

Abstract

The aim of the study is to determine the level of development of the modern business services sector in the Silesian Voivodeship and an attempt to answer the question whether these services have a positive impact on the region's economy (competitiveness).

The subject range includes (according to the PKD-2007 classification) – 10 selected parts of sections (J, M, N) – i.e. business services based on knowledge and dynamically developing, that are "modern business services" according to the author's definition. The work consists of four chapters. The first – theoretical chapter refers to theoretical aspects and diversity of definitions and classifications of services. A significant part of this chapter has been devoted to the theory of three sectors of the economy, which has been in economic discourse for many years, but is still widely used to study structural changes in the economy and has a fundamental importance for the development of economic theory.

Due to the lack of unequivocal definitions in the area of services, the author presents his view and proposals.

The second chapter focuses on competitiveness, the author elaborates about its essence, types, in particular regional competitiveness and factors of regional competitiveness.

The third chapter presents structural changes of the Silesian region in the years 2009-2019. It presents the way how transformations took place in the three-sector structure of employment as well as in the intra-sectoral structure of employment of services. This knowledge provides an overview of the state of the economy structure of the Silesian Voivodeship and shows the direction of necessary transformations within industry and services.

The fourth chapter is the most important chapter of the study. It is an extensive, comprehensive empirical analysis of modern business services, carried out on two levels (sections and departments). It fully confirmed the accomplishment of the assumed objective of the study, and the obtained results positively verified all the assumed research hypotheses. The results of the analyses of this chapter have been discussed in details following each highlighted topic.