

**Zavadska D.V.**

*Ph.D. of Economics, Associate Professor, Odessa National Economic University (city Odessa), Ukraine; e-mail: zavadska.diana@ukr.net*

**Pelivan D.A.**

*Master student, Odessa National Economic University (city Odessa), Ukraine; e-mail: darya\_pelivan@mail.ru*

## **DEFINITION OF STRATEGICAL COMPETITIVENESS OF THE BANKS IN ODESSA REGION IN TERMS OF REGIONAL DISPROPORTION**

**Abstract.** In the article the methodological approach of using the analytic coefficient method or evaluation of the competitive environment in the regional banking market is proved. The basic stages of the analysis in accordance to this method's algorithm are disclosed. The results of numerical calculation procedure of the evaluation of loan and deposit imbalance in term of Odessa region are presented. Comparing methods are confirmed the possibility of its using under the rating score of competitiveness of banks in Odessa region. In the article method advantages are also market out, the usage algorithm on the matrix of the competitive position of the banking institution among the sectors of the banking market in Odessa region is represented.

**Keywords:** bank, regional banking system, imbalances, competitive environment, concentration, strategy.

Formulas: 8; fig.: 0; tabl.: 6; bibl.: 16.

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**Завадська Д.В.**

*к.е.н., доцент, Одесський національний економічний університет (м. Одеса), Україна; e-mail: zavadska.diana@ukr.net*

**Пеліван Д.А.**

*Магістр, Одесський національний економічний університет (м. Одеса) Україна; e-mail: darya\_pelivan@mail.ru*

## **ВИЗНАЧЕННЯ СТРАТЕГІЧНОЇ КОНКУРЕНТОСПРОМОЖНОСТІ БАНКІВ ОДЕСЬКОЇ ОБЛАСТІ В УМОВАХ РЕГІОНАЛЬНОЇ ДИСПРОПОРЦІЇ**

**Анотація.** У статті надано власне бачення щодо визначення сутності поняття «регіональний банк» шляхом аналізу переваг та недоліків розглянутих варіантів тлумачення вищевказаної категорії. Проаналізовано диспропорції розвитку банківської системи України в розрізі регіонів. Досліджено методики оцінки ефективності діяльності регіональних банківських систем, сформовано систему показників дослідження конкурентного середовища та вибору альтернативних стратегій розвитку регіональних банківських установ.

**Ключові слова:** банк, региональна банківська система, дисбаланс, конкурентне середовище, концентрація, стратегія.

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**Завадская Д.В.**

*к.э.н., доцент, Одесский национальный экономический университет (г. Одесса), Украина e-mail: zavadska.diana@ukr.net*

**Пеливан Д.А.**

*магистр, Одесский национальный экономический университет (г. Одесса), Украина e-mail: darya\_pelivan@mail.ru*

## **ОПРЕДЕЛЕНИЕ СТРАТЕГИЧЕСКОЙ КОНКУРЕНТОСПОСОБНОСТИ БАНКОВ ОДЕССКОЙ ОБЛАСТИ В УСЛОВИЯХ РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЙ ДИСПРОПОРЦИИ**

**Аннотация:** В статье представлено свое видение к определению сущности понятия «региональный банк» путем анализа преимуществ и недостатков рассмотренных вариантов

толкования вышеуказанной категории. Выделены причины диспропорций развития банковской системы Украины в разрезе регионов, подробно исследованы методики оценки эффективности деятельности региональных банковских систем и сформировано на их основе совокупность показателей для исследования конкурентной среды и выбора альтернативных стратегий развития региональных банковских учреждений.

**Ключевые слова:** банк, региональная банковская система, дисбаланс, конкурентная среда, концентрация, стратегия.

Формул: 8; рис.: 0; табл.: 6; библ.: 16.

**Introduction.** Performance of the bank establishments is one of the most important conditions of the proper work of the region. It mostly influences on the outlooks of the regional development, creating the conditions for making the investments, financing the speed of manufacturing and, as a result, increases the employment of population and their income. The effectiveness of fulfillment the tasks of the banks in the region depends on cooperation of the bank sector and regional economy. The problems of Ukrainian banking system include the imbalance of the regional component and lack of clearly defined scientific and methodological approaches for determination the competitiveness and prospects for development of the regional banks, which led to the choice of the theme and setting the research objectives.

