



## THE ROLE OF INDUSTRIES IN ECONOMIC GROWTH: AN APPROACH TO DECENTRALIZATION OF SECTORS IN LONG AN PROVINCE

Le Cong Dinh<sup>1</sup>, Pham Minh Tien<sup>2\*</sup>, Huynh The Nguyen<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Tan An City Party Committee, Vietnam

<sup>2</sup>University of Finance - Marketing, Vietnam

ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
<p>DOI: 10.52932/jfm.v3i1e.669</p> <p><i>Received:</i> November 12, 2024</p> <p><i>Accepted:</i> February 26, 2025</p> <p><i>Published:</i> March 25, 2025</p> <p><b>Keywords:</b> Contribution of Industries, Economic Growth, Long An Province.</p> <p><b>JEL codes:</b> O10, O11, O14</p>	<p>This research aims to assess the growth of industries and determine the contribution of industries to Long An province's economic growth with data collected in the period 2010-2023. By statistical analysis, comparison and cluster, the research results show that the industry plays an increasingly important role in the province's economic growth; specifically, the food production and processing always plays a major role in the group of secondary industries. The tertiary industry sector has grown well and has always played an important role in promoting the province's economic development in the current and upcoming trends including: Rubber and plastic products manufacturing; leather and related products manufacturing; chemical and chemical product manufacturing; manufacturing machinery and equipment; paper and paper products manufacturing; clothing production; wood processing and production of wood, bamboo, rattan products; straw and stubble products manufacturing. From the research results, the article suggests policy recommendations focusing on the development of industrial products with good growth and contribution; the product group is making a good contribution but growing slowly.</p>

\*Corresponding author:

Email: [phamminhtien@ufm.edu.vn](mailto:phamminhtien@ufm.edu.vn)

## 1. Introduction

Long An is a province in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam. This province borders Ho Chi Minh City to the east, Tay Ninh province to the northwest, Binh Duong province to the southeast, Dong Nai province to the south, and Tien Giang and Dong Thap provinces to the west. Long An province has a diverse economic structure, including industrial production, agriculture, trade, services, and tourism models. In particular, industrial production is a development sector, an important priority goal in the socio-economic development planning of Long An province. The goal of industrial production development of Long An province is to strive to develop the province's industry in the direction of "fast growth, advanced technology, environmentally friendly; increasing productivity, product quality, and competitiveness; sustainable development, establishment, maintenance and development of the system of industrial establishments and industrial clusters. Focus on developing the agricultural product processing industry, fishery, rural forestry, and salt industry". The development of industrial production of Long An province focuses on industrial processes, processing structures, and the capacity of industrial enterprises in industrial fields. Then, an assessment of indicators, status, and criteria affecting the efficiency of the industrial sector is conducted to measure and evaluate its situation.

Following over two decades of comprehensive renovation efforts, particularly within the industrial sector, Long An province has attained numerous significant outcomes. The Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) for the period 2021-2025 includes promoting the effective and stable development of the industry in Long An province in line with the province's industrial development strategy to 2030. To promote the economic development of the province and improve the

contribution position of important industries in the province, it is necessary. This paper will expand on the analysis of other key industries in the province, examining their technical efficiency and size, as well as the factors that affect their performance. The findings of this research will inform policymakers and industry stakeholders, enabling them to develop targeted strategies to improve the overall efficiency and competitiveness of industries in Long An province.

## 2. Theoretical basis and empirical studies

### 2.1. Theoretical basis

Regarding economic growth, according to Bui Quang Binh (2017), economic growth is an additional increase in the scale and output of products and services in a certain period. Economic growth can be measured in absolute numbers (the size of growth) or relative numbers (growth rates). According to theories of economic growth models such as Classical Growth Theory, Neoclassical Theory, Modern Growth Theory... economic growth is influenced by many factors, including industries. Economic growth is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon, influenced by a multitude of factors, including the role of industries. The available literature shows that industrialization is an important component in driving economic progress, especially in the context of underdeveloped countries.

Industrialization, as a historical phenomenon, is characterized by a structural shift in the economy, where sources of productivity, output growth and employment shift from agriculture to industrial activities, especially manufacturing (Grübler, 1994). This change was driven by the proliferation of technical, organizational and institutional innovations, which transformed the social fabric and allowed for increased productivity and output in the industrial sector (Grübler, 1994).

The fundamental function of the industrial sector in driving economic development has been increasingly highlighted in the research. Tambunan emphasizes that industrialization itself is not the end, but a strategy to achieve high growth rates (Winanda et al., 2020). Furthermore, banks play an important role in financing and facilitating the development of the industrial sector, providing ancillary services, payment services, and payments that enhance the performance and growth of industries (Akinola et al., 2020).

Particularly, small-scale industries have been acknowledged as a crucial element of economic growth, particularly in developing nations (Etefa, 2019). These industries support the growth of larger industries by providing components, accessories, and semi-finished products, and can inject vitality into the larger industrial ecosystem (Etefa, 2019). Government policies and programs aimed at promoting the development of small-scale industries are crucial, as they can serve as catalysts for industrialization and broader economic development (Verma, 1975).

