

## **DRAFT PAPER**

### **Macroeconomic Forecasting with the Use of News Data**

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## Introduction

During the last decade a lot of academic papers consider the possibility of predicting the economic fluctuations and macroeconomic variables volatility with the use of news data (Larsen & Thorsrud, 2019), (Kalamara, Turrell, Redl, Kapetanios, & Kapadia, 2020), (Audrino, Sigrist, & Ballinari, 2020), (Algaba, Ardia, Bluteau, Borms, & Boudt, 2020). The reason for this is the development of new machine learning techniques and enhancement of the existed methods. In addition, the recent technological progress in computing power of computers makes it possible to process the large datasets and work with Big Data. All mentioned above give us an opportunity to analyze news corpuses and implement the results in the framework of economic empirical studies.

A lot of people in each country all around the world deals with many sources of information during the day: newspapers, web-sites, radio, academic papers, TV programs etc. Such an information can be highly valuable for economic decision making. Economic agents form theirs' expectations taking into account signals, that they received from the news (Beaudry & Portier, 2014). In (Larsen & Thorsrud, 2019) the authors propose that some signals are noise, but some can bring fundamental information about the future events. The news, which signal fundamental information, can be called as "true" news. We propose that shifts in agents' expectations in line with "true" news may cause fluctuations in economic variables. This mechanism stands in line with Keynesian idea of "animal spirit", which tells us that expectations of investors and consumers may affect the economic situation.

All mentioned above means that news can reflect the changes in agents' expectations before the real (and sometimes nominal) economic variables will react on the specific event described in the news. Thus, "true" news should bring some forecasting power. In this case, we can partly predict the future fluctuations of economic variables with the help of news data, especially during the shocks and crisis, when the standard model and relationships may be invalid.

In economic literature the concept of FIRE (Full Information Rational Expectations) is often applied as one of the key assumptions of how economic agents form their expectations and response to shocks. However, several studies show that FIRE may not hold (Coibion & Gorodnichenko, 2015), (Bordalo, Gennaioli, Ma, & Shleifer, 2020). In this case, predicting model based on such FIRE concept may lead to biased estimations and forecasts. Thus, in attempt to predict future fluctuations researchers widely use machine learning techniques. To be more precise, they apply NLU (Natural Language Understanding, subsection of NLP) algorithms and techniques. NLU allows machines (computers) to understand the human language. In order to make it possible for the computer to understand human language texts, analysis of the topics of texts should be conducted. The process of learning, recognizing and extracting the topics is called topic modelling. The most applied techniques

of topic modeling are: LSA (Latent Semantic Analysis), PLSA (Probabilistic Latent Semantic Analysis), LDA (Latent Dirichlet Allocation) and deep-learning LDA2VEC.

Several studies in the related framework have revealed that including news indexes, attention variables and sentiment measures constructed with the help of the topic modeling techniques mentioned above improve future forecasts and raise the predictive power. For example, (Audrino, Sigrist, & Ballinari, 2020) showed that including sentiment and attention indexes in the analysis improved predictive power of the forecasts for the future stock market volatility. (Goshima, Ishijima, Shintani, & Yamamoto, 2019) have found that their news indicator increases the accuracy of forecasting the inflation in Japan for long-term horizon (more than 3 months). (Shapiro, Sudhof, & Wilson, 2020) have found out that positive sentiment shocks affect some macroeconomic variable and allows to increase predictive power. Especially, we can point out the (Larsen & Thorsrud, 2019) paper. The authors have created their own custom aggregated news index and have shown that a lot of news topics have a predictive power for several macroeconomic variables.

Despite the fact that there are a lot of studies in the framework of macroeconomic forecasting with the use of news data for different European countries, USA and Japan, only a few academic papers consider Russian case. Firstly, we can point out the (Yakovleva, 2018) paper. The author tries to verify, whether the forecasting power can be increased with the help of sentiment index implemented into the machine learning models and factor analysis model. In addition, on XXI April International Academic Conference on Economic and Social Development M. Mamedli and S. Seleznev have presented their abstract of the paper “What can we learn from the news?” (Seleznev & Mamedli, 2020). The authors aim to verify whether the forecast of some Russian macroeconomic variables can be improved by using sentiment indexes, which will be constructed with the use of topic modeling techniques. Recently, one more academic paper was published in the related field analyzing Russian dataset. (Ulyankin, 2020) develops a bunch of news and sentiment indexes and verifies their predictive power in the framework of ARIMA model. Nevertheless, we can point out, that the specified topic (**Macroeconomic Forecasting with the Use of News Data**) is still insufficiently considered and investigated in the context of Russia.

The **scientific problem** of our study is the investigation of whether predictive power of the forecast of macroeconomic variables can be improved with the use of news data in the context of Russia. We apply NLU algorithms and techniques for topic modeling. Especially, we implement LDA (Latent Dirichlet Allocation) since this approach has shown its effectiveness in the published papers related to the mentioned framework. Then the frequency news and sentiment news indexes are constructed with the use of modeled topics. The end point of our research is the forecast analysis of the set of macroeconomics variables [CPI ( $\pi$ ), Business Confidence Index (**BCI**), Consumer

Confidence Index (**CCI**), Export (**EX**), Import (**IM**), Net Export (**NX**)] supplemented by inclusion of frequency and sentiment news indexes in order to evaluated the improvement in predictive power. We build ARIMAX model as the baseline forecasting model.

Thus, we can highlight the main **objectives** of our study:

1. Collect the news data from one Russian news sources.
2. Process the collected news data: filter out the words from stop-word list, reduce words to their lemmas (lemmatization) and some other filtering procedures.
3. Conduct the topic modelling applying several techniques (LDA, K-Means)
4. Build the frequency news indexes and sentiment news indexes.
5. Develop the forecast model and verify the improvement in predictive power.

The **novelty** of the study is the development of Russian specific approach to topic modelling, building the indexes and implementing it in the forecasting model on Russian datasets. As soon as macroeconomic aggregates are often revised in Russia the prediction in such conditions seems to be a challenge. Thus news-based forecasting can allow to improve predictive power and increase forecasting performance (Seleznev & Mamedli, 2020).

**Results.** We have shown that the inclusion of frequency news indexes and sentiment news indexes, based on the LDA approach in the forecast models can improve the quality of the predictions and increase the predictive power for some variables.

**Practical use.** The obtained results can be used in conducting monetary policy. Taking into account the current information space and sentiments of the public can allow Central Banks to choose the future policy and instruments correctly and more precisely.

## **Literature review**

### ***Studies in Finance***

By 2021 a lot of studies in the framework of macroeconomic and financial forecasts with the use of news data were published in the foreign literature. Several papers considering forecast in finance make an attempt to investigate what is the predictive power of the sentiment and attention variables constructed with the use of news-media platform and whether the forecasts for financial market returns can be improved by news-based approach. Some studies suggest that increasing investor's attention forecasts higher stock prices in the short-run period and lower in the long-run period (Da, Engelberg, & Gao, 2011), (Joseph, Wintoki, & Zhang, 2011). Other papers have revealed that sentiment indexes constructed with the help of data collected from Twitter or some other social media internet sources can be used to predict stock volatility (Bollen, Mao, & Zeng, 2011), (Alsing & Bahceci, 2015), (Sun, Najand, & Shen, 2016). For example, (Alsing & Bahceci, 2015) use comments and posts from Twitter in order to construct sentiment index and predict share price fluctuations of Walmart, Netflix and Microsoft. The results suggest that the forecast accuracy achieve 80 percent level in attempt to predict Walmart stock price fluctuations.

In recent studies in the finance framework, it was shown that forecasts can be improved by inclusion of variables which reflect news and sentiments, for example (Caporin & Poli, 2017). Especially, we can point out the (Audrino, Sigrist, & Ballinari, 2020) paper. The authors extend the basic heterogenous autoregressive model by inputting the sentiment and attention indexes as additional predictors. In order to classify the sentiment of messages on Twitter the authors use Deep-LSA technique. Thus, the authors by using a novel data set and predictive regression model have shown that sentiment and attention measures increase the predictive power of the future stock market volatility. Moreover, not only newspapers and other conventional source of information can be used in the framework of the related analysis. (Antweiler & Frank, 2004) revealed that sentiment in messages, which are posted regularly on “Yahoo! Finance” can also increase the predictive power of stock market volatility.

### ***Topic Modelling***

Firstly, we should point out that the authors quite often implement an easy procedure of topic modelling bypassing the complicated one (as LDA, PLSA, LDA2VEC, etc.). (Ulyankin, 2020) analyzes and compares different economic activities indexes with respect to their predictive power. However, in author's research no topic modelling was conducted. The author considers all the news related to such topics as “economics”, “business” and “politics” sorted by the web-sites categories.

(Ardia, Bluteau, & Boudt, 2019) use the corpus of several US newspapers available at LexisNexis, supplemented by its Smart Indexing technology, that allows easily to sort and identify the topic of the specific article.

(Tobback, Naudts, Daelemans, Junque de Fortuny, & Martens, 2018) in their paper consider two methods (modality annotation and SVM) of text mining in order to create the EPU index (Economic Policy Uncertainty index). The original one assumes, that the news is related to policy uncertainty if it contains the specific keywords. SVM method (Support Vector Machine classification) is an example of supervised machine learning text mining technique. The authors manually labeled 500 articles that contained the word “economy” by the number “1” (if the specific article was related to some policy uncertainty) and “-1”, otherwise. Then the model was trained on this sample and the whole news dataset was labeled by appropriate index. The authors propose and verify, that SVM method performs better than the original, and it allows to improve the predictive power of the forecast.

One of the recent studies that investigate the relevance of incorporating news indexes into the forecasting the macroeconomic variables is the paper written by (Larsen & Thorsrud, 2019). The authors extracted 459 745 articles from Norwegian business newspaper and by using novel topic modelling approach investigate whether the textual data can help in predicting future economic fluctuations of the key macroeconomic variables. In order to proceed with the topic modeling, they use the LDA approach, introduced by (Blei, Ng, & Jordan, 2003). The model was constructed with the use of 7500 Gibbs simulations and 80 unique topics were formed. Considering 17 high probability words in each topic it was revealed that at least one word intersects with another topic through all the 80 topics.

One another studies in the related framework conducted by a Russian researcher is (Yakovleva, 2018). The author uses the study of (Thorsrud, 2016) as a basis for her research. She seeks to investigate whether the use of high-frequency indicator based on news can increase the predictive power of forecasts for future economic activity. Around 60 000 news items from single Russian news source from 2014 to 2018 were collected. In order to proceed with topic modelling the author implemented probabilistic topic model – LDA (Latent Dirichlet Allocation) method. LDA method allows to cope with the limitations and drawbacks of algebraic topic models, such as LSA (Latent Semantic Analysis) and VSM (Vector Space Model). As the main hyperparameters the default set was used. The final number of topics was chosen with the help of coherence value. Thus, the author created 50 relevant topics by implementing LDA on the extracted news dataset.

At the current moment one more study in this framework is conducted by another Russian researchers from Bank of Russia. M. Mamedli and S. Seleznev takes an attempt to implement

widespread practice in the foreign researches in the Russian framework. Their news data set consist of over 260 000 of news articles of the Russian newspaper “Vedomosti”. They also use the vintage values of the key macroeconomic variables including all the historical revision: GDP, IP, construction, real wage growth, unemployment, real sales and investments. The authors use 3 modelling topic techniques: LDA, LSI (Latent Semantic Indexing) and DOC2VEC. For each topic model the authors define the optimal number of topics by coherence analysis.

### ***News Indexes***

A lot of studies consider macroeconomic forecasting in the framework of news-based approach, constructing its own news (frequency and sentiment) indexes. For instance, (Ardia, Bluteau, & Boudt, 2019) in their paper seeking to verify predictive power of the custom sentiment index based on news. The aim is to investigate the value added by the sentiment index for forecasting the log-growth of the US industrial production (k.o. economic growth of the US). The authors apply the methodology that classify the tones of the articles related to the economic growth published in the major US newspapers as “positive”, “negative” and “neutral”. They revealed that inclusion of the sentiment index based on the text-analysis in the basic forecasting model with standard macroeconomic and financial variables can increase predictive power at long-period horizon. See also (Algaba, Ardia, Bluteau, Borms, & Boudt, 2020) for the extension and related work. Some other authors seeking to investigate whether the forecasting of some aggregated indexes (CPI, PMI and etc.) can be enhanced by the inclusion of news and sentiment indexes constructed with the use of machine learning techniques. For example, (Nyman, Ormerod, Smith, & Tuckett, 2014) considering the news articles which contain two words “anxiety” and “excitement” evaluate the frequency of occurrence of such words and calculate the related measure. Then, this indicator which reflects average frequency of appearance was included in the regression. As the result the predictive power for the forecast of Consumer Price Index in Michigan was improved.

