

Article

Assessment of Factors Affecting Tax Revenues: The Case of the Simplified Taxation System in the Russian Federation

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Abstract: The simplified tax system is the most common special tax regime in the Russian Federation in terms of the number of taxpayers. Tax revenues from the simplified tax system account for 6% of the structure of tax revenues of the consolidated budgets of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation and more than 93% of the structure of tax revenues from special tax regimes. The purpose of this study is to identify and assess the factors influencing tax revenues from the tax levied in connection with applying the simplified system of taxation (taxable object—income reduced by the amount of expenses). The objective of this study is to determine a set of factors used by economists to model the level of tax revenues and to conduct a corresponding econometric analysis of the influence of the selected factors on the dependent variable to identify characteristics of the simplified taxation system functioning in the Russian Federation. The object of this study is the per capita tax revenue from the tax levied in connection with applying the simplified system of taxation (the object of taxation is income reduced by expenses) in the Russian Federation. The subject of the research is a set of economic relations, which arise because of tax-legal relations between tax authorities and taxpayers in relation to the calculation of the tax levied in connection with the application of the simplified taxation system. This study's hypothesis is that the amount of tax revenues is influenced by factors characterizing the economic situation and development of small and medium businesses in the constituent territories of the Russian Federation. This study was conducted in 83 constituent territories of the Russian Federation in 2020–2022. The research methods are statistical analysis and econometric modeling on panel data. During this study, six econometric models were constructed. Based on the results of specification tests, the least squares dummy variables model was selected. The results of the modeling show that the tax rate, the number of taxpayers, and the real average per capita monetary income of the population have a statistically significant impact on the per capita tax revenue under the simplified tax system (the object of taxation is income reduced by the number of expenses). As a result, the focus of economic policy at both macro and meso levels should be on the support of small and medium-sized enterprises in the early stages of their life cycle, as well as on the increase of the purchasing power of the population. Based on the results obtained, it is possible to forecast the revenue side of the budgets of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation.

Keywords: simplified taxation system; tax revenues; regional budget; tax policy; small and medium-sized businesses; regional economy; econometric modeling; panel data



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1. Introduction

The early 2020s are characterized by particular challenges for the economies of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation. This, in turn, requires the regional authorities to make timely and effective decisions aimed at maintaining the quality and standard of living of the population and compensating for declining economic activity. One of the economic policy instruments for solving regional development problems is the mechanism

of state financial support to the population and business entities. This includes subsidies, grants, preferential loans, guarantees, and independent guarantees (Baburina et al. 2024), and other measures. A separate group of instruments of state financial support at the meso level consists of incentive measures of regional tax policy (Tyurina 2019; Goncharenko 2024). In particular, the management of the elementary composition of special tax regimes (Goncharenko 2024) is one of them.

Revenues from special tax regimes occupy an important place in the structure of consolidated budgets of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation. In turn, the largest share in the structure of revenues from special tax regimes is occupied by the tax levied in connection with the application of the simplified system of taxation (as of 1 January 2024, this share amounted to 92.7%).

The use of the simplified taxation system by organizations provides for their exemption from the obligation to pay corporate income tax, property tax of organizations, and value-added tax (with the exception of a number of cases). To use the simplified tax system, certain conditions must be met (Articles 346.12, 346.13 of the Tax Code of the Russian Federation):

1. The average number of employees of the taxpayer is less than 130 persons.
2. The taxpayer's cumulative income from the beginning of the tax period is less than 200 million roubles.
3. The residual value of the taxpayer's fixed assets is less than 150 million roubles.
4. The share of other organizations in the taxpayer's authorized capital is less than 25% (with certain exceptions).

Branch organizations, banks, insurance companies, non-governmental pension funds, investment funds, professional participants in the securities market (with the exception of investment consultants), pawnbrokers, and a number of other taxpayers do not have the right to use the simplified tax regime (Articles 346.12 of the Tax Code of the Russian Federation). Conversely, taxpayers applying the simplified system can choose between two tax items: "income" or "income reduced by the amount of expenses" (Article 346.14 of the Tax Code of the Russian Federation).

Article 346.20 of the Russian Federation Tax Code also provides the subjects of the Russian Federation with a maneuver in connection with the possibility of tax rate differentiation within the permissible corridor. An analysis of the tax rates established in the constituent territories of the Russian Federation shows that regional authorities actively use this opportunity to differentiate tax rates not only according to the type of economic activity but also according to other parameters. For example, the Law of the Chechen Republic N 49-RZ of 27 November 2015 "On tax rates in connection with the application of the simplified tax system" differentiates tax rates in the republic "on the basis of the average number of employees for the tax (reporting) period". It is natural to assume that the tax rate has a direct impact on the amount of tax revenue. However, the tax rate is not the only factor that has an impact on the level of tax revenues of the budget. In this regard, the purpose of this study was to determine and evaluate the factors influencing the tax revenues from the tax levied in connection with the application of the simplified system of taxation (taxable object—income reduced by the amount of expenses). The hypothesis of this study is that the amount of tax revenues is influenced by factors characterizing both the economic situation and the development of small and medium-sized businesses (hereinafter referred to as SMEs) in the constituent territories of the Russian Federation. To achieve this goal and confirm or disprove this study's hypothesis, the following problems should be solved consistently:

1. To determine the set of factors that are included by economists in the modeling of the level of tax revenues.
2. To identify the characteristics of the simplified tax system functioning in the Russian Federation by conducting an appropriate econometric analysis of the influence of the identified factors on the dependent variable.

The results of this study can be used by the relevant departments of the regional authorities for tax revenue forecasting and modeling.

