



UKRAINE
OPEN FOR BUSINESS

UKRAINIAN EXPORTS INCREASED BY 13.3% TO \$30.7 BLN

Ukrainian exports in January-September 2024 increased by 13.3% compared to the same period in 2023 to \$30.7 billion, while imports increased by 9.9% to \$51.2 billion, the State Customs Service reported.

“At the same time, taxable imports amounted to \$42.5 billion, which is 83% of the total volume of imported goods. The tax burden per 1 kg of imports in January-September 2024 amounted to \$0.5/kg, which is 8% more than in the same period in 2023,” the statistics are available on the website of the State Customs Service.

“ According to the published data, most of the goods were exported to Poland – for \$3.6 billion, Spain – for \$2.1 billion, and Germany – for \$2.1 billion. Goods were most often imported to Ukraine from China – for \$10.3 billion, Poland – for \$5 billion, and Germany – for \$3.9 billion.

In January-September 2024, 65% of the total volume of goods imported were machinery, equipment and transport – worth \$17.7 billion (UAH 125.7 billion, or 30% of customs revenues, was paid to the budget), chemical products – \$8.8 billion (UAH 65.2 billion, or 15% of revenues), and fuel and energy products – \$6.8 billion (UAH 111.7 billion, or 26% of customs revenues).

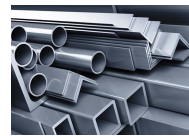
The top three most frequently exported goods from Ukraine are food products worth \$17.9 billion, metals and metal products worth \$3.4 billion, and machinery, equipment, and transport worth \$2.5 billion.

HEADLINES

21 October 2024



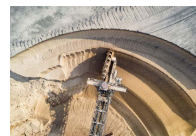
UKRAINE'S INTERNATIONAL RESERVES DECREASED BY 8% TO \$38.9 BLN IN SEPTEMBER



UKRAINE INCREASES ROLLED STEEL OUTPUT BY ALMOST QUARTER



TOP-10 MEDICAL LABORATORIES IN UKRAINE – STUDY BY EXPERTS CLUB AND ACTIVE GROUP



NEQSOL HOLDING BUYS UNITED MINING AND CHEMICAL COMPANY



MINISTRY OF AGRARIAN POLICY FORECASTS GRAIN EXPORTS AT 40 MLN TONS IN 2024-2025



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) HAS RAISED ITS FORECAST FOR WHEAT EXPORTS FROM UKRAINE

UKRAINE'S INTERNATIONAL RESERVES DECREASED BY 8% TO \$38.9 BLN IN SEPTEMBER

According to preliminary estimates by the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU), Ukraine's international reserves decreased by 8.1%, or \$3.44 billion, to \$38 billion 898.6 million in September.

"This dynamics is due to the NBU's foreign exchange interventions to cover the structural deficit of foreign currency in the market and smooth out exchange rate fluctuations, as well as the country's debt payments in foreign currency," the central bank said on its website on Monday.

In September, the NBU's net international reserves (NIR) decreased by \$2.8 billion, or 9.9%, to \$25 billion 544 million, which is lower than the quantitative performance criterion (QPC) in the updated EFF program of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), according to which Ukraine's NIR should have been at least \$28.8 billion at the end of September this year.

However, by the end of the year, this figure is expected to be at least \$26.3 billion.

