

Growth projections for 2025 reflect both promise and caution. Aggregate GDP growth for the CIS, alongside Georgia, is forecast to cool to 2.5 %, following a robust 4.5 % pace in the preceding year. Russia’s modest recovery at around 1.5 %, constrained by labor shortages and subdued global energy prices, anchors the region’s outlook and compels neighboring economies to actively recalibrate strategies.

In sum, CIS offers an intricate case study of how post-Soviet states negotiate cycles of external pressure and internal adaptation, while contending with systemic vulnerabilities. The region’s economic narrative is one of transformation and resilience, with future prosperity hinging on the capacity to balance integration, innovation, and institutional modernization.

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THE POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF CASINOS ON PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

Положительное и отрицательное влияние казино на людей и общества

Casinos represent a complex phenomenon that combines notable economic benefits with serious social risks. Their rapid development has intensified debates about their true impact on communities. This study examines the main economic and social consequences

of casino operations and identifies the conditions under which they contribute to regional development or create harm.

Casinos are often viewed as economic catalysts. They create jobs, attract tourists, and increase tax revenues. Gambling stimulates related industries such as hotels, restaurants, transportation, and retail. Cities like Las Vegas demonstrate that casinos, when supported by strong infrastructure and diversified tourism, can strengthen public finances and employment. Under favorable conditions casinos can contribute to regional prosperity.

However, casinos are associated with significant social risks. According to the World Health Organization, about 1.2 percent of adults suffer from gambling disorder, and many more are at risk. Research shows that a large share of casino revenue comes from problematic gamblers. This dependence on vulnerable players can lead to financial instability, debt, emotional stress, and family conflicts, increasing pressure on social support systems.

Casino development may also deepen economic inequality. While owners and investors gain substantial profits, local residents often see limited benefits. Wealth concentration can widen gaps between business elites and the general population, creating social tension. Cultural environments may change as well, especially in regions highly dependent on gambling. Macau is a clear example, with more than 70 percent of its GDP tied to the casino industry, making diversification difficult and increasing vulnerability to economic fluctuations.

The coexistence of positive and negative effects creates a contradictory situation. Casinos support economic development and government budgets while contributing to addiction, inequality, and community instability. Their overall influence depends on regulatory effectiveness and community preparedness.

The study shows that strong regulation, responsible gambling policies, and economic diversification largely determine whether benefits outweigh harms. Regions that limit aggressive advertising, monitor gambling behavior, and direct part of casino revenue to social programs experience more positive outcomes. Las Vegas illustrates how diversification through conventions, entertainment, and technology reduces dependence on gambling.

In contrast, regions with weak regulation and heavy reliance on casino income face more pronounced risks. Macau's limited diversification and dependence on gambling revenue make it vulnerable to economic downturns and social challenges tied to problem gambling.

To be conclude that casinos offer economic benefits such as job creation and increased revenue but also generate significant social disadvantages including addiction, inequality, and cultural transformation. They contribute to regional development only when regulated effectively and when part of revenues supports community needs. Without these conditions negative effects may dominate, turning casinos into sources of instability rather than progress.

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THE PHENOMENON OF THE SHARING ECONOMY: AN OVERVIEW OF THE BUSINESS MODEL

Феномен шеринг-экономики: обзор бизнес-модели

The XXI century has witnessed the growing importance of *the sharing economy* in different parts of the world. It is a business model of collaborative consumption with its main principle of getting access to goods and services, not possessing them [1].

The aim of our research was to study and critically evaluate this phenomenon at the current stage of socio-economic development on a global scale. The supporting objectives included analyzing its advantages and disadvantages, studying modern cases connected with its implementation and assessing the perspectives of its further expansion. The relevance of our research is based on studying the most recent examples associated with the sharing economy as a business model.

A new stage in the scientific and technological progress gave rise to the sharing economy worldwide. Its general principle manifests in the practice that people with an oversupply of some resource lend it to others for money – usually, instruments, cars, apartments, skills, information, free time. This, in turn, contributes to the appearance of services which connect those in need with those who possess some resources. The basement of a joint consumption idea was worked out in 2010 by R. Botsman and R. Rodgers, coauthors of the book called ‘What's Mine Is Yours: The Rise of