



UKRAINE
OPEN FOR BUSINESS

UKRAINIAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS HAVE ATTRACTED ALMOST 100 BLN UAH IN LOANS IN 2022

Ukrainian agricultural producers in 2022 attracted 43.65 thousand loans totaling 95.47 billion UAH under the program “Affordable credits 5-7-9”, according to the website of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine on Monday. It says that from the middle of March to May 31, 2022 a special program of concessional lending for the sowing season, under which farmers could borrow up to 60 million hryvnia at 0% per annum, and the state guaranteed 80% of funding. During the period of its operation the agrarian entrepreneurs received 24,72 billion UAH of credits. From June 1, 2022, the usual program “5-7-9” was applied for loans to agricultural sector.

The leaders in terms of credit amounts during this period were the Kiev region – 15,5 billion UAH, Vinnitsa region – 10,2 billion UAH, Kirovograd region – 8,6 billion UAH, Dnepropetrovsk region – 6,8 billion UAH and Odessa region – 6 billion UAH.

PrivatBank, Raiffeisen Bank, Ukrgasbank, Oschadbank, Ukreximbank, Credit Agricole and PUMB granted the most loans to agrarians.

The agency also recalled that the Ukrainian government has decided to provide financial support to micro, small and medium enterprises to restore partially or completely destroyed as a result of military operations of production facilities. Agribusinesses can also count on such support.

Besides, banks credit business for energy supply: purchase and installation of equipment ensuring uninterrupted work of business energy systems. Lending for such investments is made at an interest rate of 0% per annum.

HEADLINES

30 January 2023



UKRAINIAN AGRARIANS PROVIDED COUNTRY WITH OVER \$20 BILLION IN FOREIGN CURRENCY EARNINGS



MAIN MACROECONOMIC INDICATORS OF UKRAINE IN OCT-NOV 2022



MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS OF UKRAINE RECEIVE 1,092 STARLINKS



ISRAEL WILL TRANSFER TECHNOLOGY RELATED TO MISSILE AND DRONE WARNING TO UKRAINE



JAPAN DONATED \$95 MILLION TO REBUILD UKRAINE



UKRAINE AND SENEGAL PLAN TO SIGN DOCUMENTS TO EXPAND GRAIN EXPORTS

Ukraine last year exported, according to preliminary data, agricultural products worth at least \$20 billion, which is about half as much as in 2021, Ukrainian Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food Nikolay Solsky said on the air of the national telethon on Wednesday.

He also stressed that this is still a very significant amount, especially taking into account the Russian Federation's aggression and other circumstances under which Ukraine has performed external deliveries.

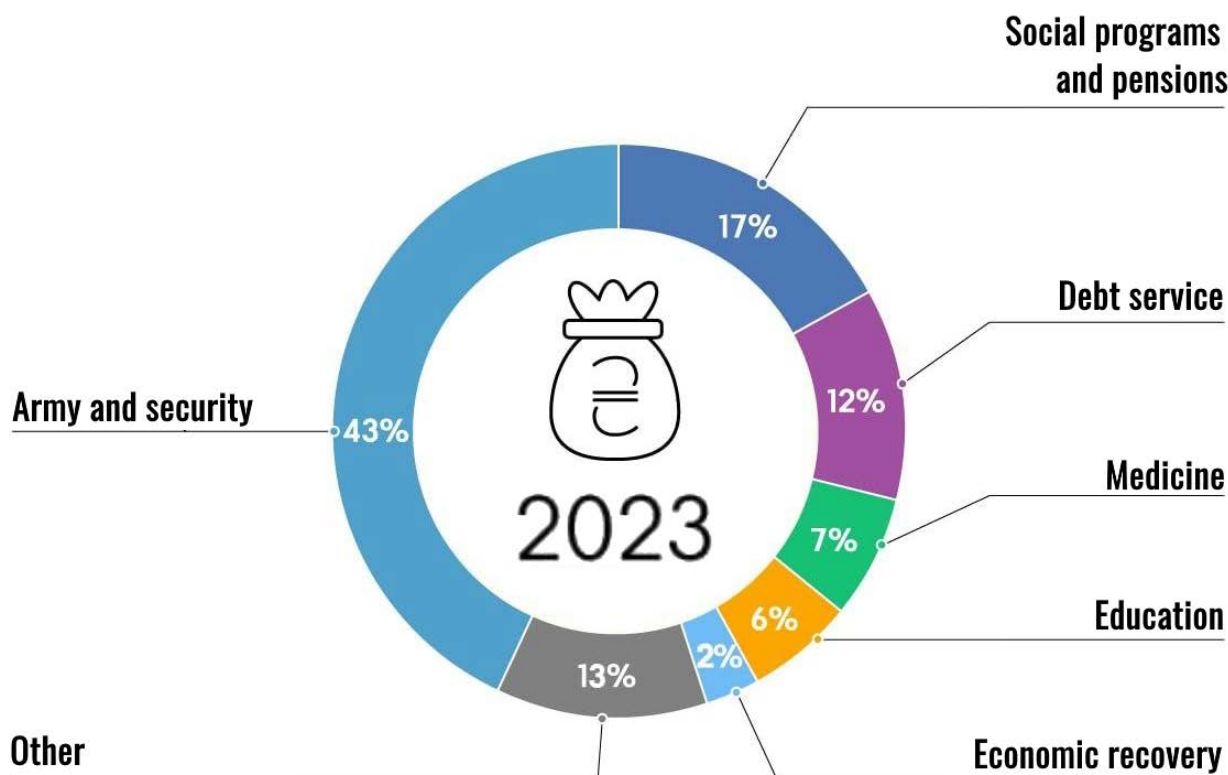
Solsky noted that in 2021 most of the foreign exchange earnings went to the Ukrainian agribusiness sector, while in 2022, infrastructure and logistics companies, including foreign ones, received a significant portion of the margin from crop exports.

