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# DISTRIBUTION OF NATURAL OIL RENT IN THE RUSSIAN ECONOMY

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#### Abstract

The article is devoted to specific features of assigning oil rents and the impact of oil and gas revenues on the quality of life in Russia. The research object is the distribution mechanism of oil revenues, the research subject – the impact of oil revenues on the country's welfare. Russia has 6% of the world's proven oil reserves. The main problem of the Russian oil resource base is still the gradual deterioration of its structure with an increase in the share of hard-to-recover reserves and an increase in the oil production cost. For the removal of the oil rent, the fiscal mechanism is used. The maximum level of oil rents in Russia was reached in 2008, due to the binding of Mineral Extraction Tax to the oil world price and the peak oil prices. Oil and gas revenues for many years played a key role for the budget of our country. In different periods, the share of oil and gas revenues ranged from 17.2% to 27.8% of the consolidated budget of the Russian Federation. In 2018, this share was 24.2%. To assess the impact of rental income on the national welfare, the authors studied the dependence of Russian GDP and Human Development Index on oil and gas revenues, developed an economic and mathematical model for predicting GDP depending on oil and gas revenues, and a regression model that reflects the dependence of the Human Development Index on the forecast of oil and gas revenues.

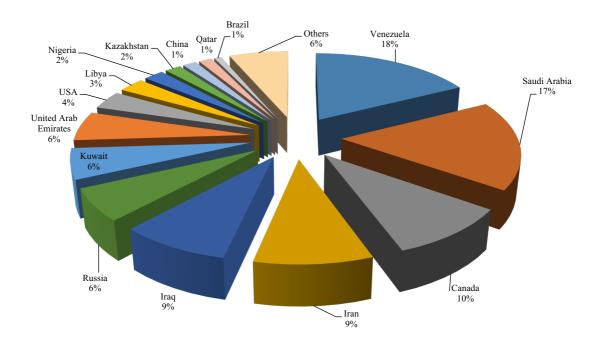
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Keywords: Oil and gas revenues, oil rents, taxes, national welfare.

#### 1. Introduction

# 1.1. Oil reserves of the Russian Federation and their quality characteristics

The Russian Federation has 6% of the world's proven crude oil reserves (Figure 01).



Source: authors.

**Figure 01.** Structure of world proven oil reserves (for 01.01.2019)

The state balance of mineral reserves of the Russian Federation takes into account 3074 deposits with technologically recoverable oil reserves, including 2511 oil and 563 complex ones (oil and gas, gas and oil, oil and gas condensate).

The state of the world economy and its segments will depend to a large extent on the success of data transfer, storage, processing, use and protection. It is obvious that one the business priorities in oil companies as well today is the high-quality processing of the information flow. According to expert evaluations, Russian oil companies are actively engaged in the application of smart wells into their business environment. If the world used the technology at 800 wells in 2011, only Rosneft had about 2,000 wells with signs of artificial intelligence by 2017 (Peskova, Khodkovskaya, Charikov, & Sharafutdinov, 2019; Peskova, & Sharafutdinov, 2019).

By 1.01.2018, there were 2,641 objects in the distributed subsoil fund, including 1,909 developed and 732 explored objects, which together contain oil reserves of 16.09 billion tons of categories A+B1, 1.75 billion tons of category C1 (97.3% of developed and 89.6% of explored reserves in Russia), 5.8 billion tons of category B2, 4.36 billion tons of category C2 (92.6% and 89.4%, respectively) (Table 01).

Table 01. Resources and recoverable reserves of oil and gas condensate for 01.01.2018

	Resources		Recoverable reserves	
Indicator	Perspective (D <sub>0</sub> )	Prognostic (D <sub>1</sub> +D <sub>2</sub> )	A+B <sub>1</sub> +C <sub>1</sub>	B <sub>2</sub> +C <sub>2</sub>
Oil	12999,0	44939,3	18496,6	11326
Condensate	1805,2	11974	2353,3	1695,9

Source: authors.

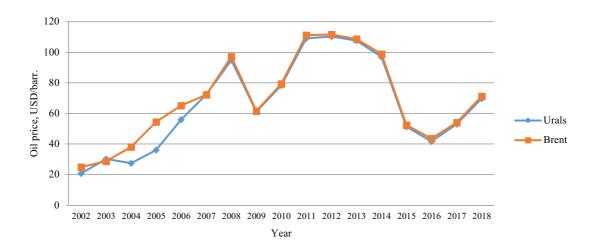
In the regional context, the largest share of the mining industry in the gross regional product is the Republic of Tatarstan (23.4%), the Irkutsk region (11.4%), the Republic of Bashkortostan (7.7%) (Yusupov, Toktamysheva, Yangirov, & Akhunov, 2019). At the same time, the quality of oil, the conditions of its reserves, and, consequently, its value and cost affect the profitability of production. The qualitative characteristics of the marker types of world exchanges, as well as the Russian export grade "Urals" are shown in Table 02.