**Literature review and the problem statement.** There is a significant number of domestic and foreign researches devoted to the issues of the regional banks, such as: S. Gerasimchuk, L. Gulyaeva, O. Drugov, N. Koretska, K. Kremer, O. Kopyluk and others [1-7]. Despite the wide interpretation of banking issues on the regional level, the current state of the regional banking systems is mainly observed in economical literature as a whole, but there are not emphasized the complex techniques that will identify the alternative strategies of development of the separate regional banking institutions.

**The article purpose** is to create a system of activities to assess the competitive environment in the banking regional market, and the conditions of possible determination of strategic alternatives in reaching the market share by the banks, operating within the region. The solution of the following problems helps to reveal the aims: research of the dynamics of macro economical activities on the regional level; assessment of the credit and deposit imbalance; rating of the strategic bank competitiveness; formation the matrix of competitive positions of banking institutions in the market sectors; range of strategic alternatives in reaching the market share of banking services in Odessa region.

**Research results.** One of the problems of the banking system in our country is the imbalance of its regional components. The experience and statistics of the European Union show: the more intense there is the development of entrepreneurship, the better there is the development of the banking system in the region [4, c. 58]. The quantity of regional banks in Ukraine is sufficiently small. Most of the local banks start to position themselves as Ukrainian ones and fulfill their activities on the territory of at least several regions of the country. However, they have an extensive branch network with authoritarian structures of the management. That means that instead of supporting the regional economy, the part of national banks branches contributes to the outflow of their financial resources. Such a situation causes the negative impact on the economic development of the country and requires the search for its optimization.

However, before proceeding to the study of practical issues within the chosen topic, it is worth analyzing of the internal matter of the categories such as “regional banking system”, “regional bank” and their roles in the economical processes of the country. Initially we will examine the interpretation of the abovementioned concepts according to the legal standards.

The definitions of these concepts are absent in the Law of Ukraine “On Banks and Bank activity” from 07.12.2000, that appears being a basic guiding line in the bank activities [8]. However it is worth bearing in mind that nowadays the market of the banking services is characterized by a high level of globalization and internationalization, that is why the question should be analyzed not only within its own concepts, but also in comparison with the international experience. The practice shows that it is similar to the local principles. For instance, the Federal Law “On the Banks and Bank Activity” from 02.12.1990 does not provide the definition of the term “regional bank”, however it mentions the phrase “the banking system of the region” without any detailed explanation, meanwhile it indicates its basic components [9]. Therefore the abovementioned notion has rather economical than legal nature. Thereby we advise to postpone the consideration of this issue to economic studies.

In foreign practice the regional organizations are considered as being the credit ones in conditions of limitations to a certain territory. The local studies are not characterized by unambiguity and they consider the various features, that give the reason to classify the bank to its regional groups. But despite the list of features such a bank appears being a single component of the regional banking system. Thus the development of the region is not possible without the continuous cooperation of all the possible components of its banking sectors, such as: the territorial administration of the NBU (National Bank of Ukraine); regional banks; subsidiaries, branches, representative offices of regional and foreign banks; banking unions, associations, which are registered and operate within the region.

Therefore the implementation of an assessment of the competitive environment in the banking market is fulfilled in order to develop strategies for the regional bank development, we consider it necessary to construct the definition of the level of competitiveness, taking into account the effect of all the above mentioned elements, the relationship, that is revealed by implementation of its regional banking institutions, being the key elements of the system at the regional level of the following functions: serving, stabilizing, emissive, social, investing, transformational, stimulative and system-formational.

In our opinion, according to a critical analysis of the works of local and foreign researches [2, c. 65], the regional bank is a bank, that is registered in a particular region, mainly operates within its territory and is not systematically important for the government, at the same time the aim of its functioning combines the processes of achieving the goals and promotion the development of the region. There is a problem that appears in Ukraine connected with the fulfillment of the latest condition, because the local banking system is characterized as one having almost the exclusive regional concentration. In particular, more than the half of the fund is concentrated in 20 largest banks as in 01.10.2014. Their authorized capital comes to the amount of almost 115,3 million UAH. that is 63,5% of the total amount [10; 11]. As a result, in most of regions of the country rivalry unfolds between the local banks and territorial branches of the large banks. In general the concentration of the capital occurs only in a limited number of credit institutions, most of them are located in Kiev, making the regional banking systems unstable and deprives them the opportunity to develop their full potential. In order to determine the reasons of this phenomenon, we will consider some macroeconomic activities in the regional context (tabl. 1).

