

# The Effect of China's Regional Economic Competitiveness on CO2 Emissions-Based on Economic Factors

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## Research Article

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1 The effect of China's regional economic competitiveness on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions-based on  
2 economic factors

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11  
12 **Abstract**

13 Under the pressure of emission-reduction, China's regional economy needs to eliminate the mode of high energy consumption, high pollution,  
14 and high emission. However, the economic development of each region has its own characteristics. Therefore, to analyze the differences in the  
15 effect of regional economic development on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, this work made an investigation from the perspective of regional economic  
16 competitiveness. First, using the panel data of thirteen economic factors from 2003-2017, this work evaluated the economic competitiveness of 30  
17 provinces from the four aspects: competitiveness of residents' wealth (WC), competitiveness of opening-up (OC), competitiveness of technology  
18 (TC), and competitiveness of industrial structure (IC). Furthermore, the panel principal component regression model (PPCR) was established for  
19 the eastern region, the central region, and the western region according to the score of competitiveness in four aspects. The results suggested that  
20 the promoting effect of WC on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions presented the rule opposite to WC. In other words, the stronger the competitive advantage of WC, the  
21 weaker its effect on promoting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The "pollution refuge" hypothesis was verified in all three regions of China. And the promotion of  
22 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by OC was the strongest in the central region, followed by the eastern region, and the weakest in the western region. TC promoted  
23 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the central region, but inhibited CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the eastern and western regions. Finally, the inhibiting effect of IC on CO<sub>2</sub>  
24 emissions showed the same law as IC. Based on the conclusions, some recommendations were put forward.

25 **Keywords:** CO<sub>2</sub> emissions; China; regional; economic competitiveness; economic factors

## 43 1. Introduction

44 Human economic activities consume much fossil energy and play a vital role in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions(Fang et al., 2018).  
45 Furthermore, as China is concerned, its economic development has made remarkable achievements. Nevertheless, at the  
46 same time, China's energy consumption and pollution emissions have expanded sharply. In 2010, China surpassed the  
47 United States as the largest energy consumer, accounting for 20.3 percent of global energy consumption(Wang, 2010). As  
48 early as 2007, China was the world's largest emitter, with more than 6 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, accounting for 21 percent of  
49 global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (IEA, 2007). In 2017, China's total energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil fuel combustion were  
50 4.49 billion tons of standard coal and 10.4 billion tons(Quére et al., 2018). Therefore, China is facing tremendous pressure on  
51 energy-conservation and emission-reduction, which requires China's economic development to get rid of the old norm of high  
52 energy consumption, high pollution, and high emissions, and attain low-carbon economy.

53 The low-carbon economy should focus on many aspects. First of all, technological progress is the key to the low-carbon  
54 economy(Kang et al., 2018). Production-based technological advances, which can increase output while reducing factor inputs,  
55 are conducive to reducing pollution emissions(Santra, 2017). In addition, the advances of environmentally friendly technological  
56 such as clean energy technologies, energy-saving technologies, and carbon sequestration technologies can effectively reduce CO<sub>2</sub>  
57 emissions(Y. Chen et al., 2020). Secondly, industrial structure adjustment and optimization are the main ways to develop a  
58 low-carbon economy. Industrial restructuring and optimization can led to the flow of productive factors to high-productivity  
59 sectors.(Luan et al., 2021). Moreover, the ultimate goal of economic development is to satisfy consumption. Therefore, the  
60 development of a low-carbon economy promotes the gradual upgrading of the consumption from high-carbon material  
61 consumption to low-carbon service consumption(Schanes et al., 2016). So, on the basis of technological progress, the  
62 development of a low-carbon economy not only requires the industrial structure adjustment and optimization, but also requires  
63 the upgrading of consumption structure. In addition, in the context of economic globalization and opening-up, China's economic  
64 development should avoid the phenomenon of "pollution refuge".

65 However, the adjustment and optimization of industrial structure, technological progress, upgrading of consumption structure,  
66 and opening-up undoubtedly affect the region's economic development(Arndt, 1990; Fagerberg, 1996), and then affect the  
67 economic competitiveness of China's three regions(Fig.1). Therefore, this work summarized the economic factors into four major  
68 parts: residents' wealth, opening-up, technological progress, and industrial structure. First of all, as far as residents' wealth is  
69 concerned, the GDP per capita and the level of residents' consumption reflect the ability of residents to create wealth and  
70 consume wealth. Then the regional differences in the effect of residents' ability to create wealth and consume wealth on CO<sub>2</sub>  
71 emissions reflect the regional differences of residents' wealth on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. One concern, then, is how residents' ability to  
72 create wealth and consume wealth impacts CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Secondly, as far as opening-up is concerned, foreign trade and foreign  
73 direct investment reflect the degree of economic dependence on foreign countries. Nevertheless, the external dependence on  
74 economic development may lead to the hypothesis of "pollution refuge". Another concern, then, is whether there are "pollution  
75 refuge" in the three regions(Baumol et al., 1988). Moreover, technological progress is the core driving force of economic  
76 development, and the primary way of technological progress is independent R&D and technology diffusion(Chen et al., 2019).  
77 Therefore, we are concerned about whether there are differences in how technology advances in the three regions and how they  
78 affect CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Finally, the adjustment and optimization of the industrial structure are conducive to promoting the  
79 rationalization of the industrial structure(Yu et al., 2018), which in turn is conducive to the allocation of resources and  
80 energy-saving and emissions-reduction. Therefore, measuring the rationalization of industrial structure in the three regions and  
81 the effect on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is critical. In short, it is necessary to solve two crucial issues. One is how to measure the difference  
82 in the economic competitiveness of the three regions. The second is to explore the different effects of the economic  
83 competitiveness of the three regions on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

84 To this end, this work introduced the economic competitiveness. The main contribution of this work is two parts. First, the  
85 economic competitiveness of the three regions was evaluated using the principal component factor analysis (PCFA) method.  
86 Then, the evaluation results showed that the economic competitiveness consists of four parts: the competitiveness of residents'

87 wealth, the competitiveness of opening-up, the competitiveness of technology, and the competitiveness of industrial structure.  
88 Furthermore, based on the score of four parts of economic competitiveness, the principal component panel regression model  
89 (PCPR) was set to investigate the distinct effects of economic competitiveness on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the three regions.

90 The remainder of this work is organized as follows. Section 2 shows the overview of the literature. Section 3 describes the data  
91 and methodology used in this work. Section 4 provides the empirical results. Section 5 shows the further discussion. Finally, the  
92 conclusion and policy implications are given in Section 6.

## 93 **2. Literature review**

### 94 2.1. Researches on the effect of economic factors on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

95 On the effect of economic factors on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, much research has been done in the past literature. For example, some  
96 scholars measured the impact of economic development on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions with GDP per capita. Chen et al. (2018) analyzed the  
97 data of the OECD countries on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from 2001 to 2015, which showed that GDP per capita was the primary reason for the  
98 enlargement of emissions. For BRIICS countries, Cheng et al. (2019) argued that GDP per capita has increased CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per  
99 capita. Qiang et al. (2021) used panel threshold regression to study the impact of GDP per capita on CO<sub>2</sub> in 154 countries. It is  
100 believed that the contribution effect of GDP per capita to CO<sub>2</sub> decreases with the increase of GDP per capita. For China, scholars  
101 have determined the inverted U-shaped association between GDP per capita and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Dong et al., 2018; Riti et al., 2017;  
102 Wang et al., 2019; Zhao et al., 2014). In addition, Wang et al. (2020) used the vector self-regression model to compare China's  
103 eastern, central and western provinces. It was found that GDP per capita in all three regions of China was the cause of the increase  
104 in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In China, Guan et al. (2008) identified CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from household consumption as 40 to 50 percent of China's  
105 total emissions and said the contribution of household consumption to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is higher in more developed regions. Wang et  
106 al. (2014) and Cao et al. (2019) believed that as China's economy grows, rising incomes and consumption levels are the main driving  
107 forces of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. From the perspective of China's consumption patterns, Dai et al. (2012) found that when household  
108 consumption shifts from material goods consumption to service consumption, it has a dampening effect on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

109 Some literature focused on whether opening-up produces "pollution refuge hypotheses" or "pollution haven hypotheses" in  
110 China. For instance, Wang (2016) confirmed that FDI's "pollution haven hypothesis" effect is greater than the "pollution refuge  
111 hypothesis" effect from the perspective of all-element energy efficiency. Instead, Zheng et al. (2017) confirmed that the "pollution  
112 haven hypotheses" is basically established in China, where FDI has improved the quality of the environment to some extent. In  
113 addition, Jun et al. (2020) verified that foreign trade has harmed China's environment and that this harmful effect has become more  
114 and more evident since China acceded to the WTO. Jin et al. (2016) discussed the role of China's foreign trade in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and  
115 found a "pollution refuge hypothesis" in the western region, while a "pollution haven hypothesis" in the eastern region. Moreover,  
116 they believed that the "pollution refuge hypothesis" has been transmitted from the eastern region to the western region. Using  
117 panel data of 30 provinces, Zhang et al. (2020) empirically analyzed the influence of FDI on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the regional  
118 perspective for China. They found that FDI curbed CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the eastern and central regions, while it is opposite in the  
119 western regions.

120 For technological progress, most scholars support the inhibitory effect of technological progress on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in China.  
121 Zhang et al. (2017) believed that most of China's environmental innovations have effectively reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, especially  
122 energy efficiency technologies, R&D, and patented technologies took a prominent effect in curbing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Based on  
123 linear and nonlinear analysis, Luan et al. (2019) discovered that domestic R&D activities and technology introduction can help  
124 reduce China's emissions and suggested that improving R&D activities is an effective means to reduce emissions. At the regional  
125 level for China, Wei et al. (2010) found significant differences in the association between technological progress and CO<sub>2</sub>  
126 emissions. Independent innovation has a powerfully negative effect on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the eastern region, but no significant  
127 effect in the central and western regions. The introduction of technology has a significant negative effect on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the  
128 eastern and central regions, but no significant effect in the western region. In addition, Li et al. (2012) found that technological  
129 progress has a significant role in reducing emissions in the eastern and western regions, while increasing emissions in the central  
130 region. In contrast, Y. Chen et al. (2020) confirmed that technological advances have reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in central and

131 western China and increased carbon emissions in eastern China.

