



UKRAINE
OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Ukraine becomes 16th country in overall medal standings and 44th in Olympics medal count



The Ukrainian national team took the 44th position in the overall medal standings of the Olympic Games, which ended in Tokyo on Sunday.

A total of 153 Ukrainian athletes earned 19 Olympic medals: one gold, six silver and 12 bronze medals.

In overall medal totals, Ukraine took the 16th position in the world ranking, and also surpassed the result of the Rio 2016 Summer Olympics. Then the Ukrainian athletes earned 11 Olympic medals (two gold, four silver and five bronze medals).

The medal count, which is most influenced by gold medals, was topped by the U.S. team, which lagged behind leading China for a long time.

The U.S. team earned 39 gold, 40 silver and 33 bronze medals. The second place was taken by China (38-32-18). The third place was taken by Japan, the host country of the Olympics (27-14-17).

Ukrainian Olympians earned medals in Greco-Roman wrestling, artistic swimming, canoe rowing, boxing, high jump, karate, cycle track, freestyle wrestling and swimming.

HEADLINES

18 August 2021



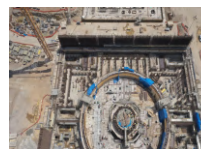
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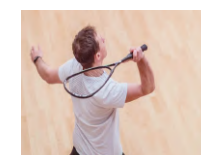
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INTERNATIONAL SQUASH TOURNAMENT IN ODESA TO GATHER 150 ATHLETES FROM OVER TEN COUNTRIES

Ukraine shall reduce CO2 emissions by 65% in 10 years

Ukraine, in accordance with the Second National Determined Contributions of Ukraine (NOV2) to the Paris Agreement, shall reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 65% from 1990 levels by 2030. This goal was set and approved by a resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine at an extraordinary meeting on Friday.

“The Cabinet of Ministers has approved Ukraine’s Second National Determined Contributions of Ukraine to the Paris Agreement. By decarbonization and the development of renewable energy sources, we intend to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 35% of the 1990 level. Ukraine goes side by side with the EU and the United States in the fight against climate change,” Prime Minister of Ukraine Denys Shmyhal wrote on his Twitter page.



Ukraine’s initial contribution to the Paris Agreement, adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers in September 2015, aimed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030, i.e. up to 60% of the 1990 level.



The indicator of emission reduction by 65% by 2030 was obtained based on the calculation that in 1990, Ukraine’s emissions, taking into account land use and forestry, amounted to 884 million tonnes. At the same time, in 2019, according to the inventory, CO2 emissions amounted to 332 million tonnes – 37.6% of the 1990 level.

Ukraine could receive \$700 mln tranche from IMF in Sept

Ukraine may receive a \$700 million tranche from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in September, the adviser to the President of Ukraine on economic issues, Oleh Ustenko, has said.

“The President of the country had a more than successful telephone conversation with Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Kristalina Georgieva. The IMF mission is going to Ukraine. In addition, Ukraine has implemented all the preconditions of the IMF. We expect that a new tranche of about \$700 million will be received from the IMF rather quickly,” he told Interfax-Ukraine.

“I suppose that now we are moving according to the following scenario: in September – the mission, at once the issue of Ukraine is brought up to a meeting of the IMF Board of Directors, and in September I expect that we will receive a new tranche,” the president’s adviser added.

At the same time, Ustenko does not rule out the possibility of extending the Stand-By Arrangement (SBA).

“We have made serious progress, and this was noted. So I do not rule out that the SBA may be extended,” he said.



Ukraine's intl reserves reach \$28.95 bln

Ukraine's international reserves as of 1 August 2021 stood at an equivalent of \$28.951 billion, which is 2.1% more than as of early July 2021 (\$27.358 billion), according to data from the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) published on Thursday.

"As of 1 August 2021, Ukraine's international reserves stood at an equivalent of \$28,951.1 million, according to preliminary data. In July, international reserves increased by 2.1%, primarily due to the government's placement of eurobonds and purchases by the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) of foreign currency on the interbank FX market," the NBU said.

The central bank said that international reserves in July were affected by the following factors: first, transactions related to public debt management. The government spent \$416.9 million (in the equivalent) on servicing and repayment of public debt denominated in foreign currency, including \$368.9 million in repayments on domestic government debt securities, while the rest of the funds went to meet the government's other FX commitments.



