

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSED BILL TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE



On Saturday, the U.S. House of Representatives (the lower house of the U.S. Congress) supported a bill to provide assistance to Ukraine. There were 311 votes in favor.

Next, the bill will be submitted to the upper house of the U.S. parliament, the Senate.

After that, it will be sent to the US President for signature. Once signed by the president, it will come into force.

The bill approved by the House of Representatives provides for the allocation of almost \$61 billion for purposes related to support for Ukraine. Of this amount, \$23.2 billion is intended to replenish the US arms stockpile.

Earlier it was reported that US President Joe Biden had a phone conversation with four congressional leaders, during which he emphasized the "urgent need" for the House of Representatives to pass a bill to help Israel and Ukraine.

In February, the Senate approved a \$95 billion emergency spending package, including \$60 billion to support Ukraine, as well as funds for Israel, Taiwan, and humanitarian aid to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

However, Republicans in the House of Representatives called for dividing aid to Israel, Ukraine, and other US allies. On April 1, House Speaker Mike Johnson said that the bill to support Ukraine would include "some important innovations," possibly providing aid on credit.

HEADLINES

22 April 2024



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EUROPEAN COMMISSION MAY ALLOCATE ALMOST EUR 3.5 BLN TO UKRAINE

The European Commission expects Kyiv to fulfill the conditions agreed upon earlier and the European Council to approve the Ukraine Plan, which will allow it to disburse another EUR1.5 billion in April and EUR1.9 billion in May under the Ukraine Facility, said Valdis Dombrovskis, the European Commission's executive vice president.

"The next disbursement (for the Ukraine Facility) of EUR1.5 billion is scheduled for this month, if the policy conditions are met," he said in a press statement following the meeting of the EU Council of Ministers (ECOFIN).

According to Dombrovskis, the European Commission is currently assessing Ukraine's plan to draw up quarterly indicators of reforms and investments that need to be made to unlock future disbursements.

"In the near future we will finalize this work and submit the assessment to the (European) Council. Once the approval is received, it will pave the way for Ukraine to receive the pre-financing of EUR1.9 billion, most likely in May," the Executive Vice President said.

He emphasized that the EUR50 billion Ukraine Facility until 2027 is a lifeline from the EU at an extremely difficult time to help Ukraine maintain key public services and keep the state functioning while Russia wages a brutal war, and recalled that the first tranche of EUR4.5 billion in transitional financing was disbursed in March.

As reported, Ukraine expects to receive a total of EUR 2024 billion under the Ukraine Facility, with a total need for external financing of this year's budget deficit of EUR 37.3 billion.

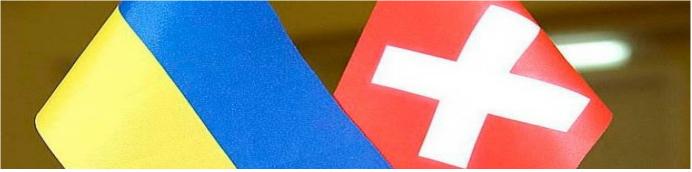
SWITZERLAND TO ALLOCATE CHF5 BLN FOR UKRAINE'S RECOVERY BY 2036

At a meeting on Wednesday, the Swiss Federal Council decided to allocate CHF5 billion (\$5.53 billion) for Ukraine's economic development and long-term recovery until 2036 as part of strengthening existing cooperation, the Swiss government portal reports.

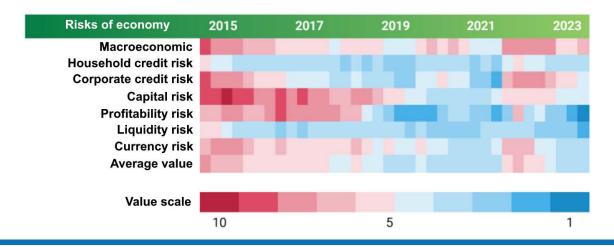
"As a first step, it is planned to attract about CHF1.5 billion from the international cooperation budget until 2028. This amount clearly demonstrates Switzerland's solidarity with the people affected by the war in Ukraine and will increase stability on the European continent," the statement said.

