

Economic Geographical Features Assess The Impact Of A Country's Economic Development On The Lifestyle Of Its Population.

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Abstract. This article analyzes the economic geographical characteristics of the impact of a country's economic development on the lifestyle of the population. The impact of economic growth, trade balance, per capita GDP of countries, and the well-being of the population and economic growth on socio-economic stability was analyzed based on scientific theories of foreign scientists. The impact of import and export volumes on the national economy is also studied, recommendations are made to ensure sustainable development, and in turn, analyses are conducted based on data from the Statistical Agency of Uzbekistan and the World Bank on the economy, highlighting the problem of social inequality between different income groups.

Keywords: lifestyle, economic growth, GDP, wages, exports and imports, employment rate, socio-economic, Solow model, technological progress, infrastructure, industrial diversification.

Introduction. The development of a country's economy is the main means of improving people's lives. This increases the income of the population, that is, the level of wages affects the lifestyle of the population. It allows the population to benefit from the created amenities, as well as improve the well-being of the population by improving the quality of services, and to be healthy and educated, feel safe, and enjoy new technologies. In addition, the development of a country's economy and its impact on the lifestyle of the population is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that has not only economic, but also socio-political significance. Macroeconomic indicators such as economic growth, growth in gross domestic product (GDP), and employment are considered key factors in the well-being of the population. However, the socio-economic impact of economic growth, its consequences for various social groups, and its impact on the lifestyle of the population also remain relevant.

In particular, in the context of globalization, the strengthening of economic relations between countries, the acceleration of technological progress, and demographic changes further complicate the impact of economic development on the lifestyle of the population. Therefore, it is important to analyze not only the quantitative but also the qualitative aspects of economic growth, and to comprehensively study its impact on the lifestyle of the population.

Main part. The study of the impact of the economy on the standard of living of the population is one of the main areas of economic and geographical sciences and has been studied in depth by many scientists around the world. The standard of living, in turn, is an important indicator reflecting social and economic status and is important in studying regional development, resource use, and infrastructure conditions [5, 6, 7]. The scientific views of foreign scientists have expanded the specific factors of the standard of living of the population and the methodological approaches to assessing them.

Nobel Prize winner Robert Solow developed the Slow Growth Model in his work "A Contribution to the Theory of Economic Growth" (1956). This model emphasizes the importance of the main factors of economic growth, including capital, labor, and technological development. While developed countries have achieved high incomes and prosperity through technological advancement, investment, and good infrastructure, developing countries are experiencing technological backwardness, low investment, and lack of infrastructure. While countries rich in natural resources can achieve economic growth by exploiting natural resources, in the long term, technological innovation is essential. Climate and geographic location also affect economic development: areas with temperate climates have broad growth potential, while areas with hot and humid climates may have low agricultural and manufacturing productivity. Urbanization and population growth have

a positive impact on economic growth, but rapid population growth and inappropriate urbanization can lead to resource scarcity.

The Solow model, by combining technology, investment, and labor, which are the main factors of economic development, provides important guidelines for ensuring the prosperity and growth of countries. It is justified by the need to promote technological progress, education, and innovation for development.

The ideas put forward in Robert Solow's "A Contribution to the Theory of Economic Growth" (1956) identify important directions for improving the economy of Uzbekistan and the living standards of the population. The Solow model identifies capital, human capital, and technological progress as the main factors of economic growth.

Employment rates and wages are recognized as important factors in Uzbekistan's economic development. Within Robert Solow's economic growth model, labor productivity and capital investment are the main drivers of economic development. Increasing unemployment can lead to a decline in the standard of living of the population and an increase in poverty. Therefore, the state should pursue a strategic policy to reduce unemployment and create new jobs.

According to the Solow model, the wage level is related to which sectors of the economy are developing. Growth in innovative technologies, industry, and services increases the demand for highly skilled workers, resulting in higher wages. This will help increase the income of the population and ensure economic prosperity.

Increasing employment levels has a positive impact not only on economic development, but also on social stability. High incomes and stable jobs reduce social inequality and lead the country towards sustainable economic development in the process of growth. Therefore, aspects of the Solow model related to capital investment, technological development, and labor productivity should play an important role in Uzbekistan's economic growth strategy.

