



UKRAINE
OPEN FOR BUSINESS

ANNUAL WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM IN DAVOS BEGAN TODAY WITH UKRAINIAN ISSUE

The annual World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, which officially opens its work on Monday, 15 January, on Sunday announced the fourth meeting of national security and foreign policy advisers to discuss the Ukrainian Formula for Peace. According to the forum's official programme, a press conference on Switzerland's role as co-organiser of the meeting and its continued support for a just and lasting peace in Ukraine will be held in the afternoon, and in the evening key members of the Ukrainian delegation will share the results of the discussion. The day before, Justice Minister Denys Malyska said on Facebook that the work of the delegation in Davos, where representatives of more than 80 countries gathered, would last about a day and a half. According to the official programme, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will deliver a special address at the WEF on Tuesday, 16 January. On the same day, later in the day, there will be a session on "Ukraine's Horizons" on how Ukraine can intensify its reconstruction efforts to support its economic and political ambitions to join the EU and NATO after nearly two years of devastating war. It will be attended by, among others, Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda, US Special Representative for Ukraine's Economic Recovery Penny Pritzker, Head of the Ukrainian Presidential Office (OP) Andriy Yermak, Foreign Ministers of Spain and the Netherlands Jose Manuel Alvarez Bueno and Hanke Bruins Slot, and Yale University history professor Timothy Snyder. The following day, Wednesday, 17 January, at the session "Ukraine at War: Year Three", British Foreign Secretary David Cameron and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba will discuss strengthening international unity in support of the country's defence and economy, which will continue to come under pressure, and what approaches and goals Ukraine and its international partners should agree on for the coming year.

15 January 2023

HEADLINES



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INTERFAX-UKRAINE HAS BECOME OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF DUN & BRADSTREET IN UKRAINIAN MARKET



STATE-OWNED ENERGOATOM HAS BECOME JOINT-STOCK COMPANY



EXPERTS CLUB MADE VIDEO "TOP 10 WORLD ELECTIONS IN 2024"



INTERNATIONAL HOTEL OPERATOR ACCOR OPENS THREE-STAR HOTEL IN KYIV



UKRAINE BECAME THIRD LARGEST SUPPLIER OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS TO EU IN 2023

STATE BUDGET OF UKRAINE RECEIVED \$5 BLN OF EXTERNAL FINANCING IN DECEMBER

The state budget of Ukraine received \$5 billion in external financing in December, which is twice as much as the previous month, with more than 11% of the total financial assistance coming from grants on non-refundable terms, the press service of the Ministry of Finance reported on Wednesday. “The attracted international assistance is used to finance priority social expenditures of the state budget, in particular, to pay salaries of employees of the education and healthcare sectors, humanitarian needs, as well as to ensure social protection of the population,” the release said.

According to the agency, the donors in December 2023 were Japan – \$2.2 billion (concessional financing and grants), the EU – \$1.6 billion (concessional financing), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) – approximately \$900 million (concessional financing), Norway – \$190 million (grant), Germany – \$55 million (grant), the United States – \$50 million (grant), Switzerland – \$20 million (grant) and the World Bank (WB) – \$8 million (concessional financing). It is specified that Japan has provided funding in the form of two grants: one for \$180 million under the WB’s Emergency Project for Inclusive Support for Ukraine’s Agricultural Recovery (ARISE) and \$52.4 million through the WB’s Housing and Opportunities for People’s Empowerment (HOPE) project.

Japan also financed loans for two WB projects: \$1.09 billion for the Public Expenditure Support for Sustainable Governance in Ukraine (PEACE in Ukraine) and \$900 million for the Investing in Social Protection for Improved Coverage, Resilience, and Efficiency (INSPIRE) project.

“**EU funds in the amount of EUR 1.5 billion are the last tranche of a large-scale macro-financial assistance program (MFA+) of EUR 18 billion for 2023,” the Ministry of Finance emphasized.**

As the Ministry reminded, the IMF provided Ukraine with financing worth about \$900 million (SDR 663.9 million) as a result of the successful second review of the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) program by the IMF Executive Board.