(Yakovleva, 2018) in her paper constructs the own sentiment index. In order to proceed with tone labeling the author uses the supervised machine learning technique - SVM method (Support Vector Machine). Around 3438 news articles are manually classified by the author as “1”, if tone of the article is positive, and “-1” for negative tone. The training set contains 2600 news articles. On that set the classifier is trained in order to “learn” how to label the articles by tones. On the test sample the trained model correctly predicted the tone of the article in 64% cases. As the result of SVM method the researcher gets probability distribution of tones. All the articles with probability less than 60% probability of getting specific tone were exclude from the news dataset. Finally, the tone is multiplied by the probability for each of the article and the day average measure is calculated.

(Larsen & Thorsrud, 2019) in their paper apply another approach. In order to create the sentiment news index, they count the number of positive and negative words in the news corpus. The tone of the words was defined with the help of **Harvard IV-4 Psychological Dictionary**, which contains the word list and relative tone. The authors include in their dictionary of descriptors 40 positive and 39 negative words. Then the positive and negative words were counted through one day in each article and divided by the total number of words in the news articles during the day. Finally, the sentiment index was calculated by subtracting the negative day ratio from the positive day ratio.

One of the fundamental papers related to the different methods of constructing indexes is (Ulyankin, 2020). He analyzes several “manual”, search, news and sentiment indexes and compares them with respect to their predictive power. Especially, we should point out the methodology of news index constructing. The author calculates frequency index and sentiment index for the news corpus.

In order to create the frequency index, the method represented in (Столбов, 2011) is used. Firstly, the list of crisis descriptors was formed. Then, the author counts the number of articles, that contain each of the descriptor during the day. After that, the appropriate weight is assigned to each number with the help of correlation coefficient. Finally, all the weighted numbers are summed up and the index is constructed.

In order to tone the news articles and construct the sentiment index, the author implements the Russian language tonal dictionary, created by the project (“Карта слова”). All the words in this dictionary are colored by the scalar value of the emotional-evaluative charge from the continuous range [-1; 1]: “-1” means the maximal negative tone of the word, “1” means the maximal positive tone of the word, and 0 means neutral tone or the absence of the specific word in the dictionary. The author changes all the words in each article on the relative tone (continuous number) from the dictionary “Карта слова”. The tone of each article is calculated as the sum of all the tone numbers divided by the number of words in the specific article. Then the data was aggregated to monthly basis. For additional information and extension see (Голощапова & Андреев, 2017).

### ***Time-series Analysis and Forecasting***

Along with the machine learning techniques, different techniques of time series analysis and forecasting are widely used to investigate whether predictive power of the forecast of macroeconomic variables can be improved with the use of news data or not. The starting point of the discussion is the empirical evidence that news shocks account for a major part of fluctuations in GDP and may be a nature of the business cycles (Beaudry & Portier, 2006). However, the nature and understanding of news shocks used for the analysis and forecasting vary over the time.

Pioneering studies assume stock prices to be a proper variable for capturing any changes in agents' expectations and use them to represent them (see for instance, (Beaudry & Portier, 2006), (Barsky & Sims, 2011)). Both (Beaudry & Portier, 2006) and (Barsky & Sims, 2011) use a vector autoregressive approach and identify news shocks with the innovation in stock prices orthogonalized with respect to total factor productivity to investigate whether agents' expectations matter for the fluctuations in macroeconomic variables or not. In this case, news shocks should be interpreted as expected changes in future total factor productivity observed in advance and reflected in stock prices.

(Beaudry & Portier, 2006) find that permanent changes in total factor productivity are preceded by booms in stock markets, indicating the predictive power of the variable representing agents' expectations. Additionally, authors state that expected developments of the economy are more likely to account for fluctuations in macroeconomic variables compared to the unexpected ones.

(Barsky & Sims, 2011) obtain that news shocks cause changes in consumption, output, hours of work and investment, highlighting the usefulness of incorporating news shocks in the models for better both explanatory and predictive power. However, authors point out the need of seeking deeper structural explanations for the nature of news shocks. Further (Barsky, R. B.; Sims, E. R., 2012) introduced consumer confidence index instead of stock prices to represent agents' expectations and, thus, to obtain news shocks. They find that the consumer confidence index has high predictive power for macroeconomic variables such as consumption and output.

(Forni, Gambetti, Lippi, & Sala, 2017) also represents agents' expectations with the stock prices and use vector autoregressive approach to investigate whether agents' expectations matter for the fluctuations in macroeconomic variables or not. Authors find that bulk of disturbances in dynamics of GDP, consumption, and investment are caused by agents' expectations of oncoming developments of the economy, pointing them out to be a major source of business cycle fluctuations. However, they complement the critiques of the vector autoregressive approach proposed by (Blanchard, L'Huillier, & Lorenzoni, 2013) and (Barsky & Sims, 2011), pointing out the failure of these models to distinguish between news shocks and noise shocks.

Limitations of the use of several proxies for news shocks along with the occurrence of machine learning techniques that allow to process large datasets rise the research interest to the direct use of news (see for instance (Larsen & Thorsrud, 2019), (Kalamara, Turrell, Redl, Kapetanios, & Kapadia, 2020), (Goshima, Ishijima, Shintani, & Yamamoto, 2019)) and internet search data (see for instance, (McLaren & Shanbhogue, 2011), (Choi & Varian, 2012), (D'Amuri & Marcucci, 2017)) aggregating them into indexes to investigate their explanatory and predictive power for macroeconomic variables.

Mentioned papers (McLaren & Shanbhogue, 2011), (Choi & Varian, 2012), (D'Amuri & Marcucci, 2017) introduce autoregressive models with exogenous variables for forecasting different macroeconomic variables using data from Google Trend. (McLaren & Shanbhogue, 2011) and (Choi & Varian, 2012) find that use of internet search data is beneficial for forecasting unemployment. However, (Choi & Varian, 2012) claims that use of internet search data is helpful for forecasting macroeconomic variables only for the nearest future. Additionally, (McLaren & Shanbhogue, 2011) notice several limitations of the data from Google Trend, including lack of information on the actual volume of searches and basing data on a subsample. (D'Amuri & Marcucci, 2017) also point out the enhancement of predictive power of the model for unemployment, when data from Google Trend is added to the model, specifically in turning point of the economic developments.

Overall, using data from Google Trend solves the problem caused by use of several proxies for news shocks, however, limits the horizon of accurate forecasting. Thus, the research interest switches to the direct use of news aggregated into indexes for investigation their explanatory and predictive power for macroeconomic variables. Similarly mentioned papers (see for instance (Larsen & Thorsrud, 2019), (Kalamara, Turrell, Redl, Kapetanios, & Kapadia, 2020), (Goshima, Ishijima, Shintani, & Yamamoto, 2019)) introduce autoregressive models with exogenous variables for evaluating the effect of adding several news indexes into models for their predictive power.

(Larsen & Thorsrud, 2019) introduces autoregressive models with exogenous variables to evaluate the predictive power of different news topics for several macroeconomic variables, such as output, investments, consumptions, total factor productivity and asset prices. Authors conclude that many news topics can increase the predictive power of the model. Then, topics with the highest predictive power are used for news index construction and structural analysis is conducted, verifying that news shocks account for fluctuations in macroeconomic variables. (Yakovleva, 2018) and (Feuerriegel & Gordon, 2019) follow quite the same procedure, but seek to incorporate several topics in one model simultaneously. Thereby, the problem of limited numbers of available observations for the variables of interest and, thus, limited number of topics that might be included in the model is highlighted.

(Goshima, Ishijima, Shintani, & Yamamoto, 2019) find that including news index in the model for unemployment improves its predictive power, specifically for the long-term horizon. (Kalamara, Turrell, Redl, Kapetanios, & Kapadia, 2020) point out the enhancement of predictive power of the models for unemployment, output and inflation, when news index is added to the models, specifically in recession periods.

(Ulyankin, 2020) introduces an autoregressive integrated moving average model and finds that news indexes based on data from the Internet have predictive power and granger causes the new indexes based on surveys.

### ***Machine Learning Forecasting Models***

Machine learning techniques are also widely used to forecast macroeconomic variables. They enable to include a large number of regressors into the model. It is especially useful for the forecasting macroeconomic variables with use of news topics. For example, (Yakovleva, 2018) obtains 50 news topics to be simultaneously included into the model as regressors to forecast PMI and along with (Feuerriegel & Gordon, 2019) state the usefulness of machine learning techniques to deal with a situation when number of news topics significantly exceeds the number of observations and common linear regressions cannot be used. However, (Yakovleva, 2018) tests LASSO and Ridge regressions and ends up with the only 24 news topics instead of 50 initially chosen due to the overfitting of the models.

(Feuerriegel & Gordon, 2019) uses several regressions, such as LASSO, Ridge, ENET and RF to forecast GDP, unemployment rate and inflation. Differently to (Yakovleva, 2018), authors add time lags of the variable of interest to the model to forecast the variable of interest. (Kalamara, Turrell, Redl, Kapetanios, & Kapadia, 2020) follows (Feuerriegel & Gordon, 2019) and tests LASSO, Ridge, ENET and RF regressions to forecast GDP, unemployment rate, inflation, and consumption. Differently to (Feuerriegel & Gordon, 2019) authors include only one time lag of the variable of interest and a news topic to the model to forecast the variable of interest.

All aforementioned papers ( (Yakovleva, 2018), (Feuerriegel & Gordon, 2019), (Kalamara, Turrell, Redl, Kapetanios, & Kapadia, 2020)) state that inclusion news topics into the model to forecasting macroeconomic variables improves the accuracy of the forecast.

## Data

### *News Data Collection*

The starting point of the study is scraping the news data. The quality and the source of news data are crucial in receiving the final results in our research. We used web-parsing of news articles only from the web-source in order to form the raw text database. Following the procedure reflected in the (Yakovleva, 2018), (Larsen & Thorsrud, 2019), we managed to use single news source. We should point out, that the consideration of only one news web-source might have several drawbacks. Firstly, the specific chosen newspaper may be biased in the sense of covering news (political issues, personal opinions of editors, etc.). Secondly, each newspaper has its own target audience. So that, the analysis of single one newspaper led to capturing only one specific audience and missing the others. Thirdly, some of the newspapers may not to publish the news about specific events (especially, economic and political events) due to several reasons. In this case, the coverage of topics included in the research may not to be comprehensive and extensive. However, there is a problem of scraping the news from the web-sites related to the specific web architecture. We have concentrated on only one single newspaper with the easiest web architecture of the code. The future extension of research in the way of considering several news sources should be done.

As mentioned in (Yakovleva, 2018) the good news web-source should have three main key features: (1) relativity to the economic topics (news), long time-series availability, (3) easy and convenient data parsing. Since we are interested in macroeconomic forecasting, we have chosen the newspaper that concerns economic, finance and development issues and related topics – “**Коммерсантъ**”. The web-site of this newspaper allows to get access to news of the long time period. Also, the news from “**Коммерсантъ**” web-site can be easily extracted (parsed).

We extracted all articles, that were published in the **period from the beginning of 2010 to the end of 2020**. The raw dataset can be found in **Appendix A1. News Data**. The link to the code for parsing the news is also presented in the **Appendix A2. Parsing code**.

### *News Data Processing*

The next step is data processing. In most of the cases we replicated methods and techniques, that were implemented in related literature and studies (Yakovleva, 2018), (Larsen & Thorsrud, 2019), (Audrino, Sigrist, & Ballinari, 2020).

Firstly, we deleted all the null observations, which emerged during the code execution. Secondly, we applied lemmatization technique. Lemmatization was conducted with the use of “pymystem3” package (Yandex’s “Mystem” adapted for Python). There was an option to use

“pymorphy2” package for lemmatization, but “pymystem3” package is better in managing contextual homonymy. In plenty of papers stemming is used as the procedure of data processing (Thorsrud, 2016), (Audrino, Sigrist, & Ballinari, 2020). Nevertheless, we prefer lemmatization to stemming as soon as the last may convert a word to a form that doesn’t exist in Russian language (for example: the word “иду” may be converted to “ид”). Thirdly, we filtered out punctuations, spaces and other special symbols from our dataset.

