YOUNG RESEARCHERS

Welfare of the population as an indicator of modernization potential of the territory*

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Abstract. The article presents the results of a research into population's welfare as the basis of modernization processes. The authors carried out a comprehensive analysis of statistical and sociological data and highlighted the specifics of welfare in Russia and in the Vologda Oblast in terms of formation and use of money income; they also revealed the proportion of the population who are objectively ready to economic modernization.

The authors revealed the emerging positive trends that show increasing involvement of the population in the savings-and-credit models. However, the scale of changes is not so great, and it covers only a small part of highly well-off population.

In order to assess regional specifics, the authors grouped the RF subjects according to the level of income inequality of the population and other parameters of welfare that have an impact on the modernization potential of a territory. Judging by the indicators of the selected four groups of regions, the largest socio-economic potential of modernization is observed in the subjects with high income inequality.

The authors have come to a conclusion that under the current circumstances modernization is possible only in the presence of legitimate and competent authorities capable of radical democratization and the strengthening of basic social institutions; besides, the formation of that part of the population, which is objectively ready for modernization transformation of the economy and society depends directly on the presence of conditions that promote the achievement of decent financial welfare of the people.

Key words: welfare of population, incomes and expenses, socio-economic inequality, modernization.

Modernization is currently becoming a high priority for those countries and regions that seek to enhance their economic development, because it is widely recognized that improvement, progress and innovation are important driving forces of growth. That is why Russia also considers economic modernization as a priority. At that, many research works aim to assess the degree of readiness of the Russian population to modernization. The diversity of approaches in these studies is determined by ultimate goals and by the data used. For example, E.M. Avramova [1] indicates that the conclusion concerning the readiness of a society for modernization can be made on the basis of the information about the presence of a mass layer with a relatively high level of financial welfare. M.K. Gorshkov [5], using the results of a public opinion monitoring, shows the influence of social inequality on the system modernization of economy; this influence, in his opinion, is manifested in the establishment of a sustainable "culture of inequality", in the increase of apathy and civic passivity in certain strata of the population, in the development of confrontation, intolerance, and political

extremism. N.E. Tikhonova [13], on the basis of the allocation of normative and moral systems of the population concerning the basic principles of relations in the system "individual–society–state", distinguishes the modernist-oriented groups, which are then evaluated from the viewpoint of the potential contribution of each group to modernization processes. The ambiguity of these findings, as well as the difference in researchers' estimates with regard to the readiness of the Russian society for modernization has determined the need for consideration of this matter.

In a broad sense, the goal of modernization is to build a strong country in economic, political, military, scientific, and other spheres along with the growth of people's welfare [10] that is a necessary condition for the formation of modernization potential and a result of progressive transformations. Therefore, the growth of welfare can be considered one of the main criteria for allocating the part of the population that is willing to get involved in the implementation of modernization processes.

In the last few years there was much talk about the sustained growth of people's incomes and the expansion of their financial

opportunities. It is associated with implementation of modernization-oriented government programs. However, the situation is not so simple, and it is proved by the analysis of the level, structure and distribution of money incomes.

Indeed, in 2000–2012 the average per capita incomes in Russia increased considerably *(tab. 1)*. For instance, in 2012 in the Vologda Oblast they amounted to 18125 rubles, which is 2.6 times higher (in comparable prices) than the same indicator at beginning of the period under consideration. The 2.9-fold growth is observed in Russia as a whole. Such dynamics results from a continuous wage increase (especially in public sector employees) and a significant improvement of pensions provision beginning from 2008.

The growth of incomes is also confirmed by the data of sociological surveys carried out in the Vologda Oblast[1] *(tab. 2)*. There is an increase in the share of the population that can be characterized as wealthy and rich according to the assessment of their incomes; and the share of those characterized as extremely poor and poor is reducing. These trends were particularly pronounced in 2004–2008. For example, the share of the "extremely poor" and the "poor" decreased

Table 1. Dynamics of incomes in the Russian Federation and in the Vologda Oblast in 2000–2012*

Indicators	2000	2005	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2012 to 2000, times
Russian Federation									
Average per capita money income, rubles	7991	15005	19109	20259	20775	20978	22061	23058	2.89
Average monthly accrued wages, rubles	7787	15824	20614	23056	22929	23963	25250	26629	3.42
Average monthly accrued pensions, rubles	2431	4373	4725	6085	6386	8453	8742	9154	3.77
R/P 10% ratio, times	13.9	15.2	16.8	16.6	16.6	16.6	16.2	16.4	–
Gini Coefficient	0.395	0.409	0.422	0.421	0.421	0.421	0.417	0.420	–
Vologda Oblast									
Average per capita money income, rubles	6856	12077	15741	15995	14849	15597	16397	18125	2.64
Average monthly accrued wages, rubles	8683	16289	19362	20608	20270	20770	21467	22649	2.61
Average monthly accrued pensions, rubles	2966	4820	5643	6098	7706	8751	9018	9414	3.17
R/P 10% ratio, times	8	8.7	12.6	12.5	11.5	11.7	11.4	12.0	–
Gini Coefficient	0.318	0.329	0.383	0.382	0.370	0.373	0.369	0.376	–

* Population incomes are given in comparable prices of 2012.
Source: *Rossiiskii statisticheskii ezhegodnik: stat. sbornik* [Russian Statistical Yearbook: Statistical Collection]. Rosstat. Moscow, 2013. 717 p.