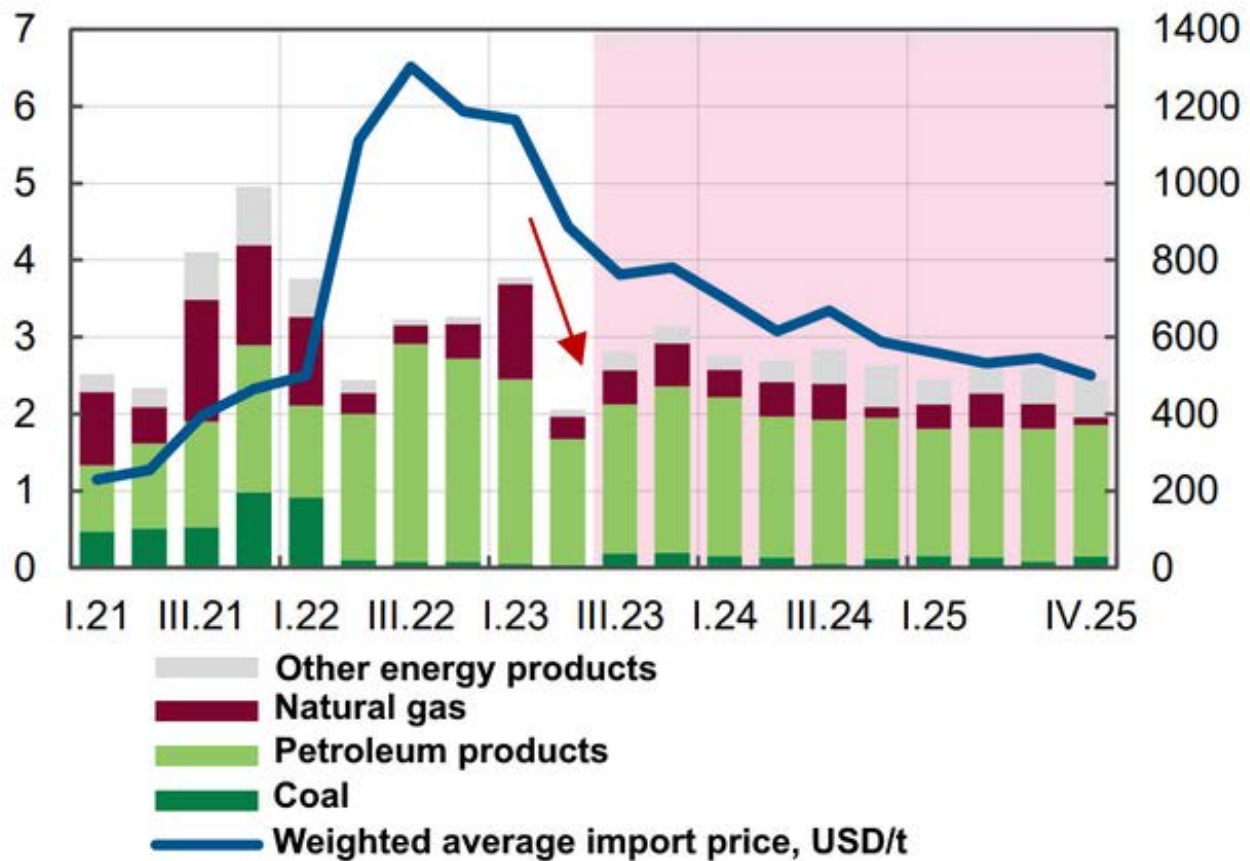
At the same time, the grants from Norway, the United States, and Switzerland are part of the sixth additional financing under the PEACE in Ukraine project. In turn, a EUR 50 million grant from the German State Development Bank (KfW) was attracted under the state support program “Affordable Loans 5-7-9%”.

The Ministry of Finance clarified that the concessional financing from the WB in the amount of \$8 million is additional funding for the project “Improving Healthcare at the Service of People”.

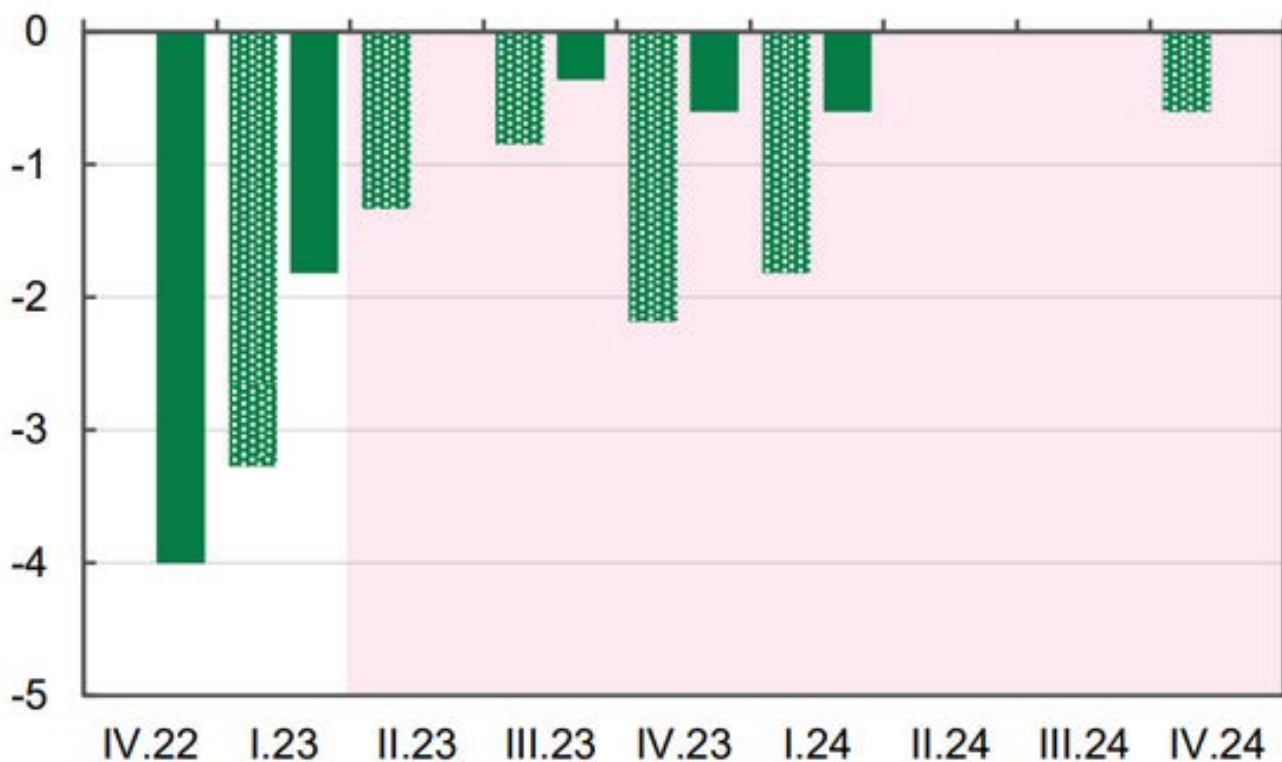
As reported, in November this year, the Ministry of Finance attracted about \$2 billion to the state budget of Ukraine, and in October – \$2.8 billion. In total, over 12 months of 2023, Ukraine received about \$42.4 billion in external financing for the urgent needs of the state budget.



