



UKRAINE
OPEN FOR BUSINESS

EU AMBASSADORS APPROVE UKRAINE PLAN, WHICH PROVIDES FOR EUR 50 BLN IN FUNDING UNDER UKRAINE FACILITY



Permanent Representatives of the European Union member states have agreed to the Plan for Ukraine submitted by Kyiv, which is necessary for financing under the Ukraine Facility in the amount of EUR 50 billion for the period up to 2027.

The decision was made on Wednesday in Brussels as part of a meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the Belgian Presidency reports on its Facebook page.

“The EU ambassadors agreed in principle to the Plan for Ukraine, which sets out the country’s reform efforts to receive EU financial assistance until 2027 under the Ukraine Facility,” the statement said.

The decision must then be approved by a qualified majority of the EU Economic and Financial Council, which will meet on May 14.

The Ukraine Facility is an instrument that provides for the possibility of Ukraine receiving EU financial and technical assistance totaling EUR 50 billion in 2024-2027. Of this amount, EUR 38.27 billion will be allocated for budgetary support, EUR 6.97 billion for the investment fund, and EUR 4.76 billion for technical and administrative support.

HEADLINES

23 May 2024



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MORE THAN 2.6 THOUSAND COMPANIES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED BY FOREIGNERS IN UKRAINE SINCE BEGINNING OF WAR



WASATCH GROUP FOUNDER PRESENTED 6 NEW INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS TO PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE



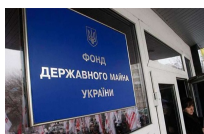
RESULTS OF JOINT STUDY BY ACTIVE GROUP AND EXPERTS CLUB ON ATTITUDES OF UKRAINIANS TOWARDS MIDDLE EAST AND CENTRAL ASIA



“ENERGOATOM” AND KOREAN HYUNDAI SIGN MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION ON NUCLEAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT



EBRD CONFIRMS 3% GDP GROWTH FORECAST FOR UKRAINE



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WASATCH GROUP FOUNDER PRESENTED 6 NEW INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS TO PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE

President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky met in Kiev with American businessman and philanthropist, founder and CEO of real estate investment company Wasatch Group Dell Loy Hansen, who presented six new infrastructure projects for Ukraine. In particular, as reported by the President's press service, Loy Hansen presented to Zelensky the Phoenix initiative, which together with the state Ukrainian program "eVidnovlennya" restores damaged housing in Andriyivka, Moshchun and Makarov in Kyiv region.

It is noted that the first one hundred houses should be restored by December this year.

“ *In addition, the businessman plans to build a full-cycle center for patients on the basis of the Kiev Center for Rehabilitation Medicine, as well as schools in ten communities in the Kiev region.* ”

Zelensky and Hansen also discussed the projects already implemented by the businessman with the support of the Office of the President, Kyiv OVA and local communities.

Thus, the premises in Kolonshchyna and Sofiyska Borschagivka in Kyiv region have already been fully occupied. People who lost their homes as a result of Russian aggression live there. In addition, the first two phases of apartments for internally displaced persons in the village of Tarasovka have been put into operation. In Kolonshchyna another line of housing for older IDPs will be built.

The Head of State emphasized that Ukraine greatly appreciates people who have been helping our country since the first days of full-scale Russian aggression. "Thank you for your support and for new projects for our people, for Ukrainian families. In particular, this is the construction of a new medical center, new schools for Ukrainian children and housing for displaced people," the president said.

USYK DEFEATED FURY AND UNIFIED ALL CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES

The fight for the title of absolute world champion between British Tyson Fury and Ukrainian Oleksandr Usyk, which took place on Sunday night in Riyadh, ended in victory for the Ukrainian boxer.

Usyk defeated Fury by split decision (115-112, 114-113 and 113-114).

President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko congratulated Usyk on his victory.

“ *This is the first-ever fight for the title of absolute world heavyweight champion in the era of four belts. Usyk defended the WBA, WBO, and IBF championship belts and tried to take away the WBC title that belonged to Fury.* ”

Usyk started the fight more actively. Fury allowed the Ukrainian to strike at him, although he missed a left to the temple in the end.

During the first half of the fight, the boxers did not change their roles: Usyk threw more punches and pinned Fury near the corner. The Briton tried to counterattack, in particular with uppercuts. It was only in the sixth round that Fury looked more noticeable than Usyk and landed several strong blows on the Ukrainian.

The seventh round was the most active in the Usyk-Fury fight. First, there was another uppercut from Fury. And closer to the end, Usyk landed a series of powerful punches on the Briton.

In the eighth round, Usyk was able to punch Fury right in the nose, after which the Briton began to bleed. In the ninth, the Briton was knocked down.

Usyk continued to dominate Fury in the next two rounds. Only in the 11th round did the Briton manage to partially regain control of the fight.

The winner of the Usyk-Fury fight was to be determined by the judges' notes: both boxers lasted all 12 rounds. The Ukrainian won by a split decision of the judges.

Tyson Fury reportedly demanded a rematch from the Ukrainian boxer in October. Oleksandr Usyk accepted the rematch.

EBRD CONFIRMS 3% GDP GROWTH FORECAST FOR UKRAINE

Ukraine's gross domestic product growth will slow to 3% this year from 5.3% last year, but will accelerate to 6% next year, according to the EBRD's updated regional economic report released on Wednesday.

"Despite Ukraine's GDP growth in 2023, supported by a record harvest, damage to electricity infrastructure from recent shelling is one of the factors likely to limit further growth in 2024," the bank said, also highlighting the risks of damage to port infrastructure.

