



UKRAINE
OPEN FOR BUSINESS

PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE SIGNED LAWS ON PREFERENTIAL IMPORTS OF GENERATORS AND STARLINKS



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has signed laws No. 8196/8197 on assistance in restoring Ukraine's energy infrastructure, which, in particular, cancel VAT and customs duties on imports of generators and other power equipment, as well as Starlink satellite systems for the period until May 2023.

As it was reported, the Verkhovna Rada passed the bills № 8196/8197 in the second reading on December 13.

The bills also exempt from VAT and duties on importation of equipment within the framework of technical assistance, mail and express consignments, and provide the opportunity to store fuel without a license in the amount of up to 2,000 liters, and more than this volume on the conditions of notification to the tax authorities on the declarative principle.

HEADLINES

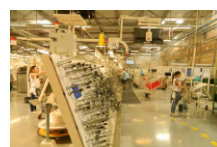
04 January 2023



UKRAINE-EU SUMMIT TO
TAKE PLACE ON
FEBRUARY 3, 2023



UKRAINE IN 2023 TO
OPEN 10 NEW
EMBASSIES IN
AFRICAN COUNTRIES



WORLD LEADER IN
FURNITURE MANUFACTURING
AND RENTAL BEGINS
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UKRAINE



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UKRAINE EXPORTED
OVER 7 MILLION TONS OF
AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTS IN
DECEMBER



STATE OF WINTER CROPS
IN UKRAINE THIS YEAR IS
BETTER THAN LAST YEAR
– MINISTRY

UKRAINE-EU SUMMIT TO TAKE PLACE ON FEBRUARY 3, 2023

Ukraine-EU summit will take place on February 3, 2023 in Brussels.

Barend Leites, spokesman for European Council President Charles Michel, told the Interfax-Ukraine news agency in Brussels on Thursday.

"I can confirm that the Ukraine-EU summit will take place on February 3, there is an open invitation to President Zelensky to visit Brussels," he said.



VLADIMIR ZELENSKY THANKED BIDEN FOR HIS SUPPORT OF UKRAINE

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky thanked his American counterpart Joseph Biden for the support of the Ukrainian people.

"Joseph Biden, thank you for the support of our people!" he wrote in his telegram channel.

“ According to the Ukrainian commander-in-chief, “this visit is carried out on the eve of the new year, which can be extremely important for Ukraine.”

"I'm sure that together we can achieve significant results," Zelensky stressed.

As reported, Biden and First Lady Jill Biden welcomed the president of Ukraine to the White House on the South Lawn. Biden said that the American people, both Democrats and Republicans, were proud to support Ukrainians.

BIDEN TO ANNOUNCE NEW \$2 BLN AID PACKAGE FOR UKRAINE

U.S. President Joe Biden will announce about \$2 billion in aid to Ukraine on Wednesday, the White House said.

"President Biden will announce a significant new aid package to Ukraine of approximately \$2 billion," the White House said in a statement.

As part of the package, the U.S. will reportedly provide Ukraine with a battery of Patriot SAMs, "which will be an important asset to protect the Ukrainian people from barbaric Russian attacks on Ukraine's critical infrastructure."

"We will train the Ukrainian military on how to operate a Patriot missile battery in a third country. It will take some time, but the Ukrainian military will return after training to their own country to operate that battery," a senior White House official stressed.

The U.S. will also continue to prioritize other forms of air defense support, including NASAMS, HAWKS, Stingers, and anti-drone equipment.

In addition, the official said the visit will also be an opportunity to note work with Congress to pass a significant supplemental funding package for Ukraine for 2023.

"And we expect a bipartisan package of more than \$40 billion in funding for Ukraine," he said.

Zelensky said earlier that he had traveled to the United States to strengthen Ukraine's resilience and defense capabilities. "In particular, with Joe Biden will discuss cooperation between Ukraine and the United States. I will also speak in Congress and hold a number of bilateral meetings," he wrote on Twitter.

This is the first visit of the President of Ukraine abroad since the beginning of the full-scale invasion of Russia.

For its part, Politico reported on Wednesday, citing sources, that the Ukrainian delegation during the visit to the USA will ask for ATACMS missiles, as well as drones Gray Eagle and Reaper.

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Happy New Year and Merry Christmas to our readers!

Happy winter holidays and good luck throughout the coming year.

May this year be better than the previous one, make dreams come true and succeed in future endeavors.

Let not only on these holidays, but also throughout the coming year, close and dear people will be near.

I wish you peace, confidence and happiness!

Thank you for staying with us

Editor Maksim Urakin

WORLD BANK CREATES TRUST FUND TO SUPPORT UKRAINE

The World Bank (WB) has set up a multilateral trust fund to support the Ukrainian government, the WB said in a statement.

The fund has attracted \$250 million in seed financing.

“The Ukraine Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reform Trust Fund (URTF), which will be managed by the WB, will provide a coordinated mechanism for financing and supporting government activities,” the WB said in a press release.

