



IMPACT OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION PROCESSES ON THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

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Abstract

This article examines the impact of digital transformation processes on the competitiveness of the national economy in the context of modern economic development. Digital transformation is considered not only as the introduction of information technologies into business and public administration, but also as a systemic change that affects production efficiency, labor productivity, innovation capacity, market transparency, financial inclusion, export potential, and the quality of institutional governance. The study emphasizes that the competitiveness of the national economy increasingly depends on the level of digital infrastructure, the development of digital skills, the use of artificial intelligence, big data, cloud technologies, electronic commerce, digital financial services, and automated management systems. In the conditions of rapid technological change, countries that successfully integrate digital tools into economic sectors gain advantages in productivity, investment attractiveness, service quality, and participation in global value chains. At the same time, digital transformation creates a number of challenges, including the digital divide, cybersecurity risks, shortage of qualified specialists, uneven technological development of regions, and insufficient adaptation of enterprises to digital business models. The article argues that strengthening national economic competitiveness requires a coordinated approach based on digital infrastructure development, support for innovative entrepreneurship, modernization of education, improvement of regulatory mechanisms, and active implementation of digital platforms in industry, services, finance, transport, and public administration. The findings show that digital transformation can become a



strategic factor of sustainable economic growth if it is implemented as a comprehensive policy combining technological modernization, human capital development, institutional efficiency, and private sector innovation.

Keywords: Digital transformation, national economy, competitiveness, digital economy, innovation, digital infrastructure, human capital, technological modernization.

RAQAMLI TRANSFORMATSIYA JARAYONLARINING MILLIY IQTISODIYOT RAQOBATBARDOSHLIGIGA TA'SIRI

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Raqamli iqtisodiyot kafedrasida dotsenti

Annotatsiya

Ushbu maqolada zamonaviy iqtisodiy rivojlanish sharoitida raqamli transformatsiya jarayonlarining milliy iqtisodiyot raqobatbardoshligiga ta'siri o'rganiladi. Raqamli transformatsiya faqat biznes va davlat boshqaruviga axborot texnologiyalarini joriy etish sifatida emas, balki ishlab chiqarish samaradorligi, mehnat unumdorligi, innovatsion salohiyat, bozor shaffofligi, moliyaviy inklyuziya, eksport imkoniyatlari hamda institutsional boshqaruv sifatiga ta'sir ko'rsatuvchi tizimli o'zgarish sifatida talqin qilinadi. Tadqiqotda milliy iqtisodiyot raqobatbardoshligi tobora ko'proq raqamli infratuzilma darajasi, raqamli ko'nikmalar rivoji, sun'iy intellekt, katta ma'lumotlar, bulutli texnologiyalar, elektron tijorat, raqamli moliyaviy xizmatlar va avtomatlashtirilgan boshqaruv tizimlaridan foydalanish bilan bog'liq ekani ta'kidlanadi. Tezkor texnologik o'zgarishlar sharoitida raqamli vositalarni iqtisodiyot tarmoqlariga muvaffaqiyatli integratsiya qilgan mamlakatlar unumdorlik, investitsion jozibadorlik, xizmatlar sifati va global qiymat zanjirlarida ishtirok etish bo'yicha ustunlikka ega bo'ladi. Shu bilan birga, raqamli transformatsiya raqamli tafovut, kiberxavfsizlik xatarlari, malakali mutaxassislar yetishmasligi, hududlarning notekis texnologik rivojlanishi va korxonalarining raqamli biznes modellarga yetarli moslashmaganligi kabi



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muammolarni ham yuzaga keltiradi. Maqolada milliy iqtisodiyot raqobatbardoshligini kuchaytirish raqamli infratuzilmani rivojlantirish, innovatsion tadbirkorlikni qo'llab-quvvatlash, ta'lim tizimini modernizatsiya qilish, tartibga solish mexanizmlarini takomillashtirish hamda sanoat, xizmatlar, moliya, transport va davlat boshqaruvida raqamli platformalarni faol joriy etishga asoslangan muvofiqlashtirilgan yondashuvni talab qilishi asoslanadi.

Kalit so'zlar: raqamli transformatsiya, milliy iqtisodiyot, raqobatbardoshlik, raqamli iqtisodiyot, innovatsiya, raqamli infratuzilma, inson kapitali, texnologik modernizatsiya.

