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SOCIO-ECONOMIC DIFFERENTIATION OF RUSSIAN REGIONS AND THE PROBLEM OF ENSURING ECONOMIC SECURITY

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Abstract. *The relevance of the research topic is due to the fact that in modern conditions in Russia the regions (constituent entities of the Russian Federation) have a different level of socio-economic development, different degrees of production development, GRP per capita, as well as different levels of unemployment, employment, population income. All this also forms a different degree of investment attractiveness of regions, a different degree of living standards in them, affects in different ways on migration flows and determines different prospects for their development. Ultimately, a significant differentiation of regions in terms of the degree of socio-economic development negatively affects the economic security of the state. In a federation, regional development should be less differentiated, should be levelled, including under the influence of the federal centre. The purpose of the article is to assess the differentiation of the development of Russian regions using the example of Moscow, the Moscow region, the Sverdlovsk region and the Perm Krai, as well as to determine the prospects for the alignment of regional development. The main research results: the author noted that in order to reduce the differentiation of Russian regions and the asymmetry of regional development, the author sees it through stimulating the investment activity of the regions through improving tax legislation, providing benefits to industrial enterprises. At the same time, it is necessary to develop infrastructure, primarily transport and logistics.*

Keywords: *regional development, regional economy, internal threats, external threats.*

Introduction

Different factors determine different development opportunities. Therefore, the development of production, gross regional product, other economic indicators, as well as the standard of living of the population, income, employment will differ. In world practice, such phenomena are typical not only for developing countries or countries with economies in transition, but also for fairly developed countries, including the USA, Germany, France and others. Moreover, development imbalances are characteristic not only for the development of individual regions within a country but also for different countries that are in close proximity with close economic ties (for example, the countries of the European Union or the countries of the EAEU, CIS). Russia, being a fairly large state in terms of territory, includes 85 subjects of the federation, many of which are located at a very distant distance from the capital and the central region, in addition, different regions have different geographic, demographic position, climatic conditions, resources, level of development of productive forces, etc. Therefore, for Russia, the alignment of regional development is one of the most important tasks. The task of the state, represented by the central authorities, is to align the socio-economic development of the country's regions, to ensure the convergence of the socio-economic indicators of different regions (Stadnyk et al., 2018). The task of regional and local authorities is to search for growth points and increase the investment attractiveness of their region in order to ensure economic growth to a greater extent. Failure to do so entails an increase in differentiation and a deterioration in the economic security of the state as a whole, since the idea of national unity will not be realised, the confrontation between the population and the authorities in the regions, the confrontation between the regions and the centre, will intensify, which are clearly negative phenomena that do not contribute to the stable development of the state. It is not facilitated by the constant outflow of the population from some regions with a lower level of socio-economic development to others, since in some regions an extremely negative demographic situation is developing, in others, the constant migration increase in the population increases pressure on the labour market and also does not contribute to stable development (Dziuba, 2021; Lebedchenko, 2020; Podtserkovny, 2018).

First of all, it is necessary to dwell on the issues of economic security, to give definitions of economic security in general and the economic security of the region in particular. Thus, academician L.I. Abalkin (1994) defines economic security as the state of the economy "in which sustainable economic growth can be ensured and social needs are effectively met" (Abalkin, 1994). V.I. Vidyapin and E.A. Oleinikov (1997) point out that economic security is not only the state of the economy, but is also the result of the state of the institutions of power that must ensure this security, withstand risks and threats (external and internal threats) (Vidyapin and Oleinikov, 1997). The more resilient the economy is to such risks, the greater economic security will be provided. Further, it is necessary to turn to the issues of differentiation of regional development. The reason for the differentiation is in the asymmetry of development, that is, in the uneven development of regions or countries. V.Yu. Shcheglov and I.K. Varfolomeeva (2019) indicate that the differentiation of regions is their delineation "according to the level of social status, income, quality

of life” (Shcheglov and Varfolomeeva, 2019). At the same time, they note a high level of differentiation of Russian regions, highlighting a number of reasons why this became possible: social and economic differences between the subjects of the federation and the cost of living in these subjects; different state of development of the labour market and infrastructure; different investment climate in the regions.

