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Перспективы развития российских малых и средних предприятий в современных условиях

Аннотация. В статье анализируется важность малого и среднего предпринимательства (МСП) для экономики России, приводятся статистические данные по количеству субъектов МСП, их структуре и динамике роста. Проводится исследование по формам и мерам государственной поддержки малого и среднего предпринимательства в Российской Федерации в современных условиях, выявляются приоритетные направления в данной сфере. В статье разработаны рекомендации для дальнейшего совершенствования государственной поддержки МСП в России. В статье обсуждаются перспективы развития малых и средних предприятий в сфере реализации национальных стратегий экономического роста и повышения конкурентоспособности. Анализируются возможные барьеры, препятствующие развитию МСП в России, и предлагаются меры по их преодолению, с целью формирования более эффективной системы поддержки и стимулирования малого предпринимательства на региональном и федеральном уровнях Российской Федерации.

Ключевые слова: развитие, малый бизнес, малое и среднее предпринимательство, государственная поддержка, меры государственной поддержки, МСП, экономическое развитие, бизнес-сектор, инновации, конкуренция.

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Prospects for the development of Russian small and medium-sized enterprises in modern conditions

Abstract. The article analyzes the importance of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) For the Russian economy, statistical data on the number of SMEs, their structure and growth dynamics are provided. A study is conducted on the forms and measures of state support for small and medium-sized businesses in the Russian Federation in modern conditions, and priority areas in this area are identified. The article develops recommendations for further improvement of state support for SMEs in Russia. The article discusses the prospects for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in the implementation of national strategies for economic growth and competitiveness. Possible barriers hindering the development of SMEs in Russia are analyzed and measures are proposed to overcome them in order to form a more effective system of support and stimulation of small business at the regional and federal levels of the Russian Federation.

Keywords: development, small business, small and medium-sized enterprises, government support, government support measures, SMEs, economic development, business sector, innovation, competition.

The relevance of the research lies in the fact that the modern state is interested in the rapid and effective development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), as it is of great

importance for the Russian economy. Small and medium-sized enterprises have advantages, for example, the ability to quickly adapt to changes in the market, high flexibility in the production process, customer orientation, etc. Government support plays an important role at all stages of the creation and operation of SMEs. In the context of sanctions pressure and a difficult economic environment, the question of how effectively such support is provided and how it can be improved is becoming a particularly relevant area of research.

Entrepreneurship is a business based on initiative, risk, and the pursuit of profit. In the process of entrepreneurship, market opportunities are identified, production is organized, and goods or services are sold. Entrepreneurs, as the most important participants in this process, play an important role in the Russian economy, introducing innovations, creating jobs and developing competition [5, p. 94]. Small business is of particular importance for the economy of the Russian Federation. It serves as an important source of job creation, which is especially important in conditions of high unemployment. Small enterprises contribute to the diversity of the economy by reducing dependence on large corporations and government structures [3, p. 73]. Small and medium-sized enterprises act as catalysts for innovation, introducing new products and services that have a positive impact on the market and consumers. In addition to the above, small businesses help develop regional and local economies by supporting the regional and municipal budgets. In the context of global economic and political changes, small enterprises adapt faster to new conditions, therefore they are important for the sustainability and growth of our state's economy [4, p. 50].

According to the unified register of small business entities posted on the official website of the Federal Tax Service, as of March 2025, there are over 6 665 754 small and medium-sized enterprises in Russia [1] (Figure 1).



Figure 1 – Small and medium-sized enterprises in Russia [1]

"15 024 352 people work in the small business sector in Russia, and they account for over 10 331 types of products and services from the total volume of government turnover" [1].

Figure 2 shows the structure of small and medium-sized businesses by district. It is interesting to note that the Central Federal District (CFD) accounts for 32% of all small businesses.

