

THE ROLE OF TRANSPORT SERVICES IN TOURISM INDUSTRY OF THE REGIONS

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Abstract: the article briefly gives information about the role and importance of transport services in tourism industry in the regions of Uzbekistan. Because of the fact that it is nearly impossible to imagine tourism industry without transportation, that is to say, an adequate infrastructure of transport system is a key factor in satisfying the needs of people who are from foreign countries. And also, it analyzes current state of transport services, main available means of transportation in tourist destinations and gives recommendations, proposals and also effective solutions to existence problems in the sphere nowadays.

Keywords: transport services, GDP(Gross domestic product), transportation, tourism industry, transport infrastructure, international tourist arrivals.

РОЛЬ ТРАНСПОРТНЫХ УСЛУГ В ТУРИСТИЧЕСКОЙ ПРОМЫШЛЕННОСТИ РЕГИОНОВ

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Аннотация: в статье кратко представлена информация о роли и значении транспортных услуг в сфере туризма в регионах Узбекистана. Из-за того, что практически невозможно представить индустрию туризма без транспорта, то есть адекватная инфраструктура транспортной системы является ключевым фактором для удовлетворения потребностей людей из других стран. А также анализируется текущее состояние транспортных услуг, основных доступных транспортных средств в туристических направлениях и даются рекомендации, предложения, а также эффективные решения существующих проблем в сфере туризма в настоящее время.

Ключевые слова: транспортные услуги, ВВП (Валовой внутренний продукт), транспорт, индустрия туризма, транспортная инфраструктура, международные туристские прибытия.

INTRODUCTION

Tourism has already become an important industry in the economy of developing countries. It is definitely true that the role of tourism industry in the economy of the world is continuously growing. International tourist arrivals grew by a remarkable 7% in 2017 to reach a total of 1,322 million, according to the latest UNWTO World Tourism Barometer [3].

The importance of tourism industry in the economy in Uzbekistan is also increasing since the number of tourists, who visited Uzbekistan in 2017, exceeded 2.52 million, which is 24.3% higher than in 2016. At the same time, export of tourist services increased by 24% compared to 2016 to US\$1.557 billion [4].

Indeed, it is nearly impossible to imagine tourism industry without transportation due to the fact that tourists may face difficulties without transportation when they want to visit one place to another place. Appropriately organized transport infrastructure in countries ensures the accessibility of tourist inflows easily which means that foreign visitors feel comfortable with the availability of adequate transportation.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Research conducted by Mammadov shows that all transportation means have indispensable role in tourism. He points out that the demand for air transport is increasing. According to the author air transport is considered to be secure and it saves time for tourists. He also points out that automobile transportation is irreplaceable in short distances. The author strongly believes that fast trains, new train stations, new railroads will make the tourists' travel comfortable [1].

Another author who investigated the factors affecting the use of public transport by tourists in the island of Kas in Greece found out that the needs and expectations of local people and overseas visitors are different when it comes to public transport system. According to them, the most significant factor for the tourists when deciding to use public transport is service production, reflecting route frequencies and reliability of service. On the contrary, residents place more focus on qualitative aspects such as comfort, safety and information [2].

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Comparative analysis, logical analysis, structural analysis, statistical grouping, synthesis, induction and deduction methods were used in the research.

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

The number of visitors who arrived in Uzbekistan in the last decade has increased rapidly while the number of Uzbek citizens who left the country in that period has also gone up considerably.

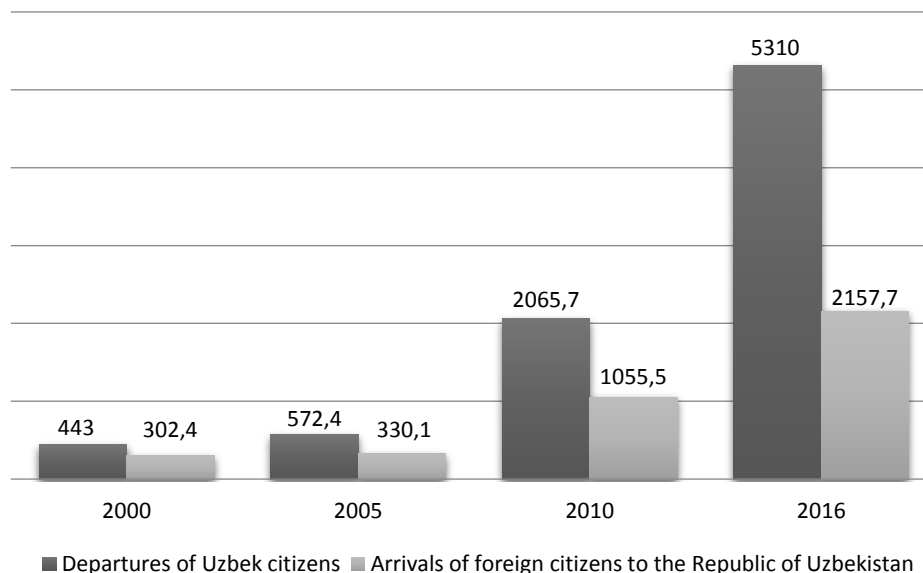


Fig. 1. Arrivals of foreign citizens to the Republic of Uzbekistan and departures of Uzbek citizens, (thousand people) [4]

What stands out from the graph is that 2157.7 thousand foreign citizens arrived in Uzbekistan in 2016, this figure increased by 7 times (1855.3 thousand people) compared to 2000. The number of citizens who left Uzbekistan amounted to 5,310,000 people, and increased by 12 times (4,867,0 thousand persons) compared to 2000 (fig. 1).

Table 1. The number of passengers serviced and types of transport in Khorezm region [4]

The number of passengers serviced and types of transport in Khorezm region 2018 January and March	
Passengers services, in mlns.	85,4
From this:	
Automobile transport	85,3
Electrified transport	0,1

Buses, taxis, trolleybuses and mini buses the main transport means heavily used by local users and visitors. As its shown in the Table 1, the amount of passengers serviced by automobile transport is 85,4 mln., whereas electrified transport serviced only 0,1 mln. passengers during the first three months of 2018.

Although some measures have been implemented to develop tourism industry recently in the regions there are some problems which still exist in some cases:

- "Rent a car" system has not been carried out yet in regions except Samarkand;
- bus routes throughout regions are not in a high quality;
- transportation costs are not suitable for everyone;;
- there are no mobile apps that provide information about routes, tourist destinations.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

To sum up, an adequate transport infrastructure plays a key role in attracting many visitors from different countries because every visitor wants to feel comfortable when they move from one destination to another, in other words, they will definitely go to more places if appropriate conditions are created.

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