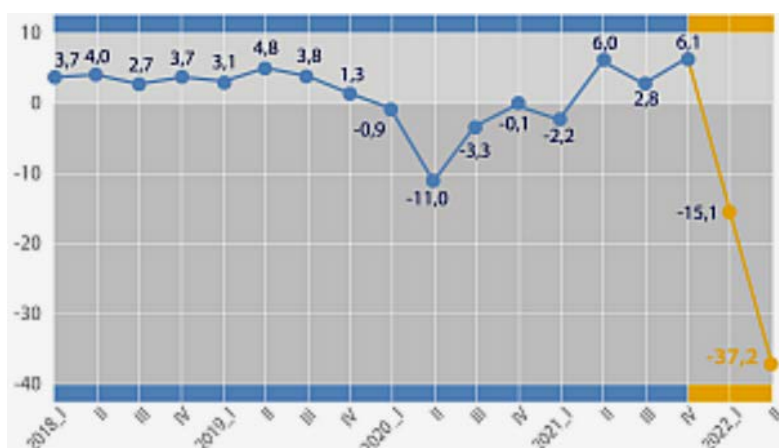
“ According to the Swiss government’s commitments to the founding contribution and contributions from the governments of Austria, Iceland, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, the initial total amount of the fund is \$250 million.

Canada and Japan have also pledged to support the URTF. Other partners are expected to join, the report said.

As the bank notes, due to the uncertainty of the situation in Ukraine, Kiev’s partners have to take a long-term approach to supporting the government’s efforts. Therefore, the fund has the structure of a flexible platform, which will provide the ability to respond quickly to changing circumstances and the needs of the country in the first 10 years of its operation.

The WB recalls that to date it has mobilized \$18 billion in emergency financing for Ukraine, taking into account donor commitments, of which more than \$13 billion has already been disbursed. The largest donor is the United States.

REAL GDP PERCENTAGE CHANGES OVER PREVIOUS PERIOD IN 2018-2022



INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND APPROVES 4-MONTH PROGRAM FOR UKRAINE

The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), following the discussion of Program Monitoring with Board involvement (PMB) for Ukraine, previously approved at the IMF management, declares that this four-month program is designed to help Ukraine maintain stability and catalyze donor financing amid very large balance of payment needs and exceptionally high risks.

"The PMB is tailored to Ukraine's exceptional circumstances, to help the authorities implement prudent macroeconomic policies during this particularly difficult period and catalyze donor financing. Large and predictable external financial support will be critical for the success of the authorities' strategy, and frontloaded disbursements would help address strains in early 2023," IMF First Deputy Managing Director and Acting Chair Ms. Gita Gopinath said.

“*Key measures under the PMB include enhancing revenue mobilization and reviving the domestic debt market, preparing a financial sector strategy, and enhancing transparency and governance,” the fund said.*



"Notwithstanding all these strains, the authorities have largely managed to maintain macroeconomic and financial stability, and they are committed to continue adapting policies to fast changing circumstances, including in the case of a severe downside scenario. Balance of payment needs remain very large and risks are exceedingly high," Gita Gopinath stated.

NETHERLANDS TO ALLOCATE EUR2.5 BLN TO UKRAINE

President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky said that the Netherlands decided to allocate EUR2.5 billion as aid to Ukraine.

"Had an important conversation with Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte. Thanked him for the decision to allocate 2.5 billion euros to help Ukraine fight the aggressor," Zelensky wrote in Telegram on Friday.

"We appreciate the support of the Netherlands! And further work together to strengthen defense capabilities, energy sustainability, the restoration of critical infrastructure," the head of state added.



UKRAINE IN 2023 TO OPEN 10 NEW EMBASSIES IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that ten African states where Ukraine will open new embassies next year have already been determined.

"We are resetting relations with dozens of African countries. Next year we have to strengthen it. Ten states where new Ukrainian embassies in Africa will be opened have already been determined. We have also developed the concept of the Ukraine-Africa Trading House with the opening of its representative offices in the capitals of the continent's most promising countries," Zelensky said at the Ukrainian ambassadors' conference "War and New Horizons in the World" on Friday.



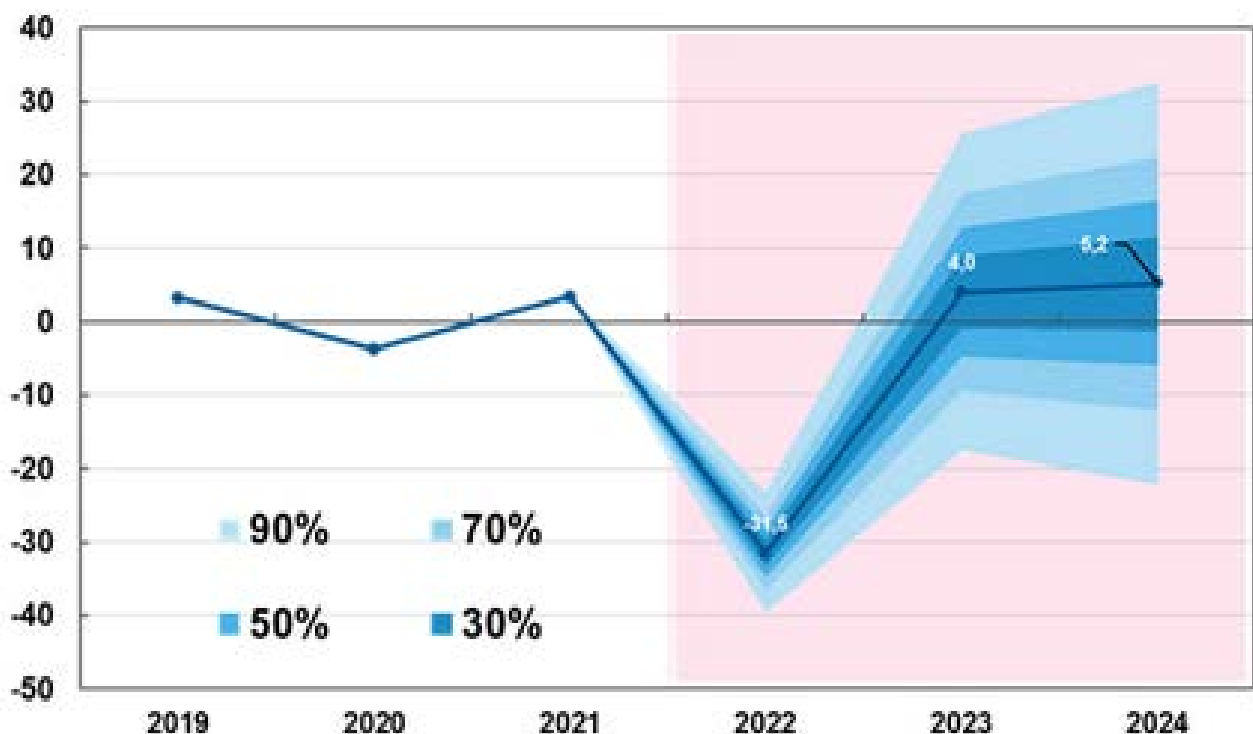
The President stressed that "in addition to the existing representation of Ukraine in ten countries in Africa, together with new embassies and trading houses, it is necessary to achieve representation in thirty countries of the African continent."

