

PRACE NAUKOWE

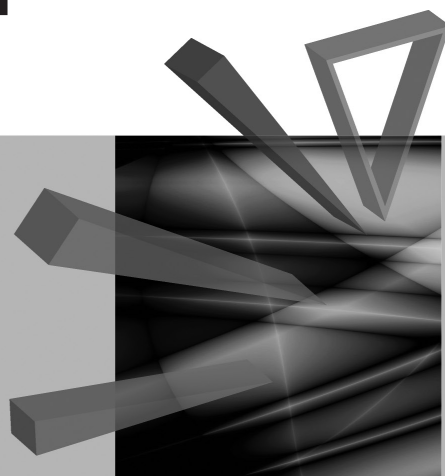
Uniwersytetu Ekonomicznego we Wrocławiu

RESEARCH PAPERS

of Wrocław University of Economics

294

Economical and Political Interrelations in the Asia-Pacific Region



edited by

Bogusława Skulska

Przemysław Skulski



Publishing House of Wrocław University of Economics
Wrocław 2013

Copy-editing: Agnieszka Flasińska

Layout: Barbara Łopusiewicz

Proof-reading: Barbara Łopusiewicz

Typesetting: Beata Mazur

Cover design: Beata Dębska

This publication is available at www.ibuk.pl, www.ebscohost.com,
and in The Central and Eastern European Online Library www.ceeol.com
as well as in the annotated bibliography of economic issues of BazEkon
http://kangur.uek.krakow.pl/bazy_ae/bazekon/nowy/index.php

Information on submitting and reviewing papers is available
on the Publishing House's website
www.wydawnictwo.ue.wroc.pl

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form
or in any means without the prior written permission of the Publisher

© Copyright by Wrocław University of Economics
Wrocław 2013

ISSN 1899-3192

ISBN 978-83-7695-314-4

The original version: printed

Printing: Printing House TOTEM

Contents

Introduction	7
Katarzyna Żukrowska: Cooperation in Asia-Pacific Region – effects of division of labour.....	9
Jerzy Dudziński, Jarosław Narękwicz: Export growth paths in selected Asian countries in the 21 st century.....	24
Magdalena Broszkiewicz: The level of development of corporate governance standards in selected Asian countries – a contribution of Pacific Economic Cooperation Council.....	34
Lukasz Fijałkowski: Securitization of non-traditional security issues in Southeast Asia. The evaluation of the concept.....	45
Grzegorz Mazur: The European Union and Japan – on the way to a free trade agreement.....	55
Artur Klimek: Economic outcomes of the BRICS initiative.....	65
Iwona Pawlas: The evaluation of trade relations between Poland and China.....	76
Ewa Trojnar: ECFA and its implications for China-Taiwan relations.....	88
Bartosz Michalski: Cooking a bowl of Asian noodles with a soupçon of Singapore. An overview of Singapore’s strategic motives for (cross-)regional trade agreements.....	98
Anna Wróbel: Bilateralism in the Asia-Pacific Region – the case of the Republic of Korea.....	113
Marcin Nowik: Colombo Plan – from India’s initiative on foreign assistance to regional organisation in Asia and the Pacific.....	122
Paweł Pasierbiak: Evolution of macroeconomic competitiveness of South Korea in the 21 st century.....	132
Maciej Żmuda: The government perspective on Chinese outward foreign direct investment.....	144
Tadeusz Sporek: Review of the investment policy of Nepal.....	154
Agnieszka Kukulka, Ewa Mińska-Struzik: Natural disasters and trade linkages in Asia – the case of Indonesia.....	163

Streszczenia

Katarzyna Żukrowska: Współpraca w regionie Azji i Pacyfiku – efekty podziału pracy.....	23
Jerzy Dudziński, Jarosław Narękwicz: Ścieżki rozwoju eksportu wybranych krajów azjatyckich w XXI wieku.....	33

