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## Ukraine expects to receive \$2.9 bln from IMF in 2021



Ukraine expects to receive some \$2.9 billion in financing from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 2021, for which the parliament is supposed to pass legislative amendments on reforming the judicial system, presidential economic advisor Oleh Ustenko said. "We expect to receive an IMF tranche this year. Our program envisions \$5 billion, and we have already received \$2.1 billion," Ustenko said on Ukrainian television.

"Ukraine's cooperation with the International Monetary Fund is continuing," he said.

"The Verkhovna Rada is supposed to pass legislative amendments essential for receiving the next tranche. I am talking about the need for judicial reform and [legislation] ensuring the functioning of anti-corruption infrastructure," he said.

He said "the requirements of the program of cooperation with the IMF coincide with the program of the President of Ukraine, on which the head of state has repeatedly said."

Ustenko also said, in order to amend the Ukrainian legislation in terms of the judicial system, the president held many meetings, communicated with Ukrainian and foreign experts and persuaded the MPs of the Verkhovna Rada.

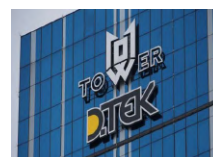
He also added that 2020 was a difficult year in terms of attracting investment, but the Ukrainian economy could receive about \$3 billion in foreign direct investment in 2021.

## HEADLINES

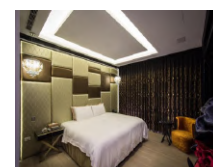
18 March, 2021



USA IMPOSES SANCTIONS AGAINST KOLOMOISKY, HE, HIS IMMEDIATE FAMILY BANNED FROM ENTERING US



DANISH COMPANY AND DTEK RENEWABLES AGREE TO BUILD FIRST STAGE OF 126 MW WIND FARM



MORE THAN TEN HOTELS REPRESENTING INTERNATIONAL CHAINS ARE PLANNED TO BE OPENED IN UKRAINE



UKRAINIAN FARMAK WITH SCIENTISTS CREATES PCR TEST THAT DETECTS NEW STRAINS OF CORONAVIRUS



MEXICAN GRUPO BIMBO PLANS TO BUILD BAKERY PLANT IN UKRAINE



WORLD LEADER IN SUNFLOWER OIL PRODUCTION TO INVEST ADDITIONAL \$63 MLN TO UKRAINIAN SIX OIL CRUSHING PLANTS



# Rinat Akhmetov again tops rating of richest businessmen in Ukraine

Rinat Akhmetov with a fortune of \$7.6 billion topped the rating of the richest businessmen in Ukraine, according to the website of Forbes Ukraine.

According to the updated rating, his fortune as the richest in the list of Ukrainian businessmen has increased from \$2.8 to \$7.6 billion. Now Akhmetov is ranked 330th in the ranking of the richest people in the world. Its largest assets are Metinvest (\$3.3 billion) and DTEK Group (\$2.1 billion).



The second place was taken by businessman Victor Pinchuk. Since June 2020, his fortune has grown from \$1.4 billion to \$2.5 billion. Of this amount, \$800 million is real estate, \$700 million is money, and \$500 million is Interpipe.

Kostiantyn Zhevaho is third in the rating. His fortune increased from \$1.1 billion to \$2.1 billion. His largest asset is Ferrexpo (\$1.4 billion).

The list includes Ihor Kolomoisky with \$1.8 billion, Hennadiy Boholiubov with \$1.7 billion, Petro Poroshenko with \$1.6 billion and Vadim Novinsky with \$1.4 billion.

Forbes Ukraine estimates Novinsky's fortune in June 2020 at \$810 million.

## Ukrainian officials won't be able to hide dual citizenship – MP Dunda

President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky, through a decision of the National Security and Defense Council (NSDC), set a clear two-month deadline for officials to bring their civil status in line with the law, MP Oleh Dunda (the Servant of the People party faction) believes. "There is a clear signal for the state apparatus: to finally decide which state interests it represents in power," the parliamentarian said.

In his opinion, it will not work to hide one's dual or triple citizenship, as well as to hope for a delay in the implementation of the NSDC decision.

"A bill on the settlement of dual citizenship has already been registered in the parliament, the theses of which were used by the NSDC when making its decision," he says.

In addition, according to Dunda, an order to the Cabinet of Ministers to develop a regulatory framework for checking Ukrainians for dual citizenship within two months will only speed up this process.

To control dual citizenship in Ukraine, a special body will be created that will keep a register of all persons who have not only Ukrainian citizenship. In addition, it is planned to introduce a multi-level verification system.

"Such mechanisms will regulate and legalize dual citizenship in Ukraine. And most importantly, they will not allow people who do not take into account the interests of our country into power. State security should be in all spheres and at all levels," Dunda said.



## Journalistic investigation project U.Prava starts activity

Over the past two years, the prosecutor's office has initiated 560 criminal cases on the fact of unlawful acts committed by law enforcement officers. And only six of them were brought an accusation.

Former Interior Minister of Ukraine Anatoliy Mohylov said this at a press conference at the Interfax-Ukraine news agency on Tuesday, noting that no one in the Interior Ministry today is watching the punishment of persons who have committed violation of the law.

"The complete absence of departmental control over violators within the system gives rise to permissiveness and undermines the foundations of the entire state. Remember the murder at the post of a policeman in 2015 – the suspects were detained, they were charged, after which ... everyone was released! When persons involved in such a grave crime calmly walk down the street and work, including in government agencies, this is nonsense!" the ex-minister noted.