According to the table, on the territory of almost half of Ukrainian regions (Vinnytsia, Zhytomyr, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kirovohrad, Mykolaiv, Rivne, Ternopil, Kherson, Khmelnytsky, Cherkasy and Chernivtsi) there is not registered any single bank. The lack of legally independent banking institutions can cause the crisis in the regional development [12, p. 37]. Meanwhile, the percentage of banks' legal representatives in Kyiv region and Kyiv made up almost 66% on 01.01.2013.

Table 1

*Dynamics of the macro economical indexes on the regional level during  
01.01.2013 – 01.10.2014\*)*

Region	Quantity of the banks, registered in the region, in % from the total amount			Quantity of the active companies in % from the total amount		The total share of companies that received the income, %			Disposable income per person, UAH	
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013
Kyiv	65,9	66,5	72,5	19,7	21,0	62,0	63,8	50,7	22520,1	26541,7
Vinnytsia	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,9	2,8	68,0	70,1	65,7	19090,8	21734,9
Volyn	0,6	0,5	0,0	2,0	1,9	62,0	64,5	57,0	16657,7	18806,9
Dnipropetrov's'k	8,0	7,1	5,9	6,9	6,7	60,6	63,5	55,2	24302,4	28771,6
Donetsk	5,7	6,0	3,9	7,4	7,3	66,8	66,5	44,8	24890,3	29336,6
Zhytomyr	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,3	2,3	60,8	63,0	62,5	18716,4	21288
Zakarpattia	0,6	0,5	0,7	2,1	2,1	71,6	72,4	68,4	15002,4	17191,4
Zaporiggia	1,7	1,6	2,0	3,9	3,7	62,1	65,4	58,5	23684,9	27107,6
Ivano-Frankivsk	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,6	2,5	72,1	72,4	57,6	17732,6	20148,4
Kirovohrad	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,1	2,0	73,5	74,2	50,9	18039,2	20553,7
Lugansk	1,1	1,1	1,3	3,3	3,3	65,4	65,1	41,1	20879,9	24024,1
Lviv	2,8	2,7	3,3	5,3	5,2	61,0	63,7	56,7	19204,4	21992,3
Mykolaiv	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,9	2,8	67,0	71,8	52,3	20040,7	22878
Odessa	4,5	4,9	4,6	6,0	5,9	63,9	67,7	53,6	19135	22224,4
Poltava	1,7	1,6	1,3	3,0	2,9	68,2	67,8	59,5	20917,4	24027,2
Rivne	0,0	0,0	0,0	1,9	1,9	61	63,3	61,9	17326,2	19859,8
Sumy	0,6	0,5	0,7	1,9	1,9	63,8	63,6	59,6	19592,9	22582,3
Ternopil	0,0	0,0	0,0	1,9	2,0	69,1	68,5	49,8	16351,3	18560,6
Kharkiv	4,0	3,8	2,6	5,9	5,8	61,7	63,2	60,1	21787,8	24870
Kherson	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,3	2,3	63,9	67,8	49,8	17654,3	19939,9
Khmelnitsky	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,5	2,4	66,8	67,4	66,2	18738,2	21590,6
Cherkasy	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,5	2,5	69,2	69,4	60,2	18246,3	20717,9
Chernygv	1,7	1,6	1,3	1,5	1,5	61,0	62,9	59,2	15992,5	18107,5
Chernivtsi	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,0	2,0	66,1	66	61,6	19465	22769,6

\*) built by the authors using the data of [10; 11]

And it rose at the end of the third quarter of 2014 to 72.5% (6.5 percentage points), demonstrating a significant imbalance in the banking system of Ukraine. Such a situation may be connected with the fact that the Capital region has an average of 20% of active companies and one of the highest levels of income per person. Odessa region is characterized by the values close to the average and, along with Dnipropetrov's'k, Donetsk, Lviv and Kharkiv region can be classified to the second level of territorial concentration. That is why during the formation of marketing bank strategies of Odessa region it is advisable to use the experience of the banks, which operate on the above listed territories. Created by the banking system of assessing the value of the competitive environment in the regional market is one of important conditions of the successfully chosen strategy, for instance the method of determination of the credit-deposit imbalance in the region (tabl. 2).