132 China's secondary industry is a significant contributor to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions(Cole et al., 2008). Similarly, Sun et al. (2016) showed  
133 that the secondary industry accounts for most of China's total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Thus, (Zhang et al., 2014)supported that the  
134 enlargement of the proportion the tertiary industry has a crucial role in curbing China's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. With the adjustment and  
135 upgrading of industrial structure in China, the proportion of the secondary industry is gradually decreasing, while the proportion  
136 of the tertiary industry is gradually increasing. Numerous studies have shown that the adjustment of industrial structure is  
137 beneficial to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions(Tian et al., 2019; Zhang et al., 2019; Zhu et al., 2020). Mi et al. (2015)concluded that  
138 industrial structure adjustment could elevate the rationalization of industrial structure and reduce pollution emissions without  
139 affecting economic growth. Further, Zheng et al. (2020) employed the panel threshold regression model to empirically investigate  
140 the influence mechanism of china's industrial structure change on air pollution, and found that industrial structure adjustment can  
141 reduce the contribution of secondary industry and economic development to environmental pollution.

## 142 2.2. Researches on the effect of economic competitiveness on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

143 Based on cross-border panel data of 66 countries worldwide, Zhang et al. (2016)used spatial measurement methods to explore  
144 the effect of trade competitiveness on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and found a significant nonlinear inverse "U" relationship between trade  
145 competitiveness and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. For the corporate perspective, Rokhmawati (2021)has proven in Indonesia that reducing  
146 greenhouse gas emissions can drive competitiveness. For China, Gao (2010)confirmed that the increase in China's export trade  
147 competitiveness has led to a large amount of carbon dioxide emissions. At the same time, China's increased carbon emissions have  
148 also contributed to improving trade competitiveness. Similarly, Zhang et al. (2014) also found that the increase in China's trade  
149 competitiveness does depend on excessive carbon dioxide emissions. From the perspective of Chinese manufacturing enterprises,  
150 Niu et al. (2012)believed that emission reduction is not contradictory to enterprises' competitiveness. They confirmed that  
151 enterprises rely on advanced technology and effective management to support the realization of economic and environmental  
152 benefits win-win situation. Further, An et al. (2019)constructed a panel vector self-regression estimation model using panel data  
153 from western China, and empirically analyzed the dynamic association between pollution and economic competitiveness. The  
154 results showed that there is an interactive association between pollution and economic competitiveness in the western region:  
155 economic competitiveness contributes more to the change of environmental pollution, and environmental pollution has less impact  
156 on economic competitiveness.

157 However, we found that the existing literature on the effect of the economic factors on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions focused on specific  
158 aspects of the economy, such as GDP per capita, consumption level, trade, FDI, industrial structure, technology, etc. Few pieces  
159 of literature simultaneously considered the effect of these economic factors on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In addition, concerning the effect  
160 of economic competitiveness on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, the existing literature mainly researched from the perspective of corporate  
161 competitiveness and trade competitiveness. To fill the above gaps, this work comprehensively measured thirty economic factors  
162 with economic competitiveness, and analyzes the differences in the economic competitiveness of China's three regions.  
163 Furthermore, the effect of the competitiveness of residents' wealth, the competitiveness of opening-up, the competitiveness of  
164 technology, and the competitiveness of industrial structure on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions was analyzed.

## 165 3. Data and methodology

### 166 3.1. Data sources

167 Based on the completeness and availability of data, this work employed panel data of thirty provinces in China from 2003 to  
168 2017. Thirty provinces were classified into the eastern, central, and western regions (Fig.1). Then, the energy consumption data  
169 came from China's energy statistics yearbook(Department of Energy Statistics, 2002-2018). Thirteen economic factors(Table 1)  
170 came from the National Bureau of Statistics(China, 2020). The CO<sub>2</sub> emissions data were calculated by Eq. (1) based on the  
171 carbon emissions coefficient (Appendix Table a.1) published by(IPCC, 2006).

$$172 CE_{it} = \sum_{j=1}^8 E_{itj} \times \delta_j \quad (i = 1 \cdots 30; t = 2003 \cdots 2017) \quad (1)$$

173 Where,  $i = 1, \dots, 30$  denotes 30 provinces of China,  $t = 2003, \dots, 2017$  denotes the study period,  $j = 1 \cdots 8$  denotes the  
174 eight fossil fuels;  $CE_{it}$  denotes the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions;  $E_{itj}$  denotes the  $j$ th fuel consumption of  $it$ h province in the  $t$ th year.  $\delta_i$

175 denotes CO<sub>2</sub> emissions coefficients of fossil fuels.

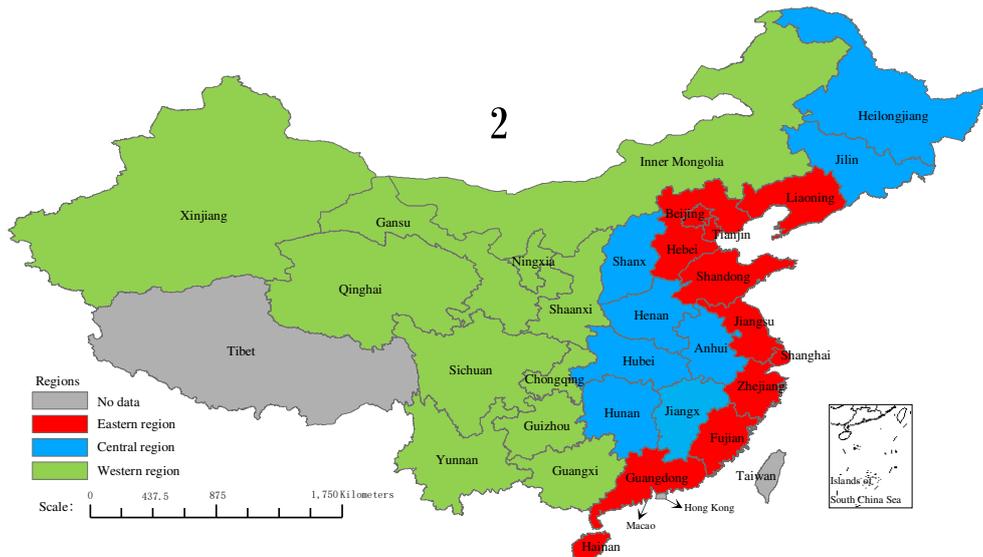


Fig.1. Geographical distribution of the three regions.

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177  
178  
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Table 1

Variables	Definition	Unit
CO <sub>2</sub> emission (CE)	Total CO <sub>2</sub> emissions	Ten thousand tons
GDP per capita (PGDP)	GDP divided by population at the end of the year	CNY 1
Residents' consumption level (RC)	Total residents' consumption divided by population	CNY 1
Urban residents' consumption level (URC)	Total urban residents' consumption divided by urban population	CNY 1
Rural residents' consumption level (RRC)	Total rural residents' consumption divided by rural population	CNY 1
Foreign trade dependence (FTD)	Total imports and exports divided by GDP	%
Export dependence (ED)	Total exports divided by GDP	%
Import dependence (ID)	Total imports divided by GDP	%
Foreign direct investment dependence (FDI)	Total foreign direct investment divided by GDP	%
Technical output amount (TOA)	Contract amount of technical output in technology market	CNY 100 million
Technical introduction amount (TIA)	Contract amount of technical input in technology market	CNY 100 million
R&D intensity(R&D)	Total R&D investment divided by GDP	%
Secondary industry (SI)	The added value of the secondary industry divided by GDP	%
Tertiary industry (TI)	The added value of the tertiary industry divided by GDP	%

180

### 3.2. Principal component factor analysis

181

Principal component factor analysis (PCFA) is employed to evaluate economic competitiveness. Factor analysis has a vital role

182

in using a few common factors to explain many variables with solid correlations: dimensionality reduction(Ivosev et al., 2008).

183

The common factor analysis model is as Eq. (2).

$$\begin{cases} X_1 = a_{11}F_1 + a_{12}F_2 + \dots + a_{1m}F_m + \varepsilon_1 \\ X_2 = a_{21}F_1 + a_{22}F_2 + \dots + a_{2m}F_m + \varepsilon_2 \\ \vdots \\ X_p = a_{p1}F_1 + a_{p2}F_2 + \dots + a_{pm}F_m + \varepsilon_p \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

184

Where,  $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_p$  are twelve economic factors.  $F_1, F_2, \dots, F_m$  are independent of each other and are common factors, and

185

$COV(F_1, F_2, \dots, F_m) = I$ .  $\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2, \dots, \varepsilon_p$  are so-called special factors. The  $a_{ij} (i = 1, \dots, p; j = 1, \dots, m)$  are the factor loading,

186

which indicates the degree of correlation between  $X_i$  and  $F_j$ . What needs to be explained is that this work uses the principal

187

component method to solve  $a_{ij} (i = 1, \dots, p; j = 1, \dots, m)$ . The Factor scores of  $F_1, F_2, \dots, F_m$  can be obtained by the least

188

squares regression method proposed by Thurstone (1934). The comprehensive score  $F$  is derived from Eq. (3).

189

$$F = (\gamma_1 \times F_1 + \gamma_2 \times F_2 + \dots + \gamma_m \times F_m) / \gamma \quad (3)$$

190

Where,  $\gamma_j (j = 1, 2, \dots, m)$  represents the variance contribution rate of factor  $F_j$ ,  $\gamma$  represents the total variance contribution

191

rate of all common factors and  $\gamma = \gamma_1 + \gamma_2 + \dots + \gamma_m$ .

192

### 3.3. Panel Principal Component Regression

193

This work performed the Panel Principal Component Regression (PPCR) model to simulate the association between CO<sub>2</sub>

194

emissions and economic competitiveness. Statistically speaking, different data units and different data magnitudes tend to cause

195

two significant problems: One is the error in measuring variable; the other is the error in measuring the relationship between

196

variables(Mosteller et al., 1977). Furthermore, it could be affecting the final estimation result of the model. Therefore, the

197 original data of CE should be standardized before establishing the PPCR model. It is important to note here that the common  
 198 factors  $F_1, F_2, \dots, F_m$  obtained by the PCFA method have met the standardized conditions. This work established the PPCR model  
 199 to explain the effect of economic competitiveness CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, as follows:

$$ZCE_{it} = \alpha + \beta_1 WC_{it} + \beta_2 OC_{it} + \beta_3 TC_{it} + \beta_4 IC_{it} + \varepsilon_{it} \quad (4)$$

200 Where,  $i = 1, \dots, 30$  denotes 30 provinces of China,  $t = 2003, \dots, 2017$  marks the study period.  $\alpha$  denotes constant term,  
 201  $\beta_j (j = 1, \dots, 4)$  are the parameters,  $\varepsilon_{it}$  is random error.  $ZCE_{it}$  denotes standardized data of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, which represents  
 202 environmental pollution.  $WC_{it}, OC_{it}, TC_{it}$ , and  $IC_{it}$  are the four common factors obtained by the PCFA method. In addition,  
 203  $WC_{it}, OC_{it}, TC_{it}$ , and  $IC_{it}$  are the competitiveness of residents' wealth, the competitiveness of opening-up, the competitiveness  
 204 of technology, and the competitiveness of industrial structure, respectively.

