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ASSESSMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS REGIONS’ COMPETITIVENES POSITIONS IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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Region’s competitiveness is an economic category, that represents a conditioned by the economic, social, political and other factors, the region's ability to provide a high level of living and income to owners of capital, as well as effective use of existing economic potential in the production of goods and services [1].

The regions’ competitiveness is formed as a result of purposeful active regional investment, demographic and commercial policies. Its implementation should be provided with an objective assessment of the region's competitiveness level, which reflects the competitiveness rating, the improvement of which is relevant for the regions of the Republic of Belarus.

The purpose of this paper is to analyze Republic of Belarus regions’ competitiveness positions.

Material and methods. Base of the research are the works of domestic and foreign scientists in the field of competitiveness, statistical reports of the Belarusian national statistical Committee.

When writing the paper, such research methods as analysis and synthesis, deduction and induction, and a systematic approach were used.

Findings and their discussion. Among various approaches assessing the competitiveness of regions, there is an approach in which the competitiveness of regions is evaluated by three components: demography, investment (investment attractiveness) and foreign trade turnover. As a demographic component of the competitive positions of the regions of the Republic of Belarus, we consider data on the population of the regions of the Republic of Belarus for the period 2015-2020 [2].

As can be seen from table 1, during this period there is a nationwide downward trend in the population. At the same time, the city of Minsk and the Minsk region show population growth, while in all other regions the population

is decreasing. The highest rate of population decline occurs in the Vitebsk region.

Investment attractiveness at the meso-level is usually understood as an integral characteristic of separate regions of the country in terms of the investment climate, the level of development of investment infrastructures, the possibility of attracting investment resources, and other factors that affect the formation of investment returns and investment risks.

Table 1. Population of the Republic of Belarus and its regions in 2015-2020 (Data as of January 1, thousand people.)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
The Republic of Belarus	9480,9	9498,4	9504,7	9491,8	9475,2	9408,4
Regions:						
Brest	1388,9	1387,0	1386,4	1384,5	1380,3	1347,0
Vitebsk	1198,5	1193,5	1188,0	1180,2	1171,6	1133,4
Gomel	1424,0	1422,9	1420,7	1415,7	1409,9	1386,6
Grodno	1052,6	1050,1	1047,4	1043,7	1039,3	1025,8
The city of Minsk	1938,2	1959,8	1974,8	1982,4	1992,7	2020,6
Minsk	1407,9	1417,4	1423,1	1426,5	1428,5	1472,0
Mogilev	1070,8	1067,7	1064,3	1058,8	1052,9	1023,0

In table 2 information on the main foreign direct investment flows to the real sector of the economy of the Republic of Belarus for the period 2014-2018 is presented [3].

Table 2. The main foreign direct investment flows to the real sector of the economy of the Republic of Belarus for the period 2014-2018 (USD, mln.).

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
The Republic of Belarus	10168,9	7 241,4	6 928,6	7634,2	8 537,1
Regions:					
Brest	139,5	101,2	99,3	199,7	256,4
Vitebsk	148,7	86,8	81,9	75,0	75,9
Gomel	238,5	234,3	216,1	188,6	203,6
Grodno	137,2	105,9	136,4	154,1	149,8
The city of Minsk	8 642,1	6062,3	5689,6	6206,1	6 640,0
Minsk	608,2	479,4	538,4	618,7	1 036,6
Mogilev	254,7	171,3	167,0	192,0	174,9

Commercial activity is an element that plays the most important role in improving the competitiveness of economic entities, including regions. Foreign trade turnover (export and import) and production of products to meet the needs of the population consist the commercial activity of the regions.

Table 3 below presents information on the commercial activities of the regions of the Republic of Belarus in 2018. (USA million dollars)

Table 3. Commercial activity of the Republic of Belarus regions in 2018 [4].

Region	Export	Import	Balance
Brest	2 379,7	1 728,0	651,7
Vitebsk	2 215,0	3 136,7	-921,7
Gomel	4 135,0	5 634,8	-1 499,8
Grodno	2 293,1	1 644,4	648,7
The city of Minsk	12 582,5	15 901,5	-3 319,0
Minsk	7 336,8	5 793,4	1 543,4
Mogilev	2 060,3	1 349,7	710,6

As we see from the data, presented in the tables, over the period 2015-2020, the city of Minsk and the Minsk region experienced population growth, while other regions of the Republic of Belarus experienced population decline. The volume of foreign direct investment received in the Republic of Belarus for the period 2014-2018 is mostly contained in the city of Minsk and the Minsk region. According to the results of commercial activity of the Republic of Belarus in 2018, it is clear that the volume of export and import is much higher in Minsk and the Minsk region.

Conclusion. Based on the analysis performed, we can see the current Republic of Belarus regions' competitiveness positions. The factors of the current situation and the potential methods for its improvement are the prospects for further research.

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METHODS OF NON-TARIFF REGULATION OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

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State policy in the field of regulation of foreign trade transactions is aimed primarily at the realization of the country's own interests. The emphasis, as a rule, is shifted towards the national producer and consumer. This also applies to our state to a certain extent. The market transformation of the Belarusian economy provides for the development of such elements of the economic system, which, on the one