

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Services from the Perspective of Sectors in Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States

Elżbieta Skąpska

Białystok University of Technology, Wiejska 45A, Białystok 15-351, Poland.

Abstract

Despite transformations of modern economies into direction of the market economy with postindustrial features, service sectors in individual countries of The Commonwealth of Independent States are still being treated vestigial. Judging by the areas of all the analyzed countries, the development of services mainly concerns transportation, communication and trade. The article determines values of services for Euro Asiatic economies by means of the indicators which are the strongest at creating a measurable picture of services as a development factor, i.e. contribution of services in building the gross domestic product and profitability of enterprises from the service sector. In order to present the potential of services in the post soviet countries, the statistical analysis has been used and the results indicate the categories of services which play the most significant role in reaching consecutive stages of the development by particular economies.

Keywords: *Services, Countries of the commonwealth of independent states, Service growth.*

JEL classification: D20, E23, F02

Introduction

The role of the service sector in national economy may be defined only after analysis of its influence on the process of social-economic advancement. Services considerably condition the economic, social and cultural progress and remain tightly connected with the social-economic transformations Flejterski et al. [1]. The effort to characterize the profile of the countries in The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) needs to stress the fact this group is transforming their economies unequally. The distance in the development mainly results from cultural differences, accepted values and their dissimilar functioning mechanisms. The CIS countries represent incomplete system transformations, i.e. the stage of a hybrid system that is understood as a partially deformed socialistic system non-prescriptive, but still a distributive one. Furthermore, political factors and conflicts cause a great economic impoverishment, including relatively low activity of economic entities in the field of services. Economic

potential translates into the degree of involvement of those states in specific service activity and designating services for international exchange. Certain underdevelopment of the service sphere in the areas of CIS interlinks with substantial underestimating their values in use by post-socialistic institutional solutions, which have shaped the structure of the economy directed, in particular, at the raw material sector, heavy industry and construction works.

Economic Value of Services

Services that have price, because of their utility, comprise wealth. In the history of economic thought the main considerations on services regarded the origin of nations' wealth, the evolution of views on the productive aspect of work and the structure of national economy. According to the theory of mercantilists, the national wealth should be extended by using beneficial managing the capital account. In the development of

exchange there is sense of the development of production. Physiocrats thought the only productive activity that brought wealth was labor connected with producing goods. It consisted in transforming natural goods, i.e. in farming, forestry or in extractive industry. The other branches of economy, including services, there were, according to those thinkers, no new values and there was only the transformation of the physical and economic form. They said such work was idle and it did not increase the national income. On one hand physiocrats saw the provision of services as unproductive work, on the other hand they perceived it as socially important and profitable which was significant from the standpoint of creating material wealth itself [2].

One of the most prominent representatives of classical economics- A. Smith claimed that the sole source of nation's wealth is work. The amount of the labor performed by a society and its efficiency affects the size of the wealth. One type of work increases the value of the item in which the labor has been put into (productive work) and the other type that does not bring such effects (unproductive work). Thus, the work that gives service-like effect should be considered as unproductive as it does not increase the value of the item and does not augment wealth in the country so it is useless. In classical economics economy is divided into two spheres: production of material goods and a service sphere. The first group makes national wealth. It includes trade, transportation and communication. The other group does not create wealth and does not participate in building the social product and the national income. It only affects the consumption so it is excluded from the research field of political economy.

In the concept of economic development stages, the significance of services in national economies was foreseen by F. List, and J.B. Say placed services in the total income. In the service structure of the developed economies of the world, services dominate over the industry and farming. Such trend especially prevails in the USA, Japan, Germany, Great Britain where the contribution of services in GDP reaches 70-80%. In the age of consolidating national

economies into the world economy, where it has been just recently that one notices productive i.e. economic dimension of services, the economic system functions based on a market mechanism corrected by states which are its basic economic subjects and involve in the international cooperation through a system of agreements and international organizations [3].

Considering multi-criterion division of services on the international scale one may distinguish the following types [4]: traditional services, e.g. services for households; complementary services for the industrial sector, e.g. transportation, trade services, telecommunication; dynamic services of new type, i.e. construction services, insurance and educational services, healthcare and information technology.