“Regional growth accelerated this year, up from 2.5% in 2023, despite challenges posed by global geopolitical tensions, including increased trade restrictions. In 2025, the EBRD regions are projected to grow further at 3.6%,” the report says.

The Bank notes that the growth of the Ukrainian economy in 2023 was driven not only by record harvests, but also by increased defense spending, which supported domestic demand, but net exports continued to decline. Among other positive factors, he pointed to the successful restoration of electricity supply after Russian shelling of civilian infrastructure last winter, as well as the resilience and adaptability of Ukrainian business.

As stated in the document, an additional stabilizing factor in 2023 was the timely receipt of external financing, which made it possible to keep inflation at the target level of about 5%. Thanks to these inflows, the country's official international reserves increased to a record level, but the level of public debt also rose to almost 90% of GDP.

“However, in 2024, new challenges emerged, in particular, due to the prospect of a protracted war of attrition and uncertainty in obtaining external financing, which lasted for several months. Limited domestic demand, labor shortages and insufficient investment are also factors that negatively affect the growth rate,” the EBRD stated.

The report also highlights a sharp increase in foreign direct investment (FDI) from Ukraine to emerging Europe in 2022 from low levels before, driven by the arrival of skilled workers from Ukraine to neighboring countries, with software and IT services driving FDI.

In general, the EBRD report, subtitled “Taming Inflation,” says that inflationary pressures in the bank's regions of operation have eased compared to last year, which saw an economic downturn due to higher energy prices as a result of the war in Ukraine and the post-war recovery.

The report describes how geopolitical tensions are affecting the EBRD's countries of operation, leading to rapid trade fragmentation and increased defense spending, and thus a reduction in the so-called “peace dividend” – the economic benefits of reduced defense spending and reinvestment of the resulting savings in the civilian economy. Although growth is projected to continue in the bank's regions, the updated forecast is 0.2 percentage points (p.p.) lower than last year's September forecast.



RESULTS OF JOINT STUDY BY ACTIVE GROUP AND EXPERTS CLUB ON ATTITUDES OF UKRAINIANS TOWARDS MIDDLE EAST AND CENTRAL ASIA

According to Ukrainians, the countries of the Arab world are neutral in the Russian-Ukrainian war. This was revealed by a joint study by Active Group and the Experts Club think tank, “Attitudes of Ukrainians toward the Middle East and Central Asia,” which was presented at [Interfax-Ukraine on Tuesday](#).

“The analysis includes a predominantly positive attitude of our citizens towards such countries as Israel (72.5%) and Turkey (55%), while the attitude towards other countries in the region is mostly neutral. Ukrainians are extremely negative about Iran (76%) and mostly negative about Afghanistan (52.6%),” said Oleksandr Poznyi, director of the research company Active Group.



In addition, the expert added that Ukrainians are mostly positive about countries with which they have trade or cultural ties. This is natural, as such ties promote mutual respect between societies and countries.

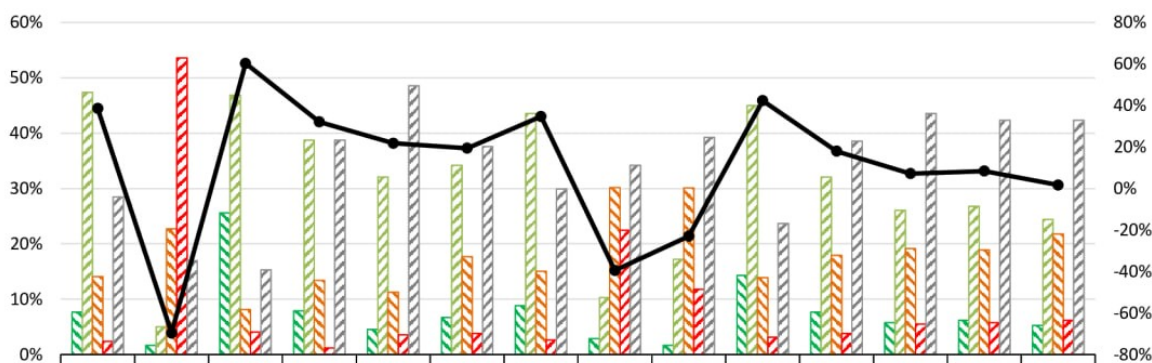
In his turn, Andriy Yeremenko, founder of the research company Active Group, emphasized that the attitude of Ukrainians towards the Middle East and Central Asia varies depending on many factors.



“We can see that the attitude of citizens is really certain only in relation to two countries – Iran and Israel. These are the countries where the percentage of those who find it difficult to answer is less than 20%. The rest of the countries have a much higher percentage of uncertainty, which indicates that Ukrainians are not well informed about these countries,” emphasized Eremenko.

Точне формулювання запитання:

«Яке ваше ставлення до ...?»



	Туреччини	Ірану	Ізраїлю	Єгипту	Йорданії	Саудівської Аравії	ОАЕ	Афганістану	Пакистану	Азербайджану	Узбекистану	Туркменістану	Киргизстану	Таджикистану
повністю позитивне	7.7%	1.7%	25.6%	7.9%	4.5%	6.7%	8.9%	2.9%	1.7%	14.3%	7.7%	5.7%	6.2%	5.3%
здебільшого позитивне	47.4%	5.0%	46.9%	38.8%	32.1%	34.2%	43.5%	10.3%	17.2%	45.0%	32.1%	26.1%	26.8%	24.4%
здебільшого негативне	14.1%	22.7%	8.1%	13.4%	11.2%	17.7%	15.1%	30.1%	30.1%	13.9%	17.9%	19.1%	18.9%	21.8%
повністю негативне	2.4%	53.6%	4.1%	1.2%	3.6%	3.8%	2.6%	22.5%	11.8%	3.1%	3.8%	5.5%	5.7%	6.2%
важко відповісти	28.5%	17.0%	15.3%	38.8%	48.6%	37.6%	29.9%	34.2%	39.2%	23.7%	38.5%	43.5%	42.3%	42.3%
позитивне - негативне	38.5%	-69.6%	60.3%	32.1%	21.8%	19.4%	34.7%	-39.5%	-23.0%	42.3%	17.9%	7.2%	8.4%	1.7%



Ставлення українців до країн Близького Сходу та Центральної Азії



Травень, 2024 р.