At the same time, the head of state noted that global growth is impossible without relations with other parts of the Global South as well.

"Latin America, India, other Asian countries, including China and Southeast Asia, the entire Indian and Pacific island region. Ukraine must find a format for its leadership in strategic processes in each of these regions, and the role of Ukraine's diplomatic corps will be decisive," Zelensky said.



FORECAST OF DYNAMICS OF CHANGES IN GDP IN % FOR 2022-2024 IN RELATION TO PREVIOUS PERIOD



PROFIT OF UKRAINIAN BANKS IN JANUARY-NOVEMBER 2022 AMOUNTED TO ALMOST 20 BILLION UAH

The profit of Ukrainian banks in January-November 2022 amounted to UAH 19.429 billion, which is 3.4 times less than in the same period of 2021 (UAH 65.728 billion), the press service of the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) said. According to the report, the profit of Ukrainian banks in November amounted to UAH 8.451 billion, which is 2.3 times more than a month earlier (UAH 3.6 billion).

The regulator noted that the income of banks in November increased by 12.2%, while expenses increased by 9.7%.



According to the regulator, the income of banks in January-November increased by 32% against the same period last year – up to 322 billion UAH.

At the same time fee and commission income for 11 months decreased by 8.4% – to UAH 76.46 billion (while during the same period last year it increased by 32.6%).

At that the result from revaluation and from sale-purchase operations was positive and made UAH 42.3 billion, while it was negative and amounted to UAH 2.7 billion for the same period last year.

At the same time expenses of banking system for January-November 2022 increased by 1.7 times compared with this index in 2021 – up to UAH 302.6 billion, including deductions to reserves – 13.6 times, up to UAH 113 billion. At the same time, the commission expenses increased by 1.6% up to UAH 31.99 billion,

As reported, the Ukrainian banks in 2021 doubled the net profit – up to 77.5 billion UAH, compared with 41.3 billion UAH in 2020.

FERREXPO RESTARTS ONE PELLET PRODUCTION LINE

Mining company Ferrexpo with assets in Ukraine, after suspending production since early October at its facilities in the Poltava region due to restrictions on electricity supply due to the shelling of the energy infrastructure by the Russian occupiers, is resuming operations of one pellet production line.



“After suspending its operations in October 2022, the group is now receiving enough electricity to restart one pellet production line. This will allow the group, along with its existing stockpiled products, to fulfill existing contracts with customers,” the company stated in a stock exchange statement Wednesday.



It explains that the company produced about 0.3 million tons of pellets in October-November as a result of disruptions and continued volatility in power supply in the fourth quarter of 2022. Overall pellet production in 2022 is expected to be about 5.9 to 6 million tons (down almost half by 2021 – IF-U).

“Despite the group’s production disruptions, shipments to customers in the fourth quarter of 2022 continued at about 250,000 tons per month,” the press release noted.

As reported, pellet production for the first nine months of 2022 was 5.637 million tons, down 31% from the same period last year.

Ferrexpo owns 100% of LLC “Yeristovsky GOK” and 99.9% of LLC “Belanovsky GOK”. Before the September 2022 court ruling, Ferrexpo also owned 100% of Poltava GOK PJSC.

RIBAS BEGAN CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HOTEL IN TRANSCARPATHIA

Hotel operator Ribas Hotels Group (Odessa) started construction of WOL.GREEN Polyana complex in Zakarpattia, Ribas Hotels Group founder Artur Lupashko said,

“We are implementing our new project WOL.GREEN Polyana together with the Arena Bud development company in Zakarpattia. Construction has already begun,” he said on Facebook.

WOL.GREEN Polyana – is a complex of 78 apartments with own SPA and swimming pool, co-working place, fitness-centre, equipped sportive zones in the open air.

Lupashko reminded that the format WOL home+hotel, realized by the operator, suppose the possibility of short-term and long-term rent. In this case investors are offered to become a co-owner of the complex, to buy an apartment, which will be managed by the company Ribas Hotels Group.

“We are constantly moving and developing our hotel industry and country in all conditions and we see that the Ukrainian investor is ready to invest in the future of our country”, – added Lupashko.