Basic features of critical services, as for their trade capacity, i.e. the ones that condition the course of the globalization processes in the service sector, are: factorial character, the lack of service ownership rights, coincidence of place and time of production and consumption, co-participation of a receiver in the process of service provision, local character and relatively high level of overhead costs. Masłowski [5] combines the above features that are service specific with the influence of service activity on the process of globalization. Intangible factorial character of services means inability to create resources and produce in advance. Services represent the streams of economic goods. Making the service trade international does not generate the demand for the physical transport of resources-tangible factors of service production as well as for their users and the items that belong to them (the objects that undergo the service process). In turn, the lack of the service ownership means that in service trade there are no contracts for sale, but agreement specific to services, e.g. order contracts, forwarding contracts, carriage, agency and commission. Another feature that does not concern all types of services is coincidence of time and place of production and consumption. It results in the lack of the resource of finished products which means the necessity to maintain the staff in constant readiness. The transfer of a

finished product is typical of the article market, and on the service market, as a substitute, there is the transfer of a provided subject or service potential.

In the conditions of increased liberalization of the world trade, the competition pressure from foreign producers and suppliers on a domestic market is growing. The division itself has no longer such importance from the point of view of economic entities that function on broadly open markets or the ones that are opening Council of Social-Economic Strategies [6]. Modern instruments of growth can be ascribed with, most importantly, the progress in the work organization, technology, market mechanisms and the progress in the regulation mechanisms that is activated by enterprises, a state and its institutions and supranational organizations or various international connections. According to M. Lücke, the list of factors that determine the economy competitiveness should include, among the others, the cost of labor [7]. The standpoint of many economists is that education expenses are the most effective investments that stimulate economic and social growth. The educational system affects the quality of the staff – “the core” of proper functioning of economic entities. The reasons for the significance growth of services in particular economic systems must include:

- Longer life expectancy;
- Higher educational level of society and urban processes;
- Greater professional activity of women;
- Civilizational progress, humanization and intellectualization of human life;
- Globalization of world economy;
- Bigger wealth of societies and increased inclination for acquiring;
- Rapid development of technology, especially information technology;
- Privatization in service sector;
- Deregulation processes that lessen state’s interference.

Considering the above information, one must not forget criteria for the economy division into sectors that was mentioned. As for the first sector- farming, the division includes

enterprises with decreasing income in the period of intense growth of national income, enterprises producing goods necessary for living, branches with average technical growth. The second sector – industry, includes the enterprises with fast-growing income and soaring number of people being employed in the initial phases. Then there was suppression and slight decrease of growth indices. The division has also enterprises producing goods for which there is flexible demand and they cannot be described as the ones necessary for living. Furthermore there are branches with high technical advancement, large diversity in the costs of producing goods in developed and less developed countries. The third sector-trade and finance, transportation, communication, gastronomy, personal services, entertainment, music, art, healthcare, insurances, upbringing, national defense, construction works, advisory services have intangible aspect of production and slow and constant growth of the employed; all the enterprises which create new types of goods for satisfying the flexible demand. In this sector there is production that is possible due to technical progress and economic activity with low technical progress. The costs of production in the countries of similar level of development are more or less the same.

Position of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Placing Services on International Market

The trade relation with other regions of the world (Table 1) is an important background for examining the services categories of the CIS countries.

The data of the World Trade Organization show in the five year period 2000-2005 there was relatively high pace of growth in the trade of services. Various service categories: transportation, traveling and other market services, the ones from outside the table data, show the fact that the biggest growth can be found in services that constitute modern services-25%, traveling-18% and transportation-15%. In the next periods 2005-2010 and 2012-2013 there was easily noticeable weakening of the growth. In the market service category the growth

amounted to: 13% in transportation, 9 % in traveling, 19% in other market services.

