# ORIGINAL PAPER

DOI: 10.26794/2587-5671-2025-29-2-120-136 UDC 332.02(045)

JEL R58, C38, C45



# Assessment of Investment Attractiveness of RF Entities Using Artificial Intelligence

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Difficult geopolitical situation in the world has made the issue of attracting private investment into the economy at the meso-management level relevant for Russia Currently, the solution of this problem is impossible without monitoring the investment attractiveness of the subjects of the Russian Federation. The purpose of the study is to develop an adequate methodology for assessing the investment attractiveness of Russian regions. Based on competitive benchmarking techniques, the investment attractiveness of territories (within the country) is assessed in dynamics over a number of years. The results of a retrospective assessment conducted using the index method are deepened by cluster analysis. Also, the authors' methodology allows us to assess not only the actual investment attractiveness of Russian regions, but also assumes the formation of a forecast. At the same time, the above tasks are solved with the help of artificial intelligence. The results of the retrospective assessment showed that in 2019-2022, Moscow and St. Petersburg were the pronounced leaders in the rating of investment attractiveness among the subjects of the Russian Federation. At the bottom of the rating (they did not rise above 71st place) on a regular basis were all the republics from the North Caucasus Federal District, as well as the Republic of Kalmykia and the Republic of Tyva, which are included, respectively, in the Southern Federal District and the Siberian Federal District. Based on the results of the cluster analysis, it can be seen that all Russian regions in 2019-2022 could be organized into three groups characterized by aboveaverage, average and below-average levels of investment attractiveness. The quality of the formed cluster structure has improved over the entire analyzed period of time: the share of subjects of the Russian Federation with aboveaverage investment attractiveness has almost doubled. The results of the (retro and prospective) assessment according to the authors' methodology allow us to conclude that there are significant reserves for the growth of investment attractiveness of all Russian regions without exception. Based on the decomposition of its results, the leadership of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation will be able to develop measures to improve the effectiveness of the regional investment policy.

**Keywords:** investment attractiveness; regions of Russia; balanced scorecard; index method; artificial intelligence; cluster analysis; forecasting

For citation: Gubarev R.V., Dzyuba E.I., Haziev R.S. Assessment of investment attractiveness of RF entities using artificial intelligence. Finance: Theory and Practice. 2025;29(2):120-136. DOI: 10.26794/2587-5671-2025-29-2-120-136

## **INTRODUCTION**

The complex geopolitical situation in the world due to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine (more precisely, the United States and the collective West) has made it difficult for our country to access investment resources. This affected the balance of payments of the Russian Federation. Thus, according to official statistical information, foreign direct investment in the Russian economy amounted to USD 31.975, 9.479 and 40.450 million in 2019-2021, respectively. From the above data, it can be seen that periods of growth in the indicator's value alternated with years of sharp decline. Therefore, it is now becoming more important for the Russian leadership to ensure both the inflow of foreign direct investment into the economy from friendly countries (for example, BRICS and SCO partners) and the activation of private investors within the Russian Federation. In particular, the Minister of Finance of the country A.G. Siluanov has repeatedly spoken about the inability of the leadership of the Russian regions to attract investments.2

At the same time, a number of both Russian and foreign studies [1-7] allow us to draw an unambiguous conclusion that it is the managerial factor that plays a key role in increasing the investment attractiveness of the territory. Based on the above, the goal of this study is to propose an author's methodology that evaluates investment attractiveness at the meso-level of management using artificial intelligence. This goal involves solving several tasks: 1) a critical analysis of existing Russian methods for assessing the investment attractiveness of the region is carried out; 2) a proprietary index methodology is proposed for a retrospective assessment of the investment attractiveness of the subjects of the Russian Federation; 3) the

results of the retrospective assessment are deepened by cluster analysis using the method of self-organizing maps by T. Kohonen, and 4) a forecast of the investment attractiveness of Russian regions is formed using a Bayesian ensemble of neural network models.

# LITERATURE REVIEW

To date, quite a lot of scientific research has been accumulated on the assessment of investment attractiveness for various levels of management [8–16]. In [17], a not unsuccessful attempt was made to critically analyze a number of both Russian and foreign methods for assessing the investment attractiveness of enterprises and territories (country, region or municipality). Each of these methods was compared by the coauthors according to several criteria: 1) the main task to be solved; 2) the application of quantitative indicators and/or qualitative characteristics; 3) availability of the necessary background information for empirical research in the public domain and 4) ease of practical implementation of the approach. So, based on the second criterion mentioned above, all the variety of existing techniques can be combined into three groups: 1) statistical (index) approach; 2) point (expert) estimates; and 3) statistical-expert (mixed or hybrid) models. The first group is preferable from the point of view of ensuring the objectivity of the results of the final assessment, provided that the partial indicators (indicators) are equivalent. In the framework of this study, we will limit ourselves to considering several techniques.

