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Full-fledged farmland market in Ukraine will appear after opening it for legal entities in 2024



Land prices and the balance of its supply and demand will be established after 2024, when legal entities (including large agricultural holdings) will be able to buy land, then a full-fledged agricultural land market will appear in Ukraine.

This opinion was expressed to the Interfax-Ukraine agency by the co-founder of the Land Club association of land investors, Oleksandr Kolotilin.

"We work with large agricultural holdings. I can say that all the companies we talked to intend to buy agricultural land that they lease and cultivate. I cannot name them, since many of them are public companies, and they must declare themselves their position and intention to purchase land or plans in 2024. But all large agricultural holdings are making exactly such plans," Kolotilin said.

According to the data on the Land Club website, the founder of the investment organization is the director general of IMC agricultural holding and the president of the Ukrainian Agribusiness Club, Alex Lissitsa. The project offers investors the purchase of land plots leased by agricultural holdings in order to receive guaranteed rent from them.

A similar opinion was expressed by the owner of KSG Agro agricultural holding, Serhiy Kasyanov. The agricultural holding does not plan to buy land after the opening of the land market, since its activities involve working with leased plots.

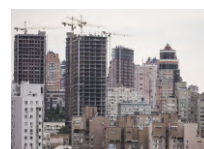
HEADLINES



CHINESE COMPANY TO SUPPLY ANOTHER 5.325 MLN DOSES OF VACCINE TO UKRAINE



UKRAINE OBLIGES PERSONS ARRIVING FROM INDIA, UK, RUSSIA, PORTUGAL TO DO RAPID ANTIGEN TEST



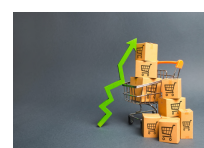
COST OF HOUSING IN KIEV AND PURCHASING POWER OF POPULATION ARE GROWING – NATIONAL BANK



E-COMMERCE MARKET IN UKRAINE GROWS TO \$4 BLN



APPLE OFFICIALLY OPENS OFFICE IN UKRAINE



GROWTH OF RETAIL TURNOVER IN UKRAINE IN MAY IS 22.7%

Chinese company to supply another 5.325 mln doses of vaccine to Ukraine

The Chinese pharmaceutical company Sinovac will supply another 5.325 million doses of Coronavac vaccine against COVID-19 to Ukraine, said chief sanitary doctor of Ukraine Ihor Kuzin.

"Today we have signed commitments on Sinovac and it is planned that another 5.325 million doses of vaccine will be purchased by Crown Agents," he said during an online discussion entitled "Why Ukrainians don't want to be vaccinated." Kuzin said additional supplies of Coronavac vaccine are expected in July.

"We expect that all these volumes should come to Ukraine during July," he said.



Ukraine obliges persons arriving from India, UK, Russia, Portugal to do rapid antigen test

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has taken a number of measures to counter the Delta strain coronavirus, in particular, foreigners and stateless persons over 12 years of age arriving in the country from India, the U.K. and Northern Ireland, the Russian Federation and Portugal are obliged to do antigen tests, according to a posting on the website of the Ministry of Health with reference to Deputy Minister of Health, Chief State Sanitary Doctor Ihor Kuzin.

Vaccination to boost tourism and return travelers to historic cities– Tripadvisor

The vaccination boosted tourism and began returning travelers to historic cities, Fabrizio Orlando, Global Industry Relations Associate Director at Tripadvisor, the world's largest travel website, said.

"As expected, vaccination has become a factor in the activation of tourism both domestically and internationally. Some 48% of those surveyed by us in May 2021 reported that they began to plan a trip precisely after receiving the first dose of the vaccine," he said at the IV International Hospitality Conference, which took place in Parkovy Congress and Exhibition Center on June 18.

According to a Tripadvisor study, 80% of those surveyed confirmed that vaccination was a factor in the decision to travel throughout the country, and 91% – across the world. Among Tripadvisor users, the vaccinated were more active in planning and booking international travel (34% and 21%) than the unvaccinated (25% and 5%, respectively).

Regarding domestic tourism, unvaccinated people are more actively interested in such locations (51% versus 47% of requests from vaccinated people), but at the same time they book less (19% versus 32%).

Preferences are also badly different, in particular, vaccinated travelers are more bold about places with a mass congestion.

At the same time, unvaccinated travelers in the summer of 2021 choose first of all beach vacations (28% of requests), then outdoor activities (25%), urban tourism only in third place (24%).