Table 1: Growth of commercial service exports by category and by region, 1990-2013-Annual percentage change

Years	World	North America	South America/Central America	Europe	CIS	Africa	Middle East	Asia
1990-95	8	8	9	-	-	7	-	14
1995-00	5	7	6	4	-	4	-	4
2000-05	11	5	8	13	18	12	13	12
2005-10	9	8	10	7	14	9	10	12
2012	2	5	6	-2	9	7	9	7
2013	6	5	2	7	9	-3	4	5

Source: WTO 2015

The suppression of the development made 14% in total. In 2012 and 2013 there was little growth: 6 % and 5 %, 10% and 9 %, 12% and 14 % respectively. The total number amounted to the level of 9 %. If one takes into account transactional costs, the lowest ones, often lower than in industry- due to advance in technology of microelectronics; they are borne in cross-border trade. Thus, the considerable growth of pace in service development is observed in the countries where the markets are not saturated with services. Relatively low

growth took place in North America and Europe which reflected market balance and a high level of economic development.

Activity of Service Sector in CIS Countries

Russian Federation

Activity of the service sector in Russian economy in the researched years marked a wave curve. Russian Federation did not maintain the upward trend in the whole period. The best years as for generating gross added value by services were: 2002, 2003, 2009 and 2010.

Table 2: Service input in gross added value in CIS countries in 1995-2013 (% of GDP) and number of unprofitable enterprises-housing and communal services and household and personal services)

Years	Added value	Housing and Communal Services	Household Services and Personal Services
1995	55.9	3210	870
1996	54.1	46	1084
1997	55.5	4867	1006
1998	57	6226	768
1999	55.5	5936	676
2000	55.6	6017	623
2001	57.7	5945	535
2002	60.9	6337	538
2003	61.2	6164	511
2004	58.1	-	-
2005	57	-	-
2006	58.2	-	-
2007	59.1	-	-
2008	59.5	-	-
2009	61.7	-	-
2010	61.4	-	-
2011	58.2	-	-
2012	59.2	-	-
2013	59.8	-	-

Source: World Bank 2015; CIS Stat 2014 [8,9].

The contribution of services in generating added value in Russia in the last year of the researched period, i.e. 2013 was below 60% (59.8) and in comparison with the previous

year it gained only about 4pp (3.9)-twice lower than Azerbaijan and slightly higher than Belarus (2.7pp) and Kazakhstan (2.5pp).

Table 3: Service contribution to income in 1991-2013 and 1993-2009

Country	Personal services	Transport and communication	Trade	Housing and communal services	Procurement	Construction
Russia	+	+	+	-	+	+

Attention: 1991, 1992, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 – no data, the data regards 1993-2009.

Source: CIS Stat 2014 [9].

The structure of services included the following categories of beneficial services: personal services, transportation and communication, trade, housing and communal services, procurement and construction. Georgia and Armenia made no positive achievement in this respect and they were not active in all the abovementioned branches. The review of the CIS countries with respect to the present value and the GDP along with service activity concludes that the most underdeveloped countries like Azerbaijan or Turkmenistan recorded rapid growth of national production due to the oil sectors. However, their GDP value still attests poor economic condition of those countries. Conversely, the economic activity expressed by the income from the services is impressive in certain categories in comparison to other countries.

The category of personal services recorded the greatest incomes in Azerbaijan and Belarus. Some visible activity at a comparable level was also in 10 other CIS countries, except for Moldova and Georgia in the “Transportation/Communication” category. Russia as a leading CIS country in almost every service activity is one of the three the least viable states as for the sub-sector of services called “Housing and Communal Services. The lack of complete data does not allow to see the whole picture, but lets one to include two more countries in the non-viable group, namely, Kazakhstan and Ukraine.

East European Post-soviet Countries

Services in the Belarusian economy developed, in comparison to the Russian economy, considerably lower gross added value. The most favorable years included: 2001, 2002, 2003. It is barely 51%.