The above-mentioned co-authors, based on the results of a critical analysis of existing approaches assessing the investment attractiveness of the territory, propose their own methodology for the constituent entities of the Russian Federation. The main difference between this methodology is the use of indicators that characterize the economic security of investment decisions made from the perspective of both the state

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Russian Statistical Yearbook. 2022: statistical collection. Moscow: Rosstat, 2022. URL: https://bigenc.ru/b/rossiiskii-statisticheskii-cd1a 31?ysclid=m85hlhgk82687362424 (accessed on 10.10.2024).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The habit of living on subsidies has not been eradicated. URL: http://www.pravda.ru/economics/rules/regions/27-03-2014/1202010-live-0 (accessed on 10.10.2024).

and entrepreneurs. At the same time, an evaluation scale with predefined interval boundaries based on the theory of fuzzy sets is used to distribute Russian regions by the level of investment attractiveness.

O. V. Loseva and M. A. Fedotova have developed a comprehensive methodology for assessing investment attractiveness for both enterprises and regions. In the second case, the co-authors understand the main components of such an assessment: 1) gross regional product; 2) intellectual capital; 3) resource potential and 4) socio-ecological indicators of the development of the subject of the Russian Federation [18]. At the same time, if the calculation of the generalizing indicator of the investment attractiveness of the region is carried out using the index method, then expert assessments can also be applied for individual of the above components. The latter circumstance increases the subjectivity of the final results obtained. However, it should be noted that the authors of [19] suggest certain ways to improve the traditional methodology of expert assessments: first, to verify the consistency of expert opinions (when assigning weights to components). Second, it is necessary to study the strength and closeness of the relationship not only between the resulting indicator and each of the factors, but also independent variables (based on the calculation and analysis of the values of paired correlation coefficients by K. Pearson).

The works [20, 21] present the author's methodology for assessing investment attractiveness at the meso-management level. A special feature of this methodology is the application of a system of balanced indicators for the regions of the country. At the same time, the works of R. Kaplan and D. Norton were taken as a basis. Quite a large amount of modern scientific literature is devoted to the development of the balanced scorecard concept [22–24]. However, until now, its use has been limited to the enterprise level [25–28]. For the first time, Russian scientists have adapted the concept for the subjects of the

Russian Federation. However, in their research they limit themselves to a retrospective assessment and subsequent rating of the investment attractiveness of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation.

The deepening of a retrospective assessment of the investment attractiveness of a territory through cluster analysis using artificial intelligence (AI) remains a fairly rare phenomenon. At the same time, there are practically no studies devoted to the prospective assessment or forecasting of the investment attractiveness of a territory using AI. Thus, in [29] an attempt was made to fill the above gap in the scientific literature. This study is a logical continuation of the above scientific article. At the same time, its main methodological difference is the application of a system of balanced indicators for the regional management level.

# EMPIRICAL RESEARCH: DATA, METHODS AND RESULTS

A retrospective assessment of the investment attractiveness of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation for 2019–2022 is carried out using the traditional index method. The information base of the empirical research is regional statistical data.<sup>3</sup> Taking into account the previously conducted review of scientific literature, a system of balanced indicators has been formed that make it possible to assess investment attractiveness at the meso-management level (*Table 1*).

The index (and sub-indexes) are calculated based on the following conditions: first, according to the simple arithmetic mean formula, i.e. with equal significance (without the use of weighting ratios) of all indicators. Second, for the purpose of data comparability, the normalization of indicator values is carried out in a minimax manner. Third, in order to ensure that information is

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Regions of Russia. Socio-economic indicators. 2023: statistical collection. Moscow: Rosstat, 2023. URL: https://bigenc.ru/b/regiony-rossii-sotsial-no-e-b75bfc?ysclid=m85ifu4dso252287392 (accessed on 10.10.2024).

Table 1

System of Indicators Assessing the Investment Attractiveness of Constituent Entities of the Russian Federation