The ex-head of the Kyiv district police department, Denys Yaroslavsky, in turn, recalled the case with the service center of the Interior Ministry of Ukraine in Kharkiv region. According to him, in November 2020, as part of an ongoing investigation, journalists were able to obtain fake license plates of President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky, medical certificates of suitability for driving in the name of the head of the Kharkiv region police, Police General Valeriy Sokurenko, a certificate with a photo of SBU Chairman Ivan Bakanov and ex-Deputy Head of the President's Office of Ukraine Serhiy Trofimov. Moreover, without the presence of the officials themselves. All this was made in the premises of the regional service center of the Interior Ministry in Kharkiv region. After reviewing the materials, Denys Yaroslavsky on the air in November 2020 transferred the relevant documents, testifying to numerous corruption actions in the system of service centers, to Deputy Interior Minister Anton Gerashchenko. The latter promised to study and go into the matter.

According to journalist Ihor Lesev, after the broadcast of the materials of the journalistic investigation, a group of companies led by Serhiy Vakulenko (as a part of Vip-Expert LLC, Region-Expert LLC, Transkom-plus LLC) moved from the building of the service center of the Interior Ministry to another office. None of the responsible persons of the service centers or the main department of the National Police in Kharkiv region incurred any responsibility for the production of false medical certificates, fake registration numbers of vehicles and illegal transactions of its purchase and sale. At the same time, only the non-payment of the lease by Vakulenko's group caused damage exceeding UAH 200,000 to the service centers in Kharkiv.



# USA imposes sanctions against Kolomoisky, he, his immediate family banned from entering United States

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has announced sanctions against oligarch and former Ukrainian official Ihor Kolomoisky due to his involvement in major corruption.

"This designation is made under Section 7031(c) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2020. In addition to Ihor Kolomoisky, I am publicly designating the following members of Ihor Kolomoisky's immediate family: his wife, Iryna Kolomoiska, his daughter, Andzelika Kolomoiska, and his son, Israel Zvi Kolomoisky. This action renders Ihor Kolomoisky and each of these members of his immediate family ineligible for entry into the United States," Blinken said in a statement released by on the website of the U.S. Department of State on Friday. Blinken said that in his official status as the head of Dnipropetrovsk region of Ukraine from 2014 to 2015, Kolomoisky was involved in corrupt acts that undermined rule of law and the Ukrainian public's faith in their government's democratic institutions and public processes, including using his political influence and official power for his personal benefit.



"While this designation is based on acts during his time in office, I also want to express concern about Kolomoisky's current and ongoing efforts to undermine Ukraine's democratic processes and institutions, which pose a serious threat to its future," the secretary of state said.

"This designation reaffirms the U.S. commitment to supporting political, economic, and justice sector reforms that are key to Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic path. The United States continues to stand with all Ukrainians whose work drives reforms forward.

The Department will continue to use authorities like this to promote accountability for corrupt actors in this region and globally," Blinken said.

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## Russian Gazprom ups gas transit through Ukraine

Transit shipments of Russian gas through Ukraine have increased as temperatures in Europe have normalized, data from Gazprom, the Gas Transmission System Operator of Ukraine and European gas transport operators show. Over the weekend, temperatures in Europe dropped from unusually warm double digits back to average figures for this time of year.

Gazprom pumped 106 million cubic meters of gas through Ukraine on February 27 (nominations for Sunday and Monday are the same), while from February 17 to 26 it pumped an average of 79 mcm per day, with a low of 66.2 mcm on February 20.

The Russian gas giant had booked a far larger amount of transit for February: 123.2 mcm per day, including 109 mcm under its long-term transit contract and an additional 14.2 mcm based on monthly booking.





# In Feb Ukraine increases import to \$4.87 bln and export to \$4.55 bln

The deficit of Ukraine's foreign trade in goods in February 2021 fell by 47.5%, to \$0.32 billion, while the deficit of foreign trade in January-February 2021 slightly grew – by 5.9%, to \$0.6 billion

According to the State Customs Service, imports in the first two months of this year showed an increase over the same period last year by 4.5% and amounted to \$9.09 billion, and exports – by 4.4%, to \$8.49 billion.

At the same time, in February, imports rose to \$4.87 billion, which is 6.5% higher than the same period last year and 15.4% higher than in January.

As for exports, last month it also showed an increase of 14.8% compared to February 2020 and 15.8% compared to January, reaching \$4.55 billion.



*In general, the trade turnover in January-February this year totaled \$17.57 billion, which is 4.44% higher compared to the same period last year.*

As Deputy Minister of Development of Economy, Trade and Agriculture, Trade Representative of Ukraine Taras Kachka said, in February Ukraine increased the export of confectionery products by \$50 million, or 15% compared to February 2020.

"The largest export markets [for confectionery products] were Romania, Poland, Belarus and Azerbaijan," he wrote on Facebook on Tuesday.

Kachka also pointed to an increase in the export of industrial goods to \$398 million in February, which is 9.6% more than the same period last year and 21.6% more than in January. The trade representative said that \$294 million of export of these goods falls on the EU (Hungary, Germany, Poland).

"Metallurgy began to feel better. Exports of ferrous metals (group 72) in February amounted to \$764 million (a rise of 12%)," the trade representative said.

