

**REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FEATURES OF RETAIL
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Abstract. *This article analyzes the regional development features of retail trade services using the example of Uzbekistan. In the course of the study, retail trade volumes and growth rates across regions for the period 2020–2024 were examined based on statistical data. The analysis results show that retail trade services are developing unevenly across regions: high growth rates are observed in some regions, while in others the retail potential has not been fully utilized. In addition, leading regions and relatively underdeveloped regions were identified, and the main factors causing regional disparities were highlighted. The research findings have scientific and practical significance for improving regional economic policy aimed at the development of retail trade services.*

Keywords: *retail trade, regional development, service sector, trade volume, economic growth, regional disparities.*

Introduction

In the current conditions of globalization and a market economy, retail trade services occupy an important place in the socio-economic development of a country as one of the key components of the economy. Retail trade plays a fundamental role in meeting the daily needs of the population, ensuring the stability of the domestic market, and increasing employment. In particular, studying the level of development of retail trade services across regions is considered one of the most relevant issues in assessing economic activity, consumer demand, and regional welfare.

In Uzbekistan, the ongoing structural reforms in the economy and policies aimed at supporting entrepreneurship have created a solid foundation for the rapid development of the retail trade sector. In recent years, the expansion of trade infrastructure and the improvement in the quality and scale of services have led to an uneven distribution of retail trade volumes among regions. Therefore, a comprehensive analysis of the regional development characteristics of retail trade services and the identification of the causes of existing disparities are of significant scientific and practical importance today.

The scientific significance of this topic lies in the fact that retail trade services serve as one of the key indicators of regional economic development. By analyzing trade volumes and growth rates across regions, it is possible to draw scientific conclusions about the condition of the consumer market, the purchasing power of the population, and the level of development of the entrepreneurial environment. Moreover, this research contributes to enriching scientific perspectives in the fields of regional economics, the service sector, and the geography of retail trade.

The practical significance of the article is related to improving regional policies aimed at the development of retail trade services. Based on the research findings, it becomes possible to develop scientifically grounded recommendations for the development of trade infrastructure, as well as for stimulating investment and entrepreneurship across regions. From this perspective, the article represents a relevant and important scientific study devoted to a comprehensive examination of the regional development features of retail trade services.

Literature review

Research on retail trade has been conducted by many scholars. In particular, in the article titled *“The evolution of retail outlet distribution: a systematic review of spatial patterns, drivers, and implications for urban development and economic growth”* by X. Luo, R. A. Che Rose, and A. Awang, the geographical location and spatial distribution trends of retail outlets are examined through a systematic literature

review. The authors identify the relationship between retail networks and urban and regional structures, as well as the roles of urbanization, consumer behavior, and policy factors. The article demonstrates the link between retail trade services and economic growth at a global scale and analyzes this relationship from the perspective of regional development [1].

Similarly, A. Verhetsel's study titled "*Regional retail landscapes emerging from spatial network ...*" examines how retail trade is interconnected with spatial networks and regional geographical structures. The author analyzes the complex interaction between the territorial growth of retail networks and urban infrastructure, showing how the location of retail outlets and their integration with the surrounding environment can lead to changes in regional economic development [2].

Likewise, in the study titled "*Geographical Determinants of Regional Retail Sales: Evidence from 12,500 Retail Shops ...*" conducted by W. Wang, L. Wang, X. Wang, and Y. Wang, the relationship between the location of micro-geographical retail points and sales performance is analyzed. The researchers employ spatial digital analysis methods to determine how retail services affect regional income. In addition, factors such as population density, transport infrastructure, and the presence of nearby commercial facilities are linked to retail performance. The significance of this study lies in its scientific justification of the qualitative location of regional retail services and the spatial differentiation of competitive conditions [3].

J. R. Cuadrado-Roura, in his work "*Service industries and regional analysis. New directions and challenges,*" proposes a general analytical approach to understanding the role of service industries in regional development. The article notes that trade, transport, and other service sectors make a significant contribution to regional GDP and employment [4].

In the article titled "*Prospects for the Development of Retail Trade in the Region*" by Sh. Ismoilov and I. Abdullayev, the development prospects of the regional retail trade sector are analyzed from economic and infrastructural

perspectives. The authors highlight the impact of retail trade on regional stability and population welfare, as well as new opportunities created through digital trade technologies [5].

