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## ECONOMIC DETERMINATION OF PUBLIC MOOD OF THE RUSSIANS: MYTH OR REALITY?<sup>1</sup>

***Abstract:** The paper deals with the research in the correlation between the parameters of the economic situation and the state of public mood. On the basis of the data presented in the paper, the author draws five important conclusions concerning the nature of the public mood as well as social and political activities of the Russians. Firstly, the economic situation is not a basic determinant for the mass mood as for the social and political activities of the Russian population. Secondly, non-economic factors have a decisive influence on the assessments of the overall situation in Russia. Thirdly, emotional and psychological conditions of the Russians significantly determine the economic assessments. Fourthly, changes in the country's economic situation are neither reflected in mass consciousness nor in the results of the sociological surveys. Fifthly, the Russian population very faintly links the development of the economic situation with the activities of the RF government.*

***Keywords:** assessment of the economy, economic crisis, economic assessment, Russian Federation, public opinion, public mood*

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The contemporary economic crisis has renewed the interest in research in identifying the correlation between the parameters of the economic situation and the state of public mood. A superficial glance at the problem makes one think that economic factors primarily determine the public mood, while the state of economy defines how the population assesses its own situation and activities of political institutions. Consequently, the state of economy affects the trend of political activity of the population.

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