

In the region, alongside the growth in total industrial production, a declining trend in the share of light industry within the industrial structure can be observed. This is mainly explained by the high level of labor potential and the degree of investment allocation across sectors, which have had a significant impact on the overall outcomes. Per capita light industry production indices indicate disparities in sectoral development among districts and cities. Since major production facilities are located in urban centers, investments are predominantly directed toward city-based enterprises [10].

During the research process, specialization, localization, and per capita industrial coefficients of light industry production in the region were analyzed (Figure 3). As a result, Namangan city, Mingbulak, and Namangan districts demonstrate higher per capita light industry production indices compared to other districts and cities, exceeding the regional average level.

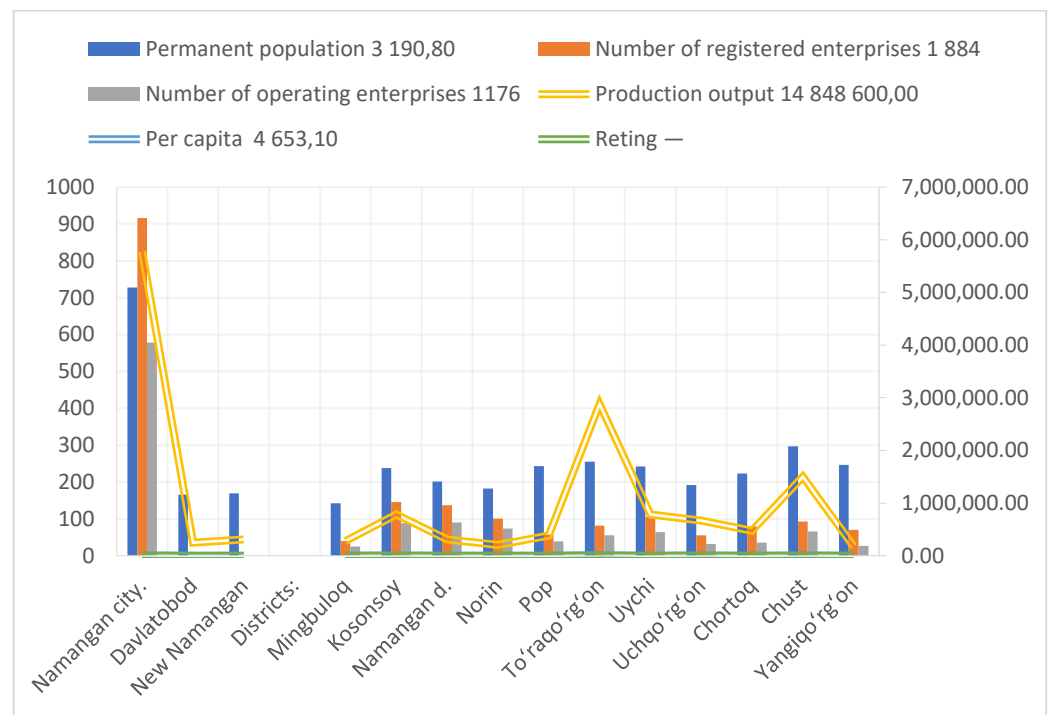


Figure 3. Information on the Activities of Light Industry Enterprises in Namangan Region (as of January 1, 2025)

During the period 2010–2025, light industry production in Namangan region has shown a steady upward trend. In particular, in 2010, the volume of light industry production in the region was approximately 482.6 billion soums, while by 2025 it had reached 2,315.4 billion soums. Over this period, production increased nearly 4.8 times, which can be explained by the expansion of textile, garment-knitting, and leather-footwear enterprises, as well as the implementation of investment projects in the region.

The second and third groups of cities and districts in terms of light industry production also have sufficient development potential. Areas with a low level of light industry development are mainly specialized in agriculture and are characterized by a low level of per capita industrial production.

Although the share of the sector's output in total industrial production has shown a declining trend compared to 2010, the overall volume of light industry production has increased. This situation is also observed in the light industry sector of Namangan region, where the share of light industry in total industrial output was 5.4% in 2010, decreasing to 3.3% in 2025. However, the dynamics of light industry production volumes show a continuous upward trend over the years.

Table 4.
Grouping of Territories of Namangan Region According to the Level of Light Industry Development

Regions with high light industry development	Regions with relatively high light industry development	Regions with low light industry development	Regions with relatively low light industry development
Namangan city Chust district Uychi district	Turaqurgon district Pop district Kosonsoy district	Mingbuloq district Norin district	Yangiqurgan district Chortoq district

It should be noted that the grouping of cities and districts according to the level of light industry development leads to several disparities between regions. The main reasons for this include the population's low mobility (immobility), migration toward more industrially developed areas, the uneven distribution of mineral and raw material resources, and the shortage of skilled labor contributing to the development of light industry production.

The development of light industry in Namangan region also has its own specific features. In the classification below, the distribution of light industry enterprises in the districts of Namangan region is based on production volume, proximity to raw material sources, and the level of industrial infrastructure development. While a high concentration of textile and garment-knitting enterprises is observed in Namangan city and some major districts, light industry development remains relatively weak in remote and mountainous areas (Table 4).

There are also differences in the sectoral structure of light industry enterprises in the region. The majority of established activities are concentrated in the textile and garment industries [11]. However, it is observed that leather-footwear, silk production, and fur industry sectors are not well developed in the region.

3. Result and Discussion

The analysis shows that industrial production in Namangan region has increased significantly. Although the volume of light industry production has also grown, its share in total industrial output has declined.

The results indicate that large industrial enterprises are mainly located in urban centers. Therefore, the establishment and spatial distribution of labor-intensive light industry enterprises in Namangan region remains an important issue [12]. The problem of providing employment for women and youth included in the "Women's Register," "Youth Register," and "Iron Register" is also significant at the district level. For this reason, local authorities should be aware of the activities of business entities and develop targeted measures for light industry development based on comprehensive databases.

It is also necessary to train qualified personnel capable of utilizing marketing opportunities for entrepreneurs. In our view, sewing enterprises should be established in areas with surplus labor resources [13]. In addition, the development of production based on science and innovation requires the establishment of scientific centers and the implementation of a cluster-based development system, which is becoming increasingly relevant.

Based on the conducted research and analysis, the following proposals for the development of the light industry sector in Namangan region have been recommended and partially implemented:

- a. development of a regional industrial development strategy until 2026 based on efficient use of investment resources;
- b. acceleration of additional project development activities, including setting a production target of 6,504.8 billion soums for textile industry output in 2026 [14].

In our opinion, the following aspects should be considered when defining directions for the development of light industry in the regions:

- a. conducting an in-depth study of regional resource potential and attracting foreign investors;
- b. identifying and supporting promising business projects by analyzing the export potential of local enterprises;
- c. increasing the production of competitive goods by attracting investment projects based on new technologies to small industrial zones in Namangan region, and implementing training programs for qualified specialists based on industry needs;
- d. strengthening cooperation between regional authorities and enterprise managers [15], regularly analyzing opportunities, developing innovation-based

international partnerships, and supporting participation in localization programs would be highly advisable.

4. Conclusion

The level of provision of Namangan region's population with light industry products was analyzed based on statistical data, highlighting the main development trends of the sector, existing challenges, and growth factors. Special attention was also given to the issues of more fully meeting population needs and improving economic efficiency through the development of the light industry sector in the region.

There are significant opportunities for the development of light industry in Namangan region. By attracting investments, introducing innovations, and developing a cluster system, it is possible to increase the efficiency of the sector.

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