

European Commission will insist on granting Ukraine status of candidate for EU membership

The European Commission will insist on granting Ukraine the status of a candidate member of the EU, the final decision rests with the European Council, Politico "The European Commission will recommend granting Ukraine formal EU candidate status, according several officials familiar with discussions that took place during a debate among commission members on Monday," the statement said on Tuesday niaht. The debate in the College of Commissioners followed a visit on Saturday by Commission President Ursula von der discussed Leyen to Kyiv, where she Ukraine's membership bid with President Volodymyr Zelensky. Zelenskiy and other Ukrainian officials have pushed for formal recognition an EU candidate the appointment would provide an invaluable saying morale boost during the war. "They repeatedly noted that after the 2013-2014 Maidan revolution, the citizens of risked their lives - and indeed, Ukraine repeatedly thousands have now died - fighting for a free, democratic future in the EU," the publication stressed. "The Commission does not forget that Ukraine is the only country in Europe where people died, where people were shot because they were on the streets with EU flags. Now we cannot tell them: "Sorry guys, you were waving the wrong flag", - quotes his source Politico.

It is noted that supporters of Ukraine's bid said that any delay in granting candidate status would be deeply demoralizing for Ukraine, as invading Russian troops temporarily occupy large swaths of the south and east of the country and seek to capture the entire eastern region of Donbass.

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23 June 2022



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President Zelensky: Keeping Ukraine outside EU works against Europe

President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky believes that keeping Ukraine outside the EU, European unification works against Europe.

"The final stage of a large diplomatic marathon has begun, which should end in a week and a half. And we are in this marathon together with the European Union, on the same team," he said in a traditional video message on Saturday evening.

According to Zelensky, "we will soon receive an answer about the status of a candidate for EU membership."



"I am convinced that this decision can strengthen not only our state, but the entire European Union. What else needs to happen in Europe to make it clear to skeptics that the very fact of keeping Ukraine outside the EU, European unification works against Europe?" he said.

For example, the president noted, "everything is obvious to the Russian occupiers, they say so when they mock our people, this is supposedly because Ukraine went to Europe. Where are the skeptics in Europe then?"

World Bank will allocate additional financing for Ukraine in amount of \$1.49 bln

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has approved additional funding for Ukraine in the amount of \$1.49 billion as part of the Public Expenditure Support for Sustainable Governance in Ukraine project, the bank said on its website on Wednesday night.



"The funds from this project will be used to pay the salaries of civil servants and teachers," the release notes.

According to him, the project received financial guarantees from the UK, the Netherlands, Lithuania and Latvia; parallel funding from Italy and expected future guarantees including Denmark.

The project is also co-financed by contributions to a new multi-donor trust fund (MDTF) from several countries, including Switzerland.

"The World Bank Group continues to take swift action to support Ukraine and its people during the war that is destroying the country," World Bank Group President David Malpass was quoted as saying.

According to him, the World Bank is working with donor partners to mobilize the necessary financial support and using the flexibility of various existing financial instruments to help provide Ukrainians with continuous access to medical services, education and social protection.



Ukraine working on trade liberalization with Canada, Australia, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein

The Ukrainian delegation during the WTO ministerial conference held about two dozen bilateral talks on possible trade liberalization and removal of existing barriers, in particular, in trade in agricultural products, Deputy Economy Minister – Trade Representative of Ukraine Taras Kachka said.

"The main conclusion is that the world believes in Ukraine and is ready to open markets for Ukrainian products. This means that the world believes in our victory over the aggressor," he wrote on Facebook after the conference.

Kachka also said that Ukraine has sent a request to the European Free Trade Association (Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein) to update the free trade agreement, and it will be considered next week within the framework of the EFTA institute.

According to the trade representative, he discussed further steps to liberalize trade, having carried out preparatory work right at the conference, with Canadian Minister of International Trade Mary Ng.



Kachka added that he agreed with the Minister of Trade of Australia in a few days after the conference to discuss in detail the possibilities of liberalizing bilateral trade (GSP and FTA). The Ukrainian trade representative also said that he had discussed the conclusion of an agreement on digital trade with UK Secretary for International Trade Anne-Marie Trevelyan.

"The same issue – trade liberalization and digital trade – were relevant in a conversation with the Minister of Trade of Singapore. Singapore is ready to become a hub for trade in Ukrainian products in Asia," Kachka added.

