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CHANGES IN TERRITORIAL AND BRANCH STRUCTURE
OF TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN GEORGIA, ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN

1. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The region of Southern Caucasus has always been a subject of great interest for many sciences. This region forming an isthmus between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea was already many centuries ago a sort of a bridge connecting Europe and Asia. It was the place of numerous migrations and the crossroads of continental trade routes. Here was the origin of the oldest nations in the world. Here existed such states as Iberia and Colchis. Christian religion penetrated here early. A lot of old temples and churches have been preserved up to now as witnesses of the past.

Numerous commercial, economic and political centres such as Baku, Gandja (Kirovobad), Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Yerevan, came into being and developed along main transport roads¹.

This region was regarded as very troublesome one. Many fights against the invaders who wanted to conquer the region of southern Caucasus, the region of great strategic importance, were going on here. The invasions from the south: from Iran and Turkey led to the tightening of contacts of the Caucasus people with Russia and later on to the union with this empire. This process took place in the 19-th century.

Georgian and Azerbaijan and then Yerevan and Nakchimev districts were incorporated into Russia. These countries forming the outlying parts of the empire up to the October Revolution functioned as colonial areas.

¹ N. J. Kovalskaya, *Zakavkazskij rajon* [in:] *Ekonomicheskaya geografija SSSR*, part II, *Ekonomicheskije rajony*, Moskva 1973, p. 297.

Villenage in the Caucasus region and the reluctance of the authorities to develop the economy of the region did not favour progress. Some changes occurred only towards the end of the 19-th century. It was due to the exploitation of the existing mineral resources and the construction of a railroad from Baku on the Caspian Sea to Batumi on the Black Sea. This region remained, however, an agricultural area with some craft and trade but without a big industry. The Caucasian Soviet Socialist Federal Republic (ZSFSR) including Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia came into being in 1922 as a result of the October Revolution and the Russian Civil War. That political body had existed up to 1936 when those republics became Soviet republics. The Caucasian region obtained the possibilities of development only in the conditions of the socialist system.



Ryc. 1. The geographical situation of the Caucasian region

The political authorities decided to industrialize that region and to abolish the existing backwardness. Introduction of textile industry into that region became one of the means of economic development. That industry had there both the reserves of labour force and the local raw materials base; in the Caucasian region the people cultivated cotton, silkworms, and bred sheep. The cultivation of cotton began in the second half of the nineteenth century but the textile raw materials (silk, cot-

ton, wool) were before the October Revolution sent almost entirely to textile mills in the European part of Russia particularly those located in the Moscow district. The Moscow District was then and still is a highly industrialized centre. It represented a concentration of Russian processing industry. At the same time the Moscow District was the main Russian centre and one of the world centres of textile industry².

The Caucasian region was a raw materials base for the Moscow District and also a market for textiles. After the October Revolution and the years of the Civil War it was necessary to construct new textile industry in the Caucasian area, because the few existing mills had been earlier destroyed or neglected. The relatively short period of reconstruction and the long process of building new textile mills (both before and after World War II) led to a large increase of textile production in the Caucasian region. The great role of textile industry in the Caucasian republics can be proved by the number of workers engaged in textile trades. There were 75 thousand textile workers in 1970 whereas in 1959 there were 57 thousand (Table 1).

Table 1

The number of textile workers in the Caucasian republics in 1959—1970^a

The republics	The number of textile workers in thousands			Textile workers per 1000 of totally employed	
	1959	1970	increase	1959	1970
Armenian SSR	19,4	26,3	6,9	27,6	26,8
Azerbaijan SSR	17,9	23,0	5,1	11,7	13,0
Georgian SSR	19,7	25,6	5,9	10,6	12,0
Caucasian macroregion	57,0	74,9	17,9	13,8	15,4

^a Without workers who do not perform textile professions.

Source: *Itogi vsesojuznoj perepisi naseleniya 1970 g.*, vol. VI, *Raspredelenije naseleniya SSSR i sojuznych respublik po sanyatijam*, Moskva 1973.

In 1940—1975 clothing and knitting industries, manufacture of silk and woollen fabrics, production of ladies' underwear developed at a particularly high pace. In 1940 production of cotton fabrics was 20.3 meters per head in Armenia and only 0.1 meter in Georgia. Production of woollen and silk fabrics in Armenia and Azerbaijan was only 0.2 m per one inhabitant. The knitting industry except hosiery was poorly developed. Production of textile articles in the Caucasus per head of population increased considerably from 1940 up to 1975.

² S. Pączka, *Przemysł włókienniczy w Regionie Centralnym ZSRR*, Acta Univ. Lodz. 1978, ser. II, fasc. 15, p. 62.

The Armenian Socialist Republic attained the highest figures in respect of cotton fabrics, underwear, stockings, socks and knitted articles per head of population. Azerbaijan excelled in production of woollen fabrics and Georgia excelled in production of silk fabrics (Table 2).

Table 2

Textile production in the Caucasian republics in 1940 and 1975

Kinds of products	Unit	Volume of production		Rate of production growth 1940=100	Increase of production per 1 inhabitant in 1940—1975 in running meters, pieces and pairs		
		1940	1975		Armenian SSR	Azerbaijan SSR	Georgian SSR
Cotton fabrics	mln of m	76,3	291,8	382	15,6	7,4	13,4
Woollen fabrics	mln of m	2,4	22,3	929	1,7	2,0	0,6
Silk fabrics	mln of m	5,7	92,7	1 626	6,3	5,6	7,2
Knitted underwear	mln of pieces	9,7	85,2	878	15,2	1,7	3,4
Knitwear	mln of pieces	3,2	38,3	1 197	4,7	1,4	2,5
	mln of pairs	33,5	100,3	299	4,8	1,4	4,1

Source: *Narodnoje khozajstvo SSSR v 1974 g. Statisticheskij jezhгодnik*, Moskva 1975, p. 9; *Narodnoje khozajstvo SSSR v 1975 g., Statisticheskij jezhгодnik*, Moskva 1976, p. 10.