SkyUp from Kiev acquires 13th aircraft

SkyUp (Kyiv) has acquired the thirteenth aircraft for its fleet – a medium-haul Boeing 737-800NG for 189 passengers. The airline reported on Facebook this is the seventh aircraft of this model in the SkyUp fleet.

"The bird's name is Oscar, registration number is UR-SQO. The aircraft was manufactured in 2012, passed a thorough technical check. Now it is equipped with Blended Winglets. You can meet our Oscar on international and domestic SkyUp routes," the airline said.

CEO of SkyUp Airlines Dmytro Seroukhov, in turn, noted on his Facebook page that the company's fleet will soon be replenished with two more aircraft.

"The 13th bird is at home! Many thanks to the whole team for this, I know how difficult it was, but we all did it! Very soon the SkyUp park will be replenished with the 14th and 15th aircraft," he wrote.

SkyUp Airlines LLC was registered in Kyiv in June 2016. The founders are Tetiana and Yuriy Alba's ACS-Ukraine LLC, which also owns the JoinUp! tour operator.



International squash tournament in Odesa to gather 150 athletes from over ten countries

The 11th International Squash Championship "Zenit Black Sea Open 2021" will take place in Odesa from August 19 to August 22, 2021. The venue will be the SPORT LIFE fitness center at 2 Heavenly Hundred Avenue. The competition will be held with the assistance of the Squash Federation.

In four days of the tournament, some 150 participants will compete for awards in eight categories:

Men – PRO, Amateurs, M40+ and M45+,

Women – PRO and Amateurs,

Juniors – boys and girls under the age of 15.

Organizer of the tournament Dmytro Scherbakov said the main goal of the tournament is to strengthen sports ties between countries and athletes in post COVID-19 period, to develop squash in Ukraine, and to increase the skill level of young squash players.



Co-organizer of the Zenit Black Sea Open 2021 tournament Maksym Urakin said that physical culture and sports in our country need the support from both the government and benefactors. "The government has almost removed from the development of targeted programs of sports support, we thank our partners and businessmen benefactors for their assistance; athletes and sections, and, therefore, sports of the highest achievements, cannot do without the synergy of the government and business," Urakin said.

Players from England, Australia, Germany, Wales, Egypt, Romania, the United States, Moldova, Belarus, other countries, as well as athletes from Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Khmelnytsky, Poltava, Kherson and Odesa will participate in the competition. The tournament is scheduled to open on Thursday, August 19, and the award ceremony will take place on Sunday, August 22, at the five-star Premier Hotel Odesa.

Zenit Black Sea Open is the largest international squash tournament in the history of independent Ukraine. The scale of the championship is demonstrated both by the number of countries and participants, and by the large number of organizations involved in the preparation and holding of competitions.

The main organizer and fitness partner of the event was traditionally the national chain of fitness centers number one "Sport Life," as well as the MaxEvents company.

The title sponsor was the SOCAR fuel and energy company.

The championship are sponsored by SOLARIS AGROLUX, Technifibre, Reima.

Official beer of the tournament is from TERMOPUB.

Official wine partner is SHABO.

The partner of the party and the hotel of the tournament is Premier Hotel Odesa.

The medical partner of the championship is the Adonis medical group.

The fruit partner is USPA fruit.

The main media partner of the tournament is Interfax-Ukraine.

