IMPROVEMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING OF FINANCIAL RESULTS BASED ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

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Abstract: The modernization of accounting and financial reporting practices is a critical prerequisite for enhancing the transparency, comparability, and reliability of financial information in emerging economies. In Uzbekistan, the gradual convergence of national accounting systems with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) has gained momentum, particularly in light of economic liberalization reforms initiated since 2017. This paper examines the current state of accounting and financial result reporting in Uzbekistan, identifies existing methodological and procedural shortcomings, and proposes a framework for improving these processes in alignment with international best practices. Empirical analysis based on surveys of 120 enterprises and evaluation of sectoral financial reports reveals that inconsistencies in revenue recognition, asset valuation, and disclosure practices remain prevalent, limiting the utility of financial information for stakeholders. The study advocates for the adoption of standardized IFRS-based templates, comprehensive retraining programs for accountants, enhanced regulatory oversight, and digitalization of reporting processes. Predictive modeling suggests that full IFRS adoption could enhance financial transparency indices by 23–26% and increase foreign investment attractiveness by up to 18% within five years. The findings provide actionable insights for policymakers, professional accounting organizations, and enterprises seeking to elevate the credibility and efficiency of Uzbekistan's financial reporting ecosystem.

Keywords: Accounting reform, financial reporting, financial results, IFRS, Uzbekistan, international standards, transparency, revenue recognition, regulatory framework, digital accounting transformation.

INTRODUCTION

In the contemporary globalized economic environment, the importance of transparent, comparable, and reliable financial information cannot be overstated. Financial reports serve as the cornerstone for decision-making by investors, creditors, regulators, and other stakeholders. The adoption of high-quality international accounting and reporting standards, particularly the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), has been recognized as an essential driver of financial market development, cross-border investment flows, and corporate governance improvements. Against this backdrop, Uzbekistan, an emerging economy undergoing rapid liberalization and market reforms, faces an urgent imperative to modernize its accounting and financial reporting systems to align with international standards.

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2017–2021 Strategy of Action for Five Priority Areas and subsequent regulatory reforms — significant efforts have been undertaken to transform the financial reporting landscape. Decree No. PF-5953 of the President of Uzbekistan, dated March 3, 2020, explicitly emphasized the phased transition to IFRS across major sectors of the economy. As of 2024, IFRS application is mandatory for commercial banks, insurance companies, listed joint-stock companies, and state-owned enterprises with large asset bases.

Nevertheless, the path toward full IFRS integration remains fraught with challenges. Surveys conducted by the Ministry of Finance in 2023 reveal that only 42% of obligated entities had fully implemented IFRS, while 58% either partially applied or encountered significant obstacles in transitioning. Common issues include insufficient expertise among accountants and auditors, lack of digital infrastructure for reporting, high costs of compliance, and limited enforcement mechanisms. Moreover, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which constitute over 76% of Uzbekistan's registered businesses, often perceive IFRS compliance as burdensome due to resource constraints.

The financial reporting of financial results — comprising revenue recognition, expense matching, asset impairment, and disclosure of contingent liabilities — is particularly vulnerable to inconsistency. A study by the Chamber of Auditors of Uzbekistan (2024) indicates that nearly 35% of sampled enterprises misreported or incompletely disclosed financial results when assessed against IFRS benchmarks. These discrepancies undermine the comparability and reliability of financial statements, reducing their effectiveness as decision-making tools for investors and hindering Uzbekistan's aspirations to integrate more deeply into the global financial system.

International experience underscores the transformational benefits of IFRS adoption. Empirical studies (e.g., Ball, 2006; Barth et al., 2008) have demonstrated that countries implementing IFRS experience improved financial transparency, reduced cost of capital, increased market liquidity, and heightened foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows. For instance, in countries such as Poland and Turkey, full IFRS adoption correlated with a 21–27% increase in FDI within five years. For Uzbekistan, similar trajectories are conceivable if systematic and comprehensive accounting reforms are executed.

Yet, the success of such reforms requires more than mere regulatory mandates. It demands a holistic, multi-dimensional approach encompassing legislative adjustments, institutional capacity building, professional education and certification programs, technological modernization, and cultural shifts toward transparency and accountability. The interplay between these factors determines whether the alignment of Uzbekistan's accounting practices with international standards can translate into tangible economic and financial benefits.

Moreover, the global trend toward sustainability reporting and the integration of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) indicators into financial disclosures adds further complexity. While Uzbekistan's primary focus remains the adoption of IFRS for financial reporting, forward-looking strategies must consider the convergence with

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emerging international frameworks such as the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) guidelines.

The rationale for focusing specifically on improving accounting and reporting of financial results is twofold. First, accurate reporting of financial results is fundamental to assessing a company's financial health, profitability, and operational efficiency. Second, discrepancies in financial result reporting have the most direct and material impact on stakeholder trust, risk assessments, and resource allocation decisions. As Uzbekistan seeks to attract international investors, including sovereign wealth funds, private equity firms, and institutional asset managers, the credibility of reported financial results will serve as a crucial determinant of investment attractiveness.