ENERGY IMPORTS, FORECAST, BLN DOLLARS



IMPACT OF ELECTRICITY DEFICIT ON REAL GDP VS NO DEFICIT, % (FORECAST UP TO 2024)



DOBROBUT MEDICAL NETWORK OPENS OPHTHALMOLOGY CLINIC IN KYIV

Dobrobut Medical Network has opened an ophthalmology clinic at its multidisciplinary hospital on Bazhana Avenue in Kyiv. According to a press release from the healthcare chain, the clinic provides a full range of ophthalmology services – from outpatient appointments and diagnostics to surgical interventions of any complexity.

The team of ophthalmic surgeons at Dobrobut Clinic is headed by a married couple – Professor Andrii Sergienko, MD, and Victoria Sergienko, PhD. Professor Sergienko has been developing the field of treatment of retinal diseases and rare eye pathologies for 35 years. He has performed more than 30 thousand surgeries in Europe, Asia and Africa.

“*The clinic’s team consists of eight doctors who consult and operate. They will involve colleagues from other medical areas of Dobrobut: neurosurgeons, endocrinologists, cardiologists, and oncodermatologists.*”

“The war has led to an increase not only in the demand for ophthalmic services, but also in the complexity of the problems patients come with. Collaboration with other Dobrobut doctors will allow us to develop new areas, such as ophthalmogenetics and neuro-ophthalmology to treat complex diseases,” Professor Sergienko said in a press release.

“Dobrobut is one of the largest private medical networks in Ukraine. The company’s portfolio includes 17 medical centers in Kyiv and Kyiv region, an emergency service, dentistry and pharmacies. The medical centers of the network provide services for children and adults in more than 75 medical areas. Every year, Dobrobut specialists perform more than 7,000 surgeries. The network employs more than 2,800 people.

STATE-OWNED ENERGOATOM HAS BECOME A JOINT-STOCK COMPANY

State-owned enterprise National Atomic Energy Generating Company Energoatom has been transformed into a joint-stock company with 100% of its shares owned by the state, Cabinet of Ministers representative in the Verkhovna Rada Taras Melnychuk said in Telegram. According to him, the government decisions adopted on Friday provide for the establishment of Energoatom JSC, approval of its charter and provisions on the supervisory board and principles of its formation.

“*It is established that the joint-stock company is the legal successor of all property and non-property rights and obligations of SE NAEK Energoatom from the date of state registration of the joint-stock company,” Melnychuk specified.*”

“Corporatization according to the best international standards will strengthen the quality of management, transparency and accountability of the company. It also opens up new opportunities for the development of our nuclear power industry and partnership with international companies,” – says the Prime Minister of Ukraine Denis Shmygal.

As reported, the plan to transform Energoatom into a JSC, 100% owned by the state, was approved by Government Order No. 571-r of June 27, 2023. The process should be completed by March 2024.

The start of the tender procedure for the election of members of the NAEK’s nabsoobet by November 30, 2023 and the transformation of the SOE into a JSC by December 31, 2023, in particular, is a condition for Ukraine to receive an additional \$100 million in energy assistance.

“Energoatom is the operator of all four operating nuclear power plants in Ukraine. It operates the Zaporizhzhya, Pivdenno-Ukrainian, Rivne and Khmelnytskyi plants with 15 power units equipped with water-water power reactors, with a total installed electrical capacity of 13.8 GW. ZNPP with a capacity of 6 GW has been under the occupation of the Russian Federation since May 4, 2022.

INTERFAX-UKRAINE HAS BECOME OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF DUN & BRADSTREET IN UKRAINIAN MARKET

Interfax-Ukraine news agency has announced that it has signed a license agreement with Dun & Bradstreet (D&B), becoming its official representative in the Ukrainian market. This step symbolizes a new stage in the development of the Ukrainian business environment, as it opens up access to global resources for verifying and analyzing business information.