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AKHMETOV RECOGNIZED AGAIN AS RICHEST CITIZEN OF UKRAINE

Rinat Akhmetov, with a capital of \$4.4bn, has topped the rating of Ukraine's richest businessmen, the Forbes Ukraine website has reported.

According to the ranking, Akhmetov's fortune dropped from \$13.7bn to \$4.4bn in 2022. His largest assets are the Metinvest company and the DTEK group. Akhmetov's agricultural, energy and metallurgical businesses suffered from the war, in particular Azovstal and Ilyich Iron and Steel Works in Mariupol were lost.

“ The second and third place went to co-founders of the IT company Grammarly, Maxim Litvin and Oleksiy Shevchenko. The state of each decreased from \$4 to \$2,3 billion during the war.



Next in the ranking is Victor Pinchuk, whose fortune has decreased from \$2.6 billion to \$2.2 billion. His fortune is provided by his company Interpipe, real estate and cash, according to Forbes.

Konstantin Zhevago is at the bottom of the five richest people. His fortune dropped from \$2.1 billion to \$1.4 billion. His largest asset is the company Ferrexpo.

Also in the ranking are co-founders of the Epicenter K Group Alexander and Galina Geregi (\$1.2bn), co-owner of fintech startup Revolut Vlad Yatsenko (\$1.1bn), owner of Smart Holding Vadim Novinsky (\$1bn), Hennadiy Boholyubov (\$1bn) and Sergiy Tihpko (\$870m).

The publication specifies that Ihor Kolomoyskyy, who was fourth in the ranking of the richest businessmen last year, was not included in the list in 2022 due to his loss of Ukrainian citizenship.

UKRAINIAN PRIVATE CLINICS STILL OPERATING DURING BLACKOUT

Ukrainian private clinics find opportunities to continue working and provide medical services to the citizens of the country during the blackout, according to the results of a survey conducted by the Interfax-Ukraine agency. In turn, the Adonis medical group of companies reported that, in particular, their clinic in Sofiyivska Borschahivka in Kyiv operates during a power outage in the normal mode and receives patients according to the appointment schedule, and the maternity hospital accepts women around the clock. At the same time, planned and emergency hospitalization and emergency care continue.



ADONIS

медичинська група компаній

Adonis noted that the clinic has an autonomous power supply system, so there is light in each subsection 24/7, which allows the inpatient treatment of patients to continue even during power outages.

“At first, due to blackout, we urgently resolved a number of organizational issues, such as the delivery of technical and drinking water and the search for fuel for generators. But now the branch has large reserves and is ready for any challenges of the present. The clinic is equipped with everything necessary. Therefore, our patients are in comfortable conditions, have unlimited access to drinking water, and have the opportunity to charge gadgets,” the clinic said.

At the same time, the Adonis branch in Podil also operates 24/7, is provided with water, and in case of power outage, a generator runs. All types of services are provided there, such as consultations, diagnostics, laboratory tests, surgical interventions, a hospital and an ambulance work.

Adonis on Osokorky also operates as usual during power outage and accepts patients according to the schedule. At the same time, the cryobank and embryo laboratory located in the clinic are additionally provided with stable backup power sources, however, at present, ultrasound diagnostics do not work during power outages. Adonis noted that clinics are provided with generators and the needs of clinics are covered by 100%. In addition, there are separate power supplies for both the outpatient and operating rooms and the embryology laboratory. Surgical and inpatient medical care is provided in branches operating 24/7.

At the same time, Adonis noted that when dealing with energy supply issues, they “found themselves in a strange situation where the local residential community blocked the installation of additional power generators.” “We have found a compromise solution and are now at the stage of setting up a generator that will meet the needs of our patients, including surgical ones, by 100%. The clinic is equipped with everything necessary. Our patients are in comfortable conditions, have unlimited access to drinking water, and can charge gadgets. Heat is supplied centrally,” the company said.



The Leleka medical center reported that their center continues to operate from a generator to which all critical nodes are connected, so there is water, heat and light.

“We are provided with everything: both heat and water due to engineering system solutions, which was thought out during construction in 2015. We provide all medical services as usual. There are generators that allow us to continue working, conduct consultations, take tests, diagnose, and operate, provide resuscitation. Medical equipment is working, food is being prepared,” the clinic said.

The main problem with blackouts is the high cost of fuel for the generators. “It’s more expensive than electricity,” the medical center explained. “There are interruptions in mobile communications and the Internet during blackouts, which we cannot influence. But this does not affect the safety of patients, but simply adds certain service inconveniences,” the clinic said.

EXPORT OF GOODS IN JAN-SEP 2022 TO MOST IMPORTANT POSITIONS AND IN RELATION TO SAME PERIOD OF 2021



Cereal crops

▼ -20,7% (6 149,7 Million US\$)



Fats and oils of animal or vegetable origin

▼ -6,1% (4 295,0 Million US\$)



Black metals

▼ -61,6% (3 965,2 Million US\$)



Mineral fuels, petroleum and products of its distillation

▲ +38,3% (806,8 Million US\$)

SSC of Ukraine

IMPORT OF GOODS IN JAN-SEP 2022 IN MOST IMPORTANT POSITIONS AND IN RELATION TO SAME PERIOD IN 2021



Mineral fuels, petroleum and products of its distillation

▼ -2,7% (9 001,5 Million US\$)



Means of land transport other than rail

▼ -26,3% (3 845,6 Million US\$)



Electrical machines

▼ -26,7% (3 128,2 Million US\$)



Nuclear reactors, boilers, machines

▼ -47,6% (2 976,2 Million US\$)

WORLD LEADER IN FURNITURE MANUFACTURING AND RENTAL BEGINS PRODUCTION IN WESTERN UKRAINE

Home Essentials, a world leader in production and rental of furniture and interior items, is launching production of furniture and mattresses in Kremenets (Ternopil region), head of the Ternopil Region Investment Office Vladimir Vasilevsky told Interfax-Ukraine.

