



UKRAINE
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EBRD AND EU HAVE EXPANDED THEIR BUSINESS SUPPORT PROGRAM IN UKRAINE BY EUR2 BLN

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the European Union (EU) are expanding their support program for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and larger companies in Ukraine, which will enable the mobilization of EUR2 billion in new financing through EBRD partner banks thanks to EUR315 million in additional EU support, the financial institution announced on its website.

The additional EU support is being implemented through the Ukraine Investment Framework (UIF) program and includes EUR200 million in guarantees, EUR105 million in grants, and EUR10 million in technical assistance.

As noted in the press release, the new package is expected to provide loans to at least 3,000 MSMEs and preserve approximately 180,000 jobs. Funds will be provided through the EBRD's partner financial institutions in Ukraine. According to the bank's assessment, the expansion of the program should support businesses' access to financing amid the war, particularly against the backdrop of rising borrowing costs, disrupted logistics, and companies' need to replace or modernize damaged equipment. Ukrainian companies will be able to receive investment incentives in the form of EU grants to cover 10% to 30% of the cost of critical capital investments, primarily in high-efficiency and "green" technologies.

At least 50% of these grant incentives will be directed toward priority categories of MSMEs: enterprises with assets damaged or destroyed as a result of the war, businesses in frontline zones, veteran-owned companies, enterprises supporting the reintegration of internally displaced persons and people with disabilities, micro-companies, startups, small farms, as well as businesses led by women and young people.

The program also provides for support to restore activity in Ukraine's insurance market, specifically the development of solutions for insuring military risks. As part of a pilot project, insurance subsidies are planned to be provided to MSMEs. Part of the expanded support will be implemented through the Enterprise Security Enhancement (ESE) mechanism, which the EBRD is rolling out on a pilot basis in collaboration with partner financial institutions in Ukraine. It allows banks to reduce the debt burden for borrowers whose assets have been damaged by the war.

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09 June 2026



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ZELENSKY SIGNING DECREES TO ALIGN SANCTIONS WITH EU DECISIONS

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has signed two decrees enacting decisions by the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine to align sanctions with those of the European Union, according to the president's press service.

"The synchronization of EU sanctions under the 20th package covers 120 individuals and organizations and imposes economic sanctions targeting key sectors of the Russian economy. Some of them are already subject to Ukrainian sanctions. Today's decision applies to an additional 16 Russian citizens and 31 companies from Russia, Belarus, the UAE, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine," the statement reads.

Among the individuals are heads of Russian strategic enterprises, state-funded institutions, units of the Russian army, and entities serving Russia in our temporarily occupied territories.

The list also includes Russian defense industry enterprises, manufacturers of electronic warfare equipment, software, and drone components, as well as companies involved in oil, gas, and gold extraction. In particular, restrictions have been imposed on the Russian manufacturer of aerospace products and drone components, LLC

"Atlant Aero," as well as on the Russian manufacturer of communication systems and components for UAVs and missiles, LLC "Irz-Zvyazok."

KYIVSTAR HAS ACQUIRED SIX SOLAR POWER PLANTS IN LVIV REGION

Kyivstar, Ukraine's largest mobile operator, announced the acquisition of six solar power plants (SPPs) with a total installed capacity of 105 MW in Lviv Oblast for 3.6 billion UAH, or \$80.8 million, according to a company statement on Tuesday.

“Renewable energy is one of the key areas of Kyivstar's investment portfolio, as it opens up opportunities for the further use of 'green' electricity to cover part of the company's energy needs,” Kyivstar CEO and President Oleksandr Komarov is quoted as saying in the release.

Taking into account the initial purchase last December of the 13-MW "Sunwin 11" solar power plant for \$3 million in the Zhytomyr region, Kyivstar's total "green" generation capacity has grown to 118 MW, enabling the company to generate electricity equivalent to approximately 30% of its current annual consumption, the press release states.