“The ships that go with Ukrainian grain, insurance services and everything else, because of military risks and the conditions in which we live, have gone up significantly. But it is still the No. 1 item in foreign exchange earnings of the country, and there is a good chance that next year the situation will be similar,” the minister stressed in a video interview.

As reported, according to preliminary data Deputy Minister of Economy – Trade Representative of Ukraine Taras Kachka last year Ukraine exported 99.8 million tons of products and goods of all kinds totaling \$ 44.1 billion, which is respectively 38.4% and 35% less than in 2021.

Most of the revenue was received from the export of agricultural products – corn at \$5.94 billion (+1% compared to 2021), sunflower oil at \$5.46 billion (- 14.4%), wheat – \$2.6 billion (-44.7%), rapeseed – \$1.54 billion (-8.6%), sunflower seeds – \$1.26 billion (33 times growth), soybean – \$862 million (+43%), poultry – \$852 million (+19%).

STRUCTURE OF APPROVED UKRAINIAN STATE BUDGET EXPENDITURES FOR 2023



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 Maltese", gives hope for the future.

Restaurant "Porto Maltese" 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.

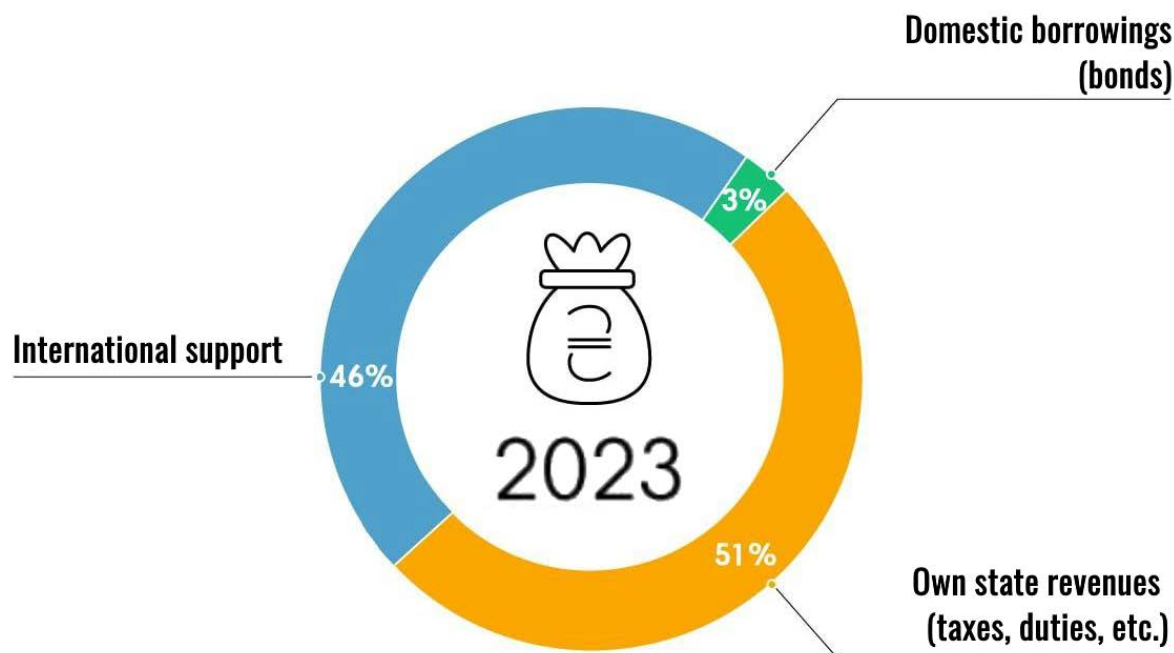
As well as fresh salad, meat dishes, freshly baked bread, homemade desserts and a wide selection of wines. A unique culinary "route" awaits you – from seafood delicacies, through delicious Serbian cuisine to fresh salads prepared with special care.

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.



