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Ukraine plans to vaccinate 70% of adult population in 2021



Ukraine is set to provide the opportunity to be vaccinated against coronavirus (COVID-19) to 70% of its adult population by the end of 2021, Ukrainian Health Minister Maksym Stepanov said. "In order to achieve herd immunity, 60% of the adult population must be vaccinated. We would like to increase that level to 70%. At least, to give them the opportunity to be vaccinated," Stepanov said at a press briefing in Kyiv.

The healthcare system is capable of administering that many shots, he said.

"Ukraine has 11,500 vaccination stations, and each station is capable of administering about 40-50 shots per day. That means the country can administer up to 450,000-500,000 shots per day. Surely, we are not using every available vaccination station just yet. The number of shots we are hoping to administer ranges from five million to seven million per month. That would be enough," Stepanov said. Ukraine has signed contracts for the delivery of 22 million doses of vaccines, and contracts for another 15 million doses will be concluded shortly, he said.

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19 April, 2021



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VIENNA INSURANCE GROUP CONTINUES TO INVEST IN UKRAINIAN INSURANCE SECTOR



UDP AND QATARI ENERGY COMPANY TO INVEST \$250 MLN IN UKRAINIAN 'GREEN' ENERGY



JOINT UKRAINIAN-TURKISH BUS PRODUCTION PLANNED TO BE CREATED IN UKRAINE



UKRAINE INCREASES FURNITURE EXPORT BY 50% IN Q1 2021



OCEAN SHIPYARD FROM UKRAINE RESTORING DRY DOCK OPERATION

World Bank wants to implement five new joint projects with Ukraine

Ukraine and the World Bank are discussing preparations for the launch of five joint projects, the Finance Ministry said following a video conference between minister Serhiy Marchenko and World Bank Vice President for Europe and Central Asia Anna Björde.

“The Finance Minister, together with the World Bank Vice President, discussed plans for cooperation for the near future – preparation for the launch of five new joint projects,” the Finance Ministry said in a release.

According to it, it is planned to submit to the bank board of directors financing for the projects on emergency response to COVID-19 and vaccination in Ukraine, on improvement of higher education in Ukraine for the sake of results, Kyiv urban mobility, on establishment of hybrid systems for production electricity in Ukrhydroenergo and additional financing of the project for access to long-term financing for Ukreximbank.

“At present, the drawdown of the facility within the portfolio of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) is the highest compared to other international financial institutions – as of January 1, 2021, it amounted to \$ 693.55 million, and this is 2.3 times more, than a year earlier,” the ministry said.



Vienna Insurance Group continues to invest in Ukrainian insurance sector

Vienna Insurance Group, together with three other investors, created the investment company Venpace GmbH & Co. KG formed in Cologne, which aims to find, financially support and make use of young international technology companies, according to a group's press release. According to it, in addition to Vienna Insurance Group, which holds a 25% stake in the new company, Ideal Insurance Group, Provinzial Rheinland Versicherung AG and Prisma Life AG also became the investors and founders of Venpace.



“We want to take advantage of the growing insurtech scene and its innovative ideas to further expand our range of digital products and services. We are intentionally investing in the early stage of future-oriented start-ups, in order to generate medium-term returns while spreading the risk over multiple investors,” CEO Elisabeth Stadler said.

Venpace might also be used for corporate venturing aimed at realising ideas with start-ups founded specifically for this purpose. The initial focus will be on life insurance and digital points of contact with customers.

The new investment company will build up and manage equity investments in technology companies over a period of ten years. The minimum investment of the four shareholders is EUR 1 million over the next five years. In addition, investors can invest directly in companies of interest to them through Venpace and thus efficiently leverage the start-up expertise and capacities of the investment company.



Bankers expect seasonal strengthening of Ukrainian currency in 2021

The hryvnia exchange rate, after weakening at the end of March, will strengthen in the second quarter due to increased sales of foreign currency by farmers before the start of field work, the majority of bankers polled by Interfax-Ukraine are inclined to this opinion.

“*In the near future, the hryvnia will receive support from the sale of foreign currency by farmers for the spring field work, which is likely to lead to a slight strengthening of the national currency,” head of the analytical department of Alfa-Bank Oleksiy Blinov said.*

In his opinion, the most probable range of exchange rate fluctuations in the second quarter is the range of UAH 27-28/\$1, with a moderate vector of movement towards temporary strengthening.

Blinov added that, despite the uncertainty about the prospects for quarantine, the factor of their strengthening is unlikely to become the determining driver of the Ukrainian foreign exchange market in the second quarter.