Table 02. Quality indicators of certain oil grades

Oil grade	Density, API	Sulfur content, %
1 Arab light crude oil	33,50-38,60	0,45-1,20
2 Arab medium crudeoil	30,50	2,10
3 Arab tight oil	27,50	2,75
4 Brent	37,20	0,35
5 Siberian light crude oil	38,00	0,35-0,45
6 Urals	32,00-32,50	1,20-1,38
7 ESPO	34,7	0,5
8 West Texas	38,60	0,45

Source: authors.

The Urals export grade of Russian oil is obtained by mixing different grades of oil in the Druzhba pipeline. Urals oil, having a higher density and sulfur content, is inferior to the stock exchange's marker grades in price (Figure 02).



Source: authors.

Figure 02. Dynamics of Brent and Urals oil prices

The Russian raw material base of liquid hydrocarbons has a high concentration. The quality of the basin's oil is relatively high: 47% of the basin's reserves are represented by particularly light and light grades, and other 28% are medium-density oil types. Low-and medium-grained oil accounts for about 70% of the oil and gas reserves in the basin (Korzhubaev, Filimonova, & Eder, 2007).

#### 1.2. Features of assigning oil rents in Russia

Two industry taxes are applied for the withdrawal of oil rents – the mineral extraction tax and the export duty (Table 03).

**Table 03.** Average basic tax rates in oil and gas production in the Russian Federation

Indicator		Year			
		2015	2016	2017	2018
Corporate income tax, %	20,0	20,0	20,0	20,0	20,0
Tax on property of organizations, %	2,2	2,2	2,2	2,2	2,2
Value added tax, %	18,0	18,0	18,0	18,0	18,0
Contributions to extra-budgetary social funds, %	30,0	30,0	30,0	30,0	30,0
Mineral extraction tax (oil), RUB/t	5827,5	6312	5777	8134	12468
MET (natural gas), RUB/thousand m <sup>3</sup>	301,5	162	208	253	305
Duty on oil exports, USD/ton	366,5	120,31	75,72	86,71	128,52
Duty on natural gas exports,%	30,0	30,0	30,0	30,0	30,0

Source: authors.

In accordance with article 261 of the Tax Code of the Russian Federation of July 31, 1998 N 146-FZ, the subsoil user takes into account certain types of expenses for the development of natural resources, which is carried out during the geological study and development of license areas, when forming the tax base for the profit tax. Taking into account the tasks specified in the Energy Strategy – 2030 (Institute of Energy Strategy, 2019), only subsoil users who are engaged in the search and evaluation of new offshore hydrocarbon deposits can use the preferential coefficient of 1.5 to the amount of received expenses (Sharf & Mikhalchuk, 2019).

The mineral extraction tax (MET) is a federal tax that was introduced on January 1, 2002. Through this tax, the state withdraws from all enterprises of the mineral resource industries a part of the mining rent, that is, a part of the income determined by the action of the natural factor. In general, over the five-year period, the MET value per ton of oil increased by 1.5 times. The main reason is the increase in the tax rate. When exporting oil and petroleum products, the price includes export duty, VAT is not included. The value of the export duty is unstable (Figure 03).

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Source: authors.

Figure 03. Export duty on oil

It is set in absolute terms in US dollars per ton and is calculated monthly on a progressive scale based on the average price of Urals grade oil (Table 04).

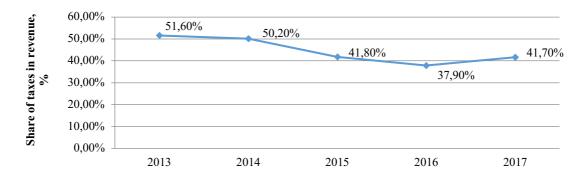
Table 04. Calculation of oil export duty

Price quotation of Urals (P), USD./ton	Maximum export customs duty rate
≤ 109,5	0%
109,5 <p 146,0<="" td="" ≤=""><td>35% ×(P-109,5)</td></p>	35% ×(P-109,5)
146,0 <p 182,5<="" td="" ≤=""><td>12,78 + 45% ×(P-146,0)</td></p>	12,78 + 45% ×(P-146,0)
> 182,5	29,2+30% × (P-182,5)

Source: authors.

The rent corresponding to the exported ton of oil is divided by the export duty into a part received by the state and a part remaining at the disposal of the oil company (profit before taxation). The rent of a ton sold on the domestic market is divided into a part received by the company (profit before taxation) and a part received by oil consumers – manufacturing enterprises, transport, and households. Experience of various countries serves as an important reference point for the formation of price policy in the oil products sector (Volkonsky & Kuzovkin, 2019).

