

## Scientific and Information Journal

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## ECONOMICS AND POLITICS

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### ON THE WAY TO A MARKET ECONOMY

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In article the balance of interests of liberalization of business and state control in the Russian economy is analysed. It is analysed and are shown measures for transition of Russia to dynamically developing, innovative, effective economy, by means of introduction modern market, including financial and credit mechanisms. Recommendations about questions the developments of monetary integration of the countries of EEC connected with the directions and on concrete measures of a monetary policy for expansion of opportunities of crediting of real sector are made

*Key words:* state, society, economy, management, market.

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**BRANCH MODELS OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP IN SPHERES  
OF ECONOMY OF KAZAKHSTAN**

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The paper describes branch models of public-private partnership in education, health care, municipal services (water supply and water disposal).

*Key words:* public-private partnership, concession, education, health care, power, water supply, water disposal.

Relevance of the chosen topic is defined by that updating and expansion of a network of infrastructure objects in such spheres as health care, education, municipal services are now a necessary condition for successful economic development of the Republic of Kazakhstan further. In view of that fact that the infrastructure of Kazakhstan already considerably technically and morally obsolete and demands considerable single budgetary investments, use of instruments of public-private partnership in the solution of this problem becomes especially actual.

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**ACTUAL TASKS FOR THE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT  
OF NUCLEAR ENERGY IN RUSSIA**

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The article is devoted to the problems of strategic development of the Russian nuclear energy industry, which is aimed not only at the tasks of energy needs' provision of the country, but should serve the activation of innovative mechanisms in the national economy. The paper reviews the reasons, which caused the slowdown of innovative modernization of this industry after the reforms of 2007.

*Key words:* nuclear energy industry, technological platforms, innovative processes, nuclear safety.

**MANAGEMENT OF INVESTMENT ACTIVITY IN THE REGION**

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The issues of investment activity in the regional and sectoral context, issues of regional heterogeneity investment space.

*Keywords:* investment in fixed assets, the regional heterogeneity of investment, industrial investment structure.

Investment in the regional economy is an important factor of economic growth, ensuring its competitiveness and ability to integrate into the world economy. Therefore, relevant questions of analysis recognized the major problems affecting the dynamics of investment activity. Such an analysis was carried out in the Republic of Bashkortostan. Heterogeneity considered investment space surrounding the region and the influence of external factors on the structural changes in the economic development.

Significant issue highlighted the issue of investment in fixed capital, which is an analysis of economic activity. Revealed asymmetry continuing trend established investment model and other aspects need to be improved integrated regional investment strategy. The role of public investment policy. Considers the model of managing the investment potential of the region.

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**ANTI-CRISIS MANAGEMENT OF ECONOMIC SYSTEMS  
OF REGIONS AND MUNICIPALITIES**

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The expediency of the use of anti-crisis business-regulation of socio-economic systems of regions and municipalities; considers applied in Russian practice, instruments, methods, technologies, parameters of efficiency of anti-crisis business regulation, examines the characteristics of anti-crisis business-regulation of foreign countries, the content of anti-

crisis programs, the possibility of their use in the Russian practice, as well as the factor of increase of efficiency of functioning of the regional and municipal economic systems.

*Key words:* crisis business regulation, tools, methods, conditions, effectiveness, regional economy, the economy of the municipalities.

### **THEORETICAL APPROACHES TO FORMATION OF A COMPLEX EFFECTIVE FUNDING MECHANISM FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNAL SERVICES**

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The market of housing-and-municipal services belongs to highly - to the monopolized regional markets that causes its character and structure of the competitive environment. The level of monopolization of this market in many respects is defined by area or settlement type. The regional and municipal markets of housing-and-municipal services in Russia are in process of formation therefore their research represents considerable theoretical and practical interest.

*Key words:* funding mechanism for housing and communal services, financing, crediting, investment in the sphere of housing and communal services

The existing system of functioning of housing and communal services is carried out for providing to the relevant standards of conditions of activity of the population by means of effective functioning of system of uninterrupted providing housing-and-municipal services according to existing requirements of the Russian standards. Today, there is the number of problems which isn't allowing housing and communal services effectively to carry out the activity. The main of them is providing high-quality housing-and-municipal services to the population and system of their objective cost assessment. This problem is solved by means of reforming of the housing-and-municipal sphere with possibility of attraction of financial resources of private investors. ZhKK Russian Federation which basis is made by housing stock has very high specific weight in fixed assets of all economy.

Thus, ZhKK is the typical difficult organizational and economic system possessing characteristic properties of openness, nonlinearity and dissipativity. In this regard reasonable approach to development of programs of development of ZhKK assumes need of the accounting of the principles of systemacity, focus and complexity, and also can be based on existing in the theory and practice of methodology of management by difficult organizational and economic systems.

Now development of ZhKK and financing investment, programs of the organizations of a municipal complex is carried out according to the relevant Federal law, according to which system of establishment of limit indexes of change of tariffs and investment extra charges to tariffs for services of the organizations of a municipal complex. Also, innovative ways of increase of energy efficiency and decrease in wear of funds is attempt of the state to develop effective mechanisms of attraction of private funds from investors.