His opinion is shared by the chief manager for macroeconomic analysis of Raiffeisen Bank Aval, Serhiy Kolodiy, who expects the seasonal strengthening of the hryvnia in the second quarter to UAH 27.0-27.5/\$1 and predicts that, if possible, the NBU will try to replenish its reserves by buying out excess foreign currency supply.



Qatar interested in entering Ukraine's banking market

During his visit to Qatar, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky said that representatives of the financial sector of Qatar are interested in entering the banking market of Ukraine, the presidential press service said.

“Qatar is interested in entering the Ukrainian banking market. We are also interested and offered options. They are choosing,” Zelensky said.

“*According to Zelensky, “Qatar is interested in investing in the construction of Ukrainian hotels in Kyiv, Kherson and Odesa, as well as in investing in the construction of a ring road around Kyiv.”*

“We invited them [Qatar officials] to the infrastructure, because today we are choosing partners with whom to construct the ring road around Kyiv. I would like to construct it fundamental, large, as there are 200 kilometers, including bridges. This is a very expensive work, about \$3 billion, so it will be difficult for Ukraine alone to do it. They are also interested in this,” Zelensky said.



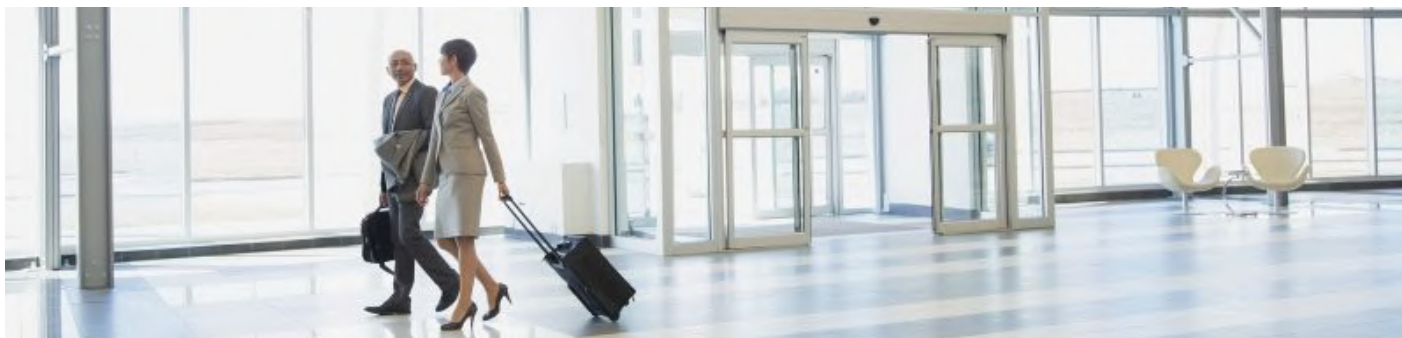
PwC Ukraine developed a free guide for foreigners on tax and legal issues

PwC Ukraine developed a free guide – Expats' Handbook to help foreigners coming to Ukraine for personal or business goals.

It aims to give a general overview of the key rules and issues that foreigners need to know about the Ukrainian tax and legal environment to allow them to become comfortable and to avoid being overburdened with formalities.

The Handbook is available in many languages, including English, Polish, German, French and Chinese.

“Our country is building a business-friendly climate and opening new opportunities for investors from across the globe. We still have some way to go on this journey – the Ukrainian legal landscape is a work in progress, undergoing changes which will bring it in line with international good practices. But as long as you have a trusted guide to steer you safely through burdensome taxation or immigration compliance issues, you are safe” – commented Slava Vlasov, Partner, Leader, Tax and Legal Services, PwC Ukraine.



Pravex Bank tops list of unprofitable Ukrainian banks in Jan-Feb 2021

State-run PrivatBank topped the rating of the most profit-making Ukrainian banks in January-February 2021, having declared UAH 1.31 billion of net profit, while the largest loss was recorded by Pravex Bank – UAH 34.4 million.

According to the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU), the second position in the list of the most profitable banks was taken by Raiffeisen Bank Aval (UAH 758.705 million), the third by FUIB (UAH 676.133 million). Universal Bank with UAH 472.044 million) was fourth, and Alfa Bank with UAH 426.941 million was fifth.



According to the central bank, BTA Bank was second in terms of loss (UAH 7.68 million), the Ukrainian Bank for Reconstruction and Development (UBRD, UAH 6.671 million) third, AP Bank (UAH 6.389 million) fourth, and Unex Bank (UAH 4.682 million) fifth.

