State symbols

1. Anthem of Penza region (composer – V.Ogarev)

2. Flag of Penza region

3. Penza region’s Coat-of-Arms
Location, administrative–territorial division and authorities

Penza region is situated in the European part of Russia, on the East European plain (also known the Russian plain) having land borders with the Republic of Mordovia, Ryazan, Saratov, Tambov, and Ulyanovsk regions. Penza Region is located at the federal highway rail intersection: Center – East and South – North. Total area is 43.3 thousand square kilometers. The region extends 204 km from north to south and 330 km from east to west.

The population of the Penza region is 1,331,655 people including urban population – 912,181 people, rural – 419,474 people (according to the assessment approved by Federal State Statistics Service as of January 1, 2018).

Penza region is a multinational region. The representatives of nearly 100 nationalities live in Penza region. Up to 85% from the total population are Russians, Tatars – 6%, Mordvins – 5%, Chuvash people – 1%. The representatives of other folks – 3%.

Penza region is formed in its modern boundaries on February, 4 1939. The region is a subject of the Russian Federation and a part of Volga Federal district. Penza is its administrative center, located in 650 km to the south–east from Moscow.

There are 321 municipalities in Penza region including:
3 urban districts, 27 municipal districts, 291 settlements, including 24 urban settlements and 267 villages.

The main law is the Regulations of Penza region.
The body of the state executive power is the Government of Penza region.
The Governor of Penza region is Belozertsev Ivan Aleksandrovich.
The Chairman of the Government of Penza region is Simonov Nikolay Petrovich.
Address: 75 Moskovskaya St., Penza, 440025, Russia.
Tel.: +7 (8412) 56–01–94. Official site: www.pnzreg.ru
The body of the legislative power (representative authorities): the Legislative Assembly of Penza region.
The Chairman of the Legislative Assembly of Penza region – Lidin Valery Kuzmich.
The Deputy Chairmen of the Legislative Assembly of Penza region are Kosmachev Vyacheslav Vladimirovich, Egorov Sergey Nikolaevich, Polukarov Vladimir Vasilyevich.
Address: 13 Kirov St., Penza, 440026, Russia
E–mail: zspo@zspo.ru
Climate and Natural Resources

Penza region is located in the north temperate zone at the junction of the forest, forest–steppe and steppe zones. Natural conditions of the area are quite diverse. The flat, slightly hilly terrain, devided by dense net of gulleys and draws, compouns and multiply landscape, defenetly developed river net with scenically attractive landscape, variety of soils creates favorable conditions for human activities.

Climate is temperate continental, gradually increasing from west to east. The most unstable climate element is precipitation. The annual average precipitation in the region varies. During drought they reduce to 350 mm and during wet period they increase to 775 mm. Spring droughts are typical as well as frequent summer and autumn droughts. The average January temperature in Penza is −12 ° C, July +19 ° C.

Sustainable development of the Penza region, improving the quality of life is impossible without the conservation of natural complexes of the region and the establishment of an appropriate quality of the environment.

There are 85 specially protected natural areas with total area of 60.4 thousand hectares. To them belong 78 natural monuments, 6 state zoological nature reserves including state natural reserve «Privolzhskaya Lesostep» with the total area 8.4 thousand hectares.

The natural monuments include: 5 springs, 15 lakes and sloughs, 20 steppe areas, 29 forest plots, 4 arboretums 4 and 5 cultural - historical sites, which include: Golitsin forest park, Kurakin, Zubrilov, Belokamensky parks, Obolensky gardens.

Parks, laid down in XVIII - XIX centuries, are not only places of rare species of plants, but also monuments of landscape art, created on the basis of natural oak. Parks are located mainly in the former estates and differs one from each other, not only in the occupied area, but also composition and recruitment of trees and shrubs.

National Park «Volga steppe» is the jewel of the Penza region and consists of 5 separated portions located in the 6 districts of the region. The structure of nature reserve includes unique natural areas of the Penza region, such as Poperechenskaya and Kuncherovskaya steppe, forest steppe Ostrovtovskaia and two forest areas, «Borok» and «Uppera Sura».

The total area of forests in Penza region is over 1 mln. hectares (22% of the region’s territory). The area of forest fund’s lands is about 965 thousand hectares and over 55% belong to protective woods and 45% – to the exploitation ones. Some broad–leaved and coniferous breeds prevail which are typical for Middle Russia.
Forest cover of the Penza region is not uniform. The most wooded areas are Horodyshchensky, Zemetchinsky, Kuznetsky, Nicholsky, Sosnovyborsky, Shemyshesky. Wooded area ratio to the total surface area in these areas is 30 to 50%. To compare, the Russian Federation forest cover is 45%.

The main part of forests in Penza region has a natural origin, the main tree species are pine, oak, birch, aspen.

There are 2746 rivers and streams with a total length of 15458 km. The largest rivers are Sura, Uza, Moksha, Khopyor, Vorona. Penza reservoir is located at Sura, which is the main source of water supply of Penza and Zarechny. Such rivers as Moksha, Khopyor, Vorona, Chembar originate from Penza region and are the sources for such a large rivers as Volga and Don.

The water resources of Penza region are made of water currents, waters stored in lakes, ponds and reservoirs, and ground waters. Fresh underground water is used for large cities and settlements watering. Mineral waters of the Penza region make a base for local health and resort treatment.

One of the unique natural phenomena of the Penza region – it's rises of Khopyor river, originating from the purest springs. This place is a natural monument and is called «Rises of Khopyor River».

Animals and fish resources of Penza region are rather multifarious. On the territory of the region there are 316 types of vertebrates. Up to 106 wild animals are in the Red Book of the region. Up to 48 types of fish inhabit the region’s lakes, ponds & rivers. In the biggest Sura Reservoir there are up to 33 various fishes.

The territory of Penza region is formed by six state regional wildlife reserves with a total area of 45.5 thousand hectares, on which, according to the observations of game managers, as well as information obtained from the local people, permanently or during the period of migration live the following representatives of fauna listed in the Red Book of the Penza region: starlet (Lomovsky reserve), vimba (Belinsky reserve), sea parrot (Lomovsky reserve), Russian muskrat (Belinsky reserve), lynx (Sosnovoborsky and Zemetchinsky reserves), eagle owl (Sosnovoborsky reserves), otter (Belinsky, Zemetchinsky and Lomovsky reserves).
The hunting fund of the region has over 4 mln hectares of hunting plots, up to 1.6 mln hectares are for general use. On the whole there are 78 types of animals (mammals & birds) for hunting on the territory of the region.

The region has explored deposits of fuel and energy resources and a number of solid minerals, which are used or could be used in the construction industry, as a fertilizer in agriculture, as industrial raw materials in industry.

In Penza region there are:

– non–metallic mineral resources – mortar sand, brick and tile, expanded clay, refractory clay, raw materials for production of construction crushed stone, the raw material for the cement and lime production, mineral pigments for mineral paints production, diatomite, molding and glass sands, phosphates;
– fuel–energy resources – oil and peat;
– untypical mineral deposits: metallic ore minerals – titanium and zirconium placer deposits, glauconitic sands and zeolite–containing rocks.

**History, culture and tourism**

At the Bronze Age the land of Penza region were occupied by the south pastoralist tribes. Gorodets tribes have also lived in the region. They mainly did aimless farming, livestock breeding, and hunting. Local historian have discovered and explored several ancient settlements of the antiquity Mordovians from a time of the first millenium.

In the Middle Ages Mordovians tribes neighbor with Burtasi – Turkic tribes that affined with Bulghars. During the period of domination of the Golden Horde on trading routes many tatar princely states controlled by the chagan were established.
XV century has seen the movement of Russian population to the vast areas around Sura River. The number of new Russian settlers to this area is rising in XVI century. After the fall of the Kazan Khanate in 1552 the lands of present region were joined with the rest of Russian lands. According to the decree of Tsar Alexey Mihailovich in 1663 at the confluence of Pena and Sura rivers the city Penza was established. At the end of XVIII century there were more than 1260 settlements in Penza region. The overall population of the region was 680 thousand people.

The life and work of many famous and well–known persons related to civil and military service, science, culture, education, medicine and sport are connected with Penza region.

The first governor of Penza region was Lieutenant–General I.A. Stupishin, the second one was actual state Councilor M.I. Gedeonov. The famous governors and maecenases of Penza region were F.L. Vigel’ and N.D. Seliverstov.
The favourite field marshal of Nikolai II D.A. Milutin was visiting the city frequently and owned a farmstead near the city. In 1877 he commanded 121st Penza infantry regiment during the war with Turkey on Balcan Mountains.