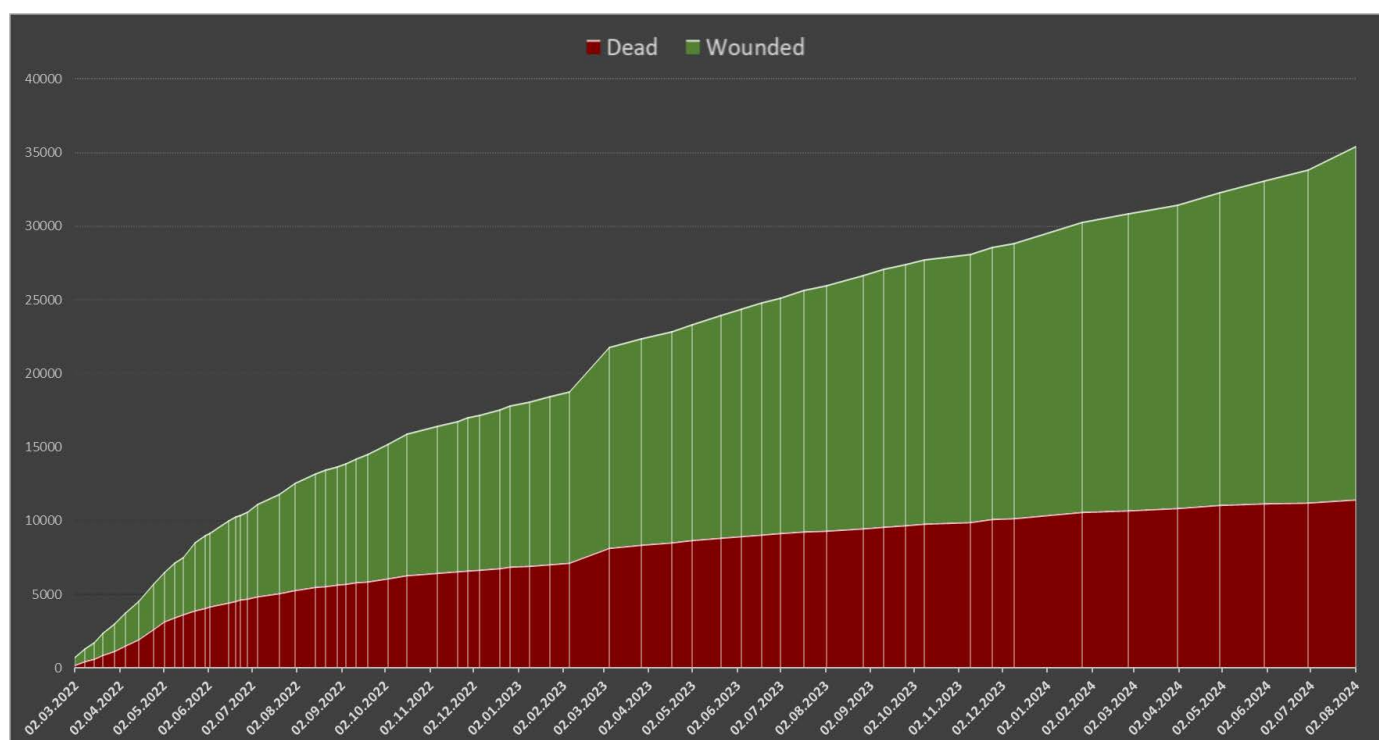
The NBU noted that foreign exchange interventions on the interbank market and debt payments were partially offset by proceeds from the placement of foreign currency domestic government bonds (DGBs), as well as international aid, the amount of which in September, according to the NBU, was one of the smallest since the beginning of this year.

According to the published information, the National Bank sold \$3 billion 213.8 million in the foreign exchange market and bought \$0.6 million in reserves, while the NBU's net sale of foreign currency in September increased to \$3.21 billion from \$2.68 billion.

It is noted that the government's foreign currency accounts at the National Bank received \$674.7 million, of which \$603.6 million came from the placement of foreign currency government bonds, \$60 million through the World Bank and \$11.1 million from the Council of Europe Development Bank.

The government paid \$552.4 million for servicing and repayment of the public debt in foreign currency, including \$456.3 million for servicing and repayment of foreign currency domestic government bonds, \$52.1 million for servicing and repayment of the debt to the World Bank, and \$44 million for repayment to other international creditors.

NUMBER OF DEAD AND WOUNDED CIVILIANS IN UKRAINE FROM 24.02.2022 TILL 31.07.2024 UN DATA



JAPANESE FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATION JETRO OPENED OFFICE IN KIEV

“In connection with the opening of the office, we also created a Ukrainian business department at JETRO headquarters, which decided to invite a business support team between Ukraine and Japan. We came with 10 major Japanese companies and startups equipped with advanced technology and a strong commitment to support Ukraine’s reconstruction,” Jetro head Norihiko Ishigura said at the office opening in Kiev.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Denis Shmygal also attended the ceremony.

Among the companies that have decided to interact with Ukrainian business are Itochu Corporation (represents investment products, but in Ukraine is interested in engineering projects, food/chemicals/metals trade and automotive business), Taichi holding Limited (develops air conditioning systems, sells construction equipment), Nippon express holding Inc (freight forwarder), Green (develops “clean” solutions for agribusiness), NTC International Co (consulting firm in the field of agriculture), Spec Company Limited (develops soil reinforcing agents), and NTC International Co (agricultural consulting firm).

According to him, JETRO will continue to bring Japanese business initiatives to Ukraine and create as many opportunities as possible for companies from both countries.

He also hopes that Ukraine and Japanese companies will take advantage of these opportunities and develop business relations.

The members of the JETRO Kyiv office are Shibata Tetsuo – he has been appointed CEO of JETRO Kyiv, Sagakuchi Ryohai – coordinator of Jetro in Ukraine, Yoden Tomohiro – deputy CEO, and Diana Nazarova – JETRO Ukraine project coordinator.

“I look forward to building strong ties with Ukrainian communities as a true friend. Dear Kiev, I love you,” Tomohiro stated.

In turn, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy of Ukraine Yulia Sviridenko said that the opening of JETRO office in Kiev marks the beginning of strategic partnership between Japan and Ukraine.

JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization) – Japan External Trade Organization Office, an independent administrative body under the auspices of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, established to promote trade and economic cooperation with other countries of the world.