According to the study, vaccinated people miss the cities – 32% of requests are related to tours to historic cities. Beach recreation takes second place (26%), while outdoor activities gained 20%.

67% of Ukrainians define themselves as believers, but only 10% of them are members of religious communities study

Only 10% of Ukrainians, who define themselves as believers, regularly visit religious houses. These are the data of a sociological study conducted by the Active Group social research company and the Expert Club analytical center and presented during a press conference at Interfax-Ukraine.

"Compared to the indicators of 2020, the number of people, who consider themselves rather non-believers, has grown in Ukraine. This figure has increased from 8 to 13% over the year. This may be due to the reverse transition from religious practices to secular ones due to the end of the critical phase of the pandemic in our country," the co-founder of the Expert Club, political scientist Daniel Bogatyrev said.

"Among people who consider themselves believers, 86% identify themselves as Orthodox Christians, 9% are Catholics, 1.2% are Islam believers, 0.7% Protestantism believers, 0.3% pagans, and 0.2% Judaism believers," Head of Active Group Oleksandr Pozniy said, summing up the results of the study.



In addition, Pozniy noted the correlation between adherence to Orthodox Christianity and the age of citizens. The study revealed an increase in the number of Orthodox believers among middle-aged and elder people.

According to Editor-in-Chief of the Ukraine in Arabic news portal Mohammad Farajallah, faith should meet the traditions and life of the nation in which it prevails.

"Ukraine has always been a multinational and poly-confessional state, but Orthodoxy has been and will remain the main religion in Ukraine. As for Islam here, the percentage of Muslims has remained generally unchanged thanks to the indigenous people, primarily the Crimean Tatars... Over the 30 years of independence, the number of immigrants professing Islam in Ukraine has not exceeded 50,000-100,000 people, which is not a significant figure," Farajallah said. Many people select a particular confession based primarily on political considerations, political scientist and Head of the UP Foundation, Kost Bondarenko, said.

"If one looks at the realities, political engagement does not make it possible to talk about the churching of parishioners of certain confessions. It is one thing to declare the faith, but another thing is churching. This can be observed every year, when at the end of July religious processions are organized in honor of the feast of the Baptism of Rus. At the same time, the processions of the two confessions (UOC and OCU) are different. The number of parishioners of the UOC is usually 200,000-300,000 people who walk with crosses and banners, showing their adherence to Orthodoxy. At the same time, during the processions of the OCU, parishioners mostly go with national flags and portraits of the heroes of the Ukrainian pantheon. This really indicates to two approaches to religiosity in these confessions," Bondarenko said.

Watch the full video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HazeClxfVo>

Subscribe to the Expert Club channel here.

Major buyers of Ukrainian iron ore in Jan-May are China, Czech Republic and Austria

Mining enterprises of Ukraine in January-May this year reduced exports of iron ore raw materials (iron ore) in quantity terms by 1.8% compared to the same period last year, to 18.536 million tonnes.

According to statistics released by the State Customs Service, during the specified period, foreign exchange earnings from iron ore exports increased 2.1-fold, to \$3.132 billion.



Iron ore was exported mainly to China (45.44% of supplies in monetary terms), the Czech Republic (9.41%) and Austria (8.36%).

In January-May 2021, iron ore was imported to Ukraine for \$127,000 in a total volume of 1,130 tonnes, while in January-May 2020, iron ore was imported from the Netherlands for \$28,000, from Sweden for \$10,000, from Germany for \$1,000 and from Hungary \$1,000 in the total volume of 84 tonnes.