The famous statesmen of the Russian Empire – public and state figure – M.M. Speranskiy, diplomat and senator A.B. Kurakin, prince S.F. Golitsin have contributed to theory and practice of public administration while working for some time in Penza region.

The first Minister for Foreign Affairs of Russia (1802–1805) Alexandr Romanovich Vorontcov is considered to be from Penza province. The official information about the place of birth was not revealed. However, it is a fact that his mother – grand duchess Ekaterina Dashkova had a farmstead close to Penza in Pavlo–Kurakino village. The prime–minister of Russia – Petr Arkad’evich Stolipin, while working as the governor of Saratov province frequently visited Penza.

The history of Penza region is strongly connected with many prominent military and naval commanders of Russia such as A.V.Suvorov, A.S.Shein, F.A.Golovin, B.P. Sherem’tev, V.I. Isto’min, M.H.Tuhachevskiy and N.I.Krilov.

Many remarkable doctors and health protection activists of Russia has lived and worked in Penza region. Some of them are N.F.Filatov, G.A.Zahar’in, N.N. Burdenko.

There are 370 items of cultural value in Penza region. 47 of them are of federal importance, 321 of regional importance and 2 of local importance.

There are following types of entities – 363 monuments, 4 ensembles, 3 landmarks.

These include 2 reserve museums, 3 landmarks and 1 farmstead museum. 8 farmstead complexes are situated in the region. Three of them are farmsteads of Federal significance – «Tarkhani» (Belinsky district of the Penza region), «Nadegdino (Kurakina)» (Serdobsky district of the Penza region), «Golitcino» (Tamalinsky district of the Penza region).
Most of such objects are connected with prominent historical events of Russian history, famous figures of science, art, culture and literature. It is probably enough to name the following people: V.O. Kluchevskiy, M.U. Lermontov, V.G. Belinskiy, A.N. Radishev, M.N. Zagozkin, E.E. Lagechnikov, M.E. Saltikov–Shedrin, N.P. Ogarev, A.I. Kuprin. Their lives highly connected with the history and development of Penza region.

One of the oldest theatres in Russia is successfully functioning in the city – Penza regional drama theatre named after A.V. Lunacharskiy.
In addition to the historical building of central library (1899), the new 14–levels building of the Regional Library named after Mikhail Lermontov was erected with a depositary for 5 million books in 2011. The following depository of historical and contemporary books is in top 10 by size in Russia between similar buildings.

New Philharmonic of Penza region

In 2014 in Penza region were built two new cultural objects: the building of the new Philharmonic «Penzakontsert» with a large hall for 750 seats, 200 seats Organ Hall building and Concert Hall «Penza» for 1600 seats.

Concert Hall «Penza»

Penza region museum activities are carried out by 13 museum institutions. Three of them have regional subordination: the regional Art Gallery named after Savitsky (with branches – Nikolsk Museum of Glass and Crystal and One Canvas Museum); Association of the State literary and memorial museums of Penza region (with the structural units: the Literary Museum, the Museum–Estate of V.Belinsky, the Museum of Radischev and the Museum of A.Kuprin); Penza State History Museum (with branches – the Museum of V.Klyuchevsky, the Museum of I.Ulyanov, the Museum of N.Burdenko, folk museum). There is also the federal museum in Penza region – the State Museum named after Lermontov «Tarkhany».
Penza region has good tourism and recreation potential. There are different environmental conditions, favourable climate, a wide variety of flora and fauna, big amount of cultural and historical monuments.

The hotel industry is quite developed in the region. There are 127 hotels and 33 recreation centers functioning in the region. As for October 1, 2017 11 hotels in Penza successfully passed the state certification. Their names are «Voyage»***, «Heliopark Residence»***, «Avia»***, «Penza»***, sanatorium «Serebryanyj bor»***, «Prizma»***, «Friday»*, boutique hotel «London City»**, Nice hostel Penza*, «LIFE»***, hotel «Serebryanyj bor »*.

The system of recreation centers and health resort is formed in Penza Region. There are «Nadezhda», «Khoprovskie zori», health resort of Volodarskiy, «Art–penza», «Klenovaya rosha», «Berezovaya rosha», etc. One distinctive characteristic on health resorts of the region is a usage of sodium–chloride weakly alkaline mineral water as an intake and for health baths.

There are 134 travel agencies working in Penza region. 5 of them are mainly specializing on domestic tourism. All of them provide a full range of services, offer different types of tours.
Science and Education

In Penza region there are 181 pre-school educational organizations and 160 branches. In 2015-2017 in the Penza region it is put into operation of 12 new kindergartens, more than 10 buildings are capital repaired and reconstructed, more than 2 thousand occasional seats are opened that has allowed to liquidate sequence of the children needing receiving services of preschool education aged from 3 up to 7 years. In the Penza region there are 329 schools where over 122 thousand pupils study. In 2016-2017 five new schools are constructed, over 2 thousand places are created in addition. On September 1, 2018 one more school for 660 places will accept the pupils.
There are more than 30 regional educational and technology projects in Penza region, which employ 90% of the students. In high school in 8-9 grades the specialized education is conducted in the form of pre training.

Over 100 thousand students (aged 5–18 years) attend sporting, artistic, environmental and other special schools and sections. At the disposal of students: 40 sports and recreation centers, 65 pools of the education system, 26 youth sports schools, 65 further education institutions. More than 1800 sports sections and associations of sports orientation work in school-based sports facilities.

There is a children's Technopark "Kvantorium" in Penza which brought together more than 800 talented children in 6 innovative areas: robotics, industrial design, bio, nano, IT and Hitech areas.

In March 2018 the Technopark "Kvantorium" was visited by the Minister of Education and Science of the Russian Federation Olga Vasilyeva. The head of the agency highly appreciated the work of the technopark.

During the summer period, the "engineering vacation" takes place in the technopark which involve children in active play and project activities under the supervision of mentors, familiarization with the trends and directions of development of scientific and engineering areas, meeting with leading engineers, and demonstrating the possibilities of working on modern equipment.

In Penza region there are 26 professional educational organizations conducting training programs in secondary professional education and vocational
training (23 public and 3 private), 4 state universities and 4 branches of higher education organizations.

16 out of 26 state professional educational establishments are subordinated to Ministry of Education of Penza region. 2 establishments are preparing the staff for health care system, 3 for culture and art sector, one for sport. There is also a specialised establishment (colledge–school boarding house) for disabled persons of second and third category and medically fragile persons.

64 thousand students attend institutions of professional education at all levels.

Education in the region is regarded as being in good standing. Due to this fact in 2014 Penza was chosen as the venue for Education Forum of All-Russia People’s Front with the participation of Russian President Vladimir Putin. In September 2016 Penza’s success in the education system were awarded during the All-Russian Congress of rural teachers in Cheboksary, during the All-Russia seminar-meeting of Ministers of Education in the city of Sochi.

The construction department of Penza multiprofessional college

Penza basic medical college
Also vocational training is carried out by 3 non-state professional educational organizations.

In institutions of professional education of all levels about 60 thousand people study.

Higher education in the Penza region is represented by 4 state universities and 4 branches of higher education institutions.

**Healthcare and social protection of the population**

Healthcare is one of the fastest growing branches in Penza region. As a result of the implementation in the region of the program–target approach in healthcare aimed at early detection of diseases, timely and proper treatment of patients, including hi–tech medical care, the development of preventative health care, including promotion of healthy lifestyles managed to stabilize in 2017 the demographic situation and health indicators.

At the end of 2018, the life expectancy at birth in the Penza region was 73.34 years, this figure in the Volga Federal District was 71.39 years, in the Russian Federation – 71.87 years.

The mortality of the able-bodied population for 6 months of 2018 decreased by 0.3% in comparison with the previous year.

In the Penza region indicators of infantile mortality it is stable below the average Russian level and are in limits of the established target values. There were no registered cases of maternal mortality for 6 months of 2018.

In November 2017 the perinatal center was put into operation in Penza. This is a third level institution where the provision of medical care to high-risk patients, nursing of low birth-weight babies are concentrated and surgical correction of congenital malformations in newborns is carried out.
The new maternity facility allows for the provision of medical care to pregnant from high-risk groups at the European level, fully provides obstetric hospitals with the Mother and Child wards, implements a delivery with the partner program where assisted reproductive technologies will be provided within the public health system.

