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**Ensuring competitiveness of the regions:  
possibilities of the subjects of the Far-Eastern federal district**

*The system of social and economic relations and operating conditions of the modern economy providing translational development of the market relations at the regional level assume existence of the mechanism of opposition of economic subjects concerning attraction, uses of resources and distribution of the results of activities leading to a change of conditions of realization of the products of work reflecting specifics of the social, economic, climatic and geopolitical aspects of development. The role of public authorities in this situation consists in carrying out an effective policy of formation and maintenance of the competitive environment, respect for the balance of public and private interests. The article is devoted to determination of an entity and content of competitiveness of the regions. The author made an attempt to select distinctive characteristics of competitiveness of the territorial subject of the Russian Federation as the region. On the example of the subjects of the Far-Eastern federal district the main factors of influence on a status of competitiveness of the regions are provided. During the research tendencies of manifestation of the opportunities of development and the constraining impacts of ensuring of the competitive advantages of the Far-Eastern territories are designated. In this article the main problem zones of formation of competitiveness of the regions of the Far-Eastern federal district and a way of their elimination are determined.*

**Keywords:** *competition, competitiveness, competitiveness of the regions, factors of competitiveness of the subjects of the Far-Eastern federal district.*

**Обеспечение конкурентоспособности регионов:  
возможности субъектов Дальневосточного федерального округа**

*Система социально-экономических отношений и условия функционирования современной экономики, обеспечивающие поступательное развитие рыночных отношений на региональном уровне, предполагают наличие механизма противоборства экономических субъектов по поводу привлечения, использования ресурсов и распределения результатов деятельности, приводящих к изменению условий обращения продуктов труда, отражающих специфику социальных, экономических, природно-климатических и геополитических аспектов развития. Роль органов государственной власти в этой ситуации заключается в проведении*

*эффективной политики формирования и поддержания конкурентной среды, соблюдения баланса публичных и частных интересов. Статья посвящена определению сущности и содержания конкурентоспособности регионов. Автором предпринята попытка выделить отличительные характеристики конкурентоспособности субъекта Российской Федерации как региона. На примере субъектов Дальневосточного федерального округа представлены основные факторы влияния на состояние конкурентоспособности регионов. В ходе исследования обозначены тенденции проявления возможностей развития и сдерживающих воздействий обеспечения конкурентных преимуществ дальневосточных территорий. В статье определены основные проблемные зоны формирования конкурентоспособности регионов Дальневосточного федерального округа и пути их устранения.*

**Ключевые слова:** конкуренция, конкурентоспособность, конкурентоспособность регионов, факторы конкурентоспособности субъектов Дальневосточного федерального округа

The competition is a basis of functioning of economy since it creates and provides development of the market relations via the mechanism of opposition of the economic agents leading to a change of conditions of realization of goods in the appropriate markets. In the modern conditions the world economy undergoes the high-quality changes connected with the influence of political factors, gain of the non-uniformity of development of participants of the world economic relations, manifestations of globalization and peaking of competition between the countries, regions and the separate enterprises. In these conditions the capacity of the market of any state is determined by the competitiveness of its regions.

The competitiveness acts as one of fundamental concepts of the market economy. However as the economic category it has a set of definitions depending on the accepted concepts, working hypotheses and assumptions. Economic maintenance of a concept of competitiveness differs depending on the chosen carrier of the sphere of a research as which can act: goods, producer, intermediary, seller, enterprise, branch, activity, structure of management, territory, region, society, state, world community and so forth. Anyway the main characteristic reflecting a sense of the competition – the choice, competitiveness has to work. The competitiveness represents a set of qualities of goods, service of an object or the subject of the market relations allowing them estimate these qualities and enter a competition with the other participants of the market [1].

It is possible to understand the mechanism of regulation of proportions of social production in the conditions of market economy through the fight of producers and consumers for the most favorable conditions of production as the competition and sale of goods and services [2, p. 124]. Competition is a rivalry between the economic agents in achievement of the identical purposes in the conditions of limitation of resources and infinity of the requirements.

Generalizing different approaches, it is possible to determine the competitiveness as a set of abilities, opportunities and potential to operate the demand in the market in own favor [3, p. 55].

Competitiveness forms difficult interrelations of economic agents – the separate enterprises, national and international corporations, branches and fields of activity. Ensuring their competitiveness is the cornerstone of development of the strategy of development for the country, the region, the firm.

