



UKRAINE
OPEN FOR BUSINESS

JAPAN HAS PROVIDED ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE WORTH MORE THAN \$7.6BN

Japan's financial, humanitarian and technical assistance to Ukraine has already exceeded 7.6bn dollars. Japan's financial, humanitarian and technical assistance to Ukraine has already exceeded 7.6bn dollars, Verkhovna Rada Speaker Ruslan Stefanchuk has said.

"Ukraine is grateful to all G7 countries, especially Japan, which is chairing the G7 this year, for its consistent position in support of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of our state. We are grateful to Japan for its principled position in the UN structures, in particular, as a non-permanent member of the Security Council. Ukraine is grateful to Japan for its unprecedented decisions to provide non-lethal military assistance and for receiving Ukrainian evacuees. We are immensely grateful for Japan's financial, humanitarian and technical assistance, which has already exceeded 7.6 billion dollars. The Ukrainian parliament speaker said in a statement at a press conference at the National Press Club of Japan on Thursday.

Stefanchuk also expressed gratitude to the Japanese side for consistent cooperation with Ukrainian and foreign partners to bring the aggressor to justice.

"The investigation of the UN International Court of Justice, the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine, the International Center for the Punishment of the Crime of Aggression in The Hague, the Register of Damage Caused by Aggression and the Compensation Fund are the main tools on this path. Russia must be stopped. Criminals must realize that punishment is inevitable," he stressed.

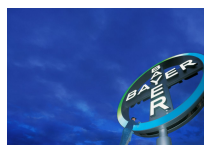
In addition, the head of the VR noted that Ukraine counts on Japan's support not only during the war, but also in times of peace, as Ukraine will need assistance and investments for post-war reconstruction of the destroyed economy.

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19 September 2023



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UKRAINE TO RECEIVE \$2.3 BLN FROM SOUTH KOREA FOR POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION

South Korea will provide Ukraine with \$2.3 billion for post-war reconstruction: an initial \$300 million in 2024 in humanitarian aid and the rest in low-interest loans from 2025, South Korean President Yun Suk-yeol said, South Korea's Yonhap news agency wrote.



“South Korean President Yun Suk-yeol on Sunday pledged to provide Ukraine with an additional \$2.3 billion to help the country restore peace and recover from its war with Russia. Yoon announced the pledge during a session at the G20 summit in New Delhi, saying South Korea will provide an initial \$300 million in 2024 in humanitarian aid and the remaining \$2 billion in long-term aid – low-interest loans through the Economic Development and Cooperation Fund (EDCF) starting in 2025,” the agency said. “This will demonstrate our responsible role as a global pivot power in leading assistance to restore peace in Ukraine and lay the foundation for our full participation in Ukraine’s reconstruction,” Yoon Seok-yeol said.

As previously reported, Seoul earlier increased the amount of financial assistance to Ukraine under the state budget to \$393 million in 2024.

RULES FOR IMPORT AND ACCOUNTING OF HUMANITARIAN AID TO CHANGE IN UKRAINE FROM DECEMBER 1

The Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine has announced a change in the rules for importing and accounting for humanitarian aid starting December 1.

“On September 5, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted a resolution “Some issues of humanitarian aid entry and accounting under martial law”. According to the resolution, the rules for importing and accounting for humanitarian aid are being changed, and information about it will be digitized in an automated system,” the ministry’s press service said.

It is noted that among the main changes is the introduction of an accessible electronic tool for accounting for humanitarian aid.

In particular, using the web platform “Automated System for Registration of Humanitarian Aid,” organizations intending to import humanitarian aid will be able to register, log in to the site, form and submit a declaration, which will be sent to customs through information exchange.

“The system will automatically assign a unique code to the declaration. This code will be used by customs officers to let the cargo through,” the agency emphasized.

This preserves the declarative principle of importing humanitarian aid under martial law, and simplifies the process of importing such goods.

It also stipulates that organizations importing humanitarian aid will submit public reports after its distribution.



UP TO 3.3 MILLION UKRAINIANS MAY STAY ABROAD – STUDY

The situation with Ukrainian refugees is not improving, and a more active state policy is needed, says the Center for Economic Strategy (CES) in its report “Refugees from Ukraine: Intentions to Return, Impact on the Ukrainian Economy and Recommendations for State Policy.”

“According to different scenarios, from 1.3 million to 3.3 million Ukrainians may remain abroad. This is 0.4-0.6 million more than in the calculations for December 2022,” the document says.

According to CES estimates, as a result, the Ukrainian economy may lose 2.7% to 6.9% of GDP annually.

According to the researchers, the number of Ukrainians who have moved abroad is 5.6-6.7 million, which is 0.3-0.5 million, or 5% more than at the end of 2022.

“This was a result of the strikes on Ukraine’s power grid in the winter of 2022-23, the intensification of missile attacks on Ukrainian cities in May, and the explosion of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant in early June 2023,” the study says.

It is specified that 63% of refugees, according to a study by Info Sapiens commissioned by the CES, plan to return to Ukraine, but this share is falling.

“We are not sure that all of them will really return. First of all, the longer the war lasts, the more Ukrainians adapt to life abroad. In addition, some Ukrainians (6.8%) believe that the prospects for their children are better abroad,” the document says.

According to it, people with higher incomes before the war are more likely to return, while people with higher incomes now are less likely to return. In addition, students are one of the largest groups who would like to stay abroad.