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**TO THE PROBLEM OF SOIL FERTILITY AND SUBSIDIES  
FOR MINERAL FERTILIZERS**

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It is proved that the price disparity is the main financial instrument, pumping out profits of agricultural enterprises and organizing their access to mineral fertilizers, which mainly restore soil fertility. A higher extent of manifestation of the disparity of prices at cultivating crops in the Bryansk region than in Russia is revealed.

*Key words:* price disparity, grain crops, fertilizers, nutrient balance, degradation of soil fertility.

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**ECONOMIC THEORY**

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**METHODOLOGICAL IMPERATIVES CRISIS OF ECONOMIC THEORY**

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In the article the main problems facing the economic science in modern conditions. It is shown that the crisis of economic theory has some duality perception, since, in addition to the negative moments which carries a positive charge, outlining the transformation of economic knowledge in the process of forming a new paradigm of global development of socio-economic systems. On the other hand, the crisis is a result and evidence of the development of science, new knowledge, not fit into the previously dominant paradigm (or paradigm). And it would be improper to consider the crisis of the General economic theory the result of somebody's mistakes. Yes, and generally the only negative attitude to the phenomenon of crisis is unlawful.

Interest in the methodology is not accidental, because the essential function of the economic-mathematical analysis is to explore new directions in economic science, assessment of their cognitive capabilities and practical applicability, both positive and normative sense. In times of global economic crises, the most criticised exposed to the idea of the possibility of interaction of economic methodology, theory and policy. The way out of this crisis could be the formation of a new paradigm that will restore the integrity of economic worldview removed kind absorbing the previous achievements of the economic theory. In our opinion, the approach forms the basis of this paradigm, can become political economics approach, which has increased sharply in recent decades.

*Key words:* methodology, economic theory, the crisis of the categorial apparatus, the economic policy modeling.

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**EVOLUTION OF VIEWS ON THE CATEGORY  
OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC INTERESTS**

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National economic interests are the main reference point of all the countries' development. However, in spite of the general relevance, the concept of national economic interests needs elaboration. In the course of time the views on national economic interests changed, different aspects of this definition were examined.

The article gives the analysis of different economic schools' views on the category of national economic interests, allowing to define this concept as a combination of correlation of national, foreign and international economic actors, aimed at a long-term forming of the national economy as the entire and competitive constitution in the system of international economic relations.

*Key words:* national economic interests, evolution, economic schools, international economic relations, societal interests, personal interest, requirements.

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## **ECONOMY AND MANAGEMENT**

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### **CONSTRUCTION OF THE RISK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM OF EXTERNAL INTERACTION IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INVESTMENT AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS USING THE TOOLS OF SELF-REGULATION**

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The paper describes the situation in the sphere of investment and construction after the completion of formation of the system of self-regulation. Representatives of self-regulatory organizations are actively involved in the management decisions of the National Association of Builders. This, according to the author, of course, has a positive effect on reducing the risk of external interaction construction organizations, safety and quality of construction. However, the author shows that at the federal level, the problem affected only the goodwill of self-regulatory organizations, and the real work as a tool to reduce such risks, monitoring goodwill of their members - construction companies - to date not available.

*Key words:* construction companies, self-regulatory organizations, the risks of investment and construction projects, the risks of external interaction.

**INNOVATIVE MANAGEMENT MODEL ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
IN TOURISM IN THE REGION RUSSIA (THE CASE OF MARY EL)**

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This article describes an innovative management model enterprise in regional tourism on the Republic of Mari El. In the proposed model - the financial regulatory system of structural elements of tourism. It should be noted that the basis for long-term development of the model served as joint research and author M.V.Talalaeva - the practice of tourism of the Republic of Mari El. Most of the structural elements of the developed model has been implemented or is in the process of implementation.

*Key words:* tourism, entrepreneurship, management model, financial regulation

Management to tourism at national and regional level is highlighted in the article as the key tasks for which the author proposes the development and implementation of innovative management model enterprise in the field of tourism.

Characterized international practice and basic management model to tourism in foreign countries. This allows you to identify the presence of problematic areas of tourism development in Russia and its regions. When selecting the optimal model of tourism management expert author takes the position of the World Tourism Organization, the position of which is the need to empower the individual to develop tourism public authority. This model is called "Structural Model of Entrepreneurship Development", reflects the specificity of the Russian budget system contains the basis of the legal act defining budgetary and fiscal policy area, the effectiveness of the financial management of tourism appears in case of excess of total income over expenditure, aimed at developing this sphere. In addition to the tools of financial regulation by the budget allocation by considering the possibility of regulation by the same model of development of business without government revenue through tax incentives.

The author proposes a phased system of measures for implementation in the field of tourism in the Republic of Mari El, considers it appropriate to attract the maximum amount of federal budget funds for co-financing of activities carried out in support of entrepreneurship in tourism.

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**MARKETING MANAGEMENT IN A SYSTEM OF SUPPORT  
OF INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES DEVELOPMENT**

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The article considers factors of competitiveness of modern companies of secondary industry, which is being formed on a basis of marketing management and connected with ensuring support of the industry in the conditions of slow-down of the economic growth. The system of marketing management is connected with innovative model of business development in the tideway of investment and financial component of growth considered as a factor of ensuring competitiveness of the Russian industry.

