

CHAPTER 18**Critical Thinking Activity****Central Asia****Getting Ahead**

Since attaining independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991, the countries of Central Asia have struggled to get on sound footing economically and politically. Uzbekistan is a prime example.

The change to private enterprise has been slow for Uzbekistan. How do you determine the progress a country is making economically? Examining the data is one way. The tables below provide information about Uzbekistan. Study the tables and then answer the questions that follow.

Table 1: Human Development Index for Uzbekistan					
Category	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Life expectancy at birth (in years)	69.3	70.1	70.2	70.2	70.25
Adult literacy rate (%)	97.7	98.74	98.96	99.06	99.13
Enrollment of 6-23 year olds (%)	58.9	50.8	49.6	47.2	50.1
Average schooling (years)	10.9	11.4	11.4	11.4	11.4
Annual growth rate of population (%)	—	—	1.7	2	1.9
Birth rate 37.4	33.7	29.8	27.3	26	
Mortality rate	7.2	6.1	6.4	6.2	5.9
Total education expenditure (as % of GDP)	10.2	9.5	8.3	7.4	7.7
Total health expenditure (as % of GDP)	4.3	3.5	3.6	3.5	
Scientists and technicians (per 10,000)	13.9	14.7	12.3	12.2	11.0
Population per doctor	282	296	298	302	328
Unemployment rate (%)	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4

Source: Uzbekistan, Human Development Report, 1998.

Table 2: Uzbekistan Labor Force (in thousands, averaged over year)				
	1995	1996	1997	1998
Employees, total	8449	8561	8680	8800
Industrial production	1087	1107	1109	1114
Agriculture	3485	3505	3515	3467
Transport and communication	348	358	360	362
Construction and building	528	539	550	573
Services	705	713	715	717
Public health and welfare	487	498	500	502
Education, culture, arts and sciences	1054	1066	1070	1073
Banking and insurance	40	47	48	49
Government administration	97	98	99	110
Others	405	405	484	608

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Table 3: Consumer Prices for Uzbekistan						
Year	Food, beverages, tobacco	Clothing, footwear	Rent, water, energy	Public health	Transport and communications	Education, recreation, and culture
1994	1295.5	1057.5	1355.5	1703	1807.1	3842.3
1995	111.5	64.1	1108	82.6	188.5	154.6
1996	63.0	43.7	142.3	27.3	39.1	123
1997	21.4	34.5	58.9	61.3	56.7	34.8

Note. Data are percentage change over previous period.

1. Which industry has shown the least growth over the periods shown?

2. Do the data for health in the human development index and the Public Health and Welfare spending data correlate? Why is this so?

3. What do the consumer price changes say about the economy of Uzbekistan over the period shown? Explain your answer.

4. What consumer price appears to be stabilizing the most quickly?

5. What might the change in numbers of scientists and technicians indicate? How might that change be related to the education data?

6. Summarize the state of Uzbekistan's economy based on the data from the tables. Give specific data to support your answer.