## 205 4. Empirical Results

### 206 4.1. Economic competitiveness

#### 207 4.1.1. Evaluation of economic competitiveness

208 The PCFA method (Principal component factor analysis) has been widely used for the evaluation of competitiveness (Duleba et  
 209 al., 2019; Lu, 2019; Stanickova, 2015). The PCFA method has advantages in evaluating competitiveness. First, the common factors  
 210 obtained by the PCFA method can fuse the information of numerous indicators and eliminate the collinear relationship of multiple  
 211 indicators (Lafi et al., 1992). Second, the common factors obtained by PCFA can be given practical significance by the methods of  
 212 factor rotation (Jolliffe, 2014). Third, the common factors are new variables, which lay the foundation for the Principal  
 213 Component Regression model. Given this, the PCFA method was employed to evaluate the economic competitiveness. In  
 214 addition, this work employed KMO and Bartlett's test to test the correlation between economic factors. The test outcomes of KMO  
 215 and Bartlett fully illustrated the high degree of correlation between economic factors (Appendix Table a.2).

216 The results of PCFA are shown in tables 2 and 3. The first four common factors ( $F_1, F_2, F_3, F_4$ ) explained the variance of 90.783  
 217 percent of the thirteen original economic factors. The factor loadings of the first common factor  $F_1$  on urban residents'  
 218 consumption level, rural residents' consumption level, residents' consumption level, and GDP per capita were 0.905, 0.902, 0.870,  
 219 and 0.851, respectively. Therefore, we called the first common factor  $F_1$  the competitiveness of residents' wealth, which reflected  
 220 the ability of regional residents to create and consume wealth. The factor loadings of the second common factor  $F_2$  on foreign  
 221 trade dependence, export dependence, import dependence, and foreign direct investment dependence were 0.916, 0.909, 0.799, and  
 222 0.717, respectively. We named the second common factor  $F_2$  as the competitiveness of opening-up, reflecting regional economies'  
 223 degree of external dependence. The factor loadings of the third common factor  $F_3$  on technical output amount, technical  
 224 introduction amount, and R&D intensity were 0.882, 0.769, and 0.662, respectively. We defined the third common factor  $F_3$  as the  
 225 competitiveness of technology, demonstrating the power of regional technology R&D and technology diffusion. Finally, the  
 226 factor loadings of the fourth common factor  $F_4$  on secondary industry and tertiary industry were -0.956 and 0.784. We defined the  
 227 fourth common factor  $F_4$  as the competitiveness of industrial structure, which reflected the reasonable degree of regional  
 228 industrial structure. It should be noted that of the thirteen economic factors, only the factor loading of the secondary industry was  
 229 negative. In other words, the increase of the proportion of secondary industry will reduce the competitiveness of the regional  
 230 industrial structure. On the contrary, the improvement of the remaining economic factors will enhance the corresponding regional  
 231 economic competitive advantage. Then, we got the economic competitiveness index system (Appendix Table a.3).

232 Furthermore, the competitiveness scores of WC, OC, TC, and IC were obtained by least squares regression method (Thurstone,  
 233 1934). They are shown in the Appendix (Table b.1, b.2, b.3, and b.4). In addition, the comprehensive economic competitiveness  
 234 score was derived from Eq. (5), and shown in the Appendix Table b.5.

$$CEC_{it} = (29.265 \times WC_{it} + 24.926 \times OC_{it} + 20.439 \times TC_{it} + 16.153 \times IC_{it}) / 90.783 \quad (i = 1, \dots, 30; t = 2003, \dots, 2017) \quad (5)$$

235 Table 2  
 236 Total variance explained

Component	Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Eigenvalues	% of Variance	Cumulative %
$F_1$	2.720	29.265	29.265
$F_2$	2.589	24.926	54.190
$F_3$	2.267	20.439	74.630
$F_4$	2.082	16.153	90.783

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238  
239

Notes: Extraction method: Principal component analysis. Rotation Method: Equamax with Kaiser Normalization.

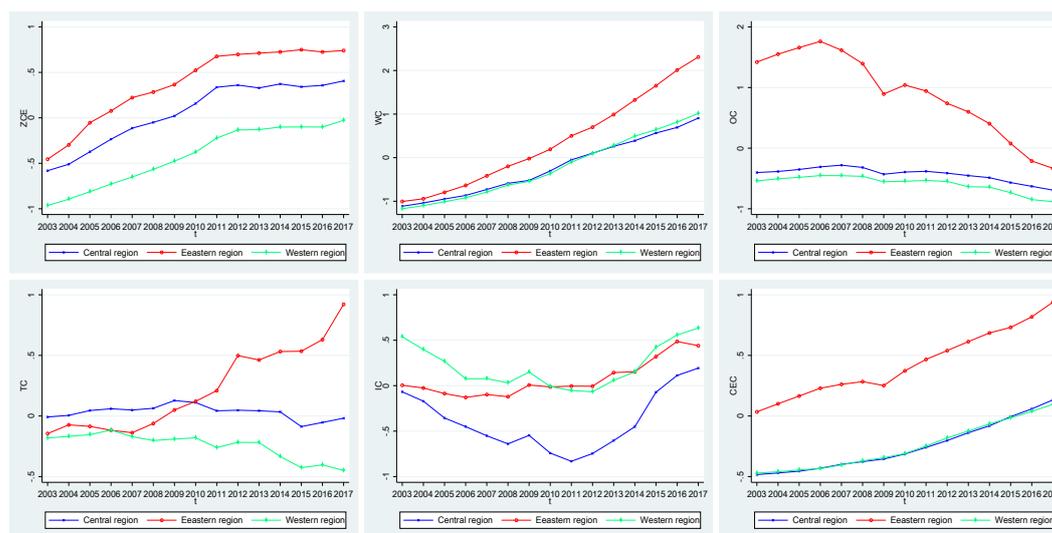
Table 3  
Rotated Component Matrix

Variables	Component			
	$F_1$	$F_2$	$F_3$	$F_4$
	competitiveness of residents' wealth (WC)	competitiveness of opening-up (OC)	competitiveness of technology (TC)	competitiveness of industrial structure (IC)
Urban residents' consumption level (URC)	0.905	0.109	0.328	0.207
Rural residents' consumption level (RRC)	0.902	0.128	0.326	0.197
Residents' consumption level (RC)	0.870	0.207	0.367	0.239
GDP per capita (PGDP)	0.851	0.264	0.368	0.168
Foreign trade dependence (FTD)	0.150	0.916	0.243	0.193
Export dependence (ED)	0.212	0.909	0.032	-0.087
Import dependence (ID)	0.078	0.799	0.384	0.399
Foreign direct investment dependence (FDI)	0.085	0.717	0.065	-0.091
Technical output amount (TOA)	0.237	0.073	0.882	0.327
Technical introduction amount (TIA)	0.534	0.078	0.769	0.165
R&D intensity(R&D)	0.361	0.448	0.662	0.241
Secondary industry (SI)	-0.051	0.145	-0.104	-0.956
Tertiary industry (TI)	0.370	0.220	0.380	0.784

240 Notes: Extraction method: Principal component analysis. Rotation Method: Equamax with Kaiser Normalization

241 4.1.2. Characteristics of three regions

242 Figures 2 and 3 clearly show the characteristics of the three regions. First of all, from a regional perspective, the CO<sub>2</sub>  
243 emissions gradually reduce according to the eastern, central, and western order. From the perspective of time, the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions  
244 in all three regions expanded in 2003-2011 and were relatively stable in 2011-2017. Secondly, in terms of comprehensive  
245 economic competitiveness, the eastern region is significantly better than the central and western regions. In contrast, the central  
246 region and the western region have no noticeable differences. Moreover, the three regions have shown differences in the  
247 competitiveness of residents' wealth, opening-up, technology, and industrial structure.



248 Fig.2. The average values of competitiveness and the average standardized score of CO<sub>2</sub> emission in regions (Eastern, central, and western regions).

249 Regarding the competitiveness of residents' wealth, the eastern region is potent than the central and western regions. This is  
250 because the four factors contained in the competitiveness of residents' wealth in the eastern region are remarkably higher than in  
251 the central and western regions. In addition, although there is no apparent difference in the competitiveness of the residents'  
252 wealth in the central and western regions in the first half of the research time, the western region showed a slight advantage over  
253 the central region in the second half of the study period. Therefore, we believed that the competitiveness of residents' wealth of  
254 the eastern region was the most competitive advantage, the west region was second, the central region was the weakest. In other  
255 words, the eastern region is the strongest, the western region second, and the central region the weakest for the ability of  
256 residents to create and consume wealth.  
257

258 In terms of the competitiveness of opening-up, the eastern region is most potent, the central region is second, and the western  
259 region is the weakest. Moreover, the competitiveness of opening-up for the three regions showed a downward trend, of which the  
260 decline was most evident in the eastern region. However, the competitiveness of opening-up for the eastern region still has  
261 apparent advantages. As a result, the degree of external dependence of the economies of the three regions has decreased year by  
262 year, especially in the eastern regions. It is also important to note that FDI in the central region continues to increase, while there

has been a clear downward trend in the western region since 2012.

