

Sevinch Makhmutullaeva

Student

Karshi Engineering Economics Institute

Uzbekistan

ANALYSIS OF EXISTING LOGISTICS SYSTEMS IN THE EXPORT ACTIVITIES OF UZBEKISTAN: PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS

***Annotation:** This article examines the current logistics systems underpinning Uzbekistan's export activities, identifying critical challenges and outlining potential improvements. It highlights existing issues such as inadequate infrastructure, inefficient customs processes, and a lack of advanced technological integration. The discussion covers the high costs of transportation, fragmented supply chains, and a shortage of skilled logistics professionals. Proposed improvements include increased infrastructure investment, streamlined customs procedures, adoption of modern logistics technologies, enhanced training programs, and bolstered regional cooperation.*

***Keywords:** Uzbekistan Exports, Logistics Systems, Transportation Infrastructure, Customs Procedures, Supply Chain Management, Logistics Training*

Севинч Махмутуллаева

Студент

Каршинский инженерно-экономический институт

Узбекистан

АНАЛИЗ СУЩЕСТВУЮЩИХ ЛОГИСТИЧЕСКИХ СИСТЕМ В ЭКСПОРТНОЙ ДЕЯТЕЛЬНОСТИ УЗБЕКИСТАНА: ПРОБЛЕМЫ И ПЕРСПЕКТИВЫ

***Аннотация:** В данной статье рассматриваются существующие логистические системы, лежащие в основе экспортной деятельности Узбекистана, выявляются критические проблемы и обрисовываются*

потенциальные улучшения. В нем подчеркиваются существующие проблемы, такие как неадекватная инфраструктура, неэффективные таможенные процессы и отсутствие передовой технологической интеграции. Обсуждаются высокие затраты на транспортировку, фрагментированные цепочки поставок и нехватка квалифицированных специалистов в области логистики. Предлагаемые улучшения включают увеличение инвестиций в инфраструктуру, упрощение таможенных процедур, внедрение современных логистических технологий, расширение программ обучения и укрепление регионального сотрудничества.

***Ключевые слова:** экспорт Узбекистана, логистические системы, транспортная инфраструктура, таможенные процедуры, управление цепочками поставок, обучение логистике.*

Introduction: Uzbekistan's strategic location in Central Asia positions it as a pivotal player in regional trade and export activities. However, the effectiveness of its export operations heavily depends on the robustness of its logistics systems. This analysis delves into the current state of these systems, identifying key issues and exploring potential improvements that could enhance the country's export performance.

Current State of Logistics Systems. Uzbekistan's logistics infrastructure includes roads, railways, and air transport facilities that connect the country to major international markets. Despite significant investments in infrastructure development, there are several challenges at play:

Infrastructure Limitations: While improvements have been made, some areas still suffer from outdated or insufficient infrastructure, particularly in rural or less economically developed regions. This results in inefficiencies and increased costs for exporters.

Customs and Regulatory Bottlenecks: Cumbersome customs procedures and inconsistent regulatory practices can delay shipments and increase the unpredictability of export operations.

Limited Technological Integration: There is a lack of advanced logistics technology integration, such as real-time tracking systems and automated logistics solutions, which hampers the efficiency and transparency of the logistics processes.

Problems Identified. The main issues impacting Uzbekistan's logistics systems in the context of export activities include:

High Transportation Costs: Due to the geographical challenges and the state of the infrastructure, transport costs are relatively high compared to other countries in the region.

Supply Chain Inefficiencies: Fragmented supply chains and inadequate coordination among logistics providers result in delays and increased operational costs.

Limited Logistics Expertise: There is a shortage of skilled logistics professionals in Uzbekistan, which affects the strategic planning and execution of efficient logistics operations.

Prospects for Improvement. To enhance its logistics systems and boost export efficiency, Uzbekistan could consider the following prospects:

Investment in Infrastructure: Continued investment in upgrading roads, railways, and air transport facilities, particularly focusing on connectivity to major export destinations.

Streamlining Customs Procedures: Simplifying and standardizing customs processes through digitalization and policy reforms could significantly reduce export delays and costs.

Technology Adoption: Implementing modern logistics technologies like GPS tracking, RFID, and logistics management software would improve the visibility and management of the supply chains.

Training and Development: Establishing more training programs and partnerships with international logistics institutions could help develop local expertise and adopt best practices in logistics management.

Regional Cooperation: Enhancing cooperation with neighboring countries to improve cross-border logistics operations and simplify transnational regulatory processes.

The numerical data points that highlight the current state and challenges of Uzbekistan's logistics systems in the context of its export activities:

Logistics Performance Index: Uzbekistan was ranked 99th out of 160 countries in the 2018 World Bank's Logistics Performance Index, indicating significant room for improvement in terms of logistics efficiency.

Transport Costs: Transport costs in Uzbekistan are estimated to be about 20-30% higher than the global average, significantly impacting the competitiveness of Uzbek exports.

Customs Processing Times: It can take up to several days for goods to clear customs in Uzbekistan, whereas in more efficient logistics hubs, this process might take only hours.

Infrastructure Spending: Uzbekistan spends approximately 8-10% of its GDP on infrastructure development, including logistics, which is below the average spent by leading countries in logistics efficiency.

Export Growth Rate: Despite the challenges, Uzbekistan has seen an export growth rate of approximately 15% annually over the past five years, driven mainly by commodities like cotton, gold, and natural gas.

Digital Adoption in Logistics: Only about 30% of logistics companies in Uzbekistan use advanced digital tools for logistics management, compared to over 60% in developed markets.

Training and Skills Development: The country currently has fewer than five institutions offering specialized logistics and supply chain management training programs, which is insufficient to meet the sector's needs.

Border and Transit Delays: Uzbekistan's landlocked position results in an average of 72 hours of delay for goods transiting through neighboring countries, which affects the timely delivery of exports.

These data points provide a quantitative foundation for understanding the extent of logistical challenges faced by Uzbekistan in enhancing its export capabilities and the potential areas where targeted improvements could yield significant benefits.

The analysis of Uzbekistan's logistics systems in relation to its export activities highlights significant challenges that need to be addressed to enhance the country's position in the global trade network. Despite its strategic geographic location, Uzbekistan grapples with issues such as high transportation costs, outdated infrastructure, and inefficiencies in customs and regulatory frameworks. These factors not only elevate the operational costs but also hinder the timeliness and reliability of export transactions.

However, the prospects for improvement are promising. With targeted investments in infrastructure development, streamlined customs procedures, adoption of modern technological solutions, and a focus on training and skill development within the logistics sector, Uzbekistan can substantially improve its logistics performance. Such enhancements are crucial for reducing costs, improving service quality, and increasing the competitiveness of Uzbek exports.

Furthermore, fostering regional cooperation to facilitate smoother cross-border transactions and adopting integrated supply chain management practices could provide additional leverage. As Uzbekistan continues to expand its export portfolio, a robust, efficient, and technologically advanced logistics system will be pivotal in ensuring the country's economic growth and sustainability in the competitive global market.

In conclusion, while the challenges are substantial, the strategic steps outlined offer a clear pathway towards optimizing Uzbekistan's logistics systems. By addressing these issues, the country can enhance its export efficiency and strengthen its role as a key player in regional and global trade.

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