The main benefits of this model for Uzbekistan are: attracting investment, investing in education and a skilled workforce, diversifying the industry, and developing innovation. These areas will contribute to sustainable economic growth, the creation of new jobs, and the improvement of the living standards of the population. Overall, the Solow model provides a solid scientific basis for developing an effective strategy for Uzbekistan to move towards a developed economy. This model helps us understand how to develop the factors necessary for Uzbekistan's economic growth, namely capital, labor, and technology. By considering factors such as geographical location, natural resources, infrastructure, and labor resources, a country can develop clear and effective strategies to increase its economic growth [1].

Although Simon Kuznets was a famous economist, his theories gave impetus to the development of socio-economic geography. Kuznets made a profound analysis of economic growth and development and made significant contributions to the study of its social, economic, and geographical impacts. He showed that economic growth is closely related to technology, social institutions, and the distribution of resources. Kuznets's "Kuznets Curve" theory explains the relationship between income distribution and economic growth and emphasizes that the growth process has different effects on different social groups.

Kuznets identified the main characteristics of modern economic growth - high growth rates, increased production efficiency, changes in the economic structure, urbanization, global integration, and uneven development - and pointed out the difficulties of developing countries in technological development. He believed that economic growth depended not on natural resources, but on the development of technology, education, and social institutions.

Simon Kuznets' ideas in his work "Modern Economic Growth: Rate, Structure and Spread" (1966) provide Uzbekistan with several useful recommendations for economic development and improving living standards. To accelerate economic growth, Uzbekistan needs to implement strategic measures in areas such as developing technological innovation, diversifying industries, improving urban infrastructure, engaging in global economic integration, and investing in education and human capital. All this will help ensure the country's economic and social stability and will contribute to Uzbekistan's future integration into the ranks of developed countries.

Overall, Kuznets' work demonstrates the need to accelerate economic development through investment in science, technology, and infrastructure. He argues that for economic growth to be sustainable and equitable, resources and opportunities must be widely distributed [2].

Paul Krugman is a renowned scholar and Nobel Prize winner in the fields of economic geography and economic development. In his work “Geography and Trade” (1991), he explains that economic activity is not formed randomly, but is centralized under the influence of production, transportation costs, and trade relations. According to his theory, large cities become economic centers, where manufacturing and service industries are concentrated. As a result, economic stagnation in small regions is increasing and employment problems are emerging. As urbanization accelerates, the cost of living increases, and traffic congestion and environmental problems increase. Uneven economic development leads to income inequality in society. Furthermore, while international trade stimulates economic growth, it can also make some countries dependent on foreign markets.

Krugman's theory also has a significant impact on the development of the Uzbek economy. Today, economic activity in the country is mainly concentrated in the city of Tashkent. Since all major enterprises, financial centers, and trade and industrial sectors are located in the capital, economic opportunities are mainly formed here. This is leading to increased regional disparities, migration of the population to large cities in search of work, and as a result, rural areas and small towns are economically lagging behind. While large cities attract economic opportunities, the problem of job shortages in remote areas remains acute.

Diversification of international trade and industry is essential for the sustainable development of Uzbekistan's economy. It is necessary to expand production sectors and develop the domestic market in order to avoid excessive dependence on the foreign market. Also, modernizing infrastructure and the transport system will help reduce regional inequalities and increase economic growth. Through effective economic policies of the government, there is an opportunity to improve the living standards of the population and strengthen Uzbekistan's position in the global economy. Krugman's theory shows that long-term economic development requires ensuring regional balance, diversifying industry and trade, encouraging innovation, and developing infrastructure. Only in this way can the country achieve sustainable and consistent economic growth [3].

Richard Florida is one of the most prominent scholars in the United States. In his 2002 work, “The Rise of the Creative Class”, he analyzes the changes in the global economy and the impact of these changes on the lives of cities and societies. The work emphasizes the importance of creativity and innovation in the new economic world. Florida defines the creative class as people working in the arts, science, technology, and other creative fields. In his opinion, creative people generate new ideas, driving economic growth and innovation. This, in turn, will create new jobs and ensure the country's economic stability.

Florida also emphasizes the important role cities play in attracting creative people. If cities provide an environment for creative people that is culturally rich, open to change, and creates high-quality living conditions, it will improve the quality of life and increase well-being for residents. By developing new technologies, innovators play a key role in increasing economic stability, developing cities, and ensuring the well-being of society.

Florida's ideas are of particular importance for Uzbekistan as well. Developing a creative class in Uzbekistan, supporting new ideas and innovations, can lead to economic growth. Attracting creative people to the country and creating modern conditions for them, for example, turning cities such as Tashkent and Samarkand into creative centers, will help support Uzbekistan's economic growth and improve the lifestyle of the population. Also, modernizing the education system in Uzbekistan and attracting young people to creative industries through the development of creative thinking will serve to increase the country's economic potential. Creative people can develop new technologies, develop cities, strengthen international relations, and promote tourism. This, in turn, will lead to ensuring economic stability and increasing the prosperity of Uzbekistan.