Magdalena Broszkiewicz: Poziom rozwoju zasad ładu korporacyjnego w wybranych krajach azjatyckich – wkład Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC).....	44
Lukasz Fijalkowski: Sekurytyzacja nietradycyjnych zagrożeń dla bezpieczeństwa w Azji Południowo-Wschodniej. Ocena użyteczności analitycznej	54
Grzegorz Mazur: Unia Europejska-Japonia – w kierunku strefy wolnego handlu	64
Artur Klimek: Gospodarcze efekty współpracy w ramach inicjatywy BRICS	74
Iwona Pawlas: Rozwój stosunków handlowych między Polską i Chinami – próba oceny.....	87
Ewa Trojnar: Ramowa umowa o współpracy gospodarczej (ECFA) i jej wpływ na stosunki chińsko-tajwańskie	97
Bartosz Michalski: Gotując miszkę azjatyckich klusek z odrobiną Singapuru. Przegląd strategicznych motywów Singapuru w kwestii (między)regionalnych porozumień handlowych.....	112
Anna Wróbel: Bilateralizm w regionie Azji i Pacyfiku – przykład Republiki Korei	121
Marcin Nowik: Plan Colombo – od indyjskiej inicjatywy na rzecz pomocy rozwojowej do organizacji multilateralnej w regionie Azji i Pacyfiku.....	131
Paweł Pasierbiak: Ewolucja makroekonomicznej konkurencyjności Korei Południowej w XXI wieku	143
Maciej Źmuda: Polityka rządu Chin wobec wychodzących bezpośrednich inwestycji zagranicznych.....	153
Tadeusz Sporek: Przegląd polityki inwestycyjnej Nepalu	162
Agnieszka Kukulka, Ewa Mińska-Struzik: Katastrofy naturalne a relacje handlowe w Azji – przypadek Indonezji	173

Paweł Pasierbiak

Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin

EVOLUTION OF MACROECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS OF SOUTH KOREA IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Abstract: The increasing interdependence of national economies resulting from globalization makes the subjects to take actions in order to raise chances of winning the competition in the international environment. This results in a change in the capacity and the competitive position of countries participating in international economic flows. This study focuses on the analysis and evaluation of macroeconomic competitiveness of South Korea in the following areas: general competitiveness, price and cost competitiveness, non-price and external competitiveness.

Keywords: South Korea, general competitiveness, price and non-price competitiveness, foreign trade, RCA.

1. Introduction

The globalization of economic processes has contributed to the unprecedented growth of the competition in international markets. Existing leaders began to feel the pressure from the more dynamic economies, especially those coming from the Asia-Pacific region. This has been reflected in many areas of the economy, but clearly manifested in the field of international trade. More and more powerful emerging economies of Asia increased participation in international markets, previously reserved for developed countries.

This process has taken place also in the case of South Korea, which, due to high economic growth and as a result of improved effectiveness of actions taken, is one of the so-called Asian tigers.¹ Since the early 60s of the 20th century, Korea's economic policy was directed towards liberalization consisting of currency devaluation, the introduction of a single exchange rate, trade liberalization, manipulating of interest rate.² At the same time there was observed an improvement of the

¹ In addition to South Korea, the first generation of tigers included Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

² J.-I. You, The long and winding road to liberalization: The South Korean experience, [in:] L. Taylor (Ed.), *External Liberalization in Asia, Post-Socialist Countries and Brazil*, Oxford Scholarship Online, May 2007, p. 207 (retrieved 11.05.2013).

country's economy together with the increasing growth of exports. South Korea was functioning better and better in international markets, transforming its capability into relatively high competitive position.

The aim of this study is a synthetic presentation and assessment of the current state of macroeconomic competitiveness of the economy of South Korea in relation to other economically important countries (USA, Japan, China and Germany). Achieving this goal will involve the analysis of selected indicators to measure the competitiveness of the country in the areas of general competitiveness, price and cost competitiveness, non-price competitiveness and external competitiveness. The results will provide a verification of the hypothesis of increasing competitiveness of South Korea in the global economy. The period of scrutiny will cover years 2000–2012 and the method will be based on the presentation and analysis of statistical data, their description and interpretation.

2. Definition of national competitiveness

Competitiveness is an ambiguous term which can be interpreted at the level of the company, sector, region, nation or supra-national organizations.³ While the definition at the enterprise level raises not too much controversy, whereas formulation of the definition of national competitiveness is a much tougher. This problem was in the field of interest of B. Balassa, W. Bienkowski, P. Krugman, A. Nehring, M. Porter, L. Tyson and others. Competitiveness of the country was understood differently by each of these authors, which meant that some aspects of the definition were exhibited, and less attention was paid to other elements. According to the classification presented by W. Bienkowski we can identify three main types of definition of competitiveness:⁴

- *results' definitions*, relating to the results generated by an economy, including, among others, the level of national income, the share in world exports (assessment of the competitive position achieved by the state);
- *factors' definitions*, focusing on the sources of competitiveness of the economy that affect the future competitive position of the country (assessment of competitive ability);
- *factors and results' definitions*, taking into account both the current economic potential, achieved competitive position and so called ability to compete, e.g. the factors determining the future competitive position of the country.