According to him, all registration activities have already been completed and a site has been chosen for the production location.

“*“Kremenets community received a powerful American investor – LLC “Home Essentials Ukraine”. The project enters the stage of implementation and begins to live its own life – hiring employees, importing production equipment and forming a circle of suppliers,” he said.*

According to Vasilevsky, already in the second quarter of 2023 the shipment of products will begin. In the first phase of the project creates 50-60 jobs, by the end of 2023, 300 jobs will be created.

“The investor is transferring part of the back office operational processes from the headquarters in Hong Kong to Ukraine and managers and creatives – logisticians, marketers, etc. – will be employed here,” he added.

Mr. Vasilevsky estimates that, by analogy with similar factories in Ukraine, the production in Kremenets will give a turnover of about \$12-15 million, “in the first months of work it is possible to export products at \$ 0.5-1 million per month,” – he said.

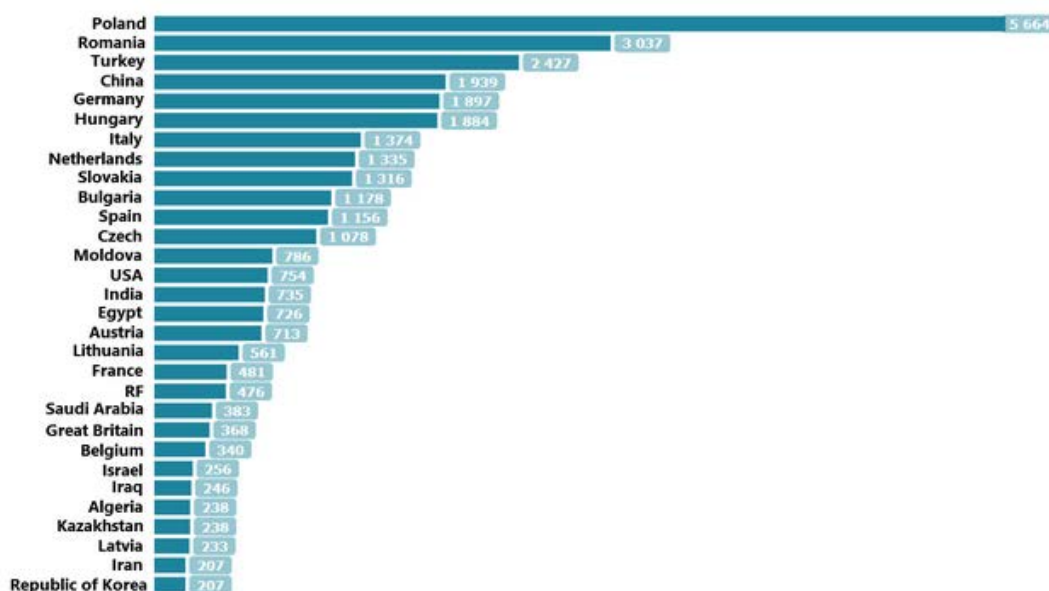
We are planning to start exporting to Spain, Portugal, Italy and France, and in the second quarter of 2023 to most of the EU countries.

Oksana Donska, a board member of the Ukrainian Association of Furniture Manufacturers (UAM) and coordinator of furniture cluster development, said in a comment for Interfax-Ukraine that this investor is an example of active interest of foreign companies to our market and interest of local authorities.

“I met a representative of Home Essentials at an international exhibition, where UAM represented the products of Ukrainian furniture makers. It was a happy accident for him. Next we met at the buzzer. I gave him an analysis of the domestic market, data on the specifics of exports, told him about the geographical location of production in Ukraine. In four months, the Ternopil Region Investment Office team was able to secure the entry of the American investor,” Donska said.

Home Essentials is a world leader in manufacturing and renting out furniture and interior furnishings.

EXPORT OF UKRAINE BY COUNTRIES IN JAN-OCT 2022



UKRAINIAN PRODUCERS RECEIVED RIGHT TO EXPORT POULTRY TO CANADA AND FISH PRODUCTS TO TURKEY

Ukrainian producers in December 2022 got the right to export poultry and poultry products to Canada and fish products to Turkey, the website of the State Service of Ukraine for Food Safety and Consumer Protection (Derzhspirodpotrebezopasluzhba) said on Wednesday.

According to her, the new markets for business are open thanks to the joint work of the department, the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and foreign embassies.

The relevant work to open the Canadian market for Ukrainian poultry meat and meat products began back in 2019, when representatives of the Canadian certification body CFIA conducted an inspection of the state production control system at Ukrainian enterprises. A list of Ukrainian companies that are now allowed to export poultry meat and poultry products to Canada has been added to the CFIA database, and requirements for importing meat products from Ukraine to Canada have been published on the organization's official web portal.

According to the Service, in December Ukraine also received the right to export fish products to Turkey for export. The form of the relevant certificate has already been posted on the official web portal of the State Service of Ukraine for the Protection of Consumer Rights.