UKRAINE INCREASES ROLLED STEEL OUTPUT BY ALMOST QUARTER

Ukrainian metallurgical enterprises increased production of rolled steel in January-September this year, according to preliminary data, by 22.7% year-on-year, to 4.821 million tons from 3.929 million tons.

According to Ukrmetallurgprom on Tuesday, steel production during the period increased by 28.2% to 5.884 million tons, and pig iron production by 21.9% to 5.356 million tons.

In September, the company produced 503.9 thousand tons of rolled products, 610 thousand tons of steel, and 624.1 thousand tons of pig iron, compared to 589.3 thousand tons of rolled products, 690.7 thousand tons of steel, and 643.6 thousand tons of pig iron in the previous month.

As reported, in 2023, Ukraine increased production of total rolled products by 0.4% compared to 2022 – up 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.

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%).



IMF APPROVES NEW \$1.1 TRANCHE FOR UKRAINE

The IMF Board of Directors on Friday completed the fifth review of Ukraine's EFF Extended Fund Facility (EFF) program, allowing Ukraine to receive about \$1.1 billion (SDR834.9 million) of the 6th tranche, which will be used for budget support.

"Despite the challenging environment, Ukraine's economy remains resilient and EFF performance remains strong. As of end-June, the authorities had met all quantitative performance criteria and achieved the four structural beacons," the Fund said in a press release on its website.

After the discussion, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said that the total external financing under the 4-year program is raised from \$122 billion to \$151 billion in the base case and from \$144 billion to \$187 billion in the negative case due to new commitments under the G7 initiative to allocate \$50 billion to Ukraine from the proceeds on frozen Russian assets ("Emergency Loans to Accelerate Ukraine's Revenue Growth", ERA).

It is stated that sustainable reforms, mobilization of domestic revenues and timely provision of external support are necessary to ensure macroeconomic stability, restore fiscal and debt sustainability and enhance institutional reforms. It is specified that the structural beacons related to the abolition of tax exemptions, war-affected state-owned companies, customs reform and public investment management have been implemented, while the implementation of two structural beacons has been postponed to allow more time to complete the reform.

The IMF noted that the economy has been more resilient than expected in the first half of 2024, thanks to continued growth, moderate inflation, and adequate reserves backed by significant external support. However, the outlook for the rest of the year and 2025 has deteriorated since the fourth review, mainly due to prolonged Russian attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure and uncertainty over the war.

"Overall, the outlook remains exceptionally uncertain," the Fund emphasized.

Georgieva said that all quantitative performance criteria are expected to be met at the end of September as well.



TURKEY HAS ALLOCATED UKRAINE ONE THOUSAND LICENSES FOR TRANSPORTATION TO/ FROM THIRD COUNTRIES

Turkey has allocated Ukraine the last package of 1 thousand licenses for transportation to / from third countries in accordance with the agreement reached at the end of 2023, said the Deputy Minister of development of communities, territories and infrastructure Sergiy Derkach.

"Plus 1 thousand permits from Turkey for transportation to/from third countries. Ukrainian carriers can continue to perform transportation to / from third countries with Turkey. The corresponding forms of permits are already in "Ukrtransbezpek" and are available for ordering," Derkach wrote on Facebook.



According to him, the permits were issued in accordance with the agreement that was reached at the end of 2023, which will allow to close the need before the end of the year."

"I will remind you that earlier this year, for the first time since 2018, we managed to agree with Turkey to increase the number of such permits by 40% – up to 3,500," Derkach wrote, indicating that the market has already used 2,500 permits.

DEMAND FOR BUSES IN UKRAINE INCREASED BY 14%

Initial registrations of new and used buses (including minibuses) in Ukraine in September 2024 increased by 14% compared to September 2023, to 247 units, Ukravtoprom reported in its telegram channel.

At the same time, the share of new buses, as in the previous year, amounted to 63% (155 units), which is 10 percentage points more than in August this year.

“ *The leader in the top three most frequently registered new buses in September was Etalon produced by Chernihiv Automobile Plant with 60 vehicles registered, up 76% or 24 buses from last September, when it was ranked second.*

Ataman buses, which were in the lead in September 2023 and August 2024, took second place with 37 units registered against 56 units a year earlier.

ZAZ buses took the third position – 24 units, which in September 2023 were also third with 17 vehicles, and in August this year they took the sixth place in the ranking with three buses.

The top three leaders in September among used buses are: Mercedes-Benz – 31 units, Volkswagen – 16 units and MAN – 9 units.

According to the association, in January-September, a total of 1415 buses were added to the Ukrainian bus fleet (-29% compared to the same period in 2023). Of these, 803 units were new (-35%); 612 units were used (-19%).

PHARMACY SALES IN UKRAINE IN JANUARY-AUGUST INCREASED BY 13.1% TO UAH 125 BLN IN MONETARY TERMS

Pharmacy sales in Ukraine in January-August 2024 increased by 13.1% in monetary terms compared to the same period in 2023 to UAH 125.712 billion, while in physical terms they decreased by 4.5% to almost 700.042 million packages.