Exports of metal products last month showed an increase of 22% versus February 2020, to \$77.2 million. The largest supply markets for them were Poland, Romania, Germany, the trade representative said.

He also noted an increase in the export of sunflower oil in February by 12% versus February last year and by 14% versus January, to \$587 million. "India and the Netherlands are increasing supplies, China is cutting back a little," he said.

"Meal (group 2) grew by 25.7% and amounted to \$169 million. France and China began to buy more," Kachka wrote.

As indicated by the State Customs Service, the largest trading partners in February were China (negative balance of \$1.8 billion), Russia (\$1.1 billion), Germany (\$1.3 billion).

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## Clear Energy Group plans to launch another biogas plant

Clear Energy Group plans to launch the fourteenth biogas plant for the group this month, the group's CEO, Andriy Hrinenko, has said.

"We have built 14 landfill stations on landfill gas. These are, in particular, Kharkiv, Bila Tserkva, Kryvy Rih, Kherson, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kremenchuk, Lutsk, Chernihiv, Poltava. In March, we are launching a biogas station in Ternopil," he said in interview to the online portal Energy Reform.

Thus, the total capacity of all biogas plants of the group will be 15.1 MW, which is 75% of the entire market for electricity generation from landfill gas in Ukraine.

According to Hrinenko, the group sees great prospects in the development of landfills for the production of electricity and heat, and the decision to work in this area was made several years ago, based on the fact that the market for processing solid household waste remained underestimated.

"Now in Ukraine, 10 million tonnes of household waste is produced annually. This is gold under our feet, which we do not use. It can give 1.2 billion kWh of electricity and 3.5 million Gcal of thermal energy per year if properly utilized. We can also generate one billion cubic meters of biogas from this waste," he explained.

## Danish company and DTEK renewables agree to build first stage of 126 MW wind farm

DTEK Renewables and the Danish company for the production of wind turbines Vestas have signed a contract for the construction of phase one of DTEK Tiligul'ska wind power plant (Mykolaiv region) with a capacity of 126 MW. According to a press release from DTEK, Financing for the first stage will be drawn from funds raised by DTEK Renewables Finance BV's green bonds issued in 2019 for an amount of EUR 325 million and with maturity of five years.

“*When, in 2019, the first green eurobonds of DTEK Renewables were listed on the European stock exchange, we, as a company, took responsibility for implementing projects in Ukraine... In fact, this is our message to the world: Green energy in Ukraine has a future,” DTEK Renewables CEO Maris Kunickis said.*

According to him, DTEK will continue to in clean and affordable energy and develop the renewable energy industry in Ukraine and hopes that the crisis related to non-payments for the renewable energy sector will be resolved soon, and the state policy regarding renewable energy will become understandable and predictable.

President of Vestas Northern & Central Europe Nils de Baar said that the Tiligul'ska WPP was the first order for the company's EnVentus platform in Eastern Europe.

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## Ukraine resumes export of electricity to Europe



Since March 1, Ukraine has resumed the export of electricity from the Burshtyn TPP island to the European power system ENTSO-E, according to data on the ENTSO-E platform.

According to the operational data of NPC Ukrenergo, as of 18:45 Tuesday, electricity exports to Hungary were at the level of 486 MW, Poland – 210 MW, Romania – 93 MW; and the total volume was 789 MW.

At the same time, electricity to Ukraine was imported from Slovakia at the level of 188 MW, Hungary – 160 MW, Romania – 62 MW; with a total volume of 410 MW. The import of electricity to the Integrated Power System of Ukraine (IPS) from Belarus also remained at the level of 100 MW.

According to market participants, the resumption of electricity exports to Europe became possible after a decrease in electricity consumption in Ukraine as a result of warm weather, as well as an increase in the load on nuclear power plants, which now operate in the amount of 12 power units out of 15.

“In the winter period of the shortage, three units at Burshtyn TPP instead of export were supplying power to Ukraine, the rest of the units met the conditions of ENTSO-E capacity order, and also provided the consumers of the island itself,” First Deputy Chairman of the Ukrainian Energy Assembly Yuriy Sakva told Interfax-Ukraine.



# More than ten hotels representing international chains are planned to be opened in Ukraine

No more than ten hotels representing international chains are planned to be opened in Ukraine in the next two years, International Relations Director of the Ukrainian Hotel & Resort Association (UHRA), partner of BURFORD Management & Consultancy, Ivan Lun has told Interfax-Ukraine.

"Today, only 17 hotels operate under international brands in Ukraine. This is a paltry figure: compare it with 185 branded hotels in Poland, a country comparable to ours in terms of geography, population and economic potential," he said.

“ According to the expert, this year the Radisson Hotel City Center Odesa (90 rooms), Best Western Plus Lviv Market Square (70 rooms), Ibis & Adagio Kyiv (combo, 265 rooms) are announced for opening. In the next two years, Ibis Lviv (100 rooms), Radisson Hotel Pechersk Park Kyiv (167 rooms), and Sheraton Kyiv Troitska Square (208 rooms) are planned to start operating, a bit later – Novotel Lviv (125 rooms) and Hampton by Hampton Lviv airport (138 rooms).



"These projects are just a small part of those branded hotel projects that have undergone careful urban and architectural planning, as well as painstaking contractual negotiations between the developers of these projects and global hotel groups. However, many projects that were planned to be operated under well-known hotel brands were not completed, in particular their construction," Lun said.

