
Importance of Logistics Industry in the Economic Growth and Infrastructure Development of Uzbekistan

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Abstract: The logistics sector in Uzbekistan is of paramount importance for both economic advancement and infrastructure development. Situated as a landlocked nation strategically positioned in Central Asia, Uzbekistan heavily depends on an effective logistics industry to facilitate trade, ensure seamless flow of commodities, and bolster economic endeavors. This research endeavor seeks to investigate the multifaceted impacts of the logistics sector on Uzbekistan's overall economic landscape. The future prospects of Takaful appear promising, with abundant possibilities for sustained expansion and advancement. With the increasing recognition of ethical financial instruments and the progressive establishment of regulatory frameworks and market structures in various regions, Takaful is poised to broaden its reach and enhance its market presence on a global scale.

Key words: Logistics Industry, economic growth, infrastructure development Uzbekistan, supply chain management, trade competitiveness, GDP contribution, employment generation, transportation networks, supply chain efficiency, transportation costs, international markets, policy frameworks.

INTRODUCTION.

The logistics sector serves as a fundamental pillar in the advancement of the economy and the establishment of infrastructure, serving a diverse function in augmenting worldwide economic interactions. It includes transportation, storage, distribution, inventory control, and supply chain administration, all of which are vital for the effective operation of enterprises, cost minimization, and revenue maximization, thus playing a substantial role in the progression of employment opportunities and infrastructure expansion. [1,2].

Empirical evidence suggests that the efficiency of logistics operations has a beneficial effect on the advancement of the economy and the ability to compete, especially in areas such as the European Union, BRICS, and ASEAN. These regions place significant importance on logistics elements like infrastructure and punctuality, which play a vital role in determining a nation's competitive edge [3,4,5].

The advancement of the logistics sector at a high standard is intricately connected to the advancement of the economy at a high standard, exhibiting diverse effects contingent upon the industrial framework, thereby requiring strategies that account for shifts in the industrial framework and overarching national economic objectives [6,7,8].

Infrastructure, punctuality, and the degree of openness in trade represent pivotal elements that exert a significant impact on economic expansion. The ongoing enhancement of logistics infrastructure and the adherence to timely schedules are directly linked to favorable economic consequences [9,10]. Transport infrastructure, an indispensable element of logistics, plays a crucial role in enhancing the efficiency of economic activities, and novel strategies for its

enhancement are imperative for effectively overseeing the structural aspect of transport infrastructure [11,12].

Investment in logistics infrastructure is closely associated with the growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), as evidenced by research showing that a mere 1% rise in GDP investment in logistics infrastructure can notably enhance GDP per capita [13,14]. The advancement of regional logistics, exemplified in Gansu Province, plays a crucial role in fostering regional economic cohesion and expansion, underscoring the significance of key logistics metrics like cargo volume and logistics value addition [15,16,17].

The evolution of logistics systems (LS) is closely related to economic performance, and research shows that elements such as transportation, capital expenditures, and physical structures play important functions in the development of local economies [18,19,20]. In underdeveloped nations, the performance of logistics plays a crucial role as a moderator in the context of economic expansion, whereby an effective logistics framework amplifies the influence of both workforce and financial resources on the progression of the economy [21,22,23].

The interconnected nature of the world economy underscores the need for resilient logistics infrastructure to sustain economic competitiveness, particularly amidst the rise in global trade volumes, prompting nations to improve their logistical capacities [24,25,26]. Thus, the logistics industry is indispensable for economic growth and infrastructure development, providing the backbone for efficient trade, regional integration, and overall economic prosperity [27,28,29].

Literature Review.

The role and significance of the logistics sector in the nation's economy has garnered considerable attention among both domestic and international scholars, leading to extensive scientific inquiry in this domain. Research findings have indicated that the advancement of the logistics industry has yielded favorable outcomes on the country's macroeconomic metrics. By enabling the efficient transportation of commodities and services, the logistics industry assumes a pivotal role in the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), thereby contributing to overall economic advancement. Noteworthy economist Y.K. Saxena highlighted in his studies that in India, the logistics industry constitutes 5% of the GDP, offering employment opportunities to a substantial portion of the populace engaged in the handling of billions of tons of merchandise annually [30].

Studies conducted by H. Nguyen have revealed that the logistics efficiency index (LPI) exerted a notable influence on the expansion of the gross domestic product and underscored the significance of logistics in the realm of economic advancement [31]. In line with the findings of K. Sharipbekova, the efficiency of logistics not only impacts economic advancement but also contributes to the overall competitiveness of nations, thus highlighting the crucial role played by the logistics industry in steering economic progress on a global scale [32].