³ M.J. Radło, Międzynarodowa konkurencyjność gospodarki. Uwagi na temat definicji, czynników i miar, [in:] W. Bienkowski et al., *Czynniki i miary międzynarodowej konkurencyjności gospodarek w kontekście globalizacji – wstępne wyniki badań*, Prace i Materiały Nr 284, Instytut Gospodarki Światowej, Szkoła Główna Handlowa, Warszawa 2008.

⁴ *Ibidem*.

In this study, the analysis and the assessment of national competitiveness at the macro level was done according to the approach of F. Di Mauro and K. Forester.⁵ In their analysis the competitiveness is multidimensional and assessment should include at least four areas: 1) the measures of economic growth; 2) price and cost competitiveness; 3) non-price competitiveness and 4) external competitiveness. Those areas will be subject to detailed assessment of such selected measures as;⁶ 1) an increase in real GDP *per capita*, labour productivity growth, growth of total factor productivity (TFP); 2) changes in the real effective exchange rate and 3) the level of expenses on R&D, the number of triadic patents families, 4) changes in a share in world exports, export growth, and the index of revealed comparative advantage.

3. Areas of international competitiveness of South Korea

3.1. General competitiveness

The general competitiveness of the economy of South Korea increased during the period of 2000–2012. However, due to the fact that the analysed years were characterized by a high degree of variability, the indicators describing the general competitiveness showed also the variability. Gross domestic product *per capita* is a synthetic measure of the competitiveness of the country but also an indicator of the standard of life in the society. In the case of South Korea's real GDP *per capita* in the period 2000–2012 increased by almost 50% from 14.8 million to 22.1 million won (KRW).⁷ Table 1 shows the data on changes in GDP *per capita* for Korea and other selected countries.

Analysis of the data shows that South Korea improved their competitiveness in relation to the developed countries, while the higher growth rate of GDP *per capita* was achieved only by China. The economic recession associated with the speculative bubble burst in the IT market at the beginning of the 21st century has not caused a sharp decline in the growth rate which temporarily (2001) declined to 3.2%, but in the next year rose again to 6.6%. Major changes took place during the financial and economic crisis of 2008–2009, when the GDP *per capita* rate of growth was negative (–0.2%). However, in the case of developed countries the drop was: –5.5% for Japan,

⁵ F. Di Mauro, K. Forster, *Competitiveness as a multi-dimensional concept*, [in:] F. Di Mauro, B.R. Mandel (Eds.), *Recovery and Beyond. Lessons for Trade Adjustment and Competitiveness*, ECB, Frankfurt am Main 2011, pp. 12–19.

⁶ More on the topic see among others: T. Białowas, Zróżnicowanie konkurencyjności a pozycja eksportowa krajów członkowskich Unii Europejskiej w handlu międzynarodowym w latach 1995–2011, [in:] P. Misztal, W. Rakowski (Eds.), *Przyszłość integracji europejskiej. Uwarunkowania rozwoju gospodarczego Unii Europejskiej*, Wydawnictwo CeDeWu, Warszawa 2012, p. 127.

⁷ *World Economic Outlook Database*, April 2013, <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2013/01/weodata/weosegr.aspx> (retrieved 24.05.2013).

Table 1. Gross domestic product of Korea, USA, Japan, China and Germany, annual changes in %

Specification	Korea	USA	Japan	China	Germany
2000	7.9	3.0	2.1	7.6	3.2
2001	3.2	0.0	0.1	7.6	1.5
2002	6.6	0.8	0.1	8.4	-0.1
2003	2.3	1.6	1.5	9.4	-0.1
2004	4.2	2.5	2.3	9.4	0.7
2005	3.7	2.1	1.3	10.7	0.9
2006	4.7	1.7	1.6	12.1	4.0
2007	4.6	0.9	2.1	13.6	3.5
2008	1.6	-1.3	-1.1	9.1	1.0
2009	-0.2	-3.9	-5.5	8.7	-4.8
2010	5.8	1.6	4.7	9.9	4.2
2011	2.9	1.1	-0.5	8.8	3.1
2012	1.6	1.5	2.2	7.3	0.7

Source: own preparation based on the World Economic Outlook Database, April 2013, <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2013/01/weodata/weoselgr.aspx> (retrieved 24.05.2013).

-4.8% for Germany and -3.9% for the U.S. The only country that did not suffer significantly during the crisis was China, but in this case there is a noticeable decline in the growth rate from 2010.