Elon Musk's Starlink receives operator license in Ukraine

Starlink Ukraine (Starlink Ukraine) received an operator license.

"The company has just been entered in the Register of providers of electronic communication networks and services at number 1. The representative office of SpaceX will soon begin active work in Ukraine," Deputy Prime Minister – Minister of Digital Transformation Mikhail Fedorov wrote in the Telegram channel.

According to the State Register of Individuals and Legal Entities-Entrepreneurs, Starlink Ukraine LLC was registered on April 27, 2022 in Kyiv. Its leader is Elena Kandia.

The founder of the Ukrainian company is Starlink Holdings Netherlands B.V. (USA), the ultimate beneficial owner is Elon Musk.

The authorized capital of Starlink Ukraine LLC is UAH 50.

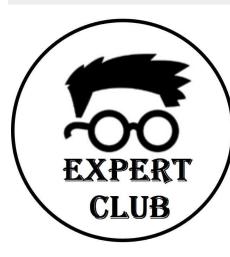


No significant risk of monkeypox spread in Ukraine – expert

There is no significant risk of monkeypox spreading in Ukraine, the disease does not threaten Ukraine with a large-scale epidemic, Doctor of Medicine Dmytro Ivanov has said.

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"Perhaps in the future, the incidence of monkeypox will gain momentum, but today it is more of a hype than a medical problem," the expert said on the Expert Club YouTube channel.



At the same time, Ivanov said that at present, identifying cases during the incubation period is almost impossible due to the lack of test systems and mechanisms for screening and examining people who come to Ukraine.

At the same time, the expert said that Ukrainian infectious disease specialists are "fundamentally ready for the emergence of this infection and will be ready to diagnose the disease."

"If we are talking about monkeypox as a natural pathogen, then it should not give mass distribution and present some kind of medical problem," he said. As reported, according to WHO, since the beginning of 2022, more than 1,600 cases of monkeypox have been recorded in the world in 39 countries, of which 72 have been fatal. In Europe, the largest number of cases occurs in the UK, Spain, Portugal, Germany and the Netherlands.

Medical group Adonis resumes work of medical center in Bucha

The medical group of companies Adonis has resumed the work of a medical center in Bucha (Kyiv region), which was closed due to the occupation.



"In early June, we resumed the work of the medical center in Bucha, which was opened on February 21, but because of the occupation it worked for only three days. Life goes on, so we are reopening our clinics," said Vitaly Girin, development director of the ADONIS medical group.

He said that a therapist, a rehabilitation therapist, and other specialists are open in the Buchansk clinic, ultrasound diagnostics rooms, a manipulation room, a point for collecting material for PCR testing and their own laboratory are working.

Adonis is a network of private medical centers for adults and children founded over 20 years ago. It includes 12 branches in Kyiv and the region, including two own maternity hospitals and a stem cell laboratory.

In the branches of the clinic, doctors receive patients in 66 medical areas.



Largest Ukrainian mining holding Metinvest climbs to 42nd place among global steel producers in 2021

Metinvest, the largest Ukrainian mining and metallurgical holding, ranked 42nd in the list of the world's top steel-producing companies in 2021 with a volume of 11.48 million tonnes compared to 45th place in 2020, when it produced 10.16 million tonnes.

According to the annual publication from the World Steel Association (Worldsteel), China Baowu Group became the largest steel company at the end of last year with 119.95 million tonnes (in 2020 it was 115.29 million tonnes), Arcelor Mittal with 79.26 million tonnes (in 2020 – 78.46 million tonnes) is in second place.

They are followed by Ansteel Group with 55.65 million tonnes, Nippon Steel with 49.46 million tonnes (41.58 million tonnes) and Shagang Group with 44.23 million tonnes (41.59 million tonnes).

There are no Ukrainian companies in the list of the 50 top steel-producing companies at the end of 2021, as well as at the end of 2014-2020, except for Metinvest.

Among Russian companies, NLMK was 21st with 17.29 million tonnes (at the end of 2020 it was in 22nd place with 15.75 million tonnes), Magnitogorsk Iron and Steel Works was 32nd with 13.59 million tonnes (37th with 11.57 million tonnes), Evraz group was in 34th place with 13.57 million tonnes (30th place with 13.63 million tonnes), Severstal was 40th with 11.65 million tonnes (40th place with 11.31 million tonnes).

