



## **HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE FOOD INDUSTRY OF NAVOI REGION IN THE YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE**

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<b>Article history:</b>	<b>Abstract:</b>
<b>Received:</b> 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 <b>Accepted:</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	This article analyzes the historical development of the food industry of Navoi region in the period after Uzbekistan gained independence from a geographical perspective. The article examines the main stages, such as the industrial heritage of the Soviet era, changes during the transition to a market economy, the growth of investments, the establishment of new enterprises and the modernization of existing ones. It also studies the dynamics of the territorial location of production enterprises in various sectors of the food industry (sugar, wine, fruit and vegetable processing, milk, oil, meat, fish, bread and confectionery), the influence of raw materials sources and consumer markets. The article also analyzes the role of small businesses in the industry and future development trends.

**Keywords:** Navoi region, Uzbekistan, food industry, historical geography, small business, raw material sources, consumer markets.

### **INTRODUCTION.**

After Uzbekistan gained independence, deep reforms were carried out in all sectors of the country's economy. This process had a significant impact on the economy of Navoi region, in particular, on the food industry, which is one of its important sectors. This industry plays an important role in the socio-economic development of the region by satisfying the basic needs of the population, processing agricultural products, and creating new jobs.

This article is devoted to studying the historical development of the food industry of Navoi region during the years of independence from a geographical perspective. The study analyzes the transformations during the transition from the industrial infrastructure of the Soviet era to a market economy, investments in the industry in recent years, and the resulting territorial changes.

The territory of Navoi region is 111,000 sq km, which occupies 25% or a quarter of the territory of the republic. There are 3 large water bodies in the region. Of these, the total area of the Aydarkul water basin reaches 145,503 ha. This water basin has a capacity of 41.5 billion cubic meters. The Tudakul water basin occupies an area of 21,673 ha and has a water capacity of 1.75 billion cubic meters. The Shorkul water basin occupies an area of 2,516 ha and has a water capacity of 0.22 billion cubic meters[1].

In addition, there is the Kuymazor reservoir in the Kyzyltepa district of the region, with an area of 650 ha. This reservoir has a water capacity of 0.83 billion cubic meters and mainly supplies the population of Bukhara

region with drinking water. The average annual precipitation in the northern regions of the region is 232 mm, and in the southern regions the average annual precipitation is 170 mm. The climate of the region is temperate. In the summer months, the air temperature warms up to + 48.2 degrees Celsius and in the winter months, it cools down to - 32.3 degrees Celsius. The center of the region is the city of Navoi, located 340 meters above sea level[2].

The leading industries are energy, mining (gold and other metals), metallurgy, chemistry, construction materials, cotton ginning, and food industry enterprises.

The majority of exported products are cotton fiber, ammonium nitrate, chemical fiber, ammonium sulfate, orthoaminophenol. Consumer goods, calcium carbide, caustic soda, thiourea, sewing equipment, medical equipment, trucks and passenger cars, buses and spare parts for them, and farm equipment are imported from abroad.

A number of works have also been carried out to ensure macroeconomic stability, employment, and the development of exports and investments.

In 2023, the region's gross regional product will grow by 105.8%, industrial products by 106.7%, agricultural products by 101.9%, construction and contracting works by 107.5%, and services by 112.5%.

Compared to 2022, the gross regional product per capita increased by 13.1 million soums to 76.9 million soums, industrial production by 14.8 million soums to 95.4 million soums, agricultural products by 3.1 million soums to 18.5 million soums, and services by 2.0 million soums to 10.8 million soums.



Special attention was paid to industrial production and the use of existing capabilities and reserves resulted in a production volume of 101.6 trillion soums by the end of 2023, or an increase of 106.7% compared to the previous year[3].

High growth was observed in the food production (106.6%), metallurgy (108.3%), electrical engineering (108.5%), and building materials industry (103.7%).

