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NEW UKRAINIAN PRIME MINISTER SVYRYDENKO: WE SETTING COURSE FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY - MILITARY, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL

Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko has stated that the government under her leadership is setting a course for military, economic, and social self-sufficiency.

"It is a great honor for me to head the Ukrainian government today. Our government is setting a course for self-sufficiency: military, economic, and social. My main goal is real positive results that every Ukrainian will feel in their lives. The war gives us no right to delay. We must act quickly and decisively. Our priority steps in the first six months are to provide the army with high-quality equipment, increase our own weapons production, and improve the technological capabilities of the military," Svyrydenko wrote on Facebook after her appointment.

She added that the government will make every effort to support Ukrainian entrepreneurs, in particular, comprehensive deregulation, stopping unauthorized pressure on business, accelerating large-scale privatization, and further implementing effective support mechanisms are needed.

"We have already begun work on optimizing the state apparatus and are moving towards a full audit of expenditures with the aim of reducing them. No political loyalty, only figures and results," she stressed.

HEADLINES

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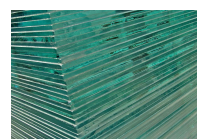
MERZ: SUPPORTING UKRAINE IS IN GERMANY'S INTEREST AND IN INTERESTS OF COMMON FUTURE OF COUNTRIES



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MERZ: SUPPORTING UKRAINE IS IN GERMANY'S INTEREST AND IN INTERESTS OF COMMON FUTURE OF COUNTRIES

Supporting Ukraine is in Germany's interests and in the interests of the common future of the countries, Federal Chancellor Friedrich Merz said as he took part in the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Rome (URC2025).

"We stand firmly on the side of Ukrainians. We also support them in our own interests: for the sake of our common political order of freedom in Europe, freedom of markets, economic growth and our energy security. Germany's future is closely linked to Ukraine," Merz wrote on social media platform X on Thursday.



IMPORTS OF ELECTRIC GENERATORS TO UKRAINE INCREASED 7.5 TIMES IN 5 MONTHS – \$632 MLN

In January-May 2025, imports of power generating sets and rotating electrical converters (UKTZED 8502) increased 7.5 times in monetary terms compared to the same period in 2024, to \$632.2 million, according to the State Customs Service of Ukraine.

“ *Most of these devices were imported from the Czech Republic (\$120 million, or 19% of the total), Austria (\$88.7 million, or 14%), and the United States (\$78.8 million, or 12.5%). Last year, the main suppliers were China, the Czech Republic, and Austria.* ”

In May 2025, imports increased 11 times by May 2024, and by 39.3% by April 2025 to \$115.7 million.

Exports of generators remained insignificant at \$2 million over five months, mainly to Latvia, Bulgaria, and Turkey.



UKRAINE PLANS TO INVEST \$2 BLN IN CRITICAL MATERIALS AND GREEN TECH

Ukraine has significant reserves of titanium, graphite, manganese, lithium, uranium, and other critical materials and will work to establish production of components for batteries, solar panels, and defense technologies. This vision for the development of critical materials (CRM) was presented by Deputy Minister of Economy Andriy Telyupa at the URC2025 Recovery Conference in Rome.

“*The goal is to attract more than \$2 billion in investments and launch more than 20 projects in five years. In the future, Ukraine should become not only an exporter of raw materials, but also a production base for green and defense tech within the EU,” he wrote on Facebook.*

According to an **Interfax-Ukraine** correspondent, unlike previous programs, URC2025 included two separate events dedicated to CRM: a session and a workshop. Among the participants, in addition to representatives of the Ukrainian government, were representatives of the DFC, EBRD, DECOMAR, DG GROW, Chemours, Horizon Capital, TechMet, and BGV Group Management.

In addition, Telyupa presented Ukraine's industrial strategy concept at the conference, which aims to create a modern economy with high added value to strengthen the country's security and integrate it into EU production chains.

“The focus is on sectors where we have competitive advantages: machine building, steel, titanium, lithium, graphite, as well as the IT sector and renewable energy. By the end of 2025, we will finalize the strategy, with implementation planned for 2026-2030.

We are developing it jointly with the World Bank, the OECD, UNIDO, and the Kyiv School of Economics,” the deputy minister said.

He also presented the “Industrial Ramstein” initiative, created by analogy with the Defense Rammstein format, to mobilize international assistance for the restoration and modernization of industry.