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[1] The public opinion monitoring has been carried out by the Institute of Socio-Economic Development of Territories of the Russian Academy of Sciences (ISEDT RAS, Vologda) since 1996 using the method of questionnaires' distribution at the place of residence of the respondents. The survey is held once every two months. The sample size is 1500 people (9 thousand people a year). The respondents are persons aged 18 and older who live in two major cities and eight districts of the Vologda Oblast. Sampling error does not exceed 3%.

Table 2. Distribution of the Vologda Oblast population according to the assessment
of personal income in 2000-2013, (as a percentage of the total number of respondents)

| Year	Population groups according to the assessment of personal income				
	Extremely poor	Poor	Needy	Well-off	Rich
2000	16.0	46.8	31.5	4.2	1.4
2001	14.3	44.8	32.7	6.1	2.1
2002	13.0	41.6	36.0	6.3	3.1
2003	12.8	39.5	37.3	7.9	2.5
2004	10.0	37.3	43.2	7.1	2.4
2005	6.5	35.5	47.8	8.8	1.4
2006	4.4	35.3	49.1	9.6	1.6
2007	4.9	31.3	51.0	10.8	2.1
2008	3.2	27.2	58.2	9.1	2.3
2009	6.2	33.7	51.9	7.1	1.1
2010	5.5	30.3	54.1	8.6	1.5
2011	4.5	29.4	53.9	10.5	1.7
2012	3.7	28.8	55.9	10.2	1.5
2013	4.9	27.5	55.2	11	1.4
2013 to 2000, times*	-3.27	-1.7	1.75	2.62	1

* Increment (+), decline (-).
Source: sociological surveys of the Vologda Oblast population, conducted by ISEDT RAS in 2000–2013.

by more than 1.5 times (with a considerable 3% decline in the share of the "poor", reaching in 2008 the minimum value for the entire observational period). The "needy" has become the dominant group by 2013 (55% versus 31.5% in 2000). The share of the "well-off" has amounted to 11% of the oblast population – vs. 4%, respectively. The "extremely poor" and the "poor" made up one third (against 63% in 2000), while the share of "rich" citizens after minor fluctuation has established itself at the level of 2000[2] (1.4%).

Stabilization of the socio-economic situation and growth of income had a positive impact on the **social mood of the population**: according to the monitoring conducted by ISEDT RAS, it can be said that the Vologda Oblast residents have normal, stable condition (69% in 2013, against 29% in 1998), and they do not feel stress, anger, fear and depression, as in the late 1990s (26.5% against 64%, respectively; *fig. 1*). However, this positive trend in social mood is characteristic only for the averaged data on population. The assessment of the emotional state of the

[2] The classification is based on the respondents' answers to the question: "Which of the estimates describes your income most accurately?". The respondents who answered "We don't have enough money even to buy food, we have to get into debt" were classified as "extremely poor"; those who answered "We have enough money only to buy food" were classified as "poor; those who answered "We have enough money to buy the necessary food and clothing, but larger purchases have to be postponed" were classified as "needy", those who answered "Purchase of most durable goods (fridge, TV) does not cause us difficulties, however, currently we can't afford to buy a car" were classified as "well-off"; those who answered "We have enough money to buy whatever we want" were classified as "rich".

Figure 1. Dynamics of the psychological condition of the poorest residents
of the Vologda Oblast in 1998–2013, (as a percentage of the total number of respondents)
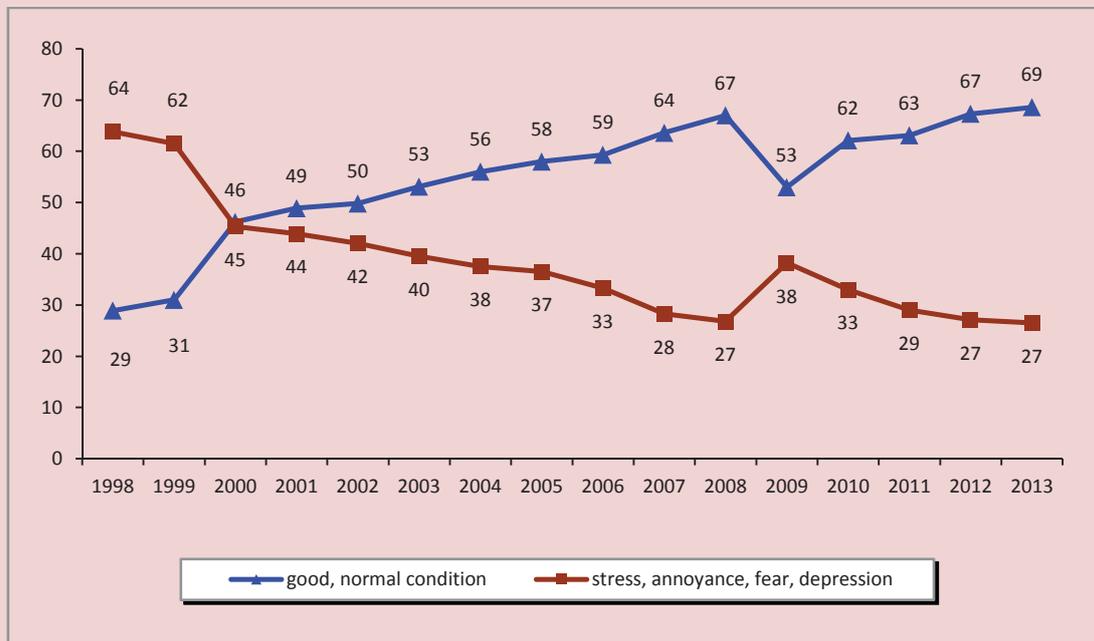
Source: ISEDT RAS public opinion monitoring, 1998–2013.

