

## Artículo de investigación

**Analysis of the dynamics of gross domestic product and external economic activity of the Russian Federation for 2013–2018****АНАЛИЗ ДИНАМИКИ ВАЛОВОГО ВНУТРЕННЕГО ПРОДУКТА И ВНЕШНЕЭКОНОМИЧЕСКОЙ ДЕЯТЕЛЬНОСТИ РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ ЗА 2013–2018 ГОДЫ****Análisis de la dinámica del producto interno bruto y la actividad económica externa de la Federación Rusa para 2013-2018**

Recibido: 5 de octubre del 2019

Aceptado: 16 de noviembre del 2019

Written by:

**Oleg Ilyasovich Katlishin**<sup>48</sup>

SPIN: 9498-8542

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2869-2312>**Alexander Sergeevich Baleevskikh**<sup>49</sup>

SPIN: 6097-2907

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6050-1275>**Abstract**

Currently, the Russian Federation is a significant geopolitical and economic player in the modern global world, it has its own interests and traditional partnerships with most states, including business representatives of those countries that are trying to restrain its development through restrictions and partial isolation from global development opportunities. Despite the sanctions and the unfavorable world market conditions, the Russian economy showed high plasticity, stability and adaptability to external changes, which was reflected in the positive dynamics of foreign trade growth in the existing conditions. Therefore, the purpose of this article was to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the dynamics of official statistics on economic growth and foreign trade in the Russian Federation for the period 2013-2018. To achieve this goal, the following tasks were solved: 1) an analysis of the dynamics of the gross domestic product of the Russian Federation for the period 2013-2018; 2) the role of foreign trade in the gross domestic product of the country is estimated through the calculation of foreign economic quotas; 3) analyzed the dynamics of foreign trade, imports and exports of the Russian Federation; 4) revealed the shares of product

**Аннотация**

В настоящее время Российская Федерация является значимым геополитическим и экономическим игроком современного глобального мира, имеет свои интересы и традиционные партнерские отношения с большинством государств, в том числе и с представителями бизнеса тех стран, которые пытаются сдерживать ее развитие через ограничения и частичную изоляцию от глобальных возможностей развития. Несмотря на санкции и неблагоприятную мировую рыночную конъюнктуру, экономика РФ показала высокую пластичность, устойчивость и приспособляемость к внешним изменениям, что выразилось в положительной динамике роста внешней торговли в существующих условиях. Поэтому целью настоящей статьи стало проведение комплексного анализа динамики официальных статистических данных по экономическому росту и внешней торговле в Российской Федерации за период 2013-2018 годов. Для достижения поставленной цели были решены следующие задачи: 1) проведен анализ динамики валового внутреннего продукта Российской Федерации за период 2013-2018 гг.; 2) оценена роль внешней торговли в валовом внутреннем продукте страны через расчет

<sup>48</sup> PhD in Economics, Associate Professor of Department of Commodity Research and Examination of Goods, Perm State Agro-Technological University named after Academician D.N. Pryanishnikov, Russia; Associate Professor of Department of Economic Analysis and Statistics, Perm Institute, branch of REU named after G. V. Plekhanov, Russia

<sup>49</sup> PhD in Economics, Head of Department of Commodity Research and Examination of Goods, Perm State Agro-Technological University named after Academician D.N. Pryanishnikov, Russia

groups in the structure of exports and imports, as well as the most significant counterparties of the Russian Federation. The hypothesis of the study was the thesis of the interdependence of the volume of economic growth and foreign economic activity, including taking into account changes in foreign economic conditions. The article provides a retrospective analysis of the dynamics of economic growth in terms of nominal value and purchasing power parity, as well as the dynamics of foreign trade of the Russian Federation for the period 2013-2018. A preliminary forecast of foreign trade volumes for 2019 is given. The calculation of foreign economic, export and import quotas for the same period. The Russian specifics of the dynamics and structure of export supplies and import flows, as well as the structure of both imports and exports by counteragent countries and enlarged groups of the commodity nomenclature of foreign economic activity, are examined. For the period under review, the nominal GDP fell by 28.8%, while in terms of purchasing power parity, the Russian economy grew by 5.7% over the same period. At the same time, the largest drawdown in the economy occurred in the middle of the period; in recent years, the situation in the economy has improved. The role of foreign trade in the formation of GDP during the period was relatively stable, with the exception of 2018, when the foreign trade quota sharply increased (as well as export and import). The dynamics of foreign trade and export quotas in the Russian Federation are almost identical, while imports depend on export earnings. For the study period, foreign trade turnover of the Russian Federation decreased by 18.4%, export volumes decreased by 14.8%, import purchases decreased by 24.5%. The main problem of the economy and foreign economic activity remains its dependence on the export of mineral products.

