



THE CURRENT STATE OF LIGHT INDUSTRY

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Annotation: in this article, it presents information on the development of the textile, sewing-knitting, leather-shoe and furry industries of light industry in the Republic, the expansion of the types and assortment of manufactured finished products, as well as the investment and export activities of Network Enterprises. The light industry is a crucial segment of global manufacturing that includes industries involved in the production of consumer goods, textiles, electronics, food processing, and other products essential to everyday life. This sector has seen significant growth and transformation, driven by technological innovations, increasing demand for sustainable practices, and the continuous evolution of global trade dynamics. The light industry plays a key role in providing employment, supporting economic development, and fostering international trade and cooperation.

Keywords: textile, knitting, product, export potential, quality, technique, technology.

Introduction: Light industry is a sector of manufacturing that focuses on producing consumer goods and small-scale industrial products. Unlike heavy industry, which deals with large-scale production and raw materials (such as steel, machinery, and shipbuilding), light industry is less capital-intensive requires fewer resources. It typically includes the production of textiles, electronics, food processing, furniture, and household goods.

Characteristics of Light Industry

1. Low Capital Requirement – Light industries require less investment compared to heavy industries.





2. Less Environmental Impact – Since they do not involve large-scale resource extraction or energy-intensive processes, light industries generally have a lower environmental footprint.

3. Consumer-Oriented – Many light industry products are designed for direct consumer use, such as clothing, appliances, and packaged foods.

4. Flexible and Scalable – Light industry businesses can often adapt to market changes quickly, producing different products as demand shifts.

5. Located Near Urban Areas – Due to their lower pollution levels and reliance on labor, light industries are often found near cities or suburban areas.

Types of Light Industry

1. Textile and Apparel Industry

One of the most significant sectors, this includes the production of fabrics, clothing, footwear, and fashion accessories. Countries like China, Bangladesh, and Vietnam are leading players in textile manufacturing.

2. Electronics Industry

Light industry includes the production of small electronic devices, such as smartphones, televisions, and home appliances. Companies like Samsung, Sony, and Apple depend on light industry for manufacturing components and assembling consumer electronics.

3. Food Processing Industry

Food packaging, dairy products, canned goods, and bakery products fall under this category. This sector ensures that raw agricultural products are turned into consumer-ready items.

4. Furniture and Home Goods. This sector produces household furniture, decor, and daily-use products. Brands like IKEA and local manufacturers contribute significantly to this industry.

5. Cosmetics and Pharmaceuticals

The production of skincare, beauty products, and non-heavy pharmaceutical items such as over-the-counter medicines is another key aspect of light industry.

Importance of Light Industry:



1. Job Creation – Light industry employs millions worldwide, particularly in developing countries where labor-intensive industries thrive.

2. Economic Growth – It contributes significantly to GDP, especially in export-driven economies.

3. Encourages Innovation – Many technological advancements, especially in consumer electronics and fashion, come from light industry.

4. Supports Other Industries – Light industry supplies components to larger industries, such as automotive and construction.

Challenges Facing Light Industry

Global Competition – Companies must compete with low-cost manufacturers from other countries.

Supply Chain Disruptions – Events like the COVID-19 pandemic have shown the vulnerabilities in global supply chains.

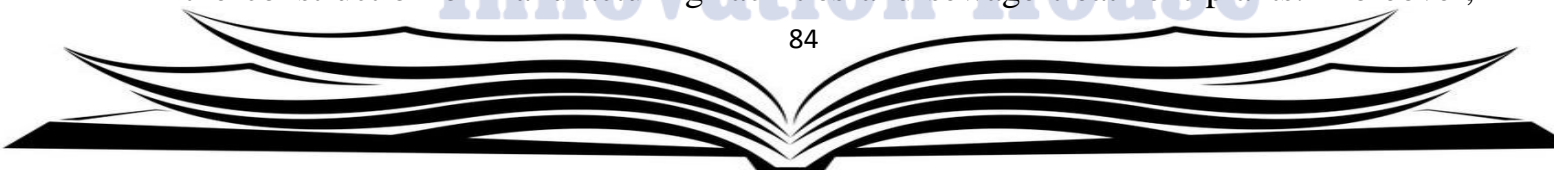
Sustainability Issues – Concerns over waste, pollution, and ethical labor practices are becoming increasingly important.