*Key words:* competitive ability, lending, marketing management, reindustrialisation, stagnation, the system of measures for export support, slow-down factors of the economic growth.

**THE METHODS OF EVALUATING THE EFFECTIVENESS  
OF STRUCTURAL POLICY IN THE FOREST COMPLEX OF THE REGION**

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The changes of the course of economic reforms led to a change in the structure of the forest sector. The increasing use of the economic potential of the forest sector requires the development of the structural policy, which would allow for a more rational use of available forest and productive resources. Structural policy in the forest complex includes a system of measures aimed at the formation of the national, intra -, inter-sectoral and regional proportions in the economy, is necessary to ensure balanced development of the forest sector. The specifics of the implementation of structural forest policy is that the methods and criteria for assessing its effectiveness depend on the specifics of a particular region. Differentiated approach to the formation of structural policy in the forest complex of the territory to determine the most promising types of industries of wood products for a specific region. Evaluation of the effectiveness of structural policy starts with identifying the types of structures (projections) and setting strategic goals for each of the projections. The projections determined the main directions of structural forest policy.

*Key words:* forest complex, assessment of the effectiveness of structural policy, differentiated approach, criteria and indicators of efficiency.

The changes of the course of economic reforms led to a change in the structure of the forest sector. The increasing use of the economic potential of the forest sector requires the development of the structural policy, which would allow for a more rational use of available forest and productive resources. Structural policy in the forest complex includes a system of measures aimed at the formation of the national, intra -, inter-sectoral and

regional proportions in the economy, is necessary to ensure balanced development of the forest sector. The specifics of the implementation of structural forest policy is that the methods and criteria for assessing its effectiveness depend on the specifics of a particular region. Differentiated approach to the formation of structural policy in the forest complex of the territory to determine the most promising types of industries of wood products for a specific region. Evaluation of the effectiveness of structural policy starts with identifying the types of structures (projections) and setting strategic goals for each of the projections. The projections determined the main directions of structural forest policy.

To assess the effectiveness of structural policy in the forest complex are encouraged to use indicators of process of transformation of the structure: resource utilization, intermediate indicators: quantitative assessment, in absolute or relative terms characterizing the results of the conducted activities; the dynamics of patterns, i.e. the linear and quadratic structural shifts and outcome indicators: integral coefficients of the structural changes. The effectiveness of structural forest policy is determined by conjugation and balanced development in each of the projections. We believe that the integral indicator of structural efficiency of the forest policy should be considered in dynamics. Positive dynamics will be evidence of the effectiveness of policies. Effectiveness evaluation should be performed annually, which would make timely adjustments in the process of improving the structure of the forest sector.

#### **THE EVOLUTION CONTROL SYSTEMS AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC SYSTEM**

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In the article the author tries to examine the evolution of management systems as an integral part of the transformation of the socio-economic system. The socio-economic system is considered from the point of allocation in her socio-economic and organizational-economic systems; due to their interaction and change of transformation of the socio-economic system.

*Key words:* the control system, the socio-economic system.

The control system is considered from the point of allocation in her socio-economic and organizational-economic systems, because through their interaction and change of transformation of the socio-economic system.

The difference between them consists in the fact, that the first refers to the totality of the relationships between individuals, groups, collectives and classes in the process of production, distribution, exchange and consumption of material goods. Under the second is understood in this organization processes of production, distribution, exchange and consumption of material goods. The separation of these two systems objectively necessary, because in each of them there is the different contextual focus. So, the first includes the social side of economic relations, due to what is called the socio-economic, the second - in prioritizing the analysis of organization of economic relations, at different stages of their manifestation, so called organizational and economic.

The separation of the mentioned systems in individual category is a scientific abstraction to differentiate differently oriented economic relations, rank them according to the nature and internal content, thus making the analysis more logical and consistent. However, in

reality these relations are closely intertwined, are two sides of the same coin. This means that the existence of one necessarily implies the existence of other economic relations.

This relationship means organic unity of all its components, ensure consistency and quality authenticity. Concerning the management of it is that the content, nature and form of the relationship management consistent with and reflect the peculiarities of the system in which they appear and develop. In historical terms, it looks like management in the era of slavery, feudalism, capitalism, and so forth corresponds to their systems, economic relations, and is one of the forms of implementation. Consequently, all the transformations in the socio-economic system, influence evolution of management.

Thus, all historical stages of the transformation of the socio-economic systems inevitably led to the evolution of the control system. It is also true that the necessity of improving the system of control became the reason of changes in the socio-economic system.

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### **DOES IT MATTER THE SIZE OF THE REGIONAL ECONOMY IN ITS GROWTH RATE?**

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The hypothesis is inversely related to the size of the economy and the pace of its growth. Empirical statistics conducted her research. No statistical empirical confirmation of the hypothesis. Installed, formalized and kvatificirovana the relationship between the size and growth of the regional economy. Given them a logical explanation and empirical confirmation of logical assumptions.

*Key words:* economic size, growth rate, slower growth, and the contradictions of growth

**PROBLEMS OF ASSESSING INNOVATION IN THE REGION**

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The results of innovation Mari El Republic and proposed assessment model innovation macroeconomic methods using a modified Solow model, which allows to take into account not only the delay when the general fund for investments in industrial facilities, but also the synthesis of technological progress.