The main product of **D&B** available through Interfax-Ukraine is D&B Hoovers, an online database that allows users to search and verify information about companies around the world. This tool will become an indispensable assistant for those seeking to expand their business horizons.

Also in the arsenal of products are Business Information Reports, which offer an extended investigation of the activities of any company in the world.

Users of D&B and **Interfax-Ukraine** services will be able to check foreign partners and counterparties, build corporate relationships, minimize risks in terms of payments and contract performance, and search for potential clients and partners around the world. D&B also conducts investigations, aggregates data on counterparty payments, analyzes business statistics and calculates various indices, including fraud, bankruptcy, payment discipline, and financial stability.

D&B's business assessment ratings are considered a global benchmark for making decisions on cooperation. Due to the volume of orders and the well-established business procedure, D&B's services are affordable, and access to information has a user-friendly interface that simplifies data processing.

Oleksandr Martynenko, CEO of Interfax-Ukraine, said that cooperation with Dun & Bradstreet is an important step in the agency's development.

“We are proud to open the gateway to the global information services market for our clients. Our goal is to provide Ukrainian companies with up-to-date and accurate information that will help them grow and prosper in a globally competitive environment. The cooperation between Interfax-Ukraine and Dun & Bradstreet opens up new opportunities for Ukrainian companies seeking to expand their business internationally,” he emphasized.

In his turn, Maksym Urakin, Deputy CEO of Interfax-Ukraine and Head of the Business Unit D&B-Interfax-Ukraine, emphasized the strategic importance of the partnership between Interfax-Ukraine and Dun & Bradstreet for Ukrainian business.

“Now, having access to D&B's global network of information, Ukrainian entrepreneurs will be able to significantly improve their competitiveness and reduce risks when searching for and screening partners around the world using the most advanced tools for business intelligence and strategic planning,” said Urakin.

This cooperation, in his opinion, is also evidence of the growing interest of global corporations in the Ukrainian market, emphasizing the potential and opportunities that, despite the war, are opening up for investors in the context of business globalization and the prospects for rebuilding Ukraine.

Interfax-Ukraine, as the official representative of D&B in Ukraine, is ready to provide a full range of D&B services and products, including detailed business intelligence and analytics that will be useful to anyone seeking to make informed and balanced business decisions.

The company invites interested parties to discuss cooperation opportunities and demonstrate the system at their convenience, emphasizing its openness to new partnerships and readiness to support the development of the Ukrainian business environment in accordance with international standards.

“Interfax-Ukraine is an independent Ukrainian news agency that has been operating in the Ukrainian political and economic information market since 1992 and has gained a reputation as the most authoritative and competent provider of timely and objective information. The editorial office (headquarters) is located in Kyiv. “Interfax-Ukraine is not a part of any foreign media holdings. The owner of Interfax-Ukraine is Oleksandr Martynenko.

UKRAINE'S INTERNATIONAL RESERVES INCREASED BY 4.4%

Ukraine's international reserves, according to preliminary data, increased by \$1 billion 722.7 million, or 4.4%, in December after four months of decline to reach \$40 billion 507.9 million, the second highest level in history after July 2023, the National Bank of Ukraine said.

“They grew by 4.4% compared to November due to foreign exchange earnings from international partners, which exceeded the NBU's net sale of foreign currency and the country's debt payments in foreign currency,” the central bank explained the rapid growth of reserves.

It is specified that in general, in 2023, Ukraine's international reserves increased by 42%, or \$12.01 billion.

Net international reserves increased by \$1 billion 167.5 million, or 4.3%, in December, and in general, over the past year, their growth was 54.9%, or \$10.05 billion.

The National Bank noted that in December it sold \$3 billion 559.1 million in the foreign exchange market and bought back \$6.1 million in reserves, so its net sales amounted to \$3.553 billion, up 1.4 times compared to November and slightly higher than in October (\$3.34 billion).

“The growth of the NBU's interventions in foreign currency sales last month was primarily due to the seasonal factor, in particular, due to increased budget spending at the end of the year,” the regulator said in a release.

At the same time, the government's foreign currency accounts at the NBU received \$5 billion 546.4 million last month, while \$708.2 million was paid as part of the servicing and repayment of the public debt in foreign currency.

In addition, the value of financial instruments increased by \$426.7 million as a result of revaluation in December.

“The current amount of international reserves provides financing for 5.4 months of future imports,” the National Bank said.

As reported, Ukraine's international reserves decreased for the third consecutive month in November – by 0.5%, to \$38 billion 785.2 million.



NUMBER OF REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE IN SELECTED COUNTRIES AS OF 01.12.2023



“UKRAVTOPROM” RECORDS 60.6% GROWTH IN DEMAND FOR NEW PASSENGER CARS OVER PAST YEAR

Initial registrations of new passenger cars in Ukraine in 2023 increased by 60.6% compared to 2022, to almost 61 thousand, the Ukravtoprom association reported on its Telegram channel on Tuesday.