“The initiative provides for the transfer of equipment as humanitarian aid through G2G mechanisms, partial procurement financing programs, the involvement of export credit agencies to cover risks and reduce the cost of loans, B2B missions, staff training, and certification of production facilities in accordance with international standards,” Telyupa explained.

According to him, in addition, the URC2025 presented the “Green Platform,” a digital catalog of over 60 green financing programs for businesses, communities, and enterprises, created in collaboration with the Green Transition Office and integrated into the Made in Ukraine portal.

“(The catalog) will become a single point of entry for anyone looking for funding for energy-efficient, resource-saving, and low-carbon solutions,” said the deputy minister.



KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS FOR UKRAINE IN FIRST QUARTER OF 2025

This article presents key macroeconomic indicators for Ukraine and the global economy as of April 1, 2025. The analysis is based on the latest data from the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, the National Bank of Ukraine, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the United Nations. Maksim Urakin, Director of Marketing and Development at **Interfax-Ukraine**, Candidate of Economic Sciences and founder of the Experts Club information and analytical center, presented an overview of current macroeconomic trends.

The first quarter of 2025 was a period of slow but positive economic movement for Ukraine. According to updated estimates by the National Bank of Ukraine, the country's real GDP grew by 0.5% year-on-year, indicating a gradual stabilization after an unstable start to the year. This growth is not high by international standards, but in the context of a full-scale war, constant threats to infrastructure and logistics, and limited access to capital, this result is seen as a positive sign.

“*Half a percent GDP growth in the first quarter is more an indicator of the system's viability than a sign of development. The domestic market has begun to revive, especially in consumption, logistics, and certain technology sectors. But so far, this is mainly growth “in place” — without investment momentum, without exports, without long-term resources,” explains Maksim Urakin.*

Inflation remains one of the main challenges. At the end of March 2025, the annual inflation rate was around 12.6%, which is almost unchanged from February but shows a gradual slowdown. The NBU points to the impact of seasonal declines in food prices, currency stabilization, and prudent monetary policy as key factors restraining price growth.

“The main thing is to maintain a balance between fighting inflation and preventing a slowdown in economic activity. The National Bank's monetary policy in the first quarter was quite balanced: on the one hand, it kept the key rate unchanged, and on the other, it provided soft intervention support for the hryvnia. But we are still far from exiting the inflation risk zone,” the expert emphasizes.

The state of foreign trade, on the contrary, points to deepening structural problems. According to preliminary estimates by the Center for Economic Strategy, the foreign trade deficit reached \$3.6 billion in April, as a result of a significant excess of imports (\$6.3 billion) over exports (\$3.1 billion). According to analysts, the cumulative trade deficit for the first quarter exceeded that of the same period in 2024, despite activity in the agricultural sector and services.

“The worst thing is that this deficit is not situational, but structural. Imports of energy, equipment, chemical products, and transport remain dominant, while exports are mostly limited to raw materials. This threatens currency stability in the event of a cessation of international financial support,” comments the founder of **Experts Club**.

“Reserves of over \$40 billion are not just an indicator, they are a safety net for a country living in a state of constant risk. But we should not be tempted by this: it is a resource of trust that must be transformed into economic recovery, otherwise we will lose it again, as we have done in the past,” warns Maksim Urakin.

However, the debt burden remains high. According to the latest estimates, Ukraine's total public and publicly guaranteed debt at the beginning of April 2025 was about \$147.2 billion, or approximately 94% of GDP, of which more than \$100 billion is external borrowing. This highlights the country's dependence on external assistance and international financing, in particular from the IMF, the EU, and the World Bank.

Head of the Economic Monitoring project, Candidate of Economic Sciences **Maksim Urakin**

IN JANUARY-MAY, PASSENGER CARS WORTH MORE THAN \$2 BLN WERE IMPORTED INTO UKRAINE

The volume of passenger car imports into Ukraine, including cargo-passenger vans and racing cars (UKT VED code 8703), in January-May 2025 amounted to almost \$2.052 billion in monetary terms, which is 5.3% more than in the same period last year (\$1.947 billion).

According to statistics released by the State Customs Service (SCS) of Ukraine, in May this year, passenger cars worth \$523.8 million were imported into Ukraine, which is 30% more than in May 2024.

