

# The Impact of Macroeconomic Factors on the Revenues of the Sovereign Wealth Funds

Isabella Damdinova Elyakova<sup>1</sup>, Elena Leonidovna Chizhevskaya<sup>2</sup> & Margarita Semenovna Smialowskaya<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Doctor of Economics, professor, North-Eastern Federal University, Yakutsk, Russian Federation

<sup>2</sup> Associate Professor, Centre of business education of the Institute of management and business, Tyumen State Oil and Gas University, Tyumen, Russian Federation

<sup>3</sup> Doctor of Economics, professor, the department of economics and management, the faculty of economics, management and law, Russian state university of tourism and service, Moscow, Russian Federation

Correspondence: Isabella Damdinova Elyakova, North-Eastern Federal University, 677000 Yakutsk, Russian Federation. E-mail: elyak@list.ru

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## Abstract

Development and improvement of the sovereign wealth funds of the unfavourable geopolitical situation, when world oil prices since mid-summer continue to decline, has become more urgent. The current economic and political situations shall have the volume of the funds financial resources estimated by analysing the impact of major macroeconomic indicators such as growth and decline in oil exports, changes in oil prices and the dollar exchange rate on the formation of the sovereign wealth funds of national welfare of states in the future to predict changing of these factors on changes in the volume of funds. The article analyses the key macroeconomic factors affecting the formation and use of proceeds of sovereign funds by many countries, not only aimed at preserving capital and achieving long-term profitability, but also for sustainable economic growth in their countries and regions. The studies revealed that revenues in sovereign funds have a significant impact following factors: the price of oil and the dollar exchange rate of the national currency. Supply and demand of oil in the world market have little effect, but in times of crisis of 2008-2009, their effect significantly increases.

**Keywords:** information systems, applied science, sovereign fund, National Welfare Fund, investment, exports, oil amount, oil price, dollar exchange rate, macroeconomic factors

## 1. Introduction

Achieving the welfare of the people is the supreme goal of society from the ancient times to the present. Aristotle, who identified the principal criteria of differentiation as the amount of ruling people in the state and the goal performed by the state, considered the state to be right if it achieves the common good (Ibraev, 2013). The Russian Federation is a social state which policy is aimed at creating conditions for a dignified life and free development rights (the Constitution of Russia, 1993). Therefore, the task of the state of the President and the Government of the Russian Federation is to ensure the welfare of their people.

When considering the conditions of welfare funds occurrence, there shall be noted the overall favourable trend of post-war development of the developed countries economies in 1960-80's of the XX century, such as high rates of economic growth, active industrialization and modernization of the economy, due to the phenomenon of catch-up, joining the developed countries in the era of scientific and technological revolution, the rising cost of hydrocarbon raw materials.

During this period, the sovereign wealth funds were created in the United States, Canada, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, Chile, Oman, and Brunei. The funds accumulated foreign currency from oil sales, which influx to the economies threatened to cause "overheating", so it was better to withdraw from their country budgets and generate investment funds for the binding of excess liquidity.

The sharp rise in oil prices since the beginning of the 2000s until mid-2008 ensured the growth of foreign exchange reserves to record high levels (average annual rate amounted to about 20%).

At the same time, many large international investors placed large amounts of capital goods in the commodities

market (or derivatives of securities which underlying asset is raw materials) in order to diversify their investments. The balance of developing countries payments, against this background, showed growth of the current account, while in developed countries, there was an inverse dynamics. This situation in the global economy caused the third and the most significant wave of formation of sovereign funds in their entire history. Therefore, if at the end of the 1990s at least 20 sovereign funds were functioning in the world, by the end of 2012, their number more than tripled (Ibraev, 2013).

It is important to note that wealth funds are established not only within the country but also across the region. For example, in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), since 1993, the Trust fund for future generations, which funds are directed to the construction of social facilities: general education, vocational and higher education institutions, sports facilities, funds for the development of material and technical base of health care institutions of the Republic (Petrikova, 2012). The sources for replenishment are gratuitous donation of "ALROSA" OJSC of return based on a socio-economic development of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) between the Government of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) and "ALROSA" (OJSC). In 2013, the shares by "ALROSA" (OJSC) were placed, 7% stake is the share of the Government of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) was bought for 18 billion RUR (Official site of the Government of Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) [Electronic resource]). The proceeds from the sale of funds for roubles were sent to the company "RIK+" OOO (Official site of the Government of Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) [Electronic resource]). After paying the tax income, the money will start to work for the republic. Basic proceeds from the sale of shares will be used for the demolition of dilapidated housing, gasification, utilities, construction Cancer Centre, social projects, including 6.4 billion — to demolition, 2.2 bln — cancer centre, 2.6 bln — social establishments, 4 bln — gasification, housing - 2.6 bln, 550 mln — construction of courts (Official site of the Government of Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) [Electronic resource]). "The main thing is improving people's lives», - said the president of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), Egor Borisov.