Finally, the words from the stop-word list also should be removed. Stop-word list typically consists of words, that are not meaningful and do not contain any information related to the topics (Larsen & Thorsrud, 2019). For this aim we took stop-word list from “nlkt” package and add to that list some extra simple meaningless words and several other words which were assigned to the majority of the created by LDA procedure topics at first attempt: *[наш', 'гг', "'Ь", "господин", "год", "сообщать", "заявлять", "также", "новый", "человек", "россия", "—", 'какой-то', 'просто', 'это', 'весь', 'свой', 'мочь', 'очень', 'самый', ' ', '|п', 'ъ', 'рф', 'тыс', 'ул', 'время', 'который', 'однако', 'the', 'владимир', 's', 'становиться']*. These words did not contribute to adequate and effective distinction between different topics. However, such words may appear frequently in the text, so that taking the large weight in the specific article. Thus, the topic, that was created in such a way may be biased. The processed news dataset can be found in **Appendix B1. Processed News Data**. The link to the code for processing the news is also presented in the **Appendix B2. Processing Code**.

We represent two random articles that have been filtered and processed:

**Table #1**  
**Examples of the original and processed articles**

Original Article	Processed Article
Российские и британские акционеры ТНК-BP подписали акционерное соглашение, завершающее процесс урегулирования корпоративного конфликта. В ближайшие недели будет объявлено о назначении нового главы компании. Как говорится в сообщении BP от 9 января, пересмотренное соглашение нацелено на улучшение баланса интересов между владельцами компании – BP и консорциумом AAR. Согласно измененному договору, вместо равного представительства сторон в совете	[“российский”, “britанский”, “акционер”, “подписывать”, “акционерный”, “соглашение”, “завершать”, “процесс”, “урегулирование”, “корпоративный”, “конфликт”, “близкий”, “неделя”, “объявлять”, “назначение”, “глава”, “говориться”, “сообщение”, “вр”, “январь”, “пересматривать”, “соглашение”, “нацеливать”, “улучшение”, “баланс”, “интерес”, “владелец”, “компания”, “вр”, “консорциум”, “aar”, “согласно”, “изменять”, “договор”, “вместо”, “равный”,

<p>директоров компании будет назначаться по четыре представителя от ВР и ААР плюс три независимых директора.</p> <p>Предусматривается, что ряд вопросов, включая одобрение крупных сделок и изменение финансовой структуры группы, будут требовать единогласной поддержки советом. ВР будет по-прежнему выдвигать кандидатуру на пост главного управляющего компании, а ААР назначать председателя совета.</p>	<p>“представительство”, “сторона”, “совет”, “директор”, “компания”, “назначаться”, “четыре”, “представитель”, “бр”, “ар”, “плюс”, “независимый”, “директор”, “предусматриваться”, “ряд”, “вопрос”, “включая”, “одобрение”, “крупный”, “сделка”, “изменение”, “финансовый”, “структура”, “группа”, “требовать”, “единогласный”, “поддержка”, “совет”, “бр”, “выдвигать”, “кандидатура”, “пост”, “главный”, “управляющий”, “компания”, “аар”, “назначать”, “председатель”, “совет”]</p>
<p>Российское правительство утвердило правила маркировки федеральными специальными марками всей алкогольной продукции в стране, в том числе ввозимой из-за рубежа. До этого специальными марками помечалась продукция, произведенная внутри страны, а ввезенная — акцизами. Цена спецмарок составит 1,89 тыс. руб. за 1 тыс. штук без учета налога на добавленную стоимость. Выдачу и контроль за использованием таких марок будет осуществлять Росалкогольрегулирование. При совершении таможенных процедур контролировать маркировку будут таможенные органы. При этом таможня сможет выдавать до 1 апреля 2021 года акцизные марки на импортный алкоголь, если заявление на это было подано до 1 января 2021 года. Ввозить алкоголь с акцизовыми марками можно будет до 1 января 2022 года.</p>	<p>[ “российский”, “правительство”, “утвердить”, “правило”, “маркировка”, “федеральный”, “специальный”, “марка”, “алкогольный”, “продукция”, “страна”, “число”, “ввозить”, “рубеж”, “специальный”, “марка”, “помечаться”, “продукция”, “производить”, “внутри”, “страна”, “ввозить”, “акциз”, “цена”, “спецмарка”, “составлять”, “руб”, “штука”, “учет”, “налог”, “добавлять”, “контроль”, “использование”, “марка”, “осуществлять”, “росалкогольрегулирование”, “совершение”, “таможенный”, “процедура”, “контролировать”, “маркировка”, “таможенный”, “таможня”, “смочь”, “выдавать”, “апрель”, “акцизный”, “марка”, “импортный”, “алкоголь”, “заявление”, “подавать”, “январь”, “ввозить”, “алкоголь”, “акцизный”, “марка”, “январь”]</p>

*Source:* author's calculations

## **Numerical Data Description and Collection**

Several macroeconomic variables are chosen to verify whether the inclusion of news and sentiment indexes in the forecasting models for the Russian economy improves the predictive power. Data on these variables was collected from different sources, primarily from OECD Database and IMF database (for more details, see **Appendix C2. Numerical Data Description Table**) and covers the period **from the beginning of 2010 to the end of 2020**. The raw numerical dataset can be found in **Appendix C1. Numerical (Macro) Data**.

The first group of macroeconomic variables used to attain aforementioned aims of the research consists of BCI and CCI. (Yakovleva, 2018) and (Larsen & Thorsrud, 2019) highlight the importance of forecasting indexes reflecting the expectations of decision-makers for macroeconomic policy conduction. (Yakovleva, 2018) finds that such index as PMI is highly correlated with GDP and can be used as an accurate measure of business cycle dynamics instead of GDP that is commonly collected quarterly or yearly and published with the lag, limiting the range of models that can be used for the forecast and structural analysis. (Ulyankin, 2020) points out that indexes reflecting the expectations of decision-makers itself has high predictive power.

The next macroeconomic variable is inflation following (Kalamara, Turrell, Redl, Kapetanios, & Kapadia, 2020) and (Goshima, Ishijima, Shintani, & Yamamoto, 2019). The dynamic of inflation is highly affected by agents' expectations. Therefore, adding news and sentiment indexes in the models for forecasting inflation in Russia is expected to cause the enhancement of the forecast quality.

Finally, we also consider such macroeconomic variables as Export (**EX**), Import (**IM**) and Net Export (**NX**) due to availability of such data on monthly basis. It also allows to us to verify whether the inclusion of domestic new indexes can improve the predictions of macroeconomic variables that are highly connected with foreign sector and other countries.

## Methodology

### *Topic Modelling*

After filtering and processing the data topic modeling procedure should be conducted. As we mentioned in the **Introductory** part of our work, in order to understand texts, analysis of the topics of texts should be conducted. The process of learning, recognizing and extracting the topics is called topic modelling. The most applied techniques of topic modeling are: LSA (Latent Semantic Analysis), PLSA (Probabilistic Latent Semantic Analysis), LDA (Latent Dirichlet Allocation) and deep-learning LDA2VEC.

Our method of topic modeling was LDA approach (as in (Yakovleva, 2018), (Larsen & Thorsrud, 2019), (Seleznev & Mamedli, 2020)). LDA allows to extract interpretable topics from the original news dataset. Each of the topic is represented by a set of words that is highly associated with that topic. We suggest that LDA approach allows us to get more robust results.

Informally, LDA considers the co-appearance of separated terms in texts, so that terms which likely to appear together would be placed in the same set of words (topic). It is important to mention two aspects: firstly, LDA does not label topics by itself – names for sets are developed by authors. Secondly, it may happen that one particular word is distributed to several topics if it is related with different themes (for example, “судья” may appear either in “sport” or “law” topic). But, as we mentioned before, if certain word is presented in all topics, we may consider it as a preposition or conjunction, which should be filtered out.

Formally, hierarchical Bayesian model of LDA may be illustrated with joint probability distribution function (Blei, Ng, & Jordan, 2003):

$$p(\theta, z, w | \alpha, \beta) = p(\theta | \alpha) \prod_{n=1}^N p(z_n | \theta) p(w_n | z_n, \beta)$$

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <math>\theta</math> – a topic mixture</li><li>• <math>z</math> – a set of topics</li><li>• <math>w</math> – a set of words</li></ul> | <b>Hyperparameters</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <math>\alpha</math> – density of document-term</li><li>• <math>\beta</math> – density of words</li></ul> |
|--|---|

Implementation of the LDA method has some restrictions. For example, LDA can perform worse than comparable techniques if the corpus consists of short articles (Davison, 2010). In our case the average length of one particular article is **approximately 166 words**. So that, the LDA technique seems to be appropriate in our research.

## **News Indexes**

After the topic modelling procedure, the news indexes are calculated. We are going to create two indexes: **frequency news index** and **sentiment news index**.

In order to build the **Frequency News Index**, we combine the approaches used in (Nyman, Ormerod, Smith, & Tuckett, 2014), (Larsen & Thorsrud, 2019) and (Ulyankin, 2020). In the first paper (Nyman, Ormerod, Smith, & Tuckett, 2014) the authors considering the news articles which contain two words “anxiety” and “excitement” evaluate the frequency of occurrence of such words and calculate the related measure. Construction the frequency news index based on two descriptors may be biased and doesn’t capture all the picture. So that, we are going to use the extended lists of descriptors in our analysis. We form three lists of descriptors: “basic”, “optimal” and “full”. Each list has a different number of words included and different sense. In the “basic” list we include the minimal number of words (**40 words**), that catches the economic situations, dynamics and fluctuations. The “optimal” list contains of **148 words** and reflects the economic topics fully. The “full” list includes **227 words** that are related to economics, law, politics, culture and art.

In the second paper (Larsen & Thorsrud, 2019) the authors split all the descriptors into two list: **“positive”** and **“negative”** words. We replicate the same procedure in our analysis. All three lists with “positive” and “negative” words division can be found in **Appendix D1. The list of Descriptors for Frequency News Index**.

In order to calculate the frequency news index, we extend the methodology, represented in (Larsen & Thorsrud, 2019) and (Ulyankin, 2020). Firstly, we count the number of times positive and negative words from the descriptors list appears in each of the article for all the timeline. As the result we get two metrics: positive and negative word frequency for each article. Then we sum up these two numbers for each of the article from the same topic (which was formed with the help of topic modelling procedure) during the day separately, and divide it by the total number of words in these corresponding articles. Thus, we obtain the positive and negative ratio for each of the topic during the day. Finally, we subtract the negative ratio from the positive ratio and get the daily frequency news index. In order to get the monthly and quarterly index we sum up all the daily indexes and divide by the appropriate (~30 or ~90) number of days.

In order to build the **Sentiment News Index**, we partially replicate the approach used in (Ulyankin, 2020). As in the mentioned paper, we use the tonal dictionary of Russian language “*Kapra слов*” in order to tone each word in each article. Words in this dictionary are colored by the scalar value of the emotional-evaluative charge from the continuous range [-1; 1]: “-1” means the maximal negative tone of the word, “1” means the maximal positive tone of the word, and 0 means neutral tone or the absence of the specific word in the dictionary. Firstly, we change all the words in each

article in our corpus by the appropriate emotional-evaluative value from the dictionary “Карта слов”. Then we sum all the assigned numbers up and divide it by the number of words in the article. So that we get the emotional value of the article. After that, the emotional value of each article during the day related to the specific topic are summed up and divided by the number of articles in that day. Following such a procedure we are getting the **daily topic specific sentiment index**. In order to get the monthly and quarterly index we sum up all the daily indexes and divide it by the appropriate (~30 or ~90) number of days.