UKRAINIAN PORK PROCESSORS ARE GOING TO EXPORT IT TO EU COUNTRIES

Some Ukrainian pork producers and processors plan to start exporting pork to EU next year as they study European regulations and prepare for unofficial audits on the compliance of their products with export requirements.

At the moment, four Ukrainian enterprises of the industry are interested in launching pork exports to Europe, according to the website of the Association of Ukrainian Pork Producers (ASU).



"We have been working with experts and the veterinary service to have "draft" questionnaires ready in advance for enterprises that want to check whether they meet the requirements of EU regulations. A number of processors interested in exporting pork have gone through these questionnaires to assess what they need to polish to prove their compliance with regulations," the organization quotes its president Oksana Yurchenko as saying.

According to ACU estimates, the European Union will be open to exports of Ukrainian pork for up to two years, and this is not a pessimistic scenario.

In turn, the industry is promoting the official approval of international certificates for the export of pork to Vietnam and Hong Kong, but so far it is not very relevant, because the sea routes are closed due to the aggression of Russia, and other logistics for producers financially unprofitable.



IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER, “CLUB OF EXPERTS” HELD THREE SCIENTIFIC SEMINARS ON VINTAGE BEVERAGES

During the last two months a series of scientific and practical seminars-tastings of vintage drinks of 20-80 years old were held on the basis of Analytical center “Club of experts” with the assistance of a public association “Ukrsadvindindprom” and Charity fund “Reconstruction and development of Ukraine”. Representatives of Ukrainian wine industry, retail, mass media and other experts took part in these seminars.

All in all, participants of the workshops got acquainted with more than 40 kinds of vintage alcohol, produced in Ukraine and European countries in the second half of the last century. The total age of the drinks exceeds 3000 years.

In particular, such famous Ukrainian collection brands, as “Massandra sherry” from the 1980s and “Black Doctor” from 2007 were presented at the conferences. Among the European alcoholic brands the participants distinguished a rare sherry brandy “Hispano” 1870 (!), another Spanish drink “Ponche Rives” 1978, vermouth “Marsala” 1950-ies and other drinks. All in all 15 different vintage drinks were evaluated by the participants.

According to the words of the expert-collector of vintage alcoholic drinks Igor Magalas, the cost of the majority of samples which were presented at the seminars does not exceed the prices of similar drinks on supermarket shelves. At the same time, the taste and eco-friendliness of vintage drinks are an order of magnitude superior to many modern brands.

“The thing is that the automation of alcohol production lines, which became widespread at the end of the last century, led to a natural decline in quality for the sake of quantity. More than once I faced situations when at closed tastings sommelier experts preferred lower class vintage alcohol produced in the 1960s-1970s to modern expensive brands bottled in the 2000s-2010s,” Magalyas noted.

According to the expert, the reason for this is not the number of years the drink has been in the bottle, but the technological process of production at the initial stages, which largely affects the bouquet and taste of any alcohol.

Maxim Urakin, the organizer of the series of seminars, in turn, expressed hope for the further development of the vintage drinks market in Ukraine and for promotion of the culture of their consumption in the new year 2023.

“We will continue the promotion of vintage alcohol in the Ukrainian market. In Europe this product has a wide consumer audience for a long time, while in our country it is still considered “elite” and unavailable, although in my opinion it is a delusion. Therefore, the main purpose of our seminars, to make vintage alcohol more accessible to Ukrainians” – he stressed.



The Club of Experts is Kiev analytical center, which is engaged in researches in the field of economics, sociology and other scientific disciplines. In particular, with the assistance of the Club of experts during the last year there were held several events for the promotion of the national winemaking products.

Public Union “Ukrsadvindindprom” was a partner of the seminar and tasting. “Ukrsadvindwinprom” unites about 200 producers of fruits, berries, nuts and grapes, enterprises that process fruits and berries and produce wine, as well as scientific institutions for implementation of new scientific approaches in production.

The “Reconstruction and Development of Ukraine” Charitable Foundation has been providing extensive volunteer support to the army and civilians since the war began. In particular, with the support of KNUSA Rector Petr Kulikov, the foundation donated a modern mobile hospital for the needs of the military.

STATE OF WINTER CROPS IN UKRAINE THIS YEAR IS BETTER THAN LAST YEAR – MINISTRY

As of December 2022, up to 65% of winter crops are in good to excellent condition, while the condition of the remaining 30-35% will depend on weather conditions during the winter.



According to the website of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy on Friday, citing data from the Ukrhydrometcenter, the weather factor has not affected the condition of the crops this season.

“According to a visual assessment, on 65% (in 2021 – 56%) of the examined fields the plants entered the winter in good and excellent condition, on 28% (35%) of the areas the condition of plants was assessed as satisfactory. In 7% (9%) of the areas the plants were underdeveloped (did not reach the phase of development safe for overwintering). The majority of such crops (from 7% to 28%) are in Kharkiv, Vinnytsia, Odesa and Lviv regions”, – Ministry reports.

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UKRAINE EXPORTED OVER 7 MILLION TONS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN DECEMBER

Ukraine exported 7.0 million tons of agricultural products in December 2022, down 2% from the previous month, the Ukrainian Agribusiness Club (UCAB) said on its Facebook page.

“3% of these exports were made through the “grain corridor”, the rest through alternative export routes. However, it is necessary to take into account that not all products had time to physically cross the border. A lot of products are now in line for export both by rail and road transport, which will negatively affect exports by alternative routes next month”, – Association specifies in its report.