Table 2

*Evaluation of the competitive environment in the regional banking market*

Group	Name	Formula	Rationalization
A	1	2	3
Primary indicators	The number of registered, active, licensed banks in the region		Primary indicators are not calculated and included in the statistics NBU. They act as quantitative characteristics of the region
	Distribution of banks and their branches by regions		
	Distribution of banks by size of capital		
	The distribution of bank assets by regions		
Secondary indicators	Supply of banking services [13, p. 23]	Number of banks /Region Population	Shows the availability of banking services in the region
	“Pure” lender (borrower) [3, p. 38]	The difference between commitments on loans and deposits	Shows the absolute amount of loan and deposit imbalance in the region
	Value of deposits and loans [3, p. 38]	The ratio of banks' liabilities on deposits and loans	The degree of non-compliance with the loan and deposit activities in the region
	a) The share of under-funded loans or b) the share of deposits available [3, p. 38]	a) For “pure” lender: $\frac{D - L}{L}$ ; b) For the “pure” borrower: $\frac{L - D}{L}$ , where D – deposits; L – loans;	Shows the relative level of imbalance in financial resources
	Index of concentration [14, p. 571]	$CR_k = \sum_{i=1}^k s_i$ , where $s_i$ - fraction of the $i$ bank market; $k$ - number of the largest banks;	It characterizes which market share fits to a specified number of large banks
	The general index of sectoral concentration [14, p. 572]	$CCI = s_1 + \sum_{i=2}^n s_i(1 + (1 - s_i))$ , where $s_i$ - fraction of the $i$ bank market; $n$ - total number of banks in the market;	Allows you to evaluate the relation between fluctuations in the market shares of individual banks and absolute importance of largest share of the bank
	Herfindahl-Hirschman Index [4, p. 571]	$HHI = \sum_{i=1}^n s_i^2$ , where $s_i$ - fraction of the $i$ bank market; $n$ - total number of banks in the market;	Specifies the level of concentration in the market. And the higher the index, the greater is the degree of concentration
	Rozenblut Index [15, p. 72]	$RI = \frac{1}{2 \sum_{i=1}^n (i \times s_i) - n}$ , where $s_i$ - fraction of the $i$ bank market $n$ - total number of banks in the market;	Sensitive to the market share of small banks, as weighted by the share of local banks in the overall ranking

Extension table 2

A	1	2	3
Secondary indicators	Hannaha and Kay Index [14, p. 574]	$HKI = \left( \sum_{i=1}^n s_i^\alpha \right)^{\frac{1}{1-\alpha}}$ , where $s_i$ - fraction of the $i$ bank market; $n$ - total number of banks in the market; $\alpha$ - exponent influence;	They belong to the same group of indicators and allow you to compare the impact of small and largest banks on the market concentration ,due to changes in the degree of influence of the market share of individual banks
	U-index [14, p. 574]	$U = \left( \sum_{i=1}^n [s_i (s_i n^{(\alpha-1)/\alpha})] \right)^\alpha$ , where $s_i$ - fraction of the $i$ bank market; $n$ - total number of banks in the market; $\alpha$ - exponent influence.	

One of the banking system features in lots of developed countries is the presence of a significant number of relatively small banks, which are located in the regions and serve the regional companies. At the same time they have to withstand the competition of the global financial institutions. However, it is worth mentioning that the increase in the size of the bank does not form a steady competitive advantage, and the bankruptcy of the bank system will lead to negative social consequences. Algorithm of our study research is shown in tables 3-6.

Table 3  
*Evaluation of loan and deposit imbalance in terms of Odessa region in 2010, 2012 and 2014\*)*

Activities	Period		
	01.01.2011	01.01.2013	01.10.2014
The amount of deposits	31537308	50794214	46422740
The volume of loans	53411891	46758658	56709589
The absolute size of the loan and deposit imbalance	-21874583	4035556	-10286849
Value of deposits and loans	0,5905	1,0863	0,8186
The relative level of imbalance in financial resources, including (%): a) share of under-funded loans;	40,95	x	18,14
b) the proportion of free deposits	x	7,94	x

\*) Source: constructed by the authors on [10] based on realistic data reporting banks