"Electricity from the acquired solar power plant group will be fed into Ukraine's unified power grid in accordance with current market and regulatory rules, which will allow Kyivstar to partially hedge against risks associated with fluctuations in electricity prices," Kyivstar explained.

The mobile operator noted that these "green" projects also enable it to build a long-term energy consumption model, strengthen the country's energy sector, and align with sustainable development goals.



NEARLY 40% OF UKRAINIANS ATTEND CULTURAL EVENTS ONCE EVERY SIX MONTHS OR LESS, ACCORDING TO STUDY

According to the **Interfax-Ukraine Culture** project, nearly 40% of Ukrainians attend cultural events once every six months or less, most often at movie theaters, according to the “Culture in Ukraine” study by Research.ua, which was presented by the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine on Thursday in Kyiv.

Specifically, when asked about the frequency of attending cultural events, 37% of respondents said they attend such events once every six months or less, 26%—once every few months, 30%—once a month or more often, and 7% noted that they do not attend cultural events.

Among the main sources of cultural news in 2025 were social media (75%) and messaging apps (65%), specifically: Telegram is a source of cultural news for 58% of respondents, Facebook – 51%, Instagram – 46%, and YouTube – 42%.

Among the most popular formats for cultural events are movie theaters (66% of respondents), music concerts (42%), and theater performances (40%).

Regarding barriers to attending cultural events: lack of funds (54% of respondents), lack of time (42%), lack of events nearby (26%), and lack of company (17%).

BOSCH IN UKRAINE INCREASED SALES TO EUR 162 MLN IN 2025

Bosch, a leading global supplier of technology and services, ended the 2025 fiscal year in Ukraine with consolidated sales to third parties of nearly EUR162 million (UAH 7.6 billion), a 3.5% increase compared to the previous year, according to Serhiy Baranovsky, CEO of Bosch in Ukraine.

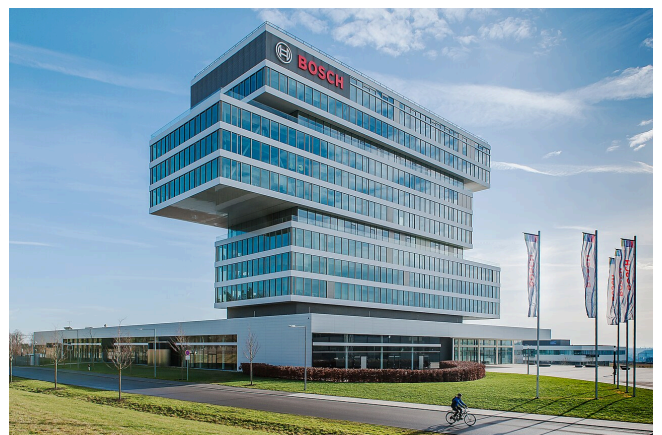
“Despite challenging macroeconomic and security conditions, the company maintained positive momentum thanks to stable demand, the expansion of its partner network, and active participation in Ukraine’s recovery projects. For us, it is important not only to grow our business but also to be a reliable partner that helps rebuild infrastructure and provides high-quality solutions for people and communities,” Baranovsky said at a press conference on Thursday.

In 2025, all of Bosch’s business sectors in Ukraine demonstrated growth, although growth rates varied across individual segments.

Growth in the Mobility segment, represented by the Mobility Aftermarket division (automotive parts and equipment), was driven by the development of service infrastructure, expanded distribution, and stable demand for automotive services. Four new “Bosch Auto Service” stations were opened in 2025; the network now comprises over 100 stations. According to Baranovsky, an additional driver of growth in 2025 was the rising demand for servicing used cars, as well as electric vehicles and hybrids.

In the Energy and Building Technology business sector, which includes the Bosch Home Comfort and Building Technologies divisions, Bosch demonstrated positive growth in 2025 thanks to rising demand for energy-efficient, autonomous, and infrastructure solutions. Bosch Home Comfort implemented over 70 projects in the commercial and industrial sectors during the year.