During this period 63 out of 73 banks operating in Ukraine saw profit.

According to the statistics of the National Bank, in terms of total assets, PrivatBank (UAH 561.062 billion) retained the first place in the rating in terms of total assets (UAH 561.062 billion), Oschadbank was second (UAH 279.702 billion), Ukreximbank (UAH 237.061 billion) was third, Ukrgasbank (UAH 149.524 billion) was fourth and Raiffeisen Bank Aval (UAH 118.33 billion) was fifth.



61 insurance companies of Ukraine are at risk

The latest audits of the statements of insurers for the second half of 2020 showed that 46 of them violate the standards, and 15 did not submit financial statements, while for a long time they had difficulties with complying with the mandatory standards, the deputy governor of the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU), Yaroslav Matuzka, wrote in the author's column of the *Ekonomichna Pravda* edition, according to the website of the central bank.

"We have studied in detail the circumstances of these violations. They are not caused by the increased requirements of the regulator. Most of the violations are deliberate actions of the management of insurance companies related to the withdrawal of eligible assets," he stressed.



Among the main reasons for the problematic state of the companies, Matuzka named excessive expenses that have no economic justification, the exchange of highly liquid assets – government bonds for the corporate rights of unknown LLCs, which clearly have no corresponding value and will not be sold after that for the same amount. In addition, he named the purchase of incomprehensible securities or the order of services not related to insurance activities, the conclusion of reinsurance contracts, in which the amount of possible payments is less than the amount of insurance premiums paid for such reinsurance.

Another reason for violations is the transfer of funds from insurance reserves as collateral for loans to shareholders, or even those who are clearly not related to the insurer at all. There are a lot of such examples, the banker says.

Business Ombudsman of Ukraine notes growth in complaints about tax issues

In 2020, the Business Ombudsman Council (BOC) received 1,193 complaints about work of the State Tax Service, State Customs Service and State Fiscal Service of Ukraine, which is 120 complaints more than in 2019, and a total of 1,737 complaints were received during the year, which is 91 more than a year ago.

"In 2020, the Business Ombudsman Council received 1737 complaints and completed the investigation of 1159 cases, which is 9% and 2% more than in 2019 respectively," BOC said in its annual report.

In total, four subjects of appeals accounted for 85% of business complaints about violations of state bodies: tax issues (64%), actions of law enforcement agencies (12%), actions of state regulators (5%) and customs issues (4%), according to the report.

"Despite the moratorium on most tax audits and reduction of complaints on this subject, the number of business appeals on tax issues increased by 14% in comparison with 2019 (from 981 to 1117 appeals). In particular, the number of complaints about tax invoices suspension tripled (from 95 to 273), by 63% on inclusion in risky taxpayers' lists (from 127 to 207), by 36% – on non-enforcement of court decisions on tax invoices registration (from 108 to 147)," BOC said.

Complaints were predominantly lodged by Ukrainian companies (89%), mostly small and medium-sized businesses (76%). Traditionally, the most active in terms of the number of complaints were wholesalers (26%), manufacturing (12%), agribusiness (12%), real estate (11%) and individual entrepreneurs (10%) representatives.

"A new version of the draft law on the Business Ombudsman Institution, which takes into account all the key comments of MPs and stakeholders, is awaiting registration in the Verkhovna Rada. The law should stabilize the BOC activities, regulate its cooperation with complainants and state bodies, as well as clearly define the rights and responsibilities of the institution," the press service said, citing Świąćicki.

Ukraine increases imports of petroleum in Jan-March from Belarus worth \$416 mln and Russia worth \$283

Ukraine in January-March 2021 imported 1.812 million tonnes of petroleum products (according to foreign economic activity code 2710: petrol, diesel fuel, fuel oil, jet fuel, etc.), which is 10.4% more year-over-year (1.642 million tonnes). According to the State Customs Service, petroleum products were imported to the tune of \$894.99 million, which is 8.2% less than in January-March 2020 (\$ 975.061 million).

“*Fuel was imported from Belarus for \$416.163 million (the share is 46.5%), Russia for \$283.626 million (31.69%), Lithuania for \$85.767 million (9.58%), other countries for \$109.434 million (12.23%).*”



In addition, Ukraine exported 113,426 tonnes (49.4% compared to January-March 2020) of petroleum products for a total of \$53.49 million (17.4%). The cost of fuel delivered to counterparties from Turkey amounted to \$12.338 million, the Czech Republic some \$11.778 million, Latvia some \$10.936 million and other countries to \$18.438 million.