It's the fifth time when Windrose has successfully completed the IOSA audit

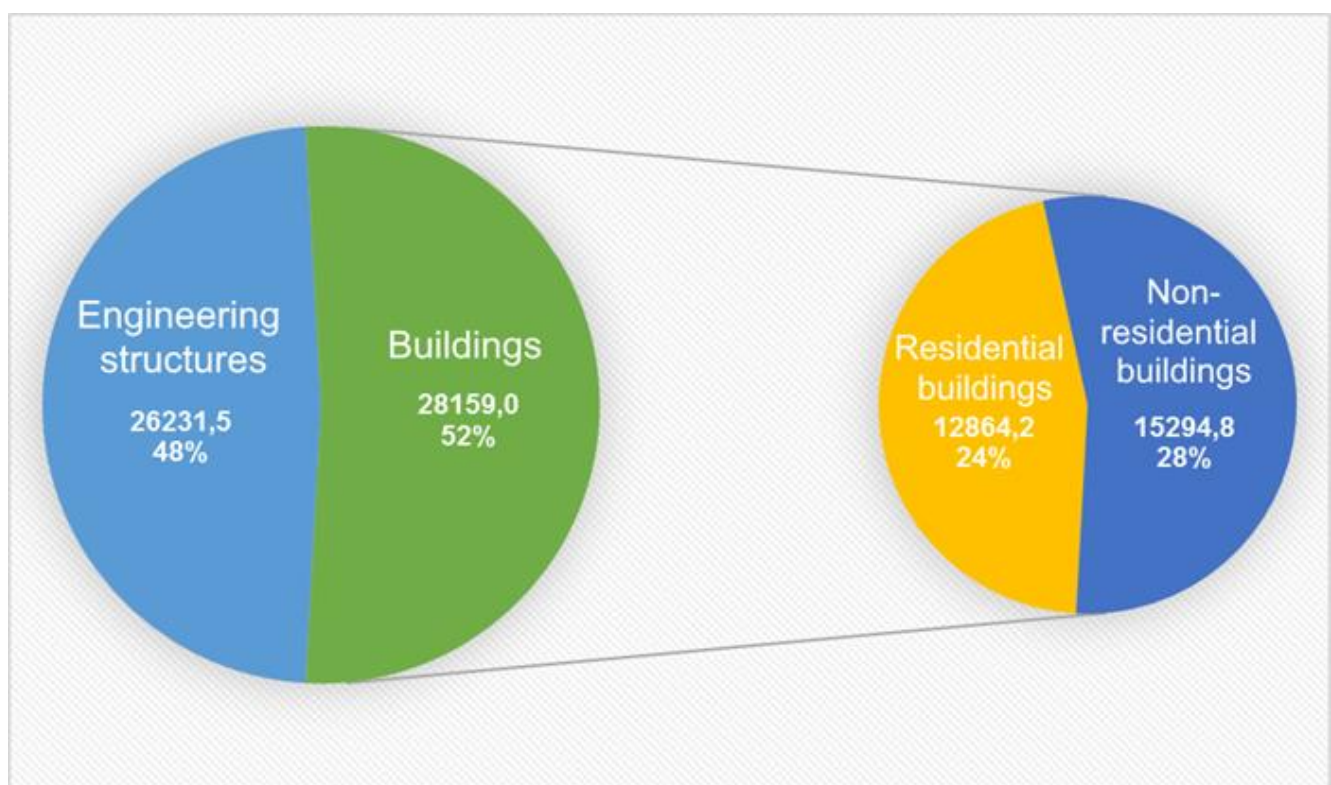
Recently WINDROSE has successfully completed the audit for the conformance with the international standards and recommended practice of operational safety IOSA (IATA Operational Safety Audit). IOSA is a standardized program for comprehensive assessment of airline's operational safety. The audit requirements were developed by the International Air Transport Association and are being constantly updated. Being registered in the IOSA system is for WINDROSE a mandatory precondition for a membership in international alliances. Currently only 2 airlines in Ukraine have IOSA certificate of registration.

We are proud that thanks to our employees' hard work and diligence we once again were able to demonstrate the high level of our company's reliability. WINDROSE professional team makes every effort to ensure safety and comfort of our passengers. We do our best to make every journey a pleasure. Working for our passengers!

www.windrose.aero



Volume of construction products produced by type in Jan-May of 2021 (mln UAH)



Ukrainian market of new passenger cars increases by 28%

Primary registrations of new passenger cars in Ukraine in January-July this year increased by 28% compared to the same period in 2020, to 58,100 units, the Ukrautoprom association reports.

According to the information on its website, in particular registrations in July increased by 16% compared to July 2020, to 9,768 units.



The best result was again demonstrated by Japanese-based Toyota with an increase in registrations by 34%, up to 1,535, followed by French-based Renault, whose registrations decreased by almost 10%, to 1,301 units.

The third line of the rating with an 87% increase (up to 800 cars) was confidently taken by Kia, the fourth was Skoda with the registration of 618 cars (35% more), and the top five monthly leaders with a 5% increase in sales were closed by Hyundai with 465 units.

