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## **CURRENT STATE, PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS FOR THE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT OF WATER TRANSPORT PORT COMPLEXES**

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**Abstract.** The article examines the current state of water transport port complexes, as well as its infrastructure important components. The cargo turnover volume, including by cargo type, and loading and unloading work in existing sea and river ports of the Russian Federation was analyzed in comparison with the previous 2022 year. Positive dynamics are indicated. The Russian port economy, the overall quantity and condition of the complexes necessary for effective operation are briefly illustrated. It also shows the problems and limiting factors of water transport and hinder its intensive development: the geographical location of some port complexes, the high port infrastructure's wear and tear degree, the lack of timely systems modernization, the low investment attractiveness level, the shortage of ships, lack of Russian ports' infrastructure capacity, discrepancy between the workers' qualifications and the modernized port infrastructure requirements. In addition, the article determines the development paths of the sector, illustrates the prospects and opportunities for this transport industry development - all infrastructure systems modernization will have a positive impact on the quality and time of cargo processing in the ports, which is an important competitiveness indicator.

**Keywords:** port facilities; port complexes; port infrastructure; water transport; freight transportation; freight turnover.

**JEL codes:** R40; R49.

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