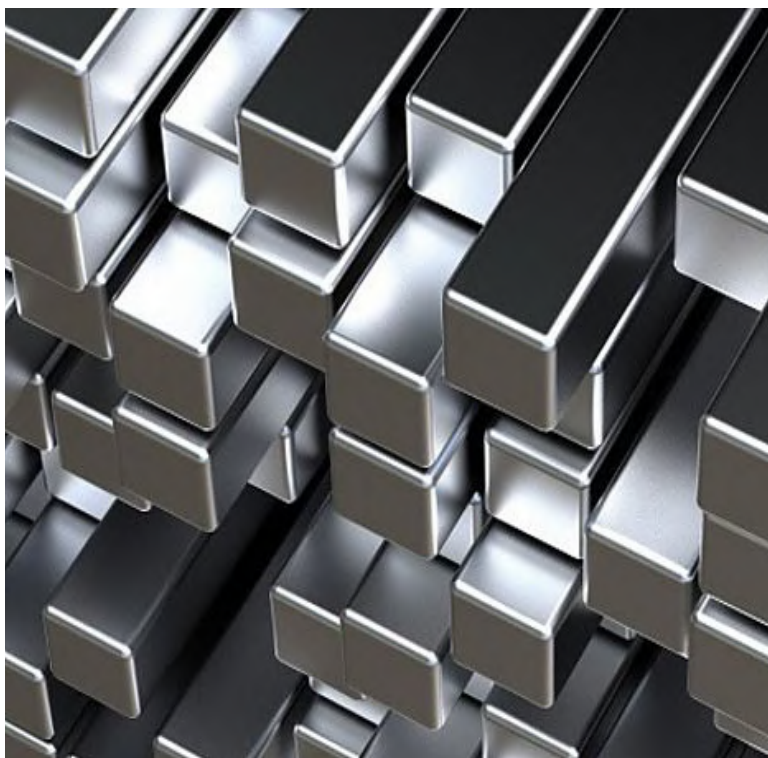
In January-May 2021, iron ore was imported from Egypt (81.75%), Poland (10.32%) and Chile (2.38%).



Ukraine ranks 14th in worldsteel rating in May

Ukraine, following the results of work of metallurgical enterprises in May 2021, increased steel production by 13% compared to the same period in 2020, to 1.851 million tonnes, taking 14th place in the ranking of 64 countries-major global producers of these products, compiled by World Steel Association (Worldsteel).

In May, an increase in steel production was recorded in all countries of the top ten.



The top ten steel producing countries in May 2021 are as follows: China (99.450 million tonnes, an increase of 6.6% compared to May 2020), India (9.2 million tonnes, an increase of 46.9%), Japan (8.422 million tonnes, an increase of 42.2%), the United States (7.249 million tonnes, an increase of 47.6%), Russia (6.560 million tonnes, an increase of 14%), South Korea (5.950 million tonnes, plus 10.5%), Germany (3.475 million tonnes, an increase of 35.5%), Turkey (3.235 million tonnes, an increase of 42.4%), Brazil (3.160 million tonnes, an increase of 40.1%) and Iran (2.550 million tonnes, an increase of 7.7%).

This is followed by Italy (2.210 million tonnes, an increase of 18.8%), Taiwan (China, 2 million tonnes, an increase of 13.5%), Vietnam (1.945 million tonnes, an increase of 48.5%), Ukraine (1.851 million tonnes, an increase of 13%) and Mexico (1.670 million tonnes, plus 44.7%).

Ukrainian Metinvest together with Danieli could build new rolling mill in Italy

Metinvest, an international vertically integrated mining and metallurgical group of companies, is exploring the possibility, together with Italy's Danieli, to build a new rolling mill in Italy.

Metinvest CEO Yuriy Ryzhenkov said at a press conference devoted to the company's 15th anniversary held in Kyiv on Wednesday that the project involves the construction of a new production facility in Italy, where Ukrainian slabs will be rolled into hot-rolled flat products.



“The Metinvest Group is really exploring the possibility of building a rolling mill in Italy,” Ryzhenkov said.

At the same time, he recalled that the group already has two plants in Italy, where flat-rolled products are produced from Ukrainian slabs. And Metinvest has always noted that this market is interesting and promising for the company.

“But Metinvest has not made a final decision on this project,” the top manager said.

According to him, now the project is at the pre-feasibility stage, negotiations are also underway with the owners of the site, and the construction of a plant is planned.

Auction for sale of Ukrainian United Mining and Chemical Company to be held on Aug 31

The auction commission for the sale of PJSC United Mining and Chemical Company with a starting price of UAH 3.7 billion has set a date for the privatization auction, which will take place on August 31, 2021, Head of the State Property Fund (SPF) Dmytro Sennychenko has said.

“Preliminary interest in the object was expressed by a wide circle of investors, part of whom is foreign. We hope for a high competition and a market price of the sale at a transparent auction,” he wrote on Facebook.

United Mining and Chemical Company state enterprise began its actual activity in August 2014, when the government of Ukraine decided to transfer to its management the property complexes of Vilnohirs'k Mining and Metallurgical Plant (Dnipropetrovsk region) and Irshansk Mining and Processing Plant (Zhytomyr region). Then it was transformed into PJSC, and then – into PJSC.



Cost of housing in Kiev and purchasing power of population are growing – National Bank

The cost of housing in Kiev and the purchasing power of the population are growing at a commensurate pace, and the ratio of price to annual income is at the lowest level over the past 10 years, according to the Financial Stability Report of the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU).

