



**Contribution of small and medium business to GDP [2]**

## References

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## **SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF BELARUS AT THE PERIOD OF ITS INDEPENDENCE**

## **СОЦИАЛЬНО-ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКОЕ РАЗВИТИЕ БЕЛАРУСИ В ПЕРИОД ЕЕ НЕЗАВИСИМОСТИ**

The main purpose of my research is the analysis of social and economic development of the Republic of Belarus at the present time.

In 1991 the Republic of Belarus became an independent state. The development of Belarusian statehood and the formation of the principles of a new political system started immediately. This period was the moment for the creation of democratic institutions, developing such elements of the society as political parties and associations as well as new mass media. The finale event in the legal collapse of the Soviet one-party system was the adoption of the Constitution by the Supreme Court of the Republic of Belarus on 15 March, 1994. Since then, our country has striven for openness and constructiveness, integrity and flexibility, it has shown its ability to establish a mutually beneficial dialogue and adequately respond to the challenges of our time. Further more, it has proved to be a reliable and predictable partner, a provider of security in the region. The best proof of the reliability of Belarus is the fact that our state collaborates with 170 countries, does not have any territorial disagreements and conflicts with any of the neighbors, and do its best to save interethnic peace and harmony. At the present stage the main direction of Belarusian foreign policy is to increase the role of the country in world politics, the efficiency of foreign economic activity, which means following a new export strategy based on improving its quality structure, as well as increasing the export of services.

Geographical location plays a huge role in the socio-political development of the Republic of Belarus. Being situated in the center of Europe is a favorable factor for the development of trade relations of Belarus with European countries. It provides opportunities for the integration of the Belarusian economy into the European economy. Today, there are 22 state programs whose main purpose is to achieve the principles of social and economic development of Belarusian state. The economy of the Republic of Belarus is characterized by an increase in the gross domestic product (GDP) of the national economy, due to the growth of wholesale and retail trade, construction, industrial production, and, of course, due to the transport activities. At the present stage, our state has managed to maintain macroeconomic stability, improve the balance of the economy, ensure a positive balance of foreign trade in goods and services, improve the balance of payments, maintain a stable situation in the domestic currency and deposit markets, as well as improve the quality parameters of economic development. An important role in the development of the economy was played by the procedure of tax simplification for companies. One of the main purposes of social and economic development of the Republic of Belarus at the present stage is to improve the welfare of the people. It is expected that next year the economy of our state will grow by at least 5 %, which indicates the possibility of implementing the goals set by the state to ensure a high standard of living in Belarus.

It is important to note the fact that our country is making every effort to implement the development of the National health system. In recent years our medicine has reached a qualitatively new level, which is confirmed by experts of various well-known international organizations. Medical institutions are being reorganized and re-equipped with new equipment. The issue of the development of education should also be mentioned. Today, there is a Program which has been adopted to create conditions for maintaining gifted, talented, promising and possessing leadership qualities children and youth. It will help in the near future to provide the state with competent specialists who will be in demand not only in Belarus but also in Europe.

Summing up the research, we came to the conclusion: the socio-economic development of Belarus at the present stage is improving gradually. The state is making efforts to develop the economy, create decent image of Belarus in the world, ensure a high standard of living of the population, as well as opportunities for self-realization in the future.

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**THE CONCEPTION OF «SMART CITY»  
AS THE MODEL OF CITY MANAGEMENT**

**КОНЦЕПЦИЯ «УМНОГО ГОРОДА»  
КАК МОДЕЛЬ УПРАВЛЕНИЯ ГОРОДОМ**

Modern cities are a clear reflection of the diverse social and economic processes and changes, unparalleled for their dynamism, depth and inclusiveness. Playing an increasingly important role in global economy, at the same time they feel the destructive ecological and economical consequences of its rapid growing. The tasks come to the fore are raising the standard of living, overcoming social inequality, protecting environment and effective management. The conception of smart city is one of those models, which implies the active use of information and communication technologies.