“ *The three largest suppliers of cars to Ukraine in January-May this year were Germany, the US, and Japan, while last year the US led the top three. In particular, car deliveries from Germany increased by 35% to \$388.6 million, and their share in the structure of car imports amounted to almost 19% against 14.8% a year earlier.* ”

The United States imported \$336.2 million worth of cars to Ukraine (down 7.6%), while imports from Japan fell by 4.8% to \$230 million.

Imports of passenger cars from other countries during the reporting period amounted to almost \$1.1 billion, compared with \$1.05 billion in January-May last year.

At the same time, in January-May this year, Ukraine exported only \$2.7 million worth of such vehicles, in particular to the UAE (49.4% of exports), the Czech Republic, and Slovakia, while a year ago, during the same period, it supplied \$7.18 million worth of such vehicles to foreign markets, mainly to Canada, the UAE, and the US.

According to the State Customs Service, passenger cars accounted for 6.56% of Ukraine's total imports in January-May (7.07% last year) and 0.02% of exports (0.04%).

As reported, in 2024, passenger cars worth \$4.385 billion were imported into Ukraine, 8% more than a year ago, and \$10.1 million worth were exported (2.7 times less).

CONSTRUCTION COSTS IN UKRAINE HAVE RISEN BY 70% SINCE START OF FULL-SCALE WAR – RAUTA

The cost of construction in Ukraine has risen by 70% since the start of the full-scale war, according to Andriy Ozeychuk, chairman of the board of directors of the Ukrainian Steel Construction Center, in a blog post for the **Interfax-Ukraine** news agency.

In 2024 alone, the cost of building materials and services rose by 24%, which significantly affected the cost structure of new projects.



Rauta is a leader in the Ukrainian steel construction market and a member of the European Construction Industry Association. The company provides design, manufacturing, and installation solutions in accordance with current EU standards. The company is licensed to perform construction work with medium and significant consequences (CC2, CC3). According to the Unified State Register, Andriy Ozeychuk owns 100% of the company's authorized capital.

LEGAL CONFLICT REGARDING SHARE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS STARTED IN 2021 MUST BE RESOLVED – UKRAINIAN ASSOCIATION OF DEVELOPERS

“It is necessary to eliminate the legislative conflict and clearly stipulate that for construction projects whose construction began before January 1, 2021, and which, as of that date, had not been accepted into operation, and agreements on the payment of share participation between developers and local authorities as of January 1, 2021, have not been concluded, the payment of share participation shall not be charged or made. This will be in line with the original intention of the legislator to eliminate the quasi-tax and stimulate the development of the construction industry,” commented Yevgeny Favorov, head of the association’s board, to Interfax-Ukraine.

He recalled that in 2019, the authorities officially recognized that equity participation had become a source of corruption, and therefore Law No. 132-IX was adopted to abolish it. This decision contributed to a reduction in housing prices and was intended to stimulate investment activity in the industry. However, in practice, the industry has encountered a situation where communities are demanding, including through the courts, the payment of share contributions for projects for which construction permits were obtained before that date but construction began later. In particular, the Department of Economy and Investment of the Kyiv City State Administration (KCSA) is the plaintiff in 152 court cases seeking to recover share contributions from construction customers. According to Interfax-Ukraine, as of March 1, 106 such cases were pending in courts of various instances for projects launched in 2020-2022 worth about UAH 1.59 billion.

According to experts from the Association of Developers, the cancellation of share participation revealed a legislative conflict that created this legal loophole in the regulation of relevant legal relations. This was directly acknowledged by the Supreme Court in its decision of July 20, 2022, in case No. 910/9548/21, which states: “Law No. 132-IX does not regulate issues of equity participation in cases where construction of a facility began after January 1, 2021.” At the same time, in providing its own interpretation of these legal relations, the court effectively departed from the essence and intent of the legislator, which was to completely eliminate equity participation as a quasi-tax on real estate.

HEAD OF UKRTRANSBEZPEKA ANNOUNCES INTRODUCTION OF SMART-TACHO SYSTEM

The State Service of Ukraine for Transport Safety (DSBT, Ukrtransbezpeka) will soon introduce the Smart-Tacho system, which reads, analyzes, and records violations of drivers’ work and rest regulations, said the head of Ukrtransbezpeka, Mykyta Lagunin, in an interview with the agency [“Interfax-Ukraine.”](#) “The remote control module can be installed on the frame of the WIM complex, on the inspector’s vehicle, or on another road structure and automatically read information without stopping the car. This ensures consistency and reduces the human factor, and with it, the risk of corruption,” he said. Lagunin added that with the help of the Ministry of Community and Territorial Development, a regulatory framework was quickly developed that will, in particular, allow for the issuance of cards for smart tachographs to drivers, Ukrtransbezpeka inspectors, transport companies, and tachograph service points that install, adapt, maintain, and calibrate tachographs.