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UDP and Qatari energy company to invest \$250 mln in Ukrainian "green" energy



UDP Renewables, an investment and development company in the field of renewable energy, in a consortium with the Qatari energy company Nebras Power, plans to invest about \$ 250 million in "green" energy in Ukraine in 2021-2022, UDP Renewables CEO Serhiy Yevtushenko said.

"the next big step in the life of UDP Renewables and UFuture is the conclusion of an investment agreement with the largest energy company in Qatar, Nebras Power. At the first stage of our strategic partnership, Qataris together with us become shareholders of a large portfolio of operating solar power plants, and then the formation of a consortium for the construction of a whole portfolio of projects in wind energy," Yevtushenko said on Facebook.

"He noted that the planned volume of investments of the consortium in 2021-2022 could reach \$ 250 million, calling it "a good start for a long-term partnership."

According to him, the signing of contracts by UDP Renewables and Nebras Power during the official visit of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to the State of Qatar is proof of the intentions of both states to develop long-term cooperation.



In Jan-March Russia supplies Ukraine with coal worth \$286 mln

Ukraine in January-March 2021 increased imports of coal and anthracite (foreign economic activity code 2701) by 18.6% (by 813,072 tonnes) compared to the same period in 2020, to 5.194 million tonnes. According to the State Customs Service, coal was imported for \$474.508 million, which is 0.4% more than in January-March 2020 (\$472.525 million).

The Russia supplied coal worth \$286.862 million (the share of imported coal is 60.45%), the United States for \$107.046 million (22.56%), Kazakhstan for \$56.851 million (11.98%), other countries for \$23.75 million (5.01%).



Ukrainian producers of electricity from renewable sources keep growing

Ukrainian producers of electricity from renewable sources (RES) produced 222.6 million kWh in the period from April 5 to April 11, which is 17.2% more than the previous week, while electricity consumption in the country decreased by 0.9%, to 2.86 billion kWh. According to the recent data of NPC Ukrenergo, the average daily electricity consumption on weekdays compared to the previous week decreased by 0.4% (to 416 million kWh), and on weekends by 2.2% (to 387.4 billion kWh).



Ukrenergo, in order to balance the power system in the face of surplus, on Saturday and Sunday of April 10 and April 11, gave dispatch commands to unload RES generation with a total capacity of 4,341 GW per two days.

“One of the main reasons for this was the decrease in electricity consumption during the specified weekend by 2.2% due to seasonal warming [from plus 5 degrees Celsius, on the weekend of the previous week to plus 8.8 degrees Celsius on April 10],” Ukrenergo said on its website.

According to the company, due to the warming, the volumes of electricity production by solar power plants and wind power plants have also significantly increased during the daytime, which accounts for the “decrease” of consumption. For example, on April 10 at 10:00, the RES capacity was 2.8 GW, while on weekdays in the same week it was 1.3 GW, and on the previous Saturday, April 3 it amounted to 2.1 GW.

VR Capital plans to invest EUR 75 mln in wind farm projects in Ukraine

The volume of investments planned by VR Capital in the launch of three wind power plants in Odesa region with a total design capacity of 49.5 MW will amount to EUR 75 million, the company said on Thursday.

According to the report, after setting the permission of the Antimonopoly Committee, on March 31 in Odesa, three transactions of purchase and sale of corporate rights were carried out with Artsyz Wind Farm LLC, Artsyz Wind Farm 2 LLC and Kyiska Wind Farm LLC, as a result of which the company received all 100% of these rights.

According to the report, the seller of 68.61% was a corporate investment fund (CIF) owned by the owner of Metropoliya Group of Companies Viktor Kurtev, the sellers of 31.39% were Yuriy Kostrobii and Oksana Kozachok, who in 2020 carry out intermediate financing of projects at the development stage.



Datagroup and Cisco to invest in modernization of all-Ukrainian backbone network

The national operator Datagroup is investing \$20 million in a project to modernize the all-Ukrainian backbone network in partnership with the world leader in production of network equipment Cisco (the United States), the company's press service said.



Datagroup notes that investments in the project will amount to \$20 million, and the project itself will help the company bring the quality of services to a higher level.

At the same time, it is specified that the company carried out thorough preparation for a tender and chose the best world equipment manufacturers to participate in it. Based on the results of the tender, Cisco became the project vendor.