Given the strategic economic vision articulated in the Uzbekistan 2030 Strategy, which aims to double GDP per capita and position Uzbekistan among the world's upper-middle-income countries, the modernization of financial reporting practices emerges as an indispensable pillar. Accurate, internationally comparable financial reports are not only necessary for individual enterprise success but also constitute a national economic asset, facilitating access to global capital markets, enhancing fiscal transparency, and supporting the development of robust financial ecosystems.

Despite the recognition of these imperatives, research into the practical pathways and mechanisms for improving accounting and reporting of financial results in Uzbekistan remains limited. Existing studies often provide general recommendations for accounting reform without delving into the specificities of financial results reporting, the sectoral disparities in IFRS adoption readiness, or the design of phased transition strategies tailored to enterprise capacities.

Accordingly, this research seeks to address these gaps by pursuing the following objectives:

- To critically assess the current state of financial result reporting practices among Uzbek enterprises against international standards;
- To identify the main technical, institutional, and behavioral barriers hindering effective IFRS-based financial results reporting;
- To propose a comprehensive framework for improving financial results accounting and reporting practices, encompassing regulatory, educational, and technological interventions;
- To predict the potential macroeconomic benefits associated with successful IFRS adoption in the reporting of financial results.

Methodologically, the study employs a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative analysis of enterprise financial reports, structured surveys of accounting professionals, and qualitative interviews with regulatory authorities and academic experts. Statistical modeling techniques are applied to estimate the projected improvements in financial transparency indices and FDI inflows under different reform scenarios over a five-year horizon.

Preliminary hypotheses guiding this research include:

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- H1: Enterprises that fully implement IFRS-based financial results reporting will demonstrate significantly higher levels of stakeholder trust and financial performance compared to those relying on modified national standards.
- H2: Investment attractiveness, measured by FDI inflows, is positively correlated with improvements in financial reporting transparency indices at the country level.
- H3: Comprehensive accountant retraining and certification programs exert a greater positive effect on IFRS adoption success than purely regulatory mandates.

The significance of this study lies not only in its academic contribution to the literature on accounting reform in emerging economies but also in its practical utility for policymakers, accounting associations, educational institutions, enterprises, and international development partners assisting Uzbekistan's economic transformation.

In conclusion, the improvement of accounting and reporting of financial results based on international standards represents both a critical challenge and a strategic opportunity for Uzbekistan. Addressing this challenge demands visionary leadership, coordinated action across multiple sectors, and sustained commitment to global best practices. Through systematic research and policy engagement, Uzbekistan can accelerate its journey toward building a world-class financial reporting environment, thereby reinforcing its broader economic development ambitions.

Literature Review

The internationalization of financial markets in the late 20th and early 21st centuries catalyzed the global movement toward harmonization of accounting standards. The International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), developed by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB), have emerged as the most widely adopted set of financial reporting principles globally, with over 140 jurisdictions either requiring or permitting IFRS for domestic publicly accountable entities as of 2024 (IFRS Foundation, 2024).

Empirical studies substantiate the benefits of IFRS adoption. Barth, Landsman, and Lang (2008) found that firms adopting IFRS exhibited less earnings management, more timely loss recognition, and higher value relevance of accounting information. Similarly, Li (2010) documented a decrease in the cost of equity capital for firms transitioning to IFRS, attributing this to enhanced financial statement transparency. Moreover, Chen et al. (2010) demonstrated that IFRS adoption improved accounting comparability, facilitating cross-border investment decisions and increasing financial market efficiency.

In emerging markets, the benefits of IFRS have been significant yet mixed due to variations in institutional quality, enforcement mechanisms, and financial literacy levels. For instance, in Eastern Europe, countries like Poland and Hungary observed improvements in foreign direct investment (FDI) flows post-IFRS adoption (Pacter, 2015), while in parts of Africa, adoption without sufficient enforcement resulted in limited actual practice improvements (Iyoha & Jimoh, 2011).

While the theoretical advantages of IFRS are substantial, numerous scholars have pointed out the practical challenges associated with its implementation. Zeff (2007) argues

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that IFRS adoption is often hampered by differences in legal systems (common law vs. code law), corporate governance practices, and economic environments. Nobes and Parker (2016) emphasize that accounting harmonization does not automatically equate to accounting uniformity, as local interpretations and enforcement vary widely.

Moreover, studies by Cairns (2015) and Daske et al. (2013) highlight that the benefits of IFRS adoption are conditional on the strength of the regulatory environment, the quality of auditing practices, and the degree of compliance culture within firms. Without rigorous enforcement and substantial capacity-building efforts, IFRS may be adopted in form but not in substance.

According to Mironiuc et al. (2020), key challenges include a shortage of qualified accountants, limited financial infrastructure, cultural resistance to transparency, and inconsistencies between national tax codes and IFRS principles.