Citing the World Bank's estimate, it is reported that the funds needed for reconstruction in Ukraine are estimated at \$486 billion (about CHF440 billion). "Switzerland is already supporting projects in Ukraine aimed at restoring the destroyed civilian infrastructure in the energy, roads, and health sectors. In addition, Switzerland and Ukraine jointly launched the process of political recovery on a large scale at the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Lugano in July 2022," the statement said.

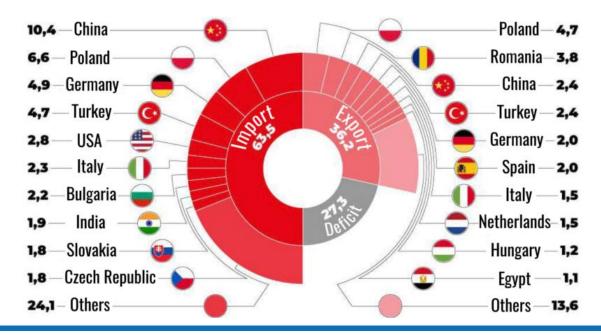
According to the government, Switzerland has already spent about CHF3 billion on these and other measures to support people affected by the war in Ukraine. About CHF425 million of this amount was received from the international cooperation budget, and the rest (about CHF2.5 billion) was spent by the State Secretariat for Migration on reception and support of people with S protection status in Switzerland.



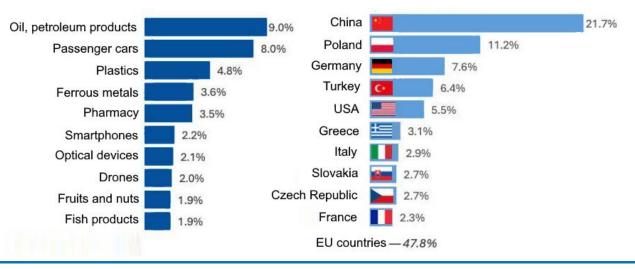
HEAT MAP OF RISKS FOR FINANCIAL SECTOR OF UKRAINE



GEOGRAPHIC STRUCTURE OF UKRAINE'S FOREIGN TRADE IN 2023



IMPORT OF GOODS TO UKRAINE IN JANUARY 2024



INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION IN UKRAINE GREW BY 5.9% IN 2023

Industrial production in Ukraine grew by 5.9% in 2023, while in 2022, according to updated data, the decline was 36.7%, the State Statistics Service (Ukrstat) reported. According to the State Statistics Service, industrial production in Ukraine increased by 22.6% in December 2023 compared to December 2022, with growth of 19.3% in November and 16% in October.

The State Statistics Service reminds that last year, starting in March, industrial production grew: after a 51.2% jump in March, the recovery slowed to 18.2% in April, 17.9% in May, 13.7% in June, 13.8% in July, 15.5% in August, and 11.7% in September.

The statistics agency clarifies that the data exclude the temporarily occupied territories of the Russian Federation and some of the territories where military operations are ongoing.

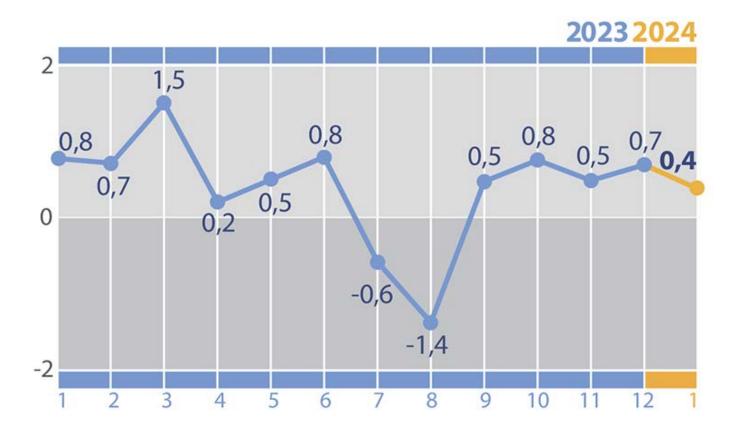
Overall, production in the manufacturing industry increased by 12.3% last year.