Ukrtransbezpeka inspectors, transport companies, and tachograph service centers that install, adapt, maintain, and calibrate tachographs.

“So, we plan for this system to start working on our roads very soon,” the head of the service emphasized, but did not specify a specific date.

According to him, the system will be introduced immediately without any additional stages, and all new vehicles are already equipped with this latest model.

NOVASKLO PLANS TO START CONSTRUCTION OF FLOAT GLASS PLANT IN KYIV REGION

NovaSklo plans to start construction of a float glass plant in the Kyiv region in March 2026. As NovaSklo CEO and founder of investment company EFI Group Igor Lisky told Interfax-Ukraine on the sidelines of the URC-2025 recovery conference, investments in the project amount to more than €240 million.

The project is being implemented with the support of UkraineInvest and the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine.

The project includes, in particular, the construction of a plant with a capacity of 24.8 million m² of glass per year. The enterprise will reduce dependence on imports of flat glass and will produce products for export.

Liski noted that the project could pay for itself in 6-7 years.

He said that a memorandum had been signed on the sidelines of the conference between NovaSklo and three leading European equipment manufacturers – Horn Glass Industries AG (Germany), Zippe Industrieanlagen GmbH (Germany) and Bottero S.p.A. (Italy), which will be the main suppliers of technology and equipment.

According to Liska, NovaSklo has already secured a plot of land for production and purchased a license for sand extraction.

Commenting on the risks associated with the construction of an industrial facility in Ukraine, Liska noted that “this is an important symbolic project because it is a symbol of Ukraine’s recovery.”

“Broken glass and broken windows are always a symbol of decline and war. A new plant that produces high-quality glass is a symbol that we, Ukrainians, have a future, and we will rebuild Ukraine with the best glass and the best technology. We must do everything in our power to ensure that Ukraine has a different future,” he said.

US REMAINS MAIN EXPORT MARKET FOR UKRAINIAN PIG IRON

The US continues to occupy a leading position among buyers of Ukrainian recycled pig iron: in the first half of 2025, the US market accounted for more than 77% of foreign exchange earnings from exports of this product.

According to data from the State Customs Service, Ukraine increased its pig iron exports by 47.5% in volume terms in January–June, to 883,200 tons, compared with 598,900 tons in the same period of 2024. In monetary terms, exports grew by 54.6% to \$349.4 million.

“ *The main destinations for exports in the first half of the year were:
The US — 77.36% of export revenue;
Italy — 11.96%;
Turkey — 4.91%.*

Earlier, on March 12, 2025, the administration of US President Donald Trump imposed 25% tariffs on Ukrainian metal products, with the exception of cast iron. This allowed Ukrainian exporters to maintain their competitive position in the US market and, as statistics show, increase supplies.

At the end of 2024, Ukraine exported 1.29 million tons of processed cast iron worth \$500.3 million, of which 72.6% went to the US. Thus, in 2025, the US not only retained its status as a key trading partner in this segment, but also strengthened its importance for the Ukrainian metallurgical sector.



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ITALIAN FOOD PACKAGING MANUFACTURER INVESTS EUR 12 MLN IN CONSTRUCTION OF PLANT IN BELAYA TSEKOV INDUSTRIAL PARK

Italian food packaging manufacturer GUALA PACK S.P.A is investing EUR12 million in the construction of a complex of industrial buildings with a total area of approximately 10,000 square meters in the Belaya Tserkov industrial park, according to Dmitry Kiselevsky, deputy chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Economic Development.

“The Bila Tserkva industrial park has just signed an agreement in Rome with Gualapack Ukraine, a subsidiary of the Italian company GUALA PACK S.P.A., for the construction of a complex of industrial buildings with a total area of about 10,000 square meters. The factory, which until recently operated in Sumy and was partially restarted on leased premises in the Ternopil region, will be relocated to the new premises,” he wrote on his Facebook page.

The plant manufactures packaging for the food industry. The company employs about 300 people with an average salary of 30,000 hryvnia.

