

Special Economic Zones in the Russian Far East Four Years on: Current Status, achievements and challenges (Summary)

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This paper provides a preliminary evaluation of the current status, achievements, and challenges of the special economic zones in the Russian Far East. The Advanced Special Economic Zones (TOR) and the Free Port Vladivostok (SPV), were established through policy instruments introduced in 2015 to promote regional development. Since then, more than a thousand companies have become residents of these zones, giving us valuable knowledge and insights. We conduct a detailed analysis of the dataset of resident registers and reveal unique features different from other similar instruments applied outside the Russian Far East. We also investigate anecdotal evidence and court cases between residents and the managing companies of TOR and SPV, discuss the problems companies face, and also the reasons why some residents leave the zones.

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