According to domestic analysts, the main share of the tax burden of vertically integrated oil companies consists of MET, export duties on oil and petroleum products, and corporate income tax (Figure 04).



Source: authors.

Figure 04. Tax burden of oil and gas companies

New in the taxation of the oil and gas sector was the introduction of a new tax from January 1, 2019 – a tax on added income (AIT) from the extraction of hydrocarbon raw materials which will be carried out in a test mode on certain subsurface areas located in both traditional and new regions of the oil production. Tax reform for oil companies involves partially replacing the MET with a new tax on added income. The tax rate will be 50%, and it will be levied on income from oil sales minus export duties, reduced MET, production and transportation costs. The transition to this system is still voluntary. The goal of the new regime, in particular, is to increase the oil production at fields that will be included in the number of pilot projects.

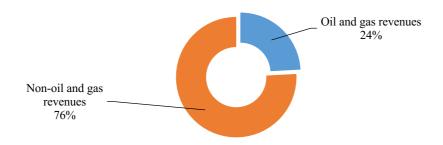
When discussing the problems of business development, one of the main issues is to ensure that the state establishes constant long-term rules of the game in the economy. This should allow businesses to best adapt to existing conditions (Burenin, 2019).

#### 2. Problem Statement

#### 2.1. The role of oil and gas revenues in the Russian budget

Oil and gas revenues of the federal budget of the Russian Federation include (Figure 05):

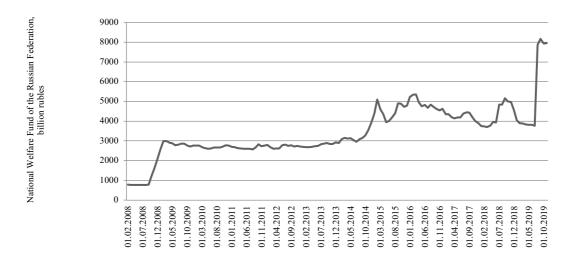
- Taxes that are paid for the development of minerals such as oil, combustible natural gas, gas condensate from all fields, gas condensate obtained from other hydrocarbon raw materials;
  - Customs duties for selling abroad crude oil, gas, and goods produced from hydrocarbons.



Source: authors.

Figure 05. Revenue structure of the consolidated budget of the Russian Federation in 2018

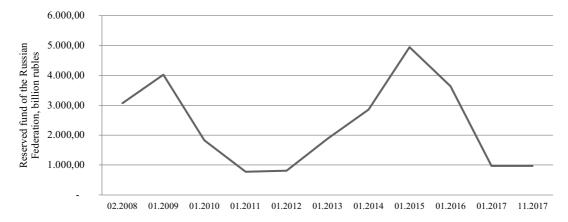
Since 2004, the government of the Russian Federation has decided to allocate a part of its oil and gas revenues to a separate fund, so called "Stabilization Fund". In 2008, the stabilization fund has ceased to exist, and created were news ones: the National Welfare Fund (established to provide co-financing voluntary pension savings of Russian citizens and balancing (deficit) budget of the Pension Fund of the Russian Federation) and the Reserve Fund (established to finance the oil and gas transfer). A part of the national welfare fund (NWF) is used in projects that are unacceptable for placing international reserves in terms of risk and liquidity. Thus, the NWF serves as a riskier, but potentially more profitable instrument for the Russian government. For 11 years, the NWF has grown 10 times: from 783.31 billion rubles in 2008 to 7949.61 billion rubles in 2019 (Figure 06).



Source: authors.

Figure 06. National Welfare Fund of the Russian Federation: Dynamics for 2008-2019

The Reserve Fund for 9 years of its existence has grown 1.5 times by 2015 and decreased to 975.25 billion rubles by the time of the merger with the NWF (Figure 07).



Source: authors.

Figure 07. Reserve Fund of the Russian Federation: Dynamics for 2008-2017

By joining financial resources of two funds, the purpose of the NWF remained the same – cofinancing of voluntary pension savings of Russian citizens, ensuring a balanced budget for the Pension Fund. This was added with a goal of regulating the balance (covering the deficit) of the consolidated budget of the Russian Federation.

# 2.2. The impact of rental income on national well-being

To assess the impact of rental incomes on the national welfare of the Russian Federation, the authors conducted a study of the dependence of Russian GDP on oil exports and oil prices, as well as the dependence of GDP and the Human Development Index (HDI) on oil and gas revenues (Vanchukhina, Leybert, Khalikova, Rudneva, & Rogacheva, 2019).

The idea of the impact of oil and gas exports on macroeconomic indicators can be illustrated by data on the attraction of rental incomes for the formation of the state budget and replenishment of state reserves. As a result, the share of rent in GDP is huge (Vasileva, Shalina, Tokareva, & Baykova, 2017; Sovacool, Walter, Van de Graaf, & Andrews, 2016).