“ *Business Credit told Interfax-Ukraine that, according to its research, the weighted average price of pharmacy basket items during this period was UAH 163.25, up 18.47% compared to the same period in 2023.*

At the same time, pharmacy sales of medicines in January-August 2024 amounted to UAH 98.565 billion, which is 13.3% more than in the same period in 2023, but in physical terms, pharmacy sales of medicines decreased by 4.9% to 537.982 million packs.

The weighted average retail price of medicines in January-August 2024 amounted to UAH 183.21 per unit, which is 19.22% higher than a year earlier.

Pharmacy sales of dietary supplements increased by 15% in monetary terms to UAH 12.846 billion over the eight months, while physical sales decreased by almost 2% to 64.658 million packs. The weighted average price in this segment in the first half of the year increased by 17.36% compared to the same period in 2023 to UAH 198.68 per unit.

At the same time, in the first half of the year, almost all segments of the pharmacy basket showed negative sales dynamics in physical terms.

As reported, in January-June 2024, pharmacy sales in Ukraine increased by 12.67% in monetary terms compared to the same period in 2023 – to UAH 94.784 billion, while in physical terms they decreased by 4.7% to 583.21 million packs. The weighted average price of pharmacy basket products during this period amounted to UAH 162.52, which is 18.25% more than in the same period of 2023.

TOP-10 MEDICAL LABORATORIES IN UKRAINE – STUDY BY EXPERTS CLUB AND ACTIVE GROUP

According to a study conducted by the sociological company **Active Group** in cooperation with the analytical center **Experts Club**, a significant number of Ukrainians have used medical laboratories over the past two years. In particular, private medical laboratories play an important role in the healthcare sector, as more and more people are turning to them for high-quality and fast medical services.

“ *The top 10 most visited private medical laboratories in Ukraine are as follows:* ”

1. Synevo – 39.5% of respondents said they had used the services of this laboratory. Synevo is the undisputed market leader, which can be explained by its wide network of laboratories across the country, modern equipment and high level of trust from the population. Synevo is known for its accessibility and a wide range of services that meet the needs of both ordinary citizens and medical professionals.
2. “Dila – 15.5% of respondents have visited this laboratory. “Dila also has a strong position in the market due to the high quality of its services, in particular the accuracy of analyzes and the speed of service. The laboratory is actively developing innovative diagnostic methods, which attracts consumers looking for modern medical solutions.
3. “Eskulab – 9.3% of Ukrainians choose this laboratory. “Eskulab has strengthened its position due to its regional coverage, especially in the western regions of Ukraine. An important factor in its popularity is the availability of services in remote locations, which makes the laboratory convenient for a large part of the population.
4. Invivo – 6.1% of respondents used the services of this laboratory. Invivo is known for its individual approach to each client, which contributes to its popularity among patients who value quality and comfort. An important aspect of success is a convenient system for obtaining results and high accuracy of analyzes.
5. “DniproLab – 4.8% of respondents chose this laboratory. Dneprolab has strong positions in the central and eastern regions of the country. The main factors that ensure its popularity are the promptness of results and affordable pricing.
6. “Median – 2.5% of visitors used the services of Median. This laboratory is known for the accuracy of its tests and the introduction of modern diagnostic methods. Despite its smaller scale compared to market leaders, Median offers high-quality services that attract patients who value professionalism.
7. “Medlab – 4.5% of respondents have used this laboratory. “Medlab provides quality service and modern facilities for patients, which makes it popular among those looking for reliable medical services at a reasonable price.
8. DNA Laboratory – 2.3% of respondents chose this laboratory. Its specialization in genetic research and diagnostics helps the laboratory to attract clients who need such specialized services.
9. “Unimed – 2.3% of visitors preferred Unimed. The laboratory attracts customers with its convenience and the ability to get results quickly and without queues. This provides a positive experience for patients who value comfort and time.
10. “New Diagnostics – 2% of respondents chose this laboratory. It specializes in accurate and fast tests, which makes it attractive to customers who need reliable diagnostics.

In general, the most visited laboratories are those that offer a wide range of services, modern equipment, and ensure high accuracy of results. At the same time, prices remain an important factor, as according to the survey, 69.8% of respondents said that the cost of services needs to be reduced, 31.8% – the accuracy of results, 15.2% – the speed of service, 12.5% – the conditions in the laboratory, 11.8% – the politeness of the staff. Competition between laboratories helps to improve the quality of service and reduce the cost of services, which has a positive impact on the overall healthcare market in Ukraine.

For his part, **Maksim Urakin**, founder of the Experts Club information and analytical center, emphasized that the study confirms the trend of increasing demand for private medical laboratories among Ukrainians.