*Keywords:* innovation, regional economy, macroeconomic modeling, the Solow model.

Regional economy can not develop effectively without innovational activities, especially inherent in the real sector of the economy. The article analyzes the statistics on innovation activities in the Republic of Mari El in the years 2000-2012 : analysis of the main indicators of innovation activities , the structure of domestic spending on research and development , the dynamics of the number of personnel engaged in research and development, including the number of researchers by science.

Among the reasons why innovation indicators do not reflect the region effectively, called the reason for the lack of reporting to reflect the innovation and motivation to co-representation of such statements . For the forecast development of innovation in the future the author proposes to develop methodological tools for assessing innovation regardless of the wishes of its leaders reflect the dimensions within the enterprise in the reporting format . Approaches to this assessment are already in the economic literature in economic growth models . As an example, the macroeconomic Solow model , given its characteristics.

The author believes that the assessment model of innovation of the Republic of Mari El should be based on the use of statistics for ten years (2002-2011) , the calculation of indicators in real ( comparable ) prices with the consumer price index . This approach allows the use of models in the production function of the Cobb- Douglas eventually get higher accuracy of model building.

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**THE DEVELOPMENT AND FUNCTIONING OF THE BRANCH NETWORK  
OF COMPETENCE CENTERS**

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This article is devoted to the aspects of forming a branch network of centers of competence assumed as a base of a branch effectiveness improvement. A center of competence system forming process is described in general terms and demands for realization of some steps of this process are resulted.

*Key words:* center of competence, branch, effectiveness improvement.

A problem of a sophisticated industrial system effectiveness improvement is quite relevant now. An industrial branch may be assumed as a typical example of such systems. A system of the centers of competence may be considered as a tool for this problem solving. Let a center of competence be an organization or an organization unit possessing a certain specialization.

When this problem solving it is necessary to be acknowledged of an importance of the informal, intuitive tools because of high level uncertainty being intrinsic to this one.

The paper proposes to solve the problem by a project management approach, when each step of the branch competence center forming and improving is assumed as a whole project.

Assumed in general terms the process of considered problem solving, as it is defined in this paper, consists of following steps:

- branch inspection program forming and actual branch status analysis;
- forming a report considering the results of the analysis;
- defining the requirements specification for a creation a forming branch competence center system plan;
- creation development branch competence system events plan;
- events plan realization;
- plan realization control and result estimation.

The paper proposes a structure of information being necessary when these steps will be realized. The information set must include qualitative and quantitative items.

The paper imposes the information relating to a branch business processes matching to the IDEF standard requirement as a obligatory part of this information set.

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**ADAPTING TO THE DEMANDS OF CONSUMERS IN A LIMITED DEMAND  
FOR TRANSFORMER EQUIPMENT FROM THE ELECTRICITY  
DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES**

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Existing conditions of reduced investment programs, poor quality of electrical equipment produced in Russia affect consumers seeking to reduce the risks of loss of the equipment and as a consequence of loss of function of transmission and distribution of electricity. They are focused on the purchase of imported equipment, which demonstrates an extremely low degree of satisfaction with domestic equipment.

*Key words:* Investment program management mechanism, the life cycle of products, customer requirements.

Problems of development of energy sector can't have just one single character described in numerous development strategies and programs - the inability of enterprises to timely change and modernization of technology and management systems. It should be noted that it is often described inability to "... provide a refund received enough support in the implementation and operation funding for the previous stages of development, especially scientific research" is directly linked to an existing limited demand for electrical equipment. Power of the majority of enterprises are not loaded more than 30-50%, sales are minimal, and the gap between world-class scientific and technical terms is increasing every year. Under these conditions, the demand depends primarily on the intensity of the passage of the electricity reform, which requires significant investment, including in procurement of electrical equipment. The need for modernization of the existing control mechanism due to increased demands of limited groups of consumers on the one hand, and on the other - increased competition from foreign manufacturers.

Nowadays, companies need to focus on issues of efficiency, when manufactured equipment does not meet the quality standards (adequate but fails prematurely), full product support throughout the life cycle of the equipment, managing relationships with customers. In accordance with these requirements, produced equipment takes center stage as the values of the enterprise. It should be noted that the proper and efficient management of the lifecycle of the equipment may lead to lower costs due to higher customer satisfaction and brand loyalty. This approach needs a comprehensive management of the entire product-related information and calls for broader effort to collect and standardize data. As practice shows enterprises (including power engineering) no processes and mechanisms aimed at gathering information on the equipment along its life cycle.

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## FINANCE, MONETARY CIRCULATION AND CREDIT

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### CONTROL FEATURES PROFIT OF CONSUMER COOPERATION ORGANIZATIONS

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In this article the peculiarities of the management profit of consumer cooperation organizations and given directions of development of the mechanism of strategic management. Conducted a survey of the use of a system of indicators to estimate the profits of consumer cooperation organizations, which will form the information base of decision-making in the process of formation and use of financial results and to reflect the interests of management, shareholders and public authorities.

*Key words:* profit, consumer cooperatives, budgeting, strategic management, competition.

