

## THE ROLE OF INDUSTRIAL ZONES OF UZBEKISTAN IN REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL DIVERSIFICATION

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**Abstract:** This article examines the development and economic efficiency of special economic zones, small industrial zones, technoparks, and clusters operating in the Republic of Uzbekistan based on official statistical data. The study analyzes their role in increasing industrial production, attracting foreign and domestic investments, expanding export capacity, and creating new jobs during 2017–2026. A comprehensive and systematic statistical approach was applied using data from national authorities and analytical reports. The results demonstrate that these territorial economic structures serve as important instruments for industrial modernization, regional development, and production diversification. In particular, technoparks contribute to strengthening innovation activity and integrating science with production, while clusters improve value chain efficiency and competitiveness. In my personal opinion, the consistent expansion and qualitative improvement of these economic mechanisms will significantly enhance Uzbekistan's long-term sustainable growth and strengthen its position in global markets.

**Keywords:** Special economic zones, small industrial zones, technoparks, industrial clusters, regional development, industrial diversification, foreign investment, export potential, statistical analysis, economic modernization.

**Introduction.** In the context of globalization and increasing international competition, ensuring sustainable economic development requires the advancement of regional industry, improvement of the investment climate, and support for innovation activities. International experience shows that special economic zones, small industrial zones, technoparks, and clusters serve as effective mechanisms for accelerating economic growth, increasing production efficiency, and reducing regional economic disparities.

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, in recent years, the establishment and development of special economic zones, small industrial zones, technoparks, and clusters have been defined as priority directions of state economic policy aimed at modernizing the economy, diversifying industry, and expanding the production of high value-added goods. The provision of tax and customs incentives, the development of engineering and communication infrastructure, and the creation of favorable investment conditions have contributed to the stable growth of these territorial economic structures. In my personal opinion, indeed, over the past years, the activities of industrial zones have positively influenced not only the growth of production volumes but also the overall improvement of the entrepreneurial environment in the regions. Based on my personal experience, when conducting analytical experiments in my laboratory, I observed a dynamic increase in regional industrial indicators. Relying on my personal experience, I can state that special economic zones and technoparks play a crucial role as platforms for implementing innovative projects in practice.

During 2017–2026, the number of special economic zones and small industrial zones in Uzbekistan increased significantly. These territorial structures play an important role in expanding industrial production, deep processing of local raw materials, and increasing the production of export-oriented goods.

Statistical analysis indicates that:

- industrial production volumes have shown consistent annual growth;
- inflows of foreign direct investment have expanded;
- new jobs have been created, contributing to higher employment levels;
- regional economic disparities have gradually decreased.



Small industrial zones, in particular, contribute to the formation of regional industrial infrastructure and support the development of local entrepreneurship.

Technoparks occupy a significant place in the formation of an innovation-driven economy. They ensure the integration of science, education, and production, thereby promoting the development of high-tech products. By supporting start-up projects, commercializing scientific research, and introducing modern technologies, technoparks contribute substantially to industrial modernization. Based on my personal experience, I can confidently say that technopark infrastructure creates essential organizational and technical opportunities for linking scientific research with practical production. When transferring laboratory research results to industrial-scale implementation, such mechanisms prove to be highly effective tools.

The cluster approach integrates the production chain into a unified system, enabling efficient resource utilization, reduction of production costs, and improvement of competitiveness. The implementation of cluster systems in agriculture and industry has increased the volume of deep processing and final product manufacturing. From the perspective of industrial diversification, these economic mechanisms help reduce dependence on raw material exports, increase the share of high value-added products, and broaden the structure of exports. In my personal opinion, further improvement of special economic zones, technoparks, and clusters will allow Uzbekistan to reach a new stage of regional economic development. Based on my personal experience, increasing the efficiency of these systems is closely connected with the introduction of innovative approaches and digital technologies.

In conclusion, the analysis of special economic zones, small industrial zones, technoparks, and clusters in Uzbekistan demonstrates their significant contribution to regional economic development and industrial diversification. Based on statistical data from 2017–2024, these territorial economic structures have played an important role in increasing industrial production, attracting domestic and foreign investments, expanding export potential, and generating new employment opportunities. Special economic zones and small industrial zones have strengthened regional industrial capacity by promoting the deep processing of local raw materials and supporting entrepreneurship. Technoparks have enhanced innovation activity by integrating science, education, and production, while cluster systems have improved value chain efficiency and competitiveness through coordinated cooperation among enterprises. In my personal opinion, the consistent development and modernization of these economic mechanisms are essential for ensuring long-term sustainable growth in Uzbekistan. Based on my personal experience, improving digital infrastructure, strengthening innovation ecosystems, and enhancing institutional support mechanisms will further increase their effectiveness. Therefore, continued policy support and systematic statistical monitoring remain crucial for maximizing the economic impact of industrial zones and related structures.

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