In 2018, the regional prenatal clinic was opened and is functioning in the regional center.

This is the leading institution that coordinates the work of the subordinate medical organizations in protection of the reproductive sphere of girls, young women, women, timely correction for the purpose of restoring reproductive function and the birth of healthy children.
Development of system of medical rehabilitation of children on the basis of versatile child care facility, construction of the rehabilitation center are also planned in the region in 2018.

Priority of regional health care is the rational personnel policy based on target training, employment and social support of young specialists. The number of “employer-sponsored education” contracts concluded with applicants has increased by 27% over the past five years, from 324 people in 2013 to 412 in 2018. To date, the employer-sponsored education at medical schools is being provided for 1,041 students.

Since 2016 for the first time for the region set of entrants under the contract on target preparation not under deficiency of medical shots, and under outflow of the doctors who have reached a retirement age is conducted.

The Penza region is moving to a new system of continuing education and accreditation of health workers. For this purpose, an educational and methodological center where remote training technologies are developing has been established.

The main incentive to attract and retain doctors - specialists in the industry – is a dynamic system the wages’ growth, depending on the performance indicators. The public health agencies provide transfer of the medical workers on effective contract, the criteria for evaluating the efficiency of labor are established in all categories of health workers.

According to the Decree 597 of the President of Russia in 2012 salary is:
– for the physicians – increased from 24.8 thousand to 42.7 thousand, by 72%.
– for the nursing staff – from 12.9 thousand to 21.6 thousand, by 67%.
– for the junior medical staff – from 7.2 thousand to 18.5 thousand, 2.5 times more.

In 2018, the reconstruction of the building of the regional emergency medical setting was completed, on the basis of which a center for emergency medical care was established.

**Penza regional center for emergency medical care**

All emergency and urgent medical aid is concentrated here, contact centers are integrated.

**Contact center**

Considering new approaches to continuous medical education, the educational and methodological center with the possibility of distance learning is located in this building.

In 2018, the construction of three feldsher-midwife stations is planned in the Penza Region (Golitsino village, Nizhnelomovsky District, Mansurovka village, Neverskinsky District, and Staroye Nazimkino Village, Shemisheysky District) and 1 medical outpatient clinic in the Big Vyas village of the Luninsky district.

In 2018 the region participates in the implementation of the priority project "Creation of a new medical organization model providing primary health care". The project involves 32 polyclinics, including 13 children's. In 9 outpatient clinics participating in the project, a significant reduction in the time costs of patients for provision of the following medical services has already been recorded:

- waiting time in the registry - 3 times;
- waiting time for blood sampling - 4 times;
- time of preventive medical examinations - 4 times.

In 13 out of 18 outpatient clinics participating in the project in the first half of 2018, comfortable conditions for patients and employees have been created through the organization of an open registry and the introduction of "logistics" and the routing of patient flow.

In the territory of the Penza region the actions directed to improvement of rendering hi-tech medical care are implemented (further – HTMC). As a result of the undertaken measures the number of the residents of the area who have received HTMC constantly grows. For 6 months of 2018, 5179 residents of the Penza region received high-tech medical care.

Today 6 State Healthcare Institutions in the region participate in rendering hi-tech medical care on 10 most demanded profiles at the expense of means of regional and federal budgets.

Since 2008 in Penza the Federal cardiocenter where 3,5 thousand operations to residents of the Penza region are annually performed functions.

The legislation of the Penza region regarding social support of the families having children is improved. It is directed to creating favorable conditions for increase in birth rate, improvement of the situation of families with children.
In total in the territory of the Penza region 17 types of child allowances are paid, including 11 types of grants – from the budget of the region. Since 2018 at the initiative of the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin in the region new monthly payment to families at the birth (adoption) of the first child before achievement of age of 1,5 years is entered by him. All social obligations to recipients of measures of social support (regional and federal exempts, honourable donors, members of families of the died military personnel, the citizens injured with technogenic accidents and accidents, etc.) are carried out in due time and in full accordance with standards of the current legislation.

In the area there are 9 stationary institutions of social service of citizens of advanced age and disabled people. On the basis of the operating stationary institutions of social service as their structural divisions, 18 offices of mercy, special office of rehabilitation, the social and improving center for citizens of advanced age function.

The actions of assistance of employment of the population, including creation of jobs for socially vulnerable groups of people are implemented in the region. From 2010 for 2017 881 workplaces for employment of unoccupied disabled people, parents having many children and the parents who are bringing up disabled children are inclusive created.

**Housing and communal services**

Penza region is implementing the regional program «Providing housing and communal services for the citizens during 2014–2020», which includes the subprogram «Comprehensive program of modernization and reforming the housing and communal services of Penza region». It contains the following activities:

– «Clean Water»
– «Modernization and overhaul of heat supply systems»
– «Construction and modernization of the networks and sanitation facilities»
– «Improvement of the settlement territories of Penza region».

The Penza region is a participant in the federal program "The formation of a comfortable urban environment."

Decree of the Government of the Penza region dated 01.09.2017 No. 414-pP approved the state program of the Penza region "Formation of a comfortable urban environment in the territory of the Penza region for 2018-2022 years", according to which municipal programs for the formation of a comfortable urban environment were adopted in 103 municipalities of the region.
In 2018, 274 million rubles have been allocated from the federal budget, in turn, 23.8 million rubles allocated from the budget of the Penza region. In total, in 2018, an improvement of 22 yard territories and 38 public spaces is planned.

Since 2008 Penza region has been taking part in implementing the Federal Law «About the Fund of assistance to reforming housing and communal services». Financial limit provided by the Fund to carry out major repairs and relocation of people out of dilapidated housing in Penza region in 2008–2012 was utilized in full.

Since 2013 in Penza region there have been being implemented the two programs:

– «Moving people from emergency fund, taking into account the need to develop low–rise housing in Penza region in the years 2013–2015». The program was approved by the Government of Penza region by the decree № 222–sI dated 05.04.2013 (with subsequent amendments), in accordance with Article 20.6 of the Federal law;

– «Moving people from emergency fund, taking into account the need to develop low–rise housing in Penza region in the years 2013–2017». The program was approved by the Government of Penza region by the decree № 232–sI dated 09.04.2013 (with subsequent amendments), in accordance with Article 16. Of the Federal law (simple relocation).

Within the framework of the current regional programs, more than 8,000 people from 357 emergency apartment buildings have been resettled in 14 municipalities. The total cost amounted to 4.3 billion rubles.

Achievement of target values for 2014-2017 for the total area to be resettled, and for the number of citizens to be resettled is 100%.

Sport
Following the results of 2017, the Penza region ranks 2\textsuperscript{nd} of 85 subjects of the Russian Federation in the All-Russian competition for the best organization of physical culture and sports in the subjects of the Russian Federation in the of "mass sport" area.

In 1\textsuperscript{st} half of 2018 according to the Unified comprehensive planned schedule of mass sports and improving and sporting events of the Penza region 443 sports and mass events are held. From them:

- Final competitions of the IV Summer Youth Spartakiad of Russia. Out of 56 scoring events of the Spartakiad program, 31 are held in our region. In Penza, competitions will be held at 13 sports facilities which will be attended by about 6,500 thousand people.
  - XXXV open All-Russian mass ski race "Ski Track of Russia";
  - Russian championship in diving;
  - Russian championship in table tennis.

At present, 176 Penza sportsmen are on the lists of the Russian national teams in 33 sports, including 104 athletes in Olympic sports.

For the Penza region approved basic sports are: cycling, swimming, diving, rugby, gymnastics, triathlon, rhythmic gymnastics, speed skating.

During the first half of 2018, Penza athletes won 135 medals in the European and World championships, competitions and cups, as well as Russian competitions and cups. Of these, 46 were gold, 42 - silver and 47 - bronze.

The Penza region takes the leading positions on development of material technical base for development of physical culture and sport.

In the region there are good sports material and technical resources. There are 4127 sports facilities.

Over the past 5 years, there have been constructed in the region:
- ten open-air planar physical culture and sports facilities in the city districts and municipalities of the Penza region;
- Palace of martial arts "Voeikov";
- Physical culture and health complex with an ice field in Nyzhny Lomov;
- complex stadium in Kuznetsk has been reconstructed;
- training ground on the training camp of MAA "Football Club "Zenith" in Penza has been reconstructed;
- Sports and recreation center with a swimming pool in v.s. Zasechny, Penza district;
- pool with a sliding roof "Zarechny" in Zarechny;

Currently, there are 73 swimming pools, including seven 50-meter pools and two swimming pools for diving in the Penza region. There are thirty 25-meter pools in 24 districts of the region.