“ *Toyota took the lead with 10197 cars (+47%), Renault took second place with 5790 (+46%), and Volkswagen took third place with 5627 (2.5 times more). The top ten also includes Skoda – 4938 cars (+75%); BMW – 4128 (+139%); Hyundai – 2945 (+29%); Mercedes-Benz – 2543 (+52%); Suzuki – 2396 (+192%); Mazda – 2252 (+ 237%) and Nissan – 1975 (+75%).*

According to the association, the bestseller of the year was the Renault Duster compact crossover – 5445 cars of this model joined the fleet.

At the same time, in December, Ukrainians purchased 5.9 thousand new passenger cars, which is 53% more than in the same month in 2022 and 9% more than in November 2023. Toyota (972), Renault (678), and Skoda (600) are in the top three.

For its part, the AUTO-Consulting information and analytical group reports on its website that in 2023, more than 65 thousand new passenger cars were sold in Ukraine, which exceeded the result of 2022 by 62.4%.

At the same time, Toyota also took the lead with a 54% increase in sales to 10.74 thousand cars and a market share of 16.5% (against 17.4% a year earlier), and Volkswagen took the second position (against the third in 2022) with a 2.3-fold increase in sales to 7.09 thousand cars and an increase in market share by 2.2 percentage points to 10.9%.

Renault came in third with 5.83 thousand cars sold (up 45.2%). According to experts, 6 thousand new cars were sold in December, which is slightly (0.5%) less than in November. “The consequences of the border blockade were felt, but still, compared to December, the market grew by 45%,” the report states.

As reported, according to Ukravtoprom, in 2022, Ukrainians registered 37.9 thousand new passenger cars, 63% less than a year earlier, and according to AUTO-Consulting, sales decreased by 61.5% to 40.08 thousand units.



NEW TRUCK MARKET IN UKRAINE GREW BY 56.5% IN 2023

Sales of new trucks with a gross vehicle weight of more than 3.5 tons in 2023 increased by 56.5% compared to 2022 – up to 4853 units, which was the best sales figure in the last 10 years, according to the information and analytical group AUTO-Consulting.

At the same time, according to experts, sales exceeded even the pre-war figure of 2021, when 4794 cars were sold.

“The market structure has also changed. In 2023, the Ukrainian market was dominated by European brands, which were chosen by carriers. But in the last months of the year, other manufacturers began to gain strength, due to a decrease in the purchase of tractors and an increase in the purchase of equipment for utilities and energy,” the group’s website says.

Therefore, in December, AUTO-Consulting recorded a significant increase in sales of Ford, JAC, Dayun, Isuzu and others, but in the end, European manufacturers retained their leadership at the end of the year.

Scania became the leader with sales of 710 vehicles, which is twice as many as in 2022 and an increase in market share to 14.6% from 11.25%. At the same time, in December, the brand took the eighth place in the ranking with sales of 26 vehicles compared to 52 in December 2022.

MAN, which has been in the lead in recent months, took second place, with dealers selling 6,651 trucks (up 42%). It is followed by Mercedes-Benz – 499 vehicles (+20.2%), Volvo – 473 units (+34%), IVECO – 443 (2.2 times more), Ford – 384 units (+107%), Renault – 319 units (three times more), DAF – 274 units (+3.3%).



VALUE OF EXPORTS OF UKRAINIAN PRODUCTS IN 2023 AMOUNTED TO \$35.8 BLN

The value of Ukrainian exports in 2023 decreased by 18.7% compared to 2022 and amounted to \$35.8 billion, which is one of the lowest figures in the last decade, First Deputy Prime Minister and Economy Minister Yulia Sviridenko said on Facebook.

“Logistics continues to be the key for Ukrainian exports. With all the problems and challenges, Ukraine exported 99.8 million tons of goods. This is 112 thousand tons more than in 2022,” – summed up the results of the year first Deputy Prime Minister.

According to her, the success of December should be noted: for the first time in the second half of the year exports by value exceeded \$3 billion – \$3.148 billion, and by weight for the first time since March became more than 10 million tons – 10.399 million tons.

Sviridenko specified that this was achieved due to the growth of exports by sea in December by 30.7% compared to November – up to 7.34 million tons, and in total for 2023 exports by sea increased by 1 million tons compared to the previous year.

According to her, since exports by the new Ukrainian sea corridor is available not only for grain, but for all goods, in December exports of metal and semi-finished products jumped by 40%, flat rolled products – by 45.3%.

At the same time, pointed out the head of the Ministry of Economy, due to the Polish blockade of borders and further reduced exports by road transport: 18.3% less in December compared to November, although the overall year-on-year reduction amounted to only 0.7%.

“The increase in exports by container transportation – 86% by rail and 36% by road – is very pleasing. This is the most efficient mode of transportation for value-added products,” Sviridenko added.

Separately, First Deputy Prime Minister emphasized the increase in exports of furniture in 2023 both in volume and in monetary terms – respectively by 11% and 7%, as well as the growth of sugar exports by 1.7 times.