The most active hotel chains in Ukraine today are Accor, Radisson, InterContinental, Marriott and Hilton, whose development offices are located in Moscow and Warsaw. In addition, according to the expert, the Wyndham chain and the Louvre Hotel Group have recently also promoted their brands and participated in tenders for projects, mainly through franchise supplies.

In general, the expert expects an intensification of the entry of international operators in 2024-2025.

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## Global Emerging Markets Group invests \$31 mln in Eurohold, which owns two companies in Ukraine

Eurohold Bulgaria, one of the leading independent financial and insurance groups in South-Eastern Europe, has raised \$31 million from the investment fund Global Emerging Markets Group (GEM, Luxembourg), according to a press release from Euroins Ukraine (Kyiv).

According to him, the parties have already signed a commitment agreement. The investment was provided on the basis of equity financing through the purchase of shares in the Bulgarian holding.

The raised funds will be used by Eurohold to acquire the companies of CEZ Group in Bulgaria – one of the largest exporters of electricity in Eastern Europe, as well as to develop its insurance business. The long-term strategic goal of Eurohold is to become one of the leading independent financial service providers and energy market operators in Southeast Europe.

"We are pleased that GEM has decided to invest in our holding and support our investment strategy. The agreement with GEM is a sign of confidence in the quality of management and the chosen vector of development of our company," Vasil Stefanov, the head of M&A department at Eurohold, said.



## Ukrainian Farmak with scientists creates PCR test that detects new strains of coronavirus

A team of Ukrainian researchers, which included scientists from JSC Farmak pharmaceutical company and the Hromashevsky Institute of Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases, have developed a PCR test capable of detecting even new strains of the Sars-Cov-2 coronavirus. According to the company's press release, the availability of technological equipment purchased by Farmak allowed for the first time in Ukraine to carry out the sequencing procedure. This is "reading" the sequence of nucleotides in the RNA of the virus "as spelling a text."

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*“Sequencing allows, in case of revealing differences in the genetic text (mutations), to draw conclusions about the presence of new strains of the virus. The results of the study, in fact, confirmed the presence of a new strain of coronavirus in Ukraine,” the researchers said.*

The results of the study, as well as information about the virus strains circulating in Ukraine since the beginning of the pandemic, have already been posted in the GISAID international initiative promoting the rapid sharing of data from all influenza viruses and the coronavirus causing COVID-19.

Farmak said that on March 3, the research team confirmed that the new PCR test system developed by the pharmaceutical company's specialists, in addition to the already widespread strains, also detects the new UK variant of coronavirus.

The Farmak test system was based on the TaqPath COVID 19 RT PCR Kit (Thermo Scientific, the United States), which is authorized by the U.S. Federal Drug Administration (FDA). High quality components made in the United States are used for the production of the new SARS-CoV-2 test kit.



The quality of the new test kit is confirmed by the relevant findings of the Hromashevsky Institute of Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine (Kyiv) and the Mechnikov Institute of Microbiology and Immunology of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine (Kharkiv). Reference trials of the PCR test kit are carried out in private and public laboratories in Ukraine (Kharkiv, Dnipro, Zaporizhia, Vinnytsia), confirming its effectiveness.

Farmak said that the new test kit has opened up to pre-purchasing.

## British-based Ferrexpo raises pellet output by 7% in January

British-based Ferrexpo Plc, which in Ukraine, in particular, controls Poltava and Yeristovo ore mining and processing plants (Poltava GOK and Yeristovo GOK), in January 2021, increased pellet output by 7%, to 1.05 million tonnes.

A representative of the company told Interfax-Ukraine that during this period the output of concentrate increased by 12.2%, to 1.3 million tonnes. As reported, Ferrexpo in 2020 increased its total pellet output by 7%, year-over-year, to 11.218 million tonnes. Concentrate output increased by 5.9%, to 14 million tonnes.

Ferrexpo is an iron ore company with assets in Ukraine.





# Interchem from Odesa helps in project of reconstructing real face of Yaroslav the Wise

The pharmaceutical company Interchem (Odesa), the double liability company, within the framework of patronage support, has invested UAH 2 million in the project of a unique 3D hologram of the real face of Yaroslav the Wise, which is installed in Saint Sophia Cathedral in Kyiv, Director General of Interchem Anatoliy Reder has said.

"We have invested UAH 2 million in this project. There are plans for further cooperation and new projects," he told Interfax-Ukraine during a presentation on Thursday, March 4.

**“ Reder noted that recent studies in Saint Sophia Cathedral's nature reserve made it possible to visualize the authentic features of Yaroslav the Wise. Unique Danish equipment was used for visualization.**

The project allows to see the face of Yaroslav the Wise, as he could have been at the age of about 45, while the canonical image of the prince, restored from his skull, creates an appearance similar to the appearance of the Russian monarchs. In this guise, Prince Yaroslav is represented at a much older age.

As reported earlier, Interchem was one of the patrons of the project to drain the foundations and walls of Saint Sophia Cathedral and adjacent monastic buildings from excess moisture using the Swiss technology BioDry.

Saint Sophia Cathedral is one of the historical sites included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. The cathedral is the spiritual center, where the unique knowledge base of the Ukrainian people for the last millennium is concentrated. Thanks to the patrons who restored the cathedral in different historical epochs after enemy invasions and natural disasters, its ancient architecture and the world's most complete ensemble of original mosaics and frescoes of the 11th century have been preserved. It has 260 square meters of mosaics and 3,000 square meters of frescoes.