UCAB noted that 4.9 million tons of crops were exported in December 2022, which is 4% more than in November. By crops, 3.09 million tons of corn (63% of total), 1.67 million tons of wheat (34%) and 147 thousand tons of barley (3%) were exported to foreign markets.



Ukraine also exported 868 thousand tons of oilseeds during this period – a third less than in November. Ukraine exported 295 tons of sunflower seeds (34%), 251 tons of soybeans (29%) and 217 tons of rapeseed (25%). UCAB also noted that exports of vegetable oils in December fell by 9% against the previous month – down to 468 thousand tons, 94% of which was sunflower oil (440 thousand tons) and 6% soybean oil (29 thousand tons). In turn, exports of sunflower and soybean cake and meal increased by 58% to 506 thousand tons, including 90% of sunflower waste (455 thousand tons) and 10% of soybean oil (51 thousand tons).

PROBLEMS WITH LOGISTICS IN AGRO-EXPORT MAY REDUCE TOTAL YIELD BY THREE TIMES IN 2023 – EXPERT

Problems with logistics and electricity in the export of agricultural products from Ukraine during the war make it unprofitable to grow crops, so in 2023, the total yield in the country will reduce three times compared to the record prewar level – to 40 million tons from almost 120 million tons.

Reducing the harvest to such low levels is already inevitable due to the current economic situation in the country, but by financing the agricultural sector, Ukraine can achieve by 2024 to increase the harvest up to 70 million tons, said the owner of the grain trading holding Prometey Rafael Goroyan in an interview with Interfax-Ukraine agency.

“Last year we harvested 120 million tons of grain and oilseeds, this year we have already fallen to 60 million tons, and next year, according to my forecast, there will be 40 million tons, that is a fall of 300%! At the same time, the entire infrastructure of Ukraine is sharpened under the harvest of 120 million tons or even more, is what we have achieved for 30 years of independence. The entire infrastructure is designed for 120 million tons – cars, wagons, stations, ports, elevators – and there will be no goods!”, – stressed the head of Prometey in an interview.

“There will be a very sharp shortage of wheat, barley and corn. Sunflower and soybeans will be enough, these are high-margin crops, and corn will not be sown. Now it is expensive to dry it, this year’s crop cannot be harvested, cannot be exported – and then, when we win the war (and I think this will happen very soon), the ports will open, the light will appear, and we will have a shortage of products,” he added.

According to Goroyan, a reduction in the grain harvest will lead to a collapse in the value of infrastructure assets in Ukraine, such as ports, elevators and vehicles, as well as a sharp increase in world prices of wheat, corn and barley. In this sense, the reduction of the wheat harvest is especially serious because it is a “politicized” crop, linked to global food security, the shortage of which will lead to an increase in its quotations on major world exchanges.

Thus the government has to urgently begin issuing state-guaranteed loans to agrarians in order to prevent stagnation in gross harvest for several years after 2023. This will allow Ukraine, by investing relatively small funds, to avoid a reduction in the harvest and the associated decline of the farming and grain trading industries, as well as the bankruptcy of logistics and infrastructure companies.



MHP REDUCED SALES BY 2% IN NOVEMBER

Agricultural holding MHP, the largest producer of chicken in Ukraine, in November 2022 increased production of chicken by 9% to 64.89 thousand tons compared to the previous month, while its sales decreased by 2% to 60.69 thousand tons, according to the report of the agricultural group on the London Stock Exchange on Friday.

It is noted that the volume of chicken production in November 2022 is only 1% behind the same month of pre-war 2021, while its sales exceeded last November’s figures by 1%.

It is specified that the share of chicken exports in November this year increased by 2 percentage points (p.p.) over October 2022, and by 5 p.p. over November 2021, to 60% and 63%, respectively.

A total of 38,39 thousand tons of poultry were exported this November, up 2% from October 2022 and 5% from November 2021.

The domestic market sold 22,31 thousand tons of poultry in November 2022, 10% less than the previous month and 12% more than last November.

Ukrainian businessman Yuriy Kosyuk is the founder, majority shareholder and board chairman of MHP.

