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UKRAINE'S GAS TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM OPERATES WITHOUT RUSSIAN GAS FROM JANUARY 1

Ukraine's gas transportation system has been operating without Russian gas since January 1, 2025, international partners have been informed about it in due course, the "Operator of Ukraine's GTS" said Wednesday morning. According to his data, the transit agreement with Russia's Gazprom ended at 7:00 Kiev time on the first day of 2025, accordingly suspended the transportation of natural gas from the entry point "Suja" on the eastern border of Ukraine to the exit points on the western and southern borders of the country. "OGTSU has prepared the infrastructure in advance for functioning in the zero transit mode and reliable gas supply to Ukrainian consumers. The company's team is ready to work in the new conditions", – Dmitry Lippa, General Director of the company, noted.

In particular, in preparation for work in new conditions, OGTSU has agreed to increase guaranteed capacity to ensure the possibility of gas supply to Ukraine and through Ukraine to European consumers. Optimization of a significant number of assets not involved in the operation of the gas transportation system was also carried out. "All necessary work on the preparation of the system was carried out by the "Operator of the GTS of Ukraine", so we are absolutely ready for the functioning of our system without transit of Russian gas", – said the Minister of energy of Ukraine German Galushchenko on the air of the national marathon 'United news'.

As reported, the contract between NJSC Naftogaz of Ukraine and Gazprom for the organization of transportation, the transport agreement between NJSC and OGTSU, as well as the inter-operator agreement between OGTSU and Gazprom were signed on December 30, 2019. The contract on the principle of "pump or pay" provides for transit in 2020 – 65 billion cubic meters of gas, in 2021-2024 – 40 billion cubic meters of gas per year.

Representatives of the Ukrainian authorities in 2024 have repeatedly stated that Ukraine does not intend to sign the transit contract with Russia after its completion. At the same time, it was stated that negotiations are underway to supply Azerbaijani gas to Europe via Russia and Ukraine, although Baku does not have a significant free resource.

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06 January 2025



UKRAINE EXCLUDES 41 STATES AND ADDS 9 TO LIST OF COUNTRIES SUBJECT TO TRANSFER PRICING



EXPERTS FORECAST AVERAGE ANNUAL EXCHANGE RATE IN 2025 TO BE AROUND 45 UAH/\$1



NESTLÉ IN UKRAINE CONTINUED TO INCREASE PRODUCTION VOLUMES IN 2024



KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS OF UKRAINE AND WORLD IN JANUARY-SEPTEMBER FROM EXPERTS CLUB



UKRAINE RECEIVED \$41.7 BLN TO SUPPORT BUDGET IN 2024



UKRAINE'S EXPORTS GREW BY 15% IN 2024, IMPORTS BY 8.6%

UKRAINE EXCLUDES 41 STATES AND ADDS 9 TO LIST OF COUNTRIES SUBJECT TO TRANSFER PRICING

Ukraine has excluded 41 states and added 9 to the list of countries whose transactions with counterparties are subject to control under the transfer pricing (TP) law, according to Resolution No. 1505 of December 27, published by the Cabinet of Ministers on its website on Monday.

“Taking into account the provisions of the law No. 3813-IX dated 18.06.2024 “On Amendments to the Tax Code of Ukraine regarding the peculiarities of tax administration during states for taxpayers with a high level of voluntary compliance with tax legislation”, the updated list of states (territories) will contain 46 states (territories) instead of 78,” the Ministry of Finance noted in the commentary to the resolution.

“*The Ministry of Finance clarified that the list includes states from the list of offshore zones approved by the government and the FATF blacklist. FATF, as well as states (territories) that do not ensure timely and complete exchange of tax and financial information. We are talking about 9 states and territories: American Samoa, Guam, DPRK, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands Antilles, Alderney, Trinidad and Tobago, Fiji, and Guam.*”

At the same time, the Ministry of Finance added, the states with which Ukraine has concluded international treaties for the avoidance of double taxation are excluded.

According to the adopted resolution, 41 countries or territories were removed from the list, including: Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei, Burundi, Cape Verde, Cape Verde, China Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (EU), Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ireland, the Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands of the Kingdom of Spain, Cuba, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Cyprus, the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija of the Republic of Serbia, Cuba, Curacao, Laos, Lebanon, Mauritius, and Qatar.

The list also includes the Macao Special Administrative Region of China, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Federal Territory of Labuan Malaysia, Morocco, Martinique, and the Federated States of Micronesia, Moldova, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Paraguay, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Autonomous Region of Madeira of the Portuguese Republic, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Montenegro.