“The survey data indicate an increase in confidence in the private medical sector and its capabilities. At the same time, the high level of competition in the market encourages laboratories to innovate, improve diagnostic accuracy and customer service. This trend is a positive signal for all market participants, as improving the quality of medical services and making them accessible to more people contributes to the overall improvement of the health of the Ukrainian population,” the founder of Experts Club believes.

“RIVNE AZOT” RESUMES PRODUCTION OF MINERAL FERTILIZERS

Rivne Azot, a part of Group DF’s nitrogen business, has resumed operations and reached 100% capacity at its basic fertilizer production shops, the company’s press service reports.

“During the plant shutdown, we carried out maintenance and reconstruction of a number of production systems, including the power supply system at the enterprise. This will help reduce production risks and ensure stable operation of the plant’s basic shops during the season. We have successfully completed the commissioning of key units and launched the plant at full capacity to meet the growing seasonal demand for mineral fertilizers from farmers,” said Mykhailo Zabluda, Chairman of the Board of Rivne Azot.

According to the report, the plant has launched an ammonia shop (A-2), a nonconcentrated nitric acid shop and an ammonium nitrate shop. The capacity of the loaded ammonia line is 650 tons of ammonia per day and that of the non-concentrated nitric acid line is 1,000 tons of nitric acid per day. The ammonium nitrate shop will operate at the maximum capacity of the ammonia line, i.e. at least 40 thousand tons of nitrate per month.

Currently, the plant is focused on supplying fertilizers to the domestic market of Ukraine. The products are shipped to customers across the country under contracts.

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NAFTOGAZ GROUP INCREASED GAS PRODUCTION BY 7%

In January-September 2024, the companies of the Naftogaz Group – JSC Ukrigasvydobuvannya and PJSC Ukrnafta – produced more than 11 billion cubic meters of commercial gas, which is 0.7 billion cubic meters more (about 7%) than in the same period in 2023, the group reported on its website.

“We continue to increase Ukrainian gas production. We are 2% higher than the planned production volumes. I am grateful to the teams for managing to achieve their goals even in the face of war. We will continue to support the trend of developing Ukraine’s energy independence,” said Oleksiy Chernyshov, Chairman of Naftogaz Group.



He noted that this heating season, as in the past, Naftogaz plans to provide the population of Ukraine and other categories of public service obligations exclusively with its own resources.

As reported with reference to Chernyshov, Naftogaz Group produces 43-44 million cubic meters of gas daily, with total daily production in Ukraine amounting to 53 million cubic meters (which is approximately 83% of the total).

Naftogaz’s consolidated quarterly report says that the group’s forecasted commercial gas production for 2024 is expected to reach 14.6 billion cubic meters. In February, Chernyshev said that the group’s goal for this year is to get closer to 15 bcm of production.

NEQSOL HOLDING BUYS UNITED MINING AND CHEMICAL COMPANY

The state-owned stake of 100% of the authorized capital of United Mining and Chemical Company JSC was offered to be paid UAH 39 million more than the starting price of the privatization auction of the State Property Fund of Ukraine.

NADRA.INFO reports with reference to the data of the UBIZ.ua platform, accredited by Prozorro.Sale JSC.

The price offer of UAH 3,938,351,581 was received from Cemin Ukraine LLC, a member of the NEQSOL Holding group of Nasib Hasanov (Azerbaijan) (YouControl).

NEQSOL Holding in Ukraine is headed by Volodymyr Lavrenchuk. The group is a member of the EBA Subsoil Committee.

Cemin Ukraine was the only bidder to buy UMCC (Minutes).

“NEQSOL Holding has taken this step as a potential strategic investor, which, if recognized as the winner, plans to implement plans for modernization, development of new products using deep processing of raw materials and expansion in global markets along with fulfilling all privatization obligations covering social, environmental and technical aspects. Currently, NEQSOL Holding is waiting for the privatization process to be completed and its official results to be announced in accordance with the applicable procedures,” Volodymyr Lavrenchuk, Regional Director of NEQSOL Holding in Ukraine, told NADRA.INFO.

At 22:41 on Tuesday, 08.10.2024, the State Property Fund of Ukraine published an announcement on the redemption of UMCC shares on its Facebook page:

“The team of the State Property Fund of Ukraine held an online privatization auction for the sale of a state-owned stake of 100% of the authorized capital of United Mining and Chemical Company JSC. The purchase took place in the electronic system Prozorro.Sale.

The buyer is obliged to maintain the main activities of the enterprise, invest at least UAH 400 million in technical re-equipment and modernization. It is also obliged to pay off wage and budget arrears and repay overdue accounts payable.

The privatization of this enterprise opens up new opportunities for the development of Ukraine’s titanium industry. Attracting private capital will help improve the technological level of production, expand export opportunities and create new jobs. This will be an important step towards increasing the competitiveness of the Ukrainian industry on the global stage.