STRUCTURE OF APPROVED STATE BUDGET INCOME FOR 2023



MAIN MACROECONOMIC INDICATORS OF UKRAINE IN OCT-NOV 2022

Russian attacks on critical infrastructure facilities in October accelerated the fall in GDP to 39% from October 2021, which is worse than in September-August – 35%, said First Deputy Prime Minister – Minister of Economy of Ukraine Yulia Svyrydenko at a meeting with representatives of the American media.

The fall in Ukraine's GDP in 2022 could be 33-35%, Finance Minister Serhiy Marchenko said at a briefing in Kyiv. Massive Russian missile strikes on the Ukrainian energy infrastructure, which began in October, stopped the trend of slowing down the decline in the Ukrainian economy, its forecast for the year has been worsened from 32% to 35%, the ICU investment group reports in an updated macroeconomic forecast.

Dragon Capital investment company, one of the leaders in the Ukrainian market, worsened its forecast for a decline in real GDP this year by 2 percentage points, to 32% and retained its forecast for a decline in 2023 by another 5%, despite the improvement in the key assumption about the course of the war.

Exports of goods from Ukraine in October fell by 8.2% compared to September, to \$3.805 billion, while imports rose by 2.6%, to \$4.615 billion, Deputy Economy Minister and Trade Representative Taras Kachka said.

The deficit of Ukraine's foreign trade in goods in January-September 2022 increased 2.4 times compared to the same period in 2021, to \$5.419 billion from \$2.264 billion.

The growth of consumer prices in Ukraine in October 2022 accelerated to 2.5% from 1.9% in September, 1.1% in August and 0.7% in July.

The money supply in Ukraine (M3), after growing by 0.8% in September, added another 2.3% in October, or UAH 52.6 billion, to UAH 2.330 trillion, the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) said.

Ukraine, which has achieved a deferral of repayment and payment of a significant part of external obligations to private creditors and the Paris Club, may enter into negotiations on the final terms of restructuring for the state debt closer to the end of the war, Deputy Head of the President's Office Rostyslav Shurma has said.

Economic Monitoring's Project Manager – PhD in Economics, Maksim Urakin

ELECTRIC CAR MARKET IN UKRAINE TO GROW BY 1.5 TIMES IN 2022

Registrations in Ukraine of new and used electric cars in 2022 increased 1.5 times compared to 2021 – up to 13.318 thousand units, including new ones accounted for 16.9% against 14.2%, said the Federation of Automobile Industry of Ukraine (FAU) based on data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

According to information on the Federation's website, including in December compared to the same month-2021, the market increased by 68% to 1,559 units, which was also 9.6% higher than in November-2022.

“*The firings, the power outage, the crisis – didn't bring the market down. It showed another increase. And something happened in the top 10 that seemed impossible a few years ago – the leader has changed. And this is not Tesla, which came on the heels of Nissan – in first place went Volkswagen, rising for the year by four steps, “- said in the FAU.*”

At the end of the year VW took 20.7% of the market of electric cars, increasing sales by more than five times – up to 2.754 thousand units. The leader of the previous year Nissan with a share of 18.8% became the second, and sales of this brand grew by 13% – to 2,509 thousand units. Tesla, which was in second place in 2021, was the third with an increase in sales by a quarter – to 2,089 cars and the market share of 15.7%.

Fourth place, like a year before, went to Renault – 6,5% of the market, and the fifth place went to Honda (+6 positions) with a share of 5,7%, having increased registration almost five times – to 756 units.

At the same time, Chevrolet, which ranked third in 2021, moved down to #10 with a two-fold decrease in registrations to 397 units by the end of 2022.

The other brands in the top 10 from the sixth to the ninth place (Hyundai, BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Audi) increased their registrations.

At the same time, Nissan Leaf continues to hold the first place in the ranking of models with a large gap (the share decreased to 17.8% from 24.6% a year earlier), and VW id4 came in second place with a share of 10.7%. The Tesla Model 3 lost one position in the ranking and took 7.1% of the market. The VW e-Golf and Renault Zoe are on the fourth and fifth positions.



Chevrolet Bolt EV being in the top three in 2021 moved to the ninth position with the market share of 2.6% (against 8.9%).

According to the statistics, the structure of electric vehicle registrations by year of manufacture, last year the most registered cars were 2021 cars – 2,642 units, followed by 2022 cars, 2019 cars – 2,268 units. – 2,268 units, 2019. – 1,490 units, and 2020. – 1281 cars.

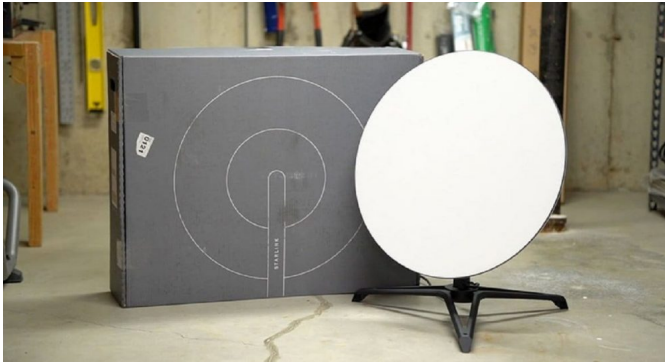
As reported with reference to FAU data, in 2021, registrations of electric cars in Ukraine increased by 18.9% compared with 2020 – up to 8,541 units, including new cars accounted for 14.2% against 8.9% a year earlier.