The above international and domestic studies approach the regional development of retail trade services from different perspectives, including spatial analysis, retail geography, service industry theory, and investment. While international research provides theoretical and methodological foundations, studies by Uzbek scholars emphasize practice-oriented analyses. Nevertheless, several scientific gaps remain:

- the lack of regional statistical models and analyses based on real-time data, which are well developed in international practice but limited in the context of Uzbekistan;
- insufficient scientific research on the regional impact of digital and e-commerce services;
- the lack of comparative analysis between local and global trends, particularly the integration of Uzbekistan's data with international literature.

Research methodology

In this study, economic-statistical and comparative analysis methods were applied to identify the regional development characteristics of retail services. The research was based on official statistical data on retail turnover across regions over a three-year period, and their dynamics and structural changes were analyzed. In addition, growth rates and the share of regions in the total volume were calculated, and visual analysis was carried out using graphs and tables.

Analysis and results

The results of the analysis of the regional development characteristics of retail services are summarized. Based on graphical and statistical data, the dynamics of retail turnover by region, growth rates, as well as leading and relatively slow-developing regions are identified. This analysis serves as a methodological basis for

assessing regional disparities in retail services, revealing their impact on economic activity, and forming subsequent conclusions and practical recommendations.
(Table 1)

Table 1.

Retail turnover (annual, billion soums) [7]

Classifier	2022	2023	2024	Growth in 2024 compare d to 2022	Percentage of total volume (in 2024)
Republic of Uzbekistan	270687.2	330448. 1	410068. 1	151.5	—
Republic of Karakalpakstan	9557.9	11392.6	14263.8	149.2	3.478398
Andean region	19046.9	22770.8	28630.5	150.3	6.981889
Bukhara region	15522	18167.1	22420.5	144.4	5.467506
Jizzakh region	7995.4	9516.8	11372.9	142.2	2.773417
Kashkadarya region	18165.9	21781.7	26804.1	147.6	6.5365
Navoi region	10101.6	12356	15253.7	151.0	3.719797
Namangan region	17273.1	20665.8	25185.7	145.8	6.141834
Samarkand region	25342.5	30196.5	35994.7	142.0	8.777737
Surkhandarya region	17428.5	20845.7	25310.4	145.2	6.172243
Syr Darya region	4453.7	5239.2	6420.5	144.2	1.565716
Tashkent region	25250	30872.1	38550.4	152.7	9.400975
Fergana region	22448.5	27781.8	35545.6	158.3	8.668219

Khorezm region	11317.2	13412.3	16127.3	142.5	3.932835
Tashkent city	66784	85449.9	108188	162.0	26.38293

The data in the table above show that, firstly, Tashkent city stands out as the leading region in terms of retail trade share in total volume in 2024. Its share is 26.38 percent, and almost a quarter of the country's retail trade is accounted for in the capital. It is followed by Tashkent region with 9.40 percent, Samarkand region with 8.78 percent, and Fergana region with 8.67 percent. The high population density, level of urbanization, developed retail infrastructure, and active consumer market in these regions are the main factors behind the high retail trade volume. In contrast, Syrdarya and Jizzakh regions have the smallest share of total volume.

Furthermore, when analyzing growth rates in 2024 compared to 2022, the highest growth was recorded in the city of Tashkent 162.0 percent. Fergana Region demonstrated strong growth dynamics 158.3 percent, and Tashkent Region 152.7 percent. In these regions, the main growth drivers are considered to be the expansion of retail chains, the revitalization of the private sector, and rising real incomes. The lowest growth rates were observed in Samarkand, Jizzakh, and Khorezm Regions, where retail trade is growing, but at a rate below the national average.

Tashkent City, Fergana Region, Tashkent Region, and Navoi Region will maintain a steady and high growth trend in 2022–2024. In particular, significant annual growth in retail trade in these regions indicates increased domestic market activity and investment attractiveness. At the same time, the Republic of Karakalpakstan and Kashkadarya Region are also demonstrating stable growth, demonstrating moderate but consistent development dynamics.

To more clearly represent this phenomenon, a graphical representation can be used (Fig. 1).