In 1940—1975 the Caucasian Republics have become an important area of not only raw materials production but also of cotton, wool, and silk processing industries. The region is an example of a macro-region where local interests are coordinated with those of the USSR. The share of the Caucasian republics in the overall production of the Soviet Union in 1976 was 9.2% in the underwear and 8.4% in knitted clothes. Their contributions to the Union production of silk, rayon, woollen and cotton fabrics were 6.1%, 4.1% and 3.6% respectively. Considering the fact that this macroregion occupies only 0.8% of the country's area and is inhabited by 5.5% of the country's population, the above-mentioned figures prove the importance of the Caucasian republics in the national economy. The macroregion not only meets most of its own needs but also sends its articles to other republics. The Caucasian republics export not only some textile raw materials, but also the following articles: fabrics, underwear, knitted garments, stockings socks and carpets. Production of

man-made fibres enriched the raw materials base and made a further development of textile industry possible (Table 3). M. S. Bojanovskij³ said in the middle 1960's that textile production in the Caucasian

Table 3

Textile production in the Caucasian republics in 1976

Kinds of textile products	Unit of measure	The Caucasian Region	Including		
			Armenian SSR	Azerbaijan SSR	Georgian SSR
Cotton fabrics	mln of m ²	245,8	81,7	107,4	56,3
Silk fabrics	mln of m ²	97,1	18,7	34,6	43,8
Wool fabrics	mln of m ²	31,6	7,7	16,1	7,8
Knitted underwear	mln of pieces	91,3	51,4	18,5	21,4
Knitwear	mln of pieces	39,6	16,0	10,1	13,5
Hosiery	mln of pairs	108,6	52,1	31,1	25,4
Carpets	mln of m ²	4,3	2,5	1,8	—
Chemical fibers and threads	thousand tons	24,7	9,9	—	14,8

Source: SSSR i sojuznyje respubliki v 1976 g., Moskva 1977.

— data not available.

republics was not sufficiently developed considering the requirements of the population and those of Near East countries. That opinion is also true nowadays.

2. TEXTILE RAW MATERIALS BASE

Cotton, natural silk and wool are the natural raw materials base of the Caucasian republics. Cotton plantations, sheep breeding, silkworm sericulture farms play an important role in this respect. Cotton plantations especially in Azerbaijan became already at the beginning in the 20-th century a main branch of the agriculture. Ginning and baling are closely connected with cotton cultivation. The first cotton ginning houses were constructed in the region in the second half of the 19-th century. In 1913 cotton ginning houses employed about 1200 workers. At that time cotton production was rather low and amounted to only 24 600 tons. The extension of cultivation acreage and

³ M. S. Bujanovskij, *Respubliki Zakavkazja* [in:] *Geograficheskoje problemy razvitija krupnyh ekonomicheskich rajonov SSSR*, Moskva 1964, p. 282.

an increase of irrigation canals were responsible for a considerable growth of cotton production. In 1940 cotton production rose to 68 200 tons and in 1975 to 177 800 tons, which constituted 6.7% of the overall Soviet production. Cotton was almost entirely grown in the Azerbaijan Republic. The endeavours undertaken in the 1950's to extend the area of cultivation to Armenia and Georgia did not prove to be profitable and were given up (similarly in the Ukraine and in Moldavia). As far as production of cotton is concerned the Caucasian republics are second to the Russian Republics of Central Asia: Uzbek SSR, Turkmenian SSR and Tajik SSR. Azerbaijan produces ten times less „white gold” than Uzbek SSR. In the Caucasian region cotton is mainly grown in the Kura-Araksin Plains and in the Mugan Steppe which are irrigated by the water from the rivers Kura and Araksin. The area under cotton cultivation is in the Caucasian area over twice larger than before the World War I owing to the development of irrigation systems. The yields per hectare are high. In 1976 the yields obtained from cotton plantations in Azerbaijan were 30—40 g of cotton. Considerable quantities of specially valuable long staple cotton are obtained here, too. The Azerbaijan cotton is partly processed in the Caucasus but large quantities are exported to other regions of the USSR or abroad.

Natural silk also remains a traditional textile raw material in the Caucasian region. In contrast to cotton plantations concentrated in the Azerbaijan socialist republic natural silk is produced in all the republics of the macroregion. Mulberry silkworms and scrub oak silkworms have been cultivated in the region for many centuries. Silkworms were cultivated in every fifth farm in Nukha Azerbaijan (Sheki) and Kutaisi were important centres of silk production. About 350 tons of raw silk were produced in the Caucasian region in 1973. It should be said, however, that Caucasian sericulture was more extensive than intensive and that it suffered great losses during the Civil War.

In 1940 the Caucasian macroregion supplied over 1/3 of the country's production of natural silk. Though production increased that share continued to decrease because after the World War II, the sericulture developed in the new territories: the Ukraine and Moldavia (Table 4). Production of cocoons and raw silk increased also in the republics of Central Asia particularly in the Uzbek SSR which can now boast over 1/3 of silk filatures in the country.

E. V. Rubinov⁴ while drawing attention to a relative drop of Caucasian production of cocoons in the post-war period stresses that Azer-

⁴ E. V. Rubinov, *Proizvodstvo kokonov i shelka syrca v SSSR*, [in:] *Spravochnik po shelkosyryu i kokonomotaniyu*, Moskva 1971, p. 5.

Table 4

Production of natural silk in the Caucasian republics

Years	Production in the macroregion		Including					
			Armenian SSR		Azerbaijan SSR		Georgian SSR	
	tons	share in the USSR production (%)	tons	share in the prod. USSR (%)	tons	share in the prod. USSR (%)	tons	share in the prod. USSR (%)
1940	625	34,4	21	1,1	292	16,1	312	17,2
1950	612	33,0	31	1,7	268	14,4	313	16,9
1965	754	28,5	51	1,9	358	13,5	345	13,1
1970	880	29,1	47	1,6	409	13,5	424	14,0
1975	1 007	29,1	54	1,6	512	14,8	441	12,7

Source: *Narodnoje khozjajstvo SSSR v 1975 g.*, p. 287; and our own calculations.

baijan and Georgian Soviet Socialist Republics occupy the second and the third places in the over all silk production of the Soviet Union. In 1975 the Caucasian region produced over 1000 tons of raw silk. The macroregion has thus a large natural raw-materials base and all the conditions for the development of silk industry.

As the three republics are mostly mountainous, the conditions for sheep and goatbreeding are favourable. In 1971—1975 the sheep and goat population averaged 9.5 million which represents 8.1% of the total sheep and goat population in the USSR. Mountain pastures favour the breeding of those animals. The harsh mountainous climate is a cause of sheep and shepherds' migrations to regions of North Caucasia, near the Caspian Sea. The people in the mountains mostly wear woollen clothing. Therefore, a large part of wool and wool skins satisfies the needs of the local population. Wool and woollen skins are important materials for the light industry. In 1971—1975 the average year production in the Caucasian republics was about 18 300 thousand tons which represented 4.1% of the total production of the USSR. The average clip of one sheep was 2.3 kg in 1976 (Table 5). That figure is rather low even in comparison with the Polish average of 3.0—3.1 kgs⁵ and the result obtained by Polish State Farms (3.5 kgs of wool). The highest results per one sheep are obtained in Georgia (2.7 kgs) and the lowest results in Azerbaijan (1.9 kgs). In spite of a rather low productivity the production of wool in the Caucasian region is quite large. A considerable part of this wool is being proces-

⁵ *Rocznik statystyczny 1978*, Warszawa 1978, p. 208.