Profit takes one of the leading places in the system of socio-economic relations at all stages of the process of reproduction and is a key element of the economic mechanism of management of the entity. The activity of the consumer cooperation organizations in view of its specific character as non-profit organizations who performs a social mission by providing effective economic policy is largely determined by the development of management systems profit.

The article presents comparative characteristics of tax, accounting and economic concepts of profit which determine profit as the goal of the organization, sources of

financial resources at micro and macro levels, and acts as a control object for different groups of subjects.

In the article the features of activity of the consumer cooperation organizations are specified and considered the nature and functions of profit in conjunction with the problem of management in these organizations which are:

- weak development of methodological tools;
- a lack of experience convert strategic objectives in the tactical plans;
- late changes in the business processes in response to changes in external environment;
- an organizational structure that does not meet challenges of modern economy.

In this connection it is suggested to develop the mechanism of strategic management of the profit in the consumer cooperatives that is the totality of means and methods of purposeful influence on the financial relations, certain common mission with long-term strategic planning, directed on development and increase of efficiency of activity of economic entities.

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## **BOOK KEEPING, STATISTICS**

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### **INVESTIGATION OF CONCENTRATION OF DAIRY PRODUCTION IN REGIONS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

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Different aspects of concentration of production to be trends in 75 regions of Russia that produce dairy products. There are 7 groups of regions, each of which are assessed on the effectiveness and intensity of concentration.

*Key words:* concentration, integration, efficiency, intensity, milk, dairy products, holding.

The article set out the methodology to assess the effectiveness and intensity of the concentrations of manufacture at the enterprises of the dairy industry in the Russian Federation.

In Russia as a whole, the concentration of the production during 2005-2012 compiled with the greatest possible magnitude 4.9 integral index of 5.8.

Three groups of regions in which the average cost of production of milk products in the most heavily correlated with indicators of the effectiveness and intensity of production were founded the most effective in group analysis.

In one group of regions concentration was not the nature of targeted technical re-equipment of production and has occurred as a result of downsizing, the deterioration of market conditions for the companies of the group. Economics of the other group reflected the decline in production, worsening its effectiveness in reaching the limit of the economic model.

In the individual analysis of the most effective towards processing milk Republic of Udmurtia is recognized. This fact explains the presence in the Republic one of the most efficient dairy Sub-Holdings-OJSC "Milkom", which could form a stable raw material base of local agricultural producers.

Thus, the study of the process of concentration of production (in this case, dairy products) are recommended to implement at the regional level, the method of analysis, comparative analysis, peer reviews, ranking, economic-statistical methods paired correlations used in order to define the private, group and integrated indicators.

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## **ECONOMIC AND THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ATTITUDES**

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### **DYNAMIC OF SPECIALIZATION STRUCTURE IN ESTONIA**

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The aim of this paper is to analyse the trade dynamics, in particular, the development of a revealed comparative advantage, and the persistence and mobility of trade flows.

*Key words:* Estonia, specialization structure, dynamic.

## 1. Introduction

In the recent literature, a lot of theoretical and empirical works have been devoted to the problem of trade dynamics. The interest in this topic has been generated by globalization, deep structural changes, the development of emerging markets and some other problems.

Although the development of specialization pattern is a long-term process, determined by changes in the factor endowments, there are some exceptions, in which structural changes occurred quite quickly. Estonia belongs to these exceptions.

Before its collapse, Estonia was the part of the Soviet Union and their foreign trade for the greater part was focused on the USSR republics. After obtaining independence, over several years Estonia dramatically reoriented their foreign trade towards the counties of the European Union. Further integration into and membership of the European Union, as well as a series of economic crises, made this reorientation even more profound. This was accompanied by deep structural changes in the Estonian economy, an inflow of foreign investment and institutional development. An analysis of the dynamics of specialization in these circumstances is of great scientific interest.

In line with the above, the aim of this paper is to analyse the trade dynamics, in particular, the development of a revealed comparative advantage, and the persistence and mobility of trade flows.

For this purpose we used an export data time series from the UNSTAD database for the years 1995-2011. This data is available in the format of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Revision 3 structure and includes 255 commodity sectors in 3 digit level of aggregation.

The rest of the paper is structured as follows. In the second chapter we discuss theoretical framework, in the third chapter measuring problems are considered, in the fourth section empirical analysis with the appropriate methodology is presented, in the last section we conclude.

## 2. Theoretical framework

In accordance with the standard Heckscher-Ohlin model, the structure of trade flows and the comparative advantages of a country are determined by its relative factor endowments. Accordingly, traditional trade theory predicts changes in the international specialization of the

country only if its relative factor endowments change compared with the major trading partners.

The new trade theory emphasizes the importance of the scale effect in explaining the structure of trade flows. The dynamics of specialization, in accordance with this theory, depends on the nature of economies of scale. In the case of internal economies of scale, as shown in the model of Chamberlin-Heckscher-Ohlin, the main implications of the factor proportions theorem do not change (Krugman, 1987). In the presence of national external economies of scale, as shown by (Wong, 1995), trade patterns are determined by initial comparative advantage. According to Either (1982), if the external economy of scale is international by nature, the scale effect does not determine international specialization.