Maksim Urakin, founder of the Experts Club think tank, added that building cooperation with the Middle East and Central Asia is very important for the development of the Ukrainian economy, especially in the agricultural and IT sectors. These industries have great potential for development and can become the basis for a mutually beneficial partnership.

“It is necessary to implement a state strategy to reduce the trade deficit and increase Ukraine’s export potential. This will create a more balanced and sustainable economy that will be less dependent on external factors. Ukraine may be interested in agricultural products, IT clusters, and educational services. We are interested in sales markets, agricultural technologies, metallurgy, and chemistry,” Urakin emphasized.



According to him, trade between Ukraine and the countries under study is currently growing rapidly. "Turkey is the largest trading partner among the countries of the Middle East and Central Asia, accounting for more than half of all trade with these countries. This shows the importance of Turkey for the Ukrainian economy," the founder of Experts Club added.

According to Urakin, a balanced foreign economic policy in the region can not only significantly improve Ukraine's relations with Middle Eastern countries, but also have a positive impact on the overall state of the economy.

The results of the study are [available here](#).

ZALUZHNYI OFFICIALLY APPOINTED AS AMBASSADOR TO UK

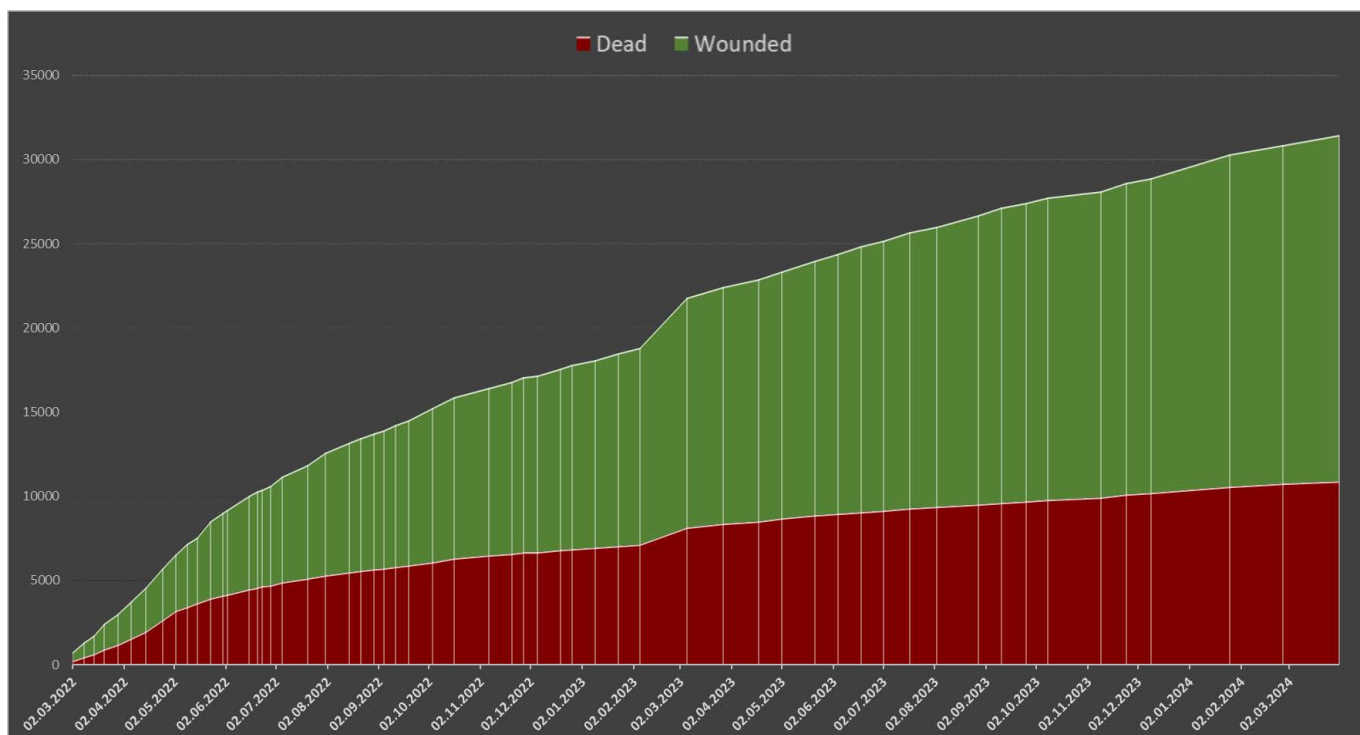
President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy has appointed former Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine Valeriy Zaluzhnyi as Ambassador of Ukraine to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

“To appoint Valeriy Zaluzhnyi as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,” reads the text of Decree No. 316/2024 of May 9, published on the President’s website.



As reported, on February 8, Zelenskyy signed decrees dismissing Valeriy Zaluzhnyi from the post of Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and appointing Oleksandr Syrsky to this position. On March 7, it became known that Zelenskyy had approved Zaluzhnyi's candidacy for the post of Ukraine's ambassador to the United Kingdom, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine reported. The Foreign Ministry sent the British side a request for an agrimand.