According to Worldsteel, Ukraine produced 21.4 million tonnes of steel in 2021 and was 14th among major steel-producing countries (in 2020 it was 12th place with 20.6 million tonnes), the volume of pig iron production amounted to 21.2 million tonnes (20. 4 million tonnes), while last year the country exported 3.2 million tonnes (3.1 million tonnes) of pig iron, the apparent consumption of pig iron in Ukraine amounted to 17.9 million tonnes (17.3 million tonnes). Apparent steel use in Ukraine in 2021 amounted to 4.8 million tonnes (4.6 million tonnes in 2020), while use per capita reached 110.3 kg (in 2020 it was 105.2 kg per capita).

On average, in the world in 2021, the apparent use of steel amounted to 232.8 kg per capita. (229 kg per capita), the best indicators are in South Korea 1075.6 kg per capita. (955 kg per capita), Taiwan 885.6 kgper capita (789 kg per capita), Czech Republic 775.5 kg per capita. (624.3 kg per capita), China 666.5 kg per capita. (699.2 kg per capita), Japan 456.2 kg per capita. (416.1 kg per capita) and Austria 516.9 kg per capita. (405.2 kg per capita). In the ranking of net importers in 2021, the leaders are the EU (27) with 22 million tonnes, the United States with 21.4 million tonnes and Thailand with 13.7 million tonnes.

President Zelensky called on top managers of international companies to create jobs in Ukraine

President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky called on leading managers of international companies to create jobs in Ukraine.

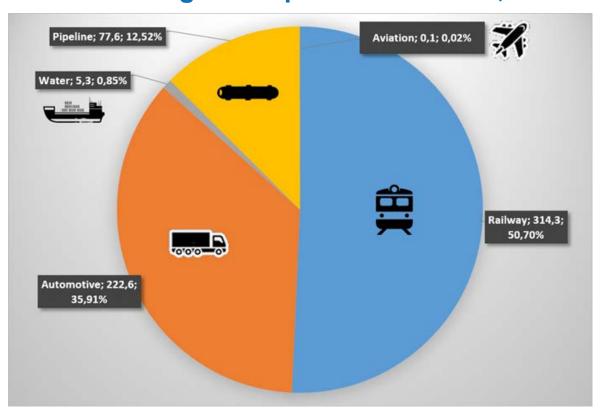
"I would very much like, as the President of Ukraine, that your companies consider the possibility of entering and finding their place in the Ukrainian economy. For us, these are, first of all, jobs. You understand that these are big challenges for 12 million people who have lost because of this bloody war of their homes, they left them, lost their jobs, their children lost schools, and Ukraine lost subjects that create a state, who are real citizens, pay taxes, etc.," Zelensky said, speaking to attendees at the Yale SEO Summit on Wednesday.

"Jobs are very important. The jobs that companies like yours can offer by investing in our economy. This is an important step," he added.

According to the head of state, it is also important that international companies invest in opening their offices in Ukraine.

"So that you find for yourself those layers of business that you are ready to find: from digitalization to energy. We are ready to talk about everything. But we are not ready to create a minimum tax system. You must understand us: we are talking about the restoration of Ukraine, which means that we should do it on finances. Comfortable conditions – yes, transparent conditions – yes, quick management regarding the start of your business in Ukraine – yes. This is support when all this is beneficial for both you and us," the president said.

Volumes of cargo transportation in 2021, mln tons



Demand for electric vehicles in Ukraine jumped 7 times

Interest in electric vehicles in Ukraine in May (according to users' responses to announcements) against the backdrop of a shortage of gasoline and diesel grew 7 times compared to May last year, for electric scooters and gyro scooters – three times, for the purchase of electric scooters – 4.7 times, according to the press service of the online service OLX. "In April, Ukrainians faced a shortage of gasoline and diesel, and since then they have been increasingly asking for "green" modes of transport," the company said in a press release on Monday.

The supply also increased – if at the end of April sellers offered 226 electric cars and 114 hybrids, then in May the number of such ads increased by almost 3.6 and 4.7 times, respectively.

According to the response to one ad in May, Ukrainians were most interested in Opel – almost 11 potential buyers per electric car, Renault and Nissan received an average of eight responses.

A jump in demand, according to OLX Auto, for motorcycles, scooters and scooters was noted from May 23 to May 29, and the most interested in offers were in Kyiv, Odessa and Lviv regions.