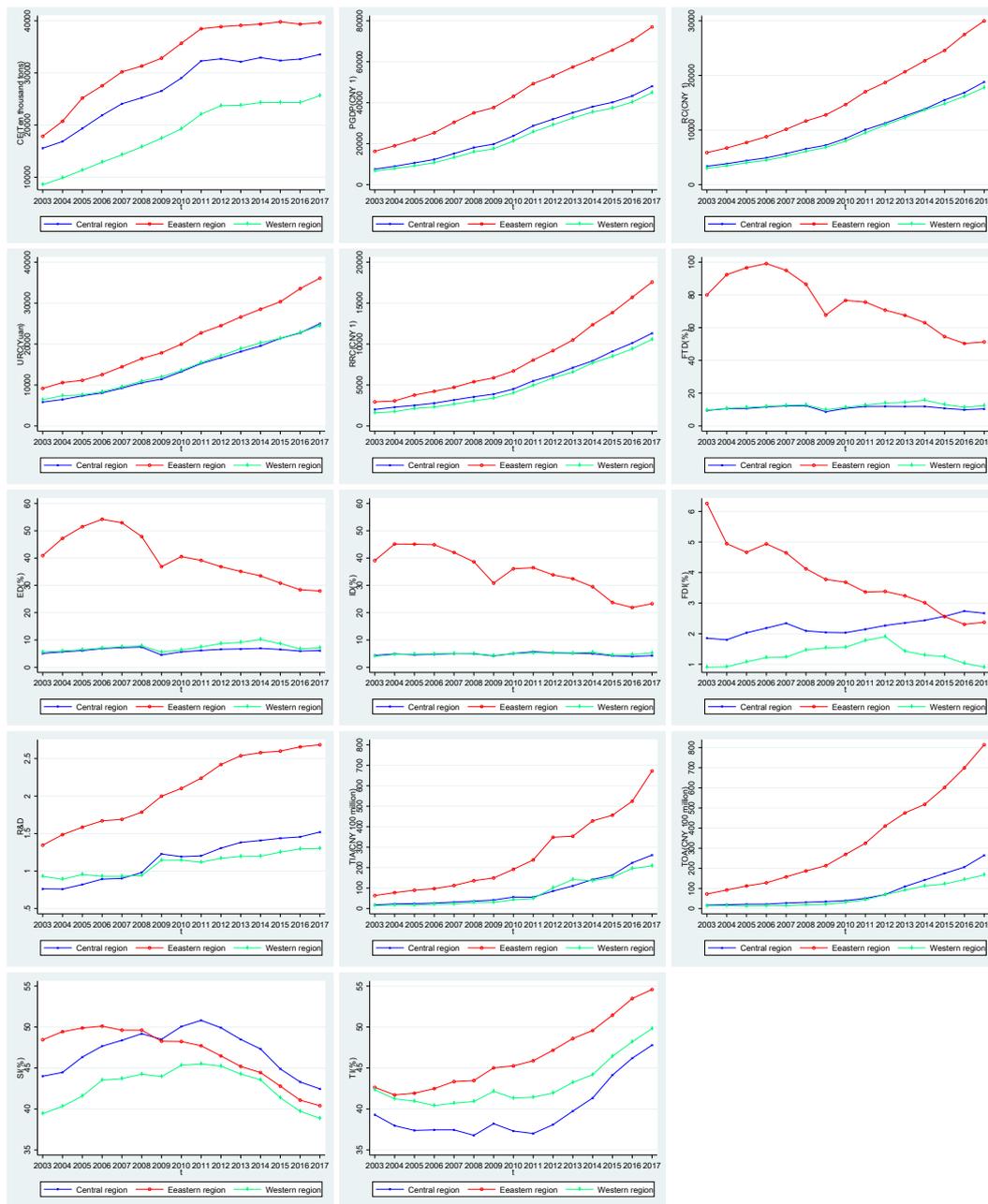


Fig.3. The average values of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (CE) and thirteen economic factors in regions (Eastern, central, and western regions).

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For the competitiveness of technology, the eastern region has significant advantages. The intensity of independent R&D in the eastern region is much higher than that in other regions, indicating that the technological progress in the eastern region depends mainly on independent R&D. At the same time, the contract amount of technology export is higher than the technology introduction in the eastern region, indicating that the eastern region is the net output region of the technology. In addition, compared with the eastern region, the competitiveness of technology of the central and western regions is at a significant disadvantage. First, the R&D efforts in the central and western regions are weaker than those in the eastern region. Furthermore, the technology introduction turnover in the central and western regions is higher than the technology output turnover, indicating that both regions are net technology introduction areas. Moreover, the central region's independent technology R&D are more potent than that of the western region. So, the western region's technological progress depends more on technology diffusion than the central region.

As far as the competitiveness of industrial structure is concerned, it is arranged from highest to lowest according to western

277 region, eastern region and central region. The nodes of the secondary industry's decline and the tertiary industry's increase in the  
 278 western region are about 45 percent and 40 percent, respectively. However, the decline of the secondary industries in the eastern  
 279 and central regions was higher than 50 percent. Moreover, the rising of the tertiary industry in the central region is significantly  
 280 lower than that in the western region. Therefore, the nodes of industrial structure adjustment in the western region are better than  
 281 those in the eastern and central regions, which makes the industrial structure of the western region more reasonable.

## 282 4.2. Estimation results of the PPCR model

### 283 4.2.1. Unit root and cointegration tests

284 The stationary of panel data should be tested before estimate the PPCR model(Hadri, 2000). To avoid the phenomenon of  
 285 “pseudo-regression”, this work employed the LLC test(Levin et al., 2002), IPS test(Im et al., 2003), the Fisher-ADF and the  
 286 Fisher-PP (Choi, 2001)tests to check the stationary of the variables used in the PPCR model. Table 4 showed the unit root test  
 287 results for the three regions. It can be found that all variables accepted the null hypothesis at their levels, that was, the unit root  
 288 process. Moreover, all variables rejected the null hypothesis that was unit root process in the first-order difference. Therefore, the  
 289 first-order difference stationarity can be determined. Furthermore, this work employed Kao test (Kao, 1999), Pedroni test  
 290 (Pedroni, 2004), and Westerlund test(Westerlund, 2005) to check the long-term cointegration relationship among variables. As  
 291 shown in Table 5, almost all statistics rejected the null hypothesis that there was no cointegration relationship. Thus, we have  
 292 determined the cointegration of the panel data used in the PPCR model.

293 Table 4  
 294 Panel unit root test results for three regions.

Variable	Levels				First difference				
	LLC	IPS	Fisher ADF	Fisher PP	LLC	IPS	Fisher ADF	Fisher PP	
Eastern region	ZCE	2.87	2.49	8.46	24.31	-8.70***	-5.17***	64.59***	72.13***
	WC	10.22	13.10	0.37	0.41	-4.73***	-2.27**	41.30***	56.20***
	OC	4.54	6.47	1.85	1.76	-9.89***	-7.19***	86.71***	100.02***
	TC	2.75	2.33	24.92	20.88	-6.33***	-7.00***	86.46***	93.19***
	IC	2.11	2.77	17.48	3.42	-6.31***	-5.67***	76.17***	96.01***
Central region	ZCE	0.17	0.66	13.10	11.69	-3.60***	-2.01**	28.07**	71.34***
	WC	4.53	6.62	1.05	0.35	-2.79***	-1.45*	24.33*	36.65***
	OC	2.43	2.91	10.67	4.77	-2.88***	-2.33***	29.44**	47.99***
	TC	1.92	2.63	8.11	5.29	-3.22***	-2.89***	39.44***	72.11***
	IC	-1.04	-0.08	17.78	15.19	-1.86**	-4.53***	38.87***	54.88***
Western region	ZCE	-1.20	1.52	16.41	8.38	-2.14***	-1.84***	35.55***	61.95***
	WC	4.61	7.62	0.63	0.18	-1.66**	-1.42**	35.85***	42.10***
	OC	1.62	3.05	9.12	8.54	-4.17***	-2.47***	40.32***	84.18***
	TC	2.58	4.27	3.44	9.92	-2.78***	-3.63***	50.74***	111.25***
	IC	1.05	1.31	24.16	21.22	-2.19***	-1.52**	32.29**	56.46***

295 Note: \*represents  $p < 0.10$ , \*\*represents  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\* represents  $p < 0.01$ . Exogenous variables: Individual effects, individual linear trends. Automatic lag  
 296 length selection based on SIC: 0 to 1.

297 Table 5  
 298 Cointegration tests for three regions.

Tests	Hypothesis	Statistics	Regions		
			Eastern region	Central region	Western region
Kao test	$H_0$ : No cointegration	Modified Dickey-Fuller t	-1.1170**	-1.6673**	1.4335**
	$H_a$ : All panels are cointegrated	Dickey-Fuller t	-3.6250***	-1.7142**	1.2914*
		Augmented Dickey-Fuller t	0.5862	-2.3000***	0.7005*
		Unadjusted modified Dickey-Fuller t	-2.2563**	-1.6965**	1.4886**
		Unadjusted Dickey-Fuller t	-3.2575***	-1.7273**	1.3556**
Pedroni test	$H_0$ : No cointegration	Modified variance ratio	-3.7527***	-2.4092***	-3.2298***
	$H_a$ : All panels are cointegrated	Modified Phillips-Perron t	2.0852***	1.7990**	1.676**
		Phillips-Perron t	-1.4784**	-3.1191***	-1.4926**
		Augmented Dickey-Fuller t	-2.2377***	-3.0089***	-1.4741**
Westerlund test	$H_0$ : No cointegration $H_a$ : All panels are cointegrated	Variance ratio	1.2609**	1.6899**	0.812**

299 Note: \*represents  $p < 0.10$ , \*\*represents  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\* represents  $p < 0.01$ . Exogenous variables: Individual effects, individual linear trends. Automatic lag  
 300 length selection based on SIC: 0 to 1.

### 301 4.2.2 Estimation results of the PPCR model

302 Whether the PPCR model established by using the competitiveness score can avoid multicollinearity needs to be verified.  
 303 Variance expansion factor (VIF) was a widely used tool for judging multicollinear relationship(Farrar et al., 1967). In all three  
 304 regions, the VIF value of all independent variables was not greater than 10(Appendix Table a.4). Therefore, it can be judged that  
 305 there was no multi-collinear relationship among the independent variables. Furthermore, this work employed the Hausman  
 306 test(Hausman, 1978) to make model choices. Appendix Table a.5 showed that the Hausman test rejected the null hypothesis of the  
 307 random effect model in all three regions (Geisser, 1974). Therefore, the fixed effects model was chosen to fit the PPCR model in  
 308 all three regions. The estimation results of the three regions are shown in Table 6.

309 From the model estimation results shown in Table 7, it can be seen that the effects of WC, OC, TC, and IC on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions  
 310 were statistically significant in all three regions. Among them, the elastic coefficients of WC were positive in all three regions.

311 Moreover, it showed the rule that the central region was the largest, the eastern region was the smallest, and the western region  
 312 was in the middle. Therefore, the WC has a promoting effect on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in all three regions, and this promotion has the  
 313 same law to the elasticity coefficients. Regarding OC, its elasticity coefficients were positive in all three regions, and its value  
 314 increased according to the order of the western region, the eastern region, and the central region. This implied that OC has the  
 315 effect of promoting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in all three regions. This promoting effect was most potent in the central region, most minor  
 316 the western region, and centered in the eastern region. As far as TC was concerned, its elasticity coefficients were positive in the  
 317 central region, negative in the western and eastern regions. Therefore, TC has the effect of promoting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the  
 318 central region, and inhibiting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the western and eastern regions. Finally, the elasticity coefficients of IC were  
 319 negative in all three regions, which implied that IC has the effect of inhibiting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in all three regions. Moreover, the  
 320 inhibiting effect of IC was most potent in the western region, most minor in the central region, and centered in the eastern region.