The highest demand was observed for gas equipment, air conditioning systems, industrial boilers, and hot water supply solutions, particularly in the context of infrastructure reconstruction and modernization. The company also expanded its portfolio by introducing a new generation of electric and gas water heaters and modern split-system air conditioners, while strengthening its commercial segment with Buderus solutions. In addition, the integration of climate solutions from Johnson Controls and Hitachi further expanded Bosch’s capabilities in the market.



U.S. RETAINS TOP SPOT AMONG MOST VALUABLE COUNTRY BRANDS – STUDY

The U.S., China, and Germany remain the world's most valuable country brands, according to data from Brand Finance's annual study.

“ *The company valued the U.S. brand at nearly \$34.72 trillion, down 7% from last year's level. The assessment covers a wide range of indicators, including GDP, investment and tourism appeal, policy and trade regulations, social aspects, and more.* ”

At the same time, the value of the PRC's brand increased by 7% (to \$22.02 trillion), narrowing the gap with the top spot.

Germany ranks third, far behind (-8%, to \$4.61 trillion), and the United Kingdom ranks fourth (-5%, to \$4.23 trillion). France moved up to fifth place (-7%, to \$3.63 trillion), pushing Japan (-14%, to \$3.62 trillion) down to sixth place. Canada (-12%, to \$2.41 trillion) moved up to seventh place from eighth last year, Italy (-4%, to \$2.3 trillion) to eighth from ninth, and Spain (-4%, to \$2.12 trillion) to ninth from tenth.

India fell to tenth place from seventh (-30%, to \$1.94 trillion).

The total value of G7 countries' brands fell by \$4.5 trillion over the year due to geopolitical tensions, tariffs, and economic uncertainty.

“The weakening of the Western alliance's cohesion, combined with persistent inflationary pressures and high energy prices, contributed to a deterioration in sentiment toward a number of major economic powers,” the report notes.

According to a Brand Finance study, Russia, whose brand value fell by 11%, dropped to 25th place from 23rd last year; Kazakhstan (-26%) fell to 45th from 43rd; Uzbekistan dropped to 53rd from 55th; Azerbaijan fell to 74th from 82nd; Belarus – to 86th from 88th place, Turkmenistan – to 87th from 80th place, Georgia – to 91st from 97th place, Armenia – to 105th from 103rd place, and Kyrgyzstan – to 120th from 127th place. Tajikistan remained in 136th place.

Among the top 100 countries, Egypt fell significantly in the ranking—to 51st place from 35th a year earlier; Iran—to 63rd from 50th; Kenya—to 90th from 70th; and Angola—to 94th from 76th. Meanwhile, Costa Rica jumped to 70th place from 81st, the Democratic Republic of the Congo to 72nd from 87th, and Iceland to 80th from 90th.



AMOSOV INSTITUTE, WITH ASSISTANCE OF UKRAINIAN EMBASSY IN ITALY, HAS RECEIVED FIVE VENTILATORS

The M.M. Amosov National Institute of Cardiovascular Surgery of the National Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine (NAMSU), with the assistance of the Ukrainian Embassy in Italy, has received five ventilators.

As reported by the embassy on its Facebook page, the equipment will enhance the medical facility's ability to provide care to patients and ensure the continuous work of doctors under the difficult conditions of wartime.

The project was implemented with the support of the Ukrainian association "Malva" in Verona.



AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN UKRAINE ROSE BY 1.7% OVER FIRST FOUR MONTHS

Agricultural production in Ukraine increased by 1.7% in January–April 2026 compared to the same period last year, while growth for the first three months stood at 1.2%, according to the State Statistics Service (SSS).

According to the published data, the positive trend was driven exclusively by the livestock sector, as crop production data is not traditionally compiled until June.