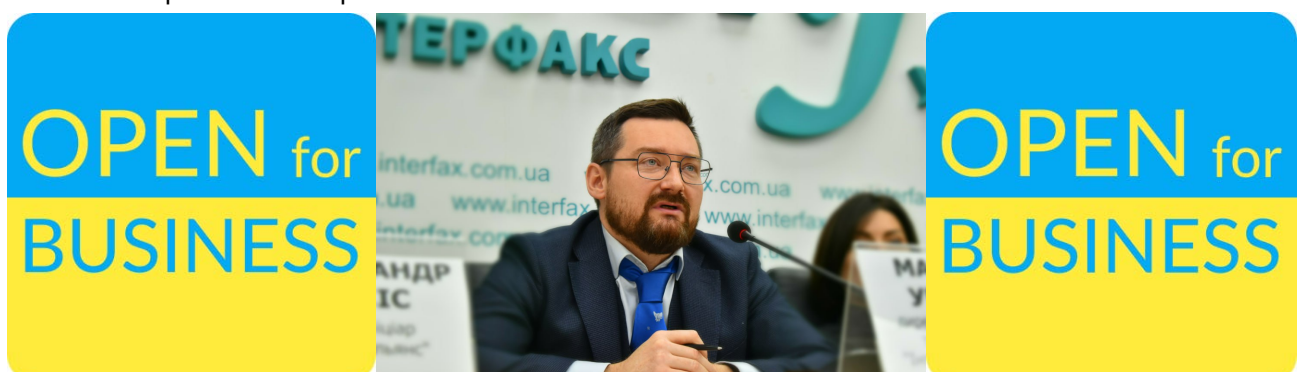
Dear readers and partners! We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The past year was full of challenges, but together we continued to keep abreast of important events, discover new opportunities and support each other.

Thank you for your trust in Open4Business, the portal we are creating for you. I believe that in 2025 we will achieve even more together, strengthening our community and opening new horizons.

Maksim Urakin

Founder of the Open4Business portal



ZELENSKY APPOINTED NEW AMBASSADORS

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has signed decrees appointing Yuliya Fediv as Ukraine's ambassador to the Republic of Filipina, Vyacheslav Yatsyuk as Ukraine's ambassador to the Republic of Rwanda, and Vasyl Gamyranin as Ukraine's ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The corresponding decrees No. 874/2024, 873/2024 and 878/2024 of December 21 were published on the website of the head of the Ukrainian state on Saturday.

Before that, Zelensky dismissed Gamyranin from the post of Ukraine's ambassador to Indonesia and from the post of Ukraine's representative to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which he held part-time. The head of state also dismissed Ukraine's ambassador to Rwanda Andriy Pravednik from his post.

Yatsyuk was Ukraine's ambassador to Norway in 2016-22, was previously director of the Foreign Ministry's political department, and headed a working group in the OSCE. Fediv was previously head of the Ukrainian Cultural Foundation (UCF), and her candidacy for Ukraine's minister of culture was under consideration.

JAPAN PLANS TO JOIN “GREEN” RECOVERY OF UKRAINE

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has approved the document “On the Establishment of the Ukrainian Part of the Ukrainian-Japanese Joint Committee for the Implementation of the Joint Crediting Mechanism,” the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine reported.

Earlier, Ukraine joined Japan's Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM). The goal of the program is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by introducing the world's leading technologies for decarbonizing various sectors of the economy through investments by Japanese organizations. Ukraine and Japan signed a memorandum of cooperation under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement earlier this year.

“This decision is important for achieving our climate goals through joint lending instruments. Japan is a promising partner on this path. Through joint lending, we will be able to attract Japanese technologies and innovative developments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This includes the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, and the green recovery of Ukraine according to the latest practices,” Minister Svitlana Hrynychuk said in a statement on the Telegram channel on Tuesday.



POLAND TAKES OVER PRESIDENCY OF EU COUNCIL

On January 1, Poland will assume the presidency of the Council of the European Union for the second time, 20 years after the country joined the EU.

The Polish authorities have stated that the main goal of the country's presidency of the **EU Council** is to implement priorities related to strengthening security. Warsaw motivates this choice, in particular, by the threat to the European Union that it sees from Russia.

“*The Polish presidency will support activities to strengthen European security in all its dimensions: external, internal, information, economic, energy, food and health,” the program of the EU Council presidency states.*

Explaining its priorities, the Polish presidency points to “rising geopolitical tensions, the erosion of the international rules-based order, and hybrid attacks against European democracy and security.” All of this, according to Warsaw, “obliges us to defend the values on which the community is based, such as democracy, freedom and the rule of law.”