On 01.01.2011 and 01.10.2014 Odessa region represents as a “pure” borrower, whose share of the under-funded loans form the borrowed funds is 41% and 18%. That means that the banks, which operate within the Odessa region, during these periods of time were using the funds from the other sources for implementing the credit operations. On 01.01.2013 an improvement of the situation in the region is noticed with the contradiction of the volumes of credit and deposit activities, it was close to the balance state, and the proportion of free deposits was estimated to 8%. Thereafter there are not observed any clear trends of credit-deposit imbalance, and the region may act as a borrower and a lender, that allows the banks of

Odessa region to choose the sales strategy of banking products, based on their competitive advantages and internal capabilities.

In order to implement the assessment of the competitive environment of banks in Odessa region we shall calculate the number of the concentration rate. The presence of a basic strategic area of management is one the conditions for assessment the competitiveness of banking institutions. Despite the consolidation of the bank accounting, the initial data is taken with the ratio of the quantity of bank branches located within the area in order to determine the level of concentration (tabl. 4).

*Table 4  
The evolution of the concentration in key segments of the banking market of Odessa region in 2010, 2012 and 2014\*)*

Indicators of market concentration	Market sectors	Period		
		01.01.2011	01.01.2013	01.10.2014
Index of concentration (9 banks), %	Assets	0,5520	0,5628	0,6116
	Deposits	0,6001	0,6503	0,5728
	Loans	0,5315	0,5470	0,5544
	Financial result	0,8520	0,8632	0,8515
Herfindahl-Hirschman Index	Assets	465	522	692
	Deposits	566	617	593
	Loans	479	509	548
	Financial result	1394	1692	1253
Rozenblut Index	Assets	0,0383	0,0407	0,0440
	Deposits	0,0419	0,0496	0,0465
	Loans	0,0409	0,0413	0,0460
	Financial result	0,1070	0,1064	0,1029
The total index of sectoral concentration	Assets	0,1778	0,1976	0,2490
	Deposits	0,2094	0,2196	0,2261
	Loans	0,1789	0,2004	0,2135
	Financial result	0,3938	0,4346	0,3698

\*) Source: constructed by the authors on [10] based on realistic data reporting banks

According to the calculations presented in the table, the market share of 9 largest banks ranged from 53% - 61% in all market segments, except the financial result, where the value was a bit more than 85% during the whole period, that is connected with a significant loss ratio of the banking system in general. This conclusion is confirmed by the rest of the calculated figures. So Rosenbluth index, which is sensitive to the market share of small banks, is in the range 0.039 - 0.049 (except the sector "financial result", where it is close to 0.11). The overall index of industry concentration in most cases varies from 0,18 to 0,25, which is four times less than the threshold value, that is, for the Odessa region monopoly is not promising phenomenon: a low level of concentration, and therefore the majority of banks are on the equal conditions, which allows to assess the competitive potential of selected banks in a better way using the method T. Diachenko [16]. The content of the methodology is to calculate the indexes of competitiveness in four areas: assets, liabilities, equity and financial results. For comparison, we selected five banks that have branches in Odessa region, including Kredobank and VS bank, registered in Lviv, Investbank, Misto Bank and USB Bank, that officially belong to the banks of Odessa region (tabl. 5).

According to the research, given in tabl. 4, Lviv bank Kredobank has the highest level of competitiveness, in the structure of its equity investments of PKO Bank Polska SA come to the amount of 99.6%. Banks, which are registered in Odessa area, regardless of the participation of foreign capital, are less competitive in comparison to the nonregional ones.

Table 5

*Rating score of competitiveness of banks during 01.01.2011 - 01.10.2014 \*)*

Index	Name of the bank				
	Kredobank	VS Bank	Invest-bank	Misto Bank	USB Bank
Competitiveness of assets	0,0000	0,4520	0,8929	0,6545	0,7756
Competitiveness of liabilities	0,0000	0,4824	0,9001	0,6224	0,8576
Competitiveness of capital	0,0116	0,3613	0,8442	0,5450	0,5130
The competitiveness of the financial result	0,8136	0,6314	0,8403	0,8940	0,7699
Total Score	0,1843	0,0668	0,0003	0,0063	0,0036
Rating	1	2	5	3	4

\*) Source: constructed by the authors on [10] based on realistic data reporting banks

This situation negatively affects the development of Odessa region, because in the future it may lead to the deterioration of the socio-economic situation of the region as a whole. There remains the question of formation of successful development strategies of Odessa regional banks in order to maintain and further improve their competitiveness. The choice of strategy is feasible according to the matrix of the competitive position of banking institutions in the sectors of banking markets (tabl. 6).