NUMBER OF DEAD AND WOUNDED CIVILIANS IN UKRAINE FROM 24.02.2022 TILL 31.03.2024 UN DATA



AUSTRIA TO ALLOCATE EUR 500 MLN FOR EXPORT AND INVESTMENT INSURANCE IN UKRAINE



From mid-May, the Austrian Ministry of Finance and the Austrian export credit agency OeKB (Oesterreichische Kontrollbank Aktiengesellschaft) will start accepting applications for export and investment insurance in Ukraine at the expense of a special fund for Ukraine created by the Ministry of Finance in OeKB through the budget law.

According to the Austrian agency's press release, it is expected that EUR500 million will be allocated to cover operations in Ukraine over the next five years, and the attraction of funds from international financial institutions could make it possible to receive up to EUR1 billion.

"Approximately EUR100 million per year is earmarked for new business. This will also open up opportunities for Austrian exporters in the process of Ukraine's recovery," the Ministry of Finance said in a release.

It is indicated that as part of the existing and proven export promotion procedure, the Ministry of Finance is already facilitating export transactions worth EUR 3-5 million in Ukraine with payment terms of up to three years through OeKB.

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UKRAINE BECAME TWENTIETH LARGEST STEEL PRODUCER IN WORLD IN APRIL

In April this year, Ukrainian steelmakers increased steel production to 715 thousand tons, up 24.5% year-on-year (574 thousand tons) and 17% compared to March this year (611 thousand tons).

At the same time, Ukraine took 20th place in the ranking of 71 countries – global producers of these products, compiled by the World Steel Association (Worldsteel).

At the same time, Ukraine produced 2.402 million tons of steel in 4M2024, up 32.8% compared to the same period in 2023 (1.809 million tons in 4M2023). The country ranks 21st in January-April.



At the same time, Ukraine produced 6.228 million tons of steel in 2023, which is 0.6% lower than in 2022. The country was ranked 22nd in 2023.

In 2022, Ukraine ranked 23rd with 6.263 million tons of steel produced (-70.7%).

The record for Ukraine in recent years was the eighth place in the ranking of steel-producing countries compiled by the World Steel Association (Worldsteel). Ukraine was ranked eighth in 2013, followed by a deterioration in its position and even a drop out of the top 20 steel-producing countries.



“ENERGOATOM” AND KOREAN HYUNDAI SIGN MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION ON NUCLEAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

NNEGC Energoatom and Korean Hyundai Engineering and Construction Co., Ltd. (HDEC) have signed a memorandum of cooperation on the design, construction and commissioning of new nuclear power units in Ukraine. The relevant agreements were signed in Kyiv on Monday by Energoatom’s acting Chairman of the Board Petro Kotin and Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Hyundai Engineering and Construction Yong Choi in the presence of Ukraine’s Energy Minister Herman Galushchenko and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to Ukraine Hyun Tae Kim.

At a briefing after the signing of the memorandum, the head of the Energy Ministry noted that this is the beginning of cooperation in the completion of new units and in general for the future, including joint work on new reactor models.



“But now we are talking about specific projects – those that we are currently implementing at the Khmelnytskyi NPP,” the minister added.

As Kotin noted at the briefing, South Korea has a very extensive nuclear industry and a great deal of expertise in it, so the issue of cooperation with Hyundai, which is a leader in this area, is very important for Energoatom.

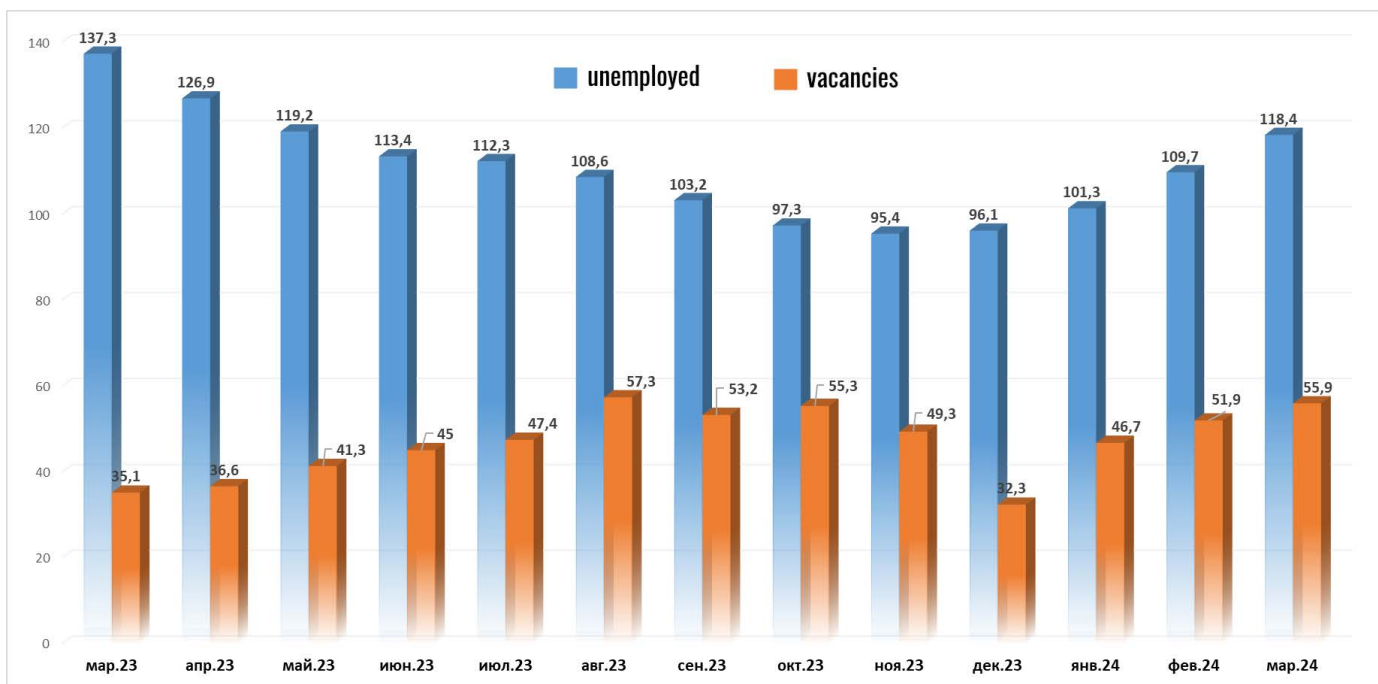
He also noted that cooperation with this company has already begun, recalling that part of the equipment for KhNPP-5, for the purchase of which an agreement was signed with Westinghouse last year, was manufactured by Hyundai.