According to D. Vasylykivskyi and colleagues, the advancement of global logistics holds significant importance within the realm of globalization, as it impacts global trade and economic connections while showcasing the intricate relationship between logistics and macroeconomic progress. The findings from the scholar's investigations revealed that the outbreak of COVID-19 had a substantial adverse effect on the logistics sector, influencing macroeconomic advancement and trade metrics [33].

Furthermore, the pandemic has led to a surge in the demand for e-commerce, underscoring the critical role of dependable transportation firms in upholding operational efficiency and ensuring punctual deliveries. Wang and co-authors conducted an assessment on the economic implications of China's logistics field utilizing data from the China Industry Association, a study that is poised to shape future policy directions for the country's logistics sector. The outcomes of the study by Xinyue, Tian, and others demonstrated that China's logistics industry possesses a production promotion coefficient of 2.7956, a linear cooperation coefficient of 4.6270, and is identified as a pivotal strategic domain that bolsters the nation's economic progression [34].

In the study conducted by S. Sezer et al., an analysis was carried out on the impact of transportation and communication logistics variables on the economic growth of 34 OECD countries. The study also explored how the variables within the transportation and communication industries contributed to the rise in per capita income across OECD countries. The research findings revealed that key factors in comprehending a nation's economic growth and development include the economic indicators specific to that country. The more favorable and elevated these indicators are, the greater their positive influence on the economic, social, psychological, and cultural fabric of the society [35].

Admir Muslija and colleagues investigated the correlation between the logistics sector, government expenditure, and economic growth within the context of seven prominent developed economies (G7) on a global scale. The findings of the study suggest that utilizing air freight to approach the logistics industry is particularly appealing, as it exhibits a positive relationship with the G7 nations' inclination towards faster and more efficient transportation methods [36].

Nagehan Uca and team conducted an examination on the association between gross domestic product (GDP) and the logistics performance index (LPI), as well as the influence of LPI components on GDP. Scholars have emphasized that the logistics sector plays a significant role in the coordination, implementation, and oversight of the movement of goods, services, and information between production and consumption domains [37].

Yongming Pan and colleagues' study indicated that China's logistics industry lags significantly behind that of developed nations and other BRIC countries, and even falls short of the global average [38].

The researchers' findings suggest that the expansion of the domestic economy and shifts in consumer behavior, particularly due to the rapid growth of e-commerce, have propelled the rapid advancement of the logistics sector within the nation. Nevertheless, logistics firms have encountered challenges such as high operational expenses and a lack of competitive dynamics [39].

Research methodology.

Various scientific methodologies such as abstraction, categorization, juxtaposition, retrospective and prospective approaches, empirical scrutiny, among others, were employed in the study. The significance and function of the logistics sector within the nation's economic framework were substantiated through the utilization of scientific abstraction. Additionally, a emissions forecast model was formulated through economic evaluation techniques to ascertain the contribution of the logistics sector to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS.

Foreign investigations demonstrate that the logistics sector has gained considerable significance within the economic real sector of the nation, playing a crucial role in facilitating trade, ensuring the smooth flow of goods, and fostering overall economic development. This sector encompasses a broad array of operations, including transportation, storage, inventory management, and information handling, all of which are indispensable for the uninterrupted functioning of diverse economic domains.

In the contemporary landscape, the logistics industry exerts a notable impact on the competitiveness of enterprises in the international arena, commencing from the pricing of commodities and services. The logistics sector plays a pivotal role in ascertaining the expenses associated with the conveyance of unprocessed materials to manufacturing sites and the distribution of final products to various markets. An effective logistics framework has the capacity to diminish transportation expenditures, consequently leading to a decrease in the total expenses incurred for goods and services. The reduction in costs enables organizations to set more competitive prices for their merchandise in the global marketplace.

Advanced logistics networks allow firms to efficiently access global markets. The capability to promptly and dependably distribute goods worldwide can broaden a company's clientele and enhance its competitive edge. Trade facilitation: Effective logistics systems streamline customs processes and ensure adherence to global trade laws, thereby lowering entry barriers and operational expenses in overseas markets. The economic significance of this sector spans across multiple domains influencing international trade, transportation systems, and the broader economic progress.

The substantial economic significance of the logistics industry is manifested through its contributions to streamlining international trade, enhancing the efficiency of supply chains, bolstering global integration, fostering economic expansion, ensuring customer satisfaction, boosting the volume of import-export activities, and fortifying stability.