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS OF UKRAINE RECEIVE 1,092 STARLINKS

Some 1,092 Starlink terminals have been delivered to Ukrainian medical institutions, the Ministry of Health told Interfax-Ukraine, citing deputy minister Maria Karchevych.



“We understand that there are power outages now, and we provide our medical institutions with alternative opportunities. For example, over the past few months, 1,092 Starlink terminals have been delivered to medical institutions so that clinics can connect to the Internet,” the ministry said.



Karchevych also said that despite the challenges of wartime, the digitalization of the healthcare system and the introduction of electronic tools continue in Ukraine. In particular, in 2022, more than 10 million prescriptions worth UAH 2.2 billion were issued under the Affordable Medicines program. Also, according to the ministry, more than 1 billion records have been entered into the e-health system, while 35 million Ukrainians have declarations with their family doctor.

NIGERIA OFFERED UKRAINE TO CREATE LOGISTICS HUB FOR GRAIN EXPORTS – MINISTRY

Nigeria intends to implement new logistics projects to increase and make more predictable the exports of agricultural products from Ukraine, a similar intention announced earlier by Senegal.

The Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine Mykola Solskyi has reached the relevant agreements during the meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Jeffrey Onyeama and the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Mohammad Mahmoud Abubakar, the website of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy reported on Wednesday evening.

It is specified that the meeting took place within the framework of the visit of the delegation of the Ukrainian Ministry to the countries of Africa.

The parties discussed opportunities for cooperation and expansion of trade relations between the countries, in particular the creation of a logistics hub for permanent supplies of agricultural raw materials and food products.

As reported, on January 9, Solskyi signed a memorandum of understanding in Senegal, which provides for the development of bilateral trade in agricultural products, cooperation in scientific research, investment, relations between public institutions and private organizations of Ukraine and Senegal.

It also refers to the possibility of storage of Ukrainian grain in the so-called grain hubs. At the same time, the head of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy said at the meeting that Ukraine is ready to export to African countries not only agricultural products, but also other goods, but it is necessary to focus on the development of logistics.



SHAKHTAR DONETSK PLAYER GOES TO LONDON'S CHELSEA FOR 100 MILLION EUROS

London-based Chelsea FC and Donetsk-based FC Shakhtar have agreed the transfer of 22-year-old Ukrainian footballer Mykhailo Mudryk for 100 million euros, the press service of FC Shakhtar said.

"President of FC Shakhtar Rinat Akhmetov and co-owner of Chelsea FC Behdad Eghbali discussed the transfer of Mikhail Mudrik to Chelsea," the official tweet of FC Shakhtar on Twitter microblog confirmed.

It is noted that "the parties are very close to the transfer of the player to Chelsea FC.

According to Sky News, Chelsea have agreed with Shakhtar Donetsk to buy winger Mikhail Mudrik for £88.5 million (€100 million).

According to Sky News, Mudrik has been offered to sign for seven and a half years.

"Chelsea will pay €70 million (£62 million) upfront and €30 million (£26.5 million) in additional payments, which include Champions League, Premier League and other individual performance-related terms," it said.



ISRAEL WILL TRANSFER TECHNOLOGY RELATED TO MISSILE AND DRONE WARNING TO UKRAINE

The work on the transfer of Israeli technologies related to smart alerts for missiles and drones to Ukraine is in progress, said the Ambassador of Ukraine to Israel Yevgeniy Korniychuk.

“*Regarding the official things that we can comment – there is work on the transfer of Israeli technology related to smart alerts concerning missiles and drones. This technology is officially being transferred by the Israeli side. And I think that in a certain time we will receive it completely,*” he said at a briefing at the Media Center Ukraine.



The Ambassador added that Ukraine still needs more active military-technical cooperation. However, according to him, there are many projects that cannot be commented on publicly yet.

"In order to have specifics on Iranian drones, I think it will take a few weeks. Since the government has just started work, it needs to make a decision taking into account the position of the U.S. as a major strategic partner, and the interests of the public," the ambassador said.

He explained that the gap between the right-wing bloc that came to power and the left-wing forces is very small – 40 thousand voters, and the agenda is very much related to domestic politics, as well as the Palestinian question.

"So the issue of Ukraine is not a priority. Although we are trying with all our might to make it so," Korniychuk added. At the same time, the Israeli Foreign Ministry said that the issue of the war in Ukraine is a priority, said the Ukrainian diplomat.

"The minister said that he would facilitate more aid to Ukraine, without specifying it," the ambassador said.