KYIV’S GULLIVER SHOPPING CENTER HAS BEEN VALUED AT UAH 7.6 BLN, TENDER IS BEING PREPARED

The Asset Recovery and Management Agency (ARMA) has valued the Gulliver shopping center (Tri O LLC, Kyiv) at UAH 7.6 billion and is preparing a tender to select a manager, the ARMA press service reports. The press release specifies that the appraiser, Business Consulting PE, selected in a transparent tender, provided the National Agency with an appraisal report and a review of the report dated October 9, 2024.

According to the appraisal, the value of the Gulliver shopping center is UAH 7.6 billion. After processing all the information and preparing the tender documents, ARMA will announce a tender to select a facility manager. The Gulliver Multifunctional Complex (MFC) was transferred to ARMA by the decision of the Shevchenkivskyi District Court of Kyiv on June 3, 2024 and the Kyiv Court of Appeal on June 25, 2024.

Earlier it was reported that on June 3 this year, the Shevchenkivskyi District Court of Kyiv granted the request of the Prosecutor General’s Office to transfer Gulliver to the management of ARMA. The prosecutor’s motion concerned only the transfer of property to ARMA for management, not for sale. In addition, the court ordered ARMA to carry out periodic (at least once a month) checks on the effectiveness of the asset management.

UNIQUE INVESTMENT OFFER FOR COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE ON LANDSCAPE ALLEY

A new unique opportunity for investors in one of the most famous and picturesque places in the capital – Landscape Alley. This place, which has a great historical and cultural value, is known not only for its landscapes, but also for the constant flow of tourists and locals. The only available commercial space is located here, which creates an exceptional opportunity to open and develop a successful business in the heart of Kyiv.

Characteristics of the property

The offer includes three combined apartments on the ground floor of the historic building, as well as additional space on the sixth floor. The total area of the premises allows to accommodate various types of commercial enterprises, such as a restaurant, boutique hotel or other projects focused on the tourist and local market. All premises have recently undergone major repairs with modernization of engineering systems and interior renovation, which allows the new owner to start their business promptly.

Advantages of the investment project

Landscape Alley is a park popular among tourists and locals, known for its historical significance and picturesque views. The daily flow of visitors creates favorable conditions for any commercial project.

The 185-square-meter premises, with the possibility of expanding to 225 square meters, have just undergone a major renovation with the replacement of all communications. The space is ready to be used for a variety of businesses – from a family restaurant to a boutique hotel or sports complex.

Due to its central location and constant flow of tourists, the property has high profitability and a wide range of business opportunities.

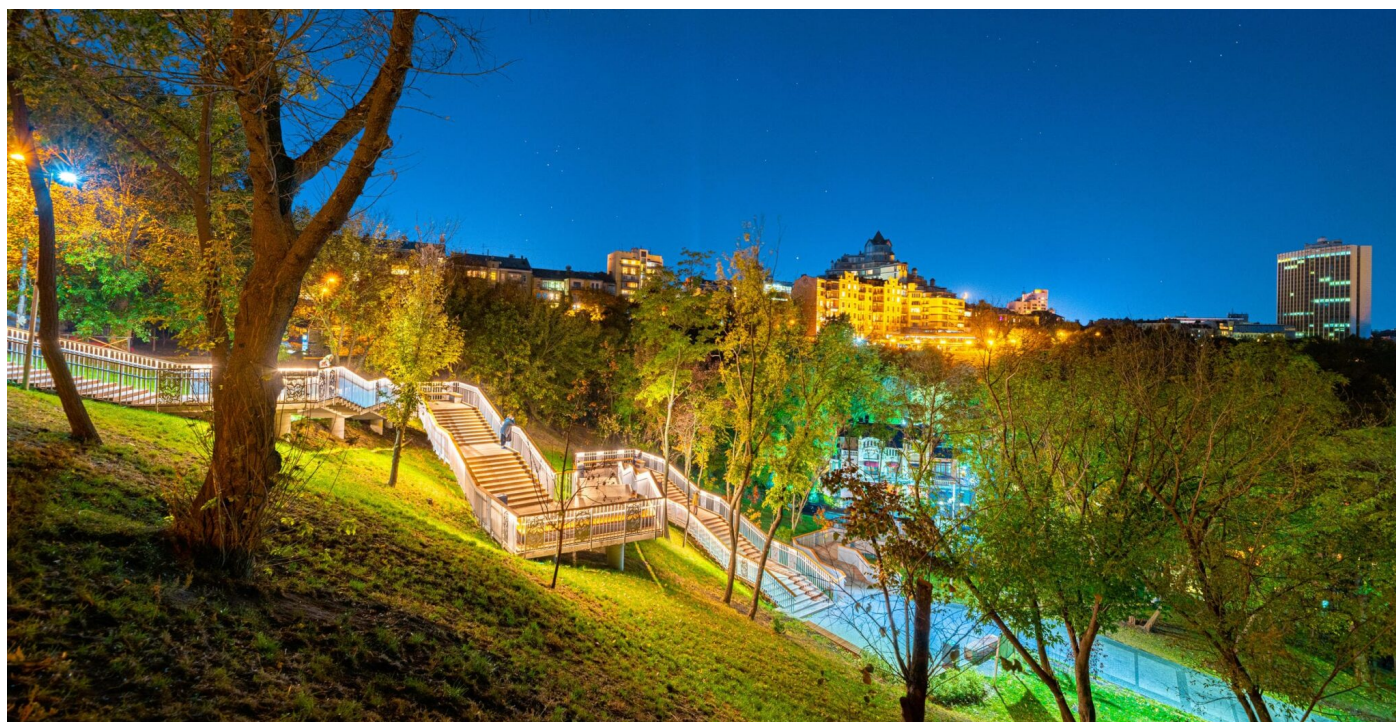
The transfer of the premises to non-residential use will be fully supported by the legal team, including the development of a design project and the execution of all necessary works. The price of the property includes the entire range of works, except for the final finishing works. This allows investors to start their business as soon as possible.

