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Abstract. In this short scientific article 2 types of joint-stock companies in the Russian economy are considered. Their fundamental differences were revealed. Besides, the sector of joint-stock companies in the country was analyzed, the main trend of its current development was identified and the reasons were determined. Conclusions were drawn.

Keywords: stock, issuer, joint-stock company (JSC), dividend, stock exchange, central bank, organizational legal form.

«PRESSING ISSUES OF THE JSC’S SECTOR IN THE RUSSIAN ECONOMY»

The contemporary Russian economy is just impossible without large ambitious projects and, as a consequence, investment activity, in particular without such important structures as joint-stock companies (JSC for short). JSC as a form of business organization, they originated from the needs of the economy - from substantial issue in the area of production and distribution: the quick accumulation of a large amount of funds for the development of their business.

Nowadays in Russian Federation there are 2 types of JSC: Public Joint-Stock Companies (PJSC for short) and non-public Joint-Stock Companies (just JSC for short). Undoubtedly, there are some significant differences between them. For instance, the minimal authorized capital (for PJSC it is 100000RUB and for JSC – 10000RUB), number of stockholders (for PJSC there are no limitations and for JSC - not more than 50), public presentation of financial reports (for PJSC it is obligatory, for JSC - not), method of the initial stock offering (for PJSC it is IPO method - listing on the stock exchange and public circulation: availability of purchase for everyone, for JSC - by a closed subscription for a certain group of people), keeping special register of holders (for PJSC it is obligatory, for JSC - not), the existence of collegial management and the board of directors (for PJSC it is obligatory, for JSC - optional), preferential right to purchase shares (for JSC it is available, for PJSC - not), ability of issuing and placing preferred stocks, the value of which is lower than common stocks (for JSC it is available, for PJSC - not), obligatory publication of financial reports and informing (for PJSC it is obligatory, for JSC - optional).

JSC in numbers. The situation in the sector of Russian joint-stock companies. According to the Unified Interdepartmental Information and Statistical System (EMISS), the number of joint-stock companies whose stocks are federally owned is decreasing in almost all key sectors of the Russian economy. For better visualization, diagram 1 demonstrates the relative decrease in the number of joint-stock companies for 2 years (2017-2019) over industries in percentage terms.

Diagram 1. Dynamics of the number of joint-stock companies in Russia.

It is worth noting the most significant decrease in JSC in the sphere of administrative services and in the sphere of mining - 43% and 36% respectively. At the same time, increase has been detected in some industries: in the hotel and restaurant business sector growth is +11% and in the sector of real estate and dealings with it the growth is about +12%. Especially it is worth mentioning a considerable increase in the sphere of health and social services. In some industries, there is zero dynamics during this period: watersupply, sanitation and waste disposal, cultural and leisure structures.

How to explain the trend of decrease of public joint-stock companies and joint-stock companies in general? From one side, PJSC are able to accumulate a large amount of funds faster and more efficiently due to the IPO, so it could be obtained by indefinite circle of persons, besides such a company is actively promoted by advertising or listing on the stock exchange. From other side, this successful system generates a considerable amount of responsibility and associated liabilities, including: detailed publication of a large array of information about the company, lack of flexibility in the design of corporate procedures, compulsory preparation of securities issue prospectus, which is quite expensive and time-consuming. So in case of organizing PJSC a large team of specialists, who are involved in the financial, auditing, and legal activities of the organization, is needed. Not all businesses have such profit flows that could allow them to spend too much funds on these needs.

Meanwhile, LLC (Limited liability company) is registered instead of JSC more frequently nowadays. Why is this happening? It is obvious that the functioning of a JSC is more resource-consuming-it is necessary to involve more specialists and funds to keep the financial and legal documentation within the framework of the current legislation. Such specific expenditures as compulsory annual audit, issue, certification of decisions of meetings by a notary (a special licensed organization for PJSC). Thus strict legislation that regulates activity of joint-stock companies creates a less flexible environment for making decisions. In LLC and other organizational forms of business making adjustments to their current activities is easier, faster and less expensive.

Nevertheless, total disappearance of joint-stock companies, and in particular public ones, is impossible in the realities of today's economic conjuncture. For instance, such system-forming industries as the oil and gas sector or the banking sector face the necessity of organizing a joint-stock company anyway due to the need to concentrate large amounts of finance. According to the Forbes list, as of 2022, the largest joint-stock companies in the Russia are: PJSC Gazprom, PJSC Lukoil, PJSC NK Rosneft, PJSC Sberbank, PJSC VTB, PJSC Russian Railways, PJSC SurgutNeftegaz and others. The stocks of these companies are also called stocks of Russian issuers, they are traded on the two largest Russian stock exchanges. Diagrams 3 and 4 demonstrate the amount of stocks of Russian issuers listed on the national stock market in dynamics from 2018 to 2022 and from 2015 to 2022 (stocks in foreign currency) (Source: Central Bank of Russia).

Diagram 3. Quoted stocks of Russian issuers traded on the domestic stock market (in rubles and foreign currency)

Diagram 4. Quoted stocks of Russian issuers traded on the domestic stock market (only in foreign currency)

According to the data presented in diagrams 3 and 4, we can notice stable dynamic growth in the amount of quoted stocks of Russian issuers in both national and foreign currencies. Rapid decrease has been seen since the beginning of 2022. Moreover, there has been a decrease in the total amount of market capitalization of Russian issuers’ stocks since the 1st quarter of 2022 (based on the results of trading on the domestic stock market) and decrease in the total trading of stocks on Russian stock exchanges. The decline is graphically demonstrated by the dynamics diagrams (on the basis of information from the reports of the Central Bank of the Russia) in diagrams 5 and 6.

Diagram 5. Market capitalization of Russian issuers' stocks based on the results of trading on the stock market according to the Moscow Exchange for 2015-2022.

Diagram 6. Stock trading volume on the stock market for 2016-2022

The decrease of general companies’ market capitalization and total trading volume of stocks since the beginning of 2022 is caused not only by the complication of the geopolitical situation in the world - imposed sanctions packages, in particular, - but also by the investors' fears due to uncertainties of the future and, consequently, difficulty in predicting quotes or situation on the stock market.

Conclusion. All things considered, JSC as organizations that accumulate enormous capitals for developing their own business and producing something important or unique are valuable economic agents because they help to overcome various economic problems. Despite the trend of the general JSC’s decrease in the Russian economy, their disappearance is impossible, even when there are such restrictions like recently blocking of CBR's assets, because many of them belong to the system-forming companies of the country so they have a powerful reserve, financial and socially important base.