"In 2020, the company's network traffic grew by 35%. We made a decision on a large-scale network modernization, which will allow us to implement our business strategy. It will also lay the foundation for business growth for 10 years: it will allow us to introduce various innovative services and attract new clients in corporate, public and private sectors," CEO of Datagroup Mykhailo Shelemba said.

Ukrainian metal companies in Jan-March increase earnings from exports of ferrous metals by 30%

Ukrainian metal companies in January-March 2021 increased earnings from exports of ferrous metals by 30% compared to the same period last year, to \$2.67 billion. According to updated statistics released by the State Customs Service, in March, earnings from exports of ferrous metals amounted to \$1.16 billion.



Datagroup notes that investments in the project will amount to \$20 million, and the project itself will help the company bring the quality of services to a higher level.

During this period, imports of metal products increased by 7.7%, to \$207.94 million. In March, they were imported for \$82.66 million.

As reported, in 2020, Ukrainian metal companies reduced earnings from exports of ferrous metals by 12% compared to the previous year, to \$7.690 billion. At the same time, Ukraine in 2020 reduced imports of similar products by 17%, to \$1.040 billion.

Joint Ukrainian-Turkish bus production planned to be created in Ukraine

A Memorandum of Cooperation between the Kharkiv City Council and the Turkish bus manufacturing company Karsan was signed in Kharkiv during the international forum Municipal Infrastructure: Urban Development and Comfort.

The press service of the Kharkiv City Council said, citing Secretary Ihor Terekhov, that it is planned to purchase about 500 Turkish-made buses within several years. This will become the basis for the creation of municipal bus public transport, as well as to start joint production of buses in Kharkiv.



“We have agreed with our Turkish partners that these buses will be assembled in our city. For this we will create about 300 jobs. Turkish investors will decide on the basis of which enterprise this will take place. But negotiations with local business are already underway,” the press service said, citing Terekhov.

According to him, about 150 buses of different classes (8-meter buses for rush hour traffic and 6-meter buses for transportation when traffic is less) are planned to be purchased by the end of the year. These are low-floor buses with huffer-proof coating.

Ukrainian cities becoming closer with Windrose airlines

The Ukrainian airline WINDROSE airlines has already connected nine cities of Ukraine with a network of domestic air transportation: Kyiv, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Odesa, Kherson, Zaporizhia and Mykolaiv. And Chernivtsi will join the flight map in June.

At WINDROSE airlines, the schedule is thought out to the smallest detail. Three times a day, the aircraft fly from the regions of Ukraine to Kyiv, where Boryspil airport is a hub. From here, passengers can continue their journey to other

Ukrainian cities using a convenient flight connection. Transit takes up to 1.5 hours.

Schedule stability and flight regularity are essential benefits of WINDROSE's domestic travel program. Passengers are not collected for weeks, adjusting the departure date to all possible international flights of other airlines. Passengers do not have to worry that the flight will be canceled at the last moment, and the next one will be only in a week. Flights to every Ukrainian city are guaranteed to take place daily.



“

WINDROSE airlines has expanded its fleet with ATR-72-600 passenger aircraft, which are designed specifically for regional transportation. The planes are comfortable and new (the oldest one is only five years old). Now it is the youngest and most modern fleet in Ukraine.

WINDROSE airlines does not intend to fill any seats on the aircraft. By taking measured steps, the Ukrainian airline is creating a new habit – to fly within Ukraine. To experience the benefits of such a trip, it is worth taking a flight with WINDROSE airlines – after all, a modern person has to appreciate his time and comfort.

Ticket prices are quite reasonable:

- * For early booking, the price is from UAH 870;
- * The average ticket price is about UAH 1,500;
- * For passengers who travel frequently, there is a unique opportunity to purchase an airline fare.

WINDROSE is the airlines that unite!

Ukraine increases furniture export by 50% in Q1 2021

Ukrainian furniture manufacturers in January-March of this year increased their furniture exports by 50% compared to the same period in 2019, to \$247.4 million, while in the past five years (2015-2020) there was an annual increase of 13.5%, a member of the Ukrainian Association of Furniture Manufacturers (UAFM) Oksana Donska has said. "Due to COVID-19, the global supply chains have changed a lot. Ukrainian furniture is becoming more and more interesting for the international community of professional buyers," she said at a press conference on the problems of timber market legislation organized by the RivneInvest agency in Kyiv.

According to her, today a transparent timber market is very necessary for Ukrainian furniture manufacturers.

"The furniture and woodworking industries of Ukraine create a product with high added value. Each hryvnia of wood value turns into UAH 30-50 of the cost of furniture supplied both to the domestic market and for export," she said.