At the same time, she said, there was a drop in the size of revenue of the most massive export commodity by volume – corn (26.2 million tons): with a physical growth of 5%, revenue fell by 16.8%. “The problem is not only the fall in the world price. The arithmetic average price of Ukrainian corn – \$188 – was significantly less than the arithmetic average world price – \$227. The \$39 difference is a discount due to problems in logistics and the flow of profits to neighboring countries – Poland and Romania, from where most of our grain is resold,” – said Sviridenko.

As for imports, according to the head of the Ministry of Economy, they amounted to \$62.2 billion. The top 10 goods imported to Ukraine included fuel – \$7.8 billion, “miscellaneous (where not advertised)” – \$3.7 billion, medicines – \$1.7 billion, UAVs – \$681 million, cars and goods for agriculture (fertilizers and plant protection products).

Sviridenko added that the goods trade deficit is indeed significant at \$26.4 billion, but such changes are logical given the logistical challenges and defense needs in 2023.



OTP BANK OFFERS INVESTMENT LOANS TO SME CLIENTS WITH POSSIBILITY OF REIMBURSEMENT OF UP TO 20% OF FUNDS RECEIVED

OTP Bank offers small and medium-sized businesses loans for the purchase of equipment with the possibility of reimbursement of part of the costs financed by the bank. Such loans are provided as part of the EBRD's SME Competitiveness Program in the Eastern Partnership countries.

According to Natalia Kondratchuk, Director of Corporate Finance at OTP Bank: "The purpose of the program is to develop lending aimed at purchasing energy-efficient machinery and equipment by micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and investing in energy-saving technologies. In particular, such financing is intended to meet the needs of local agricultural producers to upgrade their agricultural machinery fleet with products of well-known global brands. In doing so, the borrower will be able to claim compensation for part of the costs financed by the bank's credit facilities."

The amount of compensation depends on the type of assets acquired and can reach 20% of the loan proceeds. The reimbursement will be made in euros, approximately within a month after the borrower has documented the intended use of the funds and the EBRD has verified the documents.

The average amount of loans under the program is expected to be the hryvnia equivalent of EUR 300 thousand, but the amount of each loan is determined by the details of the investment project, which must be acceptable to the EBRD. The minimum loan term is 24 months and the maximum is 60 months. The loan is secured by a pledge of the purchased equipment, a financial guarantee of the borrower's owners and additional collateral if necessary. The loan agreement is implemented under the EBRD's risk-sharing program, so the project to be financed must also meet its criteria.

OTP Bank offers loans with such unique cost compensation to its clients with no more than 249 employees and annual revenues not exceeding the equivalent of EUR 50 million or the currency of the annual balance sheet not exceeding the equivalent of EUR 43 million in UAH equivalent.

The borrower company must have been operating in the Ukrainian market for at least 3 years and meet other requirements set by OTP Bank and the EBRD, including a positive credit history.

INTERNATIONAL HOTEL OPERATOR ACCOR OPENS THREE-STAR HOTEL IN KYIV

International hotel operator Accor Live Limitless (France) will open a three-star ibis Kyiv Beresteiska hotel in late 2023, according to the operator's website.

“*I am pleased to announce the opening of ibis Kyiv Beresteiska. It will be a great addition to the Accor family in Ukraine,” commented Andriy Davydenko, CEO of Accor Northern Europe – Ukraine, Georgia and the CIS, in a linked post.*

As reported, the international hotel operator Accor Live Limitless planned to launch three new hotels in Ukraine in 2022-2023, ibis & Adagio Kyiv, ibis Lviv and Novotel Lviv. At the end of December 2022, Adagio Kyiv Beresteiska also started operating. Both hotels are located in the same building at 55 Peremohy Ave. Adagio Kyiv Beresteiska has 105 rooms and Adagio Kyiv Beresteiska has 156 rooms.

Adagio Kyiv Beresteiska is an apart-hotel, its rooms are adapted for long-term stays: they have fully equipped kitchens, special workspaces, WIFI and other necessary facilities for work and leisure. The ibis Kyiv Beresteiska has six meeting rooms for business events and conferences.

The 77-room ibis Styles Lviv Center hotel, located in the business center of Lviv at 3 Shukhevycha Street, was opened in December 2022.

Accor Group, one of the world's leading hotel operators, opened the first hotel under the Novotel brand in Lille (France) in 1967.

UKRAINIAN METALLURGICAL ENTERPRISES INCREASED ROLLED STEEL PRODUCTION BY 0.4%

Ukrainian metallurgical enterprises increased their production of rolled steel by 0.4% to 5.372 million tons in 2023, according to preliminary data, compared to 2022.

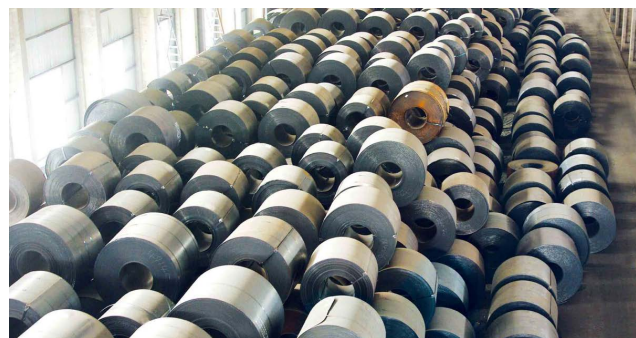
According to Ukrmetallurgprom on Wednesday, steel production decreased by 0.6% to 6.228 million tons last year.