The ten most popular brands in July also included: Volkswagen with 452 units (more by 25%), Nissan – 439 units (more by 32%), Chery – 412 units (more by 91%), Mitsubishi – 411 units (more by 70%), Suzuki – 384 units (more by 9%).

The bestseller of the month was the compact crossover Toyota RAV4 with 659 registrations.

According to the information and analytical group AUTO-Consulting, published on its website, July sales have traditionally become peak since the beginning of the year and in fact the Ukrainian car market has set a post-crisis sales record – according to the group, sales increased by 10% from July 2020, to 9,800.



Furniture exports 70% up from Ukraine in Jan-July 2021

The volume of exports of furniture and its parts in January-July 2021 increased by 70.5% compared to 2020 and amounted to \$511.9 million, the Ukrainian Association of Furniture Manufacturers has reported, citing data from the State Customs Service.



At the same time, furniture was exported to the countries of the European Union for \$451.4 million, Asia – \$9.8 million, the United States – \$4.8 million.

The increase in furniture exports in January-June 2021 amounted to 82.2%, the association says.

32 new business centers to open in Kyiv in 2021-2022

In Kyiv, at various stages of construction readiness, 32 business centers with a total GLA of almost 670,00 square meters (excluding large-scale facilities) are announced for opening in 2021-2022, Managing Partner of UTG Offices Volodymyr Heliuta has told Interfax-Ukraine.

According to him, according to the results of the first half of 2021, the total rental area of professional facilities in Kyiv is slightly more than 2 million square meters. In the structure of supply of space, class A accounts for 25%, B and C – 75%.

“About 52% of office space was commissioned before 2010 and today it is morally and technically outdated. Therefore, despite the permanent lockdowns, we see the interest of investors and developers in the office real estate market – frozen and postponed projects have been actively revived since the middle of 2020. Outdated shopping centers, hotel complexes, enterprises and factories are being reconstructed into office real estate,” Heliuta said.

For June 2021, the rental price per square meter a month in class A it was \$20-25 excluding VAT, OPEX, utility bills and BOMA coefficients, in classes B and B + – \$16-20.

The expert said that due to the release of a new proposal, vacancy is growing. Thus, in class A business centers it is 10%, in class B, B + business centers it is 10-15% with a tendency to increase.

Since the end of 2020, the tendency towards a decrease in rented space has continued. There is a growing trend towards renting turnkey office space, including fully equipped workspaces. Smaller and medium-sized tenants (especially those who are not ready to invest in renovation, improvement, furnishing of premises) are considering alternative options for changing offices.

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Ukraine introduces ‘safety mark’ for hotels

The State Tourism Development Agency recommends that hotels take measures to vaccinate their staff against COVID-19 in the near future. Hotels, whose personnel are fully vaccinated, will be provided with a “safety mark”, head of the State Agency for Tourism Development Maryana Oleskiv told Interfax-Ukraine.



“To organize vaccination, the authorized person of the hotel must provide information to the State Tourism Development Agency (location of the hotel, number of employees for vaccination, contact person). We will transfer this information to the Ministry of Health to ensure priority vaccination of the tourism industry,” Oleskiv said.



The head of State Tourism Development Agency said that after vaccination of all hotel personnel, they will be provided with a confirmation in the form of a “Safety Sign” sticker, and this information will be included in the list of State Tourism Development Agency hotels, the staff of which is fully vaccinated.

International European University integrated virtual reality into the development of the educational process

International European University presented a VR room

Virtual reality starts evolving in education while an increasing number of universities is adopting this technology.

The analysis of global experience indicates the efficiency and potential of sensor nets and advanced technologies. International European University is always in tune with the times and improves its educational programs, helping students learn chosen disciplines using cutting-edge technological solutions.

Therefore, the university has introduced the VR room allowing students to explore places of destination worldwide without leaving a classroom. The multi-award-winning program platform encourages faster learning and teaching of medical sciences and anatomy on desktop, mobile and virtual devices.



Virtual reality technologies enhance the efficiency of study, making classes more exciting, which results in better educational motivation and students' activity.

According to Nataliia Litvinova, Director of European Medical School, the implementation of different VR-based educational programs sparks greater interest of students in this form of classes and increases their enthusiasm while preparing for each class, learning theoretical materials that will be elaborated in the virtual environment.

