



GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OF KASHKADARYO REGION

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the regional disparities in industrial development within Kashkadaryo Province, categorizing its districts into high, medium, and low industrial development areas based on their share of industrial production. The analysis highlights the significant decline in industrial shares in certain districts, such as Muborak and Guzor, which indicate a need for technological modernization and investment diversification. Conversely, districts like Nishon have demonstrated substantial growth, suggesting the successful launch of new industrial facilities. The article underscores the importance of a balanced regional policy to address inter-district disparities, advocating for high-industrial areas to serve as models for collaboration and support for less developed districts. It emphasizes the need for equitable resource distribution, strategic planning, and the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises to foster sustainable economic growth. Overall, the findings propose a comprehensive approach to enhance the industrial potential of Kashkadaryo Province.

Keywords: Kashkadaryo region, industrial geography, regional development, industrial potential, economic disparities, district analysis, production share, investment policy.

In the economic development strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the accurate assessment of regional industrial potential and its optimal development is identified as one of the pressing tasks. Kashkadaryo Province, located in the southern part of the country, stands out due to its rich natural resources, favorable transportation and communication facilities, and labor potential. The development of the industrial sector in this province is directly influenced by regional disparities, where some



districts and cities exhibit high economic activity while others have relatively low levels of industrial production.

A thorough analysis of the regional distribution and development rates of industry at the provincial level allows for the rational utilization of existing resources and opportunities. In this context, the article examines the disparities in industrial production among districts in Kashkadaryo Province, the reasons behind these differences, and ways to address them from a scientific perspective. This research is significant for improving regional economic policy, sustainably developing industrial infrastructure, and reducing inter-regional economic inequality through practical recommendations.

The industrial development of Kashkadaryo Province is characterized by significant disparities across regions. Based on analyses, the districts and cities of the province have been categorized into three primary groups according to their average share of industrial production: high, medium, and low-level industrial development areas. This classification approach facilitates the clarification of regional development strategies, targeted resource allocation, and a deeper analysis of the factors that contribute to the sustainable growth of industry.

High-level industrial development areas are those with an annual share of over 10%. This group includes Karshi city, as well as the Muborak, Guzor, and Nishon districts. The regions included in this group have been the main pillars of the industrial sector in Kashkadaryo Region.

Share of Districts in the Total Volume of Industrial Production in Qashqadaryo Province (as a Percentage of Total)

	2010 Year	2015 Year	2020 Year	2024 Year
Kashkadaryo region	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Karshi city	14,4	18,0	20,2	12,7
Shakhrisabz city	-	-	2,2	1,9
Districts:				
Guzor	22,4	22,7	18,5	11,4
Dehkonobod	0,6	1,9	4,0	2,7
Kamashi	1,1	1,6	3,8	2,2

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Karshi	1,1	1,7	4,2	6,7
Koson	2,1	3,8	5,2	4,1
Kitob	0,5	1,4	2,7	4,3
Mirishkor	0,9	1,3	2,1	2,4
Muborak	51,2	32,3	4,3	3,0
Nishon	1,0	5,2	20,6	23,9
Kasbi	1,0	1,3	2,7	5,9
Ko'kdala	-	-	-	0,7
Chirokchi	0,6	1,6	2,5	2,3
Shakhrisabz	2,3	5,6	2,9	2,7
Yakkabog	0,8	1,6	4,3	2,8

Table compiled by the author based on data from the Kashkadaryo Province Statistics Department.

The districts in this group specialize mainly in energy, chemical, and heavy industry sectors. The development of these areas has been significantly influenced by large state projects and proximity to raw material bases. However, for sustainability, there is a need for technological innovations, export diversification, and infrastructure modernization. Medium-level industrial development areas (with an average share of 3% to 10%) include Koson, Kasbi, Qarshi, Yakkabog', Kitob, and Shahrissabz districts. Although these districts had low industrial indicators from 2010 to 2015, they showed active growth from 2020 to 2024. The share of Koson district increased from 2.1% in 2010 to 5.2% in 2020, then slightly dropped to 4.1% in 2024. Karshi district grew from 1.1% in 2010 to 6.7% in 2024, becoming an important industrial zone within the province. Kasbi district also saw significant growth, rising from 1.0% in 2010 to 5.9% in 2024. Yakkabog and Kitob districts also experienced increased industrial activity, with both recording a 4.3% share in 2020. These districts primarily focus on light industry sectors such as agricultural product processing and construction materials production.

Shakhrisabz district, which had a higher share of 5.6% in 2015, saw a decline to 2.7% in 2024, indicating a decrease in industrial activity.

Low-level industrial development areas (with annual shares of less than 3%) include Shahrissabz city, as well as Dehqonobod, Qamashi, Mirishkor, Chiroqchi, and Ko'kdala districts. These districts represent the most economically vulnerable



segment of the analysis. In Dekhkonobod district, the industrial share was 0.6% in 2010, which rose to 4.0% by 2020 but fell back to 2.7% in 2024. This district specializes in extracting raw materials (such as cement and limestone) but lacks high-capacity processing facilities.

Similarly, districts like Kamashi, Chirokchi, Mirishkor, and Yakkabog have industrial indicators ranging from 1% to 4%. Their main challenges include weak infrastructure, low attractiveness for investors, and a workforce that is not prepared for industrial needs. Ko'kdala district was not present in the statistics until 2024, when it recorded a share of 0.7% after being established from Chirokchi district in 2022.

Shakhrisabz city also fell into the low group, with an industrial share of 2.2% in 2020 and 1.9% in 2024, indicating a loss of industrial potential. For the development of industry in these low-performing areas, it is crucial to support small enterprises, improve transportation links, and create tax incentives for investors. To reduce regional disparities in the industrial development of Qashqadaryo Province, it is essential to establish modern infrastructure in districts with low industrial potential and actively support small and medium-sized enterprises that can process raw materials.

Tax incentives, favorable credit resources, and simplified public-private partnership projects should be implemented for these districts (e.g., Dehqonobod, Ko'kdala, Chiroqchi, and Qamashi). There is also potential to enhance investment attractiveness by ensuring logistical convenience, especially in mountainous and remote areas. Medium-level industrial development areas (Qarshi, Kasbi, Koson, Yakkabog', and Kitob) should develop industrial zones, agro-industrial clusters, and technological incubators to fully utilize their potential. Expanding the processing industry based on the available agricultural raw materials can not only increase regional employment levels but also enhance export potential. Additionally, it is recommended to encourage the activities of small enterprises through free economic zones and integrate scientific advancements into production.

In conclusion, the existing inter-district disparities in the industrial development of Qashqadaryo Province can be effectively addressed through a balanced regional policy. High-industrial areas should not only reinforce their positions but also serve



as models for network and technological collaboration for other districts. As a general strategic approach, the regional diversification of industry, equitable resource distribution, and scientifically-based planning of industrial development should be viewed as key factors for sustainable economic growth in the province.

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