**Keywords:** GDP growth, foreign trade, GDP at face value, GDP at purchasing power parity, exports, imports, country structure of foreign economic activity.

## Resumen

Actualmente, la Federación de Rusia es un actor geopolítico y económico importante en el mundo global moderno, tiene sus propios intereses y asociaciones tradicionales con la mayoría de los estados, incluidos los representantes comerciales de aquellos países que están tratando de restringir su desarrollo a través de

внешнеэкономических квот; 3) проанализирована динамика внешней торговли, импорта и экспорта РФ; 4) выявлены доли товарных групп в структуре экспорта и импорта, а также наиболее значимые страны-контрагенты РФ. Гипотезой исследования стал тезис о взаимозависимости объемов экономического роста и внешнеэкономической деятельности, в том числе и с учетом изменения внешнеэкономических условий. В статье проведен ретроспективный анализ динамики роста экономики по номинальной оценке и по паритету покупательной способности, а также динамика внешней торговли Российской Федерации за период 2013-2018 гг. Дан предварительный прогноз объемов внешней торговли на 2019 год. Проведен расчет внешнеэкономических, экспортных и импортных квот за тот же период. Рассмотрена российская специфика динамики и структуры экспортных поставок и импортных потоков, а также структуры как импорта, так и экспорта по странам-контрагентам и укрупненным группам товарной номенклатуры внешнеэкономической деятельности. За рассматриваемый период ВВП по номинальной оценке обрушился на 28,8%, в оценке же по паритету покупательной способности экономика России присохла за этот же период на 5,7%. При этом наибольшая просадка экономики возникла в середине периода, за последние годы ситуация в экономике улучшается. Роль внешней торговли в формировании ВВП в течение периода была относительно стабильна, за исключением 2018 года, когда резко выросла внешнеторговая квота (также как экспортная и импортная). Динамики внешнеторговых и экспортных квот в РФ практически идентичны, в то время как импорт зависит от поступлений по экспорту. За исследуемый период внешнеторговые обороты РФ сократились на 18,4%, объемы экспорта снизились на 14,8%, закупки импорта уменьшились на 24,5%. Главной проблемой экономики и внешнеэкономической деятельности остается ее зависимость от экспорта минеральных продуктов.

**Ключевые слова:** Рост ВВП, внешняя торговля, ВВП по номиналу, ВВП по паритету покупательной способности, экспорт, импорт, страновая структура ВЭД.

restricciones y aislamiento parcial del mundo. oportunidades de desarrollo. A pesar de las sanciones y las condiciones desfavorables del mercado mundial, la economía rusa mostró una gran plasticidad, estabilidad y adaptabilidad a los cambios externos, lo que se reflejó en la dinámica positiva del crecimiento del comercio exterior en las condiciones existentes. Por lo tanto, el propósito de este artículo era realizar un análisis exhaustivo de la dinámica de las estadísticas oficiales sobre crecimiento económico y comercio exterior en la Federación de Rusia para el período 2013-2018. Para lograr este objetivo, se resolvieron las siguientes tareas: 1) un análisis de la dinámica del producto interno bruto de la Federación de Rusia para el período 2013-2018; 2) el papel del comercio exterior en el producto interno bruto del país se estima mediante el cálculo de las cuotas económicas extranjeras; 3) analizó la dinámica del comercio exterior, las importaciones y exportaciones de la Federación de Rusia; 4) reveló la participación de grupos de productos en la estructura de exportaciones e importaciones, así como las contrapartes más importantes de la Federación de Rusia. La hipótesis del estudio fue la tesis de la interdependencia del volumen del crecimiento económico y la actividad económica extranjera, incluida la consideración de los cambios en las condiciones económicas extranjeras. El artículo proporciona un análisis retrospectivo de la dinámica del crecimiento económico en términos de valor nominal y paridad del poder adquisitivo, así como la dinámica del comercio exterior de la Federación de Rusia para el período 2013-2018. Se da un pronóstico preliminar de los volúmenes de comercio exterior para 2019. El cálculo de las cuotas económicas, de exportación e importación extranjeras para el mismo período. Se examinan los detalles rusos de la dinámica y la estructura de los suministros de exportación y los flujos de importación, así como la estructura tanto de las importaciones como de las exportaciones por parte de países contraparte y grupos ampliados de la nomenclatura de productos de la actividad económica extranjera. Para el período que se examina, el PIB nominal cayó un 28,8%, mientras que en términos de paridad del poder adquisitivo, la economía rusa creció un 5,7% durante el mismo período. Al mismo tiempo, la mayor reducción de la economía se produjo a mediados del período; En los últimos años, la situación en la economía ha mejorado. El papel del comercio exterior en la formación del PIB durante el período fue relativamente estable, con la excepción de 2018, cuando la cuota de comercio exterior aumentó considerablemente (así como la exportación e importación). La dinámica del comercio exterior y las cuotas de exportación en la Federación de Rusia son casi idénticas, mientras que las importaciones dependen de los ingresos de exportación. Para el período de estudio, la facturación del comercio exterior de la Federación de Rusia disminuyó en un 18,4%, los volúmenes de exportación disminuyeron en un 14,8%, las compras de importación disminuyeron en un 24,5%. El principal problema de la economía y la actividad económica exterior sigue siendo su dependencia de la exportación de productos minerales.