“*Although the cost of housing is growing, it still remains affordable in terms of relative indicators. Prices and incomes of the population are growing commensurately. In the first quarter of 2021, purchasing activity in the housing market was almost a tenth higher than the five-year average for the first quarter,” the NBU said in the report.*

According to the forecast, the growth of household incomes, the gradual recovery of mortgages and a decrease in the profitability of deposits will stimulate the growth of demand for housing. At the same time, the long-term implementation of the reform of urban planning control can reduce the number of new supply, which, in turn, affects the rise in prices: in April 2021, the growth of prices in Kiev exceeded 10% per year.

According to the NBU, in January-May 2021, Ukraine issued 213 building permits and 253 certificates for the commissioning of new apartment buildings. In addition, over the past year, only half of the permit applications have been approved.

“The average annual ratio between permits and certificates is about 3 to 4, which is a rather low indicator in comparison with the international level and may indicate a slow pace of new housing construction in the future,” the National Bank said.

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Industrial production in Ukraine in May increases by 5.4%



Industrial production in Ukraine in May 2021 increased by 5.4% compared to May 2020, while in April the growth was 13%, in March – 2.1%, and in February and January there was a decline, respectively by 4.6% and 4%, the State Statistics Service has said. The agency clarified that, adjusted for the effect of calendar days, the growth of industrial production in the past month was the same – 5.4%.

In processing industry in May 2021 from May 2020 the growth was 6.3%, in extracting industry and quarrying – 8%, while the supply of electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning recorded a decline of 3.5%.

In general, for the five months, the service recorded an acceleration in the growth of industrial production to 2.2% from 1.56% following the results of four months. In particular, the growth in processing industry was 2.5%, in the supply of electricity, gas, steam and conditioned air – by 2.9%, in mining industry and quarrying – by 1.2%.



Train China-Europe arrives in Ukrainian Odessa

The China-Europe freight train with household goods, which departed from Guangzhou on May 29, arrived at the DP World TIS Pivdennyi unloading sea container terminal, the press service of the Ukrainian logistics company UNI-LAMAN GROUP, which is the initiator and organizer of this project, said on Tuesday night.

According to the operator, the train arrived on June 19, but the official welcoming ceremony took place on Tuesday, June 22.



The trip from Guangzhou to Odessa region took 22 days. The train ran through China, Mongolia, Russia, Ukraine, through the customs posts Erlan - Zamyn-Üüd, Naushki - Sükhbaatar, Valuiki - Topoli, Chornomorska station - TIS and covered 8,408 km.



UNI-LAMAN GROUP said that this train transported fifty containers of cargo, including: furniture, electrical equipment and other goods.

"This train will help entrepreneurs receive goods from Guangdong and other southern provinces twice as fast, along with a similar delivery by sea. Today, we see a great demand for this route, so we do not want to be satisfied with what has already been achieved and will direct our efforts towards further fruitful cooperation with China to expand trade between our countries.

Court postpones case regarding shutdown of TIU Canada`s solar power plant from electricity

The Pivdenny Economic Court of Appeals has postponed the hearing of a case regarding the Nikopol Ferroalloy Plant (NFP) shutdown of TIU Canada's solar power plant in Nikopol to July 27 due to the absence of one of the defendants, the Canadian company said in a press release on Thursday.

In addition, according to TIU Canada, one of the judges withdrew from the case on the morning of June 24 and was replaced, which was the next stage after the previous three judges recused themselves.