2. Literature Review

Currently, there are no significant studies in the scientific literature on the econometric modeling of tax revenues from simplified taxation (and generally from other special tax regimes). Authors often model and (or) forecast the level of tax revenues to the federal or regional budgets as an aggregate. However, the analysis of such studies permits the identification of several factors that influence the level of tax receipts, in the structure of which the simplified tax regime is an important element. Subsequently, econometric analysis confirms or refutes hypotheses on the statistical significance of these factors. At the same time, the selection of factors specific to the simplified tax system will be based on theoretical economic considerations. Factors that characterize the development of SMEs as the main “users” of the simplified tax system will be included in the model.

In order to model the level of tax revenues, authors in the scientific literature generally use various factors. M. V. Mishustin identifies socio-economic and legislative factors and tax administration as the main factors in the analysis of tax revenues (Mishustin 2016). A. N. Belogorskaya, E. V. Sorokina, and N. A. Teterina adhere to a similar classification (Belogorskaya et al. 2016). S. Porca classified factors affecting tax revenue levels as sectoral, policy, and tax competition. Tax competition leads to tax migration as it reduces the differences in tax rates between regions (Porca 2002). M. M. Albimana and I. M. Hemed classify tax revenue determinants as demographic, macroeconomic, and institutional (Albimana and Hemed 2022).

The main factors used by the authors in their studies are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Main research approaches in choosing explanatory factors.

Name of the Factor	Authors Who Used It
Gross domestic (regional) product, gross domestic (regional) product per capita	(Andrejovská and Puliková 2018; Boukbech et al. 2019; Lavrenchuk and Kirpishchikov 2021; Đurović Todorović et al. 2024; Mmbulaheni et al. 2024)
Inflation rate	(Ajaz and Ahmad 2010; Maličká et al. 2012; Lavrenchuk and Kirpishchikov 2021; Đurović Todorović et al. 2024; Mmbulaheni et al. 2024)
Unemployment rate	(Maličká et al. 2012; Andrejovská and Puliková 2018; Đurović Todorović et al. 2024; Mmbulaheni et al. 2024)
Ratio of fixed capital investment to gross domestic (regional) product	(Đurović Todorović et al. 2024)
Indicators of the degree of openness of the economy (export quota, import quota, foreign trade quota)	(Ajaz and Ahmad 2010; Maličká et al. 2012; Castro and Camarillo 2014; Lavrenchuk and Kirpishchikov 2021; Đurović Todorović et al. 2024; Mmbulaheni et al. 2024)
Ratio of government revenues (expenditures) to gross domestic (regional) product	(Maličká et al. 2012; Al-Qudah 2021; Đurović Todorović et al. 2024)
Ratio of government debt to gross domestic (regional) product	(Maličká et al. 2012; Javid and Arif 2012; Andrejovská and Puliková 2018; Al-Qudah 2021)
Foreign direct investment	(Maličká et al. 2012; Castro and Camarillo 2014; Andrejovská and Puliková 2018; Mmbulaheni et al. 2024)
Share of agriculture (industry) in gross domestic (regional) product	(Javid and Arif 2012; Castro and Camarillo 2014; Boukbech et al. 2019; Lavrenchuk and Kirpishchikov 2021; Albimana and Hemed 2022)
Average per capita income of the population	(Lavrenchuk and Kirpishchikov 2021)
Institutional factors (level of corruption, civil liberties, political rights, etc.)	(Ajaz and Ahmad 2010; Javid and Arif 2012; Castro and Camarillo 2014)

Source: compiled by the authors.

Various indicators that influence the level of tax revenues for a given region of the country are identified by researchers in this field. Todorović et al. found that gross domestic product, population, inflation and unemployment rates, imports, government revenues, and expenditures had a statistically significant impact on the dependent variable when modeling the level of tax revenues in the Visegrad countries between 1994 and 2023 (Đurović Todorović et al. 2024). A. Andrejovská and V. Puliková, in their study modeling the level of tax revenues in 23 countries of the European Union, confirmed the statistically significant influence of GDP, the level of employment, the ratio of public debt to GDP and the ratio of inflow and outflow of foreign direct investment on the level of tax revenues (Andrejovská and Puliková 2018). A. Al-Qudah, using statistical data of the Republic of Jordan for the period 1990–2019, examined the influence of such factors as GDP per capita, budget deficit/GDP ratio, foreign aid/GDP ratio, and government expenditure/GDP ratio on the level of tax revenues (Al-Qudah 2021).

In this study by G. Castro and D. Camarillo, in the assessment of the determinants of tax revenue in the countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development for the period 2001–2011, a statistically significant influence at the one percent significance level was confirmed by such factors as the share of agriculture and industry in GDP, and the infant mortality rate (Castro and Camarillo 2014). This study by M. M. Albimana and I. M. Hemed also considered the share of agriculture and industry in GDP (Albimana and Hemed 2022).

T. Ajaz and E. Ahmad, A. Javid, and U. Arif analyze the influence of institutional factors on the level of tax revenues (Ajaz and Ahmad 2010; Javid and Arif 2012). They find that the level of control over corruption, the quality of the bureaucratic apparatus, and the level of creation of conditions for maintaining law and order have a positive and statistically significant effect on the level of tax revenues to the budget.

A number of researchers have determined the dependence of the level of tax revenues on factors such as remittances (using post-socialist countries as an example) (Vusal and Zohrab 2024) and the availability of financial services, which are the variables of interest (Oz-Yalaman 2019; Raouf 2022). Factors such as GDP per capita, the share of agriculture in GDP, the ratio of public debt to GDP, the consumer price index, etc., are used as control variables in this context (Vusal and Zohrab 2024; Oz-Yalaman 2019; Raouf 2022).

The peculiarities of Russian research on this subject are, on the one hand, associated with the modeling of the level of tax revenues on the basis of panel data and less often with the forecast of the level of tax revenues as a time series. On the other hand, a separate group of studies is devoted to the calculation of the tax potential (Aguzarova and Tokaeva 2013; Procenko et al. 2014; Tkacheva 2016; Olkhovik 2019).