DESPITE WAR AND BLACKOUT, NEW RESTAURANTS ARE OPENING IN KYIV

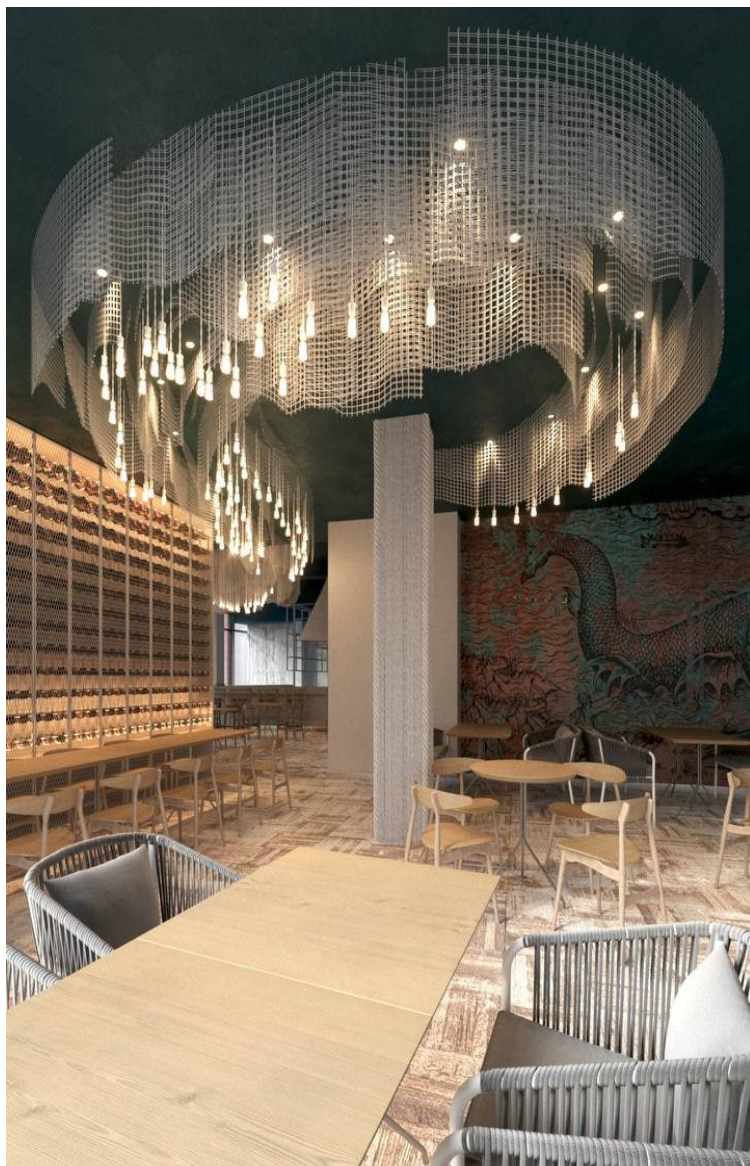
The capital's restaurant business felt the consequences of enemy shelling and power outages the most. Many interesting and unique establishments were forced to suspend or even stop their activities. However, the opening of new locations, in particular the expansion of the restaurant chain of Mediterranean cuisine "Porto", gives hope for the future.

Restaurant "Porto" is located in the city center at the address: Lesia Ukrainka Boulevard, 30 B.

The main idea of the establishment is to create the atmosphere of a Mediterranean town in the business center of the capital, which helps to distract the visitor from the stormy life of the city and set up for a leisurely visit, immersion in the atmosphere of a small European port, with the opportunity to dive into the depths of the sea, warm up in the warm company of close friends, share a delicious dinner, enjoy the blue waves and emerge refreshed in anticipation of the next visit to the port.

The complex shape of the restaurant immediately suggests the motive of the future design - two halls, like the bays of the port city, flow into each other, connected by a fish market with fresh catch right under the sails of fishermen, and completed with a summer terrace - an exit from the port to the city. And there is nothing better in the traditions of the Mediterranean than the combination of fresh fish with the family winery.

The atmosphere of the port is also created by the snow-white sails of the ships, the wall with the image of the terrible ruler of the seas, the whale from the "History of Animals" by Konrad von Gesner, which was tamed to protect the exquisite treasures of our restaurant - a collection of bottles of selected wine, which according to legend is created on the neighboring hills. Jellyfish lamps hover slowly over the bar against the backdrop of a rusty ship, waiting for guests.



The interior is soaked in deep sea blue with bright white accents of sails and tablecloths. On the ceiling, uniting both halls, the sea waves fluctuate in smooth curves, play with rays of warm, like sunlight from a set of bulbs, twist into a whirlpool, drawing the visitor to explore the entire space, explore both halls, and the columns-cables - carefully stacked gear, without which the life of the port is impossible, attract attention with the skill of their performance.

The restaurant's menu offers a variety of shellfish and fish: sea tongue, mullet, sunfish, stingray wings, turbot and others. Guests can choose the cooking method: sauté, soup, siciliano, in parchment, grilled, homemade and in salt, and then watch the cooking process in the open kitchen. As well as fresh salad, meat dishes, freshly baked bread, homemade desserts and a wide selection of wines. A unique culinary "route" awaits you - from seafood delicacies, through delicious Serbian cuisine to fresh salads prepared with special care.

The guests of the restaurant have already decided on the favorite of the menu - seafood sauté. Sommelier will select a wine pair for each position to emphasize the refined taste of the dish. The wine list contains the best samples of wines from around the world.

UKRAINE IN 2022 BECAME NINTH LARGEST WHEAT PRODUCER IN WORLD

Ukraine at the end of 2022 became the ninth largest producer of wheat with the indicator of 20.5 million tons, which is a third lower than last year's figures due to the full-scale military aggression unleashed by Russia.



As reported on the site Finance.yahoo, Ukraine this season is ahead of China (138 million tons), the EU (134.7 million tons), India (103 million tons), Russia (91 million tons), the United States (44.9 million tons), Canada (35 million tons), Australia (33 million tons) and Pakistan (26.4 million tons) in wheat production. In turn, Ukraine produced more wheat than Argentina (17.5m t), Turkey (17.25m t), Britain (14.6m t), Iran (13.2m t), Kazakhstan (13m t), Egypt (9.8m t), Brazil (9.2m t) and Uzbekistan (6.6m t). According to the publication, the total area of wheat planted in 2022 exceeded 220 million hectares worldwide. Wheat is produced by both developed and developing countries. Developed regions account for 50% of the world's wheat production, and the total area sown is 53%. About 70% of the wheat produced in the world is used as food, 20% – for livestock, and 2-3% – in industry. As reported, Ukraine in 2021 harvested a record crop of cereals, legumes and oilseeds in the amount of 106 million tons: cereals and legumes – 84 million UAH, and oilseeds – 22.6 million tons.

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