321 Table 6  
 322 Estimation of PPCR model for three regions

Statistic	Eastern region	Central region	western region
WC	0.410*** (43.144)	0.561*** (39.139)	0.448*** (88.389)
OC	0.144*** (17.392)	0.631*** (12.752)	0.030*** (5.504)
TC	-0.037*** (-7.328)	0.058** (1.987)	-0.016** (-3.892)
IC	-0.170*** (-15.012)	-0.064*** (-2.840)	-0.214*** (-34.461)
C	0.115*** (10.041)	0.422*** (13.672)	-0.261*** (-52.206)
R <sup>2</sup>	0.987324	0.983783	0.985302
Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	0.986141	0.982131	0.98393
F-statistic	834.5264	595.5969	718.2546
Durbin-Watson	2.024887	1.881128	2.010345
Obs	165	120	165
Cross-sections included	11	8	11
Model selection	FE	FE	FE
Estimation methods	Panel EGLS	Panel EGLS	Panel EGLS

323 Note: \*\* represents  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*\* represents  $p < 0.01$ .

## 324 5. Discussion

325 Based on the above empirical conclusions, we have found some valuable phenomena.

326 The promoting effect of residents' wealth competitiveness on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions showed the opposite law to residents' wealth  
 327 competitiveness. Inevitably, the process of creating wealth and consuming it consumes fossil fuels and brings about CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.  
 328 The competitiveness of residents' wealth reflects their ability to create wealth and their ability to consume wealth. And the ability  
 329 of residents to create wealth and consume wealth promote each other. First, the ability of residents to create wealth is the basis of  
 330 the ability to consume wealth. On the one hand, the stronger the ability of residents to create wealth, the greater the ability of  
 331 residents to pay for wealth, which makes residents "able" to consume. On the other hand, the more wealth-generating the  
 332 residents can provide, the greater the level of social security that can be provided, which makes them "dare" to consume.  
 333 Moreover, the consumption power of residents' wealth is the driving force of residents' wealth creation. When the ability of  
 334 residents to create and consume wealth is weak, the consumption demand of residents mainly meets the material needs of basic  
 335 survival, such as clothing, food, housing, travel, etc. On the contrary, when residents have a solid ability to create and consume  
 336 wealth, the consumer demand is mainly to meet their development and enjoyment of service needs, such as: culture, health care,  
 337 art, education, entertainment, tourism. In other words, the improvement of residents' wealth competitiveness can promote the  
 338 upgrading of residents' consumption structure from "survival" consumption to "development and enjoyment" consumption.  
 339 Obviously, "survival" material consumption is a high CO<sub>2</sub> consumption relative to "development and enjoyment" service  
 340 consumption. Therefore, it was found that the higher the competitiveness of residents' wealth, the lower the contribution to CO<sub>2</sub>  
 341 emissions.

342 It can be determined that the "pollution refuge" hypothesis is established in all three regions of China. This differs from the  
 343 conclusion of (Jin et al., 2016), who believed that the "pollution refuge" hypothesis only exists in the western region. At the same  
 344 time, the promoting effect of opening-up competitiveness on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is the strongest in the central region, followed by the  
 345 eastern region and the weakest in the western region. The competitiveness of opening-up included the dependence of economic

346 development on foreign trade and the foreign capital, which reflected the external dependence of economic development. The  
347 economic development of the Eastern region has made remarkable achievements, which has led to the gradual transformation of  
348 its economic development from the demand for economic scale to the pursuit of economic efficiency. Moreover, although the  
349 eastern region's external trade has maintained a net export model, its dependence on foreign trade has decreased. Besides, its  
350 export commodity structure has gradually transitioned from labor-intensive and resource-intensive manufactured goods to  
351 technology- and capital-intensive high-value-added commodities. In addition, the dependence on foreign capital of the Eastern  
352 region has declined rapidly, and more attention has been paid to guiding foreign investment into high-tech, low-polluting  
353 industries. Therefore, the promoting effect of opening-up competitiveness on carbon emissions has been curbed to some degree  
354 in the Eastern region. For the central region, its external economic dependence has been low. However, due to its energy  
355 endowment, the central region's exports are mainly steel, cement, and other energy-intensive commodities, which undoubtedly  
356 increased CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In addition, the central region's demand for economic scale led to an increase in foreign investment in  
357 high-energy-consuming and high-emission industries. Therefore, the opening-up competitiveness of the central region has the  
358 most potent effect on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In other words, the "pollution refuge" hypothesis is most pronounced in the central  
359 region. Similar to the central region, the external economic dependence of the western region has been low, and its foreign trade  
360 is also reflected in net exports. However, exports from the western region are mainly primary products, such as unprocessed or  
361 initially processed agricultural products and extractive industrial products. At the same time, the economic dependence on FDI in  
362 the western region has been low, and there is a more apparent downward trend. Moreover, the economic development of the  
363 western region started late, drew lessons from the central region, and strictly controlled foreign investment in  
364 high-energy-consuming and high-polluting industries. Therefore, although the competitiveness of opening-up in the western  
365 region has a statistically beneficial effect on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, it is feeble.

366 The competitiveness of technology inhibits CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the eastern and western regions, but promotes CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in  
367 the central region. This is broadly in line with the conclusion of (J. Chen et al., 2020). They confirmed that technological  
368 advances have the effect of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the central and western regions and increasing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the  
369 eastern region. The eastern region has the most potent R&D efforts and is the primary source of Chinese technology. Moreover,  
370 benefiting from its economic development and environmental regulation, R&D in the eastern region favors environmentally  
371 friendly technologies and low-carbon production technologies. In addition, the eastern region is the area of net technology output,  
372 which provides the capital base for technological progress, which is conducive to its technological progress, especially to the  
373 progress of environment-friendly technology. As a result, it was found that the technological competitiveness of the eastern  
374 region inhibited CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. For the central region, because of the pursuit of the economic scale, the environmental  
375 supervision is relatively broad, which leads to the R&D bias towards industrial production technology. At the same time, the  
376 central region's technological progress is less dependent and prefers the introduction of industrial production technology. None  
377 of this is conducive to the progress of technology, especially environment-friendly technology. As a result, the technological  
378 competitiveness of the central region contributed to energy demand and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. For the western region, although the  
379 technological R&D is low, the technological progress is more dependent than that in the central region. So, the introduction of  
380 technology in the western region is more efficient than that in the central region, which is more beneficial to the progress of  
381 environment-friendly technology. In addition, compared with the central region, the technological R&D in the western region  
382 favors environment-friendly technology. Therefore, the technological competitiveness curbs CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the western region.

383 The inhibiting effect of the competitiveness of industrial structure on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions shows the same law as the  
384 competitiveness of industrial structure. Furthermore, it shows that the rationalization of industrial structure in all three regions  
385 has reached the degree of curbing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Under China's current background of economy, the lower the proportion of the  
386 secondary industry, the higher the proportion of the tertiary industry, the more reasonable the industrial structure. During the  
387 research period, under the pressure of the environment, all three regions experienced the process of industrial structure  
388 adjustment and optimization of the decline of the proportion of secondary industry and the increase of the proportion of tertiary  
389 industry. The adjustment and optimization of the industrial structure are beneficial to the allocation of resources and improve the

390 rationalization of the industrial structure, which is undoubtedly conducive to curbing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Another interesting finding  
391 is that the inhibiting effect of the competitiveness of industrial structure on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is most powerful in the western region,  
392 mainly because the nodes of industrial structure adjustment and optimization in the western region are better than those in the  
393 eastern and central regions. The lower the node where the proportion of the secondary industry decreases, the fewer CO<sub>2</sub>  
394 emissions the secondary industry will cause. On the contrary, the higher the node where the proportion of the tertiary industry  
395 increases, the stronger the inhibiting effect on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Therefore, for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, the lower the node where the  
396 proportion of the secondary industry decreases, the higher the node where the proportion of the tertiary industry increases, and  
397 the more reasonable the industrial structure is. Therefore, it was found that the industrial structure is more reasonable in the  
398 western region.

## 399 **6. Conclusions and policy implications**

400 Based on the economic panel data of China's thirty provinces from 2003 to 2017, this work evaluated the economic  
401 competitiveness of the provinces by using the principal component factor analysis method. The results showed that economic  
402 competitiveness included four parts: the competitiveness of residents' wealth, the competitiveness of opening-up, the  
403 competitiveness of technology, and the competitiveness of industrial structure. Furthermore, the PPCR model was established  
404 based on the four-part competitiveness score to fit the effect of economic competitiveness on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. It was found that  
405 the promoting effect of WC on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions presented a law opposite to that of WC. In other words, the stronger the  
406 competitive advantage of WC, the weaker of its effect on promoting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. It can be determined that the "pollution  
407 refuge" hypothesis was verified in all three regions. Moreover, the promotion of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by OC was the most in the  
408 central region, followed by the eastern region, and the weakest in the western region. Furthermore, TC promoted CO<sub>2</sub> emissions  
409 in the central region and inhibited CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the eastern and western regions. Finally, the inhibiting effect of IC on CO<sub>2</sub>  
410 emissions showed the same law as IC. Based on the conclusions above, some recommendations were put forward.

411 Compared with the three regions, the improvement of the competitiveness of residents' wealth has the effect of curbing the  
412 increase of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Therefore, striving to improve the competitiveness of residents' wealth in various regions is an  
413 effective measure to curb the increase of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Furthermore, wealth creation-ability and consumption-ability are two  
414 mutually reinforcing aspects of the competitiveness of residents' wealth. Therefore, the eastern region should take full advantage  
415 of its highest wealth creation-ability and consumption-ability to promote the upgrading of its consumption structure. On the  
416 contrary, the central and western regions have low wealth creation and consumption power, and their "survival" material  
417 consumption patterns are difficult to change in the short term. So, the central and western regions should focus on the ability of  
418 create wealth, that is increase GDP per capita, to promote the improvement of their consumption level and the upgrading of  
419 consumption structure.

420 The competitiveness of opening-up promoted CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in three regions. In other words, the external dependence of  
421 economic development increases CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the three regions. Therefore, efforts should be made to reduce the external  
422 dependence of the economic development of the three regions. From the perspective of foreign trade, we must first try to reduce  
423 the degree of economic dependence on foreign trade, and promote the development of a virtuous "inner circle" of the economy.  
424 Furthermore, efforts should be made to improve the commodity structure of foreign trade, promote the export of trade in services,  
425 and reduce the export of energy-intensive and polluting commodities. From the perspective of FDI, the government should  
426 optimize the industrial layout of FDI. In high-energy- and high-polluting industries, FDI should be guided to adopt advanced  
427 production technology to reduce pollution emissions. In addition, it is more important to guide FDI into the clean industry,  
428 environmental protection industry, and actively play the FDI technology spillover effect. These measures should be more  
429 meaningful in the central region.