At the same time, 127.6 thousand times responded to advertisements for the sale of an electric scooter or gyro scooter in May (4.7 times more than for electric scooters and 46.5 times for electric motorcycles), the leader in demand is the Kyiv region, followed by Lviv and Odessa.

Earlier, the association "Ukravtoprom" in its telegram channel reported that in May, against the backdrop of the fuel crisis, the Ukrainian fleet of electric vehicles (passenger cars and commercial vehicles) grew by 63% by May 2021 – up to 1016 cars (the best figure since the beginning of the year), with the share of new ones rose to 28% against 11% in May last year.

Of the registered 984 units. new passenger electric cars amounted to 287 units. – 67% more than in May last year, and among 32 units. there were no commercial new ones.

In total, in January-May, 3,090 electric vehicles were registered in Ukraine for the first time, which is 2.5% more than a year earlier (the share of new ones is 20%), and Nissan Leaf remains the most popular (567 cars).

TESLA Model 3 is in second place (263 units), Volkswagen e-Golf is third (156 units).

The RENAULT Kangoo Z.E remains the market leader in commercial electric vehicles. – 77 registrations.

Ukraine significantly expands list of critical import services

Services of intermediaries in wholesale trade, legal services, audit and tax consulting, services in the field of intellectual property rights, engineering, architectural and engineering services, services for the formation of documents and reporting and consulting services, services for certification of products are included in the list of critical import.

The corresponding resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 673 of June 7 is published on its website.

According to him, this list also added, in particular, such services as repair of car interiors, locomotives and wagons, subscriptions to Internet platforms and other access to programs, as well as other information services, drug development services.

In addition, the list includes postal services, as well as a number of services in the field of IT and logistics.

The government also partially corrected and expanded the list of critical imports. In particular, it included bees, bumblebees, milk cheese, butter, fresh tomatoes, pasta, and a number of gluten-free products.

The updated list was replenished with refractory clay, marble, lime flux, deodorants, Portland cement, plasticine, windows, balcony doors, scrap metal and tram cars.

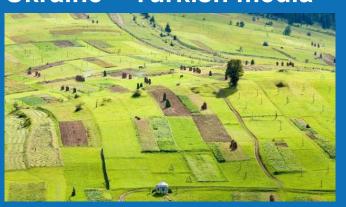
As reported, the list of critical imports introduced since the beginning of the war, according to the NBU, after numerous expansions, today covers about 90% of all pre-war imports of goods and about 40% of imports of services.

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Turkey plans to lease land for agriculture from other countries, including Ukraine – Turkish media



Turkey plans to lease land from other countries for crop production, which will help the country overcome the food crisis caused by Russian aggression against Ukraine and the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Turkey is considering leasing agricultural land in 10 countries, including Ukraine, Latin America and Africa, Turkish Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Vahit Kirişci told Türkiye.

"Part of the negotiations with 10 countries, including Ukraine and some countries of Latin America and Africa, ended with an agreement, and contacts with some of them continue. Agricultural products that cannot be produced in Turkey for climatic reasons will be grown on the leased lands or the production of which is insufficient," the publication said.

It is specified that Turkish private business will also be involved in projects on leased lands. For example, in Sudan, Turkey will grow pineapples, mangoes, avocados, rapeseed, sunflowers, corn, cotton, sesame, sugarcane and alfalfa, the production of which is insufficient in Turkey.

Türkiye specifies that the leased areas will focus on the cultivation of plants that can be used in the production of animal feed. In addition, it is planned to establish the production of wheat there, which will be processed in Turkey and then exported in the form of biscuits, pasta and bulgur.

"We want to bring modern agriculture there. We want to produce in untouched agricultural areas. There are very serious untouched areas, especially in southern Africa. We are able to grow plants in these regions," the Turkish minister was quoted as saying.

Has Bitcoin reached bottom and when to expect growth – expert opinion

Yesterday, Bitcoin once again came close to the critical level of \$20,000 per 1 BTC. Even the record-breaking increase in the interest rate of the Fed did not save the main cryptocurrency from falling. However, it could not save, since cryptocurrencies are a fairly young investment asset, which has not yet been affected by transition periods and changing phases of economic growth.