The main driver of growth was agricultural enterprises, which increased production volumes by 10.5%. The best performance in this sector over the four-month period was demonstrated by Chernivtsi (+32.2%), Donetsk (30.8%), Zakarpattia (30.0%), and Lviv (29.4%) regions, while a decline in performance was recorded in four regions: Kherson (by 35.4%), Sumy (by 7.6%), Vinnytsia (by 3.6%), and Mykolaiv (by 3%).

In private households, the decline in production remained at the first-quarter level—15.7%. The largest declines in the private sector were observed in Donetsk (67%), Zakarpattia (48.4%), and Ternopil (35.9%) regions.

A slight increase in private households was recorded in only two regions—Kyiv (1.0%) and Odesa (0.1%).



EXPERTS CLUB ANALYZED WHEAT CULTIVATION INDICATORS WORLDWIDE FROM 1990 TO 2026

The information and analytical center **Experts Club** presented a video analysis of the dynamics of wheat cultivation worldwide for the period from 1990 to 2026, prepared on the basis of comparative data on wheat production in the main producing countries.

According to available data, global wheat production in the countries included in the analysis increased from about 591.3 million tonnes in 1990 to an estimated 816.4 million tonnes in 2026. Thus, over 36 years, the volume of production increased by approximately 225 million tonnes, or by 38%.

At the same time, the highest indicator in the available data set was recorded in 2025 — about 831.9 million tonnes. The forecast indicator for 2026 is lower — 816.4 million tonnes, which may indicate a partial correction after the high harvest of the previous year, but the overall long-term trend remains upward.

Experts Club notes that the video format makes it possible to visually trace not only the growth of global wheat production, but also the change in the geography of the main producers. If in the early 1990s the largest producers included the USSR, China, the United States, India, France and Canada, then in the current structure the leading positions are occupied by China, India, Russia, the United States, France, Canada, Australia, Pakistan and Ukraine.

According to FAO and USDA data, in 1990 the largest volume of wheat production was accounted for by the USSR — about 101.9 million tonnes, China — 98.2 million tonnes, the United States — 74.3 million tonnes, India — 49.8 million tonnes, France — 33.3 million tonnes and Canada — 32.1 million tonnes. The combined share of the ten largest producers at that time was about 77% of the global indicator.

In 2026, according to available data, China remains the largest wheat producer — about 141 million tonnes. India ranks second — 121 million tonnes, and Russia ranks third — 86 million tonnes. They are followed by the United States — 42.5 million tonnes, France — 36 million tonnes, Canada — 35 million tonnes, Australia and Pakistan — 30 million tonnes each, Ukraine — 23 million tonnes, and Germany — 21.5 million tonnes.



“Wheat remains one of the basic indicators of food security. Over the past decades, we have seen not only an increase in global production, but also a gradual shift in the centers of agricultural weight. China and India have become key producers, while the countries of the Black Sea region have significantly strengthened their influence on the international grain market,” said Maksym Urakin, founder of the information and analytical center Experts Club and Candidate of Economic Sciences.

Ukraine plays a separate role in the modern production structure. According to available data, after Ukraine appeared as a separate statistical unit in the early 1990s, wheat production amounted to about 19.5 million tonnes in 1992. In 2021, the indicator reached more than 32 million tonnes, after which it declined due to the war, logistical restrictions, mined territories, changes in the structure of sown areas and the loss of part of production capacity.

In 2024, wheat production in Ukraine was estimated at approximately 23.4 million tonnes, in 2025 — 24.1 million tonnes, and in 2026 — about 23 million tonnes. Despite difficult conditions, Ukraine remains among the ten largest wheat producers in the world and retains strategic importance for the global grain market.

The data also indicate changes in the position of the United States. In 1990, the United States produced more than 74 million tonnes of wheat and was one of the three largest producers in the world. In 2026, its indicator stands at about 42.5 million tonnes. This does not mean a loss of U.S. agricultural potential as a whole, but reflects structural changes in agriculture, competition with other crops and a change in the global production balance.

According to Experts Club’s assessment, long-term visualization of wheat cultivation indicators makes it possible to better understand how the global food system has changed since 1990, which countries have strengthened their positions and why grain production remains one of the key elements of economic and political security.