Thus, the objective conditions for the world economy, including alternating periods of growth and periods of crisis, the realization of economic and financial interdependence of states within the framework of globalization and the growing awareness of the need mainly substitution of exhaustible resources, financial investments pushed to the emergence of sovereign wealth funds of the Institute.

## 2. Literature Review

The idea of using currency as a measure of well-being emerged, apparently, simultaneously with the appearance of money, but as a theoretical concept, it took first shape within the framework of mercantilism in the XV century. Representatives of mercantilism saw the money as the main wealth of the state. A prominent Russian economist, I.T.Pososhkov (1652-1726), in "The Book of Poverty and Wealth..." proposed to achieve the wealth of the state (treasury) by restricting luxury goods import, stopping industrial raw materials export, and exporting only finished products (Pososhkov, 1951).

The background of the sovereign funds at the state level go back only to the end of XVIII - early XIX centuries. For the first time, the theoretical justification for the establishing funds of this type in order to reach the safety of the nation's resources and future savings can be found in the papers by Adam Smith (1723 - 1790). In his paper on the nature and causes of the wealth, the famous economist reflected his ideas in detail about the need to create a national fund. In this paper, he also proposed options for managing the fund accumulation. Forming of this type of fund, according to Smith, is due to removal of part of the profit from the income of large enterprises (A. Smith).

The principles of scientific approach in the papers by famous thinkers of that time are based primarily on the nature of constituent state funds that seek to protect the nation from affecting social wealth changes occurring over time. Thus, these ideas are reflected in such contemporary issues as the reduction or negative changes in oil and gas revenues in the budget (and other natural resources), inflationary pressures on the economy, the imbalance of pension savings, the state budget deficit, and others (Ibraev, 2013, p. 94).

For a more clear definition of the conditions for the appearance of modern sovereign funds, it is necessary to look at the history of their creation, counting six decades. Despite the relatively short period of existence of funds, researchers distinguish several stages in the formation of state sovereign wealth funds. Thus, R. H. Ibraev identifies the three stages in the funds formation: the first stage - 1953-1960; the second stage - 1961-1999; the third stage - 2000-present (Ibraev, 2013, p. 98).

The first National Welfare Fund was established in February 1953 in London, Kuwait Investment Board, financed by the profits from the sale of Kuwaiti oil (Ibraev, 2013, p. 96).

Due to the accumulation of capital, a system of governmental management was established that allowed Kuwait in 1961 to declare its independence from Great Britain (Ibraev, 2013, p. 98).

In 1958, the income tax on the exports of phosphates, the only mine minerals on Hilbert Islands, the Reserve Fund for income equalization in Kiribati was established (Ibraev, 2013, p. 98).

The Norway's experience to create a stabilization fund can be useful for Russia (Danilina, 2004). In Russia, the history of creation and development of sovereign funds has a special character. Primarily, their creation is associated with the idea of institutionalized state budget surplus, which is formed in the form of account balances of the budget in the Russian Central Bank (Kudrin, 2006).

Thus, the sovereign wealth fund is a special state fund set up by revenues from exports of natural resources or due to foreign exchange reserves of the country.

### 3. Materials and Methods

When considering the conditions of welfare funds occurrence, there shall be noted the overall favourable trend of post-war development of the developed countries economies in 1960-80's of the XX century, such as high rates of economic growth, active industrialization and modernization of the economy, due to the phenomenon of catch-up, joining the developed countries in the era of scientific and technological revolution, the rising cost of hydrocarbon raw materials.

During this period, the sovereign wealth funds were created in the United States, Canada, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, Chile, Oman, and Brunei. The funds accumulated foreign currency from oil sales, which influx to the economies threatened to cause "overheating", so it was better to withdraw from their country budgets and generate investment funds for the binding of excess liquidity.