Introduction

Digital transformation has become one of the most important factors determining the competitiveness of the national economy in the twenty-first century. In modern economic conditions, competitiveness is no longer formed only by natural resources, cheap labor, production capacity, or traditional infrastructure. It increasingly depends on the ability of a country to use digital technologies effectively in industry, services, finance, education, transport, agriculture, trade, and public administration. The rapid development of artificial intelligence, big data analytics, cloud computing, the Internet of Things, blockchain technologies, electronic commerce, digital payment systems, and automated management platforms is changing the structure of national economies and creating new requirements for sustainable growth. Therefore, digital transformation should be understood not as a separate technological process, but as a comprehensive modernization of economic relations, institutional mechanisms, business models, and human capital.

The competitiveness of the national economy reflects the ability of a country to produce goods and services that meet international market requirements while ensuring long-term economic growth, employment, innovation, and social welfare. Digital transformation directly influences these dimensions because it increases productivity, reduces transaction costs, accelerates decision-making, improves transparency, expands market access, and strengthens the innovation potential of enterprises. Through digital platforms, companies can reach



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consumers faster, optimize supply chains, manage resources more efficiently, and introduce new forms of service delivery. At the macroeconomic level, digitalization improves the quality of public services, simplifies administrative procedures, supports tax transparency, encourages entrepreneurship, and creates favorable conditions for investment.

The relevance of this topic is especially high for economies that are actively moving toward modernization and integration into the global market. In such conditions, digital transformation can become a strategic mechanism for overcoming structural limitations and increasing the competitiveness of national industries. For Uzbekistan, the development of the digital economy is connected with the modernization of production sectors, expansion of electronic government services, improvement of financial technologies, development of digital entrepreneurship, and formation of a more flexible labor market. The transition to digital economic models creates opportunities for increasing export potential, improving the efficiency of small and medium-sized businesses, attracting foreign investment, and strengthening the position of national enterprises in regional and international markets.

At the same time, digital transformation is accompanied by a number of complex problems. The digital divide between regions, insufficient digital skills among workers, limited technological readiness of enterprises, cybersecurity threats, shortage of qualified IT specialists, and uneven access to high-speed internet can reduce the positive impact of digitalization. In addition, the introduction of digital technologies requires not only financial investment, but also changes in organizational culture, management systems, education, legal regulation, and innovation policy. If digital transformation is implemented fragmentarily, without coordination between sectors and institutions, its effect on national competitiveness may remain limited.

Thus, the study of the impact of digital transformation processes on the competitiveness of the national economy has significant scientific and practical importance. From a scientific perspective, it allows the relationship between technological modernization, productivity, innovation, and economic competitiveness to be analyzed more deeply. From a practical perspective, it helps to identify the conditions under which digital transformation can become



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a real driver of economic development. The purpose of this article is to examine the main mechanisms through which digital transformation affects national economic competitiveness and to determine the key directions for strengthening this influence in the context of the digital economy.

Literature Review

The scientific literature on digital transformation and national competitiveness shows that digitalization has become a decisive factor in the development of modern economies. Researchers increasingly interpret digital transformation not only as the use of information and communication technologies, but also as a structural change that influences production systems, business models, institutional governance, labor markets, innovation processes, and international competitiveness. In classical economic theories, competitiveness was mainly associated with productivity, capital accumulation, technological progress, infrastructure, and the quality of institutions. In contemporary studies, these factors are reconsidered through the prism of digital technologies, because the ability to collect, process, exchange, and use data has become one of the key resources of economic growth.

A significant contribution to the theoretical understanding of competitiveness was made by Porter, who emphasized the importance of innovation, productivity, cluster development, and the quality of the business environment. In the digital economy, these ideas acquire new meaning because digital platforms, automated production, electronic services, and data-based management increase the speed of innovation and strengthen the connection between firms, consumers, suppliers, and public institutions. Digital technologies reduce transaction costs, expand access to markets, and allow enterprises to respond more quickly to changes in demand. Therefore, many scholars argue that countries with a high level of digital readiness can achieve stronger competitive positions in global markets.

The literature also highlights the role of digital infrastructure as one of the basic conditions for economic competitiveness. Broadband internet, mobile networks, data centers, cloud services, cybersecurity systems, and digital payment infrastructure create the technological foundation for the development of digital



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business models. Without reliable infrastructure, enterprises cannot effectively introduce electronic commerce, online services, remote work, automated logistics, or digital financial instruments. Researchers note that the quality of digital infrastructure directly affects productivity, investment attractiveness, regional development, and the inclusion of small and medium-sized enterprises in modern market relations.