| Scorecard  | Unit of<br>measurement<br>of the indicator | Assessment of the increase in the value of the indicator |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| I. Production and financial indicators   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1. The share of profitable enterprises   | %  | Positive   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2. The ratio of revenue and expenditure parts of the consolidated budget of the subject of the Russian Federation  | Ratio                                      | Positive   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3. The share of overdue accounts payable of organizations  | %  | Positive   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4. The proportion of neutralized substances harmful to the atmosphere released by stationary sources 10. Profitability of goods, products, works and services sold by industrial organizations with manufacturing industries | %  | Positive   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5. The degree of depreciation of fixed assets  | %  | Positive   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6. Profitability of assets of industrial organizations engaged in mining   | %  | Positive   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7. Profitability of assets of industrial organizations with manufacturing industries   | %  | Positive   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8. Profitability of assets of industrial organizations engaged in the production of electric energy, gas, steam and air conditioning   | %  | Positive   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9. Profitability of goods, products, works and services sold by industrial organizations engaged in mining   | %  | Positive   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10. Profitability of goods, products, works and services sold by industrial organizations with manufacturing industries  | %  | Positive   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11. Profitability of goods, products, works and services sold by industrial organizations engaged in the production of electric energy, gas, steam and air conditioning  | %  | Positive   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12. Profitability of the personnel of organizations  | Thousand rubles/person                     | Positive   |  |  |  |  |  |
| II. Development indicators   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 13. The proportion of the employed population with higher education  | %  | Positive   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 14. The level (per 10,000 population) of university graduates  | Person                                     | Positive   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 15. The level (in the total volume of shipped goods, completed works and services) of the costs of innovation activities of organizations  | %  | Positive   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 16. Percentage of organizations using broadband Internet access  | %  | Positive   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 17. The coefficient of renewal of fixed assets   | _  | Positive   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 18. The coefficient of investment capacity of the sold products  | _  | Positive   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 19. The level (per 10,000 square kilometers of territory) of railway track length  | Km of tracks                               | Positive   |  |  |  |  |  |
| III. Natural resource indicators   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 20. The level of participation in the workforce of the population  | %  | Positive   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 21. Electricity production per capita  | KWh.                                       | Positive   |  |  |  |  |  |

Table 1 (continued)

| Scorecard   | Unit of measurement of the indicator | Assessment of the increase in the value of the indicator |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| 22. The level (per 100 people of the population) of active subscribers of mobile broadband Internet access                            | Units                                | Positive   |
| 23. The level (per 100 people of the population) of active subscribers with fixed broadband Internet access                           | Units                                | Positive   |
| 24. The ratio of autonomy for industrial organizations  | %                                    | Positive   |
| IV. Political, socio-economic indicators  |                                      |  |
| 25. Share of private enterprises and organizations  | %                                    | Positive   |
| 26. The share of small businesses in the turnover of organizations  | %                                    | Positive   |
| 27. Morbidity rate (per thousand people)  | Units                                | Negative   |
| 28. The level (per thousand people of the population) of injuries of all types  | Units                                | Negative   |
| 29. The level (per one thousand people of the population) of registered crimes  | Units                                | Negative   |
| 30. The share of expenditures of the consolidated budget of the constituent entity of the Russian Federation on socio-cultural events | %                                    | Positive   |
| 31. The proportion of the population with monetary incomes above the subsistence level (poverty line)                                 | %                                    | Positive   |
| 32. Unemployment rate   | %                                    | Negative   |

subordinated to the law of normal distribution, if necessary, the normalized values of indicators are transformed by extracting the root of the (second-fourth) degree. Fourth, the cancellation of an abnormally high variation in indicator values is carried out as a result of the establishment of a standard (upper or marginal limit). And finally, fifth, the cost indicators and their derivatives are determined in comparable prices, taking into account both the inflationary processes in the country and the different purchasing power of the ruble in the regions. The results of the rating of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation by investment attractiveness in dynamics for 2019-2022 are presented in *Table 2*.

As presented in *Table 2*, while Moscow was the leader of the rating in the first three years of the analyzed period, St. Petersburg rose from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> place in 2022. It should be

noted that only in these two subjects of the Russian Federation, in certain years of the analyzed period, the value of the investment attractiveness index exceeded 0.7. There was also a stable group of outsider regions in the rating — all the republics included in the North Caucasus Federal District, and two entities from the Southern Federal District and the Siberian Federal District (respectively, the Republic of Kalmykia and the Republic of Tyva) — ranked 71<sup>st</sup> to 82<sup>nd</sup> annually.

The results of the retrospective assessment are deepened by cluster analysis. Within the framework of this study, such an analysis is carried out using AI (using the method of selforganizing maps by T. Kohonen). Ensuring the adequacy of the procedure implemented in the demo version of the Deductor Studio Lite software product is confirmed by the data in *Table 3*.

 ${\it Table~2}$  Rating of Investment Attractiveness of Constituent Entities of the Russian Federation