## Metinvest refuses to buy Donetskstal with multimillion debts

MetinvestB.V. (the Netherlands), the parent company of a vertically integrated group of steel and mining companies, has established control over the largest Ukrainian producer of coking coal, PrJSC Pokrovske Mine Management (Donetsk region), of which the group became a minority shareholder in 2018.

According to the company's statement in the information disclosure system of the National Securities and Stock Market Commission with reference to the information received on March 5 from Metinvest B.V., on March 4, 2021, the company received the ownership of a controlling stake in PrJSC Pokrovske Mine Management.

"On March 4, 2021, Metinvest B.V., as a result of the acquisition of shares in the charter capital of Industrial Coal Holding (ICH), became indirectly the owner of 486148489 common registered shares of PrJSC Pokrovske Mine Management, became (directly and indirectly) the owner of 67.28% of the charter capital of PrJSC Pokrovske Mine Management," according to the information of the enterprise in the commission.

## Ukrainian metal companies in Jan-Feb increase earnings from exports of ferrous metals to \$1.51 bln

Ukrainian metal companies in January-February 2021 increased earnings from exports of ferrous metals by 8.2% compared to the same period last year, to \$1.51 billion.

According to updated statistics released by the State Customs Service, the share of ferrous metals of total FX earnings was 17.82% compared with 17.2% a year ago.



*In February, earnings from exports of ferrous metals amounted to \$764.6 million. At the same time, Ukraine reduced imports of similar products by 12.1% in January-February 2021, to \$121.53 million. In February, this figure was \$63.798 million.*

In addition, Ukraine increased exports of metal products by 5.7% in the first two months of 2021, to \$140.613 million. In February, their export amounted to \$77.148 million.

During this period, imports of metal products increased by 1.4%, to \$125.407 million. In February, they were imported for \$72.504 million.



## Mobile operator lifecell expands 4G coverage in all regions in Feb

In February, the mobile operator lifecell expanded the coverage of high-speed mobile Internet in another 1,078 settlements in all regions of Ukraine.

Last month the lifecell network was expanded in all regions of the country, in particular in 1,060 settlements with a population of up to 5,000 people, in 15 settlements with a population of up to 25,000 people and in three settlements, where up to 50,000 people live, the company said on Thursday.



*Expansion of coverage will reduce the gap in access to digital services between small settlements and cities, lifecell notes.*

According to the operator, customers using 4G from lifecell consumed 79% more mobile Internet traffic last month compared to the same period in 2020. At the same time, the total volume of used data traffic in the operator's network in February increased by 43% on an annual basis.

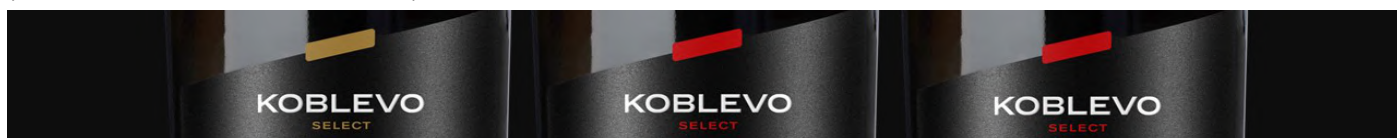
## One of the largest wineries in Ukraine Koblevo sees net profit rise in 2020

JSC Koblevo (Mykolaiv region), one of the largest wineries in Ukraine, in 2020 increased its net profit by 24.1% compared to 2019, to UAH 24.76 million.

According to the company's statement in the information disclosure system of the National Securities and Stock Market Commission, its assets for the year decreased 3.3%, to UAH 375.15 million, and retained earnings grew 2.2 times, to UAH 44.71 million.

The total accounts receivable at the end of the year increased by a quarter, to UAH 44.76 million.

The company announces an annual meeting of its shareholders scheduled for April 29, in the agenda of which it is planned to leave undistributed net profit received in 2020.





# Ukrainian business interested in placing server equipment in data centers

The Parkovyi data center (Ante Mediam LLC, Kyiv) notes the growing demand for server equipment placement in data processing centers (data centers).

As member of the supervisory board of the Parkovyi data center Tetiana Honcharova has told Interfax-Ukraine, the lockdown and its consequences have caused great demand in the digitalization of business.



***“We are seeing an increase in the demand for server equipment placement. The reason for the demand in this segment is the unprofitability for the business to maintain and provide its own server rooms with the required level of security,” she said.***

According to Honcharova, the trends of 2020 were a noticeable increase in interest in cloud services from the public sector, as well as an increased attention to cloud data backup from large businesses.

She also noted that, despite the pandemic, 2020 turned out to be quite productive for the cloud services market.

“As for the Parkovyi, we see a 20% growth over 2020. On average in the market, according to our analysts, over the next five years, there will be a 15% growth annually. Considering that our team started work in the middle of the year, the growth of Parkovyi in 2020 exceeded the market average,” Honcharova said.

The Parkovyi data center, located in the territory of the Parkovy congress and exhibition center in Kyiv, was put into operation in May 2013. It is certified according to the TIER III security level, owns an international certificate in the field of information security ISO/IEC 27001:2013 and a certificate of conformity for technical information protection systems issued by the State Service of Special Communication and Information Protection of Ukraine.