The sharp rise in oil prices since the beginning of the 2000s until mid-2008 ensured the growth of foreign exchange reserves to record high levels (average annual rate amounted to about 20%).

Before assessing the impact of macroeconomic indicators on the strategy of sovereign funds, it is necessary to consider the volume of assets of the largest sovereign wealth funds of states and choose sovereign wealth funds, the most suitable for the analysis. As of September 1, 2013, according to the Institute of sovereign wealth funds, about 70 sovereign wealth funds were created in the world, among the total number, the Institute allocated 10 largest funds in terms of assets, the total value of assets is 4630.7 bln. USD, or 79% of the value of the sovereign wealth funds' assets in the world (Institute of sovereign wealth funds, 2014). Table 1 shows the amount of the largest sovereign wealth funds' assets.

Table 1. The volume of assets of the largest sovereign wealth funds, USD bln (as of Sep 01, 2013)

S/ N	Name	State	The volume of assets, USD bln
1	Government Pension Fund - Global	Norway	737.2
2	Foreign assets of the Monetary Authority of Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabia	675.9
3	Abu Dhabi Investment Authority	UAE	627.0
4	China Investment Corporation	China	575.2
5	SAFE Investment Company	China	567.9
6	Kuwait Investment Authority	Kuwait	386.0
7	Hong Kong Monetary Authority investment authority	Hong Kong	326.7
8.	Government of Singapore Investment Corporation	Singapore	386.0
9	National Welfare Fund	Russian Federation	175.5
10	Temasek Holding	Singapore	173.3
	TOTAL		4630.7
	TOTAL		5470.0

\* Institute of Sovereign Wealth Funds, 2014.

As can be seen from the table, more than 54% of its assets are concentrated in five sovereign wealth funds of Norway, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and China, which indicates considerable potential macroeconomic impact of investment decisions of fund managers (Institute of sovereign wealth funds, 2014). As mentioned above, the majority of the sovereign wealth funds managed by public authorities through the

establishment of regulatory rates of return for different types of investments, limit the scope of investments in specific types of asset management costs, etc.

It shall also be noted that the rapid growth of sovereign wealth funds has occurred in the period from 2000 to 2012, when stock prices for hydrocarbons have risen to record levels, i.e. a significant inflow of funds more than 2.5 billion USD entered into the commodity funds. Source of funding for non-resource funds usually have foreign exchange reserves surplus.

Given that basic raw material commodities, which export brings superprofits to countries' public budgets, is oil, it is necessary to consider the dynamics of prices and volumes of its global production and consumption since 1970 to determine the effect of oil prices on the increase in the total assets of the sovereign funds of Norway and Russia. Change in oil prices between 1970 and 2012 is presented below at the Figure 1.

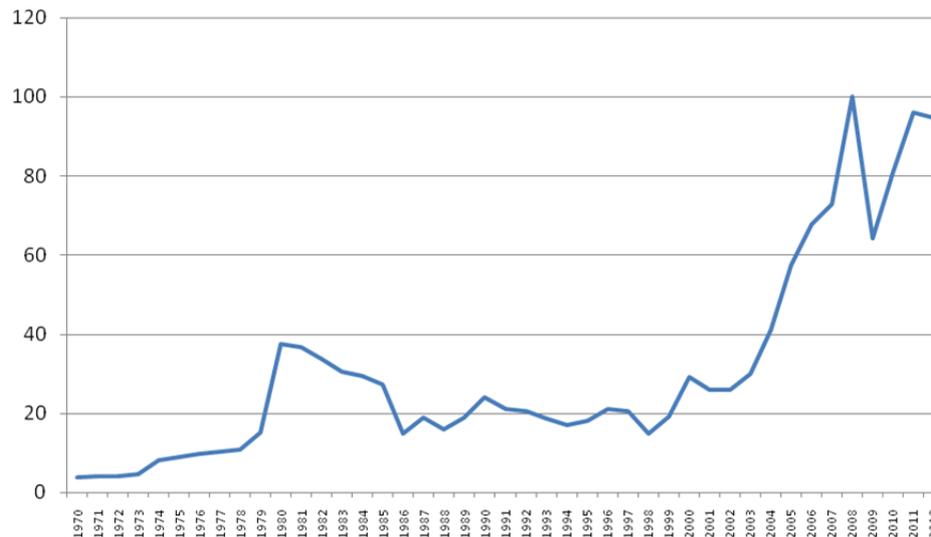


Figure 1. The dynamics of oil prices for the 1970-2012 in USD/bbl

As it can be seen from the chart, the price of oil has increased by 25 times: from 4 USD/Bbl to 95 USD/Bbl. In order to determine the degree of supply and demand fundamentals influence on the oil price, it is necessary to compare the volumes of oil production and consumption for a long period the same as for the period of the world oil prices changes. The dynamics of oil production and consumption in the period from 1970 to 2012 is shown in Table 2.