In summary, the theoretical framework concerning the impact of industries on economic development posits that industrialization, encompassing both large-scale and small-scale enterprises, serves as the primary catalyst for economic advancement. Therefore, governments and policymakers should prioritize the development of the industrial sector, especially through targeted policies and programs that support the growth of small-scale industries, to unlock the full potential of economic growth and development.

## **2.2. Related experimental studies**

Improving the efficiency and contribution of industries in Long An Province, Vietnam, has become a significant concern for policymakers, researchers, and industry stakeholders. This study aims to analyze the technical efficiency

and scale of key industries in the province, providing insight into the factors affecting their productivity and competitiveness. Industry plays an important role in the economy of Long An province, accounting for a significant part of the GDP (Tung, 2013; Nguyen & Nguyen, 2020).

The research to evaluate industrial efficiency in Vietnam can be divided into three main stages. Prior to the year 2000, the methodology employed in the investigation of industrial efficiency predominantly relied on qualitative approaches, with the principal focus of inquiry being state-owned enterprises. Beginning in the year 2000, scholarly articles employing quantitative methodologies commenced their emergence. However, research methods mainly focus on using univariate indices rather than multivariate indices to evaluate industrial enterprises. The third phase encompasses studies published post-2010, as well as research conducted by international scholars concerning industrial efficiency in Vietnam. A considerable number of these studies have emphasized the utilization of the DEA model to analyze industrial efficiency. In this section, the author will conduct an analysis and synthesis of various research articles on industrial efficiency authored by domestic scholars, alongside a research paper authored by an international scholar pertaining to the industrial efficiency of Vietnamese enterprises. Based on the findings, the author will be able to offer recommendations regarding the scope of the study and the model utilized in this research.

The research examines the efficacy of Vietnamese industries categorized by industry groups. Local scholars predominantly assess the performance of Vietnamese industries through macro-level methodologies. Studies utilizing a macro approach are chiefly concentrated on industry groupings or cross-industry comparisons, which include: Nguyen Dinh Khoi and Nguyen Thi Hong Cuong (2017),

Bui Thi Kim Chau and Nguyen Thi Thanh Mai (2016), Tran Thi Thuy Hanh (2014), Nguyen Quoc Anh (2013), Tran Duc Long, Le Thanh Lam (2013), Nguyen Tat Dinh, Tran Thanh Hoang (2012), Vo Thanh Long (2012), Nguyen Quoc Anh, Tran Thi Thuy Hoa (2011), and Ngo Thanh Linh (2010). Studies conducted by foreign authors include research on industrial efficiency in Vietnam after 2010, including: Phan Duy Hoang (2011), Pham Thi Thao Hanh et al. (2010), and Mook Herath (2015).

The research examines operational efficiency within the manufacturing sector. The investigators additionally concentrated on assessing the performance of Vietnam's manufacturing domain in subsectors aligned with the economic zoning policy. The majority of scholars opted for the Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) model to conduct the efficiency evaluation. Prominent scholarly articles encompass: Nguyen Thi Manh (2014), Pham Thi Thuy Duong, Nguyen Kim Anh (2011), and Nguyen Thi Thu Trang, Hoang Van Huong (2010).

A study of the Pakistani economy found that certain industries, such as cement, chemicals, fuels and energy, paper and paperboard, sugar, textiles, transportation, and communications, are "non-cyclical for global GDP growth" (Baig et al., 2020). This shows that these industries are not heavily affected by the global business cycle and can play a more stable role in promoting domestic economic growth.

The textile industry is another field that has been extensively studied in the context of Pakistan's economy. The authors note that Pakistan's textile industry is one of the largest in the international market, as the country is a major cotton producer with a large workforce. However, they also highlight the challenges facing this industry, such as the impact of climate change and population growth on cotton production, power outages, and water scarcity (Abbas et al., 2020).

Furthermore, a study on the textile industry's wastewater treatment engineering acknowledges the textile industry's important role in Pakistan's economic development, stating that it "accounts for the largest part due to its ability to create many job opportunities and integrate with various economic sectors both globally and locally" (Adane et al., 2021).

The growing importance of the textile industry is also evident in its contribution to Pakistan's GDP. According to one source, the textile industry "contributes up to 8.5% to Pakistan's total GDP" (Ghani & Zakia, 2020). The same source also emphasized the industry's role in exports, noting that "Pakistan ranks as the 8th leading exporter of textiles".

Another study on the development of textile industry clusters in Pakistan further reinforces the importance of the industry, stating that the textile industry "contributes about 46% of the manufacturing industry's contribution" to the country's total exports (Iqbal et al., 2010).

In conclusion, the existing evidence indicates that diverse sectors, particularly textiles and other extensive manufacturing industries, are pivotal in stimulating economic advancement. These sectors not only contribute to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) but also generate employment opportunities and bolster the nation's export capabilities, thus serving as crucial elements in the trajectory of the country's economic progress.