The production of computers, electronic and optical products grew by 58.8%, rubber and plastic products by 20.7%, machine building by 16.7%, furniture by 16.6%, chemical industry by 15.5%, food industry by 15%, metallurgy by 8%, and woodworking by 3.5%.

The largest decline in the manufacturing industry was shown by the production of coke and refined products – 31.4%. The statistics agency recorded a 2.3% decline in the supply of electricity, gas and steam in 2023, and a 2.2% decline in the mining industry.

In nominal terms, in 2023, Ukraine sold industrial products (goods and services) worth UAH 3271.43 billion, which is 16.4% more than in 2022 (UAH 2811.57 billion), including UAH 547.02 billion worth of exports.

CHANGE IN CONSUMER PRICES IN 2023-2024



UKRAINE'S INTERNATIONAL RESERVES HAVE INCREASED TO \$44BN

Ukraine's international reserves in March, according to preliminary estimates of the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU), increased by 18%, or \$6.7 billion – to \$43 billion 762.7 million.

"Such dynamics is due to significant (more than \$9 billion) volumes of receipts from international partners, which exceeded the net sale of currency by the National Bank and the country's debt payments in foreign currency," the NBU website explained on Friday.

In addition, the National Bank noted that \$9.32 billion was transferred to foreign currency accounts of the Cabinet of Ministers in March, while \$363.5 million was paid for servicing and repayment of the state debt.

As the regulator noted, Ukraine also paid \$728.5m to the International Monetary Fund.

Among other factors determining the volume of reserves, the NBU named operations on the foreign exchange market: in March, the regulator's net sale of foreign currency amounted to \$1.79bn, which is 18.5% more than in the previous month.

According to balance sheet data, the NBU sold \$1.81 bln on the foreign exchange market and bought \$25.9 mln in reserves. The central bank also indicated that the current volume of reserves was positively affected by the revaluation of the value of financial instruments, adding \$266.3 million.

As reported, the NBU in January reduced the forecast of Ukraine's international reserves at the end of 2024 to \$40.4 billion from \$44.7 billion and to \$42.1 billion from \$45 billion at the end of 2025. Earlier, Experts Club analytical center and Maxim Urakin released a video analysis of how the GDP of the world's countries has changed in recent years, more detailed video analysis is available here – https://youtu.be/w5fF_GYyrlc?si=BsZmIUERHSBJrO_3 Subscribe to Experts Club YouTube channel here – https://www.youtube.com/@ExpertsClub

ODESA FILATOV INSTITUTE DEVELOPS USE OF AI FOR DIAGNOSING EYE DISEASES

The Filatov Institute of Eye Diseases and Tissue Therapy of the National Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine will continue to develop technologies for using artificial intelligence (AI) to diagnose eye diseases, said Andriy Korol, head of the department for studying the biological action and application of lasers in ophthalmology at the clinic.

"We have now worked out diabetic retinopathy, and at the next stage we will develop in several directions. These may include specific eye diseases, retinal diseases, glaucoma, age-related degeneration, and other diseases that are manifestations of diabetes," he said in an interview with Interfax-Ukraine.

Korol noted that another area of AI technology development that the institute plans to implement will be a system that will allow "to see the symptoms and signs of various diseases, such as hypertension, vascular changes, hereditary diseases, and a number of rare diseases."

Korol specified that the institute will be able to "launch research on new nosologies every year and a half."



MOST CITIZENS DO NOT HAVE BANK DEPOSITS OR HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED THEM OVER PAST YEAR – SURVEY

The survey, conducted by Active Group in cooperation with the Experts Club think tank, revealed citizens' attitudes to various aspects of social and economic life in Ukraine, including the initiative to refund part of the cost of Ukrainian goods, the government's influence on business, the level of trust in law enforcement, financial stability of citizens, and forecasts for the hryvnia exchange rate. A significant proportion of respondents (44%) have heard of the initiative to refund the cost of purchasing Ukrainian goods, with opinions divided on its impact on living standards. Most respondents believe that the government will increase taxes to finance this initiative.

According to Andriy Yeremenko, founder of the sociological research company Active Group, this raises concerns among the population, as most are not ready for an increase in the fiscal burden.