It is noted that the majority of refugees are women (the largest share of women aged 35-49 is 18%) and children. Compared to 2022, the share of children has slightly decreased from 52% to 51%, with girls and boys being approximately equal among them.

Among adults, the proportion of men slightly increased from 17% in November 2022 to 22% in May 2023, in particular among people with temporary protection status in the EU – from 27% to 29%.

It is specified that the distribution of Ukrainian refugees by country of residence has also changed: the share of Poland has decreased from 42% to 29%, while the share of Germany has increased from 18% to 26%.

It is noted that a significant number of Ukrainian refugees lost most of their income after the start of the full-scale invasion, but as of May 2023, the economic situation of Ukrainian refugees abroad has improved: the share of those who have to save on food or have enough money for food has decreased from 40% to 35%.

POPULATION STRUCTURE OF UKRAINE AS OF 06.06.2023 (ESTIMATED DATA)



REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE NOTE HIGHER QUALITY OF BANKING, MEDICAL AND OTHER SERVICES IN UKRAINE COMPARED TO EUROPE

Citizens of Ukraine who left for the EU countries after the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation, evaluate online public services in Ukraine much better (71%) than in the EU countries (16%).

As noted in the results of the “All-European survey of Ukrainians in Europe”, conducted by the sociological group “Rating” on July 4-11, financial and banking services in Ukraine will also significantly benefit (70% vs. 14% in the EU). Ukrainians also assessed the sphere of medicine better in Ukraine than in Europe: both the availability of medical services (71% vs. 21%) and their quality (60% vs. 25%).

Preschool and school education was better in Ukraine (42%) than in the EU (35%), higher education – on the contrary: slightly better in the EU (43%) than in Ukraine (32%). Ukrainian students of European universities agree more than others that higher education is better in the EU.

The absolute majority of Ukrainians surveyed agreed that public transportation is much better in the EU (77%) than in Ukraine (14%). The opinion is similar regarding European roads, which are considered better there (85%) than in Ukraine (5%). But respondents consider housing in Ukraine more affordable (57%) than in the EU (22%).

According to Ukrainians, Ukraine has a much better beauty industry than the EU (85% vs. 5%), as well as cafes and restaurants (60% vs. 16%), postal and delivery services (54% vs. 25%), online shopping (51% vs. 22%), but with regard to retail chains and stores, opinions are divided: 42% consider them the best in Ukraine, 36% – in the EU.

Ukraine loses a lot to European countries in the level of corruption, however, in terms of bureaucracy and taxation rates, at home, according to the majority, more favorable climate than in the EU. 84% of respondents believe that the level of corruption in Ukraine is higher than in the EU (3%), at the same time the level of bureaucracy is higher in the EU than in Ukraine (50% vs. 25%). Also, according to the respondents, the level of taxation is higher in Europe (59%) than in Ukraine (16%). However, by the level of economic freedom Ukraine (25%) is inferior to Europe (52%), as well as by the level of income (3% vs. 87%).

87% of respondents assessed opportunities in the EU as a whole as higher than in Ukraine, especially in income (87% vs. 3%), social security (75% vs. 15%), protection of rights and freedoms of citizens (67% vs. 19%), opportunities to live comfortably (60% vs. 26%), to find a job (54% vs. 30%). According to the respondents, it is possible to succeed both in the EU (40%) and in Ukraine (41%), but doing business is still somewhat better in Ukraine (45%) than in the EU (34%).

4% of Ukrainians have bribed an official in the host country (most often in southern Europe), the same number refused to answer.

The study anonymously interviewed 2116 Ukrainians aged 18 and older who found temporary asylum in 31 European countries after February 24, 2022 using the CAWI (Computer Assisted Web Interviewing) method. Results are weighted using current UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) data. The study's representativeness error at a confidence level of 0.95: no more than 3.2%.

FERTILITY IN UKRAINE AS OF 31.07.2023



Source: Open4Business.com.ua and experts.news

DEMAND FOR NEW BUSES IN UKRAINE HAS ALMOST DOUBLED

Primary registrations of new buses (including minibuses) in Ukraine in August increased by 97.2%, or 103 units, compared to July this year – up to 209 units, according to the statistics of the association “Ukravtoprom”. At the same time, compared to August last year, when 59 buses were registered, the demand increased more than 2.5 times. As reported, in July-2023 the registration of new buses decreased by 17.2% compared to June.

“ *The position of the leader last month (as in July) was retained by Citroen buses with registration of 72 units, which is by 20 vehicles more than a month earlier (in August-2023 – one bus), the second place is held by Ataman buses produced by JSC “Cherkassy Bus” with registration of 52 vehicles against 23 in July-2023 and 17 – in August last year.*

The third place was held by Ukrainian “Etalon” with registration of 51 buses against 8 in July, and another Ukrainian manufacturer – ZAZ – moved up to the fourth line, 11 buses of this brand were registered (in July – one).

Next are Ford (8 buses), the same number of registered buses “Bogdan”, which were not registered neither in July this year, nor in August last year.

Volkswagen (3) JAC (2) Iveco and MAN buses (one each) were registered in August in insignificant volumes.