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“ASTARTA” PROCESSED 2 MLN TONS OF SUGAR BEET INTO 282 THOUSAND TONS OF SUGAR

Agroindustrial holding Astarta, the largest sugar producer in Ukraine, has completed its 2022 sugar season, which lasted from September to January, with a total of about 2 million tons of sugar beet processed into 282 thousand tons of sugar.

According to the company's website on Wednesday, the past sugar season was the most difficult in the holding company's history, although the volume of sugar produced increased by 6% over the 2021 season, and by 25% over the 2020 season.

It is specified that Astarta's sugar yield from the raw materials last season was 14.26%, while the Ukrainian average was 13.98%, and 99% of the produced sugar corresponds to the highest quality category. The holding referred to the preliminary data of Ukrtsukor association, according to which Astarta's share on the Ukrainian sugar production market in 2022 season was 25%.

The sugar producer specified that its planted areas under sugar beet in central and western regions of Ukraine were not significantly affected by military operations, but it faced a number of other challenges.



“Due to increased costs for fertilizers, crop protection products and fuel, sugar beet cultivation costs per hectare have risen. Nearly continuous rains during the harvest period have made both harvesting the crop and transporting it from the fields to processing plants much more difficult. However, Astarta harvested 1.8 million tons of sugar beets in 2022 at a yield of 56 tons/ha,” the holding quoted its director of agricultural products processing Yevgeny Sadovy as saying.

“Astarta stressed that it was able to implement a number of energy-saving projects at its sugar refineries during the war, in particular, a scheme for autonomous power supply to enterprises in case of a power blackout.



“Astarta is a vertically integrated agro-industrial holding operating in eight regions of Ukraine. It consists of six sugar factories, farms with a land bank of 220 thousand hectares and dairy farms with 22 thousand cattle, oil extraction plant in Globino (Poltava region), seven elevators and biogas complex.

Agricultural holding in 2021 increased net profit 14 times compared with 2020 – up to EUR 122.5 mln, EBITDA – 1.8 times, up to EUR 201.5 mln. Its revenue increased by 18.2% – to EUR 491.35 mln, one third of which (EUR 170 mln) was generated by sugar production and sales.

AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE FOUNDED BY A.G.R. GROUP PLANS TO DEVELOP LAND RECLAMATION IN SOUTHERN UKRAINE

The agricultural service cooperative (ASC) Ukrainian Agro Connection, founded by the owner of A.G.R. Group owner Misak Khidiryan, is working on the creation of a Water Users Organization (WUO) in the Mykolaiv region. The project is planned to be implemented on a part of Inguletskaya irrigation system in Mykolaiv region, the Chairman of the cooperative Bogdan Kupriyanov told Interfax-Ukraine.

According to him, OVP as a legal entity is created by owners or users of agricultural land for the use and maintenance of engineering infrastructure of state land reclamation systems. The purpose of its creation is to provide irrigation services for land plots in the WUA service area.

Kupriyanov specified that now there are three OVPs operating in Ukraine – on the territory of Trushevskaya (Cherkasy region), Suvorovskaya (Odessa region) and Kilchenskaya (Dnepropetrovsk region) irrigation systems. They were registered in December 2022. Thus, the OVP created by the Ukrainian Agro Connection cooperative may well become the largest in the country.

The chairman of the cooperative explained that one of the initiators of the OVP on the Inguletskiy irrigation system was A.G.R. Group LLC “Agro-Dilo” (Partizanske village, Mykolaiv oblast), which in cooperation with other land users will form an initiative group to address organizational issues related to the creation of the WUA. In addition, the initiative group will establish communications with allied water users, address technical, legal and financial issues of the organization.

Head of the Ukrainian Agro Connection noted in his comment that the day before members of the cooperative had met with Taras Kot, First Deputy Head of the State Agency for Land Reclamation and Fishery and got the agency's support, discussed prospects and advantages of creating WUAs in the region as well as opportunities and ways to attract international investors and grants for development and operation of the land reclamation system.

He said that Inguletskaya irrigation system provides services for land irrigation on the territory of 121,5 thousand hectares, 103,3 thousand hectares of which are in Nikolaev region and 18,2 thousand hectares – in Kherson region. The system consists of two pumping stations with total capacity of 58.6 thousand kW and a capacity of 62.4 cubic meters of water per second. The total length of the main and distribution channels is 343 km, and there are 621 hydraulic structures.

Kupriyanov also underlined, that on the 10th of March this year the cooperative organizes the meeting of Ukrainian agrarians with government representatives, agribusiness experts and cooperators, in order to determine the main problems of the branch and to find the ways of their solution together.

As it was reported, on August, 27, 2022 the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has approved the model statute of OVP that regulates the main aspects of such organizations, their legal status, the order of creation of such legal entities, OVP managing bodies and their authorities, main directions of OVP activity, the order of business activity and OVP termination. Already in December of the same year there were created 3 TCCs.

The cooperative Ukrainian Agro Connection was created at the end of 2021. It consists of farmers with a total land bank of 17 thousand hectares.