E. Lavrenchuk and D. Kirpishchikov establish a positive relationship between the dependent variable and the average per capita income of the population, the export ratio, the gross regional product (hereinafter GRP) per capita, and a dummy variable characterizing the presence of an advanced development region in the constituent entity of the Russian Federation when assessing the factors influencing tax revenues to the budgets of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation for the period from 2010 to 2017. The CPI, the share of non-profitable organizations, and the share of the agricultural sector of the GRP, on the other hand, adversely affect the level of tax receipts (Lavrenchuk and Kirpishchikov 2021).

M. Malkina classifies the factors affecting the level of tax revenues to the regional budget into factors related to the sectoral structure of the regional economy (gross value added in the main types of economic activities per capita, labor productivity in the main types of economic activities, etc.) and factors determining the state of the tax and budget system and interbudget relations (general level of taxes, level of tax absorption, etc.) (Malkina 2018).

O. Leonova, assessing the regression model on the basis of cross-sectional data (for 2020), found that the greatest impact on the tax revenues of the consolidated budget of the subjects of the Russian Federation will have the volume of the self-produced goods shipped,

self-produced works, and services in the types of economic activity such as mining and processing (Leonova 2021).

R. Khanov and I. Shakhbanova considered the volume of paid services to the population and the number of employed persons in the 15–72 age group as explanatory factors (Khanov and Shakhbanova 2019).

A. Kamaletdinov and A. Ksenofontov, modeling the macroeconomic production function, conclude that the dependence of budget tax revenues on the labor productivity factor is constant each year. The authors note that: “The volume of tax revenues of the subjects of the Russian Federation with capital growth is three times higher than with an increase in labor productivity” (Kamaletdinov and Ksenofontov 2018).

An important question is also the question of which variable should be included in the model as a dependent variable. In the reviewed studies, the authors used tax revenues in absolute terms (Maličká et al. 2012; Castro and Camarillo 2014; Andrejovská and Puliková 2018; Đurović Todorović et al. 2024), the ratio of tax revenues to GDP (Boukbech et al. 2019; Al-Qudah 2021; Mmbulaheni et al. 2024), and the ratio of tax revenues to population (Malkina 2018; Lavrenchuk and Kirpishchikov 2021).

The structural heterogeneity of regions (depending on the size of the territory, population, etc.) can be considered by using a relative indicator as a model factor. In this study, tax revenue per capita is used as the dependent variable.

The analysis of studies allows us to conclude that the issue of assessing factors influencing tax revenues is currently sufficiently developed. Moreover, there are a number of studies examining the influence of individual, specific factors acting as variables of interest on tax revenue volumes in specific regions. Nevertheless, the data in Table 1 show that the factors that researchers have included as regressors in the models are general indicators of the state of the macroeconomic situation. The least developed aspect of current research is the issue of identifying and quantifying factors influencing the level of tax revenues from special tax regimes. The purpose of special tax regimes is to create more favorable economic and financial conditions for certain categories of taxpayers. Therefore, in the modeling of tax revenues from special tax regimes. It is not sufficient to consider only the factors of the macroeconomic situation. It is also necessary to consider the factors that directly affect the economic and financial conditions of the companies operating under the special tax regime concerned. It should also be noted that since the amount of tax revenue from each specific special tax regime is influenced by various factors, it is incorrect to model and forecast the amount of tax revenue from all existing special tax regimes at the same time. The aim of the paper is to identify and quantify the factors that influence the tax receipts from the simplified tax regime (the tax base is the amount of receipts less the amount of expenditures), one of the special tax regimes of the Russian Federation.

3. Materials and Methods

A review of the literature led to the conclusion that researchers use similar methodological approaches to the analysis of statistical data for countries or regions. In this study, the calculations were carried out using the data for 83 subjects of the Russian Federation for the years 2020–2022. Primorsky Krai and Nenets Autonomous Okrug were not included in the model. This was due to the lack of relevant statistical data. The dependent variable is the per capita tax revenue from the simplified tax system (the tax object is income reduced by the amount of expenses) in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation. The explanatory variables are divided into two groups. The first group combines factors characterizing the mesoeconomic situation in the Russian Federation subjects. These factors include the following:

1. Investment—real investment in fixed capital per capita (in 2020 prices).
2. GRP—real gross fixed capital formation per capita (in 2020 prices);
3. Budget_deficit—the ratio of the deficit/surplus of the consolidated budget of a constituent entity of the Russian Federation to GRP.
4. Income—real monetary income per capita of the population (in 2020 prices).

5. Decile_ratio—decile coefficient.

The development of SMEs in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation is characterized by the second group of factors:

1. Tax_rate—the tax rate levied in connection with the application of the simplified tax system (the object of taxation is income reduced by the amount of expenses), established in the constituent territory of the Russian Federation for a non-preferential category of taxpayers.
2. Taxpayers—the ratio of the number of taxpayers submitting non-zero tax returns on taxes paid in connection with the application of the simplified taxation system (the object of taxation is income reduced by the amount of expenses) and not applying the 0% tax rate to the number of SMEs.
3. Infrastructure—the number of organizations providing infrastructure to support SMEs per 10,000 SMEs.
4. Patents—the number of patent grants per 10,000 persons.
5. Employees—the average number employed in an SME.

Table 2 presents hypotheses on the nature of the relationship between the variables of the models.

Table 2. Hypotheses about the nature of the relationship between the variables of the models.

Variable	Hypothesis
Factors characterizing the mesoeconomic situation of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation	
investments	+
GRP	+
budget_deficit	±
income	+
decile_ratio	—
Factors characterizing SME development in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation	
tax_rate	+
taxpayers	+
infrastructure	±
patent	—
employees	+

Source: compiled by the authors. Note: “+”—a positive effect of the regressor on the dependent variable is assumed, “—” a negative effect of the regressor on the dependent variable is assumed, “±”—it is assumed that the effect of the regressor on the dependent variable can be either positive or negative.