“For Europe, this is a time of tests and decisions. The EU must protect itself and its citizens and take care of its immediate neighbors. It must give Europeans a sense of security and prospects for development... To make Europe safer, we need the unity of the European Union and its willingness to work together with partners who share our values, including those who seek EU membership. We will support merit-based enlargement of the EU – welcoming new members is a geopolitical imperative and an opportunity to spread stability and economic growth across the continent,” the program says.

The Polish presidency announces plans for “continued support for Ukraine and its recovery” and the intention to “increase pressure on Russia and its allies.”

UKRAINE RECEIVED \$41.7 BLN TO SUPPORT BUDGET IN 2024

In 2024, Ukraine received \$41.7 billion in external financing to cover the budget deficit, which made it possible to allocate the necessary funds to repel full-scale Russian aggression, Finance Minister Sergii Marchenko said.

“*This makes it possible to fully finance pensions, salaries in education and healthcare, and the entire humanitarian and social system,” the Finance Minister said during a national telethon on Monday.*

He noted that this year and next year, Ukraine will allocate UAH 2.2 trillion (\$52.5 billion at the current exchange rate), or 26% of GDP, to the security and defense sector.



Regarding budget financing for 2025, which is planned in the state budget at \$38.4 billion, Marchenko emphasized the importance of implementing the G7's ERA initiative to allocate \$50 billion to Ukraine from frozen Russian assets. “We have access to \$50 billion, which allows us to look forward to 2025 with confidence. Moreover, if everything goes well, we plan to close 2026 and 2027 with the help of these assets,” the Finance Minister said. He clarified that in 2024, the state budget has already received the first \$1 billion of this \$50 billion from the United States.

UKRAINE'S EXPORTS GREW BY 15% IN 2024, IMPORTS BY 8.6%

In 2025, Ukraine exported goods worth \$41.627 billion, up \$5.44 billion, or 15%, compared to 2023, Deputy Minister of Economy and Trade Representative of Ukraine Taras Kachka said.

"In terms of weight, exports amounted to 131.179 million tons. This is 30.8 million tons more, which means an increase of 30.8%. Imports also increased by 8.6% to \$69 billion," he wrote on Facebook.

Kachka specified that imports of electricity increased by 333% to \$669 million, batteries by 103% to \$950 million, transformers by 108% to \$596 million, and UAVs by 77% to \$1.2 billion.

““The top imports are petroleum products (\$6.8 billion) and “miscellaneous” (\$4.5 billion), which are directly related to war and defense. So energy challenges and defense are the main drivers of imports. The drivers are not at all inelastic. A significant reduction in the trade deficit is directly related to the development of the defense industry and the restoration of energy infrastructure,” the trade representative emphasized.

Regarding exports, Kachka noted that due to the opening of navigation in ports, iron ore became the leader in terms of exports – 33.6 million tons, which is 89% more compared to 2023, and in monetary terms, the growth was 58% – up to \$ 2.8 billion.

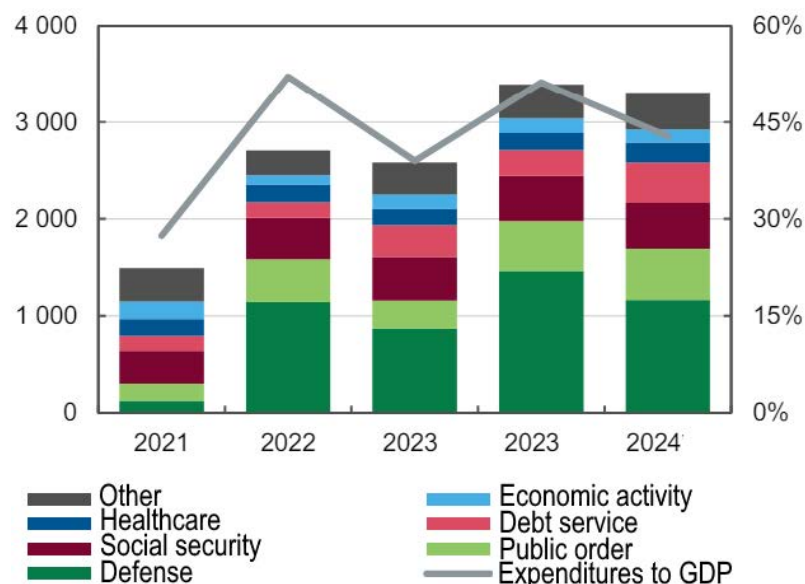
According to him, the second position in terms of volume was taken by corn – 29 million tons, which is 12.3% more than in 2023, but in monetary terms the increase was only 2.3%, up to \$5.07 billion.

According to his data, the growth in export revenues for key metallurgical products was 52% for semi-finished products to \$927 million, 38.9% for hot-rolled products to \$809 million, 125% for pipes to \$590 million, 6.1% for pig iron to \$500 million and 19.3% for bars to \$156 million.

"Confectionery is a certain indicator of the food processing industry's performance. There is a 38% increase in revenue from chocolate (\$264 million), 26.9% growth for biscuits (\$269 million), 15.6% for candy without chocolate (\$215 million)," the trade representative also wrote.

In timber processing, he drew attention to the fact that the export of boards (sawn timber) decreased in volume, but still remained above 1 million tons, and in revenue – by 1.2%, to \$400.9 million, but glued plywood was exported by 95% more – \$125.3 million.

COMPONENTS OF STATE BUDGET EXPENDITURES IN 2021-2024, UAH BLN



KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS OF UKRAINE AND WORLD IN JANUARY-SEPTEMBER FROM EXPERTS CLUB

The analysis of key macroeconomic indicators of Ukraine and the global economy for January-September 2024 is based on official data from the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, the NBU, the IMF, the World Bank, and the UN, on the basis of which Maksim Urakin, PhD in Economics, founder of the Experts Club Information and Analytical Center, presented an analysis of macroeconomic trends in Ukraine and the world. The key aspects of the report include the dynamics of gross domestic product (GDP), inflation, unemployment, foreign trade and public debt of Ukraine, as well as global macroeconomic trends.

In January-September 2024, Ukraine's economy showed a slight growth. According to the Ministry of Economy, real GDP growth in July was 2.7% in annualized terms, which is better than June's 1.1%, but worse than May's 3.7%. In the third quarter of 2024, growth may exceed the previously forecasted 3.1%.

"The Ukrainian economy continues to move forward despite the difficult challenges caused by the war and external economic factors. Our key task remains to maintain stable growth and attract investment in strategic sectors of the economy," – said Maksim Urakin, founder of the Experts Club information and analytical center.

However, rising inflation remains a challenge for the economy. In September, annual inflation reached 8.6%, accelerating from 7.5% in August. Consumer prices increased by 1.5% month-on-month, after 0.6% in August and zero in July. The National Bank of Ukraine has revised its inflation forecast for 2024, increasing it from 8.5% to 9.7%.

The negative balance of Ukraine's foreign trade in goods increased by 5.9% over the first nine months of the year and reached \$20.382 billion, indicating high imports and insufficient export growth.

“*The increase in the negative trade balance signals the need to revise export support strategies. Only by developing the competitiveness of national production can we achieve balanced economic growth,*” Urakin said.

Ukraine's state budget revenues in September dropped to UAH 122.9 billion after a sharp increase in August to UAH 387.4 billion, driven by grants from the US and EU. This underscores the importance of external assistance to support the budget in times of war.

Ukraine's international reserves decreased by 8.1% in September, reaching \$38.9 billion. The main reason for this was a decline in international revenues amid debt repayments. The International Monetary Fund maintained its forecast for global economic growth at 3.2% in 2024. At the same time, the US economy grew by 2.8% in the third quarter amid a 3.7% increase in consumer spending. The European Union's economy shows more modest results: the growth forecast for 2024 has been lowered to 0.9%, and in the Eurozone – to 0.8%.

"The global economy is facing a number of challenges, including a slowdown in China and high interest rates. However, the key problem remains the persistent price pressure and geopolitical instability," emphasized Maksim Urakin.

"The global economy is now balancing between recovery and new risks. Forecasts for the coming years depend on the resolution of geopolitical conflicts and the ability of global leaders to stabilize the economy," added Maksim Urakin. The economic indicators of Ukraine and the world for the first nine months of 2024 show a contradictory picture. GDP growth and positive signals from global markets are combined with inflationary risks and an imbalance in foreign trade. The global economy is also under pressure from numerous uncertainties.

You can learn more about current economic trends in the video on the Experts Club YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=grE5wjPaItI>



UKRAINE RANKED 24TH IN STEEL PRODUCER RANKING IN NOVEMBER

Ukrainian steelmakers reduced steel production by 0.9% y-o-y in November to 541 thousand tons from 546 thousand tons and by 10.4% y-o-y to 604 thousand tons in the previous month.

At the same time, Ukraine was ranked 24th among 71 countries in the ranking of global producers of these products by the World Steel Association (Worldsteel).



“ In 11 months of 2024, Ukraine produced 7.028 million tons of steel, up 23.1% from January-November 2023. The country is ranked 20th in the first 11 months of 2014.

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%).

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NESTLÉ IN UKRAINE CONTINUED TO INCREASE PRODUCTION VOLUMES IN 2024

Nestlé in Ukraine increased its production by 10% in 2024 and intends to repeat this growth next year, said Alessandro Zanelli, CEO of the company in Ukraine and Southeast Europe.

“Ukraine’s FMCG grew by just under 10% this year and demonstrated a strong focus on volume growth. This is a very clear sign of the resilience of the Ukrainian macroeconomy, which is hardly at war. Overall, the country’s GDP is quite resilient. We do not see the local currency, the hryvnia, collapsing. It is a steady controlled devaluation. At the same time, inflation is also relatively stable and under control,” he said at the NV conference ‘Ukraine and the World Ahead 2025’.

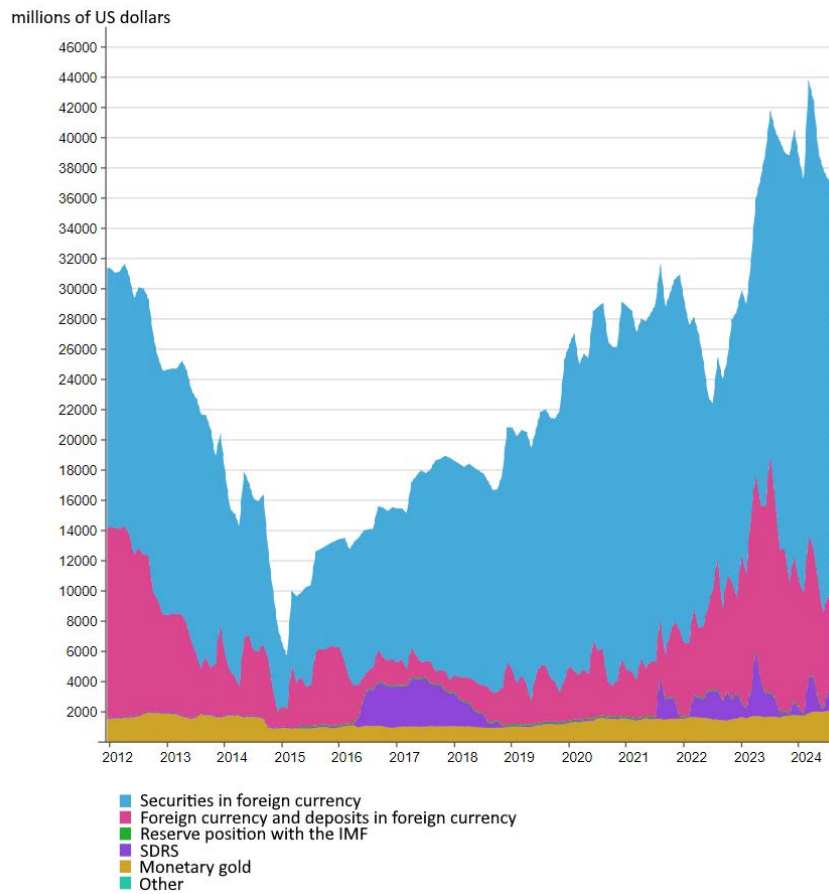
Zanelli noted that Nestle’s growth in Ukraine was at a similar level – just under 10% with an emphasis on volume growth, which can be estimated at 7-8%. The company’s CEO explained such indicators during the war as the result of the implemented strategy aimed at maintaining sustainability. The company’s team joined forces to protect its people, which allowed Nestle’s factories in Ukraine to continue operating even in Kharkiv. Being under constant shelling, this company also found an opportunity to increase productivity, the CEO explained. He noted that Nestle’s strategy in Ukraine also focuses on adaptability at all levels: from responding to changing consumer trends and adjusting the product portfolio and their locations to changing the timing of promotional activities and transforming communications to bring more hope and make products relevant to consumers.

Zanelli assessed the results of Nestle’s work in Ukraine as satisfactory and expressed confidence that in 2025, even taking into account possible difficulties, production growth will be similar – at least 10% per year.

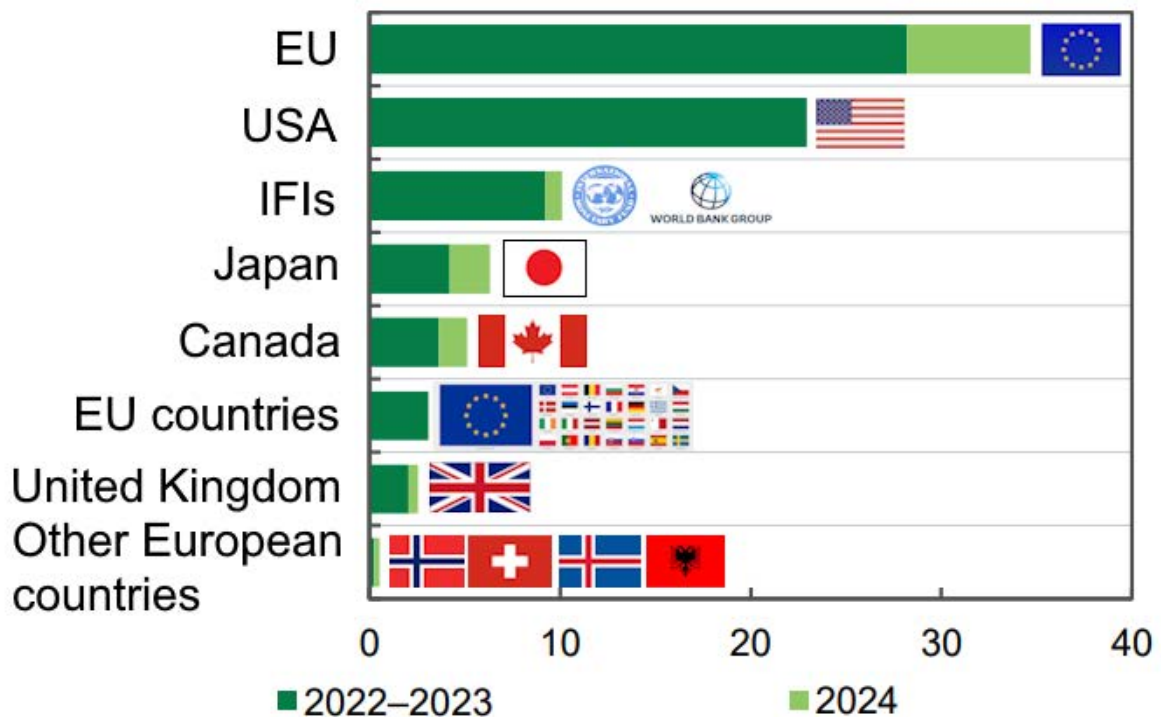
The company’s CEO predicts that in the second quarter of 2025, Ukrainians and the FMGG segment will face rising inflation, which will lead to a significant rise in food prices. In addition, the shortage of skilled labor will increase. He also sees the cost of electricity as a challenge for the coming year. Zanelli said that the probability of the war ending, which the whole society is waiting for, is a possible “white swan”.

“In general, we remain optimistic, as I said, and expect about 10% growth,” Zanelli stated.

DYNAMICS OF RESERVES OF UKRAINE FROM 2012 TO 2024, MLN USD



EXTERNAL FINANCING OF STATE BUDGET AS OF 01.06.2024, BLN USD



EXPERTS FORECAST AVERAGE ANNUAL EXCHANGE RATE IN 2025 TO BE AROUND 45 UAH/\$1

Analysts of the currency exchange market operator **KYT Group** together with their colleagues from Globus Bank and Unex Bank (both in Kiev) agree that the average annual exchange rate in 2025 will be close to UAH 45/\$1, which corresponds to the figure included in the state budget for the next year.

“*The most probable scenario is close to the government forecast, which is reflected in the state budget-2025, the average annual rate of 45 UAH/\$1, which allows its fluctuations during the year in the range of 44-46 UAH/\$1 with gravitation to a higher mark before the end of the year – so far we have no reason to underestimate the risks of further long-term devaluation*”, – said in ‘**KYT Group**’ at the request of the agency ‘**Interfax-Ukraine**’.

Experts expect the official exchange rate to weaken to 42.2-42.5 UAH/\$1 by the end of this year. They point out that the forecast for the beginning of 2025 depends on macroeconomic factors, in particular on further dynamics of international support, monetary policy of the US Federal Reserve System (FRS) and exchange rate parity in the international markets of the US dollar and euro.

“In the case of stable receipt of financial support from partners and allies and subject to low volatility of external markets, the hryvnia exchange rate will be relatively predictable, although it will hold further devaluation fairway,” analysts emphasize.

In turn, the head of the board of Globus Bank Sergey Mamedov notes that in forecasts of the official exchange rate for the next year, he also predominantly relies on the budgeted figure of 45 UAH/\$1.

“We understand that the value of the dollar may depend on a number of factors and circumstances, among which we can highlight the amount of international financial support, which is directed to cover the budget “gap” between expenditures and revenues,” he explains.

According to Globus Bank’s calculations, the hryvnia may weaken to the level of 46-47 UAH/\$1 by the end of 2025. Mamedov notes that, most likely, cash rates of hryvnia to US dollar in 2025 will differ from interbank rates in the range of 0.3-0.5 UAH.

As reported, last year the official hryvnia exchange rate devalued by 4.5% – to 37.9824 UAH/\$1, while the government laid in the budget-2023 average annual figure of 42.2 UAH/\$1, and at the end of the year – 45.8 UAH/\$1. For the current year, the hryvnia has fallen by 10.6% to 42.0390 UAH/\$1 as of December 31, while the Cabinet of Ministers laid down an annual average of 40.7 UAH/\$1 in the state budget, and 42.1 UAH/\$1 at the end of the year.



UKRAINE INCREASED GAS PRODUCTION IN 2024

According to the results of 2024, the volume of natural gas production in Ukraine is estimated at 19.1 billion cubic meters, which is 400 million cubic meters more than in 2023 (18.7 billion cubic meters) and 600 million cubic meters more than in 2022 (18.5 billion cubic meters), said Artem Petrenko, Executive Director of the Association of Gas Producers of Ukraine (AGPU).

“According to preliminary estimates of our association, this year gas production in Ukraine will amount to about 19.1 billion cubic meters. Compared to 2023, we see an increase of more than 400 million cubic meters,” he said during an online meeting on the results of the year and prospects for the development of the energy sector of Ukraine at Energy Club on December 30.

According to the Executive Director, the positive trend of gas production growth in 2024 was ensured by both state-owned JSC Ukrgasvydobuvannya and PJSC Ukrnafta and private sector companies.

“Since August, the negative trend in private companies has been broken, and we have been recording an increase in gas production by private companies since August, and in five months they have managed to increase average daily gas production by more than 25%,” Petrenko said.

Also, according to preliminary data of the AGCU, more than 140 wells were drilled in Ukraine in 2024.

According to him, since 2018, when the state provided incentives for drilling to Ukrainian gas producers, state and private companies have started drilling more than 720 wells in the country.

PHARMACY SALES IN UKRAINE INCREASED BY 10.8% TO UAH 174.2 BLN IN 11 MONTHS

Pharmacy sales in Ukraine in January-November 2024 increased by 10.77% in monetary terms compared to the same period in 2023 to UAH 174.22 billion, while in physical terms they decreased by 4.99% to almost 1.059 billion packages.

According to Business Credit, according to its research, the weighted average price of pharmacy basket goods during this period was UAH 165.07, which is 16.6% more than in the same period in 2023.

At the same time, pharmacy sales of medicines in January-November 2024 amounted to UAH 136.889 billion, which is 10.91% more than in the same period in 2023, but in physical terms, pharmacy sales of medicines decreased by 5.53% to 740.71 million packs.

The weighted average retail price of medicines in January-November 2024 amounted to UAH 184.81 per unit, which is 17.41% more than a year earlier.

Pharmacy sales of dietary supplements in 11 months increased by 11.28% in monetary terms to UAH 17.99 billion, while in physical terms they decreased by almost 3.04% to 89.873 million packs. The weighted average price in this segment increased by 14.76% over 11 months compared to the same period in 2023, to UAH 200.17 per unit.

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 for this period amounted to UAH 162.52, which is 18.25% more than in the same period of 2023.



STARTING FROM 2025, NEW PASSENGER CARS IN UKRAINE WILL BE REGISTERED ONLY ACCORDING TO EURO 6 STANDARD

Starting from 1 January 2025, customs clearance for free circulation and the first state registration of new passenger cars in Ukraine (both imported and manufactured in Ukraine) will be subject to compliance with environmental standards of at least Euro 6.

This is stipulated by the Law of Ukraine on the requirements for compliance of vehicles with environmental standards, which was adopted by the Verkhovna Rada on December 17, 2024 and signed by the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy on December 30.

The exception is for new passenger cars imported or manufactured in Ukraine before December 31, 2024.

At the same time, as reported, the law postponed until January 1, 2027, the introduction of Euro 6 emission standards for vehicles (new and used) under UKTZED codes 8701 20 (tractors), 8702 (buses), 8704 (trucks), 8705 (special vehicles).

UKRAINE'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR EARNED \$24.5 BLN IN 2024, SETTING SECOND HISTORICAL RECORD

In 2024, the Ukrainian agricultural sector set a second historical record of \$24.5 billion in foreign exchange earnings from the export of agricultural products, Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food Vitaliy Koval said in an interview with Ukrainian Radio.

“*To summarize the 24th year, it brought us the second best result in terms of foreign exchange earnings from exports. We set the second historical record – the country received \$24.5 billion from the export of agricultural products. This is a good indicator,” Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food Vitaliy Koval said.*

The Minister recalled that the best year in terms of foreign exchange earnings from agricultural exports was 2021, when the agricultural sector earned \$27.7 billion due to a good harvest.

Koval noted that compared to 2023, the agricultural sector's foreign exchange earnings from exports increased by more than \$2 billion.

“I think 2024 was a year of resilience for the entire agricultural sector. Ukrainian agrarians withstood, persevered and proved to be the best. The fact that we harvested a good crop, 75 million tons of grains and oilseeds, despite the mined land and hostilities is a good result, given that the year was dry and we had to admit the loss of yields. But in general, Ukraine has not only resisted, but also increased its agricultural power,” the Minister of Agrarian Policy summarized.



GRAIN EXPORTS FROM UKRAINE EXCEEDED 21 MLN TONS SINCE BEGINNING OF SEASON

As of December 27, Ukraine exported 21.256 mln tonnes of grains and pulses since the beginning of the 2024-2025 marketing year (July-2024 – June-2025), of which 2.882 mln tonnes have been shipped since the beginning of the current month, the press service of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food reported, citing the State Customs Service.

According to the report, as of the same date last year, the total shipments amounted to 17.484 million tons, including 4.387 million tons in December.



In particular, since the beginning of the current season, Ukraine has exported 9.613 mln tonnes of wheat (7.255 mln tonnes in 2023/24 MY), 1.968 mln tonnes of barley (991 thsd tonnes), 10.8 thsd tonnes of rye (1 thsd tonnes), and 9.351 mln tonnes of corn (9.097 mln tonnes).

The total exports of Ukrainian flour since the beginning of the season as of December 27 are estimated at 37 thsd tonnes (in 2023/24 MY – 57 thsd tonnes), including 33.9 thsd tonnes of wheat (54.2 thsd tonnes).

UKRAINE PLANS TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO LEBANON TO \$1 BLN

Ukraine exports more than \$400m worth of products to Lebanon, although the potential is \$1bn, the supplies of cattle, meat and dairy products are promising, Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food Vitaliy Koval said after a visit to Lebanon and a meeting with businessmen.

The Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food noted that Koval met with Lebanese businessmen – representatives of more than 12 companies involved in imports: flour millers, traders, entrepreneurs who buy food products, meat and cereals from Ukraine.

According to the Minister, Lebanese businessmen import tens of thousands of tons of cattle. They have recently started importing sheep to Lebanon. It is these areas of cattle breeding because of the shortage of meat can be promising for Ukrainian agrarians.

“Today we export more than \$400 million worth of products to Lebanon, although the potential is \$1 billion. That is why the task of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy is to increase imports of our products to Lebanon. I discussed with their businesses what should be done to increase trade turnover. Lebanese businessmen noted some bureaucratic moments and logistical problems. Now I clearly understand what needs to be simplified in procedures. Lebanon is an important trade partner for us, so we will work on developing our relations further,” Koval emphasized.



CARGO TRANSPORTATION IN UKRAINE INCREASED BY 11.7% IN 2024

The volume of cargo transportation in Ukraine in January-September 2024 increased by 11.7% compared to the same period in 2023 to 263.5 million tons, according to the State Statistics Service (Ukrstat). According to the agency, cargo turnover for the first 9 months of this year increased by 15.7% to 138.17 billion ton-km.



According to the State Statistics Service, the number of passengers transported in January-September this year increased by 9% to 1.62 billion people, while passenger turnover increased by 12.7% to 32.51 billion passenger-km.

It is noted that the growth dynamics of these indicators is slowing down. In particular, in the first quarter, cargo turnover grew by 24%, while in the first half of the year it grew by 18.6%, and passenger turnover by 23.9% and 17.2%, respectively.

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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The List of Main Services:

- Market information and market intelligence
- Searching trade partners and organizing fact finding trips
- Governmental relations
- PR campaigns
- Full range of M&A services
- Production outsourcing project management
- Legal advisory services including licencing and certification, etc. (together with associated companies).

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