region's residents in terms of income groups shows that positive judgments on the part of the poorest groups of citizens began to appear somewhat later (since 2005, whereas in the group of the most well-off – since 1999), they were less common (on average 41% vs. 69% among the most well-off) and lasted for a relatively short time, having settled in 2013 at the level of average values of 2000 (45%; *fig. 2 and 3*).

In addition, despite the positive dynamics of the average level of money incomes, it can be noted that social polarization and differentiation, resulting from accelerated growth of the highest incomes, have not decreased, but they continue to grow, as evidenced by constant upward dynamics of the Gini coefficient and the ratio of the average income of the richest 10% to the poorest 10% (see tab. 1).

Earned incomes, i.e. wages and entrepreneurial income, constitute the basis of money receipts in Russia, as well as in all industrialized countries. The key role here belongs to labor remuneration: according to official statistics its share in in the structure of incomes of the Vologda Oblast residents in the last decade is about 50%, although it is gradually reduced (52% in 2000, 47% in 2012, *tab. 3*)[3].

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[3] In Russia in 2012 the national average share of labor remuneration in the structure of money incomes of the population was 65.7%.

Figure 2. Dynamics of the psychological condition of 20% of the poorest residents
of the Vologda Oblast in 1998–2013, (as a percentage of the total number of respondents)
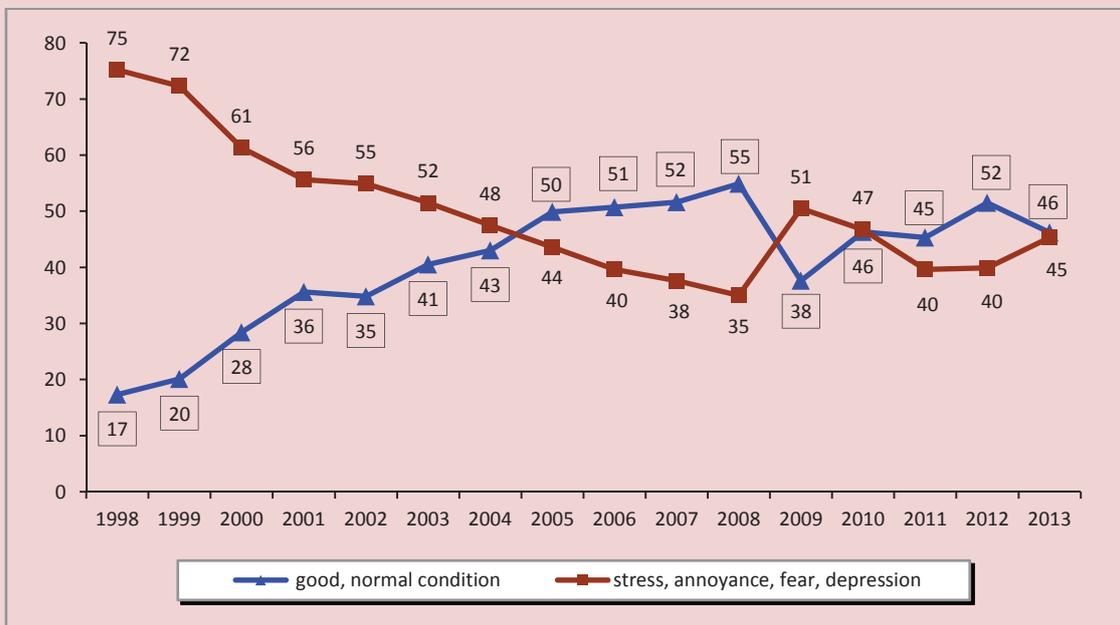
Note. The data on the option "good, normal condition" are framed.

Source: ISEDT RAS public opinion monitoring, 1998–2013.