Conclusions from the analysis of GDP *per capita* are also confirmed by data on labour productivity and total factor productivity (TFP). Among the group of developed countries taken as a reference group, South Korea has not had actually a competitor. This is illustrated by a graph showing the growth rate of labour productivity per hour worked (Figure 1) and the data describing a change in the total factor productivity (Table 2).

In the period under scrutiny, South Korea increased markedly superiority over the group of developed countries in terms of labour productivity growth (per hour worked). Despite the fact that both at the beginning (2000–2001) and at the end of the period (2012) the labour productivity growth rate was comparable to other developed countries, in other years, the growth rate was significantly higher than all the reference countries and higher than the average for OECD countries and the average for the world. This was partly due to the so-called catch-up effect which consists in achieving higher growth rates in countries with a lower level of development. This effect was to some extent also performed in Korea. If the performance in the field of labour productivity is measured by GDP per person employed, the advantage of Korea is not as clear as in the case of GDP per hour worked, but still exists.

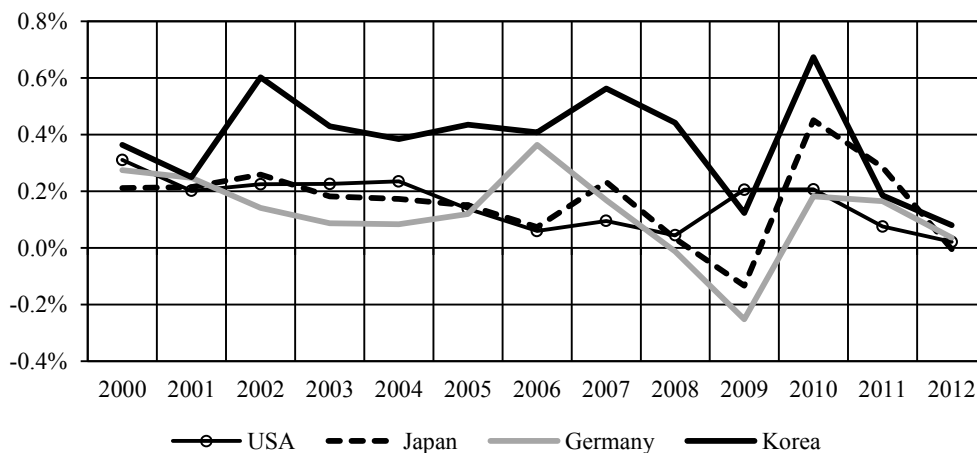


Figure 1. Labour productivity growth of selected countries, GDP per hour in %

Source: own preparation based on *The Conference Board Total Economy Database*TM, January 2013, <http://www.conference-board.org/data/economydatabase> (retrieved 2.06.2013).

Increasing productivity has a positive effect on the competitiveness of Korea in the area of foreign trade, because higher factors efficiency results in: first, the very possibility of the introducing goods on the international markets, and second, improving the competitiveness of the offered products for international markets.

Table 2. Total factor productivity growth in the period of 2000–2012, in %

Specification	Korea	USA	Japan	China	Germany
2000	2.59	1.18	0.84	3.34	2.28
2001	-0.67	-0.28	-0.01	4.72	1.07
2002	3.60	0.41	0.52	6.16	0.06
2003	1.47	0.93	0.79	7.96	-0.25
2004	2.00	1.66	1.28	2.90	0.35
2005	2.17	0.81	0.64	2.96	1.45
2006	2.50	0.03	0.53	4.78	2.90
2007	3.41	-0.11	1.59	6.06	1.29
2008	1.83	-1.12	-0.91	2.41	-0.64
2009	-0.62	-0.69	-3.63	1.93	-3.97
2010	4.80	1.76	4.24	2.87	2.26
2011	0.47	0.56	1.01	2.14	1.44
2012	-0.65	0.20	-0.02	–	-0.42

Source: own preparation based on *The Conference Board*...

The data in Table 2 indicate a clear differentiation between the countries in the field of total factor productivity growth. However, it should be noted that apart from China, the results of the Korean economy in the period were better than those for the rest of the analysed economies. In 2009, when most of the world economies were badly hit by the crisis, the Korean TFP fell only by the smallest value (0.62 percentage points), while in Japan by 3.63%, and in Germany by 3.97%.

3.2. Price and cost competitiveness of South Korea

The assessment of the price competitiveness of Korea presented in this paper is based mainly on the analysis of changes in the real effective exchange rate (REER), as it is one of the most objective measures of economic competitiveness. With higher prices or labour costs in relation to the group of reference countries, a change (appreciation) of the real effective exchange rate takes place, and as a consequence a decrease in country's price competitiveness of exports. Changes in the real effective exchange rate of Korea from 2000 are presented on Figure 2.