VASYL KHMELNITSKY SOLD ONE THIRD OF OCEAN PLAZA SHOPPING MALL TO ANDREY IVANOV

The sale of a share (33.35%) of the Ocean Plaza shopping mall to Andrey Ivanov has been officially finalized, businessman Vasyl Khmelnytsky said.

“ *Last week were officially finalized all transactions on the sale of my share of Ocean Plaza shopping mall to my long-time partner Andrei Ivanov,” – said Khmelnytsky on Facebook.*

Ocean Plaza shopping mall was opened in Kiev in December 2012 on Antonovycha Street, 176. Its total area is 165 thousand square meters. Investments in the mall amounted to about \$300 mln. UDP Company and K.A.N. Development LLC acted as partners in the development of the project.

The mall was sold to Arkady Rotenberg’s Russian TPS-Nedvizhimost in 2012. Later, in 2019, businessman Vasily Khmelnytsky indirectly through UPD Holdings Limited acquired a 33.5% stake in Ocean Plaza shopping mall. In 2021 he sold his stake to entrepreneur Andrei Ivanov, the deal was finalized in the summer of 2023.

“More than three years ago, my partner Vasily Khmelnytsky and I reached an agreement under which I would gradually buy out the development company UDP, whose investments had been under my management for a long time. The agreement to buy out 33.35% of shares of Ocean Plaza shopping mall, which is part of UDP, is a logical continuation of the process”, – commented the owner of the investment company Q Partners Andrey Ivanov to the agency “Interfax-Ukraine”.

As reported, in June 2023, the FGI registered corporate rights to the state share (66.65%) in the shopping mall Ocean Plaza.

“In the public communication of the fund we hear intentions to sell their stake already by the end of this year. As a minority owner, we are fulfilling all the state’s requirements to prepare the company for sale. Our further view on the development of this asset will depend on the results of privatization,” – said Ivanov.

Earlier it was reported that the Cabinet of Ministers on June 9, 2023 adopted an order on the transfer to the FGI share of the authorized capital of LLC “Investment Union “Lybid”, which owns the shopping mall, in the amount of 66.65%. Previously, these corporate rights belonged to Russian sub-sanctioned businessmen Arkady and Igor Rotenberg, but in March 2023, the Supreme Anti-Corruption Court recovered them in favor of the state by its decision.

“ENERGOATOM” AND US WESTINGHOUSE SIGNED MEMORANDUM ON INTRODUCTION OF SMALL MODULAR REACTORS IN UKRAINE

NAEK Energoatom and the US-based Westinghouse have signed a memorandum of understanding and cooperation on the introduction of SMR 300 small modular reactors in Ukraine, an Interfax-Ukraine correspondent reports.



According to Westinghouse President Patrick Fragman, the SMR 300 will be a good complement to the larger capacity AP 1000 reactors.

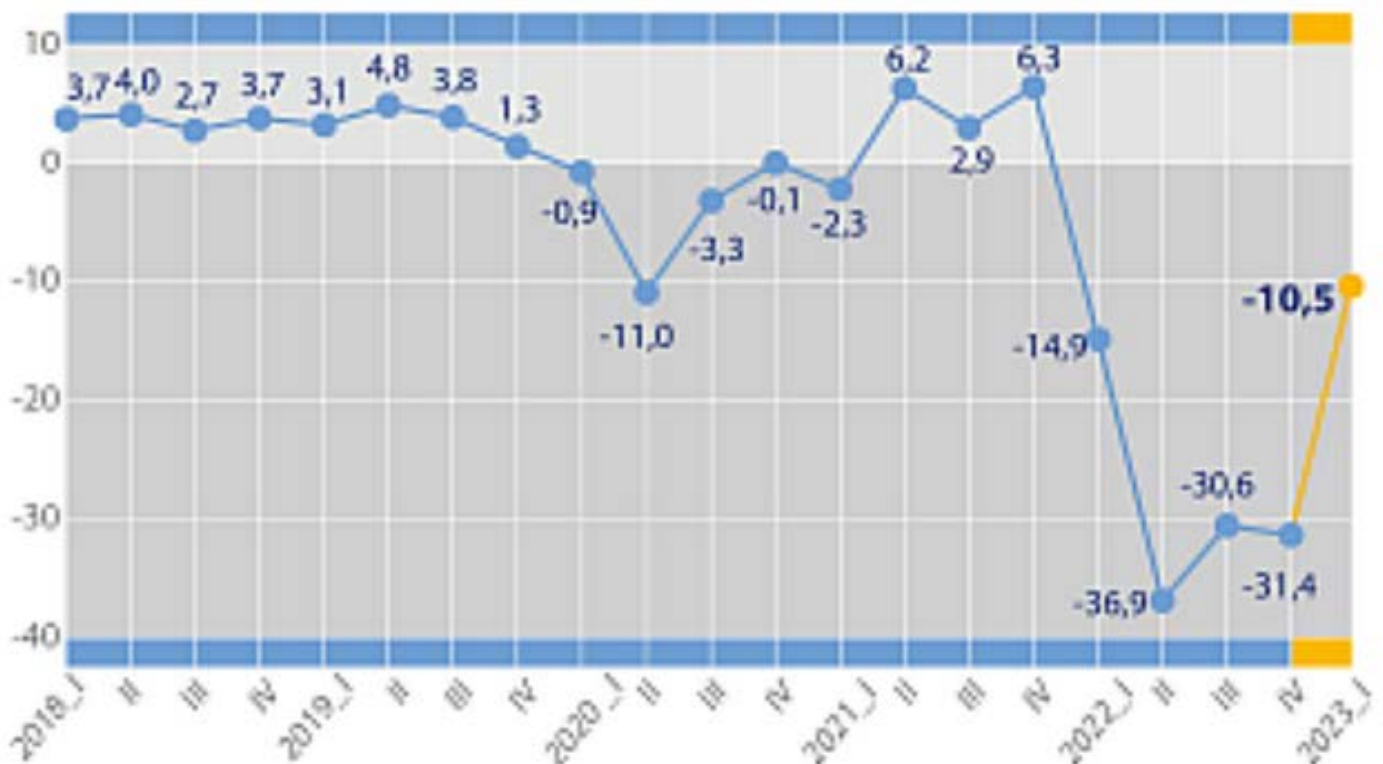
Similar memorandums have already been signed by Westinghouse with Slovakia and Finland.