Recent literature in the analysis of trade dynamics has also been based on the theory of endogenous growth. In accordance with this approach, the structure of a country's international specialization is determined by the endogenous growth of each sector of its economy. The literature highlighted a number of factors driving this growth.

First of all, there is learning by doing, an important factor in productivity growth, according to Lucas (1994) and Krugman (1987), Young (1991). If there is a difference between productivity growth by sector and in the absence of other factors, this development can result in the polarization of the structure of specialization.

Another important factor is knowledge spillover. If it is international it can lead to a significant change in the structure of specialization over time because, by following technology leaders, productivity growth can occur in countries with initially low levels of productivity in the corresponding sectors.

Thus, in accordance with Proudman and Redding (2000) sector specific learning by doing is a factor of the persistency of trade flows, whereas international knowledge spillover could be considered as a factor of the mobility of trade patterns. The interaction of these factors is ambiguous and is ultimately an empirical question.

## 3. Measuring the comparative advantage

Basing on the Ricardian model we can theoretically determine comparative advantage by comparing the autarkic price with the price

after trade liberalization for particular goods (De Benedictis et al., 2001). However, in real economies, the autarkic price is an unobservable variable. This unobservability is the main reason for the development in the empirical literature of the approach of revealed comparative advantage. This approach compares the national share of the production or export of particular goods with the world share (or with the share in a particular group of countries).

The most popular and widely used in the empirical literature is the Balassa index of revealed comparative advantage (RCA), proposed by Balassa (1965). It is calculated as follows

$$RCA_i = \frac{X_{ij} / \sum_i X_{ij}}{X_i^W / \sum_i M_i^W},$$

where  $X_{ij}$  is an exports of commodity  $i$  in country  $j$ ;

$X_i^W$  is an world export (or export in the reference group of countries) of commodity  $i$ .

A positive aspect of the Balassa index is that it has a direct and clear economic interpretation. It allows us to analyse the comparative advantage between different product groups in the same country as well as to compare the level of comparative advantage by product groups across countries.

The main problem of the Balassa index is its asymmetry. By definition, the index ranges from zero (lower limit) to infinity (upper bound). The comparative disadvantage zone is defined in the range 0 to 1. The area of comparative advantage is, accordingly, 1 to infinity. As a result, the distribution of the index is skewed towards the right and the average is systematically higher than the median.

The uneven distribution of the index will also influence the outcome in its logarithmic transformation. Small changes in cases of comparative disadvantage will have the same effect as cases of significant change in sectors with comparative advantage.

These problems pose serious limitations in the use of this index in econometric analysis. To overcome these problems, Dalum et al.(1998) proposed a revealed symmetric comparative advantage index (RSCA) which is a transformation in the RCA index and is calculated by the following formula

$$RSCA_i = \frac{RCA_i - 1}{RCA_i + 1}.$$

This index ranges from -1 to 1 and eliminates the biased distribution and overestimation of sectors with a comparative advantage in the overall dynamics. Despite the preference for this index in econometric studies, it does not imply normality in the error terms in all cases and may hide some of the RCA index dynamics (De Benedictis and Tamberi, 2001).

Although the literature offers many alternative indices of comparative advantage (see for example Laursen, 1998, Bojnec,2001 ), in this study we focus on the above two indexes.

## 4. Empirical analysis

### 4.1. Descriptive statistics of RCA index distribution

We begin our analysis of trade dynamics with the descriptive statistics, from which we can extract a lot of information about the distribution of comparative advantage and its mobility. Table 1 display the basic parameters of the descriptive statistics for RCA index used in the analysis. Data are presented on the five-year average time intervals (long-term dynamics) and on the initial and last years of the sample. The share of sectors with comparative advantages was also added to the table (RCA more than 1).

As can be seen in Estonia a substantial part of comparative advantage is concentrated in sectors with a high value of the RCA index as indicated by the *maximum* value and the value of the *coefficient of excess*. A decrease in the *maximum* values of the comparative advantage is observed.

The next general trend is a steady excess of the *average* over the *median*, indicating that the distribution of comparative advantage is biased towards the right. As a result of this distribution, the sectors characterized by high values of the RCA index will be over-weighed in terms of the effect on the overall sign of the comparative advantage dynamic. So the evolution of the country's comparative advantage depends mainly on the evolution of its competitive sectors (De Benedictis and Tamberi, 2001). The *average* is steadily above the unit and the *median* below the unit. Over time the value of the *average*

Table 1. Descriptive statistics of RCA index distribution

	95-99	00-04	05-09	10-11	1995	2011
Mean	1,68	1,79	1,60	1,56	1,73	1,50
Standard Error	0,27	0,36	0,26	0,24	0,28	0,23
Median	0,46	0,41	0,53	0,53	0,41	0,49
Mode	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Standard Deviation	4,32	5,73	4,20	3,77	4,41	3,70
Sample Variance	18,70	32,88	17,64	14,22	19,47	13,66
Kurtosis	72,10	81,65	50,56	33,59	73,06	34,48
Skewness	7,41	8,05	6,54	5,52	7,38	5,57
Range	50,59	69,44	42,49	28,93	52,29	28,80
Minimum	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
Maximum	50,59	69,44	42,49	28,93	52,29	28,80
Sum	427,80	455,29	408,62	397,09	440,23	381,72
Count	255,00	255,00	255,00	255,00	255,00	255,00
RCA>1,%	27,06	29,80	32,94	33,73	30,60	31,80

decreases as the value of the *median* increases, indicating a more equal distribution of comparative advantage by sector.