Pig iron production for the period decreased by 6.1% to 6.003 million tons.

As reported, in 2022, Ukraine reduced production of total rolled products by 72% compared to 2021 – to 5.350 million tons, steel by 70.7% to 6.263 million tons, and pig iron by 69.8% to 6.391 million tons.

In 2021, the company produced 21.165 million tons of pig iron (103.6% compared to 2020), 21.366 million tons of steel (103.6%), and 19.079 million tons of rolled products (103.5%).

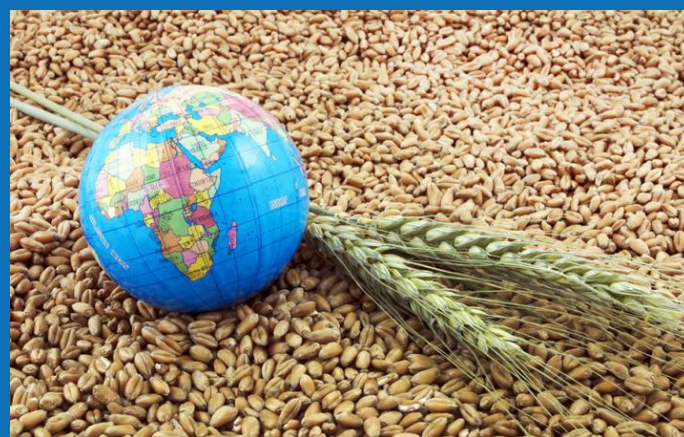


AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS IN 2023 REACHED 67.5 MLN TONS – UCAB

In 2023, Ukraine exported 67.5 million tons of agricultural products, which is 15% more than last year, while export earnings decreased by 8% to \$21.9 billion compared to 2022, according to the Ukrainian Agribusiness Club (UCAB).

The business association noted that 2023 was one of the most difficult years in the history of Ukraine's independence, including in terms of exports.

Among the main obstacles to agricultural exports, the UCAB called the Russian side's inhibition of the grain corridor, which had been operating since July 2022, and then its termination and blocking of any sea exports. The destruction of the infrastructure of seaports and river ports on the Danube by Russian troops had a significant impact on the export of agricultural products. The agricultural sector was also affected by the ban on exports and transit by neighboring European countries, as well as the blocking of checkpoints on the western border.



The UCAB noted that despite these restrictions, exports of agricultural products increased in physical terms in 2023. Export revenue decreased due to falling prices for almost all types of agricultural products compared to 2022, which was the year of the highest food prices in the world.

The business association warned that the current level of exports is not enough to export the 2023 harvest. If the export volume remains as of the end of 2023, there are risks that Ukraine will have significant carry-over stocks (primarily of grain crops) by the beginning of the next harvest, the UCAB explained.

EXPERTS CLUB MADE VIDEO “TOP 10 WORLD ELECTIONS IN 2024”

In the world of politics, 2024 promises to be one of the most significant and dynamic periods, given the planned elections in almost 70 countries with a combined population of almost 4 billion people, which is more than in any other year in the history of the world. That is why many have already called 2024 the year of elections, and the results of some of them could be fateful for all of humanity. On the YouTube channel of the Experts Club think tank, we analyzed the top 10 most important elections in the world that could lead to dramatic changes in the international agenda.

The United States: the return of Donald Trump?

The most anticipated political event of 2024 is the presidential election in the United States scheduled for November 5.

“These elections could lead to significant changes in the political landscape of the world, with the potential return of former President Donald Trump being of particular interest. His candidacy has already sparked a lot of debate, in particular regarding his impact on American foreign policy, relations with allies, and support for Ukraine. The results of this election may determine America’s global course for the coming years,” said Maksym Urakin, founder of Experts Club.

Great Britain: time for change for the Conservatives?

The United Kingdom is also preparing for important parliamentary elections, which, according to the expert, could be a turning point for the ruling Conservatives.

“Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is facing many challenges, including polls that predict a ‘heavy defeat’ for his party. The elections in Britain could dramatically change the country’s political course,” emphasizes Maxim Urakin.

According to all the polls, the Conservatives are 15-20% behind Labor.

Taiwan: elections amid tensions with China

In Taiwan, where the presidential election is scheduled for January 13, the political situation is burdened by growing tensions with China.

Urakin notes that the elections in Taiwan could exacerbate geopolitical tensions in the region, especially between China and the United States.

“Of the three presidential candidates vying for victory, Lai Tsingde, who is the candidate of the ruling Democratic Progressive Party, is fiercely anti-Chinese. The second candidate, Hou Yu-yi of the opposition Kuomintang, wants to start negotiations with Beijing. The third candidate, Ko Wen-jeou of the Taiwan People’s Party (TPP) and former mayor of Taipei, offers an intermediate position closer to reconciliation. Polls favor the candidate with an anti-China stance,” the founder of Experts Club emphasized.