Competitiveness has to reflect a strategic objective of the state – an opportunity and readiness to provide the steady growth of the standard of living of the population and investment attractiveness of the territory. The current state of economic system of Russia, i.e. the remaining raw character of economy, insufficient financing and development of the research and development, education level inappropriate to the modern requirements of the market and vocational training of the personnel, high volatility of the market, deficiency of budgets of all levels of the budgetary system, not highly influences fixing of its competitive positions. Though, it is necessary to recognize, that competitiveness of the country and competitiveness of its business are not identical concepts.

Effectively operating market mechanism connects the interests of buyers and sellers, forces them to work in coordination, satisfying the needs of each of them and the society in general. People, interacting, consider the expected expenses and benefits connected with the alternative opportunities realized by them. It doesn't mean that their actions are directed to the general wellbeing. The neoclassical interpretation of the concept of "invisible hand" entered by Adam Smith saying that activity for the benefit of own benefit serves the general welfare is widespread in the economic theory: "Each individual... doesn't intend to promote public interests... he pursues only the personal benefit, but the invisible hand leads to a result which wasn't a part of his intentions" [4, p. 100]. Development of the system of production and granting goods and services depends on the social and economic, fiscal, budgetary, investment, innovative and other policy elected by the state.

Development of the state and its regions depends on a condition of all parameters of the market and, undoubtedly, on the competitiveness of economic entities and also the state and municipal regulation of conditions of the competition. But competitive advantage is created and keeps in close connection with the local conditions. The need of improvement of a quality of life of the population and also aspiration of the country to take the worthy place in the world economic community puts in the forefront requirement of maintenance of the economic growth.

Actually the competition doesn't create a new product and doesn't provide an increment of economic resources however it forces the all participants of economic relations to stir up the activity in aspiration to the best results. Positive manifestation of the competition in the region means that by the efforts of the state bodies the efficiency of the activity of economic entities promoting formation of the investment streams from the enterprises and population increases.

Ensuring the competitiveness can be considered as the instrument of management of finance of the region which purpose is formation of the steady barter corresponding to operation of the mechanism of supply and demand, maintenance of the steady economic growth and the acceptable standard of living of the population [1]. Competitiveness of the territory has to be realized in creating

favorable conditions for attraction and enhancement of all types of economic resources (natural, material, labor, financial, information), their interactions and transformations for improvement of the quality of life of the population of the region.

Competitiveness of the Far-Eastern federal district depends on a set of factors. We will consider the brightest manifestations of advantages of development of the regions and the constraining tendencies.

Factors of influence on a condition of competitiveness of the region can be considered from the point of view of macroeconomic or microeconomic approach.

Macroeconomic approach has to consider such characteristics of competitiveness as: demographic indicators, influence of monetary and credit factors, tax policy of the state and the region, priorities of distribution of the public expenditures, world prices and external economic preferences.

Microeconomic approach includes the indicators of competitiveness of the regional economic agents considering the mechanism of formation of production and transaction expenses, established the prices and tariffs, infrastructure providing, depreciation policy of the enterprises, attraction of investments, export-import opportunities.

We will begin evaluation of competitive opportunities of the territory with the definition of quantitative indices of the state of manpower. Population in the Far-Eastern federal district for the end of 2016 was 6182,69 thousand people, or 4,2% of population of the Russian Federation. It should be noted insignificant, but the steady annual reduction of a number of the Far-Easterners, for the last three years it has decreased more than by 28,3 thousand people [5].