Figure 3. Dynamics of the psychological condition of 20% of the most well-off residents
of the Vologda Oblast in 1998–2013, (as a percentage of the total number of respondents)
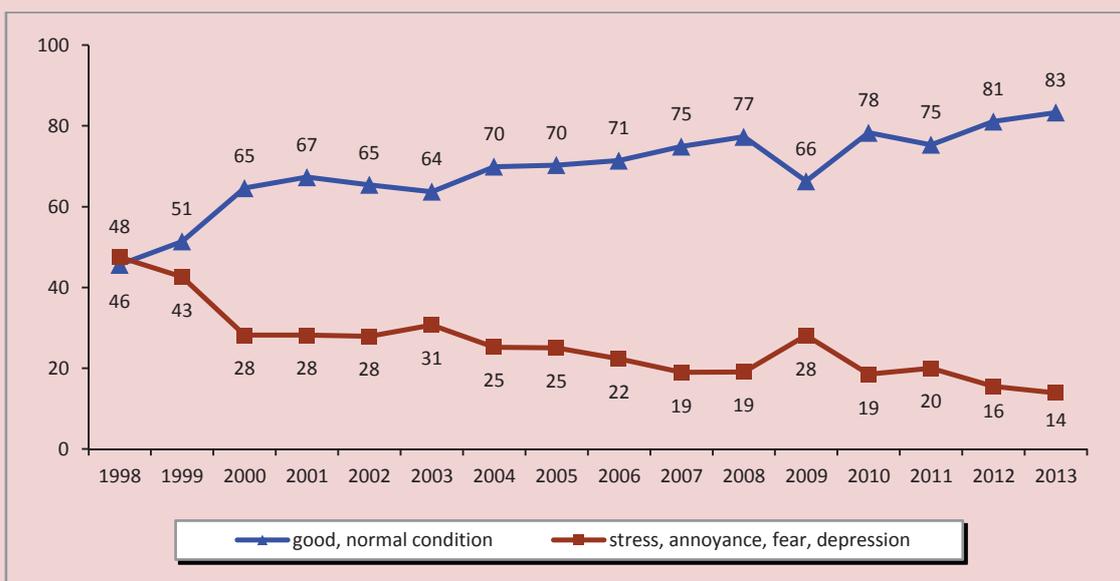
Source: ISEDT RAS public opinion monitoring, 1998–2013.

Table 3. Structure of incomes of the Vologda Oblast population in 2000–2012

Income sources	2000	2005	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Incomes	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Including:								
labor remuneration	52.1	55.7	49.2	52.8	49.7	48.0	48.6	47.1
income of workers and employees of enterprises and organizations (excluding labor remuneration)	2.5	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.8	1.9
from entrepreneurial activity	10.1	10.1	8.8	10.0	11.5	10.9	10.6	9.3
social payments	14.8	17.7	15.4	17.3	21.3	24.7	24.7	24.9
from property	4.3	6.0	4.9	3.9	3.1	3.3	3.1	4.0
from sales of currency	2.3	1.4	0.8	0.7	1.5	1.0	0.7	0.6
other income	13.9	7.5	19.2	13.6	11.3	9.6	10.5	12.2

Source: *Statisticheskii ezhegodnik Vologodskoi oblasti: stat. sbornik* [Statistical Yearbook of the Vologda Oblast: Statistical Collection]. Vologdastat. Moscow, 2013. 371 p.

We should point out a significant increase in the contribution of social transfers in total money receipts of the population. Their share has been significantly increasing since 2008 (17.3%), reaching in 2012 a quarter of the total income. This stems from the fact that the increase of social payments was an attempt of the Russian Government to equalize income security at different stages of the life cycle of households. Moreover, the volume of social payments was increasing due to both social benefits and pensions.

However, as evidenced by the replacement rate, the amount of **retirement benefits** is small and it still does not provide adequate replacement of wages; and this is one of the barriers to modernization. In Russia, the replacement rate is defined as the ratio of average retirement pension to average monthly wage; in international practice — as the ratio of pensions to pre-retirement wages. It should be noted that neither of the two indicators provides a full description of the situation: the former says nothing about the differentiation of pensions or their relationship to wages and experience, and the latter does not take into account the change in pensions after their initial establishment. The International Labor Organization (ILO) proposes to consider 40% of the lost earnings as the target value for establishing the old-age pension. But this standard, adopted in 1952 in a completely different socio-economic situation, has lost its relevance, as evidenced by international comparison *(tab. 4)*.

The average replacement rate for the member-states of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is 58%. Its value varies significantly even among the developed countries of the OECD. The maximum replacement rates are often observed in the countries with incomes below average, and the lowest replacement rates — in the wealthiest countries. For example, in Greece the figure is 1.5 times higher than in the UK, Japan or the U.S. (excluding voluntary insurance) [4].

Table 4. Replacement rates in different countries in 2013

Country	Rate, %	Country	Rate, %
Netherlands	91.4	Canada	51.0
Israel	86.7 *(76.8)**	New Zealand	50.1
Denmark	83.7	Poland	48.8
Austria	76.6	Chile	45.5 *(36.6)*
Spain	73.9	Mexico	44.7
Iceland	73.8	Ireland	44.2
Hungary	73.6	Korea	43.9
Italy	71.2	Germany	42.0
Slovak Republic	67.9	Belgium	41.4
Turkey	66.8	USA	41.0
Greece	64.0	Slovenia	40.6
Australia	60.2 *(55.8)*	UK	37.9
Czech Republic	59.9	Japan	37.5
Luxembourg	59.3	On average across OECD	57.9 (57.2)
France	59.1	Saudi Arabia	100 *(87.5)*
Switzerland	58.4 *(57.6)*	Argentina	96.2 *(88.9)*
Sweden	55.6	China	82.5 *(65.1)*
Estonia	55.3	India	60.4 *(56.3)*
Portugal	55.0	Brazil	57.5 *(52.3)*
Finland	54.8	Indonesia	14.1 *(13)*
Norway	52.3	Republic of South Africa	11.8

* 86.7 (76.8) – in men and in women, respectively.
Source: *Pensions at a Glance 2013*: *Retirement-Income Systems in OECD and G20 Countries*. Available at: http://www.oecd.org/pensions/pensionsataglance.htm

The ratio between the average pensions and wages in Russia exceeded 35% for the first time in 2010, but in the end of 2012 it was 34%. The replacement rate is somewhat higher in the Vologda Oblast than in the country as a whole, and it was 43% in 2012 *(fig. 4)*.