### *Time-series and Machine Learning models*

We introduce autoregressive integrated moving average model **ARIMA(p, d, q)** and autoregressive integrated moving average model with the exogenous variable **ARIMAX (p, d, q)** to forecast several variables of interest including and excluding news index. In our research we consider several machine learning models: **Linear, Ridge, Lasso, Elastic Net, Random Forest, XGBOOST**. The procedure of the analysis is the following:

1. Data sample is split into training and test samples. The test sample includes **48%** of observations.
2. Target variables and news indexes contain seasonal variation, some of them also have trend. The first difference is used to gain stationarity.
3. Using the training sample, the following autoregressive model is estimated for the target variable:

$$\mathbf{X}'_t = \sum_{i=1}^p \boldsymbol{\phi}_i \mathbf{X}'_{t-i} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_t, \quad (1)$$

where  $\mathbf{X}'_t$  is the first difference of the target variable in period  $t$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\phi}_1, \boldsymbol{\phi}_2, \dots, \boldsymbol{\phi}_p$  are coefficients for the lags of the target variable,  $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_t$  is error term in period  $t$ ,  $p$  is a maximum number of lags of the target variable. Several values of  $p$  are used: **1, 3 and 6**.

4. Using the training sample, the following autoregressive model with exogenous variables (news indexes) is estimated for the target variable:

$$\mathbf{X}'_t = \sum_{i=1}^p \boldsymbol{\phi}_i \mathbf{X}'_{t-i} + \sum_{j=1}^n \boldsymbol{\varphi}_{j,t} \boldsymbol{\omega}'_{j,t} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_t, \quad (2)$$

where  $\mathbf{X}'_t$  is the first difference of the target variable in period  $t$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\phi}_1, \boldsymbol{\phi}_2, \dots, \boldsymbol{\phi}_p$  are coefficients for the lags of the target variable,  $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_t$  is error term in period  $t$ ,  $p$  is a maximum number of lags of the target variable,  $\boldsymbol{\varphi}_1, \boldsymbol{\varphi}_2, \dots, \boldsymbol{\varphi}_n$  are coefficient for the lags of exogenous variables,  $\boldsymbol{\omega}'_1, \boldsymbol{\omega}'_2, \dots, \boldsymbol{\omega}'_n$ ;  $\boldsymbol{\omega}_t$  are lags of exogenous variables,  $n$  is a number of news

indexes. Several values of  $p$  are used: **1**, **3** and **6**. The current values of news indexes are used as exogenous variables to understand, whether they are able to explain the current state. This approach is nowcasting.

The lagged values of news indexes are used as exogenous variables to understand, whether they are able to predict the future state. This approach is forecasting, and the estimating autoregressive model is the following:

$$X'_t = \sum_{i=1}^p \phi_i X'_{t-i} + \sum_{j=1}^n \varphi_j \omega'_{j,t-1} + \varepsilon_t, \quad (3)$$

where  $X'_t$  is the first difference of the target variable in period  $t$ ,  $\phi_1, \phi_2, \dots, \phi_p$  are coefficients for the time lags of the target variable,  $\varepsilon_t$  is error term in period  $t$ ,  $p$  is a maximum number of time lags of the target variable,  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2, \dots, \varphi_n$  are coefficient for exogenous variables,  $\omega'_1, \omega'_2, \dots, \omega'_n$ ;  $\omega_t$  are exogenous variables,  $n$  is a number of news indexes. Several values of  $p$  are used: **1**, **3** and **6**.

Besides, machine learning methods (*lasso*, *ridge*, *random forest*, *XG boost*, *elastic net*) are used to estimate the autoregressive models represented by the **equation 2** and **equation 3**. The hyperparameters are chosen to minimize RMSE.

5. Then forecasts/nowcasts and forecast/nowcast errors are calculated using the test sample and fixed coefficients and parameters based on the results for the training sample.

Besides, retraining is introduced, then after each forecast/nowcast this observation is added to the training sample, deleted from the test sample and the model (and hyper parameters for machine learning methods) is estimated again until test set is empty.

Two metrics such as **RMSE** and **MAE** are used to evaluate the accuracy of forecast/nowcast and to investigate, whether incorporating news topics into the model improves the accuracy of forecasting / nowcasting. In our research we are interested in the following comparison and questions:

- (1) **ML - Retraining matter.** *Whether the retraining procedure in the forecast/nowcast machine learning models improve the errors of predictions?*

We subtract from the appropriate metrics of the specific model **with-out retraining** the same metrics but for the model **with retraining**. If the difference is positive – it means that the errors were improved by the retraining procedure in case of the machine learning models.

- (2) **TS with retraining - News Indexes matter.** *Whether news indexes in the forecast/nowcast time series models with retraining improves the errors of predictions?*

We subtract from the appropriate metrics of the specific model **with retraining** and without news indexes the same metrics but for the model **with news indexes**. If the difference is positive – it means that the errors were improved with the help of news indexes in case of time-series models with retraining.

- (3) **TS with-out retraining - News Indexes matter.** *Whether news indexes in the forecast/nowcast time series models with-out retraining improves the errors of predictions?*

We subtract from the appropriate metrics of the specific model **with-out retraining** and without news indexes the same metrics but for the model **with news indexes**. If the difference is positive – it means that the errors were improved with the help of news indexes in case of time-series models with-out retraining.

- (4) **TS - Retraining matter.** *Whether the retraining procedure in the forecast/nowcast time-series models improve the errors of predictions?*

We subtract from the appropriate metrics of the specific model **with-out retraining** the same metrics but for the model **with retraining**. If the difference is positive – it means that the errors were improved by the retraining procedure in case of the time-series models.

- (5) **ML versus TS – with news indexes with-out retraining case.** *Whether machine learning models with news indexes and with-out retraining are better than time-series models with news indexes and with-out retraining?*

We subtract from the appropriate metrics of the ML model **with-out retraining** the same metrics but for the TS model **with-out retraining**. If the difference is positive – it means that the errors were improved with the help of machine learning procedure (with news indexes and with-out retraining).

- (6) **ML versus TS – with news indexes with retraining case.** *Whether machine learning models with news indexes and with retraining are better than time-series models with news indexes and with retraining?*

We subtract from the appropriate metrics of the ML model **with retraining** the same metrics but for the TS model **with retraining**. If the difference is positive – it means that the errors were improved with the help of machine learning procedure (with news indexes and with retraining).

## Estimations (results)

### Topic Modelling

In practice, to process topic modeling via LDA we need a **corpus of text**, a **dictionary of lemmas** and desirable **number of topics**.

1. The **corpus of text** was already formed during the data processing procedure;
2. To create **dictionary**, we selected all lemmas which were presented in more than **5% of articles** but less than in **50% of articles**. So that, we excluded the rarest and the most frequent words. Our aim was to include **100,000 words** in dictionary of lemmas;
3. To choose the **optimal number of topics** we implement the coherence value. Topic may be defined as coherent if most relevant terms for the topic frequently co-appear in corpus articles and this co-appearance is not accidental. As we can see below, 38 topics model showed the highest coherence value: **around 0,53**.

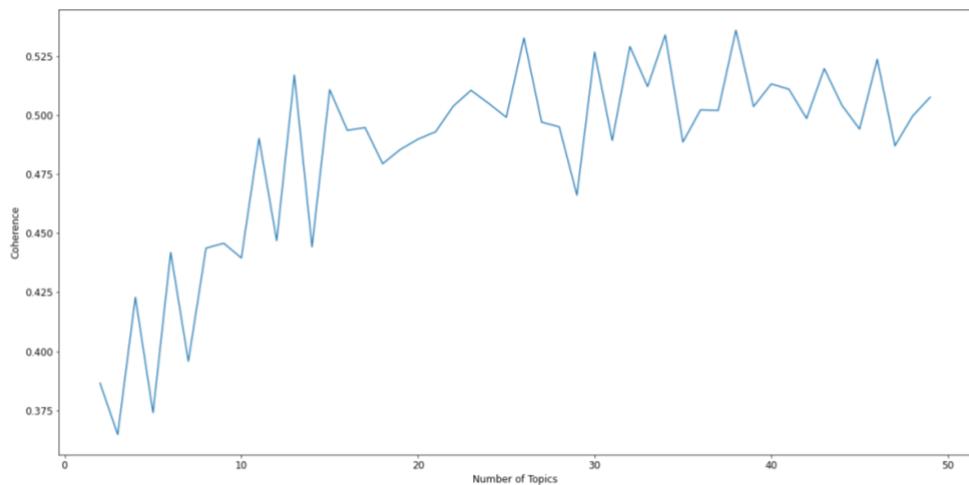


Figure 1. Coherence metrics for LDA models with 2-48 topics

**Source:** author's calculations

4. As the value for **hyperparameters**  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  we use the default values for Gensim.

As a result, we got **38 topics**. The link to the code for topic modelling procedure is presented in the **Appendix E2. Topic Modelling Procedure Code**. News dataset with assigned topics can be found in **Appendix E1. Topic Modelling Dataset**

According to (Lau, Newman, Karimi, & Baldwin, 2010) ten words with the highest weights contain around 30% of all information about the specific topic. Thus, we list such ten words related with each topic in the **Appendix E3. LDA Topic Modeling Table**. We also labeled topics in more

“human” way where it was possible. As we can see from the table, the topics can be quite easily identified and labeled by the human language name in most of the cases.

**Table #2**

**Examples of Topics Related to “Economics”, “Finance”, “Banks” (LDA approach)**

<b>Computer Language name of the topic</b>	<b>Human Language name of the topic</b>	<b>Key Words (top 10 words)</b>
Topic #1	<b>“Нефть”</b>	0.013*“рынок” + 0.011*“цена” + 0.011*“рост” + 0.009*“нефть” + 0.007*“российский” + 0.007*“страна” + 0.006*“рубль” + 0.006*“сша” + 0.006*“уровень” + 0.005*“экономика”
Topic #7	<b>“Фондовый рынок”</b>	0.017*“компания” + 0.010*“рынок” + 0.006*“фонд” + 0.005*“руб” + 0.005*“цена” + 0.004*“млн” + 0.004*“ставка” + 0.004*“банк” + 0.004*“российский” + 0.003*“директор”
Topic #9	<b>“Центральный Банк”</b>	0.034*“банк” + 0.016*“млрд” + 0.009*“кредит” + 0.008*“руб” + 0.007*“цб” + 0.006*“ставка” + 0.006*“млн” + 0.006*“кредитный” + 0.006*“рынок” + 0.005*“составлять”
Topic #11	<b>“США-Россия”</b>	0.014*“сша” + 0.009*“президент” + 0.008*“страна” + 0.007*“российский” + 0.005*“американский” + 0.005*“отношение” + 0.005*“сторона” + 0.005*“трамп” + 0.004*“мид” + 0.004*“власть”
Topic #20	<b>“Транспортировка грузов”</b>	0.009*“самолет” + 0.004*“первый” + 0.004*“сказать” + 0.004*“находиться” + 0.003*“борт” + 0.003*“экипаж” + 0.003*“происходить” + 0.003*“говорить” + 0.003*“корабль” + 0.003*“сша”
Topic #21	<b>“Недвижимость”</b>	0.010*“цена” + 0.010*“квартира” + 0.009*“дом” + 0.008*“жилье” + 0.007*“строительство” + 0.007*“недвижимость” + 0.007*“рынок” + 0.007*“компания” + 0.006*“dj” + 0.006*“кв”
Topic #22	<b>“Россия-Украина”</b>	0.014*“президент” + 0.008*“выборы” + 0.008*“глава” + 0.007*“партия” + 0.006*“украина” + 0.005*“вопрос” + 0.005*“страна” + 0.004*“решение” + 0.004*“депутат” + 0.004*“принимать”
Topic #29	<b>“Международный спорт”</b>	0.008*“первый” + 0.007*“мир” + 0.007*“турнир” + 0.006*“место” + 0.006*“российский” + 0.006*“второй” + 0.005*“олимпийский” + 0.005*“чемпионат” + 0.005*“сборная” + 0.005*“выигрывать”
Topic #34	<b>“Производство и Предприятия”</b>	0.012*“ завод” + 0.009*“ предприятие” + 0.008*“ производство” + 0.006*“ млн” + 0.005*“ рынок” + 0.005*“ компания” + 0.005*“ продукция” + 0.004*“ область” + 0.004*“ млрд” + 0.004*“ проект”
Topic #35	<b>“Украина-Газ”</b>	0.017*“газ” + 0.012*“газпром” + 0.009*“украина” + 0.007*“поставка” + 0.007*“российский” + 0.007*“ес” + 0.006*“страна” + 0.006*“компания” + 0.005*“млрд” + 0.005*“соглашение”