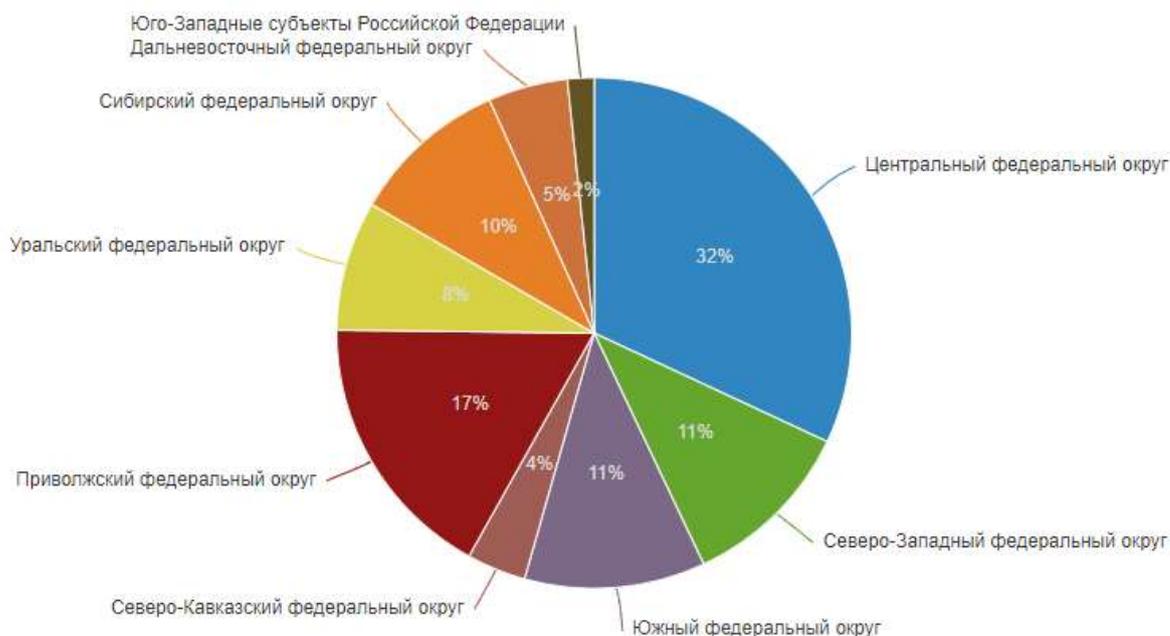


Figure 2 – Structure of small business in Russia by federal districts [1]

Figure 3 shows the dynamics of SME growth in Russia over the period 2017-2024.

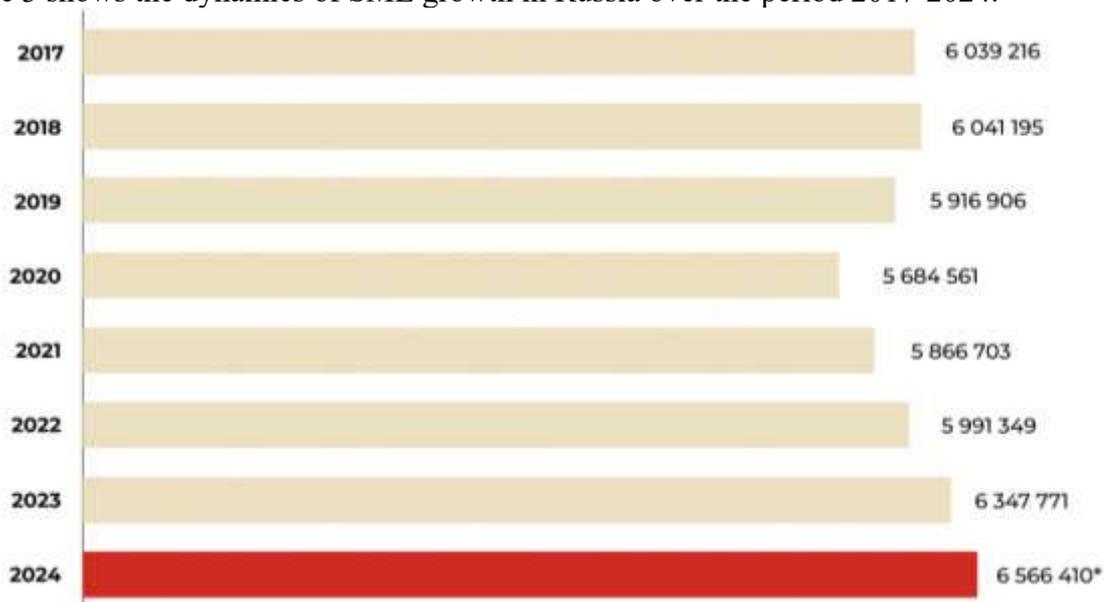


Figure 3 – Dynamics of SME growth in Russia for the period 2017-2024 [8]

It is noteworthy that due to COVID-19, there was a decrease in SMEs in 2020-2022, but since 2023, such enterprises have been growing again.