Today, 86 (40 Navoi KMK JSC, 11 Navoiyuran DK, 10 Navoi IES JSC, 12 Kyzylkumsement JSC, 15 Navoiazot JSC) small businesses are being provided with practical support by large enterprises on the basis of the "strap mechanism".

As a result of the wide opportunities and incentives created for entrepreneurship, 3,796 new small business entities were established in the region, bringing their number to 26,014. In 2023, regional enterprises exported products worth \$176.6 million (exports of industrial products \$165.8 million, fruit and vegetable products \$10.8 million)[3].

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The food industry includes more than 30 industries that provide the population with food products and is closely related to agriculture. Raw materials and consumer factors play an important role in the location of the food industry.

When locating and developing any type of food industry branch in a particular region, it is necessary to study its following features:

- firstly, the processing of raw materials belonging to the plant and animal world in the food industry branches;
- secondly, the importance of chemical and biochemical processes for these branches from a technological point of view;
- thirdly, the need for thermal treatment (processing at high or very low temperatures) to obtain finished products from raw materials in these branches;
- fourthly, the need for thermal and biochemical treatment of raw materials and other types of processing to form an integrated technological system.

It is also necessary to pay special attention to the following factors that play an important role in the rational location of the food industry[4].

1. Food enterprises are located in densely populated regions and the solvency of the population is high. This factor is more relevant for enterprises producing perishable products.

2. Some sectors of the food industry are located close to sources of raw materials (the meat industry is located close to livestock complexes, etc.)

3. The food industry is labor-intensive and requires a large workforce, which is why it is advisable to locate such enterprises in large and densely populated areas.

4. It is necessary to locate food enterprises in regions rich in water resources, since the water capacity of the food industry is quite high, and for some of its sectors, the water factor is the basis of production[4].

Most of the costs of food production are spent on agricultural raw materials. In sugar production, the cost of raw materials is 65 percent; in the production of butter, cheese and meat, it reaches 90 percent. To obtain one ton of sugar, 5-6 tons of sugar beets are required. Therefore, a group of food industry enterprises (sugar, sugar production, wine, etc.) are built in areas close to sources of raw materials.

So, sugar production will be established in areas where sugar beet is grown, wineries will be established in areas with developed viticulture, horticulture, vegetable growing, and agriculture (3 enterprises engaged in the production of fruit and vegetable juices are located in Navbahor, Karmana districts and the city of Zarafshan; 10 enterprises and organizations engaged in other types of processing and canning of fruits and vegetables are located in Navbahor, Karmana, Khatirchi districts and the cities of Zarafshan and Navoi; 1 enterprise engaged in the production of starch and starch products is located in the city of Navoi; 10 enterprises and organizations engaged in the production of cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery are located in Navbahor, Khatirchi districts and the city of Navoi; 1 enterprise engaged in the distillation, purification and blending of alcoholic beverages is located in the city of Navoi; 2 enterprises engaged in the production of wine from grapes are located in the Kyzyltepa and Navbahor districts; 1 enterprise engaged in the production of other non-distilled fermented (fermented) beverages is located in Navoi city; 1 enterprise engaged in the production of beer is located in Navoi city; 70 enterprises and organizations engaged in the production of soft drinks, bottled mineral waters and other waters are located in Konimeh, Kyzyltepa, Navbahor, Karmana, Nurota, Tomdi, Uchkuduk districts and Zarafshon, Navoi cities; 3 enterprises engaged in the production of tea and coffee are located in Nurota district and Navoi city (end of 2023)[5].

Dairy production will be established in dairy farming regions. 36 enterprises and organizations engaged in milk processing and cheese production are located in Karmana, Nurota, Kyzyltepa, Navbahor, Nurota, Uchkuduk, Khatirchi districts and Navoi city; 13 ice cream production plants are located in Konimeh,



Karmana, Uchkuduk, Khatirchi districts and Zarafshon, Gozgan cities (end of 2023).

