

## **UKRAINE TOP ECONOMY, BUSINESS AND CULTURAL NEWS**

**28-2-2017**

### **Surplus of Ukraine's national budget in Jan totals UAH 15.75 bln**

The surplus of Ukraine's national budget in January 2017 totaled UAH 15.75 billion, Ukraine's State Treasury Service has reported.

The surplus of the general fund in January amounted to UAH 14.14 billion and that of the special fund – UAH 1.6 billion.

The authority said that revenue of the national budget in January came to UAH 59.447 billion, including UAH 56.32 billion of the general fund. Spending totaled UAH 42.892 billion and UAH 41.79 billion respectively.

Revenue of local budgets in January totaled UAH 37.733 billion, including UAH 16.6 billion of the general fund.

Expenditure came to UAH 28.475 billion and UAH 27.767 billion for the general fund.

The surplus of local budgets in January 2017 amounted to UAH 9.26 billion, including UAH 8.84 billion for the general fund.

**27-2-2017**

### **Ukraine increases electricity exports by 1.6 times in Jan 2017**

Ukraine in January 2017 increased electricity exports by 61.9% (by 213.8 million kWh) compared to the same period in 2016, to 559.4 million kWh, a source in the Ministry of Energy and Coal Industry has told Interfax-Ukraine.

Electricity supplies from the Burshtyn TPP energy island in the direction of Hungary, Slovakia and Romania increased by 60.6% (by 161.6 million kWh), to 428.3 million kWh.

Electricity supplies to Poland rose by 68.9% (by 53.5 million kWh), to 131.2 million kWh.

Last month Ukrainian electricity was not exported to Moldova, Belarus and Russia, whereas exports to these countries in January 2016 amounted to 1.2 million kWh.

In addition, Ukraine in January 2017 imported 4.7 million kWh of electricity (from Russia 4.6 million kWh, Belarus 100,000 kWh) compared to 6 million kWh in January 2016.

As reported, Ukraine in January 2017 exported electricity worth \$21.577 million, which is 53.5% more than in January 2016 (\$14.056 million).

**24-2-2017**

### **Ukraine to boost gas production to 20.3 bcm in 2017, to 22.5 bcm in 2018 – government concept**

The Ukrainian government has published a concept for development of Ukraine's gas production sector approved at the end of 2016. The document envisages the increase of gas production from 18.7 billion cubic meters (bcm) in 2016 to 20.3 bcm in 2017 and 27.6 bcm in 2020.

According to government resolution No. 1079 dated December 28 published in the government's newspaper Uriadovy Kurier on Friday, the document says that 22.5 bcm of gas will be made in 2018 and 25.2 bcm in 2019.

According to the concept, state-run enterprise Ukrgezvydobuvannia would increase production from 14.5 bcm last year to 15.2 bcm this year and 16 bcm next year. Then the company will increase it to 18.2 bcm in 2019 and eventually to 20.1 bcm in 2020.

The companies could significantly improve the proved reserves figure, bringing it from 7.5 bcm in 2016 (including 7 bcm for Ukrgezvydobuvannia) to 13.5 bcm (12 bcm for Ukrgezvydobuvannia) in 2017 and 33.8 (25) bcm in 2020.

**23-2-2017**

### **Growth of industrial production in Ukraine accelerates to 5.6% in Jan 2017**

Industrial production in Ukraine in January 2017 compared to the same month of the previous year increased by 5.6% compared to 4.5% in December, 3.7% in November and 0.8% in October, the State Statistics Service has reported.

According to a new formula of data provision, the agency said that adjusted for the effect of calendar days industrial production in January 2017 compared to January 2016 increased by 5.2%, which is also 4.8% more than in December, 2.3% than in November and 1.6% in October.

The service said in relation to the previous month industrial production in January this year fell by 17.5%, and taking into account the seasonal factor by 1.5%.

As reported, industrial production in Ukraine in 2016 grew by 2.4% after a decline lasting four years: the figure fell by 13% in 2015, by 10.1% in 2014, by 4.3% in 2013, and by 0.7% in 2012.

**21-2-2017**

### **Government approves seeds certifications rules**

The seeds and planting materials certifications rules were approved at a government meeting on Tuesday, according to a posting on the website of Ukraine's Agricultural Policy and Food Ministry.

"The certifications rules for inspectors have been determined. The application forms for certification and certificate forms were approved," Agricultural Policy and Food Minister Taras Kutoviy said.

The minister said that the certification would help to take measures to determine the quality of seeds and planting materials and issue the relevant certificates.

As reported, seeds have not been certified in Ukraine since December 2016. Since the moment of termination of operation of the State Agricultural Inspectorate the Ukrainian Agricultural Policy and Food Ministry was authorized to carry out seed certification. The ministry started creating state-run enterprise State Certification and Agricultural Products Examination Center.

**16-2-2017**

### **PM orders to design industrial production development system**

Ukrainian Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman has ordered First Deputy Prime Minister and Economic Development and Trade Minister Stepan Kubiv and the National Industrial Development Committee to draw up the industrial production development system.

The press service of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers, the prime minister held a meeting devoted to support of production of specialized vehicles in Ukraine.

"We need a high-quality system to stimulate own production," the prime minister said.