Table 5

Sheep and goat breeding and production of wool in Caucasian (1976)

The republics	Number of sheep and goat		Production of wool		Production of wool per one inhabitant in kilograms
	thousand tons	%	tons	%	
Armenian SSR	2 288,6	24,3	4 696	23,4	1,62
Azerbaijan SSR	5 134,3	54,5	10 000	49,8	1,73
Georgian SSR	1 995,2	21,2	5 400	26,8	1,08
Caucasian macroregion — Total	9 418,1	100,0	20 096	100,0	1,47 (approx.)

Source: SSSR i sojuznyje respubliki v 1976 g., p. 124—125; and our own calculations.

sed by the local industry. In the time of Socialist structure development the natural textile raw materials base in the Caucasian region has been supplemented by man-made fibres the use of which in mixtures with natural fibers imparts new properties and introduces new technologies. The new technologies in turn stimulate technical progress and reconstructions of old textile mills. Production of chemical fibers was started in big chemical plants in Armenia (Kirovakan) and Georgia (Rustavi). In 1976 Caucasian chemical works produced nearly 25 000 tons of fibers which constituted about 2.4% of the total production of chemical fibers manufactured in the Soviet Union. Production of chemical fibers per one inhabitant in the Caucasian macroregion is 2.2 kgs lower than the country's average. It is hoped, however, that the chemical base of textile raw materials will be developed with a further industrialization of the region. The region, as it has already been pointed out, has an ample raw-materials base.

The localization of the textile industry is, however, mostly determined by some other factors. At the beginning of the 20-th century the Caucasian region did not have its own textile industry though it was a raw-materials base and though it was an outlet for the textiles produced in other, distant regions.

3. BRANCHES OF TEXTILE INDUSTRY

The development of raw-materials base, the growth of machinery industry and the rise of power industry potential were accompanied by new, varied textile mills. Their number was steadily increasing. The present textile industry is represented by nearly all the branches.

A short historical review of these branches, and of the changes in the territorial structure and role in the country's economy should be rather interesting. That is why we shall deal with each branch separately.

Cotton industry. This industry appeared in the Caucasian region very late. The reasons have already been stated. The Caucasian region was regarded by the tsarist regime and capitalism as a raw-materials base. The tsarist administration — stated I. G. Ioffe⁶ — feared competition and the loss of export markets, and textile companies preferred to receive great income from a semi-feudal exploitation of the people to developing industry in distant regions. Only cotton plantations and preliminary processing of the fiber took place in the Caucasian republics. Production of yarn and clothing was nearly the monopoly of the European part of the tsarist empire.

The growing demand for Russian cotton led to some technical progress. Primitive methods of manual ginning were replaced by mechanical, industrial methods. The first cotton mill was built in Baku at the turn of the 19-th and 20-th centuries. In 1913 the Caucasian cotton industry turned out 11.9 million of cotton fabrics that is about 0.5% of the total Russian production of these fabrics. Apart from Azerbaijan there were no other textile mills in the Caucasian region. In Armenia and Georgia they were built as late as in the 1920's and 1930's. The first cotton mill with 18 000 spindles and 850 looms⁷ was put into operation in 1924. The cotton industry also developed in Azerbaijan, where new ginning establishments and Kirovabad Cotton Mills were built. One of the largest investment projects in the interwar period were the Leninskakan textile mills in Armenia which were put into operation in 1939. They had 76,100 spindles and 2300 looms. In 1953 these works received a new dyeing and finishing department as well as additional spinning frames⁸. The cotton industry in Baku was enlarged during the World War II. The cotton factory from Rostov on the Don was moved to that city. A fuller development of the cotton industry in Azerbaijan occurred during the fifth five-year plan (1951—1955). New cotton works located in Mingechaur on the Kura river near the railway station Yevlakh. The construction of Mingechaur cotton works was started in 1960. A factory of cotton articles was also built there. It turned out, however, that the town, and its environs did not have enough local labour force.

⁶ I. G. Ioffe, *Geograficheskoe razmieshchenije tekstilnoj promyshlennosti* [in:] *Ekonomika tekstilnoj promyshlennosti*, Moskva 1959, p. 153.

⁷ B. I. Kisljakov, *Logkaja industrija za 50 let*, Moskva 1967, p. 18.

⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 20.

It was necessary to bring workers there from the Russian Federal Socialist Republic and from Ukraine.

A new housing estate was specially constructed for the incoming workers. The development of the cotton industry in Azerbaijan brought additional investment spending on social infrastructure. Cotton industry in Georgia was poorly developed in the interwar period. In 1940 that republic manufactured only 0.4 million running meters of cotton fabrics. Big cotton works came to Georgia only after the Second World War. The largest cotton works were constructed in Gori. These works and those in Armenia depend on imported raw materials. In 1966 production of Gori cotton works reached 60 million meters of various cotton fabrics⁹.

The development of cotton industry in the Caucasian region brought also an increase of raw cotton preparatory centres. According to R. S. Livshits¹⁰ in 1969 nearly 754 000 spindles were installed in the Caucasian cotton industry which constitutes 5.1% of the USSR total. The number of spindles has increased in the last ten years and a lot of old spindles have been replaced by new ones.

Cotton mills are situated in the following towns: Alaverdi, Leninakan, Oktembryan, Yerevan (Armenia), Baku, Geogeraj, Kirovabad, Ulingechaur, Yevlakh (Azerbaijan), Gori, Kulashi, Kutaisi, Rustavi, Sachkhere, Tbilisi, Vani (Georgia). The largest cotton mills are in Baku, Kirovabad, Mingechaur (processing the local raw materials) in Gori and Leninakan (processing non-Caucasian raw materials). The above-mentioned cotton mills are responsible for about 4/5 of the total Caucasian cotton industry production and 80% of the value of the installed production means.

The present share of the Caucasian cotton industry in the total cotton industry of the Soviet Union is much higher now as compared with 1940. The share of this industry in the country's production of cotton fabrics increased from 19% in 1940 to 4% in 1967 and 3.8% in 1975. Production of cotton fabrics rise from 76.3 million meters to 292.6 million meters to 1975 (Table 6).

The share of particular republics in the country's production of cotton fabrics is not uniform. The production of cotton fabrics per one inhabitant is lower than the country's average. In 1976 these values were in the USSR — 26.3 m², in the Azerbaijan SSR — 18.6 m² and in the Georgian SSR — 11.3 m². Only in the Armenian SSR the pro-

⁹ N. V. Nachkebia, *Gruzinskaja SSR. Ekonomiko-geograficheskiy obzor*, Tbilisi 1968, p. 23.

¹⁰ R. S. Livshits, *Effektivnost koncentracii proizvodstva v promyshlennosti SSSR*, Moskva 1971, p. 88.