NAEK and Westinghouse also signed a memorandum to extend the exclusivity period of cooperation for the construction of AP1000 units in Ukraine.

“Certain equipment for the construction of AP1000 in Ukraine has already been manufactured in the United States and thus we will accelerate the process of delivery and construction of the unit,” he specified.



REAL GDP PERCENTAGE CHANGES OVER PREVIOUS PERIOD IN 2014-2023



UKRAINE INCREASED PRODUCTION AND EXPORT OF SUNFLOWER OIL BY 25.4%

In 2022/2023 marketing year, Ukraine increased the production and export of sunflower oil by 25.4% compared to 2021/2022 MY, the press service of the association Ukroliyprom reports.

“One of the main peculiarities of 2022/23 MY was the significant increase of sunflower seed processing at the domestic facilities starting from 2023, after the ban of its import by some EU countries. This allowed to significantly increase the processing of sunflower seeds within the country and, accordingly, the production of oil and its export by 25.4%, sunflower meal – by 27.3% compared to 2021/22 MY,” the company said in the report.

“According to the report, the export of sunflower seeds decreased by 58% in the first eight months of 2023 compared to the same period of 2022. This made it possible to significantly increase its processing at domestic facilities and, accordingly, the production and export of high value-added products.



In 2022/23 MY, the production and export of soybean oil increased by 18%, and soybean meal – by 19.4%.

These figures could have been higher if soybean processing in the country had increased, especially given that exports of soybean products are mainly carried out by road and rail, the association noted.

In addition, in 2023, Ukraine increased the processing of rapeseed, as evidenced by the increase in exports of rapeseed oil in July-August this year by more than 20 times compared to the corresponding period in 2022.

USDA IMPROVED ITS FORECAST FOR WHEAT AND CORN HARVEST IN UKRAINE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has improved its forecast for Ukraine's wheat harvest in the recently started 2023/24 marketing year (MY) from 21 million tons to 22.5 million tons, and for corn from 27.5 million tons to 28 million tons due to larger than expected planted areas and the second-highest yields on record.

In its September forecast, the agency also raised its wheat export estimates from 11 million tons to 11.5 million tons, while corn exports remained unchanged at 19.5 million tons.

“The USDA raised its domestic consumption forecast for wheat from 8.1 million tons to 8.8 million tons, while maintaining its forecast for corn at 5.5 million tons, and at the same time raising its carryover forecast to 4.43 million tons from 3.89 million tons.

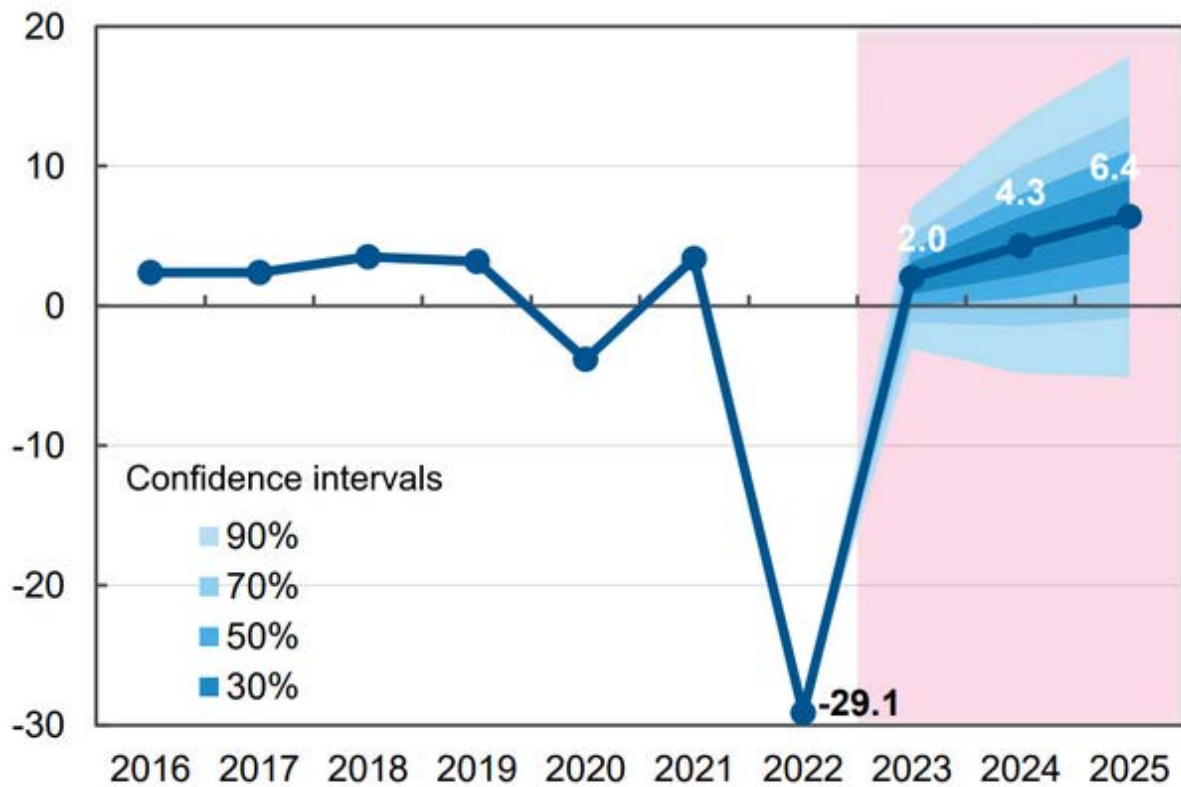
In general, the global wheat harvest forecast for 2023/24 MY has been lowered by 56 mln tonnes to 787.3 mln tonnes, which is 3.25 mln tonnes less than last year, due to the decrease in production in Australia, Canada, Argentina and the EU, which will not be compensated by the increased production of Ukraine.