In addition, authors such as A. Bagaryakov and N. Nikulina (2012) point out the importance of innovation, innovative development and readiness to perceive innovation in the region as an important factor in ensuring the development of the region and its economic security. As a result, the authors point to several types of Russian regions: agricultural regions with a developed agricultural sector (Stavropol and Krasnodar Territories, primarily the regions of the North Caucasus); industrial regions where heavy industry is developed (many large cities of the Urals, Siberia, Central Russia and the regions around them); regions with a large concentration of the mining industry with a weak development of the agrarian sector (Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug, Yakutia, in the first place); regions that are rich in natural resources or historical values (Shcheglov and Varfolomeeva, 2019; Velykanova, 2020). On this basis, Moscow, the Moscow region, St. Petersburg are among the most competitive, but other regions, due to the development of production potential, logistics, infrastructure, and the availability of resources, are also placed above the rest. K.O. Ternavshchenko et al. (2018) indicate that a significant differentiation of the socio-economic development of the region can cause the disintegration of regions, it forms “preconditions for the development of regional crisis processes with different levels of impact on the system of economic security of the state” (Ternavshchenko et al., 2018).

M.V. Shelomentseva (2016) indicates that the assessment of the state of the achieved level of economic development of the region is associated, first of all, with the study of such an indicator as the gross regional product per capita (GRP per capita) and the quantitative indicator “life expectancy at birth” (Shelomentseva, 2016). At the same time, E. Karanina and D. Loginov (2017) indicate that indicators such as GDP per capita, economic growth and others do not guarantee security by themselves, since their change and dynamics are often the results of internal factors. Therefore, it is required to analyse the independence and stability of the region, its ability to maintain the pace of development while being isolated from the centre (Karanina and Loginov, 2017; Hobela and Melnyk, 2021).

Materials and Methods

To analyse the differentiation of the studied regions, methods of horizontal and vertical analysis were used, as well as comparison of such indicators as: 1) income of the population; 2) unemployment rate according to the ILO method; 3) general and migration population growth (indices and dynamics); 4) life expectancy of the population; 5) investments in fixed assets; 6) provision of infrastructure. For comparison, 4 regions were taken:

1) Perm Territory – as a region that interests directly the author of the article, as well

- as its level of economic security, differences in socio-economic development from other regions;
- 2) Sverdlovsk region – as a neighbouring region with a developed heavy industry, at the same time the financial centre of the Ural Federal District, where one of the most significant industrial and financial centres for the country is located – the city of Yekaterinburg;
 - 3) Moscow – as the most developed region in the country;
 - 4) Moscow region – as a region adjacent to the most developed – Moscow, and also with a fairly high level of development.

The analysis was carried out for four regions in order to determine what is the differentiation and differences in the socio-economic development of these regions. The analysis period is 2016-2018. The development of the stated topic was considered in the study of the following main aspects: socio-economic indicators of the regions of Russia, the department of the Federal State Statistics Service for Moscow and the Moscow Region, as well as for the Sverdlovsk and Kurgan Regions, the territorial body of the Federal State Statistics Service for the Perm Territory.

The economic development of the region is directly related to such an indicator as the gross regional product per capita, which can dynamically change, depending on the influence of external or internal factors. Therefore, it is necessary to monitor the development of the region, depending on its location. Thus, the author proposes an analysis of the budget deficit, the region's own budget revenues without taking into account external sources (transfers from the federal budget), the volume of investments in the regional economy, the unemployment rate in the region, etc.

Also, rating models can be used to compare the socio-economic development of regions. One of the well-known and regularly compiled is the rating of the quality of life in the regions. The study of the differentiation and uneven development of regions (asymmetry) is based on the calculation of such key indicators as investment activity, the introduction of incentives in industry, and the development of the region's infrastructure.