430 As far as technological competitiveness is concerned, the eastern region has apparent advantages. Therefore, the eastern region  
431 should fully play its advantages in R&D and technology diffusion. First, the eastern region should continue to increase  
432 investment in R&D of production-oriented and environmental-friendly technologies. Furthermore, it is necessary to encourage  
433 technology diffusion from the eastern region to the central and western regions. In addition, R&D often has the characteristics of

434 significant investment and slow return(Hall et al., 2010). On the contrary, the introduction of technology is more targeted and  
 435 effective. Therefore, for the central and western regions, subject to economic development and R&D capital constraints,  
 436 emphasis should be placed on increasing investment in technology introduction. Especially in the central region, limited funds  
 437 should be invested in the introduction of production-oriented technology to improve production efficiency and reduce energy  
 438 consumption and pollution emissions.

439 After a period of industrial restructuring in various regions, the industrial structure gradually tends to be rationalized, which is  
 440 manifested in that the competitiveness of the industrial structure inhibits CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in all regions. However, there are  
 441 apparent differences in the rationality of the industrial structure in each region. Therefore, differentiated measures should be  
 442 taken to improve the rationality of the industrial structure in each region. For the eastern and western regions where the industrial  
 443 structure is relatively reasonable, we should focus on increasing the proportion of the tertiary industry. For example, the  
 444 government needs to issue policies to encourage the development of high-end service industries such as tourism, finance, cultural  
 445 industries, and technical services. On the contrary, for the central region where the industrial structure is less reasonable, we  
 446 should focus on reducing the secondary industry's proportion. The policy should try its best to guide the resources in the  
 447 secondary industry to resource-saving and environment-friendly industries.

448 **Author contribution**

449 Keliang Chang: Conceptualization, methodology, resources, visualization, writing (review and editing).

450 Zifang Du: Supervision, Reviewing and Editing.

451 Wang Gao: Software, Methodology.

452 Quan Wang: Data curation, Methodology, and funding acquisition.

453 Guijing Chen: Data curation, Writing- Original draft preparation, and funding acquisition.

454 Wenbo Ma: Visualization, Investigation.

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 458 author on reasonable request.

459 **Declarations**

460 **Ethics approval** Not applicable.

461 **Consent to participate** Not applicable.

462 **Consent for publication** Not applicable.

463 **Competing interests** The authors declare no competing interests.

464 **Appendix**

465 Table a.1

466 Carbon emission coefficients for various energy.

Fossil fuels	$\alpha_i$ TCE (kg)	$\beta_i$ Carbon emission coefficients (CTCE)	$\delta_i$ CE coefficients
1 kg coal	0.7143	0.7559	1.98
1 kg coke	0.9714	0.8816	3.14
1 kg crude	1.4286	0.5854	3.07
1 kg fuel oil	1.4286	0.6176	3.23
1 kg gasoline	1.4714	0.5532	2.99
1 kg kerosene	1.4714	0.5714	3.08
1 kg diesel	1.4571	0.5913	3.16
1× 10 <sup>4</sup> m <sup>3</sup> natural gas	13,300	0.4479	2.18

467 Note: TCE denotes standard coal;  $\alpha_i$  denotes the conversion coefficient from fossil fuels to standard coal;  $\beta_i$  denotes the carbon emission coefficients of fossil  
 468 fuels equivalent to one unit of standard coal;  $\delta_i$  denotes CO<sub>2</sub> emissions coefficients of fossil fuels, and  $\delta_i = \alpha_i \times \beta_i \times 44/12$ .

469 Table a.2

470 KMO and Bartlett's Test results

Statistics	value
Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy	.792
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	16150.425***

471 Note: \*\*\* represents p < 0.01.

472 Table a.3

473 Economic competitiveness index system

Target layer	Criteria Layer	Index layer
Comprehensive economic competitiveness (CEC)	Competitiveness of residents' wealth (WC)	Urban residents' consumption level
		Rural residents' consumption level

		Residents' consumption level
		GDP per capita
Competitiveness of opening-up (OC)		Foreign trade dependence
		Export dependence
		Import dependence
		Foreign direct investment dependence
Competitiveness of technology (TC)		Technical output amount
		Technical introduction amount
		R&D intensity
Competitiveness of industrial structure (IC)		Secondary industry
		Tertiary industry

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476

Table a.4  
VIF values for multicollinearity of independent variables.

Variables	Eastern region	Central region	western region
WC	1.098	1.465	1.677
OC	1.136	2.210	1.678
TC	1.105	2.687	3.756
IC	1.067	2.481	3.681

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Table a.5  
Panel model selection.

Statistic	Eastern region	Central region	western region
Hausman test	12.464**	40.692***	25.279***
Model type	FE	FE	FE

479

480

481

Note: FE is fixed effects model, \*\*\*represents  $p < 0.01$ , \*\*represents  $p < 0.05$ .

Table b.1

## Competitiveness of residents' wealth.

Provinces	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Beijing	-1.413	-1.501	-1.467	-1.424	-1.032	-1.060	-0.641	-0.700	-0.730	-0.749	-0.394	-0.050	0.464	1.165	1.347
Tianjin	-1.008	-0.975	-0.855	-0.748	-0.462	-0.063	0.126	0.449	0.798	1.133	1.558	1.840	2.369	2.872	3.309
Hebei	-1.032	-0.943	-0.860	-0.758	-0.643	-0.522	-0.440	-0.310	-0.051	0.111	0.226	0.295	0.366	0.570	0.723
Shanxi	-1.054	-0.944	-0.853	-0.761	-0.638	-0.475	-0.505	-0.214	0.014	0.146	0.280	0.314	0.511	0.565	1.035
Inner Mongolia	-1.104	-1.023	-0.863	-0.719	-0.492	-0.254	-0.077	0.166	0.571	0.793	1.125	1.565	1.677	1.884	1.989
Liaoning	-1.084	-1.098	-0.948	-0.823	-0.660	-0.389	-0.237	0.014	0.338	0.651	1.042	1.323	1.578	1.266	1.372
Jilin	-1.193	-1.217	-1.072	-0.973	-0.793	-0.605	-0.482	-0.314	-0.028	0.210	0.435	0.461	0.634	0.495	0.596
Heilongjiang	-1.043	-0.979	-0.878	-0.824	-0.694	-0.530	-0.501	-0.321	-0.102	0.000	0.193	0.458	0.592	0.715	0.909
Shanghai	-0.506	-0.352	-0.051	0.190	0.482	0.808	1.022	1.539	2.039	2.198	2.546	3.033	3.296	3.751	4.197
Jiangsu	-1.097	-1.081	-0.890	-0.679	-0.431	-0.163	0.039	0.195	0.620	0.910	1.422	2.072	2.513	3.131	3.671
Zhejiang	-0.565	-0.417	-0.214	0.001	0.223	0.451	0.647	1.016	1.462	1.649	2.004	2.339	2.688	2.963	3.264
Anhui	-1.178	-1.107	-1.072	-1.000	-0.866	-0.751	-0.633	-0.402	-0.156	-0.049	0.039	0.199	0.295	0.487	0.671
Fujian	-0.911	-0.812	-0.695	-0.530	-0.333	-0.059	0.070	0.352	0.644	0.816	0.959	1.308	1.602	2.030	2.446
Jiangxi	-1.168	-1.059	-0.964	-0.898	-0.783	-0.691	-0.630	-0.337	-0.056	0.097	0.288	0.321	0.634	0.844	0.993
Shandong	-1.024	-0.943	-0.806	-0.554	-0.409	-0.191	-0.071	0.035	0.284	0.503	0.698	0.985	1.225	1.824	2.071
Henan	-1.039	-0.944	-0.854	-0.778	-0.671	-0.536	-0.458	-0.256	-0.066	0.086	0.270	0.458	0.638	0.843	1.077
Hubei	-1.157	-1.077	-0.997	-0.901	-0.718	-0.579	-0.521	-0.337	-0.038	0.124	0.227	0.357	0.411	0.615	0.845
Hunan	-1.084	-0.993	-0.896	-0.800	-0.674	-0.540	-0.444	-0.253	0.032	0.201	0.344	0.544	0.812	0.983	1.132
Guangdong	-1.156	-1.004	-0.847	-0.706	-0.442	-0.196	0.005	0.189	0.524	0.698	0.840	1.212	1.327	1.575	1.644
Guangxi	-1.161	-1.102	-1.019	-0.951	-0.803	-0.657	-0.550	-0.384	-0.162	0.008	0.152	0.339	0.470	0.618	0.730
Hainan	-1.257	-1.248	-1.112	-0.970	-0.867	-0.801	-0.750	-0.659	-0.420	-0.223	-0.013	0.216	0.737	0.959	1.361
Chongqing	-1.108	-1.047	-0.962	-0.876	-0.692	-0.540	-0.422	-0.280	0.044	0.268	0.512	0.713	1.031	1.176	1.557
Sichuan	-1.237	-1.133	-1.055	-0.976	-0.851	-0.726	-0.623	-0.409	-0.123	0.047	0.183	0.346	0.422	0.575	0.756
Guizhou	-1.204	-1.161	-1.067	-0.973	-0.870	-0.778	-0.696	-0.588	-0.413	-0.234	-0.040	0.213	0.421	0.683	0.877
Yunnan	-1.175	-1.055	-1.010	-0.940	-0.865	-0.719	-0.648	-0.508	-0.278	-0.107	0.115	0.265	0.386	0.529	0.673
Shaanxi	-1.311	-1.235	-1.140	-1.011	-0.869	-0.680	-0.653	-0.429	-0.212	-0.004	0.013	0.200	0.174	0.300	0.495
Gansu	-1.219	-1.154	-1.138	-1.079	-0.991	-0.892	-0.803	-0.682	-0.467	-0.315	-0.184	-0.032	0.070	0.183	0.311
Qinghai	-1.184	-1.131	-1.022	-0.944	-0.823	-0.639	-0.593	-0.440	-0.185	0.061	0.320	0.541	0.790	1.018	1.180
Ningxia	-1.067	-0.994	-0.906	-0.834	-0.705	-0.451	-0.355	-0.169	0.154	0.331	0.546	0.774	1.008	1.192	1.533
Xinjiang	-1.124	-1.056	-0.946	-0.827	-0.712	-0.573	-0.576	-0.320	-0.074	0.189	0.303	0.493	0.611	0.811	1.054