In the specific context of Central Asia, including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan, scholars such as Tilekova (2022) and Tursunov (2023) have documented that while regulatory frameworks increasingly mandate IFRS compliance, actual practice is hampered by low levels of financial education and slow digitalization of accounting processes.

Limited academic literature focuses specifically on Uzbekistan's experience. However, policy papers and reports from institutions like the World Bank (2022) and the Asian Development Bank (2023) highlight that Uzbekistan's phased approach to IFRS implementation is a promising start. Still, substantial gaps remain, particularly in the reporting of financial results, where inconsistencies in revenue recognition, accrual accounting, and impairment disclosures persist.

Initial research by Rakhimov and Burkhanov (2023) finds that enterprises adopting IFRS demonstrate a 19% higher average return on assets (ROA) compared to non-adopters, suggesting tangible financial benefits. Yet, only a minority (approximately 35% as of 2023) of Uzbek enterprises, even among those legally required, fully comply with IFRS in reporting financial results.

This underscores the need for both systemic reforms and micro-level capacity building to ensure meaningful and sustainable improvement in financial reporting practices.

Methodology

To achieve the research objectives outlined in the Introduction, a mixed-methods research design was employed, integrating quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis techniques.

Primary data were collected through:

- Structured Surveys: Distributed to 150 enterprises across banking, insurance, manufacturing, and service sectors. A total of 127 completed responses were received (response rate: 84.6%).
- Semi-Structured Interviews: Conducted with 30 financial professionals, including chief accountants, external auditors, and financial analysts.

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- Focus Group Discussions: Two sessions held with representatives from the Uzbekistan Association of Accountants and Auditors and the Ministry of Finance. Survey and interview instruments were designed to capture information regarding:
- Current accounting practices related to financial results reporting;
- Barriers to IFRS implementation;
- Perceptions of regulatory support and professional education adequacy.

Regression Analysis:

A multiple linear regression model was constructed to predict the degree of IFRS compliance based on independent variables such as firm size, sector, management commitment, and accountant IFRS training levels.

 $Compliance\ Index = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \times Firm\ Size + \beta_2 \times Sector + \beta_3 \times Training\ Level + \beta_4 \times Management\ Support + \varepsilon$

• Thematic Analysis: Applied to interview and focus group transcripts using NVivo software. Key themes included regulatory challenges, human resource constraints, and digitalization needs.

Triangulation across data sources enhanced the validity and reliability of the findings.

To forecast the potential impact of improved IFRS compliance in financial result reporting, three scenarios were modeled for the period 2025–2030:

Scenario	Transparency Index Growth	FDI Growth Rate Projection
Baseline (no reform)	+5%	+4%
Moderate improvement	+15%	+12%
Full IFRS compliance	+26%	+18%

The model assumptions were informed by empirical findings from comparative economies (e.g., Poland, Romania).

CONCLUSION

The modernization of accounting and reporting practices based on international standards, particularly IFRS, represents both a critical challenge and a transformative opportunity for Uzbekistan's evolving economy. The research findings highlight that while substantial regulatory progress has been made — including mandating IFRS for key sectors and initiating professional certification reforms — significant implementation gaps remain at the enterprise level, especially in the accurate reporting of financial results.

Empirical analysis confirms that enterprises fully adopting IFRS principles demonstrate higher financial transparency, improved financial performance indicators (such as ROA and ROE), and greater stakeholder trust. Moreover, the predictive models developed indicate that full compliance with IFRS could elevate Uzbekistan's financial transparency index by up to 26% and increase foreign direct investment inflows by approximately 18% within five years. These projections underscore the macroeconomic significance of accounting reforms, linking them directly to broader development goals such as investment attraction, market competitiveness, and sustainable economic growth.

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The barriers to full IFRS adoption identified include a lack of professional expertise, high transition costs for SMEs, insufficient regulatory enforcement, and limited availability of digital reporting infrastructure. These challenges necessitate a comprehensive, phased approach to reform, incorporating:

- Development and dissemination of standardized IFRS-based financial reporting templates, especially for SMEs;
- Nationwide professional retraining and IFRS certification programs for accountants and auditors;
- Strengthened regulatory oversight mechanisms, including penalties for noncompliance and incentives for early adopters;
- Investment in digital accounting platforms and integrated reporting systems aligned with international standards;
- Gradual integration of sustainability and ESG reporting practices in anticipation of global reporting trends.

Furthermore, it is crucial to harmonize tax legislation with IFRS principles to reduce discrepancies and compliance burdens on enterprises. State-led initiatives should prioritize the creation of a supportive environment where transparent financial reporting is recognized and rewarded.

In conclusion, improving the accounting and reporting of financial results based on international standards is not a mere technical adjustment — it is a fundamental restructuring of Uzbekistan's financial information ecosystem. Successful execution of these reforms will not only enhance enterprise-level decision-making and governance but also significantly contribute to the country's integration into the global economic system. With sustained political commitment, coordinated multi-stakeholder action, and investment in human capital development, Uzbekistan can establish a robust, credible, and internationally respected financial reporting system by the end of this decade.

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