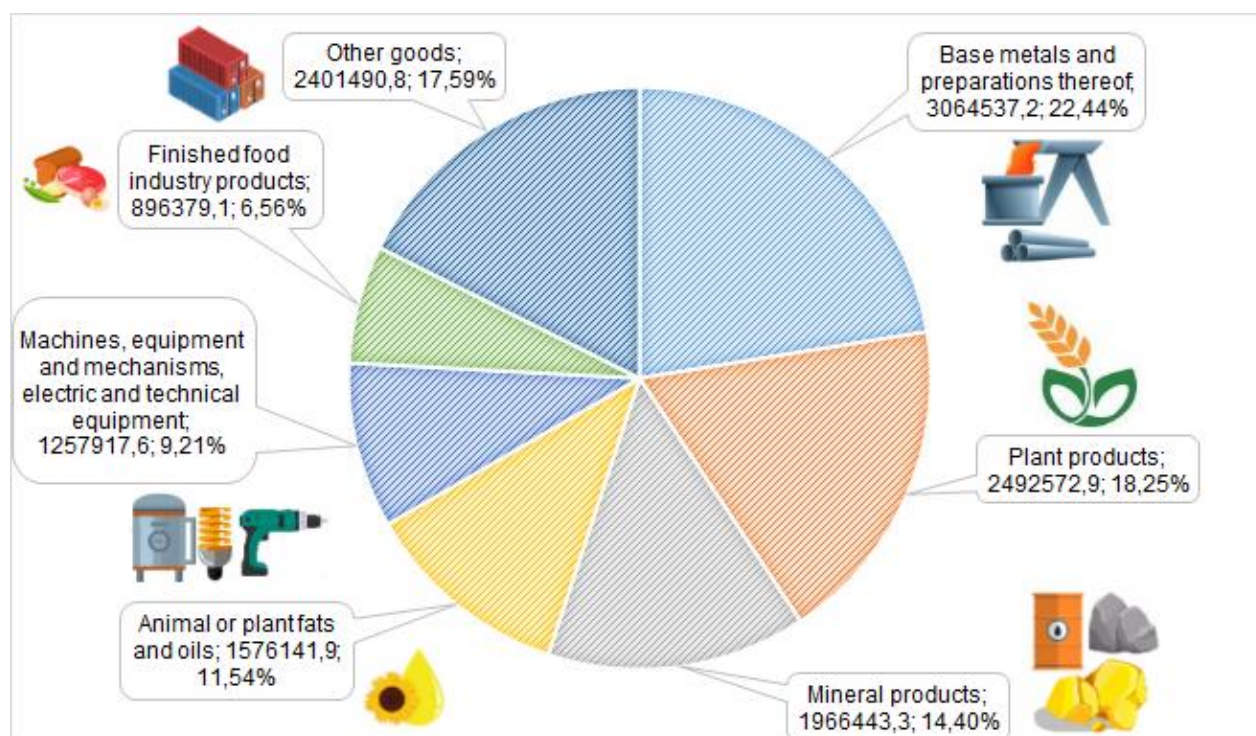
As reported, earlier the company had previously filed a motion to dismiss three judges of Pivdenny Economic Court of Appeals from the hearing the case "because of warnings about the connection between the latter and oligarch Ihor Kolomoisky, who is included in the list of persons subject to U.S. government sanctions."



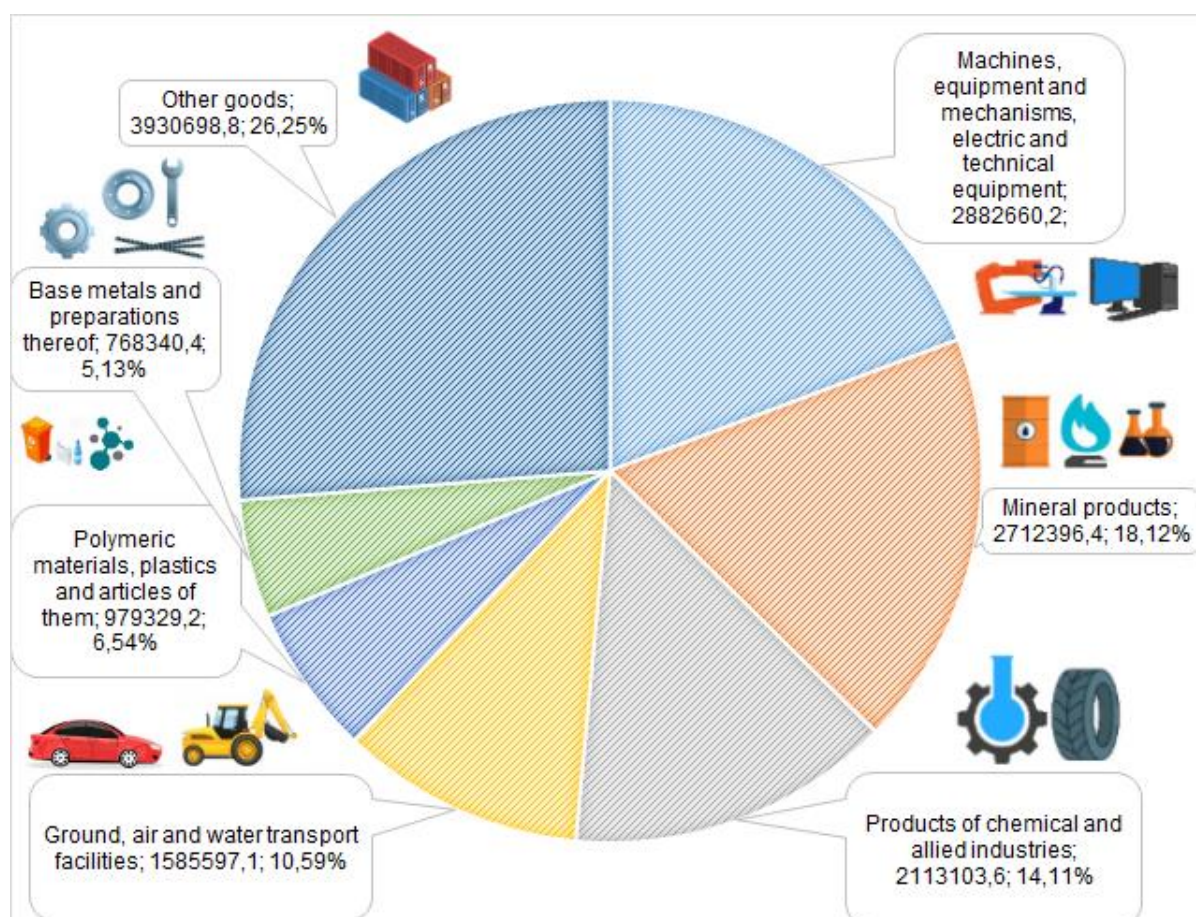
TIU Canada argued its distrust by the fact that judges Korsak, Popikova and Yevsikov, whose challenge the company is seeking, had previously ruled in favor of businessman Ihor Kolomoisky, who controls NFP, in the case against the state-owned PrivatBank, admitting that they would not be able to consider the case related to this enterprise without bias.