UKRAINE PLANS TO INCREASE BIOMETHANE PRODUCTION TO 150 MLN CUBIC METERS

Ukraine plans to increase biomethane production to approximately 150 million cubic meters by 2026, and a production level of 500 million cubic meters is a realistic goal by 2030, according to a forecast by the Ministry of Economy, Environment, and Agriculture following a meeting with the European Investment Bank

“Ukraine has significant resources for producing biomethane from agricultural waste, livestock byproducts, straw, and sugar beets, which meets European requirements for ‘green’ fuel,” Deputy Minister Taras Vysotsky is quoted as saying in a press release on the ministry’s website.

He emphasized that exports to the EU should become the main driver of market development. The Deputy Minister noted that in 2025, Ukrainian private producers exported over 11.2 million cubic meters of biomethane via Ukraine’s gas transmission system for the first time.

Among the key challenges, he cited integration into the European certification system and the creation of the necessary technical database.

Following the meeting, the parties agreed to continue coordinating their work and further developing priority areas of cooperation in the fields of land reclamation, water resource management, and the development of sustainable agricultural infrastructure, as well as the biomethane sector.

UGA HAS RAISED ITS FORECAST FOR GRAIN AND OILSEED HARVEST TO 83.6 MLN TONS



The Ukrainian Grain Association (UGA) has raised its estimate of the potential 2026 grain and oilseed harvest by 1 million tons—to 83.6 million tons, which is 11.6% higher than the 2025 figure (74.9 million tons)—due to increased yields of corn and sunflower, the UGA press service reported on Monday.

“With such a harvest, exports in the new 2026/2027 season could potentially reach 50.8 million tons (the export estimate for the current season is 42.3 million tons). However, this is an optimistic scenario, the realization of which will be possible only if Ukraine’s logistical problems do not worsen due to Russia’s aggression and its constant bombing of Ukrainian transport infrastructure and energy facilities,” the statement noted.

According to the UGA’s estimate, the wheat harvest in 2026 could reach 22.8 million tons (22.5 million tons in 2025), and its exports in the 2026/2027 marketing year (MY) could reach 17 million tons compared to the expected 13.5 million tons in the current season.

The UGA estimates the barley harvest in 2026 at 5.2 million tons (4.9 million tons in 2025), with likely exports of about 2.2 million tons, compared to 1.6 million tons in the current season.

According to the UGA’s forecast, the corn harvest in 2026 will total 32.1 million tons (31.1 million tons in 2025), and exports could reach 27 million tons compared to 22 million tons in the current season.

“Expectations for this year’s corn harvest are positive thanks to favorable weather conditions so far,” the association explained.

The UGA expects the sunflower harvest in 2026 to reach 13.3 million tons, compared to 11.1 million tons in 2025.

“Traditionally, almost all sunflowers will be processed in Ukraine—13.5 million tons. Exports will not exceed 50,000 tons,” the statement said.

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UKRAINIAN AGRICULTURAL LAND COULD RISE IN PRICE BY UP TO 80% OVER NEXT THREE YEARS

Agricultural land, which has risen in price by 76% since the market opened in July 2021, could see its price increase by up to 80% in dollar terms over the next three years.

This view was expressed by Oleksandr Chorny, co-founder of the land investment service Zeminvest, and Serhii Kramarenko, a land investment expert and author of the “Gruntovno – Land Investment Fund” project, during a panel discussion at the Invest Talk Summit 2026 conference in Kyiv, organized by the “Minfin” resource.

“ At the moderator’s request, Chorny predicted that the price of one hectare of farmland in the “corn belt” of Cherkasy Oblast, with a lease agreement of up to three years, could rise from the current \$3,000 +/- \$200–\$300 to closer to \$6,000.

According to Kramarenko, he would buy this land right now “without haggling” for \$3,500–\$3,700 per hectare and would not sell it for less than \$6,200–\$6,500 in three years.