“It is the best model among the existing ones. This VR headset is equipped with a manipulator that enables working without a computer, as it has its own device inside. Actually, this headset is used for games, fitness and other activities, but we apply it in education. Each license allows holding classes in a group consisting of 10 and more people, as well as conducting questioning, excluding a possibility to peep a correct answer and manipulate. Due to another license, we will be able to train 200 students at the same time and learn anatomy using any device. I'm so glad that in autumn, during license update, we could see the process on computer tomography, X-ray, ultrasound investigation. We can use it in clinical subjects and show students certain organs in virtual reality,” Nataliia Litvinova says.

Turkish company plans to invest in construction of combined cycle power plant in south of Ukraine

Turkish Aksa Enerji Uretim A.Ş. plans to invest in the construction of a combined cycle power plant in Izmail (Odesa region) with a capacity of 260 MW.



A memorandum of understanding between the Odesa Regional State Administration, the Izmail City Council, Aksa Enerji and Marzhinal LLC (Mykolaiv, the ultimate beneficiaries are a number of Turkish individuals) was signed on August 9, according to the Regional State Administration's Facebook page.



According to the report, Aksa Enerji is ready to invest in the construction of the plant and accompany its operation on the basis of a 25-year agreement on the purchase of electricity, with subsequent transfer to the state ownership. “The power plant will consist of a gas turbine and/or engines and a steam turbine with a total installed capacity of 260 MW, and all power plant equipment, including all related substation equipment such as step-up transformers and switchgear, will be provided, installed and commissioned by Aksa,” Vice-Chairman of Aksa Enerji Serdar Nişli said.

Interpipe boosts supplies to US market

In January-June of this year, the Ukrainian industrial company Interpipe increased supplies of Oil Country Tubular Goods (OCTG) to the United States due to a surge in activity in the oil and gas sector amid rising prices for hydrocarbons, First Deputy CEO of Interpipe Denys Morozov has said in an interview with Metal Expert publication. According to him, this is a positive moment – American companies have resumed drilling, and now is the “right time” for Interpipe to increase supplies of threaded OCTG pipes, including premium and semi-premium products.

“We are actively engaged in its production and promotion. In the first half of 2021, Interpipe has already increased the supply of OCTG pipes to the United States. We expect that positive dynamics will continue in the second half of this year,” Morozov said.

At the same time, he pointed out a number of restrictions on the supply of pipes to the United States. Thus, the U.S. Department of Commerce intends to impose duties on seamless line pipes at a rate of 23.75%.

At the same time, he said that Interpipe continues supplies to the U.S. market, but in the future it will study their economic efficiency with the hope that new relations will be built with new U.S. President Joe Biden. Accordingly, Ukraine will be able to restart negotiations on the abolition of section 232, which is a significant barrier to the growth of supplies.



DTEK plans to import coal from Kazakhstan, Poland, US

DTEK Energy, amid low coal stocks at its TPPs' warehouses, has begun importing thermal coal from Kazakhstan and is negotiating coal supplies from Poland and the United States, the company's press service has said.

According to the press service, DTEK Energy is actively looking for opportunities to provide TPPs with additional imported coal.

“Despite the increased demand for coal on global markets, we are actually starting to import it. The first batch from Kazakhstan is already on its way. Next week we expect the start of coal supplies from Poland. We are also negotiating the supply of shiploads from the United States,” CEO of DTEK Energy Ildar Saleev said.



First deputy prime minister: TIU Canada solar power plant's problem can be solved by connecting to another point

The government of Ukraine is dealing with the problem of a solar power plant of Ekotekhnik Nikopol LLC belonged to the Canadian investor TIU Canada disconnected from the grid and proposes to solve it by connecting the solar power plant to another point, First Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy Oleksiy Liubchenko has said.

"Supposedly, everything should be formally resolved at the judicial level, but we posed the question in a different way: to find an opportunity to connect to another point. Specialists are now working it out," he said in an interview with Interfax-Ukraine.



According to Liubchenko, the rules of the National Energy and Utilities Regulatory Commission of Ukraine (NEURC) and other regulations should be configured in such a way that "no one would even have a thought to violate them."