| Territory (Russian region) | The value of the investment attractiveness index of the Russian region |       |       | Place of a constituent entity of the<br>Russian Federation in the ranking of<br>investment attractiveness |      |      |      |      |
|----------------------------|--|-------|-------|---|------|------|------|------|
|                            | 2019   | 2020  | 2021  | 2022  | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| Belgorod region            | 0.653  | 0.659 | 0.690 | 0.653   | 9    | 4    | 4    | 11   |
| Bryansk region             | 0.550  | 0.502 | 0.536 | 0.531   | 48   | 58   | 61   | 62   |
| Vladimir region            | 0.544  | 0.545 | 0.580 | 0.606   | 53   | 47   | 45   | 27   |
| Voronezh region            | 0.662  | 0.673 | 0.650 | 0.653   | 6    | 2    | 15   | 12   |
| Ivanovo region             | 0.514  | 0.501 | 0.533 | 0.527   | 63   | 59   | 62   | 65   |
| Kaluga region              | 0.567  | 0.529 | 0.562 | 0.533   | 39   | 54   | 52   | 60   |
| Kostroma region            | 0.570  | 0.552 | 0.589 | 0.584   | 37   | 42   | 40   | 43   |
| Kursk region               | 0.663  | 0.652 | 0.687 | 0.670   | 5    | 5    | 5    | 6    |
| Lipetsk region             | 0.621  | 0.605 | 0.667 | 0.639   | 15   | 17   | 11   | 17   |
| Moscow region              | 0.649  | 0.624 | 0.640 | 0.646   | 10   | 9    | 19   | 14   |
| Oryol region               | 0.514  | 0.564 | 0.584 | 0.606   | 62   | 35   | 42   | 26   |
| Ryazan region              | 0.567  | 0.575 | 0.580 | 0.584   | 40   | 29   | 44   | 42   |
| Smolensk region            | 0.539  | 0.553 | 0.590 | 0.578   | 54   | 41   | 39   | 45   |
| Tambov region              | 0.511  | 0.562 | 0.546 | 0.558   | 64   | 36   | 56   | 52   |
| Tver region                | 0.501  | 0.491 | 0.558 | 0.565   | 68   | 63   | 54   | 48   |
| Tula region                | 0.624  | 0.594 | 0.640 | 0.665   | 14   | 20   | 18   | 7    |
| Yaroslavl region           | 0.560  | 0.546 | 0.571 | 0.595   | 44   | 46   | 49   | 37   |
| The city of Moscow         | 0.719  | 0.696 | 0.725 | 0.698   | 1    | 1    | 1    | 2    |
| The Republic of Karelia    | 0.559  | 0.544 | 0.576 | 0.579   | 45   | 48   | 46   | 44   |
| Komi Republic              | 0.561  | 0.496 | 0.563 | 0.527   | 43   | 60   | 50   | 64   |
| Arkhangelsk region         | 0.491  | 0.453 | 0.515 | 0.529   | 70   | 73   | 68   | 63   |
| Vologda region             | 0.573  | 0.569 | 0.597 | 0.621   | 36   | 32   | 36   | 22   |
| Kaliningrad region         | 0.608  | 0.582 | 0.617 | 0.602   | 22   | 26   | 29   | 30   |
| Leningrad region           | 0.618  | 0.587 | 0.620 | 0.637   | 19   | 23   | 27   | 18   |
| Murmansk region            | 0.618  | 0.652 | 0.686 | 0.653   | 20   | 6    | 6    | 10   |
| Novgorod region            | 0.507  | 0.494 | 0.574 | 0.596   | 65   | 62   | 48   | 35   |
| Pskov region               | 0.493  | 0.467 | 0.533 | 0.514   | 69   | 70   | 64   | 68   |
| St. Petersburg             | 0.709  | 0.661 | 0.703 | 0.703   | 2    | 3    | 2    | 1    |
| The Republic of Adygea     | 0.455  | 0.487 | 0.487 | 0.475   | 76   | 65   | 73   | 74   |
| The Republic of Kalmykia   | 0.397  | 0.446 | 0.471 | 0.439   | 80   | 74   | 77   | 78   |
| The Republic of Crimea     | 0.480  | 0.465 | 0.508 | 0.519   | 72   | 71   | 70   | 67   |

Table 2 (continued)