However, the achieved level of the indicator is still lower than that in many other countries. For example, developed countries (Germany, Belgium), where the replacement rate for "mandatory' pensions is relatively low compared to that in Russia, as a rule, have a widespread system of voluntary pension insurance, which provides a high overall level of pension payments. The full replacement ratio (including voluntary schemes) is comparable with the Russian only in few countries (Mexico, South Korea, Japan).

At present, only a small number of Russian citizens uses additional pension provision, that is why it is possible to predict the preservation of the relatively low level of old-age pensions compared with that in other countries, and a likely reduction of financial capabilities of elderly people.

Figure 4. Dynamics of the replacement rate in the Russian Federation
and in the Vologda Oblast in 2000–2012
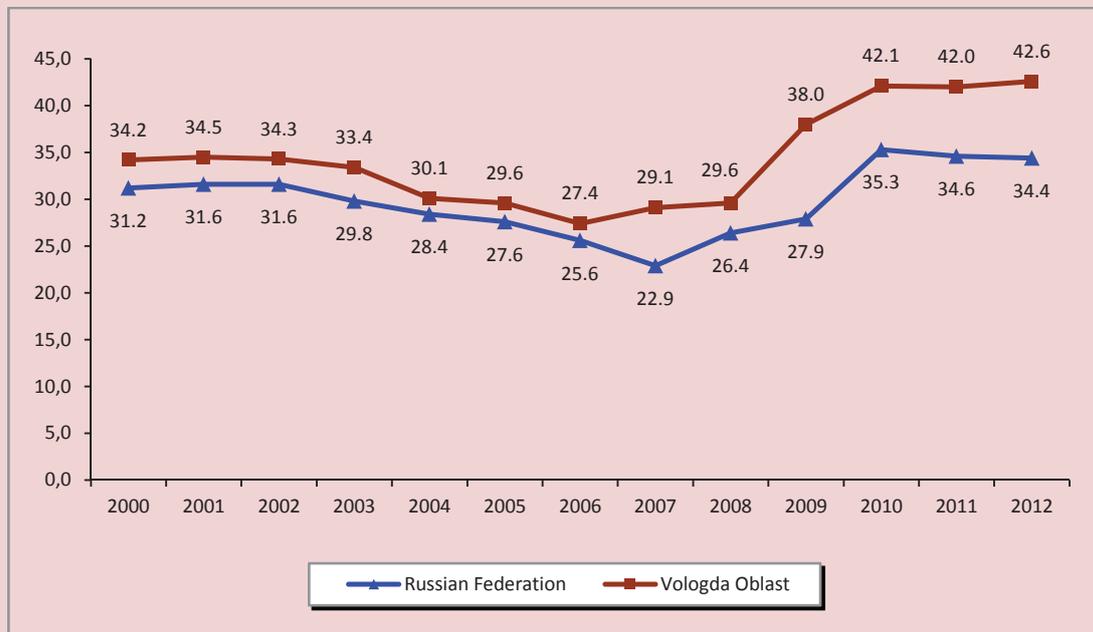
Source: *Rossiiskii statisticheskii ezhegodnik: stat. sbornik* [Russian Statistical Yearbook: Statistical Collection]. Rosstat. Moscow, 2013. 717 p.

An important indicator of modernization success is the **share of entrepreneurial income** in the population's total income structure. Development of entrepreneurship is considered by most experts as a driving force of modernization. However, during the period of the most rapid economic growth the role of this type of incomes declined slightly, and now their share is a little more than 9% (nationwide and in the Vologda Oblast).

According to ISEDT RAS polls, the proportion of the Vologda Oblast population engaged in entrepreneurship as their main type of activity is not more than 6%. In this case, first, the majority is engaged in entrepreneurship through the exploitation of personal subsidiary plots (PSP); and second,

the representatives of the high-income group do not obtain income from the sales of agricultural products. Here it should be emphasized that the PSP is not a sign of modernization and development.

The readiness of the population to modernization processes can be estimated by **the share of property income.** According to Rosstat, property incomes and financial assets in Russia as a whole make up only 5–10% of the total income of the population, and they are even lower in the Vologda Oblast. Moreover, if we look at the dynamics of this indicator, it declined to 4% in 2012 (see tab. 3).

Thus, income generation based on new principles different from those that were used in the Soviet period is characteristic only for

3–5% of the oblast population (in Russia – about 8%). At the same time, 20–25% of the population in developed countries consider property and entrepreneurship incomes to be important sources of their earnings [12]. Taking into account the fact that in the post-perestroika years the total share of these types of income reached 20–23% (for example, 22.9% in Russia and 20.4% in the Vologda Oblast in 1995), we can talk about the possible potential for increasing the contribution of these types of income in the total income structure of Russia's population. Although in recent years our country has not experienced any institutional or economic changes that would enhance these figures.