**Palabras claves:** Crecimiento del PIB, comercio exterior, PIB a su valor nominal, PIB a la paridad del poder adquisitivo, exportaciones, importaciones, estructura del país de la actividad económica extranjera.

## Introduction

In modern conditions, foreign economic activity is simultaneously the result of economic growth and its engine for most countries of the world. It should contribute to the development of economies and the realization of the potential of various countries, motivating them to most rationally use the existing competitive advantages in specialized national production for further participation in the global division of labor. Thanks to this, industrial economies have access to resources that are absent on their territory, and developing economies acquire technologies created by highly developed countries and high-quality competitive products (International Trade and Economic Growth, 2019). International experts noted that the

opening of national economies and the liberalization of foreign trade restrictions by developing countries, such as India and China, as well as the whole set of countries sometimes called “Asian tigers”, ensured their rapid growth precisely thanks to their active participation in world trade (International trade and economic growth, 2019).

A. S Bilman and S. Turkeli show that open trade policies are more important for stimulating economic growth in developing countries, especially due to their export orientation, while for developed countries this fact is not so critical (Bilman, Turkeli, 2013). From the point of view of A. Silakova, one of the factors gradually changing the picture of international economic cooperation was the tendency for developed

countries to use the regime of sanctions against other countries (Silakova, 2019).

At present, Russia's relations with sanctioning states can be briefly described as limited trade (economic), as well as political, diplomatic and information warfare. O. I. Katlishin writes that the Russian Federation, nevertheless, remains an important political and economic player in the modern world arena, has traditional partnerships with many states, including serious business representatives of countries trying to isolate our country from global development opportunities (Katlishin, 2016).

However, despite the sanctions and the unfavorable world market conditions, the Russian economy showed high stability and adaptability to external changes: technological restrictions and pro-embargoes led to an increase in import substitution, which allows the national economy to develop very slowly, but still. Moreover, the country's leadership poses much more ambitious tasks for the economy – in addition to import substitution, it is assumed that imports will be accelerated, that is, accelerated development of non-resource exports (List of instructions for the implementation of the President's Address to the Federal Assembly, 2019).

### Materials and methods

Given the above justification of the relevance of the stated topic of the article, the purpose of this study is to analyze the dynamics of open statistics on foreign trade and the level of economic growth in the Russian Federation. To fully achieve the goal, the following tasks were solved:

- 1) To analyze the dynamics of the gross domestic product of the Russian Federation for the period 2013–2018;
- 2) Evaluate the role of foreign trade through the calculation of foreign economic quotas;
- 3) To analyze the dynamics of foreign trade, import and export of the Russian Federation;
- 4) To identify the share of product groups in the structure of exports and imports, as well as the most significant trading partners.

The main tools for achieving this goal are the methods of analysis of scientific and expert publications, as well as official materials, including customs statistics. In addition, the

following research methods were used: abstract-logical, comparison, analysis and synthesis, economic-statistical and others.

As a scientific hypothesis, the authors put forward the thesis about the interdependence of the volumes of economic growth and foreign economic activity, including taking into account changes in the external political and economic background.

The methodological basis of our study was the methodology for calculating foreign economic as well as export and import quotas in the total gross domestic product (that is, the share of foreign trade, as well as export and import in GDP). The indicators of foreign trade, export and import quotas are widely used to characterize international trade, but they are more effective for characterizing foreign trade. These are quantitative indicators of the openness of the economy, their combination gives an idea of the extent of the relationship between the Russian economy and the global market.

The ratio of the value of Russian exports to its GDP is called the export quota and is defined as:  $E_c = E / GDP \times 100\%$ , (1) where E is the volume of export value (in billions of US dollars).

It is generally accepted that the level of openness of the national economy is acceptable if the volume of exports is greater than 10% or equal. The next indicator of the relationship between the economy and the world market is the import quota:

$IR = I / GDP \times 100\%$ , (2) where I is the value of imports (in billions of US dollars).