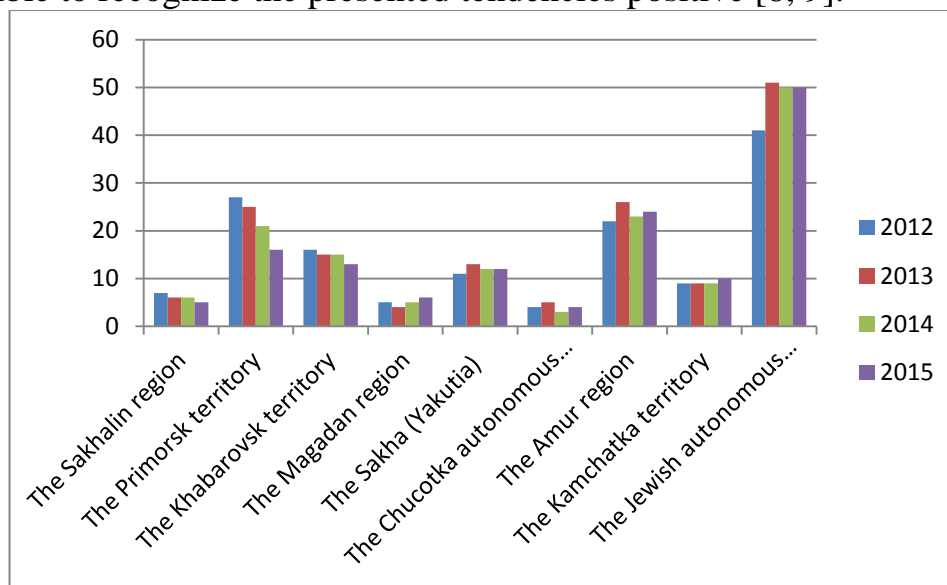
Difficulties of development of the Far-Eastern federal district are connected with the size of the territory which area is 36% of all territory of the Russian Federation, and the lowest population density among the all federal districts – 1 person on 1 sq.km. Regions of the Far East considerably differ from each other in population and a demographic situation. In five of them: The Sakha (Yakutia) Republic, Primorsk and Khabarovsk regions, the Amur and Sakhalin regions – 89% of all population of FEFD live. Along with the general tendencies of development of territorial subjects of the federation characteristic of the Far East in general, there are significant differences between the regions on the level of birth rate, mortality and migration [6]. Undoubtedly, the climatic originality of the regions of the Far East has romantic appeal, but doesn't provide comfortable conditions for the activity.

Development of the territories of the Far East is substantially connected with the active participation of indigenous ethnic groups of Siberia and the Far East in economic activity, especially in the places with adverse conditions of accommodation. The territory of the Far-Eastern federal district is inhabited by the representatives of 20 indigenous ethnic groups which over 70% live in the rural areas. Now the number of indigenous ethnic groups of the Far East 103,8 thousand people that makes 40% of a number of all indigenous ethnic groups of the Russian Federation and 1,7% of the total number of population of the Far-Eastern federal district [6].

The labor of the subjects of the Far-Eastern federal district makes 4,4% of the labor of the Russian Federation. In this territory the highest relation of a number occupied in the region economy to the population at working-age – 87,9%, while in Russia on the average – 80,6%. In 2016 in the FEFD there was the lowest tension coefficient in the country in labor market – 1,8 (in the Russian Federation – 3,3). With an intense situation in the labor market in the FEFD following the results of 2015 - 2016 the Jewish autonomous region has been recognized as the only territory [7]. The statistics confirms that the residents of the Far East are on the average younger and more active, than in the other regions of Russia [5].

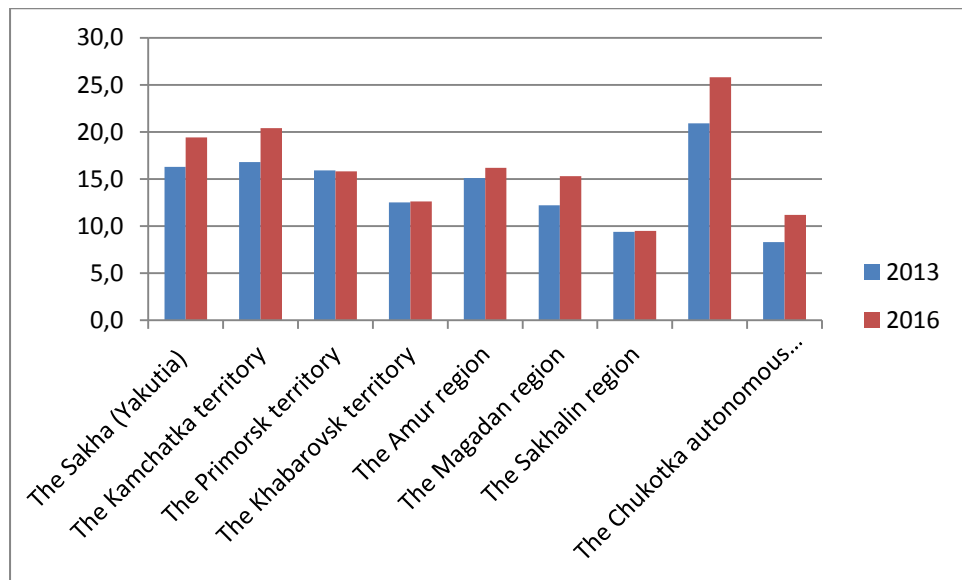
However the quality of life in the FEFD is not the most attractive. Steady idea of the high income of the Far-Easterners remained in the past. Following the results of 2015 in comparison with the previous year the ranks on the average per capita income of inhabitants only of three regions – the Sakhalin region, the Primorsk and Khabarovsk regions have improved (fig. 1).