The crypto market continues to develop according to its own rules, remaining a speculative product, the high volatility of which attracts a large number of traders who are ready to take risks for the sake of quick earnings. Most often, such traders massively buy cryptocurrency during the growth phase and start to get rid of it just as massively when the market falls, which stimulates a further collapse.

But this time the situation is somewhat different. Many analysts are talking about the beginning of the "darkest time for crypto" in its entire history. The traditional opponents of bitcoin have also revived. Thus, the famous financier Warren Buffett recently stated:

"If I were now offered to buy bitcoins at \$25, I would not take them. What should I do with them then? I would have to sell them back to you later. This is a dead end."

The Open4business publication turned to Igor Stakovichenko, an expert in economics and finance, with a request to comment on the situation in the cryptocurrency market. According to the economist, the problem of the lack of a real resource and production base for digital assets has become especially acute in recent months. This is due to the fact that Russian aggression in Ukraine disrupted supply chains and led to higher prices for real sector products in the global economy.

"The fall in the capitalization of the largest companies and the crisis in the stock market naturally led to the collapse of the cryptocurrency market, as many investors considered this asset too risky," Igor Stakovichenko notes.



Stakovichenko stressed that in the current situation, the fall of the bitcoin market below 22,000 launched a new, even deeper "bearish phase" of the cycle, as it greatly shook the position of long-term holders of the asset. The long-term holders, who had held their positions during the last drops, could not stand it and started dumping the cue ball at the lowest prices.

"This shook the whole structure, and both technical and macroeconomic indicators today indicate a possible fall of the main cryptocurrency to 16,000 or even lower," the expert said.

However, according to Stakovichenko, it is still too early to bury bitcoin, as "whales" (investors owning more than 10,000 BTC) still continue to accumulate this digital currency, which may indicate the possibility of growth in the medium and long term.

Ukraine in current season will collect approximately 65 million tons of crops

Grain harvest in Ukraine in 2022 will be approximately 65 million tons, including up to 50 million tons of grains and 15-15.3 million tons of oilseeds, which is less than the record previous year, but comparable to the harvests harvested in the country in the current decade.

"Maybe about 48-50 million tons of grain in total. Of course, this is less than in previous years, when we are used to 60-75-85 million tons, but if we take a ten-year history, when we had 40-45 million, then this is not critical," First Deputy Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food Taras Vysotsky said on the air of the national UA-marathon.

He specified that this season's corn harvest is expected to be about 24 million tons, 18-20 million tons of wheat, and about 5 million tons of barley.

According to Vysotsky, it is also expected to produce about 10 million tons of sunflower, 2.5-2.8 million tons of soybeans and about 2.5 million tons of winter rapeseed. "These are average indicators, looking at the average statistical indicators of previous years, and we will correct them upon the fact of harvesting," the deputy minister specified.

As reported, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), in a report published last week for June, raised its forecast for Ukrainian corn crop this year by 5 million tons compared to a month ago forecast – up to 25 million tons, while maintaining export estimates at 9 million tons. In early June, the Ukrainian Grain Association (UGA) increased the forecast for grain and oilseeds harvest in Ukraine this season by 5.2% compared to the April forecast of 63 million tons – up to 66.5 million tons.

According to UGA forecasts, in 2022, a wheat harvest is expected at the level of 19.2 million tons (+5.2% compared to the April forecast of the organization); 26.1 million tons of corn (+13%); 6.6 million tons of barley (+6%); 9 million tons of sunflower (-8.8%); 2.1 million tons of soybeans (+16.6%); 1.5 million tons of rapeseed (forecast kept).

U.S. Department of Agriculture improves estimate of corn harvest in Ukraine

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in its report for June published on Friday increased the forecast for Ukrainian corn crop for trade year (TY) 2022/23 by 5 million tonnes compared to the forecast a month ago, to 25 million tonnes, while keeping the export estimate at the level of 9 million tonnes.

U.S. experts increased the forecast for carryovers for 2022/23 TY by 4 million tonnes, to 12.07 million tonnes compared to 6.77 million tonnes for 2021/22 TY.

In addition, USDA raised the estimate of domestic consumption in 2022/23 TY by 1.5 million tonnes, to 10.7 million tonnes.

According to the report, in general, the forecast for the feed grain harvest in Ukraine for 2022/23 TY has been increased by 5.2 million tonnes, to 31.76 million tonnes, although at the same time, the export estimate has been reduced by 0.2 million tonnes, to 10.83 million tonnes.