The 10.5 MW solar power plant was disconnected from the power grid by NFP in March 2020. TIU Canada said that NFP took advantage of the fact that the SPP was connected to a substation located on its territory, and explained the need for disconnection by repair work.

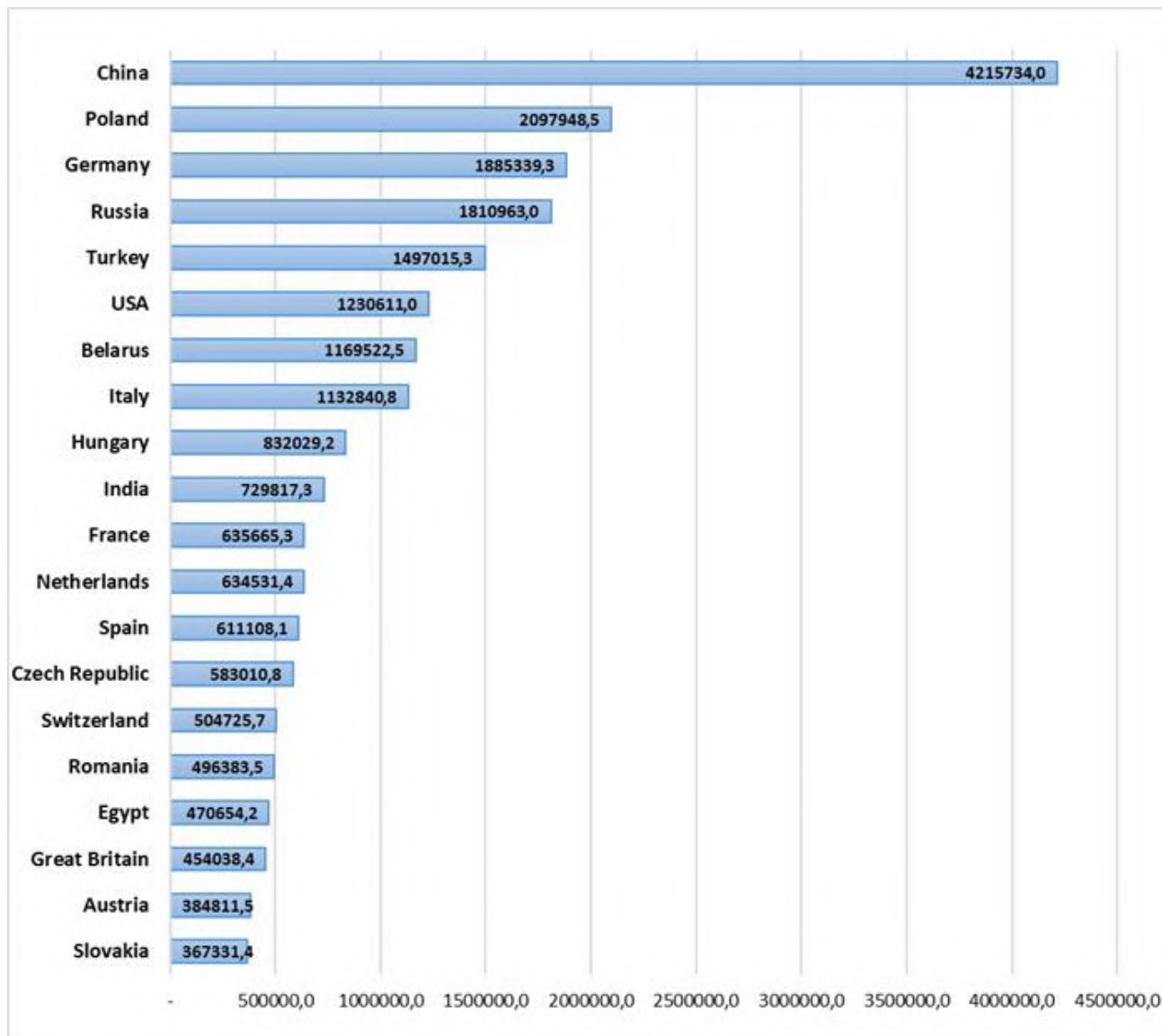
Foreign trade turnover by most important positions in Jan-March 2021 (export)



