

## The Importance of Tourism in the Economic Development of Regions

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### Abstract:

This article analyse the economic essence and main directions of economic development of regions in the country. It shows the main indicators of economic development in the regions during today's economic processes. One of the main directions in the economic development of the regions is tourism. The article introduces the number of foreign tourists who visited the republic and regions based on scientific sources. Tourism is considered to be one of the steadily developing sectors of the world economy and has become a powerful catalyst of socio-economic development of not only developed but also developing countries and regions. Tourism is one of the important spheres of activity of the modern economy, and it is an economic system aimed at meeting people's needs and raising the standard of living of the population. Also, it consists of proposals and recommendations regarding the impact of attracting investments in increasing the tourism potential in the economic development of the regions. Additionalt, it gives information about how to increase the quality of life of the population and the increase in the volume of internal and external tourism in the economic development of the regions.

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### INTRODUCTION

Shavkat Mirziyoyev who is the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan claimed that the government needs new enterprises for the peace, prosperity, and future of our country, people, jobs, new markets, investment, and huge revenues are needed at the meeting on the socio-economic development of Kashkadarya region" held in Karshi, on October 25 in 2023. It was pointed out that the governors and the ministers should discuss the issues of where and how to sell the products, and how to support which companies should be given if the fluctuations in the markets of the main partner countries and trade restrictions continue, President Sh. Mirziyoyev.[1]

Macroeconomic stability and balance of the economy of the Kashkadarya region is ensured. The volume of exports alone will increase significantly, by 141.5% to 426.1 million dollars in 2023, and the

composition and quality of the exported products are improving. Foreign trade turnover increased by 134.9 percent to 735.6 million dollars.

Today, tourism is becoming one of the largest directions of the service sector of the countries of the world. Its advantages over other areas of the economy are represented by the fact that there are opportunities for development in all countries at different stages of development. Currently, not only historical or traditional, but also new types, forms, and manifestations of tourism are emerging. These new trends lead to the acceptance of this industry not only as a source of foreign exchange but as one of the main factors of regional development. Therefore, in the future, the countries of the world are paying great attention to tourism at the state level, along with the financial sectors that bring large profits in the short term. In these processes, developed countries take part in the process of opening new directions and aspects of tourism as subjects implementing measures that are the basis of new laws for the sector, while some of the developing countries consider tourism as a "locomotive" sector of the economy. However, others consider it as a foreign currency income, and tourism business is considered as one of the sectors that introduce the country to the world.

#### LITERATURE ANALYSIS AND METHODOLOGY

Five priorities for the development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021, approved based on the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated February 7, 2017, No. PF-4947 "On the Strategy of Actions for the Further Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan" In the Strategy of Actions in the direction of, paragraph 3 "Priority directions of economic development and liberalization" envisages "rapid development of the tourism industry, increasing its role and share in the economy, diversifying and improving the quality of tourist services, expanding tourism infrastructure".[2]