### 3. Data sources and research methods

This study uses qualitative and quantitative methods based on secondary data from a variety of sources and references that can be considered. Statistics of sectors are collected from the Vietnam Statistical Yearbook published by the General Statistics Office (GSO). The selected dataset includes 29 tier-3 industries classified by the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT); 4 tier-1 majors including

Mining; Food production and processing; Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; Water supply; waste and wastewater management and treatment activities.

The province has been chosen as the site for the study for a variety of reasons. Firstly, this is one of the provinces in the southern key economic region of Vietnam, where many industrial parks have been formed to attract industries from all over the country. Secondly, Long An province has an appropriate scale in both geography and industry. Third, the province has an agency capable of providing datasets of the province's industries for research.

To analyze the effectiveness of industries in Long An province, we rely on time series data mainly derived from the Statistical Yearbook of Long An province, specifically the Statistical Yearbook of Long An province for the period 2010-2023. It is made available to all interested parties and includes data on key industries in Long An province, spanning both 4-digit and 5-digit industries. To keep our analysis as up-to-date as possible, we use the latest version of the Long An Statistical Yearbook which is accessible as of June 2024. In general, the Statistical Yearbook of Long An province is the main reliable source of data on the key industries of Long An province.

The choice of comparative data series depends on the purpose of the study. In the context of examining key industries in Long An province, this study will consider the following data sets as a basis for comparison: the whole province, 3 economic regions; 1st and 2nd level industries. The data is collected according to 2 price groups: comparative and current. In addition to the statistical yearbook published by the General Statistics Office, the Statistical Yearbook of Long An Province, this study will

also use independent data sources from other research institutions or governments.

## **4. Research Results**

### ***4.1. Economic growth***

Long An province has a total area of 4,494.79 km<sup>2</sup>, accounting for 1.35% of the total area of the Southeast region and 1.3% of the total area of the country. The population is 1,743,430 people (2023), accounting for 1.87% of the total population of the Southeast region and 1.73% of the total population of the country. Long An is located in the Mekong Delta region, bordering the provinces of Ho Chi Minh City, Tay Ninh, Binh Duong and Dong Nai. Geographical conditions create favorable conditions for the development of the transport system, rapid development of the road and railway transport system, soon become the heart of the important transport system of the Southwest region, connecting the transportation of goods from the Southwest region to Ho Chi Minh City and neighboring provinces with domestic and foreign markets. The province is also located on the East-West Economic Corridor with important transport corridors connecting Long An province with countries in the region such as Laos, Thailand, and Myanmar.

In 2023, the economic scale of Long An province will reach VND 168,108 billion, ranking first in the Mekong Delta region and ranking 13th in the country. Long An is currently expected to become the center of economic development of the South, an effective gateway between the Southeast region and the Mekong Delta.

The province's economic growth by year and period is shown in the following table:



**Table 2.** Economic growth of the whole province and 3 regions

	Year				Period		
Quota	2011	2015	2020	2023	2011-2015	2016-2020	2021-2023
<b>Total</b>	<b>17.59</b>	<b>13.92</b>	<b>5.44</b>	<b>6.93</b>	<b>13.40</b>	<b>11.43</b>	<b>5.32</b>
Region I (Agriculture, Forestry, Water)	6.30	3.64	2.70	4.15	4.07	2.62	3.23
Region II (Industrial, Construction)	26.07	17.08	6.15	7.37	18.00	13.59	5.64
In which: Industry	26.47	17.41	5.69	7.58	18.20	13.63	5.65
Region III (Services)	3.64	8.76	2.64	5.85	5.47	6.29	4.62

Table 2 presents the general economic growth statistics of the province and 3 economic regions. The results show that the overall economic growth of the province and three regions has decreased significantly in the period 2010-2023, specifically the period 2011-2015 was 13.4%, the period 2016-2020 decreased to 11.43% and the period 2021-2023 plummeted to 5.32%. The growth results in all three regions also decreased similar to the overall economic growth of the whole province. However, Region II (industry and construction), in which industry is the main one, is still the region with the highest growth.

#### ***4.2. Contribution of industries to the province's GRDP value***

Long An is the first province to be tasked with preparing for the establishment of the industrial park. Over the past 20 years of construction and development of industrial parks, Long An has made great changes in industrialization and modernization. Up to now, Long An province has attracted 298 investment projects in industrial parks with a registered capital of about 5.62 billion USD. In general, industrial parks built and developed in Long An province have contributed to the province's socio-economic development, increased total investment capital and created jobs for workers.