Donska said that today more than 100,000 people work in the furniture industry for more than 9,000 enterprises, and the export of Ukrainian furniture for the past five years has been growing by 13.5% annually. Furniture is exported to 119 countries, including Poland (more than 35% export), Germany (16%), Denmark, Austria, Romania, and France. Poland and Germany use Ukrainian furniture for further sale in the world.

"But compared to the same Poland, which has approximately the same forest resources, we export 20 times less – if Poland in 2020 exported furniture worth \$14.8 billion (the third largest exporter in the world), then Ukraine for only \$750 million (39th place)," Donska said.

Ukrainian vehicle manufacturers produce 1,829 vehicles in Q1 2021

Ukrainian vehicle manufacturers produced 1,829 vehicles in January-March of this year, which is 34% more than in the same period in 2020, according to a posting on the website of the Ukrautoprom association.

As reported, in January-February 2021, vehicle production exceeded the figure for the same period last year by 3%.

According to the preliminary data of the association, in the first quarter the production of passenger cars increased by 43%, to 1,690 units, production of buses decreased by 24%, to 133 units, and only six commercial vehicles were produced versus 12 a year earlier.

In March alone, car production increased 2.5 times compared with March 2020, to 722 units, including cars produced 2.7 times more – 665 units, which is also 48% more than the February indicator of the current year.

At the same time, the association recalled that in March last year, statistics in this segment were formed only by one plant – Eurocar, and the Zaporizhia Automobile Plant (ZAZ) resumed production of passenger cars only in September. In the March statistics on commercial vehicles, as in the previous year, only two vehicles assembled at the Cherkasy Bus plant are announced, and AvtoKrAZ still does not disclose information on its production figures (since August 2016).



Nissan Leaf electric cars will be officially sold in Ukraine

Nissan Motor Ukraine will start official sales of the updated Nissan Leaf in Ukraine this summer, according to a press release from the company.

“Nissan Motor Ukraine announces the official start of sales this summer of one of the most popular electric cars in the world. Nissan Leaf has become a pioneer in the segment of mass electric vehicles, and today it is one of the world’s bestsellers, with more than 500,000 cars sold,” the report says.

As reported, only used Nissan Leafs are currently imported to Ukraine, which for a long time held the undisputed leadership in the initial registrations of electric vehicles in Ukraine.

According to the Ukrautoprom association, in 2020 the registrations of Nissan Leaf amounted to 2,180, while Tesla Model 3 ranks second with 865 cars.

However, already in January 2021, the leadership in the Ukrainian market was seized by Chevrolet Bolt with 133 cars versus 107 Nissan Leaf cars, and by the end of the first quarter, the brands were practically equal in registrations.

The press release has not yet clarified the details, including prices and the date of the start of sales of the updated Nissan Leaf.



Ocean Shipyard from Ukraine restoring dry dock operation

The Ocean Shipyard (Mykolaiv) has begun work on the creation of a new design for the dry dock gate, which will reliably seal the dock and allow the regular use of the dry dock.

According to a company press release, the new gate consists of eight sections, each weighing about 100 tonnes.

In general, more than 800 tonnes of steel will be used for its creation.

The Ocean dry dock is 355 meters long, 60 meters wide, 17.1 m deep. It is one of the largest in Europe and so far the only one available in Ukraine. The area of the front dock is 35,000 square meters. The dry dock is equipped with two gantry cranes with a lifting capacity of 320 tonnes each and four erecting cranes a lifting capacity of 80 tonnes each.



The press service said that the restoration of the dry dock will enable the Ocean shipyard to return to the heavy-duty shipbuilding market, as well as to repair ships up to 300 meters in length.

The completion of the restoration of the dry dock gate is planned in the fourth quarter of 2021.

Mykolaiv Shipyard Ocean LLC (before April 2011 Wadan Yards Okean, before December 2008 Damen Shipyard’s Okean, before February 2001 – Shipyard Ocean).

The shipyard was established in 1951. It is one of the three largest shipbuilding enterprises in Ukraine. The main activities are shipbuilding and ship repair. The plant has two technological lines for the construction of medium and large-tonnage vessels. The large-tonnage line is used for building tankers and container ships, while the medium-tonnage lines are used to build barges, pontoons and tugs.

Since 2019, the Ocean Shipyard not only completes shipbuilding and ship repair orders, but also manufactures metal structures for infrastructure projects. Among them are the bridge on Volodymyrska Hirka and the Shuliavsky overpass in Kyiv.