So, the ideas in Florida's work can have an impact not only on a global scale, but also on the economy of Uzbekistan. The country's economic growth and prosperity can be achieved through the development of the creative class, the introduction of new technologies and innovations, the modernization of cities, and the development of culture [4].

Economic growth is expressed as an increase in gross domestic product (GDP), which indicates an increase in production in a country and economic stability. A strong economy provides the population with good wages, new jobs, and high living standards. However, the distribution of economic growth also plays an important role, as if growth only benefits certain social groups, social inequality can increase. This leads to discontent and social tensions in society. Broad economic growth not only strengthens a country's economic position, but also improves its social system.

The World Bank uses gross domestic product (GDP) per capita as a basis for classifying countries by income level. According to the criteria set for 2023, it divides countries into several categories.

In this context, the distribution and breadth of economic growth are also important in classifying countries by income level. The income groups and their socio-economic impact, as defined by the World Bank, are as follows:

Low-income countries (GDP ≤ \$1,145): These countries have low economic growth, low production volumes, and low living standards. In such countries, economic growth is typically limited and social inequality can increase. Many segments of the population do not benefit from growth, leading to discontent and social unrest.

Lower-middle-income countries (GDP \$1,146 – \$4,515): Economic growth continues in these countries, but social inequalities still exist. Through broad economic growth and its equitable distribution, social stability and development in the country can be maintained. Countries such as Uzbekistan and India are experiencing such growth.

Upper middle-income countries (GDP \$4,516 – \$14,005): Economic growth and increased production volumes create new jobs and improve living standards in the country. If this growth is distributed equally, it will be possible to ensure social stability and improve the social system. Countries such as China and Turkey are experiencing such development.

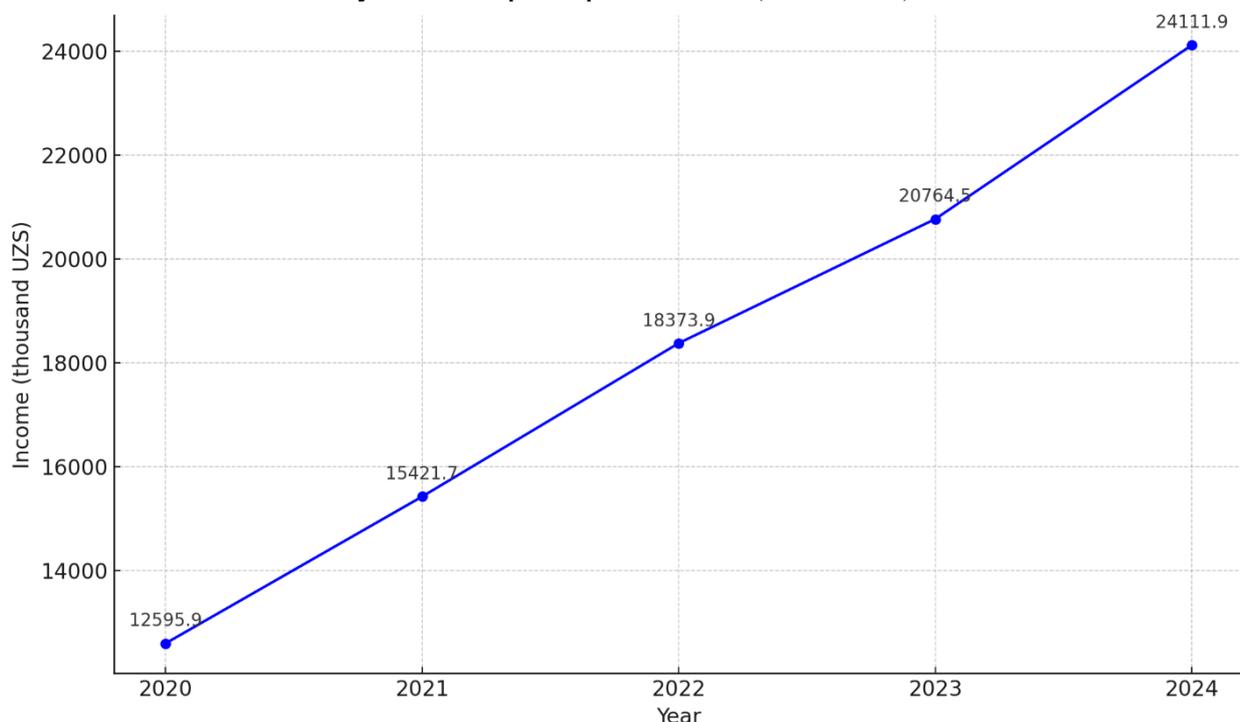
High-income countries (GDP > \$14,005): These countries have achieved high levels of economic growth, production volumes, and living standards. Such countries can improve their social systems and ensure sustainable development through broad and equitable distribution of economic growth. Examples include countries such as the USA and Germany [8].