*Source: author’s calculations*



Selected Topic: 6    Previous Topic    Next Topic    Clear Topic

Slide to adjust relevance metric:(2)  
 $\lambda = 1$

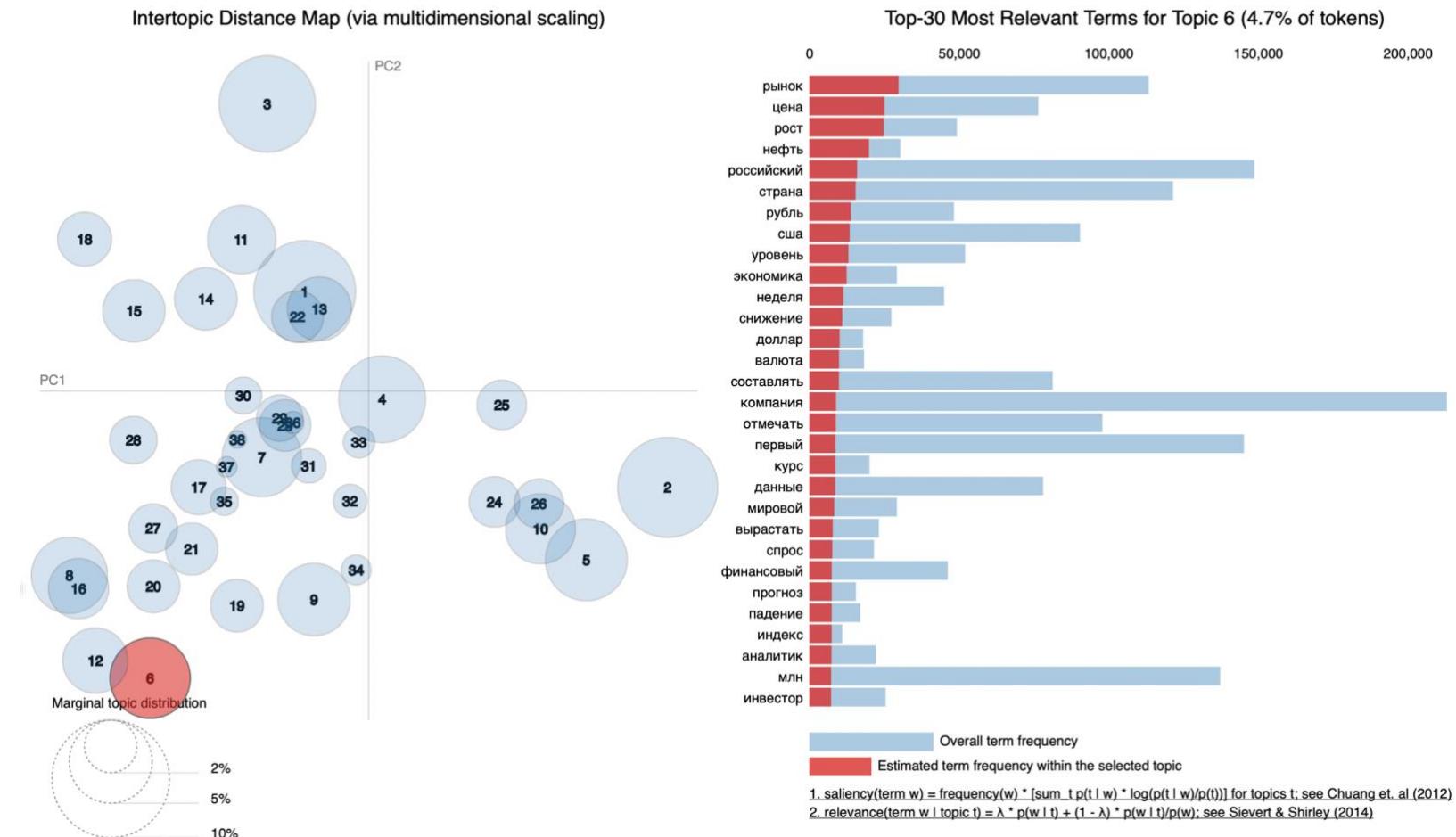


Figure 2. Intertopic Distance Map (Topic #1 “Нефть”)

Source: author's calculations

## *News Indexes*

Following the procedure described in the **Methodology** we have created the Frequency News Index and Sentiment News Index on monthly and quarterly basis for both topic classification (LDA and K-Means Clustering). The link to the code for Frequency News Index calculating is presented in the **Appendix F2. Frequency News Index Calculation Code**. The link to the code for Sentiment News Index calculating is presented in the **Appendix F5. Sentiment News Index Calculation Code**.

Due to the fact, that in our analysis we consider long time period (16 years) we can't represent the table with all the calculated indexes (even on quarterly basis) here in the text. So that, we apply the links to both datasets: see **Appendix F1. Frequency News Index Dataset** and **Appendix F4. Sentiment News Index Dataset**, respectively.

Because of dealing with two topic specifications and considering index for each of the topic separately the one single time-series graph seems to be unreadable and hard to understand. So that, we plot several pallets of all the graphs for each of the index, for each of the topic separately on the quarterly basis. See **Appendix F3. Frequency News Index Graphs** and **Appendix F6. Sentiment News Index Graphs**, respectively.

## *Forecasting and nowcasting: comparison and results*

Due to high dimensional tables with estimations, we are not going to present all the tables with the results by each macroeconomics variable but provide the summary description. All the tables can be provided on request.

**(1) ML - Retraining matter.** *Whether the retraining procedure in the forecast/nowcast machine learning models improve the errors of predictions?*

The positive improvement in errors (lower errors) was obtained in case of all the macro variables for all the model specification except linear model, elastic net and XGBOOST for 1 lag.

**The result means that retraining procedure matters for the Machine Learning models and allows to get lower errors of forecasting/nowcasting.**

**(2) TS with retraining - News Indexes matter.** *Whether news indexes in the forecast/nowcast time series models with retraining improves the errors of predictions?*

The negative improvement in errors (higher errors) was obtained in case of all the macro variables for all the model specification.

**The result means that the inclusion of news indexes in the retrained time-series model increases the forecast/nowcast errors. So that, news indexes don't allow to improve forecast/nowcast.**

- (3) TS with-out retraining - News Indexes matter.** *Whether news indexes in the forecast/nowcast time series models with-out retraining improves the errors of predictions?*

The negative improvement in errors (higher errors) was obtained in case of all the macro variables for all the model specification.

**The result means that the inclusion of news indexes in the non-retrained time-series model increases the forecast/nowcast errors. So that, news indexes don't allow to improve forecast/nowcast.**

- (4) TS - Retraining matter.** *Whether the retraining procedure in the forecast/nowcast time-series models improve the errors of predictions?*

For **BCI** and **CCI** the retraining procedure brings higher errors than non-retraining models for all the specifications with indexes. That means, that there is no need in retraining in case of news index inclusion. Moreover, the same result is obtained for time-series models with-out new indexes (3 and 6 lags models) except 1 lag model. So that the standard AR(1) process performs better after retraining procedure.

For **CPI**, **IM** and **NX** the retraining procedure with news indexes brings lower errors than non-retraining one in case of forecasting but not in nowcasting. However, for the sentiment index the retraining procedure improves the nowcasting, too.

For **EX** the retraining procedure with news indexes brings lower errors than non-retraining one in case of forecasting and nowcasting.

**The result means that for most of the considered macroeconomic variables the retraining procedure allows to improve the forecasting, but not the nowcasting.**

- (5) ML versus TS – with news indexes with-out retraining case.** *Whether machine learning models with news indexes and with-out retraining are better than time-series models with news indexes and with-out retraining?*

Almost for all the cases at least one ML model with indexes outperform the time-series model with indexes with the same number of lags. In most of the cases RIDGE and LASSO models were the best one.

**(6) ML versus TS – with news indexes with retraining case.** *Whether machine learning models with news indexes and with retraining are better than time-series models with news indexes and with retraining?*

Almost for all the cases ML model with indexes outperform the time-series model with indexes with the same number of lags. The result is quite obvious due to the result from (4) – retraining procedure increases the errors for time-series models.

Finally, we can compare all the models (96 models for each of the variable). See **Appendix H** for more details.

- (1) Considering **BCI** variable (**Appendix H1**), we can note that the best forecasting and nowcasting model specification is simple AR(3) process, except the case with Sentiment index. In the latter case Lasso model with 6 lags with sentiment index outperform all AR(3) process.
- (2) Considering **CCI** variable (**Appendix H2**), we can note that the best forecasting and nowcasting model specification is Elastic Net with 6 lags with-out retraining procedure for Frequency index of all the lists specification, but not for the Sentiment Index.
- (3) Considering **CPI** variable (**Appendix H3**), we can note that the best forecasting and nowcasting model specification is simple AR(1) process.
- (4) Considering **EX** variable (**Appendix H4**), we can note that the best forecasting and nowcasting models for any news index are several specifications of machine learning models (Lasso, XGBOOST, Random Forest) and no AR process at the top 10 models in the list.
- (5) Considering **IM** variable (**Appendix H5**), we can note that the best forecasting and nowcasting models for any news index (except Optimal Frequency Index) are several specifications of machine learning models (Lasso, XGBOOST, Random Forest, Elastic Net) and no AR process at the top 10 models in the list (except ARXF(1) for the Frequency Index Optimal)
- (6) Considering **NX** variable (**Appendix H6**), we can note that the best forecasting and nowcasting models for any news index (except Sentiment Index) are several specifications of machine learning models (Lasso, XGBOOST, Random Forest, Elastic Net) and no AR process at the top 10 models in the list (except ARXN(3) and ARXN(1) for the Sentiment Index)

Thus, we can state that for some of the chosen macroeconomic variables (CCI, EX, IM, NX) machine learning models with news indexes sufficiently improves the forecasting/nowcasting power.

## Further Work

In our work we consider only the one Russian news source. Such an approach may lead to bias results. So that, the further extension of the analysis may be the inclusion and consideration of several news sources, such as “РБК”, “Ведомости”, “Интерфакс”, etc. This allows to catch the different style of writing the news, different political views and different audiences. It can be scientifically valuable to analyze the model where several news resources are included with relative weights. Thus, the effect of different news sources on forecast can be evaluated and verified.

Moreover, we have used only one basic topic modelling procedure: LDA. There exists one more advanced method – LDA2VEC, which performs better in topic modelling procedure. So, the implementation of such method and comparison with the LDA results can be the relevant extension of the current paper.

In addition, in our paper we didn't consider the structural relationship between the variables and the structure of the economy. Thus, it can be quite important to replicate the (Larsen & Thorsrud, 2019) approach related to full-sample SVAR and out-of sample SVAR forecasting in the framework of Russian news corpuses.

Finally, in our analysis we consider only a limited range of macroeconomic variables. So that the further work can be done in the widening the range of chosen macroeconomic variables (for example GDP, Investment, Consumption etc.). We also didn't consider such a variable as Total Factor Productivity (**TFP**) due to the non-trivial computation process and lack of relevant calculated data in Russian datasets. Moreover, there is no monthly or quarterly data for TFP variable. So that, the only yearly analysis is allowed. In this case the dataset of news should be quite large (around 40 years or more), that seems quite impossible in case of Russia history.

## Conclusion

In recent years the idea of predicting and explaining the economic fluctuations with the use of news data has become more popular in research papers. In our research we have made an attempt to investigate whether the predictive power of forecasts for macroeconomic variables can be improved with the use of news data in Russia. The **novelty** of the study is the development Russian specific approach to model the topics and implement it on Russia case. As soon as macroeconomic aggregates are often revised in Russia the prediction in such conditions seems to be a challenge.

We have chosen the newspaper that concern economic, finance and development issues and related topics – “Коммерсантъ” as the source of news articles. All the articles published in the period of 2010-2020 were extracted. Then the appropriate data processing procedures were conducted. We have replicated the method commonly used in the related articles: LDA (Yakovleva, 2018), (Larsen & Thorsrud, 2019), (Seleznev & Mamedli, 2020) in order to proceed with topic modelling. As the result 38 topics were obtained and most of them was labeled in human language, meaning the good and nice readability and interpretability. Finally, only 10 meaningful topics were chosen for further analysis.

Frequency and Sentiment Indexes were built for these 10 chosen topics and used for the forecasting several macroeconomic variables. We have run 96 model specifications for each of the macroeconomic variable. Our analysis revealed that for some of the chosen macroeconomic variables (CCI, EX, IM, NX) machine learning models with news indexes sufficiently improves the forecasting/nowcasting power relative to classical time-series models, even time-series with the same news indexes.