Table 6

The share of Caucasian republics in the Soviet production of cotton fabrics in percentages

Republics	Years				Production in 1976 per 1 inhabitant in square meters
	1913	1940	1967	1975	
Armenian SSR	—	0,7	1,3	1,3	28,2
Azerbaijan SSR	0,5	1,2	1,8	1,6	18,6
Georgian SSR	—	0,0	0,9	0,9	11,3
Caucasian region — Total	0,5	1,9	4,0	3,8	17,9 (approx.)

Source: D. M. Pinchenson, *Ekonomicheskaja geografiya v cifrach. Posobie dla uchitielej*, Moskva 1970, Tab. 151, p. 89; *Narodnoje khozajstvo SSSR v 1975 g.*, p. 285; and our own calculations.

duction was higher than the country's average (28.2 m²). In spite of all the changes in the development of the Caucasian cotton industry, cotton production in this macroregion is not fully suited to the possibilities and requirements. In 1940—1975 there were some essential structural shifts in the production of cotton fabrics. There was a relative decrease of Azerbaijan SSR in production of cotton fabrics and an increase in importance of the Georgian cotton industry (Table 7).

Table 7

The share of Caucasian republics in the production of cotton fabrics in the macroregion in percentages

Years	Macroregion total	Including		
		Armenian SSR	Azerbaijan SSR	Georgian SSR
1940	100,0	35,1	64,4	0,5
1965	100,0	31,5	47,3	21,2
1970	100,0	32,5	45,6	21,9
1975	100,0	34,3	43,0	22,7

Source: *Narodnoje khozajstvo SSSR v 1975 g.*, and our own calculations.

Silk industry. Silk industry according to I. G. Ioffe¹¹ had been developing up to 1941 depending mainly on natural silk. Before the Great October Revolution silk articles were regarded as luxury articles and were worn by few people only. Textile mills in the Euro-

¹¹ I. G. Ioffe, Zh. V. Bobrova, E. N. Pekseva, *Ekonomika tekstilnoj promyshlennosti*, Moskva 1972, p. 311.

pean part of the Russian Empire imported raw silk from abroad. In those times there were only a few primitive filatures in the Caucasian region. Reeling and weaving mills were then concentrated in Moscow and in Moscow and Vladimir districts. The Caucasian region constituted a raw materials base for Russian silk mills. The silk industry in Caucasian region was built by the Soviet authorities which launched industrialization of outlying territories. The process, was however, a long one. It was preceded by reconstruction of sericulture and building filatures, where silk was reeled from cocoons which, as it is well known, cannot bear long transport. A large silk filature in Ordubail, filatures and silk and rayon mills in Kutaisi and Stepanakert, silk and rayon weaving mills in Tbilisi, Yerevan, Nukha (Sheki) were constructed during the first five-year plans. The silk and rayon mills constructed in Kutaisi in the 1930's ranked among large industrial plants. The large mills in Stepanakert and Nukha were completed by stages.

It should be mentioned that the construction of Nukha works was continued at the time of Nazi invasion (the finishing department) and in the nineteen sixties when the works were considerably extended. The silk and rayon mills in Leninakan were also extended at the beginning of the Second World War. While new silk mills were being put into operation the production of silk fabrics was considerably increasing. That production was encouraged and supported by factories of chemical fibres in the Armenian SSR and Georgian SSR.

In the interwar period silk and rayon industry developed most fully in the Georgian SSR. In 1928 production there was still negligible; it totalled only 100 000 running meters. In 1940 production of silk and rayon fabrics reached the figure of 5 300 000 running meters. At that time the share of Georgian industry in the total Soviet production of silk and rayon fabrics was 6.9%.

The share of the whole Caucasian region was 7.4%. The Caucasian macroregion was a leading producer of silk and rayon fabrics before the Nazi invasion and Georgian silk and rayon mills as well as silk filatures located in regions of silk worm cultivation (Makharadze, Zugdidi, Samtredia, Tsulukhidze, Telavi) occupied an important position in the national economy¹².

Essential changes took place in the Caucasian silk industry in 1940—1975. Production of silk and rayon fabrics increased sixteen times but the share of the macroregion in the production of the USSR fell to 6.1% in 1975.

As it results from statistical figures the production of silk and rayon fabrics in the Caucasian region amounted to 97.1 million running meters

¹² Nachkebia, *op. cit.*, p. 23.

in 1976. This figure includes 43.8 million meters produced in the Georgian SSR, 34.6 million meters produced in the Azerbaijan SSR and 18.7 million meters in the Armenian SSR. Production of silk and rayon fabrics in the Caucasian region (7.1 m²) per inhabitant (was smaller than in Poland) but higher than the USSR average (6.2 m² — see Table 8).

Table 8

The share of Caucasian republics in the USSR production of silk fabrics in percentages

Republics	Years				Production in 1976 per 1 inhabitant in square meters
	1913	1940	1967	1975	
Armenian SSR	—	0,3	1,0	1,2	6,5
Azerbaijan SSR	—	0,2	1,3	2,1	6,0
Georgian SSR	—	6,9	2,2	2,8	8,8
Caucasian macroregion — Total	—	7,4	4,5	6,1	7,1 (approx.)

Source: Pinchenson: *op. cit.*, Tabl. 153, p. 91; *Narodnoje khozyajstvo SSSR v 1975 g.*, p. 285; and our own calculations.

Owing to new investment projects there are more and more filatures and weaving mills. The silk and rayon industry is located at present in the following centres: Alaverdi, Kirovakan, Yerevan (Armenia); Kazakh, Ordubad, Sheki (Nukha), Stepanakert (Azerbaijan); Kutaisi, Lanchkhuti, Makharadze (Choni district) Samtredia, Tbilisi, Telavi, Tsulukidze (Georgia). The most important centres out of the above-mentioned centres are: Tbilisi, Yerevan, Kutaisi and Stepanakert and also the enterprise located along the southern slopes of the Great Caucasus (Sheki) and along the Araks river (Ordubad). As a result of big changes in the post-war territorial production structure the relative supremacy of the silk and rayon industry in Georgia decreased considerably to the advantage of that industry in Azerbaijan (Table 9).