| Territory (Russian region)               | The value of the investment attractiveness index of the Russian region |       |       | Place of a constituent entity of the<br>Russian Federation in the ranking of<br>investment attractiveness |      |      |      |      |
|--|--|-------|-------|---|------|------|------|------|
|  | 2019   | 2020  | 2021  | 2022  | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| Krasnodar region                         | 0.595  | 0.574 | 0.606 | 0.591   | 25   | 31   | 34   | 40   |
| Astrakhan region                         | 0.597  | 0.560 | 0.576 | 0.558   | 23   | 37   | 47   | 53   |
| Volgograd region                         | 0.580  | 0.559 | 0.545 | 0.543   | 33   | 38   | 57   | 58   |
| Rostov region                            | 0.582  | 0.578 | 0.621 | 0.614   | 30   | 28   | 26   | 24   |
| The City of Sevastopol                   | 0.506  | 0.478 | 0.495 | 0.560   | 66   | 68   | 71   | 49   |
| The Republic of Dagestan                 | 0.398  | 0.382 | 0.413 | 0.422   | 79   | 79   | 79   | 79   |
| The Republic of Ingushetia               | 0.394  | 0.361 | 0.368 | 0.359   | 82   | 82   | 82   | 82   |
| The Kabardino-Balkarian Republic         | 0.397  | 0.379 | 0.404 | 0.383   | 81   | 80   | 80   | 81   |
| The Karachay-Cherkess Republic           | 0.477  | 0.416 | 0.478 | 0.449   | 73   | 78   | 76   | 77   |
| The Republic of North Ossetia-<br>Alania | 0.487  | 0.461 | 0.466 | 0.480   | 71   | 72   | 78   | 73   |
| The Chechen Republic                     | 0.402  | 0.379 | 0.384 | 0.396   | 78   | 81   | 81   | 80   |
| Stavropol region                         | 0.577  | 0.587 | 0.622 | 0.598   | 34   | 24   | 25   | 33   |
| The Republic of Bashkortostan            | 0.568  | 0.535 | 0.593 | 0.586   | 38   | 50   | 38   | 41   |
| The Republic of Mari El                  | 0.464  | 0.474 | 0.541 | 0.552   | 75   | 69   | 58   | 56   |
| The Republic of Mordovia                 | 0.549  | 0.531 | 0.550 | 0.558   | 49   | 53   | 55   | 51   |
| The Republic of Tatarstan                | 0.662  | 0.605 | 0.667 | 0.681   | 7    | 16   | 10   | 3    |
| The Udmurt Republic                      | 0.552  | 0.531 | 0.561 | 0.560   | 47   | 52   | 53   | 50   |
| The Chuvash Republic                     | 0.536  | 0.483 | 0.514 | 0.526   | 55   | 66   | 69   | 66   |
| Perm region                              | 0.619  | 0.575 | 0.654 | 0.641   | 18   | 30   | 14   | 16   |
| Kirov region                             | 0.530  | 0.547 | 0.581 | 0.550   | 59   | 45   | 43   | 57   |
| Nizhny Novgorod region                   | 0.620  | 0.609 | 0.655 | 0.637   | 17   | 15   | 13   | 19   |
| Orenburg region                          | 0.563  | 0.555 | 0.615 | 0.599   | 42   | 40   | 30   | 31   |
| Penza region                             | 0.577  | 0.568 | 0.608 | 0.599   | 35   | 33   | 33   | 32   |
| Samara region                            | 0.620  | 0.601 | 0.659 | 0.612   | 16   | 18   | 12   | 25   |
| Saratov region                           | 0.596  | 0.550 | 0.599 | 0.565   | 24   | 43   | 35   | 47   |
| Ulyanovsk region                         | 0.530  | 0.495 | 0.538 | 0.556   | 58   | 61   | 60   | 54   |
| Kurgan region                            | 0.523  | 0.502 | 0.490 | 0.498   | 60   | 57   | 72   | 72   |
| Sverdlovsk region                        | 0.639  | 0.618 | 0.668 | 0.602   | 11   | 11   | 9    | 29   |
| Tyumen region                            | 0.629  | 0.595 | 0.643 | 0.653   | 13   | 19   | 17   | 9    |
| Chelyabinsk region                       | 0.612  | 0.614 | 0.644 | 0.642   | 21   | 13   | 16   | 15   |
| Altai Republic                           | 0.535  | 0.533 | 0.530 | 0.556   | 57   | 51   | 66   | 55   |

Table 2 (continued)

| Territory (Russian region)      | The value of the investment attractiveness index of the Russian region |       |       |       | Place of a constituent entity of the<br>Russian Federation in the ranking of<br>investment attractiveness |      |      |      |
|---------------------------------|--|-------|-------|-------|---|------|------|------|
|                                 | 2019   | 2020  | 2021  | 2022  | 2019  | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| The Republic of Tyva            | 0.436  | 0.444 | 0.483 | 0.462 | 77  | 75   | 75   | 76   |
| The Republic of Khakassia       | 0.504  | 0.440 | 0.630 | 0.648 | 67  | 77   | 23   | 13   |
| Altai region                    | 0.556  | 0.581 | 0.614 | 0.593 | 46  | 27   | 31   | 38   |
| Krasnoyarsk region              | 0.691  | 0.645 | 0.698 | 0.660 | 3   | 7    | 3    | 8    |
| Irkutsk region                  | 0.669  | 0.642 | 0.672 | 0.674 | 4   | 8    | 8    | 4    |
| Kemerovo region                 | 0.536  | 0.483 | 0.635 | 0.636 | 56  | 67   | 21   | 20   |
| Novosibirsk region              | 0.634  | 0.615 | 0.677 | 0.672 | 12  | 12   | 7    | 5    |
| Omsk region                     | 0.588  | 0.589 | 0.613 | 0.617 | 28  | 22   | 32   | 23   |
| Tomsk region                    | 0.584  | 0.526 | 0.595 | 0.603 | 29  | 55   | 37   | 28   |
| The Republic of Buryatia        | 0.548  | 0.565 | 0.585 | 0.597 | 51  | 34   | 41   | 34   |
| The Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) | 0.548  | 0.543 | 0.563 | 0.574 | 52  | 49   | 51   | 46   |
| The Trans-Baikal region         | 0.548  | 0.510 | 0.533 | 0.539 | 50  | 56   | 65   | 59   |
| Kamchatka region                | 0.582  | 0.612 | 0.631 | 0.532 | 31  | 14   | 22   | 61   |
| Primorye region                 | 0.521  | 0.491 | 0.525 | 0.514 | 61  | 64   | 67   | 69   |
| Khabarovsk region               | 0.592  | 0.593 | 0.623 | 0.595 | 27  | 21   | 24   | 36   |
| Amur region                     | 0.580  | 0.556 | 0.541 | 0.507 | 32  | 39   | 59   | 70   |
| Magadan region                  | 0.655  | 0.622 | 0.637 | 0.592 | 8   | 10   | 20   | 39   |
| Sakhalin region                 | 0.594  | 0.586 | 0.620 | 0.630 | 26  | 25   | 28   | 21   |
| The Jewish Autonomous region    | 0.470  | 0.443 | 0.485 | 0.504 | 74  | 76   | 74   | 71   |
| Chukotka Autonomous region      | 0.565  | 0.549 | 0.533 | 0.475 | 41  | 44   | 63   | 75   |