The forecast of world wheat trade was also downgraded by 2.1 million tons to 207.3 million tons compared to 219.9 million tons last year due to the decline in production in the above countries, which is only partially offset by the growth of activity in Russia and Kazakhstan.

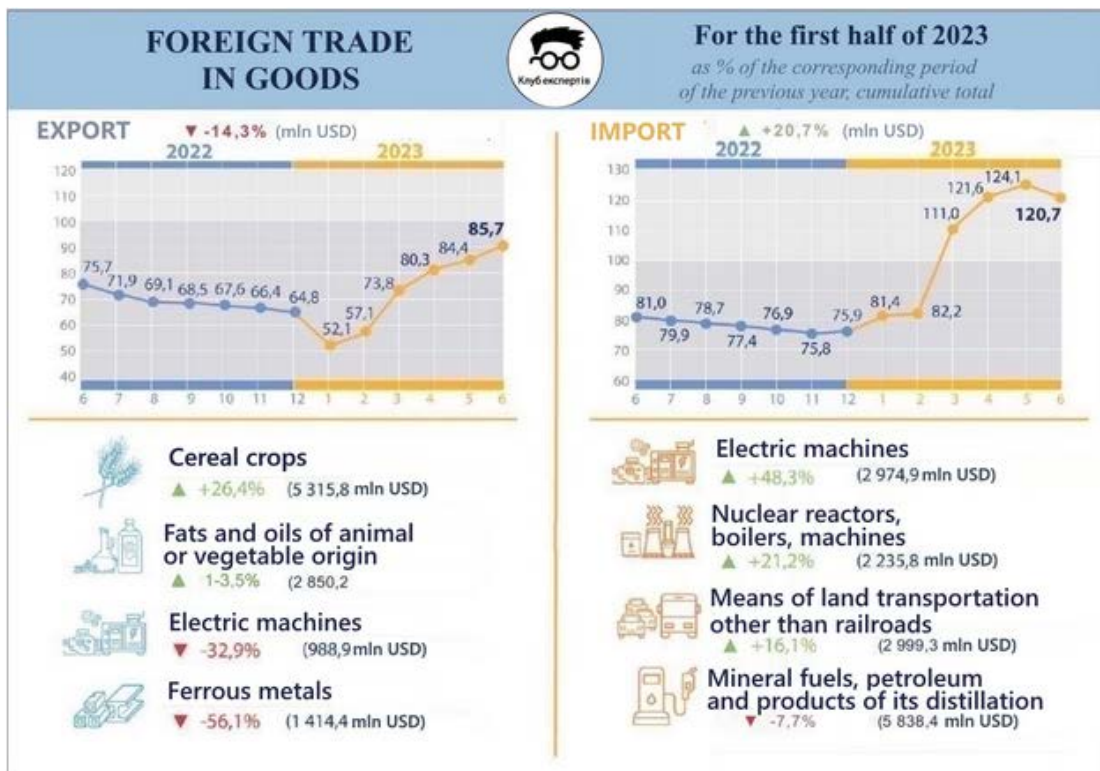
The USDA noted that such annual decline in the world wheat supplies is the first since 2018/19 MY. The agency also expects the reduction of the global carry-over stocks by 7 mln tonnes to 258.6 mln tonnes, which will be the lowest level since 2015/16 MY.



FORECAST OF DYNAMICS OF CHANGES IN UKRAINIAN GDP IN % FOR 2022-2025 IN RELATION TO PREVIOUS PERIOD



FOREIGN TRADE IN GOODS IN JANUARY-JUNE 2023 (GENERAL INFOGRAPHIC)



DEMAND FOR MEDICAL SERVICES FOR PREGNANCY MANAGEMENT AND ROUTINE MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS IS GROWING IN UKRAINE – LELEKA DIRECTOR

Demand for medical services for pregnancy management and routine medical examinations is growing in Ukraine, but there are many neglected cases, said Valery Zukin, chief operating officer of the Leleka multidisciplinary medical center.