To test the hypotheses, three econometric models were constructed on panel data: pooled regression

$$\text{tax_revenues}_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \cdot \text{tax_rate}_{it} + \beta_2 \cdot \text{taxpayers}_{it} + \beta_3 \cdot \text{infrastructure}_{it} + \beta_4 \cdot \text{patent}_{it} + \beta_5 \cdot \text{employees}_{it} + \beta_6 \cdot \text{investments}_{it} + \beta_7 \cdot \text{GRP}_{it} + \beta_8 \cdot \text{budget_deficit}_{it} + \beta_9 \cdot \text{income}_{it} + \beta_{10} \cdot \text{decile_ratio}_{it} + \varepsilon_{it}, \quad (1)$$

a least square dummy variables model

$$\text{tax_revenues}_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \cdot \text{tax_rate}_{it} + \beta_2 \cdot \text{taxpayers}_{it} + \beta_3 \cdot \text{infrastructure}_{it} + \beta_4 \cdot \text{patent}_{it} + \beta_5 \cdot \text{employees}_{it} + \beta_6 \cdot \text{investments}_{it} + \beta_7 \cdot \text{GRP}_{it} + \beta_8 \cdot \text{budget_deficit}_{it} + \beta_9 \cdot \text{income}_{it} + \beta_{10} \cdot \text{decile_ratio}_{it} + \beta_{11} \cdot \text{dt_2} + \beta_{12} \cdot \text{dt_3} + \varepsilon_{it}, \quad (2)$$

and a random effects model

$$\text{tax_revenues}_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \cdot \text{tax_rate}_{it} + \beta_2 \cdot \text{taxpayers}_{it} + \beta_3 \cdot \text{infrastructure}_{it} + \beta_4 \cdot \text{patent}_{it} + \beta_5 \cdot \text{employees}_{it} + \beta_6 \cdot \text{investments}_{it} + \beta_7 \cdot \text{GRP}_{it} + \beta_8 \cdot \text{budget_deficit}_{it} + \beta_9 \cdot \text{income}_{it} + \beta_{10} \cdot \text{decile_ratio}_{it} + v_{it}, \quad (3)$$

where i is the number of the constituent entity of the Russian Federation, $i = \overline{1, 83}$, t is the number of the time point, $t = \overline{2020, 2022}$, ε_{it} is random errors of the model, dt_2 , dt_3 —are dummy variables for 2021 and 2022, $v_{it} = \mu_i + \varepsilon_{it}$, μ_i —random effects.

The pooled regression assumes that the observations i are homogeneous and do not have any specific characteristics. In addition, pooled regression assumes that no structural changes common to all observations have occurred during the period analyzed. On the other hand, the model with dummy variables allows us to take into account structural

time effects. The occurrence of these effects could influence the variation of the dependent variable. In the dummy model, $(T - 1)$ dummy variables were included for 2021 and 2022. The dummy variable for 2020 was not included as a regressor in the LSDV model. This was conducted to mitigate the effects of strict multicollinearity. In the random effects model, the assumption is that the occurrence of specific characteristics of individual regions is random. In addition, the regressors are exogenous. They are uncorrelated with the regional characteristics. In this context, it seems possible to sum the random errors of the model ε_{it} and the unobserved variable characterizing the specificities of each region μ_i , so that $v_{it} = \mu_i + \varepsilon_{it}$.

The choice of panel data econometric models is due firstly to the possibility of including many observations in the model (compared to cross-sectional econometric models). Secondly, the possibility of considering fixed effects of different periods (due to the presence of characteristics in each year considered). Thirdly, the possibility of considering the specific characteristics of each of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation.

The subject of this study is the per capita tax revenue from the tax levied in connection with the application of the simplified system of taxation (the taxable object is income reduced by the amount of expenses) in 83 constituent entities of the Russian Federation. It should be noted that in absolute terms, the number of economic entities in the regions of the Russian Federation (except, e.g., the Republic of Kabardino-Balkaria and the Tyumen Oblast in 2020, the Republic of Ingushetia in 2021) applying the simplified taxation system with “income” as the object of taxation is greater than the number of corresponding entities applying the simplified taxation system with “income reduced by the amount of expenses” as the object of taxation. A similar ratio corresponds to the indicator of the amount of tax collected. Nevertheless, the factors influencing the tax revenues from the simplified tax system with the tax object “income reduced by the amount of expenses” are assessed in this study. This study is based on statistical data provided by the Federal State Statistics Service and the Federal Tax Service. The cost indicators are adjusted for inflation according to consumer price indices for goods and services in each specific subject of the Russian Federation. Statistical analysis and econometric modeling are used as research methods. Econometric modeling was carried out using the Gretl software package 2022a for econometric analysis. STL decomposition was carried out using the R software 4.3.1 environment for statistical computing and graphics.

4. Results

Figure 1 shows the dynamics of the amount of tax revenue from the tax paid in relation to the application of the simplified taxation system, from income reduced by the amount of expenditure (in 2015 prices), and the number of taxpayers who did not file a zero tax return on the tax paid in relation to the application of the simplified taxation system (taxable object—income reduced by the amount of expenditure) and did not apply a 0% tax rate, in 2015–2023.

Figure 1 displays that the dynamics of both tax revenues and the number of taxpayers are characterized by upward trends. The average annual absolute increase in the amount of tax revenues during the period under study was 14.4 million roubles (15.4% per year). The number of taxpayers increased by 26 thousand units (3.6% per year). As expected, the ratio of tax revenues to the number of taxpayers (*usrn_taxpayers*) shows an increasing positive trend (Figure 2).