The oil industry will be established in regions where cotton, sunflower, flax, soybean and other oilseed crops are grown. 15 enterprises and organizations engaged in the production of vegetable and animal fats and oils are located in Kyzyltepa, Navbahor, Karmana, Nurota, Khatirchi districts and Navoi city; 2 enterprises engaged in the production of margarine and mixed edible fats are located in Kyzyltepa, Khatirchi districts (end of 2023)[5].

Meat processing plants are built in areas with developed livestock farming, but recently meat processing plants and poultry factories have also been built around large cities (15 enterprises and organizations engaged in slaughtering cattle in aviaries, processing or packaging meat are located in Nurota, Kyzyltepa, Uchkuduk, Khatirchi districts and the cities of Navoi and Zarafshan; 1 enterprise engaged in the production of fresh, chilled and frozen meat is located in Nurota district; 4 enterprises engaged in other meat processing activities are located in Karmana, Uchkuduk districts and the cities of Gozgon and Navoi; 13 enterprises and organizations engaged in the processing of poultry meat are located in Nurota, Kyzyltepa, Tomdi, Navbahor, Uchkuduk districts and the cities of Zarafshan and Navoi; 2 enterprises and organizations engaged in the production of salted, dried or smoked meat, poultry meat and feed enterprises engaged in the production of by-products are located in Navoi city and Nurota district; 1 enterprise engaged in the production of sausage products is located in Navoi city; 3 enterprises engaged in the production of meat products not included in other categories are located in Kyzyltepa, Uchkuduk districts and Navoi city (end of 2023).

The fishing industry is mainly developed in fishing areas (12 enterprises and organizations engaged in the processing and canning of fish, crustaceans and mollusks are located in the Kyzyltepa, Nurota, Khatirchi, Karmana districts and the cities of Zarafshon and Navoi (end of 2023)[5].

Another group of the food industry is located closer to the consumer. Such industries include bread factories, pasta, and confectionery factories. 522 enterprises and organizations engaged in the production of bread, fresh dough confectionery, cakes and pastries are located in Konimeh, Kyzyltepa, Navbahor, Karmana, Nurota, Tomdi, Uchkuduk, Khatirchi districts and the cities of Zarafshon, Navoi, and G'ozgon; 19 enterprises and organizations engaged in the production of rusks and cookies, long-term

confectionery products made from dough are located in Kyzyltepa, Karmana, Tomdi, Uchkuduk, Khatirchi districts and Located in the cities of Zarafshan, Navoi, and Gozgan; 16 enterprises and organizations engaged in the production of pasta and similar flour products are located in Konimeh, Kyzyltepa, Navbahor, Karmana, Uchkuduk, Khatirchi districts and the cities of Zarafshan and Navoi; 45 enterprises and organizations engaged in the production of milling and groats industry products are located in Kyzyltepa, Navbahor, Karmana, Khatirchi districts and the cities of Zarafshan and Navoi (end of 2023)[5].

### **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, since Uzbekistan gained independence, the food industry of Navoi region has undergone significant historical and geographical changes. The industrial infrastructure inherited from the Soviet era has undergone processes such as adaptation to the conditions of a market economy, privatization, and the emergence of new forms of ownership.

Investments in the regional food industry in recent years, especially after the 2000s, have given impetus to the creation of new enterprises and the modernization of existing ones. As a result, the volume of production in various food sectors (sugar, wine, fruit and vegetable processing, milk, butter, meat, fish, bread and confectionery) in the region has significantly increased and diversified.

Analysis of the territorial location of enterprises shows that some branches of the food industry tend to be located close to sources of raw materials (for example, sugar factories in areas where sugar beets are grown) or consumer markets (bakery and confectionery enterprises in densely populated areas). These are geographical features that have formed during the historical development of the industry. The development of small business also occupies an important place in the historical geography of the regional food industry. The favorable conditions created for entrepreneurship contributed to the creation of many new small enterprises and the overall growth of the industry.

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