Foreign trade turnover by most important positions Jan-March 2021 (import)



Top 20 countries of Ukraine's foreign trade partners in Jan-March 2021 (thousand USD)



E-commerce market in Ukraine grows to \$4 bln

The volume of the e-commerce market in Ukraine in 2020 grew by 41% and reached \$4 billion, which is 8.8% of the total retail trade, follows from a study by Soul Partners, Baker Tilly Ukraine and Aequo with the support of USAID. According to the study, the Ukrainian e-commerce market has tripled in the past five years and has the potential to double in the next five years.



According to the material, the share of e-commerce in Ukraine's GDP is 2.6%. At the same time, Ukraine has a low level of spending on e-commerce per year in comparison with other countries – about \$104, which is explained by the low purchasing power of the population.

The most developed sectors of e-commerce in Ukraine are electronics and clothing, but every year the share of electronics is decreasing due to the growth of other categories, the study notes.

Thus, the volume of e-commerce in clothing over 2020 amounted to \$291 million, the share of online sales in the structure of retail trade in clothing was 6.8%. According to the forecast, this figure will reach 10% by 2023. The most visited online clothing stores in 2020 were Shafa (105.1 million visits), Klubok (35.1 million) and Kloomba (34.9%).

Apple officially opens office in Ukraine

Apple has officially opened an office in Ukraine, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Digital Transformation Mykhailo Fedorov wrote on Telegram.

Now, according to him, the company will directly import equipment to Ukraine and control the stores of official dealers. "This is important news. The opening of the Apple office will strengthen our image in the international arena and in the future will help attract new investments," Fedorov said.



Also, from June 29, 2021, support for Apple users in Ukrainian became available.

"For more than a year now, our team has been communicating with both the European and American offices of the company. Together we plan to launch new Apple services for Ukrainian users," Fedorov said.



Ukraine will receive \$350 mln from World Bank

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the World Bank have signed an agreement worth \$350 million, Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal has said.

"The government and the World Bank signed an agreement worth \$350 million. The funds will be used to develop the economy during the pandemic, provide social support to vulnerable groups and strengthen state institutions," Shmyhal said on Telegram.

According to him, these funds will also help implement systemic projects for the fair development of the land market, continue the reform of the gas sector, and strengthen the credit market.

Growth of retail turnover in Ukraine in May is 22.7%

The retail trade turnover of Ukraine in May 2021 grew by 22.7% compared to the same month in 2020 in comparable prices, while in April this figure was 34.3%, the State Statistics Service said on Tuesday.

According to the authority, in May, retail turnover increased 5.2% compared to April 2021.

In January-May 2021, compared to the same period in 2020, the retail trade turnover in the country also rose by 14.3%.

The largest growth in retail trade turnover of enterprises (legal entities and individual entrepreneurs) in the first five months of 2021 was recorded in Chernivtsi (by 30.7%), Ternopil (by 30.1%), Zakarpattia (by 24.5%), Khmelnytsky (by 21.1%), Lviv (19.6%), Ivano-Frankivsk and Vinnytsia (18.8%), Kyiv (17.2%), Zhytomyr (16.8%), Zaporizhia (16.5%) and Rivne (15.7%) regions.