Table 3 presents descriptive statistics of indicators characterizing the mesoeconomic situation and the development of SMEs in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation. The table shows that the real per capita tax revenue from the tax collected under the simplified tax system (the tax base is income reduced by the amount of expenditures) is increasing from year to year. The range of the variable tax rate shows that regional authorities are actively using the possibility of tax rate differentiation within the corridor of the Russian Federation tax code. In addition, the average tax rate was between 12.98% and 13.09% during the period under review.

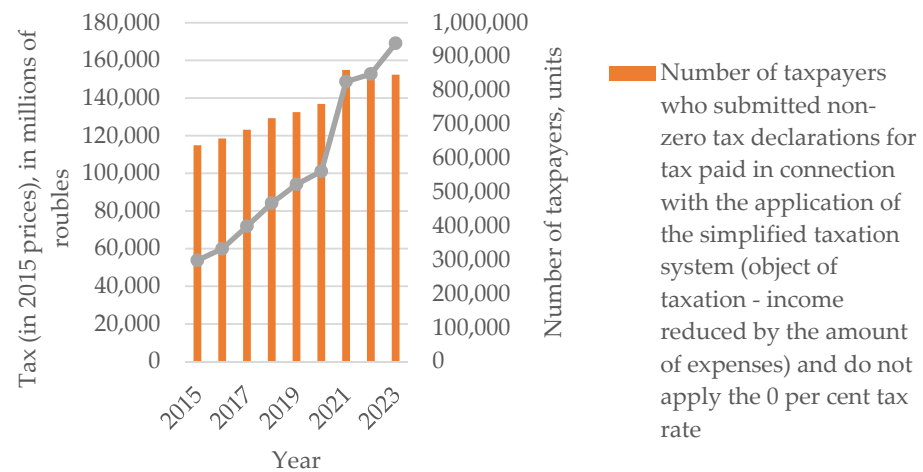


Figure 1. Dynamics of the amount of tax revenues from the tax paid in connection with the application of the simplified taxation system, from income reduced by the amount of expenses (in 2015 prices) (in millions of rubles), and the number of taxpayers who submitted non-zero tax returns on the tax paid in connection with the application of the simplified taxation system (taxable object is income reduced by the amount of expenses) and not applying a tax rate of 0 percent (in units), in 2015–2023.

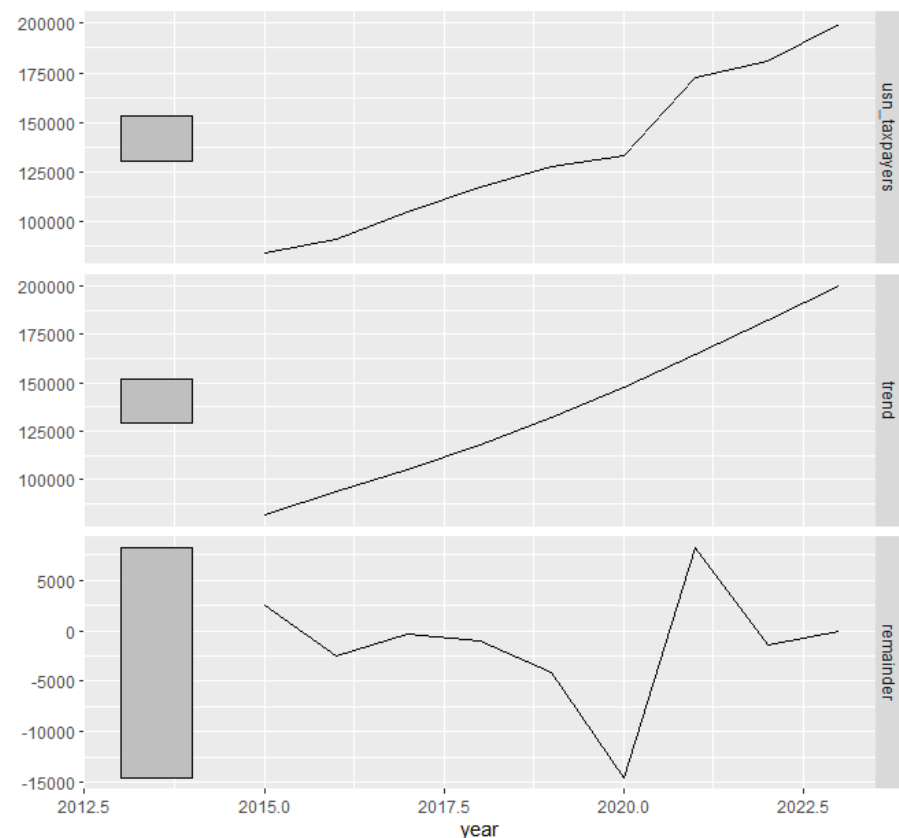


Figure 2. TL—decomposition of the ratio of the amount of tax revenues from the tax paid in connection with the application of the simplified taxation system, from income reduced by the amount of expenses (in 2015 prices), to the number of taxpayers who submitted non-zero tax returns on the tax paid in connection with the application of the simplified taxation system (taxable object is income reduced by the amount of expenses) and do not apply a tax rate of 0 percent (in rubles per taxpayer). Note: The trend component is extracted using the STL algorithm (the seasonal component is absent due to the lack of statistical data of lower rank). The width of the smoothing window of the trend component is 7.

Table 3. Descriptive statistics of indicators characterizing the mesoeconomic situation and the development of SMEs in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation.