“Their support will be very important for us in the future, for the success of our nuclear projects. And we have a very big plan,” Kotin emphasized.

Galushchenko also thanked the Republic of Korea for the assistance provided to the Ukrainian energy sector since the beginning of the full-scale war with Russia, in particular for 10 cargoes of humanitarian aid, including 20 backup power plants and mini-excavators.

At the same time, Hyun Tae Kim emphasized that the Korean side is outraged by the recent Russian attacks that have caused enormous damage to Ukraine’s energy infrastructure. According to him, the government of the Republic of Korea is working to help the Ukrainian energy sector, in particular Kharkiv. At the end of last year, 60 diesel generators were transferred to Ukraine, and another 200 are planned for this year. Korea will also increase support for the Ukrainian energy sector through international organizations.

NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED IN UKRAINE AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES, 2023-2024



IN JANUARY-APRIL, UKRAINIAN ENTERPRISES INCREASED COPPER IMPORTS TO \$53 MLN

Ukrainian enterprises in January-April this year increased imports of copper and copper products in value terms by 41.4% compared to the same period last year – up to \$53.034 million. According to customs statistics released by the State Customs Service of Ukraine on Friday, exports of copper and copper products for the period decreased by 8.1% – to \$25.077 million.

In April, imported copper for \$11.015 million, exported – for \$6.949 million.

As reported, Ukraine in 2023 increased imports of copper and copper products in 2.2 times compared to 2022 – up to \$140.795 million, exports decreased by 20.1% – to \$72.078 million.

Ukrainian enterprises in 2022 reduced imports of copper and copper products in value terms by 64.3% year-on-year to \$65.370 million, while their exports decreased by 56.3% to \$90.245 million.



MORE THAN 2.6 THOUSAND COMPANIES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED BY FOREIGNERS IN UKRAINE SINCE BEGINNING OF WAR

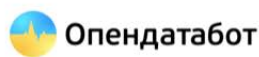
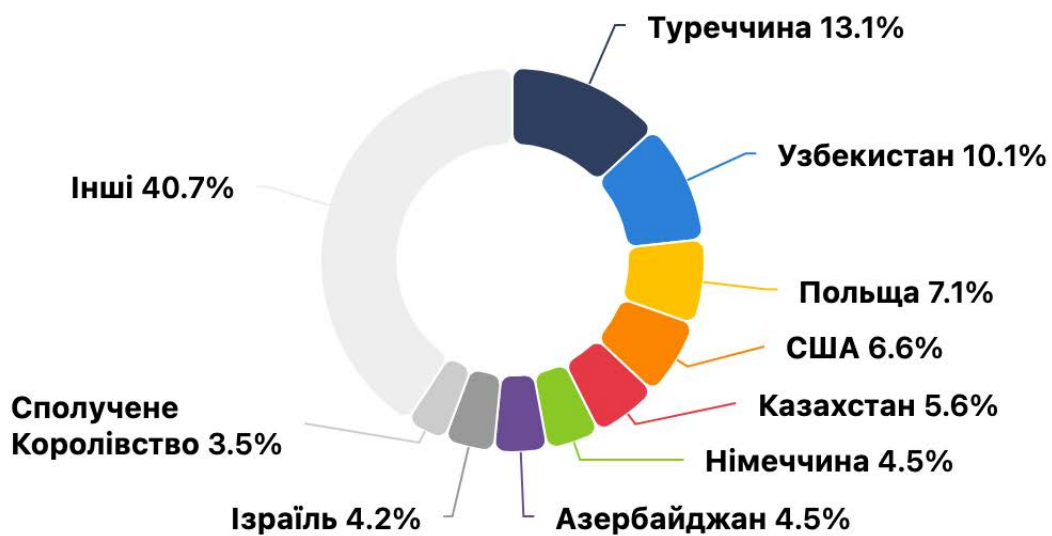
More than 2,600 companies have been founded by foreigners in Ukraine since the beginning of the full-scale invasion. Citizens of Turkey, Uzbekistan, Poland, and the United States are the most frequent business owners in Ukraine.

2652 companies have been opened by foreigners in Ukraine since the start of the full-scale war. In total, citizens from 100 countries invested in the country during the war.

Among all foreign businessmen, Turkish citizens were the most likely to open a business in Ukraine. Residents of the republic are listed as owners in 354 Ukrainian companies. This is 13% of the total number of new businesses with foreign beneficial owners.