Entrepreneurship is an important factor in economic development, as it helps create new jobs, innovate, grow production, and improve the well-being of society. Entrepreneurial activity allows stimulating economic growth through the introduction of new ideas and technologies, as well as the creation of competition, thereby improving the quality of products and services [3, p. 75].

It should also be noted that SMEs promote diversity in the market, which provides consumers with more choice and encourages innovation in order to meet market demand [9, p. 206].

Small and medium-sized enterprises play a significant role in the economic complex of each region and the whole country. They represent a complex socio-economic phenomenon that

has both quantitative and qualitative characteristics. Small business entities are successfully present in many sectors of the economy [6, p. 106].

Government support for small and medium-sized enterprises is manifested in various forms and measures (Figure 4):

Financial support	Providing preferential loans, subsidies, grants, and other financial instruments that help small and medium-sized enterprises gain access to financing.
Tax support	Reducing the tax burden on small businesses, such as lower tax rates, increased tax benefits, etc.
Information support	Providing information and advice on issues related to registration, taxation, financing and other issues that help small businesses to function successfully
Organizational support	Creation of special infrastructure centers that help small and medium-sized enterprises in solving organizational and administrative issues.
Technical support	Providing access to modern technologies that help small businesses improve the efficiency of their production and business processes.
Educational support	Conducting trainings and seminars for small businesses that help entrepreneurs improve their business skills and knowledge.

Figure 4 – Forms and measures of state support for small and medium-sized businesses in Russia [compiled by the author]

Currently, when talking about supporting small businesses in the social sphere, there are two approaches:

- 1) the state level;
- 2) private level [3, p. 76].

In Russia, the system of financial state support for small and medium-sized businesses is aimed at promoting this area in various ways. One of these methods is preferential lending, in which SMEs can receive loans on more favorable terms than commercial banks, this approach allows them to develop their business without excessive financial burden. Another measure of support for SMEs is sureties, which help entrepreneurs obtain loans by providing a guarantee for banks in case of non-fulfillment of loan obligations. Non-bank financing expands the choice of sources of capital for small businesses, offering alternative options for obtaining funds without resorting to traditional banking services.

In addition to the above, the Government provides subsidies and grants to SMEs to obtain financing for specific projects or to cover current expenses without having to pay them back. Such support is especially important for startups and new small businesses.

There are also several additional measures aimed at reducing transaction costs (for example, a fast payment system that allows financial transactions to be carried out faster and at lower cost). The above measures help to create a more favorable environment for the development of SMEs in the Russian Federation.

Figure 5 shows the types of government support and their content.

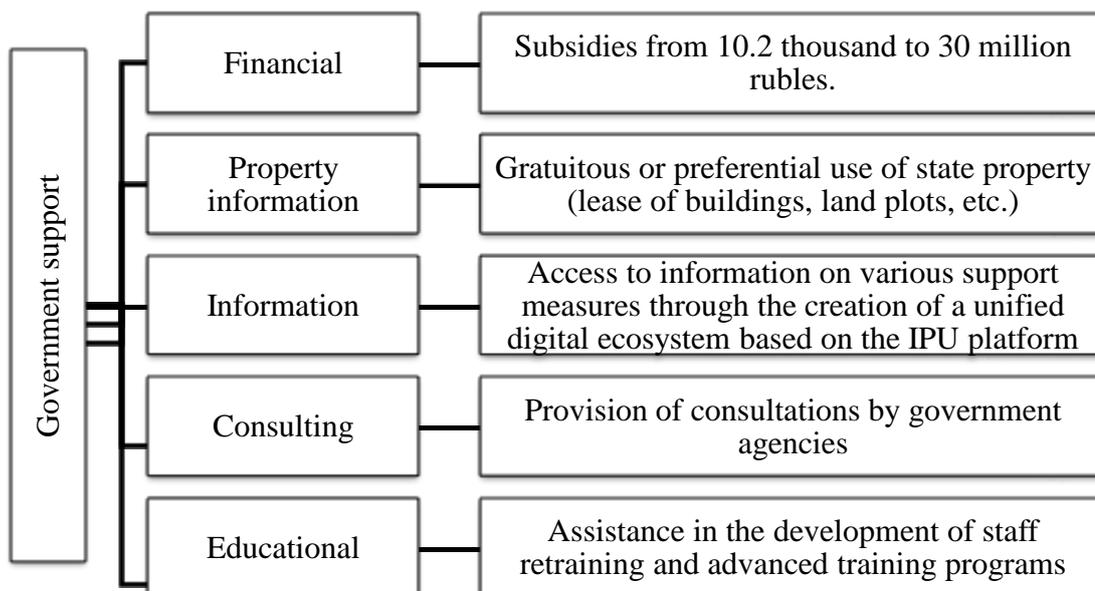


Figure 5 - Types of state support for small businesses in the Russian Federation [2, p. 65]