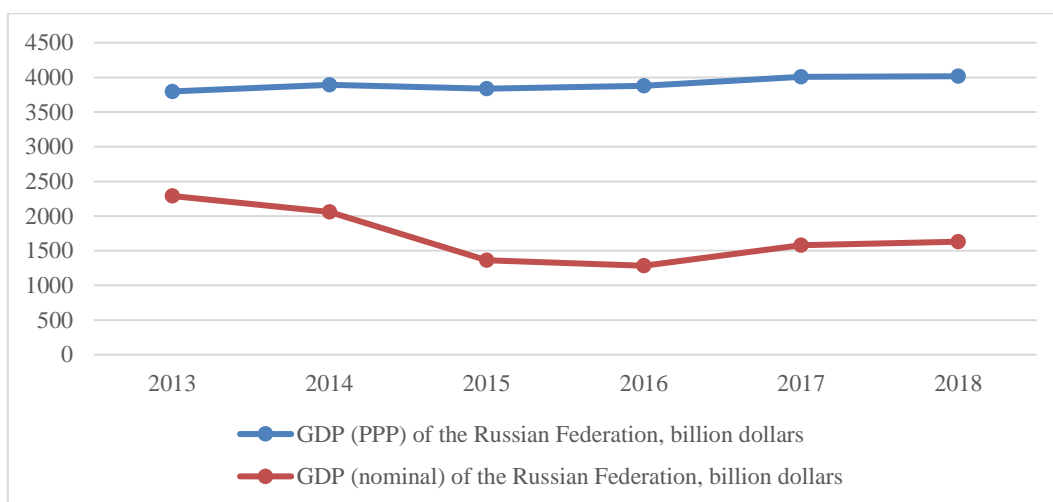
According to the remark of V. D. Belousov, the main and most comprehensive indicator of the openness and impact of imports and exports on the domestic economy is the foreign trade quota:  $VTK = VT / GDP \times 100\%$ , (3) where VT is the volume of foreign trade turnover (Belousov, 2015).

### Results

Since the global crisis of 2007–2008 to mid-2014, the Russian economy developed in the conditions of favorable pricing conditions for its traditional export goods. By 2012–2013, external conditions for growth opportunities had exhausted themselves, and due to accumulated internal problems in the economy, growth has

slowed down, however, in general, there was a weak uptrend. In the second half of 2014, the positive trend was interrupted by foreign policy factors, and nevertheless, due to the inertial flywheel of the favorable first half of the year, the gross product at purchasing power parity nevertheless showed an increase of 2.5%, in nominal terms GDP dipped then by 10% (Fig. 1). At the end of 2015, the GDP of the Russian Federation in terms of PPP fell for the first time in many years (by 1.5%), in nominal terms in the US currency, the economy shrank very much – by more than a third, in the next year this indicator lost another 6%, reaching its bottom. Since 2016, in accordance with PPPs, the economy began to recover, adapting plastically to new foreign economic conditions (Gross Domestic Product of Russia, 2019).

It should be noted that the nature of the current crisis in the Russian economy is fundamentally different from the previous one, caused by global financial turmoil, the reaction to which was characterized by the formula fell-out, jumped-up in accordance with the global conjuncture. The stagnation observed today is due precisely to external influences and is most interconnected with the problems of export and import. It is no coincidence that we see a correlation between the movement of graphs on foreign trade and GDP growth: for example, before the announcement of political and economic sanctions, Russia's foreign trade was also characterized by an upward trend (Fig. 2), but, already in 2014, as a result of sanctions introduced against the Russian Federation and retaliatory anti-sanctions, as well as a collapse in prices on the world oil market and, accordingly, natural gas, a negative trend arose in foreign economic activity.



**Figure 1.** Gross domestic product of Russia for the period 2013–2018, billion dollars



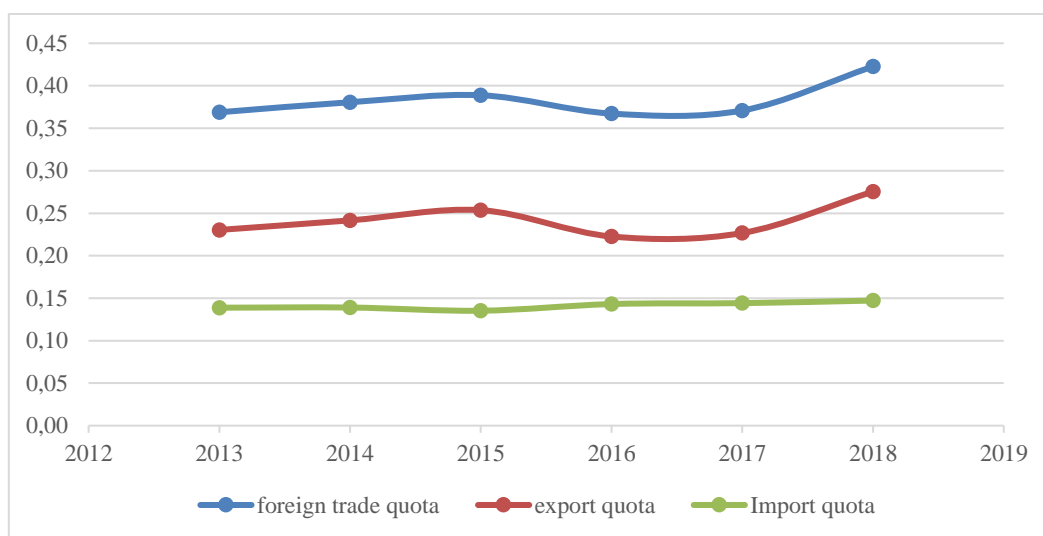
**Figure 2.** The volume of foreign economic activity of the Russian Federation for the period 2013-2018, billion dollars