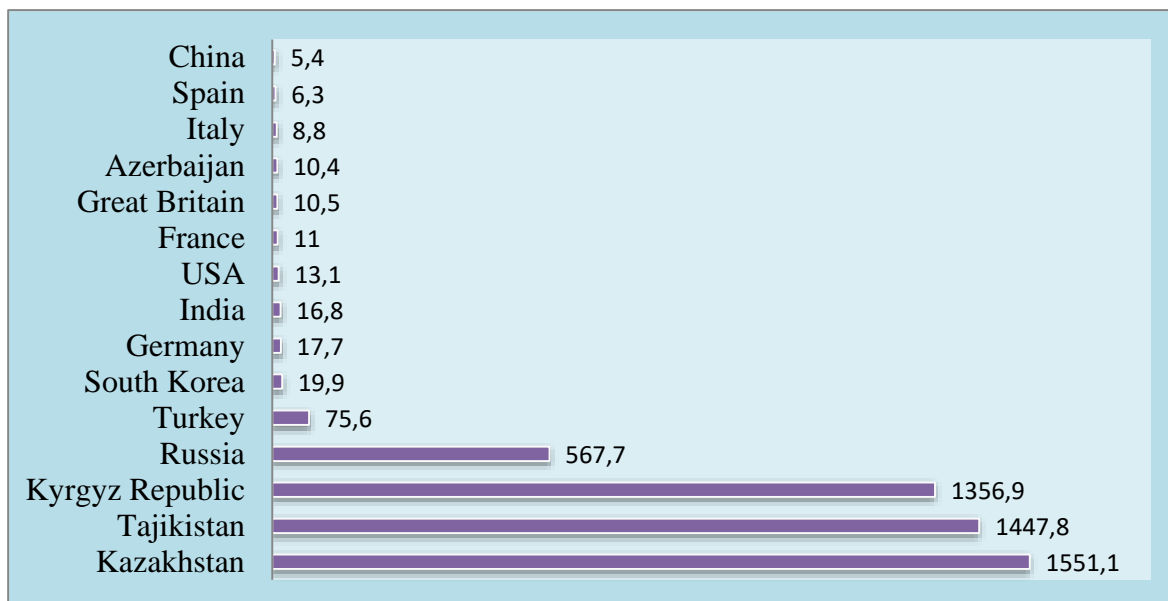
Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, said "The region has the potential to attract tourists in four seasons of the year at the "meeting on the issues of socio-economic development of Kashkadarya region" on October 25, 2023. However, it is now limited to Shakhrisabz district, Shakhrisabz city, and Kitab. Only 180,000 foreign tourists have come to the region since the beginning of the year. A new experiment was conducted and a master plan of 3 tourism neighborhoods in Shakhrisabz district was prepared with German partners. In this, 450 million dollars of additional investment and infrastructure that will attract 1 million tourists per year are being created. As a result, entrepreneurs have become more enthusiastic, and they are building 367 million dollars, or 81% of these projects themselves. Due to this, an additional 500 billion sums of revenue is expected for Shakhrisabz, and 5 thousand new permanent jobs will be created. Based on this experience, officials were instructed to launch projects in Kamashi district and Karshi city by the end of the year.[3]

In Uzbekistan, the tourism market is important to solve socio-economic issues in the region and to ensure the employment of the population. Tourism is one of the labor-intensive industries. For example, foreign experience shows that around 10 percent of the working population is employed in the tourism industry. Almost half of them work in hotels. On average, 7 tourists are served by 1 tourist worker in the field of international tourism.[4]

#### RESULTS AND THEIR ANALYSIS

According to the statistics, 5.2 million foreign tourists visited Uzbekistan in January-December 2022. This figure has increased by 3.4 million or 2.8% compared to 2021. However, compared to 2019 before the pandemic, it decreased by 1.5 million.

### Citizens of the countries that visited Uzbekistan the most for tourist purposes in 2022, A thousand people



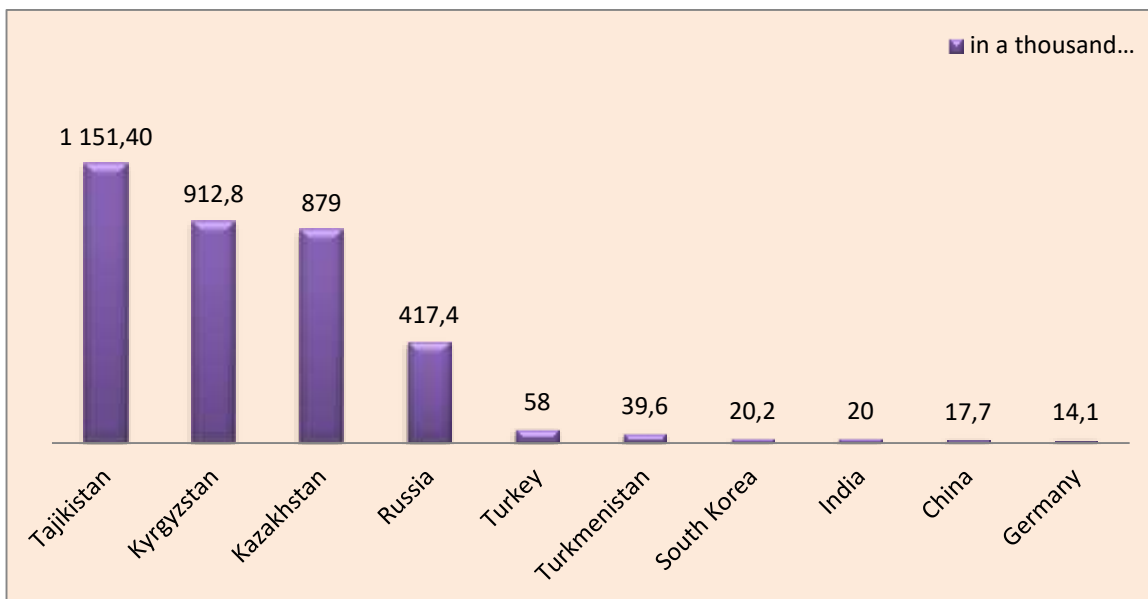
It can be seen from the above diagram that the largest number of tourists (1.5 million people) came to Uzbekistan from Kazakhstan. The second largest number of tourists visited our country by Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Turkey.