Table 4: Contribution of services to gross added value in CIS, 1995-2013 (% of GDP); and number of unprofitable enterprises-housing and communal services and household and personal services)

Years	Belarus			Moldavia			Ukraine		
	VA	Housing and communal service	Personal service	VA	Housing and communal service	Personal service	VA	Housing and communal service	Personal service
1995	45.6	114	63	34.8	-	-	41.9	812	1167
1996	44.4	82	58	37.9	-	-	48	1048	1274
1997	43.4	83	44	40.8	-	-	50.5	1110	1454
1998	45.5	88	38	43.8	-	-	49.6	1284	1900
1999	46.2	97	38	53.1	-	-	47.2	1525	1759
2000	46.7	151	8	49.2	-	-	46.6	1976	3857
2001	50.9	174	8	49.9	-	-	48.9	-	-
2002	51.2	140	10	52.7	-	-	50.8	-	-
2003	51.1	131	8	54	-	-	53.3	-	-
2004	48.8	155	10	62.2	-	-	52.2	-	-
2005	46.1	13	5	64.1	-	-	57.3	-	-
2006	47.1	82	10	67	-	-	55.2	-	-
2007	47.2	20	4	70.8	-	-	55.8	-	-
2008	44.4	16	3	72.4	-	-	58.5	-	-
2009	47.1	19	3	74.1	-	-	62.1	-	-
2010	47.2	-	-	69.6	-	-	60.1	-	-
2011	47.8	-	-	68.4	-	-	60.1	-	-
2012	47.2	-	-	69.9	-	-	61.5	-	-
2013	48.3	-	-	68.4	-	-	62.6	-	-

Source: World Bank 2015; CIS Stat 2014 [8,9].

Countries that increased their contribution considerably in the last research year, in

relation to 1995: Moldova – 33.6pp. Ukraine, in 2013, was among four countries

that had the greatest contribution to-62.6%, before Russia (59.8). The weakest result in

the increase, but slightly better than Kyrgyzstan (2.5), went to Belarus-2.7pp.

Table 5: Service contribution to income from economic activity- separate countries 1991-2013

Country	Personal services	Transport and communication	Trade	Housing and communal services	Procurement	Construction
Belarus	+	+	+	+	+	+
Moldova	+	-	-	-	+	+
Ukraine	+	+	+	-	+	+

Source: CIS Stat 2014 [9].

Belarus is a country where the strongest service group is personal services, trade, communal services and construction works. Statistical offices in America and Europe have different structures for kinds of services.

Based on the data, the service sector of Belarus has the following types of services: household services, transportation, communication, utility, culture, tourist industry and sightseeing, hotels and accommodation places, physical culture and sport, medical institutions and sanatoriums, education and others. After the analysis of services in 1995-2013, one may divide them into two groups. The first one that had express contribution and the second with the scant contribution. In the first category one finds the most active services in the year 1995, 2004 and 2013. These are utility services (24.2; 30.9; 17.8% respectively), transportation (29.1; 18.1; 12.8%), communication (11.0; 19.5; 21.3%) and

household services (17.3; 11.5; 15.3%). The second group (0.2-9.7%) includes: culture, tourist industry and sightseeing, hotels and accommodation places, physical culture and sport, medical institutions and sanatoriums. The largest profit in Moldavia is generated by financial services-insurance mainly. In case of Ukraine it is construction works.

South Caucasus Countries

Based on the data (Table 6) on countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia one may state that Georgia and Armenia developed the upward tendency in creating the gross added value by services in 1995-2013. Georgia in 2006 recorded a high rise from 56.5% up to 62.3 % and maintained the value above 62 %. In Armenia, there has been an upward tendency since 2009, despite a slight drop in 2010, but it is still the value that is not reaching even 50 %.

Table 6: Service contribution to gross added value in CIS countries in 1995-2013 (% of GDP) and number of unprofitable enterprises – housing and communal services and household and personal services)