This unique commercial offer provides investors with transparent transaction terms and the most comfortable conditions for starting a business in a prestigious area of Kyiv.

Contact information for inquiries: Phone: (050) 340 66 44

Address: 16 Velyka Zhytomyrska St., Kyiv, Ukraine

Watch more in the video at the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pnl7rJzq5Og>



UKRAINE EXPORTED MORE THAN 12 MLN TONS OF GRAINS SINCE BEGINNING OF SEASON

Ukraine has exported 12.04 mln tonnes of grains and pulses since the beginning of 2024-2025 marketing year (MY, June-July) as of October 14, 2024, including 1.593 mln tonnes shipped in October, the press service of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food reported, citing the data of the State Customs Service.

According to the report, as of the same date in 2023, the total shipments were estimated at 6.676 mln tonnes, including 7 thsd tonnes in October.

In terms of crops, since the beginning of the current season, Ukraine has exported 6.894 mln tonnes of wheat (796 thsd tonnes in October), 1.575 mln tonnes of barley (252 thsd tonnes), 10.5 thsd tonnes of rye (3.1 thsd tonnes), and 3.302 mln tonnes of corn (538 thsd tonnes).

The total exports of Ukrainian flour since the beginning of the season as of October 14 are estimated at 21.5 thsd tonnes (2.6 thsd tonnes in October), including 19.4 thsd tonnes of wheat (2.1 thsd tonnes).



ROMANIA EXPANDS LIST OF LICENSED PRODUCTS FROM UKRAINE TO INCLUDE POULTRY AND EGGS

Romania has expanded the list of goods imported from Ukraine that require a license to enter the country to include eggs and poultry meat, Euractiv.ro reported, citing information from the Romanian government. The publication reminded that Romanian poultry producers faced a “serious problem” due to the import of eggs and poultry meat from Ukraine, which are sold at prices significantly lower than the cost of production in Romania.

According to the Minister of Agriculture Florin Barbu, after discussions with representatives of the poultry industry, the government decided to add eggs and poultry meat to the list of products that can be imported from Ukraine only with a license. The list also includes cereals, seeds, flour and sugar. In addition, he reminded that Romania, as a member of the European Union, must comply with certain production requirements in the poultry sector, which is why Romanian poultry farmers have “30% higher costs than in Ukraine.”

Barbu also emphasized that there is no ban on imports of Ukrainian eggs and poultry meat.

“We have made this decision on licensing to ensure that when the food industry needs these products and Romania is not completely self-sufficient, only Romanian processors will be able to import them under license,” he added.

MINISTRY OF AGRARIAN POLICY FORECASTS GRAIN EXPORTS AT 40 MLN TONS IN 2024-2025

The Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food estimates grain exports in the 2024-2025 season at 40 million tons, as the volume is not a record, and the existing infrastructure will be sufficient to supply agricultural products to foreign markets, said First Deputy Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food Taras Vysotsky during a national telethon.

“This year’s harvest is somewhat smaller than the previous year due to difficult climatic conditions. Also, this year there are no carry-over balances from the previous period. Therefore, grain exports are estimated at around 40 million tons. This is not a significant and record volume. We are confident that the existing infrastructure, in particular the Danube region, land corridors, rail and road transport, and the sea corridor (...) will allow this average volume to be exported and delivered in time to the countries that need it,” he said.

Commenting on Polish farmers’ preparations to block the Ukrainian-Polish border near the Medyka checkpoint, Vysotsky confirmed that such statements were made by the Polish side.

“I want to emphasize that work is underway at the interstate level and at the level of associations to prevent these statements from being realized in any concrete actions. We show figures confirming that there is no influence of Ukrainian products on the Polish market. The vast majority of products crossing the land border are in transit and do not remain on the Polish market.