Using data from the Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat), it can be noted that as of 03/15/2025, small and medium-sized enterprises in Russia have received state support.:

- 11,185,865 times;
- the number of support recipients is 2,974,145;
- the amount of support provided - 3 062 124 392 047 rub [7].

Currently, in Russia, the main areas of government support for small and medium-sized businesses are focused on importers, IT companies, self-employed citizens and agribusiness. The government also draws attention to the use of the so-called "umbrella" mechanism, which helps to attract borrowed funds and provides subsidies to SMEs engaged in the issuance of securities.

Let's look at each of these directions in more detail (Figure 6).

The field of activity of SMEs	Government support measures
Importing companies	Zero duties on "critical" imports - zero duties for 6 months
	Installment payment and postponement of payment of duties - registration no more than 5 working days, until December 31, 2023
	Preferential import loan - imports of goods after March 1, 2022 in the amount of more than 1.5 thousand units, the rate is up to 5.25%, the term is 1-3 years, the amount is from 3 ml and up to 10 billion rubles.
	Duty-free import of consumer goods by citizens - for individuals up to 1 thousand euros
IT companies	Tax benefits - zero income tax until the end of 2024
	Reduction of the insurance premium rate to 7.6%
	Simplification of the procedure for the employment of foreigners
	Deferral from military service for specialists of IT company
Subsidizing SMEs when placing securities on the stock exchange	Reimbursement of the cost of issuing shares and bonds up to 1.5 million rubles and coupon payments up to 70%
Agribusiness	Agrotourism grant - up to 10 million rubles for the organization of tourism
	The Agroprocess grant is no more than 30 million rubles. for agricultural producers who have been active for at least 2 years
Self-employed citizens	Agrostartap grant - in the amount of 3-5 million rubles (purchase of equipment and crops in agriculture)
	Loans at preferential rates in the amount of up to 1 million rubles. from government microfinance organizations (MFIs)

Figure 6 – Priority areas and directions of government support for small businesses [8]

The Figure 6 describing the priority areas of SME activity and government support measures demonstrates an integrated approach to assistance to various industries. Thus, importing companies receive support in the form of zero duties on "critical" imports for a period of 6 months, which helps to avoid additional costs. Installment and deferred fee payment mechanisms are also provided, which allows enterprises to manage financial flows more efficiently, especially in conditions of uncertainty. Preferential loans for the import of goods with a low rate and convenient terms provide an opportunity to expand the range and increase competitiveness.

It should also be noted that such support measures have been established for IT companies as a zero income tax rate until the end of 2024 and a reduction in insurance premium rates, which significantly reduces the financial burden on these enterprises. Simplified procedures for the employment of foreign specialists and the granting of a deferral from military service help attract talent to such a rapidly developing industry. Support measures to subsidize SMEs when placing securities on the stock exchange include reimbursement of the cost of issuing shares and bonds, which helps small businesses attract investments for development and growth. In agribusiness, grants are provided that allow agricultural producers to receive financial support for the implementation of new projects (for example, the development of tourism, modernization of production, etc.).

Loans at preferential rates from government microfinance organizations are also provided for self-employed citizens. These measures are aimed at supporting people who work for themselves and contribute to their legalization and business development.

It can be argued that the presented state support measures contain various directions of SMEs in Russia, helping them to develop sustainably and increase their competitiveness in the market of goods and services.

Despite the relatively high level of government support for Russian SMEs, it is necessary to further improve this area. Table 2 provides recommendations for improving government support for SMEs in Russia.