India: Elections in the World’s Largest Democracy

India, the world’s largest democracy, will also face important elections. It is expected that elections to the lower house of the Lok Sabha will be held in April-May.

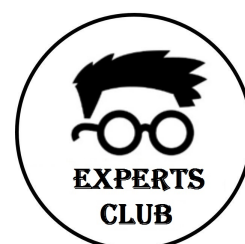
“These elections are not only important for India, but also important for the entire international community, given India’s growing role on the world stage,” – **Urakin** said.

The year 2024 will undoubtedly be a year that will bring important changes in international relations and domestic policies of states that are key players on the world stage. Political analysts and experts are eagerly awaiting the results of these elections, which may set the global agenda for the coming years.

To learn more about the 2024 global elections, please watch the video here:

Subscribe to the Experts Club channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@ExpertsClub>



COST OF CONSTRUCTION IN UKRAINE INCREASED TO 20% IN 2023

The cost of construction in 2023 rose to 20%, which will affect price increases in 2024, Susanna Karakhanyan, Head of Sales at Greenville Kyiv, told Interfax-Ukraine.

“The cost of **construction** has increased by about 15-20% everywhere, and our projects are no exception. This will affect the cost per square meter: prices will rise over the next year, but not critically, because developers are trying to maintain demand,” she said.

Currently, in the Greenville residential complex in Pechersk, the cost per square meter in a finished building averages 2.4 thousand USD, and in a building under construction – 2 thousand USD. In Greenville Park, the average price per square meter under construction is 1.9 thousand USD.

According to Karakhanyan, in 2023, sales, demand, construction, logistics and operational and production processes adapted to the conditions of martial law. In the second half of the year, demand increased significantly: people began to return to Ukraine.

“In the Greenville residential complex in Pechersk, we commissioned two new sections this fall, and next year we plan to start another one. At Greenville Park, we have almost completed all monolithic works this year – the dynamics of construction is high, despite all the obstacles of wartime,” she said.

According to the expert, the market conditions are now dictated by the buyer, and developers are adjusting to investors. The term for concluding a deal has increased, now this process takes a month or more, buyers are looking for the most favorable conditions for themselves. Also, investors are not ready to invest in projects at the early stages of construction, assessing the risks. Priority is given to apartments in buildings in the final stages or completed. While buyers used to consider buying a home as a good investment to save money or make a profit, now they buy apartments primarily for themselves and their families.

In general, when choosing a home, buyers’ attention is focused on three aspects: safety, functionality, and rational planning.

“They opt for projects with underground parking (which serves as a shelter), far from military-industrial facilities. Of course, the investor also pays attention to the constructive advantages of the complex and the quality of building materials,” Karakhanyan said.

According to the Unified State Electronic System in the Construction Sector, the certificate of acceptance for two sections of the Greenville residential complex in Pechersk was issued on September 29, 2023. They have a total of 250 apartments. The building has 23 floors plus 4 underground floors, its total area is 34.85 thousand square meters, residential – 21.083 thousand square meters. It is noted that the estimated cost of the object put into operation is UAH 354 million 968.37 thousand.



UKRAINE BECAME THIRD LARGEST SUPPLIER OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS TO EU IN 2023

In 2023, Ukraine became the third largest supplier of agricultural products to the EU and increased its share of agricultural imports by 11% in January-September compared to 2022, the Polish publication farmer.pl reported, citing a report by the European Commission.

“Ukraine remains one of the three largest suppliers of agricultural products to the EU, according to the European Commission’s report on international trade. In the period from January to September this year, the European Union increased imports of agricultural products from Ukraine by 11% compared to 2022,” the publication wrote.

According to the report, the value of Ukrainian exports of agricultural products to the EU in the period from January to September 2023 reached EUR8.75 billion.



“Imports from Ukraine showed the largest increase in the period from January to September compared to 2022 (+891 million euros, or +11%), mainly due to an increase in grain imports,” the European Commission report says.

The biggest jump in these imports was recorded between January and June this year. Since June, imports have remained below the level of 2022, and in September they almost returned to the level of 2021, the EC said.

According to the results of the reporting period, Ukraine became the third largest exporter of agricultural products to the EU – after Brazil and the UK.

At the same time, Ukraine ranks 14th among the recipients of agricultural products from the European Union. From January to September of this year, Ukraine imported products from the EU for EUR 2.5 billion, which is 19% more than in the same period last year, farmer.pl noted.

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UKRAINE HAS SET RECORD FOR RAPESEED OIL EXPORTS

In the first half of 2023-2024 marketing year (MY, July-December), Ukraine set the record for rapeseed oil exports – 356 thsd tonnes, up six times compared to the same period last year, APK-Inform news agency reported.



The significant increase in the rate and volume of exports of this product in the current season was primarily due to the high demand for rapeseed oil on the world market amid attractive prices. Difficulties with sunflower procurement during the off-season also encouraged Ukrainian mills to increase rapeseed processing, "the analysts explained". According to their information, the main volumes of Ukrainian rapeseed oil shipments during six months of 2023-2024 MY were to the EU countries, where 54% of Ukrainian rapeseed oil was supplied, and China B - 31%.



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