Woollen industry. Woollen industry like other textile industries appeared in the Caucasian region only in Soviet times. Before that wool articles were represented by folk weaving handicrafts which satisfied only the most urgent needs. Woollen fabrics came to the Caucasian region from other parts of the Russian empire. The cloth mill in Kutaisi started in the nineteenth twenties with Russian machinery and equipment delivered by W. I. Lenin's order, marked the beginning of the Caucasian woollen industry. The cloth establishment in Kirovabad was modernized and extended. A new woollen plant was also started in Tbilisi. In spite of that wool production before the Nazi invasion was not large. Essential changes occurred in the nineteen fifties when new woollen

Table 9

The share of Caucasian republics in the production of silk fabrics in percentages

Years	Caucasian macroregion	Including		
		Armenian SSR	Azerbaijan SSR	Georgian SSR
1940	100,0	3,5	3,5	93,0
1965	100,0	20,2	26,9	52,9
1970	100,0	17,6	26,9	55,5
1975	100,0	19,6	34,2	46,2

Source: Narodnoje khozyajstvo SSSR v 1975 g., and our own calculations.

mills were constructed (among others in Baku, Yerevan, Yevlakh). The development of the industry continued in the nineteen seventies. The scouring plant i Shuakhevi was considerably increased. A new wool spinning mill came into being in Barda. A small wool weaving mill was put into operation in Kulashi. New wool mills including a scouring plant led to the limitation of transporting of greasy wool to scouring plants in the Northern Caucasus and full cycle wool processing in the Caucasian region. As a result production of woollen fabrics in the period 1940—1975 increased over nine times (from 2.4 million meters in 1940 to 22.3 million meters in 1975). In the above-mentioned period the share of the Caucasian region in the USSR production of woollen fabrics rose from 2.0% to 4.0%. The woollen industry in Azerbaijan developed more quickly than woollen industries in two other republics. It should be mentioned, however, that in 1976 woollen fabrics production per one inhabitant in the Caucasian region amounting to 2.3 m² was 0.7 m² lower than the USSR average (Table 10). This industry does not cover the local needs fully and therefore some woollen articles are imported from other regions and from abroad (also from Poland). As in the past some wool articles are made by cottage worker's methods. The tradition of making warm woollen socks, shirts and sweaters has been kept alive here. These products made in folk and national style are often sold to tourists who buy them readily.

The state authorities encourage cottage-work because this handicraft and touristic infrastructure stimulate the development of mountainous regions and prevent the population from going to the plains. The textile handicraft in the mountains helps to use the reserves of man-power more fully and to increase production of woollen articles.

The bulk is, however, supplied by factory production. Large wool mills are located in Yerevan (Armenia), Baku, Kirovabad, Yevlakh

Table 10

The share of Caucasian republics in the USSR production of woollen fabrics in percentages

Republics	Years				Production in 1976 per 1 inhabitant in square meters
	1913	1940	1967	1975	
Armenian SSR	—	0,0	1,2	0,8	2,7
Azerbaijan SSR	—	0,4	1,7	2,2	2,8
Georgian SSR	—	1,6	1,2	1,0	1,6
Caucasian macroregion — Total	—	2,0	4,1	4,0	2,3 (approx.)

Source: Pinchenson, *op. cit.*, Tabl. 152, p. 90; *Narodnoje khozyajstvo SSSR v 1975 g.*, p. 285; and our own calculations.

(Azerbaijan), Kutaisi, Marneuli, Suakhevi, Tbilisi (Georgia). The largest enterprises are in Tbilisi, Baku, Yerevan. In 1970 they grouped about 42% of the value of fixed assets in the Caucasian woollen industry and gave 2/3 of the total production value of this industry. As in other textile branches there occurred fundamental changes in the Caucasian woollen industry. While in 1940 the Georgian SSR was the most important manufacturer of woollen textiles, so at present the leading place is occupied by the Azerbaijan SSR which produces over a half of Caucasian wool fabrics (Table 11).

Table 11

The share of Caucasian republics in production of wool fabrics in percentages

Years	Macroregion total	Including		
		Armenian SSR	Azerbaijan SSR	Georgian SSR
1940	100,0	0,0	20,8	79,2
1965	100,0	30,7	41,9	27,4
1970	100,0	25,7	42,1	32,2
1975	100,0	20,6	55,6	23,8

Source: *Narodnoje khozyajstvo SSSR v 1975 g.*, and our own calculations.

Knitting and Hosiery Industry. The knitting and hosiery industry in the Caucasian region came into being after the Socialist Revolution. The development of that industry was preceded by the semi cottage-worker's production of stockings and clothing. The first big knitwear-hosiery plant called „Aztrikitaze" was built in Baku

in the nineteen thirties. In that period they also put into operation a stocking factory in Leninakan (the Armenian SSR), a knitwear plant in Tbilisi with a special cotton spinning department.

There was a new knitwear plant in Yerevan. Further knitwear and hosiery plants started production in the Caucasian region after the Second World War. They included knitting yarn plants in Khachmas and Sumgait, knitwear plants in Baku, Nakhichevan, Kuba, a large hosiery plant in Tbilisi with its tailoring department in Mtskheta. Knitwear plants in Poti, Bordzhomi and Sukhumi as well as a stocking factory in Telavi were also put into operation. As a result the Caucasian knitwear industry plays an important part in the USSR. In 1940 the Caucasian macroregion supplied 7.6% of knitted underwear articles produced in the USSR. Production rose very fast after the Second World War.

In 1940—1978 production of knitted underwear in the Caucasian region rose over 10 times and production of knitted garments over 13 times. In 1978 production in the Caucasian republics amounted to 101 300 000 pieces of underwear and 43 100 000 knitted garments. The development in Armenia was the fastest. In 1940 this republic produced 2 million pieces of underwear whereas in 1978 60.2 million.

The share of Armenian knitted underwear in the total production of the USSR was 5.6%. The respective figures for Georgia and Azerbaijan were 2.1% and 1.7% (Table 12). Production of knitted underwear in Armenia was in 1975 30 times higher than in 1940. In Georgia the increase was 10 times. No wonder, therefore that production of the

Table 12

The share of Caucasian republics in the USSR production of knitted underwear in percentages

Republics	Years				Production of knitted underwear in 1976 per one inhabitant in pieces
	1940	1965	1975	1978	
Armenian SSR	1,6	5,1	4,9	5,6	18,1
Azerbaijan SSR	4,1	1,8	1,9	1,7	3,4
Georgian SSR	1,9	2,5	2,1	2,1	4,3
Caucasian macroregion — Total	7,6	9,4	8,9	9,4	6,8 (approx.)

Source: V. A. Vasilieva, N. A. Grechukhina, M. M. Mijasnikova, *Osnovnyye problemy razvitiya proizvodstva i spros na trikotazhnyye izdeliya*, Moskva 1976, p. 42, 45; *Narodnoje khozyajstvo SSSR v 1975 g.*, and our own calculations.

above-mentioned articles per head of population exceeded the USSR average. At that time there were 18.1 pieces of underwear per one inhabitant in Armenia that is 4.6 times more than the country's average.