The total area of the data center is 2,730 square meters, the number of racks is 400 units. The data center is connected to two independent energy sources with a capacity of 4 MW.

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## Most popular car brands in Ukraine Volkswagen, Ford and Renault

Initial registrations in Ukraine of used cars imported from abroad in January-February 2021 amounted to almost 53,000 cars, which is 4.4 times higher than registrations of new cars for the same period of 2020, according to the Ukrautoprom association.

According to the information on the association's website, in February, 27,400 imported used cars were registered for the first time, and the share of these cars amounted to 81% of the primary passenger car market, taking into account new ones, which amounted to 33,700 cars.

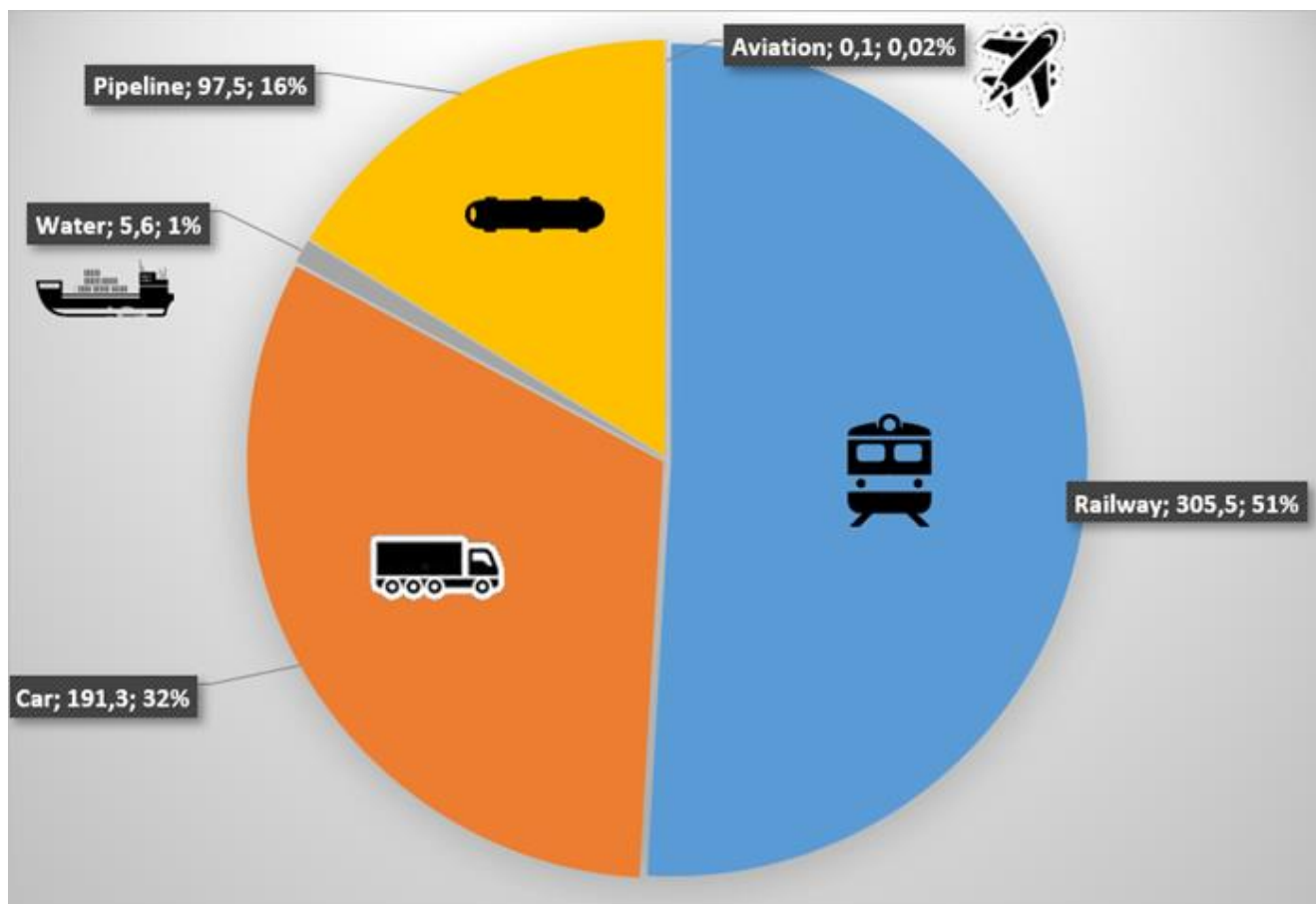
Last month, the most popular brand in customs cleared used cars was Volkswagen (4,599 cars), followed by Ford (2,609 cars), and Renault (2,233 cars).

The fourth place belongs to Skoda with the registration of 2,173 cars, and Hyundai with 1,775 car registrations closes the five most popular brands of February.