Another important direction in the literature is connected with human capital. Digital transformation increases the demand for specialists who possess not only technical knowledge, but also analytical thinking, creativity, adaptability, and the ability to work with digital tools. Studies show that the competitiveness of the national economy depends on the ability of the education system to prepare qualified personnel for the digital labor market. Digital skills are necessary not only for IT specialists, but also for managers, economists, engineers, teachers, accountants, marketers, and public servants. If the workforce is not prepared for technological changes, digital transformation may deepen inequality and reduce labor market stability.

The literature also pays considerable attention to the role of government policy in digital transformation. Effective digital development requires coordinated state regulation, protection of personal data, cybersecurity standards, support for digital entrepreneurship, investment in innovation, and modernization of public administration. Electronic government services can increase transparency, reduce bureaucracy, improve service delivery, and strengthen trust between citizens, businesses, and the state. At the same time, researchers warn that digital transformation may create risks related to cyber threats, digital monopolies, technological dependence, and unequal access to digital opportunities.

In the context of developing economies, scholars emphasize that digital transformation can accelerate economic modernization, but its success depends on institutional readiness, investment capacity, regional connectivity, and the ability of enterprises to adopt new technologies. For countries seeking to strengthen national competitiveness, digitalization must be integrated into industrial policy, innovation strategy, education reform, and entrepreneurship development. Overall, the reviewed literature confirms that digital transformation is a multidimensional process that affects national



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competitiveness through productivity growth, innovation capacity, institutional efficiency, human capital development, and stronger integration into global economic networks.

Methods

The methodological basis of this article is formed by a qualitative analytical approach aimed at studying the relationship between digital transformation processes and the competitiveness of the national economy. Since digital transformation affects many areas of economic life, including production, services, finance, trade, public administration, education, labor markets, and innovation activity, the research uses an interdisciplinary approach. This makes it possible to examine the issue not only from the point of view of technological modernization, but also from the perspective of economic efficiency, institutional development, human capital, entrepreneurship, and strategic management. The main purpose of the methodological approach is to identify how digital technologies influence national competitiveness and what conditions are necessary for this influence to become sustainable and systematic.

The research is based on the analysis of scientific literature devoted to digital economy, national competitiveness, innovation development, technological modernization, digital infrastructure, and human capital. The literature analysis method allows the main theoretical concepts to be identified and compared. In particular, the study considers approaches that explain competitiveness through productivity, innovation capacity, market efficiency, institutional quality, and technological readiness. These approaches are important because digital transformation does not create competitiveness automatically. Its positive impact depends on the level of preparedness of enterprises, state institutions, educational systems, and consumers. Therefore, the literature analysis is used to reveal the theoretical mechanisms through which digital technologies affect economic development.

The article also applies a structural-functional method. Within this method, digital transformation is considered as a system of interconnected elements that perform specific economic functions. Digital infrastructure provides technological access; digital platforms create new market relations; digital



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financial services improve the speed and transparency of transactions; artificial intelligence and big data increase the quality of decision-making; electronic government improves administrative efficiency; and digital skills strengthen the adaptability of the labor force. Such a method helps to show that digital transformation influences national competitiveness through several channels at the same time. It also makes it possible to determine which elements of the digital economy require priority development.

A comparative analytical method is used to distinguish between traditional economic competitiveness and competitiveness in the digital economy. In the traditional model, competitive advantage is often associated with production costs, natural resources, geographical position, and physical infrastructure. In the digital model, additional factors become decisive, including data management, technological flexibility, cybersecurity, innovation ecosystems, digital entrepreneurship, platform-based business models, and the speed of adaptation to global market changes. This comparison helps to clarify why countries that invest in digital transformation can strengthen their position in international competition even when they do not possess large natural resource advantages.

The research also uses a problem-oriented approach. This approach makes it possible to identify the main barriers that reduce the effect of digital transformation on competitiveness. These barriers include unequal access to digital infrastructure, insufficient digital literacy, weak integration of small and medium-sized enterprises into digital platforms, shortage of qualified personnel, cybersecurity risks, low innovation activity, and fragmented implementation of digital projects. Each of these problems is analyzed in relation to its impact on productivity, market efficiency, investment attractiveness, and institutional quality.

In addition, the study uses a practical generalization method. Based on the analyzed theoretical and practical materials, the article identifies key directions for strengthening the positive impact of digital transformation on national competitiveness. These directions include the development of broadband infrastructure, modernization of education, support for digital entrepreneurship, expansion of electronic government services, stimulation of innovation,



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improvement of cybersecurity systems, and integration of digital technologies into priority sectors of the economy. This methodological framework allows digital transformation to be examined as a strategic process that requires coordination between the state, business, universities, and society.