*Structure of contribution of economic sectors to the province's GRDP value*

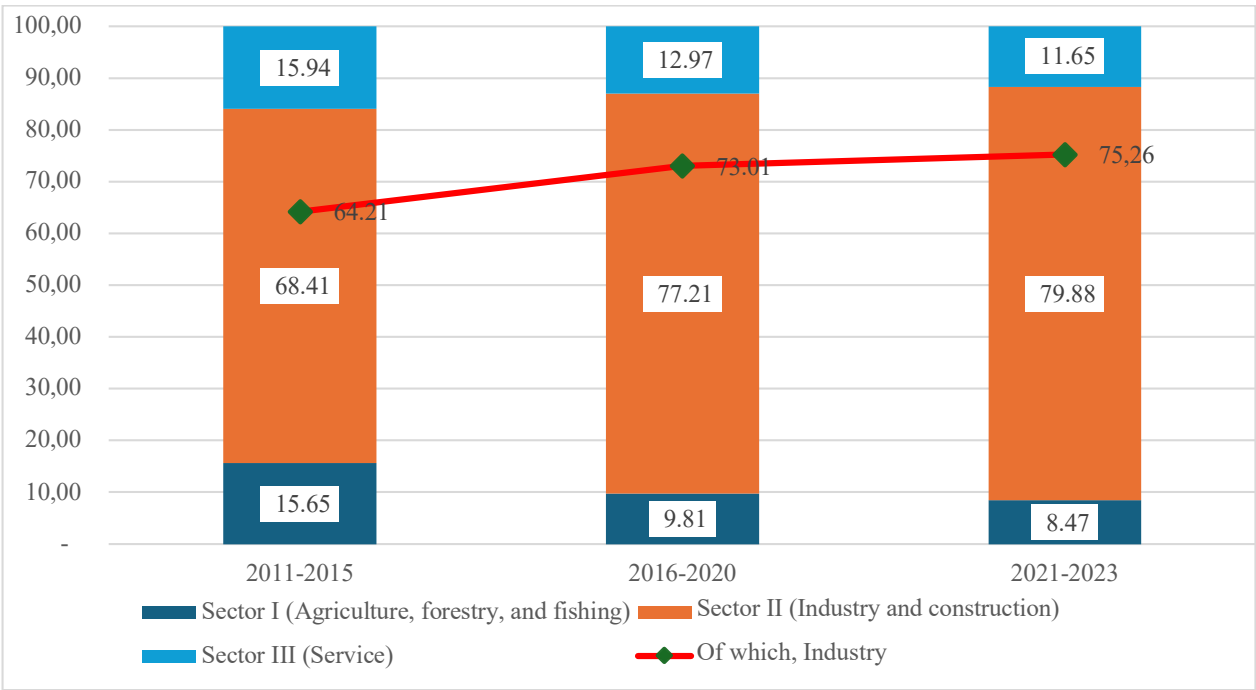


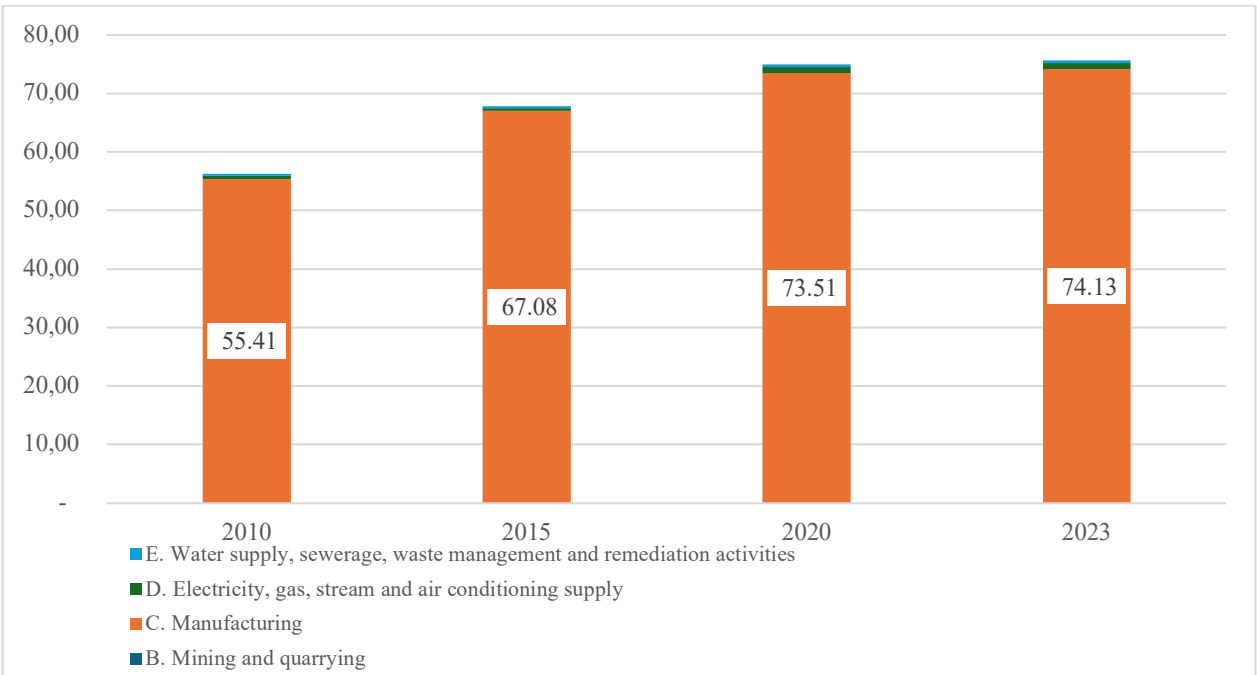
Figure 1. Contribution structure of 3 regions through period

The industrial sector in Long An province has also undergone significant changes, with the development of economic zones and industrial parks and the shift towards urbanization and modernization (Truong, 2022). The impact of these changes on the efficiency and productivity of various industries in the province is an important area of inquiry. The results (Figure 1 and Figure 2) show that region 2 in general and industry in particular always account for a high proportion of the provincial economy and the

trend of increasing contribution proportion, specifically in the period 2011-2015, region 2 accounted for 68.41% (industry is 64.21%), by the period 2021-2023 it has increased to 79.88% (industry is 75.26%).