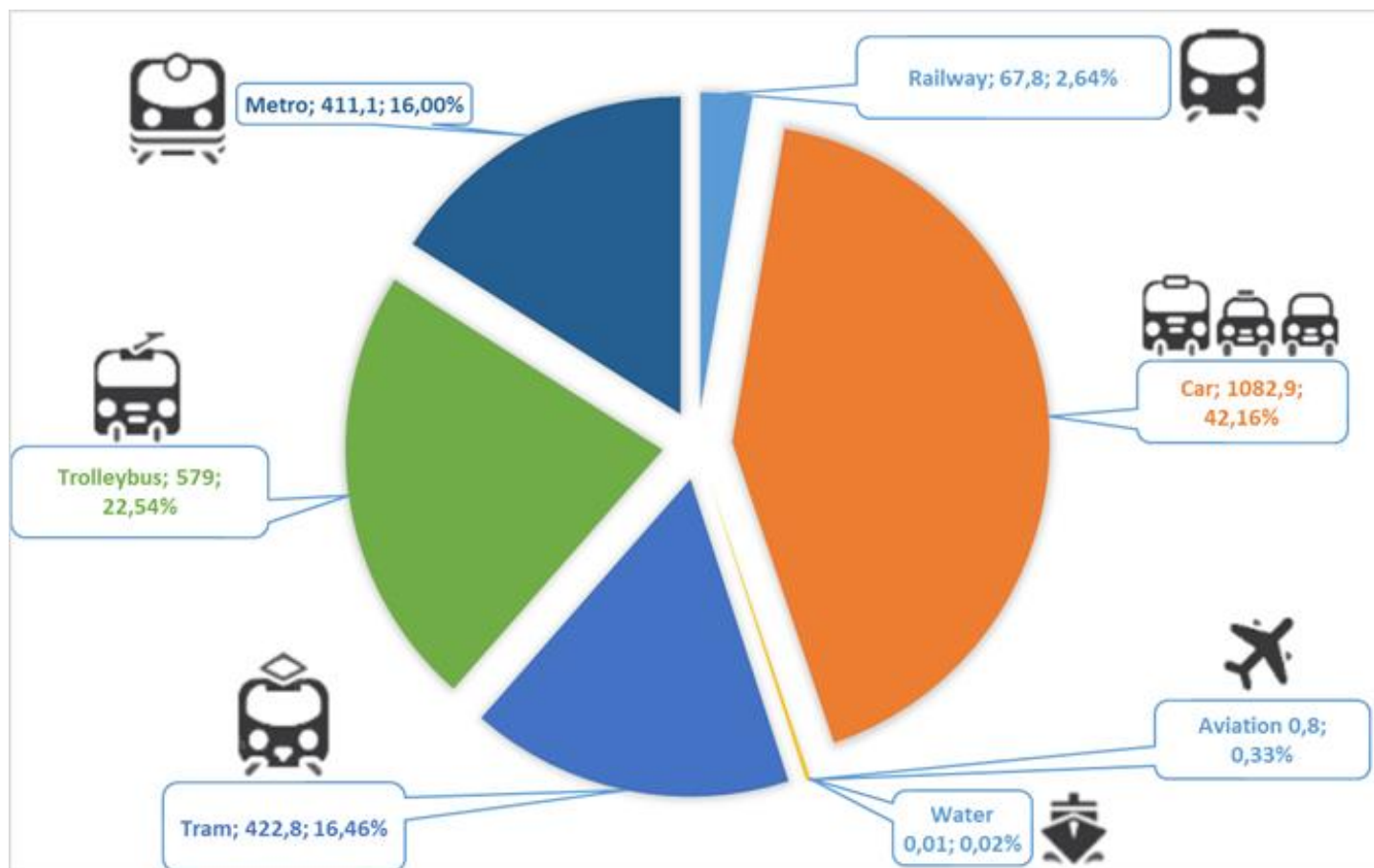
As reported, in January-February 2020, the registration of used imported cars amounted to 61,000 cars – 4.4 times more than new ones, and for the whole last year the demand for them exceeded the market of new cars by 4.1 times, to 353,400 cars.



## Volumes of cargo transportation in 2020, mln tons



## Passengers carried in Jan-Nov of 2020, in mln





## Mexican Grupo Bimbo plans to build bakery plant in Ukraine

Bimbo QSR Ukraine, part of the international bakery holding company Grupo Bimbo, is considering the possibility of building a plant in Fastiv (Kyiv region) to manufacture products for one of the world's largest fast food chains.

As Head of the International Relations and Communications Department of the state-run investment company Ukraine Invest Olena Hitlianska wrote on Facebook, Bimbo QSR Ukraine on March 4, within the framework of the Industrial Relocation: Opportunities for Accelerated Development of Communities and Regions conference, will decide on the construction of a bakery plant on a land plot in Fastiv.



*Hitlianska said that the government office of Ukraine Invest helps the Mexican investor, in particular, in finding a site for the construction of the plant.*

She also said that within the framework of this conference, investment projects that will be implemented this year within the FastIV industrial and logistics cluster will also be presented.

According to the data of the unified public register of legal entities and private entrepreneurs, Bimbo QSR Ukraine was registered in 2000 by Dutch Bimbo QSR B.V. in Dnipro with a charter capital of UAH 297,000.

According to the website of Grupo Bimbo, it is represented in 33 countries, owns 196 factories, and the company has a worldwide network of 3 million points of sale. The bakery holding produces about 13,000 names of products under more than 100 brands.



## World leader in sunflower oil production to invest additional \$63 mln to Ukrainian six oil crushing plants

Kernel, the world leader in sunflower oil production, will invest an additional \$63 million in 2021 fiscal year (started on July 1, 2020) in the implementation of an investment program for the construction of cogeneration heat and power plants its six oil crushing plants.

According to the company's H1 FY2021 financial report, taking into account these funds, the total investment in the program since its inception in FY2018 reached \$169 million. Three plants have already been already constructed and completing the precommissioning works, and three remaining facilities are to be commissioned in FY2022.