In 2015, we had a colossal decline in foreign trade. At the peak of the fall, foreign economic activity turned out to be in 2016; then, relative to the period before the sanctions, the volumes of external turnover, as well as export and import, sank by almost two (Foreign Trade, 2019). And when, after reaching the “bottom” in 2016, there was a slight corrective growth of the Russian economy (against the background of the formation of a “low base” for GDP), explained by the effect of import substitution due to the customs policy of agricultural protectionism (food embargo), the depreciation of the national currency, and diversification and growth of exports, including non-oil and gas. We managed

to accelerate the turnovers of both export and import in 2017, following which, firstly, exports increased, and secondly, imports. The best year for Russia's foreign economic activity since the imposition of sanctions was 2018, which was also a consequence of the normalization of the world oil price environment, but, compared with pre-sanctioned levels of foreign exchange earnings in the economy, the volume of foreign trade activities of the Russian Federation remains relatively low.

However, the share of foreign trade in the structure of GDP, estimated at nominal foreign exchange value, varies quite strongly (Fig. 3).



**Figure 3.** Dynamics of foreign economic quotas in the Russian economy

The data of the last six years indicate almost complete coincidence of the dynamics of foreign trade and export quotas in the Russian Federation, while the import quota, to one degree or another, is a function of export. Until 2015, the export quota increased due to the fact that the economy was shrinking faster than exports were declining, in 2016, exports reached an absolute minimum in recent years, and in 2017–2018, export earnings began to grow due to normalization of prices in the global oil market. Until 2015, the import quota was reduced due to the high cost of imports, the depreciation of the

ruble. The economy partially switched to import substitution, partially the effect of “deferred demand”. After 2016 the import quota began to grow weakly, which is partly a good sign, as it strengthens the potential future economic growth due to the renewal of fixed assets in the economy. Economic growth is affected not only by the total value of foreign trade turnover and its main component in the Russian Federation - exports, but also by the internal structure of exports. Economic growth indicators, taking into account the internal structure of exports, are shown in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Export structure of the Russian Federation by commodity, billion dollars

Commodity Nomenclature Group	2013		2016		2018		Growth rate 2018/2013, %
	cost	% to total	cost	% to total	cost	% to total	
Export, total	527,3	100,0	285,6	100,0	449,4	100,0	85,2
Agri-food and raw materials	16,2	3,1	17,1	6,0	24,9	5,5	153,4
Mineral products	377,1	71,5	169,1	59,2	291,5	64,9	77,3
Chemical industry products, rubber	30,8	5,8	20,8	7,3	27,4	6,1	88,9
Leather raw materials, furs and products from them	0,6	0,1	0,3	0,1	0,3	0,1	41,8
Wood, pulp and paper products	11,0	2,1	9,8	3,4	13,9	3,1	126,8
Textiles, textile products and shoes	0,9	0,2	0,9	0,3	1,2	0,3	129,4
Gemstones, precious metals and articles thereof	14,3	2,7	8,9	3,1	10,1	2,2	70,6
Metals and products from them	40,8	7,7	28,7	10,0	43,9	9,8	107,4
Machines, equipment and vehicles	28,9	5,5	24,5	8,6	29,1	6,5	100,5
Other goods	6,6	1,3	5,5	1,9	7,1	1,6	108,2

From 2013 to 2016, exports dipped almost twice, but further customs statistics show a rapid increase in exports. And if at the end of 2017 the lag in foreign trade turnover from the benchmark level of 2013 was 33%, then in 2018 the volume of exports was below the pre-sanction level by only 14.8%.

The growth was accompanied not only by volume, but also by internal changes in exports. For 2017–2018, a noticeable increase in export deliveries of agri-food was obtained, which was ensured by successes in the agricultural sector, especially high yields and the export of grain and its processed products abroad. In 2017, the growth rate of food in relation to 2013 amounted to 27.5%, and by the end of 2018, this figure was already 53.4%. Accordingly, the share of food in the export structure increased from 3% to 5.5%.