Results

The results of the analysis show that digital transformation has a multidimensional impact on the competitiveness of the national economy. Its influence is expressed not only in the modernization of technological infrastructure, but also in the transformation of production relations, business models, labor organization, financial services, public administration, and consumer behavior. The first important result is that digital transformation increases productivity by reducing time, labor, and transaction costs. When enterprises use automated management systems, cloud platforms, digital accounting, electronic document flow, artificial intelligence, and data analytics, they can make decisions faster, reduce operational errors, improve resource allocation, and increase the efficiency of production and service delivery. This creates a direct connection between digitalization and national economic competitiveness.

The second result concerns the role of digital infrastructure in strengthening market activity. High-speed internet, mobile communication networks, electronic payment systems, data centers, and digital platforms create the basis for the expansion of entrepreneurship and innovation. Enterprises that have access to reliable digital infrastructure can participate more actively in electronic commerce, online services, digital logistics, and international trade. This is especially important for small and medium-sized businesses because digital platforms reduce entry barriers and allow companies to reach wider markets without large physical infrastructure costs. As a result, digital transformation contributes to the diversification of the economy and increases the ability of national enterprises to compete in domestic and foreign markets.

The third result shows that digital transformation improves the transparency and efficiency of public administration. Electronic government services, digital tax systems, online licensing, public procurement platforms, and automated state



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databases reduce bureaucracy and create more favorable conditions for business activity. When administrative procedures become faster and more transparent, entrepreneurs spend less time on formal processes and more time on productive activity. This improves the institutional environment and strengthens the investment attractiveness of the national economy. In this sense, digital transformation affects competitiveness not only through business modernization, but also through the quality of governance.

The fourth result is related to human capital. The development of the digital economy increases demand for new professional competencies, including digital literacy, analytical thinking, programming, data processing, cybersecurity, digital marketing, electronic commerce management, and the ability to work with automated systems. Countries that successfully modernize their education system and prepare specialists for the digital labor market gain an important competitive advantage. However, if digital skills remain insufficient, technological modernization may be slowed down. Therefore, human capital is one of the decisive factors determining whether digital transformation will become a source of real economic competitiveness.

The fifth result indicates that digital transformation creates new opportunities for innovation and investment. Digital technologies stimulate the emergence of start-ups, fintech companies, online services, platform-based businesses, and knowledge-intensive industries. These sectors can increase the share of high-value-added products and services in the national economy. In the context of Uzbekistan, this is particularly significant because digital transformation can support industrial modernization, improve the efficiency of transport and logistics, expand digital financial services, and increase the competitiveness of enterprises in regional markets.

At the same time, the results reveal several risks. Unequal access to digital infrastructure, cybersecurity threats, shortage of qualified personnel, low digital readiness of some enterprises, and regional technological disparities may limit the positive effect of digital transformation. Therefore, the competitiveness of the national economy depends not only on the introduction of digital technologies, but also on the ability to ensure their inclusive, secure, and systematic implementation across all sectors and regions.



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Discussion

The results demonstrate that digital transformation should be considered one of the central strategic factors of national economic competitiveness. In the modern global economy, countries compete not only through natural resources, production capacity, geographical location, or low labor costs, but also through the speed of technological adaptation, the quality of digital infrastructure, the efficiency of data use, and the innovative capacity of enterprises. Digital transformation changes the logic of economic development because it allows production and service processes to become more flexible, transparent, and knowledge-based. This means that the competitiveness of the national economy increasingly depends on how effectively digital technologies are integrated into all sectors and how successfully institutions, businesses, and human capital adapt to new technological conditions.

One of the most important aspects of digital transformation is its influence on productivity. Productivity growth is a key condition for national competitiveness because it allows enterprises to produce more goods and services with lower costs and higher quality. Digital tools such as automated production systems, artificial intelligence, cloud computing, electronic document management, digital logistics, and data analytics improve operational efficiency and reduce unnecessary expenditures. However, these technologies bring real benefits only when they are introduced systematically. If enterprises use digital tools separately, without changing management culture, employee skills, and business processes, the impact of digitalization remains limited. Therefore, digital transformation requires not only technical modernization, but also organizational restructuring.

The role of human capital is especially significant in this process. Digital technologies cannot independently create economic competitiveness if the workforce does not have the skills needed to use them productively. For this reason, universities, professional education institutions, and corporate training systems must prepare specialists who can work with digital platforms, analyze data, manage digital projects, ensure cybersecurity, and adapt to technological changes. In the conditions of the digital economy, every sector needs employees with digital competencies, including economists, managers, accountants,



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marketers, engineers, teachers, and public servants. The modernization of education is therefore directly connected with the competitiveness of the national economy.