Investing in the logistics sector and prioritizing its development is necessary to achieve sustainable economic growth, competitiveness and prosperity. Today, the main role of the logistics industry in the country's economy is presented below (see Figure 1).

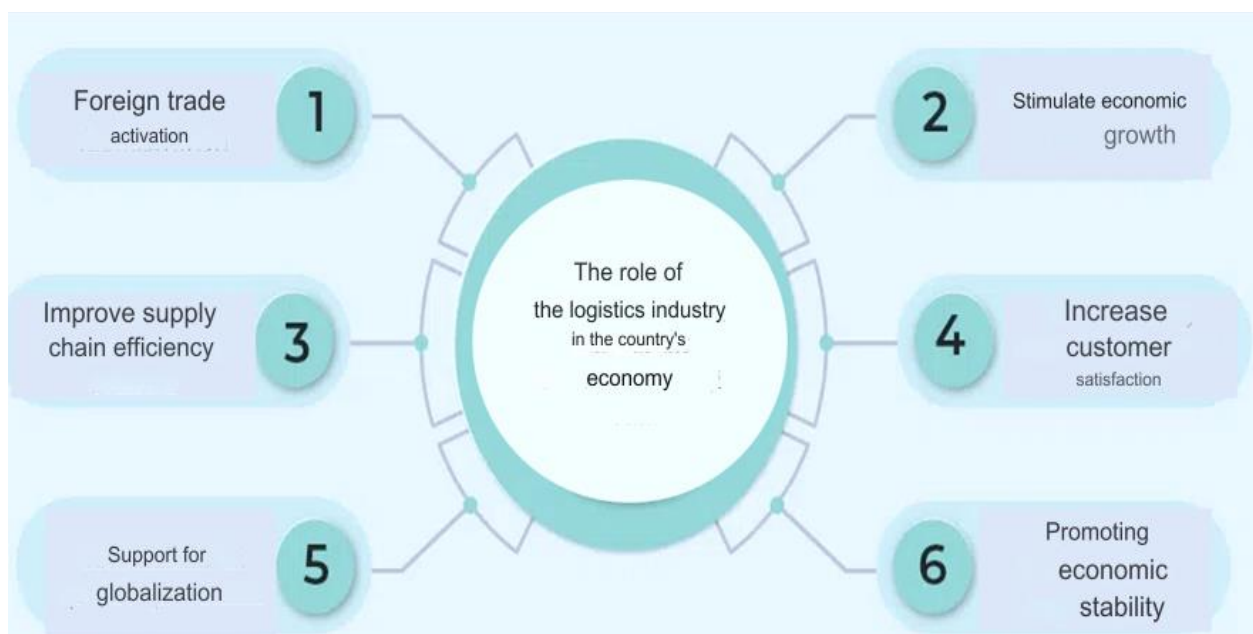


Figure 1. The role of the logistics industry in the country's economy¹

According to Figure 1 depicted above, the logistics sector facilitates both domestic and foreign trade through ensuring the punctual and cost-efficient transportation of merchandise from manufacturers to consumers. The effectiveness of logistics systems leads to a decrease in transportation expenses, minimized delays, and enhanced dependability of supply chains. This aspect is particularly crucial for enterprises relying on timely deliveries to satisfy customer requirements and uphold their competitive standing.

The significance of the logistics industry in enhancing the effectiveness of supply chains is noteworthy. By leveraging cutting-edge technology and strategic planning, logistics service providers can optimize pathways, oversee inventory, and streamline processes. Consequently, this culminates in notable cost reductions and heightened operational efficiency for companies.

The logistics field plays a pivotal role in endorsing globalization. It has facilitated the engagement of nations in international trade by furnishing the necessary infrastructure and services for the movement of goods across borders. Well-functioning logistics networks aid countries in leveraging their comparative advantages, exporting their goods to global markets, and importing crucial commodities and raw materials.

¹ Developed by the author.

The logistics sector plays a crucial role in the enhancement of economic development. This sector generates numerous job opportunities spanning across different proficiency levels, ranging from truck drivers and warehouse personnel to logistics executives and IT experts. Investments made in logistics infrastructure, such as seaports, airports, road networks, and storage facilities, serve to invigorate economic undertakings by enhancing connectivity and ease of access.

Client contentment stands as a pivotal element in the triumph of enterprises, with the logistics industry assuming a significant position in this context. Efficient logistical procedures guarantee the accurate and punctual delivery of goods to clients, thereby meeting or even surpassing their anticipations. Advanced monitoring and distribution systems furnish customers with instantaneous updates regarding their purchases, heightening the levels of transparency and dependability.