Sports and recreation center with a swimming pool
(v.s. Zasechny, Penza region)

Sports and recreation complex with ice skating field
(the city of Nizhny Lomov)

Much attention in the region is paid to development of water sports: to swimming, diving, water polo. Now in the Penza region there are 73 swimming pools. In Penza seven 50-meter pools and two pools for a diving work. Thirty 25-meter pools work in 24 districts of the area.

Bank System

According to the reports as of 01.04.2018 the following organizations are registered in Penza Region: 1 Regional bank, 5 branches of foreign credit institutions, including 1 branch of PJSC «Sberbank of Russia». There are 215 additional offices (including 162 of PJSC «Sberbank of Russia»), 27 operating funds of credit institutions (25 of which belong to PJSC «Sberbank of Russia»), 25 credit and cash offices, 57 operational offices, movable center of cash transactions – 10 (10 of which belong to JSC «Sberbank of Russia»). The region has 3 representative offices of foreign credit institutions.

There are no current payment centers of Bank of Russia.
Industry

Industrial production is the leading type of economic activity of the Penza region. The industrial complex includes about 250 large and medium-sized industrial enterprises at which over 87,000 people work that makes 23% of total number working in the Penza region and provides receipt more than 50% of taxes and fees in the consolidated budget of the region. To fall to the share of the industry a quarter of a gross regional product.

Historically Penza region has industrial specialization in production of a wide range of the equipment for power, transport, the oil and gas industry, mechanical engineering.

Nowadays development of instrument and mechanical engineering, food and pulp and paper industry are observed in the region.

17 companies related to instrument–making and military–industrial complex of the region specialize in designing and manufacturing products for nuclear industry, electronics, communications, automated control systems and their elements.

The most important types of products are: production of complex science-intensive electromechanical, electronic and radio engineering devices and systems, special-purpose equipment (JSC Federal Research and Production Center "PO Start" named after M.V. Protosenko, JSC "PO "Elektropribor ", JSC "Radiozavod", JSC "PNIEI", JSC "NPP "Rubin"), development of devices for rocket and space equipment and launch ground facilities (JSC "NIIFI"), etc.

The machine-building complex is represented by more than 60 large and medium-sized enterprises of machine building. The most important types of engineering products are industrial shutoff valves (JSC «Penztyazhpormarmatura»), diesels and diesel generators (JSC «Penzadizelmash»), compressors, turbocompressors and pumps (JSC «Penzkompressormash», JSC «Penzadizelmash», LLC «SKBT»), the chemical equipment (JSC «Penzkhimmash»), autocomponents (JSC «Serdobsky Engineering Plant»), fuel trucks and special cars (JSC «GRAZ Plant», CJSC «Dzhi Tiseven Plant branch»), the information and measuring systems, automation equipment and safety of the technical processes applied on railway transport and in nuclear power (JSC «Elektromekhanika», JSC «PZTP», LLC «PZTG»), agricultural machinery and the equipment for farms (CJSC «Belinskselmash», PJSC «Penzmash», LLC «KZTM», LLC «Agromekhanika»), etc.
JSC "Penzadieselmarsh" is implementing the Production Restructuring Program which includes 2 large projects for the period from 2018 to 2021 for a total of 1.5 billion rubles.

During the implementation of the program, it is planned to reconstruct several workshops, purchase and install about 15 units of modern high-tech equipment which will allow switching to the latest technologies, a breakthrough level of production that meets the strictest world standards.

Within implementation of the import substitution program the «Stankomashstroy» company continues implementation of the investment project on construction of the enterprise for assembly of the metalworking equipment. The company conducts construction of two more production departments within the investment project «Organization and Localization of Mass Production of Metalworking Machines», until the end of 2018 the production case of the first shop will be constructed, at the same time 20 new jobs will be created. The volume of investment is 800 million rubles.

In Penza region there are successfully operating pulp and paper production, wood processing and the production of wood. Among the enterprises are: «Mayak» JSC, «Mayak Technocell» LLC, «Mayak Kantz» LLC, «Plywood plant» Vlast’ Truda» JCS, «Photon» JSC, «Chaadaevsky plant of panel housing construction» LLC. and etc.

Holding company «Mayak» over a long period, has been working on the modernization of paper-making equipment and the establishment of new production facilities. At present, the total volume of holding company «Mayak’s» production about 10 billion Rub.

In 2017 by the «Mayak» holding company construction of gas turbine cogeneration plant of 15.2 MW «Mayak-Energiya» for own needs of production, project cost more than 2 billion rubles is finished.

In April 2018, Mayak Holding Company launched a wallpaper-printing line for the production of wallpaper worth about 470 million rubles in the areas of Mayakprint LLC.

This September Mayak-Technocell LLC introduces a sixth paper machine with a production capacity of up to 40,000 tons per year of base paper for the furniture
industry, with an investment volume of 3.0 billion rubles. More than 60 new jobs are planned to be created as a result of the project.

LLC «MASTER-PAK» realizes the investment project «The organization of production of packing materials – Eko Tara's Plant» cost – 450 million rubles, start of production is planned for 2018.

Production of medicines and materials in the Penza region is presented by the PJSC «Biosintez» enterprise. In the years 2014-2015 the enterprise within the framework of the investment project on the modernization of production, has launched a new line of ampoule production and the production of infusion solutions in bottles and plastic containers. Today, the company produces more than 200 products for various segments, which are delivered to the CIS, Baltic and European countries.

PJSC «Biosintez» for reduction of production in compliance to requirements of GMP enables the realization of the project on modernization of the existing production of tablets and capsules, the new production site will be created. Project cost - 294.5 million rubles. The project is expected to be finished by the end of 2018.

The largest enterprises of food and processing industries are: «Penza confectionery» JSC, Penza branch of «Ochakovo» JSC, «Brewery» Samko» LLC, «Visit» JSC, «Nevsky confectioner» LLC, «Severyanin» LLC, «Istok» JSC, etc. Many products are exported to near and far abroad countries.

In the food industry in 2018 2 projects on installation and start-up of lines of production of confectionery in LLC «Nevsky konditer» (Belinsky) and LLC «Nevsky konditer» (Mokshan) for the total amount about 280 million rubles will be completed.

LLC «Nevsky konditer»

The LLC «TH Aysberri» companies and LLC «Ledyanoy dom» are realizing the large-scale investment project which provides expansion of production at the
expense of already working capacities of LLC «Ledyanoy dom». For 2018 - 2019 it is planned to invest in the enterprise about 350 million rubles that will allow to increase the outputs more than twice, to produce steadily up to 2 500 tons of ice cream a month.

Also it is planned to open a shop on production of own semi-finished products – wafers for ice cream. The modern warehouse terminal of class A+ with a capacity more than 2 000 pallet positions has to be open by a season of 2018.

Light industry is presented by the companies: JSC»Pekof», JSC «Garment factory named after Klara Tsetkin», etc.

In 2015 supported by Penza region Government was formed a cluster of light industry, which today includes more than 30 small and medium-sized enterprises. Cluster’s enterprises specialize in the design and manufacture of clothing, shoes, knitwear, leather goods.

Cluster of light industry

LLC "FomLine" in Kuznetsk based on the former factory of radio devices (LLC "Technopark Kuznetsk") is implementing a project to organize the production of polyurethane foam. The volume of investments is 1.5 billion rubles. The maximum production of polyurethane foam is up to 25 thousand tons/year. It is planned to create up to 100 jobs. Start-up of production is in April 2019.

The second project for the production of mattresses with investment volume of 1.0 billion rubles will be realized after the first project is commenced. It is planned to create up to 200 jobs.

Production of other nonmetallic mineral products is presented by the enterprises producing construction materials: LLC «Aziya Tsement» (production of cement), JSC «Yasnopolyanskiye stroitelnye materialy» (production of a silicate brick, cellular concrete), LLC» Chaadayevsky penobeton» (production of autoclave gas-concrete blocks), LLC «ZhBK-1», LLC «Zhilstroy» and LLC «Penza Construction Management» (production of concrete goods and designs), LLC «Bundeks Rusland» (production of dry construction mixes) and also enterprises of the glass industry, in particular CJSC «NZSS», LLC «Steklo», LLC «Bakhmetyevsky Plant», etc.
In July, 2017 CEO of the company HBC «Betonium» has concluded the contract with the Italian company «Simem» for delivery of processing equipment (the rotary line of production of panels, the concrete plant, the system of distribution of concrete) for the sum of 5,9 million euros (more than 500 million rubles). In 2018 it is planned to start-up a production of prefabricated housing for construction of multystoried houses.

