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**THE ARKHANGELSK AND THE MURMANSK REGIONS:
A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE COMPETITIVENESS
OF THE ECONOMIES****АРХАНГЕЛЬСКАЯ И МУРМАНСКАЯ ОБЛАСТИ: СРАВНИТЕЛЬНЫЙ АНАЛИЗ
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Annotation: *The paper deals with the main competitive advantages of the economy of the Arkhangelsk region in comparison with the Murmansk region, the level of competitiveness of the economy of the Arkhangelsk region over the past three years. Murmansk region is a region that has common competitive advantages with Arkhangelsk region, namely: geographical location, diversity of natural resources, development of health care system in recent years, rich cultural heritage.*

Key words: *Arkhangelsk region, Murmansk region, competition, regional economy, competitive advantages.*

Introduction.

The competitiveness of the regional economy is the ability to realize the main objective of its functioning, that is, to create conditions for sustainable socio-economic development of the region with a high quality of life of its population.

Competitiveness is reflected through indicators that determine the socio-economic situation of the region, as well as its dynamics. The level of competitiveness of the economy of the Arkhangelsk region for 2015-2017 can be characterized by the indicators presented in the table.

The data from the sources were used in the presented table: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 (see references).

In this article the author defines the main competitive advantages of the economy of the Arkhangelsk region, which influenced the growth of competitiveness of the region's economy over the past three years (table 1), and provides a comparative description of these indicators in comparison with the Murmansk region.

Main text

As a whole, we can distinguish such competitive advantages of Arkhangelsk as:

- Geographical location

Arkhangelsk and Murmansk regions have common borders. Unlike the Murmansk region, the Arkhangelsk region is located in relative proximity to the largest centers of the Russian Federation - the cities of Moscow (the distance between Moscow and the regional center is 1271 km) and St. Petersburg (734 km from Arkhangelsk).

**Table 1**

Dynamics of indicators of competitiveness of the economy of the Arkhangelsk region for 2015-2017 in comparison with the subjects of the Russian Federation

№	Indicator	2015 (place of 83)	2016 (place of 83)	2017 (place of 85)
1.	The index of competitiveness of regions AV RCI	40	37	45
2.	Socio-economic situation of the subjects	45	48	42
3.	The index of creditworthiness of Russian regions	47	43	58
4.	Management efficiency in the subjects of the Russian Federation	73	80	75
5.	The state of the investment climate in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation	4 group of 5	-	75
6.	Innovative development of subjects of the Russian Federation	39	39	59

The presence of highways (M8, A-215, P1, P2, P157) and railway communication provides intensive communication between the subjects of the Russian Federation (6,927. 389 km is the length of paved roads) [7]. The additional advantages and common in the areas under consideration are:

- the availability of access to the White, the Barents, the Kara seas, which ensures the development of fisheries, shipbuilding, as well as the activities of shipping and service companies;

- the prospect of development of the Arctic zone and the Northern sea route capable of creating a competitive regional economy at the international level.

- Natural wealth

The Arkhangelsk region is rich in minerals. On the territory of the Arkhangelsk region there are deposits of diamonds, bauxite, oil, gas, gold, dust meters, basalt, etc. On island territories lie polymetallic ore reserves of the Pavlovsk deposits approved and cost-effective to operate. It should be noted that there are such natural resources as forest fund and marine resources in the region.

The Murmansk region has a variety of natural resources. More than 60 large deposits of various types of mineral raw materials have already been discovered in the depths of the Kola Peninsula. Currently, almost three dozen types of minerals are mined, the most valuable of which are the ores of phosphorus, titanium, iron,



aluminum, copper, nickel, zirconium and other rare metals. Significant reserves of mica, ceramic raw materials and raw materials for building materials, facing stone, semi-precious and semi-precious stones.

- Agricultural sector

Taking into account the climatic conditions and the territorial location for the regions, agriculture based on dairy cattle breeding prevails.

At the same time, the Murmansk region occupies one of the first places in the country in terms of dairy productivity of cattle. The largest share is occupied by livestock (>80%) for the production of products in which the main directions are: dairy cattle, pig and poultry. At the same time, in the Arkhangelsk region there is an active restoration and development of dairy cattle breeding. The region to be such a large agricultural enterprises, as JSC "Agrofirm "Izhevsk", JSC "Rodina", JSC Vazhskiy, SPK "Plemzavod Kholmogory".

