

# FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOOD INDUSTRY IN SURKHANDARYA REGION

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**Abstract:** The food industry is a sector of the national economy engaged in the production of food products. The industry includes meat and dairy production, oil and fat processing, fish products, flour and cereals, pasta, fruit and vegetable canning, dairy and butter production, sugar manufacturing, tea packaging, confectionery, bakery products, grape and sparkling wines, alcohol, vodka, tobacco, beer, soft drinks, soap, and other industrial enterprises.

**Keywords:** food, beverages, confectionery, meat, milk, canned products, oil and fat industry, tea packaging,

The location of the food industry is also determined by the raw material factor. Various agricultural products serve as raw materials, such as cottonseed, wheat and other grain crops, fruits and grapes, as well as livestock products. On the basis of processing these and other agricultural products, an agro-industrial complex is formed. In this regard, it should be noted that the food industry largely depends on agriculture, while agriculture itself depends on weather and climatic conditions.

One of the earliest and largest food industry enterprises in the Surkhandarya region is the Denov Oil Extraction Plant, which uses cottonseed produced in the region as its raw material. Another major enterprise in the food industry is the Sho'rchi Flour Combine, built in 1980. In the region, cotton cultivation has led to the development of cotton-cleaning enterprises, partially textile production, and oil-extraction plants. Livestock farming has supported the development of meat

and dairy industries, while melon growing, vegetable farming, fruit cultivation, and viticulture have contributed to the canning industry. Grain farming, in turn, has formed the basis for the flour and cereal industry.

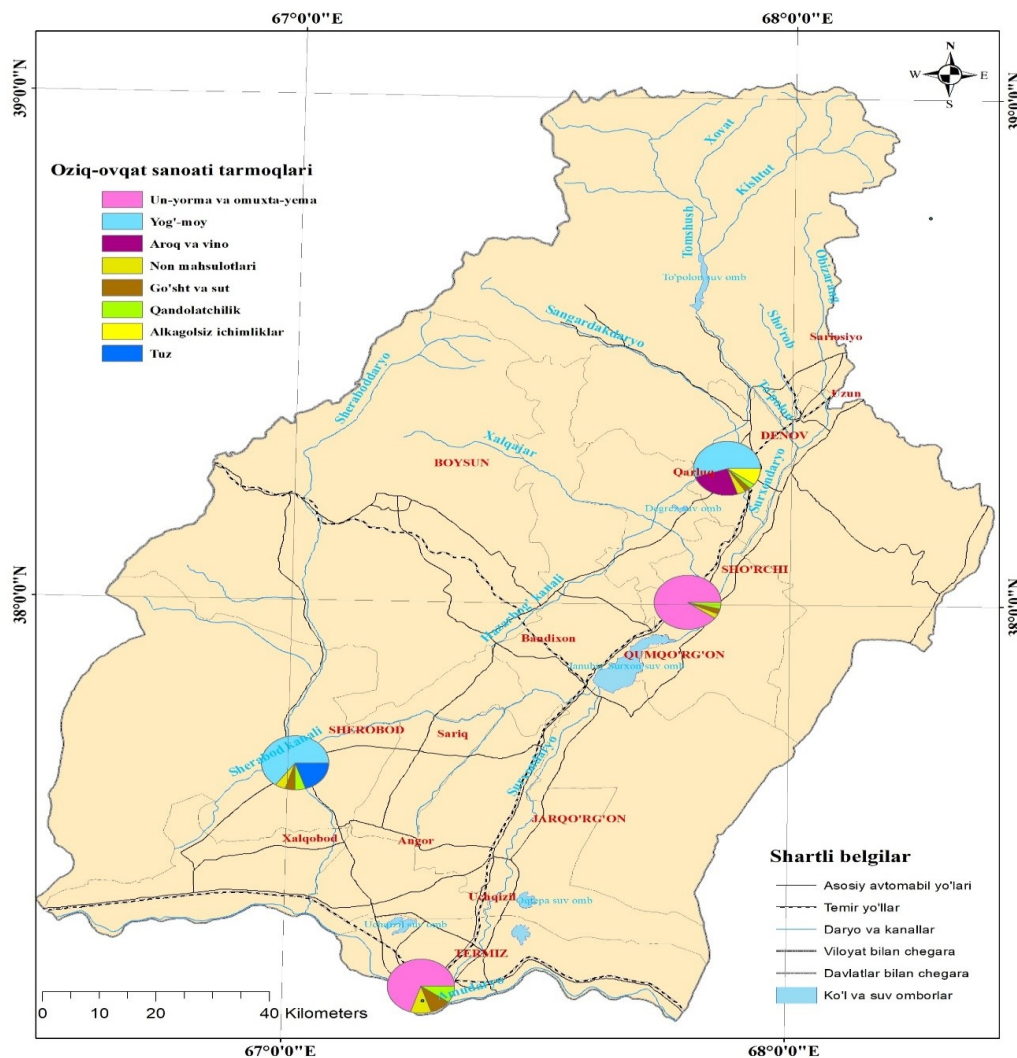
According to the results of January–December 2025, the share of food product manufacturing in the total industrial output structure amounted to 15.1%. Compared to the corresponding period of the previous year, the physical volume index increased by 14.3%, and the total production volume reached 2,248.9 billion soums.