According to Kysilevsky, the construction and connection of utilities will take about 12 months. All buildings will be built from scratch, taking into account the company’s infrastructure needs.

According to him, IP “Bila Tserkva” currently has 19 residents.

As reported, in April 2025, the Finnish company Peikko Group Corporation announced the commissioning of a plant for the production of concrete connections and composite structures at IP “Bila Tserkva.”

Other residents include Unilever, InTiCa Systems, Peikko, and Pripravka, which relocated from Kharkiv, as well as the Nova Poshta logistics depot, the Volytsia-Agro grain storage complex, the Plank Electrotechnic electrical fittings factory, and Virastar, a manufacturer of high-altitude equipment for construction work.

Belaya Tserkov and Belaya Tserkov 2 were included in the Register of Industrial Parks in 2018. Gualapack Ukraine LLC has been operating in Ukraine since 2013 and is a leading manufacturer of flexible packaging for various types of production.

HESBURGER TO INVEST €12 MLN TO OPEN RESTAURANTS IN UKRAINE

Hesburger, the largest fast food chain in Finland, plans to invest more than EUR12 million in at least 10 new restaurants in the western regions of Ukraine over the next 5 years, the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food has announced.

According to the report, Deputy Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine Oksana Osmachko discussed further ways of developing cooperation between Ukraine and Finland with Janne Harjunpaa, CEO of the Eastoffice of Finnish Industries, and Wanda Zamitska-Bergendale, CEO of Hesburger Ukraine.

“In March 2025, Hesburger made an investment of EUR 7.3 million, opening a production and warehouse complex for the production of cutlets and storage of products near Kyiv. The facility’s capacity is up to 6 tons of meat per day, and the expected volume is to serve up to 50 restaurants. Ten new jobs have been created,” the ministry said, adding that this initiative was the first Finnish industrial investment in Ukraine since the beginning of the full-scale war.

The East Office of Finnish Industries is the official representative office of Finnish business, which serves as a coordination platform for leading Finnish companies to promote their interests, develop business ties and create a favorable environment for investment and commercial activities.

Among the main members of East Office are Kone, Wärtsilä, Fortum, Neste, Outokumpu, Valmet, Orion, Tikkurila, Metso and other key players in the Finnish economy. The total annual turnover of all participating companies is about EUR 50 billion.

The Finnish company Hesburger was founded by Heikki Salmela and his wife Kirsti Salmela and started its fast food business in 1966 in the town of Naantali.

NESTLÉ HAS OPENED NEW \$50 MLN VERMICELLI FACTORY IN VOLYN

Swiss company Nestlé has launched the first production line at its new vermicelli factory in Smolyhiv (Torchynska settlement community, Lutsk district, Volyn region), which is the result of a CHF40 million (\$50 million at the current exchange rate) investment announced 30 months ago, according to a press release issued by the company on Monday. according to a company press release on Monday.

“*The production capacity of the first line will enable the company to produce 5,000 tons of vermicelli by the end of 2025, with a planned increase in production with the opening of additional lines in the next two years,” the release said.*

Nestlé notes that the Smolyhiv factory is the fourth factory opened in the company's 30 years of operation in Ukraine. “With the opening of the new factory, the company has created a European hub for food production in Ukraine in Volyn, combining the new factory in Smolyhiv with the one already operating in neighboring Torchyn,” the statement said.

According to the statement, the company is expanding its vermicelli production to meet growing demand in both Europe and Ukraine under the Maggi and Mivina brands. The new factory is an export-oriented enterprise: 75% of its products will be supplied to EU markets under the Maggi brand, which will increase foreign currency inflows to Ukraine. At the same time, 75% of the raw materials for production come from local

Nestlé is one of the world's largest food and beverage companies, operating in 187 countries. It offers a wide range of products and services for families and pets.

LESY UKRAINY STATE ENTERPRISE SOLD RECORD VOLUMES OF UNPROCESSED TIMBER IN SECOND QUARTER

Lesy Ukrainy State Enterprise set another record and sold UAH 8.9 billion worth of unprocessed timber in April-June, according to the company's CEO Yuriy Bolokhovets on his Facebook page.