Structure of contribution of industries 1st to the province’s GRDP value

Considering the proportion of contribution to the GRDP value of 2nd level industries, the results are shown in Figure 2.



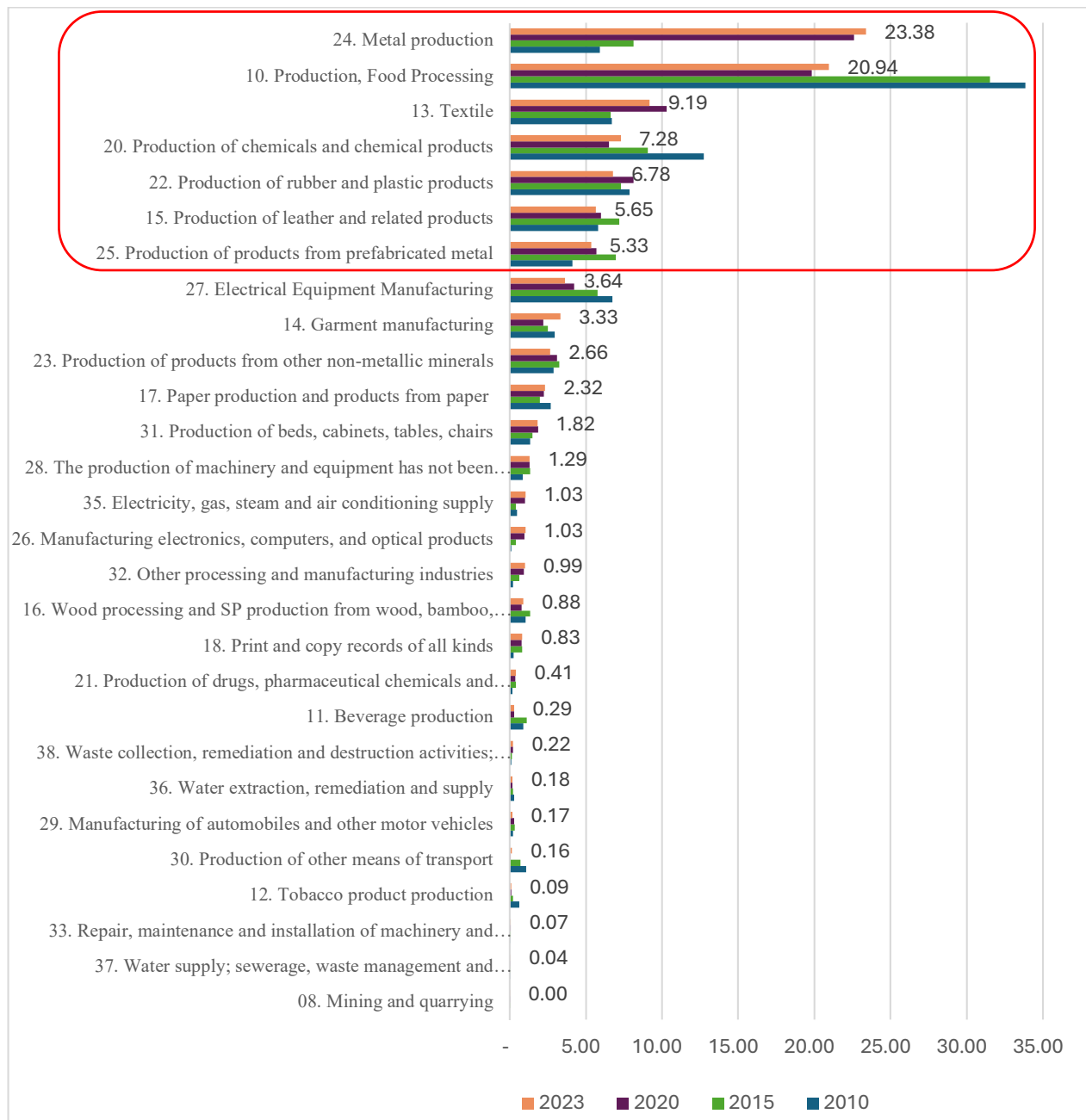
**Hình 2.** Contribution of industries 2nd level to the province’s GRDP value

In four 2nd level industries, including mining; quarrying and manufacturing industry; electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; water supply; waste and wastewater management and treatment activities, the food production and processing group dominates the entire group of 2nd level industries,

accounting for 75.13% of the GRDP value of the whole province (while the whole industry is 75.26%). This shows the leading role of food production and processing in the province’s economic development.