Next, we consider the dynamics of the dollar exchange rate compared to rouble and Norwegian krone, starting the replenishment periods of sovereign funds. The Norwegian Fund received the first instalment in 1996, while the Russian - in 2004 (Rzhevskaya, 2011). Figure 2 shows the fluctuation of the dollar exchange rate to the rouble exchange rate from 2003 to 2013.

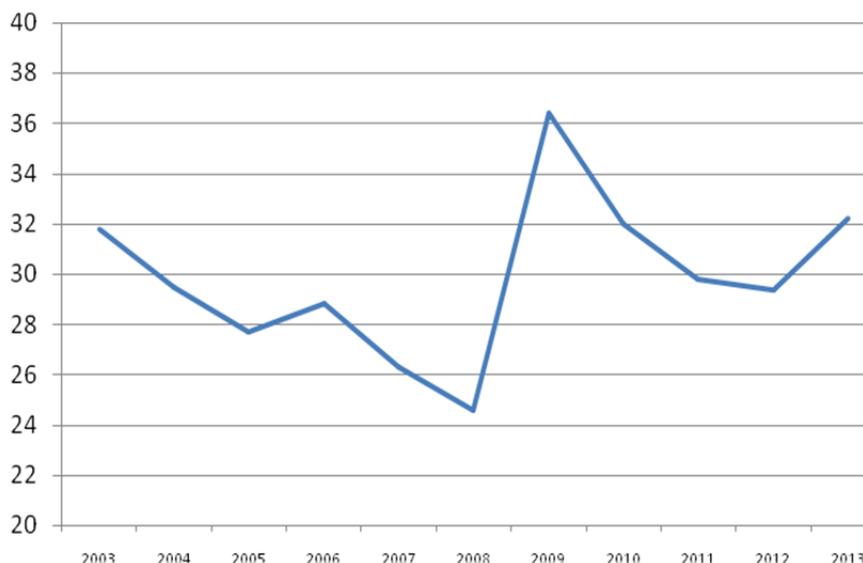


Figure 2. The dynamics of dollar exchange rate compared to rouble for 2003-2013, in RUR/USD

Dollar exchange rate in the period under review varied at the level of 30-32 roubles per 1 dollar. Sharp fluctuations in the dollar exchange rate compared to rouble were caused by the global financial crisis of 2008-2009. In this period, the maximum dollar exchange rate was 36 roubles, the lowest in 2008 - 25 roubles (Sukharev, O., 2009).

Changing the dollar exchange rate in relation to the Norwegian krone for the period 1995-2012 is shown in Figure 3.

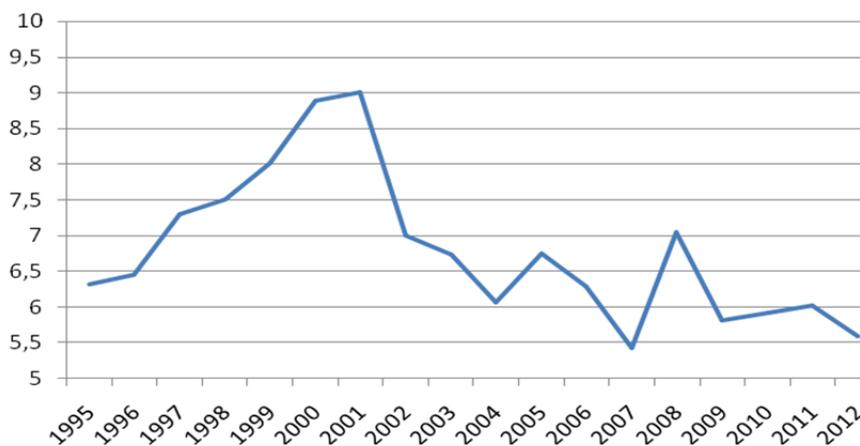


Figure 3. The dynamics of the US dollar exchange rate compared to the Norwegian krone for 1995-2013 (NOK/USD)

The dynamics of the dollar exchange rate despite the upward trend from 1995 to 2001, when the dollar exchange rate rose to 9 NOK tends to decrease with respect to the Norwegian krone. During the crisis, there was a decline rate by 1.6 krone after a peak at 7 Norwegian kroner/USD, and by the end of 2012, one dollar equalled to 5.5 Norwegian kroner.