The steady decrease in the *standard deviation* and the *mean* also indicates a decline in the level of specialization. However, the average value of the RCA index decreased by 13 %.

Another indicator of comparative advantage diversification is the increase in the *median* and the share of sectors with the RCA index greater than 1. This share increase by 3,9 %.

### Galtonian regression

Another way to analyse the shape of the distribution of comparative advantage is the Galtonian regression model. This approach was used in the analysis of specialization distribution by Cantwell (1989), Dalum et al. (1998), Laursen (1998), Ferto (2007), etc. For reasons described in section 3, in this analysis we used the RSCA index.

The main idea in this approach is to estimate the linear model where the independent variable is a time-lagged value of a dependent variable. This allows us to estimate the level of mobility or convergence of the specialization structure over time:

$$RSCA_j^{t2} = \alpha_j + \beta_j RSCA_j^{t1} + \varepsilon_j,$$

where  $t1$  and  $t2$  are the first and last years of the analysis respectively;

$\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are the linear regression coefficients;  
 $\varepsilon$  is the residual term;  
 $j$  is the number of sectors.

The value of  $\beta$  indicates the dynamics of comparative advantage:

A value of  $\beta$  of more than one indicates an increase in specialization, which means that the country is specializing deeper in sectors in which it was initially specialized and decreasing its specialization in sectors with a low initial specialization.

If  $\beta$  is in the range from zero to one, its specialization pattern has weakened. A value of  $\beta$  equal to one means there is a stable pattern of comparative advantage. A special case is when  $\beta$  is less than zero, which points to a change in the sign of the RSCA index.

Several authors have pointed out that  $\beta > 1$  is not a necessary condition for the strengthening of specialization (Dalum et al., 1998, Cantwell, 1989). They show that:

$$y^{2t} / y^{2t-1} = \beta^2 / R^2,$$

where  $y^2$  is variance of the dependent variable;  
 $R^2$  is coefficient of determination.

This can be reduced to

$$y^2 / y^{t1} = |\beta| / |R|.$$

If  $\beta > R$  specialization increases (which is indicated by increased dispersion over time), in the opposite case,  $\beta < R$ , specialization decreased. In the case of  $\beta = R$  a stable specialization pattern should be observed.

Table 2. Galtonian regression of the RSCA index for 1995-2011 years

$\alpha$	-0.09
$\beta$	0.64
t-value	12.02***
Adj. $R^2$	0.6
F-statistics	144***
$\beta/R$	0.83

In the Table 2 the results of the Galtonian regression are submitted.

As can be seen, the results are statistically significant and, in general, confirm the previous analysis. The basic tendency is the diversification of the specialization structure.

#### **Gini coefficients of RCA index distribution**

An important approach to the analysis of specialization mobility is calculating the Gini coefficient of the RCA index distribution. In this analysis, the Gini coefficient is used as a summary measure of the difference in the structure of specialization between the country being considered and the world or reference group of countries (Ferto, 2007). The smaller the value of the index (closer to zero, the lower limit) the smaller is the difference in the level of specialization of the country compared to the global average. The closer the coefficient is to one (the upper limit) the greater the differences in the structure of the specialization. The dynamics of specialization can be seen from the analysis of the time series of Gini coefficients.

**Table 3. Gini coefficients of RCA index distribution**

Year	Gini
1995	0,749
1996	0,742
1997	0,751
1998	0,748
1999	0,749
2000	0,759
2001	0,757
2002	0,749
2003	0,760
2004	0,761
2005	0,739
2006	0,740
2007	0,743
2008	0,750
2009	0,736
2010	0,745
2011	0,749
beta	-0,0004
t	-1,050
R square	0,070

Table 3 shows the calculated Gini coefficients for the period considered. To analyse the mobility of the structure of specialization we regress the Gini coefficient on the time trend. The mobility of the specialization structure in Estonia, according to this analysis is rather low.

#### **4.2. Intra-distribution dynamics of trade patterns**

To analyse the dynamics of specialization for a particular product group, we consider the Markov transition probability matrix. This approach was applied to specialization analysis by Quah (1996,1997). We analyse the distribution of the RCA index by commodity group over time. The value of the RCA index is divided into four classes:

A: from 0 to 0.5 - strong comparative disadvantage

B: from 0,5 to 1 - weak comparative disadvantage

C: from 1 to 2 - weak comparative advantage

D: from 2 to “ - strong comparative advantage

Then we constructed a stochastic matrix counting the number of transitions into and out of each class. The Markov chain shows the probability of the transition of a commodity group from one class to another in a considered period. We also calculated the limit of the distribution which can be interpreted as an evolution of inter-sectoral RCA index distribution in an unlimited time-interval. Table 4 presents the Markov transition probability matrixes for Estonia.