The owner of the plant is businessman from Mykolaiv Vasyl Kapatsyna.

Accor will open three new hotels in Ukraine

Accor Live Limitless will open three new hotels in Ukraine in 2022-2023: Ibis & Adagio Kyiv, Ibis Lviv and Novotel Lviv, Alexis Delaroff, the director general of Accor New East Europe, has told Interfax-Ukraine.

"For Accor Ukraine is an important market, and we strive to develop it further. Accor is already the largest international operator in Ukraine, and if we take into account the projects at the stage of signing or design, we are strengthening our positions," he said.

According to him, the pandemic has made adjustments to the plans for the implementation of Ibis & Adagio Kyiv, the opening of this combo hotel is likely to occur next year.

"The project is now moving forward dynamically," the expert said.

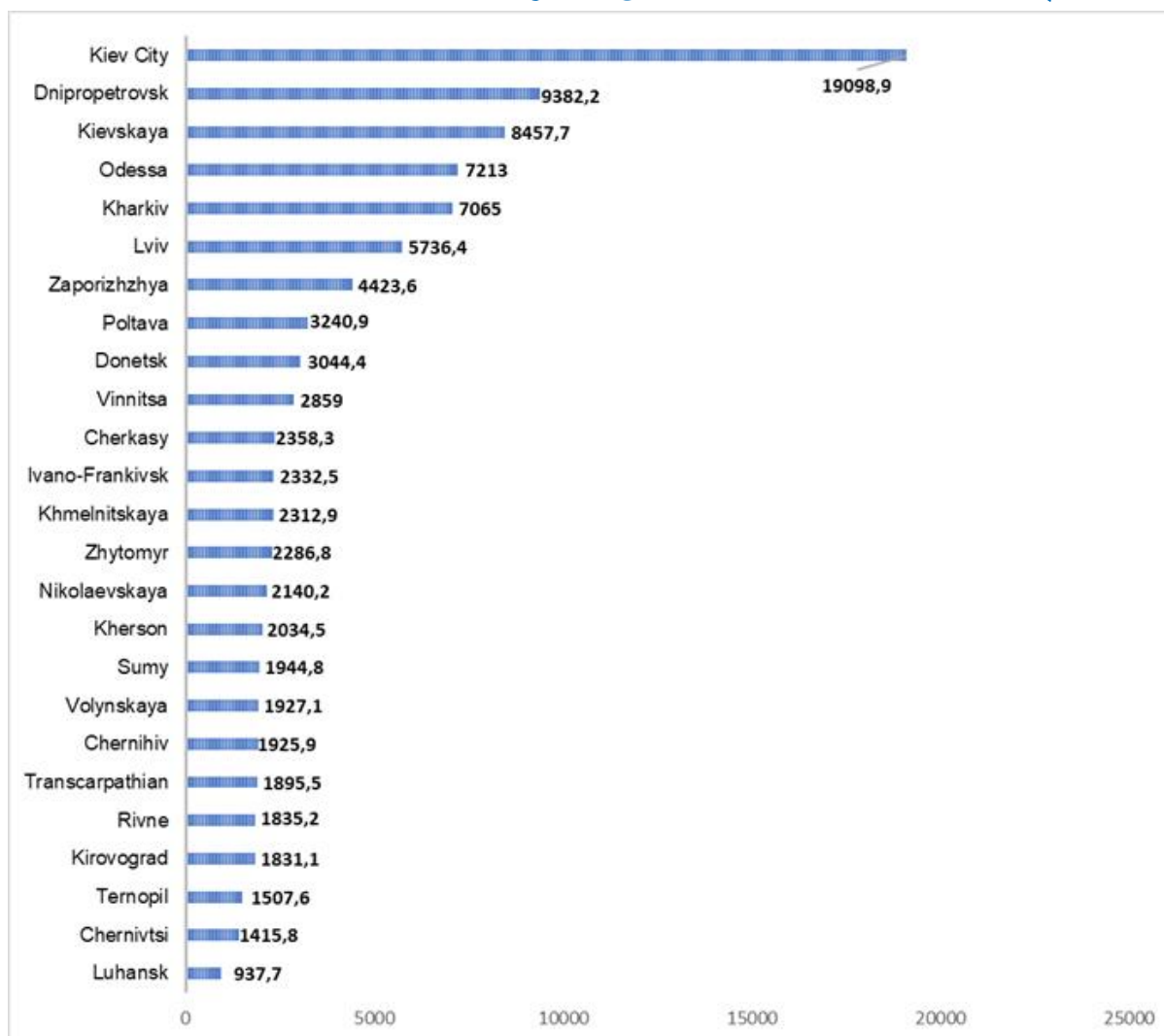
Two more projects are at a high stage of implementation in Lviv. According to him, Ibis Lviv will open in 2022, Novotel Lviv in 2023.