Громадяни яких країн частіше всього заснують компанії в Україні?

березень 2022 – травень 2024



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Uzbek citizens are owners of 274 new Ukrainian companies and occupy the second position in the rating. This is 10% of the total number. Polish citizens round out the top three with 193 businesses, or 7% of the total number of companies with foreign owners opened after 2022.

The top list also includes citizens of the United States, Kazakhstan, Germany, Azerbaijan, and Israel. It is worth noting that one company may have more than 1 owner.

The largest business opened by foreigners since the start of full-scale operations is TENS1MA LLC with an authorized capital of UAH 1.28 billion. The owner of the business is an Armenian citizen.

The second place is taken by JSC Closed Non-Diversified Venture Corporate Investment Fund Jugen. The authorized capital of this company is UAH 700 million, and the ultimate owner is a US citizen.

LFS LLC with an authorized capital of UAH 300 million, owned by a Polish citizen, rounds out the top three.

UKRAINIAN MINING COMPANIES INCREASED IRON ORE EXPORTS BY 2.1 TIMES

In January-April this year, Ukrainian mining companies increased exports of iron ore in physical terms by 2.1 times compared to the same period last year, to 11 million 28,545 thousand tons.

According to statistics released by the State Customs Service (SCS) on Friday, foreign exchange earnings from iron ore exports increased 4.1 times to \$2 billion 409.852 million over the period under review.

At the same time, 9 million 4.370 thousand tons of iron ore worth \$863.315 million were exported in 3 months of 2014.

“ *Iron ore was exported mainly to China (43.03% of supplies in monetary terms), Slovakia (16.29%) and Poland (13.67%).*

In January-April 2024, Ukraine imported iron ore worth \$72 thousand in a total volume of 252 tons, while in January-April 2023, it imported \$41 thousand in a total volume of 67 tons. Imports were carried out from the Netherlands (29.17%), Italy (25%) and Norway (18.06%).

As reported, in 2023, Ukraine decreased the export of iron ore in physical terms by 26% compared to 2022 – to 17 million 753.165 thousand tons, foreign exchange earnings from iron ore exports amounted to \$1 billion 766.906 million (down 39.3%). Iron ore was exported mainly to Slovakia (28.39% of supplies in monetary terms), the Czech Republic (19.74%) and Poland (19.56%).

UKRAINIAN PORTS ALMOST DOUBLED CARGO HANDLING

Ukrainian ports handled 37.7 million tons in January-April, up 1.7 times compared to the same period in 2023, the Ukrainian Sea Ports Authority (USPA) reported on Facebook on Wednesday.

“ *In April, port operators handled 9.9 million tons of cargo in seaports, almost twice as much as in the same period in 2023, the USPA said in a statement.*

It is indicated that the largest share in April is the processing of grain cargo – 6.3 million tons against 3.9 million tons in 2023.

The cargo turnover of the Black Sea ports, thanks to the Ukrainian sea corridor, amounted to 7.7 million tons in April, of which 5.1 million tons were the products of Ukrainian farmers, the report says.

Earlier it was reported that since August 2023, the sea corridor created by the Navy has exported almost 45 million tons of cargo to 44 countries.



STATE PROPERTY FUND OF UKRAINE IS FINALIZING LIST OF LARGE-SCALE PRIVATIZATION OBJECTS

The State Property Fund of Ukraine (SPFU) is finalizing the list of large-scale privatization objects to be agreed with the Cabinet of Ministers and submitted to the auction commission, said Vitaliy Koval, head of the agency.

“Large-scale privatization is when an asset is worth more than UAH 200-250 million at its book value or starting price. Today, the official list has been approved, all large-scale privatization objects must go through the procedure of approval by the Cabinet of Ministers, be included in the list and transferred to the auction commission under the regulation of the minister, who will approve the data on the auction conditions,” he said at the Business Breakfast with Forbes Ukraine on Wednesday.

Koval named 66.65% of the Ocean Plaza shopping mall (Kyiv), which will be put up for privatization at a starting price of UAH 1.63 billion, and one of the pre-war leaders in the aerated concrete market, AEROC Investment Deutschland GmbH, with three production sites at a price of about UAH 1 billion, as the most valuable assets included in the list of large-scale privatization. Among the state-owned assets, the Ukraina Hotel (Kyiv) will be put up for privatization at a price of UAH 1.8 billion.

In addition, the assets of the United Mining and Chemical Company (UMCC), which has been given control of the Vilnohirska Mining and Metallurgical Plant (VGMK, Dnipro region) and Irshansk Mining and Processing Plant (IGOK, Zhytomyr region), will be auctioned at a starting price of UAH 3.7-3.9 billion.

“We have a task from the Ministry of Finance – UAH 4 billion (to replenish the state budget in 2024 – IF-U). But I am confident that we will exceed it. The ambitious price is much higher,” said the SPF head.

Speaking about the target audience that the SPF is interested in transferring privatization objects into ownership, Koval said that the Fund manages a variety of assets: from a small shop, hair salon, service center and tailoring studio to large objects such as the UMCC. Accordingly, the target audience is very diverse – from individuals to corporations.

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DdlZ09zAFjk>

UKRAINE INCREASED EXPORTS OF DAIRY PRODUCTS BY 17.8% AND IMPORTS BY 27.4%

In April, Ukraine increased its total foreign trade in dairy products by 10.7% compared to March to \$41.4 million and by 20% compared to February, the press service of the Union of Dairy Enterprises of Ukraine (UDEP) reported.

According to the report, exports of dairy products were 17.8% higher compared to March, amounting to \$17.1 million, and 11% higher compared to February, up to \$15.4 million.