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## **Appendix A**

### ***Appendix A1. News Data***

Link to the raw news datasets for coding procedure:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BvKUTpL4MuEK9HhecLiVgs2-YC1RPxFw?usp=sharing>

Link to the raw news dataset for viewing:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BvGctQ-YXNs2TnEeqJOc4qLiIysHqABw?usp=sharing>

### ***Appendix A2. Parsing Code***

Link to the code for parsing (.ipynb):

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BzlMX0ZwyRkdQ0axFwYu5fFbMVft9yNi?usp=sharing>

## **Appendix B**

### ***Appendix B1. Processed News Data***

Link to the processed news dataset for coding procedure:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1OrGizDkowR2uZGr65AM35JeMpN\\_WCooO?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1OrGizDkowR2uZGr65AM35JeMpN_WCooO?usp=sharing)

Link to the processed news dataset for viewing:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cDyoZsn2Un0VVwxXgkW056CmQ4NqURGv?usp=sharing>

### ***Appendix B2. Processing Code***

Link to the code for news data processing (.ipynb):

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1C2T-7s6ktBdjmD6Yn70MdAePUemj9aBL?usp=sharing>

## **Appendix C**

### ***Appendix C1. Numerical (Macro) Data***

Link to the raw news datasets for viewing:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1udSfEO1FBvwxOsqJ31QrWSxDe9RkWhog?usp=sharing>

**Appendix C2. Numerical Data Description Table**

**Appendix table #1**

**Numerical Data Description**

Variable	Frequency	Features	Data source	Definition
<b>CCI</b>	monthly	points; seasonally adjusted by the original source	OECD Database	This consumer confidence indicator provides an indication of future developments of households' consumption and saving, based upon answers regarding their expected financial situation, their sentiment about the general economic situation, unemployment and capability of savings.
<b>BCI</b>	monthly	points; seasonally adjusted by the original source	OECD Database	Business Confidence Index (BCI) is based on a monthly opinion survey and covers opinion on developments in production, orders, and stocks of finished goods in the industry sector.
<b>Inflation</b>	monthly	percent	OECD Database	Inflation is measured by Consumer Price Index, including inflation from energy sources.
<b>Export</b>	monthly	in real term; in rubles; seasonally adjusted by the original source	IMF Database	
<b>Import</b>	monthly	in real term; in rubles; seasonally adjusted by the original source	IMF Database	
<b>Net Export</b>	monthly	in real term; in rubles; seasonally adjusted by the original source	IMF Database	

*Source: IMF Database, OECD Database*

## Appendix D

### Appendix D1. The List of Descriptors for Frequency News Index

Appendix table #2

#### List of Descriptors for Frequency News Index [basic]

Positive	Negative
"устойчивый", "устойчивость", "стабильный", "стабильность", "уверенность", "уверенный", "благоприятный", "улучшение", "рост", "подъем", "подъём", "положительный", "прогресс", "развитие", "позитивный", "спокойствие", "выигрывать", "расти", "подниматься"	"устойчивый", "устойчивость", "стабильный", "стабильность", "уверенность", "уверенный", "благоприятный", "улучшение", "рост", "подъем", "подъём", "положительный", "прогресс", "развитие", "позитивный", "спокойствие", "выигрывать", "расти", "подниматься"

*Source:* author's calculations

Appendix table #3

#### List of Descriptors for Frequency News Index [optimal]

Positive	Negative
"безопасность", "безопасный", "бережливость", "бережливый", "благоприятный", "богатство", "богатый", "возобновлять", "восполнять", "выздоровливать", "выздоровление", "договариваться", "договориться", "доступный", "защита", "компенсация", "компенсировать", "крепкий", "льготы", "надёжность", "надежный", "надёжный", "невиновный", "облегчать", "облегчение", "облегчить", "обновление", "обновлять", "ожидать", "оздоровление", "оптимистичный", "подниматься", "подъем", "подъём", "позитивный", "положительный", "помогать", "помощь", "пополнение", "порядок", "пособие", "прогресс", "прогрессивный", "продвигать", "продвижение", "прочный", "развитие", "расти", "рост", "сохранение", "сохранять", "спокойствие", "стабильность", "стабильный", "страхование", "страховка",	"банкрот", "банкротство", "бедность", "бедный", "безденежный", "безденежье", "безнадежный", "безнадёжный", "безработный", "беспокойство", "беспомощность", "беспомощный", "беспорядки", "волнение", "волноваться", "вторгаться", "вторжение", "вымогательство", "вымогать", "девальвация", "дезинформация", "дезинформировать", "дезорганизация", "дезорганизовать", "депрессивный", "депрессия", "дефолт", "дисбаланс", "дно", "долг", "должник", "клевета", "коррупция", "кризис", "кризисный", "кriminal", "криминальный", "небезопасность", "небезопасный", "негативный", "недоступный", "неустойчивость", "неустойчивый", "обанкротиться", "обеспокоенность", "обеспокоить", "обеспокоиться", "ограничение", "опасность", "опасный", "ослабление", "отрицательный", "отставка",

"строительство", "строить", "уверенность", "уверенный", "улучшение", "устойчивость", "устойчивый", "энергичный"	"падать", "падение", "паника", "пессимистический", "пессимистичный", "понижение", "потери", "прекращение", "разрушать", "разрушение", "разрушительный", "рецессия", "санкции", "сдерживание", "сдерживать", "скандал", "скандальный", "слабый", "сокращение", "спад", "тревога", "тревожный", "увольнение", "утекать", "утечка", "утрачивать", "ухудшение", "ущерб", "фальсификация", "фальсифицировать", "штрафы"
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*Source:* author's calculations

Appendix table #4

#### List of Descriptors for Frequency News Index [full]

Positive	Negative
<p>"баланс", "безопасность", "безопасный",      "бережливость", "бережливый",      "благоприятный", "богатство", "богатый",      "бодрить", "бодрость", "большой", "веселить",      "весело", "веселье", "влюбляться",      "возобновлять", "восполнить", "восторженный",      "выздоровливать", "выздоровление",      "выигрывать", "высокий", "герой",      "героический", "добро", "доброта", "добрый",      "договариваться", "договориться", "доступный",      "друг", "дружба", "забота", "заботиться",      "защита", "компенсация", "компенсировать",      "красивый", "красота", "крепкий", "льготы",      "любовь", "мир", "надёжность", "надежный",      "надёжный", "невиновный", "облегчать",      "облегчение", "облегчить", "обновление",      "обновлять", "одобрение", "ожидать",      "оздоровление", "оптимистичный", "память",      "победа", "побеждать", "подниматься",      "подъем", "подъём", "позитивный",      "положительный", "помогать", "помощь",      "пополнение", "порядок", "пособие", "прогресс",      "прогрессивный", "продвигать", "продвижение",      "прочный", "развитие", "расти", "рост",      "семейный", "семья", "сильный", "сохранение",      "сохранять", "спокойствие", "стабильность",</p>	<p>"агрессивный", "агрессия", "банкрот",      "банкротство", "бедность", "бедный",      "безденежный", "безденежье", "безнадежный",      "безнадёжный", "безнаказанность",      "безнаказанный", "безработный",      "беспокойство", "беспомощность",      "беспомощный", "беспорядки", "бракованный",      "взламывать", "взлом", "взрыв", "возбуждать",      "война", "волнение", "волноваться", "вранье",      "врать", "вторгаться", "вторжение",      "вымогательство", "вымогать", "гибнуть",      "гнев", "девальвация", "дезинформация",      "дезинформировать", "дезорганизация",      "дезорганизовать", "депрессивный",      "депрессия", "дефолт", "дисбаланс", "дно",      "долг", "должник", "жадность", "жадный",      "загрязнение", "загрязнять", "злиться", "злой",      "злость", "избивать", "избить", "клевета",      "коррупция", "кризис", "кризисный",      "кriminal", "кriminalnyy", "маленький",      "небезопасность", "небезопасный",      "негативный", "недоступный", "ненависть",      "неустойчивость", "неустойчивый", "низкий",      "обанкротиться", "обеспокоенность",      "обесокоинить", "обескоиниться", "огорчаться",      "огорчение", "огорчить", "ограничение",</p>

"стабильный", "страхование", "страховка", "строительство", "строить", "уверенность", "уверенный", "улучшение", "устойчивость", "устойчивый", "энергичный"	"опасность", "опасный", "оскорбить", "оскорбление", "оскорблять", "ослабление", "отрицательный", "отставка", "падать", "падение", "паника", "пессимистический", "пессимистичный", "плохой", "погибнуть", "подделка", "подделывать", "понижение", "поражение", "потери", "прекращение", "преступление", "программеть", "проигрывать", "проигрыш", "разрушать", "разрушение", "разрушительный", "рецессия", "самоубийство", "санкции", "сдерживание", "сдерживать", "скандал", "скандальный", "слабый", "смерть", "сокращение", "спад", "суицид", "тревога", "тревожный", "убивать", "убийство", "увольнение", "умереть", "умирать", "утекать", "утечка", "утрачивать", "ухудшение", "ущемлять", "ущерб", "фальсификация", "фальсифицировать", "штрафы"
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## Appendix E

### Appendix E1. Topic Modeling Dataset

Link to the dataset for coding procedure:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ORxPb9MGklS2MqvyyeFKC1CS4JYKf4Ly?usp=sharing>

Link to the dataset to view:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xehrjtuN8V6H2o74zmH8O4KScVMg6hFJ?usp=sharing>

### Appendix E2. Topic Modeling Procedure Code

Link to the code for topic modelling (.ipynb):

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1C39JYHbVR8Pw3Yy8cUcQLKCeTdrvw0ag?usp=sharing>

*Appendix E3. LDA Topic Modeling Table*

**Appendix Table #5**

**Generated topics and related words (LDA approach)**

Computer Language name of the topic	Human Language name of the topic	Key Words (top 10 words)
Topic #0	<b>“Арбитражное судопроизводство”</b>	0.034*"суд" + 0.027*"дело" + 0.022*"область" + 0.018*"арбитражный" + 0.018*"ooo" + 0.018*"решение" + 0.013*"отношение" + 0.013*"инн" + 0.011*"конкурсный" + 0.010*"огрн"
Topic #1	<b>“Нефть”</b>	0.013*"рынок" + 0.011*"цена" + 0.011*"рост" + 0.009*"нефть" + 0.007*"российский" + 0.007*"страна" + 0.006*"рубль" + 0.006*"сша" + 0.006*"уровень" + 0.005*"экономика"
Topic #2	<b>“Сети и Технологии”</b>	0.010*"компания" + 0.005*"система" + 0.005*"рынок" + 0.004*"сеть" + 0.004*"проект" + 0.004*"работать" + 0.004*"пользователь" + 0.004*"технология" + 0.003*"оператор" + 0.003*"говорить"
Topic #3	<b>“Судебное дело”</b>	0.020*"суд" + 0.011*"дело" + 0.006*"право" + 0.005*"решение" + 0.005*"адвокат" + 0.004*"иск" + 0.004*"судебный" + 0.004*"судья" + 0.004*"уголовный" + 0.004*"нарушение"
Topic #4	<b>“Образование”</b>	0.008*"млн" + 0.006*"вуз" + 0.004*"первый" + 0.004*"торги" + 0.004*"образование" + 0.003*"работа" + 0.003*"школа" + 0.003*"компания" + 0.003*"продажа" + 0.003*"руб"
Topic #5	<b>“Банки и кредиты #1”</b>	0.022*"банк" + 0.006*"акция" + 0.005*"сбербанк" + 0.005*"кредит" + 0.005*"компания" + 0.004*"млн" + 0.004*"сделка" + 0.003*"заемщик" + 0.003*"млрд" + 0.003*"актив"
Topic #6	<b>“Федеральное регулирование”</b>	0.007*"закон" + 0.007*"руб" + 0.005*"проверка" + 0.005*"федеральный" + 0.005*"орган" + 0.004*"организация" + 0.004*"нарушение" + 0.004*"дело" + 0.004*"документ" + 0.004*"правительство"
Topic #7	<b>“Фондовый рынок #1”</b>	0.017*"компания" + 0.010*"рынок" + 0.006*"фонд" + 0.005*"руб" + 0.005*"цена" + 0.004*"млн" + 0.004*"ставка" + 0.004*"банк" + 0.004*"российский" + 0.003*"директор"
Topic #8		0.015*"руб" + 0.006*"дело" + 0.005*"область" + 0.004*"компания" + 0.004*"соус" + 0.004*"решение" + 0.003*"суд" + 0.003*"ooo" + 0.003*"фонд" + 0.003*"банк"
Topic #9	<b>“Центральный Банк”</b>	0.034*"банк" + 0.016*"млрд" + 0.009*"кредит" + 0.008*"руб" + 0.007*"цб" + 0.006*"ставка" + 0.006*"млн" + 0.006*"кредитный" + 0.006*"рынок" + 0.005*"составлять"
Topic #10	<b>“Фондовый рынок #2”</b>	0.017*"компания" + 0.010*"млрд" + 0.007*"руб" + 0.007*"рынок" + 0.005*"млн" + 0.005*"автомобиль" + 0.005*"банк" + 0.004*"объем" + 0.004*"акция" + 0.004*"долг"

