

innovation, and productivity growth. Economies with advanced digital ecosystems develop 1.5 to 2 times faster than those with limited technological capacity. In the European Union, the introduction of artificial intelligence and automation is projected to raise labor productivity by 14 % by 2035. China's digital sector generated over \$7 trillion in 2023, while India's digital economy already contributes around 11 % of GDP, a figure expected to nearly double by 2030 under the «Digital India» program. Digitalization has also played a vital role in economic resilience. During the COVID-19 pandemic, countries such as South Korea and Estonia maintained more than 80 % of pre-crisis business activity through online platforms and remote work systems. However, the global digital divide remains significant: about 2.6 billion people still lack access to the internet, primarily in developing regions, which limits their participation in the digital economy.

These findings demonstrate that the digital economy not only increases economic output but also redefines global competitiveness. Nations that invest strategically in innovation, digital literacy, and broadband infrastructure achieve sustainable growth and technological independence. For example, South Korea spends nearly 5 % of GDP on research and development, while Estonia's model of digital governance has become an international benchmark. In contrast, countries that underinvest in technology may lose up to 1 % of annual GDP growth, as noted by the IMF.

Overall, the digital economy is emerging as the structural foundation of a new stage of global development. It enhances productivity, fosters innovation, and creates conditions for inclusive progress, yet its benefits remain unevenly distributed. To ensure that digital transformation contributes to sustainable and equitable growth, governments and international institutions must work toward expanding digital infrastructure, strengthening cybersecurity, and harmonizing global regulatory frameworks. The conducted analysis confirms that the digital economy has become a fundamental driver of global growth, defining the competitiveness and stability of the world economy in the twenty-first century.

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CURRENT VECTORS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

Актуальные векторы развития экономики Республики Беларусь

The global economy today is not a static picture, but a dynamic and evolving panorama shaped by powerful global trends. It is changing rapidly under the influence of various factors: technology, geopolitics, global crises, etc. Belarus, as a part of the global

economy, faces various opportunities, as well as a number of challenges. In this article, we present the results of our survey and examine current global economic development trends and how they may impact our country's economy.

To begin with, we asked the students about which vector, in their opinion, is the key to the development of our country's economy to a greater extent. The survey results revealed that more than half of the students believe that this is an investment in science and education. Others say that the main vector is geopolitics, the trading system and commodity markets. So, we have found out the main directions of the development of the economy of the Republic of Belarus.

Belarus is actively working within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), which also includes Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Armenia. It is easier for our enterprises to sell goods to these countries because there are no customs duties and other barriers. This union also provides a guaranteed permanent sales market for our products.

Belarus is also actively seeking new sales markets. This is due to the fact that previously we sold a significant part of our goods to Europe. However, the situation has changed in recent years. Therefore, the country is actively looking for new partners and consumers. The Republic of Belarus delivers not only traditional products (tractors, dairy products), but also IT services to the countries of Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Finding itself in new conditions, Belarus is striving to become an important logistics hub. We try to make good use of our geographical location by developing transport corridors between East and West.

Investments in science, education and innovation are perhaps the main vector contributing to financial development. Thanks to innovations, productivity increases and the country's economic potential grows. The government also supports the introduction of digital technologies in traditional industries, from agriculture to mechanical engineering. This is called «Digital Transformation».

Belarus is developing its own manufacturing industry. The country is learning to independently produce products that were previously imported from abroad. We are developing microelectronics, machine tool manufacturing, and pharmaceuticals, and we are focusing on deep processing of products in order to sell not just milk, but, for example, cheeses or yogurts under our own brand.

Current vectors of Belarusian economic development paint a picture of a complex but necessary transition from the 20th century industrial model to a diversified, technologically advanced, and flexible knowledge economy. The success of this transformation will depend on solving a number of fundamental problems.