Results

Table 1 presents comparative data on the dynamics of GRP, GRP per capita and production by sectors of the economy in the studied regions.

Table 1. Data on indicators of GRP, GRP per capita and production indices in Moscow, Moscow region, Sverdlovsk region and Perm Krai

Indicators	Moscow	Moscow region	Sverdlovsk region	Perm Krai
<i>GRP in current prices by years, bln RUB</i>				
2016	14 237	3 663	1 991	1 096
2017	15 725	3 803	2 143	1 191
2018	17 882	4 202	2 278	1 318

Indicators	Moscow	Moscow region	Sverdlovsk region	Perm Krai
Dynamics of real GRP, %				
2016	101.0%	103.3%	101.9%	96.7%
2017	101.9%	101.3%	102.0%	101.8%
2018	103.0%	103.2%	102.3%	100.8%
Average for 3 years	102.0%	102.6%	102.1%	99.7%
GRP per capita by years, bln RUB				
2016	1 150	493	460	416
2017	1 257	507	495	454
2018	1 417	553	528	505
Indices of industrial development, %				
2016	100.2	110.7	102.6	99.9
2017	101.0	111.3	101.4	104.1
2018	111.1	110.5	108.8	102.9
Average for 3 years	104.0	110.8	104.2	102.3
Retail indices, %				
2016	92.8	101.0	94.5	94.5
2017	101.2	105.3	98.5	101.4
2018	102.8	108.2	102.3	105.2
Average for 3 years	98.8	104.8	98.4	100.3

Source: Regions of Russia: socio-economic indicators 2019

From the above data, it follows that the studied regions have different dynamics of development: the highest – in Moscow, the Moscow region, slightly lower – in the Sverdlovsk region, the lowest indicators – in the Perm Krai, incl. not only by GRP, but also by the index of industrial production. Specifically, in terms of GRP per capita, Moscow is in the lead, the rest of the regions are far ahead, the Perm Territory closes the 4 regions under study. Table 2 presents indicators of population movement, life expectancy in the regions.

Table 2. Data on indicators of population movement, life expectancy in Moscow, the Moscow region, the Sverdlovsk region and the Perm Krai

Indicators	Moscow	Moscow region	Sverdlovsk region	Perm Krai
Population, thousand people				
2016	12 381	7 423	4 329	2 632
2017	12 507	7 503	4 325	2 623
2018	12 615	7 599	4 316	2 611

Indicators	Moscow	Moscow region	Sverdlovsk region	Perm Krai
<i>Population dynamics, %</i>				
2017 to 2016	101.0%	101.1%	99.9%	99.7%
2018 to 2017	100.9%	101.3%	99.8%	99.5%
2018 to 2016	101.9%	102.4%	99.7%	99.2%
<i>Migration growth rates, per 1000 population</i>				
2016	24.0	141.0	1.0	-12.0
2017	89.0	111.0	0.5	-23.0
2018	79.0	140.0	-3.0	-25.0
<i>Life expectancy at birth, years</i>				
2016	77.08	72.50	70.02	69.74
2017	77.87	73.34	71.23	70.79
2018	77.84	73.52	71.29	70.72

Source: Regions of Russia: socio-economic indicators, 2019

Thus, Moscow and the Moscow region from the analysed regions are the most populated. Moreover, they have a fairly high population dynamics, where the population for 3 years has grown by 1.9% and 2.4%, respectively. In the Sverdlovsk region and, especially in the Perm Krai, the population is shrinking, having decreased by 0.3% and 0.8%, respectively, over 3 years (it decreases in 2017 and 2018, both there and there). Population growth in Moscow and the Moscow Region can be explained by high rates of migration growth. The higher coefficients for the Moscow region are also explained by the development of the Moscow region, where, as it was determined earlier, the volume of production increased significantly, as well as where the cost of living is lower than in Moscow. In the Sverdlovsk region, a negative migration increase took place only in 2018, in the Perm Krai, they are negative for all three analysed years, significantly exceeding the outflow compared to the Sverdlovsk region. In terms of life expectancy, Moscow again leads by a much larger margin, then in decreasing order – the Moscow region, the Sverdlovsk region and the Perm Krai. The difference between the Perm Krai and Moscow in terms of life expectancy is very significant – more than 7 years. Table 3 presents data on unemployment and income of the population of the studied regions.