The study also revealed a deep distrust of government institutions (57% of citizens) and law enforcement agencies (62%) in the context of relations with business, in particular due to the lack of transparency and efficiency of their work. The majority of respondents believe that the state hinders rather than helps business to develop, and this trend has increased compared to previous months.

A significant number of Ukrainians (up to 60%) are experiencing financial difficulties, including increased debt and lack of savings for a rainy day. Respondents also expressed concern about the future of the hryvnia exchange rate, with the majority (55%) expecting it to fall.

In the context of utility bills, the vast majority (67%) of respondents believe that the level of tariffs is too high, which further emphasizes the general dissatisfaction with the financial situation and government policy in this area.

According to Oleksandr Poznyi, Director of Active Group, these results demonstrate the serious challenges faced by Ukrainian society in the context of the war and the current economic situation.

Earlier, Maksym Urakin, the founder of the Experts Club think tank, noted that in 2024 Ukraine's public debt may exceed GDP for the first time, which poses significant risks to economic stability in the country.

For more details, please see the video at the link:https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8hkvHhyzGLQ

You can subscribe to the Experts Club channel here: https://www.youtube.com/@ExpertsClub

MARKET FOR NEW COMMERCIAL VEHICLES IN UKRAINE GREW BY 31%

Registrations of new commercial vehicles (trucks and special vehicles) in March 2024 increased by 31% compared to the same month in 2023 – up to 1056 units, which is also 3% (or 31 vehicles) more than in February this year, Ukravtoprom reports on its Telegram channel.

According to the report, the TOP-5 brands of the new commercial vehicle market last month included: Renault – 370 units; MAN – 84 units; Citroen – 67 units; Peugeot – 64 units; and Volkswagen – 58 units.

As reported with reference to Ukravtoprom data, in March 2023, 805 trucks and special vehicles were sold in Ukraine, compared to 108 in the same month in 2022. The top five were Renault (160 units), Mercedes-Benz (93 units), Citroen and Volvo (68 units each), and Scania (60 units).

According to the association, in the first quarter of 2024, almost 2.9 thousand new vehicles were added to the Ukrainian fleet of trucks and special vehicles, which is 28% more than in the same period in 2023.

At the same time, according to AUTO-Consulting, in the segment of trucks with a gross vehicle weight of more than 3.5 tons, sales in March 2024 decreased by 32%, or 144 units, compared to March 2023 – to 305 units. Scania was the leader with sales of 56 trucks, while MAN's sales amounted to 33 units.

In 2023, according to Ukravtoprom, registrations of new commercial vehicles in Ukraine increased by 65% compared to 2022, to 11.3 thousand units. At the same time, the segment of trucks over 3.5 tons, according to AUTO-Consulting, increased by 56.5%, to 4,853 units.

UKRAINE INCREASES ROLLED STEEL OUTPUT BY 35.5%



Ukrainian metallurgical enterprises in January-March this year increased production of total rolled products by 35.5% year-on-year to 1.389 million tons from 1.025 million tons, according to preliminary data.

According to Ukrmetallurgprom on Tuesday, steel production increased by 36.6% to 1.687 million tons from 1.235 million tons in January-March 2023.

Pig iron production increased by 32.1% to 1.589 million tons from 1.203 million tons.

As reported, in January 2014, the company increased production of total rolled products by 75.9% year-on-year to 453 thousand tons from 257 thousand tons, steel by 91.6% to 544 thousand tons from 284 thousand tons, and pig iron by 44.5% to 555 thousand tons from 384 thousand tons.

In 2M2024, rolled products output increased by 52.5% y-o-y to 900 thousand tons from 590 thousand tons, steel output by 52% to 1.076 million tons from 708 thousand tons, and pig iron output by 42.5% to 1.050 million tons from 737 thousand tons.

In 2023, Ukraine increased production of total rolled products by 0.4% compared to 2022 to 5.372 million tons, but reduced steel production by 0.6% to 6.228 million tons and pig iron by 6.1% to 6.003 million tons. 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.

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UKRAINE RESUMES CONTAINER TRANSPORTATION THROUGH BLACK SEA

Ukraine has resumed container transportation through the Black Sea: a ship with containers entered one of the ports of Greater Odesa, Chornomorsk, on April 3, the Odesa-based Dumskaya newspaper reported.

