

## **THE FACT THAT THE AVAILABLE NATURAL RAW MATERIALS AND LABOR RESOURCES OF THE SOUTHERN REGION ARE A FACTOR OF ATTRACTING INVESTMENTS**

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The southern region is located in the southern part of the Republic of Uzbekistan and includes Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya regions. Geographically, the southern region is built on the Amudarya bordering the Zarafshan region to the north and northwest, the Republic of Tajikistan to the east and northeast, the Republic of Turkmenistan to the southwest, and the Republic of Afghanistan via the Amudarya to the south. The road and railway bridge has increased the economic geographical position of the region to an international position, because the trade and economic connection of many foreign countries, such as Western European countries, Russia, CIS countries and the United States of America, with Afghanistan passes through this bridge.

The fact that the southern region is surrounded by Zarafshan and Hisar ridge mountains from the north and east, and is connected to the Sandikli and Qizilkum deserts to the west and southwest, and the fact that it is separated from the north to the south by the Baysun mountain and the Kohitang mountain means that the region has its own geographical importance.

The area of the region is 48.7 thousand square meters. km., is equal to 10.9% of the total area of the republic. In 2021, the region will account for 10.6% of the gross domestic product of Uzbekistan, 5.6% of industrial output, 11.1% of construction work, 14.7% of electricity production, and 8.6% of food production. , 1.6 percent of beverage production, 12.6 percent of textile production, 6.3 percent of clothing production, leather processing 1.7 percent, production of wood and leather products 2.8 percent, production of chemical products 13.5 percent, production of other non-metal products gave 6.9 percent, furniture production 8.0 percent, and agriculture, forestry and fishery products gave 16.8 percent.

Also, 4.8% of consumer goods produced in the country, 8.3% of services, 11.2% of investments in fixed capital, 12.5% of capitalized investments per capita of retail trade turnover and 4.3% of the republic's foreign trade turnover it suited him.

The number of enterprises and organizations operating in the region is 64459 thousand compared to 12.1% of the republic, the number of enterprises and organizations not operating in the region is 10.7% compared to 3106 thousand of the republic, the number of small businesses that have been terminated in the region is 10.4% compared to 4926 thousand of the republic . In the southern region, the number of economically active population is 2455.3 thousand people, 16.3 percent compared to the republic, the number of unemployed people is 251 thousand people, 17.4 percent compared to the republic, the share of the permanent population of working age is 57.4 percent compared to the total population<sup>1</sup>.

The economy of the region has a developing agrarian-industrial direction. In the near future, there are opportunities for its industrial-agrarian character. Currently, the region is considered one of the regions with high economic potential. The existing natural and economic potential in the region is expressed as follows.

**Table 1**

**The scale of economic geographical assessment of natural conditions and natural resources of the southern region<sup>2</sup>**

Natural geographical components	Socio-economic spheres				
	Agriculture	Industry	Transportation	Population location	Recreation and tourism
Relief	+	+	+	-	+
Mineral resources	+	++	-	-	+
Land resources	+	+	+	+	+
Water resources	++	+	+	+	+
Labor resources	++	+	+	+	+
Climate	+	-	-	-	-
Plant world	+	-	-	-	+
Animal world	+	-	-	-	-

*Note: ++ the effect is strong, + has an effect, - there is almost no effect.*

<sup>1</sup>[www.stat.uz](http://www.stat.uz)

<sup>2</sup> Compiled by the author based on the information of the Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

When assessing natural conditions and natural resources, it is necessary to pay particular attention to their availability, amount, quantity, but also to the territorial location and complexes of this type of wealth.

Based on Table 1, the following aspects of the nature of the existing natural and economic potential of the southern region can be distinguished:

- the abundance of agroclimatic resource reserves allows growing heat-loving crops;
- the existence of reservoirs and vacant reserve lands that are the basis for the development of the agrarian sector;
- the abundance of natural gas, coal, oil and gas condensate reserves creates certain conditions for the development of production areas with high energy and science and technology capacity;
- availability of desert pastures, mountain and sub-mountain areas, ease of development of cattle breeding;
- the ancient pilgrimage sites, historical monuments and peaceful nature of the region allow the development of tourism.

The growth indicators of the average population and the large supply of labor resources mean that the region has a high potential for economic development. The southern region is well endowed with natural resources. Most of the republic's natural gas and oil reserves are located in this region.

Due to the different distribution of natural resources, production, economic and social potential in the region, it is impossible to implement single standardized and overlapping investment reforms in all these regions.

Therefore, taking into account the relative advantages of each region, factors such as existing natural raw materials and labor resources, infrastructure, labor force, and specific characteristics such as growth reserves, it increases the efficiency of the use of domestic and foreign capital.