Sales of new passenger cars in Ukraine up by 30%

Initial registrations of new passenger cars in Ukraine in June 2021 increased by 21% compared to the same month in 2020 and by almost 36% compared to the “pre-COVID” June 2019, to 8,800 units,” Ukrautoprom reports. According to the association’s information on its website, compared to May of this year, the demand for new passenger cars increased by 4%.



The most popular brand in June was Toyota (a year ago – Renault) with 1,296 sold cars and an increase of almost 25%. Renault ranked second with 986 cars (less by 15% from June 2020).

The third place, as in June last year, was given by Ukrainians to Kia, having purchased 742 new cars – 10% more. The fourth result is again with Skoda – 609 cars and an increase of 27%, and, like a year ago, Hyundai closes the top five with an increase in registrations by 11%, to 441 units.

In addition, last month, the top ten most popular brands included Nissan, which rose from the 9th in June 2020, with 391 units (more by 68%), and VW, which took the seventh position, managed to move from the 20th position in June last year due to the growth of registrations by 3.7 times, to 384 units.

This is followed by Peugeot – 383 units (more by 17%); Chery – 369 units (129%); Mitsubishi – 367 units (71%).



Ukraine exports 38.92 mln tonnes of grain since start of 2020/2021 MY

Ukraine since the beginning of the 2020/2021 marketing year (MY, July-June) and as of April 30, 2021 had exported 38.92 million tonnes of grains and legumes, which is 22.9% less than on the same date of the previous MY.

According to the information and analytical portal of the agro-industrial complex of Ukraine, to date, 15.08 million tonnes of wheat, 19.11 million tonnes of corn, 4.12 million tonnes of barley have been exported.



As of the indicated date, 106,100 tonnes of flour were also exported.

According to the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food, Ukraine exported 56.72 million tonnes of grain and leguminous crops in the 2019/2020 MY.

As reported, the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine in February predicted a decline in exports of grains and legumes in the 2020/2021 MY by 20.5% compared to the previous MY, to 45.4 million tonnes.

UGA expects grain and oilseeds exports from Ukraine at 46.8 mln tonnes in 2020/2021 MY

Exports of grains and oilseeds in the 2020/2021 marketing year (MY, September-August) will amount to 46.8 million tonnes, which is a quarter less than in the record 2019/2020 MY.

According to the website of the Ukrainian Grain Association (UGA), citing data from grain traders, the maximum export volume of these crops in the current season will not exceed the values specified in the annexes to the memorandum between the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Agriculture and market participants.



The UGA clarified that the rate of grain export in the current MY is significantly lower than last year's indicators, which is due to the conjuncture of world markets.



The association expects that wheat exports in the current season will not exceed 16 million tonnes, which is significantly lower than the volume specified in the appendix to the memorandum of 17.5 million tonnes. Corn exports in the current season will not exceed 22 million tonnes, which is also below the limit set in the annex to the memorandum – 24 million tonnes.



As reported, Ukraine exported 37.71 million tonnes of grains and legumes since the beginning of 2020/2021 MY, which is 23.6% less than on the same date of the previous MY.

Largest Ukrainian sugar producer will launch production of sugar syrup

Agroholding Astarta, the largest sugar producer in Ukraine, in July will invest UAH 500,000 in the installation of a technological line for the production of inverted sugar syrup at Novoorzhytske sugar plant (Novoorzhytske, Poltava region), the release of the first batch of products is planned for August 2021, the company's press service said.

"The main consumers of inverted syrup will be Ukrainian beekeepers. This product can be used to feed bees, since it allows you to preserve the offspring of bee colonies and increase their productivity. Our product will allow beekeepers to increase the efficiency of their apiaries, introduce modern technologies in this process and maintain a leading position in honey production in the world," curator of the project Ivan Chepak said.



According to the company, inverted sugar syrup is also in demand in confectionery industry, and if the pilot project is successfully implemented, Astarta will expand its production and expand sales markets. Developing this project, the company is increasing the volume of products with a higher degree of processing, forming the added value of its products, the report explains.

This digest is a mutual project of the Interfax-Ukraine News Agency and the Open4business.com.ua. Maksim Urakin is a project director of the Biweekly news digest of Open4business.com.ua.

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PhD in Economics, Maksim Urakin

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