According to the report, the pioneering vessel was the T Mare, which flies the Panamanian flag. It is not classified as a container ship, but a vessel for the transportation of general cargo.

The publication noted that this is not yet a full-fledged specialized vessel, but a so-called feeder, which will be loaded with containers and then sent to a foreign hub for further transshipment to ocean container ships of global container lines.



According to MarineTraffic, a provider of ship tracking and maritime analytics, the vessel left Chornomorsk for the Romanian port of Constanta.

The T MARE is a containerized cargo vessel flying the Panamanian flag. Its total length (LOA) is 105 meters and width is 17 meters.

As reported, in March, the Ministry of Community Development, Territories and Infrastructure announced that in early April, Odesa ports would receive the first container ship since the beginning of the war.



FOUNDER OF **ESKULAB** CHAIN OF MEDICAL LABORATORIES ANNOUNCED RISKS OF WORK STOPPAGE DUE TO ATTEMPTED RAIDER SEIZURE

Eskulab Group of Companies, which manages the Eskulab medical laboratory chain (First Social Medical Laboratory (FSML) Eskulab and Eskulab Center LLC), has announced the risks of stopping the network's operation due to an attempted raider seizure. In an exclusive interview with Interfax-Ukraine, the network's founder, Serhiy Dyadyushko, said that the network's work is currently blocked due to the actions of its two co-founders, Stanislav Lugovskyi and Denys Melnyk.

According to Dyadyushko, the network's commercial director, Roman Vysotsky, who represents Melnyk, has blocked the financial operations of Aesculab, and as a result, the network cannot purchase reagents for analysis, nor pay salaries to nearly 1,200 employees.

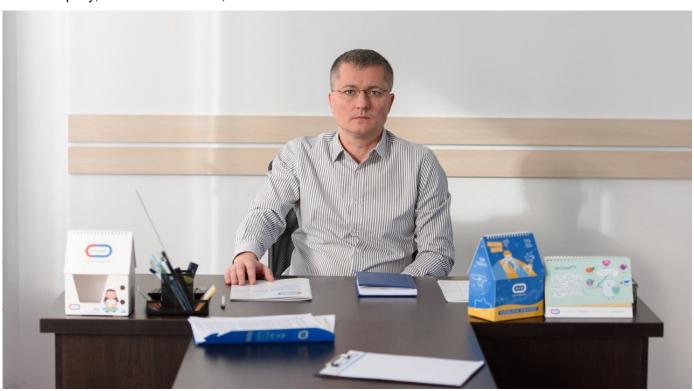
"Now we are short of reagents, we need to purchase them, people are not paid salaries. Payments have been suspended, which prevents the company from continuing to operate. I have already invested about UAH 5 million of my own money, but today I have already exhausted my resources. The entire network across Ukraine will stop working," he said.

Dyadyushko clarified that the conflict between the co-founders arose in 2023, when Luhovskyi and Melnyk tried to re-register Dyadyushko's share and remove him from the chain's management. At the same time, the co-founders agreed to create a management board consisting of representatives of each of the co-founders.

Eskulab Medical Laboratory is one of the three largest private laboratories in Ukraine, contracted by the National Health Service of Ukraine (NHSU). The network consists of five laboratory centers and 180 sample collection points in the western regions of Ukraine and Kyiv.

In 2023, Eskulab paid UAH 33.8 million in taxes, including UAH 14.97 million in unified social tax, UAH 1.33 million in military duty, and UAH 14.034 million in personal income tax. The company is among the ten largest taxpayers in Lviv region.

The co-founders of PE "PSML "Eskulab" are Dyadyushko, who owns 43% of the company, Luhovskyi (43%) and Melnyk (14%). The co-founders of Eskulab Center LLC are Dyadyushko, Luhovskyi and Melnyk, who each own 20% of the company, and Ruslana Soltani, who owns 40%.