The members of the cooperative have an opportunity to sell general grain lots under direct export contracts, rent and lease agricultural machinery without disrupting the harvesting period. The cooperative helps them with the additional processing and storage of grain. It also gives them the opportunity to get discounts and preferential rates for the services of a network of partners, including banks, leasing and transport companies, suppliers of agricultural machinery, spare parts, fuel and fertilizers.

A.G.R. Agroholding. Group includes more than 20 companies. The main fields of its activities are trading of agricultural products, cultivation and storage of grain crops, and livestock breeding.

A.G.R. Group cultivates land in Poltava, Kiev, Chernigov, Nikolaev and Sumy regions. The grown products are sold on foreign markets.

The president of the holding and head of its supervisory board is businessman Misak Khidirian.

JAPAN DONATED \$95 MILLION TO REBUILD UKRAINE

The Japanese government has allocated \$95 million for government work and reconstruction of Ukraine, the Ministry of Community Development, Territories and Infrastructure said.

The document was signed by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Ukraine Kuninor Matsuda and UNDP Assistant Administrator, Director of UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS Ivana Zhivkovich with participation of Deputy Prime Minister for Reconstruction of Ukraine Oleksandr Kubrakov.

The funds will be sent to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) as part of a partnership agreement.



“While the Armed Forces of Ukraine are liberating territories from occupiers, the government is working with international partners to implement ‘survival projects’: restoring transport links to the liberated regions, creating conditions for citizens to return to their homes, maintaining the economy in the regions,” the Ministry of Community, Territory and Infrastructure Development said in a statement.

Ukraine's aid program focuses on five key areas:

Strengthening the government's ability to respond to and manage the crisis;

supporting public services so they can continue their work;

rebuilding critical infrastructure so people can return home safely;

Supporting private businesses so they can continue to operate, thereby supporting communities;

Strengthening civil society and social ties.

Earlier, in April 2022, Japan had already allocated \$4.5 million for emergency explosive ordnance clearance and debris removal.



UKRAINE'S FOREIGN TRADE DEFICIT IN GOODS INCREASED 2.3 TIMES IN JANUARY-NOVEMBER 2022

Ukraine's foreign trade deficit in goods in January-November 2022 increased 2.3 times compared to the same period in 2021, to \$8.524 billion from \$3.635 billion, the State Statistics Service said.

According to them, exports from Ukraine during this period compared to January-November 2021 decreased by 33.6% to \$40.671 billion, imports – by 24.2% to \$49.195 billion.

The State Statistics Committee specifies that seasonally adjusted exports decreased by 2.6% to \$3.507 billion in November compared to October, while imports increased by 2.0% to \$4.827 billion.

The seasonally adjusted foreign trade balance in November-2022 was negative at \$1.319 billion, while in October-2022 it was also negative at \$1.129 billion.

The coverage ratio of imports by exports in January-November 2022 was 0.83 (0.94 in January-November 2021).

The State Statistics Committee specified that foreign trade transactions were conducted with partners from 230 countries.

“METINVEST” HANDED OVER MODERN DRONES TO SCOUTS

Metinvest Mining and Metallurgical Group, as part of Rinat Akhmetov’s Steel Front militarized initiative, handed over four modern drones to scouts in the Avdiivka direction, continuing to support Ukraine’s defenders in the fight against the Russian aggressor.

The company’s press release specifies that the tactical equipment provided protects operators’ lives from enemy attacks, as specialists can control the drone from long distances without exposing themselves to direct danger.

“They (drones – IF) are effective for suppressing the enemy, artillery work and at night for infantry, because lately the enemy is very much making installation for night maneuvers, for night advancement,” explains Colonel Alexander Danilchenko of the AFU, quoted by the press service, noting the productive assistance of Metinvest, which it began to provide since March last year.

At the same time, it is noted that for eleven months Avdeevka has been subjected to hostile shelling. Stubborn battles are going on nearby every day, as the enemy is trying to expand the borders of the occupation. However, the AFU and defense forces are heroically defending the city and neighboring frontline territories.

“In Avdeevka we have not conceded a single step, even in some positions we have advanced,” Danilchenko stressed.

The press release reminds that Metinvest Group is one of the first companies in Ukraine to start supplying drones to the AFU.

“*The company systematically supplies our military with body armor and helmets, burners and fuel, helps to equip defensive structures and transfers mobile shelters made of strong steel. Today we are making another contribution to the forthcoming common victory over the invaders. I am sure that the “birds” will be useful and will help our defenders to repulse the enemy*”, noted Acting General Director of Avdiivka KHP Yuriy Ktsinenko.

It is also reported that Metinvest organizes the search and delivery of important tactical equipment and machinery to Ukraine in order to strengthen the army’s defense capabilities in different parts of the front. The company has already transferred approximately 1,700 thermal imaging cameras, 1,000 drones and quadcopters, and 312 vehicles, including ambulances, to the fighters. And 1 million liters of fuel have been provided to refuel the vehicles.