Thus, the comparison of the dollar against the national currency of Norway and Russia showed that the decline in oil prices in 2009 affected the depreciation of the currency, that is, the value of the US dollar rose against the rouble and Norwegian krone.

In addition, the graphical analysis showed that the price of oil on the world market is susceptible to changes: from 2000 to 2008, the price rose from 30 USD/Bbl to 100 USD/Bbl., or 342% and then fell sharply to 65 USD/Bbl, and increased again to 95 USD/Bbl.

At that, graphics of changes in world oil production and consumption, despite the sharp fluctuations in the period from 1975 to 1982, are characterized by steady planned growth in 2012 compared to 2000, production and consumption increased from about 3.6 billion t to 4100 million t, or 13-15%, i.e. the price of oil, in addition to global supply and demand, is significantly influenced by other factors.

In this study, the price of oil is seen as a major factor in increasing revenues of the sovereign funds. The additional factor is the dollar exchange rate of the national currency.

### 3. Discussion and Results

The carried assessment of the impact of key macroeconomic factors on the revenue of the sovereign funds for the period of 1996-2012. demonstrated that due to increased revenue from oil exports, there was an increase of assets of sovereign funds: incomes to the fund of Norway increased by 7 times, the Russian Stabilization Fund - by 5 times. Table 2 shows the results of assessing the impact of key macroeconomic factors on the revenue formation of the sovereign funds for the period 1996-2012.

Table 2. Assessing the impact of key macroeconomic factors on the revenue of the sovereign funds for the period of 1996-2012. (as of Jan 01, 2013)

S/N	Factors	Norway			Russian Federation		
		First instalment year 1996.	Fiscal year 2012	Rel. change, %	First instalment year 2004	Fiscal year 2012	Rel. change, %
1.	Macroeconomic factors						
1.1.	Revenues from oil exports, bln.cr/bln. RUR	135	309	227%	1770	5760	325%
1.2.	Oil price, USD/Bbl	21	95	452%	41	95	232%
1.3.	Oil exports, mln t	137	68	50	260	240	92%
1.4.	Dollar exchange rate, nat.cur.it./USD	6.3	5.6	115%	30	32	107%
	Assets volume, bln. USD, total:	7	681	by 97 times	16	89	by 5 times
2.	Influence of factors on the amount of assets						
	Revenue from sovereign wealth funds, USD bln	7	49	709%	16	89	556%
2.1.	due to changes in oil export revenues	-	+172		-	+3990	
2.2.	due to changes in the oil price	-	+74		-	+54	
2.3.	due to changes in oil export volume	-	-69		-	-20	
2.5.	due to changes in the dollar exchange rate	-	-0,7		-	+2	

\* Review of materials based on the results of reports by the Statistics Bureau of Norway, the Central Bank of the Russian Federation, the Federal State Statistics Service, the companies of BP, the Ministry of Finance, and the Investment Management of the Norwegian bank.

Also, note that although the source of revenue in sovereign wealth funds is formed by the export of oil and gas, the paper investigates the impact of oil exports changes only.

Assessing the impact of key macroeconomic factors on the revenue formation of the sovereign funds for the period 1996-2012, it is clear, first, that Norway state budget revenues from oil exports during 16 years grew from 135 billion kroner in 1996 to 307 billion kroner in 2012, or 227%, in Russia, the growth of this indicator during 8 years comprised 305%. The increase in oil and gas revenues was due to the huge impact of changes in oil

prices: in 1996 the price increased by 4.5 times, in 2004 - by 2.3 times; while natural oil exports declined: in Norway - from 137 million t. in 1996 to 68 million t in 2012, or 50%, while in Russia - from 260 million t in 1996 to 240 million t in 2012, or by 8%. Due to increased revenue from oil exports, there was an increase of assets of sovereign funds: incomes to the fund of Norway increased by 7 times, the Russian Stabilization Fund - by 5 times.