*Structure of contribution of 2nd level industries to the province’s GRDP value*





**Figure 3.** Contribution of 2nd-level industries to the province's GRDP

The results of the analysis of the contribution of the value of industries to the total GRDP value of the province have a proportion of over 5%, including the manufacturing of prefabricated metal products; leather and related products manufacturing; rubber and plastic products manufacturing; chemical and chemical product manufacturing; textile manufacturing; food production and processing; metal manufacturing.

#### **4.3. Contribution of industries to the province's GRDP growth**

##### *Contribution of three economic sectors and 1st industry groups*

The contribution of three economic sectors and 1st industry groups to GRDP growth is shown in Table 3.

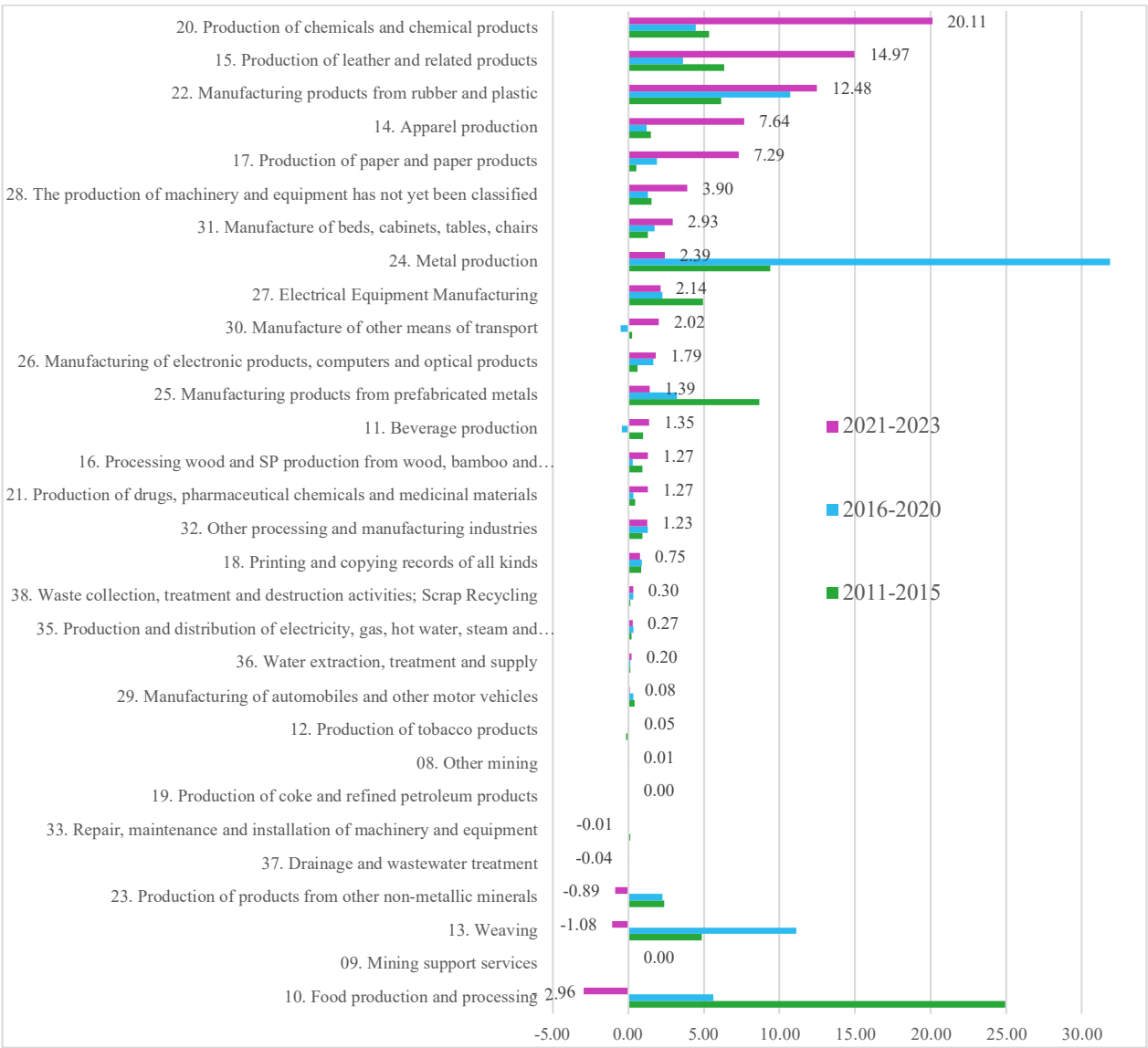
**Table 3.** Contribution of 3 regions and tier-1 industry groups to GRDP growth

Quota	Period (%)		
	2011-2015	2016-2020	2021-2023
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Sector I (Agriculture, forestry, fishing)	5.11	2.53	5.19
Sector II (Industry, Construction)	87.93	90.56	85.35
<i>of which: Industry</i>	83.46	85.73	80.86
Sector III (Service)	6.96	6.90	9.46
<b>By kinds of economic activity 1st</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00
B. Mining and quarrying	0.01	0.00	0.01
C. Manufacturing	83.02	84.93	80.14
D. Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0.19	0.32	0.27
E. Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	0.25	0.48	0.46

Similar to the results of contributing to the GRDP value, for the contribution to economic growth, region II (Industry, Construction) in general and Industry in particular are still the main groups that occupy the main contribution to the province's economic growth. In which,

the Food production and processing group is the main one. However, some of the sectors and industry groups on economic growth tend to decline.