Another prerequisite for the success of modernization consists in extensive involvement of the population in **the processes of investing and lending**. The citizen's savings traditionally serve as a source of domestic investment in the national economy, therefore they can be considered a resource for economic development. The people use bank deposits and other savings instruments more actively, which indicates the growing trust of the population in the institutions of the financial sector and in the state as a whole, which, in turn, favors the orientation of the economy on the "long" money and transition to the innovation type of development.

The social role of savings is significant as well: it implies a "margin of safety" in a crisis situation, and a support fund for implementing long-term economic strategies associated with investments in education, health, and ultimately, in the development of human potential. Credit behavior, along with the savings behavior, influences the volume of domestic demand and boosts economic activity. That is, the more complex and diverse the practices of financial behavior of the population, the greater their positive impact on the economy and social sphere [7].

Savings amount to about 5–6% in the expenditure pattern of the Vologda Oblast population during the twelve-year period under consideration. In comparison with the early 2000s there has been an increase in the share of compulsory payments and contributions, which include loan payments. The share of expenditures on the purchase of real estate has increased significantly: from 0.7% in 2000 to 2.6% in 2012.

According to ISEDT RAS polls, the involvement of the population in savings and lending stabilized at the level of 20–30% after a significant increase in 2001–2004: 24% of the oblast residents had savings in 2013, and nearly 30% used bank loans [3]. However, it should be noted that the majority of households do not have savings and loans, or they implement the simplest forms of savings and lending behavior. Similar trends in financial behavior are observed in Russia as a whole [1].

The involvement of the population in more complex forms of financial behavior is limited by their financial status. The positive dynamics of incomes since the early 2000s is leveled by insignificant reduction in the population inequality according to their financial status. As can be seen from *figure 5*, for more than a decade the incomes of the least wealthy part of the population in the Vologda Oblast and nationwide remained at an almost unchanged level, compared to the subsistence level, which amounted to 80–90% of its value.

Figure 5. Ratio of average per capita money income to the subsistence level
in different income groups in 2000–2012, times*
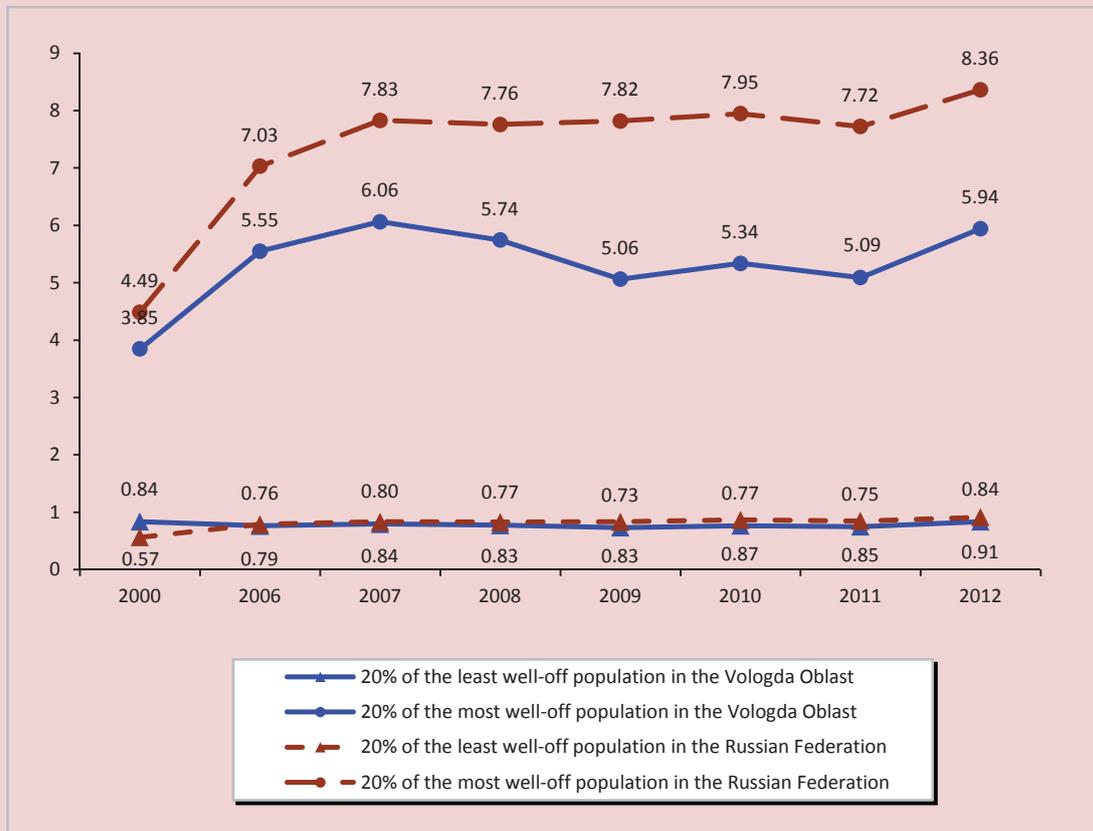
* Calculations are based on: *Rossiiskii statisticheskii ezhegodnik: stat. sbornik* [Russian Statistical Yearbook: Statistical Collection]. Rosstat. Moscow, 2013. 717 p.; *Statisticheskii ezhegodnik Vologodskoi oblasti: stat. sbornik* [Statistical Yearbook of the Vologda Oblast: Statistical Collection]. Vologdastat. Moscow, 2013. 371 p.