"And a private owner will cope better than the state. But the state can also take responsibility for the regional power suppliers' work as an owner, especially when it comes to threats to national security," he said.



As reported, the 10.5 MW power plant of TIU Canada was disconnected by the Nikopol Ferroalloy Plant (NFP) from the power grid of on March 2, 2020. TIU Canada said that NFP took advantage of the fact that the plant was connected to a substation located on its territory, and explained the need for shutdown by repair work. The shutdown caused the company in excess of EUR 1.5 million in losses, which continue to grow. TIU Canada challenged these actions in courts, but lost the lower court hearings, and the legal dispute dragged on.

32,000 tourists visit Chernobyl since year start

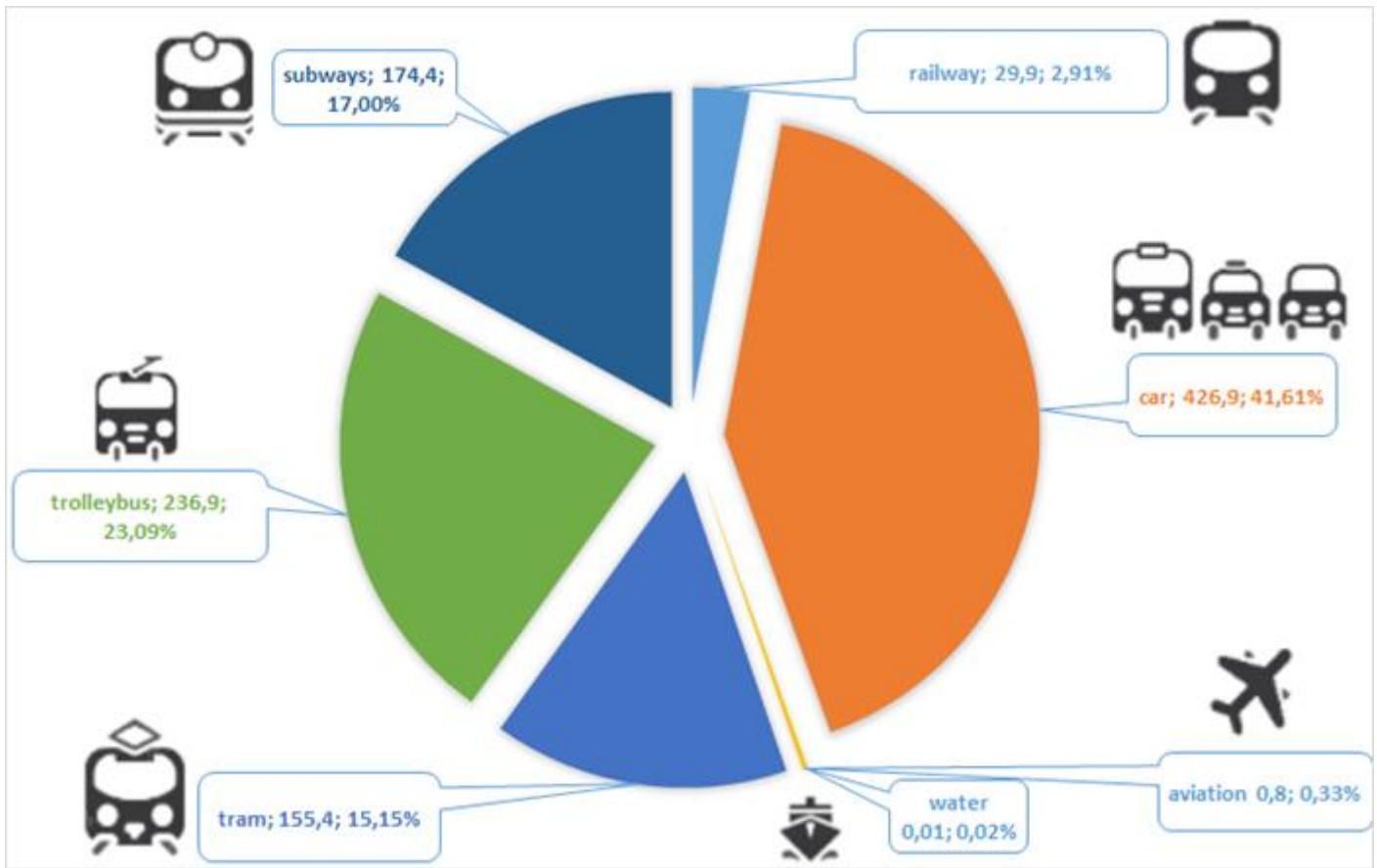
Some 32,000 tourists have visited the Chernobyl exclusion zone since the beginning of the year, assistant director of the state enterprise Center for Organizational, Technical and Information Support of the Exclusion Zone Management (COTIS) Kyrylo Harnyk has said. According to him, the data are relevant for August 11. Earlier, in 2019, it was planned to reach 1 million tourists a year, but in 2020 the tourist flow has decreased significantly.