Table 3. Data on unemployment and income of the population in Moscow, Moscow region, Sverdlovsk region and Perm Krai

Indicators	Moscow	Moscow region	Sverdlovsk region	Perm Krai
<i>Unemployment rate according to the ILO method, %</i>				
2016	1.7	3.0	6.3	4.8
2017	1.4	3.2	5.5	6.0
2018	1.2	2.7	4.8	5.4

Indicators	Moscow	Moscow region	Sverdlovsk region	Perm Krai
<i>Average per capita income of the population per month, thousand RUB</i>				
2016	62.0	41.3	34.7	22.7
2017	65.5	42.3	35.2	28.3
2018	68.4	44.7	36.7	28.7
<i>Average monthly nominal accrued wages per month, thousand RUB</i>				
2016	71.4	42.7	32.3	30.7
2017	73.8	46.8	34.8	33.0
2018	83.8	51.9	38.1	35.8
<i>Dynamics of real incomes of the population, %</i>				
2016	95.7%	99.7%	94.7%	81.6%
2017	101.5%	100.0%	97.8%	99.2%
2018	101.8%	102.6%	101.7%	98.8%
Average over 3 years	99.6%	100.8%	98.0%	92.8%

Source: Regions of Russia: socio-economic indicators, 2019

Thus, the data shows that the lowest unemployment rate is in Moscow, and the highest, at least in 2018, in the Perm Krai. At the same time, in general, the unemployment rate in all analysed regions is decreasing, but in the Perm Krai in 2017 it increases, and the decrease in 2018 is insignificant. The average per capita income, as well as the average monthly wage, is the highest in Moscow, followed by the Moscow region with a large margin, then, also with a significant margin the Sverdlovsk region, and the Perm Krai closes. At the same time, the gap in the average per capita income of the population of the Perm Krai and Moscow in 2018 – 2.87 times, in the average wage – 2.34 times. According to the dynamics of real incomes of the population, it was noted that all regions, except for the Moscow region, have negative dynamics during the analysed period, although in 2017 and 2018 real incomes of the population in Moscow and especially the Moscow region increase, in the Sverdlovsk region they increase in 2018, and in Perm Krai – declining for all three analysed years. Therefore, the problem of the Perm Krai in comparison with other analysed regions is a higher unemployment rate, lower wages, incomes of the population as a whole and the dynamics of real incomes of the population. The level of investments in fixed assets in the studied regions is shown in Figure 1.

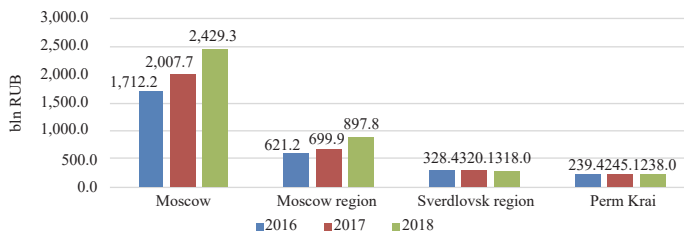


Figure 1. Investments in fixed assets in 2016-2018

Source: Regions of Russia: socio-economic indicators, 2019

From the data presented, one can note an increase in investment volumes in Moscow and the Moscow region, and, at the same time, their slowdown and even a decrease in 2018 in the Sverdlovsk region and the Perm Krai. The indices of physical volumes of investments are presented in Figure 2.

