

Statement. The Russian Arctic is at the epicentre of economic, environmental, and social changes. At the same time, the peripheral character of the territory, its strong orientation on primary sector makes the region extremely volatile to suchlike shifts. The study concerns primary sector transformation in the Post-Soviet period when after 1991 significant changes in the economy were observed. The main aim is to identify the specifics, features and development prospects of the recent primary sector transformation in the Russian Arctic. The statistical methods do not reflect the full picture of the transformation. Firstly, Russia has switched to UN national accounts system only in 1994. Secondly, the Arctic statistics after 2009 for regional level is unavailable. That is why the main method of the research is the expert survey method. The results of the study demonstrate the dominant role of the primary sector and the strong dependence of Russian Arctic regions on these activities. The study identifies the key factors and drivers of the transformation, a specific position of the oil and gas sector and the role of natural resources to be traditionally used in the primary sector. Despite the positive role of economic diversification in the long-term economic development, the corresponding effect for the Arctic regions is not fully expressed. The methodological novelty of the research is an unconventional research method of investigating primary sector transformation on the regional level in the Post-Soviet Russian Arctic, i.e. the expert survey. The method can be applied to other countries and industries. The following tables summarize the results of the study.

Distribution of key primary activities in the Arctic Zone of the Russian Federation

Administrative Units	Reindeer Husbandry	Forestry	Fishery	Mining			
				Oil & Gas	Coal	Gemstones	Others
Komi Republic (city Vorkuta)	+				+		
Karelia Republic		+					+

Arkhangelsk Oblast	+	+	+			+	
Nenets Autonomous Okrug	+			+			
Murmansk Oblast	+	+	+				+
Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug	+	+		+			
Krasnoyarsk Krai (Taymyr Autonomous Okrug)	+		+			+	+
Republic Sakha (Yakutia)	+	+		+	+	+	
Chukotka Autonomous Okrug	+		+		+	+	

(Based on the FSSS & USGS data)

Regions and industries - “winners”

EXPERTS	“Regions-winners”	“Industries-winners”
Prof. Dr. J.O. Habeck	Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Murmansk Oblast	Oil & gas mining, fishery
Dr. S. Khrushchev	Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Norilsk (Krasnoyarsk Krai)	Non-ferrous metallurgy
Dr. M. Elsukov	Murmansk Oblast, Arkhangelsk Oblast, Chukotka Autonomous Okrug	No, only transport
Dr. N. Kaledin	Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug	Oil & gas mining
Prof. T. Krasovskaya	Murmansk Oblast, Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Nenets Autonomous Okrug	Oil & gas mining
Prof. A. Evseev	Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug	Oil & gas mining, transport
S. Kiselev	Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug	Oil & gas mining, reindeer husbandry

(Created by the authors based on informants)