*Contribution of 2nd level industry*



The results of the analysis of the contribution of the value of industries to the GRDP of the province accounted for over 5%, including the paper and paper products industries, clothing production, rubber and plastic products manufacturing, leather and related products

manufacturing, chemical and chemical product manufacturing.  
*Contribution of sectors 2nd level with a high proportion in the provincial economy*

**Table 4.** Contribution of sectors 2nd level with a high proportion in the provincial economy

Quota	Period			Conclude
	2011-2015	2016-2020	2021-2023	
Growth				
General province	13.40	11.43	3.16	Decline
Food Production and Processing	16.58	3.47	-0.67	Decline
Textile Manufacturing	16.35	23.48	-0.51	Decline
Leather and related products manufacturing	22.10	9.23	9.78	Decline
Chemical and Chemical Product Manufacturing	10.59	8.60	10.03	Decline
Rubber and Plastic Products Manufacturing	17.28	19.86	5.06	Decline
Metal Manufacturing	28.37	36.38	0.47	Decline
Manufacture of Fabricated Metal Products	33.80	7.52	1.04	Decline
Contribute				
Food Production and Processing	24.92	5.62	-2.96	Decline
Textile Manufacturing	4.84	11.09	-1.08	Decline
Manufacture of Fabricated Metal Products (excluding machinery and equipment)	8.66	3.21	1.39	Decline
Metal Manufacturing	9.39	31.85	2.39	Decline
Rubber and Plastic Products Manufacturing	6.13	10.70	12.48	Hold steady
Leather and Related Products Manufacturing	6.33	3.62	14.97	Strong increase
Chemical and Chemical Product Manufacturing	5.32	4.47	20.11	Strong increase

As a result, in six 2nd level industries accounting for a high proportion in the period 2011-2020, there are five industries that have significantly declined in food production and processing, textile manufacturing, leather and related products manufacturing, rubber and

plastic products manufacturing, and metal manufacturing. In which, food production and processing, textiles manufacturing have declined to negative contribution levels.

*Contribution of advantageous industries to the province's economic growth*

**Table 5.** Contribution of advantageous industries to the province's economic growth

Quota	Period		
	2011-2015	2016-2020	2021-2023
<b>High percentage group</b>			
Chemical and Chemical Product Manufacturing	5.32	4.47	20.11
Leather and Related Products Manufacturing	6.33	3.62	14.97
Rubber and Plastic Products Manufacturing	6.13	10.70	12.48
<b>New industries group</b>			
Clothing Production	1.49	1.22	7.64
Paper and Paper Products Manufacturing	0.51	1.88	7.29
Manufacture of Other Machinery and Equipment	1.52	1.28	3.90
Furniture Manufacturing	1.28	1.72	2.93

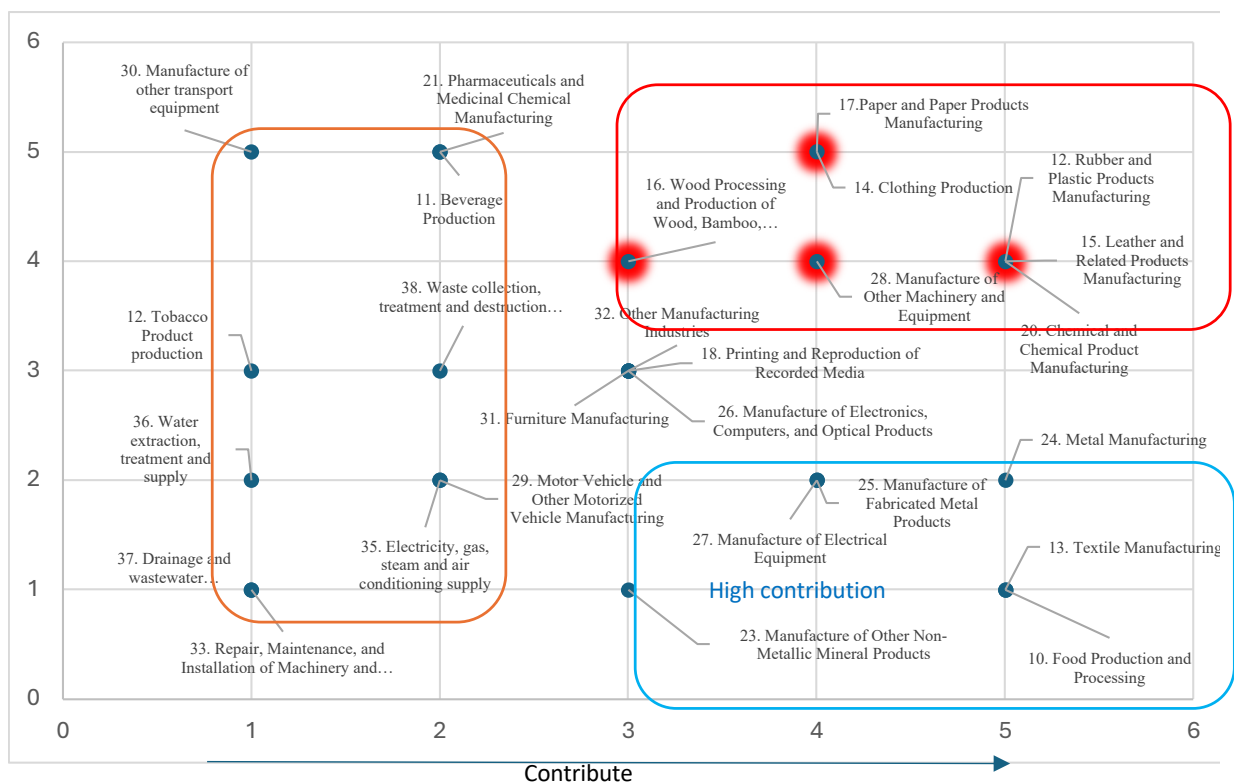
The results show that three industries include chemical production and chemical products, leather and related products manufacturing, the rubber and plastic products manufacturing maintained growth and made an important contribution to the province's economic growth. In addition, from 2021 to 2023, there are four more industries with good contributions to the province's economic growth, clothing