Observing changes in Korea in this area (see Figure 2), we can conclude that the REER has evolved initially towards the appreciation (up to 2006), and then in the

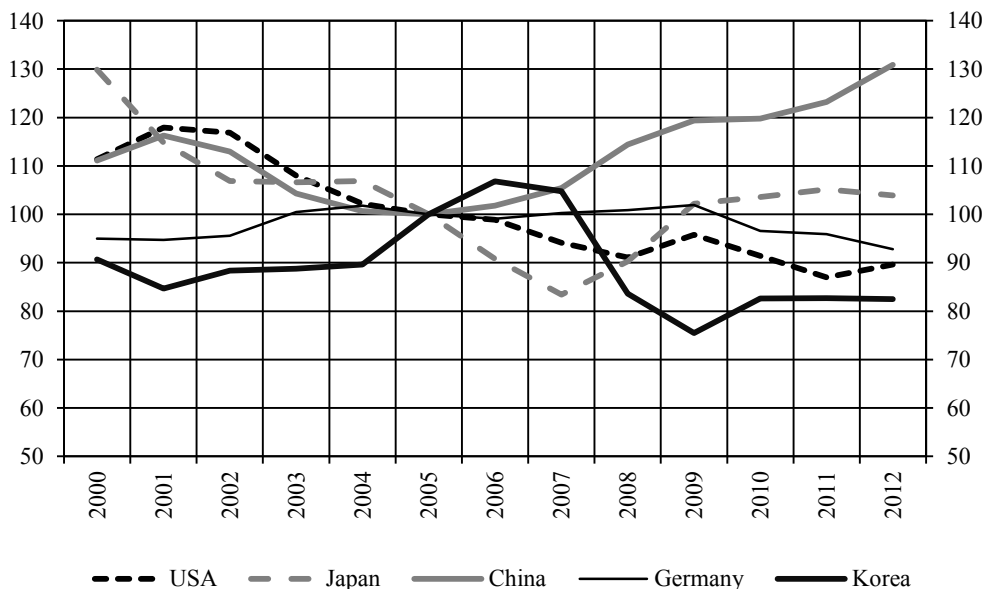


Figure 2. Real effective exchange rates (REER) in the period 2000–2012, 2005 = 100

Source: own preparation based on *Price and Cost Competitiveness. Quarterly data on price and cost competitiveness of the European Union and its Member States*, Fourth quarter 2012, ECFIN/E4/2013, European Communities 2013, pp. 11, 57, 59, 76, 78.

direction of depreciation in relation to the reference group of 41 countries.⁸ Since 2008, the exchange rate of the Korean currency has weakened quickly and the situation has been improving against that of Germany, China, the United States and Japan. The relationship between KRW and JPY is of particular importance, as Korea and Japan are competitors against each other in multiple international markets, offering similar, substitutable products. Increasing competitiveness of Korea is to some extent due to changes that have occurred in the bilateral exchange rate between the Japanese yen and Korean won. Since 2007, the exchange rate of the yen against 41 major trading partners increased, with the much higher rate of appreciation against the Korean currency.⁹ These changes improved the price competitiveness of Korean exports at the expense of Japanese exports.

3.3. Non-price competitiveness

The competitiveness of a national economy is determined not only by the cost factors, but also by the group of non-price factors of equal importance. The latter category is sometimes indicated as even more important in shaping a country's competitive advantage and increasing exports than cost factors. At the same time, a group of indicators describing a non-price competitiveness of the country is very large. Important areas of analysis are: technological maturity of the country, innovation, expenditures on R&D, the share of the country in patenting activity and transport infrastructure. Reports on the international competitiveness of countries indicate such things as, among others:¹⁰ institutions, infrastructure, macroeconomic environment, education at different levels, the efficiency of the market for goods and labour markets, the development of financial markets, but also such as technological readiness.

In many areas of non-price competitiveness Korea is at the forefront of OECD countries.¹¹ One of the key indicators of technological advancement of the national economy is the amount of expenditures on R&D in relation to GDP. It builds the basis for the future success of companies and products on international markets. In the case of South Korea, we can say that it implements the development policy based on the technology. It has high levels of R&D expenditure, a highly educated labour force, good and improving innovation framework conditions, large knowledge-intensive and internationally competitive firms, and a strong ICT infrastructure.¹² In

⁸ The reference group includes 36 industrialized countries plus Russia, China, Brazil, Hong Kong and Korea.