Topic #11	<b>“США-Россия”</b>	0.014*"сша" + 0.009*"президент" + 0.008*"страна" + 0.007*"российский" + 0.005*"американский" + 0.005*"отношение" + 0.005*"сторона" + 0.005*"трамп" + 0.004*"мид" + 0.004*"власть"
Topic #12	<b>“Оборона и Армия”</b>	0.013*"военный" + 0.005*"страна" + 0.005*"сила" + 0.004*"российский" + 0.004*"армия" + 0.004*"войско" + 0.004*"президент" + 0.004*"оборона" + 0.004*" власть" + 0.004*"город"
Topic #13		0.007*"компания" + 0.006*"область" + 0.005*"руб" + 0.005*"млн" + 0.005*"уголь" + 0.004*"ооо" + 0.004*"дело" + 0.004*"суд" + 0.003*"группа" + 0.003*"первый"
Topic #14	<b>“Происшествия Москвы”</b>	0.022*"улица" + 0.010*"площадь" + 0.009*"москва" + 0.008*"город" + 0.007*"пожар" + 0.006*"центр" + 0.006*"здание" + 0.005*"митинг" + 0.005*" власть" + 0.004*"дом"
Topic #15	<b>“Уголовные нарушения”</b>	0.014*"дело" + 0.007*"уголовный" + 0.006*"сотрудник" + 0.006*"суд" + 0.006*"следствие" + 0.005*"задерживать" + 0.005*"следственный" + 0.004*"мвд" + 0.004*"находиться" + 0.004*"ст"
Topic #16	<b>“Авиаперевозки”</b>	0.011*"аэропорт" + 0.008*"рейс" + 0.007*"авиакомпания" + 0.006*"пассажир" + 0.004*"транспорт" + 0.004*"самолет" + 0.004*"российский" + 0.004*"компания" + 0.003*"билет" + 0.003*"перевозчик"
Topic #17	<b>“Банковское дело”</b>	0.007*"говорить" + 0.006*"вопрос" + 0.006*"сказать" + 0.005*"банк" + 0.005*"путин" + 0.004*"должный" + 0.004*"страна" + 0.004*"проблема" + 0.004*"деньги" + 0.004*"считать"
Topic #18	<b>“Мода и одежда”</b>	0.008*"коллекция" + 0.007*"одежда" + 0.004*"компания" + 0.004*"костюм" + 0.004*"платье" + 0.003*"марка" + 0.003*"сезон" + 0.003*"мода" + 0.003*"обувь" + 0.003*"продажа"
Topic #19	<b>“Досуг”</b>	0.004*"день" + 0.003*"большой" + 0.002*"говорить" + 0.002*"работа" + 0.002*"первый" + 0.002*"ресторан" + 0.002*"каждый" + 0.002*"дом" + 0.002*"место" + 0.002*"сделать"
Topic #20	<b>“Транспортировка грузов”</b>	0.009*"самолет" + 0.004*"первый" + 0.004*"сказать" + 0.004*"находиться" + 0.003*"борт" + 0.003*"экипаж" + 0.003*"происходить" + 0.003*"говорить" + 0.003*"корабль" + 0.003*"сша"
Topic #21	<b>“Недвижимость”</b>	0.010*"цена" + 0.010*"квартира" + 0.009*"дом" + 0.008*"жилье" + 0.007*"строительство" + 0.007*"недвижимость" + 0.007*"рынок" + 0.007*"компания" + 0.006*"dj" + 0.006*"кв"
Topic #22	<b>“Россия-Украина”</b>	0.014*"президент" + 0.008*"выборы" + 0.008*"глава" + 0.007*"партия" + 0.006*"украина" + 0.005*"вопрос" + 0.005*"страна" + 0.004*"решение" + 0.004*"депутат" + 0.004*"принимать"
Topic #23	<b>“Госкоспания”</b>	0.012*"акция" + 0.011*"директор" + 0.011*"компания" + 0.009*"совет" + 0.007*"навальный" + 0.007*"оao" + 0.006*"область" + 0.005*"губернатор" + 0.005*"акционер" + 0.005*"правительство"

Topic #24	<b>“Выборы”</b>	0.009*"глава" + 0.008*"депутат" + 0.007*"выборы" + 0.006*"губернатор" + 0.006*"мэр" + 0.005*"единий" + 0.005*"партия" + 0.005*"дело" + 0.005*"область" + 0.004*"александр"
Topic #25	<b>“Кино и театр”</b>	0.012*"театр" + 0.010*"режиссер" + 0.009*"франция" + 0.009*"сша" + 0.008*"роль" + 0.006*"кино" + 0.006*"звезда" + 0.006*"формула" + 0.006*"октябрь" + 0.005*"германия"
Topic #26	<b>“Спорт”</b>	0.015*"матч" + 0.011*"команда" + 0.009*"клуб" + 0.008*"чемпионат" + 0.007*"сборная" + 0.007*"первый" + 0.006*"счет" + 0.005*"игра" + 0.005*"лига" + 0.005*"второй"
Topic #27	<b>“Пандемия”</b>	0.009*"москва" + 0.005*"пандемия" + 0.005*"вакцина" + 0.005*"работа" + 0.004*"случай" + 0.004*"строительство" + 0.003*"город" + 0.003*"российский" + 0.003*"страна" + 0.003*"число"
Topic #28	<b>“Фильмы”</b>	0.006*"фильм" + 0.004*"первый" + 0.004*"жизнь" + 0.003*"история" + 0.003*"хороший" + 0.003*"главный" + 0.003*"говорить" + 0.002*"мир" + 0.002*"большой" + 0.002*"герой"
Topic #29	<b>“Международный спорт”</b>	0.008*"первый" + 0.007*"мир" + 0.007*"турнир" + 0.006*"место" + 0.006*"российский" + 0.006*"второй" + 0.005*"олимпийский" + 0.005*"чемпионат" + 0.005*"сборная" + 0.005*"выигрывать"
Topic #30	<b>“Медицина”</b>	0.013*"ребенок" + 0.007*"пациент" + 0.007*"врач" + 0.007*"медицинский" + 0.006*"компания" + 0.006*"дело" + 0.005*"страховой" + 0.004*"область" + 0.004*"больница" + 0.004*"руб"
Topic #31	<b>“Проекты и бюджеты фирм”</b>	0.015*"млрд" + 0.009*"руб" + 0.008*"бюджет" + 0.008*"компания" + 0.006*"составлять" + 0.005*"млн" + 0.005*"проект" + 0.004*"доход" + 0.004*"расход" + 0.004*"рынок"
Topic #32	<b>“Управление компаний”</b>	0.010*"ooo" + 0.010*"дело" + 0.007*"отношение" + 0.007*"проект" + 0.007*"компания" + 0.006*"управляющий" + 0.006*"ас" + 0.006*"вводить" + 0.006*"нп" + 0.005*"определение"
Topic #33	<b>“Сделки компаний”</b>	0.024*"компания" + 0.017*"млн" + 0.008*"млрд" + 0.005*"проект" + 0.005*"составлять" + 0.005*"руб" + 0.005*"сделка" + 0.005*"крупный" + 0.004*"сеть" + 0.004*"рынок"
Topic #34	<b>“Производство и Предприятия”</b>	0.012*" завод" + 0.009*"предприятие" + 0.008*"производство" + 0.006*"млн" + 0.005*"рынок" + 0.005*"компания" + 0.005*"продукция" + 0.004*"область" + 0.004*"млрд" + 0.004*"проект"
Topic #35	<b>“Украина-Газ”</b>	0.017*"газ" + 0.012*"газпром" + 0.009*"украина" + 0.007*"поставка" + 0.007*"российский" + 0.007*"ес" + 0.006*"страна" + 0.006*"компания" + 0.005*"млрд" + 0.005*"соглашение"
Topic #36	<b>“Торги и Аукционы”</b>	0.030*"торги" + 0.017*"имущество" + 0.015*"продажа" + 0.015*"аукцион" + 0.013*"открытый" + 0.013*"форма" + 0.012*"организатор" + 0.011*"проведение" + 0.011*"управляющий" + 0.010*"конкурсный"
Topic #37		0.005*"судно" + 0.004*"российский" + 0.004*"компания" + 0.004*"facebook" + 0.004*"реклама" + 0.003*"получать" + 0.003*"сайт" + 0.003*"млн" + 0.003*" власть" + 0.003*"первый"

*Source: author's calculations*

## Appendix F

### Appendix F1. Frequency News Index Dataset

Link to the dataset for coding procedure:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1LYYmPAQka4nv956D6GieY2j7VmU7ypjm?usp=sharing>

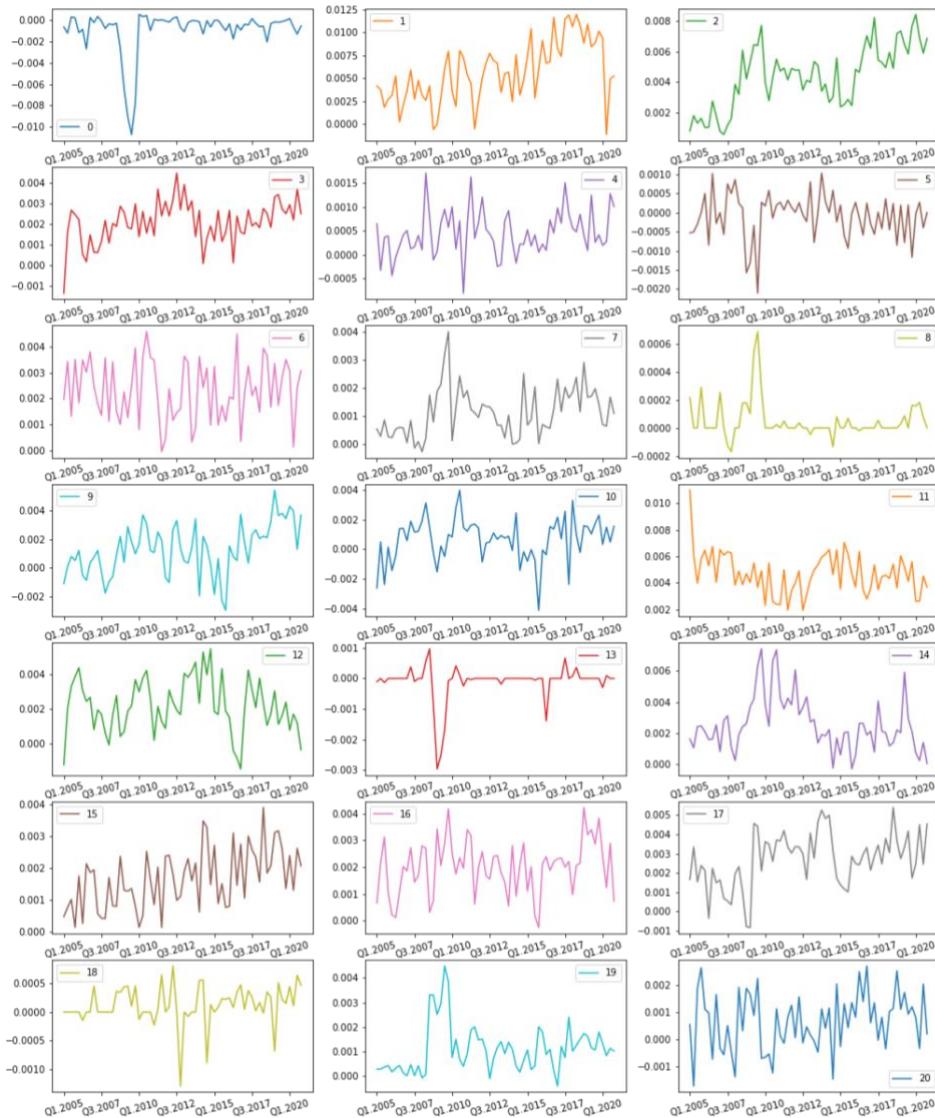
### Appendix F2. Frequency News Index Calculation Code