“Metinvest is a vertically integrated group of mining and metallurgical enterprises. Its enterprises are located in Ukraine – in Donetsk, Lugansk, Zaporizhzhia and Dnipropetrovsk regions, as well as in European countries.

The major shareholders of the holding are SCM Group (71.24%) and Smart Holding (23.76%) that manage it jointly.

Metinvest Holding LLC is the management company of Metinvest group.



“INTERPIPE” REDUCED CAPITAL INVESTMENTS THREEFOLD

In January-September 2022, the international vertically integrated steel and pipe company Interpipe cut its capital investments by three times as against the similar period of the last year – to \$15 mn from \$45 mn.

According to a presentation of the company's operations for the nine months of last year, capital investments in the period under review amounted to \$7mn (\$6mn in 9M2021), \$8mn in steelmaking and \$31mn in pipe production, while there were no investments in railroad operations (\$8mn).

We would like to note that the figures for 9M-2022 are unaudited.

As we informed, in January-September 2022, Interpipe earned \$185.952 mln, while during the same period last year it amounted to \$32.338 mln (5.75 times more). The company made \$199.975 mln of profit after tax, compared to \$56.505 mln for the first nine months of 2021 (a 3.5 times increase). At the same time, revenues decreased by 9.3% to \$686.634 mln. The company increased its free cash flow to \$126.476 mln as of September 30, 2022, from \$103.007 mln at the end of September 2021.

EBITDA at the end of September 2022 was \$123.023 million (\$51.508 million for the pipe segment, “minus” \$3.287 million for the rail segment, \$74.222 million for the steel segment, \$580 thousand for other operations), compared to \$150.876 million (“minus” \$36.040 million, “plus” \$15.351 million, \$169.483 million and \$2.082 million respectively at the end of 2021).

“Interpipe is a Ukrainian industrial company producing seamless pipes and railroad wheels. The company supplies its products to over 80 countries all over the world via a network of commercial offices located in the key markets of the CIS, the Middle East, North America, and Europe. In 2021, the company sold 602 thnd mt of tubes and 174 thnd mt of railroad products. The company sells its railroad products under the KLW brand.

There are about 10 thsd. employees in Interpipe.

The company consists of five industrial assets: “Interpipe Nizhnedneprovsky Tube Rolling Plant (NTZ)”, “Interpipe Novomoskovsk Tube Plant (NMTZ)”, “Interpipe Niko Tube”, “Interpipe Vtormet” and the electric steelmaking complex “Dneprosteel” under the brand name “Interpipe Steel”.

The ultimate owner of Interpipe Limited is Ukrainian businessman Viktor Pinchuk and his family members.

“KAMETSTAL” CARRIED OUT 80 EQUIPMENT OVERHAULS IN 2022

Kametsteel, owned by mining and metallurgical group Metinvest, based at Dneprovsky Iron and Steel Works (DMK, Kamenskoye, Dnepropetrovsk region), carried out 80 equipment overhauls in 2022.

According to the company's press release, last year for Kametstal as well as for all the enterprises of Metinvest group was the most difficult in its history. However, in spite of all wartime difficulties, logistical and energy constraints, the plant worked, fulfilling steel production tasks and systematically restoring basic equipment.

Thus, in 2022 Kametstal performed 80 overhauls in its production units. Among the most important ones are overhauls of blast furnace No.9, converter No.2, sintering machine No.12, coke oven battery No.1-bis and others.

Also within the year, 638 preventive-maintenance repairs were made at the plant, aimed at increase of reliability and efficiency of machines and equipment operation. Totally 222 items of equipment were systematically repaired.

The repairs were performed by specialists of Metallurgical Shop, Metallurgical Equipment Repair Shop, Power Shop and other repair subdivisions and services of Kametstal jointly with main contractor – Metinvest-Promservice. In particular, on the continuous casting machine No. 1, on the ladle-furnace plant No. 1, on the 400/200 rolling mill, on the ball rolling mill and others.

“We have a lot of plans for 2023, first of all, the execution of 119 overhauls of the main equipment in the blast furnace, coke, converter, rolling and other shops,” said Vyacheslav Kekalo, Acting Engineering Director of Kametstal, quoted by the press service.

Earlier it was reported that Kametstal resumed iron smelting in mid-December after the temporary suspension of production due to the shelling of the energy structure.

“Kametstal” was created on the basis of PJSC “Dneprovskyy Coke Chemical Plant” (DKHZ) and the CEC of PJSC “Dneprovskyy Metallurgical Plant” (DMK).

“Metinvest is a vertically integrated group of mining and metallurgical companies. Its enterprises are located in Ukraine – in Donetsk, Lugansk, Zaporozhye and Dnepropetrovsk regions, in European countries.

The major shareholders of the holding are SCM Group (71.24%) and Smart Holding (23.76%) that jointly manage it.

Metinvest Holding LLC is the management company of Metinvest group.

