

ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE BUKHARA REGION IN 1990–1991

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Annotation: This article provides important information about the economic indicators in the Bukhara region on the eve of independence, the impact of state policy on the economy, state plans, agricultural issues, cotton policy, food, and industrial sectors.

Keywords: “Perestroika”, “Cotton affair”, Agro-industry, Communist Party of the Uzbek SSR, ruble.

Economic problems began to emerge on the eve of independence, since the main focus had been directed toward cotton production. The investigations of the 1980s known as the “Cotton Affair” and the acceleration of the “Perestroika” policy caused turmoil throughout the country. During this period, the Bukhara region was considered one of the leading territories in the republic. By the beginning of the 1990s, the situation became increasingly tense. This period is regarded as a transitional stage for the economy, characterized by numerous economic difficulties and the process of adapting to new economic relations. Nevertheless, the region mobilized all its resources for economic growth.

According to the analysis of the regional economic department, in the first quarter of 1990 the volume of industrial production increased by 3.7%. Consumer goods worth 9.6 million rubles were produced beyond the plan. The growth rate compared to the same period of the previous year amounted to 115.9%. In 1990, industrial production in the Bukhara region amounted to 4,259.8 million rubles, while in 1991 this figure reached 4,432.4 million rubles, an increase of 104.1 thousand rubles. The shortage of goods amounted to 12.4 million rubles in 1990 and 67.9 million rubles in 1991. Production of consumer goods reached 1,601.3 million rubles in 1990, and in 1991 it increased by 110.4 million rubles to 1,767.9 million rubles. Cargo turnover was planned at 18,950 ton-kilometers in 1991. The Bukhara knitting factory, operating on a self-financing basis, achieved a number of positive results through internal labor competition. With the enthusiasm of its workers, products worth 23,881 thousand rubles were delivered to customers during the fourth year of the twelfth five-year plan. It is known that in 1989 the First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Uzbek SSR, I. Karimov, issued a decree to distribute household plots and land shares to the rural population from state lands. Following this, household plots began to be allocated to the population for the purpose of producing food products. Nevertheless, vegetable production amounted to 114,660 tons, which was somewhat insufficient for the needs of the population. Melon production in 1990 amounted to 38,658 tons, fulfilling only about 70% of the annual plan. Potato production totaled 2,626 tons, below the regional demand. Due to the limited number of pastures and the reduction of cattle caused by

various diseases, milk production also declined — in 1990, 94,249 tons of milk were obtained.

One of the main sectors of the economy — karakul (astrakhan) skin production — continued to grow. For example, in 1990, 58,300 pieces were produced, and in 1991, this number increased to 60,878. The state plan for 1991 was 58,300, and it was fulfilled by 104.4%. The share of enterprises' own funds in total capital investments increased to 34%. In the first quarter, the Navoi Electrochemical Plant launched facilities for producing 4.5 tons of Treflan. An agloporite workshop with a capacity of 100 thousand cubic meters of products was commissioned in Vobkent district. Automatic telephone stations were built and put into operation in Uchquduq city and Navoi district. By April 1, 1990, moisture conservation measures were implemented on more than 200 thousand hectares of land, and 33 thousand hectares were prepared for sowing. Since the beginning of the year, 8,674 tons of livestock and poultry meat were purchased, which amounted to 115.1% of the plan. Additionally, 22,122 tons (115.3%) of milk and 41.7 million eggs (112.1%) were procured. Retail trade turnover reached 103.8% of the plan. An extra 11.3 million rubles' worth of goods were sold to the population, representing a 112.8% growth compared to the same period in 1989. Providing paid services to the population became an important issue. In the first quarter of 1990, 35.8 million rubles' worth of paid services were rendered to the population, or 104.9% of the plan. Of 56 types of regional plans, 11 were not fulfilled. To develop the agro-industrial sector, the regional executive committee determined measures to expand livestock farming and create opportunities for private households. In 1990, it was planned to allocate at least 250 kilograms of hay, 550 kilograms of succulent feed, and 50 kilograms of mixed feed per conditional head of livestock. In 1991, this amount was increased to 30 kilograms of mixed feed, 60 kilograms of root crops, and 160 kilograms of succulent feed per cow.

Allocations to agricultural institutions from state resources continued regularly. These measures were recommended for implementation in other regions as well. Concrete tasks were developed to increase livestock production, expand private livestock keeping, and strengthen the feed base. By 1991, economic indicators had slightly improved. However, the growth rates in industrial sectors and production were not particularly noticeable. The years 1990–1991 were economically difficult for the Bukhara region. The collapse of the Soviet system and the transition to new economic rules caused numerous problems. At the same time, this period laid the foundation for creating new opportunities and transitioning to a system based on market economy principles. In September 1991, after the Republic of Uzbekistan gained independence, the Bukhara region also entered the process of adapting to the country's economic reforms.

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