Kernel said that more than 50% of energy is already received from renewable sources, and their contribution to EBITDA in H1 FY2021 amounted to \$10 million.

The company also recalled the goal announced in FY2020 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 5% over the next five years in the oilseeds segment.



# UK and Finnish investors plan to build potato processing plant in Ukraine

Potato producer Central Plains Group Ukraine (CPG) intends to build a waste-free potato processing plant in Hlyniany (Lviv region) with a capacity of 40,000-50,000 tonnes per year.

This is stated in a posting on the website of the Lviv Regional State Administration.



*“We grow potatoes and cooperate with the Frito-Lay company, which produces chips. Now every sixth pack of chips of this company is made from our potatoes, and in general, this is every tenth pack in Ukraine. Ambitious plans are that every fourth pack in Ukraine was from our potatoes,” member of the Board of Directors and a representative of the Finnish Investment Fund Oleh Drin said.*

According to the administration, investors from CPG Ukraine and Governor Maksym Kozytsky discussed the working aspects of the project, in particular the permits for the construction of a potato processing plant. CPG also discussed the possibility of repairing the Zastavne-Hlyniany road in 2021 with the regional administration.



The administration said that the company, founded by a group of farmers from the U.K. and Finland, plans to invest about \$7 million in a project for waste-free processing of potatoes (including starch) and create about 50 jobs.

“For the profitable operation of the plant there is a great need for raw materials. We plan to establish cooperation with local farmers and build an effective process for growing and supplying raw materials to the plant. We plan to cooperate with USAID on the development of farming and in the future to establish a process for purchasing potatoes from farmers,” Drin said.





# Where to get real Thai massage in Kyiv and what you should know about the procedure

Thailand is famous not only for its popular resorts, exotic cuisine and a large influx of tourists (of course, during the pre-quarantine time), but also for various types of massage.

Despite the eloquent name, Thailand is not considered the birthplace of Thai massage. We should be grateful to the healers of China, India and Burma for this technique. But it is in Thailand that massage became widespread and world famous.

The founder of passive yoga, that is, Thai massage, is called Dr. Jivaka Kumar Bhaccha. He invented the technique more than 2,500 years ago specifically for the treatment of the royal family of India and successfully applied it in practice. He passed on the knowledge of Thai massage to his students, and the first written mention of the technique dates back to 1830. Long since, Thai massage has combined the elements of yoga (hence the name "passive yoga"), acupressure and Ayurveda.



## Massage types

In Thailand, almost at every step you can find local masters who will massage the whole body or certain parts of the body for a small payment. And the quality does not depend on whether you come to an equipped salon or a small tent. There are dozens, if not hundreds, of types of massage, so there will be plenty to choose from.

## Benefit for health

Thai massage is not only a way to relax the body. It is even recommended by neurologists for getting rid of headaches, pinching, stress, overexertion, osteochondrosis, problems with breathing and blood supply. And these are far from the rarest problems in the 21st century.

## Contraindications

Despite the clear benefits of Thai massage, not everyone can get the procedure. First of all, you should consult with your doctor if you have problems with the back, neck or joints, as well as the cardiovascular system, pressure.

## Where to get massage in Kyiv?

In the middle of snowy February, it would be ideal to find yourself in Thailand for a massage, but you can also find a piece of Asia in Kyiv. The chain of Amari salons is located in different districts of Kyiv, so that everyone could feel themselves in sunny Thailand without even leaving the capital.

## Salon addresses:

**Holosiyevy**, 26 Mykhaila Maksymovycha Street, +38 (093) 070-74-77 (Viber, Telegram, WhatsApp), +38 (098) 070-74-47

**Pecherska** (13 Lesi Ukrainky Boulevard), +38 (073) 12-06-002 (Viber, Telegram, WhatsApp)

**Osokorky** (10B Zavalna Street, Status Grad residential complex), +38 (073) 444-91-47 (Viber, Telegram, WhatsApp)

**Poshtova Square** (3A Naberezhno-Khreschatytska Street), +38 (093)

719-66-82 (Viber, Telegram, WhatsApp)

One more salon is expected to open soon in Troyeschyna.



## Ukraine plans to increase exports of agricultural products to Qatar

Ukraine considers Qatar as a promising market for increasing exports of grain, poultry products, vegetable oil, as well as for expanding the range of agricultural products supplied, Head of the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine Ihor Petrashko said, following negotiations with Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Ukraine Hadi Al-Hajri.



"We understand the importance of ensuring food security in the world, therefore, we are interested in stepping up cooperation in this direction. In particular, Ukraine is making every effort to guarantee an uninterrupted supply of food to foreign markets," Petrashko said.

The Economy Ministry said the Ukrainian agricultural sector is promising for attracting internal and foreign investments, and the mutually beneficial development of investments between Ukraine and Qatar can provide an additional impetus to trade and economic cooperation in this direction.

According to the ministry, in 2020 the trade turnover between Ukraine and Qatar increased by 69.2%, year-over-year, to \$139.16 million, while the export of Ukrainian goods increased by 75.7%, to \$131.61 million.

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## Open4Business helps foreign businesses to search for opportunities and expand to Ukrainian market

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The platform and related organizations provide a holistic set of services needed to successfully penetrate the Ukrainian starting from establishing foreign trade relations with local companies and up to establishing a subsidiary or acquiring a company in Ukraine.



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