UKRAINE'S LARGEST MOBILE OPERATOR KYIVSTAR BROUGHT CAPACITY OF ITS GENERATORS TO 37 MW

Kyivstar, Ukraine's largest mobile operator, has brought the total capacity of generators in its network to 37 MW, of which 20 MW are large stationary generators to back up key technology sites, company president Alexander Komarov said.

"These grid facilities are fully backed up and have enough fuel to cope with the consequences of the blackout. Only yesterday there were 14 outages of technological sites in 8 regions of Ukraine", – he noted.

Komarov added that in January-February the company plans to increase the number of stationary and mobile diesel generators at other network sites by another 40% to 14 MW.



"As of today, we have 700 stationary and mobile diesel generators with a total capacity of about 10 MW. In January-February, we will increase their number and, accordingly, the capacity by another 40% – up to 14 MW," – wrote the president of Kyivstar.

According to him, despite of all efforts, the available capacities are not enough. Komarov appealed for cooperation to representatives of businesses that have generators with a capacity of 6 kW and can connect telecom equipment within the campaign "Business unites for victory" to make it work during periods of power outage.

"To date, we have about 400 connections to third-party generators whose (combined) capacity is about 3 MW. And also in the processing of more than 600 more applications, we are analyzing the technical possibility of connection," – said the president of Kyivstar.

In December the director of the Department of Fixed Internet Development of the Ministry of Communications Yuri Matsik reported that only 7% of 32 thousand mobile stations are equipped with generators and 93% with accumulators. According to him, generators with a capacity of 20-30 kW are needed for the communication center, where there is traffic switching. For the base station it is 6-8 kW.

UKRAINE HAS ALREADY DELIVERED 30 THOUSAND TERMINALS STARLINK

Deputy Prime Minister – Minister of Digital Transformation Mikhail Fedorov reports that as of Friday evening 30 thousand Starlink terminals have already been deployed in Ukraine. "30 thousand Starlink terminals are already in Ukraine. The 24/7 Mincifra team is working to provide even more terminals. International partners are helping with this. After all, Starlinks have become part of Ukraine's critical infrastructure. Thanks to them Ukrainians remain in touch where the usual network does not work during a power outage," – Fedorov wrote in a telegram.

He specified that the last batch – 8 thousand terminals – Ukraine was helped to purchase by Poland.



"Hundreds of Starlinks from this batch are already working in the Points of Inconsistency across the country. Another part has been handed over to power engineers and medics. Yesterday I stopped by to protest the satellite Internet in one of the POPs from the State Emergency Service in Irpin", – said the Minister.

He thanked Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki and Secretary of State for Digitalization Janusz Cieszynski for providing terminals to Ukraine.

"Special thanks to the National Telecommunications Institute and Orlen. Thanks to you millions of Ukrainians stay in touch!" – Fedorov concluded.



UKRAINE AND SENEGAL PLAN TO SIGN DOCUMENTS TO EXPAND GRAIN EXPORTS

Ukraine and Senegal will continue developing relations as regards supplies of Ukrainian agricultural products. Apart from the memorandum on mutual understanding in agriculture signed on January 9, the two countries have agreed on future high-level talks.

The results of the visit of the delegation of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine to Senegal, Ghana and Nigeria were explained by the Head of the Ministry Mykola Solsky at the briefing in Kyiv on Monday.

“The meetings took place in Ghana, Senegal and Nigeria, these countries constantly “take” a lot of food and especially wheat. These are big markets in terms of population compared to the European market or many other countries: not with the same purchasing power, but it’s big and developing, so it needs to be monitored,” the minister said.



He also noted that each of the countries he visited is interested in developing cooperation with Ukraine and is ready to expand their ports to intensify the unloading and storage of Ukrainian grain.

Solsky said that after the visit of the delegation of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy to Africa, the Ukrainian authorities will hold an additional meeting on the possibilities for the development of relations with the visited countries. According to him, joint projects are complicated by Russia’s traditional presence in the diplomatic field of Senegal, Ghana and Nigeria.

“At the unofficial level, representatives of all the countries we talked to understand what is happening in Ukraine (full-scale war unleashed by Russia – IFU). Unfortunately, at the official level they are not always ready to declare it. Therefore, such visits lead to the development of relations and will gradually improve them,” said the Minister.

As reported, a delegation of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy during a trip to Africa signed a memorandum of cooperation with Senegal in the field of agriculture. In addition, Ukraine in the coming months will supply 25 thousand tons of grain to Nigeria in the framework of the humanitarian initiative Grain from Ukraine.



UKRAINE THIS WEEK WILL RECEIVE FROM EU FIRST TRANCHE OF EUR3 BLN

Ukraine will receive the first EUR3 billion tranche in 2023 from the EU this week as part of a EUR18 billion macrofinancial assistance package, European Commission Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis said.



"I have the honor to sign a memorandum of understanding with the EU to provide Ukraine with financing in 2023, up to EUR18 billion in loans. The first payment of EUR3 billion will follow later this week. This will allow Ukraine to cover its most urgent needs with a steady flow of funds throughout the year," he wrote on Twitter.



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