LLC «Penza Construction Management» realizes the investment project on construction of the plant of lime in the v. Nochka of Nikolsky district of the 100,0 thousand tons per year. The volume of investment is 700,0 million rubles. It is supposed to create 50 jobs. In the 4th quarter of 2018 it is supposed to launch the first stage of the plant with a power of 35,0 thousand tons per year.

Production of furniture in the Penza region is represented by LLC FC «Lerom», LLC «Furniture Factory Surskaya mebel», LLC «Dial», LLC «Business Centre Lina», LLC «MFR» etc.

In order to promote the products of the Penza enterprises to the new markets Minprom of the Penza region has launched the Regional portal of producers; this contains information about more than 280 enterprises.

Thanks to the joint work with the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Russia in 2018, 8 industrial enterprises take part in five government programs of the Russian Federation and one Federal Target Program (the "Federal Space Program of Russia for 2016-2020") for a total of 723.8 million rubles. According to the results of the first half of 2018, funds in the amount of 528.4 million rubles were disbursed.

In 2018, 2 applications were submitted to the Federal Industry Development Fund of the Russian Federation: from LLC “StankoMashStroy” (500.0 million rubles) under the “Machine-tool manufacture” program for the implementation of the project "Organization and localization of batch production of metalworking equipment" and LLC "Kuznetsky Technopark" (500.0 million rubles) under the program "Development projects" for the implementation of the project "Organization of polyurethane foam production". The total cost of these companies' projects is 2.2 billion rubles.

Companies successfully passed the stage of express assessment of applications and to date are preparing dossiers for a comprehensive examination.

In the framework of the state program of the Penza region "Industrial development in the Penza region and increasing its competitiveness for 2014-2020", the Industrial Development Fund of the Penza region allocated 100.0 million rubles for soft loans to industrial enterprises for 2018.

The Supervisory Board of the Industrial Development Fund of the Penza region in June 2018 approved the issuance of loans to three enterprises in the region for a total of 59.0 million rubles. At present, 8 applications of Penza enterprises for the total amount of 116 million rubles are under consideration in the Industrial Development Fund of the Penza region.

Within the framework of the state program of the Penza region "Industrial development in the Penza region and increasing its competitiveness for 2014-2020" in 2010, 10.0 million rubles were allocated in the form of grants to enterprises and individual entrepreneurs engaged in the production of light and textile goods and confectionery to reimburse part of the equipment cost.
According to the results of the 1st stage of the tender, the Ministry concluded 4 agreements for a total of 5,873,700 rubles. The second stage of the tender will be held in this October.

For promoting of working professions, for the sixth time a regional competition of professional skill «Best in profession» on prizes of the Governor of the Penza region at 10 nominations with prize fund – 8.2 million rubles is held. Winners of a competition will receive valuable presents (cars, TVs and laptops), and incentive prizes for all participants.

Innovations

Over the last 10 years in the Penza region active work on development of the regional innovative system which is turning on mechanisms of support of projects from origin of the idea before her commercialization is carried out.

New supporting activities are being added to the regional program «The development of investment potential, innovation and entrepreneurship in Penza Region for 2014–2020», the Law of Penza Region «About innovation development in Penza Region», the Strategy of innovative development of the Penza region till 2021 and a forecast period till 2030 is accepted.

The region has developed innovative infrastructure. The network of 12 regional business incubators with a total area of 38.8 thousand square meters was created. 181 residents operate and 1447 workplaces are created in the business incubators of the region. Facilities and equipment of business incubators are available for rent to small businesses at a reduced rental rate on a competitive basis.

For the number of created business incubators Penza Region heads the list of the Russian Federation (according to Ministry of Industry RF).

During the operation of the incubators 340 have graduated to develop their business further.

For development of the sphere of information technologies and stimulation of growth of the IT companies in the region the Law on reduction of a tax rate of income tax up to 13,5% of such organizations is adopted and in 2017 the IT park by conversion of business incubator of innovative type is created.
Localization of the companies on branch sign on one platform will promote to increase in budget revenues due to tax and rent payments, to obtaining synergetic effect of interaction of the IT companies of the region, creation of conditions for development of IT specialists.

There are two science parks in the region. There has been opened Technopark «Yablochkov» – the country's first industrial park, created with the support of Ministry of Economic Development of Russia in 2012, with the total area of 4990.8 sq. m. Its specialization – information technology, precision instruments industry and material sciences. Today, the industrial park has been already carrying out innovative projects of 15 residents, 165 working place was taken on lease.
In 2014 a technopark of high technologies «Rameev» was built. It was created with support of Minister of Communications and Mass Media N.A. Nikiphorov.

The unice technopark of high medical and informational technologies – is a base for Regional medical cluster. The facilities total area is more than 45 thousand square meters, where 38 residents created more than 1,4 thousand jobs.

Industry specialization of the technopark – informational technologies and medical advanced technology products production. Testing Center of medical products on animals – Center «InVivo» were established on the basis of Technopark «Rameev». It conducted more than 50 operations since the beginning of its operation.

In addition, on the basis of industrial parks set up specialized departments of the Penza State University. Students are given the opportunity to obtain theoretical knowledge and practical skills for future engineering professions.

On June 7, 2018, within the framework of the 5th All-Russian Forum "InnoMed – 2018", the official opening of the educational center for preclinical research by the enterprise was completed based on the Rameev high technologies park.

The biomedical center is unique in its capabilities. It is capable to carry 5 simultaneous independent surgeries on the most modern equipment, which is used by the most advanced clinics in Russia (for example, the Federal Center for Cardiovascular Surgery).

As practice shows, crucial for the successful implementation of the innovative project is the presence of institutes for commercialization of scientific research.

In interaction with the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation a number of institutes of development is created: Center of commercialization of technologies, Center of cluster development, Center of prototyping.

The main activity of the Center of prototyping is rendering hi-tech services for the enterprises of small and average business, including on production of prototypes and working off of production technologies of new products by their orders.

Consumers of the Center of prototyping’s services are small and medium-sized businesses, also including businesses incorporating into the value chain of large and medium-sized enterprises of the region.
The center of prototyping is equipped with the modern hi-tech equipment of the following groups: tokarno – milling groups; grinding group; procuring and universal groups; electroerosive group; drawings PVD of coverings and laser ablation; laser welding and cutting; prototypings.

Since 2014 Center of Commercialization of Technologies has signed 413 contracts for rendering technological services for total amount of 236.83 million rubles. In the first half of 2018 JSC «Center of Commercialization of Technologies» has signed 108 contracts for rendering technological services for total amount of 32.5 million rubles. The services were rendered to 38 small and medium businesses.

Increased priority is given to the cluster approach in the development of the regional economy and increasing the innovative activity. It was created Cluster Development Center and there have been formed four priority industrial clusters (biomedical cluster «BioMed», instrument engineering cluster «Bezopasnost», light industry, confectionery cluster and cluster of woodworking and wooden housing construction).

Successful development of business practice is the experience of the «Union of the Penza confectioners'», which brings together in cluster small and medium-sized enterprises, the total number of employees on which is more than 1,500 people. Penza region is in the top five regions – the largest producers of confectionery products.

The priority direction of cluster policy is the branch of production of medical products. The Penza biomedical cluster «Biomed» is one of the most dynamically developing and is the only biomedical cluster that entered the Register of industrial clusters of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Russia, the leading Russian production complexes.

The results of the cluster's work were highly appreciated by the federal authorities in the framework of the V All-Russian Forum InnoMed – 2018 held in June 2018, where Penza enterprises presented cluster products, and also presented 34 innovative projects in the field of medical products, biotechnology, medical instrumentation.

*Demonstration of the latest developments of cluster enterprises "Biomed" to Director of the Department for the Development of the Pharmaceutical and Medical Industry of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation A.V. Alekhin*
Cluster products is highly competitive both in the domestic and foreign markets. This is indicated by the cluster’s leading place among domestic manufacturers in the following segments of the domestic market such as «artificial heart valves» – 64%, «suture» – 17%. Much attention is paid to training in the field of innovation.

The instrument engineering cluster «Bezopasnost» focuses to provide to producers with high-tech security equipment engineering. On the Russian market this segment share of Penza production is 61%. The volume of cluster enterprises’ shipped production is more than 5 billion rubles annually.