years	Armenia			Azerbaijan			Georgia		
	VA	Housing and communal services	Personal services	VA	Housing and communal services	Personal services	VA	Housing and communal services	Personal services
1995	25.8	-	-	39.1	154	29	32.1	-	-
1996	30.6	-	-	33.4	159	50	42.1	-	-
1997	34.8	-	-	38.3	237	69	47.1	-	-
1998	35.2	-	-	44.6	200	-	49.5	-	-
1999	38.3	-	-	40.1	247	-	51.2	-	-
2000	35.5	-	-	37.5	-	-	55.7	-	-
2001	35.3	-	-	36.7	-	-	55.6	-	-
2002	35.1	-	-	34.6	-	-	55	-	-
2003	34.3	-	-	34	-	-	53.8	-	-
2004	34.2	-	-	33.4	-	-	55.7	-	-
2005	33.8	-	-	26.5	180	152	56.5	-	-
2006	34.9	-	-	23.8	273	129	62.3	-	-
2007	35.8	-	-	24.6	-	-	65	-	-
2008	38.1	-	-	23.3	-	-	68.7	-	-
2009	45.3	-	-	32.3	-	-	68.7	-	-
2010	43.8	-	-	30	-	-	69.4	-	-
2011	43.3	-	-	29	-	-	67.6	-	-
2012	45.2	-	-	31.5	-	-	66.9	-	-
2013	46.6	-	-	32.3	-	-	66.6	-	-

Georgia (Since 2009 outside regional integration grouping). Source: World Bank 2015; CIS Stat 2014 [8,9].

The lowest value and the weakest result as for the growth was achieved by Azerbaijan-32.3% and 6.8 pp. Countries that extended

their contribution include Georgia-growth by 34.5 pp., and Armenia-20.8 pp.

Table 7: Service contribution to income from business activity-Selected countries 1991-2013

Country	Personal services	Transport and communication	Trade	Housing and communal services	Procurement	Construction
Azerbaijan	+	+	+	+	-	+
Armenia	-	+	-	+	-	+
Georgia	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: CIS Stat 2014 [9].

The most profitable service categories in Azerbaijan and Armenia turned out to be “transportation and communication” and “construction”.

In the group of the remaining countries the highest value in the service respect was achieved by Kyrgyz Republic. The country that increased the contribution considerably in the last researched year in relation to 1995 is Tajikistan-28.6 pp.

Central Asian Post-soviet Countries

Table 8: Contribution of services to gross added value in CIS, 1995-2013 (% of GDP) and number of unprofitable enterprises-housing and communal services and household and personal services)

Year	Kazakhstan			Kyrgyzstan			Tajikistan			Turkmenistan			Uzbekistan		
	VA	profit	no profit	VA	profit	no profit	VA	profit	no profit	VA	profit	no profit	VA	Profit	no profit
1995	55.7	227	225	36.6	63	8	22.2	37	22	20.2	-	-	39.9	27	4
1996	60.3	398	246	32	56	8	29.5	41	24	17.8	-	-	43.4	12	3
1997	61.2	479	189	32.6	60	3	35.9	26	26	30.4	-	-	41.7	17	10
1998	59.7	-	-	37.7	62	2	45.8	53	27	31.6	-	-	42.5	-	-
1999	54.6	-	-	37.3	62	5	43	59	21	27.8	-	-	42.2	-	-
2000	50.8	-	-	31.9	65	2	33.7	50	1619	31.2	-	-	42.5	-	-
2001	51.8	-	-	34.8	58	3	33.8	61	25	31.4	-	-	43.4	-	-
2002	52.8	-	-	39	-	-	35.9	87	19	35.6	-	-	43.7	-	-
2003	53.9	-	-	40.6	-	-	35.4	82	17	38.4	-	-	43.4	-	-
2004	54.8	-	-	42.6	-	-	43	65	27	40.4	-	-	43.3	-	-
2005	53.1	-	-	45.7	-	-	44.8	58	18	43.6	-	-	48.3	-	-
2006	52	-	-	47.2	-	-	44.7	41	14	46.3	-	-	46.5	-	-
2007	53.3	-	-	49.3	-	-	47.3	33	16	42.8	-	-	44	-	-
2008	51	-	-	49.4	-	-	48.9	47	15	34	-	-	47.9	-	-
2009	53.3	-	-	52.4	-	-	51.4	53	-	34.2	-	-	47.3	-	-
2010	52.3	-	-	51.4	-	-	49.7	-	-	37	-	-	48.4	-	-
2011	53.6	-	-	50.6	-	-	50.3	-	-	37	-	-	48.3	-	-
2012	55.8	-	-	55.3	-	-	50.9	-	-	37	-	-	48.8	-	-
2013	58.2	-	-	55.6	-	-	50.8	-	-	0	-	-	54.6	-	-

Source: World Bank 2015, CIS Stat 2014.