Table 13

The share of Caucasian republics in production of knitted underwear in percentages

Years	Macroregion total	Including		
		Armenian SSR	Azerbaijan SSR	Georgian SSR
1940	100,0	20,6	54,6	24,8
1965	100,0	54,7	18,9	26,4
1970	100,0	55,1	19,6	25,3
1975	100,0	54,6	21,8	23,6
1978	100,0	59,4	18,4	22,2

Source: compare table 12 and our own calculations.

Big progress was also made in production of knitted garments. The rate of growth in the period 1940—1978 was higher than in the whole country. The production of knitted garments in the Caucasian republics increased 13 times as compared with the eightfold increase in the USSR. The growth of production in Azerbaijan and Armenia was particularly fast. In the nineteen seventies the share of Caucasian knitwear production of knitted garments per inhabitant in 1976 was nearly twice as high as the USSR average: 2.9 pieces as compared with 1.8 (Table 14).

Table 14

The share of Caucasian republics in the USSR production of knitted clothing in percentages

Republics	Years				Production of knitted clothing in 1976 per one inhabitant in pieces
	1940	1965	1975	1978	
Armenian SSR	1,7	2,2	3,3	3,2	5,6
Azerbaijan SSR	1,2	0,6	1,9	2,6	1,8
Georgian SSR	2,5	2,6	3,0	3,2	2,7
Caucasian macroregion — Total	5,4	5,4	8,2	9,0	2,9 (approx.)

Source: Vasilieva and others, *op. cit.*, p. 30, 33; *Narodnoje khozjaistvo SSSR v 1975 g.*, p. 289; and our own calculations.

The yearly growth of knitwear production was about 30% in the 1965—1975 which meant the highest figure in the USSR. A high but varied rate of production increases in particular Caucasian republics resulted in changes in territorial structure. It was reflected in a relative decrease of the share of the Georgian SSR and a marked increase of the share of the Azerbaijan SSR. The change was a result of expansion of knitted hosiery industry in Azerbaijan. The disproportions in the distribution of knitting industry are negligible (Table 15).

Table 15

The share of Caucasian republics in production of knitted clothing in percentages

Years	Macroregion total	Including		
		Armenian SSR	Azerbaijan SSR	Georgian SSR
1940	100,0	31,3	21,9	46,8
1965	100,0	40,2	11,8	48,0
1970	100,0	52,0	15,6	32,4
1975	100,0	40,1	23,2	36,7
1978	100,0	35,3	29,0	35,7

Source: compare table 14 and our own calculations.

That does not apply, however, to the distribution of hosiery production which was already developed before 1940. At that time production was mainly concentrated in Azerbaijan. Essential changes in the territorial structure of production took place in the post-war period. The Armenian SSR became then the main producer of hosiery articles. The importance of hosiery production in Georgia also increased. Production of hosiery articles in the Armenian SSR in 1976 was 18 pairs per one inhabitant which was over three times more than the USSR average (Table 16). The Armenian SSR sends a large proportion of its hosiery production to neighbouring republics and other parts of the USSR. There are considerable disproportions in the territorial distribution of the Caucasian hosiery industry. The production centres are: Goris, Kamo, Kirovakan, Leninakan, Stepanavan, Yerevan (Armenian SSR); Baku, Khachamos, Nakhichevan, Sumgait (Azerbaijan SSR); Bordzhomi, Kobuletti, Kutaisi, Mtskheta, Poti, Sukhumi, Tbilisi, Telavi, Zugdidi (Georgian SSR). The most important centres are: Baku, Yerevan, Leninakan and Tbilisi.

Carpet and rug industry. Carpets, and tapestry rugs are manufactured in the Caucasian region in many places. Handicrafts

Table 16

The share of Caucasian republics in the USSR production of hosiery in percentages

Republics	Years				Production of hosiery products in 1976 per one inhabitant in pairs
	1940	1965	1975	1978	
Armenian SSR	2,0	3,6	3,2	3,4	18,0
Azerbaijan SSR	4,3	2,6	1,9	2,4	5,4
Georgian SSR	0,6	0,9	1,6	1,5	5,1
Caucasian macroregion — Total	6,9	7,1	6,7	7,3	7,9

Source: Vasilieva and others, *op. cit.*, p. 51, 54; *Narodnoje khozyajstvo SSSR v 1975 g.*, p. 208; and our own calculations.

connected with this production were traditional occupations of the people of this region. The industrial production of carpets connected with such a type of production belonged to traditional occupations of the population. Industrial production of carpets, tapestry

Table 17

The share of Caucasian republics in hosiery production of the macroregion in percentages

Years	Macroregion total	Including		
		Armenian SSR	Azerbaijan SSR	Georgian SSR
1940	100,0	29,2	62,4	8,4
1965	100,0	51,1	35,8	13,1
1970	100,0	50,9	30,1	19,0
1975	100,0	47,8	28,0	24,2
1978	100,0	47,3	32,6	20,1

Source: compare table 14 and our own calculations.

and rugs developed only recently. It was considerably increased by technical progress achieved in the technology of carpeting production, as well as by application of new floor materials (floor coverings) the demand for which grew considerably. One of the best known carpet manufacturers in the Caucasian region is M. D. Gusejnova carpet factory in Kirovabad. The factory was put into operation in the nineteen seventies. Up to quite recent times carpet manufacturing had been represented by numerous small enterprises. In the Armenian

SSR carpet factories are located in the towns: Artik, Dilizan, Goris, Idgevan, Kamo, Kafan, Kirovakan, Razdan, Sevan, Spitak, Stepanavan, Yerevan and also in such villages as Uparan, Basargrehtar, Echegnadzer, Martumi, Sisian, Shakhnazar and Wierin Talin. Armenia is the largest carpet producer in the Caucasian region but in 1940 it produced only 16 900 square meters of carpets. The production in this republic rose to 2 500 000 square meters in 1976. In 1970 the share of the Armenian SSR in the country's production of pure wool and half-wool carpeting was about 10%. This figure clearly demonstrates the high rank of Armenian carpet industries in the interregional distribution of labour.

Carpet production in the Azerbaijan SSR is concentrated in Agdam, Divichi, Kazach, Kirovabad, Kuba, Kusary, Shemakka, Shusha and Konagkent. Azerbaijan occupies the second place in production of carpets, rugs and tapestry in the Caucasian region. The production of these products in 1976 reached 1 800 000 square meters. The production of this textile branch does not fully meet the local market requirements all the more as some part of the production is sent to other regions of the country or exported.

The Caucasian textile industry, as it has already been pointed out, developed in the times of socialist construction, especially after World War II (Table 18). At present the textile industry is an integral part of the Caucasian economy and is closely connected with the local raw materials base (in contrast to most textile branches in the European part of the USSR).

The problems of textile industry development can be compared with the problems of textile industry in Russian Central Asia where this industry was also built from the beginning.