Year	Variable	Mean	Median	Standard Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
2020	investments	174,000.00	98,266.00	278,200.00	42,493.00	2,249,000.00
	GRP	622,300.00	459,500.00	687,600.00	141,600.00	5,433,000.00
	budget_deficit	−0.47	−0.32	1.11	−3.99	3.72
	income	32,435.00	28,256.00	14,022.00	16,877.00	90,130.00
	decile_ratio	5.53	5.30	0.70	4.60	8.20
	tax_revenues	26,325.00	22,340.00	18,232.00	2067.00	162,800.00
	tax_rate	13.00	15.00	3.44	5.00	15.00
	taxpayers	0.14	0.13	0.08	0.01	0.75
	infrastructure	3.77	2.45	5.19	0.15	41.12
2021	patent	0.28	0.19	0.30	0.01	1.90
	employees	2.78	2.71	1.95	0.66	19.41
	investments	200,000.00	108,700.00	339,600.00	38,751.00	2,602,000.00
	GRP	751,400.00	523,900.00	954,500.00	130,000.00	7,771,000.00
	budget_deficit	0.70	0.60	1.09	−1.49	4.26
	income	32,894.00	28,420.00	14,720.00	16,660.00	94,470.00
	decile_ratio	5.64	5.50	0.73	4.60	8.20
	tax_revenues	36,244.00	31,299.00	29,007.00	3736.00	266,600.00
	tax_rate	13.09	15.00	3.35	5.00	15.00
2022	taxpayers	0.16	0.15	0.10	0.02	0.91
	infrastructure	3.79	2.50	5.09	0.15	41.29
	patent	1.43	1.44	0.45	0.02	2.76
	employees	2.58	2.51	1.92	0.60	19.02
	investments	209,100.00	114,400.00	337,600.00	34,370.00	2,487,000.00
	GRP	770,100.00	511,200.00	1,085,000.00	123,600.00	9,066,000.00
	budget_deficit	−0.14	−0.14	1.25	−3.56	4.50
	income	33,449.00	28,694.00	15,703.00	16,087.00	1,024,000.00
	decile_ratio	5.32	5.10	0.79	4.20	8.30
2022	tax_revenues	40,394.00	34,061.00	33,201.00	4239.00	303,600.00
	tax_rate	12.98	15.00	3.47	5.00	15.00
	taxpayers	0.16	0.14	0.10	0.02	0.93
	infrastructure	4.22	2.84	5.38	0.14	38.78
	patent	1.34	1.36	0.42	0.02	2.26
	employees	2.68	2.63	2.02	0.63	20.04

Source: compiled by the authors.

Figure 3 shows the matrix of pairwise correlation coefficients.

Firstly, to balance the effects of ideal and practical multicollinearity, we exclude labor from further analysis because of its strong linear relationship with taxpayers, which is necessary for the modeling of tax revenue. Second, gross fixed capital formation and investment are excluded due to their strong correlation with the income variable, which reflects, among other things, the purchasing power of the population.

The results of the model evaluation are presented in Table 4.

We run tests to compare ‘short’ and ‘long’ Breusch-Pagan and Hausman regressions in order to select the best model. The test comparing the “short” and “long” regressions allows us to choose between the pooled regression and a model with dummy variables. The null hypothesis of the test is that the coefficients of the time dummy variables β_{11} , β_{12} in Equation (2) are zero. Since the corresponding p -value is less than any reasonable significance level (p -value = $1.1 \cdot 10^{-11}$), the null hypothesis of the test is rejected, and the model with dummy variables should be preferred. The Breusch-Pagan test allows you to choose between a random effects model and a pooled regression that does not include individual effects. The null hypothesis of the Breusch-Pagan test is that the variance of the random effects σ_u^2 is zero, i.e., that all objects are homogeneous. Since the corresponding p -value of the test is less than any reasonable significance level (p -value = $2.85 \cdot 10^{-8}$), the

null hypothesis of the test is rejected, and the random effects model should be preferred. The Hausman test allows one to choose between a dummy variable model and a random effects model. The null hypothesis of the test is that the available generalized least squares estimates are consistent. Therefore, if the null hypothesis is not rejected, the random effects model should be preferred. In this study, the p -value of the Hausman test is also less than any reasonable significance level (p -value = $6.98 \cdot 10^{-13}$), the null hypothesis of the test is rejected, and the dummy variable model should be preferred. Since the results of two out of three tests (the test comparing the “short” and “long” regressions and the Hausman test) indicate the advantage of the dummy variable model, this model should be preferred.

The results of the estimation of the least squares dummy variables model show that the number of organizations providing infrastructure to support SMEs per 10,000 SMEs, the ratio of the deficit/surplus of the consolidated budget of the constituent entity of the Russian Federation to the gross regional product, and the decile coefficient have no effect on the dependent variable. Moreover, the fixed effect of 2021 (dt_2) has no effect either. In turn, the dependent variable is statistically significantly affected by the tax rate levied in connection with the application of the simplified tax system (the taxable object is income reduced by the amount of expenses) established in the constituent entity of the Russian Federation for a non-preferential category of taxpayers, the ratio of the number of taxpayers filing non-zero tax returns to the tax paid in connection with the application of the simplified tax regime and not applying the 0% tax rate to the number of SMEs, the number of patents granted per 10,000 persons, the natural logarithm of the real per capita cash income of the population, and the fixed effect of 2022 (dt_3). There is no ideal multicollinearity; the values of the variance inflation coefficients are less than 10 (Neter 1985). The correctness of the chosen functional form is confirmed by the results of the Ramsey test (Ramsey 1969). The random errors of the model are characterized by homoscedasticity.