In descending order, the contribution of services to gross added value, i.e. 19pp to 14 pp, was reached by three countries: Kyrgyz

Republic, Turkmenistan (data for 2012) and Uzbekistan. The weakest results in the growth belong to Kazakhstan-2.5 pp.

Table 9: Service contribution to income from business activity 1991-2013 and 1993-2009

Country	personal services	transport and communication	trade	housing and communal services	procurement	construction
Kazakhstan	-	+	+	-	+	+
Kyrgyzstan	-	+	-	-	+	-
Tajikistan	-	+	+	-	-	+
Turkmenistan	-	+	+	-	+	+
Uzbekistan	+	+	+	+	+	+

Source: CIS Stat 2014.

It is worth noticing that structural services in the income category marked their

presence the most and they included transportation services and communication in all the researched countries. The crucial

role was also played by insurance services and construction works. The remaining services hardly had any influence.

Conclusions

Based on the data on the service activities in particular countries, it is imperative to underline the strong presence of the following categories: *personal services*-Azerbaijan and Belarus, *transportation and communication* – all countries except for Moldova and Georgia, *trade*-Belarus, Russia, Turkmenistan, *communal service*-Belarus, *procurement*-Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, *construction*-Azerbaijan, Belarus, Turkmenistan and Ukraine.

Structural reflection of the service development in particular economies, that are at different stages of progress, is various properties for various stages. The initial phase is filled with services that do not require high qualifications, i.e. services for households like coking or cleaning. The next

stage is connected with demanding qualifications, for instance, services for repairing shoes. Then, there is a phase that serves the industry-accounting services, insurances, transportation and services of consumptive nature, for example: tourist services. The higher level concerns the development of services that are based on high technologies, i.e. IT services like communication, computer connected services. What is more, one may discern the phase of business services. The last phase is solely attributed to developed countries where this sort of services reached a high level of progress.

Marking the phase of the development of services in particular countries of the CIS has been included in Table 10 and has taken into account the indices like the GDP growth, the contribution of services to the gross added value and profitable enterprises from the service sectors.

Table 10: Ranking of CIS countries according to phases of service development

Country	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
Azerbaijan		X		
Armenia	X			
Belarus			X	
Kazakhstan			X	
Kyrgyz Republic	X			
Moldova		X		
Russian Federation				X
Tajikistan	X			
Turkmenistan		X		
Uzbekistan	X			
Ukraine		X		
Georgia		X		

Source: Own elaboration.

Based on the data included in the yearbook on foreign trade (2012, 2014), one may notice that in 2013 and 2011 (in current prices in thousands of US dollars) the biggest activity in providing services in finance, procurement, business, insurance and tourist industry was declared by Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. The relatively scant activity belonged to Georgia, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Armenia. The other CIS countries had showed a marginal level of activity.

The least developed countries of The Commonwealth of Independent States, which mainly include Azerbaijan and

Turkmenistan, recorded quick growth of the gross added value due to fast development of the oil sectors. However, its current value proves poor economic condition. Considerable income was provided by service activity in the fields of personal services, trade and construction works. The lack of activity in the infrastructural business was observed in the countries such as: Georgia, Moldova and Azerbaijan. Each country, in 1995-2013, gained profit from the service sub-sector of transportation and telecommunication [9-15].

Table 11: Service structure with high activity (A) and low activity (L/A) in all CIS countries according to service categories in 1995-2013

Country	Personal services	Transportation and Communication	Trade	Communal services	Procurement	Construction services
Armenia		A	L/A		L/A	
Azerbaijan	A	A			L/A	A
Belarus	A	A	A	A		A
Georgia	L/A	L/A	L/A	L/A		L/A
Kazakhstan	L/A	A		L/A		
Kyrgyzstan	L/A	A			A	L/A
Moldova		L/A			A	
Russia		A	A	L/A		
Tajikistan		A				
Turkmenistan	L/A	A	A	L/A	L/A	A
Ukraine		A		L/A		A
Uzbekistan		A				

Source: Own elaboration.

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