At the same time, import volumes increased by 6.2% compared to March and amounted to \$24.3 million, which is 27.4% higher than in February, when it was recorded at \$19.1 million.

Experts pointed out that imports in April were 1.43 times higher than exports. In March, this figure was 1.58 times higher than in February, in February – 1.24 times higher than in January, in January – 1.93 times higher than in December.

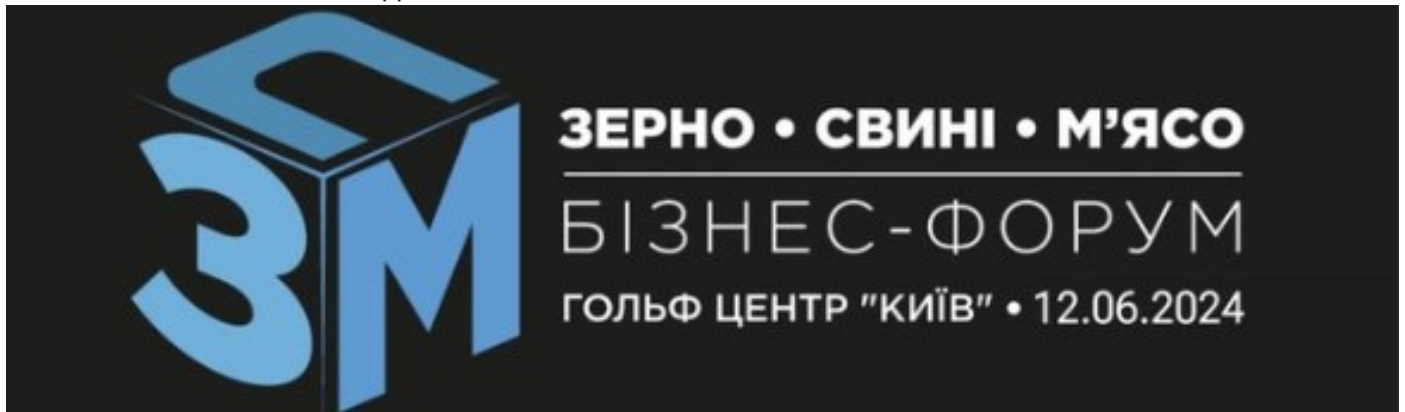


FORUM “GRAIN. PIGS. MEAT-2024” WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 12

On June 12, Kyiv Golf Center will host a business forum that has already become traditional – “Grain. Pigs. Meat – 2024”.

This is a grand event that brings together all areas of the country’s food security – grain business, pig farming, meat industry, retail and related industries – to resolutely overcome the challenges of today, and creates coalitions at all links of the food chain – from a grain in the field to a finished meat product on the consumer’s table.

“Grain. Pigs. Meat-2024 provides its participants with a unique opportunity to learn how to increase their profits, presents real tools for obtaining added value, offers an alternative to blocked grain exports, introduces leading industry experts, producers and processors, suppliers of equipment and genetics, informs about innovations, current trends, financial and technical opportunities.



This year the following issues will be discussed:

- Prospects for the development of the Ukrainian grain market through the prism of the pig and meat industries
- Possibility of replacing grain exports with exports of meat and value-added meat products
- The state and prospects of development of the pig and meat industry in Ukraine during the war and after its end
- Implementation of the concept “New Pig Production of Ukraine”, its impact on the country’s food security and benefits of the industries from its implementation
- Ukraine without ASF – all about the eradication of ASF through vaccine prevention
- Investment opportunities for grain producers, new and existing pig farms, and related industries
- The lowest cost of Ukrainian pigs in the world now and forever
- Effective technologies in pig breeding and meat industry
- “Road map” for creating your own enterprise in pig breeding
- Presentation of a social project that will help war veterans to start a successful business in pig production
- Where and under what conditions to attract financing, grants, support for producers and processors
- Sales and domestic trade, cooperation with national networks, own retail
- Sales and foreign trade, who can export, where and how to organize meat exports

The meat industry and pig farming are now set to become the real drivers of our economy, and the tandem with retail and related industries will definitely lead Ukraine’s economy to prosperity. Join us!

Forum “Grain. Pigs. Meat-2024” will be held on June 12, 2024 in Kyiv, Kyiv Golf Center (20 Obolonska Embankment, Kyiv).

Forum organizers: Association of Meat Industry and Center for Efficiency in Livestock Production.

Business forum program and registration by the link: <https://meatindustry.com.ua/>

Open4business is a media partner



NEW YORK TIMES ON RETURN OF UKRAINIAN EXPORTS TO PRE-WAR LEVELS

The flow of grain ships through the ports of Odessa Region is bringing long-awaited support to Ukraine's economy. However, analysts warn that this may be a temporary phenomenon.

"In early March in Odessa, a 700-foot Liberian-flagged vessel slowly sailed out of the port, passing rows of yellow cranes and plunging into the calm waters of the Black Sea. Its hull was almost completely submerged as the ship was loaded with corn bound for Bangladesh. Meanwhile, other ships laden with grain have already left port, bypassing those that were just arriving," the New York Times reported.

What seemed impossible last summer, when the Russian naval blockade paralyzed all commercial activity, is now a reality. The port was back on track thanks to a military campaign that drove Russian warships out of Ukrainian waters and provided a trade route for supplies to foreign markets.

Ukrainian grain and oilseed exports across the sea, which are vital to the Ukrainian economy, have almost returned to prewar levels, according to data provided to the New York Times. Over the past six months, Ukraine exported 27.6 million tons of grain and oilseeds across the Black Sea, only 0.2 million tons less than the average volume for the same period from 2018 to 2021 before Russia's invasion in February 2022.