This shows that economic growth is not only a key factor in ensuring economic stability, but also in improving the social system and sustainable development. Broad and equitable economic growth is essential for maintaining social stability and ensuring long-term development in the country.

Uzbekistan is currently a lower-middle-income country and is experiencing economic growth. According to the World Bank's classification, lower-middle-income countries have an annual per capita gross domestic product (GDP) between \$1,146 and \$4,515. Although these countries are experiencing economic growth, problems such as social inequality, employment, and welfare remain pressing.

Uzbekistan on the path to economic growth According to the Statistical Agency under the President of the Republic, the total per capita income in Uzbekistan is growing year by year:

Dynamics of per capita income. (2020-2024).



These figures indicate that there is a steady growth trend in the country's economy and that the overall income of the population is increasing. However, for economic growth to fully impact the well-being of the population, it is important to distribute it equitably, expand infrastructure projects, and invest in technological development and human capital.

When viewed within the framework of the Solow model, Uzbekistan should focus on capital accumulation, increasing labor productivity, and introducing innovative technologies to accelerate economic growth and raise the standard of living of the population. By increasing investment and creating new jobs, the country can ensure social stability and become more firmly established among middle-income countries.

In recent years, significant changes have been observed in Uzbekistan's foreign trade turnover. At the end of 2024, Uzbekistan's foreign trade turnover amounted to \$65.93 billion, an increase of 3.8% compared to 2023. The negative balance decreased to \$12.03 billion (from \$13.78 billion a year earlier) as a result of a significant increase in exports (\$26.94 billion, +8.4%) and an increase in imports (\$38.98 billion, +0.8%).

China, Russia, and Kazakhstan occupy a special place in Uzbekistan's export structure as the largest trading partners. In recent years, economic ties have been strengthening, especially with Kazakhstan, which is due to the existence of a free trade zone and a common border. Uzbekistan currently trades with 198 countries around the world, with China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkey, and the Republic of Korea being its largest trading partners [9].

A country's trade balance plays an important role in ensuring economic stability. If imports exceed exports, this can lead to a depreciation of the national currency, increased inflation, and increased external debt. Such situations negatively affect the standard of living of the population. Higher exports bring more income to the national economy, create new jobs, and ensure economic stability. Therefore, countries pursue strategic policies to increase exports and shift the trade balance to a positive direction.

It is important to maintain a balance between imports and exports, support domestic production, and ensure economic stability. Higher imports than exports can have a positive impact in the short term. There are benefits such as the availability of cheap and high-quality products through imports, the introduction of new technologies, increased competition, the promotion of economic diversification, and the development of international relations. By effectively managing imports, optimizing their impact, and maintaining economic balance, the country's economic growth and improving the living standards of its population can be achieved. Therefore, Uzbekistan should pay special attention to increasing exports, effectively managing imports, developing innovative technologies, and investing in human capital to achieve long-term economic stability and prosperity. This approach will help the country gain a strong position in the global economy and join the ranks of high-income countries.

Conclusion: In conclusion, the economic development of a country is a decisive factor in raising the standard of living of the population. Economic growth creates new jobs, increases incomes, and improves infrastructure. However, this growth must be sustainable and evenly distributed, otherwise social inequality may increase.

Uzbekistan is currently among the lower-middle-income countries, and in order to become a high-income country, it is important to increase production efficiency, introduce innovations, and develop the education and healthcare systems. The Solow economic growth model and other theories show that long-term sustainable development requires investment in capital, technological progress, and increased labor productivity.

Thus, the main areas of economic development are supporting entrepreneurship, attracting foreign and domestic investments, widespread introduction of innovative technologies, and improving the labor market. If consistent reforms are implemented in these areas, the country can achieve sustainable economic development and significantly increase the well-being of the population.

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