⁹ *OECD Economic Surveys: Japan*, OECD Publishing, April 2011, p. 30.

¹⁰ *The Global Competitiveness Report 2011–2012*, World Economic Forum, Geneva 2011, pp. 47–49.

¹¹ Due to the limited size of the article only selected measures of non-price competitiveness of Korea will be presented.

¹² *OECD Science, Technology and Industry Outlook 2012*, OECD Publishing, Paris 2012, p. 336.

the first decade of the 21st century, Korea expenditure on R&D was increasing by 9.3% annually on average, and from 2006 to 2010 by 10%.¹³ According to the OECD in 2011 Korea came in third place in terms of spending on R&D in relation to GDP as ratio exceeded the level of 3.7%.¹⁴ Higher positions in the ranking were appointed only to Israel and Finland. Japan was ranked fifth, Germany eighth, and the United States tenth. A general good position Korea does not mean, however, that in every aspect the country is doing better than competitors. In the group of countries analysed in this article (except China), Korea has the lowest participation in the so-called triadic patent families. Its share in 2010 was 4.42%, while for example that of Japan 31.21%.¹⁵ It is one of a few areas that need improvement in terms of improving the competitiveness of the country.

Overall good position of South Korea in the area of innovation confirms also the analysis carried out with respect to the European Union.¹⁶ Figure 3 shows selected indicators of the position of Korea against the European Union in this regard. In six out of eleven criteria, South Korea showed better results than the European Union in general. The largest advantage occurred in the area of spending on R&D by business sector. At the same time in a period of five years before the survey Korea has been increasing their lead by 3% on average.¹⁷ The relatively high advantage was also

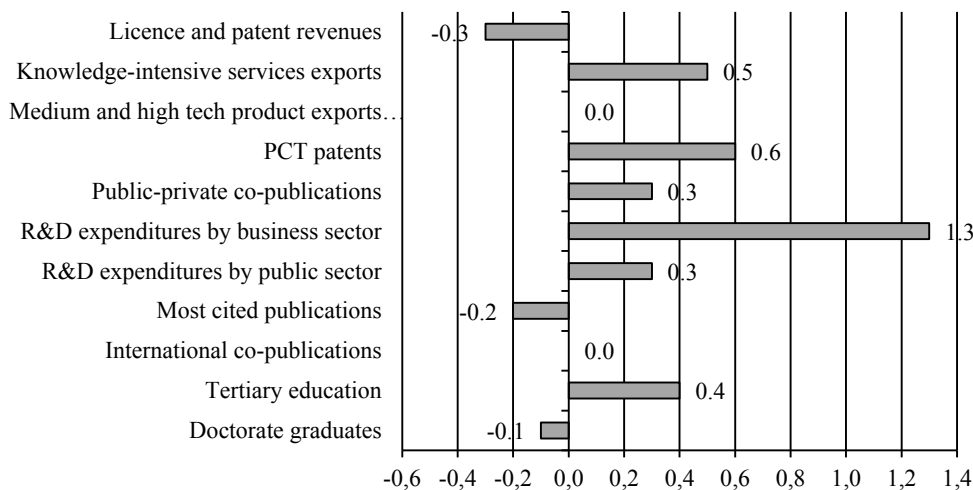


Figure 3. Innovation performance lead/gap of South Korea over the EU

Source: own preparation based on *Innovation Union Scoreboard 2013*, p. 24.

¹³ *Ibidem*.

¹⁴ *Main Science and Technology Indicators Volume 2012 Issue 2*, OECD Publishing, Paris 2013, p. 21.

¹⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 85.

¹⁶ *Innovation Union Scoreboard 2013*, European Commission 2013, p. 24.

¹⁷ *Ibidem*.

reported in the patent activities, knowledge-intensive services export and in tertiary education. Korea showed less competitive in the criterion of patents and licenses revenue and doctorate graduates.

The competitive position of South Korea against the European Union has increased significantly. European Commission estimates indicate that in 2008 Korea was about 7% more innovative than the European Union, and in 2012 the advantage in this area has increased to 20%.¹⁸ If at the same time innovativeness of the U.S. and Japan against the EU has been declining, we can conclude about increasing innovation of Korea against the United States and Japan.