The regional specifics according to the above parameters of well-being that influence the success of modernization process was assessed with the use of the correlation and regression analysis; after that a group of RF subjects was defined according to the degree of income inequality of the population. All the cost parameters of the regions were made suitable for comparison with the help of the indicator of the cost of a fixed set of goods and services.

The relation between the indicators is described by the following multiple regression equation:

$$y = 6{,}84 + 0{,}0003178x_1 - 0{,}00000000008214x_2 + 0{,}001865x_3 + 0{,}000319x_4 - 0{,}00000000000004839x_5$$

$$F = 19{,}893; \ P < 0{,}00000$$

$$R = 0{,}757; \ R^2 = 0{,}573$$

where *y* is the ratio of the average income of the richest 10% to the poorest 10% (R/P 10% ratio), times;

x_1 is the average monthly nominal accrued wages, rubles;

x_2 is the average amount of pensions, rubles;

x_3 is the share of business income in the total income of the population, %;

x_4 is the share of property income in the total income of the population, %;

x_5 is the average size of deposit of individuals on ruble accounts in the Savings Bank of the Russian Federation, rubles.

The paired correlation coefficients did not exceed the value of 0.8, i.e. the factor characteristics were selected correctly and there is no close correlation between them. The value of the multiple determination coefficient $R^2 = 0.573$ indicates that a change of the R/P 10% ratio by 57.3% is caused by the influence of the changes in the levels of the factors included in the equation and, respectively, the 42.7% change is caused by the impact of changes of other factors.

Four distinct groups of regions were defined on the basis of the values of R/P 10% ratio. The distribution was based on international values of R/P 10% ratio in such a way that the first three groups were comparable with the threshold values of the ratio in OECD countries (such as the UK – 13.8 times, the USA – 15 times), and the fourth group – with Latin American countries (R/P 10% ratio is at the level of 18 or more times).

In general, we can see a similar trend for all the groups: when R/P 10% ratio increases from group to group, the level of incomes increases, as well as the amount of deposits in the savings bank. However, there are some differences *(tab. 5)*.

Describing the first group, we emphasize that the values of selected indicators are below the national average, except for the share of entrepreneurial incomes and pensions. The regions of this group include mostly underdeveloped and depressed areas, such as the Republic of Ingushetia and the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania, in which GDP per capita is at the level of third world countries. It is noteworthy that the Vologda Oblast is also in this group. Despite the fact that the indicators of the people's income differentiation for more than a ten-year period are significantly below the national average, the wages in the region do not reach the national level. However, it should be noted that the financial crisis has had a negative effect on the oblast and changed its status from a donor region to a recipient region [9].

The second group consists of relatively developed subjects: the territories with few settlements and with export-resource orientation, and the so-called agrarian regions. The values of indicators characterizing the standard of living are somewhat higher in this group, but they are levelled by the increase in the financial inequality of the population.

The third group represents more urbanized regions of the Center, North-West, Urals and Siberia. This group also includes the Republic of Dagestan, in which high income differentiation is provided by a high share of social transfers to the population.

The fourth group of subjects, which are characterized by the highest level of inequality (these include the cities of Moscow and Saint Petersburg, the Samara and Tyumen oblasts), also has its distinctive features.

Table 5. Groups of the RF subjects according to the degree of inequality of the population*