The logistics sector is progressively directing its attention towards sustainability and mitigating its ecological influence. Through the adoption of environmentally friendly logistics strategies like utilizing fuel-efficient vehicles, optimizing delivery routes, and incorporating energy-efficient storage solutions, the sector can notably diminish its carbon footprint.

Moreover, the logistics industry serves as a crucial element of the nation's macroeconomic operations, with the capability to enhance trade, enhance supply chain effectiveness, bolster globalization, spur economic development, and advance both customer satisfaction and sustainability. It fulfills a diverse array of functions. With regards to the integration of economic operations, the significance of effective and groundbreaking logistics systems is on the rise.

The logistics sector is becoming increasingly significant in the macroeconomic metrics of the nation (refer to Table 1).

Table 1. Dynamic analysis of logistics services and macro economic indicators of the country²

<i>No</i>	<i>Economic indicators</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>Growth dynamics in % compared to 2022-2018</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>GDP (\$ billion)</i>	426 641	532 712,5	605 514,9	7384 25,2	896617,9	210,15
<i>2</i>	<i>Foreign trade turnover (million USD)</i>	33430	41751	36256,1	42170,5	50500,3	151,06
<i>4</i>	<i>Investment volume (in billion soums)</i>	124231,3	195927,3	210195,1	239552,6	266240	214,30
<i>5</i>	<i>Transport services</i>	44159,4	54473,5	53662,9	67202,9	83985,6	190.18

According to the data of Table 1, the country's macroeconomic indicators and dynamic indicators of logistics services in the period from 2018 to 2022 are given.

In this period, it can be seen that GDP in the national economy increased by 210.15%, Foreign trade turnover by 151.06%, investment volume by 214.30%, and transport services by 190.18%. Also, these economic indicators showed regular growth trends in the selected period.

Also, in the period from 2018 to 2022, the positive relationship between the gross domestic product, foreign trade turnover and the volume of investments in transport services can be explained by the dynamics of their interdependence.

² Independently developed by the author based on the data of <https://stat.uz/>

1. GDP growth and transport services:

In the realm of economic activities, with the rise in GDP, there is an expansion of economic activities, thereby resulting in escalated levels of production and consumption. Such activities necessitate more resilient transportation services for the movement of goods and individuals. The allocation of funds towards infrastructure development is crucial: An expanding economy commonly triggers heightened levels of both public and private investments in infrastructure, encompassing transportation systems. Enhanced infrastructure augments the effectiveness and capability of transportation services. Enterprises tend to broaden their scope of operations in a burgeoning economy, consequently escalating the demand for the transportation of raw materials, finished products, and the relocation of labor.

2. International trade turnover and transportation services;

An escalation in the magnitude of commerce: a substantial international trade turnover signifies a rise in the quantity of goods being exported and imported. Such a phenomenon directly influences transportation services by facilitating the movement of goods from their origin to ports and subsequently to their final destinations. Enhancing the efficiency of the logistical infrastructure is paramount when considering investments in this sector to adeptly handle heightened sales volumes. This encompasses the enhancement of transportation networks, storage facilities, and technology-driven logistical strategies. The expansion of international trade integrates the nation into worldwide supply chains, necessitating dependable and extensive transportation services that conform to global standards and adhere to specified timelines.

3. Volume of investments and transport services;

The augmentation in investment in infrastructure development primarily results in a substantial advancement of infrastructure, encompassing transport infrastructure like roads, railways, ports, and airports. This progression will enhance the capability and effectiveness of transport services. Substantial investments will facilitate the implementation of cutting-edge technologies in transport and logistics, such as automation, tracking systems, and enhanced vehicle fleets, thereby enhancing service quality and dependability. Resources will also be allocated towards enhancing capacity in logistics, which includes the training of logistics professionals and the modernization of equipment. Consequently, this results in an enhancement in service provision. Investments in transport infrastructure and services exhibit a ripple effect on the economy. Enhanced transportation services diminish costs and expedite the transportation of goods and individuals, thereby further invigorating economic operations and bolstering GDP expansion.

A feedback loop exists where enhanced transportation infrastructure stimulates economic development, leading to increased investments and trade, subsequently necessitating further enhancements in transportation services. The expansion of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), foreign trade volume, and investment levels collectively produce a synergistic impact. Economic advancement drives trade and draws investments, thereby enhancing transportation facilities. Consequently, efficient transportation services facilitate additional economic endeavors, establishing a continuous cycle of progress and advancement.