As presented in *Table 3*, all the constituent entities of the Russian Federation can be correctly attributed to a specific cluster (with the individual approximation error not exceeding 5%).

The distribution of Russian regions by investment attractiveness and their cluster structure are shown in *Fig. 1* and *2*.

As presented in *Fig. 1*, all the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, based on the achieved index values, can be correctly grouped into three clusters characterized by

above-average, average and below-average levels of investment attractiveness. In the analyzed period (with the exception of the reporting year), the Republic of Bashkortostan was consistently included in the second cluster, which is consistent with the results of the ranking of the country's territories. The specified region occupied almost the median position in the ranking, with the exception of 2020 (there was a failure, and the republic, with an index value of 0.535, fell back to 50<sup>th</sup> place).

**Assessing the Adequacy of Cluster Analysis Results** 

| Year | Maximum error           | Average error           | Recognized, % |
|------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| 2019 | 2.32 * 10-3             | 3.63 * 10-4             | 100           |
| 2020 | 2.65 * 10-3             | 3.75 * 10-4             | 100           |
| 2021 | 3.82 * 10 <sup>-3</sup> | 3.61 * 10-4             | 100           |
| 2022 | 7.19 * 10 <sup>-3</sup> | 3.54 * 10 <sup>-4</sup> | 100           |

As presented in *Fig. 2* over the entire analyzed period of time, there was an increase in the quality of the formed cluster structure (in terms of investment attractiveness) of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation.

Thus, there was a significant (almost twofold) increase in the share of Russian regions with an above-average level of investment attractiveness. For the above reason, the total share of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation included in the first and second clusters reached 87.8% by 2022. Despite this, there are currently no Russian regions characterized by high investment attractiveness. Further, using AI, also in the demo version of the Deductor Studio Lite software product, a promising assessment of investment attractiveness is carried out using the example of two regions-the leaders of the rating and the Republic of Bashkortostan. For this purpose, a Bayesian ensemble of neural network models of topology multilayer perseptron of different configurations is formed (*Table 4*).

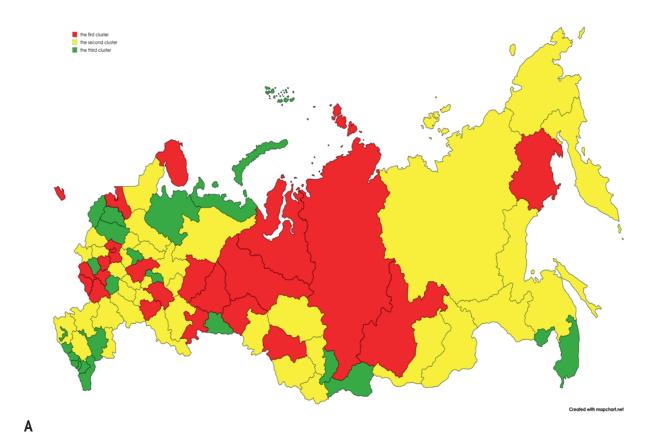
The output indicator of the models is the index value, and the input variables are the first and fourth sub-indexes. Due to the relatively small number (148) of observations, they completely constitute a training sample (without a teacher). The indicated number of observations included indicators for 2019–2022 for 36 regions from 3 federal districts (Central, Northwestern and Southern), as well as the Republic of Bashkortostan, which is part of the Volga Federal District.

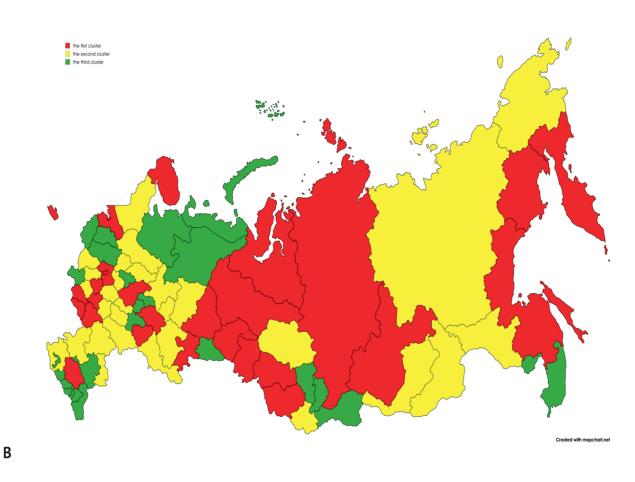
Adequate neural network models were included in the Bayesian ensemble (*Table 5*).