Digital transformation also strengthens the institutional foundations of competitiveness. Electronic government, online public services, digital tax administration, electronic procurement, and automated licensing systems reduce bureaucracy and increase transparency. This improves the business environment and decreases administrative barriers for entrepreneurs. A transparent and efficient institutional system attracts investment, supports entrepreneurship, and increases trust between the state, business, and citizens. For Uzbekistan, this direction is particularly important because the expansion of digital public services can support economic modernization and create more favorable conditions for private sector development.

At the same time, digital transformation may deepen existing inequalities if it is not implemented inclusively. Differences between urban and rural areas, large and small enterprises, and highly skilled and low-skilled workers may increase if access to digital infrastructure and education remains uneven. This means that digital competitiveness must be based not only on technological progress, but also on equal opportunities. Regional connectivity, affordable internet, digital literacy programs, and support for small and medium-sized enterprises are necessary to ensure that the benefits of digital transformation reach all parts of the economy.

Another important issue is cybersecurity. As economic activity becomes more dependent on digital systems, risks related to data protection, cyberattacks, fraud, and technological dependence increase. A competitive digital economy must therefore be secure and reliable. Strengthening cybersecurity, protecting personal and commercial data, and developing national digital standards are essential conditions for sustainable digital development.

Overall, digital transformation can significantly strengthen national economic competitiveness when it is implemented as a comprehensive strategy. It must combine technological infrastructure, innovation policy, human capital development, institutional reform, private sector modernization, and cybersecurity. In this case, digitalization becomes not only a technical process,



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but a long-term mechanism for increasing productivity, improving governance, expanding entrepreneurship, and integrating the national economy into global digital markets.

Conclusion

The analysis of digital transformation processes shows that they have become a decisive factor in strengthening the competitiveness of the national economy. In contemporary economic conditions, competitiveness is increasingly determined not only by the availability of natural resources, labor force, or traditional production capacities, but also by the ability of the country to introduce digital technologies, use data effectively, develop innovation, modernize institutions, and prepare human capital for the requirements of the digital economy. Digital transformation changes the structure of economic activity and creates new mechanisms for increasing productivity, improving market efficiency, expanding entrepreneurship, and integrating national enterprises into global value chains.

The main conclusion of the study is that digital transformation influences national competitiveness through several interconnected channels. First, it increases the efficiency of enterprises by reducing transaction costs, accelerating business processes, improving resource management, and supporting data-based decision-making. Second, it strengthens innovation potential by creating conditions for the development of start-ups, digital platforms, fintech services, electronic commerce, and knowledge-intensive industries. Third, it improves the quality of public administration through electronic government, digital tax systems, online services, transparent procurement, and automated administrative procedures. Fourth, it expands opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises by giving them access to wider markets, digital financial instruments, and modern communication channels.

At the same time, the study confirms that digital transformation does not automatically guarantee higher competitiveness. Its positive impact depends on the quality of digital infrastructure, the level of digital literacy, the readiness of enterprises to change their business models, the effectiveness of state regulation, and the ability of the education system to prepare qualified specialists. If



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digitalization is implemented fragmentarily, without strategic coordination, its results may remain limited. Unequal access to digital technologies, regional disparities, shortage of skilled personnel, cybersecurity risks, and insufficient innovation activity can weaken the competitiveness effect of digital transformation. Therefore, digital development must be systematic, inclusive, and connected with long-term economic policy.

For Uzbekistan, digital transformation has particular strategic importance because it can support economic modernization, improve the investment climate, increase transparency, develop digital entrepreneurship, and strengthen the competitiveness of national industries. The expansion of digital infrastructure, electronic government services, online business platforms, digital financial technologies, and automated management systems can create new opportunities for enterprises and citizens. However, these opportunities must be supported by continuous improvement of education, professional training, research, innovation ecosystems, and cybersecurity mechanisms.

The article concludes that digital transformation should be treated as a comprehensive economic development strategy rather than a narrow technological process. Its success requires cooperation between the state, business sector, universities, financial institutions, and civil society. Investments in broadband infrastructure, digital skills, innovation support, regulatory modernization, and data security are essential for transforming digitalization into a real competitive advantage. A national economy that effectively integrates digital technologies into production, services, management, education, and entrepreneurship can achieve higher productivity, stronger institutional efficiency, greater market flexibility, and more sustainable economic growth. Thus, digital transformation is one of the key conditions for strengthening national competitiveness in the global digital economy.

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