production, paper and paper products manufacturing, manufacturing machinery and equipment, and furniture manufacturing.

### *Results of 2nd level industry cluster analysis*

The results of estimating the relationship in the short and long-term using the ARDL model are presented in the following table:

**Table 6.** Results of analysis of 2<sup>nd</sup> level industry clusters



The group of industries that have always played a sustainable role in the development of the province is chemical and chemical product manufacturing; leather and related products manufacturing; producing products from rubber and plastic. The group of new industries that promote the role of the province's economic growth is clothing production; paper and paper products manufacturing; manufacturing machinery and equipment; furniture manufacturing.

## **5. Conclusions and implications**

### **5.1. Findings**

The study on some of the contributions of the industry in Long An province was carried out on four groups of tier-1 industries, twenty-nine 2<sup>nd</sup> level industries in the period 2010-2023 with the help of comparative statistical analysis and cluster analysis. The research methods are qualitative methods and quantitative methods. From the research results, the following conclusions can be drawn: In the

period of 2010-2023, the industry of Long An province has always played several main and important roles in creating a driving force for the development and economic growth of Long An province. Over time, industries in Long An province have changed their contributing roles within the 2nd level industry. The group of inefficient industries is food production and processing, Textile. The group of industries that have always played a sustainable role for the development of the province is Chemical and chemical product manufacturing, Leather and related products manufacturing, and producing products from rubber and plastic. The group of new industries that promote the role of the province's economic growth is clothing production, paper and paper products manufacturing, manufacturing machinery and equipment, and Furniture manufacturing.

### 5.2. Policy implications

Through the results of research and evaluation of the effectiveness of industries in Long An province, several recommendations can be made to improve the efficiency and competitiveness of industries in the province. Based on the desired premise and solutions proposed by industry experts, the author proposes recommendations on industry development policies.

Long An province needs to identify priority industries to focus on investment. The industry ranking by efficiency score according to the CRT (input-oriented) model is a useful tool for the Long An provincial government to consider industry development policies by the needs of each industry. Priority industries such as textiles, steel, wire, etc. are encouraged to continue to grow and gain competitiveness in the market. These industries are in good condition to get loans to develop new projects. The textile and wire export market has a high growth rate, especially the Cambodian market. To avoid competitive pressure, it is important to increase investment in these types of industries.

In contrast, industries with lower growth and contribution scores such as packaged food, pharmaceuticals, cement, construction, etc. need to be considered and call for investment in new technology to improve efficiency. These industries mainly include factories with simple assembly lines, labor capacity of less than 100 employees. Many factories are still operating and expanding, but in reality, their products have no market or very few contracts.

Policies and solutions to improve the overall efficiency of industries in Long An province can be generalized through three levels: (1) *improving the investment efficiency of each factory*; (2) *reducing the input use of each plant (or, conversely, consider expanding output)*; and (3) *improving overall efficiency at the sector (sub-sector) level*. The above solutions at three levels can be generalized into solutions to reduce inputs for individual factories, such as improving investment efficiency. Solutions at the level of overall industries (subsectors) can be considered as a public policy aspect.

Based on the results of the industry assessment, Long An province can issue policies to encourage development corresponding to different industries. Proactive policies are necessary for high-performing industries. Policies should encourage the promotion of efficiency improvement programs to help industries grow faster and further. In contrast, intrusive policies are necessary for industries with lower-than-average efficiency scores.

A common solution for both industry groups is the policy of improving the investment efficiency of each factory by reducing the amount of investment. Targeted solutions related to development policies will show that Long An province needs to attract more intensive investment projects in high technology, environmental sustainability and energy saving. Industries in line with the development orientation of Long An province



are: textiles and garments; shoe leather; electrical and electronic equipment; rubber and plastic; Packed; wood processing and furniture; electronic components, information technology; mechanical engineering and auto parts; etc..

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