U.S. experts have increased the forecast of feed grain carryovers following the results of 2022/23 TY by 3.9 million tonnes, to 13.06 million tonnes compared to 7.77 million tonnes at its beginning.

In addition, USDA raised the estimate of domestic consumption of feed grains in 2022/23 TY by 1.5 million tonnes, to 15.65 million tonnes.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recalled that in 2020/21 TY, the wheat harvest in Ukraine amounted to 25.42 million tonnes, and exports reached 16.85 million tonnes. According to its estimates, in 2021/22 TY, with a crop that has grown to 33.01 million tonnes, exports will increase to 19 million tonnes, and carryovers – from 1.51 to 5.61 million tonnes. In addition, U.S. experts expect domestic wheat consumption in Ukraine to grow to 10 million tonnes in 2021/22 TY from 8.7 million tonnes in the previous TY due to livestock.

Largest chicken producer in Ukraine MHP received a \$122 million net loss in first quarter

Agroholding MHP, the largest chicken producer in Ukraine, in the first quarter of 2022 received a net loss of \$122 million against \$1 million of net profit in January-March 2021, and its EBITDA fell by 16% to \$53 million, according to the group's report on the London Stock Exchange.

"Since February 24, 2022, the group has suffered losses due to the war in Ukraine following the Russian invasion. War-related expenses for the first three months of 2022 amounted to \$25 million, of which 53% were donations to support the community, write-offs of reserves and biological assets – 33%, other expenses related to the war – 14%," the report of the agrarian group says.

According to the agricultural holding, most of the net loss received in the first quarter of this year was due to changes in the exchange rate. The loss from the operating activities of the group of companies in January-March amounted to \$27 million, while the loss on the exchange rate was \$95 million.

MHP's revenue for the reporting period increased by 24% compared to January-March 2021 to \$553 million, its growth was driven by strong operating and financial performance in the pre-war period in January and February 2022, the document says.



Ukraine may need mobile grain storage due to expected shortage of storage capacity

Ukraine would be grateful to Germany for assistance in unblocking the export of agricultural products and organizing mobile grain storage facilities due to the expected shortage of storage capacity this autumn, Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said at a meeting with Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture of Germany Chem Ozdemir.



"According to preliminary estimates, in October we may not have enough storage facilities to store crops for 10-15 million tons. The Ministry of Agrarian Policy is considering the possibility of organizing mobile storage facilities," he wrote in a telegram on Saturday.

Shmyhal stressed that Russia is deliberately destroying agricultural facilities, such as Ukraine's second largest grain terminal in Nikolaev a few days ago.

In early June, the Ukrainian Grain Association (UGA) increased the forecast for grain and oilseeds harvest in Ukraine this season by 5.2% compared to the April forecast – up to 66.5 million tons.

Ukraine exports 1.74 mln tonnes of grains and oilseeds in May

Ukraine in May 2022 exported 1.74 million tonnes of grains and oilseeds, as well as agricultural products, by all means of transport, which is 1.8 times more than in April, according to the website of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food.

"In May, compared to April 2022, there was a reorientation of export channels: 798,800 tonnes and 22,100 tonnes, respectively, were exported by water transport (river ports and ferry crossings), which made the river ports of Ukraine the main export gates," said the department.

According to the report, in May, 959,350 tonnes of corn (more by 60% compared to April), 43,500 tonnes (an increase of 4.7 times), 11,600 tonnes of barley (less by 2%), 341,800 tonnes of sunflower seeds (an increase of 3.3 times), 66,620 tonnes of soybeans (more by 17%), and 101,000 tonnes of meal (an increase of 2.6 times) were shipped to foreign markets.



In addition, 202,650 tonnes of sunflower oil (more by 56% compared to April this year) and 16,080 tonnes of soybean oil were delivered to buyers abroad in May, which approximately corresponds to the April figures of 16,380 tonnes.

Due to the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine and the blockade of its export infrastructure in the Black Sea, the pace of exports of agricultural products is still inferior to the same period in 2021. So, in May 2021, some 2.24 million tonnes of corn, 857,800 tonnes of wheat, 22,000 tonnes of barley, 189,600 tonnes of sunflower seeds, 501,800 tonnes of sunflower oil, 36,180 tonnes of soybeans, 20,600 tonnes of soybean oil and 440,000 tonnes of meal were exported.

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