- High quality education

Educational organizations of the Arkhangelsk region are characterized by high quality of training of graduates. This is evidenced by the results of the unified state exam, the average score of which in the region for 2018 is 67.2. The number of schoolchildren who graduated from grade 11 to the ratio of the permanent population on average for 2017 in the Arkhangelsk region was 0.51%, which is higher in the Russian average (0.44%). The system of higher education of the Arkhangelsk region provides the release of highly qualified specialists of a wide range, competitive in the labor market of the Russian Federation. It is worth noting that there are two higher education institutions in the region: the Northern (Arctic) Federal University named after M. V. Lomonosov and the Northern state medical University. In the NARFU there are: Laboratory of Arctic biomonitoring, Center for collective use "Arctic", as well as created scientific and educational center "New materials and technologies for the Arctic" of the world level.

There are also two state universities in the Murmansk region. But it should be noted that it was the Arkhangelsk region that was chosen for the implementation of the Arctic strategy of the Russian Federation and the creation of an innovative and personnel base for the development of the North and the Arctic, which contributed to the emergence of one of the ten Federal universities in Russia in the region.

- The development of the health system.

A three-level system of medical care has been established in the Arkhangelsk region. Standardized mortality rates have a clear downward trend. A significant role was played by the persistent tendency to reduce mortality from socially significant diseases. The infant mortality rate in 2016 decreased by 34.4% compared to 2008. Thus, life expectancy increased by more than 3 years.

Due to the presence of remote and inaccessible settlements and low population density of the Arkhangelsk region, telemedicine has been developed in the health sector. The number of remote consultations is increasing every year. In the Arkhangelsk region there is also a high-tech perinatal center, designed not only for inpatient treatment, but also for remote monitoring.

In the Murmansk region, the incidence has decreased over the past 5 years, so in 2013 for 1 000 people 897 people, and in 2017 – 825 people. As in Arkhangelsk, life



expectancy has increased in recent years, in 2016 it was 70.9 years, and in 2018 - 72 years [9].

- Industrial orientation of the region

The most important advantage of the economy of the Arkhangelsk region is the presence of two industrial clusters - shipbuilding and timber processing. The activity of shipbuilding organizations is mainly focused on the production of single products for the needs of the military-industrial complex. The wood processing cluster provides complex processing of the wood and release of competitive production both in the Russian, and in the international market. It is also noted the orientation of the organizations of the timber industry to the sustainable development of the Arkhangelsk region, expressed in the conduct of reforestation.

In the Murmansk region, the largest shares in the volume of industrial production are mining, metallurgy and electricity. In the region there are 17 hydroelectric power plants, a nuclear power plant, 2 thermal power plants, copper-nickel ore is mined. The metallurgical industry of the region is represented by aluminum production plants. The Murmansk region is ahead of many regions in terms of annual volumes of industrial production, in addition, this subject of the Russian Federation is a monopolist in the development of the Arctic shelf.

- Cultural heritage

The Arkhangelsk region has a rich cultural heritage represented by historical settlements, architectural ensembles, as well as spiritual cultural heritage and traditional crafts. This contributes to the development of tourism, which is currently the most developed in the Solovetsky Islands (where 200 historical monuments are United) and in the city of Arkhangelsk. Also, tourists are attracted by hunting, fishing, white nights and the extraordinary beauty of the Russian North [3].

In the Murmansk region there are more than 400 objects of culture and art (museums, libraries, houses and palaces of culture, folk art centers, schools of primary aesthetic education, college of arts). 83 state and municipal club institutions, including the Park of culture and rest, work for the population.

Conclusion

To increase its attractiveness, the region has to compete with other actors. The Murmansk region is a region that has common competitive advantages with Arkhangelsk region, namely: geographical location, diversity of natural resources, development of health care system in recent years, rich cultural heritage.

One of the important directions of development of the Arkhangelsk region in comparison with other regions is the prospect of development of the Arctic zone and the Northern sea route. For this purpose, the Arkhangelsk region has such competitive advantages as: geographical location, educational potential, industrial orientation of the region.

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Аннотация: В статье рассматриваются основные конкурентные преимущества экономики Архангельской области по сравнению с Мурманской областью, уровень конкурентоспособности экономики Архангельской области за последние три года. Мурманская область - регион, имеющий общие конкурентные преимущества с Архангельской областью, а именно: географическое положение, разнообразие природных ресурсов, развитие системы здравоохранения последних лет, богатое культурное наследие.

Ключевые слова: Архангельская область, Мурманская область, конкуренция, региональная экономика, конкурентные преимущества.

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