The model of dependence of the Russian GDP on oil exports and oil prices will allow forecasting the Russian GDP for future periods with the forecast oil price and the planned export volumes. Correlation and regression analysis was used as a mathematical tool in this research (Table 05). The source of statistical data for analysis was the Human Development Report (Human Development, 2019).

Table 05. Source data for the "oil and gas revenues – GDP" and "HDI – oil and gas revenues" models

•	Russian GDP,	Human Development Index	Oil and gas revenues,
Year	billion rubles	(HDI)	billion rubles
	Y1	Y2	X
2006	26917,2	0,650	2 943,5
2007	33247,5	0,670	2 897,4
2008	41276,8	0,715	4 389,4
2009	38807,2	0,719	2 984,0
2010	46308,5	0,751	3 830,7
2011	60282,5	0,755	5 641,8
2012	68163,9	0,755	6 453,2
2013	73133,9	0,788	6 534,0
2014	79058,5	0,742	7 433,8
2015	83094,3	0,804	5 862,7
2016	86014,2	0,810	4 844,0
2017	92101,3	0,816	5 971,9
2018	103875,8	0,816	9 017,8

Source: authors.

The calculations revealed a high direct linear relation between X and Y1, and a slightly weaker one between X and Y2. The authors derived a regression equation that reflects the dependence of the country's GDP on oil and gas revenues:

$$Y1 = 12 X \tag{1}$$

Thus, the resulting regression equation puts Russian GDP in the direct dependence on oil and gas revenues. We derived a regression equation that reflects the dependence of the country's HDI on oil and gas revenues. The regression equation was obtained in the following form:

$$Y2 = 0.00013 X$$
 (2)

The resulting regression equation makes Russian HDI directly dependent on oil and gas revenues.

# 3. Research Questions

The authors examine the oil reserves of the Russian Federation and their qualitative characteristics; the mechanism for assigning oil rents in the Russian Federation: the state assigns oil rents through the taxation of industrial enterprises with a tax on mining and export customs duties on oil. To assess the impact of rental income on the national welfare of the Russian Federation, the authors conducted a study of the

dependence of the Russian GDP on oil exports and oil prices, as well as the dependence of the Russian

GDP and the Russian Human Development Index on oil and gas revenues.

Correlation and regression analysis was used as a mathematical tool. The tightness of the relation

between the factors was determined using the Pearson linear correlation coefficient. The calculation was

performed using the application for statistical data processing Microsoft Excel - "Data Analysis". As a

research result, an economic and mathematical model is proposed for forecasting the GDP of the Russian

Federation depending on the forecast of the price of Urals oil. The proposed economic-mathematical model

allows predicting GDP and HDI depending on oil and gas revenues. A generated regression models reflects

the dependence of the Human Development Index of the Russian Federation on oil and gas revenues.

4. Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to assess the impact of mechanisms for assigning oil revenues on the

level of well-being in the Russian Federation. The work is based on modern theoretical concepts for

analyzing the impact of oil revenues on the economic development of resource-owning countries. The

authors also analyzed the experience of foreign countries in the field of the distribution mechanism

implementation for oil revenues and its impact on the quality of life of the population.

5. Research Methods

The methodological basis of this research is formed by such areas of the economic science as

economic theory and mathematical methods in economics, etc. Using the method of mathematical

modeling, it was possible to obtain models reflecting the dependence of the country's GDP and HDI on oil

and gas revenues. Economic analysis methods were used to solve the set tasks (Gajfullina, Nizamova,

Musina, & Alexandrova, 2017; Wicaksono, Bin Arshad, & Sihombing, 2019).

6. Findings

The regression equation (1) obtained in paragraph 2.2, which reflects the dependence of the country's

GDP on oil and gas revenues, has the following meaning: an increase in oil and gas revenues by 1 billion

rubles leads to an increase in GDP by 12 billion rubles. This model can be used in forecasting Russian GDP

depending on oil and gas revenues.

The derived equation (2), which reflects the dependence of the country's HDI on oil and gas

revenues, has the following meaning: an increase in oil and gas revenues by 1 billion rubles leads to an

increase in HDI by 0.00013 units. This model can be used in forecasting the HDI of Russia depending on

oil and gas revenues.

7. Conclusion

When preparing the study, the authors linked scientific novelty to the lack of elaboration of

theoretical and practical issues on the relation between the gross domestic product and the level of welfare

depending on oil and gas revenues. The author's approach was developed to evaluate the dependence of the

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economic welfare of the state on oil and gas revenues: the proposed economic-mathematical model shows the dependence of the Russian GDP on oil and gas revenues; a regression equation reflects the dependence of the Human Development Index of the Russian Federation on oil and gas revenues. The suggestions made by the authors have applied nature.

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