“*Lesy Ukrainy increased revenues to the state and local budgets by 40%! Tax payments in the first half of the year grew by more than UAH 1.7 billion compared to the same period in 2024,” he emphasized.*

Bolokhovets noted that the state-owned enterprise uses its after-tax profits to purchase new firefighting equipment (10 large fire trucks are planned in the near future), developing modern seed centers and infrastructure (forest roads, recreational areas, etc.), restoring forestry in de-occupied territories, and mechanizing harvesting (harvesters, forwarders, tractors, etc.).

He highly praised the effect of the six-month forward contracts, under which buyers selected all the timber, which made it possible to achieve 101% of the planned volume.

“Thanks to forward contracts, wood processors can reserve the volume of raw materials they need and fix the price. The company also benefits. The guarantee deposit, which is returned only after 97% of the contract has been fulfilled, motivates buyers to select the entire contracted volume of products. Next year, the share of forward contracts will be increased, with annual contracts planned,” he wrote.

In addition, Lesy Ukrainy has already shipped more than 95% of timber under quarterly contracts for the second quarter. Most of the non-fulfillments are the fault of buyers who either refuse to accept the goods or fail to pay on time. The state-owned enterprise noted that it pursues a flexible policy on mutual settlements, realizing that producers may experience difficulties with working capital, as they do not immediately receive payment for the timber products they manufacture. However, the enterprise sometimes resorts to suspending deliveries until the buyer settles the debt, which to a certain extent affects the contract fulfillment rate.

US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HAS SHARPLY INCREASED ITS FORECAST FOR SOYBEAN PRODUCTION IN UKRAINE

“Global soybean supply and demand forecasts for 2025/26 call for increased supply, increased processing, reduced exports, and increased ending stocks. (...) The biggest surprise came from Ukraine, where production was sharply increased by 1 million tons to 7.6 million tons. This is not only higher than the previous forecast, but also exceeds last season’s record (7 million tons). Global soybean production has been increased due to an increase in the production forecast for Ukraine based on government data on the progress of sowing,” the report notes.

The forecast for global soybean production in 2025/26 MY has been increased by 0.86 million tons to 427.7 million tons, exports have been reduced by 0.8 million tons to 187.6 million tons, and final global soybean stocks have been increased by 0.77 million tons to 126.07 million tons.



US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HAS LOWERED ITS FORECAST FOR WHEAT EXPORTS FROM UKRAINE

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has lowered its July forecast for Ukraine’s wheat production in the 2025-2026 marketing year (MG, July-June) by 1 million tons compared to the June forecast, to 22 million tons (by 4.35%), while leaving its forecast for corn unchanged and raising its forecast for soybeans by 1 million tons, to 7.6 million tons (by 15.15%).

According to the US agency’s forecast, published on its website, wheat exports from Ukraine have been reduced by 1 million tons to 15.5 million tons, while final stocks have been increased by 0.1 million tons to 1.59 million tons.



MINISTRY OF AGRARIAN POLICY: GRAIN AND OILSEED HARVEST IN 2025 WILL DECREASE TO 74 MLN TONS – OPINION

The production acreage in Ukraine in the 2025 season will be identical to last year's, plus 270,000 hectares of demined land, said First Deputy Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food Taras Vysotsky.

“Overall, the production areas will be the same as last year. An additional 270,000 hectares have been demined. But in terms of our total sowing area of 20 million hectares, this is 1%. So, for basic crops, to which we will add sugar beets and vegetables, farmers will have 20 million hectares. This confirms that we are working in all possible areas,” he said at a meeting of the Trend&Hedge Club on Wednesday.

According to Vysotsky, the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food expects to harvest 21.2 million tons of wheat in 2025, compared to 22 million tons a year ago, which is 5% less. The ministry estimates wheat exports at 15-16 million tons.

According to him, the barley harvest will amount to approximately 4.5 million tons, which is 10% less than in 2024, with exports at 2.2-2.3 million tons.

The Ministry of Agrarian Policy does not expect any problems with buckwheat and promises that the domestic market will be supplied and the surplus exported.

The ministry is not yet ready to make final forecasts for grain corn, as the active growing season is still underway. However, departmental analysts adhere to a conservative forecast of 26 million tons, which is also at least 5% less than last season.

He added that the rapeseed harvest in the 2025 season is expected to be 3 million tons, compared to 5.7 million tons in 2024, soybeans – 5.7 million tons, compared to 6.6 million tons, and sunflowers – 20 million tons.

Vysotsky noted that the greatest doubts about harvest volumes currently concern sunflower, as the crop is suffering from drought in the south of the country, and these regions may lose up to 6% of their harvest, which could lead to a reduction in the gross harvest to 15 million tons or less.