In all the studied segments for 2010 - 2014 there are no more than two leading banks and banks direct competitors. The vast number of banking institutions in its market share can be ranked to bank outsiders. There are some basic characteristics and strategies for each group of the banks. Banks, which operate in accordance with the marketing strategies of the Market leader and protect their competitive position, maintain the financial stability and increase the competitiveness of products and services (banks-leaders, for example, Privatbank).

Choosing of the Second market leader marketing strategy provides the orientation of banks to the improvement of competitiveness of all sectors of the bank market (direct competitors, for example, Ukreksimbank, Oshchadbank, Bank Pivdenny).

According to the marketing strategies of the Challenger, the priority for banks is the development of measures for improvement the results of performance: adjustment of the strategy development, improvement of the efficiency of financial management, the introduction of innovative bank products and technologies, increasing of the resource base, adjusting credit-deposit, pricing and marketing policies, etc. (potential competitors, for example, Delta Bank, Prominvestbank, PUMB, VTB Bank).

Strategic objective of the bank, according to the Niche marketing strategies, is the development of new market segments, reorientation of the target markets of services, reduction of non-profit activities, the optimization of the level of risk for banking operations, the expansion of the customer base, offering the new high quality or modified services on the existing market segments, etc. (banks outsiders, for example, Investbank, Misto Bank, Platinum Bank, Kredobank, Ukrinbank, Ukrsybbank, OTP Bank, Union Standard Bank etc.).

**The conclusions.** One of the problems of the banking system in our country is the imbalance of its regional component. In particular, regional banks have to attract the maximum number of local resources, but the funds are used not for the development of the regions, but for the areas, which have the significantly higher demands for credit resources and high interest rates for their usage.

A possible way to deal with this situation is to organize and develop the regional systems of commercial banks.

Table 6

*Matrix of the competitive position of banking institutions among the sectors of the banking market in Odessa region during 2010 – 2014\*)*

Period	The total number of banks operating in the region	Market share	Banks market leaders		Banks challengers		Banks potential competitors		Banks outsiders	
			The range of market shares	Number	The range of market shares	Number	The range of market shares	Number	The range of market shares	Number
2010	90	Assets	0,0843-0,1122	2	0,0562-0,0842	1	0,0281-0,0561	6	0-0,0280	81
		Loans	0,0818-0,1091	2	0,0546-0,0818	2	0,0273-0,0545	7	0-0,0273	79
		Deposits	0,1024-0,1364	2	0,0683-0,1023	1	0,0342-0,0682	5	0-0,0341	82
		Financial result	0,2071-0,2760	1	0,1381-0,2070	1	0,0700-0,1380	3	0-0,0699	85
2012	83	Assets	0,0968-0,1290	2	0,0645-0,0967	1	0,0323-0,0644	5	0-0,0322	75
		Loans	0,1044-0,1391	1	0,0696-0,1043	2	0,0349-0,0695	3	0-0,0348	77
		Deposits	0,1033-0,1375	2	0,0689-0,1032	1	0,0345-0,0688	6	0-0,0344	74
		Financial result	0,2731-0,3639	1	0,1821-0,2730	0	0,0911-0,1820	1	0-0,0910	81
2014	77	Assets	0,1308-0,1742	1	0,0872-0,1307	2	0,0437-0,0871	2	0-0,0436	72
		Loans	0,1139-0,1517	1	0,0787-0,1138	1	0,0380-0,0786	3	0-0,0379	72
		Deposits	0,1219-0,1624	1	0,0813-0,1218	1	0,0407-0,0812	3	0-0,0406	72
		Financial result	0,2041-0,2720	1	0,1361-0,2040	0	0,0681-0,1360	5	0-0,0680	71

\*) Source: constructed by the authors on [10] based on realistic data reporting banks

The development of this phenomenon requires a search for the adequate methods of assessment, that enough to determine the current state and prospects for growth in the banking sector and to develop the possible strategies for the development of regional banks, taking into account the factors, that influence the activity of the regional bank.

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