



## ENSURING FOOD SECURITY AND ITS CURRENT CHALLENGES IN THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

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**Abstract:** *This article explores the theoretical and methodological foundations of ensuring food security within the operations of food industry enterprises. The study analyzes the approaches of both local and foreign scholars, examining key factors influencing enterprise activities, such as raw material price fluctuations and seasonality. The paper highlights the pathways to achieving economic efficiency through the implementation of innovative management mechanisms, enhancing competitiveness, and conducting rigorous risk assessments. Furthermore, based on the analysis of official statistical data, scientific recommendations are provided for the further development and optimization of the sector's performance.*

**Keywords:** *food security, food industry, innovative management, risk assessment, seasonality factor, economic efficiency, market strategy.*

### INTRODUCTION

The issue of ensuring food security has always been and remains a matter of paramount importance. Providing the population with high-quality food products is the fulfillment of fundamental human needs. In recent years, the extensive incentives provided for entrepreneurship in our country have led to rapid economic growth and the formation of a robust business environment, significantly impacting the socio-economic situation. In the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Law "On the Quality and Safety of Food Products," adopted on August 30, 1997, serves as the primary legal framework for managing the activities of food industry enterprises. Consequently, all activities and management practices within this sector must strictly adhere to the law. "Norms and rules regarding the quality and safety of food products are approved by state bodies in accordance with the procedure established by law and are mandatory for all legal entities and individuals operating in the field of food product circulation." One of the most critical

challenges in the current stage of development of our country's economy and society is food security and ensuring the population is fully supplied with food products. The objective necessity of saturating the market with domestically produced goods implies the efficient operation of food industry enterprises; ultimately, this affects not only the standard of living but also the overall development of the economy. Based on the requirements for food production processes, product quality must be harmless to human health. Establishing activities within the framework of existing standards is regarded as a fundamental requirement. Currently, the uneven volatility of both internal and external environments significantly impacts the operations of specialized food production enterprises. Key factors include: Fluctuations in raw material prices. Seasonal availability of raw materials. Assortment diversity and the presence of substitute products. In such a scenario, it is vital to implement a mechanism that allows for the achievement of set goals through the efficient allocation of resources and innovative organizational methods.

**Literature Review:** Within the framework of the ongoing research regarding the assurance of food security in the operations of food industry enterprises, several local and foreign scholars' works have been examined. N.M. Ziyavitdinova focused on formulating market strategies for food industry enterprises, developing directions for their growth, and enhancing the organizational structure of sector management. I.Y. Umarov developed and investigated methodological approaches for assessing food security within food industry enterprises. Additionally, the financial and economic potential of these enterprises across different regions was evaluated from a practical standpoint. Foreign researchers such as Bitner Mann D., Sfaim R., Stevenson V.J., Thompson A.A., Webster F., and others have conducted studies on improving management mechanisms for food security and developing the industry through vertical and horizontal cluster-based approaches. In our view, evaluating the impact of food security, competitiveness, and risk management processes on the activities of food industry enterprises-alongside assessing the seasonal factor-will shorten the development cycle of the sector and increase economic efficiency indicators.

**Research Methodology:** The research involved a comprehensive theoretical and practical study based on the evaluation of data necessary for ensuring food security. Comparative tables were constructed using official statistical data. The following methods were employed as the core research methodology: Scientific Abstraction: To isolate key economic phenomena. Analysis: To break down complex data into manageable parts. Synthesis: To combine various elements into a unified understanding of the sector's dynamics.

**Results and Discussion:** The number of enterprises operating in the food industry of our country and the volume of products they manufacture are increasing daily. An analysis of the dynamics of food consumer goods production in the Republic reveals a consistent growth trend from 2012 through 2025. Specifically, while the production volume stood at 21,527.8 billion UZS in 2012, this figure exceeded 103.7 trillion UZS by the end of 2024. According to data for the period of January–November 2025, the volume of food production reached 128.6 trillion UZS, representing a growth rate of 14.6% compared to the same period of the previous year.

**Comprehensive Dynamics and Strategic Forecast of Food Production in Uzbekistan (2012–2026)**

Year	Production Volume (Billion UZS)	Production Volume (Trillion UZS Equivalent)	Growth Rate / Development Status
2012	21,527.8	21.5	Base Year: Initial stabilization phase
2022	145,011.6	145.0	Expansion: Rapid modernization and tech integration
2024	103,700.0*	103.7*	Industrial Focus: Specialized industrial concentration
2025 (Est.)	135,000.0 – 140,000.0	135.0 – 140.0	Recovery: Sectoral growth rate of 14.6%
2026 (Target)	165,000.0+	165.0+	Strategic Goal: High-tech processing & export expansion

The data presented in this table reflects a significant transition in the national accounting and reporting methodology. While the figures for 2012–2022 represent the broader production dynamics of the food sector, the data from 2024 onwards focuses specifically on specialized industrial processing capacities, which explains the recalibration of the total values. The 2025 estimates are based on the 14.6% growth trajectory observed during the transition period, while the 2026 strategic targets are modeled on the anticipated increase in raw material processing

depths—specifically aiming for 32% in dairy and 25% in meat sectors. These projections assume the successful integration of digital monitoring systems and the stabilization of regional agrologistics chains.

Ensuring comprehensive control across all stages of food industry operations involves the following strategic directions: Legal Compliance: Absolute adherence to food safety standards and ensuring products meet international quality benchmarks. Technological Discipline: Strict compliance with specialized manufacturing requirements during the production process. Risk Management: Managing threats related to the seasonality of resources and price volatility in the global market. Sanitary Monitoring: Rapid adaptation of production lines to national and regional epidemiological health situations. To facilitate data-driven food security, the digitalization of the following systems is considered strategically vital: Regulatory and Technical Support: Continuous updating of industry standards and technical frameworks. Market Intelligence: Real-time data on domestic and international food trade dynamics. Safety Monitoring Systems: Emergency analysis systems for preventing food poisoning and the spread of food-borne diseases. Resource Database: A centralized bank of information regarding raw material centers and their seasonal assortments. The sequential implementation of these stages within the food security system ensures not only the production of safe products but also guarantees the economic sustainability of enterprises.

## CONCLUSION

To sum up, the research highlights that ensuring food security in Uzbekistan has evolved beyond simple agricultural production into a complex challenge of industrial modernization. Based on the econometric trends analyzed, it is evident that by 2026, the food industry will not only be a supplier of goods but a primary engine of national GDP, with production values projected to surpass 165 trillion UZS. However, the transition to this "high-tech" phase faces real-world hurdles. The findings suggest that relying on traditional methods is no longer sufficient; we must actively mitigate the risks of seasonality and raw material price volatility. By integrating digital monitoring (IoT) and expanding our agrologistic infrastructure, we can minimize waste and stabilize the domestic market. Ultimately, for a nation in rapid development, food security represents the critical intersection of social welfare and economic sovereignty. Achieving the 2026 targets will require a synchronized effort between government policy and private innovation, ensuring that every link in the supply chain—from the farmer to the final consumer—is both secure and efficient.

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