“Over the past four years since the land market opened—most of which coincided with the war—land has proven to be arguably the most promising asset in Ukraine from a financing perspective. Unlike in 2021, when no one understood how it would work, the market has crystallized and currently remains a buyer’s market. That is, there are still more people wanting to buy a quality asset than those wanting to sell it, and this trend will likely continue,” Chorny emphasized.

The co-founder of the land investment service Zeminvest also noted that land prices are currently rising faster than rental rates, but the latter will certainly rise as well.

“If two years ago, investments in agricultural land were at 7–8%, today you can already buy at 4–5% and even at 3%, with the understanding that over the next two years, rent will gradually rise,” Chorny believes.

In his opinion, if rent rates are currently 3-5%, they will double in 10 years—to 5-8%.

SWISS COMPANY HAS ACQUIRED 51% STAKE IN TIS CONTAINER TERMINAL AT PORT OF YUZHNY

The Geneva-based Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC), one of the world’s largest shipping groups, has acquired a 51% stake in the TIS container terminal at the Port of Yuzhny, according to Latifundist.

“ The largest beneficial owners of TIS are MSC owners Diego and Alexa Aponte, each of whom holds a 25.5% stake.

In March of this year, it was reported that global container operator DP World sold its stake in the TIS container terminal nearly six years after acquiring it; the TIS group bought it back.

According to DP World’s annual report, it held a 51% stake in TIS Container Terminal Limited, registered as a multipurpose terminal.

Other owners and beneficiaries of the TIS container terminal include Alexey Fedorichev and his “Fedkom Invest SAM” (18.375%), Oleg Kutateladze (9.19%), as well as brothers Yegor Grebennikov and Andrey Stavnitser (11.72% and 9.72%, respectively).

Viktor Berestenko, president of the Association of International Freight Forwarders of Ukraine, confirmed this information in a comment to Latifundist and noted that MSC’s arrival could, to a certain extent, intensify competition among container terminals and give impetus to the development of port infrastructure in Ukraine.



“KERNEL” HAS EXPANDED ITS LAND BANK BY 48% TO 530,000 HECTARES

The Kernel agricultural holding, one of the largest in Ukraine, has increased the size of its land bank by 48% over the past year—to 530,000 hectares—following the acquisition of Enselco Holding Limited (approximately 190,000 hectares) and the sale of a portion of assets comprising leased land in the Kharkiv region (approximately 14,000 hectares) to Agroton Public Limited.

“As a result of the completion of both transactions, the total area of leased agricultural land under the Group’s management reached 530,000 hectares, which is 48% more than in the previous year, further strengthening the Group’s position as the largest agricultural producer in Ukraine,” – according to the consolidated financial report for the third quarter of fiscal year 2026 (FY, January–March 2026).

The document notes that “Kernel” has completed the 2026 planting campaign across the entire area of its expanded land bank.

“Unfavorable weather conditions in late winter and early spring forced the replanting of part of the acreage under winter crops. Following these adjustments, corn remains the primary crop, accounting for 48% of the planted area (255,000 ha compared to 172,000 ha last year), which has generally remained unchanged compared to the 2025 crop structure,” the report states.

The group also expanded the areas planted with sunflowers (to 88,000 ha from 46,000 ha) and rapeseed (to 43,000 ha from 3,000 ha), increasing their shares to 17% and 8%, respectively, compared to 13% and 1% in the previous planting season. The area under wheat in absolute terms increased from 94,000 ha to 106,000 ha, while its share in the crop mix decreased from 26% to 20%.

The area under soybeans decreased significantly—from 24,000 ha to 9,000 ha—and currently accounts for only 2% of the total planted area.

As reported, in April 2026, Kernel signed an agreement to acquire Enselco Holding Limited for \$348 million. The company comprises an integrated agribusiness with a land bank of approximately 190,000 hectares, a network of grain storage facilities, agricultural machinery, and a rail fleet for grain transportation.

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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