**Table 4. Markov transition matrix of RCA, 1995-2011**

	a	b	c	d
a	0,908	0,075	0,015	0,003
b	0,227	0,628	0,134	0,012
c	0,035	0,177	0,660	0,128
d	0,016	0,016	0,103	0,864
Limit distribution	0,520	0,179	0,142	0,160

The main diagonal of the matrix gives information about the persistency of trade patterns. It is quite high for the sectors with strong comparative advantage and also with strong comparative disadvantage. It indicates the high probability of the considered sectors remaining in the same class.

Commodity groups which belong to the intermediate classes show a higher mobility. The highest is the probability of passing from class B to class A (20 to 23 %). Also, there is a high probability of transitioning from a weak comparative advantage product group into the category of weak comparative disadvantage.



### 4.3. Factor endowments

We analyse here the structural changes in the export specialization structure based on factor endowments. We use here the UNSTAD classification system which divides SITS rev. 3 codes into five factor intensity groups:

- 1 group- Primary products
- 2 group - Natural resource-intensive products
- 3 group -Unskilled labour-intensive products
- 4 group - Technology-intensive products
- 5 group - Human capital-intensive products

We calculated the development of the export share of the groups considered above, RCA indexes aggregated according to the same classification and the share of sectors with comparative advantage according to the factor endowments.

The share of primary products in total exports decreased by a quarter in the considered period which corresponds to the RCA index dynamic of a movement from a rather significant comparative advantage in 1995 to a comparative disadvantage in 2011. The share of sectors with comparative advantage did not change significantly.

The share of natural resource-intensive products decreased the most - by almost double. The index of comparative advantage did not decrease so much and that says more about the impact of general structural changes than about the reduction in international competitiveness. This is also confirmed by small decrease in the share of sectors with comparative advantage.

The share of goods based on unskilled labour is quite small and did not change significantly. The index of comparative advantage fluctuated around unity; the share of sectors with comparative advantage also did not change significantly. This is due to the fact that during the considered period wages reached such a level as to destroy the international competitiveness of this type of product.

The share of technology-intensive products increased significantly (by 60%, if comparing the last year with the first). In recent years, these products have attained some comparative advantage that, given the share of these goods in exports (21-25 %), is a major structural shift in the Estonian economy.

The share of high-tech goods fluctuated around a level of 20 %. The share of sectors with comparative advantage also varied from 14 to 20 % without a clear trend.

### 5. Conclusions

Despite some contradictory results obtained using different methodology the following general conclusions can be formulated:

- Diversification is the general trend in the development of the structure of comparative advantage in the period considered. However the mobility of the structure of specialization was rather low.

- According to the limit distribution of comparative advantage of the Marcovian matrix, the Estonian specialization structure is potentially quite polarized. The persistency of trade patterns is quite high for the sectors with strong comparative advantage and also with strong comparative disadvantage. It indicates the high probability of the considered sectors remaining in the same class.

- Commodity groups which belong to the intermediate classes show a higher mobility. The highest is the probability of passing from class B to class A. Also, there is a high probability of transitioning from the weak comparative advantage product group into the category of weak comparative disadvantage.

- Comparing the structural changes on the basis of factor endowments the following conclusions can be drawn:

- The share of primary products and the comparative advantage within this group decreased significantly.

- The share of natural resource-intensive products as well as the share of commodity groups with comparative advantage was also reduced.

- The unskilled labour-intensive products lost the comparative advantage.

- The share of technology-intensive goods rose. The comparative advantage increased significantly in this group.

- Estonia still does not possess a comparative advantage in high-tech goods. However, the share of goods with a RCA index of more than 1 has expanded, which is an important trend.

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### **ENERGY EFFICIENCY AS THE “POINT OF GROWTH” FOR THE BUSINESS STRUCTURES IN STAGNATING MARKETS**

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There is a complex of measures on energy saving entrepreneurial structures, taking into account the necessity of the use of motivational mechanism of implementation of energy saving measures that support the development of points of growth for the stagnant market, allowing to cut costs on the electric power, increase energy efficiency, and also to take the path of sustainable economic growth.

*Key words:* business structure, energy conservation and efficiency.

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**THE PROSPECTS OF SOLVING THE KEY PROBLEMS OF IMPROVEMENT  
OF INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE TO ENHANCE  
THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE TRANSPORT COMPANIES  
AT A WORLD LEVEL**

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The article deals with modern trends in the development of international transport infrastructure, identifying the actual directions of development of international road transport market, defining the prospects of the solution of the key problems of improvement of international transport infrastructure to enhance the competitiveness of the transport companies on a global level.

*Key words:* international transport infrastructure, competitiveness of the transport companies, international road transport market.

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**ECONOMIC SCIENCE AND EDUCATION**

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**THE BASIC PARAMETERS OF TRANSFORMATION  
OF THE RUSSIAN ECONOMY**

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In the system of modern Economics universities perform functions bazo-a new source of economic development in macroeconomic, regional and national scales. Being the leading social institutions in equal regions and sectors, they are powerful drivers of technological progress, which has involved employers, developers and investors. Assessment of reproductive importance of higher education and its effect comment on the pace of economic growth is largely dependent on the methods, which would be able to fix the corresponding correlation.

*Key words:* russian economy; basic sources of economic development; dynamics of innovative transformation of the russian economy.