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Table b.2

## Competitiveness of opening-up.

Provinces	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Beijing	1.717	2.029	2.419	2.410	2.072	2.298	1.210	1.477	1.402	0.830	0.472	-0.113	-0.713	-1.507	-1.441
Tianjin	2.275	2.832	3.360	3.611	3.303	2.783	2.090	2.186	2.075	1.987	1.884	1.758	1.590	0.598	0.500
Hebei	-0.421	-0.324	-0.314	-0.349	-0.364	-0.281	-0.427	-0.441	-0.413	-0.483	-0.473	-0.504	-0.578	-0.621	-0.697
Shanxi	-0.515	-0.470	-0.468	-0.441	-0.262	-0.380	-0.606	-0.573	-0.527	-0.570	-0.579	-0.651	-0.671	-0.747	-0.888
Inner Mongolia	-0.574	-0.510	-0.369	-0.290	-0.325	-0.421	-0.495	-0.513	-0.521	-0.702	-0.664	-0.739	-0.846	-0.818	-0.908
Liaoning	0.931	0.979	0.665	0.870	0.932	0.836	0.816	1.112	0.871	0.779	0.837	0.604	-0.391	-0.504	-0.449
Jilin	-0.239	-0.236	-0.257	-0.280	-0.316	-0.367	-0.455	-0.423	-0.454	-0.485	-0.523	-0.535	-0.624	-0.648	-0.758
Heilongjiang	-0.249	-0.208	-0.126	-0.043	-0.012	-0.008	-0.252	-0.160	-0.140	-0.262	-0.301	-0.365	-0.567	-0.640	-0.634
Shanghai	2.909	3.452	3.421	3.397	3.152	2.837	2.020	2.313	2.264	1.976	1.654	1.461	1.137	0.905	0.649
Jiangsu	2.115	2.122	2.205	2.387	2.247	1.824	1.235	1.213	0.963	0.685	0.297	-0.016	-0.444	-0.550	-0.598
Zhejiang	0.898	1.145	1.315	1.409	1.336	1.127	0.746	0.829	0.749	0.504	0.508	0.457	0.308	0.146	-0.030
Anhui	-0.562	-0.551	-0.489	-0.351	-0.216	-0.266	-0.392	-0.330	-0.326	-0.271	-0.278	-0.303	-0.352	-0.416	-0.477
Fujian	0.990	1.115	1.147	1.609	1.327	1.116	0.482	0.534	0.525	0.332	0.165	0.072	-0.062	-0.140	-0.184
Jiangxi	-0.152	-0.099	-0.084	-0.047	-0.092	-0.117	-0.172	-0.078	-0.089	-0.135	-0.201	-0.164	-0.227	-0.309	-0.304
Shandong	0.558	0.643	0.572	0.588	0.513	0.294	0.045	0.137	0.101	0.011	-0.090	-0.256	-0.421	-0.590	-0.711
Henan	-0.667	-0.689	-0.625	-0.572	-0.533	-0.533	-0.565	-0.553	-0.445	-0.368	-0.404	-0.429	-0.433	-0.473	-0.550
Hubei	-0.366	-0.315	-0.316	-0.308	-0.381	-0.409	-0.484	-0.514	-0.531	-0.654	-0.743	-0.864	-1.023	-1.183	-1.259
Hunan	-0.468	-0.514	-0.448	-0.425	-0.435	-0.466	-0.516	-0.521	-0.548	-0.555	-0.589	-0.585	-0.644	-0.626	-0.670
Guangdong	3.299	3.195	3.223	3.275	2.989	2.360	1.744	1.931	1.736	1.530	1.421	1.138	0.712	0.344	-0.196
Guangxi	-0.567	-0.624	-0.601	-0.587	-0.548	-0.514	-0.527	-0.554	-0.566	-0.576	-0.659	-0.607	-0.497	-0.628	-0.598
Hainan	0.346	-0.131	0.238	0.167	0.274	0.143	-0.132	0.162	0.100	-0.027	-0.077	-0.149	-0.289	-0.418	-0.502
Chongqing	-0.580	-0.526	-0.501	-0.450	-0.411	-0.305	-0.307	-0.409	-0.090	0.323	-0.041	0.057	-0.215	-0.662	-0.543

Sichuan	-0.575	-0.586	-0.558	-0.518	-0.534	-0.435	-0.432	-0.345	-0.276	-0.348	-0.477	-0.523	-0.718	-0.846	-0.993
Guizhou	-0.732	-0.689	-0.710	-0.725	-0.734	-0.738	-0.811	-0.780	-0.762	-0.779	-0.788	-0.863	-0.930	-1.011	-1.062
Yunnan	-0.692	-0.659	-0.628	-0.581	-0.565	-0.581	-0.649	-0.545	-0.592	-0.599	-0.641	-0.642	-0.754	-0.935	-0.954
Shaanxi	-0.371	-0.364	-0.385	-0.378	-0.393	-0.478	-0.517	-0.529	-0.617	-0.724	-0.860	-0.826	-0.842	-0.905	-0.980
Gansu	-0.664	-0.662	-0.617	-0.556	-0.500	-0.557	-0.690	-0.600	-0.665	-0.715	-0.774	-0.835	-0.880	-0.972	-1.052
Qinghai	-0.230	-0.139	-0.211	-0.231	-0.374	-0.604	-0.649	-0.675	-0.749	-0.768	-0.864	-0.890	-0.911	-0.999	-1.079
Ningxia	-0.497	-0.391	-0.433	-0.411	-0.479	-0.562	-0.694	-0.674	-0.667	-0.718	-0.719	-0.636	-0.752	-0.789	-0.733
Xinjiang	-0.459	-0.415	-0.282	-0.256	-0.137	0.072	-0.328	-0.377	-0.366	-0.436	-0.519	-0.569	-0.739	-0.779	-0.811

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Table b.3  
Competitiveness of technology.

Provinces	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Beijing	0.670	1.194	1.136	1.503	1.370	1.534	2.123	2.721	3.495	4.940	5.254	6.106	6.113	7.736	8.513
Tianjin	-0.161	-0.171	-0.279	-0.235	-0.246	-0.116	0.075	-0.125	0.002	0.097	0.103	0.328	0.226	0.264	-0.207
Hebei	-0.020	-0.096	-0.044	-0.011	0.060	0.034	-0.092	0.025	-0.144	-0.089	-0.210	-0.132	-0.223	-0.219	-0.034
Shanxi	0.224	0.299	0.418	0.467	0.486	0.478	0.508	0.452	0.488	0.397	0.254	0.312	-0.458	-0.267	-0.236
Inner Mongolia	-0.558	-0.590	-0.471	-0.436	-0.511	-0.459	-0.507	-0.498	-0.603	-0.197	-0.569	-0.832	-0.853	-1.059	-1.177
Liaoning	0.082	0.042	0.264	0.101	0.086	0.266	0.206	0.334	0.777	0.640	0.030	-0.153	-0.319	-0.299	-0.052
Jilin	-0.096	-0.059	-0.181	-0.383	-0.362	-0.420	-0.297	-0.416	-0.584	-0.612	-0.709	-0.688	-0.710	-0.536	-0.318
Heilongjiang	0.407	0.397	0.428	0.411	0.335	0.311	0.316	0.193	0.086	0.028	-0.099	-0.335	-0.629	-0.673	-0.991
Shanghai	-0.313	-0.360	-0.401	-0.291	-0.327	-0.350	-0.321	-0.392	-0.447	-0.310	-0.388	-0.495	-0.421	-0.677	-0.132
Jiangsu	0.108	0.268	0.181	-0.006	-0.045	0.010	0.131	0.622	0.687	1.008	1.168	1.134	1.663	1.227	1.219
Zhejiang	-0.188	-0.190	-0.319	-0.345	-0.388	-0.382	-0.394	-0.531	-0.710	-0.321	-0.747	-0.789	-0.944	-0.781	-0.396
Anhui	-0.358	-0.384	-0.260	-0.202	-0.203	-0.103	0.033	0.067	0.095	0.194	0.290	0.263	0.199	0.144	0.234
Fujian	-0.398	-0.416	-0.457	-0.628	-0.641	-0.639	-0.432	-0.468	-0.500	-0.194	0.169	0.039	-0.086	-0.492	-0.866
Jiangxi	-0.142	-0.117	-0.047	0.068	0.118	0.060	0.098	0.090	-0.016	-0.065	-0.025	-0.146	-0.304	-0.280	-0.302
Shandong	0.282	0.457	0.534	0.200	0.270	0.320	0.380	0.386	0.438	0.369	0.450	0.716	0.604	0.679	1.082
Henan	0.150	0.160	0.242	0.305	0.273	0.306	0.286	0.212	0.143	0.010	-0.021	-0.122	-0.236	-0.296	-0.270
Hubei	0.027	-0.027	0.056	0.064	-0.001	0.030	0.225	0.419	0.290	0.590	0.745	1.145	1.696	2.012	2.112
Hunan	-0.277	-0.229	-0.296	-0.253	-0.254	-0.153	-0.149	-0.131	-0.158	-0.161	-0.089	-0.157	-0.258	-0.531	-0.375
Guangdong	-0.566	-0.599	-0.490	-0.558	-0.569	-0.269	-0.045	-0.037	-0.085	0.395	0.682	0.610	1.093	1.405	3.034
Guangxi	-0.517	-0.477	-0.489	-0.477	-0.507	-0.526	-0.551	-0.473	-0.502	-0.598	-0.546	-0.686	-0.995	-1.033	-1.078
Hainan	-1.089	-0.934	-1.065	-1.024	-1.087	-1.087	-1.085	-1.206	-1.211	-1.054	-1.427	-1.517	-1.827	-1.910	-2.026
Chongqing	0.040	0.124	0.058	0.160	-0.024	-0.175	-0.169	-0.055	-0.302	-0.177	-0.283	-0.241	-0.463	0.364	-0.539
Sichuan	0.049	-0.004	0.078	0.127	0.133	0.145	0.263	0.225	0.043	0.143	0.422	0.282	0.472	0.409	0.796
Guizhou	-0.162	-0.187	-0.195	-0.193	-0.300	-0.350	-0.317	-0.416	-0.486	-0.546	-0.673	-0.601	-0.590	-0.702	-0.695
Yunnan	-0.172	-0.224	-0.234	-0.268	-0.326	-0.373	-0.439	-0.397	-0.588	-0.500	-0.619	-0.727	-0.638	-0.702	-0.753
Shaanxi	0.731	0.735	0.605	0.590	0.584	0.539	0.670	0.656	0.846	1.088	1.739	1.550	1.558	1.660	2.052
Gansu	-0.035	-0.055	0.007	0.106	0.162	0.144	0.091	0.178	0.052	0.024	0.052	-0.026	-0.277	-0.267	-0.429
Qinghai	-0.656	-0.651	-0.547	-0.556	-0.599	-0.597	-0.469	-0.505	-0.499	-0.570	-0.678	-0.843	-1.060	-1.025	-0.970
Ningxia	-0.241	-0.211	-0.252	-0.129	-0.078	-0.183	-0.245	-0.350	-0.423	-0.490	-0.624	-0.770	-0.906	-0.964	-0.949
Xinjiang	-0.481	-0.309	-0.256	-0.200	-0.410	-0.388	-0.427	-0.346	-0.407	-0.568	-0.627	-0.773	-0.937	-1.119	-1.198

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Table b.4  
Competitiveness of industrial structure.