"Odesa, Dnipro, and other cities are also interesting to us. We are constantly looking for new projects and partners," he said.

Accor S.A. Is the largest international hotel operator. The company was founded in 1967. It is headquartered in the Paris suburb Evry.



Retail turnover in Ukraine by regions in Jan 2021 (UAH mln)



Largest egg producer in Ukraine Avangard cuts production by 50%

Avangard agricultural holding, the largest egg producer in Ukraine, cut monthly production by 50% over the past year due to pressure from law enforcement officers, largely due to the impossibility of organizing the export of its products in such conditions, owner of the agricultural holding Oleh Bakhmatiuk has said.

"We now produce 170 million eggs a month, and we produced about 300 million, and in May – 350 million! Of which 170 million were exported in May, and this month we will send for export, maybe 20 million," he said in an interview with the Interfax-Ukraine agency. Bakhmatiuk explained that the company used credit lines for \$ 60-70 million for export, since delivery, for example, to Singapore takes 45 days and the supplier needs to be granted a delay.

"But thanks to the valiant actions of the NABU (the National Anti-corruption Bureau of Ukraine), all credit lines were closed to us, we were forced to almost completely close the export direction," the Avangard owner said, adding that the coronavirus pandemic complicated logistics by making it longer and 30% more expensive.



Sales of agricultural machinery Amazone in Ukraine increases by 19%

Sales of agricultural machinery Amazone in Ukraine last year in units increased 19% compared to 2019, despite the general drop in the market of agricultural machinery by almost 15%, Amazone-Ukraine subsidiary has told Interfax-Ukraine.

In particular, in 2020, the sales of pneumatic seed drills Primera DMC and Condor increased significantly, which allowed Amazone in terms of the number of sold seed drills among importers to climb from the fourth place in 2019 to second place in 2020, having sold 58 units.

"Despite a significant overall drop in the seed drills market by about 40%, we managed to increase sales of Amazone seed drills by almost 30% compared to 2019. One of the positive factors was the growth in demand for no-till, strip-till technologies in Ukraine, which is associated with climatic challenges that agricultural producers faced last year," General Director of Amazone-Ukraine Dmytro Davydenko said.



Agricultural holding Ukrlandfarming cuts livestock population from 52,000 to 15,700

Due to a shortage of working capital caused by pressure from law enforcement agencies, the agricultural holding Ukrlandfarming has reduced the livestock population from 52,000 to 15,700, the owner of the agricultural holding Oleh Bakhmatiuk has said.

"It also requires working capital, which, unfortunately, we do not have, because credit lines are being closed. Let's be reasonable, it is unlikely that animal husbandry will recover," he said in an interview with Interfax-Ukraine. Bakhmatiuk said that the number of employees in animal husbandry decreased by 7,000, while in the Avangard sub-holding, which produces eggs and egg products by 5,500.

"At the peak there were 32,200 [employees], and now it is 17,300-17,500. For a year and a half, we laid off about 13,000-13,500 people in two main areas – poultry farming and animal husbandry, because they needed borrowing. This situation was due to the reputational terror that has been waged against the company and personally me as a shareholder over the past year and a half," the businessman said.

Ukraine since beginning of agricultural year exports 36 mln tonnes of grain

Ukraine since the beginning of the 2020/2021 agricultural year (July-June) as of April 7, 2021 exported 36.07 million tonnes of cereals and legumes, which is 22.8% less than on the same date of the previous agri-year.



According to the information and analytical portal of the agro-industrial complex of Ukraine, to date, 14.46 million tonnes of wheat, 16.90 million tonnes of corn, and 4.11 million tonnes of barley have been exported.

As of the indicated date, 97,400 tonnes of flour were also exported.



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

Open4Business is a platform created to help foreign businesses to search for opportunities and expand to Ukrainian market.

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.



You are welcome to contact:

info@open4business.com.ua

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The List of Main Services:

- Market information and market intelligence
- Searching trade partners and organizing fact finding trips
- Governmental relations
- PR campaigns
- Full range of M&A services
- Production outsourcing project management
- Legal advisory services including licencing and certification, etc. (together with associated companies).

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