The situation with the change of ranks on the level of the average per capita income of population of the subjects of FEFD is reflected in the figure. Conditionally the territories can be divided into three zones. Undoubtedly, leaders – the Sakhalin and Magadan regions are beaten out from a general line and also the Chukotka autonomous region – high income per capita here is noted; the second, catching-up zone – the Primorsk, Khabarovsk, Kamchatka regions and the Sakha Republic, approaches them the Amur region; in a zone of outsiders there is JAR, it takes the 50th place in Russia in a size of income falling on 1 inhabitant. In general it is possible to recognize the presented tendencies positive [8, 9].



*Fig. 1. Dynamics of assessment of the average per capita income of population of the subjects of the Far-Eastern federal district*

Specific weight of population with the incomes below the poverty line in the subjects of FEFD remains high. Repeating the general tendency, it has an upward tendency, strengthened by the high cost of life of the Far-Easterners [5].



*Fig. 2. Population share with the monetary income below the regional size of living wage in the total number of population of the subjects of FEFD*

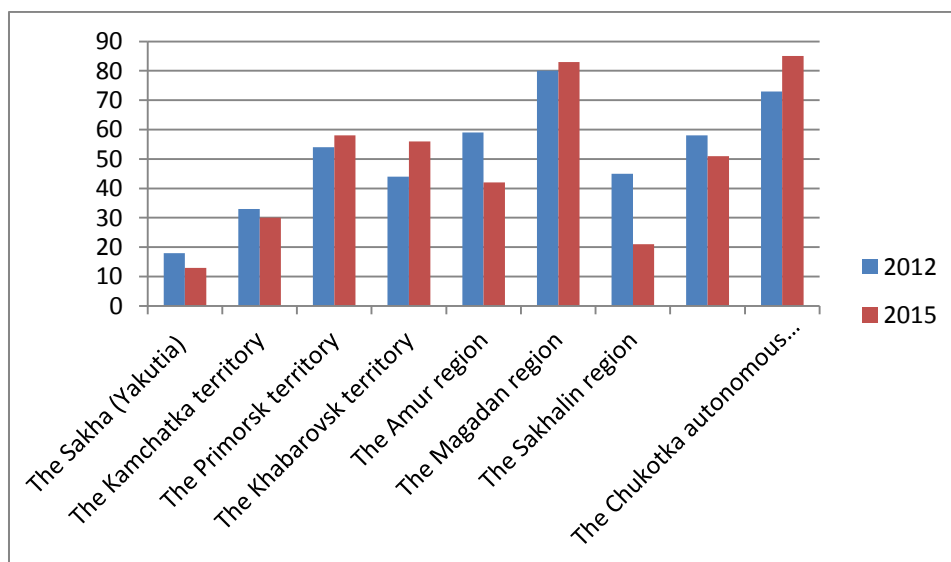
One of the important indicators of the quality of life is availability of housing. The total area of premises falling on 1 people of FEFD is 23,2 sq.m that is 1,2 sq.m less, than on the average in Russia. The share of shabby housing – 5,8% (this share is higher only in the North-Caucasian federal district – 5,9%), on the average in the Russian Federation it makes 2,5%. [5]

The average prices in the housing market in the Far East in 2015 were higher than the average Russian in the primary market by 1,26 times, in the secondary market – by 1,29 times [10, p. 1284-1286]. Despite extensive land resources, cost of the land plots under the individual construction is high and in the majority sites aren't provided with the infrastructure conditions, necessary for the successful construction and accommodation: roads, electricity, water supply and water disposal and also the approximate social objects. And the possibility of solution of the housing problems remains to one of the main conditions of fixing of the population in the territory of the Far-Eastern subjects.

Economic restrictions involve the social problems. Not casually the Far-Eastern regions take the second place in the Russian Federation on a number of the registered crimes (on 100 thousand population – 2167) [10, p. 494] and the first place by the number of divorces (on 1000 residents of the FEFD – 597) [10, p. 79]. To keep and increase population in the Far East in these conditions becomes problematic.