Provinces	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Beijing	2.949	2.832	3.118	3.274	3.427	3.785	3.327	3.371	3.379	2.955	2.878	2.498	2.415	1.755	1.501
Tianjin	-0.213	-0.304	-0.457	-0.515	-0.511	-0.662	-0.520	-0.290	-0.168	-0.166	-0.021	-0.064	0.032	0.610	0.887
Hebei	-0.355	-0.351	-0.434	-0.453	-0.586	-0.696	-0.360	-0.451	-0.494	-0.474	-0.315	-0.278	0.007	0.037	0.157
Shanxi	-0.827	-1.092	-1.477	-1.585	-1.787	-1.806	-1.370	-1.724	-2.021	-1.645	-1.286	-0.986	0.286	0.356	-0.013
Inner Mongolia	1.147	1.097	0.589	0.321	0.370	0.333	0.372	0.235	0.064	-0.196	-0.047	0.082	0.289	0.379	0.600
Liaoning	-0.540	-0.267	-0.447	-0.571	-0.724	-1.124	-1.084	-1.359	-1.576	-1.340	-0.951	-0.520	0.256	0.751	0.676
Jilin	0.562	0.662	0.720	1.134	0.903	0.836	0.756	0.743	0.881	0.831	0.880	0.859	0.793	0.951	0.991
Heilongjiang	-1.327	-1.445	-1.606	-1.649	-1.574	-1.606	-1.078	-0.953	-0.920	-0.622	-0.448	0.004	0.780	1.061	1.407
Shanghai	0.305	0.306	0.358	0.358	0.620	0.676	1.065	0.818	0.876	1.069	1.353	1.519	1.810	2.171	1.901
Jiangsu	-1.354	-1.365	-1.343	-1.340	-1.300	-1.268	-1.172	-1.169	-1.106	-1.159	-1.066	-0.986	-1.139	-0.870	-0.934
Zhejiang	-0.891	-1.046	-1.027	-1.120	-1.101	-1.062	-0.788	-0.751	-0.671	-0.681	-0.477	-0.563	-0.379	-0.265	-0.254
Anhui	1.014	0.966	0.656	0.415	0.213	-0.007	-0.162	-0.536	-0.804	-0.887	-0.824	-0.716	-0.322	-0.111	0.002
Fujian	-0.266	-0.391	-0.413	-0.583	-0.518	-0.634	-0.526	-0.748	-0.838	-0.967	-1.162	-1.204	-1.027	-0.755	-0.444
Jiangxi	-0.163	-0.372	-0.622	-0.964	-1.053	-0.965	-0.975	-1.348	-1.393	-1.299	-1.299	-1.122	-0.801	-0.550	-0.447
Shandong	-1.215	-1.585	-1.595	-1.504	-1.447	-1.381	-1.261	-1.053	-0.936	-0.753	-0.597	-0.586	-0.408	-0.332	-0.382
Henan	-0.638	-0.787	-1.057	-1.225	-1.268	-1.473	-1.333	-1.339	-1.271	-1.078	-0.932	-0.787	-0.604	-0.446	-0.394
Hubei	0.250	0.172	0.031	-0.006	0.005	-0.100	-0.283	-0.597	-0.724	-0.885	-0.584	-0.616	-0.627	-0.641	-0.496
Hunan	0.589	0.531	0.513	0.277	0.156	0.000	0.075	-0.179	-0.402	-0.386	-0.338	-0.248	-0.076	0.282	0.496
Guangdong	-0.014	-0.002	-0.233	-0.275	-0.268	-0.409	-0.361	-0.428	-0.366	-0.407	-0.378	-0.459	-0.451	-0.321	-0.781
Guangxi	0.970	0.855	0.791	0.711	0.549	0.498	0.584	0.311	0.194	0.402	0.599	0.630	0.912	1.119	1.224
Hainan	1.648	1.892	1.523	1.310	1.331	1.445	1.760	1.915	1.848	1.859	2.320	2.328	2.409	2.564	2.514
Chongqing	0.064	-0.137	-0.080	-0.316	-0.164	0.061	-0.003	0.053	0.011	-0.298	-0.105	-0.157	0.014	-0.053	0.369
Sichuan	0.519	0.403	0.141	-0.104	-0.173	-0.332	-0.512	-0.645	-0.591	-0.554	-0.542	-0.383	-0.223	0.161	0.279
Guizhou	0.366	0.312	0.284	0.272	0.382	0.483	0.535	0.625	0.659	0.615	0.694	0.634	0.623	0.641	0.826
Yunnan	0.397	0.344	0.481	0.377	0.456	0.363	0.579	0.304	0.564	0.489	0.624	0.735	0.876	1.137	1.300
Shaanxi	-0.391	-0.480	-0.370	-0.614	-0.748	-0.833	-0.723	-0.922	-1.227	-1.395	-1.495	-1.308	-0.864	-0.729	-0.921
Gansu	0.374	0.345	0.360	0.063	-0.227	-0.153	0.010	-0.384	-0.222	-0.111	0.057	0.189	0.839	1.079	1.328
Qinghai	1.391	1.263	0.838	0.802	0.926	0.855	0.861	0.843	0.649	0.593	0.683	0.845	1.022	0.936	0.780
Ningxia	0.280	0.077	0.099	-0.157	-0.286	-0.369	-0.074	-0.059	-0.203	-0.080	0.049	0.132	0.329	0.444	0.228
Xinjiang	0.802	0.298	-0.182	-0.524	-0.232	-0.564	0.021	-0.456	-0.487	-0.200	0.206	0.270	0.831	1.014	0.961

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Table b.5  
Comprehensive economic competitiveness.

Provinces	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Beijing	0.691	0.846	1.002	1.124	1.154	1.308	1.196	1.392	1.538	1.625	1.697	1.772	1.760	2.016	2.222
Tianjin	0.226	0.371	0.503	0.606	0.612	0.600	0.539	0.665	0.798	0.903	1.039	1.138	1.257	1.258	1.315
Hebei	-0.516	-0.477	-0.450	-0.423	-0.398	-0.362	-0.344	-0.296	-0.250	-0.201	-0.161				

Liaoning	-0.171	-0.123	-0.143	-0.105	-0.066	-0.036	0.001	0.143	0.243	0.329	0.404	0.465	0.375	0.336	0.428
Jilin	-0.372	-0.353	-0.329	-0.275	-0.263	-0.242	-0.213	-0.179	-0.108	-0.055	-0.006	0.000	0.015	0.031	0.089
Heilongjiang	-0.549	-0.540	-0.507	-0.478	-0.432	-0.389	-0.351	-0.274	-0.215	-0.176	-0.123	-0.027	0.032	0.092	0.146
Shanghai	0.619	0.808	0.896	0.992	1.057	1.081	1.001	1.189	1.334	1.372	1.429	1.538	1.602	1.692	1.839
Jiangsu	0.010	0.052	0.120	0.196	0.237	0.225	0.172	0.328	0.422	0.502	0.613	0.743	0.860	0.980	1.128
Zhejiang	-0.137	-0.049	0.037	0.110	0.155	0.180	0.184	0.302	0.398	0.476	0.532	0.602	0.671	0.772	0.910
Anhui	-0.434	-0.423	-0.421	-0.390	-0.346	-0.339	-0.333	-0.301	-0.262	-0.204	-0.145	-0.087	-0.014	0.055	0.139
Fujian	-0.159	-0.119	-0.086	0.026	0.020	0.031	-0.036	0.022	0.090	0.139	0.186	0.236	0.297	0.371	0.464
Jiangxi	-0.479	-0.461	-0.455	-0.459	-0.438	-0.413	-0.402	-0.349	-0.294	-0.252	-0.199	-0.174	-0.069	0.026	0.089
Shandong	-0.330	-0.306	-0.266	-0.240	-0.188	-0.155	-0.149	-0.052	0.052	0.115	0.195	0.304	0.342	0.520	0.648
Henan	-0.598	-0.597	-0.580	-0.557	-0.527	-0.513	-0.476	-0.425	-0.338	-0.263	-0.194	-0.138	-0.074	-0.004	0.066
Hubei	-0.423	-0.409	-0.390	-0.362	-0.335	-0.310	-0.301	-0.262	-0.222	-0.164	-0.067	0.026	0.122	0.212	0.314
Hunan	-0.435	-0.418	-0.387	-0.382	-0.366	-0.337	-0.305	-0.286	-0.247	-0.193	-0.131	-0.065	0.013	0.076	0.185
Guangdong	0.403	0.419	0.460	0.497	0.502	0.451	0.406	0.507	0.561	0.662	0.747	0.759	0.789	0.861	1.020
Guangxi	-0.474	-0.482	-0.463	-0.448	-0.426	-0.382	-0.342	-0.327	-0.286	-0.219	-0.148	-0.099	-0.047	-0.007	0.046
Hainan	-0.262	-0.312	-0.262	-0.264	-0.212	-0.207	-0.209	-0.099	-0.052	0.014	0.066	0.102	0.175	0.221	0.292
Chongqing	-0.496	-0.479	-0.449	-0.426	-0.371	-0.286	-0.259	-0.206	-0.077	0.082	0.071	0.163	0.172	0.270	0.297
Sichuan	-0.453	-0.455	-0.451	-0.447	-0.422	-0.380	-0.351	-0.290	-0.211	-0.147	-0.088	-0.037	0.006	0.074	0.200
Guizhou	-0.560	-0.550	-0.532	-0.508	-0.481	-0.446	-0.423	-0.386	-0.334	-0.303	-0.257	-0.191	-0.142	-0.101	-0.018
Yunnan	-0.537	-0.510	-0.465	-0.456	-0.426	-0.411	-0.383	-0.349	-0.284	-0.224	-0.167	-0.124	-0.070	-0.042	0.017
Shaanxi	-0.430	-0.418	-0.403	-0.406	-0.390	-0.377	-0.330	-0.300	-0.266	-0.204	-0.106	-0.046	0.022	0.092	0.189
Gansu	-0.517	-0.505	-0.470	-0.466	-0.461	-0.435	-0.426	-0.413	-0.361	-0.312	-0.250	-0.212	-0.132	-0.076	-0.049
Qinghai	-0.345	-0.325	-0.361	-0.350	-0.338	-0.354	-0.322	-0.291	-0.262	-0.214	-0.165	-0.109	-0.052	-0.010	0.005
Ningxia	-0.485	-0.462	-0.450	-0.439	-0.427	-0.407	-0.373	-0.329	-0.265	-0.215	-0.153	-0.075	-0.027	0.030	0.120
Xinjiang	-0.454	-0.471	-0.472	-0.475	-0.401	-0.353	-0.368	-0.366	-0.303	-0.222	-0.149	-0.124	-0.069	-0.024	0.018

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