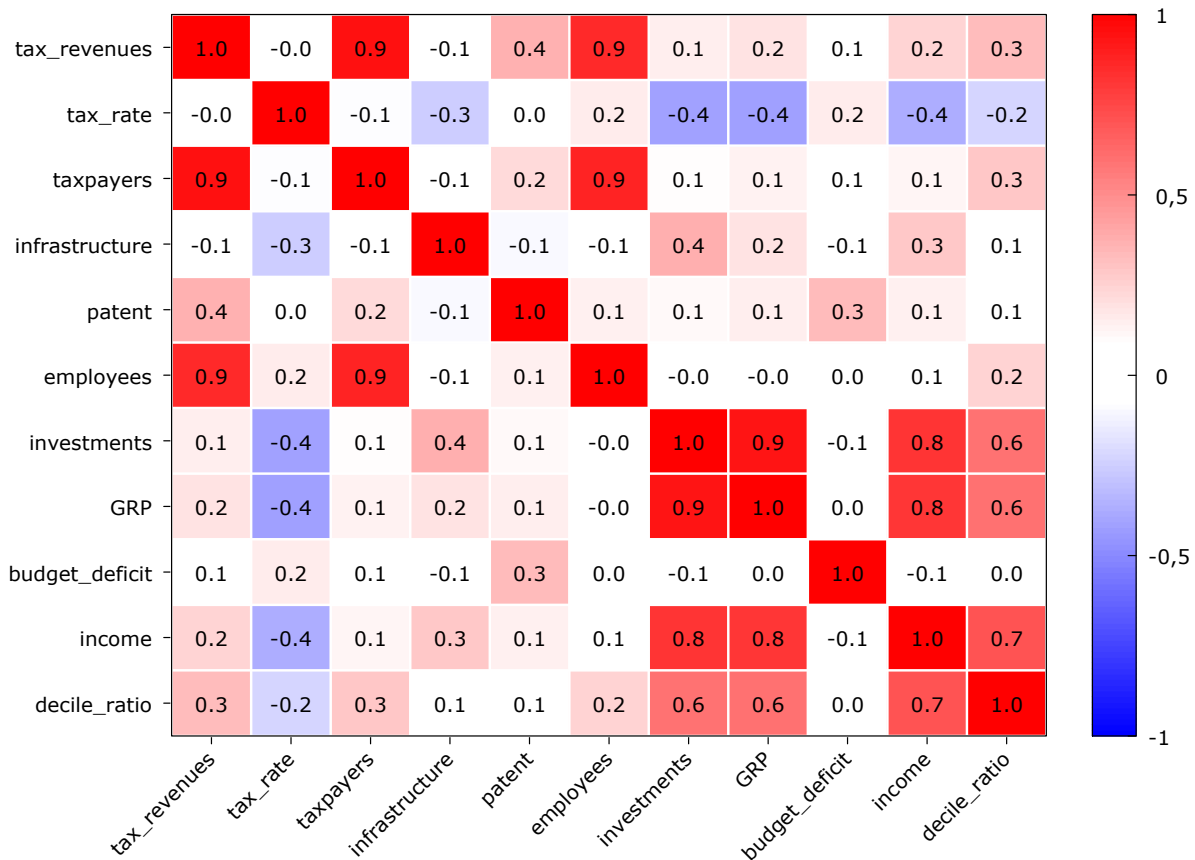


Figure 3. Matrix of paired correlation coefficients.

Table 4. The impact of various factors on per capita tax revenues for the tax levied in connection with the application of the simplified taxation system (taxable object is income reduced by the amount of expenses).

	Pooled Regression	Least Squares Dummy Variables Model (LSDV-Model)	Random Effects Model
constant	−171,495.00 *** (27,164.20)	−168,442.00 *** (28,841.20)	−152,591.00 *** (33,253.70)
tax_rate	911.37 *** (189.14)	907.78 *** (185.66)	884.46 *** (181.94)
taxpayers	274,264.00 *** (11,980.80)	274,391.00 *** (11,628.50)	280,843.00 *** (12,560.10)
infrastructure	30.69 (89.35)	−8.04 (88.51)	66.48 (113.80)
patent	6422.12 *** (1041.01)	4423.84 ** (2173.92)	6071.66 ** (2791.38)
budget_deficit	−799.57 * (433.50)	−378.41 (388.33)	−188.17 (260.83)
decile_ratio	−1691.00 (1144.14)	−815.14 (1187.53)	90.76 (1372.16)
l_income ^V	14,969.10 *** (2947.65)	14,208.60 *** (3151.91)	12,064.10 *** (3831.49)
dt_2	-	745.49 (2296.28)	−1545.16 (2939.26)
dt_3	-	5826.27 *** (1875.44)	4144.34 * (2175.92)
Number of observations	249	249	249
R ²	0.939	0.943 ^{VV}	-

Notes: The dependent variable is per capita tax revenues from the tax levied in connection with the application of the simplified taxation system (the object of taxation is income reduced by the amount of expenses). Standard errors are given in brackets: * denotes significance at the 10 percent level; ** denotes significance at the 5 percent level; *** denotes significance at the 1 percent level. ^V denotes the natural logarithm of real per capita monetary incomes of the population. ^{VV} denotes LSDV-R².

5. Discussion

We analyzed different groups of factors characterizing the development of SMEs in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation. As expected, the variables characterizing the number of taxpayers and the tax rate turned out to be statistically significant. In fact, if all else were equal, tax revenues per head would rise as more people pay taxes and as tax rates rise. It should be noted that an increase in the number of taxpayers in this context is understood as a qualitative increase. It is associated with an increase in the number of taxpayers who file non-zero tax returns and do not apply a 0% tax rate. In addition, the barrier to increasing the tax rate is limited by the content of Article 346.20 of the Tax Code of the Russian Federation.