Traditional approach to the determination of investment attractiveness of the subjects of FEFD is set by the existence, quality and availability of natural resources. However the current state of the market dictates a requirement of processing of raw materials for the purpose of extraction of a bigger economic benefit. In a view of a high capital-and power consumption of the processing production, expenses on delivery of the resources to the producers and final goods to the consumers, efforts of the Far-Eastern businessmen are minimized. So, the specific weight of unprofitable organizations in the Far-Eastern federal district in

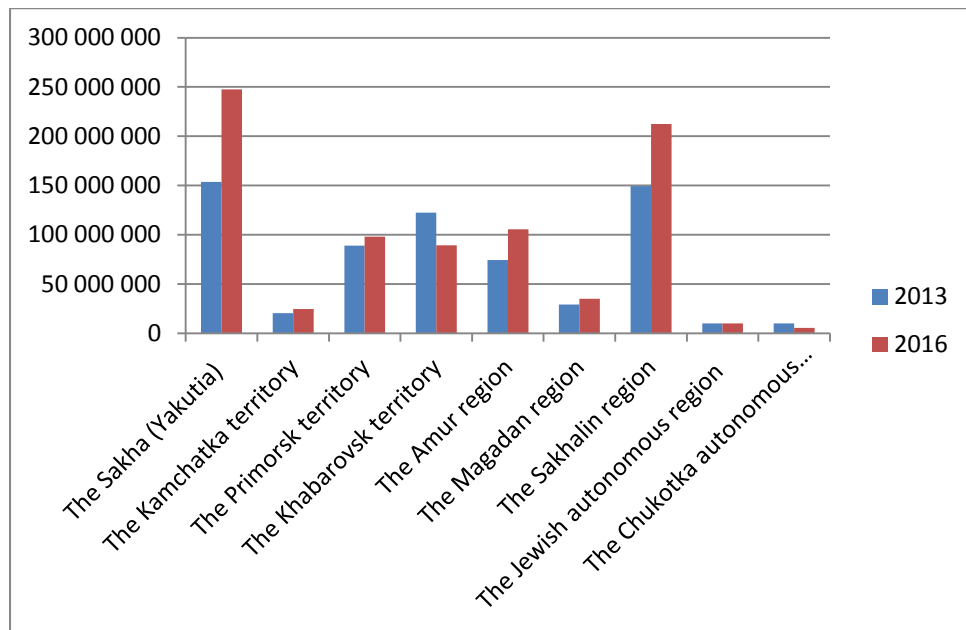
2015 was one of the highest in Russia – 36,2% (average across the Russian Federation – 32,6%). The main share of unprofitable enterprises in the FEFD belongs to the specialized branches: mining – 43,6%, production and distribution of the electric power, gas and water – 54,1%; transport and communication – 39,5%, operations with the real estate, rent and rendering of services – 44,6% [10].



*Fig. 3. Dynamics of assessment of a share of the profitable enterprises of the subjects of the Far-Eastern federal district*

The figure 3 shows a situation with the change of ranks of the Far-Eastern subjects on a profitability of producers. The best situation is in the Sakhalin region, it takes the 13<sup>th</sup> place in Russia on a share of profitable organizations, the situation in the Amur region, Primorsk and Kamchatka regions and in the Sakha (Yakutia) Republic improves, at the other regions these indicators are low and worsen [8, 9]. The Jewish autonomous region has a sad record, on 1/1/2016 it takes the 85<sup>th</sup> place in Russia with the share of profitable enterprises – 38,6% [9].

Possibilities of development of production are determined by the investments brought in the formation and updating of fixed assets of the enterprises. The volume of investments in the fixed capital without the budgetary funds in the Far-Eastern federal district following the results of 2016 is 6,4% of investments of the Russian Federation [5]. Essential reduction of the absolute volumes of investment into the fixed capital is noted in the Khabarovsk territory and in the Chukotka autonomous region in the recent years.



*Fig. 4. Dynamics of investments into the fixed capital of the subjects of the Far-Eastern federal district*

However the investments into the fixed capital per capita in the Far-Eastern federal district in 2015 exceeded the average Russian indicator by 1,4 times, taking the second place in Russia after the Ural federal district. In the leaders in this indicator on 1/1/2016 the Sakhalin region acts (516574 rub of investments on the person), the Primorsk territory finishes the rating (60103 rub on one person) [10, p. 1235]. Considering that in the Far East less than 4% of the Russian enterprises [10, p. 569], considerable investments per capita, it is more likely a consequence of the low population density function.