The driver of export growth was the increase in oil prices in 2017 to \$ 60-80 per barrel, which led to an increase in the export of mineral raw materials compared to the lower levels of 2015 and 2016 (in 2016, oil and gas exports amounted to only 169 billion dollars), in 2018 this article grew 1.7 times by 2016, but at the same time, a

quarter below the level of pre-sanctioned 2013. Over the six years under review, foreign exchange earnings from the export of wood and its products increased by 26.8%.

Of the positive aspects, we consider it necessary to note a partial recovery in export volumes of domestic chemical industry and heavy industry sectors, as well as enterprises producing high-tech equipment.

For the period 2013–2018, import cash flows were also observed due to the sale of food and non-food products, commodity nomenclature groups, such as agricultural food and raw materials, mineral products, chemical products, leather raw materials, wood and pulp and paper products, textile products, precious stones and metals, metals and metal products, machinery, vehicles. Import flows in the Russian Federation are considered in Table 2.

Import cash flows for the relevant period (2018/2013) decreased by almost 24%, while in 2015 the decrease was more than 42%.

**Table 2.** Dynamics of import structure of the Russian Federation, billion dollars

Commodity Nomenclature Group	2013		2016		2018		Growth rate 2018/2013, %
	cost	% to total	cost	% to total	cost	% to total	
Import, total	315,0	100,0	182,3	100,0	240,1	100,0	76,2
Agri-food and raw materials	43,2	13,7	24,9	13,7	29,6	12,3	68,6
Mineral products	6,9	2,2	3,2	1,8	5,0	2,1	71,9
Chemical industry products, rubber	50,0	15,9	33,8	18,5	45,6	19,0	91,1
Leather raw materials, furs and products from them	1,5	0,5	0,8	0,4	1,3	0,5	83,3
Wood, pulp and paper products	6,6	2,1	3,4	1,9	3,9	1,6	59,1
Textiles, textile products and shoes	18,0	5,7	11,0	6,0	14,8	6,2	82,2
Gemstones, precious metals and articles thereof	0,9	0,3	0,4	0,2	0,8	0,3	86,6
Metals and products from them	21,7	6,9	11,4	6,2	17,1	7,1	78,7
Machines, equipment and vehicles	152,6	48,5	86,3	47,4	112,6	46,9	73,8
Other goods	13,5	4,3	7,1	3,9	9,5	4,0	70,6

The smallest drop in import purchases took place for chemical goods (8.9%), as well as for clothes of foreign brands and fabrics (minus 17.8%). The volume of imports of metal products from abroad dipped below the average level (less than 21.3%). The valuation of imported high-tech industrial goods (manufacturing equipment, vehicles, electronics, etc.) decreased by 26%, which is good on the one hand – the success of the import substitution policy, but, on the other hand, this is a reduction in capital investments in advanced fixed assets, which will slow down subsequent economic growth.

In addition to the analysis of the commodity structure, this study examined the change in the

volume of foreign trade of the Russian Federation with other countries, as a result of the above changes in the modern world over the same period. An analysis of the foreign economic activity of the Russian Federation for the period of 2013, as well as 2018 is shown in Table 3 and Table 4.

The largest trading partner of the Russian Federation is China, which has become the main foreign economic beneficiary of anti-Russian sanctions – this is the only country with increased

foreign trade turnover during 2013–2018, the total absolute increase amounted to \$ 20 billion.



**Table 3.** Foreign trade structure of the Russian Federation by the most significant countries in terms of foreign trade turnover in 2013, billion dollars

Country in descending order of trade with Russia	Volume	Share
1 China	88 842,0	10,50%
2 Netherlands	75 972,0	9,00%
3 Germany	74 944,1	8,90%
4 Italy	53 868,3	6,40%
5 Ukraine	39 586,2	4,70%
6 Belarus	33 582,6	4,00%
7 Japan	33 211,9	3,90%
8 Turkey	32 755,8	3,90%
9 Poland	27 916,5	3,30%
10 USA	27 732,9	3,30%
11 Kazakhstan	26 470,8	3,10%
12 Korea	25 182,9	3,00%
13 Great Britain	24 555,7	2,90%
14 France	22 214,8	2,60%
15 Finland	18 716,4	2%
16 Switzerland	11 861,8	1,40%
17 Belgium	11 760,1	1,40%
18 Czech	11 301,5	1,30%
19 Spain	10 941,0	1,30%

The relative indicator of the share of China in foreign trade with the Russian Federation grew from 10.4% to 15.7%. As for the second place is Holland, although the size of its economy is not comparable with China, and the logistic location is equivalent or even worse. As a result of the external economic turbulence of the period under review, the list of the most important trade contractors for the Russian Federation has changed significantly. Now the second-ranking partner of the Russian Federation in international trade is Germany, which has moved the Netherlands down one position. The political situation caused significant castles in foreign trade, for some countries not very significant, but in general, united by the following trend: countries applying sanctions against Russia have weakened their relative importance in trade with it, a typical example is Ukraine, which has lost the title of one of the largest trade partners, descended from the first five to thirteenth place.