Unexpectedly, the infrastructure variable, which characterizes the development of the supportive infrastructure network for SMEs in the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, turned out to be statistically insignificant. On the one hand, it can be assumed that the expansion of the supportive infrastructure network may reduce tax revenues in the short term due to a likely parallel decrease in tax rates. We believe that the expansion of the possibilities to receive state support (not only financial) could hypothetically be accompanied by an increase in tax rates within the established corridor to cover budgetary expenditures. On the other hand, such an expansion, combined with the multiplier effect of state support for enterprises in the medium or long term, should lead to an increase in the revenue side of the budget due to the tax revenues associated with the expected growth in

revenues and, all other things being equal, in the tax base. However, it is difficult to test this hypothesis due to the short period analyzed. The increase in the number of patent grants should hypothetically lead to a decrease in the amount of tax revenue from the simplified tax system. This is because patent and simplified tax systems are broadly competing tax systems for some types of economic activity. Nevertheless, we observe a positive sign on the coefficient of the patent variable. In our view, this situation can be explained by the explosive growth in the number of patents granted, which more than quadrupled in 2021. The reason for this is the abolition of the unified tax on imputed income. This led to the need for the taxpayer to choose another tax system (Yakovlev et al. 2021; Zotikov 2023). Thus, such a significant increase in the value of the variable may be an overlap of the competitive effect between the simplified and patent tax systems and a potential threat to the validity of the conclusions of the econometric study. To test this assumption, we exclude the patent variable from the original model. We then re-estimate the three models. The results of the new modeling show that the variable *dt_2*, which characterizes the fixed effect of 2021, becomes statistically significant at the one percent level of significance. Note that the advantage of the least squares dummy variables model over the pooled regression and random effects model is still evident after this model transformation.

Of the group of indicators characterizing the mesoeconomic conjuncture of the subjects of the Russian Federation, the variable *l_income*, which characterizes the natural logarithm of real average per capita cash income of the population, has a statistically significant impact (as in the study by E. Lavrenchuk and D. Kirpishchikov (Lavrenchuk and Kirpishchikov 2021)). In fact, it can be assumed that the growth of real per capita monetary income increases the purchasing power of the population (Martín Belmonte et al. 2021; Chang et al. 2022) and stimulates the demand for essential and long-term goods (Sabirova and Khasanova 2015; Aktaev and Bannova 2022) sold by SMEs.

It should be noted that statistical data show that about one in five SMEs has retail trade by mail or over the Internet as its main economic activity. Consequently, such demand stimulation predetermines the growth of business income and, consequently, other things being equal, the tax base. On the other hand, the income of the population is one of the sources of initial investment for the start and subsequent development of entrepreneurial activity by small business entities (Berger and Udell 1998; Klein et al. 2019). Thus, tax deductions to the budget. In particular, by owners of microenterprises, whose share in the total number of SMEs in early 2024 was over 96%. Of these, 64% are sole proprietors.

Therefore, in the current economic reality, the promotion of the creation of organizations (for instance, by reducing the entry barriers to starting a business (Barkhatov et al. 2016) and by providing state financial support (Zakharova et al. 2024))—potential taxpayers. Policies aimed at increasing the real per capita cash income of the population are the conditions that can contribute to increasing the tax revenues of the budgets of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation. Subsequently, with the redistribution of the revenue side of the budget, these revenues can become a source for implementing, inter alia, social regional policy.

6. Conclusions

The simplified tax regime is the first and most widespread special tax regime in the Russian Federation. This is reflected both in the number of taxpayers using the simplified tax regime and in the amount of tax revenues generated by the special tax regime. Currently, the largest number of taxpayers applies the “income” tax object among the tax objects established by the Tax Code of the Russian Federation. The calculation of the simplified taxable amount based on the ‘taxable amount after deduction of expenses’ comes closest to the calculation of the corporate income tax. Moreover, to apply the tax object “income reduced by expenses,” the taxpayer’s expenses must be justified and documented. This is one reason why the “income” tax object is more common in tax practice.

The aim of this study was to identify and evaluate the factors influencing the tax revenue generated by applying the simplified tax system (the taxable base is income

reduced by expenses). There are two reasons why the authors have chosen ‘income less costs’ as the subject for their study. Firstly, because it resembles the corporate income tax object in the general tax system, which requires justifying and documenting costs. In this respect, the factors influencing the level of tax revenues for both tax objects of the simplified tax system differ due to the presence of economically unobservable features of economic activity and business peculiarities in Russia. Secondly, the corridor of established tax rates has been widened. On the one hand, this creates room for regional authorities to differentiate tax rates on various grounds in order to create a comfortable tax environment for economic activity that does not lead to tax migration and tax competition between neighboring regions. On the other hand, there is the possibility of managing the revenues to the regional budget depending on the cycle of the economic activity of the regional companies. In the upswing phase of the regional business cycle, it seems possible to increase regional tax rates to increase the revenue side of the regional budget and prevent regional overheating. Conversely, during downturns, it is advisable to reduce tax rates to stimulate aggregate supply.

Based on this study’s results, it can be concluded that factors such as tax rate, number of taxpayers, and real per capita cash income of the population have statistically significant effects on the dependent variable. In the initial specification of the model, the number of patents granted per 10,000 inhabitants had a statistically significant positive effect on the dependent variable. This is despite the fact that the simplified and patent tax systems compete in a number of economic activities. It seems that this is due to the abolition of the single tax on imputed income as of 1 January 2021 and the massive transition of taxpayers to other tax systems, including the simplified and patent tax systems. In fact, the number of patents granted in the Russian Federation as of 1 January 2022 will be 2,060,046, while as of 1 January 2021, it will be 493,606 (growth rate—317.35%). Excluding the variable characterizing the number of patents granted resulted in the 2021 fixed effect becoming statistically significant at the 1% level. Unfortunately, it was not possible to confirm the effect of the number of support infrastructure organizations per 10,000 SMEs. Thus, the research hypothesis is confirmed.

The results of the survey will help the regional executive bodies to make management decisions on creating conditions for the application of the simplified tax system at the constituent entity of the Russian Federation, as well as to forecast tax receipts to the state. The next stage of this study can be an assessment of the factors influencing the tax revenues from the simplified taxation system for the taxable object “income” with possible consideration of the factors characterizing the motives for the choice of this taxable object by the taxpayer. At the next stage, it is also possible to build binary choice models assessing the probability of a given taxpayer choosing a certain tax object, identify factors, and build regression models for econometric assessment of the amount of tax revenues from other special tax regimes.

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