Groysman said that the quality of all equipment and vehicles made and bought should be high, and production should be localized in Ukraine as wide as possible.

"The main thing that this should not be semi knocked down assembly of vehicles. All aggregates and parts should be by 60% and more made at Ukrainian enterprises. This is jobs and salaries," the prime minister said.

When discussing the need to update the fleet of firefighting machinery, the premier noted the need for a medium-term program of such purchases.

The meeting was also attended by Finance Minister Oleksandr Danyliuk, First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade Maksym Nefyodov, Chairman of the State Emergency Service Mykola Chechetkin, the leadership of the Defense Ministry and the Interior Ministry, Automobile Roads of Ukraine.

In addition, CEO of PJSC AvtoKrAZ (the only manufacturer of heavy trucks on a full cycle) Roman Cherniak and MP Kostiantyn Zhevaho were present at the meeting.

**14-2-2017**

### **About 85% of winter crops are in good and satisfactory condition**

About 85% of the area under winter crops are in a good and satisfactory condition, head of the agrometeorological department of the Hydrometeorological Center Tetiana Adamenko has told Interfax-Ukraine.

"In general, the situation with winter crops is satisfactory, 85% of crops are alive and will give a good harvest," she said.

According to Adamenko, there are sparse crops in Kyiv, Cherkasy, Zhytomyr regions due to late autumn sowing, but the situation there is not critical.

"There could be problems with winter barley in some regions. It is not a cold-resistant crop, so now in some parts of Cherkasy, Donetsk and Kherson regions 30% of the area under barley is in a sparse state," she said.

Adamenko noted today ice crust is observed in several areas of Sumy and Kharkiv regions, and the condition of winter crops there will depend on future weather conditions.

**8-2-2017**

### **Ukrainian government extends 'warm loans' program for 2017**

The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers at its meeting on Wednesday adopted a decision to extend for 2017 the public program to partially compensate the cost of loans for modernization of heating efficiency and increase of energy efficiency in the Ukrainian housing sector (the 'warm loans' program), the press service of the State Agency for Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving reported.

"The government has extended the popular 'warm loans' program for 2017 and improved the procedure for provision of compensations under this program. Soon, Ukrainians will be able to make full use of its capabilities and raise non-repayable financial aid from the state for energy efficiency measures," the agency head, Serhiy Savchuk, said.

According to him, the list of banks participating in the program has been extended in particular to include PrivatBank, which according to Savchuk, will allow enhancing competition among banks, reducing the cost of loans, and attracting more participants.

In addition, a mandatory commercial accounting for the activities on improvement of heating efficiency of apartment block will be introduced.

"Thus, homeowner associations will be able to control the actual consumption of energy at home and assess the efficiency of the implementation of energy efficiency measures. As before, homeowner associations will get 40% non-repayable financial assistance for such measures," Savchuk said.

As reported, UAH 400 million of the 2017 national budget will be sent to provide non-repayable financial assistance to households and homeowner associations to take energy efficiency measures: insulation of buildings, installation of water and heat meters, heaters with thermostatic regulators, replacement of windows, modernization of lighting and other things.

**6-2-2017**

### **Ukraine exports electricity for \$21.6 mln in Jan 2017**

Ukraine in January 2017 exported electricity worth \$21.577 million.

According to the State Fiscal Service, electricity delivered to Hungary amounted to \$17.061 million last month, to Poland to \$4.515 million, and Moldova to \$1,000.

Thus, in money terms exports of Ukrainian electricity last year grew by 53.5% compared to January 2016 (\$14.056 million).

In addition, in January 2017 Ukraine imported power worth \$267,000 (\$267,000 from Russia, \$7,000 from Moldova and \$4,000 from Belarus), while electricity for \$84.874 million was imported in 2015.

As reported, Ukraine in 2011 exported electricity for \$399.963 million, in 2012 – for \$574.819 million, in 2013 – for \$580.195 million, in 2014 – for \$487.185 million, and in 2015 – for \$150.056 million and in 2016 - \$152.063 million.

**2-2-2017**

**Agricultural products exports from Ukraine 4.5% up in 2016**

Exports of Ukrainian agricultural and food products from Ukraine last year totaled \$15.5 billion and it grew by 4.5% compared to the previous year, Ukraine's Agricultural Policy and Food Ministry has reported.

The ministry said that agricultural products exports totaled 42.5% of total exports from the country.

"We reached growth in the cost of exports of our products last year. The products mainly exported in 2016 were traditionally grain crops, oil and oilseeds. The top ten most popular products for exports were also soybeans, sugar and meat," Deputy Agricultural Policy and Food Minister for European Integration Olha Trofimtseva said.

She said that foreign trade turnover of the agricultural sector in 2016 reached \$19.6 billion. This is 26.1% of total foreign trade turnover of the country.

"Our task is to continue working on geographical and commodity diversification of our agricultural exports and attract small and medium-sized players to exports," she said.

According to the ministry, the share of Asian countries of total exports of agricultural products was 45.9% (\$7.1 billion), European countries – 27.5% (\$4.2 billion), African – 15.7% (\$2.4 billion), CIS – 7.7% (\$1.1 billion), the United States – 0.9% (\$44.9 million) and other countries – 2.9% (\$440.7 million).

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