UKRAINE HAS SOWN 4.75 MLN HECTARES OF WINTER CROPS FOR 2025 HARVEST – MINISTRY OF AGRARIAN POLICY

As of October 15, farmers in all regions of Ukraine sowed 4.75 million hectares of winter crops, up from 3.8 million hectares last week, the press service of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food reports.

According to the report, winter crops are being sown in all regions. In total, almost 3.7 million hectares have been sown. In particular, winter wheat has been sown on 3.3 million hectares (2.6 million hectares a week earlier), barley on 331.7 thousand hectares (208.7 thousand hectares), rye on 51.6 thousand hectares (45.9 thousand hectares), and rapeseed on 1 million hectares (986.4 thousand hectares).

According to the Ministry, the leaders in sowing winter crops are Poltava region, which sowed 224.5 thousand hectares (90.3%), Ternopil region – 176 thousand hectares (89.3%) and Khmelnytsky region – 213.2 thousand hectares (88.8%). Farmers in 11 regions have completed sowing winter rapeseed.

As of the same date a year earlier, Ukraine sowed 4.5 mln ha of winter crops, 3.018 mln ha of wheat, 260 thou ha of barley, and 63 thou ha of rye.

INCREASE IN MINIMUM PRICES FOR ALCOHOL WILL HAVE POSITIVE IMPACT ON COUNTRY'S ALCOHOL MARKET – HEAD OF UKRSADVINPROM

The 50% increase in minimum wholesale and retail prices for alcoholic beverages provided for in the draft law No. 11416d on introducing a number of amendments to the Tax Code of Ukraine will have a positive impact on the country's alcohol market, Volodymyr Pechko, chairman of the board of the public association UkrSadVinProm, told Interfax-Ukraine.

He reminded that the minimum retail prices for wine and spirits have not been raised since 2018, and they are regulated by the Cabinet of Ministers.

“*This will lead to an increase in tax revenues to the state budget and resolve the issue of counterfeit products,*” assured the head of the industry association.

Mr. Pechko pointed out that there is currently very cheap wine on store shelves that is of extremely poor quality. “Such a product sometimes costs 40-45 UAH/l. And compare this price with juices, which are much more expensive – this is basically impossible. In order to sell cheaply, unfortunate producers are forced to mix something into their product or dilute wine with water. Accordingly, the decision proposed by the parliament will “knock out” unscrupulous producers from the market,” explained the head of Ukrsadvynprom.

Pechko confirmed that as a result of such actions by the parliament, wine will become more expensive for the end consumer, noting that this process in relation to alcoholic beverages in the country has been going on for a long time. He explained the rise in prices for wine and vodka products by the rise in gas prices, which led to higher prices for glass containers.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) HAS RAISED ITS FORECAST FOR WHEAT EXPORTS FROM UKRAINE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has raised its forecast for wheat exports from Ukraine in the 2024/2025 marketing year (MY, July 2024/June 2025) by another 1 million tons to 16.0 million tons.

As stated in the October USDA report on Friday evening, such revision was made due to an increase in the crop estimate from 22.3 million tons to 22.9 million tons, as well as a decrease in the estimate of domestic consumption from 7.0 million tons to 6.7 million tons and transitional residues from 1.09 million tons to 0.99 million tons.

“*The U.S. agency recalls that last MY the wheat harvest in Ukraine amounted to 23.0 million tons, exports – 18.58 million tons, while corn – 32.5 million tons and 29.6 million tons, respectively.*”

USDA forecasts world wheat production in the 2024/2025 season at 794.08 (-2.8 million tons to September forecast) and world exports at 215.82 million tons (-0.69 million tons).

The estimate of both world corn production to 1 billion 217.19 (-1.38 million tons to the September forecast) and world exports to 190.50 million tons (-0.87 million tons) has also been downgraded.



SUNFLOWER PRICES IN UKRAINE HAVE UPDATED HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE MAY 2021 – ANALYST

The prices of sunflower seeds in Ukraine increased significantly last week, reaching the highest level since the end of May 2021, with the official purchase prices of processors reaching 22.5-24.5 thsd UAH/ton CPT, APK-Inform news agency reported.

“The companies reported that the supply of the oilseed slightly increased, but still remained insufficient. Therefore, those who needed urgent replenishment of stocks to fulfill the contractual obligations for oilseeds raised the prices more actively (up to +1000 UAH/ton) compared to the week before and were ready to pay extra for large volumes and oil content,” the analysts said.

Experts emphasized that the growth of prices for raw materials is facilitated by the increase in the cost of sunflower oil on foreign markets. At the same time, more and more crushers report that the profitability of processing is low or almost non-existent.

Last week, the demand prices for sunflower oil in the ports of Ukraine increased by 20-30 USD/ton and reached the highest level since January 2023 – 1020-1025 USD/ton CPT port.

APK-Inform reminded that the historical price maximum for sunflower oil in Ukraine was recorded in March 2021 – 25.5-27.4 thsd UAH/ton CPT.



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