3.4. External competitiveness

The competitiveness of an economy is verified firmly on the international markets. If a country is able to transform its ability to compete into a real competitive advantage, it can be observed in the area of its foreign trade, among others. The analysis of this kind of competition can cover the examination of the set of measures, ranging from simple indicators of exports growth, the share of a country in world trade to more complex measures of revealed competitive advantage. The data collected in Table 3 show that the Korean export growth was relatively high, especially when compared with developed countries. However, quite a low base of comparison resulted in that the Korean share in world exports increased only slightly from 2.7% (2000) to 3% (2012).¹⁹ Traditional world exporters were losing their

Table 3. Dynamics of merchandise exports of selected economies in 2000–2012, in %

Year	World	China	Germany	Japan	USA	Korea
2000	13.0%	27.8%	1.5%	14.8%	12.4%	19.9%
2001	-4.1%	6.8%	3.6%	-15.8%	-6.8%	-12.7%
2002	4.9%	22.4%	7.7%	3.3%	-4.9%	8.0%
2003	16.8%	34.6%	22.0%	13.2%	4.6%	19.3%
2004	21.5%	35.4%	21.1%	19.9%	12.4%	31.0%
2005	13.9%	28.4%	6.7%	5.2%	10.6%	12.0%
2006	15.4%	27.2%	14.1%	8.7%	13.9%	14.4%
2007	15.6%	26.0%	19.2%	10.5%	11.9%	14.1%
2008	15.2%	17.2%	9.5%	9.4%	12.1%	13.6%
2009	-22.3%	-16.0%	-22.6%	-25.7%	-18.0%	-13.9%
2010	21.9%	31.3%	12.4%	32.6%	21.0%	28.3%
2011	19.6%	20.3%	17.1%	6.9%	15.8%	19.0%
2012	0.2%	7.9%	-4.5%	-3.0%	4.5%	-1.3%

Source: own preparation based on the WTO Database.

¹⁸ *Ibidem*, p. 22.

¹⁹ WTO Database, <http://stat.wto.org/StatisticalProgram/WSDBStatProgramHome.aspx?Language=E> (retrieved 1.06.2013).

importance at the same time (Germany, U.S.A., Japan reduced their shares), and the Asian countries were gaining (mainly China, but also Korea). It was also a consequence of the changes that were taking place in the field of comparative advantages of each country.

The structural changes in international trade also depended on the advantage growth of Asian countries in the areas perceived as modern and highly technologically advanced. Illustration of these changes is given in Table 4.

Table 4. Revealed comparative advantage (RCA) based on gross exports, manufacturing goods in 2000 and 2009

Specification		Food products, beverages and tobacco	Textiles, textile products, leather and footwear	Wood, paper, paper products, printing and publishing	Chemicals and non-metallic mineral products	Basic metals and fabricated metal products	Machinery and equipment, nec	Electrical and optical equipment	Transport equipment	Manufacturing nec; recycling
Korea	2000	0.2629	1.6711	0.2433	0.9528	0.8149	0.5195	1.5103	0.9763	0.4843
	2009	0.1915	0.5374	0.1884	0.8247	0.9143	0.7516	1.716	1.6234	0.185
USA	2000	0.7161	0.3765	0.9642	0.8061	0.6414	1.1816	1.3865	1.1389	0.8788
	2009	0.9499	0.2116	1.5405	1.1634	0.6985	1.0374	0.9476	1.2189	1.0779
Japan	2000	0.0697	0.1786	0.119	0.5792	0.746	1.5403	1.5233	1.6046	0.7606
	2009	0.1022	0.1418	0.1552	0.6936	1.0915	1.2223	1.3848	1.8836	0.9386
China	2000	0.7325	3.6344	0.457	0.7669	0.9524	0.3225	1.2654	0.1748	1.7656
	2009	0.3421	2.6121	0.5368	0.5082	0.843	0.8392	1.8211	0.3278	1.5906
Germany	2000	0.7206	0.334	0.9446	1.1098	1.2559	1.6288	0.5744	1.5879	0.5356
	2009	0.6389	0.1808	0.9437	0.9504	1.1523	1.8854	0.5955	1.6443	0.5773

RCA > 1 – a country has a revealed comparative advantage over a reference group of countries.

RCA < 1 – a country do not have a revealed comparative advantage over a reference group of countries.

Source: *OECD-WTO Trade in Value Added (TiVA) – May 2013*, <http://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?queryid=47807> (retrieved 7.06.2013).