In this article it is difficult to show various problems connected with the discussed branch all the more as in particular republics there exist specific demographic and economic conditions which determine the functioning of textile industry. The textile mills constructed in the Caucasian region represented quite frequently a compromise between the interests of particular republics with those of the whole country. Interpretation of these interests is extremely difficult. The problems of changes in the territorial and branch structure of the Caucasian textile industry as well as its distribution (Table 19) have been presented in the article only as an outline of the situation. There were various reasons why the problems could not be fully examined. The authors had only ordinary statical data and literature at their disposal. The authors did not have detailed information about employment, productivity of men and machines, value of production in parti-

Table 18

Textile production in the Caucasian Region in 1940—1975

Republics and kinds of prod.	Unit	Production				
		1940	1950	1965	1970	1975
ARMENIAN SSR						
Cotton fabrics	mln of m	26,8	34,6	88,3	94,5	100,1
Woollen fabrics	mln of m	0,0	0,6	3,8	5,2	4,6
Silk fabrics	mln of m	0,2	1,5	7,9	12,1	18,2
Knitted underwear	mln of m	2,0	6,4	36,7	44,6	46,5
Knitted clothing	mln of pieces	1,0	1,1	4,1	15,4	15,4
Hosiery	mln of pairs	9,8	14,8	49,3	42,0	47,9
Carpets	mln of m ²	0,0	0,0	—	1,3	2,5
AZERBAIJAN SSR						
Cotton fabrics	mln of m	49,1	49,2	132,2	132,9	125,5
Woollen fabrics	mln of m	0,5	0,4	5,2	8,5	12,4
Silk fabrics	mln of m	0,2	2,2	10,5	18,5	31,7
Knitted underwear	mln of pieces	5,3	4,9	12,7	15,9	18,9
Knitted clothing	mln of pieces	0,7	0,4	1,2	4,6	8,8
Hosiery	mln of pairs	20,9	21,9	34,5	24,9	28,1
Carpets	mln of m ²	—	—	—	0,8	1,8
GEORGIAN SSR						
Cotton fabrics	mln of m	0,4	5,4	59,2	63,9	66,2
Woollen fabrics	mln of m	1,9	2,6	3,4	6,5	5,3
Silk fabrics	mln of m	5,3	7,2	20,7	38,2	42,8
Knitted underwear	mln of pieces	2,4	4,8	17,7	20,5	20,1
Knitted clothing	mln of pieces	1,5	0,9	4,9	9,6	14,1
Hosiery	mln of pairs	2,8	4,0	12,6	15,7	24,3
Carpets	mln of m ²	—	—	—	0,5	—

— data not available.

Explanation: The table has been prepared on the basis of statistical data included in USSR statistical publication.

cular territories and in particular branches. The authors wanted, however, to present general distribution of textile industry in the Caucasian region as well as the rate of development and the importance in the USSR distribution of labour.

The authors think that the article in spite of its deficiencies will make the reader acquainted with matters which are not much and not often written about since textile industry in socialist countries is not usually equipped with the best technique and rarely introduces real technical progress. In the past the Caucasian textile industry could not boast most modern technical equipment and modern technical processes but even to-day it does not attract young people who as good obser-

Table 19

Textile industry centres in the Caucasian Macroregion

Name of locality	Number	Nature of the locality	Branches of textile mills (C)	Republic
1	2	3	4	5
Agdam	1	A	6	Azerbaijan
Akstafa	2	A	1	Azerbaijan
Alaverdi	3	A	2, 4, 6	Armenian
Ali Bayramly	4	A	1	Azerbaijan
Aparan	5	B	6	Armenian
Artashat	6	A	1	Armenian
Artik	7	A	6	Armenian
Baku	8	A	2, 3, 5	Azerbaijan
Barea	9	A	1, 3	Azerbaijan
Basargrechar	10	B	6	Armenian
Borshomi	11	A	5	Georgian
Dalmamedli	12	B	1	Azerbaijan
Dilizhan	13	A	6	Armenian
Divichi	14	A	6	Azerbaijan
Echegnadzor	15	B	6	Armenian
Geogchay	16	A	2	Azerbaijan
Goradiz	17	B	1	Azerbaijan
Gori	18	A	2	Georgian
Goris (prev. Gerjusi)	19	A	5, 6	Armenian
Idzhevan	20	A	6	Armenian
Ilichevsk	21	B	1	Azerbaijan
Kafan	22	A	6	Armenian
Kano (prev. Nor Bajazet)	23	A	5, 6	Armenian
Kazach	24	A	1, 4, 6	Azerbaijan
Khachmas	25	A	5	Azerbaijan
Khashuri	26	A	b)	Georgian
Kirovabad (prev. Chandža)	27	A	1, 2, 3, 6	Azerbaijan
Kirovakan	28	A	4, 5, 6, a)	Armenian
Kobuleti	29	A	5	Georgian
Konagkent	30	B	6	Azerbaijan
Kuba	31	A	5, 6	Azerbaijan
Kulashi	32	B	2	Georgian
Kusary	33	A	6	Azerbaijan
Kutaisi	34	A	2, 3, 4, 5	Georgian
Lanchkhuti	35	A	4	Georgian
Leninakan (prev. Aleksandropol)	36	A	2, 5	Armenian
Lyaki	37	B	1	Azerbaijan
Makharadzhe (prev. Choni)	38	A	4	Georgian
Marnueli	39	A	3	Georgian
Martuni	40	B	6	Armenian
Mingechaur	41	A	2	Azerbaijan

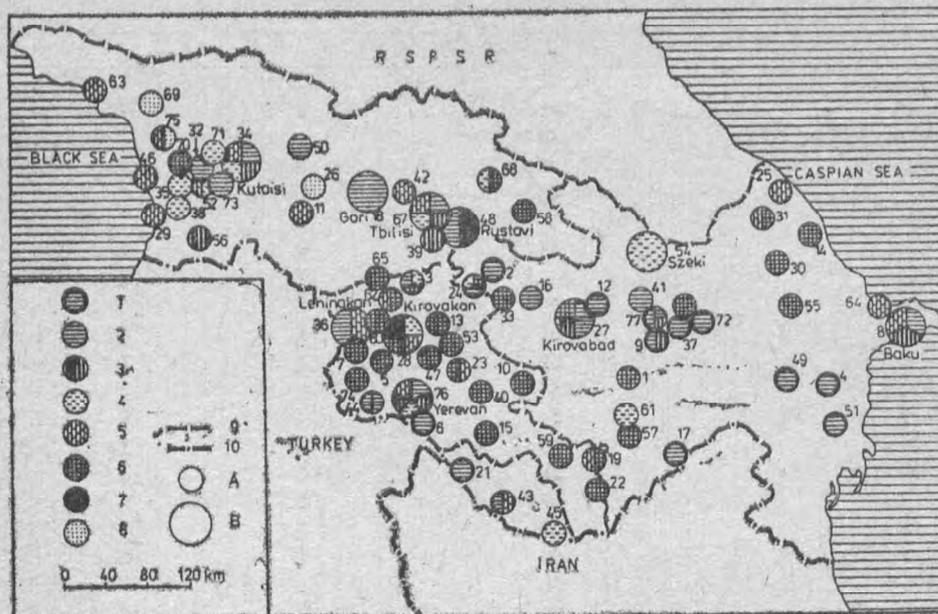
Table 19 (contd.)