The influence of key macroeconomic indicators for the use of Sovereign Wealth Funds in the dynamics of the change periods of these parameters on the example of Norway and Russia since the year contributions to the sovereign fund and ending with 2012 reporting year. Table 3 shows the evaluation of the impact of key macroeconomic indicators for the sovereign wealth funds use for the period 1996-2012.

Table 3. Assessing the impact of key macroeconomic factors on using the assets of the sovereign funds for the period of 1996-2012. (as of Jan 01, 2013)

Index	Norway			Russian Federation		
	First instalment year	Fiscal year	Rel. change, %	First instalment year	Fiscal year	Rel. change, %
	1996	2012		2004	2012	
GDP bln.cr/bln. RUR	1033	2909	282	17027	61811	363
incl. due to the oil and gas extraction	148	681	460	1412	5862	415
Public debt, bln.cr/bln.RUR	285	617	216	3630	1632	42
Public debt,% of GNP	28%	21%	-7%	21%	3%	-18%
Total residential area, sq.m/pers.	n/a	58.5	-	20.1	23.4	117%
Average monthly salary, nat. cur.it./ person,	n/a	40800	-	8555	23369	273
Assets volume, bln USD	7	681	by 97 times	16	89	by 5 times
Investment structure, 100%, incl.:	-	100	-	-	100	-
- financial assets of shares,%	-	60	-	-	-	-
- financial assets of bonds, currency,%	-	39	-	-	100	-
- real assets,%	-	1%	-	-	-	-

\* Review of materials because of reports by the Statistics Bureau of Norway, the Russian Central Bank, and the Federal State Statistics Service.

Having analysed the data presented, it can be concluded that the priorities of the direction of Sovereign Wealth Funds are largely determined by the achieved macroeconomic indicators of the state. Thus, a high level of average monthly salary in the amount of NOK 40800 per person, sufficient supply of housing area in the amount of 58.5 sqm/per person, acceptable level of public debt at 21% of the fund's investments determine the direction of the external financial markets and asset markets in developing countries. At the same time, poor indicator values in Russia define conservative strategy for the retention and preservation of Sovereign Wealth Funds in liquid assets. The level of public debt in 2012 amounted to 3% of GDP due to a reduction at the expense of its sovereign fund.

## 5. Conclusion

Effective use of Sovereign Wealth Funds requires coordination from the state. This is due not only to the state origin of the funds, but also the strategic goal of a sovereign fund to ensure the preservation and enhancement of the national wealth.

If the mining volume data and oil consumption are compared over the period from 1970 to 2012, it can be seen that the excess of demand over supply of oil was noted in 1985, 1987, 1999, 2002, 2007-2012, or 12 periods of 43 considered; total unsecured demand of 356 million t, or less than 10% of the annual production or consumption. Thus, we can conclude that the growth rates, hence the increase in oil revenues, are slightly influenced by the factors of increased demand and supply of oil, but in times of crisis of 2008-2009 their influence grew significantly.

Assessing the impact of key macroeconomic factors on the revenue formation of the sovereign funds for the

period 1996-2012, it is clear, that Norway state budget revenues from oil exports during 16 years grew from 135 billion kroner in 1996 to 307 billion kroner in 2012, or 227%, in Russia, the growth of this indicator during 8 years comprised 305%.

The increase in oil and gas revenues was due to the huge impact of changes in oil prices: in 1996 the price increased by 4.5 times, in 2004 - by 2.3 times; while natural oil exports declined: in Norway - from 137 million t. in 1996 to 68 million t in 2012, or 50%, while in Russia - from 260 million t in 1996 to 240 million t in 2012, or by 8%. Due to increased revenue from oil exports, there was an increase of assets of sovereign funds: incomes to the fund of Norway increased by 7 times, the Russian Stabilization Fund - by 5 times.

The result of analysing the impact of macroeconomic factors on the revenue of the sovereign wealth funds, such as the analysis of oil exports dynamics, changes in crude oil prices and the dollar exchange rate in relation to the Norwegian krone and Russian rouble, it can be concluded that the factors of oil price changes and the dollar against the national currency have a significant influence on the formation of raw superprofits of government budgets and thus the formation of sovereign wealth funds, even with a gradual decrease of the actual oil exports volume.

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