Analysis of the data from Table 4 justifies the claim that South Korea built its competitive advantage especially in the progressive areas, and it decreased in the areas treated as traditional, with a low degree of technical sophistication. RCA index for Korea increased in industries such as: *electrical and optical equipment* and *transport equipment*, and fell among others in *textiles, textile products, feather and footwear*. The competitive advantage of other countries evolved in slightly different directions. In the case of the U.S., its advantages grew in areas with a lower level of technological advancement (e.g. *wood, paper products, printing and publishing*). China had the highest RCA index value in the field of a *textile industry*, but also

increasing in the field of *electrical and optical equipment*. In the case of Germany, the largest revealed comparative advantage was observed in the group of *machinery and equipment, nec*, and in *transport equipment*.

4. Conclusions

The analysis of macroeconomic competitiveness of South Korea presented in this paper has focused on the assessment of the changes in the country's general competitiveness, price and cost competitiveness, non-price and external competitiveness. In the period 2000–2012 the situation of the country with respect to the reference countries improved substantially in all these areas, but, depending on the measure and on the country, the changes were more or less dynamic. The improving competitiveness of South Korea is more and more positively verified on international markets.

References

- Białowas T., Zróżnicowanie konkurencyjności a pozycja eksportowa krajów członkowskich Unii Europejskiej w handlu międzynarodowym w latach 1995–2011, [in:] P. Misztal, W. Rakowski (Eds.), *Przyszłość integracji europejskiej. Uwarunkowania rozwoju gospodarczego Unii Europejskiej*, Wydawnictwo CeDeWu, Warszawa 2012.
- Di Mauro F., Forster K., Competitiveness as a multi-dimensional concept, [in:] F. Di Mauro, B.R. Mandel (Eds.), *Recovery and Beyond. Lessons for Trade Adjustment and Competitiveness*, ECB, Frankfurt am Main 2011.
- Innovation Union Scoreboard 2013*, European Commission 2013.
- Main Science and Technology Indicators Volume 2012 Issue 2*, OECD Publishing, Paris 2013.
- OECD Economic Surveys: Japan*, OECD Publishing, April 2011.
- OECD Science, Technology and Industry Outlook 2012*, OECD Publishing, Paris 2012.
- OECD-WTO Trade in Value Added (TiVA) – May 2013*, <http://stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?queryid=47807>.
- Price and Cost Competitiveness. Quarterly data on price and cost competitiveness of the European Union and its Member States*, Fourth quarter 2012, ECFIN/E4/2013, European Communities 2013.
- Radło M.J., Międzynarodowa konkurencyjność gospodarki. Uwagi na temat definicji, czynników i miar, [in:] W. Bieńkowski et al., *Czynniki i miary międzynarodowej konkurencyjności gospodarek w kontekście globalizacji – wstępne wyniki badań*, Prace i Materiały Nr 284, Instytut Gospodarki Światowej, Szkoła Główna Handlowa, Warszawa 2008.
- The Conference Board Total Economy Database™*, January 2013, <http://www.conference-board.org/data/economydatabase>.
- The Global Competitiveness Report 2011–2012*, World Economic Forum, Geneva 2011.
- World Economic Outlook Database*, April 2013, <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2013/01/weodata/weosegr.aspx>.
- WTO Database, <http://stat.wto.org/StatisticalProgram/WSDBStatProgramHome.aspx?Language=E>.
- You J.-I., The long and winding road to liberalization: The South Korean experience, [in:] L. Taylor (Ed.), *External Liberalization in Asia, Post-Socialist Countries and Brazil*, Oxford Scholarship Online, May 2007.

EWOLUCJA MAKROEKONOMICZNEJ KONKURENCYJNOŚCI KOREI POŁUDNIOWEJ W XXI WIEKU

Streszczenie: Korea Południowa jest krajem, który w warunkach globalizacji skutecznie poprawia swoją zdolność oraz pozycję konkurencyjną. Analizując wybrane wskaźniki konkurencyjności ogólnej, konkurencyjności cenowo-kosztowej, pozacenowej oraz konkurencyjności zewnętrznej, autor opracowania przedstawia statystyczne dowody na to, iż od początku XXI w. sytuacja Korei względem wybranych gospodarek rozwiniętych zdecydowanie się poprawiła. Porównanie z Chinami nie daje już jednak tak pozytywnych rezultatów, co zdaje się potwierdzać tezę, iż region azjatycki staje się coraz bardziej konkurencyjnym ośrodkiem gospodarki światowej. Obrany przez Koreę Południową kierunek rozwoju oparty na promowaniu rozwoju technologicznego zaczyna przynosić wymierne efekty.

Słowa kluczowe: Korea Południowa, konkurencyjność ogólna, konkurencyjność cenowo-kosztowa, konkurencyjność pozacenowa, handel zagraniczny, RCA.