The innovative activity of the Far-Eastern enterprises determined by the specific weight of organizations which are carrying out technological, organizational, marketing innovations is 7,2% that is 1,29 times lower, than on the average in Russia [10, p. 1045]. Research and development in 2015 in the FEFD carried out only 180 enterprises [10, p. 997]. Internal costs of scientific research in the Far-Eastern enterprises don't exceed 2% of the all-Russian expenses [10, p. 1009]. The share of production of high-tech and knowledge-intensive industries in a gross regional product in the Far-Eastern territorial subjects of the federation makes only 14,4% (the average Russian indicator – 20,4%) [5]. These factors don't create conditions for an increase in labor productivity. The index of labor productivity in the Far-Eastern federal district in 2015 was reduced in all subjects, except the Amur, Magadan and Sakhalin regions. The gain of high-performance jobs in 2016 in the FEFD has a positive value only in the Sakhalin region [5]. The carried-out analysis shows that the possibilities of economic growth of the Far-Eastern regions are not the most attractive and don't seek for strengthening.

At the absence or limitation of own means the attracted resources become particularly important. The solvency of the enterprises is determined as the achieved need for money, ability to answer for the obligations. As the main source



of attraction of the resources for the enterprises the banking sector, despite the active development of new financial intermediaries acts.

Practice of functioning of the credit institutions of the Far-Eastern federal district shows the bright manifestations of centrifugal force of development of the banking sector when the monetary resources are removed from the territory in the large financial centers where an essential turn creates the higher return on the capital. So, for the last five years the number of credit institutions in the FEFD has decreased almost by 1,59 times, and in 2016 in the district there were only 17 credit institutions, the same tendency is traced also on the branches of credit institutions, their quantity was reduced by 1,86 times (in 2016 in the FEFD – 79 branches) [10, p.1096-1099].

The set of financial requirements and opportunities reflects the characteristics of solvency of the subjects of economic relations in the territory. The solvency of the region assumes probability of receiving by the region on the rights and duties of the borrower of money and also an opportunity and readiness in due time and in full to liquidate the loan or equated to its debt. The techniques of determination of solvency of the regions are subjective, within our research the recommendations of the AKM rating agency considering the influence of economic, financial, socio-political factors and also the quality of management of the budgetary process and a regional debt are accepted.

The solvency of the region acts as one of the most important indicators of quality of management of the region finance. The rating of solvency of the regions testifies to a rather high financial capacity of regions of the Far-Eastern federal district (tab. 1). However steady deterioration in the indicators of solvency is shown in the recent years by the Jewish autonomous and the Magadan regions.

*Table 1*

**Comparative characteristic of dynamics of ratings of solvency of the regions of the Far-Eastern federal district**

<b>№ №</b>	<b>Territorial subjects of the federation of the Far-Eastern federal district</b>	<b>The place in a research of the integrated level of solvency of the territorial subjects of the Russian Federation</b>					
		<b>2008</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
1	The Sakhalin region	10	9	7	7	4	4
2	The Primorsky territory	28	27	18	18	15	14
3	The Khabarovsk territory	26	14	21	34	34	32
4	The Magadan region	72	48	28	37	39	48
5	The Sakha (Yakutia) Republic	43	42	35	38	28	24
6	The Chukotka autonomous region	70	38	50	72	73	58

7	The Amur region	48	44	52	67	63	45
8	The Kamchatka territory	78	68	67	58	58	52
9	The Jewish autonomous region	60	46	69	74	75	81

Sources: it is made according to PA AKM:  
<http://www.akmrating.ru/ru/ranking/index/21>;  
[www.akmrating.ru/ru/ranking/index/26](http://www.akmrating.ru/ru/ranking/index/26)

Proceeding from the need of formation of the competitive regional financial market, it is possible to allocate the problems of development: increase in capacity and transparency of the financial market; ensuring efficiency of the market infrastructure; formation of favorable tax climate for its participants; improvement of legal regulation in the financial market; introduction of the mechanisms providing finding of a great number of retail investors in the financial market and protection of their investments; increase in the level of knowledge of the citizens of opportunities of investment of savings in the financial market.

The carried-out analysis has allocated the most significant, in the author's opinion, factors of increase in the competitiveness of the regions. For ensuring the social and economic development of the Far East the solution of ambitious tasks in the organization and management of economic capacity of the territorial subjects of the federation is required. In the conditions of limitation of resources it is necessary to take measures for improvement of the quality of life of the population which have to provide the conditions for economic growth at the expense of intensive factors, improvements of demographic situation and reduction of the population. At the same time the solution of such tasks will promote increase in the investment attractiveness of the regions of the Far East, and, therefore, to an increase in the indicators of quality of management of the territory. Decrease in the social tension and improvement of the socio-political component of the regional economic policy has to become an important aspect of competitiveness of the regions.

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