

STATE AND DEVELOPMENT TRENDS OF SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES IN UKRAINE

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The article analyses the place and role of small and medium enterprises, the state and trends of their development. The advantages of forming and developing small- and medium-sized businesses are identified. Several stages of formation of the small and medium enterprises sector during the years of Ukrainian independence, including the process of drafting and implementing the legislative framework, are highlighted.

The main structural and functional indicators of small and medium enterprises development are analysed. This includes the number of small and medium enterprises, the number of employed workers, the volume of sales, financial results before taxation by types of economic activity, the profitability of small and medium enterprises. The dynamics of changes in capital investments of small and medium enterprises are analysed. The analysis of these

indicators showed a small social benefit from the functioning of small and medium enterprises, despite the large share of these economic units.

The main areas and directions of small and medium enterprises activity and the structure of small- and medium-sized enterprises by branches are presented. Research of innovation activity of industrial enterprises is conducted. The main reasons for the low innovation activity of small and medium enterprises, the inhibitory factors of the functioning of SMEs are identified. It is important to develop preventive measures to enhance the activities of small- and medium-sized enterprises, to identify the main strategic and tactical guidelines for SME development at the state, regional, and local levels, to implement clear, real, and effective ways to effectively and efficiently support their functioning.