“ In the first quarter of this year, Black Sea exports even exceeded pre-war figures, according to Ukrainian data.

Grain and oilseed export estimates from Dragon Capital, a Kiev-based investment firm, and data from Lloyd's List Intelligence, a shipping analytics firm, confirm this trend.

Sal Gilberti, head of Teucrium Trading, a U.S. company that trades agricultural commodities on the New York Stock Exchange, said claims by Ukrainian officials that grain exports across the sea are close to prewar levels are "accurate."

Ukraine still faces challenges that could prevent grain exports from stabilizing at previous levels, including continued Russian attacks on port infrastructure and a reduced harvest this year. The U.S. Department of Agriculture predicts a decline in grain exports in the near future.

However, analysts say the overall environment is improving and freight companies are willing to transport Ukrainian grain despite the war. "The data shows there is no shortage of shipowners willing to take the risk and go for it," said Greg Miller, senior maritime journalist at Lloyd's List.

But a year later, Russia pulled out of the agreement and threatened all commercial ships traveling to or from Ukraine, leading to a complete halt to maritime grain exports last August.

To resume exports, the Ukrainian army launched a campaign to drive the Russian navy out of part of the Black Sea, destroying many warships and attacking their headquarters in Russia-occupied Crimea. The successful operation allowed Ukraine to create a new trade corridor along the coast that allows ships to enter the territorial waters of NATO countries.

However, analysts warn that the initial success of Ukraine's new trade route may be short-lived.

Russia continues to strike port infrastructure in Odessa, and with Ukraine's air defenses in short supply, more missiles are reaching their target. In mid-April, Russia successfully struck two terminals in Pivdenne, destroying several containers.



PHILIP MORRIS OFFICIALLY OPENS NEW FACTORY IN LVIV REGION

On Wednesday, tobacco manufacturer Philip Morris International officially opened a new factory in Lviv region, in which it has invested \$30 million.

“The first line is already in operation. The second line is almost completed and will start operating in June... In total, five lines will be installed, 10 billion cigarettes will be produced, which will fully meet the needs of the local market of Ukraine,” said Philip Morris Ukraine (PMU) CEO Maxim Barabash at the opening of the factory.

He emphasized that the focus of the production is to cover the market demand for cigarettes.

According to Barabash, there are no plans to expand production for export or manufacture other products.

According to PMU, 250 jobs will be created at the factory. By now, the company already employs about 100 people relocated from the Kharkiv factory, which was “mothballed” on February 24, 2024, the day of the Russian invasion, and another 150 people are planned to be relocated by the end of the year.

“My dream for the future after the victory is that we have two factories. One would produce cigarettes, and the other would be in Kharkiv, working on new products that would be relevant and relevant at the time when this comes true,” Barabash summarized.

According to him, this year Philip Morris celebrates 30 years of operation in Ukraine. During this time, the company has invested about \$750 million in the Ukrainian economy and is one of the largest taxpayers.

Philip Morris was spun off from Altria in 2008 and is one of the world’s largest tobacco manufacturers. The company’s revenue for 2023 increased by 10.7% compared to 2022 to \$35.2 billion, and for the first quarter of 2024 – by 9.7% to \$8.79 billion.



“UKRTSUKOR” ASKS TO URGENTLY BAN SUGAR EXPORTS TO EU

The National Association Ukrtsukor has asked the Cabinet of Ministers to urgently establish a zero quota on sugar exports to the European Union for 2024 due to the achievement of the maximum volume stipulated by the EU decision for the export of Ukrainian sugar to these countries in 2024, the association reported on Facebook.

“In fact, we are talking about initiating the closure of Ukraine’s border for sugar exports to the EU as soon as possible due to the fact that sugar exports have already reached 262.6 thousand tons, defined as Ukraine’s quota for 2024,” the statement said.

“Ukrtsukor believes that such an appeal is a confirmation of the constructive position of Ukrainian sugar producers and their readiness to integrate into the European sugar market and meet its requirements.

The business association reminded that on May 13, 2024, the Council of the European Union approved the extension of temporary trade liberalization measures for Ukraine for another year, until June 5, 2025. At the same time, it provided for the application of an emergency braking mechanism for particularly sensitive agricultural products, in particular sugar, if imports of these products in 2024 exceed the average imports recorded in the second half of 2021 and throughout 2022 and 2023. Similar emergency braking measures may be applied in 2025 if, in the period from January 1, 2025 to June 5, 2025, the volume of Ukrainian exports exceeds 5/12 of the quota set for 2024.



UKRAINE WILL BE ABLE TO HARVEST MORE THAN 4 MLN TONS OF RAPESEED – FORECAST

Ukraine will be able to harvest more than 4 mln tonnes of rapeseed in the season-2024, UkrAgroConsult analytical agency forecasts.

“The State Statistics Service released the official data on the rapeseed harvest in 2023 – 4.2 mln tonnes (+26% compared to 2022/2023 MY), but the export and domestic processing rates prove that the official statistics need to be reassessed,” the analysts said.



They reminded that the export of rapeseed and processed products continues to be at the record pace even in the last months of the season. During the 10 months of the season, the country exported 3586.2 thsd tonnes of rapeseed (+5% compared to 2022/23 MY), 134.1 thsd tonnes in April; 406.1 thsd tonnes of rapeseed oil; 351.9 thsd tonnes of rapeseed meal.

Experts believe that the 2024 rapeseed harvest can also be forecasted on the basis of the revised estimates, according to which it may reach more than 4 mln tonnes.

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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