The perspective directions of development of economy of the region are branches of a woodworking and wooden housing construction.

Woodworking historically is one of priority branches of the regional industry, more than 20 enterprises of Penza release sets of wooden structures from a glued and dry planed bar and a board.

Since 2018 the house-building enterprises of the created cluster will receive support from the Government of the Penza region for the purpose of the accelerated development of industrial production in this sphere and release of competitive production.

In order to involve children and young people in innovative activities there have been implemented a comprehensive interagency program «1000–list–nick» as a part of a project «Small innovative lift of Penza Region». Part of the program is a periodically summer school «TeenGrad» where children with the support of the leading industrial enterprises and universities of Penza Region become able to create their own innovative projects, compete in originality and creativity, to get acquainted with new technologies implemented in the region.

Since 2012 the All-RussiaYouth Festival of popular science film «KinnoFest» has been held where youth studio shoot short films concerning innovative projects, leading developers, high-tech professions, youth centers, innovative creativity for 3 days and present them to the jury.
A key element of the program is to create and develop innovative youth art centers network. Since 2012 17 centers of youth innovative creativity were established in the region with the support of Ministry of Economic Development of Russia and the Penza region Government. Two of them were created in 2017.

In the centers of youth innovative creativity training work with the center’s software and equipment is organized, the conditions are created for construction, design and manufacture of various objects and models with own hands using modern machines with digital software.

The authors of the projects carried out during the year are invited to participate in the regional exhibition «Innovatorium». It is an interactive platform for the demonstration of equipment and center’s opportunities, children's presentation and youth projects, exploring the museums exhibits.

Compulsory element of the innovation system is the formation of a unified information environment.

Since June 2009, there have been being published the newsletter «InNovator», also operates Internet Portal of Penza Region (www.inno–terra.ru), which is not only regularly updated database of innovation, but also a discussion platform for innovators of the region, also have been created a YouTube channel – «Innoterra TV – Innovation in Penza Region».

**Investments**

In Penza region there is a promising investment legislation that enshrines all forms of state support for investment activity and a progressive system of tax incentives.

In accordance with the Law of Penza Region dated by June 30, 2009 № 1755–ZEP «About investments and public–private partnership in Penza region» (with subsequent amendments) tax breaks can be granted to the following categories of investors:

1) newly formed companies implementing priority investment projects in Penza Region (the period of establishment shall not exceed three years, from 01.07.2019 – two years):
– reduction in profit tax rates payable to Penza region budget in accordance with the Federal law, 4%;
– the property tax rate – 0%;
– transport tax exemption;

Tax breaks are granted for three years from the date of priority investment project commissioning.

2) organizations representing producers of agricultural goods and implementing priority investment projects in agriculture in Penza region, business property tax exemption can be granted – the tax rate reduction is 1.1% in addition to benefits on Federal taxes;

3) organizations implementing strategically important investment projects in Penza Region:
– the reduction of the profit tax rate payable to Penza region budget in accordance with the Federal law by 4.5%;
– the property tax rate – 0%;
– remission of a transport tax;

Tax breaks for this category of beneficiaries are provided for five years from the date of priority investment project commissioning.

State support for investment activity in the form of tax breaks is granted on the basis of the investment agreement made with the Government of Penza region. The procedure for submission and consideration of applications for conclusion of an investment agreement with the Government of Penza Region is governed by the Law of Penza region dated by 30.06.2009 No. 1755–ZPO «About investments and public–private partnership in Penza Region» (with subsequent amendments) and the decree of the Government of Penza region dated by 05.04.2010 № 171–pP «On approval of the procedure of conclusion, registration, accounting of investment agreements and monitoring the implementation of priority investment project» (with subsequent amendments).

This type of support is rather effective.

The investment agreements concluded in 2017 have attracted investments to the economy of the Penza region in amount of 14,8 billion rubles, and, in addition, the number of created jobs was 1600.

Today, the work is under way to create four industrial parks: «Otvel», «Serdobsky», «Davydov», «Souz». The industrial park is a prepared platform for placement of productions which is provided with necessary engineering, transport infrastructure and operated by the uniform operator of JSC « of Penza Region Development Corporation» which renders to residents a full range of legal, consulting, marketing, information and also logistic services.

Residents of industrial parks are given an opportunity to receive the land plots without tendering and also to apply for a privilege on income tax.

On the territory of several single-company towns of the Penza region, Advanced Special Economic Zones (hereinafter - ASEZ) have been created. They are ASEZ "Serdobsk" in Serdobsk, Serdобыsky district of the Penza region, and ASEZ "Zarechny" in the territory of the closed administrative and territorial entity Zarechny of the Penza region.
Legal entities that have received the status of an ASEZ resident have the right to benefit from the following preferences:
- the property tax rate for organizations during the first five years was reduced from 2.2% to 0%, over the next five years - to 1.1%.
- the corporate income tax rate for the first five years has been reduced from 20% to 5%, over the next five years - to 10%.
- The total rate of tariffs for insurance premiums has been reduced from 30% to 7.6%, including 6% to the Pension Fund of the Russian Federation, 1.5% to the Social Insurance Fund and 0.1% to the Mandatory Health Insurance Fund.

In addition, at the local level, land tax rates can be reduced to zero.

The created ASEZ will allow to diversify the monocity economy and reduce the dependence of the social and economic situation on the city-forming company (mono-profile). New permanent jobs will be created, the investment attractiveness of the single-company town will increase.

**Communication Infrastructure**

Penza region has a modern and developed communication infrastructure and provides all kinds of communicational services.

All the districts in Penza region are included into automatic international telephone station (AITS) of the city of Penza by using fiber–optic communication link (FOCL). Total FOCL length in the region is more than 10,6 thousand km.

1529 public pay telephones were mounted as a part of cross functional services provided to citizens. These telephones allow making local as well as interurban and international calls, receiving inbound calls.

Within the project called «Elimination of digital inequality» Penza filia of JSC «Rostelecom» is carried out a broadband Internet with WiFi Internet access with a speed no less than 10 Mbit/s on the territory of the region (within a radius of coverage of a WiFi access point) in 81 villages of the Penza region. Access to information resources of the Internet using Wi-Fi access points is provided free of charge.
Connection points of Internet access are made via fiber optic links, which were first built to 7 villages in Vadinsky and 4 villages in Issinsky areas.

In recent years the mobile communications market extends rapidly, the number of operators is 4: JSC «MegaFon», JSC «MTS», JSC «Vimpelcom», «Tele 2 Mobile» LLC.

Today all the regional districts are covered with mobile services of Generation 2-3G. 4G mobile Internet is available in: Penza, Zarechnii, Nignii Lomov, Nikol’sk, Spassk, Kamenka, Gorodishe, Bashmakovo, Zemetchino, Lunino, Mokshan, Bessonovka, Grabovo, Sredniaia Ulizan, v.Bogoslovka, w.s. Zasechnoe.

The main operator is Federal Postal Office in Penza region—branch of the Federal state unitary enterprise «Russian Post». Post services are provided by 14 general post offices and 564 post offices (including 4 moving ones).

Post enterprises and post offices provide all types of post services and are located in each district center and rural-type settlements of Penza region. The post offices organized 367 access points (734 jobs) for the information and telecommunication access to the Internet.

Radio and television broadcasting of federal, regional, commercial television transmitters of Penza region TV and radio broadcasting stations cover 100% of the population. Also there has been launched digital terrestrial television broadcasting.

A branch of the Russian Television and Radio Broadcasting Network «Penza branch of Russian Television and Radio Broadcasting Network» built and launched 24 repeater of 24 planned, through which 100% of the residents of the Penza region have the opportunity to receive the signal of 10 federal channels included in the digital package of Russian Television and Radio Broadcasting Network-1 (first multiplex). Besides, as a part of the first multiplex insert of regional programs of State TV and Radio Broadcasting Company Penza in channels «Russia 1», «Russia-24» is carried out.

There have been organized public access points to the Internet on the territory of Penza region. Regional data network has been put into operation. It provides broadband access to the resources of global computer networks, which has given impetus to the development of culture, education, science, health care in remote areas of the region. Social institutions have been also linked to the communication service. All students are given equal access to information and support resources and educational programs.

Broadband Internet access is provided to more than 970 thousand users. In rural areas, where broadband is not available the dial–up circular connection are possible for internet.

**State and municipal services of Penza region and service execution system**

There is a comprehensive system of state and municipal services in the Penza region, which includes such elements as the portal of state and municipal services of the Penza region http://gosuslugi.pnzreg.ru, register of public and municipal services of the Penza region and fulfillment system service.