“At the beginning of September, we can talk about a stable demand for childbirth, pregnancy management and other urgent and emergency health cases that cannot be planned or postponed in advance. At the same time, the demand for scheduled preventive examinations is growing. This is especially true for women – they are more likely to go to medical facilities for check-ups than men,” he told Interfax-Ukraine, commenting on the dynamics of demand for medical services in Ukraine.

Zukin also noted that “the number of ‘deferred’ medical care is growing – cases that do not require urgent resolution and can be returned to later, but should not be neglected at all.”

According to Zukin, in particular, there is an increase in surgical interventions for gynecological problems, hernias, gallbladder removal, removal of breast fibroadenomas, and various phlebology procedures and operations.

At the same time, Zukin emphasized that “since the beginning of the full-scale war, Ukrainians have become less health conscious.”

“As a result, medical experts note an increase in advanced cases. Therefore, I would like to emphasize that it is important to understand that it is better not to postpone treatment of some diseases,” he said.

Zukin also noted an increase in demand for so-called “non-medical” and “aesthetic services”.

“In our clinic, even before the full-scale invasion, such services accounted for a rather small percentage of the overall structure of the medical center’s services, but now various festive services during discharge from the obstetric hospital (photo and video discharge, a gala buffet, etc.) are quite popular. Also, aesthetic gynecology services and massages for pregnant women, etc. have gained considerable popularity,” he said.

In addition, the expert pointed out “the problem that is now gaining momentum in Ukraine is the unsatisfactory state of childhood vaccination.”

Leleka Multifunctional Medical Center is one of the leading Ukrainian clinics in the field of obstetrics, gynecology, and general surgery. The medical center practices medical protocols approved in Ukraine, the United States and Western Europe. The Leleka Center for Modern Surgery provides surgical gynecology, mammology, vascular surgery (phlebology), proctology and urology, endocrine surgery, plastic, abdominal, bariatric, outpatient surgery, and endoscopy.

In 2019, Leleka was the first in Ukraine to receive JCI accreditation, one of the world’s most prestigious quality standards for medical institutions. The standard is based on the American system of medical accreditation of medical institutions based on the management of patient outcomes.

The JCI International Division accredits hospitals in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and South America, and now in Ukraine. JCI annually updates its accreditation standards to expand its patient safety goals.



Лелека
ПОЛОГОВИЙ БУДИНОК

CONFECTIONERY FACTORY “ROSHEN” OWNED BY POROSHENKO WILL INCREASE ITS AUTHORIZED CAPITAL BY 0.5 BILLION UAH

PJSC Kyiv Confectionery Factory Roshen, a member of Roshen Corporation, will increase the authorized capital by 33.2%, or by UAH 500 million – up to UAH 2.006 billion through an additional issue of shares.

“Financial resources raised from the placement of shares, 100% will be directed with the purpose and directions for the acquisition of production equipment,” – noted in the message of the company in the information disclosure system of the NCSSM.

According to it, the placement may lead to an increase in the share of the majority shareholder – the subsidiary “Confectionery Corporation “Roshen”, which at the end of the first quarter of this year already owned 96.9017% of shares. Taking into account the additional issue, the share of the majority shareholder may reach 97.674%.

It is specified that the decision on additional capitalization was made by the shareholders’ meeting, which was held remotely on August 21 and the minutes of which were drawn up on September 1.

In total it is planned to issue 2 billion pieces of common registered shares with par value of UAH 0.25, they will be placed at the market price at the level of par value, which was determined by the appraiser LLC “AR G Satellite”.

Roshen Corporation, according to the information on its website, ranks 27th among the largest confectionery manufacturers in the world. It includes Kiev, Kremenchug, two Vinnitsa confectionery factories and Vinnitsa dairy plant, Biscuit complex in Borispol (Ukraine); Klaipeda confectionery factory (Lithuania) and Bonbonetti Choco factory (Hungary). The production activities of the Lipetsk factory (Russian Federation) have been halted since April 1, 2017.

The corporation produces about 320 types of confectionery products. The total production volume is about 300 thousand tons of products per year.

The Roshen branded stores network in Ukraine includes about 70 stores in different regions of the country.

The first one was opened in 2009 in Kyiv. In 2022, PrJSC Kyiv Confectionery Factory Roshen posted a net loss of UAH 984 thousand compared to UAH 25.779 million in profit a year earlier, while the company’s revenue decreased from UAH 979.286 million to UAH 903.195 million. The ultimate beneficiary of the company is the son of former President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko, Oleksiy.

AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS INCREASED BY 16% IN AUGUST – UCAB

In August 2023, Ukraine increased exports of agricultural products by 16% compared to the previous month – up to 4.3 million tons, and this is without taking into account the growing queues of vehicles at the borders, according to the Ukrainian Agribusiness Club (UCAB).

“Such export volumes in August 2023 are an incredible result. Despite all the obstacles (Russia’s shelling of the Danube river infrastructure, falling water levels in the Danube, a ban on the export of a number of key Ukrainian exports to neighboring countries, etc.), as well as the lack of sea exports, Ukrainian farmers and traders continue to provide the world with the necessary food,” analysts said.

They specified that the Danube river ports remain the most efficient channel, thanks to which 4% of agricultural exports were delivered to foreign markets in August.