	1	2	3	4	5
Mtskheta		42	A	5	Georgian
Nakhichevan		43	A	1, 5	Azerbaijan
Oktemberyan		44	A	1, 2	Armenian
Ordubad		45	A	4	Azerbaijan
Poti		46	A	5	Georgian
Razdan		47	A	6	Armenian
Rustavi		48	A	2 a)	Georgian
Sabirabad		49	A	1	Azerbaijan
Sachkhere		50	A	2	Georgian
Sal'yany		51	A	1	Georgian
Samtredia		52	A	4, 5	Azerbaijan
Sevan		53	A	6	Georgian
Sheki (prev. Nukha)		54	A	4	Armenian
Shemakha		55	A	6	Azerbaijan
Shuakhevi		56	B	3	Azerbaijan
Shusha		57	A	6	Georgian
Signakhi		58	A	6	Azerbaijan
Sisian		59	B	6	Georgian
Spitak		60	A	6	Armenian
Stepamakert		61	A	4	Armenian
Stepanavan (prev. Dzhalat Ogly)		62	A	5, 6	Azerbaijan
Sukhumi		63	A	5	Armenian
Sumgait		64	A	5	Georgian
Shachnadzor		65	B	6	Azerbaijan
Shamchor		66	A	1	Armenian
Tbilisi		67	A	2, 3, 4, 5	Azerbaijan
Telavi		68	A	4, 5, 6	Georgian
Tkvarcheli		69	A	b)	Georgian
Tskhakaya (prev. Achal Senaki)		70	A	6	Georgian
Tsulukidze		71	A	4	Georgian
Udzhary		72	A	1	Georgian
Vani		73	B	2	Azerbaijan
Vierin Talin		74	B	6	Georgian
Zugdidi		75	A	5 b)	Armenian
Yerevan (prev. Erivan)		76	A	2, 3, 4, 5, 6,	Georgian
Yevlakh		77	A	1, 2, 3	Armenian

Explanation: A — urban centres; B — villages and urban-type centres; a) man-made fibers centres; b) haberdashy and non woven articles centres; 1 — cotton ginning plants; 2 — cotton mills; 3 — wool mills; 4 — silk and rayon mills; 5 — knitwear and hosiery mills; 6 — carpet factories.

vers prefer to be engaged in well paid industries which demand high qualifications.

The textile industry in the Caucasian region was located either in regions rich in raw materials or as an addition to heavy industry cen-



Ryc. 2. Distribution and branch structure of textile industry in the Caucasian region
 1 — cotton ginning plants, 2 — cotton industry, 3 — woollen industry, 4 — silk and rayon industry,
 5 — knitting hosiery industry, 6 — carpeting and rug industry, 7 — chemical fiber industry,
 8 — haberdashery industry, 9 — republic boundaries, 10 — state boundaries, A — small and medium
 textile centre, B — large textile centres

tres. Sometimes it was necessary to bring workers here from other regions of the USSR. The position of textile industry became stronger in Soviet times especially after the end of World War II. Like extracting industries and other processing industries, textile industry has become an essential factor of industrialization and stimulation of economic activity.

As it has been previously mentioned, textile industry in the Caucasian region was located near raw materials centres. A fuller realization of that principle could, however, take place with the development of cotton cultivation, mechanization of harvest and replacement of primitive methods of cotton processing by industrial methods. Construction of filatures was also essential. The construction of textile industry in the Caucasian region had to be preceded by technical infrastructure development of vocational education, birth of textile machinery industry and so on. Such an infrastructure was established here. We

think that in the nineteen eighties the existing textile industry which is steadily modernized and enlarged, will retain its position in the economy of the Caucasian republics.

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PRZEMIANY W STRUKTURZE TERYTORIALNEJ I BRANŻOWEJ
PRZEMYSŁU WŁÓKIENNICZEGO ZAKAUKAZIA

Zakaukazie stanowi jeden z tych makroregionów ekonomicznych ZSRR, które uformowane zostały w czasach budownictwa socjalistycznego. Obszar ten szczyci się bogatą historią i dorobkiem kulturalnym. Do czasów Rewolucji Październikowej Zakaukazie było krainą rolniczą. Przemysł rozwinął się dopiero w warunkach gospodarki socjalistycznej. Jedną z gałęzi, którą związane z miejscową bazą surowcową był przemysł włókienniczy.

Na Zakaukaziu, w Azerbejdżańskiej SSR uprawiana jest bawełna, a hodowla jedwabników oraz hodowla owiec rozwinięta jest we wszystkich zakaukaskich republikach związkowych. W 1975 roku Azerbejdżańska SSR wyprodukowała 177,8 tys. t bawełny. W tym samym roku, w makroregionie dostarczono dla przemysłu włókienniczego ponad 1000 ton jedwabiu naturalnego oraz 20,1 tys. t wełny owczej. Część surowców włókienniczych przerabiana jest w innych regionach ZSRR. W przeszłości taki los spotykał całą masę surowcową.

Na Zakaukaziu występują niemal wszystkie branże przemysłu włókienniczego. Wielkość produkcji poszczególnych branż w 1976 roku prezentują następujące dane: 3745 mln m² tkanin bawełnianych, jedwabnych i wełnianych, 130,9 mln sztuk bielizny osobistej, okryć i ubiorów dziewiarskich, 108,6 mln par wyrobów pończosznich oraz 4,3 mln m² wyrobów dywanowych. W makroregionie zakaukaskim, w Armeńskiej i Gruzińskiej republikach związkowych powstał także przemysł włókien chemicznych. W artykule kolejno przedstawiono rozwój i rozmieszczenie poszczególnych branż włókienniczych, ich zmiany w układzie terytorialnym i gałęziowym oraz udział w produkcji krajowej.

Autorzy poparli swoje wywody dokumentacją statystyczną, rycinami oraz spisem miejscowości, w których istnieją zakłady i przedsiębiorstwa włókiennicze. Stwierdza się między innymi, że w końcu lat siedemdziesiątych istniejący na Zakaukaziu przemysł włókienniczy, który poddawany jest modernizacji i ulega rozbudowie, utrzyma dotychczasową pozycję w gospodarce narodowej republik związkowych Zakaukazia.