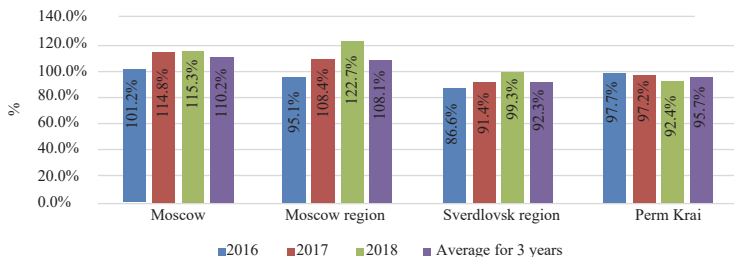


Figure 2. Indices of the physical volume of investments in fixed assets in 2016-2018

Source: Regions of Russia: socio-economic indicators, 2019

It can be seen from the above data that if the growth of investments in physical volume in Moscow and the Moscow region amounted to 110.2 and 108.1% over 3 years, respectively, in the Sverdlovsk region and the Perm Krai it decreased, moreover, it decreased during the entire analysed period. Figure 3 presents data on the density of paved roads per 1000 square kilometres of territory.

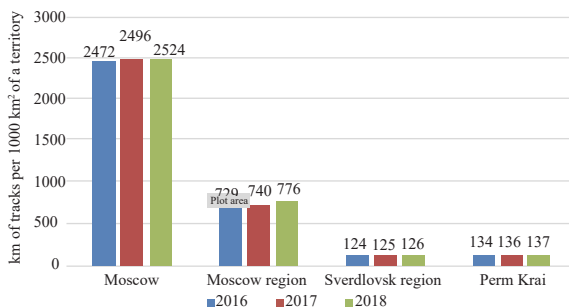


Figure 3. Density of paved roads per 1000 square kilometers of territory in 2016-2018

Source: Regions of Russia: socio-economic indicators, 2019

It can be seen from the above data that the most significant density is in Moscow (since there are few suburban areas within Moscow, mainly it is a city). Slightly lower, but also quite high density – in the Moscow region. Low density in the Sverdlovsk region and Perm Krai. At the same time, if in Moscow and the Moscow region the density of roads during the analysed period significantly increases, then in the Sverdlovsk region and Perm Krai this is not observed.

That is, Moscow and the Moscow region are at the head of the rating of regions, on the 1st and 3rd places, respectively, without changing their position in 2019 compared to 2018.

The Sverdlovsk region is also in a fairly high position (13th place, the position does not decrease over the year). And the Perm Krai is only in 49th place in 2019, although in 2018 it had 42nd place (it worsened its position).

Discussion

Based on the results of the study, it can be concluded that the regions have different levels and dynamics of development. This can be seen when comparing the Perm Krai with the neighbouring Sverdlovsk region, Moscow region and Moscow. Today the Perm Krai has the worst development indicators compared to three other regions.

Low investment and undeveloped infrastructure do not allow increasing production volumes (and for the region, it is production that is an important area). As a result, this negatively affects the GRP, wages and incomes of the population, employment, and reduces the financial resources of the region. All this worsens by the living standard of the population, affects the negative migration of the population, that is, moving to other regions, which is reflected in the indicators of negative migration growth. Such a depressive state continues to negatively affect the development of the Perm Territory, the outflow of potential workers complicates economic growth, if it can be planned in the region. And similar, but reverse processes take place in Moscow and the Moscow region, where infrastructure is developing, the volume of investments is increasing, there is a migration inflow of the population, the real incomes of the population and the living standard are increasing. It is necessary to solve the problem of the asymmetry of regional development, since its high level can lead to separatism, complication of the processes of regional exchange, lagging behind the socio-economic development of certain regions (Gordienko and Molchan, 2017). K. Choroev (2019) also notes that in order to weaken such differentiation and asymmetry, optimisation of the sectoral structure of the economy is required (Choroev, 2019). A.G. Leontieva (2017) notes the necessity to expand the autonomy of the regions in the formation of budget revenues, combined with effective support from the federal centre (Leontieva, 2017). E.L. Lavrova (2017) names efficient use of human resources as the main direction of regional development (Lavrova, 2017). L.N. Chainikova (2017) notes that for the development of regions and their transition to a higher technological level, reindustrialisation is necessary, which can reduce the depreciation of fixed assets, increase investment in the economy, increase labour productivity, and introduce new technologies (Chainikova, 2017). L.L. Igonina (2020) believes that it is necessary to diagnose the potential of financial and investment development of regions, the possibilities of forming their competitive advantages and effectively using growth opportunities, developing and implementing investment policies for the regions in order to facilitate the processes of reindustrialisation (Igonina, 2020).