As presented in Table 5, the average approximation error for the Bayesian ensemble was 2.6% and varied in the context of neural network models in the range from 2.2 to 2.8%. Most (three out of five) of the neural network models made it possible to correctly (with an individual approximation error within 8%) almost completely (over 98%) recognize all observations. About 83-93% of the "good" ones (the individual approximation error did not exceed 5%). The points were guaranteed by each of the neural network models included in the Bayesian ensemble. Hence, it allows you to obtain a promising assessment of investment attractiveness with a high degree of accuracy.

*Fig. 3* shows the results of forecasting (for 2024–2025) for the leading regions and the Republic of Bashkortostan.

This forecast is based on the planned values (targets) of the first and fourth subindex in the amount of 0.65 / 0.67 and 0.76 / 0.77; 0.7 / 0.71 and 0.73 / 0.75; 0.58 / 0.6 and 0.66 / 0.67, respectively, for the cities of Moscow, St. Petersburg and the Republic of Bashkortostan for 2024 / 2025. According to the results of the prospective assessment, the city of Moscow with an index value of 0.719 / 0.724 is expected to occupy a leading position with some margin from St. Petersburg (0.716 / 0.72). At the same time, the performance indicator for the Republic of Bashkortostan is also projected to grow by 3.6% in 2024





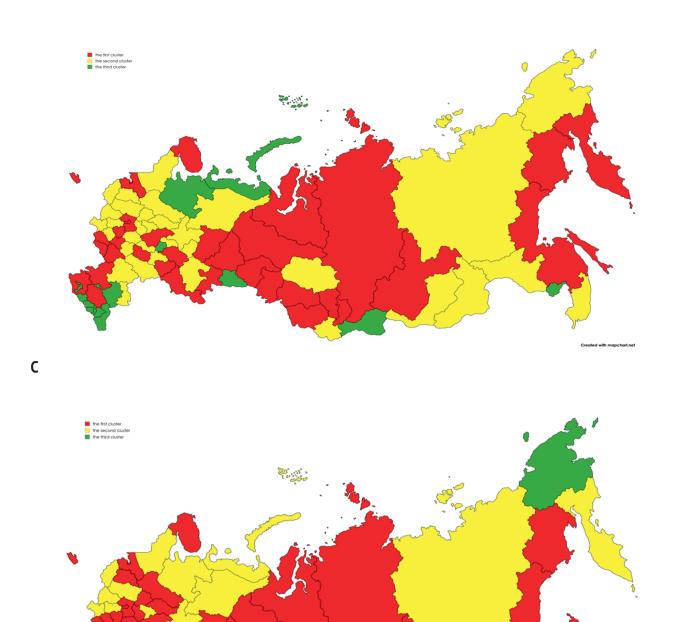


Fig. 1. **Distribution of Russian Regions by Investment Attractiveness in 2019–2022**Note: The Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol belonged to the 3rd and 2nd cluster in 2019–2021 and 2022 Source: Authors' calculations.

and by 2.8% in 2025. However, in 2024–2025, a significant gap in the index value between the cities of Moscow / St. Petersburg and the Republic of Bashkortostan is expected to remain.

Therefore, based on the results of the empirical study, the conclusion can be drawn that the leading regions currently have significant reserves for increasing investment attractiveness.

D

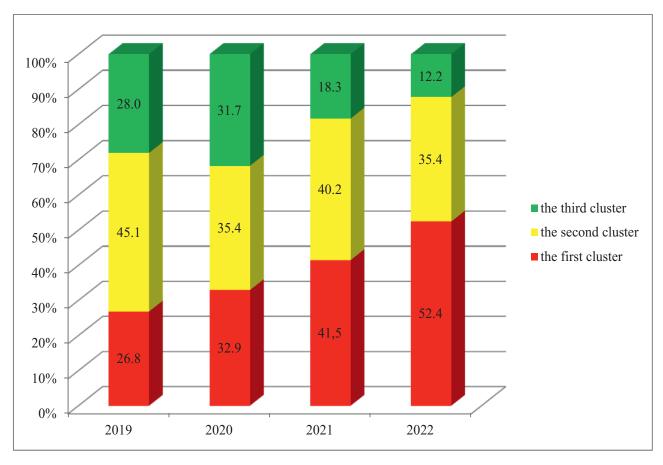


Fig. 2. Cluster Structure of the Constituent Entities of the Russian Federation (by Level of Investment Attractiveness)

Source: Authors' calculations.