RF subjects	Characteristics of the regions	2007	2012
First group (28 subjects)			
Tver Oblast (11.2), Volgograd Oblast, Kostroma Oblast, Altai Republic, Republic of Karelia, Ivanovo Oblast, Vladimir oblast, Karachay–Cherkess Republic, Tyva Republic, Altai Krai, Vologda Oblast, Republic of Mordovia, Kirov Oblast, Republic of Ingushetia, Chuvash Republic, Pskov Oblast, Jewish Autonomous Oblast, Smolensk Oblast, Republic of North Ossetia-Alania, Saratov Oblast, Kamchatka Krai, Ryazan Oblast, Udmurt Republic, Republic of Kalmykia, Kabardino-Balkar Republic, Republic of Khakassia, Tula Oblast, Leningrad Oblast (12.9)	R/P 10% ratio, times	11.2	12.1
	Average monthly wages, rubles	10743	20376
	Average monthly pensions, rubles	3871	9215
	Share of income from entrepreneurship, %	11.8	10.1
	Share of property income, %	4.0	2.5
	Average value of deposits of physical persons in the savings bank of the Russian Federation, rubles	4521	9520
Second group (29 subjects)			
Stavropol Krai (13.1), Penza Oblast, Khabarovsk Krai, Arkhangelsk Oblast, Mari El Republic, Amur Oblast, Orenburg Oblast, Tomsk Oblast, Primorsky Krai, Yaroslavl Oblast, Kaliningrad Oblast, Chechen Republic, Ulyanovsk Oblast, Kursk Oblast, Murmansk Oblast, Bryansk Oblast, Lipetsk Oblast, Republic of Adygea, Rostov Oblast, Kurgan Oblast, Chelyabinsk Oblast, Kaluga Oblast, Orel Oblast, Zabaykalsky Krai, Astrakhan Oblast, Nizhny Novgorod Oblast, Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), Voronezh Oblast, Kemerovo Oblast (14.9)	R/P 10% ratio, times	13.9	13.8
	Average monthly wages, rubles	12242	22804
	Average monthly pensions, rubles	3782	9454
	Share of income from entrepreneurship, %	11.2	9.8
	Share of property income, %	5.2	2.7
	Average value of deposits of physical persons in the savings bank of the Russian Federation, rubles	4768	11276
Third group (19 subjects)			
Novgorod Oblast (15), Republic of Dagestan Republic of Buryatia, Belgorod Oblast, Sakhalin Oblast, Tambov Oblast, Novosibirsk Oblast, Irkutsk Oblast, Magadan Oblast, Chukotka Autonomous Okrug, Moscow Oblast, Krasnodar Krai, Omsk Oblast, Republic of Komi, Republic of Tatarstan, Krasnoyarsk Krai, Republic of Bashkortostan, Perm Krai, Sverdlovsk Oblast (17.7)	R/P 10% ratio, times	16.0	16.2
	Average monthly wages, rubles	13107	25354
	Average monthly pensions, rubles	3883	9333
	Share of income from entrepreneurship, %	11.8	9.8
	Share of property income, %	4.8	2.9
	Average value of deposits of physical persons in the savings bank of the Russian Federation, rubles	5014	11045
Fourth group (4 subjects)			
Saint Petersburg (19.5), Samara Oblast, Tyumen Oblast, Moscow (27.3)	R/P 10% ratio, times	22.9	21.6
	Average monthly wages, rubles	15445	31759
	Average monthly pensions, rubles	3577	8932
	Share of income from entrepreneurship, %	8.6	5
	Share of property income, %	8.2	7.2
	Average value of deposits of physical persons in the savings bank of the Russian Federation, rubles	7268	16776
* Regions are ranked according to R/P 10% ratio for 2012. Compiled according to: *Regiony Rossii. Sotsial'no-ekonomicheskie pokazateli: stat. sbornik* [Regions of Russia. Socio-Economic Indicators: Statistical Collection]. Rosstat. Moscow, 2013. 990 p.			

The first one is the high values of average monthly wages and bank deposits (the values for this group exceed those in the adjacent, third, group in 1.2 and 1.5 times, respectively). The second feature is the low share of entrepreneurial income in the income structure of the population. The third feature is the important role of property income (7.7% versus 2.8−3.7% in other groups).

It should be noted that according to ISEDT RAS research findings [6] the subjects included in the third and fourth groups mostly have the greatest socio-economic potential for modernization, and it reflects the extent, to which the regional industrial relations, development priorities and social programs are aimed at solving modernization issues.

Thus, the welfare indicators objectively show the modernization potential of a territory. On the one hand, the active introduction and implementation of innovation in all spheres of public life, requiring approp-riate training and initiative of employees, is certainly accompanied by the growth of financial well-being (both due to increase in wages, and more extensive social support).

However, on the other hand, production processes and relationship models that are becoming complex make new demands on human capital and create new differentiation factors, increasing the socio-economic polarization of the population. There are still insufficient values of the indicators that are considered important in the formation of a layer of people who not only understand the necessity of modernization, but are active

agents of progressive ideas and behavior. For example, in the Vologda Oblast the total share of well-off and reach individuals according to the assessment of their own revenue is 12.4%, the income from entrepreneurial activity is typical only for 2.7% of the population, the income from property − for 1.9%.

Russian researchers, who study similar issues, come to various conclusions. For instance, E.M. Avraamova notes that the recent small increase in financial well-being of the population is not accompanied by the expansion of socio-economic opportunities. In her opinion, the current socio-economic situation "is ...latently unstable and does not have an explicit public incentive to modernization" [1]. M.K. Gorshkov notes that "social inequality create an environment for confrontation and intolerance; they prevent the achievement of national harmony, generating a wide gap between the society and the authorities", thereby slowing down the system modernization, economic development, and blocking its transition to the innovation stage [5].

Therefore, a policy aimed to improve the welfare and economic and civic activity of the population, cannot be based only on the growth of wages in certain spheres and on the increase of social transfers. The more so, the current system of distribution relations does not provide for the allocation of any reserves for the implementation of the above actions; it also does not contribute to the reduction of socio-economic inequalities, and enhances the existing disparities (which is indicated by the calculation results obtained with the use of the multiple regression equation).

Therefore, in order to promote continuous and consistent modernization in Russia's regions, it is necessary to develop a clear public standing and forward-looking policy that takes into account the interests of production and innovation, aims to improve the quality of life, enhance economic activity of the population (also in science-intensive and budget sectors); all this would contribute to the full implementation of the country's modernization potential.

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