Table 17 – Recommendations for improving government support for SMEs in Russia [compiled by the author]

Recommendation	Description
Introduction of preferential small business rentals for social enterprises, healthcare, and hotels	<p>1) To develop rental subsidy programs for these business categories, which will provide for a reduction in rent for a certain period of time and the provision of preferential terms.</p> <p>2) Create a register of real estate leased on preferential terms, with an emphasis on the needs of social enterprises, hotels and healthcare.</p> <p>3) Establish partnerships with owners of premises, including state and municipal facilities, to implement preferential rental programs, which may include tax preferences or compensation for landlords.</p> <p>This event will be implemented at the expense of regional budget funds. Implemented measures will help create affordable rental conditions for social enterprises, healthcare, and hotels.</p>
A mentoring program for small businesses to assist them in receiving government assistance, primarily for newly opened ones	<p>A supervisor (mentor) of a small enterprise when starting a business, who will inform about support measures and assist in preparing the necessary documents for the authorities.</p> <p>Mentors with experience in receiving government assistance will be able to guide entrepreneurs at all stages, from choosing the right support program to completing the necessary documents, which will not only simplify the process of accessing assistance, but also increase the confidence of small businesses opening in their abilities.</p> <p>A mentoring program for small businesses to assist in obtaining government assistance in the regions will be organized by regional government and municipal authorities, business associations and non-profit organizations</p>

	interested in supporting small businesses. Regional budget funds, grants and subsidies will be used to finance the program.
Optimization of access to financing (obtaining preferential loans, subsidies, grants, etc.)	<p>It is necessary to develop more flexible conditions for obtaining loans, subsidies, grants, and improve the procedure for obtaining loans from funds that provide guarantees for loans to small companies.</p> <p>Regional authorities need to simplify procedures for obtaining financial assistance for small businesses by reducing bureaucratic barriers and optimizing document flow. It is important to create convenient platforms for applying for preferential loans, subsidies and grants, as well as to provide access to information about available support measures through information resources. It is also necessary to develop training programs for entrepreneurs so that they can better navigate financial instruments and use them effectively. Collaboration with banks and financial institutions to develop joint support programs will also help optimize access to finance.</p> <p>The implementation of this recommendation will enable entrepreneurs to implement their ideas without fear of financial risks.</p>
Support for education and professional development	<p>It is recommended to organize courses, seminars and trainings that will help entrepreneurs and their employees master modern approaches to doing business, financial management, marketing and other aspects of business. Partnering with educational institutions will help create programs focused on practical skills and market needs.</p> <p>This event will be organized by state and municipal authorities, business associations and non-profit organizations interested in supporting small businesses. Regional budget funds, grants and subsidies will be used to finance the program.</p>
Creating a favorable competitive environment for small businesses	<p>It is necessary to introduce active cooperation with large companies to develop corporate social responsibility programs where small enterprises can act as suppliers or partners.</p> <p>To implement active cooperation between small businesses and large companies within the framework of corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs, platforms and networking events can be organized, such as forums and exhibitions where small businesses can present their services and products. Large companies can create special initiatives or accelerators aimed at finding and supporting innovative solutions from small businesses, which will allow them to become suppliers or partners in the implementation of social projects.</p> <p>At the same time, it is advisable to develop legislative initiatives that help reduce barriers to entry for new players (tax holidays, reduced registration fees, etc).</p>
Improving the quality of government agencies' work in the field of small business support in the Moscow Region	<p>Quality can be improved by improving the following measures: training and advanced training of civil servants, optimization of administrative processes, creation of a feedback system, increasing transparency and accessibility of information, support for innovative projects, etc.</p> <p>This event will be organized by state and municipal authorities, business associations and non-profit organizations interested in supporting small businesses. Regional budget funds, grants and subsidies will be used to finance the program.</p>

An integrated approach to implementing measures to improve government support for SMEs (mentoring, simplification of administrative procedures, optimization of financing, educational initiatives, creation of a competitive environment) will improve the efficiency of small business development in Russia, make it more viable and sustainable.

Thus, it can be concluded that SMEs are the most important participants in the competitive environment, creating the necessary conditions for the formation of market prices and the realization of freedom of entrepreneurship. Today, government support plays an important role in the development of small and medium-sized businesses, and it is a mutually beneficial cooperation in which both sides benefit. Nevertheless, today support for small and medium-sized businesses in Russia needs to be improved in order to achieve greater efficiency in the development of SMEs. Therefore, it is necessary to constantly create and implement new programs aimed at increasing the share of small businesses in various sectors of the Russian economy. In modern conditions, SMEs are an important element of the market economy, influencing the quality and structure of gross domestic product, economic growth rates and the formation of a competitive environment, which is very valuable for the Russian economy.

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