According to UCAB, in August 2023, the share of grain crops in the structure of agricultural exports increased by 2% and amounted to 2.3 mln tons (wheat – 52%, corn – 39%, barley – 9%).

Exports of oilseeds increased 2.3 times to 755.4 thousand tons (rapeseed – 94%, soybeans – 4%, and sunflower seeds – 1%).

The share of oilcake after extraction from vegetable oils in Ukraine’s agricultural exports in August 2023 increased by 15% to 367.3 thsd tonnes (sunflower – 98%, soybean – 2%).

The supply volumes of vegetable oils remained unchanged at 548.9 thsd tonnes (sunflower oil – 81%, rapeseed oil – 17%, soybean oil – 2%).

The analysts noted that the biggest changes in August 2023 were observed in the exports of oilseeds, the volume of which increased by 2.3 times. The main reason was the end of the rapeseed harvest in Ukraine and active exports.

COST OF AGRICULTURAL LAND IN WESTERN UKRAINE HAS REACHED NEW HIGH

The regions of Western Ukraine became the leader in terms of agricultural land prices in the summer of 2023, according to the data of the Opendatabot service.

According to the infographics of the resource, in June of this year, the most expensive agricultural land was in Lviv (139.4 thousand UAH/ha), Ivano-Frankivsk (84.391 thousand UAH/ha) and Kyiv (61.611 thousand UAH/ha) regions. The minimum price was recorded in Kharkiv region – 26.3 thousand UAH/ha.

In July, the leading regions in terms of land prices were Rivne (144.2 thousand UAH/ha), Ivano-Frankivsk (140.9 thousand UAH/ha) and Lviv (103.647 thousand UAH/ha) regions. During this period, the cheapest land was bought in Donetsk region – 19.08 thousand UAH/ha.

Ivano-Frankivsk region was the leader in terms of the cost of agricultural land in August, although prices were lower – 111.5 thousand UAH/ha. Lviv (91.987 thousand UAH/ha) and Khmelnytsky (53.019 thousand UAH/ha) regions were in the TOP-3. Zaporizhzhia region became the anti-leader in the last month of summer – 26.57 thousand UAH/ha. The average cost of agricultural land in Ukraine in June amounted to 39.86 thousand UAH/ha, in July – 44.9 thousand UAH/ha, in August – 39.85 thousand UAH/ha.

At the same time, the area of land sold during the summer decreased from 14.9 thou hectares in June to 13.4 thou hectares in July and 10.45 thou hectares in August.

According to the report, the average cost per hectare for the entire period of work on the land market is about 37 thousand UAH/ha. In the first month after the resumption of work in May 2022, prices reached 43 thousand UAH/ha.

As reported, the Kyiv School of Economics (KSE), with the support of the USAID AGRO Program, is conducting a study of the land market in Ukraine. During the last analysis, analysts identified two systemic problems: the low level of price registration in the State Register of Rights and the underestimation of land prices during transactions.

“Since the beginning of 2023, the share of transactions with a registered price has amounted to only 18.8% of all sales transactions, while in 2022 this figure was 34.4%, and in 2021 – 55.0%. At the same time, in 60% of cases where the price of the land plot was indicated, it was at the lowest possible level, i.e. at the level of the normative monetary value (NMV). The ratio between purchase and sale prices and lease prices at electronic land auctions at 1:4.5 indicates that the registered prices of purchase and sale transactions are twice lower than the market prices,” the study says.

Source: <https://opendatabot.ua/open/land>



BAYER HAS STARTED CONSTRUCTION OF PLANT IN UKRAINE

EUR60 mln will be invested in the construction of the Monsanto plant in Pochuiki village (Popelnyansky district, Zhytomyr region) by Bayer to produce corn seeds, said the head of Zhytomyr regional military administration Vitaliy Bunechko.

“Today together with the director of “Monsanto-seeds” LLC Vladimir Onishchenko laid a symbolic “time capsule” at the site of construction of new capacities of this enterprise. More than EUR60 million of additional investments during the war is the best evidence not only of international support for Ukraine, but also of the fact that large investors believe in our victory,” he wrote in Telegram.

Bunechko emphasized that Monsanto Seeds is already one of the largest seed plants in Eastern Europe. It provides corn hybrids not only to Ukrainian farmers, but also to agrarians in Romania, Hungary and France. After the construction of additional capacity, its potential will increase even more.

“*Expansion of production is simultaneously the creation of new jobs in Zhytomyr region, increase of tax revenues to the budget, as well as foreign currency earnings, which is very important for the Ukrainian economy in war conditions,*” he said.

At the same time, the head of Zhytomyr OVA noted the responsible position of Bayer, which in 2022, two months after the start of the full-scale invasion to support farmers who were sowing in super difficult conditions, gave them free of charge 140 tons of corn seeds of Monsanto selection.

The investment will reportedly be used to build a new seed dryer, purchase modern farming equipment, build storage facilities and two bomb shelters for employees. The plant employs about 100 full-time employees and 250 to 300 seasonal workers. The plant is one of the largest in the region.

Bayer is a multinational company that operates in the fields of medicine and agriculture. The company is headquartered in Leverkusen, Germany. In 2022, Bayer Group employed about 101 thousand people and its sales amounted to EUR50.7 bln.

The company has been operating in Ukraine since 1992 and is represented by the pharmaceutical division, OTC department, as well as the agricultural division. The total number of employees is 700.