The correlation between Gross Domestic Product (GDP), foreign trade volume, and investments in the transportation sector during the timeframe spanning from 2018 to 2022 exemplifies the interconnected nature of these variables. The expansion of the economy leads to heightened requirements for transportation services, while allocations towards transportation infrastructure and services pave the way for forthcoming economic endeavors and trade activities, thereby establishing a beneficial cycle of progress.

CONCLUSION.

The examination revealed that the suggestions and recommendations were formulated based on the analysis and findings regarding the examination of the logistics industry's role and significance in the national economy. The logistics sector is of paramount importance to the national economy

and serves as a critical catalyst for economic expansion, commerce, and financial investment. Statistics spanning from 2018 to 2022 indicate a notable positive association between the logistics industry and fundamental macroeconomic metrics like GDP, foreign trade volume, and investment levels.

1. The logistics industry plays a pivotal role in driving economic growth, as demonstrated by the 210.15% rise in gross domestic product. The provision of effective logistics services aids in the smooth transportation of goods and services, enhancing operational efficiency for businesses.
2. The significance of the logistics sector in facilitating trade is highlighted by a 151.06% surge in foreign trade turnover. Dependable and effective logistics services are crucial for linking local markets to global supply chains, boosting the competitiveness of a nation's exports, and ensuring the prompt delivery of essential commodities.
3. The increase of 214.30% in the volume of investments underscores the appeal of the logistics sector for investors. Investments in logistics infrastructure, including transportation networks, warehouses, and technology, play a crucial role in bolstering economic activity and attracting both domestic and foreign investment.
4. The significant expansion of transport services by 190.18% underscores the significance of ongoing infrastructure development. Investments in transport infrastructure not only stimulate economic growth but also enhance the overall quality of logistics services, leading to cost reduction and improved efficiency.
5. The interconnected growth of GDP, trade, and investment illustrates the comprehensive nature of economic advancement. The logistics sector serves as a driver and generates a ripple effect that positively impacts various segments of the economy, ranging from manufacturing to retail, and fosters sustainable economic development.
6. The observed upward trends highlight the significance of governmental policies and targeted investments in bolstering the logistics field. Measures aimed at advancing infrastructure, embracing technology, and enhancing regulatory frameworks have the potential to further elevate the effectiveness and capabilities of the logistics sector.
7. Maintaining a focused approach towards the logistics industry can not only safeguard but also amplify economic expansion. Embracing the shift towards digitalization, fortifying supply chain robustness, and fostering innovative practices within logistics operations are crucial for sustaining progress and realizing overarching economic objectives.
8. In summation, the logistics realm serves not only as a supportive entity but also as a vital element of the national economic landscape. Its expansion and advancement play a critical role in boosting the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), facilitating commercial exchanges, and attracting financial investments. By acknowledging and allocating resources to the logistics sector, nations can ensure robust economic performance and enduring progress in the times ahead.
9. Uzbekistan's distinctive geographical location as a landlocked nation within Central Asia underscores the critical importance of the logistics sector. Enhancing logistical capabilities can bolster Uzbekistan's position as a pivotal regional center for trade and business, fostering connections between diverse economies and promoting the seamless flow of commerce.
10. Investment in logistics infrastructure, including roads, railways, and airports, has the potential to substantially enhance economic growth. The optimization of logistics operations leads to a decrease in transportation expenditures, improved management of supply chains, and heightened effectiveness of enterprises. Consequently, this has the capacity to draw in foreign direct investments, invigorate domestic sectors, and generate job prospects, thereby fortifying the economy.
11. A proficiently developed logistics industry elevates the competitiveness of Uzbek businesses on the global platform. Reduced transportation expenditures and enhanced shipment durations

have the potential to enhance the appeal of Uzbek goods in international markets, thus promoting the expansion of exports and diversification of the economy.

12. Concentrating on logistics has the potential to propel extensive infrastructure enhancement. This encompasses not solely transportation grids, but also storage facilities, information technology structures, and legal frameworks. This all-encompassing progress aids not only the logistics sector but also the whole economic environment, generating a ripple effect that advantages various industries.

13. Modern logistics solutions frequently integrate sustainable practices and cutting-edge technologies. Through the adoption of these strategies, Uzbekistan has the potential to advance towards more environmentally friendly logistics systems and more intelligent infrastructure, in accordance with prevailing global trends and guaranteeing prolonged sustainability.

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