"ENERGOATOM" AND US WESTINGHOUSE LAUNCH PROJECT TO BUILD KHNPP-5.6 USING AR1000 TECHNOLOGY

NNEGC Energoatom and the American company Westinghouse have launched a project to build KhNPP-5 and KhNPP-6 using AR1000 technology. The project launch ceremony took place on April 11 at the Khmelnytsky NPP site with the participation of US Ambassador to Ukraine Bridget Brink and Minister of Energy of Ukraine Herman Halushchenko (information is being delayed for security reasons). According to Energoatom's acting Chairman of the Board Petro Kotin, the AR1000 is a proven III+ reactor with unique fully passive safety systems, modular standard design, industry-leading performance and the ability to operate in maneuvering mode.

"This is a more modern and safer technology than the ones we are currently operating. This is a new step towards more modern, reliable and safe energy. And it is in Ukraine that the first power unit in Europe based on AR1000 technology will be built. This will be KhNPP-5," said Kotin.

"We are proud to be involved in the history that Ukraine is making in the energy sector.
We can already say that our cooperation is the wedding of the year," said Patrick
Fragman, President and CEO of Westinghouse Electric Company.

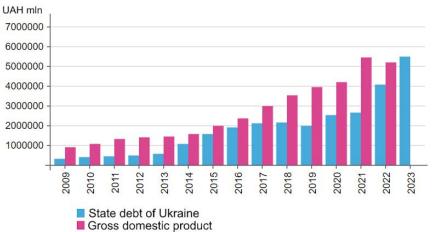
He emphasized that this is an improved technology with increased efficiency, and the power unit itself is compact and has a lower cost compared to others.

"Here, at the KhNPP site, we note that the heavy equipment, which takes the longest time to produce, is already ready, and this will significantly accelerate the construction time. Thanks to the assistance of the U.S. government and the fact that the main agreements have been signed, it will be even faster," he emphasized.

He added that the construction period for one unit is approximately 4-5 years, and its cost is about \$5 billion.



UKRAINE'S PUBLIC DEBT TO GDP RATIO FROM 2009 TO 2023 (UAH MLN)



TOTAL REVENUE OF TOP 10 COMPANIES OF UKRAINIAN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN 2023 INCREASED BY 35%

The total revenue of the top 10 companies in the agricultural sector in 2023 increased by 35% compared to 2022, to UAH 86.57 billion, and almost 1.5 times compared to pre-war 2021, according to the Opendatabot website. According to the Opendatabot index, the largest profits among all the businesses in the top ten were made by the enterprises of the MHP, Kernel, and Ukrprominvest agricultural holdings.

At the same time, four poultry companies accounted for 46% of the total income of the leaders.

Thus, the leader of the most profitable companies, Myronivska Poultry Farm, which is part of the MHP agricultural holding, earned UAH 21.23 billion, which accounted for 24.8% of the total income of the agricultural sector leaders. The result was 1.5 times higher than in 2022.

The Starynska Poultry Farm of the same agricultural group earned UAH 7.13 billion and took 8.2% of the total revenues of the top 10.

Dniprovsky Poultry Complex, owned by the same agricultural group (a new company in the index), increased its figure by one third to UAH 5.37 billion and became a newcomer to the Opendatabot index with a 6.2% share in the top ten. The holding is owned by Alexander and Yulia Ryazanov.

Zorya Podillya poultry complex of Ukrprominvest agricultural holding, whose beneficiary is the son of former President of Ukraine Oleksiy Poroshenko, accounted for UAH 5.3 billion (6.1%). The company returned to the ranking after a year-long break with a 1.5-fold increase in revenues.

At the same time, the total revenue of the three companies of the MHP agricultural holding, whose beneficiary is Yuriy Kosyuk, amounted to UAH 34.32 billion, which is 40% of the total revenue of the leaders in the agricultural sector.

After the top ten leader Myronivska Poultry Farm, Lebedynskyi Seed Plant, owned by Dmytro Kravchenko's LNZ Group, ranks second. In 2023, the company increased its revenue by 17% to UAH 15.67 billion (18%).

USDA SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED FORECAST OF WHEAT EXPORTS FROM UKRAINE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) raised the forecast of wheat exports from Ukraine in 2023/24 marketing year by another 1.5 mln tonnes to 16.5 mln tonnes.