ACADEMY OF LABOR, SOCIAL RELATIONS AND TOURISM HAS OPENED NEW DEPARTMENT

Higher education and the gastronomy industry have joined forces to create a new training center.

Academy of Labor, Social Relations and Tourism has announced the opening of a new Department of Gastronomy, Sommelier and Wine Culture, which is an important step in the development of gastronomy in Ukraine and will provide new opportunities for professional development for students and guests of the educational institution. The grand opening of the department was attended by prominent figures from various fields, which symbolizes the broad support for the initiative. One of the invited guests was **Ricardo Fernández Núñez**, owner of Vinos de la Luz, an international wine group with wineries in Argentina, Spain, and Italy, as well as offices in Ukraine and Poland and production in the United States. He also holds a Doctorate, which recognizes his active role in the development of the wine industry. During his speech, Nunez expressed his deep support for Ukraine and his willingness to fight for its freedom and identity. He noted that he supports Ukraine not only with words, but also with his activities, trying to contribute to the country by means available to him.

Mykola Malomuzh, former Head of the Foreign Intelligence Service of Ukraine, also took part in the opening of the chair. His presence at the event demonstrates the government's support and interest in the development of the gastronomy industry.

In his turn, **Viktor Sukhomlyn**, Acting Rector of the Academy, PhD in Public Administration, Honored Worker of the Social Sphere of Ukraine, emphasized the importance of developing the new department and its contribution to the training of gastronomy and sommelier specialists. He noted that this initiative will contribute to improving the quality of education in Ukraine and developing wine culture among our citizens.

The Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Academy, **Yevhen Mykhailovych Drapyaty**, expressed his support for the new project, the implementation of which is an important step towards the development of the gastronomy industry for the further successful development of the country.

"The opening of the new department marks the beginning of a new stage of gastronomic education in Ukraine," said **Volodymyr Pechko**, Chairman of the **UKRSADVINPROM** Public Union.

He also expressed his support for this innovative step and thanked the initiative's participants for their work in restoring the international organization and bringing it back to Ukraine.

Natalia Blagopoluchna, President of the All-Ukrainian Association of Winemakers and Sommeliers, head of the first Ukrainian sommelier school "Master Class", also spoke about the history of the first sommelier school in Ukraine, which was born more than twenty-three years ago. Since then, the school has been providing students and guests of the Academy of Labor with ample opportunities for training and development in the areas of tourism and social relations. Not only does it allow students to gain solid knowledge, but it also facilitates the acquisition of practical experience in the gastronomic field, which stimulates the further development of gastronomic culture in Ukraine.

Maksym Urakin, founder of the **Club of Experts** think tank, publisher, and marketing director of Interfax Ukraine, in turn, emphasized the importance of developing education in Ukraine and stressed that this initiative is a step towards training a new generation of professionals who will restore and develop the country in the future. Thanks to the support and activity of prominent personalities and the university staff, the new Department of Gastronomy, Sommelier, and Wine Culture promises to become a leader in the field of gastronomic education and development of wine culture in Ukraine. We stay in touch to follow the further achievements and contribution of this department to the gastronomic heritage of our country.

The Academy of Labor and Social Relations was established in 1993 with the aim of providing high-quality program-targeted training of specialists in the field of law, market relations, social partnership, labor organization, and management. In 2013/2014, the name of the Academy was renamed to the Academy of Labor, Social Relations and Tourism. Along with the use of modern advanced teaching technologies, the Academy also draws on the many years of experience and traditions of the Higher School of Trade Union Movement.

Today, the Academy is a leading higher education institution in Ukraine, a national center of modern knowledge about society and social technologies.

UKRAINIAN AGRARIANS HARVESTED 33.7 MLN TONS OF CROPS IN 2023

Agrarians in all regions of Ukraine have harvested over 33.7 million tons of new crops, including 29.309 million tons of grains and 4.353 million tons of oilseeds, the press service of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food reports.



According to the report, grain and leguminous crops were harvested on an area of 6697 thousand hectares with a yield of 43.9 c/ha. To date, Ukraine has harvested barley on 1504 thousand hectares, from which 5.822 million tons (101% of the plan) were harvested; wheat from 4689 thousand hectares was harvested 22.149 million tons (101%); peas from 154.4 thousand hectares yielded 386.5 thousand tons (103%); millet from 33 thousand hectares – 79.4 thousand tons (40%); buckwheat from 45 thousand hectares – 63.3 thousand tons (31%).

In addition, other grains and pulses were harvested in the amount of 807.2 thou tons from 271 thou hectares.

Farmers are finishing harvesting rapeseed. It has been harvested from an area of 1395 thou hectares (98% of the planned area), with a total of 3999.5 thou tons harvested.

Ukraine has started harvesting oilseeds, including 107.4 thou tons of sunflower (49.4 thou tons a week earlier, which is 2% of the plan) from an area of 107.4 thou hectares, and 154.1 thou tons of soybeans (30.6 thou tons) from 60 thou hectares (3%).

Agrarians in 18 regions have finished harvesting rapeseed. As reported, this season winter wheat plantings amounted to 4166 thou hectares (-834 thou hectares compared to the previous season), winter barley – 536 thou hectares (-255 thou hectares), and rapeseed – 1374 thou hectares (+110 thou hectares).

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

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