Current State of Light Industry in Uzbekistan.

As of February 2025, Uzbekistan's light industry is experiencing significant growth, driven by substantial foreign investments and strategic government initiatives. This sector, encompassing textiles, apparel, leather goods, and consumer electronics, plays a pivotal role in the nation's economy, contributing 14% to total production and 16% to exports.

Foreign Investment and Expansion. In December 2024, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev announced plans to attract over \$2 billion in foreign investments for the light industry in 2025. This ambitious initiative includes the implementation of 82 major projects and aims to create approximately 25,000 new jobs. The primary objectives are to elevate textile exports to \$4 billion and leather product exports to \$250 million.

A significant portion of this investment is directed towards the textile and knitwear sectors. The government has allocated \$100 million in soft loans to bolster these industries, with an additional \$12 million in credit lines provided to commercial banks. These funds are earmarked for the development of industrial infrastructure, including the construction of manufacturing facilities and sewage treatment plants. Moreover,





there is a concerted effort to establish design, marketing, and laboratory centers in Tashkent and other regions, aiming to foster innovation and enhance product quality. International Collaborations.

-The development of the light industry has been closely tied to global supply chains, which facilitate the exchange of raw materials, manufacturing, and distribution of finished products. This interconnectedness between countries has enabled greater cooperation and trade across borders. However, with the growth of international trade, the industry's reliance on these global networks has also increased, making it susceptible to disruptions. Recent global challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, have exposed the vulnerabilities of international trade networks. The pandemic led to significant supply chain disruptions, affecting production, availability of raw materials, and distribution of finished goods. These challenges have forced industries worldwide to rethink their supply chain strategies and adapt to changing global conditions. While the light industry has contributed to global economic growth, its reliance on cross-border collaboration has introduced risks. Technological advancements, such as automation and digitalization, alongside sustainable practices, offer potential solutions to reduce vulnerabilities. The future of light industry will likely depend on the sector's ability to innovate and become more resilient to global disruptions, including environmental factors, economic fluctuations, and geopolitical tensions.

Uzbekistan's light industry benefits from robust international partnerships, particularly with China. As of January 2025, over 3,300 enterprises with Chinese capital operate within the country, focusing on sectors such as energy and light industry. In 2024 alone, Chinese investors contributed more than \$10 billion to Uzbekistan's economy, underscoring the strategic importance of this bilateral relationship.

Educational and Technological Advancements

The Tashkent Institute of Textile and Light Industry (TITLI) remains a cornerstone in cultivating skilled professionals for the sector. Established in 1935, TITLI offers specialized programs in textile engineering, industrial technology, and design. The institute collaborates with over 20 international partners and houses a TechnoPark, launched in 2021 with funding from South Korea, to promote research and development in textile manufacturing and sustainable practices.





Challenges and Future Outlook. Despite the positive trajectory, the industry faces challenges, including fluctuating global market prices and the need for technological modernization. The government is addressing these issues by promoting the advanced processing of raw materials, aiming to increase the yarn processing rate to 70%. Additionally, plans are underway to construct a dedicated light industry center and shopping complex spanning 30 hectares, exclusively showcasing domestically produced goods.

Uzbekistan's light industry is on a path of robust growth, supported by strategic investments, international collaborations, and a focus on innovation and education. These efforts are poised to enhance the sector's global competitiveness and contribute significantly to the nation's economic development.

In conclusion, while the light industry faces challenges such as evolving market demands, environmental pressures, and global competition, it remains a cornerstone of modern economic systems. Its ongoing adaptation to technological advancements, environmental sustainability, and changing consumer preferences will determine its future trajectory. As nations continue to innovate and embrace new manufacturing techniques, the light industry will likely remain a central pillar of economic development worldwide, offering new opportunities for growth, employment, and international collaboration.

-Light industry plays a crucial role in modern economies, providing everyday goods and employment to millions. While challenges exist, advances in technology and sustainable practices will help shape the future of the industry. The integration of the light industry into global supply chains has also fostered greater international cooperation and trade. Many countries now rely on cross-border collaborations for raw materials, manufacturing, and the distribution of finished products. However, this interconnectedness has also made the sector vulnerable to global supply chain disruptions, as evidenced by the COVID-19 pandemic, which highlighted the fragility of international trade networks





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