In total, the oilseed harvest in Ukraine in 2025 will amount to 20.5 million tons, the first deputy minister of agricultural policy concluded.



HOW GLOBAL CHICKEN POPULATION HAS GROWN OVER PAST 30 YEARS – STUDY BY EXPERTS CLUB

Over the past few decades, poultry farming has become the most dynamic and widespread type of animal husbandry in the world. Chickens, the main link in this industry, have gone far beyond traditional subsistence farming and have become the main source of animal protein for billions of people. Experts Club analysts have studied global changes in chicken breeding between 1990 and 2023, recording unprecedented growth and structural transformations in the industry.

“Poultry farming has become a symbol of the new consumer economy: fast production, low cost, adaptability to global demand. That is why chicken is replacing other types of meat around the world,” said Maksim Urakin, PhD in Economics and founder of the Experts Club information and analytical center.

In the early 1990s, the total number of chickens in the world was estimated at 10 billion (in thousands of heads). Even then, this figure exceeded the number of any other type of farm animal. However, the real leap forward took place in 2000–2020. By 2023, the total number of chickens in the world exceeded 29 billion, i.e., it almost tripled in three decades. This means that there are approximately 3.6 chickens per person on the planet, considering the total world population of over 8 billion.

This explosive growth can be explained by several key factors. First and foremost is economic efficiency. Chicken is the cheapest meat to produce, requiring significantly less feed, water, and time to raise than pork or beef. In the context of global urbanization, rising incomes, and changing eating habits, chicken has become a “universal” product: it is consumed equally in the US, Brazil, India, Indonesia, and Egypt.

From the 1990s to the 2020s, the poultry industry has undergone a technological revolution: automated incubators, genetically improved broilers, controlled growing conditions, biosecurity, and strict quality monitoring have become the norm in large agricultural countries. This has significantly increased the industry’s productivity. On average, the cycle of raising a broiler to market size has been reduced from 70 to 42 days.

Geographically, the largest chicken producers are China, the US, Brazil, India, Indonesia, and Russia. At the same time, African countries are experiencing rapid growth in domestic production, focused on both food security and reducing dependence on imports.

However, the growth dynamics of the livestock population also carries risks. The increasing density of chicken farming creates an increased epidemiological burden, which is particularly evident in the form of outbreaks of avian influenza. In addition, critics point to animal welfare issues, excessive use of antibiotics, and methane emissions from poultry farms.

For a more detailed overview of trends in poultry farming and graphs showing changes in livestock numbers, see the video on the Experts Club YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/@ExpertsClub>



SUPPLIES OF WHEAT, CORN, AND FLOUR HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY DECREASED

As of July 1, 2024-2025 marketing year (July-June), Ukraine exported 40.499 mln tonnes of grains and pulses, of which 2.217 mln tonnes were shipped in June, the press service of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food reported, citing data from the State Customs Service.

According to the report, as of June 28 last year, the total shipments were estimated at 50.553 million tons, including 3.621 million tons in June.

According to the preliminary estimates, in 2024/25 season, Ukraine exported 15.704 mln tonnes of wheat (18.3 mln tonnes in 2023/24 MY), 2.318 mln tonnes of barley (2.477 mln tonnes), 10.8 thsd tonnes of rye (1.6 thsd tonnes), and 21.788 mln tonnes of corn (29.233 mln tonnes).

“ *The total exports of Ukrainian flour in 2024/25 MY are estimated at 70.4 thsd tonnes (in 2023/24 MY – 97.8 thsd tonnes), including 65.8 thsd tonnes of wheat (92.4 thsd tonnes).* ”

Thus, in the season-2024/25, the grain exports were down by 19.9% in general, by 14.2% for wheat, by 6.4% for barley, by 25.5% for corn, by 28.1% for flour, including 28.8% for wheat. At the same time, in 2024/25 MY Ukraine increased rye exports by 6.8 times.

As reported, in the season-24/25, the domestic market faced the deficit of rye. Flour mills and bakeries started importing it in winter 2025. The main countries supplying rye and rye flour to Ukraine are the Baltic states and Poland. Industry associations predict that in 2025/26 MY Ukraine will face a 100% deficit of rye due to the further reduction of the production area under this crop. According to experts, this will lead to a 20% rise in bread prices.

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