Table 4

Configuration of Neural Network Models Included in the Bayesian Ensemble

| Neuromodel number      | Hidden layers | Number of neurons in 1 <sup>st</sup> / 2 <sup>nd</sup> hidden layer |
|------------------------|---------------|---|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>        | 1             | 4/-   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>        | 1             | 6/-   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>        | 1             | 8 / -   |
| <b>4</b> <sup>th</sup> | 2             | 4/6   |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>        | 2             | 6 / 8   |

Source: Compiled by the authors.

# **CONCLUSIONS**

To date, a fairly large amount of scientific literature has been accumulated on assessing the investment attractiveness of a territory (country, region, or municipality). At the same time, only index (statistical) methods

ensure the objectivity of the final evaluation results. The concept of the balanced scorecard by D. Norton and R. Kaplan is quite popular abroad. However, it is used exclusively for micro-level management. In the work of Russian scientists [20, 21], the concept was

**Assessing the Adequacy of Neuromodeling Results** 

| Neural network<br>model     | Average<br>approximation<br>error, % | The number of correctly recognized observations $\epsilon < 5\%$ $\epsilon < 8\%$ |      | of cor<br>recog | ntage rectly nized tions, $\%$ | The largest approximation error, % |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|------|-----------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>             | 2.8                                  | 131   | 88.5 | 142             | 95.9                           | 11                                 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>             | 2.6                                  | 127   | 85.8 | 147             | 99.3                           | 9.4                                |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>             | 2.8                                  | 124   | 83.8 | 146             | 98.6                           | 9.5                                |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>             | 2.7                                  | 128   | 86.5 | 143             | 96.6                           | 12.1                               |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>             | 2.2                                  | 138   | 93.2 | 148             | 100                            | 7.4                                |
| The ensemble of neuromodels | 2.6                                  | 130   | 87.6 | 145             | 98.1                           | 9.9                                |

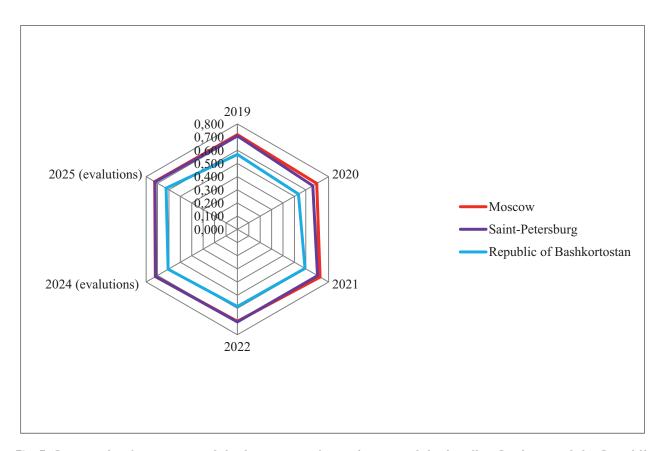


Fig. 3. Prospective Assessment of the Investment Attractiveness of the Leading Regions and the Republic of Bashkortostan

Source: Authors' calculations.

adapted to the specifics of the territory for the first time.

When constructing the index of investment attractiveness of Russian regions, a balanced data system is also used in this work. At the same time, the number of indicators is optimized (in the direction of decreasing) in comparison with the above work. In terms of the methodology for calculating the index, the current study takes into account the peculiarities of ranking the subjects of the Russian Federation by the level of innovative development proposed by the Higher School of Economics.<sup>4</sup>

In comparison with well-known methods, the author's approach is not limited to a retrospective assessment of the investment attractiveness of Russian regions. Thus, with the help of AI, clusterization and forecasting of the investment attractiveness of the subjects of the Russian Federation are consistently carried out. The results of the empirical study can serve as a scientific basis for improving the regional investment policy of any Russian region. The decomposition of the final assessment will make it possible to identify areas (on a differentiated basis) for increasing the investment attractiveness of almost every constituent entity of the Russian Federation.

https://www.hse.ru/primarydata/rir2021?ysclid=m85jf5n9ej741632923 (accessed on 10.10.2024).

# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The article was prepared as part of scientific research carried out with the financial support of a grant from the Russian Science Foundation (project No. 23-28-01133) "Modeling the Assessment of Innovative Development of Russian Regions Using Artificial Neural Networks in the Conditions of ESG Transformation". Plekhanov Russian University of Economics, Moscow, Russia

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# Authors' declared contribution:

- **R.V. Gubarev** literature review, general edition of the article.
- **E.I. Dzyuba** cluster analysis, prospective assessment of the investment attractiveness of the subjects of the Russian Federation.
- **R.S.** Haziev retrospective assessment of the investment attractiveness of the subjects of the Russian Federation.

Conflicts of Interest Statement: The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

The article was submitted on 25.09.2023; revised on 29.10.2023 and accepted for publication on 27.02.2025.

The authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript.