



UKRAINE
OPEN FOR BUSINESS

PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE BELIEVES THAT WITHOUT SECURITY GUARANTEES, ECONOMIC AGREEMENT WITH UNITED STATES ON RARE EARTH METALS WILL NOT WORK



President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy believes that without security guarantees, the economic agreement with the United States on rare earth metals will not work.

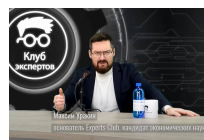
“If we do not receive security guarantees from the United States, I believe that the economic agreement will not work. Everything must be honest,” Zelensky said in an interview with NBC News.

The President of Ukraine made it clear that any deal involving Ukrainian minerals must be accompanied by security guarantees from the United States.

“We looked at what America imports, what rare earth metals, what America imports for its industry. And when we took titanium as an example, we say that we have titanium in Ukraine, and this is accurate information. And it’s enough for the industry for 40 years,” he said.

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NESTLÉ HAS INVESTED UAH 900 MLN IN FACTORIES IN UKRAINE, INCREASING EXPORTS BY 76%



EXPORTS OF GRAINS AND OILSEEDS INCREASED TO \$11 BLN IN 2024/25 MY

NUMBER OF REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE TO EU INCREASED AGAIN IN DECEMBER

As of December 31, 2024, 4 million 260.08 thousand non-EU citizens who fled Ukraine as a result of the Russian invasion on February 24, 2022, had temporary protection status in the EU, which is 25.59 thousand, or 0.6%, more than a month earlier, [Eurostat reports](#).

“*The largest absolute increase in the number of beneficiaries was observed in Germany (+8830; +0.8%), Poland (+3705; +0.4%) and the Czech Republic (+3435; +0.9%),” the agency said.*

It is noted that the number of people under temporary protection in December decreased only in Denmark (-1,995; -5.1%), Italy (-1,310; -0.8%) and France (-595; -1.0%).

According to Eurostat, Germany remains the country with the largest number of refugees from Ukraine in the EU and the world by a growing margin – 1 million 161.45 thousand by the end of 2024, or 27.3% of the total number of beneficiaries in the EU.

The top three also includes Poland – 991.63 thousand, or 23.3%, and the Czech Republic – 388.63 thousand, or 9.1%.

Spain (226.62 thousand), Romania (179.72 thousand), and Italy (163.10 thousand) follow with a significant lag.

KYIV AND ANKARA AIM TO INCREASE TRADE TO \$10 BLN

Kyiv and Ankara are interested in expanding bilateral trade and aim to increase mutual trade by more than 1.5 times – from \$6.2 billion in 2024 to \$10 billion, First Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Economy of Ukraine Yulia Svyrydenko said after a meeting with Turkish Trade Minister Omer Bolat.

“*Last year, imports from Ukraine to Turkey amounted to \$2 billion, and the total trade volume between our countries reached \$6.2 billion. The overall goal is to increase this figure to \$10 billion, in particular, by expanding the already significant trade in agricultural products, as well as other sectors,” Svyrydenko wrote on social network X from Ankara.*

“There was an exchange of ideas with our contractors on projects in the priority areas of Ukraine’s reconstruction. Our development of relations with Ukraine in every sphere will also be a driving force for us in rebuilding the country,” Bolat said in turn.

According to Svyrydenko, the two sides also discussed how Turkish companies can access financial instruments to support Ukraine’s reconstruction efforts.

She also thanked the minister for his decision to ensure maximum access for Ukrainian vessels to Turkish ports.

“In March, we expect a Turkish delegation to visit Ukraine to further deepen cooperation between our private sectors in rebuilding our country,” the First Deputy Prime Minister concluded.

According to the State Statistics Service, in 2024, exports from Ukraine to Turkey decreased by 6.8% compared to 2023, to \$2.21 billion, while imports from Turkey decreased by 10.2%, to \$4.24 billion. Turkey’s share in Ukraine’s exports of goods last year was 5.3%, and in imports – 6.0%. Only China, Poland, and Germany had a larger share.

The main items of Ukrainian exports to Turkey in 11 months of 2014 are cereals (\$0.65 billion, +12.7% compared to 11 months of 2013), fats and oils – \$0.35 billion (-56.1%), oilseeds – \$0.22 billion (-31.8%), ferrous metals – \$0.16 billion (+84.5%).

Over 11 months of 2014, Ukraine imported the most from Turkey: oil and mineral fuels – \$0.55 billion (-7.7%), ferrous metals – \$0.46 billion (+28.6%), electrical machinery – \$0.23 billion (-9.3%), edible fruits and nuts – \$0.20 billion (+17.7%), boilers, machinery – \$0.20 billion (+3.3%).

MERZ CALLS WHITE HOUSE SCANDAL 'DELIBERATE ESCALATION' – MEDIA

CDU leader Friedrich Merz and candidate for German chancellor considers the scandal between US President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy a deliberate escalation by the US, Tegesschau.de reported on Monday.

Merz said he had re-watched the scene several times. "In my opinion, this meeting in the Oval Office was not a spontaneous reaction to Zelenskyy's words, but an obviously provoked escalation. I was somewhat surprised by the tone of the conversation - it did not bring any benefit," he said after consultations of CDU committees in Berlin.

According to Bild, Merz said that such rhetoric fits into the general line of behavior of the new US administration in recent months.



NSDC ALSO IMPOSES SANCTIONS AGAINST KOLOMOISKY, ZHEVAGO, BOHOLYUBOV

The National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine has decided to impose sanctions against a number of Ukrainian businessmen and politicians, Ukrayinska Pravda reports, citing sources in the NSDC.

“At a meeting on February 12, the National Security and Defense Council imposed sanctions against businessman Ihor Kolomoisky, billionaire Kostyantyn Zhevago, former co-owner of Privatbank Hennadiy Boholyubov, the 5th President of Ukraine, MP of the European Solidarity Party Petro Poroshenko, and former MP from the banned OPFL, accused of treason, Viktor Medvedchuk,” the report said.

The publication emphasized that several other representatives of the National Security and Defense Council confirmed this information. As reported, the European Solidarity party announced the sanctions against Poroshenko at a meeting of the National Security and Defense Council. There is currently no official information on the results of the NSDC meeting.

OKKO BUILDS GORO MOUNTAIN RESORT IN CARPATHIANS

OKKO Group has begun **construction** of the first hotel complex of the GORO Mountain Resort in the Lviv Carpathians, the company's press service reports.

"The construction of the first hotel complex is a strategically important stage in the implementation of the holistic concept of an international all-season resort. According to the master plan developed jointly with Austrian experts, a balanced combination of mountain, ski, hotel and entertainment infrastructure will help increase the length of guests' stay, which will have a positive economic effect for the entire region," said Vasyly Danylyak, CEO of OKKO Group and co-founder of GORO Mountain Resort.

The first complex includes three 415-room designer hotels with a total area of 48 thousand square meters, of which 11 thousand square meters are allocated for commercial and entertainment infrastructure, and construction of the first one has begun, the press service of Interfax-Ukraine said.

The total investment in GORO Mountain Resort is estimated at \$1.5 billion. Of this amount, OKKO Group plans to invest \$500 million at the expense of its own and credit funds, and another \$1 billion is planned to be raised from other investors.



UNICEF: ONE IN FIVE CHILDREN IN UKRAINE HAS LOST LOVED ONE DUE TO WAR

Every fifth child in Ukraine has reported losing a close relative or friend since the start of Russia's full-scale aggression three years ago, according to a survey published by UNICEF on Friday.

"For all these years, death and destruction have been a daily routine for every child in Ukraine. This level of violence causes enormous suffering for children and deprives them of a true childhood," said UNICEF Executive Director Katharine Russell.

It is noted that the third year of the full-scale war in Ukraine has become even more deadly for children compared to 2023: the number of child casualties has increased by 50%. In total, more than 2,520 children have been killed or injured since February 2022. It is noted that the true number of victims is likely to be much higher, as these are only figures confirmed by the UN.

It is officially recorded that more than 1,600 educational institutions and almost 790 healthcare facilities have been damaged or destroyed over the past three years, UNICEF added.

"The war has caused irreparable losses to children and adolescents, affecting their development and well-being at key stages of their lives," the Fund states.

He reminds that the experience of the first three years determines the health and learning of children throughout their lives, and in Ukraine, children born three years ago do not even know what peaceful life is. Parents report feeling physically and emotionally exhausted, which affects the lives of the entire family. The war has also made it harder for young children and their parents to access critical services.

UKRAINIAN AND GLOBAL ECONOMY IN FEBRUARY 2025 – ANALYSIS BY EXPERTS CLUB

February 2025 was a month that reflected the current challenges and prospects for the Ukrainian and global economies. Geopolitical tensions, inflationary pressures, and global changes in trade flows continue to affect economic development. Maksim Urakin, Founder of the Experts Club Information and Analytical Center, PhD in Economics, noted that Ukraine is showing signs of gradual economic recovery despite the difficult internal and external conditions.

Ukraine's economy in February 2025

According to the National Bank, real GDP growth in January 2025 was 3.4% compared to the same period in 2024. The main drivers of growth were:

- Agriculture: the recovery in exports and the expansion of sales markets provided an increase of 6.5%.
- IT sector: IT services remained a key source of foreign exchange earnings, showing an increase of 10.4%.
- Construction: thanks to large-scale investments in infrastructure and international support, the sector grew by 4.2%.

“Amid the ongoing war and global turmoil, Ukraine's economy is showing both signs of recovery and certain problems that need attention,” said Maksim Urakin, founder of Experts Club.

In January 2025, annual inflation was 12.9%, which is higher than in 2024 (12%). This is due to rising food and energy prices. At the same time, the hryvnia exchange rate remains relatively stable, fluctuating between UAH 39-40 per dollar, thanks to the support of international partners and export earnings.

“The decline in inflation is a positive signal for the economy, but an important task remains to increase the level of household incomes to compensate for the impact of past inflationary shocks,” Urakin emphasized.

In January 2025, Ukraine's exports increased to \$3.1 billion, driven by shipments of products and metals. However, imports also increased, mainly due to energy and equipment. The negative balance of foreign trade remains.

“Export dynamics show that Ukrainian companies are actively looking for new markets. Strengthening competitiveness and improving logistics could be the key to reducing the trade deficit,” Urakin said.

In January 2025, the state budget revenues of Ukraine amounted to UAH 282.8 billion, including UAH 128.2 billion for the general fund, which is 83.4% and 10.5% more than in January 2024, respectively. The main role in this was played by revenues from VAT and excise taxes, as well as international assistance. Ukraine's international reserves increased to \$40.1 billion, one of the highest levels in recent years.

“Financial support from international partners remains an important factor in macroeconomic stability. However, it is important to lay the foundation for independent economic growth now,” Urakin emphasized.

Global economic situation in February 2025

According to the IMF, global GDP is expected to grow by 2.9% in 2025, slightly lower than in 2024 (3%). The main reasons for the slowdown are the high cost of borrowing, uncertainty in the financial markets and a decline in global demand.

THE UNITED STATES: The economy is showing moderate growth at 2.3%, driven by robust domestic demand and investment in innovative industries.

European Union: The growth rate remains low at 1.1% due to the ongoing energy crisis and problems in the industry.

China: Growth slowed to 4.5%, due to the real estate crisis and a decline in exports.

India: Stable growth of 6.8%, remaining one of the fastest growing economies.

“The global economy is in a state of fragile balance. The main risks are related to geopolitical instability and high interest rates. However, countries with diversified economies are better able to cope with these challenges,” – Mr. Urakin said.

Oil: Oil prices in February 2025 are around \$83 per barrel, having stabilized after the spikes of late 2024.

Gas: The European market continues to be under pressure, with an average gas price of €67 per MWh, due to persistent supply shortages.

Metals: Demand for steel and aluminum has declined, putting pressure on the export capacity of developing countries.

Central banks in major economies are keeping interest rates high to fight inflation. For example, the US Federal Reserve keeps its interest rate at 5.5%, which limits access to cheap capital but helps to reduce inflation.

Ukraine's economy in February 2025 shows signs of stability and growth, but risks associated with inflation, foreign trade deficit, and dependence on international aid remain. The global economy is slowing down, which creates additional challenges for emerging market countries.

“It is important for Ukraine to continue attracting foreign investment, developing its export potential and strengthening its domestic market. Only systemic reforms and integration into the global economy will allow us to overcome the current difficulties and create the basis for long-term growth,” summarized Maksim Urakin.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LT0sE3ymMnQ>

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



AUSTRIAN KREISEL BUILDS BUILDING MATERIALS PLANT IN LVIV REGION

Kreisel, a member of the Fixit Group, has completed the construction of a building materials and systems plant in the village of Pisky (Lviv region), with investments in the project amounting to almost EUR 14 million, the press service of the Lviv Regional State Administration reports.

“First of all, we thank you for supporting our project, as it is of great importance not only for our company but also for Europe. One of our main tasks is to create conditions for the development of the local economy, attract investment and create new jobs,” Michael Kraus, Director of the Eastern Europe region of the Fixit Group, was quoted in the press release.

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According to him, the company is currently in the process of commissioning and preparing documents to obtain a certificate of commissioning.

The concern pays special attention to local staffing and training. Thus, specialists were certified and trained to maintain the equipment, which made it possible to ensure commissioning without the involvement of foreign installation teams.

According to the press release, Rava-Rus Lyceum will also become the company's partner in training professional staff. In addition, it is planned to launch an academy in Lviv region that will specialize in training specialists for the construction industry.

Founded in 2004, Kreisel Building Materials LLC is a subsidiary of Austrian Roefix AG and is part of the international concern Fixit Gruppe, one of the leading suppliers of building materials. The concern unites five brands: Fixit, Greutol, Hasit, Kreisel and Röfix.



LAYHER, WORLD LEADER IN SCAFFOLDING SYSTEMS, ENTERS UKRAINE

The German scaffolding systems manufacturer Layher will soon open a commercial site for renting scaffolding for Ukrainian customers and begin design preparations for full-scale production of equipment in the Chortkiv West industrial park (Ternopil region), according to Chortkiv Mayor Volodymyr Shmatko.

“Layher, a German company and world leader in the production of scaffolding systems, is entering Ukraine. Foreign investors have decided to start their operations in Ukraine from the city of Chortkiv,” he wrote on his Facebook page.

According to his information, Ivan Batryn, a resident of Chortkiv, became the company’s director of operations in Ukraine.

As reported, Chortkiv-West, registered in October 2019, was created on a land plot of 87.684 hectares, with a declared term of operation of 30 years.

The functional purpose of the park is metalworking and machine building, including the production of automotive components, electrical engineering and instrumentation, woodworking and furniture industry.

Up to 7,300 jobs can be created in the park.

According to opendatabot, LAYER Ukraine LLC was registered in Kyiv in early 2023, with the main activity being the production of building metal structures. The founder and 100% owner of the company is the Lithuanian company UAB Leyer Baltic.

LAYHER is a global leader in scaffolding for construction, public events, aviation and chemical industries, producing, among other things, facade and modular scaffolding, Keder XL temporary roofs, specialized stages and stands, and aluminum beams.

EXPORTS OF UKRAINIAN FURNITURE INCREASED BY 15.5% IN 2024

Ukrainian furniture makers exported \$909 million worth of products in 2024, up 15.5% year-on-year, Oksana Donska, a board member of the Ukrainian Association of Furniture Manufacturers (UAFM) and an export expert, told Interfax-Ukraine.

“*Together, the woodworking industry and the furniture industry are among the top 10 export commodity groups with a share of 5.7% in Ukraine’s merchandise exports. I am confident that we will maintain the dynamics of growth in furniture exports and there is a chance that this year we will cross the \$1 billion mark,*” Donska said.

The expert explained such a positive outlook by the trends of the global furniture market, which has returned to growth, for example, in European countries from 8 to 10% per year.

“Another plus is that IKEA is returning to us to purchase a fairly wide assortment matrix of furniture. At the same time, the number of exporters to large companies is growing. This also applies to small and medium-sized businesses that are forced to export because the domestic market has shrunk significantly,” she says.

According to her, before the war, experts estimated the capacity of the domestic market at \$1-1.2 billion, but now it has halved to about \$500-600 million.

At the same time, Ukrainian furniture makers achieved export growth in 2024 amid a shortage of personnel (by 30-40%, according to manufacturers). The furniture makers were able to optimize their costs and maintain competitive prices thanks to grant support from both the government and international donors, which helped them to change equipment in their factories and increase their productivity. According to Donska’s estimates, about 50 of the most active manufacturers (out of about 11,000 companies) have attracted state aid alone, and a significant number of them have used it to scale up and move from small to medium-sized businesses. As for microbusinesses, they actively chose a narrow specialization and sought partnerships.

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UKRAINE HAS INCREASED SHARE OF DOMESTIC FIRE PROTECTION MATERIALS TO 80% – INDUSTRY LEADER KOVLAR GROUP

The share of imported fireproofing materials decreased from 80% in 2016 to 20% in 2024, **Kovlar Group** CEO Kostiantyn Kalafat said in an interview with Interfax-Ukraine.

He recalled that when the company was launched in 2015, it aimed to use the experience of American builders to create an affordable domestic material for fire protection of steel structures. The company's first product was the Ammokote GP-240 plaster mix. The company then invested in organizing its own workshop and warehouses, purchasing the necessary equipment, setting up a research laboratory, and developing and testing new fire protection materials, which currently include more than 20 items.

“*The availability of high-quality Ammokote fire protection products in the country has created objective conditions for positive changes in the direction of import substitution. Since Kovlar Group entered the Ukrainian fire protection market, there has been a steady decline in the share of fire protection materials imported to Ukraine, from 80% in 2016 to 20% in 2024,*” said Mr. Kalafat.

He emphasized that the company has received support and assistance from Kyiv business on its way to becoming a major player.

“We produced the first batches of fireproof plaster at Ukrvermiculite, and fireproof paints at Kompozit, a leading Ukrainian manufacturer. Our company also fruitfully cooperates with the institutes of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine on scientific research to develop new innovative fire protection products. On a voluntary basis, we help Ukrainian scientists in organizing pilot production and implementing scientific results,” said Kalafat.

Kovlar Group LLC was founded in 2015, its authorized capital is UAH 1.2 million, and its ultimate beneficiaries are Kostiantyn Kalafat (40%), Andriy Ozeychuk (35%), and Liubov Vakhitova (25%). According to the company's annual reports, in the first three quarters of 2024, the company received UAH 73 million 726.4 thousand in revenue and a net profit of UAH 10 million 228.6 thousand.



IKEA STORES EXPECTED TO OPEN IN UKRAINE THIS YEAR

IKEA stores are expected to open in Ukraine in 2025, the date will be officially announced by IKEA, said Dmitry Lashin, chief operating officer of Lavina Mall and Blockbuster Mall.

“*There is very encouraging information that it will definitely happen this year, but there are two scenarios. The first is that the fighting in Ukraine will stop, so it will happen very, very quickly. If the fighting does not stop, the opening will take a little longer. They are physically ready,*” Lashin said.

According to him, the retailer carries out daily activities to physically renovate the store (cleaning, partial repairs, replacing the signage, removing old goods, etc.)

As Oksana Donska, a member of the board of the Ukrainian Association of Furniture Manufacturers (UAFM), told Interfax-Ukraine earlier, IKEA has already received orders for Ukrainian manufacturers “to purchase a fairly wide assortment matrix of furniture.”

NESTLÉ HAS INVESTED UAH 900 MLN IN FACTORIES IN UKRAINE, INCREASING EXPORTS BY 76%

In 2024, Nestlé in Ukraine invested more than UAH 900 million in three of its factories, which allowed the company to increase production efficiency and increase exports by 76%, according to a release.

“*In 2024, the company invested more than UAH 900 million in the development of its three factories in Ukraine. The investments were focused on employee safety solutions, automation and digitalization of production processes and production lines, employee training and development, improvement of working conditions and infrastructure of production facilities, and technological solutions to reduce the carbon footprint,*” the statement said.

The company noted that last year, thanks to investments, while maintaining supplies to 28 countries, it was able to significantly increase its exports: by 76% in volume and 128% in hryvnia equivalent.

“In 2024, the FMCG market in Ukraine grew by slightly less than 10%, including due to volumes. Nestlé also plays a role in this growth. We have similar growth with a focus on volume growth, which can be estimated at 7-8%, which is a consequence of our strategy. We have completely redesigned our portfolio, following consumer trends, and adjusted our promotional activities in line with the market situation,” emphasized Alessandro Zanelli, CEO of Nestlé in Ukraine and South-Eastern Europe.

The company cited the launch of a new line of Street Food sauces under the Torchyn brand as an example of its adaptability to consumer needs in times of war, when there is a lack of outdoor activities. This product category was created with an emphasis on the development of street food dishes, the company said in a statement.

In addition, Nestlé in Ukraine continues to produce products to help Ukrainians affected by the war. Since the beginning of the full-scale war, as of the end of 2024, the company has donated more than UAH 1.3 billion in aid, including food donated through charitable foundations for civilians and the military, as well as cash contributions to support, among others, the UNBROKEN and Superhumans rehabilitation centers.

As Oksana Donska, a member of the board of the Ukrainian Association of Furniture Manufacturers (UAFM), told Interfax-Ukraine earlier, IKEA has already received orders for Ukrainian manufacturers “to purchase a fairly wide assortment matrix of furniture.”

NUMBER OF REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE IN SELECTED COUNTRIES AS OF 31.10.2024



GERMAN ROBOT MANUFACTURER ARX ROBOTICS OPENS OFFICE IN UKRAINE

The German defense tech company has opened an office in Ukraine and plans to transfer part of its production and development processes to the Ukrainian office, said Oleksandr Borniakov, Deputy Minister of Digital Transformation for IT Development.

“European robot manufacturer ARX Robotics has opened an office in Ukraine and joined Diia City. This is a German defense tech company that creates autonomous robots for use in both military and commercial areas,” Borniakov wrote on Facebook on Wednesday.

According to him, ARX Robotics plans to transfer part of its production and development processes to the Ukrainian office.

He emphasized that the company’s accession to Diia.City is one of the strategic and important decisions for the company’s full entry into the Ukrainian market.

According to Mr. Borniakov, ARX Robotics’ developments are known all over the world, and in the near future they will be used by the Ukrainian military.



AGE-SEX PYRAMID OF POPULATION OF UKRAINE FOR 2024 (THOUSAND PEOPLE)



“UKRNAFTA” PLANS TO DRILL 30 NEW WELLS IN 2025

Last year, Ukrnafta drilled 10 new wells and started drilling 12 more, the company said on Tuesday.

“Ukrnafta drilled 32 thousand meters in 2024, which is +280% compared to 2023,” the company said in a press release.

It is noted that 10 new wells are successful and have a flow rate higher than expected. Construction of 12 more wells began in the fourth quarter of 2024 and is currently at various stages of implementation. The company plans to drill 30 new wells in 2025.

“Ukrnafta has launched an ambitious drilling and stimulation program at one of the company’s youngest fields – we are working with our own rigs in difficult mountain conditions,” said Sergiy Koretsky, CEO of the company.

According to the company, last year Ukrnafta acquired its first special permit at an auction, reached 91% reserve replacement ratio compared to 64% in 2023, explored 600 sq. km of eight fields and areas using 3D seismic, drilled the deepest well in the last 8 years with a depth of 4,520 m, performed 340 production stimulation operations and 69 hydraulic fracturing operations.



VEON CONFIRMS ITS INTENTION TO INVEST \$1 BLN IN UKRAINE

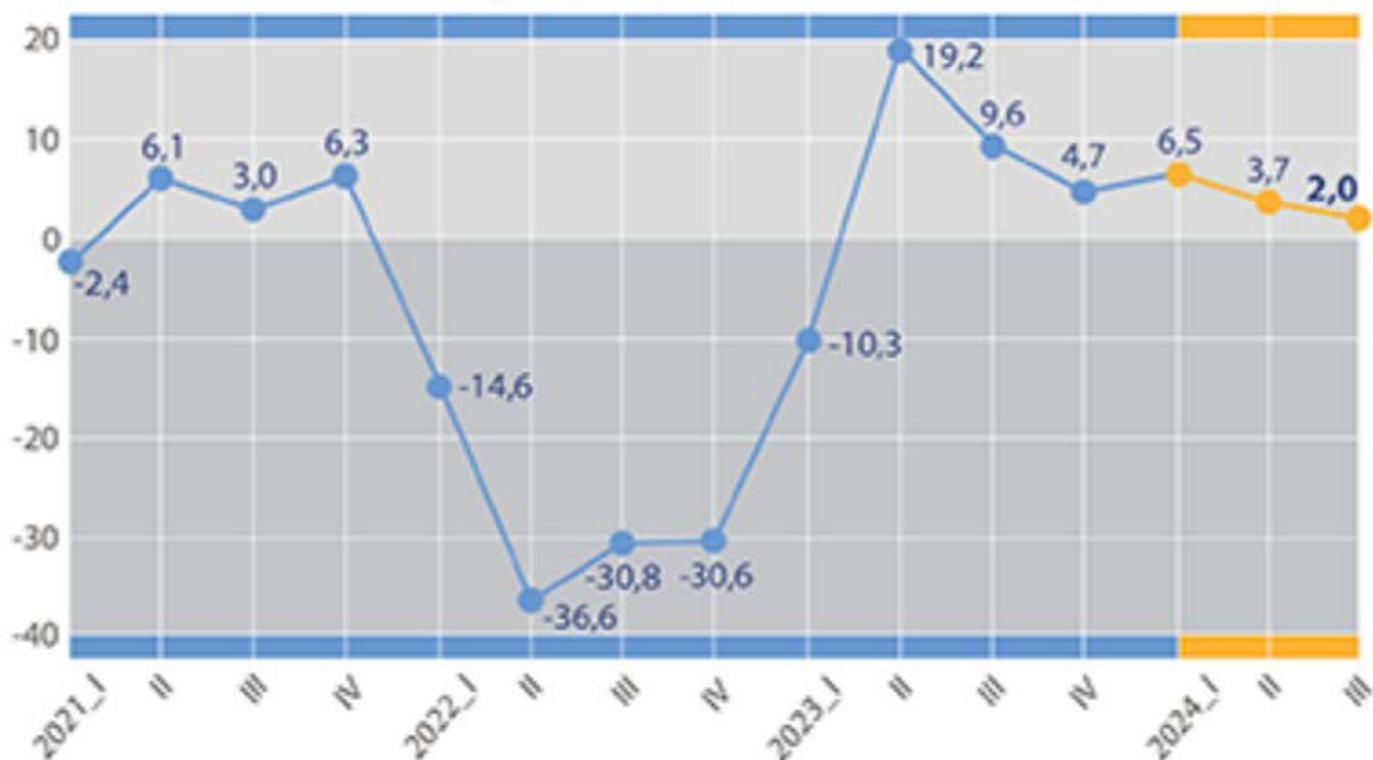
Representatives of VEON, the parent company of Kyivstar, the largest Ukrainian mobile operator, who visited Ukraine, confirmed their intention to invest \$1 billion in the country in 2023-2027 and to indirectly list Kyivstar on the Nasdaq Stock Exchange (USA).

“Ogi Fabela, Chairman of the Board and Founder of VEON, and Kaan Terzioglu, CEO of VEON, met with the Kyivstar team to commemorate the third anniversary of the war and reaffirm the company’s commitment to invest in the recovery and reconstruction of Ukraine... The delegation emphasized the importance of immediate investment in the country’s recovery and stressed the plans to invest \$1 billion in Ukraine over 2023-2027,” the press service of Kyivstar reported. “We are very pleased to announce that the government of Ukraine has decided to invest \$1 billion in Ukraine.

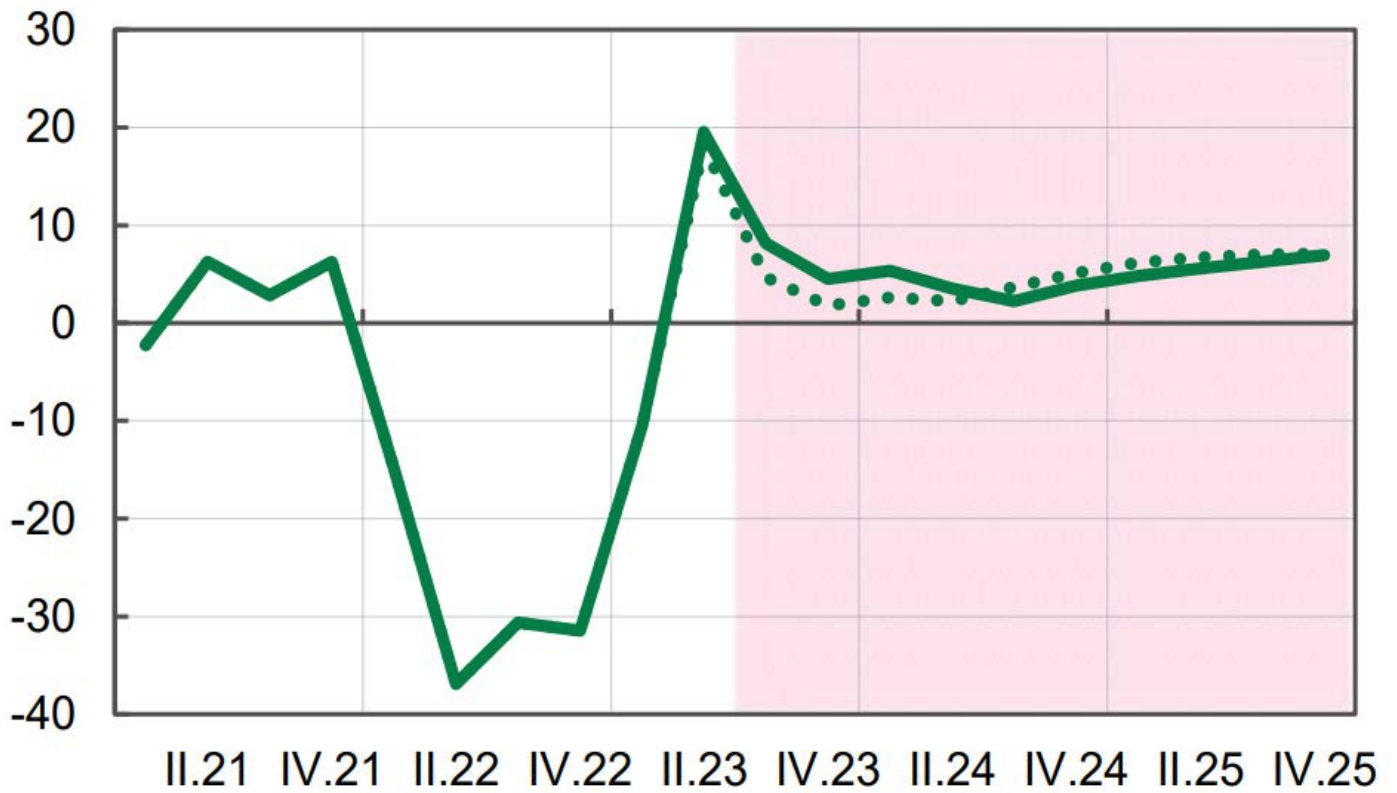
According to the press service, representatives of VEON’s top management, together with Kyivstar CEO Oleksandr Komarov, took part in a special meeting of the Yalta European Strategy (YES) held in Kyiv on February 24. During the meetings with government representatives, including Mykhailo Fedorov, Vice Prime Minister for Innovation, Education, Science and Technology and Minister of Digital Transformation, and Oleksiy Chernyshov, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of National Unity, the participants were informed about the work to support the country’s critical communications and digital services sector. The parties discussed the progress of Kyivstar’s indirect listing on the Nasdaq Stock Market LLC.

Fedorov said after the meeting that he discussed possible joint AI projects and the implementation of innovative solutions in the mobile communications sector with Fabela, Terzioglu, and Komarov.

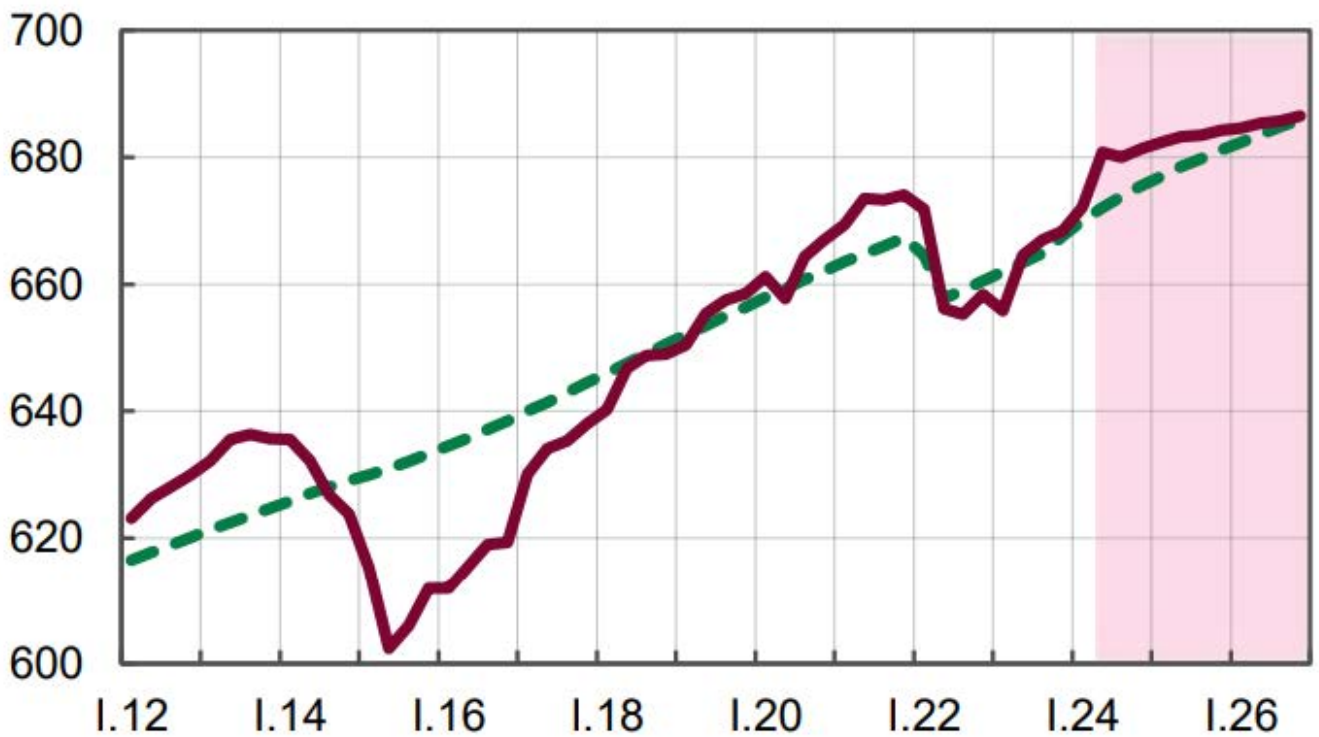
REAL GDP PERCENTAGE CHANGES OVER PREVIOUS PERIOD IN 2014-2024



REAL GDP IN 2021-2025 (FORECAST)



REAL WAGES, LEVEL (LOGARITHMS)



UKRAINE EXPORTED 27.3 MLN TONS OF GRAINS SINCE BEGINNING OF SEASON

As of February 14, Ukraine exported 27.275 mln tonnes of grains and pulses since the beginning of 2024-2025 marketing year, of which 1.585 mln tonnes were 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 26.269 million tons, including 2.393 million tons in February. In particular, since the beginning of the current season, Ukraine has exported 11.464 mln tonnes of wheat (10.14 mln tonnes in 2023/24 MY), 2.106 mln tonnes of barley (1.507 mln tonnes), 10.8 thsd tonnes of rye (1 thsd tonnes), and 13.27 mln tonnes of corn (14.355 mln tonnes).

The total export of Ukrainian flour since the beginning of the season as of February 14 is estimated at 45.5 thsd tonnes (in 2023/24 MY – 70.6 thsd tonnes), including wheat – 42 thsd tonnes (66.9 thsd tonnes).

SAUDI ARABIA WANTS TO EXPAND AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION WITH UKRAINE

Saudi Arabia is interested in developing cooperation with Ukraine in the agricultural sector, according to Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food Vitaliy Koval, who is on a working visit to the country as part of a Ukrainian government delegation.

According to the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food on its website, representatives of the Ukrainian delegation held a meeting with Saudi businessmen, which was attended by more than 80 representatives of various business sectors interested in cooperation with Ukraine.

“I thanked them for their support of our country and for believing in its future despite everything. For example, Continental Farmers Group is a company with Saudi capital that already cultivates 200 thousand hectares of Ukrainian land. They are one of the top 10 largest taxpayers in the agricultural sector, having paid more than UAH 1.6 billion in taxes at various levels last year. And they are planning to expand their capacities. In particular, they plan to grow grain and potatoes in the western regions,” the Minister said.

Another example, according to him, is the Saudi company SALIC, which invested in one of the largest Ukrainian agricultural holdings, MHP, acquiring 12.6% of their shares. In particular, the Minister discussed possible expansion of cooperation with the CEO of SALIC.

EXPORTS OF GRAINS AND OILSEEDS INCREASED TO \$11 BLN IN 2024/25 MY

The total exports of grains and oilseeds from Ukraine in July-January of 2024/25 marketing year (MY) (July 2024-June 2025) are estimated at \$11 billion, up 13.4% compared to \$9.7 billion in the same period last year, the Ukrainian Grain Association (UGA) reported on Facebook.



According to the report, corn exports are leading in the group of grains, which in July-January of 2024/25 MY is estimated at \$2.412 bln against \$2.098 bln in the same period of the previous MY, wheat – \$2.084 bln (\$1.488 bln), barley – \$350 mln (\$212 mln).

At the same time, in the oilseeds segment, the shipments of soybeans and rapeseed increased to \$909 mln (\$718 mln) and \$1.452 bln (\$1.145 bln), respectively, while the exports of sunflower seeds decreased to \$22 mln (\$57 mln).

In the current season, Ukraine reduced exports of sunflower oil to \$2.701 billion (\$2.777 billion) and sunflower meal to \$682 million (\$774 million). Shipments of other vegetable oils decreased to \$393 million (\$438 million).

UKRAINE HAS REDUCED TRANSIT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS THROUGH EU BY 3.7 TIMES

After the full-scale invasion and blocking of seaports in 2022, Ukraine began to actively use land routes for exporting agricultural products, which significantly reduced the transit of agricultural products through the EU, according to the Ukrainian Agribusiness Club (UCAB).

Analysts noted that the maximum volume exported across the borders of neighboring countries was 3.7 million tons of grains, oilseeds and their products in August 2023, when the “grain corridor” had already stopped working and Ukraine’s own sea route had not yet started working.



Experts stated that the structure of exports by country was as follows: Romania – 73% of the total exported volume (thanks to the seaport of Constanta), Poland – 14%, Hungary – 9%, Moldova – 2%, and Slovakia – 2%.

“Establishing its own export route has allowed Ukraine to reduce transit through neighboring countries. Over the past 6 months of 2024, the average monthly volume of exports through neighboring countries decreased by 3.7 times compared to the peak figure and averaged 1.0 million tons of grains, oilseeds and processed products,” the UCAB emphasized.

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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