According to the April report of the U.S. agency, at the same time, the estimate of carry-over stocks at the end of the MY was reduced from 3.28 mln tonnes to 1.58 mln tonnes, domestic consumption – from 7.7 mln tonnes to 7.3 mln tonnes, and carry-over stocks at the beginning of the MY – from 3.5 mln tonnes to 2.9 mln tonnes.

As for Ukrainian corn, the forecast of its exports after increasing by 1.5 mln tons in March, in April was kept at the same level – 24.5 mln tons.

At the same time, the overall forecast for Ukrainian feed grains was increased by 0.1 mln tonnes to 26.97 mln tonnes due to the same reduction of carry-over stocks at the end of this MY to 4.08 mln tonnes.

In general, the updated global wheat harvest forecast for 2023/24 MY has been improved by 0.66 mln tonnes to 787.36 mln tonnes, while the forecast for global wheat exports has been increased by 1.34 mln tonnes to 213.47 mln tonnes. On the contrary, experts revised the forecast of wheat ending stocks in the world downward by 0.56 million tons to 258.27 million tons.

As for corn, the forecast for its global production in April was reduced by 2.38 million tons to 1 billion 227.86 million tons, while exports were reduced by only 0.47 million tons to 200.59 million tons. The USDA also lowered its estimate of carryover stocks by 2.35 million tons to 318.28 million tons.

POLAND FINES SEVERAL UKRAINIAN AGRO COMPANIES

The Polish Trade Inspectorate for Quality of Agricultural and Food Products (IJHARS) has fined 1.5 million zlotys (about \$380,000) to an importing company that imported technical rapeseed and fodder wheat to the Polish market and sold them to a number of local companies as food agricultural products, according to the website of the agency. It is specified that the trade inspection checked 3,882 tons of rapeseed and revealed the facts of changing the declared purpose from technical to consumer use and the declared country of origin from Ukraine to Poland.

A similar decision on the importing company in the form of imposing a fine was issued for the shipment of 7679 tons of wheat, which also revealed a discrepancy between the purpose of the product and its country of origin.



"Agri-food products intended for technical purposes are generally not produced, stored or transported in accordance with the safety standards required for food products. They are competitively priced because they are not subject to the provisions of food law, and businesses selling them do not incur the costs associated with meeting higher safety standards." the agency said.

The trade inspectorate, based on the analysis of seized documentation, found that the fined company had put on the market more than 11,500 tons of counterfeit rapeseed and wheat imported from Ukraine and resold the goods to six counterparties from the Pomeranian and Lubelskie voivodships.

"Regardless of the administrative decision issued, the case is also the subject of criminal proceedings under the supervision of the regional prosecutor's office in Rzeszów," the office emphasized.

The fine issued to IJHARS in Lublin is not an isolated case, the Trade Inspection Office emphasized. Over the past few months, 6 other companies were fined for similar violations in the supply of wheat, barley, poultry meat and for obstructing inspectors from inspecting cargoes from Ukraine.



USAID LAUNCHES PROGRAM FOR 20 UKRAINIAN AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES TO DEVELOP EXPORTS

The USAID Rural and Agricultural Development Program has announced the launch of a program to co-finance 20 Ukrainian agricultural processing enterprises that intend to restore and develop their export potential, the press service of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food reports.

According to the report, the competition is open to non-state (private) enterprises/companies that have export-oriented development strategies and are regular exporters.

The companies can receive co-financing to increase the volume of purchases and processing of raw materials, in particular, by attracting micro, small and medium-sized agricultural producers for long-term partnership. Grant recipients will also be able to introduce new grain processing technologies to increase productivity by at least 25%.

It is expected that with the grant funds, the companies will be able to develop a long-term export strategy and increase sales by 20% through 5 new export channels and markets for processed products and increase sales in foreign markets.

The USAID AGRO program will focus on restoring and strengthening processing capacities to produce value-added products for export, such as corn for feed and food; wheat for food, industrial and feed purposes; rye for industrial and feed purposes; industrial sunflower seeds; high oleic sunflower seeds; soybeans for industrial and feed purposes; varietal and regular cycle seeds.

The donor organization has drawn the attention of applicants to the fact that projects aimed at storing grains, oilseeds and pulses, including receiving, cleaning, drying, storing, and shipping grain by rail and road, are not eligible.

The application deadline is May 31, 2024.

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

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