Several major centers of the food industry have been formed in the Surkhandarya region. In particular, in the regional center, Termez, there are enterprises specializing in confectionery production, fruit canning, meat processing, soft drink production, and flour-cereal manufacturing. In Sho'rchi District, one of the largest grain-processing plants in the region operates. In Denov District, which is one of the region's major industrial centers, there are oil-extraction plants, soft drink factories, and wine and vodka production enterprises. In addition, wine factories based on viticulture are operating in Oltinsoy District.

Food industry sectors occupy an important place in the economy of the Surkhandarya region. This sector has developed in close connection with the region's agricultural potential, agro-climatic conditions, and raw material base. According to map data, the food industry enterprises in the region are unevenly distributed territorially, with the majority concentrated in densely populated areas and regions with well-developed transport and communication infrastructure.

Figure 1 presents a map showing the main branches of the food industry, including flour and flour product manufacturing, the oil and fat industry, alcohol and wine production, bakery production, meat and dairy processing, confectionery production, soft drink manufacturing, and salt production. The diagrams illustrate the share and level of development of these sectors in certain areas. As can be seen from the map, the major centers of the food industry are mainly located in the central and southern parts of the region. In particular, Denov District stands out as one of the relatively developed areas in terms of food industry sectors. Enterprises

engaged in flour production, winemaking, and confectionery manufacturing operate in this district. Since Denov District is an area with well-developed agriculture, especially horticulture and viticulture, the processing industry is also comparatively advanced there.



**Figure 1. Map of the Food Industry in Surkhondaryo Region**

*Note: The map was prepared based on the author's research.*

Another important industrial area of the region is Sho'rch'i District. In this district, enterprises mainly engaged in flour production, bakery and confectionery manufacturing, as well as meat and dairy processing are operating. The specialization of Sho'rch'i District in agriculture creates an important raw material base for the development of food industry enterprises. The map also identifies Sherobod District as one of the areas where food industry enterprises are located. This district is mainly characterized by the production of soft drinks, the salt

industry, and other processing activities. The specialization of Sherobod District in agricultural production has had a certain influence on the development of the food industry.

Located in the southern part of the region, Termez is considered one of the most important centers of the food industry. In this area, there are enterprises engaged in the production of flour and bakery products, confectionery, soft drinks, as well as meat and dairy processing. As the administrative and economic center of the region, Termez has a large consumer market, while the well-developed transport infrastructure has also positively influenced the formation and development of food industry sectors.

The map also shows that food industry sectors are less developed in some parts of the region. In particular, the number of food industry enterprises is relatively low in Boysun District, Bandixon District, Uzun District, Sariosiyo District, and several other districts. The mountainous terrain of these areas, the insufficient development of transport infrastructure, and the limited logistics opportunities necessary for industrial production have, to a certain extent, affected the development of this sector.

In general, the territorial distribution of food industry sectors in the Surkhandarya region has been formed in close connection with such factors as the raw material base, transport communications, and proximity to consumer markets. Food industry enterprises are relatively more concentrated in areas where agriculture and transport infrastructure are well developed, whereas the level of development of this sector is lower in regions with complex natural and geographical conditions. Therefore, in order to further develop the food industry in the region, it is important to expand the deep processing of agricultural products, establish new processing enterprises, and improve transport and logistics infrastructure. These measures will not only contribute to the sustainable development of the regional economy but will also help reduce economic disparities between different areas of the region.

Within the structure of industrial sectors in the region, the production of food industry products accounted for 31.2% in 2010, while by 2025 this figure had decreased to 16.6%. This indicates that during this period the share of food product manufacturing declined by almost two times, mainly due to the rapid growth of other industrial sectors. The production of beverages accounted for 2.0% of the total industrial output in 2010, while in 2025 its share amounted to 1.8%.

In conclusion, the volume of food production in the Surkhandarya region has been increasing year by year. The region possesses a broad raw material base for the food industry, and it is well known that Surkhandarya stands out from other regions of the country due to its highly developed agricultural sector. As the region is located in a subtropical zone, fruits and vegetables ripen earlier, which provides an important source of raw materials for the food industry. In addition, based on the products of the livestock sector, industries such as meat processing plants and dairy processing enterprises have developed. Furthermore, several factories are operating in the region on the basis of processing grain products produced by the regional agricultural sector.

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