As noted by M. M. Galeev and A. S. Baleevsky, at the same time there is a tendency to increase the relative share in the Russian Federation's turnover of the BRICS countries, especially China and India, and, of course, the EAEU and CIS countries (Galeev, Baleevsky, 2017). Of the EAEU countries, Belarus has become the main beneficiary of sanctions, which has increased its share in trade with Russia after 2014. The most controversial in all of this sanctions history is that the United States, as the main initiator of sanctions against the Russian Federation and an opponent in the international political arena and energy market, almost did not lose trade volumes in absolute terms, but in relative terms, in comparison with other countries that announced sanctions against Russia specific gravity even increased its significance, rising from 10th to 7th place in the ranking of Russia's foreign trade partners.

**Table 4.** Foreign trade structure of the Russian Federation by the most significant countries in terms of foreign trade turnover in 2018, billion dollars

Country in descending order of trade with Russia		Volume	Share
1	China	108 283,5	15,74%
2	Germany	59 606,8	8,66%
3	Netherlands	47 164,3	6,85%
4	Belarus	33 999,0	4,94%
5	Italy	29 986,0	3,92%
6	Turkey	25 561,0	3,71%
7	USA	25 021,7	3,64%
8	Korea	24 841,1	3,61%
9	Poland	21 681,4	3,15%
10	Japan	21 272,6	3,09%
11	Kazakhstan	18 219,3	2,65%
12	France	17 192,2	2,50%
13	Ukraine	14 984,0	2,18%
14	Finland	14 752,2	2,14%
15	Great Britain	13 742,6	2%
16	Belgium	11 681,3	1,70%
17	Czech	8 672,2	1,26%
18	Switzerland	7 390,5	1,07%
19	Spain	5 759,8	0,84%

## Discussion

P. M. H. da Silva takes into account the fact that as a result of international trade the parties involved can not always achieve parity benefits, the most developed parties often benefit from international cooperation (Silva, 2019). C. E. Aturupan considers it necessary to note that even at the international level, the procurement of export contracts may be accompanied by manifestations of unfair competition affecting international trade and economic growth (Aturupan, 2019).

M. M. Galeev, A. S. Baleevsky, O. I. Katlishin, E. R. Urazaev expresses the opinion that, immediately after the entry of the Russian Federation into the WTO, a deterioration in the economic situation in the country was predicted (Galeev, Baleevsky, Katlishin, Urazaev 2014). But the experiment with trade liberalization in the Russian Federation was not brought to its logical conclusion, and two years after joining the WTO, the entire economy (as well as foreign economic activity) of Russia was under pressure from the international political and economic restrictions of most of the so-called developed countries. The response was followed by an agri-

food embargo symmetrically imposed by our country in relation to our “western partners”.

A.S. Baleevskikh notes the fact that as a result of several stages of tougher sanctions, as well as the deterioration of the situation in oil and gas markets, from 2014 to 2016. there was a drop in the indicators of Russia's foreign trade both in export and in import flows (Baleevskikh, 2018). Moreover, both the global and Russian financial systems are now operating in conditions of instability, forecasts for the growth of the global economy and the role of international trade in it are ambiguous and disappointing (Broad-Based Upturn, but for How Long?, 2019). A. Lukin notes that one of the main “black swans” of the world economy and trade today – the “trade war” between America and China (Lukin, 2019).

## Conclusions

As a result of external political and economic factors, for the period under review, the GDP fell by 28.8% in nominal terms, while in terms of purchasing power parity, the Russian economy grew by 5.7% in the same period. At the same time, the largest drawdown in the economy occurred in the middle of the period; in recent years, the situation in the economy has improved.

The hypothesis about the relationship of foreign economic activity and gross domestic product is fully confirmed. The relative role of foreign trade in the formation of GDP during the period was relatively stable, with the exception of 2018, when the foreign trade quota sharply increased (as did the export and import quotas). The dynamics of foreign trade and export quotas in the Russian Federation are almost identical, while imports depend on export earnings.