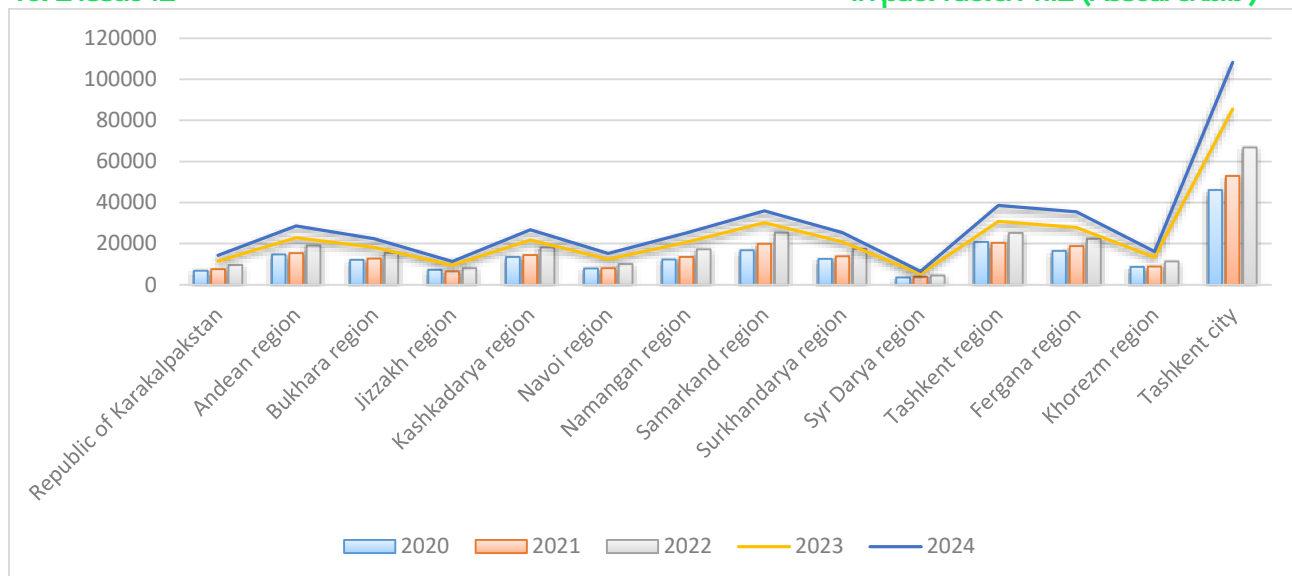


Figure 1. Retail sales volume [7]

The graph above clearly illustrates regional patterns in the development of retail services. It is evident that retail trade volumes demonstrated a steady upward trend in almost all regions from 2020 to 2024. The highest and most stable growth was observed in the city of Tashkent, which stood out sharply from other regions throughout the period. This reflects the high purchasing power of the population, the retail infrastructure, and business activity in the capital. The next fastest-growing regions were Tashkent, Samarkand, and Fergana, where trade volumes also increased significantly compared to the previous year. In contrast, in Syrdarya, Jizzakh, and Navoi regions, trade volumes were relatively low, and growth rates were slower. While the graph reveals significant differences in retail development between regions, overall, there is a territorial expansion of retail services and growing economic activity across the country.

Conclusion and suggestions

In conclusion, retail services are showing uneven but steady growth across Uzbekistan's regions. Although nearly all regions saw sales growth between 2020 and 2024, the city of Tashkent, the Tashkent region, and the Samarkand and Fergana regions took the lead. These regions boast relatively developed purchasing power, retail infrastructure, and business environments, making retail services a significant

driver of economic growth. However, low sales in some regions indicates persistent regional economic disparities.

The study's results show that regional retail development is directly dependent on demographic factors, urbanization levels, transport and logistics infrastructure, and the investment climate. The fact that growth rates in leading regions have been sustained for many years indicates domestic market stability and growing consumer demand. Meanwhile, in regions where retail potential is underutilized, limited infrastructure and market mechanisms are the main factors hindering retail development.

In this context, it is advisable to put forward the following proposals to further accelerate the regional development of retail trade in services:

Firstly, expand targeted investment programs aimed at developing trade and logistics infrastructure in regions with a relatively low level of retail development;

Secondly, strengthening mechanisms of tax and financial incentives for small businesses and private entrepreneurs in the regions;

Third, expand interregional trade integration through the introduction of electronic and digital trading platforms;

Fourthly, it is necessary to implement a differentiated economic policy that takes into account regional characteristics when developing retail trade in services.

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