K.O. Ternavshchenko et al. (2018) refer to international experience that would help reduce the differentiation of regional development. For this, it is possible to use two models: competitive and cooperative (Ternavshchenko et al., 2018). The first is focused on the growth of economic growth rates, the second – on the levelling of disparities in regional budgets. It is obvious that it is optimal to use a mixed model, which would make it

possible for the regions to increase their financial solvency and independence, but taking into account the fact that they would be economically interested in the development of the economy and the socio-economic development of the territory as a whole. Therefore, it is required to change the taxation system, to reduce the share of federal taxes, replacing them with regional rent, which is noted by K.O. Ternavshchenko et al. (2018). A.A. Kuznetsov and O.A. Ostapenko (2018) also note the impact of globalisation and trade liberalisation on the reorientation of economic relations of regions from interregional to foreign economic. And this to a certain extent intensified the differentiation of the development of regions, disintegrated the regions. To overcome such processes, it is necessary:

- 1) to increase capital invested in infrastructure;
- 2) to create a preferential system of taxation of industrial enterprises, stimulating their investment activity;
- 3) to provide the federal centre with assistance to the regions to improve their economic potential (Kuznetsov and Ostapenko, 2018).

With the combined application of these measures, it is possible to minimise the negative impact of globalisation processes, to reduce the differentiation of regions. It is also required to delegate part of the powers “in the field of ensuring the threshold values of economic security, taking into account its regional specifics,” which K.O. Ternavshchenko et al. (2018) note.

Conclusions

Thus, general conclusions can be drawn:

1. Differentiation of regions for development is associated with their unequal geographic location, availability of resources, climatic conditions, and demographic situation. In many respects, development is influenced by the industry specialisation of the regions, and the specifics of the labour market, and the degree of development of infrastructure and logistics. The state policy aimed at the development of the region is also important, both at the level of the central government (federation), and at the regional, and even at the local levels. At present, the regions in Russia are developing quite asymmetrically, which poses a threat to economic security for the state as a whole, therefore it is necessary to create conditions for levelling their development.
2. It was noted that Moscow and the Moscow region have high rates of socio-economic development: the dynamics of real GRP, industrial production indices, as well as high incomes of the population, dynamics of real incomes, low unemployment rates with their decline. This is determined by the high volumes of investment in the economy of these regions, as well as in the development of infrastructure. All this stimulates the influx of the population to these regions and their further development. The Perm Krai is inferior not only to these regions in terms of the degree of development, but also to the neighbouring Sverdlovsk region. The low volume and dynamics of investments, undeveloped transport infrastructure and

some other factors do not allow the development of industry, the growth of the real GRP of the region, which simultaneously reduces the real incomes of the population, increases unemployment and lowers the living standard in the region (in the RIA rating, the position from 42 deteriorated to 49 in 2019).

3. There is a significant migration outflow of the population to neighbouring and other regions from the Perm Krai. All these are factors negative for the economic security of this region, indicating its differentiation not only in comparison with the best regions of the rating (Moscow and the Moscow Region – 1st and 3rd places in the rating), but also with Sverdlovsk (13th place in the rating). The author sees the reducing of the differentiation of Russian regions and the asymmetry of regional development through stimulating the investment activity of the regions through the improvement of tax legislation and the provision of benefits to industrial enterprises. At the same time, it is necessary to develop infrastructure, primarily transport and logistics, so that in the regions, including the Perm Territory, to actively renew fixed assets, increase production volumes and thereby ensure the growth of employment, incomes of the population and the budget.

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