Over the period of the study, Russia's foreign trade turnover decreased by 18.4%, volumes under export contracts decreased by 14.8%, and purchases of imported goods sank by 24.5%. As a result of the fall in 2014 of world prices for energy and other traditional commodities, as well as certain efforts to import and export development, its structure has slightly improved. Over the past period, it was possible to increase the export of agricultural products, food products, as well as high-tech industrial products - in particular, the country's successes in the world grain market (Russia has become a leader in import supplies in the world grain market) and military-industrial complex products are well known today. Import, as we noted in the research process, which is a function of exports in the Russian Federation, also decreased quite significantly over 2013–2018 – the decline amounted to more than 30%, while we give the highest value to 26.2% of the decline in the value of the import into the country's customs territory of industrial high-tech goods, which are the main production assets designed to increase gross domestic product and increase labor productivity. As a result of the influence of foreign policy factors, the structure of Russia's foreign trade is changing, the importance of the Brix countries and the Eurasian Economic Union is growing, the share of political opponents, except for the United States, is falling, which, in the author's opinion, needs to be systematically brought to the attention of our trading partners in the EU to restore the conditions of mutually beneficial cooperation.

On the positive side, after the fall of the economy and foreign trade from 2013 to 2016, the economy has grown over the last three years of the study, foreign trade is developing, both in export and in import. But, despite the tendencies of small growth in the economy and foreign economic (trade) activities, there are a number of difficulties and unresolved problems, especially regarding the main pain of the Russian Federation – dependence on the international oil and gas prices, lack of serious efforts to increase the export of high technologies. The country is

still dependent on imports of high technologies, according to the forecast for 2019, although a slight economic growth is planned, but again a slight decrease in foreign trade volumes is possible relative to 2018.

## References

- Silakova, A. (2019). *Western Sanctions against Russia and Russian Countermeasures: Implications and Perspectives*. Available at: <http://lup.lub.lu.se/luur/download?func=downloadFile&recordOID=8909691&fileOID=8909698>
- Aturupan, C. E. (2019). *Corruption, international trade, and economic growth*. Available at: <https://elibrary.ru/item.asp?id=5302170>
- Baleevskikh, A. S. (2018). Anti-Russian sanctions and their impact on foreign economic activity // *Competitiveness in the global world: economics, science, technology*. No. 1. P. 639–642.
- Belousov, V. D. (2015). *The world economy: a training manual*. Part 1. Samara: Samara State Technical University.
- Bilman, A. S., Turkeli, S. (2013). Interaction between international trade and economic growth: evidence from qualitative comparative analysis // *International Economics Letters*. V. 2. No. 4. P. 5–18.
- Da Silva, P. M. H. (2019). *On international trade, economic integration and economic growth*. Available at: <https://elibrary.ru/item.asp?id=5302170>
- Foreign trade*. (2019). Available at: [http://www.customs.ru/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=13858&Itemid=1348](http://www.customs.ru/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=13858&Itemid=1348)
- Galeyev, M. M., Baleevskikh, A. S. (2017). Development Trends of Russia's Meat Industry // *Academy of Strategic Management Journal*. V. 16. Available at: <https://www.abacademies.org/articles/Development-trends-of-russias-meat-industry-1939-6104-SI-16-2-145.pdf>.
- Galeyev, M. M., Baleevsky, A. S., Katlishin, O. I., Urazaev, E. R. (2014). The influence of the WTO on the results and prospects of the agro-industrial complex and the food industry // *Life Science Journal*. No. 11. P. 408–411.
- Broad-Based Upturn, but for How Long? (2018) // *Global Economic Prospects*. January 2018. Available at: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/28932>
- Gross domestic product of Russia*. Available at: [https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%92%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%BE%D0%B9\\_%D0%B2%D0%BD%D1%83%D1%82%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%B9\\_%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%B4%D1%83](https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%92%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%BE%D0%B9_%D0%B2%D0%BD%D1%83%D1%82%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%B9_%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%B4%D1%83)

International trade and economic growth. Available at: <http://www.eiiff.com/trade/international-economic-growth.html>

International trade and economic growth. Available at: [https://yandex.ru/turbo?text=https%3A%2F%2Fspravochnick.ru%2Fekonomika%2Fstruktura\\_ekonomicheskogo\\_rosta%2Fmezhdunarodnaya\\_torgovlya\\_i\\_ekonomicheskij\\_rost%2F9](https://yandex.ru/turbo?text=https%3A%2F%2Fspravochnick.ru%2Fekonomika%2Fstruktura_ekonomicheskogo_rosta%2Fmezhdunarodnaya_torgovlya_i_ekonomicheskij_rost%2F9)

Katlishin, O. I. (2016). Export and import of the Russian Federation in modern foreign economic conditions // *Sphere of appeal: problems and*

*development prospects*. Perm: Perm Institute, branch of FSBEI HE “Russian University of Economics G.V. Plekhanov”. P. 4–13.

Lukin, A. (2019). The US-China trade war and China’s strategic future // *Survival*. V. 61. No. 1. P. 23–50.

*The list of instructions for the implementation of the Presidential Address to the Federal Assembly*. Available at: <http://base.garant.ru/12172719/#friends>.