Currently, the regional portal contains information (as well as samples of documents) about 1461 services, 144 of which are available electronically.

Complex system of public and municipal services Penza Region continues to improve – there is transfer to a new data exchange technologies such as:

– Work with the interagency system of electronic interaction 3.0 (electronic exchange of documents that will reduce the number of documents requested from citizens to provide services);

– User’s authentication service using a unified system of identification and authentication – USIA (hereinafter – USIA) – improvement of the feeder and complaints about decisions and actions (inaction) of the state executive authorities (local authorities of municipalities) persons of civil (municipal) employees in the provision of public and municipal services;

– Integration with online account on the portal of state and municipal services of the Penza region.

**Small and medium business**
Providing stable development of the economy, small and medium business solves a number of the most important social tasks at the regional level including the creation of jobs, the promotion of self-employment of the economically active population of the region, the formation and stabilization of the "middle class" of the population.

As of 10.07.2018 47 848 subjects of small and medium business are registered. The density of business in the Penza region is 35.2 small and medium businesses per 1000 residents, which is higher than the average for the Volga Federal District (33 small and medium businesses per 1000 residents).

In the business structure of the Penza region, the largest segment is the trade sector, where 42.4% of all small and medium businesses are concentrated. Industry accounts for 9.2% of all small and medium businesses, construction - 6.3%, agriculture - 5%, scientific and technical activities - 5.6%.

According to Penza region’s law from 30.06.2011 №2098–ZPO «Regarding Penza region development centers» 103 centers of regional development were created, of them, 146 small and medium-sized businesses were granted a status of a resident of these development centers.

Since 2018, there is a privilege for entrepreneurs who are residents of the Regional Development Centers which provides for a reduction in the tax rate from 6 to 1% within the simplified taxation system, if the object of taxation is proceeds.

For the first time the registered individual entrepreneurs working in the agriculture, scientific, production or social spheres applying the simplified or patent system of the taxation for 2 years «tax holidays» are provided.

For the organizations which are carrying out activity in the field of information technologies the preferential rate of 13,5% on income tax of the organizations is established.

Within support of youth business for the organizations and the individual entrepreneurs created by students reduction of a tax rate from 15 to 5% within a simplified tax system of three tax periods from the date of their state registration as the individual entrepreneur or the legal entity is provided.

For stimulation of development of small business and decrease in tax burden since 2013 for individual entrepreneurs in the Penza region the patent system of the taxation has worked. Since 2017 the list of types of business activity contains 63 names according to which use of patent system of the taxation is possible, is
established the cost of the patent for the businessmen who are rendering household services and having hired workers is reduced.

Financial and credit support of subjects of small and average business of the Penza region is presented by Regional microcredit institution «Poruchitel» which realizes the programs of granting microloans demanded among businessmen of the region to 3 million rubles and guarantees on a preferential interest rate.

In the first half of 2018, 34 micro-loans were issued to entrepreneurs in the region for a total of 61.92 million rubles, as well as 27 guarantees totaling 215.5 million rubles.

Since 2017 the Center of business support and the Center of export support (CES) of the Penza region carry out an activity.

The Center of business support renders consultations on conducting business activity, will organize and holds educational events, provides participation of businessmen in exhibition and fair actions and interregional business missions.

Primary activity of the Center of export support is rendering to the enterprises to exporters consulting and information services and the organization of business actions with participation of the Penza businessmen including abroad. The center organizes participation of businessmen of the region in the international industry shows within which the enterprises conclude favorable contracts with foreign partners.

In the first half of 2018, 130 information and consulting services were provided within the framework of the CES's activity for 121 Small Business Subjects. With the assistance of the CES, the subjects of entrepreneurship concluded 4 export contracts, of them 2 Small Business Subjects entered the foreign market for the first time.

Since 2017, the Penza region enterprises actively promoting their products to foreign markets, are subsidized part of the cost of participation in international exhibitions and fairs in the territory of foreign countries. In 2018, 8 million rubles are allocated for subsidizing the costs of participation in exhibitions in the regional budget.

The implementation of measures to support export activities and popularize foreign economic activity contributed to an increase by 18.5% in the foreign trade turnover of the Penza region in January-May 2018 in relation to the same period of 2017, for 5 months of 2018 it amounted to $197.4 million.

81 countries were the trading partners of the Penza region in January-May 2018, of which the most significant were China ($ 24.8 million), Germany ($ 22.5 million), Kazakhstan ($ 20.0 million), Belarus ($19.8 million), the United States ($14.0 million), Ukraine ($10.9 million), Latvia ($8.4 million).

Transport Infrastructure

Transportation industry of Penza region embodies automobile, railway and airline services.

Automobile transport is one of the major socially important services. Moreover, it is the most widespread and accessible mean of transportation. The length of the roads is more than 22 thousand kilometer. It covers around 70% of
settlements of the region. The route network in the territory of Penza region is fully formed. As could be seen from the conducted monitoring the frequency of routes varies between 97 and 99%.

The created system of passenger transportation infrastructure enables to create cross–functional connections of different means of transport as of in the regional center. For example, a good position of railway and bus station allows people to change mean of transportation within several minutes. In case of need, people could easily get to the airport using regular city buses.

The similar cases could be witnessed in districts of the region, when bus stations are located in close distance to local railway stations.

The total length of highways in Penza region is over 13000 km. The most important ones are: Moscow–Chelyabinsk, Saratov–Nigniy Novgorod, Penza–Tambov. The interRegional route network connects Penza region with 12 regions of Volga, Central and South Federal Districts.

All regional centers and most of settlements have reliable road access. The density of solid surfacing public highways is 286 km per each 1000 square kilometers.

Penza region is crossed by the country's largest railroads – Kuibyshev, Southeast, partly Moscow. Length of railways for general use is 828 km. They connect Penza region with the Central and Southern Regions of Russia, Volga Regions, Ukraine, the Southern Urals, Siberia, Kazakhstan, Central Asia and the Russian Far East.

There are 7 directions of railway service available: Pachelmskoe, Kuznetskoe, Ruzaevskoe, Zemetchinskoe, Inzinsky, Bulychevsky as for Kuibishevskaiia railway line; Rtishevskoe direction as for South–East railway line.

The airport «Penza» is the only aviation enterprise in the territory of Penza Region. Since 2003 it has a status of government entity and the object of federal importance.
A large-scale project of the airport’s modernization was started in 2005 by including it to the Federal special purpose programme called «Modernization of transportation infrastructure of Russia 2002–2010» (and following «Development of transportation infrastructure of Russia 2010–2015»). The reconstruction and recovery works were carried out on airport infrastructure in order to meet modern standarts. That enables to accept advanced national and international aircrafts such as: Ty–204, Il–76T, Il–76TD, An–148, Airbus–319, 320, 321, Boing–737, 757, CRJ–100/200 and etc.

The airport in Penza has an advantageous geographical location. 75% of international flights in Volga Federal District are carried out inside the zone of Penza air traffic managment centre. 15 international air routes including highly active «Green 3» and 5 national air routes pass the midair of Penza Region.

The airport in Penza is located within the zone of most important air routes:
– North – South (Siktivkar, N.Novgorod, Saratov, Min.Vodi),
– Urals – South–West (Rostov, Voronej, Ekaterinburg, Cheliabinsk),
– Central Asian Regions
– West part of Russia.

The location of the airport within the zone of direct air route Central Russia – Asia enables to minimize the costs of airline companies by petrol saving in case of using Penza Airport as a reserve one.

The area has favourable weather conditions for receiving and departing aircrafts – 321 days per year. During the rest of the time the capability to land and depart air crafts are retained. Meteorological conditions of other Volga Federal District airports (N.Novgorod, Samara, Saratov, Ul’ianovsk) are marked by frequent fogs and low cloud cover (because of close distance to Volga river watershed area). This is hardly relies on safety features of landing and departing air crafts.

Railway transport.

The largest railways of the country - Kuibyshev, South-East, and partly Moscow - are located in the territory of the region. The operating length of the public railway tracks is 828 km, of which 54% (443 km.) are electrified.

They connect Penza with the Center and the South of Russia, the regions of the Volga region, Ukraine, the Southern Urals, Siberia, Kazakhstan, Central Asia, the Far East.
Suburban railway communication is provided on the following routes in the territory of the Penza region: Penza-Belinskaya-Pachelma (4 trains), Penza-Kuznetsk (4 trains), Penza-Bulychevo (2 trains), Morsovo-Zemetchino-Pachelma "(4 trains), Inza - Ruzaevka (2 trains), Penza - Rtishchevo (4 trains), Rtishchevo - Vernadovka - Umet (4 trains).