"We have already managed to get better results than in 2018, when we received 36,000 tourists for the whole year, but we are unlikely to achieve the results of 2019, with 124,000 tourists," Harnyk said during a roundtable talk on the preservation of Prypiat and Duga facilities in Chernobyl.

As reported, in February 2021, the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine, the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine, the State Agency for Tourism Development and the State Agency of Ukraine on Exclusion Zone Management signed a memorandum on the promotion of visits to the territory of the exclusion zone of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.



Passengers carried in Jan-May of 2021, in mln



U.S. Department of Agriculture improves forecast for wheat exports from Ukraine

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in the report for August improved the forecast for the export of Ukrainian wheat in the 2021/2022 marketing year (MY, July-June) by 2.5 million tonnes compared to the forecast in July, to 23.5 million tonnes.



The forecast for wheat harvest in Ukraine in the new marketing year has been increased by 3 million tonnes compared to the July forecast, to a record 33 million tonnes. As noted in the USDA, this figure has been increased due to the expansion of the area under this crop, as well as due to its higher yield this season.



In the August report, the USDA also improved the forecast for the corn crop and its exports from Ukraine in 2021/2022 MY by 1.5 million tonnes compared to the July forecast. Thus, corn production is expected to grow from 37.5 million tonnes to 39 million tonnes, its export – from 30.5 million tonnes to 32 million tonnes. As explained, the forecast for corn harvest in Ukraine has been increased, as the reduction in acreage under this crop is more than offset by an increase in its yield prospects.

Price of land in Kyiv up in H1

The price of land plots in Kyiv has risen by an average of 5-10% since the beginning of 2021, according to Park Lane real estate agency.



“Land reacts least of all to changes in external factors (economic, political) due to limited supply within Kyiv. Land prices are showing growth, especially with a good location. Liquid land plots can always be profitably and quickly sold,” director general of Park Lane Viktoria Barabash said.



According to the analysis of Park Lane, the most expensive offer is in Pechersky district of the capital – \$ 60,000-100,000/100 sq m, in Holosiyevsky district – \$ 25,000-50,000/100 sq m, in Solomiansky district – \$ 20,000-40,000/100 sq m.

Barabash noted an active demand for the purchase of land within the capital, but the interest in such real estate is lower than in houses or apartments built in residential complexes.

Ukraine exports 4.61 mln tonnes of grain since start of MY

Ukraine since the beginning of the 2021/2022 marketing year (MY, July-June) and as of August 13 had exported 4.61 million tonnes of grain and leguminous crops, which is 10% more 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, 1.82 million tonnes of wheat (23.5% less compared to the same date 2020/2021MY), 1.62 million tonnes of barley (19.6% more), 1.15 million tonnes of corn (2.3 times more), and 16,200 tonnes of flour (1.5 times less) have been exported. As of the indicated date, 5,100 tonnes of rye were also exported, which is 17 times more than the indicators of the last MY.



Ukraine approves bill on state control of products with GMOs

The Cabinet of Ministers has supported the submission to the Verkhovna Rada of a draft law on state regulation of genetic engineering activities and control over the circulation of products containing genetically modified organisms (GMO), this initiative is conducting a comprehensive review of the existing legislation in the field of handling GMO products, and also allows implementing EU regulations in force in the Ukrainian legislation.



“Imperfect legal regulation of GMO handling makes it impossible to effectively control the circulation of GMO products and creates conditions for the illegal use of unregistered GMO products. Thus, state regulation in the field of GMO handling should be revised, modernized and brought in line with EU legislation,” an explanatory note to the document reads.

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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