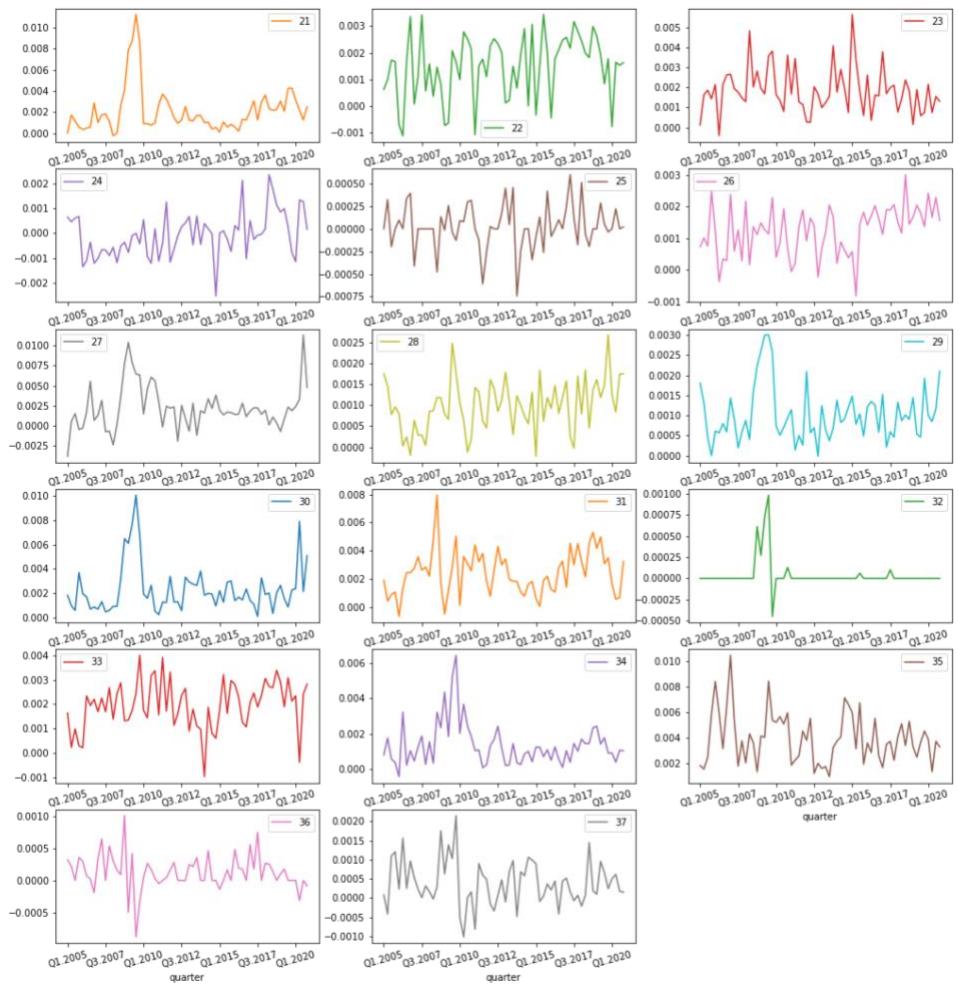
Link to the code for frequency news index (.ipynb):

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Sa-c0PJNKmpLQNEeiyeAsoihCAeQVAn9?usp=sharing>

### Appendix F3. Frequency News Index Graphs

Appendix Figure #4





*Appendix Figure 4. Frequency News Index per LDA topic (quarterly)*

**Source:** author's calculations

#### **Appendix F4. Sentiment News Index Dataset**

Link to the dataset for coding procedure:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Tyjr3e058wkF3Aqs1lpP7dEHu-Loystp?usp=sharing>

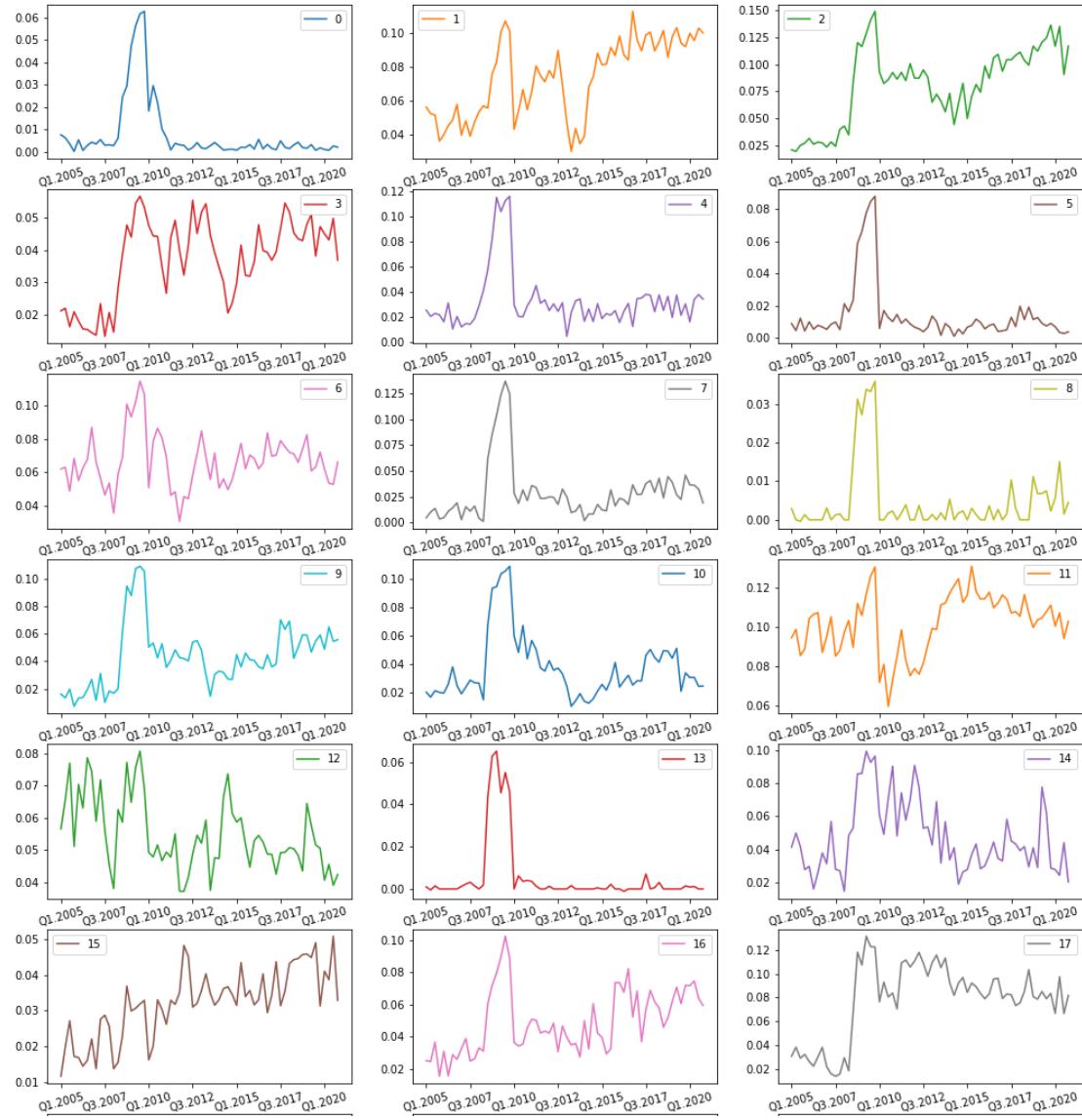
#### **Appendix F5. Sentiment News Index Calculation Code**

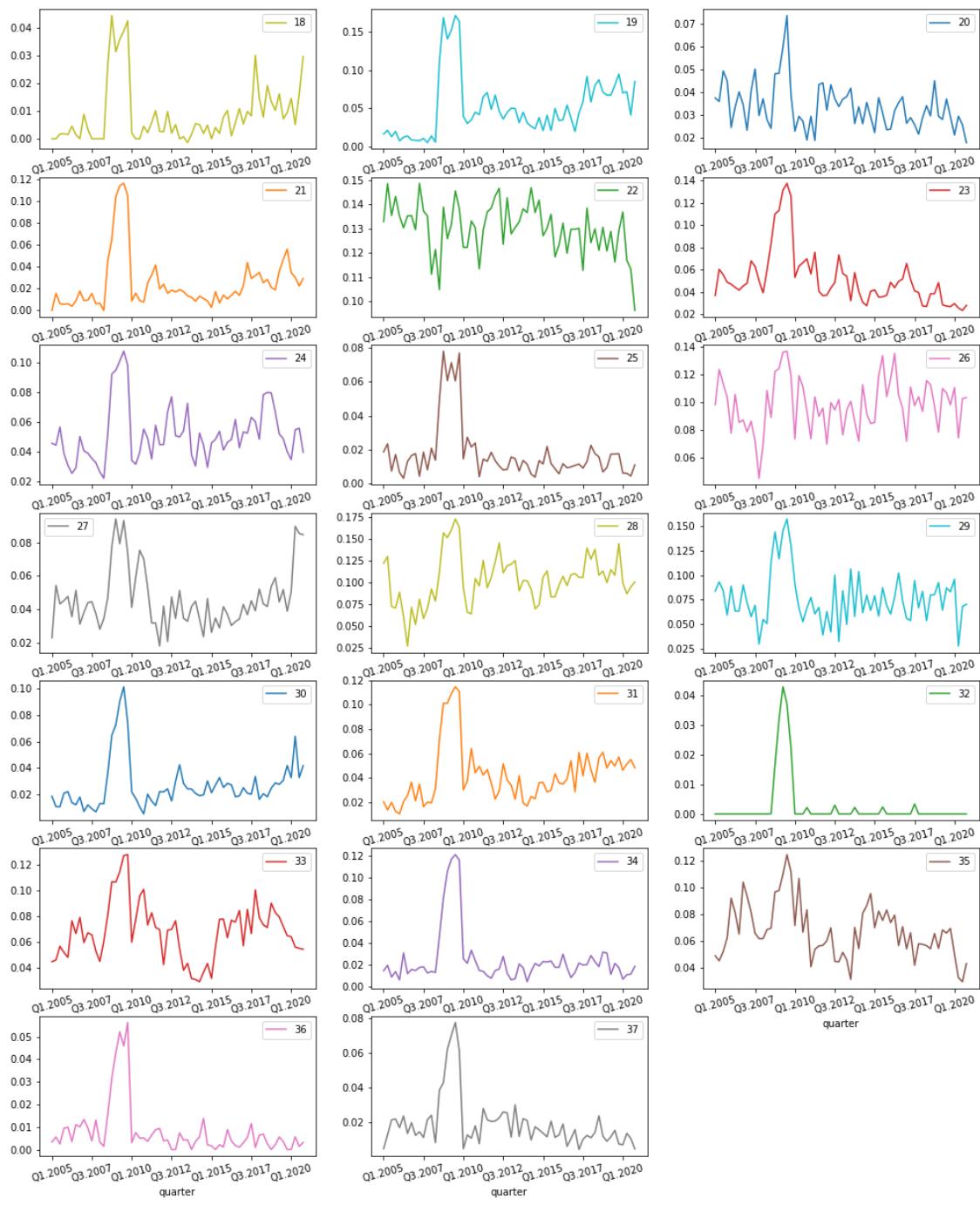
Link to the code for sentiment news index (.ipynb):

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1YmGBK0GILP6LWBwUIF8H6aermtY5PFY6?usp=sharing>

## Appendix F6. Sentiment News Index Graphs

**Appendix Figure #5**





*Appendix Figure 6. Sentiment News Index per LDA topic (quarterly)*

*Source: author's calculations*

## Appendix G

### Appendix G1. Time-series Forecasting Code

Link to the code for forecasting models (.ipynb):

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1j\\_aQmbD5z0O9VLS6P7VGt0Ep19qhXOyi?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1j_aQmbD5z0O9VLS6P7VGt0Ep19qhXOyi?usp=sharing)