**Fuel & Energy Sector**

Penza region is a net–importer of electricity. It gets energy from Saratov and Ulyanovsk Regions (i.e. in some measure from the united electric power supply system of the Middle Volga), it implies extension of common problems with generating capacities gap in the Russian Federation.

The territory of the region is crossed by two meridional cross–country gas pipelines. On the territory of the region more than 17 thousand km gas pipelines have been built and have been being operated now. All the populated localities are gasified, 95% of the region inhabitants get natural and liquefied gas. This index is one of the best among Volga Federal district and all Russia.

**Agro–Industrial Complex**

Agro–industrial complex of Penza region is represented by a set of industries, including agricultural production, refining and food manufacturing, as well as selling it to the consumers.

Weather conditions are favorable for the production of grain, sunflower, sugar beet, meat and dairy cattle breeding, pig–breeding and poultry farming, the production of eggs. The region is a large producer of food, and refers to those regions of Russia, which almost completely cover the needs of their population by the internal production.

Despite the adverse weather conditions in recent years, in the agricultural sector of Penza region there have been achieved great results. Agricultural production is Penza region remains profitable.

The average monthly wage in the agricultural organizations of the region is one of the highest in the industry within the Volga Federal District.
In the Penza region, both small and very large investment projects in the sphere of agroindustrial complex are being implemented.

The largest project in the country for the production of turkey meat has been launched in the region. Agroindustrial holding "Damate" not took the 1st place in Russia in terms of product quantity, but also continues to expand the complex to capacity of 155,000 tons of finished products a year.

Large investment projects in dairy farming are implemented by Rusmolkо company, which is one of the three largest milk producers in the country. At present, the company starts construction of a dairy complex for 5,200 animals in Serdobsky District, the cost of the project is 4.5 billion rubles.

LLC "Agrofirm "Razdolye" will continue to implement an investment project to develop potato and vegetable production, create a logistics center for the production, processing, packaging, storage and sales of potatoes and open ground vegetables, fruits and berries. By the end of 2018, the total volume of simultaneous storage will be more than 43,000 tons, the volume of investments - almost 1 billion rubles.

GC Cherkizovo has launched a project to build a pig-breeding complex in the Penza region, which provides for the construction of 7 hog fattening sites with a capacity of 40,000 heads per year each. In 2018, it is planned to commission three sites for hog fattening and to build the rest.

LLC "Lopatinsky Bacon" is completing the project for the construction of a pig-breeding complex in the Chardim village of Lopatinsky district with a capacity of 30,000 pigs per year (3,300 tons of pork per year).
AGSEN Properties is constructing the second stage of an elevator complex with a capacity of 100,000 tons of grain storage at a time. This elevator will be equipped with modern equipment for acceptance, storage, drying, milling, sieving, shipment of finished products by rail and road.

In 2018 LLC Hochland Russland started reconstruction of the Belinskiy cheese-making plant. According to the results of the project, the production of cheeses will amount to 7,000 tons per year, the total investment in the project is 1.4 billion rubles.

Aviagen Turkeys Company has started to construct a complex for the industrial production of turkey eggs on the territory of the region. The total investment in the project will be 1.9 billion rubles.

It is planned to create more than 800 jobs in framework of implementation of investment projects in 2018.

Archive-keeping

The State-Financed Institution “State Archives of the Penza Region” is the main institution of the region managing the storage, acquisition, accounting and use of the documents of the Archive Fund of the Russian Federation and documents on personnel.

The archive starts from June 1919. It was created as the Penza province archive, since 1939 it was the Penza regional state archive, since 1959 - the State Archive of the Penza region. In 1984 the special building of the State Archives located at the Dzerzhinskogo st, 7 was constructed.

In September 1991, documents of the party archive of the Penza Regional Committee of the CPSU (Volodarskogo st, 12-a) were transferred to the archive as its department.

As a result of the mass liquidation of institutions and enterprises, the archive had to accept personnel records, i.e. the category of documents, the reception of which was not originally planned. For 2000-2015 more than 200,000 personnel records from the liquidated structures were accepted for storage at the State-Financed Institution “State Archives of the Penza Region”.

To date, the State Archive of the Penza Region stores more than 1.6 million storage items, more than 17,000 requests from citizens are answered each year, there is a functioning reading room that is visited by more than 3,000 researchers per year.

Large investment projects are being implemented on the territory of Penza Region mostly in the fields of livestock farms and grain storages construction.

In recent years there have been built 3 modern dairy farms with the total population of 8200 cows with milk production more than 44 thousand tons per year, 1 pig unit capacity of 12.5 thousand tons of pork per year, also have been reconstructed 2 pig farms with capacity of 7 tons of meat per year. Construction of livestock farms is carried out both with the own resources as well as bank loans, interest rates on which are subsidized by the state.
There have been modernized the largest Regional poultry farm «Vasilyevskaya». This includes the reconstruction and development of new sites for the 140 thousand tons of poultry per year, the construction of the hatchery with the eggsetting capacity of 105 million places per year and the reconstruction of slaughter plant. The overall amount of investments for the period between 2004 and 2015 is more than 9 billion rubles.

«Damate» corporate group is carrying out one of the largest agricultures projects in Russia of growing and processing of turkey meat with a total capacity of 100 thousand tones of goods annually. Sites will be located in Nizhnelomovsky district of the Penza region. This project will create more than 1,200 new jobs. Total investments in the turkey production project will be 25.6 billion. rubles. As part of the project an investment agreement is signed, under which the company will be provided with governmental support in the form of property tax lower rates (to 1.1%) for a three-year term.

The company shows stable positive dynamics of development, initiates new projects and, most importantly, implements them according to plan and on time. In the first 9 months of 2016 the project has allowed the Penza region to enter the 1st place in the Russian Federation for the production of turkey meat.

Another large investor – «Russian dairy company» is completing the implementation of the project on the construction of an elevator in w.s.Pachelma with capacity of 100 thous.tons of grain storage. The capacity will be 5 thousand tons of grain per day– the highest among the elevators of the Penza region. Within the general concept of a closed cycle of production «Rusmolkо» completed the construction of a seeds processing center with the capacity of 10 tonnes of seeds per hour in Bashmakovsky District, which allows preparing seeds for almost any areas of crop and vegetable production. The total volume of investments is 1.8 billion. rubles. The project will create 50 new jobs.

For the last several years in the Penza region, the company launched a number of large production facilities, which significantly improved the situation in livestock production: commissioned dairy complex on 4600 heads in village Arshinovka of Kamensky district, designed for the production of 120 tons of milk per day, or 46 ths. tons per year. The volume of investment in the project amounted to 3 bln. Rubles, the project created about 200 high-tech jobs.

Company management decided to increase the capacity of existing dairy complexes – 2 cowsheds for 700 and 500 heads on the territory of the existing dairy complexes in Arshinovka of the Nizhnelomovsky district and in Potodeevo village of the Narovchat district accordingly. The estimated project cost is 260 million. rubles. Currently the project design estimates are completed.

Within the agreement of intentions between the Government of the Penza region and AGSEN LLC the second line of the elevator complex with capacity of 100 tons of simultaneous storage is under construction in the Tamalinsky district. Created elevator will be equipped with modern facilities for receiving, storing, drying, part screening, shipment of finished goods by rail and road. The total investment in the project taking into account the enlargement will be nearly 2 billion. rubles. The project is expected to create about 75 new jobs.
LLC Agri-Company «Razdol’e» implements an investment project to build a modern logistics complex with a total capacity of simultaneous storage of 13,8 thousand tons of potatoes and vegetables in Olenevka village in the Penza district. The amount of investments is 240 mln rubles.

Simultaneously, the company is completing the construction of land reclamation system on an area of 880 hectares. The volume of investments is more than 100 mln. rubles.

JSC «Bashmakovsky khleb» in v. Shiryaevo of the Belinsky District modernized logistics complex, as a result of which the increased capacity of simultaneous storage of potatoes and vegetables reaches 17 thousand tons. The project is provided with the high-tech packaging line for vegetables and potatoes. In 2016 the sum of project investments amounted 73 million rubles.

In 2017 the group of companies «Cherkizovo» plans to begin the construction of seven fattening farms for 280,000 pigs per year on the territory of the Penza region. Total investments amount 2.6 bln. rubles.