In addition, more than 8,000 tourists from South Korea, Germany, India, the USA, France, Great Britain, Italy and Spain visited our country.

According to the statistics, a total of 3.7 million foreign tourists visited Uzbekistan in January-July 2023.

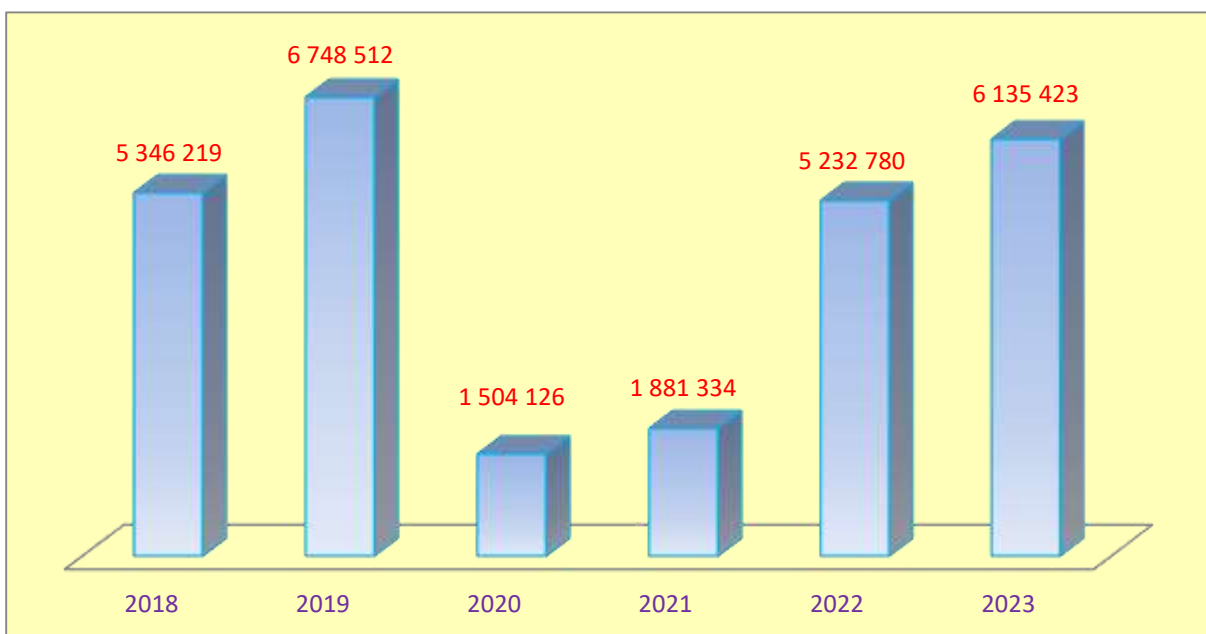
For comparison, in the same period of 2022, the figure was 2.4 million people.

**The number of tourists from different countries that visited Uzbekistan from January to July in 2023.**



1,504,000 tourists visited our country in 2020, and 6,784,500 in 2019.

**The total number of foreign tourists visiting the Republic of Uzbekistan from 2018 to 2023.**



As can be seen from this diagram, the flow of tourists decreased because of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020 and 2021.

Resolution PQ-238 of July 27, 2023, was approved by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan to increase the potential of tourists to our country. With this decision, to increase the flow of tourists to the Republic and provide additional state support to tour operators, from January 1, 2024, for each tourist brought to the Republic of Uzbekistan from foreign countries with a low tourist flow by tour operators. It was decided to allocate incentive subsidies equivalent to 20 US dollars to 100 US dollars in equal shares at the expense of the State budget of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Tourism Support Fund.

## CONCLUSION

Taking into account the effective and integrated entrepreneurship of the following directions in the integration into the international tourist markets, the following conclusions on the factors of tourism development in our republic:

- Increasing the number of 5-star hotels and the quality of service in them.
- Organization of WI FI zones in tourist places
- Implementation of contractual relations with tourist organizations operating in our republic and tourist organizations operating in developed countries:
- Improvement of the electronic system for pre-booking places for tourists;
- Creating additional amenities for visiting tourists based on their opinions.j

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